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NC Changes School Bus 'Stop' Law

RALEIGH - North Carolina motorists were advised today that state law requiring drivers to exercise extreme caution in the presence of school buses was strengthened by the 1969 General Assembly to require additional caution during the school year now beginning.

According to Bob L. Thomas, driver education representative for Yancey, the primary change in the law will require motorists to stop at the first visual indication that a school bus is in the process of stopping to discharge or receive passengers. In the past, the law had specified that vehicles approaching or following a school bus must stop when the bus is "stopped" and in the process of receiving or discharging passengers.

The new alteration in the law expands the regulation to require that motorists stop "at any time while such bus is displaying its mechanical stop signal."

"The new regulation," Mr. Thomas said, "is being interpreted to mean that even though the school bus may be in motion, either stopping or starting, it cannot be passed in either direction as long as the mechanical stop signal is displayed." He added that school bus drivers are being instructed to use the mechanical signal with discretion and only when definitely stopping to receive or discharge passengers.

The law also applies to privately-owned buses transporting children to and from school church or Sunday school. It does not apply to vehicles on four lane streets and highways "that has separated into two roadways by intervening space or a physical barrier."

Jaycees Host Breakfast

The Yancey County Jaycees are hosting a prayer breakfast Wednesday, September 17, at the Amberjack Restaurant in Burnsville. Breakfast will be served at 6:15 A.M. and the program, with Bill Banks as guest speaker, will begin at 6:45. All interested citizens are invited to attend. Cost of the breakfast is \$1.15 per person. If you plan to attend, please contact a member of the Jaycees.

LABOR DAY

A DAY TO BE PROUD



Excellent Crop Of Game Birds This Year-Hunting Season Opens Mon.

RALEIGH - The Wildlife Resources Commission has announced the seasons and bag limits on doves, marsh hens, woodcock and Wilson's snipe. The dates and bag limits were selected from a framework authorized by the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Washington, D.C.

First to open will be shooting for doves and marsh hens on Labor Day, September 1. Dove hunting will begin at 12:00 noon and end at sundown daily throughout the season. Shooting hours for marsh hens will be from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Biggest surprise to game bird hunters is the bag limit on doves: 18 birds daily, 36 in possession after opening day. The Commission was not given an alternative to the 18-36 bird bag limit. Biological studies have

The Commission chose the latest allowable dates for woodcock and Wilson's snipe to take advantage of flights of birds coming in from New England.

The woodcock season will open on November 28 and run through January 31, with a daily bag limit of 5, 10 in possession after the first day, while the season on Wilson's snipe will begin on December 13 and end January 31. Bag limits for the snipe are 8 daily and 16 in possession after the first day.

Seasons on ducks, geese, and other waterfowl are still under consideration by federal and state authorities and will be announced early next fall. An excellent crop of birds this year is not expected to be reflected in any important relaxation of seasons and bag limits due to an accumulated shortage of birds during the past decade.

shown that 80 percent of the summer population of doves each year are lost by natural mortality by the beginning of the next breeding season, regardless of whether or not they are hunted. The 50 percent increase in the bag limit this year is an experiment to determine whether the heavier gunning of doves would have a noticeable effect on next year's crop of birds. The increased limit applies only to states east of the Mississippi River.

The first segment of the Dove season will end October 11. The second segment will run from December 18 through January 15, 1970.

Bag limits on marsh hens will be 15 daily, 30 in possession after opening day. This limit may include any single species or a combination of several species of marsh hens.

Gas Causes Explosion At Station

Bob Hilliard found himself doubly involved last Tuesday morning when he was roused to his job as Burnsville's Fire Chief and found that his own service station prompted the alarm.

Tuesday, August 26, at 1:45 a.m. an explosion at the Hilltop Sinclair Service Station woke Mr. Farrell Wilson, who was sleeping in a nearby apartment. Mr. Wilson turned in the fire alarm which summoned the fire department to the scene.

Mr. Hilliard reported, after inspecting the damage, that the evidence points to the work of vandals who must have opened the valve on a Propane gas cylinder - enough to cause the gas to seep into the soft-drink cooler standing nearby. Somehow, probably due to contact with electrical wiring and circuits, the gas ignited and an explosion ripped the lid off the cooler. The lid hit one of the gas pumps and knocked it off of the island onto the ground.

In the meantime, the propane gas caught on fire, and the cylinder was rolling around on the ground spewing flames like a blow torch, according to Mr. Hilliard.

Besides the damage to the gas pump, the soft-drink cooler, and loss of the propane cylinder, 7 windows were blown out of the service station by the explosion.

Last Call For Wee Players

Labor Day, Monday, September 1, 1969 will end the official recruiting drive for Pee Wee Football Players. All boys in the 1st through the 5th grade report to practice by that date. Any boy reporting later will be accepted, but he will be behind the other boys. The Pee Wees now have 28 boys in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades and 28 boys in the 4th and 5th grades. The 1st Bobcat game will be with Spruce Pine. Practice will be on Monday and Tuesday night from 6:30 p.m. until dark and scrimmages will be on Thursday afternoon from 5:30 until dark. Anyone wanting to donate equipment or money, contact John Mattox at Banks Pharmacy or call 682-3696.