

No National Standards Set For School Buses, Survey Discloses

By United Press International

There are no national standards for school buses and a United Press International survey showed today the bus that carried more than 80 children into a Georgia pond Tuesday might be typical of hundreds in operation.

The Georgia accident killed nine children.

The maximum number of children that can be packed into a school bus varies from state to state, the survey found and in some states there are no specified maximums.

A school bus is overloaded, according to the National Safety Council, when there isn't a seat for every pupil aboard. A council spokesman said his organization had established operating practices for school buses and that the state of Georgia did not pro-

vide regulations in conformity with these standards.

Georgia School Superintendent Claude Purcell said even if the bus were overloaded his department could do nothing about the situation because the buses are the responsibility of local school systems.

California Bans Standing
Alabama, Wyoming and Florida laws do not specify maximum load, but Dade County (Miami), Florida, considers three children to a seat.

A spokesman at the Jackson county school superintendent's office said today that a ruling of the state board of education requires that a school bus may be loaded only to the manufacturer's stated capacity, except that one rider may be allowed to stand for each row of seats in the bus for a short distance only. Drivers are required to report immediately to school officials any overloading conditions on his bus.

Minimum age for school bus drivers in Oregon is 18 and there is no maximum age limit, the spokesman said. A driver must undergo a complete physical examination at the time he is hired and must have an annual examination, must have a driver's license, chauffeur's license and a school bus driver's license and must attend an annual school bus driver's workshop. The same relationship which exists between the student and teacher is expected between the driver and rider, the spokesman said.

and one to a pole as a limit. In South Carolina the maximum load is "25 per cent above the authorized overload," that is above the manufacturer's rated capacity. In California there must be a seat for every pupil and in Illinois and Wisconsin the top number is 72.

Indiana permits four pupils to a seat.

Elsewhere, West Virginia permits some instances of 33 per cent overload, and the North Carolina Board of Education allows a 25 per cent overload. The maximum bus load in Nevada is 72, in Tennessee 48 to 50, in Ohio 73 with a 10 per cent overload, and in Massachusetts the limit is 60 with 15 standees.

Driver Requirements Vary
There also is variance in school bus driver requirements. In Philadelphia school bus drivers get the toughest physical test of any city employees. They must have no chronic ailment and must be under 55. In Buffalo drivers must be between 26 and 34. In Florida the age limit is 70.

In Alabama the only requirement is that he be at least 16 years old and have a driver's license.

The minimum age for a bus driver in Nevada and North Carolina also is 16 with a chauffeur's license and special permit.

Massachusetts bus drivers must be over 18 with no disability and undergo yearly exams.

In Tennessee, Ohio and West Virginia, drivers must be 21 years old or over and undergo physical exams.

A year ago last week end a school bus fully loaded with 41 children en route to the consolidated school at Prestonsburg, Ky., ran down the 80-foot bank of the Big Sandy river. Twenty-six of the children were killed. This was the worst school bus accident the safety council has on file.

BERTHMATES—The Norwegian tanker Jalanta lies in the Bethlehem Shipyard in New York, its front end completely sheared off by collision with the passenger liner Constitution, also tied up at an adjacent pier (background). The two ships collided in dense fog five miles southeast of Ambrose Lightship at the entrance to New York Harbor. There were no casualties.

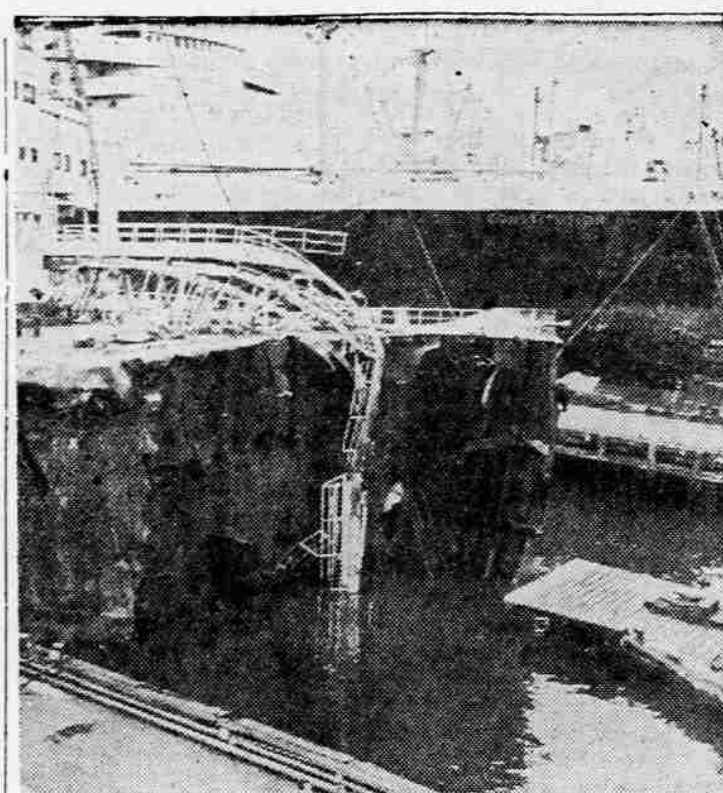
Virgil Moon To Get Greyhound Award
Virgil L. Moon of Medford is scheduled to receive a safety award certificate, new shoulder insignia and a gold watch tomorrow to mark his achievement of 10 years of safe driving for Western Greyhound Lines, according to S. A. Ossman, director of safety for the lines.

The award will be made at a driver's safety meeting in Medford. The company estimated that Moon, in 10 years of driving, has driven more than 500,000 miles, most of them on his route between Medford and Portland.

LARGEST ICE BOX
Kaiserslautern, Germany—(UPI)—The U. S. Army has opened officially "Europe's largest ice box"—a huge \$2,141,000 cold storage plant. The plant, inaugurated Tuesday, is the size of two football fields and can store up to 15,000 tons of perishable goods for American servicemen and their dependents.

HE WHO HESITATES
Minneapolis, Minn.—(UPI)—Police failed to act promptly on Tuesday when an angry housewife called demanding they remove a skunk carcass from her back yard. A short time after the call, a strong odor pervaded police headquarters. There was a dead skunk outside the office door.

JAIL CELLS FOR SALE
New Kensington, Pa.—(UPI)—Contractor Harry Gerlach, whose firm is demolishing the old city hall to make room for a new municipal building, placed this ad in the New Kensington Daily News: "New Kensington jail cells. Suitable for storing valuables or prisoners."



BERTHMATES—The Norwegian tanker Jalanta lies in the Bethlehem Shipyard in New York, its front end completely sheared off by collision with the passenger liner Constitution, also tied up at an adjacent pier (background). The two ships collided in dense fog five miles southeast of Ambrose Lightship at the entrance to New York Harbor. There were no casualties.

Officials Seek To Learn Number on Wrecked School Bus

Tifton, Ga. — (UPI) — School officials sought today to determine exactly how many children were aboard a crowded school bus that crashed into a pond Tuesday causing at least nine deaths.

There were conflicting reports on just how many students normally ride on the 56-mile run, which was almost over Tuesday morning when the accident happened.

Bus driver Doyce Jones, 40, estimated that about 80 Negro youngsters were packed

ed into the 54-seat vehicle when it struck bumps on a dirt road, went out of control and flipped onto its side in the shallow pond.

Many Out of School
Jones said that many of the children along his route are out of school to help with farm work, and that on a perfect attendance day his load would be 105.

H. B. Allen, Tift county school superintendent, said it was his understanding that the average load on Jones' run had been about 60 passengers.

State school superintendent Claude Purcell announced Tuesday that he was assigning a representative to investigate the accident, but that since local authorities have full control of their bus systems he could take no action.

Jones' bus was only two stops from the school when the accident occurred. The driver said he managed to get out, began breaking windows and pulled about 13 children to safety.

Three Revived
A farmer who saw the accident telephoned for aid and the area was soon crowded with rescuers.

After screaming survivors were removed, 12 unconscious children were removed and only three could be revived. Five boys and four girls drowned.

No charge was filed against Jones, a bus driver for 25 years and described by Allen as "a good driver."

Mercury Plunges In Cold Front Path

By United Press International
A new front of wintry weather barged across the Canadian border today and threatened to send the nation's temperatures skidding downward again.

While most of the country enjoyed above-freezing readings, the mercury fell to as low as 10 degrees above zero as the front pushed into eastern North Dakota and northern Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.

The front was expected to move over the central and southern plateaus and Rockies today, bringing snow flurries to the Central Plains, the Great Lakes area and New England.

Scattered showers dampened widespread areas Tuesday with rain reported over the Great Lakes to New England and southward along the Atlantic Seaboard.

U.A.R. Lifts Controls
Cairo—(UPI)—Some 470 British-owned firms in the United Arab Republic began operations free of U.A.R. control today for the first time since the 1956 Suez crisis. The U.A.R. government, declaring that the British no longer were "enemy subjects," lifted its sequestration order covering the British property Tuesday night.

India supplies about 80 per cent of the world's requirement of good-quality mica.

Draft Extension Bill in Senate

Washington — (UPI) — A bill extending the nation's draft law four years started a quick transit through the Senate Tuesday.

The House already has approved a similar extension as recommended by the administration.

The Senate Armed Services Committee launched hearings on the draft law in the hope of putting the bill on President Eisenhower's desk by Easter.

Discoverer Signals Back Orbit Theory

Inglewood, Calif. — (UPI) — New signals gave credence Tuesday to the theory that the 1300-pound "lost" Discoverer I satellite was in a polar orbit around the earth, the Air Force announced.

The 19-foot satellite containing a 40-pound payload of telemetry equipment apparently was tumbling end-over-end through space at speeds around 18,000 miles an hour, causing the erratic reception of its radio signals.

Skelton Believes Sales Tax Needed

Salem — (UPI) — Rep. Keith D. Eugene, said Monday he believed a retail sales tax may be necessary in Oregon.

Skelton, co-chairman of the Joint Ways and Means committee, said he believed Oregon was "reaching the end of its power to produce added money for expansion of services through the two main tax bases now available"—the property and income taxes.



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Grants Pass Man Fined in Court

Max Gordon Petrie, Grants Pass, was fined \$100 in district court yesterday for furnishing liquor to minors.

Petrie had pleaded guilty to the charges on Feb. 20, but the case was continued at the district attorney's request.

State police stopped the car in which Petrie was riding north of the state police office on Feb. 15. Three teenagers from Grants Pass were apprehended with beer in the car. They included a 15-year-old boy, 15-year-old girl and a 16-year-old girl.

Roseburg Man Gets Suspended Sentence

Charles Thomas Cooper, Roseburg, received a suspended sentence of one year on charges of petty larceny in district court Monday.

Sentence was suspended on condition he make full restitution, commit no other unlawful acts and abide by the rules for parole and probation, according to court records.

Cooper was charged with taking money from Andy Ortiz on Feb. 27.

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