

Newsletter334

Keith's Corner/McGill News

September 19, 2025

Driving The Travel Buses

White Pine High School acquired a new bus to take the Bobcat teams on their trips out of the area. It was purchased in 1952 and was used mainly to transport the jr./sr. girls from McGill. During my senior year, 1953-54, Bill Spane was the driver.

When the Bobcat team played Vegas, Reno, Elko, Fallon and sometimes Buhl, Idaho, Jim Bell drove the bus. When the travel bus was out of the area during the weekdays, the gals crammed onto the freshman/sophomore girl's bus that I drove. Once, my bus was full the others rode the boy's jr./sr. bus driven by Bill Spane.

During my senior year, I had the privilege of driving the jr. varsity team, the Tomcats on their trips. The small jr./sr. boy's bus was used.

My first trip was to Austin, Nv. For a basketball game. The coach at that time was. We stayed at the International Hotel in Austin. The hotel was quite old at that time and the rooms were vintage old western style. The bathroom and showers were in the hall.

I don't remember the score of the game, but the White Pine boys were quite tired and went to bed early. The coach tucked them all in and then came back to the room we shared. He asked me to drive him back up the hill to a roadside bar and café. He went in and bought some beer and we headed back. Now going down the sharp hill with

it's many tight turns at night was a bit scary. We got back into our room and he offered me a beer. I refused. I was already worried that I was in trouble, but the coach said not to worry.

The next morning, we went down to the dining room for breakfast. The coach and I sat close to the kitchen. The coach nodded to me to look at the cook. He was bent over the stove flipping hotcakes and bacon. He had a bald head and was sweating profusely and it was dripping on the stive. The team had already eaten and were hauling their gear out to the bus. The coach and I drank our coffee and left without waiting for the hotcakes. The coach paid the bill and were left the town of Austin.

My next trip was to Gabbs, Nevada. It is in the center of Nevada. It was a tiny town and was just being built. It was a brand-new mining town. Gabbs was truly out in the middle of nowhere. It was stifling hot and the bus was overheating when we arrived. I let the team off at the gym and went to the one gas station for gas and some water for the radiator. The gas was twice as high as in McGill, but the big surprise was, a gallon of water was even higher. The attendant explained that they had to truck in all their domestic water.

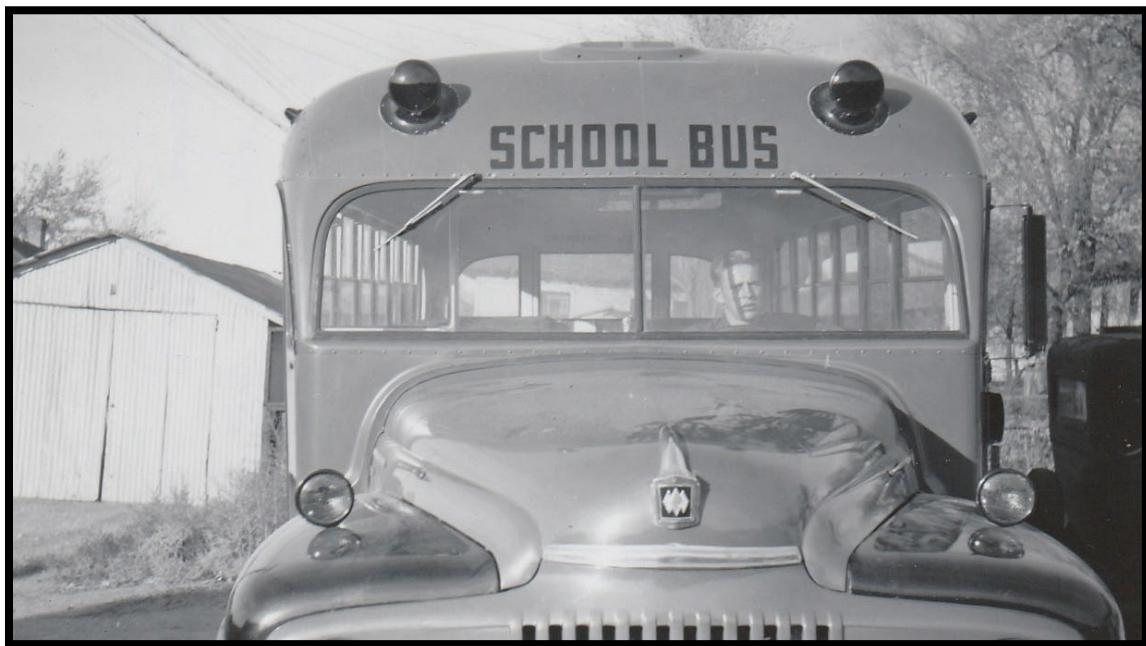
I went back to the gym to watch the game.

The gym was very different. The floor was concrete. There was no ceiling. The steel rafters were exposed. The bottom beams of the rafters were just a few feet above the backboards, making it hard to shoot a long shot. It really frustrated out guys. The Gabb players knew just how to shoot over the beams.

The fall of 1953, the Bobcats had a football game in Elko. Our great, award-winning band was invited to attend. The band was to travel to Elko on the regular school buses. I was picked to drive my regular GMC bus. It was the only time we ever did that.

Driving those buses was quite a thrill for me and left me with many fond memories.

This is the jr./sr. boys bus that was used for road trips for the jr. varsity. I had just returned from Gabbs. It was a Saturday and so I kept the bus at my folk's home for the weekend. It was an International. My Mom took this photo.



On Wed., the 17th the Chevy Club stopped by to tour the Drugstore. They had about 15 old Chevys. There were trucks, roadsters, sedans and even an old Ambulance.



I will have more photos and story about the group next week.