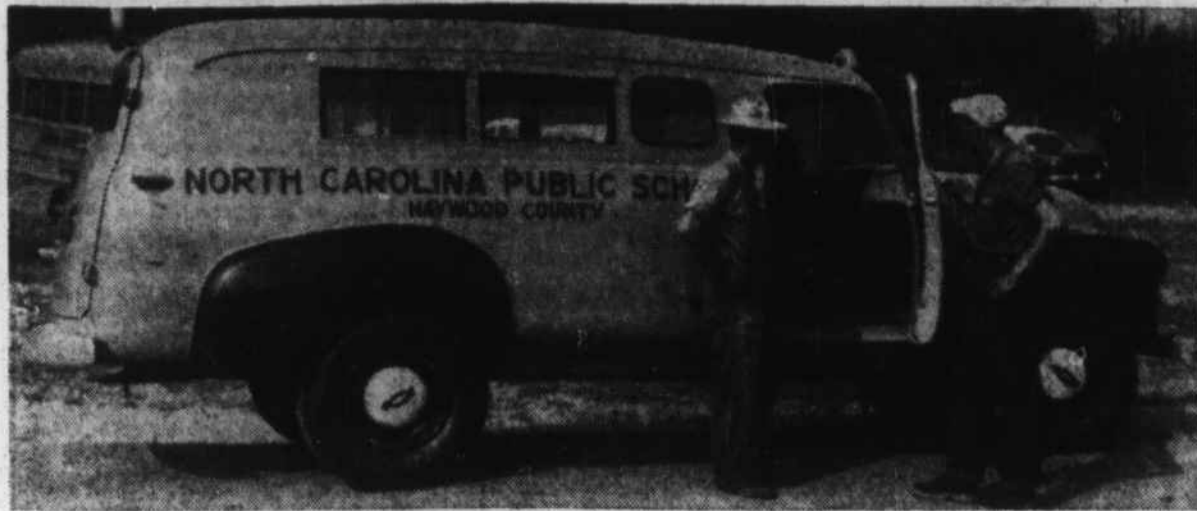


All Motorists Are Urged To Use Extreme Caution As Students 'Stir'



CHILDREN WILL RIDE IN SAFETY after school preparation for the opening of the term August bus equipment is thoroughly checked in 28.



SIGNS OF THE TIMES as law enforcement officers make sure that traffic signs are in good condition to remind motorists that slow speed is essential in school zones.

Officials Plead For Extreme Care In All Driving

Local police and school authorities, as well as public officials in similar positions all over the nation are planning to make this coming school year the safest on record for the youngsters.

That this will be a most difficult year in the history of traffic safety precautions for school children is apparent on the surface of things.

New car registrations — more higher powered cars than ever before—continue to climb. More older cars than ever are on the road.

The number of children going back to school takes another surge this year. Yet the number of policemen available for regulation of the traffic which menaces the youngsters is, in most instances, proportionately less.

Many cities are making extra efforts to amplify safeguards for school children through organization of Adult Crossing Guards, and more and more children are being recruited into the valiant and time-tried service of the

school Safety Patrols.

The Corps of Crossing Guards, recruited from among women, many of them mothers of school children, supplement both the work of the patrols and the police during peak school traffic hours.

Officials are alerting motorists to the opening of school well in advance of the official date because they know that, in addition to human alertness, mechanical preparations also must be made to insure the youngsters more safety.

"Be ready for what's ahead by doing something more than just thinking about it," say the officials. "Make sure now that your car is in good mechanical condition; that it will respond instantly to all controls the moment any emergency arises."

Specifically they urge that

(Continued on page 6)

School Bus Operation Is Planned For Utmost Safety

School buses hardly need back-up lights, it seems. For one thing, they are forbidden to back even one foot on school grounds and for another, they very seldom operate after dark.

There is no rule that forbids their operation at night, says county superintendent of schools Lawrence Leatherwood, but there is a very strict prohibition against backing at all when on school property.

The no-backing order is part of the safety program for the county's 59 school buses. (Last year the state had five fatal accidents caused by a bus's backing over a child.)

Drivers are also instructed to display their STOP flag 100 feet before actually making the stop. This gives the driver behind a chance to pass, if the school bus is traveling slowly enough, or to slow down and prepare to stop if he does not pass. School buses are also supposed to travel 300 feet apart, to permit following drivers to pass one at a time.

These and other rules of the school road are learned by the drivers in a training course, the last of which was held this spring. The drivers who want to handle a school bus must satisfy rigid requirements before they are considered for the position.

Each driver is responsible for the condition of his bus. He must keep it clean and see that necessary repairs are made. Every month the State Highway Patrol inspects each bus to make sure that it is roadworthy.

Maintenance of the equipment also includes paint jobs as often as feasible and, of course, everyday gas and oil jobs. Four men are needed for this work, including one who spends his entire time gassing up the buses. Tanks are refilled every other day.

Most of the buses serve the Waynesville school district, but fast-growing Bethel uses more than a dozen; Fines Creek, six and Clyde and Crabtree-Iron Duff, five each.

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