



Date: July 22, 2010

Lane Change: One Woman's Tale of Making the Transition to a New Career in Trucking

Stepping outside your comfort zone can be scary, but it can also lead you on an amazing new journey. That's what Linda McQuillen discovered when she decided to change careers after her youngest child graduated from college.

"With everyone out of the house, I decided this was my time," shared Linda. "I'd been a school bus driver when my daughter was a baby and I'd always wanted to drive truck – this was my chance."

Linda had worked as a private duty caregiver at a hospice for many years. When she decided to explore truck driving, she contacted a couple of trucking companies and learned that most require professional driving experience or hire driving school graduates.

"Since I didn't have the experience, driving school was my best chance for getting the training I'd need to get out on the road," said Linda. "Living in Missouri, I was very familiar with Roadmaster Driver School in Kansas City and had heard great things about it, so that was the only school I considered."

The grandmother of four enrolled in Roadmaster's four-week commercial driver's license training and truck driving program. The first week she spent in the classroom, learning map reading, trip planning and compliance with Department of Transportation laws. With the basics under her belt, Linda was ready for the challenge of training in a truck.

"I was used to the size because of my experiences with school buses, but those don't bend," recalled Linda. "My driving instructor was outside the truck so I was alone in the cab. I was nervous at first. I'm a short, old grandma. But once I got comfortable, I loved it."

Linda was put through the paces, learning the steps for a thorough pre-trip inspection, getting a feel for double clutching and downshifting, and then started backing, turning, trailer coupling and road driving maneuvers. Once she was comfortable, she and her instructor moved on to advanced driving techniques, including skid avoidance and recovery. She also learned other emergency actions for situations such as a break-away trailer and hydroplaning.

In addition to first-rate training, Roadmaster's program gave Linda a chance to meet with a job placement assistance manager who worked with her to evaluate trucking company career options. As a woman going out on the road by herself, safety was the factor most important to Linda. She decided to drive with Schneider National, a company that leads the industry when it comes to keeping its drivers and the motoring public safe.

Linda experienced Schneider's commitment to safety firsthand during her orientation and out on the road. All new drivers with Schneider take part in a weeklong orientation and training program. During this time, they build on the training they received at truck driver training school with classroom training to become familiar with industry-leading in-cab technology Schneider provides its drivers, as well as state-of-the-art simulation training and advanced over the road work.

"The program we've designed for driver training school graduates ensures they continue to experience the same success they had in school when they're out on the road," said Mike Hinz, Schneider National vice president of driver recruiting. "We expect that makes it easier for them



to choose us as their new home. We truly value the commitment these folks have made to becoming part of our industry and want to make them part of the Schneider family.”

Linda is certainly feeling like she's found a family in Schneider. Out on the road, Linda recently had a tire blow out. The tire repair truck arrived at Linda's truck within 30 minutes of her call. “Knowing that Schneider will be there if something goes wrong lets me focus on getting my job done.”

Linda has been driving over-the-road for Schneider for three months now. “It's an amazing adventure. I had never travelled by myself before this new career. Now I've been all over the country. Driving school taught me the driving essentials and that I can take on anything.”

And to think it all started with a lane change that took her outside of her comfort zone.

Drivers interested in taking the same journey as Linda by becoming a Schneider National driver can learn more by visiting schneiderjobs.com or calling 1-800-44-PRIDE.