



## State Defensive Driving Record Tops In U. S.

RALEIGH—The Driver Education and Accident Records Division of the Department of Motor Vehicles has just received word that North Carolina leads all other states in conducting defensive driving courses for 1968.

In reaching the number one spot, the Tar Heel State reached 94 per cent of its 1968 goal during the first seven months of the year.

C. S. Waters, director of the division, said the National Safety Council set North Carolina's goal at

25,382 for 1968. During the first seven months of the year the division trained 19,105 persons. "We'll certainly set a new record by the end of the year," Waters said.

The Department of Motor Vehicles is one of 19 different agencies conducting defensive driving courses in North Carolina and is the only agency offering the course free to the public. The course consists of eight hours of intensive training in driving techniques developed to help the motorists survive in today's traffic.

North Carolina's number one position is due in part to the large number of state employees who have participated in the training course.

Waters, believing that good driving like charity begins at home, set out at the beginning of the year to try to teach defensive driving to every member of the state employees family during 1968.

The big push got underway among state agencies in July. "We're going to just keep on working until every state employee has been reached," says Waters.

By the end of July, more than 16,000 state employees had received the full eight hour course. A majority of motor vehicle employees and an estimated 10,000 of the approximately 12,000 highway commission employees boosted considerably the total number of state employees.

Other state agencies that have participated include the welfare department, health department, administrative department, archives and history, personnel department, board of paroles and the probation commission.

Motor Vehicles Commissioner Ralph Howland and Assistant Commissioner Joe W. Garrett are among the graduates. Both are completely sold on its merits as a weapon in the continuing war on traffic death and injury.

During the past two and one-half years the department has carried the course to thousands of drivers through civic, church and fraternal groups and through private industry.

The course has been conducted for members of

senior citizens groups and for groups of teenagers. If a person drives a car, he can benefit from the course regardless of his age, Waters feels. "It is really a very practical thing," he says.

The veteran motor vehicle employee admits that he and his field force of 59 are "selling defensive driving" with evangelistic zeal.

"No other project that I can remember has served to unite driver education personnel the way defensive driving has," he says. "The men are sold on the value of the course and thoroughly enjoy teaching it."

Even extended teaching of the course doesn't dull the enthusiasm, says Waters. "One man has taught more than 2,000 people and he still enjoys it."

"We feel that if one life is saved by each course, all the work is worthwhile."

As an experiment, the defensive driving course has been substituted for regular instruction in driver improvement clinics conducted by the Driver Education Division in Raleigh, Greensboro, Charlotte, Asheville, Fayetteville and Kinston.

So far, says Waters, "the response has been very good." An analysis will be made following more extensive experimentation.

One thing already is apparent to Waters though: The course definitely has a place in regular driver education. In some counties the entire 11 and 12 grades of the county school systems have taken the course. The planning and packaging of the course and the excellent visual aids make it ideal for holding the interest of teenagers, Waters feels. In several counties the course



DEFENSIVE DRIVING TAUGHT

is used as a follow up to the regular training program for school bus drivers.

Something extra is just what defensive driving is for motor vehicle driver education personnel. Without additional appropriations and without reducing other services, the division has trained thousands of North Carolinians in life-saving driving techniques.

The teaching of defensive driving is Waters' response to Gov. Moore's challenge in 1965 to motor vehicle employees to do something extra.

## Chrystal Page Now On Record

Miss Chrystal Page, an Edenton native who is a rising star in the country and western music field, will appear with the Stone-wall Jackson Show in Jacksonville, October 5.

She also has a contract to appear on the Bill Anderson Show in January.

Miss Page is a regular on the Buck Jones and The WWesterners Show each Saturday night in Williamston.

She is under contract with a major recording company and cut her first record two weeks ago.

In a recent interview she was asked if Williamston was her hometown. To this she replied: "The only home I know and the individuals who set out to reform the human race will be pretty tired before the job is done."

one place I love and I'm very proud of it, is Edenton."



MISS CHRYSTAL PAGE

If everyone worked as hard as he described it, there would be no undone work.

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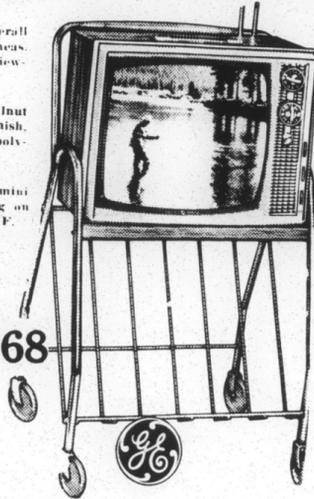
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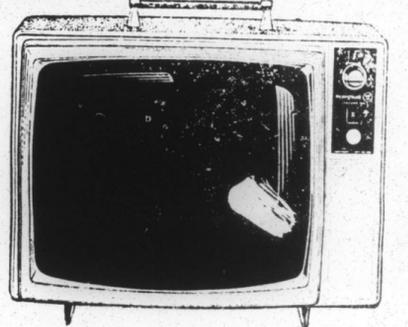
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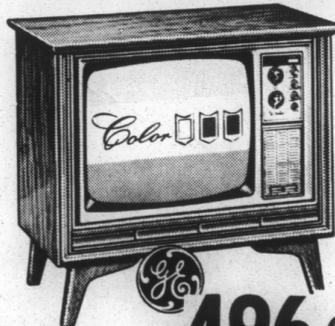
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