
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
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1929 ?

Schoolboy Safety Patrols

NOTE ON SCHOOLBOY PATROLS

The remarkable decrease in child fatalities from automobile accidents in the United States over the last few years, as compared with the increase in adult deaths, is attributed largely to the operation of schoolboy patrols. This patrol system, started by an AAA group seven (7) years ago, has spread so that now there are two hundred thousand (200,000) schoolboys organized in safety patrols in five hundred (500) cities in the United States. These patrols are charged with the responsibility of protecting children in the vicinity of schools. This brigade of young Americans is not only making a tremendous contribution to the cause of safety promotion but also to the development of a finer citizenship in America.

The importance of this work in the field of safety is now nationally recognized. Secretary of Commerce Lamont, in a recent address before the National Conference on Street and Highway Safety, of which he is chairman, referred to the relative improvement in the traffic fatality record among children as one of the most hopeful features of the entire problem existing today. He said:

In seven years, while adult fatalities were more than doubling, those of children increases by less than 25 per cent. In 1922 children made up more than 29 per cent of all traffic casualties; in 1928 less than 20 per cent. Furthermore, 1928 registered an actual decrease in such child fatalities, and partial returns for 1929 indicate a still more marked decrease. This improvement is largely attributable to safety education in the schools and to the successful operation of school boy patrols in safeguarding children on their way to and from school.

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