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If you've ever been injured in an automobile accident, you need not be told that it's hardly a laughing matter.

Yet, after all these years we still get a chuckle from the crash that brought us a fractured ankle. It always aches a little when there's a change in the weather, but hurting now and then is worth it, just to have a memory you can snicker over when things get dull.

Maybe you've never heard of a place in Craven county named Perfection, but there is such a community between Jasper and Fort Barnwell. That's where County Superintendent Bob Pugh and the writer met their downfall.

We had been to Fort Barnwell to work up a school story for the Raleigh News and Observer, and were motoring back to New Bern at a safe and sane 45 mile an hour clip. Getting busted up a couple of minutes later didn't enter our minds.

Then it happened. An automobile driven by a man who was 79 or 80 years old was approaching from the opposite direction. When we were a few feet from the other car, the elderly gentleman suddenly cut across the road to his left.

Later we learned that he was turning off to enter the yard of his farm home, but he never got there. What he did unintentionally accomplish was to block the highway completely.

Bob had no chance to run off the road and avoid a collision. He did manage to veer slightly a second before the impact. He still hit the old man's car broadside, and Bob's vehicle reared up on its back wheels like a bucking bronco.

Riding in the suicide seat next to the driver, we slumped down to keep from going into the windshield. Momentarily stunned, Bob cut loose with a combination groan and grunt, as the steering wheel rammed against his body.

He didn't appear to be critically hurt, so the writer hobbled out of the car to check the old man. We figured he had been killed, and couldn't find him at first.

Then we saw him scrambling to get up from the highway, where he had been thrown from his automobile. He got to his feet before we could reach him, and the three of us made our way to the porch of his farm house.

Oddly enough, all three of us had a laceration on the left leg in just about the same spot. To the everlasting credit of Bob, let it be said that he didn't find fault with the old man for his recklessness. Even at a time like that, the county superintendent was very much a gentleman, and more concerned with the farmer's welfare than his own.

At that point, things started getting comical, despite the cracked ankle we knew we had. A neighboring man, who heard the crash, walked up and asked Bob if we were badly hurt.

With his usual cheerfulness, Pugh replied that we weren't hurt much and that we were lucky. "I don't know," the neighbor observed sourly as he eyed the three of us dolefully. "I've heard of people walking away from an accident and then dropping over dead."

By that time, a woman who lived down the road a piece arrived, and asked the same question. She seemed disappointed when Bob reassured her. This time, however, he was less enthusiastic and didn't sound quite as convincing.

"You'll never be the same," the woman warned us. "I had an aunt who was in an accident, and she didn't think she was hurt either. Later her kidneys went bad, and she got the heart trouble and her liver kept acting up. She never did get right."

Patrolman Carl Jone heard this second lamentation. He got us in-



END OF THE TRAIL—These six New Bern youngsters have good reason to be proud and happy. This week they realized the dream of every American boy—the honor of being acclaimed as an Eagle Scout. The Mirror salutes them for their outstanding accomplishment. Pictured left

to right, first row, are Bill Weiss, Billy Pierce and Sidney White, all of Troop 231. In the second row, left to right, are Edward Robbins, Troop 13; Joe Gleason, Troop 231; and Charles Turner, Troop 50.—Photo by Billy Benners.

Tuesday's NEA Convention Brings Huge Crowd to Town

Playing host to visiting organizations is nothing new to New Bern, but next Tuesday's Eastern District Convention of the North Carolina Education Association is no ordinary gathering.

Two thousand or more principals, superintendents, teachers, supervisors and secretaries are expected for the 37th annual get-together. Incidentally, never before has New Bern been privileged to roll out the red carpet for the group.

Twenty units from 11 counties comprising the district will have delegates on hand. Counties represented are Beaufort, Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico, Wayne and Wilson. In addition, there'll be city units from Goldsboro, Kinston, Wilson, New Bern, Washington, Elm City, Camp Lejeune and Atlantic Christian college.

Selection of New Bern as the site of this year's convention is a tribute to one of our own outstanding teachers, Margaret M. Stevens, who is president of the organization. And another Craven county teacher, Jo Anne Conway of the Cove City Elementary school is secretary for the group, which is still further distinction for us.

Other officers are Jasper L. Lewis of the LaGrange High school, who is serving as vice-president,

and Fodie Hodges of Harvey school in Kinston, who is NCEA director. Under the capable leadership of Margaret, they have pitched in to

give the Eastern District one of its most outstanding years in history.

Starting with the general session at 9:30 a.m. in the New Bern High

school auditorium, a full round of activities will be reeled off. Included among the more pleasing highlights scheduled is an organ prelude by Mrs. Louise F. Spear of Brinson Memorial school and selections rendered by New Bern High school's top-ranking a capella choir.

Guest speaker is to be Bernice McCullar of Atlanta, director of information for Georgia's State Department of Education. Among other things, she writes three newspaper columns each week entitled "Tales Out of School," "I Wander and I Wonder" and "When the Heart Turns Home."

Recently she co-authored with Inez Wallace a homemaking textbook to be published by Lippen-cott, and is now writing another volume entitled "Wake Up Your Mind To Be A Teacher." During her rather spectacular career she has been editor and practiced law with her husband, the late C. B. McCullar.

As a mother and a grandmother, she is in a position to appreciate the parent's viewpoint as well as the teacher's. Out of a wealth of experience she has drawn conclusions that she puts across with a keen sense of humor and a simple but revealing philosophy.

So large is the convention that it will break up into two divisions and hold separate luncheons. Classroom teachers will dine in the New Bern High school cafeteria, and will be entertained by the Washington High school choir. Superintendents, principals and directors of instruction will have their meal



MARGARET M. STEVENS
—Photo by Wray's Studio.

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