

John's Journey - Day 68

June 7, 2009

9 Miles East of Hwy 54 to 13 miles East of Willard

Drove 26 miles today

I woke up early this morning and fed the mules. I wanted to get an early start knowing it was going to be another hard day on the mules. We pulled out about 6:20. The wind continues to blow, not too hard right now, but I'm sure that will change.



I drove on into Encino and guess what - There were no gas stations around. That's usually where I fill my water barrels. I saw quite a few cattle today and it just makes me wonder where they are getting their water. The way the wind blows around here I'm sure

there are windmills pumping water from deep in the ground. I just can't see them from the road.

I find all kinds of things along the road and today was no exception. I found a three pound hammer so I picked it up. I'm not sure what for yet, but I might need it sometime before I get to Phoenix.

On top of the hill there was a tall cell phone tower. I was told that it is at about 6100 feet above sea level. I wasn't that far from it last night, so I don't understand why I didn't have a signal on my phone. I guess Verizon didn't pay rent on that particular tower, because no one could hear me last night. (LOL)



These roads out here just stretch out forever. I can see for miles on end and the scenery has not changed much at all. New Mexico has sure been a lonely state. There's not much traffic, but the train traffic is pretty regular.



Tom Wetter stopped a few minutes ago and said that I could fill up my water barrels at his place. I thanked him and told him it would be about an hour or so until I got there.

I filled the water barrels filled up at Tom's place. He is a teamster. He helped me with some adjustments on Mack's harness. He seemed to walk a bit better afterwards.

Several people came by and talked and took some pictures.

I am parked beside the road again tonight. I'm about 13 miles East of Willard.

I hope to get a hot meal tomorrow. Canned chicken breasts, Vienna Sausage, and Tuna are great but after a while they get old and something hot is a requirement.

I drove 26 miles. Today was rather cool. All day I wore a light jacket. The wind is still blowing. Tom is going to see about getting me some hay tomorrow. I am down to my last bale. I don't like cutting it that close.

Ron Fenstermacher with BNSS Railroad brought me several bottles of water today. I sure do thank everyone for what they do for me.

Tomorrow I'll be heading toward Mountainair. I think we are finally about on top of the hill. If the elevation was correct at the tower we will only be climbing about 400 feet yet over 25 or so miles to get to Mountainair, elevation 6519 feet.