

## John's Journey - Day 4

April 4, 2009

Big Oak Tree State Park to Matthews, MO

Jackie Parker came by & brought me a jar of Apple Butter and a 3" lag bolt that I thought I could use to fix my brake pedal. After looking at it closer, I realized that where it needed to be there was a section of 2" x 2" tubing in the way. So my quick-fix idea would not work. I'll have to find somewhere down the road a piece to fix it right.

We said our good-byes & the team & I pulled out at 7:50 AM.

The terrain in Missouri is really flat. I can see for miles in all directions. It's really a pretty day.

Down on Highway 80 just west of East Prairie, MO everything was going really well until the wind started. It blew and caught the side flaps of the wagon and they came loose hitting the sides of the wagon. This startled the mules & they went a little crazy. They began to run and I reacted & hit the brakes a little too hard. The braking mechanism broke completely loose from the floor of the wagon. After what seemed an eternity (minutes) I got the mules under control but not before they crossed the center line & several cars slowed to avoid us - Thank-you.

A short distance down the road, some fellows (Larry Gorgan, Jamie Gorgan & Darren Curtis) were putting up a fence. I asked them if they had a 90 degree drill that I could use for a few minutes.

We drilled right through the 2" tubing. With their help I got the brake pedal fixed right. By this time it was getting late. I asked Larry & Jamie if I could spend the night there & they said it was okay. & I decided to spend the night there in Matthews, MO.

I met a fellow today from Glendale, AZ. His name was Rob Dawson - quite a coincidence - what a small world. We spoke for a few minutes & he wished me Safe travel. I hope to see him in late June - early July time-frame in Phoenix.

After taking care of the mules & getting them settled, I found that Britt had helped herself to my left-over Pecan Pie. I was glad that I had already eaten most of it. Sorry Carol, but she liked it too.

Thanks Larry for the bale of hay - I sure do appreciate this & the help you gave me today to fix my brake. Thanks again for all you have done in my time of need - I sure do Thank-You.