

Changing Times for Women on the Road

Jakki Fox is one of the first drivers to join Women In Trucking in January, 2007. Here is her story...



I am one of the few women truckers who started my career twenty-three years ago. Back when the sight of a woman behind the wheel of the giant metal beast was unheard of. I turned a few heads.

As my trucking career blossomed I grew from a warehouse worker to #1 driver in the five years I moved furniture in Orange County, California. Women moving furniture in the eighties was quite a commodity as well as a freak show. The shippers would be shocked to see a tall lanky woman jump from the driver's seat, paperwork flapping in the wind with her helper in tow. In their panic they would repeatedly tell me that they had heavy furniture and then would ask "by the way, where's the other guy?" I would assure them that I was capable of doing the job

and if not why do you think they would send me to the work site? Soon after, I would smile to myself hearing them on the phone calling family and friends about the girl mover and I became quite a star. Tips became larger than my paycheck.

But with the stardom came the ridicule and torment that I received from co-workers and fellow truck drivers. I started to become dragged down by the remarks and competition of the men around me. I had to work twice as hard and consistently show I was more than capable of doing their job. My skin became thin, exposing my weaker side, but I kept pushing forward renewing my strength in the encouraging words of the shippers and co-workers who believed in me and I succeeded as a pioneering lady trucker.

Times have changed and I now see my male fellow drivers accepting the women behind the wheel. Their harshness on the CB has turned gentler and ever so often, kindness towards the women trucker fills the air waves and my heart. We have done it. We have proved to the guys that there are professional women drivers that can do the job just as well. We have come a long way. Congratulations ladies, my hat's off to all of you that took the high road and stuck with it when times were tough and thank you to our fellow male truckers who encourage us.