



Trucks are a familiar sight at the rest stops around the state as their drivers line them up in the highway parking lots. The expensive rigs are the drivers' life-line for bringing home a paycheck for their family.

Life on the road is tough but drivers love it



Telling his story of a trucker's life is Kenny Rohlf, who calls Ohio home.

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Almost without slowing down, the trucks barrel off the freeway and pull their rigs to a stop in the long, narrow parking spaces designated for trucks and trailers.

With the engines still humming and the fumes of diesel fuel cutting the engines' warmth, the truckers pop open their cab doors and jump a good three feet to the pavement.

Their travel weary movements are evident as they make their way to the nearby telephone booth or the brick restrooms at the rest area on east-bound I-96 in Novi.

"Most stop to . . ." said John Westley, a trucker for Spartan Stores, pointing to the restroom.

Others stop to make the mandatory phone call to their wives and children.

Since this morning, many of the long-distance truckers, pull into the rest area, turn off the engine, lock the doors and crawl to the sleeping area in the rear of their cabs for an hour's nap.

"Some would rather sleep than eat," Westley said.

ALTHOUGH THE rest area is a haven particularly for the long-distance drivers, most, like Kenny Rohlf of

Ohio, wouldn't dream of stepping off once the sun sets.

"You have to be careful," Rohlf said. "There's a lot of homosexuals that hang out at these places."

With the day just beginning though, the parking area is full.

The truckers who have just pulled in with empty trailers are heading for the nearby telephone booth to call one of the Detroit terminals for a load of steel, dry-wall, lumber or automobile parts.

"If you want to run, you can make it," said independent trucker Dave Alspach of Ohio, on his way to the R&W Terminal in Detroit for a load of steel.

"I've got five kids and a wife and I make a living, I'm not complaining."

When it was suggested that trucking is a difficult business and a difficult lifestyle, Alspach nodded in agreement. Nonetheless, most truckers say they wouldn't have it any other way.

"I never get sick of it," said one independent trucker at the rest area who wished to remain anonymous.

"You got to like it to stay in it. It's like politics. Once you're in it, it's hard to get out," added the trucker who was traveling with his young daughter.

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Phoning home is part of the ritual of a trucker. Every chance he gets, driver Dave Alspach calls home to Ohio to see how his wife and five children are doing.

INSIDE ANGLES

Know someone doing something notable? Let us know. Write: Inside Angles, Farmington Observer, 23352 Farmington Road, Farmington 48024

DANIEL B. GABE, son of Dr. and Mrs. Jack Gabe of Farmington Hills, received a doctorate in podiatric medicine early this summer from the Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine, Chicago, Ill. Dr. Gabe received his undergraduate degree in biological science from Michigan State University. While at Scholl College, he was a member of the American College of Podiatrists. He will begin post-graduate medical training in the Detroit area.

ANNE TRUDEL, of Farmington Hills, was a \$5,000 winner in the Michigan Lottery.

KATHRYN RICHARDSON, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Richardson of Farmington, was one of 11 Albion College students selected to Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honorary society.

ON JUNE 2 Royal Business Copiers sponsored a Demo-A-Thon at the Harley Hotel in New York City. Greg Reese of Albin Industries, Farmington Hills, was the first contestant to give a demo. He won the Grand Prize of an all-expenses paid trip for two to Hawaii. Greg spent long hours taping himself and viewing the videotapes. He was assisted by Sales Manager Jim Ridd.

PAULA GERVASI and **Shelley Selewski** were recently installed in Northwood Institute's Epsilon Kappa Chapter of Phi Chi Theta. A national professional business fraternity, Phi Chi Theta promotes higher business education training for women and helps in the development of women preparing for business careers.

ANNE E. BROWN, of Farmington, has received a Ph. D. degree in mathematics from Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Central Michigan University. Doctoral study was pursued at the University of Oregon and completed at Brandeis. The past year was spent at Notre Dame University and St. Mary's College as a graduate student while completing her dissertation. This fall, she will teach the math department faculty at St. Mary's College, South Bend, Ind. Anne is a 1979 Farmington High School graduate.

PAUL R. GURIZZIAN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Gurizzian of Farmington Hills, has been awarded a 1984 GMI Alumni Association Travel Award. Paul, a senior, majoring in Industrial Administration,

is a cooperative student with GM Motors Trading Corp. in Detroit. Travelships are a project of the GMI Alumni Association and give 10 outstanding GMI students a travel stipend and the opportunity, in cooperation with sponsoring GM divisions, to work in a General Motors plant overseas for six weeks. Paul's Travelship work experience is planned for Bedford Commercial Vehicle in Luton, England.

DAVE MURRAY, Our Lady of Sorrows lacrosse coach, was chosen "Michigan Man of the Year" by the United States Lacrosse Coaches Association. Dave coaches the lacrosse team at Country Day School. He has a 2-1 league record and went on to win the middle school Scholastic Lacrosse Tournament at Country Day School.

ELIZABETH NASH KOBMAN, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Nash of Farmington Hills and a Harrison High School graduate, acquired Attorneys Title Insurance Inc., a Fredericksburg, Va. company providing title insurance to property owners.

LEANNE HARMALA, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Harmala of Farmington Hills, and a sophomore at Northern Michigan University, is attending a six-week Army ROTC Basic Camp at Fort Knox, Ky. The Basic Camp course includes extensive training in leadership, duties of a soldier, weapons and physical fitness.

MAUREEN A. O'CONNOR, of Farmington Hills has been named to the President's List for the spring term at Northwood Institute, Midland. To achieve President's List recognition, students must earn a 4.0 grade-point on a 4.0 scale.

MARY JEAN, a 1980 Harrison High School graduate, has received her wings as a United Airline flight attendant. She will be domiciled in Chicago.

FARMINGTON EDUCATION Association has awarded \$700 scholarships to Maria Zaleski from Farmington High School, Monica Mars from Harrison High School and Michele Pussar of North Farmington High School. The scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic achievement, financial need, and community involvement.

ANNIE SPRAWL, of Farmington Hills, has been designated a member of the President's Council of the American Investors Life Insurance Company. The Council is a group of distinguished individuals, national president of American Investors Life and is a regional director of American Investors Life. The award is presented for sales performance and service to policyholders.

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