

'Strictly Feminist'

Warren Woman in Trucking

By Becky Taylor

Mrs Lena Daly can breathe a sigh of relief.

As manager and secretary of the Rhode Island Truck Owners Association Inc, for years she was the only woman in the United States holding such a position.

But in the last few years, another brave female has joined the ranks of trucking association managers.

Even so, Mrs Daly sees her only other female cohort rarely, if ever. Because the other such

manager hails from Kansas, they might possibly encounter one another at a national convention, but actually in a floor crowded with hundreds of men, Mrs Daly is lucky to get a glimpse of another dress in the hall.

Actually, this Warren resident is not too disappointed. As she says, she prefers to work with men.

Mrs Daly is in constant contact with over 500 members of the Rhode Island association, including both truckers

themselves and shippers and men from allied industries.

Although when she first accepted the position of manager, response to her might have been termed as at least surprised on the part of the men, now 20 years later, most of her associates have become accustomed to the fact that a woman heads the association.

Mrs Daly recalled attending one national convention years ago when the speaker stated adamantly, "The ladies must go to their hotel. We don't want to see one woman here. They should go where they belong."

When another man jumped up and asked "What about Lena?" the speaker responded, "Lena's no lady. She's one of us."

Naturally Mrs Daly said she did not take offense by the comment but laughed with all of the men.

This talented and ambitious woman ironically denies any affiliation with the liberation movement. "I'm strictly feminist."

"When you're in a man's world, you still want to be a woman. But you've got to stand up for your own rights. And if you're sure of yourself, you won't let others' opinions sway you."

Each day brings something unexpected or different, which is why Mrs Daly enjoys her work so much. "The truck industry is fascinating...you never know what's going to happen next," she said.

One of her primary objectives is to keep abreast of action in both state and federal legislatures.

"We have to watch all of the bills introduced which might affect the trucking industry either adversely or profitably.

She also works to maintain government contacts with all departments which might affect the industry.

Much of her work might even
continued on next page



MRS LENA DALY