LOG TRUCKER

VOLUME 45 NUMBER 5

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MAY 2018

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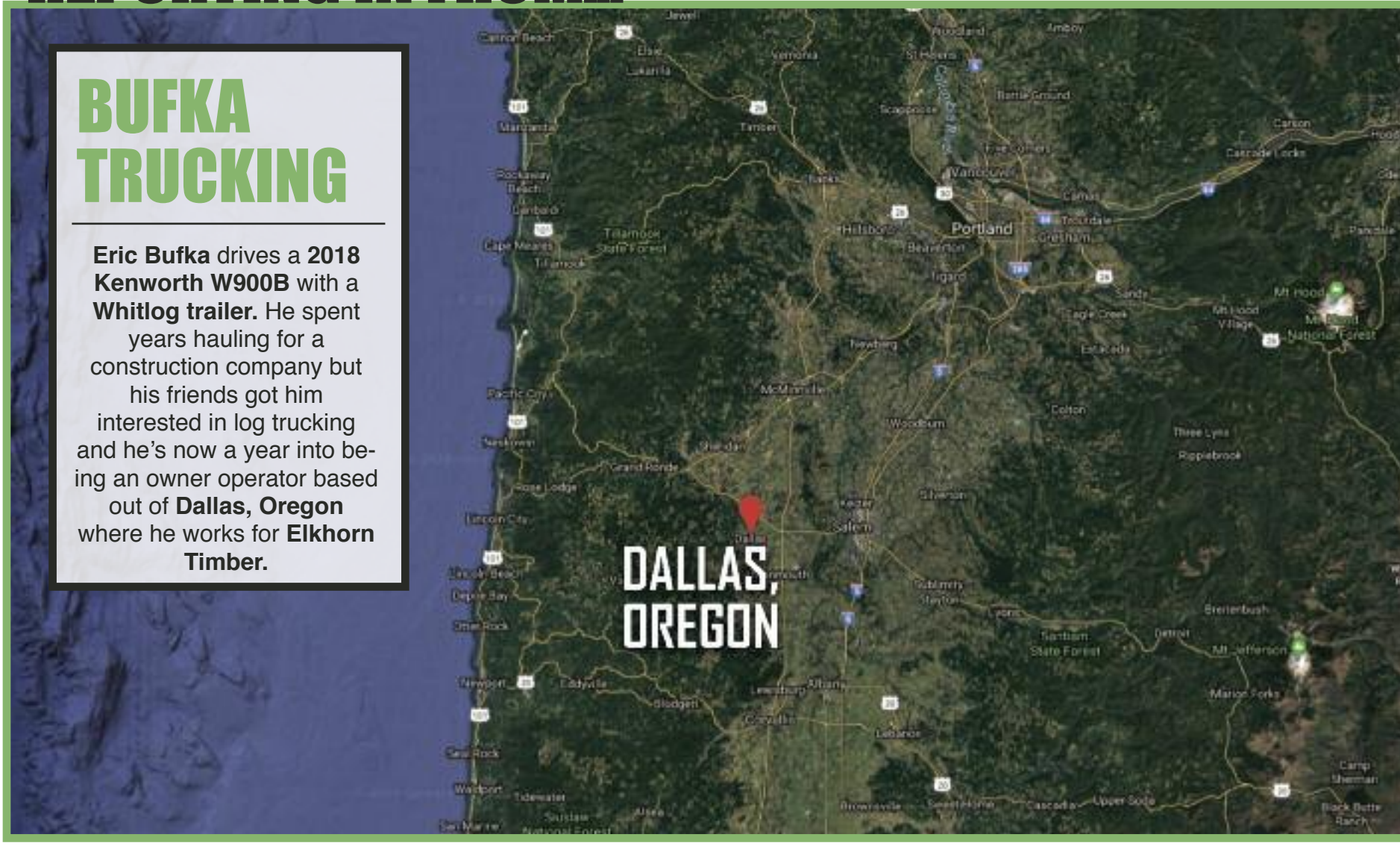
BUFKA

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REPORTING IN FROM...

BUFKA TRUCKING

Eric Bufka drives a **2018 Kenworth W900B** with a **Whitlog trailer.** He spent years hauling for a construction company but his friends got him interested in log trucking and he's now a year into being an owner operator based out of **Dallas, Oregon** where he works for **Elkhorn Timber.**



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IN THIS ISSUE



ON THE FRONT: Eric Bufka poses in front of his 2018 Kenworth W900B out on the jobsite. Burka made the move hauling for a construction company to hauling logs out in the woods and hasn't looked back.
See "Diving into log trucking" *starting on Page 4*

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BUFKA TRUCKING - DALLAS, OREGON *by Brandon Hansen*

12. GRANDMA TRUCK
KANDI MILLER. *by Brandon Hansen*

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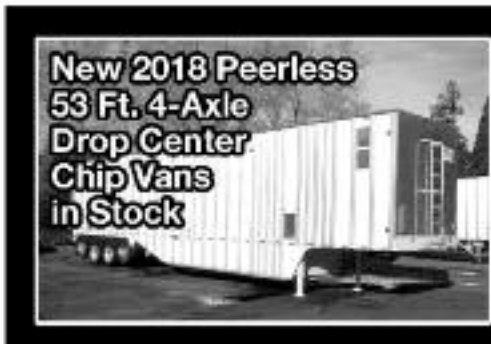
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ERIC BUFKA

Eric Bufka grew up in Dallas, Oregon around the timber industry and got into it a year ago as a log truck driver.

DIVING INTO LOG TRUCKING

Dallas log trucker Eric Bufka went from construction to owning his own truck in a hurry

Story by Brandon Hansen
Photos courtesy of Eric Bufka
For Loggers World

When it comes to log trucking, Eric Bufka dove in head first.

The Dallas, Oregon native has been around the logging industry for a good chunk of his life and hung out at the local saw shop, but didn't get into the industry until riding along with log trucker friends.

Bufka started out working for Emery and Son Construction working on installing pipe, then worked his way into the maintenance shop and got his CDL.

He began hauling excavators and small equipment around around the Salem area, hauling to places like Portland and Bend.

Flash forward just a year later and he's an owner operator of his own 2018 Kenworth W900B

"A handful of my friends were log truckers and they told me I had to try it," Bufka said. "I rode with a friend and was hooked. Eventually I ended up buying a 2009 Kenworth T800 with a Whit-Log trailer."



MEAGAN AND ERIC BUFKA

"A handful of my friends are log truckers and they told me I had to try it. I rode with a friend and was hooked."

ERIC BUFKA ON GETTING STARTED

Having been hauling for a year, Bufka made the transition from construction to logging and enjoys the atmosphere around it.

"I spend a lot of time hauling around places like Newport and Tillamook," Bufka said. "As far as atmosphere goes, everybody I met in construction did a lot of their work for financial reasons. In logging, guys did it because they enjoyed it."

Bufka began hauling for Hofenbredl Timber and then found an opening with Elkhorn Timber. While the learning curve for log trucking was difficult at first, Bufka stuck with it.

"After a few months things got more manageable," Bufka said. "I started around the spring so things were just picking up. I'd say it took about a year total for things to become more comfortable and have smooth sailing."

The Dallas log trucker got a

(Continued on Page 6)
See "Bufka"

"As far as atmosphere goes, everybody I met in construction did a lot of their work for financial reasons. In logging, guys did it because they enjoyed it."

ERIC BUFKA ON MAKING THE MOVE TO LOG TRUCKING



WHIT-LOG TRAILER

Eric Bufka's 2018 Kenworth W900B has a Whit-Log long logger trailer to haul around the NW corner of Oregon.





FIRST TRUCK

Eric Bufka began driving on his own with a 2009 Kenworth T800 with a Whit-Log trailer. Now Bufka is on the road hauling to Rainier or Lebanon and Cottage Grove. Typically he's hauling to a Weyerhaeuser or Hampton mill.

Bufka

(Continued from Page 4)

big helping hand from Kandi Miller, who showed him how to log truck from day one. He also got a lot of help from friends Jerome Bittner and Brandon Johnson.

Now hauling from Elkhorn Timber, Bufka has nothing but nice things to say about them. They always keep his truck hauling and Greg from G&T Trucking does the dispatching.

Since he used to work on trucks before seeing his first log, Bufka is a stickler for maintenance and has his own shop at home where he can do his own work.

"For big jobs that I can't do, I take my truck to Freeborn Fabrication," Bufka said.

Bufka learned a lot from owner operator Mike Goreman. who told the young driver about his experience with his own truck and showed him the ins and outs of keeping one up.

"I learned a lot from him and he instilled a lot of work ethic in me," Bufka said.

Now Bufka is on the road hauling to Rainier or Lebanon and Cottage Grove. Typically he's hauling to Weyerhaeuser or Hampton mills.

He gets his tires from Les Schwab in Dallas, Oregon and his parts from FVMCO Trucks Parts in Independence. On his off time, Bufka enjoys dirt biking and rock crawling in an off-road vehicle with his wife Meagan. Meagan does all the books for the company.

In an industry that sees its truck drivers getting older, Bufka is one of the new young guys hopping into the industry head first with little fear. With any luck, he'll be the one showing the ropes of the industry to another generation of log truck drivers.

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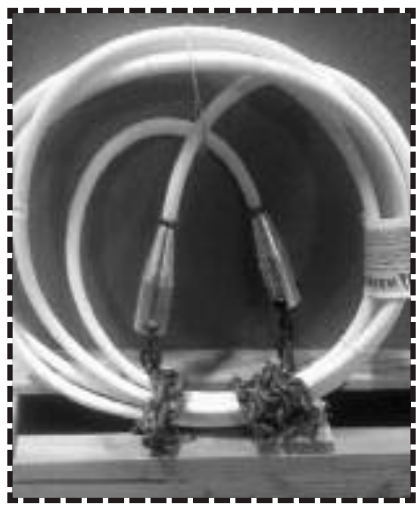
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UNLOADING

Eric Bufka's 2018 Kenworth W900B gets it Whit-Log trailer unloaded at the mill. Bufka is on the road hauling to Rainier or Lebanon and Cottage Grove. Typically he's hauling to a Weyerhaeuser or Hampton mill.

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SIDE BY SIDE

Eric Bufka's 2018 Kenworth W900B sits alongside his 2009 Kenworth T800, both have Whit-Log trailers.

SPEC SHEET

Truck make and model: Kenworth W900B

Year: 2018

Engine (horsepower): 510 HP Paccar

Transmission: 18-speed transmission

Trailer make: Whit-Log

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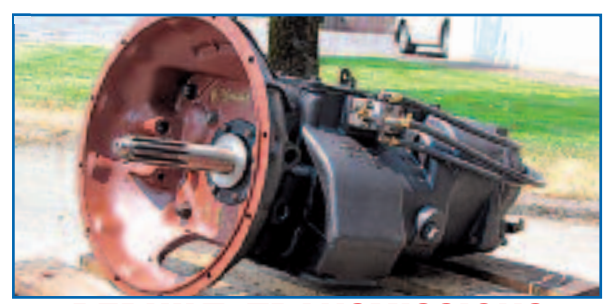


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GETTING LOADED
Eric Bufka's 2018 Kenworth W900B gets its Whit-Log trailer loaded out on the landing for Elkhorn Timber in NW Oregon. Since he used to work on trucks before seeing his first log, Bufka is a stickler for maintenance and has his own shop at home where he can do his own work. "For big jobs that I can't do, I take my truck to Freeborn Fabrication," Bufka said.

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KANDI MILLER
Kandi Miller poses in front of her 2007 379 Peterbilt wih her grandsons Xander and Brody during a truck show. Miller lives in Independence, Oregon.

GRANDMA TRUCK

Kandi Miller has been hauling logs for 28 years

Story by Brandon Hansen
Photos Courtesy of Kandi Miller
For Log Trucker

Kandi Miller is known by her two grandsons as "Grandma Truck" and why not? She has been log trucking for 28 years, spending five days a week hauling, one day doing maintenance and cleaning and might have time to rest on Sunday.

Of course, she enjoys it.

"I love hauling logs," Miller said. "It's always a challenge and I think I am one of those people that takes on challenges."

Miller lives in Independence, Oregon. It's a town of just under 10,000 located near the state capital of Salem. She hauls in a brand new 2018 389 Peterbilt with a Whit-Log long logger trailer for Bruers Contract Cutting out of Dallas Oregon.

Kandi started out driving dump trucks and helping build log roads, after getting introduced to the industry at a young age.

Millers dad owned a road building operation, her grandpa owned a log truck and her uncle owned several log trucks. Her uncle would pick her up several times a week after school and take Kandi for his last log load of the day.

"I wasn't allowed to be a girl," Miller said with a laugh. "My dad would drive skidders, and back then they were called go-go girls. One day I went to school and we were asked what our parents did for work. I said my dad rides

(Continued on Page 14)
See "Miller"

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HEADING OFF THE LANDING

Kandi Miller heads off the jobsite with her loaded 2018 389 Peterbilt with a Whit-Log trailer. Miller is based out of Independence, Oregon.



(Continued from Page 12)

go-go girls for a living and then found myself in the principal's office. My mom had to come into the office and explain things."

Kandi drove dump truck 11 years for Holley Construction, learning all the tricks of driving a truck. Mike Zanona of Z&L Enterpise then convinced her to get into log trucks. When she transitioned into driving log truck, she had to learn in a male-dominated industry. Lowell Schrock showed he what it was like being an owner operator and how to take care of her truck. Always a strong personality, Kandi doesn't take much guff from people.

"My uncle also taught me that you never go to a job or job interview with a dirty car or truck," Kandi said. "That's the first thing people see is how you are going to take care of your truck. I spend lots of the weekends polishing, I'm a very big believer on maintenance."

Miller helped Eric Bufka of Dallas, Oregon get his start in the industry by showing him some of the ropes she had learned in her 28 years.

"I knew Eric's mom and dad and met him where I park my truck, Freeborn Fabrication." Miller said.

Her two grandsons, eight-year-old Xander and seven-year-old Brody are big log truckers in the making and help her out all the time with the polishing of her truck and getting it ready for parades.

"I do parades and truck shows and they help out a lot," Miller said.

They're also big truck enthusiasts and read every log truck magazine they can get their hands on - including this one! Also on board Miller's Peterbilt is her short-legged jack russell dog named Trucker.

"He doesn't know he's a dog," Miller said. "The crew is not allowed to walk by without talking to him otherwise he'll bark at them and follow them unless he gets attention."

So keep an eye out for Miller's 2018 389 Peterbilt, which she's nicknamed "Clyde" who was a good friend and owner of Freeborn Fabrication. With nearly 30 years under her belt, Kandi has earned the name of "Grandma Truck."



TIGHTENING WRAPPERS
Kandi Miller tightens the wrappers on the load of her truck. Miller has been trucking for 28 years, getting her start on dump trucks that helped build logging roads.

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SPEC SHEET

Truck make and model: Peterbilt 389
Year: 2018
Engine: Paccar MC 510 Horsepower
Transmission: Eaton FO18E318B-MXP
Trailer make: Whit-Log
Suspension: Peterbilt #46000 Air TracSuspension
Wheel base: 270"
Other info: 14,600 front axle, 46,000 rear axle with 3.91 ratio





KANDIA HAS COMPANY
Kandi Miller has plenty of help when it comes to working on her truck, as she is pictured here with her grandsons Xander and Brody.

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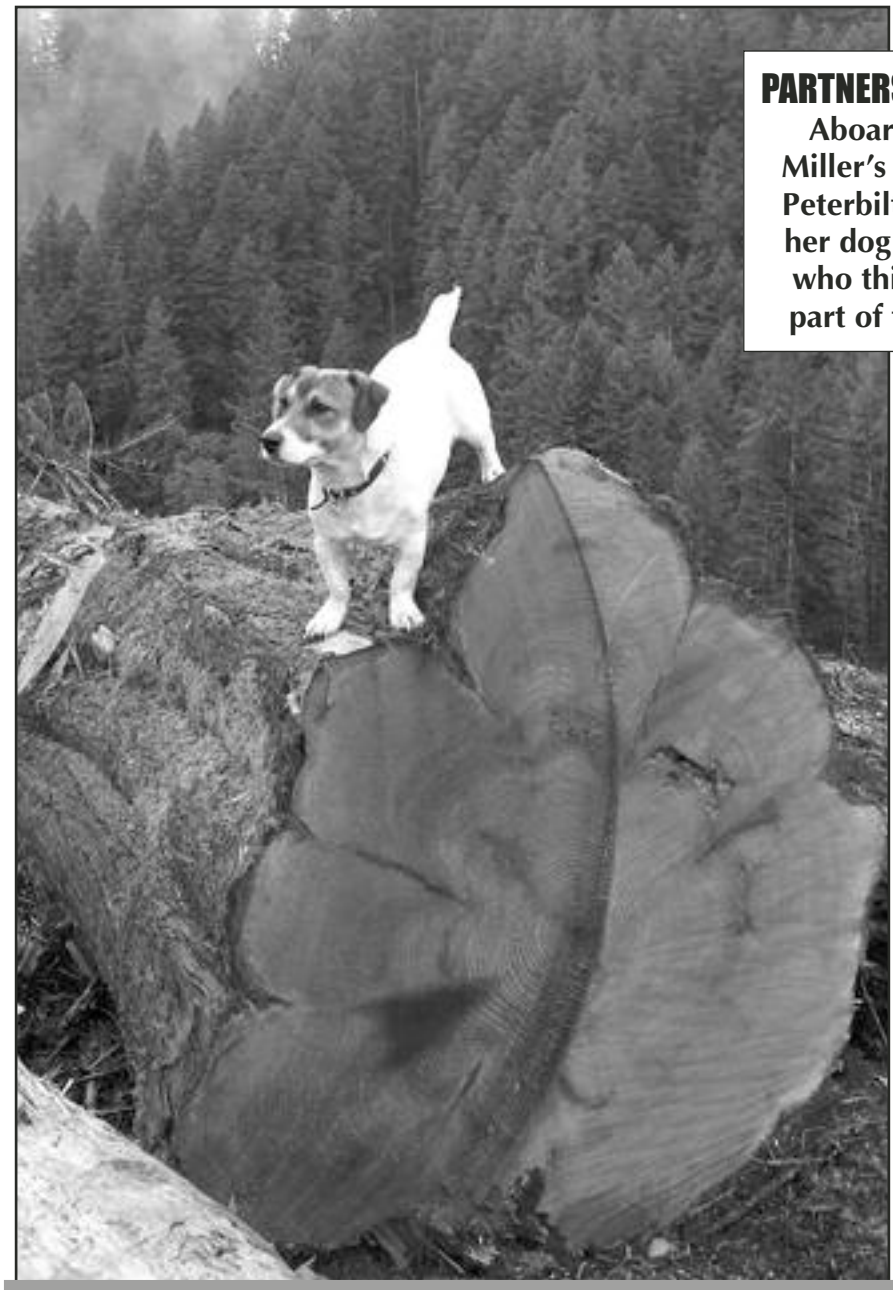
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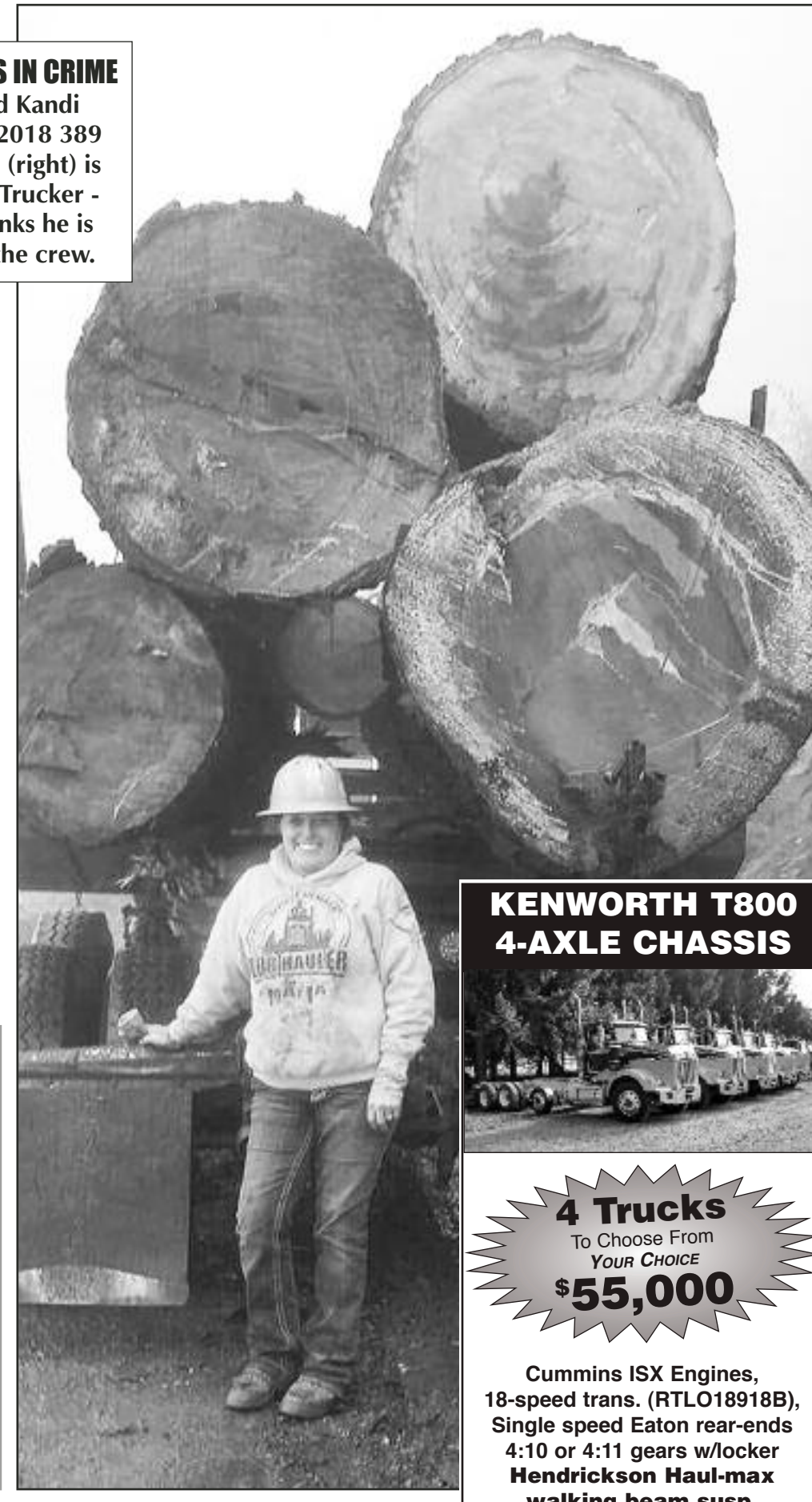
Cummins X15 565 hp, 18-speed, Air Trac Suspension, 4-Axle Truck, Disc Brakes, 2017 Whit Log Trailer



PARTNERS IN CRIME
Aboard Kandi Miller's 2018 389 Peterbilt (right) is her dog Trucker - who thinks he is part of the crew.



JUST CHILLIN'
Even as a puppy, Trucker was a natural trucker





HELPING GRANDMA
Xander and Brody help their grandma Kandi Miller with the truck's chains. Kandi drove dump truck 11 years for Holley Costruction. Mike Zanona convinced her to become a log truck driver. When she transitioned into driving log truck, she had to learn in a male-dominated industry. Lowe Schutte showed her what it was like being an owner operator and how to take care of her truck.

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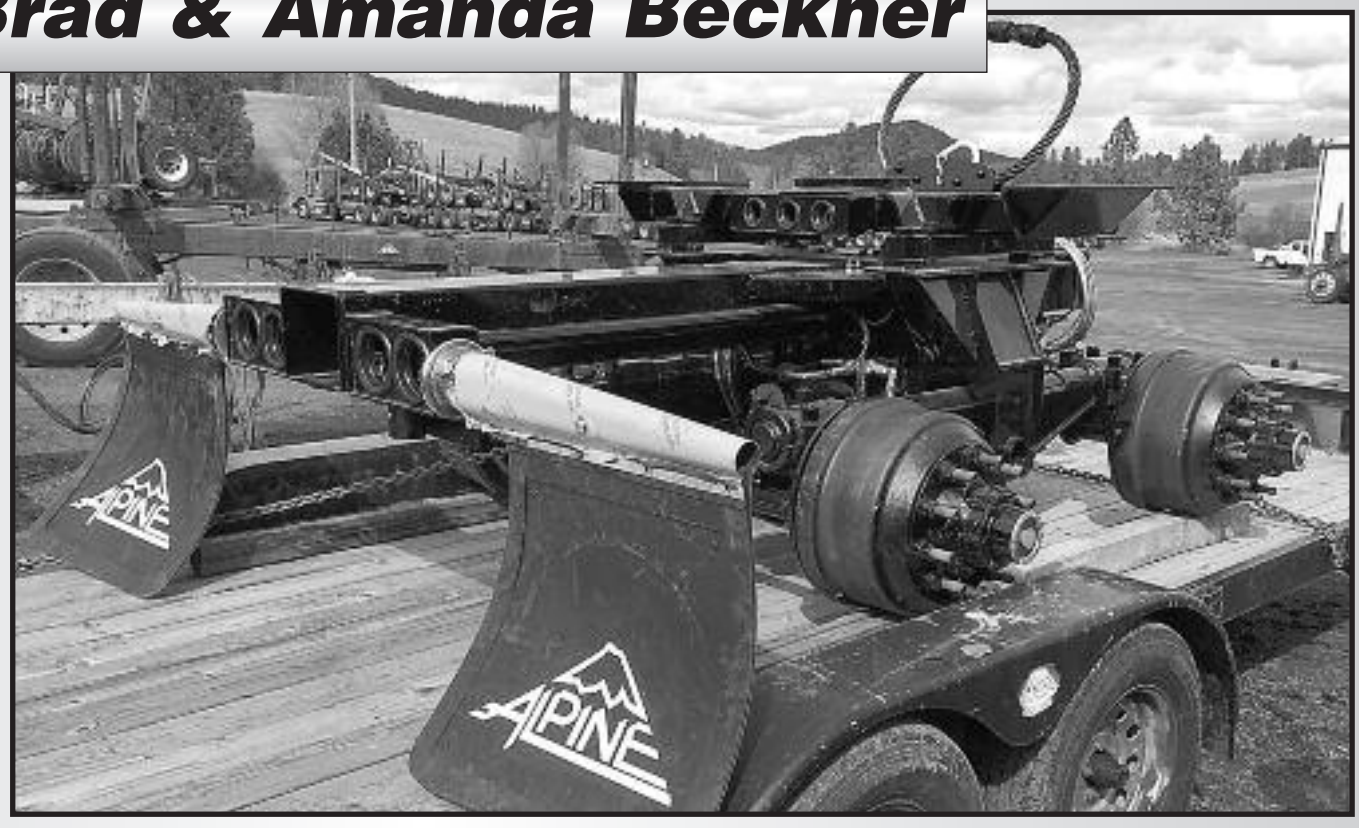
LOOKING GOOD
Before getting a new Peterbilt, Kandi Miller drove this 2007 379 Peterbilt.

Thank you Brad & Amanda Beckner

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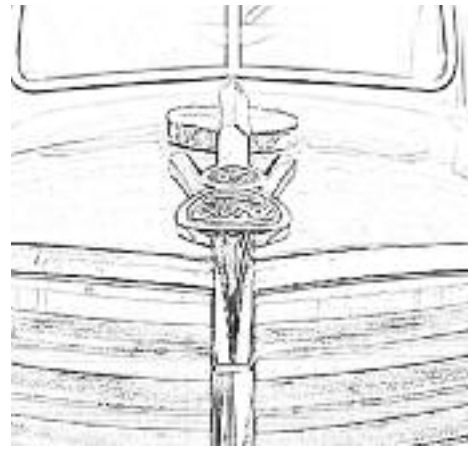
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