

Wreck Was Big News In the Old Days

Recalls First Car Wreck In Martin County Years Ago

Alfred W. Roberson Suffered Broken Ribs and Several Painful Bruises

They are so frequent now that the general public has grown callous if not indifferent to them, but in the early days of the current century, an automobile accident was a startling event in this county; in fact, the first wreck on record in the county bordered on the sensational.

The date can't be definitely fixed, but along about 1910, Messrs. Frank Barnes, A. W. Roberson and Surry Parker were traveling into the Sand Point just off the Hamilton Road at Mill Branch and about three miles from Williamston. Mr. Roberson and Mr. Barnes were interested in timber, and Mr. Parker was driving them out in his comparatively new automobile, the make and model having escaped Mr. Barnes' memory. He recalls it was a two-seater, slow-traveling when measured against present-day speeds but plenty fast for that day, and with open top.

Enjoying something comparatively new in the way of transportation as far as this section was concerned and at the same time traveling on a business mission, the party turned off the main road and was running down a small path when the car struck a small stump. Mr. Parker lost

POPULAR COUNTY SUPPLY MERCHANTS



Forming an able and close link between town and farm, Messrs. Stephen Manning, left; Landy Griffin, center, and Eddie Trahey, right, are recognized among the leading supply merchants in this section of the State. Mr. Griffin is an active partner in the Farmers Supply Company, and Messrs. Manning and Trahey are the active operators of the Martin Supply Company on Washington Street, just a short distance from the tobacco marketing center.

control of the machine, and Mr. Roberson was thrown out, Mr. Barnes stating that he passed by him literally sailing with the greatest of ease and landed some feet away. He suffered one or two broken ribs and several painful bruises.

While Mr. Roberson was going one way, Messrs. Parker and Barnes were holding to the car and going another way. The machine crashed through a fence and plowed into the porch of a small tenant house on the farm. No great damage was done to the car.

Seeing his first automobile and under such unusual circumstances, Jim Nicholson, colored tenant, could not move from his seat on the door steps. He was literally frozen in his seat, according to Mr. Barnes' version of the crash. Nicholson was eating a pear at the time and when he saw his car coming he gapped his mouth, and then it crashed through the fence and started almost directly toward him he just simply opened his mouth wider and wider, Barnes declaring it was the biggest mouth ever hung on a human being.

After the first smoke of the crash had cleared, a messenger was dispatched to the home of the late W. Joe Whitaker to have him telephone for a doctor. Greatly excited, Mr. Whitaker contacted Warren Biggs at the old Biggs Drug Store and yelled, "Send a doctor out here. An automobile has run away and one man is hurt and dying. Wait a minute." Mr. Whitaker commanded. Apparently conversing with the messenger, Mr. Whitaker was then quoted as saying, "No, don't send one doctor, send two doctors, one man is dying up a tree and another

Book On Civil War Is Well Received

Reprinted from The Enterprise November 14, 1902.

We are deeply indebted to Col. Dennison Worthington for the gift of a copy of his novel, "The Broken Sword."—A pictorial page in reconstruction. The author is a thorough Southerner and followed the flag of the Confederacy through those dark days of '61-'65 and he has dedicated his work to the Daughters of the Confederacy. Gen. Julian S. Carr says: "Its diction is strikingly beautiful, refined in sentiment, and patriotic in spirit. 'The Broken Sword' ought to find a place in every home in the South."

T. B. Kingsbury, L.L.D., in an editorial review: "It is an intense, graphic, picturesque and vitalized description of our darkest days. We trust that the unborn generations of the South will read this book. It should be in every Southern home."

Col. Worthington is writing another book which he will publish within the next year, and its appearance is awaited with interest.

was badly hurt trying to knock one of my tenant houses off its foundation."

The wreck occasioned much excitement in the village at the time and people crowded in horse-drawn vehicles to visit the scene of the accident; others walking the few miles to see the sight.

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