



George Nelson with PTA Honor Award.

George Nelson Presented Award

by George Shute

Presentation of the Founder's Award — highest honor the Gilmanton Elementary School P.T.A. can bestow — was made to George Nelson of the Iron Works for 32 years of uninterrupted and accident-free service transporting Gilmanton children to and from school. The award highlighted the March meeting of the local P.T.A.

Recalling that the first school transportation route started with cars, and then with a tiny wooden bus owned by the town, a bus so small children couldn't stand up in it, P.T.A. President Terry Ralls smilingly said that things began to change when George Nelson asked if he could buy his own bus.

"There was nowhere to go but up at that time," said Mrs. Ralls, "and each year saw improvement in the bus service.

"And now we flash back to opening day of the 1977-78 school year. Most of the day's activities are the same as any recent year's opening day — except for one thing. As the buses roll up, they appear to have strange faces at the wheels. Yes, it's true. After 32 years of transporting Gilmanton's school population George has, as he calls it, 'slowed down.' No, he hasn't quit. He can be found at his Elm Street Auto Service Station where it's business as usual except minus the bus fleet and the early morning starts and late evening finishes George became accustomed to over the years.

"He holds an unblemished safety record over these 32 years. Who knows how many miles have been travelled or how many children have been transported — and yet there has never been an injury.

"This is a very commendable record which displays pride in the job, dedication to a commitment, plus an outstanding service to the community which will never be equalled.