

John's Journey - Day 27

April 27, 2009

Junction 82 & 27 to Texarkana, AR

I got up early this morning and fed the mules. While they were eating I tried to send some pictures to my sister in Arizona. It was getting me frustrated - I couldn't get a signal for my wireless - so I gave up. I'll try again this afternoon when I reach Texarkana.

I went out to harness the mules to get ready to go & they both wanted to give me a hard time. Jack did not want the bridle on at all. I needed to use the twitch to convince him to accept the bridle. While I was putting the harness on Mack, he kicked me. Not hard, but hard enough to let me know that he was about done with this. I think he's getting fed up & wants to go home. Let me tell you what - my leg hurts! We were finally ready to go about 7:40AM.

We encountered a long steady slope of about 2 ½ miles. They are both realizing that they need to work together. I think maybe that Jack may be having some words with Mack at night, because his attitude is changing.

Off to the side of the road were some old tractors that I couldn't pass up, so I stopped for a few minutes & took some pictures.





When we arrived at Dee & Melissa's place this afternoon on the east side of Texarkana, Frank Waggnner pulled in just ahead of me. I'm glad that he did, because I wasn't quite sure if I was in the right place or not. I sure do appreciate their hospitality & allowing me to stay the night & tomorrow. It was a very short day today. We drove about 12 miles. I got the mules settled in & then Frank & I discussed what I needed to get done.

So off we went to the bank & the hardware store. I bought a ball valve to hopefully fix my brake problem. While we were out, we stopped at Bill Wagner's place & he gave me six bales of hay. Bill and two other wagon teamsters drove to Tucson several years ago - we exchanged stories for a while & he gave me some tips about crossing Texas & New Mexico.

Marilyn Follis came by this afternoon and brought me some cold drinks.

Tomorrow the farrier will be by to check on Jack & probably shoe Mack. Frank is working on getting me some more sets of shoes.

Rustie Wagner & Bobbie Deesuydan came by * we talked a bit about my journey west.

I'll be resting all day tomorrow & expect to pull out Wednesday morning. I should be in Wichita Falls by the 13th of May. I believe that is the halfway mark on my way to Phoenix.