

Driven to success at Roadrunner Driving School

Officer manager Victoria Daniels listens as Richard Milam, owner of Road Runner Driving School in Sharon, describes his 1953 five-window Chevrolet truck, found sitting in a Sidonia field, that's now chili pepper red pearl after a 7-year restoration project and then moves on to praise the sounds created by his 2003 Heritage Springer Screaming Eagle. Those two "toys" and his "large cars" (trucking industry speak for semitrucks) net the comment, "There's high octane running in that blood."

Milam's father died when he was 15 years old and when his mom Mary married Ed Sullivan, the Greenfield native's rela-



Richard Milam at Roadrunner Driving School

tionship with motors was set. Sullivan was a trucker. And after a confessed college experience marked by a lack of concentration on

studies and more of a focus on parties and a short stint tied to a desk at a Texas electronics programming job, Milam chose the same

route.

At 22 years of age, Milam began driving for a furniture company and was assigned New York City.

Small town life was traded for Manhattan, the Bronx, etc. and for five years, Milam enjoyed every minute – until an abundance of spending tickets caused him to yield. Working inside the furniture factory and using his electronics background allowed him to bide his time until his license was cleared and then he bought his own truck.

After a chance encounter while picking up lawn mowers in Jackson, Milam landed a gig that would last the next 15 years of his life and afford him the opportunity to travel the county as a truck driver and promotional representative of the company ... in style.

"Fifty guys showed up for that interview," he ex-

plained. "And you know who they gave it to? The man who wore a shirt and tie."

Appearance and good hygiene are among the tips that Milam offers his more than 100 students annually who now come through the Sharon-based riding school. Proudly noting that he is one of the "only truck drivers that carried an iron in the truck," Milam wants to make a good name for his students and his school for truck drivers.

Along with the three weeks of computer-based and hands-on studies, students are reminded of the faith that turned Milam's life from one focused on parties to more of a deeper purpose. The Ten Com-

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