

John's Journey - Day 23

April 23, 2009

Fordyce, AR to Camden, AR

We got off to an early start this morning about 7:00 AM. The mules were ready to go.

Gary Coates pulled me over & did an interview with me for about 20 minutes and took video. He is with KBJTKQ, the local radio station. He said he would be doing a documentary on me, so watch for it, the web-site is www.kbjtkq.com.

I met up with Mike Pennington and ate lunch with him in Bearden. Lunch was great & so was the conversation. He's a fellow teamster & we had a great time together. He told me that I could probably stay at the fairgrounds in Camden.

We drove a while & we hit a swarm of flies for about 2 hours - I've never seen so many flies. I had to stop from time to time & literally scrape them off the mules & kill them. They were sure aggravating both me & the mules.

I talked with three other fellows today from the highway department. They mentioned that I could park at the fairgrounds as well. William Hickman was also on the fairgrounds committee. He said that he'd make sure the water was turned on for me.

As I was pulling into the fairgrounds to park this afternoon, I drove under some low hanging tree limbs - I thought I had clearance but I didn't. Before I knew it, I had knocked off the light over the American Flag. William came by to talk with me after I got settled & brought me a step ladder by so I could fix my rear lights.

I took notice that my left front tire is beginning to show signs of wear. I'm going to have to keep an eye on that.

I drove about 27 miles today and it was a great day. I'm learning the little tricks of the trade. By making the mules walk slower, it is saving the wear on the shoes. It only makes sense - less friction, less wear!

Troy Bradley, the guy I met the other day at the airport just came by to see how I was doing. He said he could not locate me last night at the Civic Center. I told him that I was parked way in the back & fairly out of sight.

The people that I'm meeting are absolutely wonderful to me & I am continuing to have the time of my life.

I talked with my other sister Cheryl this afternoon. She is so excited about this trip as well. I believe that we have talked more in the past few weeks than what we ever have. So absence does make the heart grow fonder. I asked her to be my PR manager. She has already set me up with several interviews.

I'll be heading out in the morning towards McNeil, AR & picking up 82 West toward Texarkana, TX. If all goes well, I hope to be there mid-next week. I'll be spending the better part of the month of May along Highway 82 crossing Texas. So watch for me. I look forward to meeting you.