

Folly on Wheels:

Despite Tighter License Laws in Many States, Many of Today's Drivers Lack Proper Training

ALTHOUGH the automobile has caused more death and destruction than almost anything else invented by man, many people still insist that driving is a right and that any fool in the country should be permitted to aim this deadly weapon.

The folly of this attitude is demonstrated by the fact that less than half of today's drivers ever had to prove they actually could drive before getting their licenses.

Further, it's been estimated that only 10,000,630 of our 70,000,000 drivers have had any type of professional training.

The other 60,000,000 either were self-taught or learned from a friend or relative who also may have been self-taught. Such a teacher probably learned to drive in days when traffic was less congested from "instructors" who were auto salesmen and who showed only how to start and stop the car.

A large number of the drivers who learned in the do-it-yourself school never had to take any test—they obtained their licenses through "grandfather clause" procedures in certain states that blanketed all drivers at the time a driver license law was adopted.

This same escape permits drivers to renew licenses without an examination or re-examination.

As a result, there are cases where licenses are being maintained by illiterates who can't

even read the warning signs on the road or by persons who are totally blind.

Fortunately, great progress in improving driver licensing laws has been made since the end of World War II.

At present, 47 of the 48 states require new applicants to take a driving test as well as a written examination before a license can be issued.

Despite the improvements, safety authorities admit that we still have a long way to go.

Properly administered, they say, good licensing laws can have a tremendous impact on our traffic safety effort by keeping unqualified and irresponsible drivers off the roads and by requiring license revocations for flagrant law-breakers and accident repeaters.

"Driver licensing plays a major role in highway safety," said Rudolph F. King, registrar of motor vehicles in Massachusetts.

"In the distribution of driver licenses, we must put forth every effort to see to it that only those individuals who meet the required qualifications in the strictest sense of the word are permitted to have issued to them the privilege of driving on the highways," King stated.

"Ideally, the examination for a license should be uniform in all states and should meet the regulations of the highest standard states.

"If this isn't done within a reasonable length of time, the states that have high standards should give serious consideration to denying the reciprocity privilege to persons from states that have lower standards.

"We should see to it that those who get a license by merely writing in for it or purchasing it from some corner store be restricted to operating in their own states."

The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators is working for uniform laws and uniform practices relating to motor vehicle ownership and usage in each of the 48 states.

In this drive, there are two major obstacles, said Basil R. Creighton, assistant executive director of the AAMVA.

"The first," he pointed out, "is political turnover. There must be a continuity of policy and administration of driver licensing programs.

"The second is public apathy. Good licensing programs should be encouraged, unsound programs should be corrected.

"The courts have upheld the fact that driving is a privilege, now a right. There has been substantial improvement over the driver-licensing situation since World War II, but it still is up to the people to demand that the privilege of operating a motor vehicle be given only to those who are qualified and be taken away from those who abuse the privilege."

THIS WEEK'S SAFETY MESSAGE

By Cameron F. McRae, M. D.

With schools opening for the new term, let's make every effort to protect our school children on their way to and from school. To this end, parents should warn their children to cross streets and highways only after looking both ways to make sure the road is clear; motorists should slow down and use extra caution in school zones. Remember that "by losing a minute you may be saving a life".



ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

NORTH CAROLINA
YANCEY COUNTY

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Mrs. Louise Robinson, deceased, late of Yancey County, this is to notify all persons having claims against the Decedent to exhibit the same to the undersigned Administrator at his home at Rt. 1, Green Mountain, N. C., on or before the 21st day of

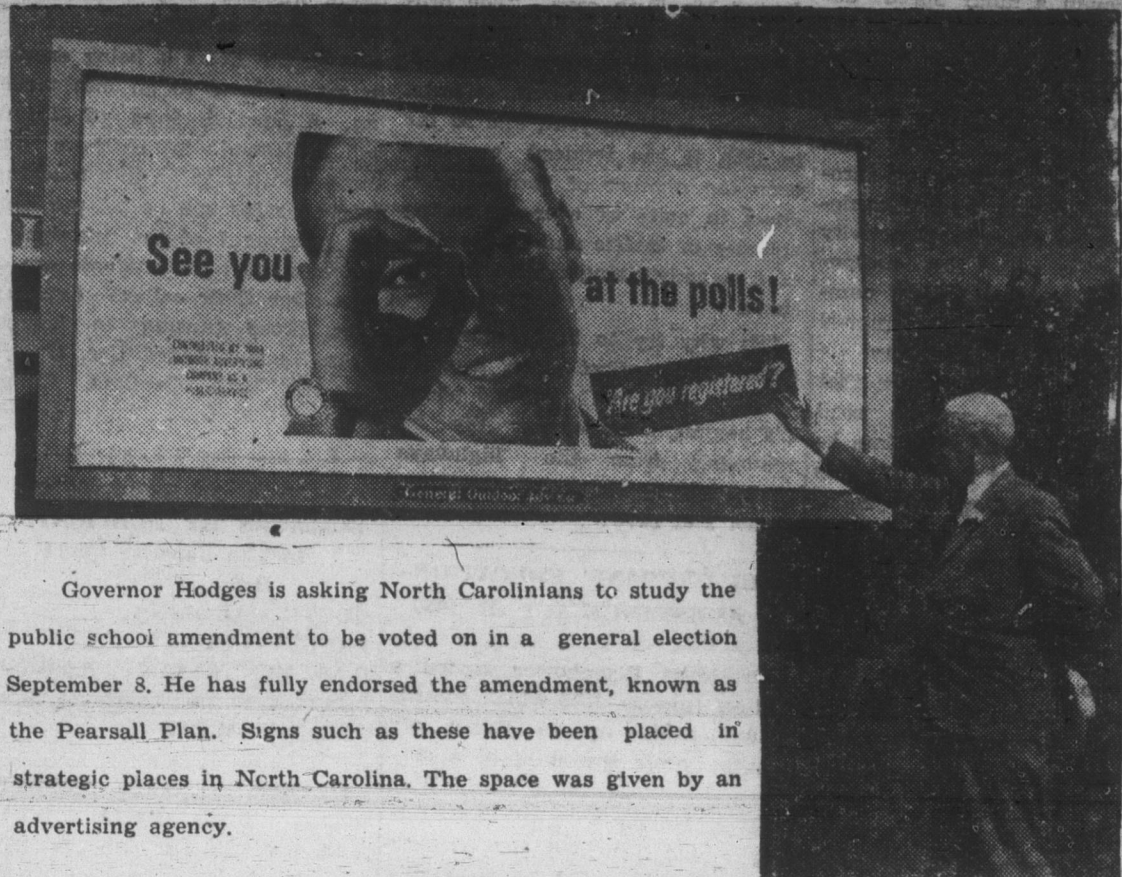
August, 1957, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons owing the Estate will please make immediate payment.

This 21st day of August 1956.
Carver Robinson, Administrator of the Estate of Mrs. Louise Robinson, Deceased.
Aug. 23, 30; Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27

SUBSCRIBE TO THE RECORD

TRUSTEE'S NOTICE OF SALE
NORTH CAROLINA
YANCEY COUNTY

All persons, and especially Earl King and wife, Lillie Mae King, will take notice, under the power of sale conferred upon him by that Deed in Trust executed on August 29, 1955, by Earl King and wife, Lillie Mae King, to R. W. Wilson, Trustee, which is recorded in Book 42 at page 125 of the Record of Mortgages and Deeds in Trust in the office of the Register of Deeds for Yancey County; will, on the 29th day of September, 1956, at 11 o'clock a. m., at the North Door of the Court House in Burnsville, offer for sale to the highest bidder that tract of land located in North Carolina, Yancey County, Prices Creek Township, adjoining the lands of Elmer Byrd and others, and described as follows:



Governor Hodges is asking North Carolinians to study the public school amendment to be voted on in a general election September 8. He has fully endorsed the amendment, known as the Pearsall Plan. Signs such as these have been placed in strategic places in North Carolina. The space was given by an advertising agency.

SAMPLE OFFICIAL BALLOT

SPECIAL SESSION SCHOOL AMENDMENT

- FOR constitutional amendment authorizing education expense grants for private education and authorizing local vote to suspend local schools.
- AGAINST constitutional amendment authorizing education expense grants for private education and authorizing local vote to suspend local schools.

REGULAR SESSION AMENDMENTS

- 1
 - FOR amendment allowing limited necessary compensation of members of the General Assembly.
 - AGAINST amendment allowing limited necessary compensation of members of the General Assembly.
- 2
 - FOR constitutional amendment changing the date for convening the General Assembly from January to February.
 - AGAINST constitutional amendment changing the date for convening the General Assembly from January to February.
- 3
 - FOR amendment authorizing married woman to exercise powers of attorney conferred upon her by her husband.
 - AGAINST amendment authorizing married woman to exercise powers of attorney conferred upon her by her husband.

Beginning on a stake or planted stone at the N. W. corner of the Jas. A. Cassida lot number 1 and runs thence N. 14 poles to the corner of the school house lot at a rock marked X; thence a N. E. course 158 feet to a planted stone at the L. E. Briggs corner which is the N. E. corner of the school house lot; thence with the L. L. English line about 74 poles to a hackhack oak; thence a S. course 32 poles to a chestnut oak at the L. E. Briggs-Elmer Byrd corner; thence with a marked line 80 poles to the Beginning, containing 10 1/2 acres, more or less.

The highest bidder will be required to deposit with the Clerk of the Superior Court 10 per cent of the price he bids as earnest money during the time of waiting for raised bids.

This the 30th day of Aug. 1956.
R. W. WILSON, Trustee
Copy posted at the Court House Door August 30, 1956.
September 6, 13, 20, 27

SUBSCRIBE TO THE RECORD

GRAMPS HAS HIS FLING

By Fran Pachter

GRAMPS was apparently rocking and sunning himself with obvious enjoyment as he watched his grandchildren romp on the lawn. Though outwardly calm he was seething inside, his thoughts adding impetus to the rockers motion. Newly retired from the post office where a constant stream of activity had been his life, Gramps was champing at the bit over enforced idleness.

Ellen arriving home and seeing her Dad busily cutting long swaths of grass called out, "Dad, please leave the grass alone. It's too much for you." Much to her dismay she saw him stop still and angrily stride off toward the house. She knew he was angry because he brushed the children away from him. It was a short time later that she heard his car start and Gramps drove away. Ellen sighed, her father was a problem. He ought to enjoy resting after so many years of hard work.

Supper was over and bedtime near before the old gent reappeared. Ellen had been beset with anxiety over his long absence, but did not realize that her tone of admonition held the same undertones reserved for her children when they needed reprimanding.

"Gramps, where have you been? I've been frantic."

Gramps eyed his daughter for a moment before replying. When he spoke his words shocked her.

"Ellen, let's get this straight. I'm not your son Tommy's age, and I'm perfectly capable of taking care of myself. I want it understood that no snip of a youngster is going to dictate to me." With that he turned his heel and left the room.

Little did Ellen realize that this was the onset of her Dad's rebellion though subsequent absences gradually awakened her. No longer did he loiter about the house, nor did he play with his grandchildren anymore. He took off each

morning giving no hints to his whereabouts. Ellen fearful of arousing his ire, said nothing.

It was a good six weeks before Ellen learned of his mysterious trips and then only because neighbor dropped in and casually dropped a bombshell.

"When's the wedding taking place?" She asked.

"What wedding?" asked Ellen.

"Your Dad's of course. He's up to widow Foster's place every day."

"My Dad?" Ellen felt weak. "I can't believe it. Mom's been dead a good many years, but Dad has never looked at another woman."

"Well," said the neighbor, "he's not only looking, he's practically living there."

Ellen digested this revelation long after the neighbor left, debating the wisdom of mentioning it to Gramps. Upon Dad's return that night Ellen saw him as though for the first time. Her Dad was handsome in a distinguished, dignified sort of way. She noted the smart cut of his clothes realizing as she did that he had added several new suits to his wardrobe. Before she could speak, Dad beat her to it.

"Ellie, I'm getting married. I don't care if you like it or not, I'm marrying Nettie Foster. We've a lot in common, and together we can have a new life. I loved your mother very much, but she's been dead a long time, and a fellow gets lonely. I hope you'll understand."

Ellen knew that her Dad's long speech had been hard for him but all she could say was, "A wedding, Dad! Will it be here?"

"Shucks no," said her father. "We're going to elope, Nettie and I want it that way. Makes us feel all the younger. I wanted you to know."

Ellen sighed, folks always said children were hard to understand, but what about parents?

C. M. BAILEY ATTENDED INSTITUTE OF INSURANCE

C. M. Bailey of Burnsville attended the seventh annual Institute of Insurance at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill recently.

During the week-long Institute, Mr. Bailey attended daily class sessions in all phases of the insurance business. Classes began Monday, August 13, and continued through Friday, August 17.

The Institute is sponsored by the North Carolina Association of Insurance Agents, Inc., and is held in cooperation with the UNC Extension Division, Bureau of Business Services and Research, School of Business Administration and the Educational Committee of the National Association of Insurance Agents.

Approximately 160 state insurance personnel attended the institute.

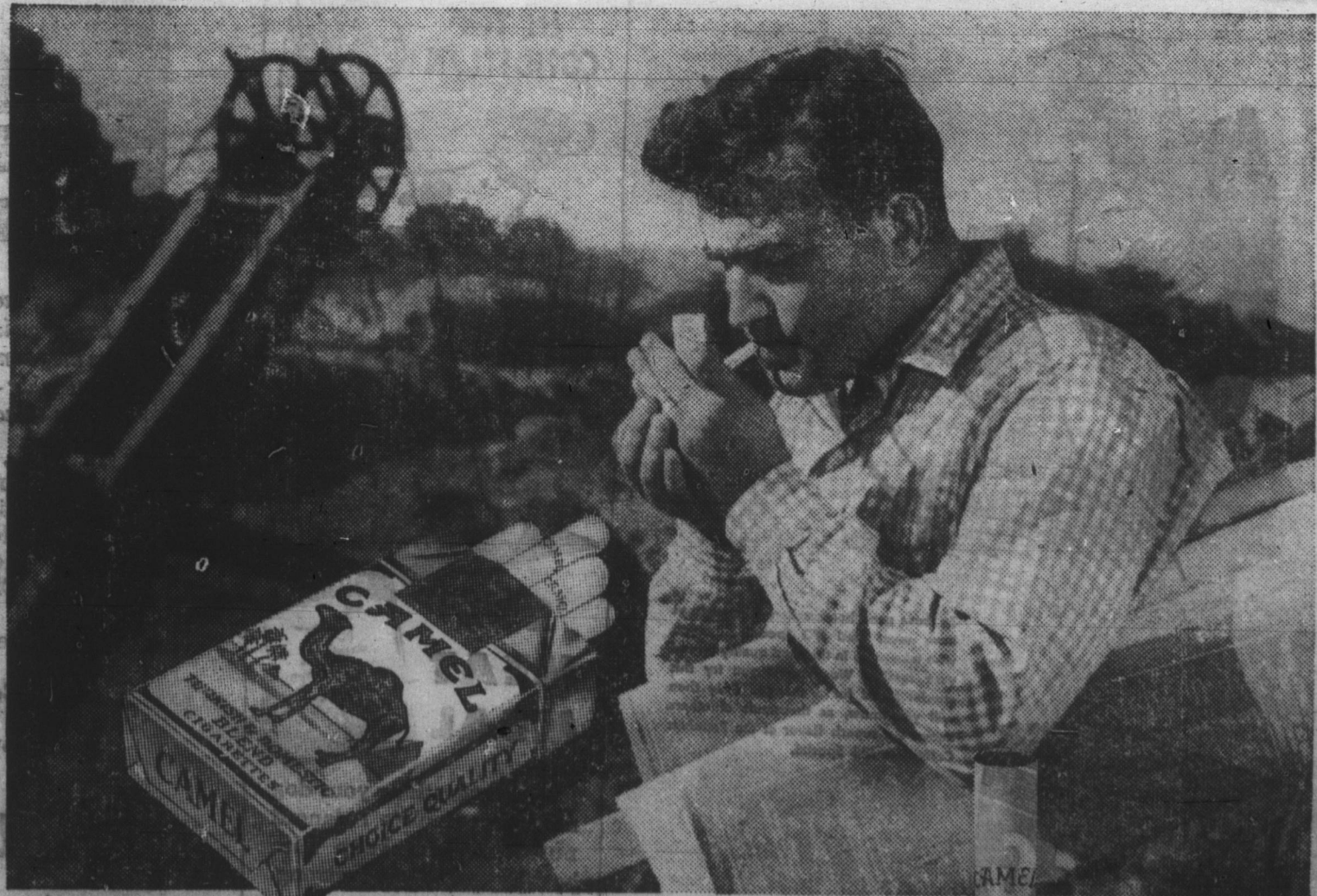
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Murray Golub

civil engineer on Conn. Turnpike, says: "I want a real cigarette — one I can taste. That's why I'm a Camel smoker, and have been ever since college."

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Picture of a long distance family get-together

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