

Award-winning owner operator has driven for FFE more than 40 years – and is still rolling



As a finalist for the Truckload Carrier Association Owner Operator of the Year award, Wayne Lowe can be considered one of the very best in the nation. But the veteran driver is humble about the honor and says he just likes to be on the road – just as he has since he began his career at FFE more than four decades ago.

"I drove when I was in the Army for two years but I really started my career as a professional driver at FFE in 1967 working for an owner operator named Lambright," says Lowe. "A lot of things have changed since then but I never looked at going somewhere else. This has been the place for me."

Lowe became an owner operator himself after two years, getting behind the wheel of a new 1969 Freightliner. "Back then, you'd get the truck and pay it off by the mile," he says. "That truck cost me \$19,000 brand new."

For the next 26 years, Lowe ran a West Coast dedicated run which entailed loading in Dallas, Tx., and going west to California or other western states. By 2003, he made a change to a run that took him from Dallas to Denver, Colo., to San Antonio, Tx. and back to Dallas again.

"I did that for a few years but started thinking I was getting on up in years to be dealing with the bad weather," says Lowe with a laugh. "Now, I pretty much drive in the southern half of the country – Florida, Texas, Arizona."

During his long career in which he has driven 4+ million accident-free truckload miles, Lowe has seen many changes in the trucking industry, some good, others not so good. "I used to drive Route 66 and US Highway 80 before there were interstates. It's nice that the roads got wider and better but now people have changed a lot, too," he says. "I miss the days when you would drive into a truck stop and somebody would run out, check your tires, fill your tank, clean your windows and wave you out."

As he reflects on his association with FFE, Lowe looks at it from a family man's perspective. "My family never wanted for anything. I paid for my house, my cars, everything we needed," he says. "If my kids wanted a new video game, we got it. I was able to provide it all."

Lowe was selected as the 2007 Texas Motor Transportation Association Driver of the Year and has received many awards from FFE Transportation, including his 4 Million Mile Safe Driving Award and first place in the company's truck rodeo.

Lowe says he tells other drivers about what an FFE career can offer them as well. "Beyond a really good paycheck and bonuses, you have a good atmosphere. They treat everyone equally whether you're an owner operator or company driver," says Lowe. "If you ever want to talk to the management of FFE about anything, you can walk in and do it"

As for being a finalist in the Owner Operator of the Year award from TCA, Lowe expects to attend the TCA's March convention in Orlando to find out if he won. "But from there, I'll probably pick up a load in Florida and start racking up more miles," he says. "I just want to work."

About FFE Transportation Services

FFE Transportation Services Group is headquartered in Dallas, Texas. One of the largest temperature-controlled transportation services in the United States, FFE has opportunities for company drivers and owner operators. For more information, please call 800-569-9298 or visit the FFE website at www.ffeinc.com. Drivers may also apply directly at www.ffedrivers.com.

