

School bus routes to be streamlined for more efficiency

The Orange County Board of Education, in an apparent agonizing decision for some of its members, decided Thursday to cut out the "taxi service" its 70 busses are providing for many Orange County school children. The action was another step in the program to put the county's school bus transportation system on an efficiently operating basis, in compliance with State regulations and financial ultimatum from the State Board of Education.

Last year, an inspection by State authorities found Orange County's school bus fleet in a deplorable condition of repair, with expenses running considerably greater than the funds provided by the State for transportation operations.

State to the rescue

The State agreed to bail the county out of its financial hole to the tune of \$10,237.05 in extra expenditures and recommended it hire an experienced maintenance supervisor in the person of J. E. Latta, a man with many years experience in North Carolina school bus transportation work. The county board agreed and pledged its support to the new program and its manager.

Tuesday night Superintendent G. Paul Carr, with Latta and Cameron Park Principal Ted Shoaf in attendance, told the Board the County can reduce its school bus travel routes by one fourth and still furnish the transportation required by law.

Latta then proceeded to cite example after example of unnecessary loop routings, overlapping routes, and dead-end trips, pointing out that he has just begun to check out each route in

detail. Time after time he noted how a bus, by cutting off this loop, or this dead-end, could save 2.4 miles, 3.2 miles, etc. per day.

Could work out

"The whole system could be worked out and cut down, and then run as it should be," he said. He said that if each bus route could be cut by 4 miles per day, it would save the county 50,400 miles.

"These often are the worst roads and cause the most damage to busses," he said. "Busses are running so many miles down dead-end and overlapping roads that they have to leave much earlier than necessary. When you reduce mileage you reduce time on the bus and all children benefit," he continued.

First bus route changes have produced repercussions for the principals, explained Shoaf. He said he had had two and three hour conferences with some parents who don't want the route changes. Some parents are threatening removal of children from school, enrolling them in Durham, etc., it was explained.

3 or 4 choices

Carr put the problem to the Board this way: "We have three or four choices. We can do like (See SCHOOL page 10)

Interested proponents invited . . .

Public meeting set next Monday to weigh action on fluoridation

A public meeting of citizens interested in promoting action toward fluoridation of the Chapel Hill public water supply will be held next Monday evening at 8 o'clock in the Chapel Hill Town Hall.

Purpose of the meeting will be to consider what courses the citizens can best pursue individually and collectively to bring about the installation of the fluoridation process by the University Service Plants in its treatment of the water. Roland Giduz, Editor of The News, said he had arranged for the meeting to be held after talking with several interested citizens in Chapel Hill who hoped to more actively bring the 11-year campaign for fluoridation to a successful conclusion.

No definite plan now

"We do not have a definite

plan in mind at this time," said Giduz, "but there are a few of us who want to talk over this matter very seriously together and see what practical steps we can take toward this goal."

"It may be that we will legally petition to enter into the current civil lawsuit to prevent fluoridation as an ally of the University, the defendant in this case. A local attorney is now checking into this. Certainly we are anxious to help bring the defense of this case to a successful conclusion."

If this course is decided upon,

he said that he and several other persons were prepared to put up private contributions to finance the legal aid. A number of local dentists and other professional persons in medical, dental, and public health fields have indicated they'd be quite willing to contribute to such a cause, the newspaperman said.

"Whether there are no more than several of us, or a large number of citizens, we are sincerely interested in taking practical and progressive action in this matter," he said. "We shall welcome all other persons who are so inclined, too, to join with us."

Trustees' permission for local fluoridation tied to court decision

Action by the University of North Carolina toward fluoridation of the Chapel Hill public water supply cannot now be taken until the pending lawsuit to prevent this treatment is successfully settled.

This was made clear this week in a communication from University Business Manager J. A. Branch to Chapel Hill Town Manager Robert Peck. The University official cited a July 9 resolution by the Executive Committee of the University trustees. It formally approved the University administration's 1960 decision to fluoridate the water supply.

Approval qualified

However, this resolution approved the earlier action to proceed with fluoridation "subject to the decision of the North Carolina courts in the pending action of Simons vs. the University of North Carolina."

Thus the University is now prevented by the trustees' action from proceeding with the fluoride project until the two-year-old civil lawsuit is settled, even though no temporary injunction has been asked by the plaintiff in the lawsuit to prevent this at this time.

The University has filed a motion for a demurrer against the lawsuit that was initiated by Manning Simons of Chapel Hill. The Attorney General of North Carolina, acting as legal counsel for the University, filed the

demurrer last winter. However, the Attorney General has not to date, in reply to inquiries about this, been able to say when he would seek a hearing on this motion.

Tells of conference

Town Manager Peck told the Chapel Hill aldermen this week that he had a conference with University Chancellor W. B. Aycock and Business Manager Branch on the fluoridation situation. He said that they assured him they wanted to proceed as quickly as they could on it, subject to the limitation of the trustees' resolution.

It was understood that this resolution was asked for by the attorney general's office to meet an allegation by the complainant in the lawsuit that permission to fluoridate had not been granted by the trustees.

Thus the granting of this permission appears to satisfactorily answer this point in the complaint. But tying this permission to the decision of the court in that lawsuit also prevents action on the fluoridation matter at this time, too.

Orange teams face Durham

Continuing their round-robin series of pre-conference encounters, the football "Wildcats" of Hillsboro and Chapel Hill meet teams of Northern and Southern Durham tomorrow night.

Both games will be played away as far as the home teams are concerned, but good crowds are expected to follow both teams.

Last Friday Hillsboro showed considerable opening night promise in tromping a larger Chapel Hill team 19-7 under the Orange Speedway lights before one of the largest crowds in the history of the ancient series. At the same time Northern was rolling over Southern for a convincing victory, thus setting the stage for the battles of the winners and the losers Friday in this unique opening series.

Housing planning loan requested; street, traffic projects okayed

The Town of Chapel Hill has joined its Public Housing Authority in seeking a \$25,000 loan from the federal government for planning of a 200-unit public housing project here.

This action by the town aldermen on Monday night made final the local request for the funds which would be repaid out of rental receipts if the project were built. If it isn't the loan would not have to be repaid. Town Manager Bob Peck explained.

The aldermen also endorsed on to the State Highway Commission a plan for a major improvement of Hillsboro St. whereby it will be widened by about one-third and curbed. In addition, new sewer lines will be laid under this state-maintained thoroughfare.

To relieve downtown congestion the Board reduced parking on the west side of the first block of South Columbia St.

making it possible to set up another southbound lane of moving traffic.

The aldermen also set up a special meeting with the district planning board on Wednesday of next week to discuss priorities for projects included in the community's long-range thoroughfare plan.

In other matters of business,

the aldermen removed from the table where it was placed at their previous meeting a proposed radial road on the thoroughfare plan that extended southward across the residential area of Morgan Creek. Further action on this was postponed to find out the University's stand on the proposed road, which would originate on its property.

14,128 attend Chapel Hill classes . . .

Double shift avoided at 2 schools; term opening proceeds smoothly

The opening of fall term classes in the Chapel Hill schools has been carried out "relatively smoothly" despite a 10 per cent increase in enrollment, Superintendent of Schools Howard Thompson said yesterday.

As of the latest count on Tuesday, he said there were 14,128 pupils present in the eight Chapel Hill system schools—an increase of 313 over the 3,815 over the close of school last spring. Total enrollment has already pushed the number over 4,200, he noted.

The superintendent added

that it had not been necessary, as earlier feared, to double shift primary grades in the Glenwood and Carrboro schools although it was necessary to place 34 pupils in some Estes Hills School classrooms last year.

At the 12-classroom Estes Hills School there were 545 pupils enrolled on Tuesday. Double shift sessions were in force for the first, second, and third grades, there being about 150 pupils in each shift—from 8 to 12, and 12 to 4 p.m.

Following are the Tuesday pupil totals for other local schools: Carrboro—463; Glen-

wood—708; Chapel Hill Junior High—703; Northside—421; Frank Graham—392; Lincoln High—378; and Chapel Hill High—502.

Grading work on construction of a 12-classroom wing at Estes Hills School started this week. Superintendent Thompson reiterated that he hoped the building would be ready for occupancy during the school year. The newly-constructed Frank Graham School is now fully-occupied, he added, except that work in the cafeteria will not be completed until the end of this week.

THE NEWS OF ORANGE COUNTY
Vol. 70, No. 37, Sept. 13, 1962
Published Every Thursday In The Year By The News, Inc.
Subscription Rates (Payable In Advance): In NC, \$2.50, plus 3% Sales Tax; Outside NC., \$3.
Entered As Second Class Matter In The Postoffice at Hillsboro And Chapel Hill, N. C.