

# Dreams Come True for Drema

*By Drema Gibson*

I want to say to all the women in the trucking business in America, all your dreams are possible with a lot of hard work and never letting up on your determination.

I began driving semis (or, big rigs) in 1983. My husband had his own truck and taught me to drive. We ran team cross country for five years. When we later divorced, I began running solo for the same company. They soon asked me if I would consider training other women drivers. My career training women to drive semis lasted about a year.

In the 1990's, there were very few women drivers in the U.S. The trucking business with its long hours and cross-country runs was very hard on women, especially when they first began driving. I worked that much harder to prove that women were just as good as men in the driver's seat of a big rig.

In 1990, I began working for Matlack Transport pulling a tanker in the mountains of West Virginia. After a year of pulling the tanker behind a Mack truck with no air or power steering, I moved to Nashville, Tennessee and went back to pulling a van, this time with a Kenworth loaded with all the luxuries. I worked there for about six years. After leaving Nashville, I pulled LTL freight for another year.

My next move was to Houston, Texas, where I did all hiring of new drivers, as well as all safety and compliance training, for another trucking company. After six years at this new level of work, I was moved up in the company to be a dispatcher, which was my dream and turned out to be a stepping stone to something much bigger.

It was about six months after becoming a dispatcher that I got my big break and went to work for L&B Transport as a dispatcher. Three and a half months later I was promoted to Terminal Manager at L&B. I want to thank Mr. Louie Vielee, owner of L&B Transport, for this great opportunity and for giving

me a chance to prove myself. I also want to thank Mr. Jody Guillory, VP of L&B, for being a great mentor to me in this new and challenging position as Terminal Manager.

After all the years of hard work in the trucking business in our great country, going from driving the big rigs to being a dispatcher and now working as Terminal Manager, I am now living even more than my dream come true. So my advice to other women in trucking is to work hard in a great organization with great people, have pride in what you do, be ambitious and never give up.

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