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The Pinehurst Appeal

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COMING from the Northland to the mid-South for the first time and parking in the long-leaf pine belt, which to the world is known as Pinehurst, and to the native born as the Sandhills of North Carolina, the writer started out in search of the nut from which has grown the giant oak of a Pinehurst appeal.

That there was a Pinehurst appeal, we had heard and and we quickly verified the rumor as fact, for here we found winter residents who have been coming into the pine-belt regularly for a quarter of a century, or since the great golf resort had its international birth.

As one steps from his pullman in early morn, either at Southern Pines or Pinehurst, after a full night's run from the ice-bound North, he is greeted as early as mid-January with the caroling of birds and among the great variety may be distinguished the voice of the migratory robin, a voice which annually proclaims to the residents of the middle-North the welcome return of Spring.

Being a stranger, one looks about him at once and is fascinated by the great variety of tree life. Intermingled and harmoniously blended in their vari-colored foliage are masses of scrub oaks, pines of short and long leaf, rich and clean in ever-green garb, and close at hand the smooth, fresh barked mimosa, the gorgeous and healthy magnolia, the abundant and beautiful holly with its background of green leaves to emphasize the rich red decorations, the stately sycamore branching wide, like its friendly neighbor, the pine.

Tucked away under the sheltering branches of a spruce or low-limbed pine may be seen secluded there in mid-January the blossoming forsythia, and dotting the entire landscape and looking down over the intermittent forests of smaller growth, stands the majestic, lonesome longleaf pine, swaying gracefully in the breeze, the pride of native son and visitor alike as it stands at sunny morn, or at eventide silhouetted against a gorgeous tinted southern sunset—a tree with character and a sandhill landmark to dwell in the memory. In this setting we have the first welcoming appeal which the Sandhill section of North Carolina makes to visitor.

THE PLAYGROUND

It appeals at once, but it fascinates and grips us as the days lengthen into weeks and even months, until we become regulars. In the midst of this setting which nature has provided we find the magnet which drew us, the vast playground known to the outside world as Pinehurst, an area covering more than 5,000 acres, where golf, polo, rac-

ing, hunting, tennis and kindred sports are carried on in a very big way. But before we don our knickers or riding boots and proceed to play our favorite game, let us further examine the frame of this natural picture.

Contrary to the belief of many, North Carolina, in the section round about Pinehurst, is not flat, but on the contrary it is very rolling as the appellation of Sandhills suggests. As one motors about the surrounding country the eye is constantly met with forest trees, to such an extent that there are visible no wide stretches of open cultivated planes. The impression given is that of farms separated and bordered by forests of second growth timber where only now and then scattering virgin growth pine and oak may be seen.

Now we come to Pinehurst proper, and here in the residential and business sections one cannot see many yards ahead, for the pine trees, thickly growing, together with all the other shrubs and forest tree varieties, including the prolific and fragrant honeysuckle, restrict the view on every side, while the roads and walks wind hither and yon in studied confusion, to complete a charming and orderly jungle scene.

Such is the prelude to the appeal of Pinehurst.

Now let us turn to the sports of Pinehurst and to the one particular sport which has made this resort the winter rendezvous of hundreds upon hundreds, yea, thousands upon thousands of golfers of all ages and both sexes from Maine to Montreal, and from Minneapolis to Manitoba.

Golf is the major sport at Pinehurst. Polo, horse racing, trap shooting, tennis, dogs; yes, but still golf is the big business at Pinehurst.

FOUR ADJOINING COURSES

Four eighteen-hole courses, lying side by side and each and every one radiating from and returning to the attractive and commodious club-house is a big part of the Pinehurst appeal. Measured hole upon hole with the steel tape these courses have an aggregate length of 24,946 yards, and if one were to play the four courses consecutively he would walk not less than sixteen linear miles.

Some two and a half miles distant, as the native crow flies, and tied up to Pinehurst with visible and invisible ties, is the Mid-Pines Country Club course. Another two and a half miles farther in the same direction and you are at Southern Pines, also closely allied, where you will find a twenty-seven hole layout—very excellent golf with a picturesque and beautiful evergreen setting.

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