

Judge Scrubby Rives

... does something about it

One day in 1937 Judge E. Earle Rives of Greensboro's Municipal-County Court looked into his mirror at his receding hairline and said, "Old man, you are just not doing your part in this traffic problem."

Twenty-seven people had been killed in Greensboro the year before in automobile accidents, and the judge was thinking that he *could* do something about it.

The hairline has gone over the top and out of sight, but since that day in 1937, more than any other Tar Heel, Judge Rives has "done his part."

That year he announced a policy of his court to the effect that every person, rich or poor, black or white, convicted of speeding, would have his license suspended for 10 days in addition to the usual penalties.

Fatalities went down to 13 the next year, then to 11, and in the following years, the number of automobile deaths remained below ten. This program was still in effect in 1943 when the judge went into the Army.

No Appeals

Judge Rives finds most remarkable that no one in all those years appealed

his sentence. The motor vehicles statutes now do not allow the courts to suspend or revoke drivers' licenses, but this first dramatic move on the part of Judge "Scrubby" Rives was just the beginning of his pioneering battle against street and highway deaths.

In 1947, after military service in the European theatre, Judge Rives embarked upon a four-point program. He wanted:

1. Drivers training course in Greensboro High School;
2. Challenge to commercial drivers,

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