Keep on truckin’

Trees have never been in better hands.

The Davey Tree Expert Company knows this when driver Bobby O’Shields hits the road every day. That’s because O’Shields, who first drove one of the company’s semi trucks out of a parking lot in 1979, recently surpassed 1 million accident-free miles, a monumental feat, says Fred Johnson, Davey’s manager of operations support services.

“According to the American Trucking Association, only 100 drivers a year reach the one million mile mark. If you think of all the trucks you see on the road and consider that only 100 of them are at the same level as Bobby, you really appreciate what an accomplishment this is.”

O’Shields has been to every Davey territory except Hawaii. He’s hauled a lot of interesting cargo, but the most exciting had to have been the Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders, who were making an appearance at Kent State University’s homecoming parade.

Landscape over linemen...

How do you go from playing in the NFL to running a landscape company? That question might be best answered by Warren Wheat, president of Wheat’s Landscaping & Maintenance, Tempe, AZ. Wheat was drafted out of Brigham Young University in 1989 in the fourth round by the L.A. Rams. After playing the entire pre-season at left guard, he was put on waivers and claimed by the Seattle Seahawks. Because of injuries, however, he only started 16 games from 1989 to 1991. Tom Flores was hired as the Seahawks’ new coach, and, favoring a youth movement, let Wheat go. Wheat’s brother, Darin, approached Warren about starting a landscape company, so for the next three years, Warren split time working as an agent at National Sports Management and “doing the books” for his landscape business. Seven years and $2 million dollars more in revenue for his company, Wheat has no regrets about leaving sports altogether.

Drop that mower — Win a golf shirt by telling us about the creepiest critter you’ve ever encountered on the job. Deadline Aug. 15. Send to jstahl@advanstar.com or 7500 Old Oak Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44130. Fax: 440/891-2675.