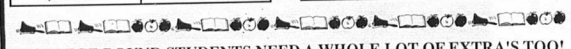


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School buses ready to roll

By Marsha Mattox
of the Carlisle Mercury Staff
Parents are combing the stores for back-to-school bargains. Shopping for clothes, pencils, paper, notebooks, crayons, stickers, backpacks, etc., parents are preparing their children for the first day of the 1987-88 school year in Nicholas County, August 18. However, back-to-school preparations began for Jess Bach the day Nicholas County Schools let out for summer vacation, May 25, 1987.

As bus mechanic, Bach is the man responsible for getting the school buses ready to transport students to school safely. "I check brakes, front suspension, everything... whatever needs to be done," Bach said.

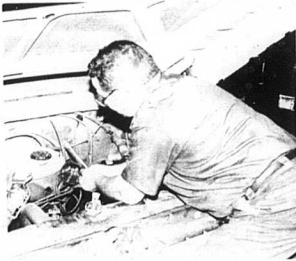
"If the tires are worn down, new ones are put on. I check the exhaust system, and do engine tune-ups. Getting the buses ready for back-to-school, you might say," Bach added. According to Bach, there are 22 buses running and four or five spare buses he maintains mechanically for the Nicholas County school system.

"I take care of them all," he said. Bach has worked on school buses in Nicholas County for 40 years, starting out when he was 21 years-old working for Elmer Dempster. Dempster later sold his business to Leon Steele, for whom Bach also worked until buying the business himself. "I feel like I've been doing this all my life. I overhauled my first automobile when I was 16 years-old," Bach said. "I've loved working on cars even before I could drive one," he added. Bach said he begins working on the buses as soon as the school year ends in spring, getting them ready for the next school year. "And I've got to hustle to get them ready," Bach said. However, maintenance on the buses continues year-long, with each bus having a routine check-over each month during the school year. "For each day of the month, I have a bus to check over," Bach said.

But just as someone can get sick a few days after a physical from a doctor, a bus can have mechanical problems a day or two after having routine maintenance. "I've had as high as five buses a day, but most buses are brought in for minor repairs, such as having a light out," Bach said. "If a bus missees or jerks a little, here they the driver comes with it. I can usually tell what's wrong with it before they pull it into the garage," Bach added. Checking the mileage on each bus during routine check-over, Bach said the average bus travels 8,000 to 10,000 miles a year, depending on the bus route. Bach also assists in the procedure of preparing bus drivers for the school year.

"I take a group of six to eight drivers on a bus and talk over the operation of the bus. I'm there to answer any questions they may have," Bach explained. With every job, there is a responsibility that is a little tougher than others. With Bach's job, traveling to bring home students from a broken down bus

might be labeled in this category. Bach tells the story of the time when he had just finished watching a television program that was over at 11 p.m., when the phone rang. "It was Mr. Elder (Superintendent of Nicholas County Schools, Don Elder)," Bach said. "He calls me 3:30 a.m., and he said,



Jess Bach



Nicholas County Elementary



Nicholas County High School

Jason, there's a bus down, and I need you to go after it. I asked him where, and he said I wasn't going to believe it, but the bus was at Kings Island (Ohio)," Bach said. Scoffing Kings Island he went, taking home a group of five students on their senior trip. Now Bach's dedication.

Class length to be changed to one hour

By Marsha Mattox
of the Carlisle Mercury Staff
Adaptation of one-hour courses for grades five through eight, rather than 45-minute courses, will perhaps be the biggest overall system change at Nicholas County Elementary School for the 1987-88 school year. In addition, study halls will no longer be available at the elementary school. According to a statement Nicholas County Elementary Principal Gerald Hammons made in an article in the June 25 issue of The Carlisle Mercury, elimination of study halls will provide the time for an enrichment period.

Study skills, library and research skills, drama, speech, computers, everyday mathematics, mythology, sagas, fables, poetry, folk literature, and newspaper are among the classes scheduled to be offered on a six-week basis. Also, the Nicholas County Board of Education approved the purchase of new IBM Personal System II computers, six in total including software, to be used by lower level elementary students in the system's write to read program. "I'm very pleased with this program," Superintendent of Nicholas County Schools Don Elder said. Nicholas County Farm Bureau Board will be funding a computer software program designed for grades four through six at Nicholas County Elementary School, designed to help students become high agriculturally aware and computer literate.

This program, titled Farm and Food Bytes, will be implemented into the school's curriculum for the 1987-88 school year, at no cost to the students. Hammons also told The Carlisle Mercury in June plans are made to offer a pre-Algebra class to advanced seventh graders for the 1987-88 year as preparation for high school Algebra. The addition of a junior high student council and a junior high national honor society is scheduled for the upcoming year. All education classes will be taught in grade five through nine, beginning this year. As summer vacation draws to a close, another year at Nicholas County Elementary School shows promise of continued growth in education.