

Driver - Licensing Laws Promote Highway Safety

By THOMAS L. LENTZ
Driving License Examiner

Today there are hundreds of people who ask: "What is the purpose of driver-licensing law?" Driver-licensing laws exist for the purpose of promoting safe and sensible conduct on the public highways. This is accomplished by denying to those who are physically or mentally incompetent (for safe motor vehicle operation) the authorization to operate motor vehicles, and, secondly, by taking away a previously granted authorization when a driver's conduct has stamped him as dangerous, or when his condition has changed so that he is no longer a safe driver.

It is said that there are three big "E's" which are fundamental to highway safety: Education, Enforcement, and Engineering. Work of the examiner does not fall into the engineering classification for he does not go out and survey roads or streets, straighten out dangerous curves, or provide for effective traffic signal devices. But his work does come under the two classifications of enforcement and education. He enforces the standards for licensing established by law and by regulation of the Department of Motor Vehicles, and he has a unique opportunity for education in traffic safety.

Examiners are in the business of educating every driver in the proper and sensible methods of motor vehicle operation. An important function is to educate every driver in the observance of certain rules of the road, and to help develop the proper attitude on the part of the driver so that the driver will act sensibly and safely, whether he is traveling a four-lane boulevard or jogging along a back-country road. Today a great many accidents are caused by the attitude a person takes when they are behind the wheel of a motor vehicle.

There are approximately 1,750,000 people today who hold drivers' licenses issued by North Carolina. Each four years every driver is re-examined and issued a new license. Chauffeurs are re-examined each year. Thus, every motorist of the state at some time during each four years comes before a license examiner. This is the main contact which the state government has with its citizens. No other department makes such a mass, statewide personal contact with the public. The Highway Patrol will contact just a fraction of the motorist pop-

ulation — those who are violating the law or who are suspected of doing so.

The general rule of the driver licensing law is that no person shall operate a motor vehicle on any highway in the state unless such person has first been licensed as an operator of chauffeur by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The minimum age for an operator's license is 16 before a person is entitled to apply for such license. In addition, the statutes provide that if he has not yet reached his eighteenth birthday, his application must be signed by either parent, his legal guardian; the husband or wife of the minor (a husband or wife under 18 may sign), or the employer of the minor.

A person must be at least 18 years of age before he is entitled to apply for a chauffeur's license. Such chauffeur's license is valid for the operation of a private passenger-carrying vehicle, and a vehicle transporting property.

A person must be at least 21 years of age before he is entitled to an unrestricted chauffeur's license, valid for the operation of public passenger-carrying vehicles (common carrier busses, and taxicabs). An applicant for a chauffeur's license need not hold a valid license of any type before he applies for license of this type if he meets the age limit and passes the required examinations given.

Five From This County Recruited Into Air Force

Five Haywood men were recently enlisted into the United States Air Force by T/Sgt. William D. Hopkins, local Air Force Recruiter.

The Haywood recruits include: James Lowell Ramey, Lake Junaluska; Thomas Washington Cagle, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Washington Cagle; Carroll Leroy Williams, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Augustus Williams; Kenneth Carroll Whitaker, son of Mrs. Velma Viola Whitaker, and Tracy Joel Banks, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Cleo Banks, all of Canton.

The kangaroo family has more than 50 members ranging from the foot-long muskrat kangaroo to the 7-foot red and great greys.

Haywood Republicans Will Meet Saturday, March 3rd

Haywood Republicans will hold their county convention in the commissioner's room, at the court house, Saturday, March 3, at 2 p.m. It was announced today by Elmer "Red" Miller, chairman of the county executive committee.

Chairman Miller said that county party officers will be named at the convention, as well as delegates to the congressional district convention to be held in Hendersonville, March 9.

All precinct chairmen were reminded by Chairman Miller of the

necessity of naming precinct officers and also delegates to the county convention prior to the meeting here on the 3rd.

At the Hendersonville convention, delegates will be named to attend the state and national conventions.

The county officers to be named at the March 3rd meeting here will include a chairman, vice chairman, and secretary - treasurer, Miller said.

Max Schulhofer Dies At 54

Max M. Schulhofer, 54, a former resident of Waynesville, died last week at his home in Manchester, N. H. Funeral services were held at Manchester on Friday.

Schulhofer was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Schulhofer of Waynesville.

Police Doing Well

DALLAS, Tex. (AP) — Police blotter note: Squad 74 played midwife. Mother, daughter doing fine. So are officers.

son, Max M. Schulhofer, Jr. of the U. S. Navy; one sister, Mrs. Fritz Schulhofer of Aiken, S. C.; and two brothers, Arthur Schulhofer of Aiken and E. J. Schulhofer of Hazelwood.

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