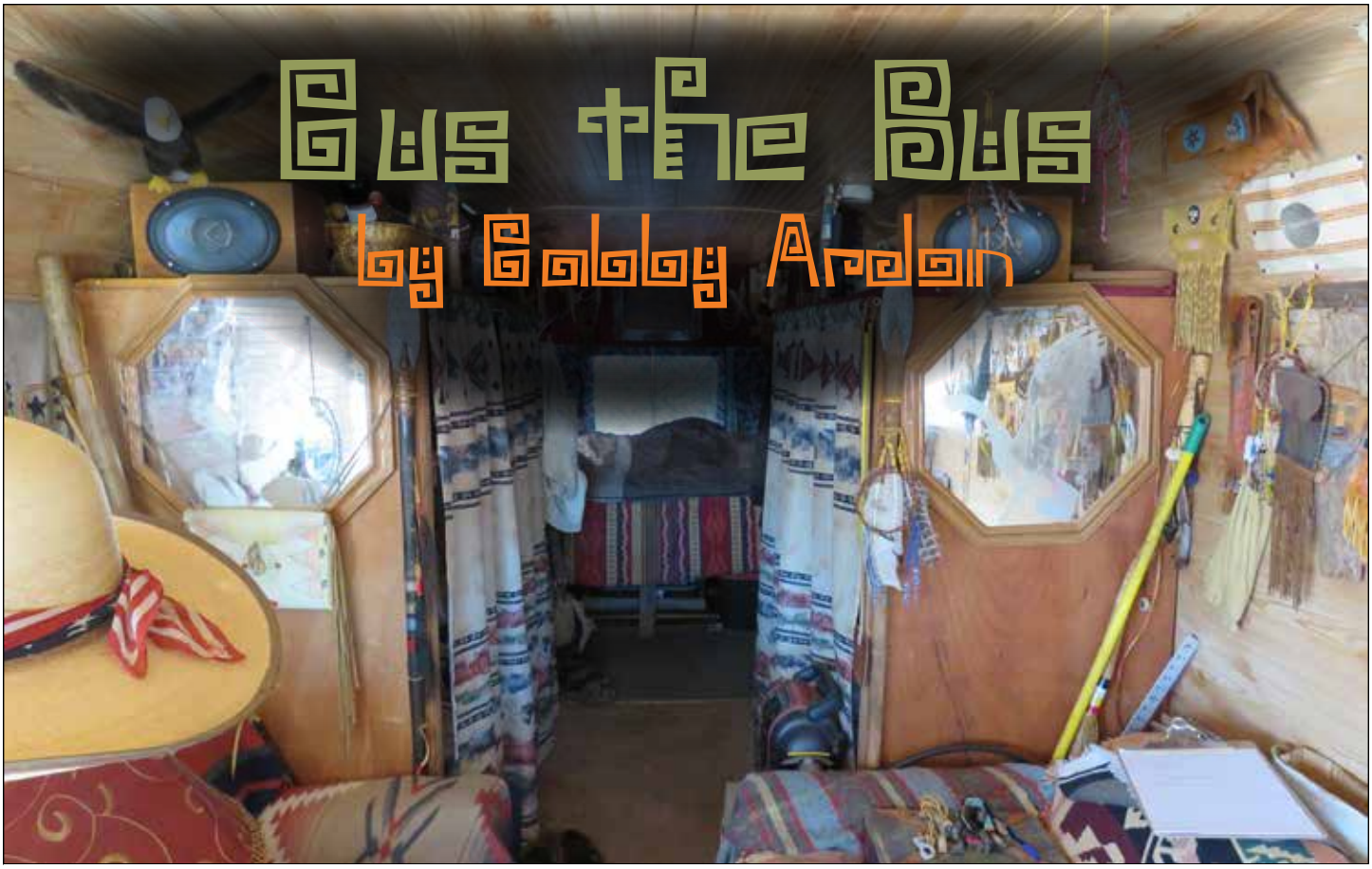
Gus the Bus

by Bobby Arden



Looking Front to Back.

Gus is the name of a school bus conversion owned by Donovan Erickson. Donavan Erickson is what he calls his “White Man’s Name” and his Indian name is Deon Black Thunder, a Chippewa Indian. Gus the Bus is a 1979 school bus Model C, manufactured by International Harvester. The bus was completely made in USA using only domestic parts. Sometimes he calls it a bus, and sometimes he calls it a motorhome. It weighs in at about 18,000 lbs., fully loaded. Deon says this is his first and last bus conversion.

He purchased “Gus the Bus” 13 years ago. Erickson was on his way to Fort Bridger, WY, when he saw the bus parked and decided to look at it on his way back. Upon his return, he liked the bus so much than he decided to buy it. The bus was previously used by a church in Wyoming. They asked him what he was going to do with the seats, and after Erickson told him he was going to take the seats out and throw them away, the previous owner did not like that idea so, he pulled the seats out himself and kept them. That worked towards Erickson’s favor because a lot of the heavy work was done for him.

Many original windows are still in the bus and some of them are covered. Gus has eleven sets of windows and nine of them were replaced by aluminum siding,

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