

news

NHTSA

Fairytale Heroine Aids in Real-World Testing

With the help of Alice, it was shown that the range of visibility from a van-type minibus, such as this one, is only fair.



Alice huddles in close to a metropolitan bus to test how visible a child standing in a similar location would be.

Volume 2
Number 13



Published by
National Highway Traffic
Safety Administration

U.S. Department of
Transportation
Washington, D.C.

NHTSA News is a semi-monthly publication prepared for all agency employees by the Executive Secretariat, Room 5215, Nassif Building, 426-2876. Distribution is on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month.

Editor M. J. Noll

July 1976

Alice, the heroine of Wonderland, has come to the aid of the little folk.

The 4-foot-tall debutante, dressed in a checkered orange and blue print, serves as a model in testing the driver's field of view of school buses.

And with her assistance, NHTSA engineers have been able to measure the range of visibility in the four basic models of buses used to transport students. Percentage of a driver's visibility at each angle can be easily calculated by counting the number of squares visible at that position.

A study, "Field of View Measurements of Four Buses," conducted by Artech Corporation of Falls Church, Virginia under contract with NHTSA, tested the visibility of the four basic bus models. The results of this study showed:

1. The county type school bus (you know, the great big bus with the great big nose) had the lowest visibility range.
2. The Metropolitan Transit Bus (like those used in D.C.) ranked best of the four from the standpoint of visibility.
3. The range of visibility in the van-type minibus was fair, and

(See Fairytale Heroine on page 3.)

MVP Champs Calm as Upstart "All Stars" Softball Raggle-Taggle Jabbers

Reasonable men and women will agree that the unprovoked slander of the MVP Champs by the new "All Stars" players (two issues back) was a low blow. As a Reliable Source put it, "The article stunk." Feeling among the MVP team is unanimous: they will stand on their record (only one loss in 3 years of existence), their honor, and their reputation. A word or two, however, is in order, in case there is anyone so puerile as to have absorbed any of the All Stars propaganda.

One of the claims made against the Champs is that they are "chauvinists." Nothing could be further from the truth. Not only were they the first team to include women, but it is standing procedure for at least two to play in every game. Furthermore, MVP players include minority groups and range in age from 20 to 55. It might be pointed out that the All Stars referred to themselves as "guys" and seem to be unable to keep their feet a reasonable distance from their mouths.

Another groundless allegation is that the MVP team is avoiding the "fateful," as an All Stars spokesperson unwittingly predicted, game. The Champs apologize for their busy schedule, pointing to the generally full calendars of professional calibre teams, and promise a match as soon as possible. A team with such a reputation guards it zealously

not only by going out of its way to meet the toughest competition, but by refraining from stomping inferior rivals too badly.

Sam Daniel, manager, confesses that the team had let down its guard after an unbroken string of victories, when it suffered its first defeat last month. He shakes his head sadly. "We used to hold back on the team somewhat with the score; after a couple of innings we'd ease up on them, not be so tough . . . I don't know if I'll be able to contain my players from now on." A senior citizen himself and mainstay of the team, he finds it strange that the All Stars should have had to recruit outside players. "The Office of the Chief Counsel obviously is attempting to save a sinking ship," he concludes. "The All Stars, as is typical of lawyers, speak loudly and carry a weak stick."

The Champs' supremacy is the result of hard work, clean minds, and high ideals. Every member contributes his or her best, and none is favored or overlooked. Daniel's management is likewise generous, inspired, and equable: soft drinks are provided for the players as well as spirited ale.

One can surely see that such a crew cannot help but win. Alas, there are some who resentfully cast stones at those in high places. But enough words. The real test is in the playing field--and the MVP

Champs shall continue, as in the past, to confidently call the scores of games to come.

[Since this went to press, the Champs graciously granted a victory to the All Stars as an inaugural gift. They doff their caps in welcome: some real competition at last!]

Right on Red Adopted for '77

The following article is taken from Emphasis, May-June 1976 Issue, published by the Public Information Office of the Highway Safety Division of Virginia.

Effective January 1, 1977, motorists driving on Virginia's highways will be allowed to make a right turn on a red traffic signal (after stopping) at intersections except where signs state otherwise.

This new right-turn-on-red (RTOR) rule was adopted by the 1976 Virginia General Assembly and has been signed by the governor.

This highway safety legislation is expected to save an estimated three million gallons of gasoline annually in Virginia. A study completed by the State Highway and Transportation Research Council, Charlottesville, found that RTOR could save an average of 14 seconds for each delayed right-turning vehicle.

The Highway Safety Division will implement a major public information program in the near future to educate the driving public about the new RTOR law.

Fairytale Heroine

(continued from page 1)

4. Visibility in an inter-city coach type bus was moderately poor.

Alice is the creation of one of NHTSA's pioneers, Chuck Kaehn of MVP.

Chuck is responsible for writing standards for school buses (and other vehicles) in the area of visibility.

Chuck says that he had been searching for an appropriate device to test the visibility of buses for some time. Several persons had suggested that a stick linear measure be used.

"However, I didn't think that a linear measure would quite fit the bill," Chuck said, "because children have girth as well as height."

So he had a brainstorm. And in the twinkling of an eye, Alice was born.

Her 4-foot height represents the composite height of an elementary school child. Usually a 5th or 6th grader would be about this tall.

Her checkered attire, as well as being attractive, provides an easy method to measure the angle of visibility. Each square represents approximately a square inch.

Where is Alice now?

After many hours of hard work during the testing procedures, Alice is still proving useful. She makes a most attractive plant stand.

Why not stop by room 5309K Nassif Building and see her for yourself.

Personnel Welcome Aboard

Norman Harvey, Math. Statistician, RD, 6-6.

David Gitterman, Math. Statistician, RD, 6-6.

Preston Junkin, Clerk-Typist, TSP, 6-6.

Mary Mungenast, Math. Statistician, RD, 6-6.

Kurt Schildknecht, Acct. Technician, AD, 6-6.

James Simons, Economist, P&E, 6-6.

Karen Simpson, Math. Statistician, RD, 6-6.

Roland Wilson, Statistician, Region III, 6-6.

'Bye and Good Luck

Robert Coleman, Data Cont. Clerk, RD, 6-7.

Terry McMillan, Sec. Steno, TSP, 6-19.

Congrats on Promotion

Crystal Adkins, Sec. Steno, TSP, 6-6.

Mary Coyle, Sec. Steno, MVP, 6-6.

Dianne Graham, Clerk-Typist, RD, 6-6.

Terry Klein, Math. Statistician, TSP, 6-6.

Betty West, Secretary (Typing), MVP, 6-6.

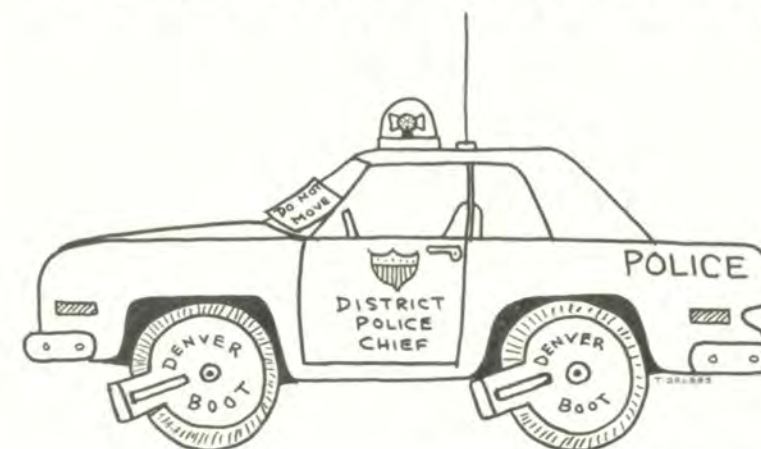
Barbara White, Secretary (Typing), RD, 6-6.

Employee Exchange

Modern Living with 1920's Charm - 10 minute commute to Nassif, located in best Arlington school district - Oakridge. Huge living and dining rooms with 10' ceilings, four bedrooms, 2-1/2 baths and modern kitchen. Large master suite with cathedral ceiling, full bath and dressing room. Large double lot with 2-car carport plus garage and lots of room for boats and RV's off-the-street. Deck, patio and organic garden

in a lovely, park-like setting. Walk to Metro stop (Pentagon City) that opens April '77. Many large walk-in closets and loads of storage space. Large year-round Florida room for your plants. All plumbing, heating and electrical systems replaced and upgraded. \$84,977. Located at 1129 S. 16th Street. Call Craig Miller X62872 or agent, Jim Warkentin, 941-7272 for further details or to see this large house.

IF I HAD ONE WISH...



NHTSA Names Seventeen EEO Counselors

Seventeen NHTSA employees have been appointed to 2-year terms as Equal Employment Opportunity counselors by Administrator James B. Gregory. The new counselors are expected to serve as mediators in the informal resolution of discrimination complaints by both NHTSA employees and applicants for employment in NHTSA. Ten of the counselors are located in the regions and seven in NHTSA headquarters.

The counselors were first nominated by their respective offices--both regional and headquarters--in accordance with NHTSA Order 105-1 on the EEO Counseling Program. Headquarters nominees were interviewed by a NHTSA panel whose members included the EEO Committee Chairman, a representative of AFGE, the Director of Civil Rights, the Federal Women's Program Coordinator, and the Spanish-Speaking Program Coordinator.

NHTSA's Counseling Program Order, part of the government-wide discrimination complaint system, describes the first stage in the resolution of a discrimination complaint based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin or age. All EEO complainants must first go through this stage before they can escalate their complaints to the formal stage. If a resolution is not reached after 21 days, the complainant has a right to



Morris Abrams
MVP



Frances Bents Seman
RD



Barbara Brown
MVP



Sam Daniel
MVP



Kathy Hasse
Exec. Sec.



Philip N. Orticke
RD



Richard Smith
TSP

Regional Counselors



Richard D. Spicer
Region I

either drop the complaint or pursue it to the formal stage. If pursued to the formal stage, the complaint is forwarded to the Departmental Office of Civil Rights for investigation and resolution.

All newly-appointed counselors are required to attend the three-day

Civil Service Commission training course on the EEO counseling program before they can handle complaints.

The seven headquarters' counselors are: Morris Abrams, MVP; Frances Bents Seman, RD; Barbara Brown, MVP; Sam Daniel,



Elizabeth Seaborn
Region II



Donald Heene
Region III



Marvin L. Rhodes
Region IV



Thomas A. Wolf
Region V



Linda M. Cannon
Region VI



Samuel W. Slaughter
Region VII



Gail C. Moler
Region VIII



Maxine Parks
Region IX



Bonnie Newson
Region X

MVP; Kathy Hasse, Exec. Sec.; Philip N. Orticke, RD; and Richard Smith, TSP.

EEO counselors in the regions are:

Richard D. Spicer, Region I; Elizabeth Seaborn, Region II; Donald Heene, Region III;

Marvin L. Rhodes, Region IV; Thomas A. Wolf, Region V; Linda M. Cannon, Region VI; Samuel W. Slaughter, Region VII; Gail C. Moler, Region VIII; Maxine Parks, Region IX; and Bonnie Newson, Region X.

Managers and Motivation

The Office of Personnel Management will continue its special series entitled "Managers and Motivation." The one-hour sessions consist of a film followed by a discussion. While all employees are welcome, the material is primarily directed toward managers, supervisors team/group leaders, or those who work with the public.

All sessions will be conducted in rooms 5332/34 DOT Headquarters building at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesdays.

July 7

"Theory X and Theory Y," with Douglas MacGregor. How the manager's assumptions about people influence their production.

July 28

"Staffing For Strength," with Peter Drucker. How to use employees' strengths to the best advantage of the organization.

August 11

"Meanings Are in People," with David Berlo. How to communicate better.

September 1

"Second Effort," with Vince Lombardi. How Vince Lombardi managed and motivated his football teams.

Travel Tip

When through foreign lands you stray,
Smile, and give the first "Good Day!"

--From the Chinese

Still Going Strong After Nearly 55 Years of Service

We asked Robert L. Donohue, whom we featured in the first issue of NHTSA News last August, to drop by for a visit recently, and tell us a bit more about himself and a few of his stories. As it turns out, he will be celebrating his 70th birthday on July 9 and retiring, regretfully, from the Department after nearly 55 years of government service.

He looks back on his 51 years in highway safety with relish. His present position, in the Office of Statistics and Accident Analysis, requires careful thought and an unflappable disposition, involving as it does the urgent and painstaking coordination of DOT elements in accident investigation.

The key to success is keeping things under control. He holds up his hands, which are rock steady. "As long as the situation is under control, everything is all right. If they get out of control, I'm concerned, but not worried, because I've done everything I can. When these hands start shaking, that's when you'd better watch out!"

And the key to satisfaction, Mr. D feels, is activity. He has switched assignments whenever routine started to close in, and has invariably found his previous experience to be useful. No matter where it's gained, know-how will always find a use later. To illustrate this, he tells about the re-



The animated Mr. D of RD's Office of Statistics and Analysis

sourceful people he worked with in the laboratory of the Bureau of Public Roads, where just about any skill might be called for at the most unexpected time.

There was a shopman in the lab whose wife was an important soloist in her church. She was eventually constrained to use false teeth and to her dismay, they seemed to alter her voice, impairing her singing. Friends told her she sounded harsh, and flat. Her husband resolved to do something about it and, without ever having done such a thing before, set about to make her some teeth that would restore her control. After mixing and testing many materials, he finally found one. Delighted with her new false teeth, his wife regained her eminence, while he had gained in experience. Not long after, the lab was ap-

proached for a device made from a hypothetical material that had to meet certain specifications. After a moment's thought, the shopman declared that they had it, and the object was quickly manufactured from the same substance that had been used for the dentures. The client was amazed and satisfied. And the Government benefited from the resourceful shopman's curiosity.

Another story, the one about the molasses highway alluded to in the previous article about Mr. Donohue, illustrates another element that may be present in research besides curiosity. For the benefit of all who haven't had a chance to ask Mr. D for it, here it is:

The laboratory, being responsible for developing and testing road surfaces, was approached one day by a Congressman on behalf of his constituent. The constituent lived in the south, and had an idea which, he hoped, would stimulate the southern economy: Why not make roads of cotton lint, crushed cane stalks, and molasses, all of which were cheap and practically waste products? The Congressman concurred. Of course, the suggestion couldn't be rejected out of hand for several reasons. For one, the legislator might say, "Have you tried it yet?" For another, it might work, unlikely as it sounded,

and who would like to have been the one to stand in the way of progress, especially in the name of the Government? So Mr. Donohue took the idea to a brilliant chemist and went round gathering hogsheads of molasses. The resulting road, alas, proved unacceptable to all except the flies. And while it is unfortunate that it turned out to be unworkable, the Congressman was satisfied.

His friendly, informal manner belies his keen understanding, and one tends to forget he was trained in law in the face of his easy speech and great store of practical wisdom. Yet there is the feeling of broad resources, barely tapped, always available to lend a hand on a personal or professional level. Part of his insight into others comes from having been ombudsman and confessor to the men in the Public Roads shop. On his boss' instructions, they would bring him their problems; and he would mull them over as he typed out purchase orders. With the confidence that someone was going to help them, the men could concentrate on their work.

On occasion, his actions have put him in extreme danger. There was the time not many years ago when a fleeing bank robber found his way into the Highway Safety Board building near Connecticut and K. Mr. D, familiar with the offices and twisting corridors, chased the robber, cornered him, and turned him over to the police.

One never knows, with Mr. D, where this expertise ends. His career began when, as a young man, he managed his family's funerary business at night while working as a Government messenger during the day. One of his early duties was to deliver President Harding's paycheck to him personally; another, as a staffer in the Adjutant General's Office of the then War Department, was to teach others to use the new identification system known as fingerprinting.

The cumbersome Bertillon system of personal identification, which had been in use prior to then, required three sets of measurements from the head, body, and extremities; location and description as to size and shape of marks and scars; descriptive data including weight, color of eyes and hair, complexion, and shapes of face, ears, and nose; and classification of body size as small, medium, or large--based on the average size of Frenchmen. Beside the facts that this system was useful only between the ages of 20 to 65, expensive equipment was necessary, and the most thorough operator training did not eliminate error, the worst blows to this process were dealt by the discovery of nearly identical look-alike criminals with the same name. Fingerprints eliminated most of these shortcomings, except that it was found that young women who powdered their faces with their fingers tended to obliterate their prints.

Therefore, until the advent of powderpuffs, it was sometimes necessary to call women back until a satisfactory set was obtained.

An enthusiastic student of Spanish, Mr. Donohue carries a bilingual dictionary with him constantly and involves himself with the Latin community in his neighborhood. He and his wife, who is quite active in senior groups, enjoy children and have child-sat on and off for many years.

Mr. D can't stand the idea of an inactive retirement and wants to continue being involved. One way, he conjectures, would be to find some small town in need of a fire engine and donate one, on the condition that he be allowed to ride it when the company answers alarms. His irrepressible spirit and good humor will continue, wherever he may be, to bring light, life and wisdom to those around him and those who have met him. And you should meet him. If you do, he just might tell you the tale of the wonderfully strong fingerprints. Happy B, Mr. D! Please drop by for a visit soon again.

graffiti

Burma-Shave

In Your Car Is You

The Best Safety Device

No Matter How New

No Matter the Price

Ways To Celebrate America's 200th Birthday

The Bicentennial celebration has inspired so many groups to their best efforts that the official list of "Happy Birthday" programs, nationwide, fills 694 large pages with tiny print. Many of these are local, and, for the benefit of visitors from our Regions and headquarters employees, here is a sampling of happenings in the Washington, D.C. area:

The Festival of American Folklife. The culmination of all the previous festivals, this one will run for a total of 12 weeks, ending September 6. Two hundred years of America's music and crafts heritage. On the Mall between the Lincoln Memorial and the Monument.

Music '76. This musical will be performed at the Sylvan Theatre, Monument Grounds, every night except Monday at 8 p.m., through September 6. Free.

The Father of Liberty. A gift of the French Government, this son et lumiere (sound and light) program is presented nightly at Mount Vernon through Sept. 6. Admission is \$1.50, children under 6 free; the grounds open at 8 p.m. and the show starts at 9.

Ford's Theatre. Dramatizations of scenes from Lincoln's Washington will be performed daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., free.

The Magna Charta is on display in the Rotunda at the Capitol. One of the four originals, this guarantee of civil liberties

was signed by King John in 1215 and is on loan from the British Government.

Band Concerts; Ellipse Park, south of the White House: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and 8 to 9 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, through Oct. 2. **** West Terrace of the Capitol: each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8 p.m. **** Jefferson Memorial: each Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday at 8:30 p.m.

Washington the Man, a film, shows continuously every day from 9 to 9 at the Orientation Center southeast of the Monument; free.

America on Stage. A sampler of the achievements of our national performing arts, this exhibit at the Kennedy Center includes occasional performance in the chautauqua tent which is part of the display.

Tours of the Pentagon are offered every 15 minutes from 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., Monday through Friday. Park in the North Pentagon Shuttle parking lot.

March 30 - October 2 - "Concerts on the Ellipse." Each Tuesday through Friday - 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Performances by various armed service musical units and performing elements in the Ellipse Park on the south side of the White House.

June 1 - August 31 - "Jefferson Memorial Concerts." Each Tuesday evening at 8:30 p.m. Admission free, no tickets necessary.

The United States Army Band (Pershing's Own) performs programs of various musical selections at the Jefferson Memorial.

August 17 - "1812 Overture." Washington Monument Grounds - 8:30 p.m. Admission free, no tickets necessary. The United States Army Band (Pershing's Own) performs the Tchaikovsky composition with the aid of real cannon fired by the Salute Gun Platoon of the 3d United States Infantry.

June 4 - August 27 - "Capitol Concerts" (except June 18). Each Friday evening at 8:00 p.m. West side of Capitol Bldg. Admission free, no tickets necessary. The United States Army Band (Pershing's Own) performs each Friday evening.

July 14 - August 25 - "Torchlight Tattoo." 8:30 p.m. each Wednesday evening at the Jefferson Memorial. Admission is free and no tickets are necessary. This one hour program brings to life the history of our nation in a production of military pageantry and precision featuring The United States Army Drill Team, The 3d Infantry Fife and Drum Corps, The United States Army Band (Pershing's Own) and the United States Army Chorus. A special program highlight is titled "The History of the Stars and Stripes" and depicts the history and evolution of the American flag; in addition, the history of each state and territorial flag is presented.