**Southern Part of Heaven** [1]

**Southern Part of Heaven**

by Jerry Leath Mills, 2006

See also: *State Names and Nicknames* [2]

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Cover of *The Southern Part of Heaven*, 1950. Image from the National Archives.

The “Southern Part of Heaven” is a phrase coined by author William Meade Prince [3] in 1950 for the title of his volume of reminiscences of growing up in Chapel Hill. Prince was drawing on an old, probably apocryphal anecdote about a Dr. Kluttz, a Franklin Street store owner in the early years of the twentieth century. As Prince relates it, Kluttz, on his deathbed, inquires of his Presbyterian [4] minister, Parson Moss, what heaven is like, and Moss replies: “Dr. Kluttz, I believe Heaven must be a lot like Chapel Hill in the spring.”

Prince’s title has long held the status of a beloved cliché in Chapel Hill and continues to be cited in both promotional and sarcastic contexts. An example of the latter is a suggestion, not infrequently made, that in light of Chapel Hill’s and the greater Research Triangle [5]’s development, population growth, and demographic change in recent years, the label should be emended to the “Southern Part of New Jersey.”

**References:**


**Additional Resources:**


**Image Credits:**


**Subjects:**


Places [9]

Slogans, slang, and sayings [10]

**Authors:**

Mills, Jerry Leath [11]

**Origin - location:**

Chapel Hill [12]

**From:**
