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Bob Pugh's retirement, after 30 years service, from the office of Craven County School Superintendent will mark another milestone in the career of this cheerful and capable New Bernian.

Although Pugh, whose nimble diplomacy seldom found him backed into a corner in controversial educational matters, is giving up one job on long standing, he won't be entering the ranks of the idle.

On his agenda, probably for the balance of his life, will be full-time duties as Secretary of New Bern's Scottish Rite Consistory, comprising better than 4,500 Masons who have attained the 32nd Degree. They hail from all over the eastern half of the State.

The fraternity is dear to Bob's heart, and his tireless labor for the craft has brought him deserved honor. The 33rd Degree was conferred upon him in Washington, D. C., at the time President Harry S. Truman was the active candidate, and he has served as Grand Master of North Carolina's Masons.

For many years he has been the Class Lecturer at the New Bern Consistory's Spring and Fall Reunions, and thousands of civilians and service men around the world remember him with deep respect and warm affection.

As Superintendent of Craven County's sprawling school system, Pugh saw his problems and responsibilities steadily mount during the years that rolled by after he took office in 1937. He didn't achieve perfection, and approval of some of his decisions was less than unanimous, but all things considered he has accomplished a great deal.

In short, Bob proved a worthy successor to R. S. Proctor, who in turn if we remember rightly succeeded Sam Brinson when that distinguished gentleman was elected Congressman from the Third District.

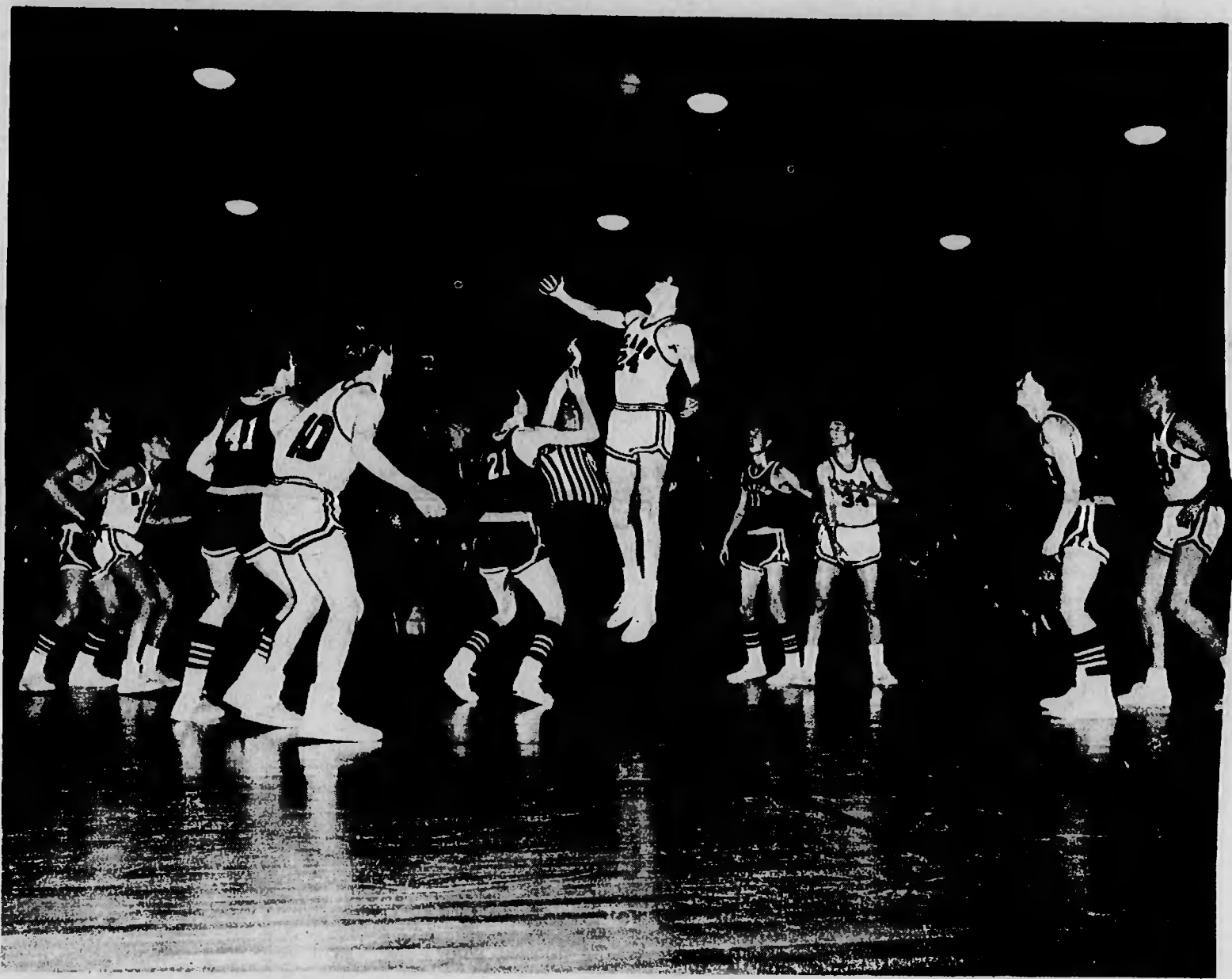
Pugh would be the first to admit that he is by no means as handsome as the white-maned Brinson was, but his capacity for eloquent oratory approaches Sam at his best, and on occasion Bob may have exceeded that gifted speaker's manipulation of apt phrases.

An ordained Baptist preacher, Bob can come up with a corking good sermon whenever he fills in for a fellow minister. And like most Baptists, pastors and laymen, (we're speaking as a Methodist) he is a born extrovert who loves to mingle informally with other mortals.

Life can be serious business when you've got to please the public and reigning politicians, and the County School Superintendent hasn't been unmindful of this fact. Even so, Pugh's sunny outlook has produced a man who laughs dozens of times a day, and giggles oftener than a group of teenage girls spending the night together on a pajama party.

We regard Bob as one of our dearest friends, despite the fact that riding with him once netted us a broken ankle when he collided with another vehicle that cut across the road in front of us and completely blocked the highway. The Patrol agreed it wasn't Bob's fault.

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IN ORBIT—Pat McGuinness, rangy center for the New Bern High School Bears, appears to be headed for outer space as he out jumps his opponent by plenty on a toss up in last Friday's home-court battle with the scrappy Tarboro Tigers. The ball, soaring above Pat, seems to be out of control but it is destined to end up in the hands of a waiting Bruin. The Bears, trailing in Tuesday's scrap with the Havelock Rams, staged an amazing shooting exhibition in the second half and all but ran the hard pressed Rams out of their own gym. Few self styled experts in the Northeastern Conference regarded the NBHS quint as a contender for loop honors in pre-season calculations, and the Bears still have to contend with Kinston's top ranked

Red Devils a week from now. However, West Carteret's fine showing against the Devils three nights ago increased the hopes of Northeastern teams. The Bears, meanwhile, will no doubt have their hands full tonight when they entertain the Greenville Phantoms. The Greenies, for several years, have been gunning for the locals in all sports and would like nothing better than a decisive victory over the Bears. Action in the Conference has been fast and furious all along the line this year, and the tempo isn't expected to slow up as the campaign heads into the home stretch, New Bern fans who aren't following the local team are missing out on one of the most exciting seasons in years.—Photo by Chick Natella.

