

John's Journey - Day 24

April 24, 2009

Camden, AR to Stephens, AR

I got up about the same time this morning & went through the routine of getting ready. Mack gave me a hard time this morning. I believe that he is thinking this is enough, when are we going home. Little does he know, but the journey has barely begun.

Well we pulled out about 7:20 AM and hadn't gone very far when we were crossing a two lane bridge. I want to tell the driver of the semi-truck pulling wood chips that there was no excuse to have been so close to me & my mules. Your trailer was so close to me that I could have reached out and touched it. The other lane was wide open for as far as I could see & there was no reason for what you did. You may not read this, but I hope that someone will who knows you. I'd say that 95% of all truck drivers are very considerate of all other vehicles and the other 5% are cowboys. Needless to say you are among the 5% of those who drive like the entire road belongs to them. Well let me tell you that after 400 miles on this trip alone, my mules have already encountered a lot and did not get spooked by your lack of courtesy to us. That might not be the case the next time you pass a young team who are just learning to deal with the traffic.

A few miles up the road I stopped at the Arkansas Department of Transportation for District 7 in Camden, AR and reported the incident. They apologized and said that they would look into it - at least I got it off my chest, because it sure did upset me. The thing that will worry me now is the idea of being side-swiped. God watching over me, I trust that won't happen.

Well we climbed a few hills today. They weren't steep, just steady slope and the mules did really well. They needed to pull together and Mack was clearly helping Jack out.



Here we are about to cross the Ouachita River on the Thomas Gaughan Bridge in Camden.



I met several people today. I spoke with Floradena Heard, as well as, Charlie and Dorothy Rhea for a while on one of the breaks we took. As we parted Charlie gave me some money for dinner. I spoke with Roger White and told him a little bit about my journey and he also gave me some money. I sure do appreciate the generosity that so many have shown to me.

Shortly after that I met Dr. David Rankin. He's the President of the Southern Arkansas University located in Magnolia, AR. He was telling me that their athletic teams are called the Muleriders. We had a nice time chatting. Here's the link to a great college. www.saumag.edu

I'm staying at Murphy's Station at the junction of 57 & 79. Tomorrow I'm heading out down 79 to McNeil, then west on 98 toward Buckner and following 82 on into Texarkana. I'm planning on stopping somewhere near Buckner tomorrow night.