

## John's Journey - Day 36

May 6, 2009

Windom, TX - Resting today

I got up during the night & untangled Jack from the wagon. The mules will definitely keep this trip interesting and not let me get complacent. If they get bored, they find something to get in to. So there's Jack in the middle of the night tangled up patiently waiting on me to help him.

I went back to bed & slept really well until about 5:00AM when another bad storm blew in. It rained really hard mixed with hail. The winds were incredibly strong. The sidewalls on the wagon came loose and water leaked into the wagon. My mattress and sleeping bag got wet both got wet and so did I. The only one who remained somewhat dry was Brit. She really hates these storms. This was the worst storm yet on this trip.

Marilyn called me about 7:00 to check on me & tell me that there was more bad weather coming in today. So I'm going to give the mules another day off. Marilyn wanted to know if I had a place inside for the mules. I told her no, but that they would be okay. I told her that at home I have a barn that they could go in and out of and even when the weather turns bad, but they choose to stay outside. I don't know how she got through to me on the phone because the signal here is really weak, but I was glad to talk with her.

Joe & Lynn Merworth came by & chatted a while. They brought me some sausage & a dozen eggs. I told them sorry, but I had no way to keep them from spoiling. I thanked them both for their thoughtfulness, and they understood. So they took me out and bought me lunch. While we were out, we went by the hardware store & got a bolt for my stiff tongue. His wife Lynn is doing my laundry. She'll bring it to me tomorrow. I really do appreciate Joe & Lynn's kindness to me.



When I got back to camp, Ronald Wyatt, my friend from Henry, TN was there. We talked a while and he told me he was heading for Oklahoma.



I heard today that Channel 12 News aired the interview that I had with them yesterday. I did not get to see it, but I hear it was pretty well done.

It cleared up toward afternoon & turned out to be a fairly nice day and yet Brit did not want to get out of the wagon. I'm not sure what is wrong with her. After a bit, I decided that I needed to force her out of the wagon. I knew that she had to go & get a drink. She stayed by my side and did not go far away at all. I think that the storms have really scared her.

Also Joe came by & gave me two small buckets to hang on the side of the wagon to put feed in. The mules were knocking over the rubber pans and wasting a lot of grain, so the buckets should solve that problem. He also told me about a fellow in Sherman that has a forge so I'll need to look him up when I get there.



I got the mules staked out with a two by two. I'm sure that will hold them unless the sprinkler system comes on and it spooks them. There's plenty of grass for them to eat here so they should be happy. I put up the electric fence about 15 feet away surrounding the wagon tongue so they would not get tangled up there. The mules are staying about two feet away from it, because they think it is hot.

The mules are doing really well. They both walked up to me today. That's the first time they have done that so they are beginning to trust me. You may think that is a strange comment. Although I have owned this pair of mules for over three years now, this is the most time we have ever spent together. We have been constant companions for 36 straight days now. This relationship is growing stronger each & every day.

Tomorrow I'm going to drive to Ector, TX.