

Driver Renace Painter

I drove an LCPS bus when I was a junior and senior at Lovettsville High from 1944 to 1946. The bus was driven by Owen Jacobs when it was new, then Wright Washington and then me. The bus was a Ford and it was still pretty new when I got it. It wasn't uncommon for us older teens to drive school buses. My driver's license had a stamp that showed I was authorized to drive a school bus. I had to qualify, which included taking a road test. I'd leave the house between 7:30 and 7:45 AM. I lived west of Lovettsville, near the Potomac river and since I kept the bus at home during the week, I started picking up students along the road on my way from home to Lovettsville. It's a short run, only about an 8 mile trip from my house to the Lovettsville schools. The bus would be about 2/3 full (approx. 20 students) on this run. I'd drop the students off and then start my second run. The second run was longer, 16 miles and I'd have between 35 and 40 students on the bus. In those days we'd carry elementary and high school students on the same bus. They'd come out to the road to meet the bus, I'd stop and pick them up. There were no designated or sheltered stops then. A student would walk from their home out to the road and I'd stop the bus and pick them up. I'd end up back at Lovettsville High where I'd park the bus and go to class. Class started at 9:00 AM. While the roads are mostly dirt and gravel, I never got stuck when they were muddy or snow covered. We'd put chains on the tires in snowy weather. My school had only white students and there were no Black students on my bus. The local garage in Lovettsville (Bryce-Weener) provided service and gas for my bus. I earned \$65/month driving the bus¹

¹ From June 23, 2020 interview with former LCPS Bus Driver Renace Painter conducted by Nathan Bailey