



Vintage Skoolie - 1958 GMC Superior School Bus Conversion



By Alan Zerobnick

1978

1981

This story begins in 1978 when I was living off-the-grid in a cabin I built on seven acres on the southern tip of the Olympic Rain Forest, on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State. It had long been my dream while growing up in Colorado during the 1950s and 1960s to build my own cabin in the mountains.

In those days it was the dream of every Beatnik and Hippie to get back to the land and live the simple life. Create your own independent life, living in harmony with nature in a sustainable lifestyle.

I earned my living as a Leather Craftsman making bags, clothing and custom shoes, traveling to festivals and fairs around the state, spending much of my time in and around Seattle. My cabin was small and I needed a separate place to work as well as a mobile showroom to travel and live in when I was on the road for extended periods of time.

I converted a 1940's vintage trailer for that purpose and pulled it with a one-ton cattle truck, which I had inherited when my family sold the farm in Colorado. It worked out well except it was difficult to find places to park in the city.

There were laws that made it impossible to park on the street overnight. You couldn't park if it was connected to the truck and you couldn't unhitch the trailer and park it on the street either. So I needed to come up with a better solution.

It was spring 1981 and I was at the Folklife Festival in Seattle talking with a friend from Idaho explaining my dilemma. When I told her I was looking to buy a school bus, she informed me that she had started to convert an old bus, but it was too much of a project for her and she wanted to sell it. She got as far as taking out the seats and

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