

Great Day! Tours Summary

A LITTLE HISTORY OF THE COMPANY

We are pleased to have you join us on our tours and thought that you might enjoy some of the history of the company. We assume that you are returning due to a past experience with us or considering traveling with us based on the comments that you've heard about Great Day! Tours from others who have come to depend upon us.

Like so many other things that you've come to enjoy over the years, it may be easy to sit back and take it what is being provided but, so many times, you don't know the history or you have no idea all of the work that goes on "behind the scenes".

That's exactly the case with motorcoach tours . . . and the reason that so many companies have "come & gone" over the years.

Great Day! Tours actually began back in 1964 and it operated out of Athens, Ohio. This just happened to be an area where almost 80 % of the students lived in Cuyahoga County and there was no direct, easy, way to get back & forth.

One of the Engineering Students, Allen Kinney, and a Teaching Student, whom you now know as Ann Kinney, realized how many students were "basically stranded here" since they had to take one bus from Athens to Columbus and then wait for another bus to take them to Cleveland.

OHIO
UNIVERSITY

Allen and Ann decided that things could be a lot different and operated their first trips from Athens with stops in Cleveland, Parma, Wooster and Cleveland Heights. Later they added Mentor and a couple of other cities along the way.

This was the start of what they claim was "***A Hobby That Got Out of Hand***". They even expanded and started a Tradition that has been taken on by many other colleges in the state . . . "***Little Sibling Weekend***". A lot of people had no idea that these two came up with this idea that has brought perspective children for visits and many buses travel to Athens and other colleges each year to enjoy these educational and "fun" weekends".

Both of them graduated on the same day in 1967 and Allen went to work as an Engineer at the Electric Company, CEI, and eventually became one of their youngest Manager 9 years later . . . while he and Ann continued to operate Great Day! Tours.

Ann took up teaching 4th Grade at Maple Heights and later went on to substitute in both Parma and Brecksville School Districts. She gave up teaching in 1976 when the passengers were asking for more Bus Tour Packages, rather than just transportation.

People always ask what has made Great Day! Tours so popular and caused it to grow so much . . . while other companies have come and gone?

It's easy to respond. While we have about 40 people working full-time and part-time out of our offices in the Cleveland area and Columbus area, there is one thing you will always see, Allen and Ann working more hours than anyone else. The question is that they "only work half a day anymore, but none of us can figure out which 12 hours it is".

Maybe this is why, in 1990, Fleet Owner Magazine, selected Allen Kinney as the "Fleet Manager of the Year" in the Entire Country based on "Maintenance Efficiency".




. . . and, not to long afterwards, he showed his ability to drive a fancy tour bus by placing 14th in the Regional Bus Driver Competition that was put on by the American Bus Association.

They are very Hands-On and Allen, especially, wants to make sure that every tour is properly timed and includes those features that the company can be proud

of, just as we offer our packages to you. His office door is always open to those who want to discuss tours as they are being designed, before the trip goes out and after they return.

***He is a Stickler On Quality . . .
and this is why the company has grown for over a half-century.***



Great Day! remains a member of some of the most prominent national organizations.