

John's Journey - Day 25

April 25, 2009

Stephens, AR to Stamps, AR

We pulled out about 7:30 this morning. It was a little damp & the smell of rain was in the air. About 10:00 it started to rain just a little. It would rain a few minutes & then stop. By early afternoon it turned out really nice and stayed just a little cool. The mules were feeling really good.



We passed an oil derrick beside the road. The mules are not real fond of those yet, but by the time they get across Texas, I'm sure it will be just another sight along the road, but for now they are giving them each a real long look.



We stopped in Waldo for lunch. I had a hamburger & I bought an extra one for Brit. She wolfed hers down really fast. I know she appreciated it.



About the same time I spoke with Lou Ellen & Lindsey Hughey & Frank Wagner. They did an interview & we took some pictures.



I met up with a little boy & his grandma this afternoon. His name was Max McGaha. I'm guessing he was about 4 or 5 years old and he made it clear that he wanted a ride in my wagon. His grandma said it was okay & he hopped aboard. He

sure enjoyed that little ride. He was so happy - just grinning from ear to ear.

Hickey came by and chatted with me for a short while.

Late afternoon, I pulled off the road and was talking with some people in a red mini-van. The phone rang and it was my sister Cheryl from Henry, TN. I didn't think about it very much because she has been calling almost every day just to see how I'm doing. Well she asked me if I spoke with everyone along the road or just people in red mini-vans. I hesitated not understanding how she knew what I was doing. She went on to say that there was a black PT Cruiser parked along the side of the road about ¼ mile ahead & there were some people



inside that wanted to talk with me. We both started laughing at the same time. I couldn't believe that she drove almost 500 miles to see me.

Cheryl, her husband Dannie & their son Jacob were all there. They brought me a care package

containing Snyder's Pretzels, Meaty Bone treats & a few cans of dog food for Brit, and Hoof Treatment for the Mules. She also brought me my AAA books for my trip. They stopped somewhere & bought me some southern fried chicken for dinner - boy was it good. They didn't stay long, because they needed to get back home. We had a great visit & we all parted in tears.

I arrived in Stamps, AR and up ahead was a nice grassy area. There were some horses tied up there with saddles on so I figured someone was around. I introduced myself and asked if it was okay if I spent

the night there. It was getting late & I had already travelled a little further than I had anticipated. I didn't meet the owner of the property, but the neighbor said it was okay. He knew that Copie would not mind.



While we were talking they gave me the name of someone in Texarkana that could help me out with more mule shoes. Although by making them walk slower, it is



saving the shoes I'm still just a bit concerned.

It was a great day - just full of surprises. We drove 26 miles today.