

# **BERNIE THEISING**

## Not Only a Man Who Saves Cars, but Lives: Bernie Theising's Life as a Mechanic

Graduate: Class of 1983

Occupation: Mechanic

If you need someone to fix your car or truck, go to Uebelhor & Sons in Jasper, Indiana, where you can find Bernie Theising. He has worked there for twenty-five years and counting. An automotive technician, he fixes and maintains cars and trucks. Some of his main responsibilities include the following: to repair and maintain cars or trucks as best and as fast as possible. Troubleshooting and finishing the vehicles faster than it says he should comes as the most enjoyable and exciting part of working as a mechanic for Bernie. Always in a hurry, Bernie strives to connect everything together so that it will stay tight and fit right.

Bernie grew up and lives in Schnellville, Indiana. While in Schnellville, his greatest highlights include having a family, building a house, and paying it off. In his free time, he enjoys these pastimes: playing and watching sports, going hunting, hiking or walking, and doing activities with his kids.

He thought about what he wanted to do in high school; he finally made up his mind his senior year. Since his father specialized as a mechanic, Bernie wanted to assume his role. Bernie's father made a similar decision in his youth. While in high school, he liked shop classes the best. His greatest achievements in high school consisted of figuring out how to fix and make mechanical and constructional toys in shop classes. Proudly, he graduated from Forest Park in 1983, and went on to college at Lincoln Tech. He went there for one year and received his mechanic degree. He didn't like college and thought that in his field, hands on experiences proved more important than the books, but the books ended up helping him at times. In this field, he may need to look something up on a computer or in books and have a little understanding of what it's saying. If he doesn't know something in those cases, "book smarts" can help. Unlike in high school, responsibility for your actions is everything. Other than that, in the "real world" people want you to constantly hurry, but everyone is human and makes mistakes-sometimes (he can't very often or else could lose his job).

Bernie is married and has four kids-all who play in sports. He often has to stay away from family and friends, to do some work on the side for friends. He thinks of it as making some extra spending cash to support his family; for example, this extra work provides income for the family vacations. In the meantime, he tries to keep in contact with all of his friends from high school in the community.

According to him, you need to know these principles: "Work to the best of your ability. Stay in school. Study, and do something enjoyable for yourself. If you're thinking about quitting school, don't. Study hard and don't do something you'll regret for the rest of your life. If you don't know what you want to do yet, just work hard, and you'll eventually find something you like to do." If he hadn't chosen this job, he thinks that his life wouldn't be so stressful, and when he gets worried while working, he continues to work hard to get past it. While performing this job, Bernie said, "You have to remember to go fast and get it right."