

news

NHTSA

Is Your Grammar Alive and Well?



Some of the NHTSA staffers sharpening their communications skills, clockwise from front center: Mary Coyle, Hattie Clark, Mary Kimble, James Usual, Catha Cummings, Helen McLane, Theresa Walls, and instructor Bud Duffy. Missing are Crystal Adkins, George Chiang, Sandra Crews, Kathy Kenion, and Glenn Ludwig.

Don't (lie, lay) in the sun. The pens write (good, well). Which are correct? If you know the correct answers, but have forgotten why they are correct, you may be interested in taking a refresher course in English 2600.

What is English 2600? It is a course in which you test yourself in all phases of the structures of everyday English. The material in the programmed textbooks is divided into white and gray frames (approximately 2600 of them). You read by frames across from beginning to end, instead of by pages from top to bottom as you normally read other books. The answer to each frame is in the marginal strip on the following page. This way, as you do each step, you find out immediately if you are right.

Most of us don't place much emphasis on good

grammar when we are going through school. We just think if it as another course we have to struggle through. However, good English is not only helpful but essential, no matter what you decide to do with your life.

In English 2600, you have the opportunity to improve your English and gain a command of good grammar, quickly and enjoyably. The course is fun to take. It is designed so that it is easy to understand and the immediate feedback arouses your curiosity and makes you eager to learn. This reinforcement helps you to retain what you have learned. It is programmed for people--to capture and and hold your interest. It lets you test yourself with not only the answers but the reasons. The diffident secretary who hesitates to correct her

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Volume 4
Number 8

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

April 1978

He'd Rather Take the Bull by the Hand

Demolitions and anti-terrorism expert, highway patrolman, undercover customs agent, police advisor, transportation security and speed limit specialist, and youth fellowship leader, Bill Searcy has traveled an interesting path in the service of causes and of men. A path which has taken unexpected turns, such as the time when he bartered his new and second concurrent wife back to her father for the latter's favorite cross-bow

Born on a small farm in east Texas, Bill spent his childhood on farms and in oil field boom towns throughout the southwest. After graduating from high school and sampling several months of college, he enlisted in the Navy. His unit, trained in underwater demolitions, infiltration, and intelligence, was active throughout the Far East during the Korean War.

On returning to the United States, Bill took a position with the Texas Highway Patrol. He was stationed at Pecos and given about 600 miles of blacktop to patrol alone. This was made easier by there being only one main highway, U.S. 80, although some fugitives from justice had very near escapes. One chase down a dirt road at about 120 miles an hour ended when Bill's patrol car suddenly lost both front wheels and came to a violent, slithering halt. He



Bill Searcy, TSP

nevertheless managed a shot at the fleeing car and punctured the gas tank; the fugitives ran out of gas and were picked up a short time later. The next morning, Bill awoke with a crick in his neck which bothered him so that he went to the doctor. "Yes," said the doctor, "you've got a crick in your neck. It's broken!"

In another instance, a bulletin had been issued on a stolen car belonging to a preacher who had been kidnapped. A helpful gas attendant called Bill from 200 miles away to say that a car matching the description had just left his station. Bill settled down to wait and sure enough, several hours later the car came into view. Giving chase, Bill had just turned on his red light when his engine caught on fire; but the suspects pulled over, the arrest proceeded smoothly, and Bill brought his prisoners back--in the stolen car.

Bill's patrol experience near the border led to a position with the U.S. Customs Service, following a short stint as an investigator for the Federal Prison in La Tuna, Texas. Much of his Customs work was undercover, involving narcotics and smuggling. In one case, an enormous shipment of guns and ammunition bound for Cuba was traced to a certain building in Galveston, and he was asked to watch it continuously to see when it was moved.

The only satisfactory vantage point was directly across the street, in a house of blue lights. He stationed himself in the lounge, attempting to satisfy the curious madam with a tale about being an ex-con who was having a hard time finding work. As luck would have it, she had an opening--tending bar--and for several days Bill held what must have been one of the most unique moonlighting jobs on the force. In due time the munitions were removed, Bill passed the word on, and the shipment was seized.

After five years with the Customs Service, Bill was recruited to travel to Southeast Asia as a civilian police advisor by the Department of State. Stationed first in Vietnam and later Thailand, he trained local police troops in regular police functions as well as para-military ones including intelligence and counter-terrorism.

While in Southeast Asia, Bill worked exten-

sively with the small, fiercely independent hill tribes known as Montagnards. The Thai government has denied these tribes the right to own land, thus making them ideal targets for communist sympathy. They are absolutely fearless fighters and would make a devastating spearhead for a military offensive on either side. Under Bill's tutelage they learned guerrilla and small unit tactics on the one hand, and received help with community projects such as schools on the other.

One small mountain village suddenly fell ill with some kind of intestinal problem, which attacked the entire population of 480. Bill and a police development team tracked the cause to the town's water supply, which had been contaminated by seepage from the town latrine. A new well had to be dug and someone had to be found to dispense the medicine, because the villagers were incapable of rationing it out and would have swallowed it all at once. So Bill picked a bright-looking young girl and trained her to dispense the pills, noticing in the course of this that she had many infected insect bites under her leggings, which are traditionally worn by the women of that tribe.

The natural thing was clearly to unwrap the leggings and treat the sores. When this had been accomplished, Bill was astonished to learn that unwinding the leggings is something only a husband ought to do, and he had

seriously compromised the girl.

It was of course unthinkable to retract this inadvertent but blatant offer of marriage, and anyway Bill already had a perfectly satisfactory wife (Donna, whom he had married in 1956) and three children. But it was not bad form to protest that he was unworthy of such a fine, young, strong wife, and that besides, she would have to leave the cool highlands and travel with him to distant parts where it was hot, and she would have to learn a new language, etc. This he earnestly argued, at the same time admiring her father's handsome crossbow, and hinting that while he dearly hated to lose the girl, he could be persuaded to be satisfied with an exchange. To his relief, after about four days of face-saving bickering, the offer was accepted.

While in Thailand Bill assisted in establishing a four-year police college, and also helped draft the 1974 Thai Constitution. There followed several months of employment as a program officer with a worldwide police assistance organization, where he was involved in analyzing the needs of the member countries and then designing the assistance. This organization was dissolved by Congress in 1975 for being too controversial, and later that year Bill, falling back on his traffic experience, came to NHTSA.

Shortly after coming on board, he was put in

charge of NHTSA's 55 mph speed limit program. Having grown up in a State that is mostly wide open spaces, and having just come from a country where gasoline was 16 cents a gallon, he was at first skeptical that the limit was truly worthwhile. But as the lower injury and fatality rates began to come in, he became one of the staunchest converts and has accomplished a great deal in the effort to convince the States, especially because State troopers listen to someone who knows their world and speaks their language. Convincing the diehards is particularly satisfying.

Both he and Donna receive major fulfillment from the Christian youth group they founded three years ago under the auspices of the New Life Fellowship. It has grown from five to about 150 college-age youngsters who consider the Searcys their "other parents" and accompany them on field trips and retreats.

On his right wrist, Bill wears a heavy gold bracelet, a token of blood brotherhood from five of the hill tribes with whom he worked. This is one of three in the world, granted to him and two other American advisors in a three-day ceremony that was remarkable not only for so many independent tribes having assembled to do this thing, but for the magnificence of the gold and the even more precious animal sacrificed for the occasion, a water buffalo. In an economy where few

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Grammar, from page 1

boss will be more confident because she can explain why she is right.

In this course, you cover everything you learned about grammar in school, such as: sentence structure, verbs, modifiers, punctuation and capitalization. It is designed to benefit everyone. For the busy secretary who can't be spared for a long time from the office--it is only 2 hours a week. This pleases the boss. For writers and speakers, it may increase the ability to form and express ideas, improve their self-confidence and increase their enjoyment in their

associations with people. You can study anywhere, anytime, at your own rate of speed. This course can help you grow both financially and mentally.

By the way, the correct answers are: Don't lie in the sun. Lie means (to rest). Lay means (to put). The pens write well. (Well is an adverb, modifying the verb write. Good is an adjective and cannot modify a verb. See how much you can learn from English 2600. Interested in taking the course? You can find out when the next course begins by contacting the Office of Personnel Management, 426-0959.

Hand, from page 3

people own all the necessary basic implements, and a draft animal is usually shared by many families, these gifts transcend the fortunes they represent and become ultimate tokens of love.

Bill values this brotherhood and would like to see more fellowship between people in general, and especially Americans. He feels that a gradual shift of priorities in this nation has made people more aggressive, hurried, and self-centered, a condition which is probably more easily viewed from the outside. Certainly, in the Eastern countries he visited, there is a much lower incidence of nervous disorders such as hypertension and ulcers.

Looking back on the things he has done, and forward into those he

would like to do, Bill sees his path centered on a living concern for integrity in the actions of people to the social (and therefore moral) realities around them. His faith, strong when he left Texas, is even stronger now, and richer for experience. Having been part of forces that attempted positive change through both destructive and constructive means, he feels that he has spiritually come full circle, and that everything has prepared him for what he is doing now, especially working with people.

Freedom From Want

Here's a chance to give your families what they really need, rather than what they want for the moment.

Bloodmobile, Nassif Building, April 25, Room 4234, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

'Round About NHTSA

We have just learned that Ben Gautier, HSMS in Region VIII (Denver), underwent open heart surgery for a coronary bypass on April 4. At last report, he was convalescing happily and will remain on leave till June 1.

A heck of a way to take a vacation, Ben, but we hope you'll enjoy it anyway!

Carolyn and Bill Felder, and their son, Michael Thompson, are pleased to announce the newest addition to their family--Christina Lynn Felder, born Monday, March 27, at GW University Hospital, weighing in at 7 lbs, 3-1/2 oz. and 19-1/2 inches tall.

Job Openings

Committee Program Coordinator, GS-301-9, Exec. Sec. Opens: 3-29, Closes: 4-18. NHTSA 78-46.

Secretary (Stenography), GS-318-7, NEF (ODI). Opens: 4-3, Closes: 4-21. NHTSA 78-47.

Secretary (Typing) GS-318-7, RD. Opens: 4-3, Closes: 4-21. NHTSA 78-48.

Driver Licensing Program Research Specialist, GS-1720-14, RD. Opens: 3-30, Closes: 4-19. NHTSA 78-49.

Program Analyst, GS-345-13, NTS. Opens: 4-11, Closes: 5-11. NHTSA 78-51.

Research Psychologist, GS-180-11, RD. Opens: 4-14, Closes: 5-4. NHTSA 78-52.