

# LOG TRUCKER

VOLUME 44 NUMBER 3

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MARCH 2017

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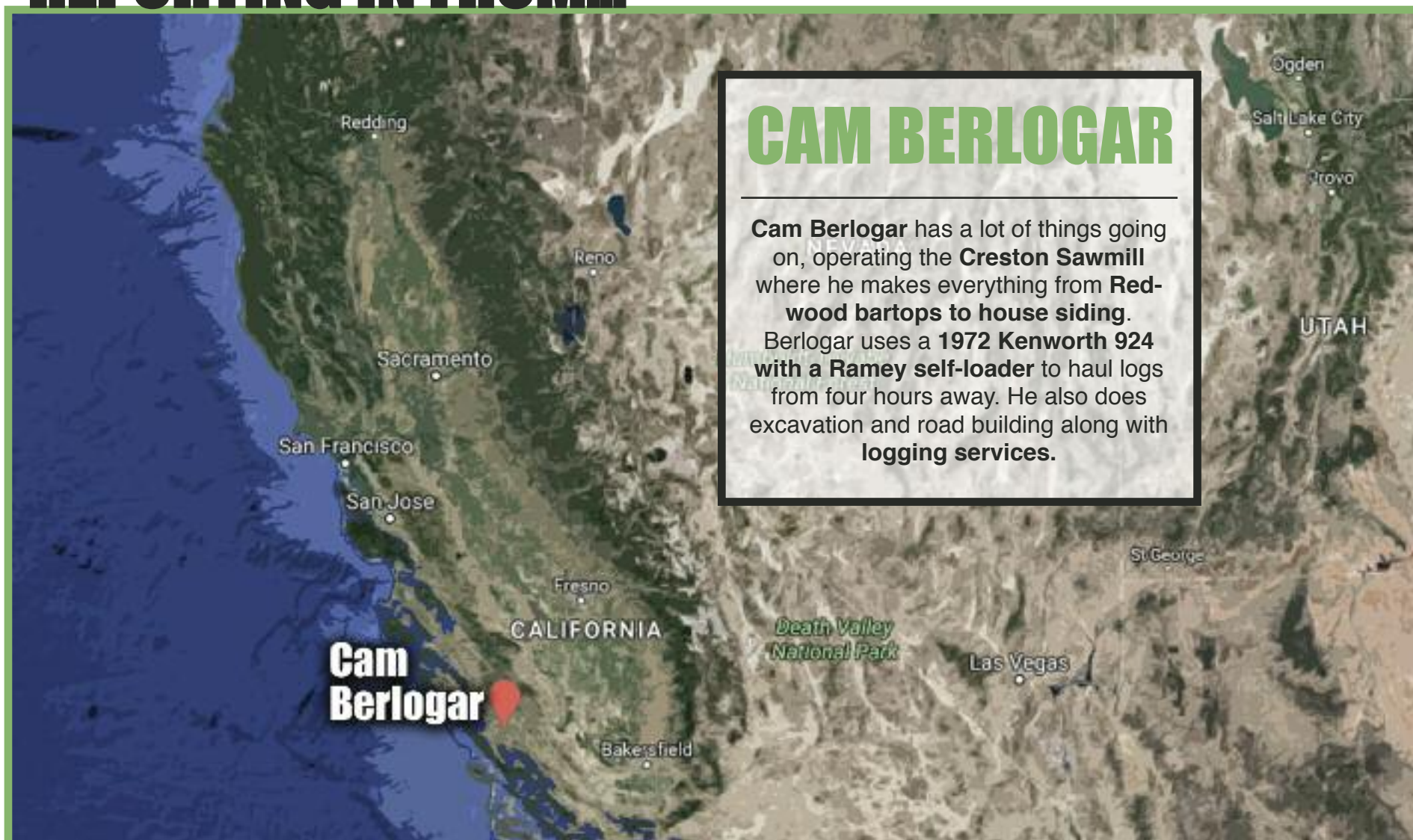
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# REPORTING IN FROM...



## CAM BERLOGAR

Cam Berlogar has a lot of things going on, operating the **Creston Sawmill** where he makes everything from **Redwood bartops** to **house siding**.

Berlogar uses a **1972 Kenworth 924** with a **Ramey self-loader** to haul logs from four hours away. He also does excavation and road building along with **logging services**.

## CRESTON CALIFORNIA

**Creston** is a town of **94 people** in **San Luis Obispo County** in California. It was founded in 1884 on the **Rancho Huer Huero Mexican land grant**. Jeopardy game show host **Alex Trebek** owned **Cardiff Stud Farm** in the area where retired American thoroughbred racehorses were retired. Writer and Scientology founder **L. Ron Hubbard** died on his ranch near Creston. There are plenty of vineyards and trailrides in the area as well.

## IN THIS ISSUE



ON THE FRONT: Cam Berlogar steps into his 1972 Kenworth 924 with a Ramey self-loader on it. Cam makes the day-long trip to the Santa Cruz Mountains for Redwood logs to use in his saw mill.

See "Multi-tasking" starting on Page 4

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CAM BERLOGAR. *by Brandon Hansen*

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## LOG TRUCKER

*Founded in 1975 by Finley Hays*

*Published by*

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# MULTI-TASKING



## LOADING HER UP

Cam Berlogar loads up his 1972 Kenworth with the Ramey self-loader out in the woods in the Sierra-Nevada Mountains. Berlogar makes a 10-hour roundtrip to get Pondrosa Pine logs for his sawmill.

## Cam Berlogar hauls, falls, pushes dirt and saws his way through California

**By Brandon Hansen**  
*For Loggers World*

Cam Berlogar is a man of many talents.

"I'm a multi-tasker," he said.

If there's one thing consistent with every workday for the California log truck driver, dozer operator and saw mill owner - it's that nothing gets monotonous.

"I equally enjoy running dozer, doing saw millwork and driving truck," Berlogar said. "In my profession, I'm never doing the same thing for very long."

Berlogar's Yugoslavian last name is actually pronounced Ber-Logger. Maybe this profession was fate.

Creston Sawmill, Berlogar's base of operation, is located in Creston, California - a town of just 94 people in San Luis Obispo county. It "shares" equipment and trucks with Berlogar's other business Berlogar Excavation.

"It's not a logging area and I believe I'm the only guy in the county with logging equipment,"

he said.

To get valuable Redwood for his sawmill, Berlogar makes the 380-mile roundtrip to the Santa Cruz Mountains with his self-loading log truck. He also has five dozers that he does excavation within the rural area and also hires them out to the state's forestry department to battle several of California's summer blazes.

And in all his years working, he's been self-employed for the entire time except for a measly

six months.

## GETTING STARTED

Berlogar graduated from high school in 1984 and went to Cal Poly where he got his degree in 1990. Always mechanically inclined, he set out with his own mobile truck repair business in the early 90s and eventually shifted over to heavy machinery.

In 1997, he bought his first small dozer and that operation just continued to grow.

In 2004, he bought some land

to build a house with a stand of dead pine timber and began chainsaw milling it with a Stihl 045. A few years prior he had done some chainsaw milling with friend and fellow sawyer, Todd Petersen, owner of Breezewood Lumber Company in Geyserville.

"So I bought a two-foot Granberg and an old Stihl 045 and got to work," Berlogar said. "Creston Sawmill just grew from there."

Berlogar had an entry-level band mill and eventually purchased a custom Timberking band mill that can muscle through logs up to 32" in diameter and 24' long.

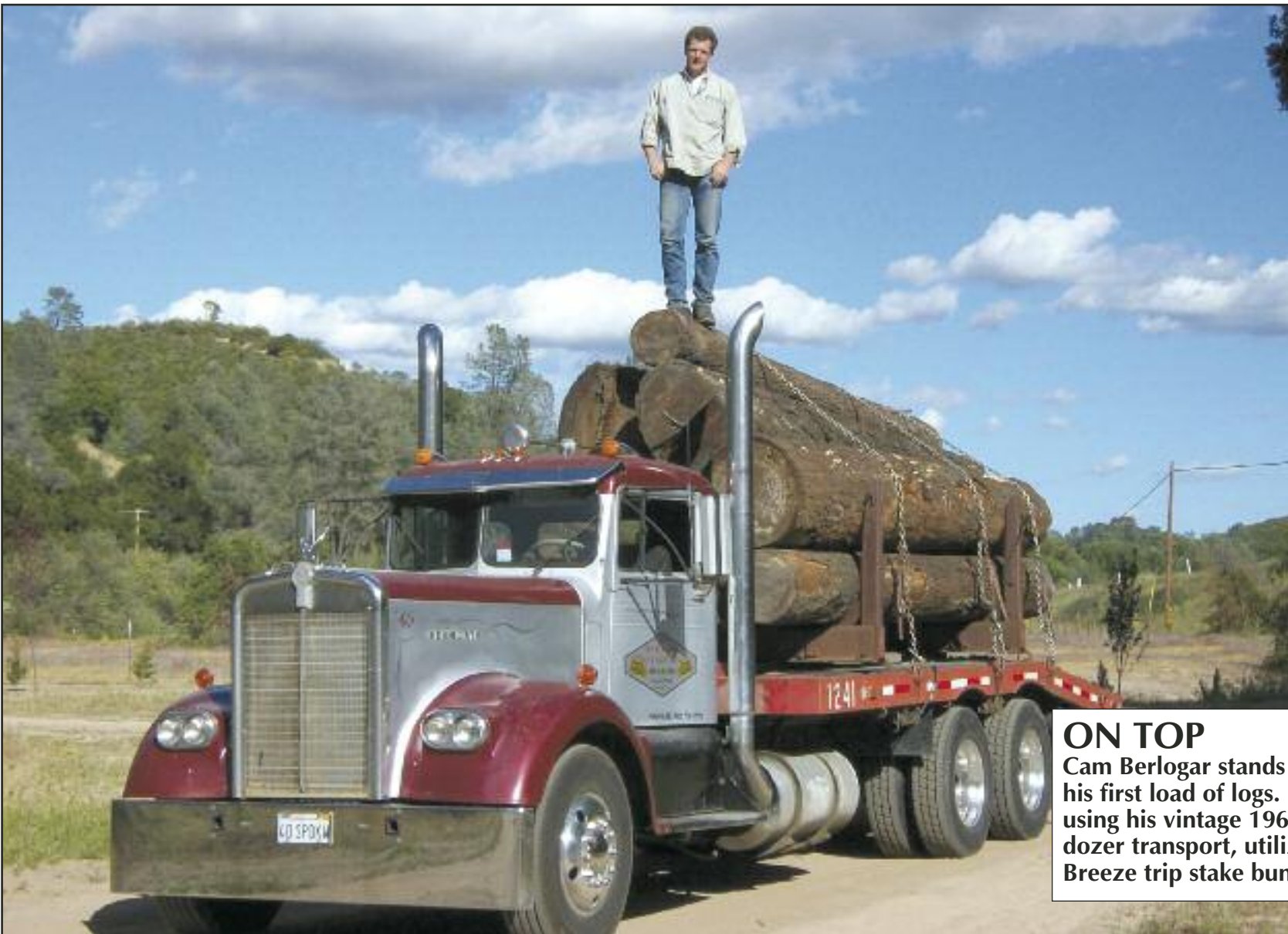
To get that custom mill, he drove to Missouri and encountered eight tornadoes along the way.

"They have an three-year warranty and take very good care of the people that own their ma-

(Continued on Page 8)  
**See "Berlogar"**







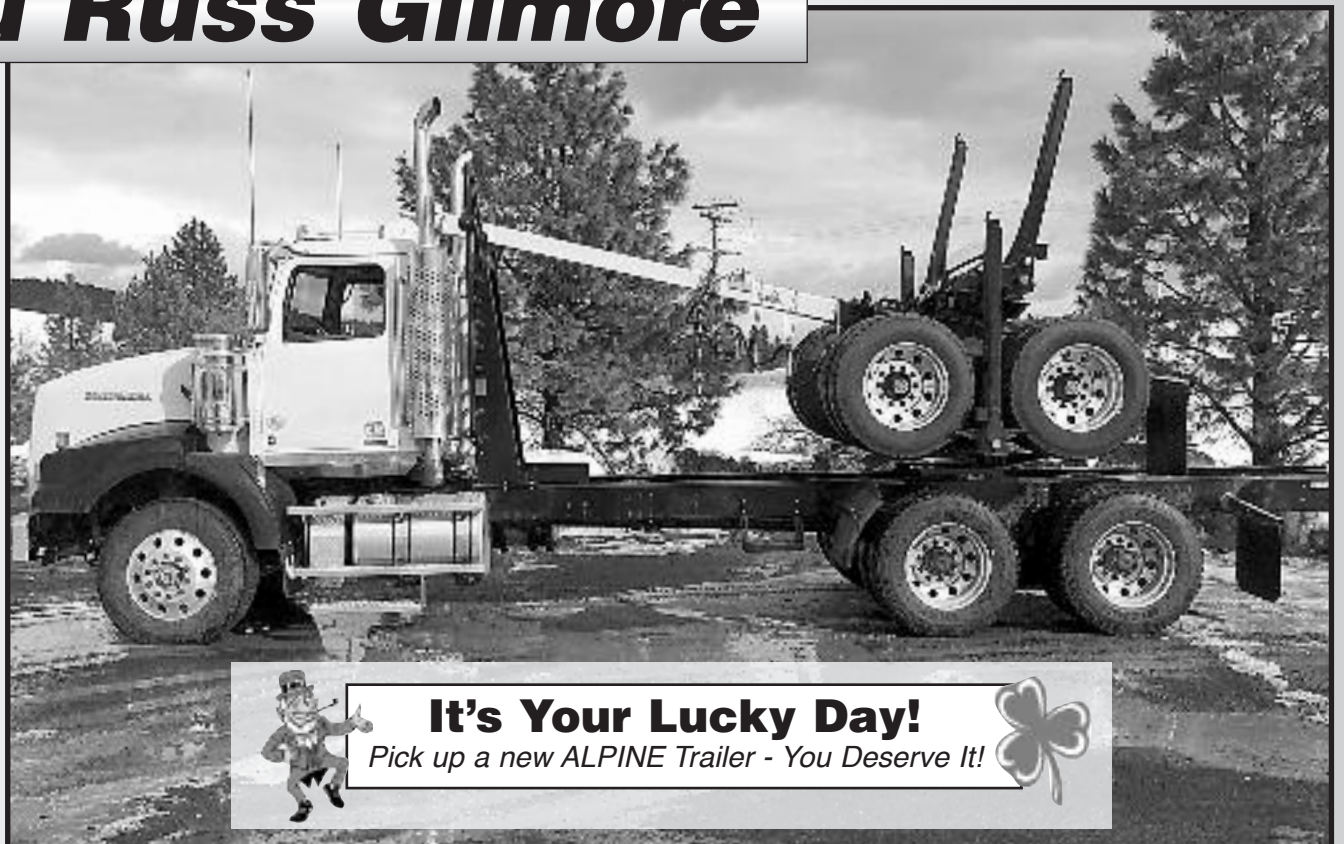
### ON TOP

Cam Berlogar stands on top of his first load of logs. He hauled it using his vintage 1963 Kenworth dozer transport, utilizing a set of Breeze trip stake bunks.

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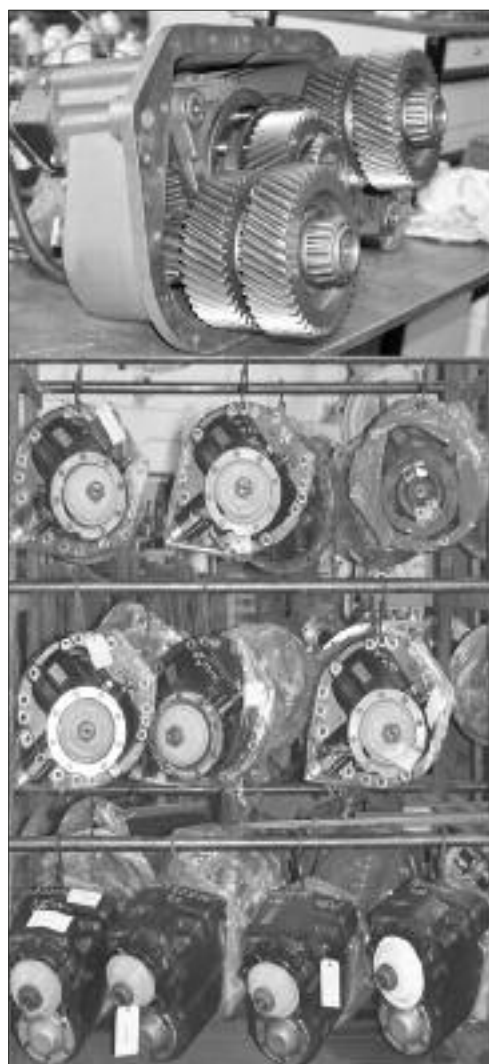
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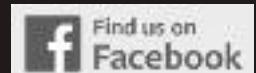
### THE ROARING 20's

In 2016, Creston Sawmill "updated" its equipment to handle the delivery needs of its customers, purchasing this 1929 Ford Model A Roadster pickup.

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## Berlogar

(Continued from Page 4)

chines,” he said.

Now the Creston Sawmill has expanded to a 1972 Kenworth self loader, the band and circle mill, a forklift, nine chainsaws, a six-foot Grandberg, cut off saws, air drying sheds, log decks, log cats, chokers, a hundred feet of saw chain and a large collection of miscellaneous log and lumber handling equipment.

### DEMAND FOR REDWOOD

Much like his workload, the things Berlogar gets ask to do at his sawmill is varied. While bar tops and table tops are the hot seller right now, he also sells black walnut mantles, wood for furniture, shelving, panels for sailboats, decking for equipment trailers and much more.

Creston Sawmill cuts Redwood, Douglas Fir, Ponderosa Pine, Monterey Pine, Digger Pine, Cedar, Cypress, Poplar, Red Oak, White Oak, Black

Walnut and whatever a customer brings Berlogar from their yard. Redwood, however, is 70 percent of the mill’s work.

“Some people get bent out of shape about Redwoods getting cut down but you see shoots around a fallen tree,” Berlogar said. “They reproduce better than most and it’s been selective harvest since the 1950s.”

Berlogar calls it the Cadillac of the woods of the West Coast and it’s beauty commands a high price.

“It’s not going to be used for something cheap so the supply and demand works,” he said. “You know how they say you can cut off a starfish arm and it grows back, it seems like Redwoods are kind of like that.”

People are looking for the unique Redwood or just unique items in general. A family’s grandpa planted a tree on their ranch many decades ago and they wanted Berlogar to make

(Continued on Page 13)  
See “Berlogar”

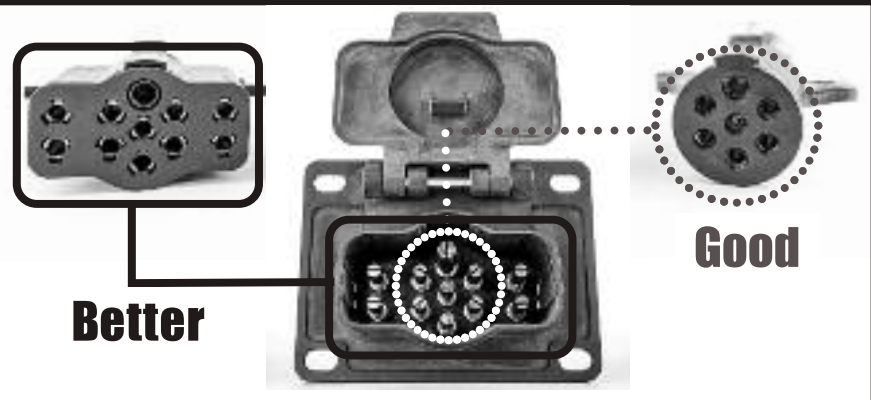


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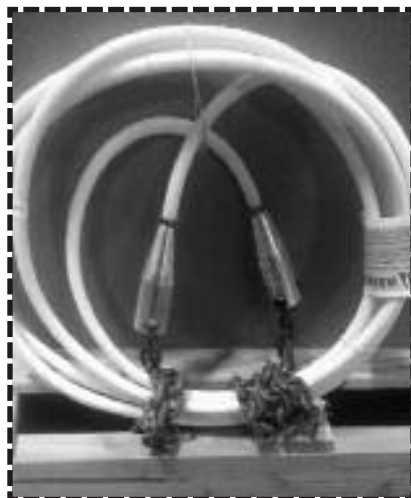
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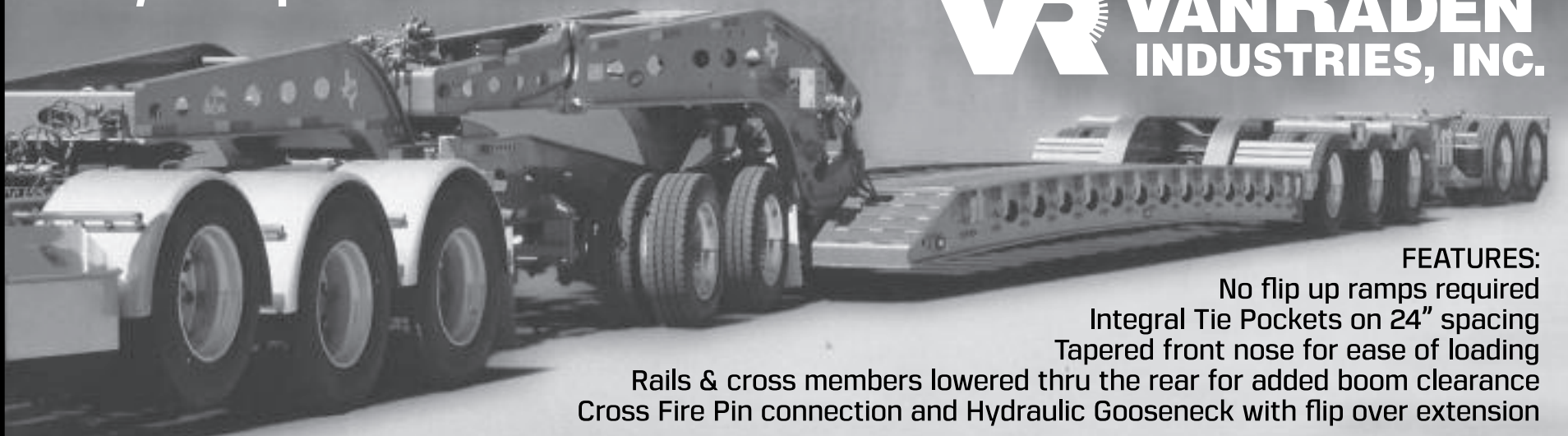


### CRESTON SAWMILL

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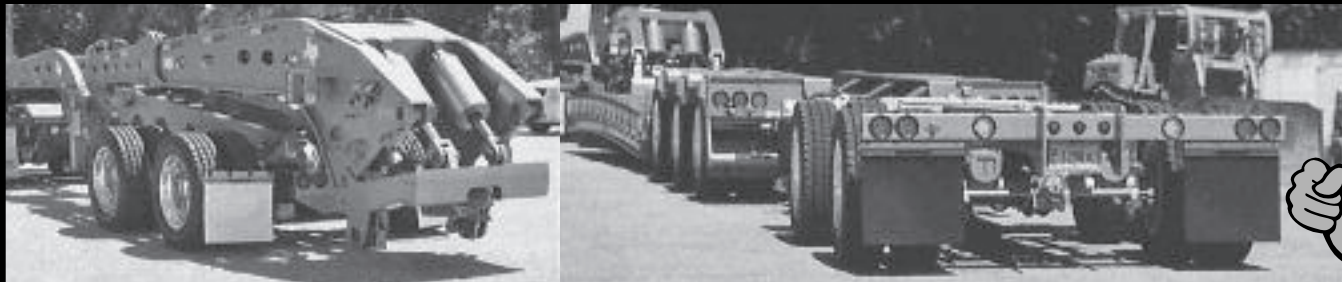
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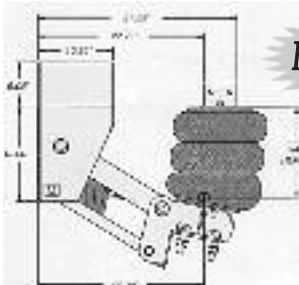
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**Berlogar**

(Continued from Page 8)

the logs into furniture material. Another family had a giant red oak come down in the Matriarchs yard. They had Berlogar identify the saw logs in this 50-ton tree and mill them into furniture material. All the family offspring was to have a piece of furniture from the heritage oak on the old family ranch.

"There are a lot of different requests," Berlogar said.

Helping Berlogar out at the mill and in the dozers is James Sullivan. Chris Houchin also works as a master woodworker

and carpenter.

"Chris does whatever finishing a customer may want on things such as Black Walnut mats or Redwood bar tops," Berlogar said. "Chris is also the lead man building my house. He is currently building the interior doors from verticle grain Douglar Fir lumber I cut two years ago. The house is beautiful and I cut every board of it."

As the demand for Berlogar's work began to grow, he began looking for better ways to haul wood. He got heavily involved in cutting Ponderosa Pine, Douglas Fir and Redwood. He also decided to begin building his own

house while cutting every board for it.

For all his saw needs, he goes to Madsens in Centralia, Wash, where he also gets his Hickory shirts and boots. Warren at Madsen's always takes care of Berlogar.

"Those guys are really good," he said.

He also offers tree felling services to take it from the fallen tree to the saw mill and a final wood product.

**ON THE ROAD**

About five years ago, Berlogar got a 1972 Kenworth 924 and

Ramey self loader with a 5 and 4 transmission and Rockwell rear ends. It allowed him to get wood from the Santa Cruz Mountains on a regular basis for his sawmill.

"It was in 'My Little Salesman' and I had talked myself out of it for four months and was just winching wood from arborists in my other truck," Berlogar said.

A friend, however, called Cam and told him that he needed that truck. After a restless night of sleep, Cam decided he would get

(Continued on Page 14)

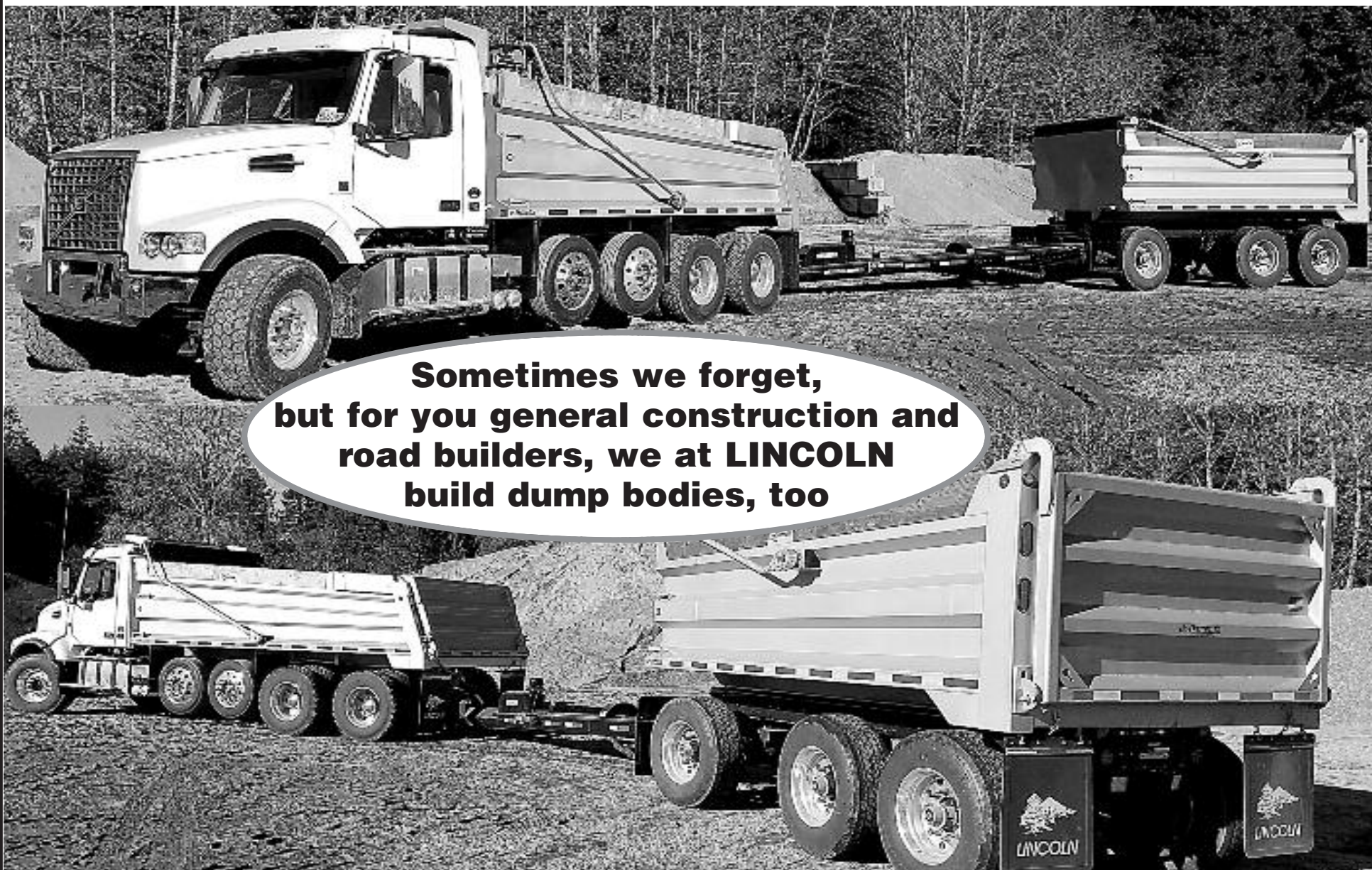
**See "Berlogar"**

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## ON WILDFIRE DUTY

Cam Berlogar stands in front of his John Deere 650G log cat while on wildfire duty for the state of California.



## Berlogar

(Continued from Page 13)

it and had friend Gary Brusseau, who lived near the truck in San Andreas, test drive it. The truck was formerly owned by Wayne Bare out of Arcata, California.

"He test drove it and it needed a lot of work so we got to it," Berlogar said.

Along with bad tires, there was another issue as it had been neglected for a while after being parked.

"The wood rats had moved in and chewed on some wires," Berlogar said. "We proceeded with an eviction and got it all going."

Since then it's been a very reliable truck that lets Berlogar

make a 10-hour roundtrip haul to Licensed Timber Operators (LTOs) in the Santa Cruz Mountains and then to his sawmill. The LTOs he works with are Joe Sunderland, Richard and Adam Rohrbough, Steven Liebenberg and Paul Vining.

When it comes to fixing things, Cam works on as much as he can and he has two independent diesel mechanics - Harold Ruth and Kevin Smith - that also do good work.

Those aren't his only trucks either, he has a dump truck, water truck, dozer transport truck and a three-axle tractor.

Berlogar gets his parts from

(Continued on Page 15)

**See "Berlogar"**

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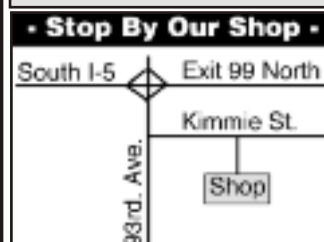
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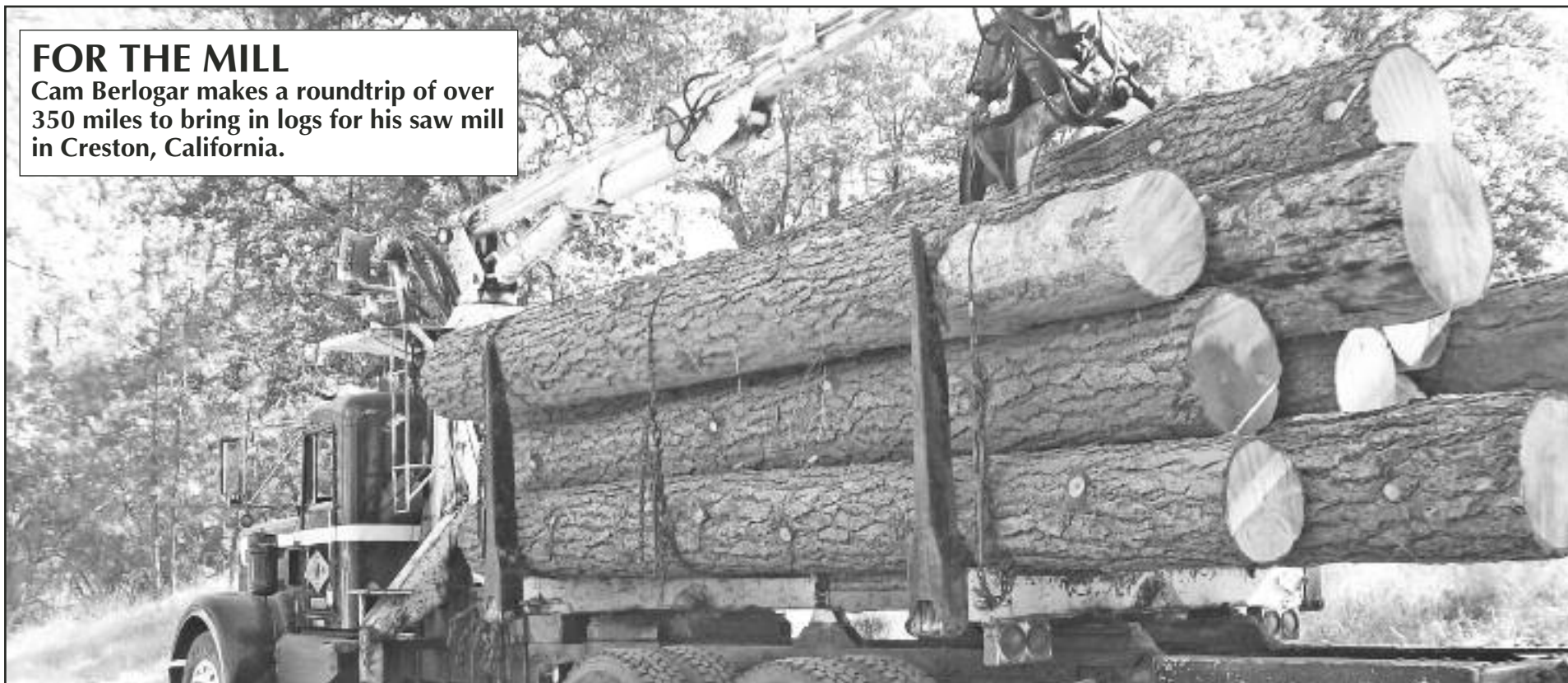
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## FOR THE MILL

Cam Berlogar makes a roundtrip of over 350 miles to bring in logs for his saw mill in Creston, California.



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## Berlogar

(Continued from Page 14)

Dyers Dieselro and Steinhoff Parts, along with Pape Kenworth. He also gets his supplies from General Trailer as well and choker and cable work from Acme Rigging in Ukiah, Calif. and Denny at Timber Supply in Philomath, Ore. He gets his Ramey self loader parts from Whit-Log.

When looking for answers about Cummins, Spicer, Rockwell and trucks in general, Berlogar goes to Dave Casson, owner of Dave's Truck Repair in Yreka, California.

"This man has been working on log trucks since the mid 70's

and has probably forgotten more than most guys will ever know," Berlogar said. "He's a brilliant, skilled and experienced truck mechanic of the first order."

Berlogar was first steered to him when he bought his antique 1963 Kenworth log truck out of Fort Jones with a stuck 335. Casson was able to fix it in two days and Berlogar was able to drive the truck home.

He was also thankful of Christine Hullquist of Fort Jones for serving as the middle woman in the purchase of the '63.

"Without her help, that truck

(Continued on Page 17)  
**See "Berlogar"**



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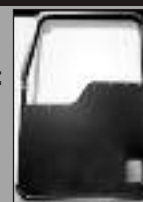
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(Continued from Page 15)

would not be in my yard," Berlogar said. "Most people in the logging community know her as Butch Wylie's daughter. I was steered to her by Bruce Thomas of Reno. Both were very helpful folks for a guy in search of an old Kenworth log truck."

Through looking for trucks to purchase, Berlogar has made dozens of friends.

"Those friends, from logging circles, are the best sort," he said.

Berlogar even hauled a load of logs for a Ford commercial down in LA, and he said he turned quite a few heads hauling his load of logs in the City of Angels.

"You would have thought I was hauling an elephant the way people were staring at the truck," Berlogar said.

## DIGGING

Along with his sawmill and log trucks, Berlogar also keeps dirt rolling with his dozers. The area he lives in is rural with a lot of ranches. He offers several different services including making roads and driveways.

"I have a lot of pieces of equipment like a bigger outfit because it allows me to be versatile and do a variety of things," Berlogar said.

He also supplies retaining wall material to California State Parks.

In his dozer fleet is a John Deere 350C, two John Deere 650Gs and two CAT D6Cs.

Three dozers, the two CAT D6Cs and a John Deere 650G are on contract with Cal Fire and a pending contract with the US Forest Service. Two of the cats have a winch with Young arches.

## SOMETHING HE LOVES

Berlogar has collected dozens of pieces of historic logging equipment and has also collected plenty of logging books, that he tries to read every night before bed.

He also attends the Redwood Region Logging Conference every year and is a member of the American Truck Historical Society and Roots of Motive Power - a volunteer organization that preserves and restores steam diesel-powered equipment used in the California logging industry.

"I don't have TV," he said.

His trusty sidekick is Lucy, his dog of 13 and a half years, always keeping watch as well.

"I chose my profession where I never check the clock," Berlogar said.

More info on Berlogar can be found at [crestonsawmill.com](http://crestonsawmill.com) which shows the products and services that the versatile log truck driver and sawmill operator offers.



## LOG ARCHES

Cam Berlogar logging history artifact collection includes the Hyster A Frame Track Arch out of Gold Beach, Oregon. Berlogar's friend Rusty Strain, owner of KMJ Logging in Brookings helped him move it. The Garrett rubber tire arch came out of Veneta, Oregon.



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