

LOG TRUCKER

VOLUME 45 NUMBER 2

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FEBRUARY 2018

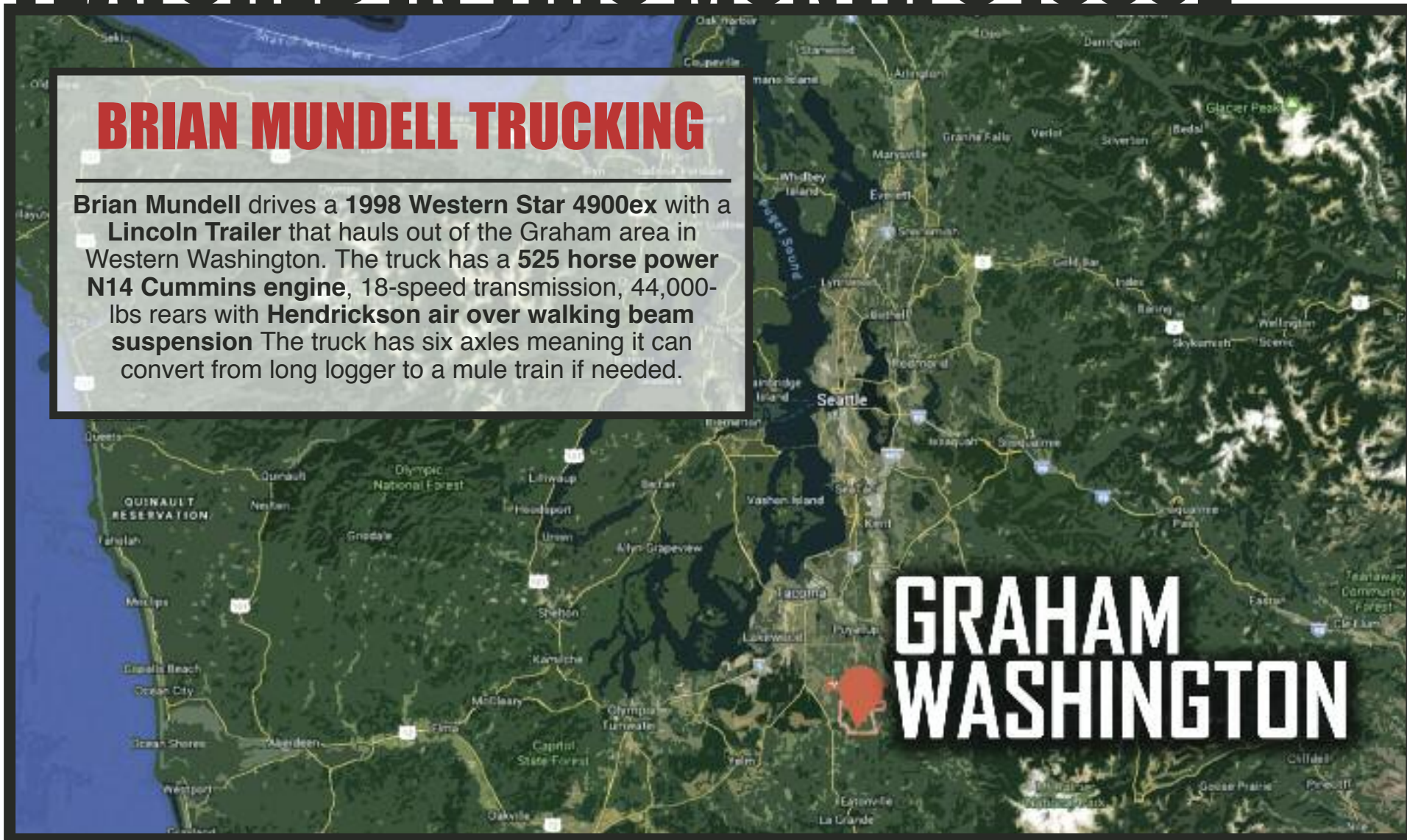


GRAHAM, WASHINGTON

BRIAN MUNDELL TRUCKING



FEATURED IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE



BRIAN MUNDELL TRUCKING

Brian Mundell drives a 1998 Western Star 4900ex with a Lincoln Trailer that hauls out of the Graham area in Western Washington. The truck has a **525 horse power N14 Cummins engine**, 18-speed transmission, 44,000-lbs rears with **Hendrickson air over walking beam suspension**. The truck has six axles meaning it can convert from long logger to a mule train if needed.

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Graham is an area in **Pierce County** that has **25,000 people**. Pierce County is the second-most populous county in Washington behind King County. Named for **U.S. President Franklin Pierce**, it was formed out of Thurston County in 1852. The county is home to **Mount Rainier**, the tallest volcano in the **Cascade Range** and **Joint Base Lewis-McChord** which provides more than 42,000 civilian and military jobs to the county. Agriculture and the timber industries have been important to the economy for 150 years.

IN THIS ISSUE



ON THE FRONT: Log truck driver Brian Mundell is seen here with wife Danielle and new daughter Cora. Mundell drives a 1998 Western Star 4900ex with a Lincoln trailer around the Graham, Washington area.

See Mundell's story starting on Page 4

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BRIAN MUNDELL TRUCKING *by Brandon Hansen*

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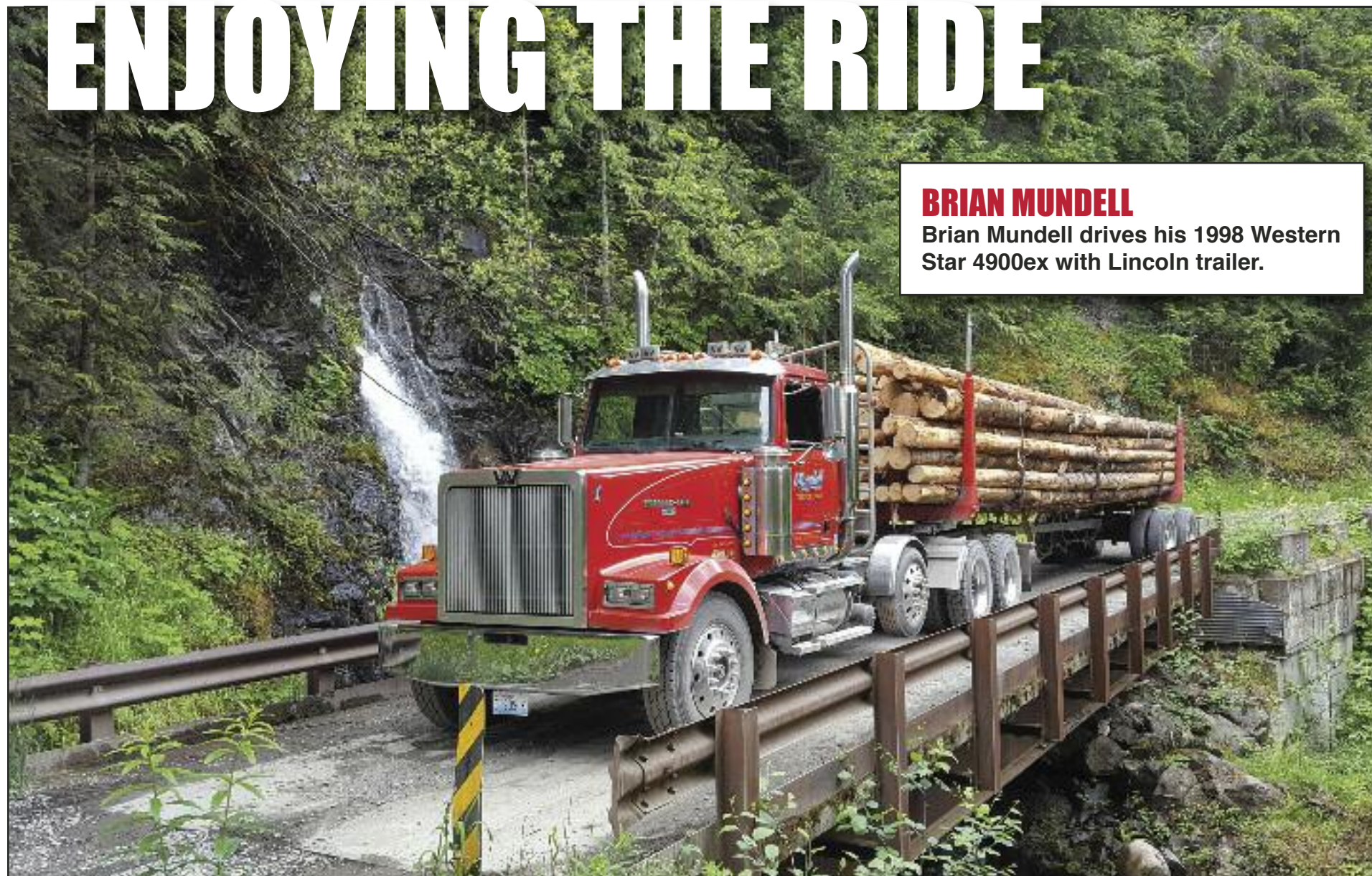
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ENJOYING THE RIDE



BRIAN MUNDELL

Brian Mundell drives his 1998 Western Star 4900ex with Lincoln trailer.

Brian Mundell grew up in a truck, and has fun in a hot rod

**Photos by Brian Mundell
Story by Brandon Hansen**
For Loggers World

Graham's Brian Mundell knows a thing or two about wheels. Not only did he grow

up in the logging and log trucking business but he's a classic car fanatic as well.

As the old adage goes, do what you love, and when it comes to driving, what's better than driving a loaded 88,000-

pound log truck and a car restored to its former glory?

For Mundell, he's recently set out on his own this year

(Continued on Page 8)
See "Mundell"



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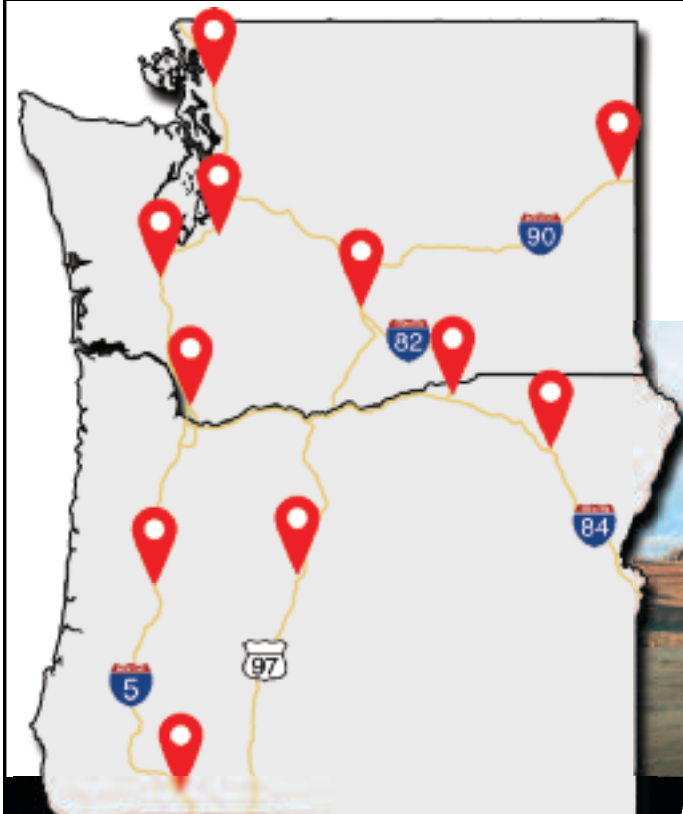


IN THE YARD

Mundell's 1998 Western Star 4900ex is seen here ready to be unloaded at one of the many mills around the Graham area.



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AT THE SHOW

Brian Mundell has taken his 1998 Western Star to the Buckley Logging Show. It's seen here nice and clean for show-goers.

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(Continued from Page 4)

with Mundell Trucking after 11 years of log trucking for Jeff Bartlett.

Like many in the logging industry, Mundell's dad David, grandpa and great grandpa were involved in logging. His great grandpa ran a steam donkey, while his grandpa worked for Boise Cascade and David got his CDL in the early 80s.

"I remember riding around with him at a young age," Brian said. "It was a pretty early memory being out in the woods and it's a great feeling because not a lot of people do what we do."

David bought his first truck in the late 1990s, a 1985 Western Star, and that would later influence Brian to purchase his truck.

"I like the look of them and they're a tough truck," Brian said. "They're very reliable."

David hauled until 2000 and recently passed away.

"He really showed me the ropes and how to drive on old Mack drump trucks, he's really what got me driving on my own," Brian said. "I'd ride with him as a kid while he was hauling for Bob Johnson around Lake Cle Elum with Bob Johnson when I could see just over the steering wheel and barely reach the pedals of his Western Star."

Brian quickly got his CDL right out of high school and began working for a construction company making school portables, spent a few years driving dump truck and then also hauled containers in Tacoma, before driving for Bartlett

Mundell said Bartlett has about 9-10 trucks and also drives around a 1967 Peterbilt with a self-loader. Driving for him is a joy as his equipment is new and he works alongside his drivers keeping them main-

tained. Sometimes that would be to polish and paint the trucks for the Buckley Logging Show.

"I think when I got out of his truck last year I had 230,000 miles on it, he kept us in nice equipment and that made it great to work for him," Mundell said. "Jeff

(Continued on Page 18)

See "Mundell"

"I remember riding around with [dad] at a young age. It was a pretty early memory being out in the woods and it's a great feeling because not a lot of people do what we do."

BRIAN MUNDELL

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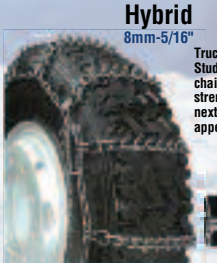
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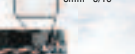
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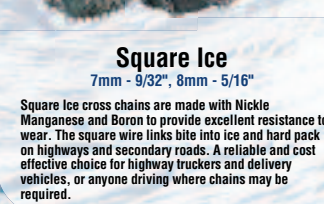
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DANIELLE, BRIAN AND CORA

Brian Mundell is seen here with wife Danielle and new daughter Cora.



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1957 PETERBILT

Brian Mundell's 1957 Peterbilt, which gives him an appreciation for some of the ammentities modern trucks have. Brian has taken the truck to the Pacific Northwest's Museum Truck Show in Brooks, Ore.

HISTORY OF PETERBILT

Peterbilt Motors Company was founded in 1939. Tacoma plywood manufacturer and lumberman T.A. Peterman wanted a better way to move his log inventory and began looking at automobile technology. In the first part of the 20th cenutry, stream tractors and horse teams were the primary form of movement. Peterman bought Fageol Motors in Oakland, California and began to turn out custom-built chassis. Initially they were two chain-drive logging trucks.



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JEEPERS!

Brian Mundell also works on jeeps and has a few around so he can go off-roading when he wants to. When it comes to his log truck, Mundell goes to JH Large Truck Repair out of Tacoma which services a lot of logging trucks in the area. JH Large mechanic Scotty Latherow has been a big help, along with S&S Tire. Brian said he does small stuff at his shop at home.

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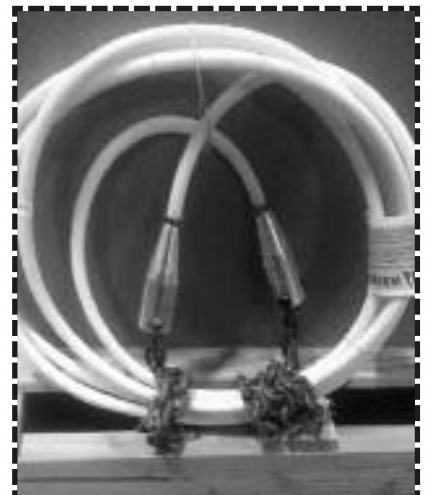
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(Continued from Page 8)

also helped me get my start in this industry.”

Mundell said a big reason for him to set out on his own was to be one of the guys with their own name on their truck and owning their own company. He got into a 1998 Western Star 4900ex with a Lincoln trailer and hauls out of the Graham area in Western Washington.

The truck has a 525 horse power N14 Cummins, 18-speed transmission, 44,000lbs rears with Hendrickson air over walking beam suspension. The truck has six axles meaning he can convert it to a mule train if needed but he primarily does long logs.

Being independent has its pluses and minuses, including the costs of maintenance and repairs. When working for a company those costs don't come directly from the driver's pocket, whereas when they're on their own, it does.

“When you're on your own, you kind of realize how much everything adds up,” he said.

To do any major repair work, Mundell goes to JH Large Truck Repair out of Tacoma which services a lot of logging trucks in the area. Scotty Latherow has been a big help from JH Large. S&S

Tire has also been a big help with the company.

“Most of the small stuff I do at my shop at home,” Mundell said. “I do all my own oil, greasing and maintenance things like that.”

Generally, Mundell hauls around 200-300 miles a day to mills around the Graham area - Formark and Rainier Veneer - thanks to its central location in timber country. He's been hauling logs for A&H Logging and he has been grateful to them helping him start out. Mundell also hauls for Allen Brothers out of Arlington, White River Logging and Rawson Logging out of Buckley and Ransey Brothers out of Eatonville. Jobsites are around the Graham, Enumclaw and White River area.

Brian said through the years that trucks seem like they've gotten more axles and loaders have improved in technology. While hauling for Bartlett, the company ran Peterbilt and Kenworths. Peterbilts also have a soft place in Mundell's heart as he got a 1957 Peterbilt that he recently took down to the Pacific Northwest Museum's Truck Show in Brooks, Ore. The truck has a 4 and 4 transmission and a 220 Cummins.

“Driving the truck down there really gave you a per-



IN THE SHADOW OF RAINIER

Hauling around western Washington can be scenic. Here is a photo of Mundell hauling for Jeff Bartlett in front of Mt. Rainier.

spective of what the old timers went through,” Brian said.

That's not the only restoration he's done as Mundell also has a 1966 Chevy Pickup, a 1970 Chevy Nova and several Jeeps he likes to take offroading.


Doing the bookwork is Mundell's wife Danielle as she holds down the household

after recently welcoming daughter Cora.

“My wife is a big help with the paperwork because I am not big on that,” Brian said with a laugh.

So if you see Brian heading down the road, give him a wave. It might be in a hot rod or a log truck, so keep your eyes peeled.






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LAST LOAD OUT

Here is Brian Mundell's last load while hauling for Jeff Bartlett. Mundell said working for Bartlett was great as he always maintained and kept newer trucks running.

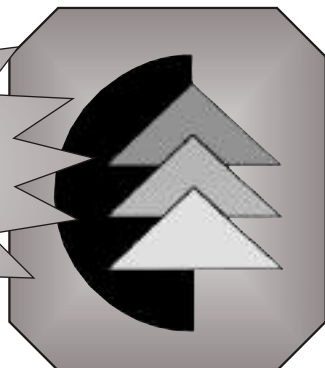


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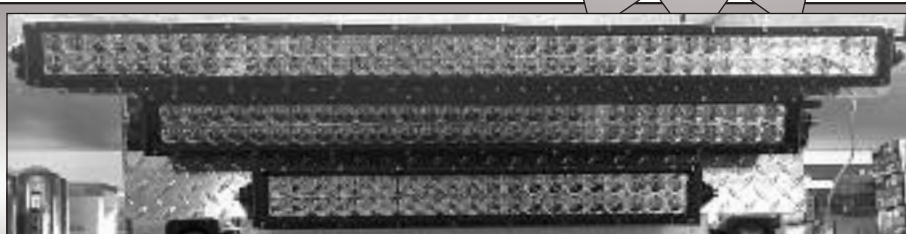
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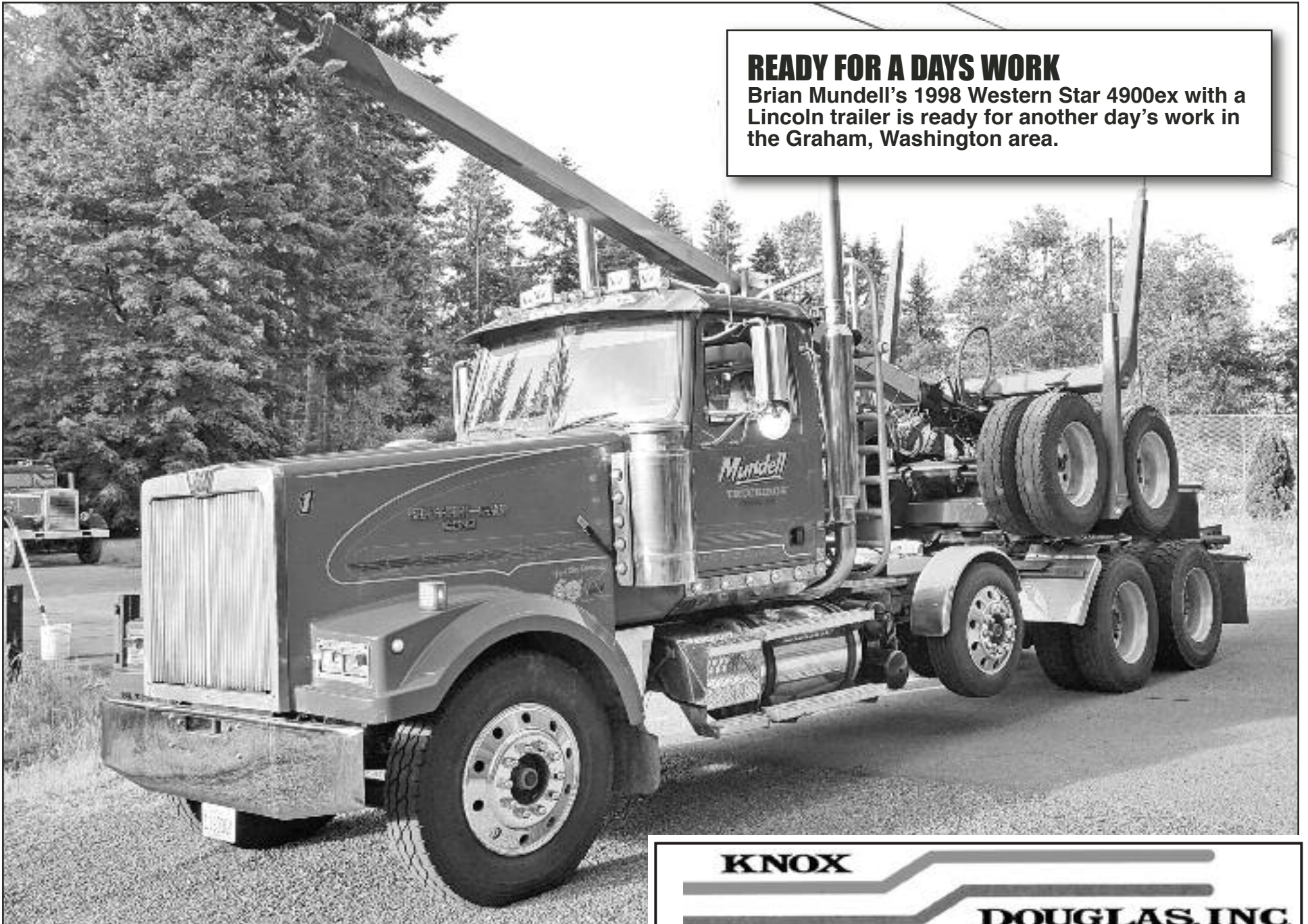
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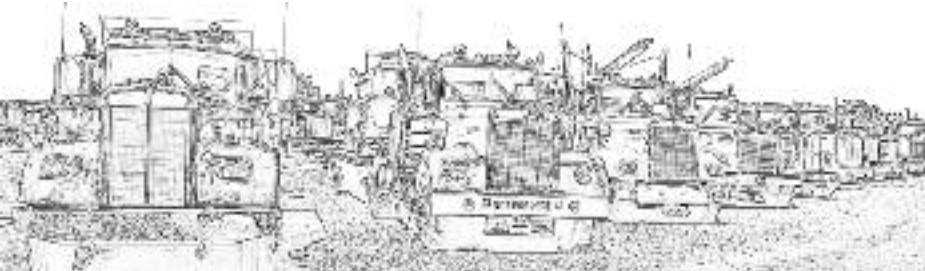
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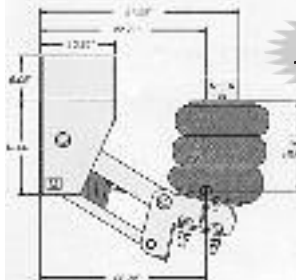


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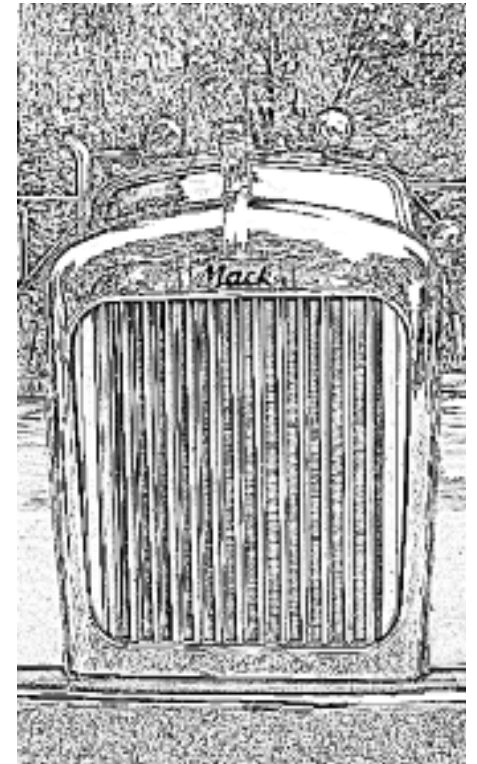
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