



After 42 years, driver set for last ride

By Carson Metcalf

After an incredible 42-year run driving a school bus, one very unique Golden Sun BusService driver has decided to take the retirement route. Martha Becker, known to most just as Martha, first started her long career behind the wheel transporting students on bus 96 in September, 1970. She will turn in her keys, now for bus 478, for one final time at the end of the school year, after an estimated one million miles on the road.

Martha, 73, says she started driving because she “wanted a little extra money.” At the time, her husband had suggested bus driving as Golden Sun was looking for drivers. Forty-two years later, she is still getting that extra money, never thinking that she would be doing what she does for this long. “I figured by the time I was in my fifties I probably would be done,” Martha said. Clearly she has outlasted her own expectations, and in astonishing fashion.

According to Wally Haskell, President of Golden Sun Bus Service, Martha has, “had no known driver violations and no chargeable accidents, and has never had an injured or hurt child under her watch.” She has also had perfect attendance since 1994, only taking time off for the birth of her children and a death in the family prior to that point.

Mr. Haskell also said, “She is always friendly and cheerful not only to the children on her bus, but to parents, teachers, and co-workers as well.” These remarks were made in the narrative for Martha’s “Heart of the Industry” Driver of the Year Award nomination last year.

Having the same route for all of the years she has been driving, Martha has transported three generations of children. She says, “I’ve had these kids, most of them, I’ve seen them grow; I’ve had their kids. That’s been the good part of having this run all these years.” She adds that being a bus driver has been rewarding, stating, “You get a lot of good kids out there, and down the road you see what they have become.”

As we have moved forward in time, Martha also notes improvements in the buses she has

driven. The first bus she drove was stick shift, with a poor heating system and rough seats. She says driving her bus now is “like driving a limousine,” compared to the old days.

Having been a driver for so long, there were bound to be both highs and lows in Martha’s career. She says the worst moment she had was in the late-1990s, coming back from Oswego on a summer school run. While driving down Route 48, she said a turkey “took off at an angle and came straight through the windshield of the bus.” Once everyone had gotten off the bus, the doors were opened and Martha says the tur-



Martha Becker has been transporting children to school for the past 42 years. (Carson Metcalf photo)

key took off out the door and flew away.

There have also been many high points throughout these 42 years. Martha says the best moments have been when she has gotten notes and pictures from the students she has transported. She says, “There are a lot of caring kids out there.” She appreciates “knowing that you must have meant something to some of them in their lives to a certain point.”

Despite Martha’s years of service to students in Fulton, she also notices something that should be obvious to all of us: the fact that bus drivers are not given as much atten-

tion or credit as they should be. “You really do not hear much about bus driver recognition,” she said. “You are the first one they [students] see in the morning and the last one they see at night. It’s like it doesn’t really mean anything.”

On top of driving students to and from school, Martha is also a Certified Examiner. Over the years, she has trained over forty school bus drivers. Ironically enough, one of Martha’s trainees was her husband, Willard, who decided to come out of retirement in 2007 to drive.

In terms of advice for new drivers, Martha said she would tell them, “You are the authority figure on that bus. They have got to pay attention and listen to you, because what you’re telling them is for their safety.”

When asked why the time to go is now, Martha said, “I think you get to an age when you know enough is enough. I think I know that it’s time. I really do.”

After she retires, Martha says she plans on doing a little more camping and riding on her four-wheeler. That’s right, her four-wheeler. Martha certainly means business in terms of recreation, and also when spending time, which she will surely do a lot more of, with her six children, sixteen grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

On a personal note, I have to say that Martha Becker is undoubtedly one of the most amazing, remarkable people I have ever met. Believe it or not, for a time after I had first started school and rode Martha’s bus, I aspired to be a bus driver myself. It seemed perfect; full-time meteorologist, part-time bus driver. This is a perfect example of the power to inspire others that Martha possesses.

Her kind demeanor and ability to connect with others are special qualities that all of us should aspire to have as well, no matter what we do in life. Although bus driving is no longer in my career plans, to this day there is still a certain kind of magic involved in riding her bus; the feeling that you are in good hands, and part of a career that will certainly spawn a legacy to last for a very long time.

Opinion

Take it from me: don't be a slacker!

By Joe Medico

For future students and current students not graduating:

It is important to remember just what school is really about; your education. Sure, coming to school is fun because you get to see your friends and do things you wouldn't be able to do outside of school such as partake in clubs or compete in athletics against other high schools in the area.

A lot of students usually forget about their education because of everything that surrounds and distracts them, and getting too distracted is dangerous. A student who would rather socialize than pursue their education and knowledge will often find themselves



"If I could go back and change one thing about my experience in high school, it would be to get my assignments in on or before their due date."

scrambling during the last week of a marking period, semester, or even school year. They attempt to cram weeks worth of work and get it turned in all in one week for whatever points they can manage to get, hoping to receive a passing grade.

I am guilty of this and have fallen behind in my studies numerous times and high school, not that I am proud of that. My fellow classmates and even teachers have joked around saying that I have suffered from a serious case of "Senioritis" since freshman year. In past years I have found myself running around to some of my teachers, asking for work well overdue and I am grateful that my teachers let me make up my work.

If I could go back and change one thing about my experience in high school, it would be to get my assignments in on or before their due date. My biggest piece of advice for the students of GRB is this; do all of your work on time and don't slack. Sometimes it's hard to stay motivated and you just give up and don't do anything

at all, but you'll certainly regret it in the long run.

This isn't the junior high school anymore and if teachers feel you aren't qualified to advance, you will fail. There are seniors in lower classmen classes and people laugh at them and make jokes, but don't realize how easily it could happen to them if they don't do what they are supposed to. Students don't want to waste part of their summer going to summer school, or being forced to stay in high school longer than they want.

Students often use the excuse that they just hate high school and because they do they won't do the work. If you don't want to be in high school, then get your work done when you are supposed to so that you can graduate on time and not stay any longer than you have to.

Most teachers are actually pretty lenient on giving out work and never give out extreme amounts of homework. If they do, well, they are just preparing you for college and your future. Just keep in mind that it is very important to stay on top of your work and pursue your educational goals for free while you still have the opportunity.

**The Bodley Bash
has been rescheduled
for Thursday
June 7
2:30 to 5 pm
at the
Athletic Complex**

Quote of the day:

"Anyone who doesn't take truth seriously in small matters cannot be trusted in large ones either."

Albert Einstein



Reflections

-THE- Salon & More

Welcomes GRB grad Natasha Humbert!

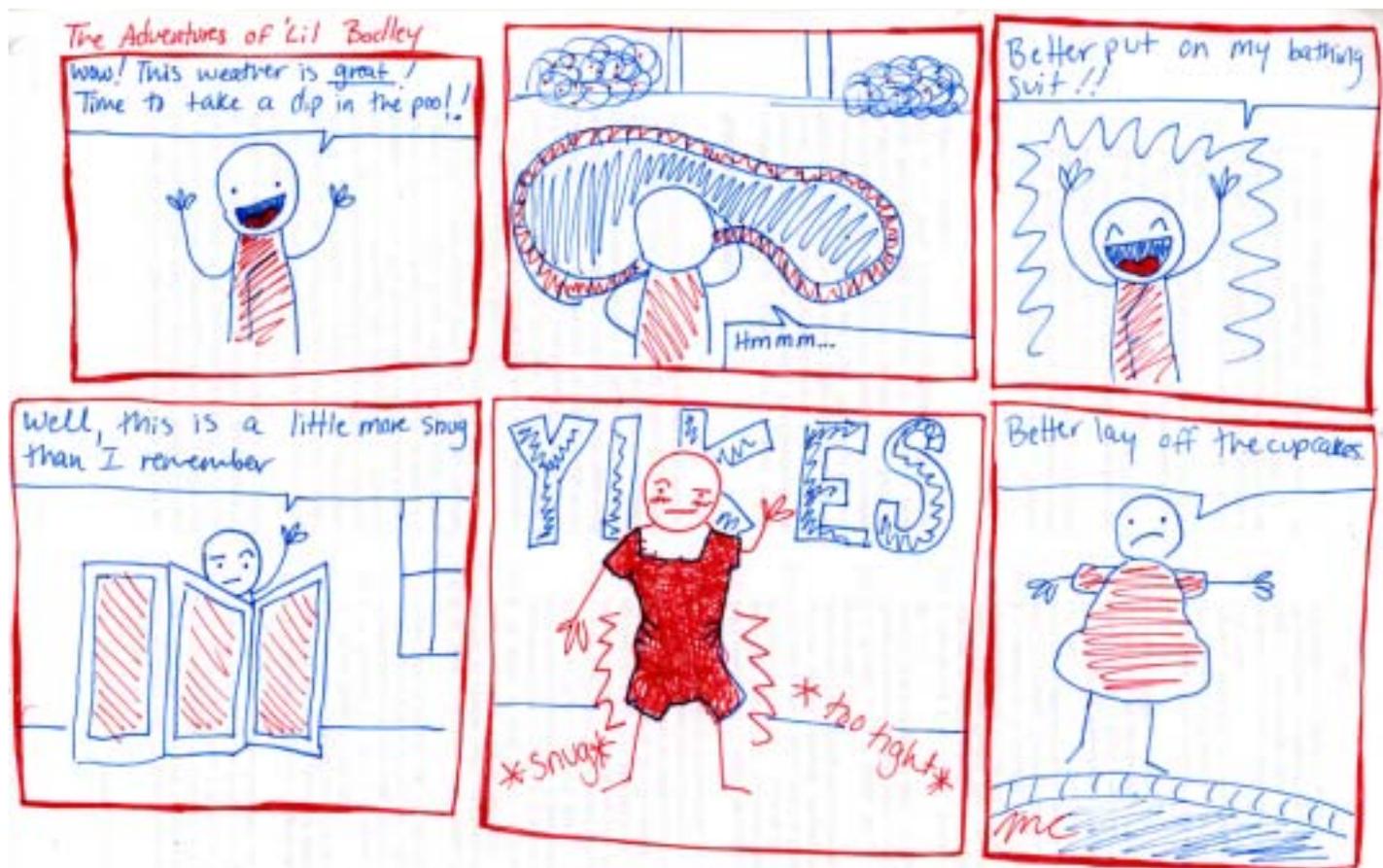
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The Adventures of 'lil Bodley

By Madeline Clark (this comic is drawn on reused paper!)



Enjoy your high school days; they go by fast

By Nathan Deavers

Many kids complain about being in school and cannot wait until the day that they graduate.

But why are they in such a rush to leave?

Yes, there is homework, but it is doable, and once you leave high school, your whole life changes and you need to do things for yourself, becoming an adult. Once you leave high school you grow farther apart from your parents and may not see long-time friends ever again. If so it will not be very often.

What is so bad about high school? I do not understand why so many kids complain about it and just want to get out of here? College will be so much harder, and if you do not want to show up to class or do homework, like some kids do in high school, then you will just be hurting yourself and you are on your own.



High school teachers try to get kids to come to school and show up or just want them to do the little bit of homework that they give them, it is not that hard. Once college comes around you have to make the choice to go to class, there will be much more homework, and you will not get as much help from teachers as you would from a high school teacher.

If some of the kids who want to leave high school so badly do the things that they do now, then they will be hurting themselves. Once high school is done, kids become adults and the choices that they make will affect them for the rest of their lives because they are on their own and will not have people who care telling them what to do and to help them. High school is not all that bad if you look at it kiddos.

If you ask adults what the best times of their lives were, most of them will say high school or college. Why does everybody want to grow up so quickly? These are the best times of your life people!! Enjoy every second of it and it will not last forever, it goes quicker than you think and once it passes it will be gone forever.

Would you like to live a great life later on and have many lasting memories from high school? If you just want to get through high school and do not have great grades or attendance in high school, it could pass on for the later years and life could be not so sweet.

Just enjoy what you have now, it is not that bad and our school is not that bad if you look at it compared to how other schools have gotten in these hard economic times.

“What is so bad about high school? I do not understand why so many kids complain about it and just want to get out of here?”

Raiders run well at state qualifier meet

By Dylan Holden & Mark Aldasch

The Fulton varsity boys and girls track teams were proudly represented by nine individuals who traveled to the Section 3 State Qualifiers held at CNS high school this past Thursday. Athletes in attendance consisted of seniors Mark Aldasch, Casey Holden, Dylan Holden, and Anna McKay Juniors Christina Pensabene, Courtney Beckwith, Jocelyn Ravesi, and Hannah Geitner as well as fellow freshman Erica Pawlewicz.

The 4x100 team consisting of Beckwith, Pensabene, Pawlewicz and Ravesi had an overall time of 54.47 taking tenth out of eleven teams. Girls steeplechaser Hannah Geitner ran a time of 8:03.76, earning her fourth out of 5. Fellow classmate and 2-time Section Champ Courtney Beckwith had the overall best performance for the girls' team placing third in the pole vault and clearing 9 feet.

Anna McKay tied for third out of 5 in the girls' high jump clearing 5 feet 1 inch. In the 400 hurdles Jocelyn Ravesi placed fourth

out of 5 with an outstanding time of 1:10.39

Representing the boys were a trio of seniors proud to compete in head coach David Wilson's final meet of his coaching career. First to race for the boys was Dylan Holden, placing fifth in Division 1 with a time of



The boys track team gave retiring Coach Dave Wilson a fond farewell at last week's state qualifier.

10:54.54, Holden struggled greatly after a fall in the water on the fifth lap of the contest. Casey Holden, who competed in the high jump, had an off night not clearing the opening height which was set at 5 feet 10 inches, 4 inches above normal opening height.

To top the Raider trio was Mark Aldasch in the pentathlon, placing third in Division 1. Aldasch had the overall best performance of his career, shattering his own previous school record with a total of 2811, beating his previous record of 2642.

The teams competed hard all season for their coaches final year, and greeted him with a warm group hug on the bus. This made a memorable season for the coaches and the athletes alike for their hard work and effort they put in all year. Seniors Casey Holden and Dylan Holden will be attending Oswego State next year and running track as well. Mark Aldasch will be attending LeMoyne, looking to run track as well, while Anna McKay will attend Messiah College next year.



Lousy weather on Saturday couldn't stop this group of GRB seniors from having a good time in the Lake George area as they took part in the annual senior trip. Despite rain on Saturday, the group enjoyed having most of the Great Escape theme park to themselves. (Jeanette Bartlett photo)

RaiderNet

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Opinion/In the News



Former Fulton art teacher Larry Mitchelson, left, selected senior Maggie Ryan as the winner of the award that carries his name. (Natasha Luis photo)

Senior wins Mitchelson art award

“An artist is not paid for his labor, but for his vision”-James Whistler

Senior, Maggie Ryan was awarded the Larry Mitchelson Fine Art Award on June 1 by Mr. Mitchelson. Maggie had to put in an application that was available to all art students here at G. Ray Bodley. She then made a portfolio of all of her favorite art work that she would have reviewed, and then make a display to present to Mr. Mitchelson on time of arrival.

Maggie had simple drawings, to clay sculptures and even life size sketches! Mr. Mitchelson was an art teacher for many years and art was truly something that inspired him. He not only chose Maggie as the winner because she was a well-rounded and successful artists, but because she was also passionate about what she was doing and her pieces spoke to him.

She was more than happy to be reunited with her childhood art teacher, and he was delighted to see the talented young woman she had become. “I have been drawing ever since I was just a little girl. My inspiration is James Whistler,” Maggie said. Her display can be seen in a large display case just before the first floor commons area.

By Natasha Luis

The right job can make your summer better

By Hannah Dunsmoor

Summer is just around the corner! Even though the weather is not cooperating to student expectations, summer is almost here. The dilemma that some students are facing is whether or not to find a summer job. The second question is to get a full time job or a part time job.

Personally, I would love to enjoy my summer work free and be able to do anything at any time. Obviously not having a job would be great, but that can lead to lazy habits. Having a job gets you out of the house and moving around on days when you may possibly just sit home and eat chips on your couch. (I know we have all done it at some point). Also, it puts a little extra cash in your pocket, so when you do go out with friends or family you can go to nicer places and find unique things to do! You may think that getting a job will ruin your summer, but in reality it may just make it better!

Last year I had a part time job at Josie’s Pierogies. At first I was



skeptical that my summer would not live up to my standards, but it turned out to be great and I even made a few new friends. I loved having a part time job because it paid for my gas, and I was able to save for college expenses. It also got me out of bed at a decent time so I did not waste half of my day sleeping. Being a night owl I did not mind working during the day and having the nights to myself.

Senior Maddie Olon, has held down a job at Rite-Aid during the school year and has had experience with a summer job. She explained that it was nice to have a source of money, but working too many days a week can be tiring and annoying. She said, “It kind of stinks having a job when your friends try to make last minute plans with you, and you can’t go because you cannot get the time off.”

Fellow seniors Maddie Clark and Dylan Holden are also maintaining jobs this summer and state that the main reason is for the money. “I would already be getting up early even if I didn’t have a job,” stated Holden. “The main reason I want a job is so I can save the money for college,” he finished.

Overall, it appears that a summer job will be beneficial to most teens. So get your pen ready and start filling out applications now!

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What do you think of the yearbooks?



"They're awesome this year. Best I've seen so far"

Joey Cortese



"I think it's good."

Connor Goss



"I like it, I like all the pictures they have in it."

Casey Shannon



"It's a pretty good yearbook. It's mine to keep forever."

James Davies

Meteorology and you

By Carson Metcalf



Today:



Mostly cloudy with rain showers.

65°

Average: 75°
Record: 87° (1967)

Tonight:



Cloudy skies.
Chance rain.

47°

Average: 53°
Record: 36° (1964)

Tomorrow:



Mostly cloudy with rain showers.

70°

Average: 75°
Record: 92° (2008)

GRB senior Carson Metcalf is an aspiring Meteorologist and the creator of The Central New York Weather Center @ www.centralnewyorkweather.com
Look for his daily weather forecasts for Fulton on RaiderNet Daily.