



Warren and Arlene Shenk stand in front of the home they built on their farmland. For more than 10 years, Shenk collected the stones from his fields.

Bus Ready To Roll To Highest Bidder

LOU ANN GOOD

Lancaster Farming Staff

MOUNT JOY (Lancaster Co.) — Thirty-three years ago Warren Shenk started driving school bus. Today he's 68 years old and still driving.

In his sparetime, Shenk fashioned a wooden bus to duplicate the one he drives. Instead of keeping it, he's donating it to Kraybill Mennonite School's 23rd annual Benefit Auction, May 12-13.

Shenk and his wife Arlene married in 1953 and begin farming 103 acres in Mount Joy.

"We raised beef and potatoes because it was something good to eat," Shenk said.

The Shenks have four children. When their children were young, they attended Kraybill Mennonite School, which needed a part-time bus driver. Shenk figured he could fit driving into his farming schedule. It wasn't always easy, especially during the harvest season.

Some mornings he delivered a truckload of potatoes to Harris-

burg before picking up a busload of children.

"When I first began driving, I didn't get paid. Two years later, I got \$5 a day," Shenk recalls of the changes during his tenure.

Shenk estimates he transported more than 2,000 students to school on a regular basis. Now some of his students are the third generation of those he has driven to school.

"I don't see much difference in children's behavior. In fact, they keep the bus cleaner than they used to — maybe I do a better job of getting them to keep it clean," he said.

Shenk washes all the school buses for Kraybill's.

While most children cheer whenever school is canceled due to bad weather, Shenk doesn't share their joy.

He said, "I don't like when school is cancelled for a little bit of snow. I like the challenge of driving in it. They didn't used to cancel school for snow like now."

Driving is more of a challenge

because the traffic is more congested. On the other hand, back roads are not as narrow as they used to be and that helps when maneuvering a cumbersome bus around curves.

Shenk has numerous trophies for winning first, second, and third placings at the Lancaster/Lebanon School Bus Rodeo. After winning the grand champion one year, he stopped participating in competition in order to give others a chance.

Rodeo competition is tight. Shenk explained, "We need to drive through an obstacle course with only one-inch space on either side of the bus. We must park in a space by only pulling up one time. If we are over the line or against it, 50 points are deducted from our scores."

Maneuvering around the serpentine barrels with such a long bus is no easy feat. Contestants are also judged on their ability to find all defects in five "bugged" buses within five minutes.

"Bugs," Shenk said, "include such details as a truck license installed instead of a bus license, the amber and red lights switched, and windows open a crack.

Now retired from farming, the Shenks had a new home built on some of their farmland.

"For 10 years, I saved the stones I picked out of our fields," Shenk said of the stone house they built six years ago.

Shenk often volunteers to drive bus for several retirement communities and for the Mennonite Disaster Service. He is a church trustee and janitor for Erisman Mennonite Church.

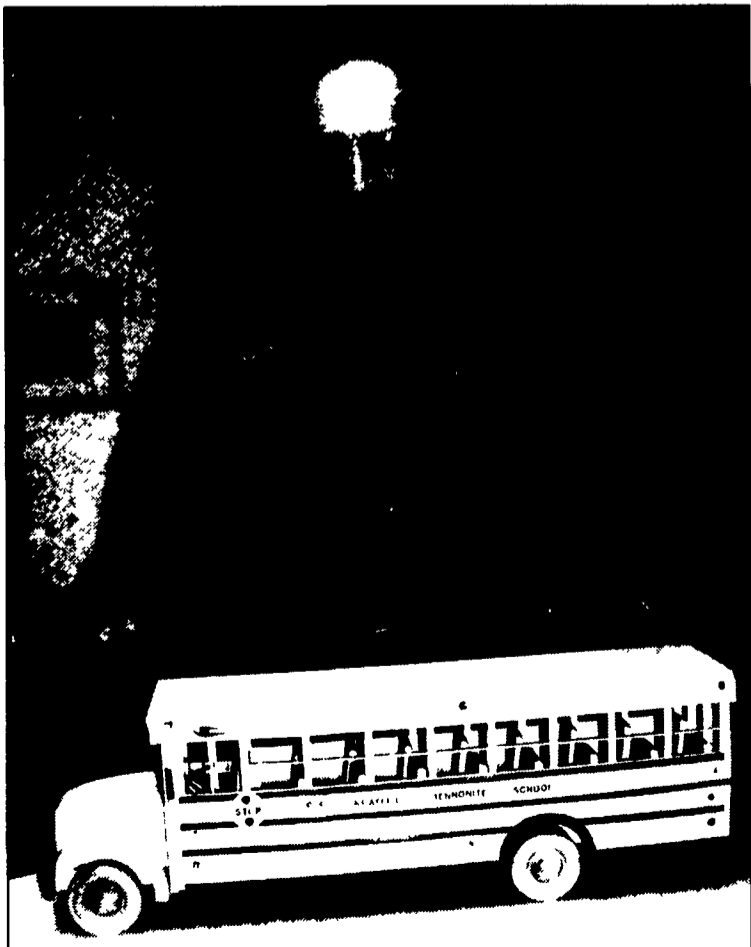
"I enjoy volunteering," he said.

Making the bus to be sold at the benefit sale is a way to volunteer time to help others, Shenk believes. The funds raised at the benefit enable lower tuition.

"I wanted to make a bus that looked just like mine," Shenk said of the bus, which includes 33 details not included on the original bus blueprints. These include such details as a first aid kit, step light, fire extinguisher, reflective triangle, wrecking bar, hand brake, foot throttle, underseats heaters, five dome lights, step railing, rear view mirror, and other things.

The most difficult parts to find were amber and red lights. He finally located some at a

(Turn to Page B15)



Warren Shenk made this bus to duplicate the one he drives. He is donating the bus to be sold at the Kraybill Mennonite School Benefit Auction, May 12-13.

SEE YOUR NEAREST



NEW HOLLAND

DEALER FOR DEPENDABLE EQUIPMENT & SERVICE

PENNSYLVANIA

Abbottsburg, PA
Metzger Equipment
RD 1, Box 265A
717-259-8617

Altoona, PA
Honey Grove PA
717-724-8882
Lordsburg, PA
717-789-3117

Anapville, PA
BHM Farm Equipment, Inc.
RD 1, Rte. 934
717-867-2211

Carlisle, PA
A.B.C. Groff, Inc.
110 South Railroad
717-354-4191

Carlisle, PA
B&V Equipment Co.
RD 1, Box 100
717-354-4191

Carlisle, PA
Schiffel Equipment
RD 1, Box 100
717-354-4191

Carlisle, PA
Schiffel Equipment
RD 1, Box 100
717-354-4191

Greencastle, PA
Meyers Implements, Inc.
400 North Antietam
717-587-2178

Harrisburg, PA
Swigard Bros.
R.D. 3, Box 13
717-836-3414

West Grove, PA
B.G. Lewis & Son, Inc.
222 N. Jannerville Rd.
717-836-9029

MARYLAND

Frederick, MD
Ceresville Ford
Holland, Inc.
Rt. 26 East
301-624-4107

Frederick, MD
Holland, Inc.
2027 L. J. Hays Pike
301-624-4107

Frederick, MD
Ag Industrial Equipment
Rt. 1, Box 1
301-624-4107

NEW JERSEY

Washington, NJ
Smith Tractor & Equip., Inc.
15 Hillcrest Ave.
908-689-7900

Washington, NJ
Lealle's Egg, Inc.
Chestnut Creek
Landing Rd.
609-451-2727
609-835-5145

Woodstown, NJ
Gwen Supply Co.
Broad Street & East Avenue
609-769-0308



NEW HOLLAND Credit Company