



May 17, 1989  
LETTER FROM THE ROAD #2

Hello everyone. Well we finally made it out of Tucson about 7:30 pm Thursday, May 11. Willy seemed to like his big box stall and rode well all night. We pulled over about 1:30 am in Quartzite, AZ, about 20 miles from the California border to catch some sleep, then back on the road at 5:30. The weather had cooled substantially from the record breaking heat wave in Tucson, but we still thought night trailering would be better for Willy. We were cruising along in the serene desert dawn when suddenly "thwop" -- we looked over in time to see a piece of rubber flying by the driver's window. Fortunately, we were 100 yards from the exit ramp into scenic downtown Desert Center. When we pulled over we discovered that the air valve had blown out on one of our trailer tires, shredding the tire. The rig never wiggled or jarred a bit. We were very pleased to discover how stable it was in spite of the blowout. Gazing at the rig, the young tire repairman asked, "Would you like me to patch it?"...Hard to figure out exactly the right response. Failing miserably to suppress gales of laughter, we assured him that no, we didn't think the tire could be patched!

Half an hour later, we were back on the road for LA arriving at the Huntington Central Park Equestrian Center at 12:30pm. We are camped on a hill overlooking the whole Center which includes two full jumping arenas, a dressage arena, an eventing course, a polo arena, and miles of trails. We look out our kitchen window at Willy munching hay in his stall as he in turn watches the local action which includes two Al Marah mares with newborn foals at side.

Willy has become quite the character and is a great favorite here. Last night we turned him out in an arena with some trail obstacles in it. After checking out the arena, he opened the trail gate, walked through, up and over the bridge, then stopped and stood with all four feet in the water obstacle box -- much to the great amusement of the resident trainers who were working in adjoining rings.

Since Saturday, May 13, we have been on our trip regimen -- up at 4:00am, breakfast, horse checked, trotted out, groomed, and tacked up ready to go by 5:00 am. Lucian and Willy have been working hard honing their teamwork on the local roads and conditioning on the hills here at the Center. Afternoons have been filled with last minute details...fuses...where are the

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fuses... and checking and doublechecking our route out of here for the next week. Driving out of San Bernadino near Prado Dam we saw Ride Across America posters -- what a thrill!

Willy has adjusted well to the routine and is eating and drinking like a champ. The weather here has been cool -- almost a 50° temperature differential from the 100 plus weather we had our last week in Tucson so we have had an eagle eye on Willy -- but no signs of any problems. Now we are eager to kick off and get on the road. Thursday, May 18 will be our kickoff party, then Friday we hit the road -- early... Saturday, we are looking forward to our BBQ at the Rheinhold Arabian Ranch in Riverside, home of the stallion Gokart. So Prado Dam here we come.

See you all along the trail.

Lucian

Sheryl

Francesca

Willy

Patches

*[Handwritten signatures and drawings: a large signature, a signature with a flourish, a horseshoe, and three small circles]*

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