

# SAFETY EDUCATION WEEK

## Highways Should be, "Safeways" Not "Speedways"

### Did You Ever See A Child Struck By A Car?

OF THE FORTY PERSONS KILLED IN NEW BRUNSWICK LAST YEAR, EIGHT WERE CHILDREN

Is there anything more heartrending than to see a child struck by an automobile? Of the forty fatalities due to automobile accidents in the Province of New Brunswick, last year, eight were children who were struck while playing on roads or streets. Full of life and vigor, imbued with the carelessness of youth, happy and ignorant of danger—the next moment it is lying on the road or the street. How did it happen?

Well of course everybody knows the old saying of putting an old head on young shoulders. The child was playing on the thoroughfare where of

course it had no right to play; or the child was crossing the street, as it had a right to, and was struck by a careless driver; or the child ran out from behind a parked vehicle and the oncoming driver did not see it in time. The main point to consider is that a CHILD WAS STRUCK BY AN AUTO-MOBILE.

It may be serious or not; it may result in deformity for life; it may result in a prolonged hospital case; OR IT MAY RESULT IN DEATH. Why should any such thing happen? In the majority of cases, probably the answer is CARELESSNESS on the

part of someone; probably on that of the little one.

For instance; a child coasting down a hill, a hill on which it should not have been allowed to coast, right onto a main highway. Houses block the vision of a car driver as he comes along at a moderate rate of speed. He knows nothing until the child is under the wheels. Who is to blame?

No you can't put an old head on young shoulders. But WE CAN DO A LOT TO PROTECT THE CHILD.

Children will play on the streets. They have every right to play on the sidewalk, but not on the roadway. But the coming of summer sees them in

multitudes particularly with the closing of the schools. Fatalities occur and there are narrow escapes from death or injury.

One solution of course is in playgrounds but it would be impossible to provide a sufficiency of these to meet the needs of the many children so it would seem that children will continue to play on the streets and even on the roadways. What can be done about it.

First of all the driver of an automobile on the streets of a city or town must exercise unusual care. He or she must reduce speed to a minimum. Must have the car under absolute

control ready to jam on the brakes at a second's notice; must always be on the lookout in case a child does dart out, must, in fact, be prepared every second to prevent an accident which would bring grief into a home and everlasting remorse to the motorist.

Despite the best care there will be accidents but they can at least be reduced to a minimum. The careful conscientious driver is the one who realizes that every city block is a danger spot for children playing on the streets and will be prepared at all times for any eventuality.

But there is yet another means

which such tragedies may be avoided. Let not only every car driver but every adult in every city and town and village and hamlet throughout New Brunswick constitute himself or herself a volunteer traffic official. If a child is in a dangerous position what more simple than to remove it from that place. If waking along the street one sees children playing on the thoroughfare why not tell them in the friendliest fashion of the danger they are in; if children are playing behind a parked car why not get them to go elsewhere. There are a hundred and one ways whereby children may be protected against themselves and ac-

cidents reduced to a minimum. MEN AND WOMEN OF NEW BRUNSWICK, you can in your own way, make the streets and highways of the province safe for children. It may only take a moment to remove a child from a dangerous spot. DID YOU EVER SEE A CHILD STRUCK BY A CAR? If you have perhaps you will interest yourself and others in this educational effort to throw about them every possible protection.

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