

School Days Increase Hazards; Motorists Urged to Heed Laws

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Secretary of State

Practically everyone knows why we have traffic laws. What happens when they're disregarded is made all too clear by a glance at the accident reports received by the department of state by the hundreds every day.

There is a new one on the books, however, that demands strict and complete observance—because it directly affects the safety of some 80,000 Oregon school youngsters who rely on bus transportation to get to school. It calls for the formation of a new driving habit on the part of all motorists, from operators of full truck-and-trailer units to the occasional passenger car driver. And yet it's a simple law—it requires you to come to a complete stop when meeting or overtaking a school bus that has stopped to load or unload passengers. You may not proceed as long as any children are leaving the bus or crossing the roadway. The only exception is traffic moving in the opposite direction on the far side of a three or four-lane highway, which may proceed cautiously without stopping.

Although the law has been in effect since last spring, a reminder now is timely. The reopening of schools showed that enrollments everywhere are expanding and there is every in-

dications they will continue to expand in the years to come. This fact, coupled with the consolidation of many rural school districts, makes school bus transportation an essential feature of our public education facilities.

There have been numerous instances in which school youngsters were struck while crossing the roadway before boarding or after leaving a school bus. Had the present law been in effect, many of these tragedies could have been avoided. With more buses carrying more pupils for greater distances, and with the volume of all traffic increasing steadily, the safe-

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