

## School Bus Turned Tanker in Warrenton, 1957

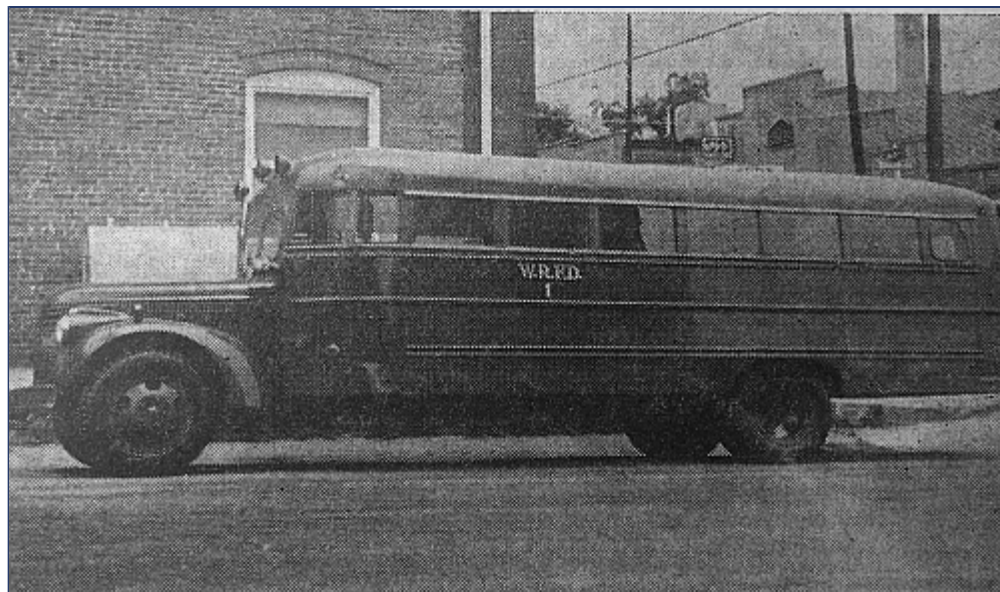
08/16/15 221 W, 1 I - + 10 - 4

Would you believe a school bus turned water tanker? That's what the Warrenton Rural Volunteer Fire Department did in the late 1950s, when they converted a school bus into their first tanker. This picture appeared in the *Warren Record* on July 26, 1957.

Read the caption: "This is the original built by the rural firemen. It is still in use, but will be located in another part of the county as soon as another tanker can be built. The school truck body was left on chassis to provide cover due to lack of fire house."

The picture was [posted to the department's Facebook page in March](#), and they added some additional details. The tank was 1,000 gallons as best they recall. Round and without baffles. The truck, named Tanker 1, was also equipped with a pump that "ran of belts that engaged a power take-off which was also located inside the bus. A hose would run off the pump [and] out the door."

As far as the department knows, the chassis is still located in Warren County. Make and model of the vehicle? Maybe readers know. Next question, what are some other curious apparatus conversions that you've seen or heard of, around North Carolina? (Thanks for heads-up about this picture, Greg.) Click to enlarge:



Other strange rings? Holly Springs operated a converted CP&L bucket truck in the 1990s. Brian Cammack photo, via Raleigh Fire Museum photo gallery, <http://raleighfiremuseum.org/photos/wake..>



**Legeros** - 08/16/15 - 11:23

The bus is a General Motors chassis. Hard to really tell, but more than likely a 1941 or 1946 model. My bet is on a 1946, due to the horizontal rim piece that runs the length of the hood was not on the 1941 model. There were no 1942-1945 models sold to the public, except in rare exception, during the Second World War.

**DJ** - 08/17/15 - 09:28