

LOG TRUCKER

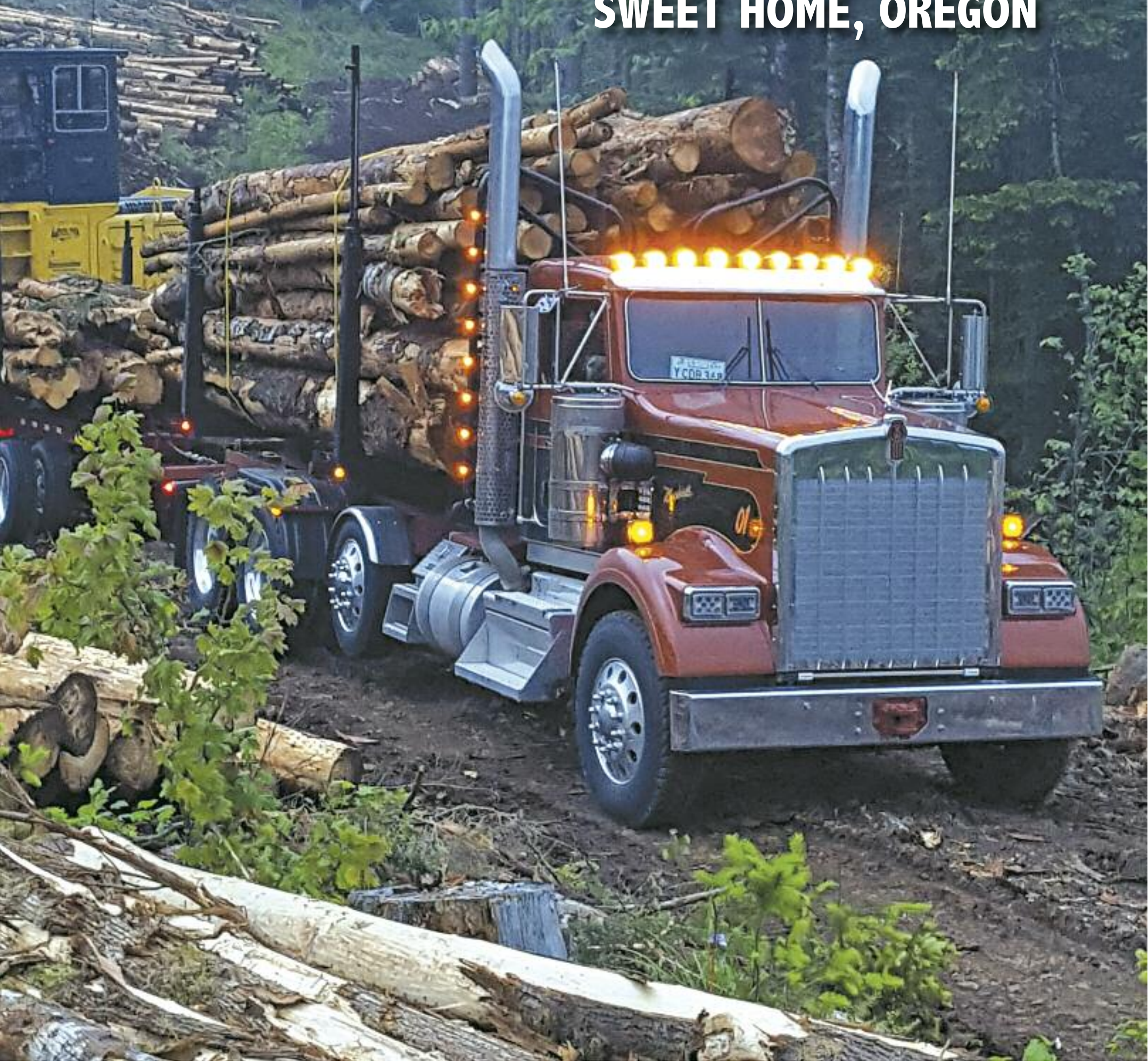
VOLUME 44 NUMBER 7

To Advertise Call (800) 462-8283

JULY 2017

STAFFORD RELOAD INC.

SWEET HOME, OREGON



REPORTING IN FROM...



STAFFORD RELOAD INC.

Steven Stafford has three **W900B Kenworths** hauling logs and one **T800** with a lowboy. They help keep the logs moving for his two cut-to-length sides and other logging operations in the area. Based in **Sweet Home, Oregon**, Stafford drives when he can along with **Leon Vineyard** and **Jarrid McGee**. Stafford bought his first log truck in 2012 and has since grown his fleet as the demand increased.

SWEET HOME OREGON

Sweet Home is located in **Linn County, Oregon** and has a population of just under 9,000. It has nearby lakes, rivers and the **Cascade Mountains**. Settlers first arrived in the area in the early 1850s and the **Santian Wagon Road** connected the **Willamette Valley** with central Oregon in 1865. Nowadays, the timber industry serves a major part of the town's economy as timber companies and the **US Forest Service** are the top employers.

IN THIS ISSUE



ON THE FRONT: Stafford Reload's newest rig - a 2018 Kenworth W900B with Whit-Log trailer driven by Leon Vineyard, gets loaded on the landing in Northwestern Oregon.

See "Going Places"

starting on Page 4

2. REPORTING IN FROM...

4. GOING PLACES

STAFFORD RELOAD INC. by Brandon Hansen

11. RANDOM TRUCK SHOTS WHO KNOWS?

18. ADVERTISERS INDEX WE'VE GOT WHAT YOU WANT

LOG TRUCKER

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Going places



MOVING EQUIPMENT

Steven Stafford uses his 2006 Kenworth T800 to haul his brand new Ponsse Forwarder for the company's cut-to-length sides.

Stafford Reload keeps up with the demand of two CTL sides and area logging operations near Sweet Home

By Brandon Hansen
Photos by Stafford Reload
For Loggers World

Stafford Reload has something in common with a lot of timber industry businesses in that it is a family operation. Beginning with Phillip Stafford who hauled in the 70s and 80s and originally began work as a logger and then moved into trucking. His son Steven now continues the tradition with four trucks of his own.

The company isn't just trucks, however, as it has two cut-to-length sides which have found a niche in its base of operations near Sweet Home, Oregon. Located in Linn County, Sweet Home is a town of just under 9,000 people located by the intersection of Oregon Route 228 and U.S. Route 20.

With plenty of forestland nearby, logging and log trucking is a big economic driver in the town. Some of the major employers in the town are Cascade Timber Consulting (a timber investment management organization), Weyerhaeuser and the United States Forest Service.

That's what Stafford calls home and he's found a niche not only hauling but doing cut-to-length in an area where there is not a lot of CTL operations.

"I'm cutting to length while there is a lot of other guys clear-cutting," Steven Stafford said. "A lot of loggers have retired and not a lot of new people have stepped in so the cut-to-length market is a very open market."

Steve first got his start driving

(Continued on Page 8)
See "Stafford"



STEVEN STAFFORD

Steven Stafford began working for a CTL operator and also driving flatbed trucks. He now wears many hats as the owner of Stafford Reload Inc.



THE NEW TRUCK

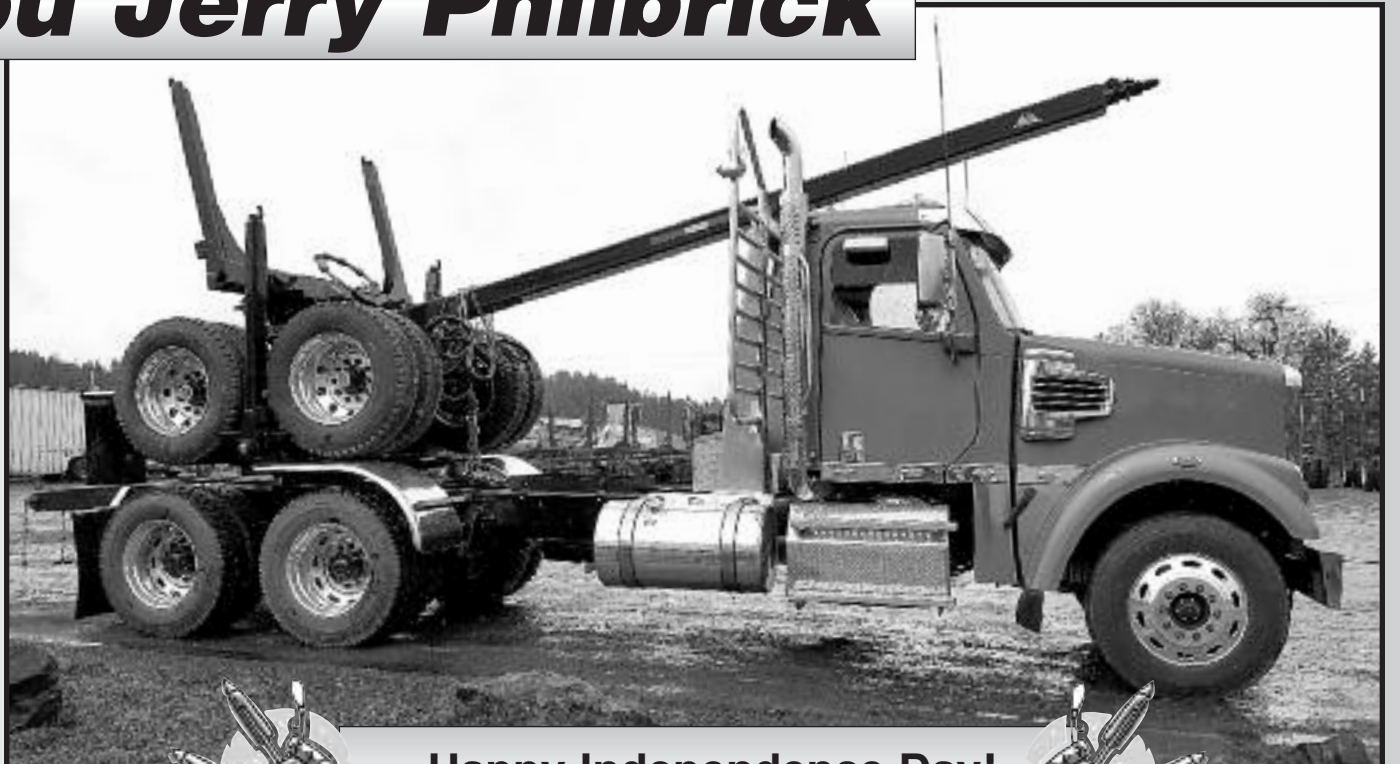
Stafford Reload just got their newest rig - a 2018 Kenworth W900B and Whit-Log trailer that Leon Vineyard will be driving. Ordered in January, the new truck got pinstriping from Paul Comeau and Vineyard hauled his first load of logs with the truck on June 3. "Steven was really cool, he called me up one day said meet me at my house we're going to Portland to order a new truck," Vineyard said. "I got a lot of input on what I wanted on the truck for lights and chrome and stuff. We picked the colors out together, we knew we wanted burnt orange when we were heading up there to order."

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Steven Stafford does some buddy trucking with dad Phillip in 2015. Phillip started out a logger and began hauling in the 70s and 80s.



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UNIROYAL



DECKED OUT FOR THE PARADE

Leon Vineyard drives his Kenworth W900B in the 2016 Sportsman Holiday Parade in Sweet Home. Vineyard recently got a brand new 2018 Kenworth W900B to drive. There's nothing better than cruising down the road in the sunshine when everything is just polished and clean," Vineyard said. "I also really enjoy the best early mornings and the scenery that we get to see everyday, sunrises in the woods are the best."

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Stafford

(Continued from Page 4)

flatbeds when he was 24 years-old, and began driving log truck in 2011 for Burke Logging - a company that he still works with. He bought his first log truck in 2012 and got his first new truck a year later.

In 2014, another opportunity arose as Wolfco was looking to sell their cut-to-length side and Stafford dove in. That has since blossomed to a two-side operation that features four machines.

"I talked with who they were working for, Weyerhaeuser, to give us a chance and we kept working for them along with picking up some private jobs," Stafford said.

Weyerhaeuser, which is one of the world's biggest private owners of timberland and with over 20 billion dollars worth of assets, keeps jobs going for Stafford.

On the hauling side, Stafford first just had one truck but expanded to two when the work load increased

so he could haul for his own company and for good friends Burke Logging and McCullon Logging. Stafford Reload also does hauling for Weyco around Springfield, Oregon with sawlogs going to Santiam in Lebanon and chipwood goes to tops in Springfield.

Now on the road, Stafford's fleet is three Kenworth W900B's with Whit-Log short loggers, and a 2006 T800 with a Kauffman lowboy trailer.

"I like the look of Kenworths and wanted the longer hoods since we have bigger turnarounds anyways," Stafford said. "I've always been driving Kenworths."

Stafford has also set up his trucks to be quick changes to be more versatile between long and short loggers.

Jarrid McGee and Leon Vineyard are the ones in the driver's seat for Stafford's trucks.

Leon has been hauling for two and a half years now and

(Continued on Page 13)
See "Stafford"

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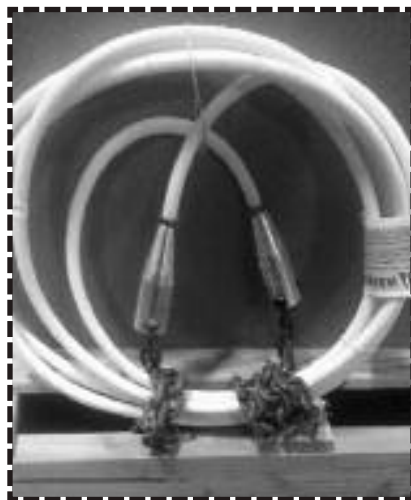
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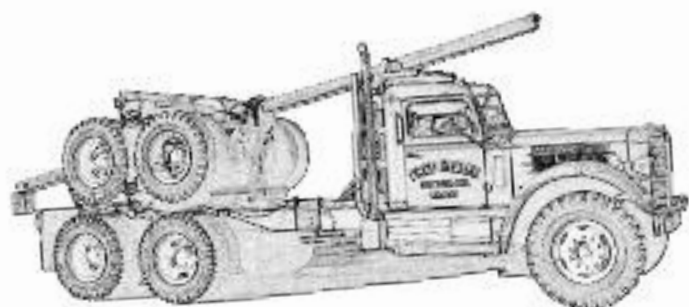


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Stafford Reload's new 2018 Kenworth W900B and Whit-Log trailer pulls into the mill with a full load.



FIRST TRUCK

This was Steven Stafford's first truck when he got his start hauling with a flatbed Kenworth T800.

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Steven Strafford hauls a short log load off the landing for Burke Logging when he first started with the short log hauling in his Kenworth W900B. "I like the look of Kenworths and wanted the longer hoods since we have bigger turnarounds anyways," Stafford said. "I've always been driving Kenworths."

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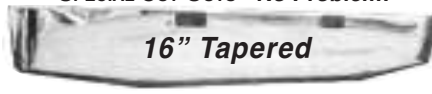
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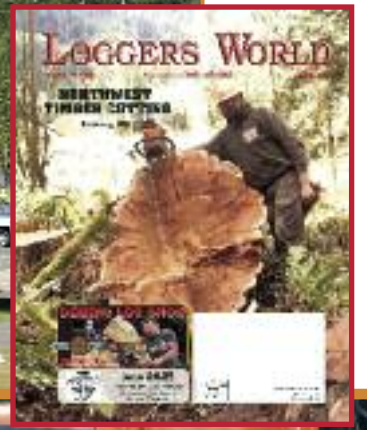
RANDOM TRUCK SHOTS

Have a photo of your truck?
Send it to
kevin@loggersworld.com

11

JULY 2017

Log Trucker



While shooting pictures at the Deming Log Show, I ran across this interesting old '77 Kenworth C 500 self loader. I haven't seen many set up like this. Turns out, this is owned by the cutter that was on last month's Loggers World cover, Nick DeKriek. In addition to his day job, Nick uses this truck for logging and firewood projects in his spare time. Nick said the C 500 came out of Alberta, Canada. By the way, Nick was being assisted for the day by his cousins, Sierra and Isaac.

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ON THE MOVE

Steven Stafford picks up his new Ponsse forwarder with his 2006 Kenworth T800 and a Kauffman lowboy. Stafford is up on the bunks while his dad Phillip is down on the ground. Phillip hauled in the 70s and 80s and originally began working as a logger and then moving into trucking, his son Steven now continues the tradition with four trucks of his own.

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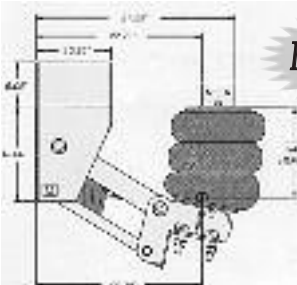
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Stafford

(Continued from Page 8)

before that he drove dump trucks while building log roads.

"Steven is really cool guy to work for, he's so laid back and relaxed, he doesn't get excited about too awful much," Vineyard, who is working for Stafford on his second go around, said. "Anything we ever want or need he either gets it for us or tells us to run and grab it, he usually chuckles at me when I tell him I need some new lights or chrome."

Stafford also drives for the company when needed and wears many hats for the company.

"I mainly drive lowboy here and there and drive log truck when I'm not bidding on jobs and filling out contracts," Stafford said.

When he started out after high school he worked for a cut-to-length company that gave him experience operating a forwarder as well. That comes in handy since he owns a 2015 John Deere 1510E forwarder, a Ponsse Buffalo forwarder, a 2015 John Deere 270E harvester and a 2017 John Deere 270G harvester he purchased at a logging show.

Operating for Stafford is Bruce Macleod, Chris Looney, Chuck Thomsen and Jared Burcham.

"The operators know where to go and do a good job, they like

to bounce around in what they're operating so things don't get old," Stafford said.

They primarily haul to Weyerhaeuser and Interfor mills in the area and due to their proximity they can get three to four loads of wood in a day. The cut-to-length sides also work on lots of private jobs during the summer.

"Normally we're within one hour of Sweet Home, Stafford said. "We've had a lot of work close to home, except for some work in Yamhill County which is a little further away."

For maintenance the trucks are under warranty and they just got their newest rig - a 2018 Kenworth W900L that Leon will be driving. Ordered in January

,the new truck got pinstriping from Paul Comeau and Vineyard hauled his first load of logs with the truck on June 3.

"Steven was really cool, he called me up one day said meet me at my house we're going to Portland to order a new truck," Vineyard said. "I got a lot of input on what I wanted on the truck for lights and chrome and stuff. We picked the colors out together, we knew we wanted burnt orange when we were heading up there to order."

The truck is clean and polished now and the challenge becomes how clean Vineyard can

(Continued on Page 14)
See "Stafford"



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JARRID MCGEE

Stafford Reload Inc.'s Jarrid McGee puts on wrappers after loading his 2014 W900B Kenworth short logger.

**Stafford**

(Continued from Page 13)

keep it.

"There's nothing better than cruising down the road in the sunshine when everything is just polished and clean," Vineyard said. "I also really enjoy the best early mornings and the scenery that we get to see everyday, sunrises in the woods are the best."

Stafford gets machines from Papé and Ponsse while getting hose from Pacific Rubber in Eugene. Melcher Logging has also sold Stafford Reload a harvester and has been a huge help with knowledge as they were one of the

first companies in the area to begin doing CTL.

So on the trucking side, Stafford is able to keep building hauling for his CTL operations and for other companies. Since the CTL market is going strong in his area, he's able to keep his sides busy as well. For the long-time driver and logging company owner, it's all a good day's work.

"I just enjoy being out in the woods and it's been a great job," Stafford said. "If you put in a hard day's work, it really seems to go by fast."



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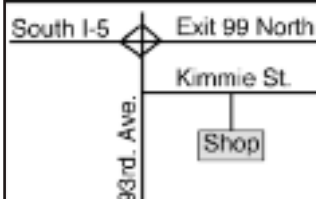
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PHILLIP STAFFORD

Phillip Stafford makes a haul in his 1978 Kenworth. Originally a logger, Stafford got into log trucking and that found its way into the interests of his son and the family name continues on in the timber industry. Stafford will celebrate his 70th birthday in July. Steve first got his start driving flatbeds when he was 24 years old, and began driving log truck in 2011 for Burke Logging - a company that he still works with. He bought his first log truck in 2012 and got his first new truck a year later. In 2014, another opportunity arose as Wolfco was looking to sell their cut-to-length side and Stafford dove in. That has since blossomed to a two-side operation that features four machines.



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The 2018 Kenworth W900B with Whit-Log trailer gets one of its first loads out on the jobsite in Western Oregon. Leon Vineyard drives the truck and has been with Stafford Reload for two years. Stafford's fleet is three Kenworth W900B's with Whit-Log short loggers, and a 2006 T800 with a Kauffman lowboy trailer. They keep busy hauling for Stafford's cut-to-length sides, Burke Logging and McCullom Logging.

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LEON VINEYARD

Stafford Reload Inc.'s Leon Vineyard puts on wrappers after getting loaded up on one of Stafford's landings. Stafford first just had one truck but expanded to two when the work load increased so he could haul for his own company and for good friends Burke Logging. Stafford Reload does hauling for Weyco around Springfield, Oregon with sawlogs going to Santiam in Lebanon and chipwood goes to tops in Springfield.

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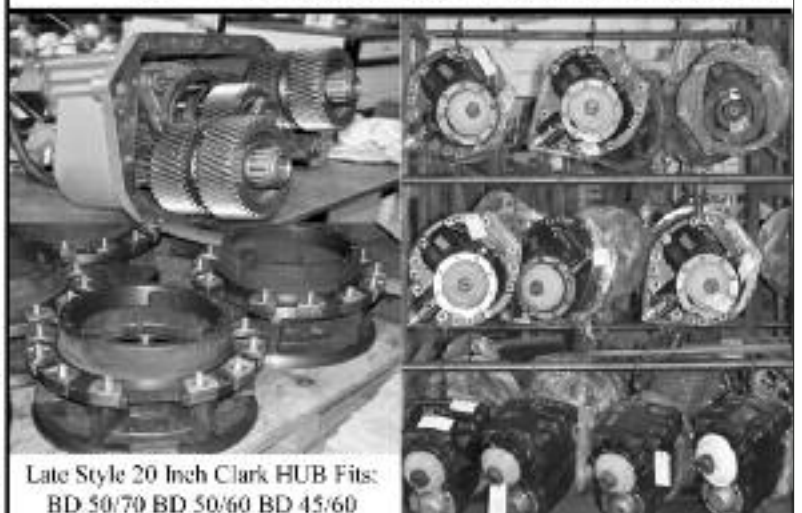
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Lincoln Industrial Supply.13
LKQ K.C. Truck Parts18
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Parts.....9

Log Trucker Subscription 14
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Progressive Insurance Co. 7
Scheller Diesel Service14
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