

Horse Lovers Attracted to Settle in Sandhills

Ideal Conditions for Polo and Hunting Boom Home Building as Sportsmen Settle Amid Pines.

Permanence in the establishment of the Sandhills section as one of the leading horse centers of the United States seems a foregone conclusion. What has been a transient phase of our outdoor activity has become fixed with the settlement in Pinehurst and Southern Pines of prominent owners of polo ponies and hunters, who, during the past year have laid out beautiful estates with the horse as the central figure.

Polo has for some time been on the ascendency in Pinehurst, where there are three excellent polo fields kept in the pink, we should say, green of condition by the Pinehurst officials. But the season has been short-lived, and the local stables filled only for a few months. Two seasons ago Verner Z. Reed, a young sportsman from Denver, Col., came to Pinehurst and brought his string of polo ponies. After a season of play with the Messrs. Slocock, Richards, Gould Shaw, Beverly Walters, the late Jack Lating and others who had been regular combatants in the polo matches there, Mr. Reed determined to return for a more extended season last year, and, leasing the William Ziegler Jr.

stables, brought all his horses to Pinehurst.

Building Permanent Home.

Further convinced after his second season that this section was ideal for polo as well as other sports, and that polo was growing in popularity in the Sandhills, Mr. Reed last spring purchased two hundred acres of land south of Pinehurst and proceeded to lay out what will doubtless be the finest country estate in this part of the country. Besides his handsome residence, now nearing completion under the guiding hand of Alfred Yeomans, architect of Southern Pines, Mr. Reed plans one of the most complete stables in the south to house his large string of ponies and the several hunters which he and Mrs. Reed use in following the Moore County Hounds. Mr. Reed has also laid out his own polo field where practice games will be played and where his ponies and those of his neighbors may be exercised.

The Reed development is one of the best evidences of the growth in popularity of the Sandhills section as a sporting center, and it is safe to predict that it will not be long before the horse will be as prominent as the

golfer in Southern Pines and Pinehurst.

Vale Estate Improved.

A similar story might be written about Mr. and Mrs. Harry Vale, formerly of Princeton, N. J., now permanent residents of Southern Pines. Mr. and Mrs. Vale came here with their horses for several winters, keeping their mounts at the Laing stables in Southern Pines. They soon saw the possibilities, probabilities and actualities of the section from the equestrian standpoint, and a year ago purchased the Dull estate. A stable was at once built for the accommodation of their five horses, and this year they have added a large wing to their home and built a swimming pool and tennis court on the grounds. They will make Southern Pines their permanent home.

The new Southern Pines home of Francis H. Robinson of Peconic, L. I., adjoining the Country Club tract, is approaching completion. Here too the horse was a vital factor in bringing a family permanently to the Sandhills. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson are enthusiastic riders, and beside their at-

tractive residence are erecting an up-to-date stable for their horses. Miss Harriet Ogden, an interpid rider to hounds, has settled upon Moore County as a permanent winter residence, having purchased in the Mid-Pines section where she will soon open her home for the season.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Rountree, of Winston-Salem, are coming to Southern Pines this winter because of the attractiveness and suitability of the section for riding, at which their son and daughter are adept. They have leased the Ramsey house for the season with the idea of building in this locality if they enjoy the life as much as they anticipate.

New Comers for Polo.

Report is current that several new faces will be seen in the polo ranks of Pinehurst this season, and several enthusiastic sportsmen who have been here in the past are looking over sites near Pinehurst and in the Knollwood section with the idea of permanently establishing there.

Both polo and hunting will start in the near future. Horses are arriving every few days from various parts of

the country, recent shipments including hunters owned by Mrs. Jackson Boyd, Nelson C. Hyde and Mrs. Verner Z. Reed. The Laing stables will be open in the near future, and the Welch horses are already here and are being conditioned for what is expected to be the busiest season in the equestrian history of the Sandhills.

PICQUET OFF TO GET HORSES FOR PINEHURST RACING.

Charles Picquet left Wednesday night for Washington, D. C., for a three-days' stay at the Laurel Park

Race Track where he will pick up some more thoroughbreds for the Pinehurst winter races and from there he goes to Toronto, Canada, to attend the annual convention of the Motion Picture Theatre Owners of America.

"Charlie" is chairman of the executive committee of the national organization.

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Tobacco prices throughout the State are reported as improving, with conditions satisfactory at Aberdeen.

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