

Many a New Bern teen-ager who didn't know Albert Hubbard Bangert has gone to college because of his concern for their education.

Bangert, in his last will and testament, established a Memorial Student Loan Fund, and 93 local boys and girls have turned to it for financial assistance since the former New Bern mayor's death on December 19, 1944.

It is interesting to note that 27 loans totalling thousands of dollars have already been repaid. As a matter of fact, the manner in which grateful youngsters meet this obligation after they graduate from college shows that Bangert's faith was fully justified.

Since recipients of the loans do live up to their promise, and pay the money back, the fund will never be depleted. There's just no way of estimating how many boys and girls will eventually benefit, all because of a man who was unmarried and childless himself.

Bangert knew the importance of an adequate education. Born here in 1873, he attended public schools and Trinity college—now Duke university. Although his German-born father died early, young Albert and his mother were left considerable property. He grew up to be an astute business man and a public benefactor.

Elected mayor in 1913, he was re-elected in 1915, and elected once more in 1925. Time and time again he was elected alderman from the First and later the Second ward.

A cheerful, talkative man, Bangert was intensely devoted to his family, and equally proud of the city in which he was born. Above all, he liked people, and found great joy in meandering along Middle street and passing the time of day with anyone who cared to chat.

In his will, Bangert said it was his purpose "to establish a fund from which money shall be loaned to such boys and girls residing in my native and beloved town of New Bern as said Board of Trustees or its successors shall deem deserving and in need of pecuniary assistance in acquiring suitable education in schools, colleges, universities, trade, business, professional or technical educational institutions."

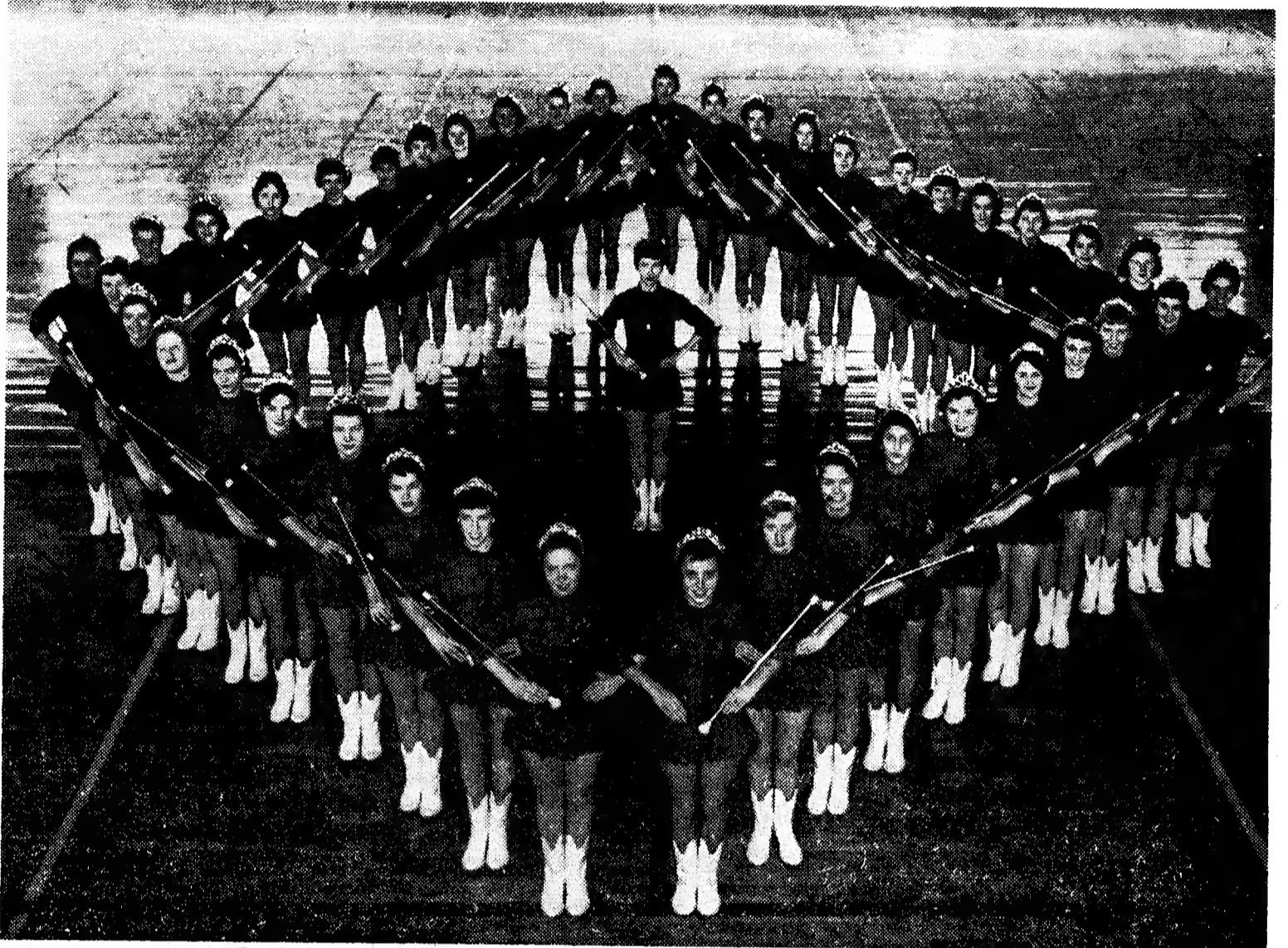
Continuing, the will stipulated this: "All such loans to be made upon the promise of the borrower in writing to repay same within a reasonable time to be fixed by said Board. My reason for requiring repayment of money so loaned, and for restricting the use of said fund to loans to worthy students, is my desire to keep the said fund intact so benefits may be perpetuated; and in the administration of said funds I respectfully recommend that said Board lend as much as one fourth but not more than one-third of the whole to deserving colored boys and girls."

Thus, the primary purpose of the Albert H. Bangert Memorial Student Loan Fund is to provide financial aid to needy students who have demonstrated potential ability to become useful citizens.

Evidences of this ability, as the Board of Trustees sees it, are character, mental alertness, industry, and scholarship. No student is encouraged to burden himself with debt unless he has a definite purpose in continuing his formal education at a college, trade school, or vocation school of his choice.

It is made clear to the prospective borrower that the Loan Fund does not constitute a charitable foundation in any sense. A loan is not to be considered a gift, a reward, or an inducement to attend college. It is a personal business

(Continued on back page)



PULCHRITUDE AND PRECISION -- New Bern High School's drill team poses prettily for The Mirror, and it's really a sight to see. No blossom in the Azalea Festival parade at Wilmington last Saturday bloomed brighter than

these happy teen-agers, who reflected credit on their hometown as they marched to perfection before the huge throng that witnessed their performance.—Photo by Billy Benners.

# No Mortal Is Ever Perfect, But Here's Our Candidate

Every town ought to have a Bob Pugh in it, but his breed is rare if not downright extinct.

Under such circumstances, placing him in a glass case or a cage for lesser mortals to look at might be the proper thing to do. However, limiting his activity and confining him to close quarters would be the end of him.

Staying put, or silent, is not characteristic of this ordained Baptist minister who serves as superintendent of Craven county schools. It never will be, if he lives to be a hundred, which probably is just as well.

Unlike the average person who runs his mouth, Bob seldom puts his foot in it. This despite the fact that he earns his hoecakes in a profession that calls for diplomacy and tact, not to mention a tough and durable hide.

To remain exceedingly popular as a public official is a feat in itself, but this unique New Bern native has been nimble enough and nice enough to evade violence and mayhem from his critics, if any exist.

Not that Bob is completely perfect. The chances are this writer is his strongest admirer, but we discovered once—after doing a story he didn't like—that he can blow his stack just like the rest of us. The revelation stunned us, but discovering that he was human after all didn't dampen our admiration in the least.

In fact, this fellow Pugh has other imperfections, but they're physical flaws over which he has no control. For one thing, he must have been off making a speech

somewhere when beauty was passed around.

And, if you ask us, he has a voice that is rather unattractive. That is, it's unattractive until you listen and get intrigued with the fact that he always has something

worthwhile to say.

Because he puts other after-dinner speakers to shame, he is in constant demand, here and elsewhere. Never is he in poor form whatever the occasion or the intelligence quota of his audience. If

nothing else, Bob has enough of the Baptist parson left in him to keep folks from dozing until he speaks his piece.

He would have been a natural for politics, and a cinch to win if he ever threw his hat in the ring. That he followed other lines of endeavor has been more of a blessing to the community and himself.

As a Mason, he has been given the highest honors that the craft can bestow. He received his 33rd degree in the same class that saw President Harry Truman in the role of active candidate, and is a Past Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina.

For years, he has been the lecturer for the New Bern Scottish Rite Consistory—largest in the State and third largest in the South. In addition, his knack for ritual and dramatic ability that some of his closest friends aren't aware of make him an outstanding member of the Consistory's degree team.

Of all the qualities that this remarkable man has, the most emphatic is his keen sense of humor. Bob would rather hear a good joke than eat when he is hungry. And when he laughs it's a rippling sort of giggle like a kid erupts with when really tickled over an undetected prank.

It goes without saying that Pugh is a man of deep religious convictions. Yet, contrary to some of his fellow ministers and members of various flocks, he doesn't think that the world and its inhabitants reek with sin.

That there are wrongs to be corrected. (Continued on page six)

