

### No Bus Accidents Are Reported

North Carolina operates one of the largest school bus transportation systems in the nation. As with any mode of transportation, accidents do occur. According to the 1980-81 latest figures available, there were 1,021 bus accidents in North Carolina during the school year.

Dr. John Dunn, Superintendent of Edenton-Chowan's Schools proudly boast that during this past 1981-82 school year, Edenton-Chowan's bus drivers have driven a total of 296,820 miles and have had no chargeable accidents.

"Parents and citizens of the county are fortunate," Dunn said, "to have such skilled, well-trained, conscientious school bus drivers transporting students." Dr. Dunn commends the drivers for their successful effort to make Chowan County "one of the safest transportation systems operating in the whole state." In speaking for the school administration Dunn said, "We're proud of them and happily boast that we have such an outstanding safety record."

Four years ago, Edenton-Chowan Schools consciously set a goal to get through a school year with no chargeable accidents; two years ago, two; one year ago, one.

According to Dunn, the system's safety record has steadily improved to the point of no accidents this year. "Our goal is to maintain this record, but once you're on top this becomes difficult," Dunn mused.

Edenton-Chowan's accident free record has been attributed to a combination of several factors, including the thoroughness of the bus driver training program, keeping the busses in top-notch condition, holding sessions with drivers on safety rules and bus

discipline and conducting bus safety programs for students.

Perhaps the biggest contributing factors are the good attitude of the bus drivers themselves toward the responsibility of their job and the rigid qualifying requirements set by the Board of Education for drivers. For example, a bus driver who, personally and not necessarily when driving a school bus, receives any traffic violation or charge at any time loses the privilege of being a bus driver. This may seem to be a little strong to some," Dr. Dunn commented, "but considering what could be at stake, the Board requires these stringent local rules."

Forty-two school buses were operated daily in the Edenton-Chowan system by twenty-three student drivers and nineteen adult drivers, some making two trips. The average age of these forty-two people was twenty-four years old.

Children who live more than 1 1/2 miles from the school they attend were provided with free school bus transportation. In Chowan County, sixty-four per cent of the total school population rode school buses daily for an average, total, round trip mileage of one thousand six hundred forty-nine miles per day.

James Kinion, Associate Superintendent in charge of transportation, also praised "the excellent group of bus drivers who have done an outstanding job" in transporting students.

## Hunt Announces Establishment Of Tech Scholarship

RALEIGH - Gov. Jim Hunt announced Thursday, the establishment by the Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation of a scholarship program for industrial-related training in nine community and technical colleges in eastern North Carolina.

"Weyerhaeuser is right on target in its support of technical training," said Gov. Hunt in remarks made at a meeting of the State Board of Community

Colleges. "There is no doubt in my mind that if we are going to realize substantial increases in income levels in our state we must also see corresponding increases in skill levels. These scholarships are going to make that happen in Eastern North Carolina. I applaud Weyerhaeuser for its foresight and its investment in our economic future. Beginning this fall, the

Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation annually will provide a total of 22 scholarships worth \$900 each to students enrolled in programs such as maintenance, electronics, computer science, hydraulics and secretarial science.

"The need for technical expertise is critical if eastern North Carolina is going to attract and support industry," said Dr. Norman E. Johnson, region vice

president for Weyerhaeuser, explaining why his company established the scholarship program.

"We have been very pleased with the job our community and technical colleges are doing in training young people," Johnson said. "We felt it was time to give students in vocational and technical fields the kind of support and opportunities our company historically has

given to outstanding university students."

Schools receiving two scholarships are: Beaufort County Community College, Washington; Coastal Carolina Community College, Jacksonville; Lenoir Community College, Kinston; Pitt Community College, Greenville; Wayne Community College, Goldsboro; Central Carolina Community College, Sanford and Pamlico Technical College, Grantsboro.

Martin Community College in Williamston will receive five scholarships and Craven Community College in New Bern will receive three scholarships. Both schools are located near large Weyerhaeuser operations.

In 1981 Weyerhaeuser gave nearly \$300,000 in support of North Carolina organizations and programs ranging from libraries in small rural communities, to

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# Belk Tyler

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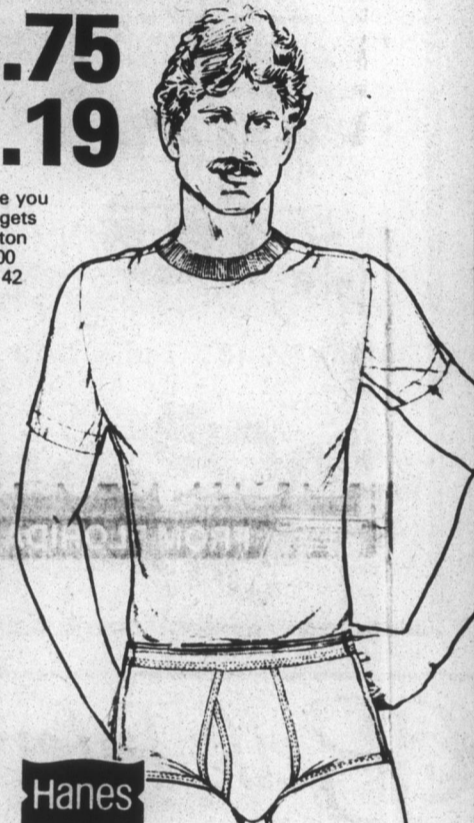
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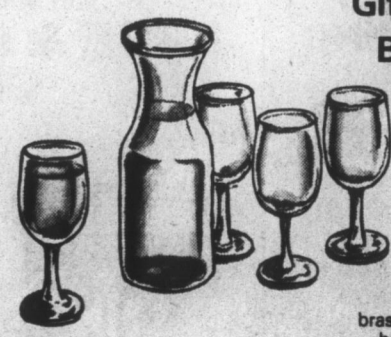
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