

Prevent Accidents Through Power Mower Safety

ATLANTA, Ga. — Spring and summer find many of us in our yards, whether we like it or not, sprucing up the lawn. Yard-care can be fun and rewarding if done with safety in mind.

How many members of your family will be involved in cutting the grass and working in the yard this summer?

Anyone who is doing yard work, should read these safety tips before starting the job:

—Never cut a wet lawn. Wet grass tends to clog up the discharge chute and most of us are all too eager to put a hand or foot down to unclog it.

—Fuel-up the mower outdoors, then wipe up any spills to prevent fire.

—Remove loose stones, wires, bones from your lawn so they won't become projectiles if hit by the blade.

—Wear close-fitting clothes and sturdy, non-slip shoes. NO BARE FEET.

—Adjust the cutting height of the blade before starting the mower.

—Make sure you know where any hard, solid ob-

jects might be hidden in the grass and make certain you avoid them.

Each year there are more than 57,000 power mower accidents that require treatment in a hospital emergency room. Although the majority of these accidents involve the operator, many times the victim is a child in the yard, a neighbor or some other innocent bystander. Some blades can spin at speeds up to 200 miles per hour. Any object that comes in contact with the blade at that speed is capable of traveling long distances with enough force to break a window, or severely injure an eye. It is very important that the discharge chute never be pointed toward anyone.

Consumers should always remember while mowing:

—Always start the machine outdoors.

—Never run the mower over gravel, stones, or hard, immovable objects like pipes, rocks or sidewalk edges.

—Mow forward so you can see where you're going.

—Walk-behind mowers go across slopes; riding

mowers go up and down.

—Stay clear of the blade housing edge.

—Keep electric mower cord out of the cutting path.

—Keep kids away from (and off of) the mower. If you have a riding mower, you need special skills to use it safely. Only a person who knows how to drive an automobile should drive a riding mower, because good driving habits are part of good safety habits with this kind of machine. Using a power mower is not a job for young children. Small children are not aware of power mower hazards or safety practices. So make sure the mower is never left alone (even for a few seconds) without being turned off.

If you're planning to buy a new mower this season, you have the opportunity of making sure you purchase one with the latest safety devices designed to help reduce injuries.

Look for: —A deflector on the discharge chute. This will limit the distance objects can be thrown from under the mower.

—A rear shield to keep feet safely away from the cutting blade.

—An operator's handle that won't flip over the mower, leaving you no safe place to step.

—A motor which separates the gas tank from the exhaust or other hot spots to prevent fire.

Whether you purchase a new power mower or use an older model, proper maintenance is important.

For years of reliable, safe lawn care, keep your power mower clean and well-lubricated. Be sure to disconnect the spark plug before attempting any work on the mower. If fuel leaks or electrical problems (if an electrical mower) are spotted, have them repaired by an experienced service person.

Store your mower with the spark plug disconnected so a child cannot start it accidentally.

Remember safety in your summer lawn care.

For more information on power mower safety, contact the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, 1330 West

Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, Ga. 30309, area code 404 881-2231.

Area Chambers Adopt Goal For Expansion

GREENVILLE — The new Eastern North Carolina Chamber of Commerce has adopted as one of its goals to bring about the existence of at least one community chamber of commerce in each of the 43 counties in the East.

More than one third of the counties in the East do not have any chambers of commerce, it is pointed out by Paul A. Brewer of Warsaw, chairman of the Community Development Council of the Eastern North Carolina Chamber.

Brewer said local chambers should be lead organizations in getting things done. "If a county does not have a Chamber, I doubt that it possesses a force to bring various segments of the community into focus to attain its goals," Brewer observed. Chambers of Commerce, traditionally, have been organizations that have worked for the economic development of their communities. Lately, Chambers have become very active in legislation related to community affairs.

Brewer said his new organization will do everything it can to bring about the establishment of local Chambers all over the East in the next three years. Meanwhile, he said the Eastern N. C. Chamber will work hard on regional projects that cannot be carried out by local chambers.

He pointed out that all Chambers of Commerce are autonomous and, therefore, the Eastern Chamber will have no direct relationship with local chambers. "But we still think every county should have at least one local Chamber of Commerce and we're going to work to get that to happen," Brewer said.

The Eastern North Carolina Chamber of Commerce has its headquarters in Greenville, and operates with a board of directors of 43 members representing each of the 43 counties in Eastern North Carolina.

Green Retirement Plan Adopted

Lt. Gov. Jimmy Green has congratulated members of the legislature for their acceptance and passage of the bill to initiate the "Rule of 85" retirement system for state employees and teachers.

The General Assembly also passed a second part of Green's state employee benefits proposal. That proposal calls for increasing the retirement benefits formula from 1.55 to 1.60 per cent of the employee's average final compensation (this figure is then multiplied by the number of years creditable service in computing an employee's retirement allowance).

The amended "Rule of 85" legislation calls for a one-year delay before implementation so that all aspects of the "funding base" can be studied. Barring unforeseen circumstances, the "Rule of 85" will take effect on July 1, 1980, rather than 1979.

The bill was also amended to require all persons eligible for the "Rule of 85" to begin state employment by their 36th birthday. This amendment will avoid the possibility of "double dip-

ping" by other "early" retirees.

In supporting the legislation, the Lt. Gov. said, "This benefits package for State employees and teachers is a progressive and cost-efficient method of offering fair compensation for our many hard-working State employees and retirees."

"The tremendous growth in government, especially at the state and federal level, has caused many citizens to be somewhat turned off to any form of increased compensation for persons on the public payroll. However, we cannot ignore the fact that these people are having to live with the same spiraling costs of double-digit inflation as the rest of us," he said.

"If there are inefficiencies and unearned salaries among State employees, and at times we do see proof of this, then it should be dealt with immediately. But we must not punish all State employees for the discrepancies of a few," Green continued.

"We have seen enough growth in State government," he said. "Perhaps

now we can stop this 'big is better' attitude and begin to reward our employees for the increasing work load they are asked to deal with," the lieutenant governor said.

"I would hope that passage of the 'Rule of 85' and the increased retirement percentage, as well as the proposed 6.5 per cent salary increase, will earmark a new era in state government toward quality and not quantity," Green concluded.

Bible School Is Scheduled

A Daily Vacation Bible School will begin June 18 at Warren Grove Missionary Baptist Church. Mildred Wiggins is director.

The school will operate each night during the week from 6 o'clock to 8 o'clock.

Teachers have been preparing for several days and a good program is planned. Teachers include: Emma Lawrence, Gloria White, Gwen Moye, Curtis Twine and Willis Privott. Rev. Wilbert Mills is pastor.



Senator Robert MORGAN Report to the People

A TAR HEEL TOLD THEM

A North Carolina newspaper publisher came to Washington last week to testify on a bill I have introduced to protect independent newspapers. He was like a breath of fresh air.

Other witnesses had testified in legal and technical language but James Hurley III, who publishes the Salisbury Post, cut through all the red tape and explained the problem so that anyone could understand it.

A medium sized daily newspaper, he told the Senators and the roomful of people, is worth about \$3 million. But some newspaper chains are so eager to acquire more papers and have so much cash that they will offer \$18 million for the property.

If the owner dies, the Internal Revenue Service doesn't value the newspaper at its true worth, but at the rate it would bring in the open market.

"The heirs could probably pay the estate tax on the \$3 million," Mr. Hurley told the panel, "but if the tax were on \$18 million, they couldn't pay it and probably would have to sell the paper."

He firmly told the committee that "newspapers aren't seeking any favors." "They just don't want to be giggered."

His fellow publishers of independent newspapers for whom Jim Hurley was speaking would have been proud of him if they had been present last Thursday. After all of the technical talk from the bureaucrats and the analysts, he was able to put the case in its simplest terms, yet so complete was his explanation that no questions were needed, nor asked, after he finished.

Interest Rate Increase Set

ROCKY MOUNT — Peoples Bank and Trust Company announced today that it is raising regular statement savings interest rate from 5 per cent to 5 1/4 per cent. New federal regulations released last week allow the increase to become effective July 1.

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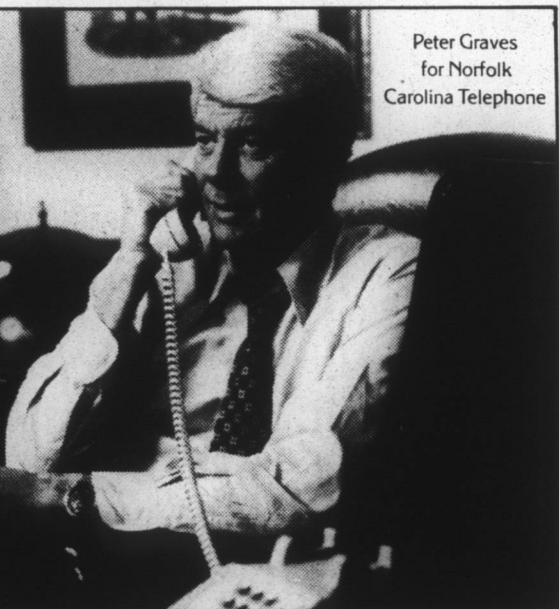
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