

Bus Driver Mackley Lucas

I graduated from Loudoun Valley High and drove a bus my junior and senior years (1964 - 1966). Though by this time Loudoun Valley High was integrated, there were never any white students on my bus. In fact, buses with Black drivers still didn't carry white students, though some buses with white drivers carried some Black students. I started driving when I was 16 and had to complete a road test to qualify to drive a school bus. By this time there were many students driving school buses. Throughout the time I drove a school bus, I kept it at home in Hamilton. That's where I would start my routes. I had two different routes between 1964 and 1966. In 1964/1965 I took over the route of an adult (Mr. Rainey) and drove a 1962 or 1963 Chevy bus. Technically, I was a substitute driver, as Mr. Rainey wanted to work full time on a farm. Mr. Rainey was still the driver of record and was paid as an adult. He would then pay me the student rate. My bus was in pretty good condition and when I started in 1964. My routes included picking up students along route 50 and delivering them to Banneker Elementary in St. Louis. I carried about 40 students. From there I'd drive the bus with no passengers to Loudoun Valley High in Purcellville. The entire route took about 1 hour and I'd arrive at Loudoun Valley High in time to park the bus and make my 9:00 AM class. The roads were a combination of asphalt and dirt. The total one way trip in 1964/1965 was about 16 miles with half of it being narrow dirt roads. Chains were required for the snow, especially on the dirt roads. My dad would help me put them on. In my senior year (1965/1966), I took over the route of another adult (Sulva Warner) and drove a bus that was practically new (1964 or 1965). I picked up students from Hillsboro and Hamilton. I'd deliver elementary students to Carver and then pick up any additional high school students at Carver. From Carver, I'd drive to Loudoun Valley High with about 40 students and park my bus in time for 9:00 AM classes. The 1965/1966 one way trip was about 20 miles¹.

¹ From May 8, 2020 interview with former LCPS Bus Driver Mackley Lucas conducted by Nathan Bailey