



Greg Meier enjoys his job as goodwill ambassador and bus driver during the Mountain Festival.

## Visitors welcomed

### Bus driver takes pride in ambassador role

by SCOTT NEWTON  
Staff writer

Local people seem to know how to get close enough to Meinig Park to walk to the Mountain Festival. But visitors park in lots west of town and ride the bus.

The visitors invariably have questions, and one of the people who helps make a good first impression is Greg Meier, chairman of transportation for the Mountain Festival committee.

On the way to the festival, Meier tells visitors about the various activities and, as they load into the bus for the trip back, he finds out if they had fun.

"The bus drivers often provide the first impression people get of the Mountain Festival," he said. "If they see you, and you're friendly, it gives them a good impression."

The 24-year-old Meier does not know how to behave any other way.

He used to deliver dairy products with his grandfather in Boring, going into people's homes and putting milk in the refrigerator. Now he is in business with his father operating Shorty's Corner Fuel, which is operated out of Shorty's Corner grocery store and gas station.

Meier delivers fuel and stove oil, diesel and gasoline, and is still being invited into people's homes.

"It's neat for me, a complete stranger, to be invited into someone's house," he said.

Driving a bus during the Mountain

Festival is definitely a job for someone with patience and personality. It takes about a half an hour to make a round trip in the annual traffic jam. "After the festival is over, I'm glad to live in a small town," Meier said. "It makes me glad we don't have to fight crowds all the time."

Meier especially was pleased this year because a part of the festival he has been involved with for seven years showed marked improvement.

This year the festival committee ran five shuttle buses, up from two in previous years. Meanwhile, people coming to the festival have learned that parking in downtown Sandy is a no-win situation, so they are taking advantage of the service.

Meier said he thinks the traffic situation was better this year, and he knows the shuttle service was better.

In addition, it won some people over right from the start. "People were really happy and surprised about not having to pay for parking," Meier said.

Meier knows it is possible to hear a discouraging word about the festival from local people, but he claims the visitors have nothing but praise.

"We ask them as they get on the bus (for the return trip) if they had

fun, and they all say yes," Meier said.

Meier said many of the visitors come from Beaverton, the west hills of Portland and a variety of other places.

Gale Meier, Greg Meier's father, thinks the economy may be picking up based on the number of purchases this year. He said people also donated generously to a fund to pay for gasoline; each of the buses had a box for donations.

Gale Meier was the first person to organize transportation for the festival, beginning in 1978. He had complained to the Mountain Festival committee about the parking problems at Sandy Sentry, which he owned at the time.

The festival committee was more than helpful concerning the parking problem — it gave him the go-ahead to solve it, Greg Meier said with a laugh.

So from 1978 to 1984, Gale Meier headed up the transportation committee. For the past three years, Greg Meier has shouldered the assignment. He has been driving, all day both days, since he was 18.



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