



By John Swartley

Looking back through my collection of BCM magazines I found the term “Bus Nut” used quite literally. Thanks to Gary, publishing my bus-related articles in his magazines, I have enjoyed many hours of educational research and writing bus-related articles.

Not only does my hobby of writing and researching (I hope) keep my brain functioning longer, it has given me a purpose during this long COVID-19 quarantine. Best of all I feel like it qualifies me to be a “Bus Nut”.

My “Bus Nut” career started back in 1986 when my son, Jason, and two of his high school friends decided to join the Denver Blue Knights Drum Corps.

Drum Corps units are made up of high school-age students that spend their summers traveling all over the United States, sleeping in schools, practicing many long hours in the hot sun with the goal to be the best marching Corps in the country.

After many performances in stadiums during the summer, all the Corps meet in Madison, Wisconsin to determine who is the best.

Once a month we would make the 4–5 hour trip

from Montrose to Denver to attend winter training camps. To help pay for Jason’s expenses I volunteered to drive one of the three buses it took to transport the kids all summer. I would take



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