



May 1, 1989

LETTER FROM THE ROAD

Hello and welcome to Ride Across America. Every two weeks, barring flat tires, thrown shoes, or tornado warnings, you will be receiving our LETTER FROM THE ROAD letting you know where we are, what's been happening and what's up on our horizons. For those of you who are meeting us for the first time, Ride Across America (RAA) is a one horse/one rider attempt to cross the United States from Los Angeles to New York. Besides reaching New York sometime five months hence, the trip's goal is to increase awareness about the destruction of the planet's rain forests and to raise funds for the Rainforest Action Network (RAN), a San Francisco based non-profit conservation organization.

The event founder, trip leader, and rider is Lucian Spataro, an engineer and business consultant from Tucson, Arizona. For months now, Lucian has been chalking up miles on a team of Arabians, potential candidates for the trip, from the famed Al Marah Ranch in Tucson, conditioning and preparing the horses for the many kinds of obstacles that horse and rider may encounter on their way across America. The final selection has now been made and AM Sweet William, an 8 year old Arabian gelding, otherwise known as "Willy", will be Lucian's teammate for the ride. Between juggling work and hours in the saddle, Lucian has also wrestled with the many logistical details necessary for successful completion of the event.

The support crew for Lucian and Willy is Sheryl Studley, a California based equine attorney and journalist, assisted by her infamous little black dog, Patches. An experienced endurance rider and crew person, Sheryl has also served as counsel to the American Endurance Ride Conference for the last several years. She will be assisting Lucian with last minute preparations of horse, rider, truck and trailer. Throughout the trip, Sheryl will be in close contact with Dr. Richard Hancock of Scottsdale, Arizona who will serve as the Ride Veterinarian. Sheryl and Lucian will also be working with Dr. Ed Squires at Colorado State University tracking such data as horse weight, pulse, respiration and electrolyte balance.

1989
BOARD OF
DIRECTORS
Leslie Barclay
Ted Danson
Richard Hancock DVM
Bob Harvey
Randall Hayes
Mrs. Wm. Randolph Hearst
Congressman Jim Kolbe
Roberta Ladd
Patty Phelan
Jane Ridder
Lucian Spataro
Ed Squires
Bazy Tankarsley
Angie Theriot
David Trexler
Mark Westbart

(602)
577
0175

5620
NORTH
KOLB

RIDE
across
AMERICA

SUITE
173

TUCSON
ARIZONA
85715

con't

Francesca Vietor, the Special Events Coordinator at RAN will be accompanying the trip providing advance PR and Media support. Generally speaking, she will be traveling a day or two ahead of Lucian, Willy and Sheryl educating the press about the event and the importance of halting the destruction of the rain forests. Your hospitality in welcoming her to your town will be greatly appreciated.

Right now, it's final countdown in Tucson. We will be leaving on May 10 for a truck and trailer drive to Huntington Central Park Equestrian Center located on 18381 Goldenwest St. in Huntington Beach, California where we will be staying until our kick-off May 19. You're welcome to stop by and see us if you're in the area, but just to be on the safe side, give Mary a call at the Equestrian Center office at (714) 848-6565 before coming.

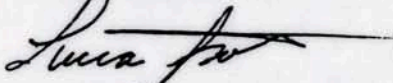
On May 18, we will be having our kick-off party at the Huntington Equestrian Center. Photoshoot (at the beach) will be scheduled for 2:30, press conference 3:30-5:30, and reception and cocktail party will be 5:30-7:30. Again, please give Mary a call for directions or further information. On May 20, at 7:00 p.m., there will be a joint fundraiser BBQ for RAA/RAN and the Greater Lake Mathews Rural Trails Association at the Reinhold Arabian Ranch at 17650 Palm Road in Riverside, Calif. For further information about the BBQ at Reinhold Ranch, please call Sandra Richardson at (714) 781-4894. If you would like to ride along with Lucian and Willy between Huntington Beach and Riverside (Lake Mathews) call Allen Coward (714) 780-3743. On June 4, we will be in Flagstaff, Arizona. For information about festivities there contact either RAN at (415) 398-4404 or Sharon Winnicki at Al Marah at (602) 774-1000.

There are a number of ways in which you can support Ride Across America. If you call the RAN phone # listed above, they will provide you with our route, if you would like to provide camping or horse housing for us, facilitate an educational event, or just plain welcome us to town. Pledges can be made to RAA/RAN, 301 Broadway, Suite A, San Francisco, CA 94133, either as a donation or a pledge per mile. All donations are tax deductible. To make life easy for our supporters, we will soon have a 900 number. By simply calling this number, you will make a \$1.00 pledge. You will also be able to get information about our event and how you can help, order a T-shirt or video, become a part of RAN, or make an additional pledge or pledge per mile.

con't

So saddle up and join us. Conservative estimates say man has already destroyed over 50 percent of the original, natural rainforests. In fact, tropical rainforests are being destroyed faster than any other natural community. At present rates, our tropical rainforests will be totally destroyed or severely degraded by the middle of the next century. Help us save the Rainforests now!

Lucian



Sheryl



Francesca

Willy

Patches