DOT Uses State Fair Booth To Increase Public Awareness

North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) won the "Governor's Award for Best Educational Exhibit" at the North Carolina State Fair. Again this year NCDOT will exhibit a series of displays aimed at educating the public to the many services it provides

R. (Bill) Roberson, Jr., who will plates. He would pay the \$10 officially open the exhibit at fee for the personalized 2:30 P.M. on Friday, plates, purchase the October 16, said, "We want an exhibit to demonstrate a months' credit of \$9.25 on sample of the kinds of services we provide all year from January through July. long as well as to offer the The customer then pays public the additional \$6.75 for the renewal, as well convenience of ordering as the \$10 fee for the personalized 'First in personalized plates for a Flight' license plates." -0-

owners as conveniently as possible, NCDOT will again take orders for personalized license plates at the fair. Motor Vehicles Commissioner Elbert L. Peters, Jr., noted that 4,611 more people have ordered personalized license plates in 1981 than in 1980.

Currently 23,822 personalized license plates have been ordered. More than 19,200 plates were ordered in 1980. "Last year at the fair, 550 more people ordered personalized this year," he said.

To order the personalized "First in Flight" license plates at the fair, the motor vehicle owner must fill out and sign a short application form at the booth. The customers pays a \$10 fee (either in cash or by check) to reserve his plate with the particular arrangement of numbers and-or letters he requests. This \$10 fee is in addition to the regular license plate renewal fee and is used for highway beautification and for the promotion of tourism in North Carolina.

Should the customer need plates, official plates and to renew his tag before January, 1982, he would file under the staggered registration system. The customer would receive credit for the unexpired portion of the plate (i.e., a credit on the license renewal

For example, a customer orders a personalized plate which has an expiration date of July, 1982, on his old stickers and receive a seven the old plates for the months total of \$16.75.

The personalized plates Continuing its policy of will be issued in early 198?. related, and 7,302 were serving motor vehicle For the customer who is renewing his personalized plate, he can obtain it in any of the following ways: through the mail, at the New Bern Avenue office in Raleigh, or at a branch office that the customer have previously requested because of its convenience to him.

If the customer is ordering a personalized plate for the first time and he falls under the staggered registration system, then he may obtain his plate in either of two ways: in license plates, and we are person at the New Bern anticipating more orders Avenue Raleigh office or in person at a branch office that the customer has previously requested because of its convenience to him. At either of these locations the customer would take his old plate and exchange it for the personalized plate.

Anyone ordering a personalized license plate for the first time or renewing his personalized plate will have the added bonus of the graphic "First in Flight" plate. By early 1984, "First in Flight" will appear in all regular license plates, specially issued

personalized plates.

In addition to the sale of personalized license plates, NCDOT will display various functions of the department as it strives to meet the transportation needs of North Carolina residents. Several photo displays and captions will depict "Transportation: Past and Present" and Governor's "Good Roads Program."

A photo display with rather startling statistics on alcohol will focus on the problems of drinking and driving and teenage alcohol use. The Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has revealed the following statistics. Of 145,880 accidents last year, 22,917 were known to be alcohol suspected to be alcohol related. Last year 82,930 people were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Young people in the 19 to 25 age bracket showed the greatest numbers of arrests with 29,143. Some 4,775 teenagers 18 and under were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Another display will focus on the license and theft section which is the law enforcement section of DMV. Using scales and a reader-dial, the exhibit will show the relationship between trucks and the weight enforcement program. There will also be narrated slide presentation on the weight enforcement program and on anti-theft measures for

motor vehicles. To emphasize NCDOT's

focus on economy, an exhibit featuring one of the partment's fuel efficient pick-up trucks will be spotlighted. The Equipment Depot, in its effort to trim the budget, will display some devices like an axle that they themselves manufacture. For example, the employees take the raw materials and shape them

into the finished product. The Equipment Depot

many over the last several

years, the first week in

designated as "National

School Bus Safety Week".

The United States House of

Representatives passed the

Resolution by unanimous

From late August through

early June each year, the

convoys of yellow buses

transporting students to and

from school are familiar

scenes along Chowan

County's highways and

secondary roads. Motorists,

parents and students are

urged not to become

complacent with the

familiar, but to take extra

precautions to assure their

cargo. For this reason many

efforts are made in Edenton

Chowan Schools to train bus

drivers and to make

students aware of what they

can do to contribute to their

Several times a year,

training is held for potential

bus drivers. Consultant

services are provided by the

State Department of

Transportation for two days

of concentrated classroom

own safety.

Students are a precious

safety and that of others.

consent July 14, 1981.

has

also rebuilds some parts as opposed to purchasing new ones from a private firm. This rebuilding process saves the state almost onehalf the cost of purchasing new parts. The exhibit will show the same parts of a motor grader (a machine that grades dirt roads) in three different conditions: the non-fuctional worn out parts; the newly rebuilt parts; and the brand new

Bus Safety Week Observed

work and two days of road

work before certification

can be obtained. Anyone

meeting the requirements

has to be approved as a

regular or activity bus

driver by the local Board of

The State Department of

Transportation, Division of

Safety, also provides

personnel to present slide

presentation, classroom

instruction and assembly

programs to classes in

general and in particular to

There are forty-one school

buses in Chowan County,

including a bus for the

handicapped, which tra-

verse the roads twice daily,

one-hundred and eighty

days each year. Fourteen of

these drivers are adults, the

remaining are students. The

drivers of these buses have

been successful in keeping

Chowan County's accident

rates low. In the annual

report of All School Bus

Traffic Accidents for the

1980-81 school year, Chowan

County is one of eight

counties in the State for

which no accidents were

recorded. There were 1021

bus accidents totaled in

N.C. during that same period.

students who ride buses.

Education.

motor

The NCDOT exhibit also includes a display of child safety restraint seats for vehicles and information on the selection of approved child safety seats. Highway safety

about

research center officials will be on hand at the exhibit to answer questions from parents enforcement and lication for the child

Some interesting

statistics (using highest

percentages) surrounding

accidents in which school

buses were involved are as

- 78.6 per cent of

accidents occured with

other vehicles in traffic; 21.1

per cent of all accidents

happen on Friday; 53.6 per

cent occur in the afternoon;

45.9 per cent occur on city

streets, with 44 per cent

being in residential areas on

clear days (71.8 per cent);

69 per cent of all accidents

involved passenger cars,

with the bus going straight

Male drivers were

involved for 64.3 per cent of

the accidents; females 30.8

per cent. Seventeen year

olds had the highest (38.6

per cent) rate; 55 years and

older, the lowest .8 per cent.

violation with which bus

drivers were charged with

were safe movement. 19.6

per cent of the violations

with which other drivers

were charged involved

exceeding safe speed -

followed closely by 18.5 per

cent for safe movement

Continued On Page 3-B

violation.

34.5 per cent of the

ahead (46.9 per cent).

effect July 1, 1982.

Visitors to the exhibit can pick up free shopping bags, transportation maps, staggered registration brochures, ferry schedules, and other transportationrelated materials.

NCDOT personnel will be available at the exhibit to answer questions from the public. If more detailed responses are required,

"Turtles can tell more about the road than hares." Kahlil Gibran

citizens may write the questions or suggestions and leave them at the NCDO7 booth. Replies will be mailed as soon as the requested information is



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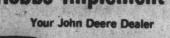
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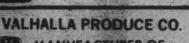


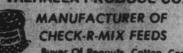
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