

Auto Inspection Program Set-Up On A Voluntary Basis

State Backs New System Checkups

Governor Umstead, Motor Vehicle Commissioner Ed Scheidt, and a group of business firms and organizations are supporting a program to "safety check" the automobiles and trucks which travel on streets and highways in North Carolina. The program, which includes the use of state-issued windshield stickers for automobiles and trucks which are in safe condition, gets under way this

movement is being directed by the Carolina Safety League of which A. Williams, Greensboro, is chairman. The program is strictly voluntary, Williams said. "And the inspection won't cost a penny and entail any obligation on the part of the cars. We believe that we will welcome an opportunity to have their cars safety checked if they are not subjected to red tape and delay."

Governor Umstead issued a signed statement giving his personal and personal endorsement of the program, which fol-

lows happy to give both my personal endorsement to the voluntary Motor Vehicle Check campaign sponsored by the Carolina Safety League. I am doing so I discussed the details with the commission-er, Ed Scheidt, who is a director of the league. I believe that the state's effort to improve highway safety will be materially helped by a successful campaign to assure the mechanical condition of motor vehicles by periodic inspection, and correction of defects. Since there is now a law in North Carolina to require inspection, the league's goal is to secure the voluntary



GOVERNOR ENDORSES AUTO INSPECTION.—Governor William Umstead has given his "official and personal endorsement" to a plan for the voluntary safety inspection of automobiles promulgated by the Carolina Safety League. The free inspections are to begin this spring. Above: Governor Umstead hands his signed endorsement to Thomas A. Williams of Greensboro, chairman of the League. On the left are Mrs. Bessie Ballentine of Raleigh and McAlister Carson, Jr., of Charlotte, secretary-treasurer and vice-chairman of the league, respectively. On the right of the picture is State Motor Vehicle Commissioner Ed Scheidt, a league director, who calls the movement "one of the finest things that has happened since I took office."

check-up of as many vehicles as possible, without cost to the owners, should fill a real need. Moreover, that part of the plan which provides for stickers on the windshields of cars checked and found safe should prove popular with those motorists who want to do their part in the prevention of highway accidents.

"When the actual inspections begin, I will see to it that the state-owned automobile which carries license plate No. 1 also carries a sticker with the statement that it has been checked and approved."

The actual inspections will begin in April or May depending upon delivery of the hundreds of thousands of green, white and black stickers which have been ordered. Cars and trucks will be inspected as to brakes, steering, lights, horns, tires, windshields and windshield wipers — according to terms set down in an officially approved manual. Vehicles which are found safe, or which are made safe following discovery of mechanical defects, will be given a signed and dated sticker stating that they have been checked and "approved".

The North Carolina Legislature passed a mandatory mechanical inspection law in 1947 and the state set up "inspection lanes" throughout the 100 counties. But the administration of the law proved so unpopular that the next Legislature immediately repealed it. The plan of the Carolina Safety League calls for free, voluntary inspection at any one of hundreds of garages designated as inspection stations.

"I think it's one of the finest things which has been started since I took office," said Commissioner Scheidt, the former top FBI man who is leading the state's effort to reduce highway deaths and accidents.

Officers of the league, in addition to Williams, are: McAlister Carson, Jr., of Charlotte, vice-

Patrolmen Nab Average Of 178 Speeders Daily

Tar Heel motorists accused of speeding filed in and out of court at the rate of 178 per day during February the State Department of Motor Vehicles reported today. For the short month the vehicles agency recorded 4,998 speeding convictions, an increase of nearly 2,000 over February of last year.

The speedsters made up the only four figure bracket of violators during the month. Reckless driving (first offense) followed in second place with 929 convictions and driving with no

operator's license resulted in 701 convictions. Failing to stop for a stop sign resulted in a court appearance for 366 motorists.

Chief miscellaneous violations and subsequent convictions were reported as follows: improper passing, 186; improper lights, 122; passing school bus, 25; following too closely, 86; failing to give right of way, 139; and driving on wrong side of road, 90.

Total convictions secured for the month came to 8,103, well over half of them from speeding.

The Royal Order of The Moose will meet Thursday night, 7:30, in the Penland Brothers Building on Wall Street.

All persons interested are invited to attend this meeting, as several matters of importance will be brought up for discussion.

chairman; Mrs. Bessie B. Ballentine of Raleigh, secretary-treasurer; and Scheidt, V. E. Fisher and J. W. Ragsdale of Raleigh and T. E. Pickard of Charlotte, directors.

Our Bears Better Behaved Than Yellowstone's Bruins

Roy E. Bell To Address Methodist Men On Tuesday

Rev. Roy E. Bell, pastor of the Sylvia Methodist Church, will be the speaker for the Haywood County Methodist Men's Fellowship meeting at Morning Star Methodist Church, Tuesday evening, March 16, at 6:30 o'clock.

The meeting will feature a supper, served by the Women's Society of the host church, fellowship singing, and an address by Mr. Bell. The speaker is a native of Lexington, graduating from Lexington High School in 1937. He graduated from Catawba College in 1941, and received his seminary training at Duke Divinity School, graduating in 1944. Since then, he has served as pastor of Mouzon Methodist Church, Charlotte; Main Street Methodist Church, Kernersville; and came to Sylvia last October. Mr. Bell is presently serving as District Director of Youth Work for the Waynesville District.

The president of the Haywood County Methodist Men's Fellowship is John W. Pless of Bethel. He and the other officers are anticipating a large number of Methodist men in the county to attend this meeting.

Parking Law Has Tooth

DAVENPORT, Iowa (AP) — The police desk sergeant just laughed when a motorist displayed his overtime parking ticket and complained he'd been tied up at the dentist's office.

Then the motorist carefully unwrapped a handkerchief and displayed an extracted tooth as evidence. He pointed, too, to his swollen jaw.

The ticket was excused.

Want Ads bring quick results

The bears of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park have notched up another triumph for the region's greatest scenic attractions.

They're gentler than are the bears in some other national parks—Yellowstone for instance.

The bears in the Smokies have made reputations for begging food and for showmanship but this is something new in the way of tourist attractions—gentleness.

The National Park Service has just reported that in Yellowstone National Park last year — four times the size of the Smoky park — 43 persons left bearing wounds inflicted by the bears. These casualties were inflicted during a year that drew 1,326,858 tourists to the Yellowstone.

But our bears, bless their little claws, only left scratches on some 10 or 15 persons, or at least that was the number treated by physicians at Gatlinburg. And they had more chances too. The Smoky park drew 2,250,712 visitors.

Maybe they are more used to people—the park is young yet — or maybe the tourists in this area are more susceptible to signs.

"Bears have never been known to bother anybody who heeded the warnings posted throughout the park and let them alone," said Ed Hummel, superintendent.

Fifteen of the Yellowstone visitors were injured while they or someone close by fed bears. Twenty-three injuries resulted from approaching a bear or letting one come too close. Four bear attacks apparently were unprovoked. The other case involved a park employee who bumped into a bear on a trail at night, according to the dispatch.

However, minor traffic accidents, resulting when motorists stop in the middle of the road to watch the animals without signaling to cars behind them, add to the headaches of rangers in Great Smoky National Park.

"Our bears are just as black



PFC. KENNETH L. SMATHERS, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Perry Smathers of the Balsam Road, is spending a 20-day furlough at home. Pfc. Smathers will report to Camp Kilmer, N. J., March 16, for assignment overseas. He entered the army in April, 1952 and has been stationed with the 47th Military Police Co., Camp Rucker, Ala.

Pfc. Frank Hunt, Jr. Arrives At Ft. Bragg

Army Pfc. Frank Hunt, Jr., of Waynesville, arrived at Fort Bragg March 3 with the 576th Quartermaster Depot Company from Fort Lee, Va.

His unit will help provide clothing and general supplies for 60,000 troops coming to Fort Bragg in April and May for Exercise Flash Burn, a field maneuver employing the newest Army tactics and weapons.

Hunt, a supply handler, entered the Army last April.

and just as mean as any others," Superintendent Hummel said, "and they're going to be mighty hungry when they come out with the warm weather and start entertaining the tourists about April 1!"

Park Attendance For February Down 3 Pct.

Attendance of visitors of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park for 1954 now stands 3 percent below last year. The total for February of 38,784 was 20 percent below the 48,753, reported in February, 1953, compared to an increase of 39 percent in January this year, over last year's figure.

Total for the two months is 72,317 this year, compared with 74,859 in 1953.

Smokies Warden Clyde Smith Dies

Clyde Smith, a Great Smoky Mountains National Park Warden for the past 16 years, died last week after a long illness. He was 51.

Smith had been stationed at Cade's Cove until he recently was transferred to park headquarters in Gatlinburg.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Pauline Smith, two daughters, Judy and Sue Smith; his mother, Mrs. Nellie Smith of Atlanta, Ga.; one step-daughter, Mrs. Aubrey Smith, Atlanta; two sisters, Mrs. E. J. Rosser and Mrs. L. V. Snyder, both of Atlanta; and two brothers, Audley and John Smith, both of Oneida.

The British aircraft industry employs about 224,000 people.

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Answers To What The Human Heart is Eager To Know!

Happens To A Man At The Dead Know Anything About Their Loved Ones Living On Earth? Where Do They Spend Their

In The Weeks: Mar. 16, 7:30 — A PROMISE GOD COULDN'T FULFILL!

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The Look of Tomorrow is in every '54 BUICK Today. With completely new "years-away" styling—highlighted by the drum-car design of the panoramic sweep-back windshield.

Take it Easy
you don't have to prove a thing!

LET's be sensible about this subject of horsepower. An all-American tackle doesn't go around tackling people in everyday life. A world-record sprinter doesn't have to demonstrate his prowess on city sidewalks. The better you are, the less you have to prove it. And that's how it is with a Buick CENTURY. Of course it's a spectacular performer—a car with *instantly* responsive action. It has to be, for it combines a high-compression 200-horsepower V8 engine with a nimble weight of only 3866 pounds as it comes off the assembly line. That's a power-to-weight ratio that chalks up a new record—a ratio that no other Buick has ever reached before.

It can spin your wheels on a dry pavement if you give it the gun, but why waste rubber? If some show-off wants to get the jump on you at a traffic light, why not let him have fun? He isn't kidding anyone but himself, when the name on your car is CENTURY. The real pride of owning such a car is simply this: You know so well what it can do that you never have to prove it. That lets you enjoy the tireless ease of its

gait in ordinary driving, when only a fraction of its eager power is working. It gives you a quick reserve for breasting a hill—and the happy knowledge that there's still more to come in a sudden emergency. Sure, this is more power than most people really have to have. But you can hardly call it extravagant, when you are buying more horsepower per dollar in a CENTURY than you get in any other car in America.

BUICK
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The 200-horsepower Buick Century for 1954 is available in a full line of models, including the stunning new 6-passenger Convertible shown here.

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