



LETTER FROM THE ROAD #5

September 21, 1989

We are now in Ohio, with about 450 miles to saltwater. We plan to arrive about the 14th of October. It is a grueling part of the trek but we are all doing fine and are a bit pre-occupied with the finish.

We made a decision back in Oklahoma to run the event in two stages. Stage One would be a single rider and single horse going a distance of 1,450 miles in 69 days and an average of about 21 miles a day. At that point we would switch to Stage Two and finish the event with two horses. This would allow us to maintain our pace and fulfill our fundraising and speaking commitments on the rainforest issue. In looking back it was a very difficult decision to make but we feel it was the right one.

We are now riding Sea Ruler and March Along. Sweet William is back in Tucson getting a much deserved rest. Our riding schedule goes something like this: two days a week we go 40 miles, four days a week we go 29 miles and one day a week we go 16 miles. We are averaging about 210 miles every seven days. We average about 4 miles per hour. Not warp speed.

We had a good fundraiser in St. Louis thanks to Jim Volz's hard work. Thank you also to the Missouri Arabian Horse Association and their generous contribution. The Ozarks were beautiful. We had a good fundraiser in Athens, Ohio with over 350 college students at a benefit concert with local bands. My father worked hard putting this event together. We then trailored up to a parade for the rainforest in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and had over 100 people participate. The governor of Harrisburg proclaimed the week as rainforest week as did the mayor of Athens. Char Magaro was the driving force behind the Harrisburg event and I want to thank her for the effort and the party afterward. March Along sure did a number on Char's backyard.

We have had tremendous press coverage along the way with about five pieces on T.V. and fifteen news articles just since Oklahoma. CNN also picked up our event in Indiana and did a nationwide special on the rainforest and the Ride. They featured us with an ultralight pilot flying over Queensland to raise money for the rainforest cause.

It's great to be back in Southern Ohio. It is now fall and the trees are beginning to change color. We began in spring and have gone through summer and are now into fall. We just hit Hurricane Hugo and will be riding through torrential rain for the next few days.

It amazes me that we are close to the finish. It has been a very long, difficult but deeply rewarding five months. This will be the last letter you receive from the road. However, you will hear from us at the end of the event. We are assembling a booklet of our press coverage along the route with a map and pictures of the start and finish and various areas in between. We will finish the Ride in Virginia or Maryland just south or east of Washington, D.C. We all say hi.

Lucian

Lucian signing for Sea Ruler, March Along, Brad, Joyce, Bea, Bob and Francesca

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