

Keith's Corner/McGill News

September 12, 2025

Daily Bus Routine 1953-54

During my senior year at White Pine High School I was lucky enough to be a school bus driver on the route from McGill to Ely. I drove the freshmen/sophomore girl's bus. It was an old GMC. I don't remember the model year. It was an awesome responsibility, for a 17-year-old McGill heathen. Back in those days, most 17 year old boys had worked alongside men and were used to responsibility.

My day started at 6 a.m., when Dad woke me. A quick wash up, get dressed, eat some breakfast, fix a sack lunch and head out the door. A short walk to the O'Neil Service Station and Garage building (now called the old Standard Market). Stopped a few moments and chatted with Ray and Mary and then strode into the huge storage area, where the buses were kept. Oscar Siegel was already there and had started the engines in the buses. He held a short meeting with us drivers and then we headed for our buses. We had to back the bus out through a small door that left us only a few inches on each side. The minute the front end of the bus came out the door we had to make a sharp turn on to the main street. That was not easy.

Then we lined up across from what is now the water company office. Jim Bell and the jr./sr. boy's bus was first, then Bill Spane with jr./sr.

girl's bus, I was next and last in line was Oscar with an old International bus.

Once the buses were loaded, we moved on down the street to the end of main street. More students got on the buses and then we stopped at the street below town site and finished loading kids.

We had to stop at the first set of railroad tracks and again at the tracks by the Club 50.

Just before the old overpass, Oscar and I stopped, while the other 2 buses went on to the school. The Ishii girls got on my bus and the Oki boys got on Oscar's bus. We also stopped at the Miller Motel and Service Station to pick up East Ely kids. Then stop again at the railroad tracks by the cemetery.

Finally, we pulled up to the curb in front of the high school. Once the kids were off the bus, we drove up to the bus garage and then walked back to our classrooms. We didn't have to go to homeroom, but went straight to our first class.

At the end of the school day we drivers got early in order to get our buses back at the school before all classes let out. We lined up on the street in front of the gym.

Arriving in McGill, we put the buses in the storage garage and went home.

The jr./sr. girl's bus was a new one and was used by the Bobcat teams as their travel bus. Jim Bell drove that bus on all the trips.

Next week –driving the Tomcats and the band buses.

McGill News



Friday September 5th, was a great day for me. I had a surprise visitor. Kozo Miyoshi stopped in for a visit. He was here earlier this year and took some photos with his antique camera. He needed to get some photos of the front of the Drugstore.

Old Photo



Found this photo on Facebook. Shriner's parade, Armistice Day 1917. Notice the Dr. Alexander, Physician and Surgeon sign just below the flag on the corner of the Old Capitol Club. Anybody know who the guy in the middle with the light-colored clothes, might be?