

Dale Holman Georgetown trucker tops in Canada

BY LISA TALLYN
Staff Writer

A Georgetown truck driver has been honored for his accomplishments behind the wheel of a tractor trailer, as well as off the road.

Dale Holman, 37, was recently named the 1996 Canadian Owner/Operator by Truck News and Truck West newspapers.

Patricia Cancilla, managing editor of Truck News and editor of Truck West, said the third annual award recognizes professional, courteous owner/operators with clean driving records who stand out from their peers.

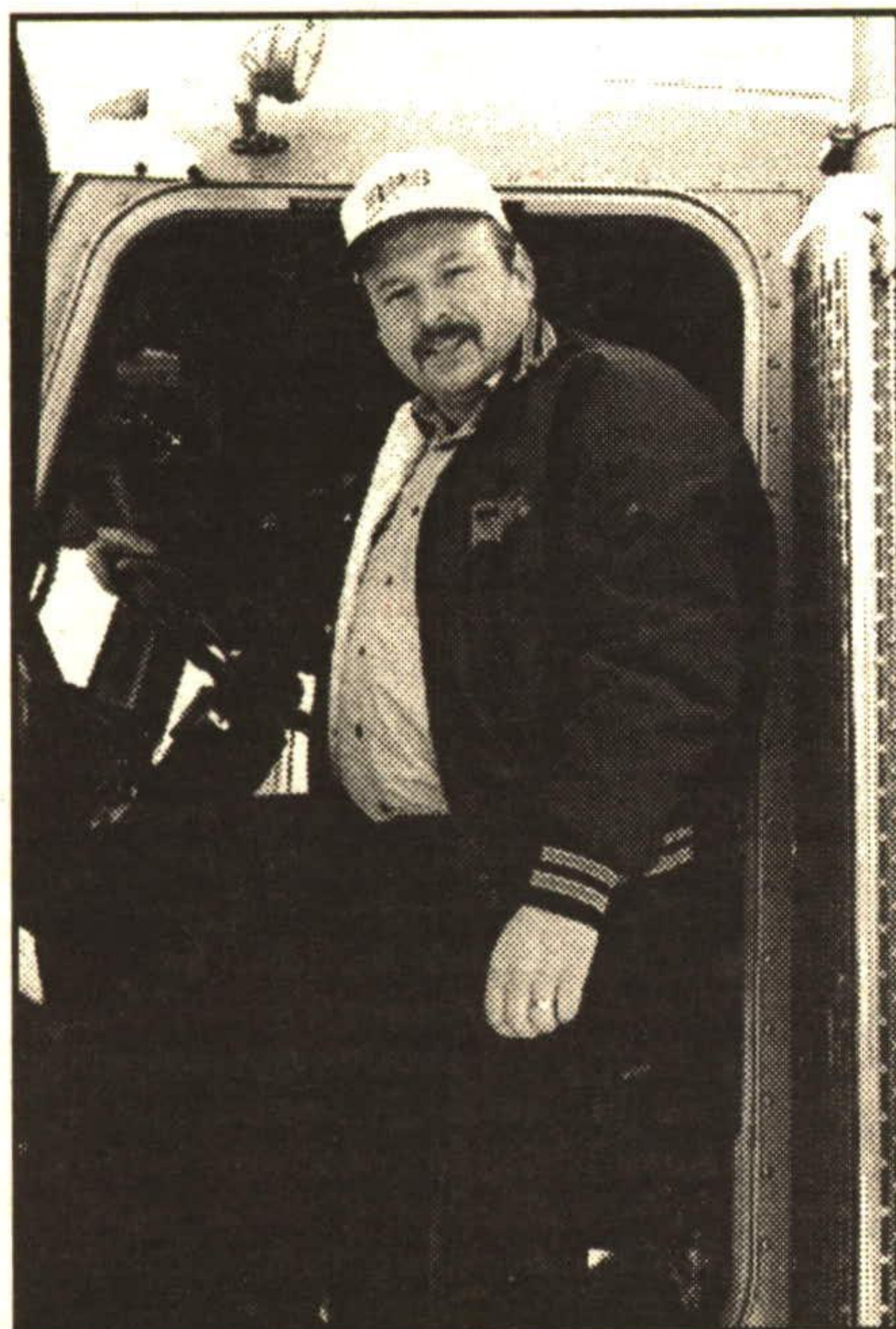
"Dale fits that mold," said Cancilla. "He stood out from hundreds of other owner/operators."

Holman said he was surprised and honored to win the award which was sponsored by Cummins, Freightliner, and Goodyear. Recently, Holman was presented with a plaque, a trip for two to Hawaii, a set of steer tires, a trip to Cummins world headquarters in Indiana, a leather jacket, diamond ring, and a \$3,000 education scholarship for his children.

"I have never won anything in my life. It was a shock to say the least," said Holman.

He said trucking has been "in the blood since I was four or five."

His dad Floyd, who often drives for his son, has been a truck driver most of his life.



Dale Holman was recently named the 1996 Canadian Owner/Operator by Truck News and Truck West newspapers. Photo by Lisa Tallyn

Holman said when they were kids he and his brothers would jump at the chance to ride with their dad on his nightly Toronto to Windsor run.

"We loved the noise and we got to stay up all night. I've always been a night hawk," said Holman.

Shortly after he got his licence, Holman began driving trucks. By the time he was 19 he bought his first truck, which needed a lot of work, for \$4,000 from the rock group Triumph. Not long after he bought it and fixed it up, he traded it in on a new 1980

Peterbilt for \$52,000 which he says over the years saw all of North America.

At one point Holman had eight trucks on the road but for the past four years he has worked for RPS Inc. in Mississauga and he has one truck on the road. Five nights a week Holman or his dad make the trip from Toronto to Toledo, Ohio.

About a year-and-a-half ago Holman and his brother Tim started Truck Watch Services Inc., a truck inspection business.

They go to trucking companies and do brake testing, using equipment Holman brought over from Denmark, and truck inspections.

"The top companies are the first ones bringing us in. They are looking at ways to get better."

Holman is also a member of the Ontario Trucking Association's Road Knights team.

He takes his truck to schools and speaks to kids and various other groups about truckers and the trucking business.

"A lot of people have a perception that truck drivers have to be uneducated bums. But now we have computers and satellites (on the trucks), we (truck drivers) have to be almost a paralegal, a mechanic of sorts and know physics, math and geography."

Holman said he likes the independence of the job. When he's not on the road however, he enjoys spending time with his wife Leslie and their children Tabitha and Cory.

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