

but in the bottoms were walnut, poplar, oak, cedar, as tall as the cedars of Lebanon and as straight as the moral law. Giant cypress trees twelve feet through, gum trees fully as large, oaks with a side stretch of limb broad enough to hover over half a farm—it was a forest with few peers anywhere on earth. ¶ That was the day to take a ride down the roads of Moore county. Unfortunately in the day when the surroundings were of the most heroic and interesting character, the roads were not exactly the sort the automobile man would appreciate. Worse than that, he would hardly care to slip back to ninety years ago, for he might have trouble getting the reverse gear on again and regaining his present place with the flight of years. But if we could have the old forest conditions with our present road systems wouldn't Pinehurst be a drawing card for automobilists?

By the same token the roads that radiate from Pinehurst as a center are right interesting to the traveler, whether he counts on his automobile, his horse, his carriage or his own dependable feet. Walking is no mean art in this country. The roads of Moore and adjacent counties may lack the stupendous sublimity of the mountains, but they do not lack that persistent charm that attaches to an ever changing panorama where forest, stream, valley and bend contribute to Nature's surprises. ¶ Mountains are not many; but do you know that from the top of The Carolina you can see into the knobs of several counties, and that from several counties you can pick out the flags at Pinehurst on a clear day, and that with a glass you can see a fairly good proportion of Pinehurst if the air is in your favor and the sun at your back?

A mountain is a magnificent thing to look at. For a place to move about a mountain is not suitable. It is too often in the way. Hills fill the bill about as well for scenic purposes and are easier to navigate. If you really want a suggestion of mountain try some portions of Carthage road, or go over to Montrose, or up to Blue's mountain back of Southern Pines, from which you can look out over the country for miles and up into the heavens farther than has ever been measured. Or down the Jackson Springs road you will find some per cent grades with sideling slopes on the lower side, and brooks, and places you can climb a hill. ¶ A good road is a great fascination. One of the first things you asked your father was, "Where does this road go?" No doubt he told you, as every wise father does when he gets a chance to work off a joke on a boy who cannot get back at him, that the road never went any place, but stayed where it was!

Pass that along, however. A road has a fascination for you. A good road leads you to get out and follow its course. It will begin to open up interesting surprises the first forty rods. I have known grown-up men to start out for a walk and to stay an hour watching a community of ants trailing back and forth into their hill within a quarter of a mile from where the men started. That has nothing to do with a good road, but is merely an example of how entertaining features are spread along the entire route of any road. ¶ To the visitor from the North the roads from Pinehurst go out into a peculiar new territory. This is a part of the

South. It is an unusual part of the South, for it is a member that is still a representative of the European civilization. Moore county has not yet absolved itself of its old-world flavor. The settlers were for several generations exclusive to themselves, and they are half Scotch and half American, even now.

The Scotch characteristics are fine as silk, as you will say when you know them. The American citizen you have seen before. He is not the worst fellow in the world, either. You know the Irish-American in New York or any other place in the North where there is an election precinct or an office in a democratic district? Sure, he is making good in a lot of places besides just being chief of Tammany. And the German-American and the Swedish-American, who "bane got most every gude yob" in Minnesota and up that way, and the whole bunch of every kind of American, including the Scotch-Irish. But these Scotch-Americans are a different lot. ¶ It is a typical South, here around Pinehurst, as much as it is a typical South in French Louisiana or Spanish Florida, or Mexican Texas, or Huguenot South Carolina—which is to say that this big area of the United States known as the South is no more homogeneous than any other part of the common country.

A walk or a drive or an automobile ride about Pinehurst—and there are over a thousand miles of good roads convenient for the journey—will afford an unlimited entertainment. All directions the good roads will allure the traveler, and he can go as far as he likes and come home by another route, or he can dawdle as slowly as he likes and get back in fifteen minutes or half an hour and still have been in an interesting country all the time. ¶ He will find himself close to the things of half a generation ago, and just as close to the things of today. Modern farm-houses, with all the requirements of the later civilization, cabins that perhaps were counted in the first census enumeration, may be among the features that touch elbows. Cuffy, with his one ox, turns out to give a part of the road to the seven-passenger car. ¶ But I would give a dollar to meet on the Morganton road one of the crowds that came down that way when Fayetteville was booming ninety years ago!

—BION H. BUTLER.

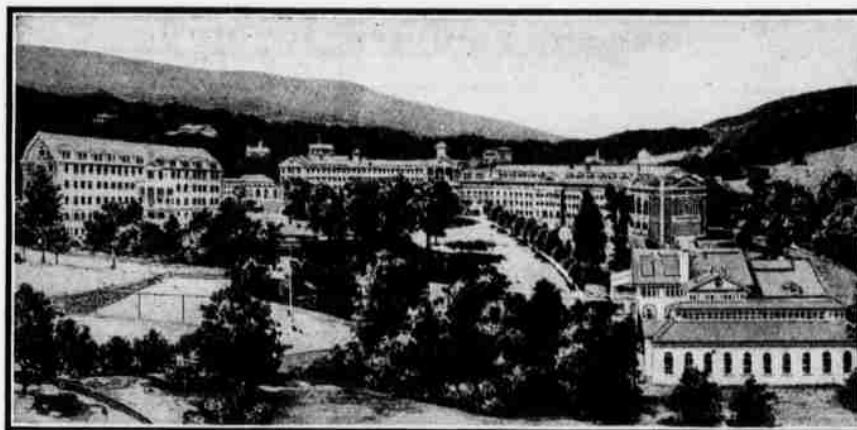
N. B.—This is the seventh of Mr. Butler's stories.—EDITOR.

Mr. F. A. Yount's Birthday

Mr. F. M. Preucil of Chicago was host at a merry dinner party at The Holly Inn on Monday in observance of the birthday anniversary of Mr. F. A. Yount, also of the windy city. The table was a lavish display of jonquils, ferns and ivy, in the center of which a lovely cake glittered; vari-colored ribbons connecting with dainty souvenir favors. After dinner toasts followed the feast. The guests included Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Ayres, Mrs. F. D. Adams, Miss Mary Adams and Miss Evelyn L. Kanagan and Mr. R. F. Kelton. The unique surprise of the evening was individual verses, this one for the host of the evening typical of the lot:

Mr. Preucil—persistent—
You see at a glance
If his mind is set on it
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