

# • • SAFETY FOR FIVE MILL

**D**ID you know that the North Carolina School Bus system:

1. Is the largest fleet of its kind in the world?
2. Includes more than 6,130 motor vehicles?
3. Transports 408,000 students daily?
4. Travels 226,810 miles daily?
5. Travels 40,825,000 miles yearly?

This great fleet of school buses carried 73,440,000 student passengers during the 1951-1952 school term and had the misfortune to lose three of the passengers through fatal accidents, the cause being attributable to the victims in all three cases.

Did you know that today nearly five million American boys and girls—more than the combined populations of Los Angeles, St. Louis, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and Boston—are being transported to and from school in over 90,000 school buses! And that the routes over which these buses travel every day total 4,000,000 miles—160 times the distance around the world.

There is a big difference between the little one-room school house to which youngsters used to trudge, each responsible for his own transportation and safety—and our vast modern system of large centralized schools, where the public is directly responsible for both. Today our modern centralized schools involve a gigantic transportation problem with the number of new schools and the number of pupils increasing by leaps and bounds. So, too, are the dangers of traffic hazards and highway accidents.

It must be recognized that the attitude of adults toward safety is one of the major factors in influencing children. Whatever an adult does usually seems right to a child. For this reason parents particularly should take an active interest in the school safety program and do everything possible to bring this valuable safety training home to the child. Too many parents rely entirely on the bus driver, the bus patrol, the teacher, and the school principal to protect their children. We can all set better examples for youngsters and at the same time aid in reducing accidents—by driving more carefully on the highways—by slowing down to 20 M. P. H. through marked school zones—and by remembering to stop every time a school bus stops to load or unload children. Equally important, parents should always be on the alert to urge new and better safety legislation and to vote for measures which provide safer, more comfortable, more healthful transportation for our boys and girls.

We, as parents, can supplement the safety training our children receive in school by making certain that they know and understand the following safety rules:

1. Be careful in approaching bus stops; walk on left, toward oncoming traffic; cross road only after bus driver or patrol captain has signaled that it is safe to do so.
2. Be on time for the bus—help keep the bus on schedule.
3. Reach assigned seat in bus without disturbing or crowding other pupils; remain seated while bus is moving.
4. Obey the driver promptly and cheerfully; realize that he has a big responsibility and that it's everyone's duty to help.
5. Help keep the bus clean and sanitary.
6. Remember that loud talking or laughing or unnecessary confusion diverts the driver's attention and may result in a serious accident.
7. Keep head, arms, and hands inside the bus at all times; windows are for light, ventilation and to look through.
8. Be courteous to fellow pupils, bus driver, and patrol captains. Remember, we are all working together for safety.
9. Remain seated until bus stops to unload; wait for signal from bus driver and patrol captain—then cross the road in front of the bus.

If your child is fortunate to be selected as a member of the Bus Patrol, you as a parent can supplement his training for this important responsibility by making certain that the child is thoroughly versed in the functions of the Bus Patrol. These functions are as follows:

1. Set an example for other pupils on bus by conduct which is above reproach.
2. Know the rules for safe bus driving and for pupils, and help to enforce their observance. Remember—safety patrol members are the driver's assistants. They should never act independently, or attempt to direct traffic.
3. Supervise orderly loading and unloading of the bus at all stops.
4. Check to see that all pupils are properly seated in assigned places before the bus starts.
5. Assist the driver in every way possible; be ready to act as watchman at dangerous railroad crossings and road intersections.