

TRAILS 4 TRANSPLANTS 2014

Journal -

May 31

WITH MONTHS OF PLANNING AND PREPARATION, THE 2014 TRAILS TRANSPLANTS COMMENCED WITH A 5:00 PM CELEBRATION AT FORT LINCOLN STATE PARK AT MANDAN, NORTH DAKOTA. ROGER HUIE GAVE A WELCOME, ASHLEY PETERSON AND DAVE NANSON GAVE THEIR PERSONAL STORIES RELATING TO BELGAN TRAILS PLANTS FOR THEMSELVES AND FAMILY MEMBERS. THEIR WORDS AND STORIES WERE TOUCHING, AND SET THE TONE OF WHY WE ARE EMBARKING ON THIS 400 MILE AWARENESS AND FUNDRAISING TRIATHLON. GUS HIGHERER OF THE LAKOTA NATION PROVIDED DETAILS OF THE SIOUX INVOLVEMENT AND STRATEGY REGARDING TO CUSTER RIDGE IN 1876. MEMBERS OF THE NHA NATION PRESENTED COLORS AND NATIVE SONGS AND PRAYERS. TISON MORSETTE OF THE NHA NATION PROVIDED MANY DETAILS REGARDING THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE ARIKARA SCOUTS THAT ACCOMPANIED

THE EXPEDITION AND STRESSED THEIR STATUS AS VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES. APPROXIMATELY 75 PEOPLE WERE IN ATTENDANCE, AND HORSES, TRAILERS AND SUPPLY VEHICLES SPECIALLY THE MAJOR TRAILER FROM WERE THERE. THE MORNING AND RIDE COMMENCED. THE TRAILER WAS JOVIAL YET SINCERE AS MANY OF THE RIDERS FROM THE 2013 TRANS-AMERICAN RIDE REUNITED AND SHARED MEMORIES FROM THE PAST AND EXPECTATIONS OF THE CURRENT YEAR. NEW TRAILERS WERE WELCOMED AND FELLOWSHIP FOLLOWED INTO THE LATE AFTERNOON.

TCOA.

A JUNE 1

A WELCOME TEAM DURING THE EARLY MORNING HOURS FACILITATED THE FEELINGS, AND THE SURE FEELT SENT WITH FEELINGS AND MORNING AIR. BY 7:00 AM, THE TRAILER HAD DEPARTED, AND THE MORNING TRIP WAS DISAPPOINTINGLY HEAVY. EVEN.

THE MORNING ADJUTANT SERVICE WAS STAFFED WITH 75 PERSONS ATTENDING. THE TRAILER FROM DAVIS COUNTY WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR, WITH BOTH GROUPS IN ATTENDANCE AND SEVERAL BEFITTING THE OCCASION. THE BRIGHT SUN LIFTED THE SPIRITS OF ALL AND THE MESSAGE OF THE MIGHTY REDEEMER WAS ABSORBED BY ALL.

THE SERVICE WAS FOLLOWED BY A NATIVE AMERICAN PRAYER AND SONGS WITH THREE CHIEFS DRESSED IN HORSES AND ANCESTRAL GARBS. TRAILERS WERE BLESSED AND ~~WAS~~ SMUGGED AND 37 RIDERS TOOK OUT TO THE TOWN OF CARLETON'S ~~FRONT~~ FRANKLY AT 9:00 AM.

THE DAY WAS A GOOD DAY FOR RIDING, A BIT ONE THE WESTERN SIDE AS TEMPERATURES CLIMBED INTO THE EIGHTYS. THERE WERE NO MISSTEPS ALONG

THE WAY, AND WE REACHED
OUR DESTINATION (TRUCK STOP
AT I-94 WEST OF MANNAN IN THE
EARLY AFTERNOON. TEMPORARILY
CONTROLS WERE QUICKLY ERECTED
AND NURSES FED AND WATERED.
THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE
GIFT OF LIFE HOUSE TOOK WITH US,
(LEAH, RITA, AND STEVE), AND THEY
OFTEN EXPRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION
OF THE TIME AND EFFORT PUT FORTH IN
ORGANIZING THE TOURNEY.

I HAD A GREAT GREAT MEAL
WITH THE FAMILY COBY, EM, TY, AND
GRACIE.

AS I TURNED IN, I REFLECTED
ON THE DEDICATION OF EDEN AND
SEVEN RIDER THAT PUT FORTH
THEIR TIME AND DOLLARS TO MAKE
THE EVENT HAPPEN. I AM CONFIDENT
THAT AQUARIUS AND DONOR REGISTRATION
WILL RAISE, FULFILLING OUR PRIMAERY
PURPOSE. I ALSO ASKED FOR
DURING GOVANCE FOR ~~BOTH~~ OUR
ENTREAVOR.

TRDN

JUNE 2

WE LEFT THE TRUCKSTOP AT 5:00
AM, THIS DAY WITH 35 RIDERS.
BY 9:30, A LIGHT DRIZZLE CAUSED
ALL TO DON RAINCOATS AS WE
PROCESSED WESTWARD. THE NURSES
THAUGHTFULLY ENTERED THE COOLER
TEMPERATURE, KEEPING OUR DESTINATION
OF NEW SEAN WELL AHEAD OF SEVERAL
THE RODEO GROUNDS AT THE NORTH END
OF TOWN HAD ~~BEEN~~ TENS IN PLACE,
MAKING OUR EVENING TASKS MUCH
EASIER.

THE BACK OF THE DIZEL SPENT
PART OF THE EVENING AT THE "UNDER" BAR
AND WERE ENTERTAINED BY AN EXCEPTIONAL
MUSICIAN NAMED AL. ~~AT~~ THE HIGH
SLIPPED AWAY QUICKLY, GIVING US
PRECIOUS LITTLE TIME FOR REST.

ACTION I COULD THANKS FOR
THE DAY AND MY OPPORTUNITY TO
BE PART OF THIS ENDEAVOR, LOOKING
FORWARD TO THE UPCOMING DAYS.

June 3

a beautiful morning and we met Angie Mickelson and her great endurance horse. She talked of receiving a heart transplant about 14 years ago. Her story was so inspiring.

Julie's morning prayer was done so well and as she prayed for us, the horses, & the sick I thought of our friend Keith Anderson waiting for a lung transplant.

We seem to ride light hearted and the miles flow by. The hills are green and from the tops we can see for miles. Every picture is great in this scenery and we even had pictures by the giant cow at New Salem as we left camp at 8 am.

We arrived at Glen Ullin about 1:30 p.m. and settled into the weigh station camp. I look forward to our next leg of 31 miles with these great people and I'm sure great riders, riding for this great cause.

Happy Trails
Doug Vesey
Shirley Casey

June 4, 2014

Rober asked that I journal day 4 of our journey to Garryowen, MT. We got an early start as today was a 31 mile ride. So by 7:00 AM we departed Glen Ullin on "OLD Hwy 10". The weather was perfect for both horses & riders. There was a nice breeze and clouds to cover the sun. Seventeen of us rode through Hebron & Richardson arriving at our destination eight hours later.

The fair-grounds at Taylor, NO ARE very nice and we appreciate ~~the~~ having running water! i

Along our trail today, we passed by Caster's 6th & 7th Camp. There is a lot to take in, U.S. History and beautiful scenery! Tonight there is a band called "the Gasson Brothers" entertaining. Can't wait!

• Couple random thoughts:

• I miss seeing Sissy & Jake on the trail. Last year, they took good care of us with lunch & friendly conversation. (Praying for you both)

• So sorry I won't be on Friday's ride but I will be back on Saturday to ride the rest of the trail.

• THANKS to Everyone that has been part of this event, it is truly a great cause!

Gue Helm

June 5th

The morning air smelled sweetly of fresh grass and blossoming trees and the sun was shining brightly on the fresh dew, giving the impression of millions of sparkling diamonds as the camp began to come to life. Seventeen riders were preparing for today's journey along Custer's trail. The lush green grass against the butter in the ~~sky~~ horizon make a spectacular sight as we travel. Joe, Rita, Ben, Sky, Doug and I Tapilly ate up the miles. Doug who born with eyes on this day was given best wishes by many. As we neared the city of Dickinson we begin to notice the rapid expansion of the city due to the Bakken oil fields. The oil industry had increased many local towns, but enhanced local business to expand, as with any rapid expansion many problems occur one being a heavier traffic load. The increased traffic made us use extra caution as we entered the city. All arrived safely at the stockroom exchange a livestock facility we are using as a camp for the night.

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Sue Helen, Sharon Halstrom, Tanya? Departed in the afternoon for home. Sue flew on returning Friday night. It is an extreme pleasure to arrive at a destination with holding pens and water. Along with the departure of the three New-Holden girls was the arrival of two of Joe's daughters who rode with us previously. Both are extremely good riders. The rest of the afternoon was filled with minor repairs, rest and relaxation, washing clothes and restocking depleted kitchen supplies. Tom purchased a rabbit from John Reelbird after using it on our ride today for his horse Blue. A short shower sent many people dreaming for cover around 5 but it was only a short time later the sun was shining again. I also forgot to mention that last night the fire chief of the town Ellen Wilson graciously donated \$500.00 for trails for Transplants. Ashley Julie Siore went over to there meeting and explained the ~~details~~ reason we are doing this ride. A noon lunch was served by Cindy for many of the hungry riders off the trail. Chips and salsa were provided by Sharon, Burns and Brent. By 5:00, hamburgers and hot dogs by Cindy.

Contd next page

Goni and Lyle Swanson stopped to
visit on the way to a Wyoming horse sale.
You is a wonderful person and rider who
misses riding with us on their leg
of the journey.

The "Elks" was the favorite
eating place.

All the secrets I class
my page. Looking forward to
another wonderful day.

Cuppy + Hender

Day 4 Friday June 6

5: AM a short lived beautiful sun
rise greeted us. Everyone is hunting
to ^{see} ~~find~~ ^{find} today's red we want to be
out of Dickerson to beat the oil traffic.
6:00 a morning prayer by Leo and
they were heading west 20 miles to
Buffield, ND.

It was a cool day with light
occasional showers. The temperature was
in the forties all day no sun lots
of clouds and overcast. A great place
to stay for the horses, lots of grass.

All riders made great time and
were in early today no major
misses. Leo said he bit the
dust when he ~~was~~ jumped sideways
and left him laying in the grass.
This evening it is still cloudy
but it looks to be clearing in the
west. Meadow larks are singing
and pleasant Kestrels are circling.
It was a great day overall with
good companions and fellowship. God
Bless us this day.
God's Word

June 7th, Day 7 of T4T. We left
Bellevue ND at 6am and did a 17 mile
ride to Madora, ND. WOW! Beautiful!
It was exciting to ride on different
terrain and viewing such gorgeous
scenery. Not to mention the Antelope
running acrossed the buttes and down in
the valley. Along with the prairie dogs
popping up from their holes along the way,
there was 25 meters along with 3 young
children taking turns riding. We are
staying at Sully Creek Campsite which
is an equestrian trail. It was nice to
see Julie, a lady I met last year
on the trail. She was with her
husband John and a good friend. It
was fun riding with her a visiting
again.

When T4T was birthed, I really
saw it as a wonderful opportunity
to ride horse, visit with people,
and enjoy God's beautiful creation.
But all that changed last year when
I heard Ashley's & Bob's story, Rogers
son in law (Dave's) story, the guy
that received A heart, along with
a few more! T4T had a much

deeper meaning to me! These stories
impacted my life! Today I ride
for T4T not just for the pleasure
but because I want to make
a difference in someone's life.
It feels good to know this
community of (T4T) is doing
something about such a great
cause. I believe there are times
in our life that the Lord asked
us to do certain things. I believe
T4T is one of those things. To
It is a humbling experience. To
know I am a part of a group
that is doing the right thing
at the right time, knowing
that I am in the right place.

God blesses us in order that
we can bless others!

Julie Kilgore

June 8th, 2014

We are at the Sully Creek Campsite and we are leaving this morning to reach the campsite is hidden amongst the bushes and colorful sugar hills of the Badlands. A gorgeous sunrise amongst the hills! I took a walk this morning around 5am before we took off on the ride at 7am. I love the peacefulness. It's quiet and here - about see that very often in the badlands. I love to hear the horses in their pen. I love to grasp the spotlight with my hand and hear it to my heart. As if comforts me and as a sign from God that his gifts to handle every thing today. A very spiritual morning today for me and returning again at Blackfoot Creek and 14 yrs ago coming up in the next few days. This ride again is a healing ride for me being with friends, family that has come to join the ride and the death of my mom!

We had an incident today while riders were crossing a river. One tough cowboy fell in with his horse. I call him tough because he rode his horse with his wet clothes and boots on the rest of

the day. Even though his wife sent some dry clothes along with me on the ranger to give to her. Despite that the riders and his horse were OK. I happened to be using my camera and captured part of it on "coming in" with my camera to see if the riders was OK. It was a gorgeous afternoon on the 20 mile hike to beach. We stopped along the way for a church service, praying to give thanks to our Lord and sing "Amazing Grace". It was beautiful. Later in the evening we had cowboy poetry and a campfire. Perfect ending to a beautiful day. I want to thank all the riders and those others who have helped with moving trailers, buying or donating food + snacks, chairs, and bringing me coffee! I love doing this. I love helping others on my ranger (canon-horn) as I call it. I go most places the riders go to totally enjoy taking pictures for them. I make sure the group has snacks for their breaks, water, they give me their cards + hats, if needed, and I carry any sort of small items they may need on the trail! to keep going! My focus is on them and helping others and it gives me purpose. Love all of them + his awesome ride!

Daily Journal - Dawn Mon

June 09, 2014

We rode out @ 6:00 am from Beach, ND. I rode 3 horses today to have them share the load of 30 miles. Rode Napoleon first, with took horse ahead 10 miles and I switched to Comodore, made my last switch to Rojo @ 20 miles. We arrived at the Fallon Wiberax County fair at 7:00. We are from New Town, ND, I am Hidateh, my wife Nita is Navajo. Our daughter Amber, Shanna, and Jenny have been with us off and on and the youngest granddaughter "Kalyure". The other two grand daughters Toni and Tamberly have been with us most of the time except for 2 days they went home for horse races their aunts were in. Others in our group are friends and relatives from Gary Over, Montana Henry and John Redbird and Ben and Sky Redbird from New Town, ND. This is my second year riding for the Trails for Transplants. My participation helps me fulfill my role as a "Sitting Eagle". My sitting eagle philosophy is to work with all tribes and others for

common good for all. We acknowledge and thank the Shree Affiliated Tribes Business Council and others for their support and resources that have made this exhibition a reality. I'm diabetic but my overall health is good but there are many others back home that are in advanced stages of diabetes so anything that we can do to raise awareness is a good thing. We have been received well and have made many ^{new} acquaintances as well as renewing old acquaintances. I am especially thankful for knowing two wonderful people; Doug & Shirley Kasey. It's an honor to ride with Doug "Cowboy Doug" who knows lots, always sharing his wisdom and always lending a helping hand to all who need it. We look forward to the rest of the ride, we are currently at our halfway point today out but have travelled ~~less~~ than 50% on miles. The miles we travel will increase daily as we go through Montana, also the terrain will get rougher. I am thankful for my wife and family for all their help, I know I could not make it on my own. So many others helping the way, snacks, water, etc. Thank you. Leo + Nita Cummins

June 10 2014 Ralph's Ranch to Baker

At first light people were stringing
get horse chutes done so they
can be cleaned up for the day
ride. Because our camp for the
night was in a pasture we had
early morning guests of 40 riders
that were so curious and friendly
we gathered for a picture for
Jake and Sally with everyone
holding a 35 in mug. Our thoughts
and prayers are with them. A
beautiful crisp morning with
a thin cloud in the West. Linda
and I were riding the stacks today
and their so competitive always
gotta be just another step in front
! A couple miles into the ride
Sienna and Ashley came up on us
and Sienna had a sore hand from
the rope she was carrying because
she was carrying another rope. I
said I'd pony him for her. Well
Bebe Jean didn't want any part of
that. Well that's his job leaving
from here and I just made him

4 riders 22 miles
do it anyway. I quietly saw that
Brakes was "walking" for Sienna instead
of doing his jiggling. So I asked
her to stay with the other riders
and I was going to go ahead
outta site. Great decision. Sienna
got to enjoy her ride without tamping
a horse. Brakes remembered he did
know how to walk after all and
my horse realized he was "working"
again and went into tony usa noble
So my ride went great too.
After just arriving at the fair grounds
I started to sprintle. I took a nap
when we went to the local Pub and
when we were going to the museum
Bill, Linda and I went to get something
to eat and were joined by Roger and
Sienna. Good humor and kidding going
on later Jim, Ashley and Lady joined
us. It was great to hear Lady and
Bill going back and forth about the
mural story. Bill and I went to
dave and Ohhh — An Awesome
bubble Rainbow! Great end to my
evening. Bless everyone on this trail
Charlene Few

Few abstract as they rode into Baker
a few of whom thought they had met
these people.

The miles behind had been lots of fun
By 7:00, when ride had just begun.

- T&S

June 11 - 2114 BAKER TO REBER RANCH
DAY 11 BIG DAY GOT A LATE
START BECAUSE OF RAIN.

SO FAR SO GOOD NO PROBLEMS

23 OF US HAVE BEEN ON THE TRIP
THE WHOLE DISTANCE SO FAR. BECAUSE
COUNTRY FROM MEDORA TO BAKER
A LOT OF GREAT PEOPLE IVE

REALLY HAVE LEARNED ABOUT
THE NATIVE CULTURE FROM
HENRY REAR BIRD HE'S BEEN
AROUND THE USA AND BACK
MANY TIMES. ALSO A VERY

GOOD JOKESTER. WE'RE COMING
BACK TO BAKER BECAUSE OF
THE FACILITIES. WE ARE ALL
WORKING TOGETHER AS A TEAM
BUT ITS THE WORK OF ASHLEY
SODIE AND ROGER WHO REALLY
MAKE IT GO. NOTICE ROGER I

PART THE LADIES FIRST

WE ALL MISS JAKE AND SALLY
THEY BROUGHT A LOT OF JOY AND
HAPPINESS EVERY DAY & WISH THEM
ALL BEST AND GOOD HEALTH AS WE
ARE THINKING ABOUT THEM. BUT THE
TRIP IS STILL ABOUT THE TRAIL
FOR TRANSPLANTS. IVE BEEN TO
THE TRANSPLANTS HOUSE AND YOU
REALLY WHAT GINGER RITA AND
STEVE DO. TOTAL AMAZING HOW THEY
DO TO ~~THE~~ PATIENTS. GREAT JOB.

BACK TO WORK OR FELL GET FIRED

JHS Jim Johnston

I WAS TOLD BY SODIE

TO WRITE THE DAYS ACTIVITIES
WELL THE TRIP GOT OFF TO A ROUGH
START AS IT RAINED FOR ABOUT 3
HOURS. SUN IS BEAUTIFUL

RIGHT NOW WE HAVE ABOUT 4
MILES TO THE RANCH. WE'LL STAY
BACK AT BAKER TONIGHT BECAUSE
WE REALLY DON'T KNOW HOW SPACE

WE HAVE AT RANCH TILL WE GET
THERE. AS YOU SEE I'M NOT MUCH
OF A WRITER. SO I FILLED THE
SPACE UP TO MAKE SODIE HAPPY

T&S

June 12, 2014 Reign Ranch to Pardon River

The day started @ 3:30 am because mom & I stayed back @ Baker along with Rogh, Seira & Jim. We loaded up around 4:30p headed out from the fair grounds by 5am. Rogh told us we were to meet @ the fairgrounds @ 4:30, however he meant leave @ 4:30! So we hurried, got my trailer hooked, threw the gelding in & got on the road. It was a foggy morning which slowed us up even more. As we drove down to pardon River to set up

before everyone else, we were privileged to get see the beauty of our beautiful valley. You would drive in a foggy valley, climb a hill, then catch a glimpse of sheer perfection created by our Maker. Breathtaking! I could see Rogh & Jim driving ahead of us & slowing down to avoid smothering on onlookers on the side of the road. The pardon River Bridge greeted us as we pulled into our staging area for the day. The drive was just what I needed this morning. June 12th was the day after Blake's death anniversary. June 11, 2000 was a day that changed our lives forever. But we would see only lives changed. June 12, 2000 - fourteen years ago the very day - a new life began for a man in Iowa & his family when they received the news of a

life saving gift - a heart transplant. Not only did Blake's gift save the man's life, but 3 others as well this very day! Praise the Lord as he proves AGAIN to us he rules over the grave!

The morning drive also had me thinking about THT & what the future holds for it. My dream continues to soar even bigger as I began my vision for 2015 - more turn contacts, targeting people on a national level. Go Big or go home, right?

Well, we got everything set up & we headed back to the Reign Ranch. Rogh told me the day before he interviewed with the Milk City Press. I told him he send me a link or get me a paper when it comes so I can get it posted on the website. Well, he sent me a text saying not to worry about the article because it was all like the others. Sounded weird so I asked him again the morning about it. Then he made up some crappy excuse & said the papers were all out. I knew something was up by the sheepish look on his face. I knew better after working with him this long.

The Regen Ranch was a unique operation -

Cattle, land, horses, bunch of dogs, & geese.

Up, zebras! Horses were treated out by them.

Our ride was beautiful, calm, & sweet. Sharon, Sierra & I went on some private land to check out an old log cabin. Had to be well over 125 years old.

After we reached the Powder River at the end of the day, I rode up to my trailer to find my mom, Jim & Regan having cocktail. Mom was red in the face - laughing so hard she couldn't make a sound. Regan looked embarrassed - yep! It was embarrassing. Mom said read the article

in the Miles City Press. Sure enough, the paper revealed why Regan was embarrassed & not to mention why he hid the article from me. I read the whole article & @ the very bottom there was the direct quote: "When asked the best part of the ride is, Hills Responded "Well my hemorrhoids haven't flared up yet". I looked at him after reading it & he just hung his head down with that old cursey hat.

I just laughed then thought - damn, poor guy! He's got an old cursey hat, he is gray, bald & now he has hemorrhoid issues! AND we have 1300+ more miles to travel to make a 2000 mile round trip. Note to self: pack preparation #1 for Regan in 2015 & convince high film diet for the old boy! Happy trail!

Dehly Peterson

Just for the record: I do love working with my friends!

June 13th, 2014 Powder River to Miles City

Morning came pretty quickly for us @ our Powder River stinging area. Before our ride took off, we were debriefed on what was in store for us. Camping at the base of the river was scenic, but it meant that our mounts ^{had} 7 miles to climb up to get us over the massive ridge.

A quick group photo opportunity presented itself as we crossed the bridge over the river, and then the ride took off. The climb was pushing and my mare was quickly sweating up. Eventually the riders were scattered out over a few miles and I teamed up with Mike Kilgore. Traffic wasn't too bad and we took our time to make it to the crest. The slower pace was well worth it as the scenery was unbelievable.

The downhill trek was just as scenic and arriving at Strawberry Hill was one of the best views to date.

Just outside of Miles City, the ride had stopped to regroup. When our quick break, we went over the interstate and met up with our police escort to bring us through town. What an experience! We rode two by two at a trot and it was quite the sight.

All of our riep were moved to the fairgrounds earlier, so we had an easy time getting situated when we had finally arrived.

Cold beer was given to us by the Montana Stock Growers Assoc., along w/ hamburgers. Much of the beer was consumed, but we decided to save the burgers for a night when there wasn't a steakhouse available.

We all had an appetite and all met at The Hole in the Wall & ordered myself a juicy Sirloin.

The evening started at The Montana Bar, a place right out of the history books. The decor included long horns, tin ceilings, and a painting of Sily. Sily had originally posed topless, but it was too much of a scandal so the painting had to be modified so she was wearing a top.

We were all in high spirits and made a night on the town.

Bryon, Jim, Spin, Ashley, and I roomed to a couple different bars, enjoyed live music from a band called Daniel & the Bards, and we ended back at the Montana Bar where we met up with Sky.

As we got back to the fairgrounds, I felt so thankful for the wonderful day. This ride is proving to be incredible, and I wouldn't have missed this for the world.

-Sierra "Grade" Dynda

June 14th, 2014 - Saturday

Day 14 - The day began slowly as we didn't need to get ready for riding until 9:30. The big event for the day was the ride in the "Old Time Parade" which just featured horses, horse-drawn buggies & wagons, and cattle. The parade route started at the fairgrounds and continued into the historical part of town. Smiling children and adults lined the streets ~~to see~~ ^{to see} the horses as the parade continued thru town. A little rain fell the entire way. Janell & Steve Rieger joined our group & Janell had one 22 rider with her buggy. I got to ride in the front seat which was a lot of fun.

Once we returned to the fairgrounds a decision was made to stay put due to ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~weather~~ ^{weathering} weather - This made for a nice "rest" day for the horses and the group. But as we have discovered the weather can change quickly in MT and after an hour the sky opened to a nice sunny warming day with temperatures ranging from 50's in the morning to 60's in the afternoon.

The town had plenty of activities for us to do with a couple museums (I saw the saddle museum in the Western Shop with saddles going back 100 yrs and with costs from \$55 - "80 dollars.) Other activities included a Rancher Rodeo, Downtown BBA and street dance and shopping. Many also caught up in shops & laundry. Most called it an early

night as they needed for the next part of the journey.

I have really enjoyed the trip so far. The scenery has been wonderful, meeting alot of new people and participating in alot of first time adventures - even a truck stop shower!

Also have been learning about indian culture, that of course the main reason we are here to promote donation of organs & tissues. It is rewarding to talk to "locals" about the mission of the trip.

Bill Page -

June 15th 2014

Morning started nice and sunny. Jambray, Leo + Rita's granddaughters did a welcome and prayer in her Native ~~language~~ Navajo.

Leo present gifts to Roger a necklace which he called Sitting Eagle, for his leadership, Bob a blanket for his support services, Jodie a throw for her support of food, and Ashley a blanket for her leadership also.

Ben did a Native song and after that at 7:20 AM airm temp in the high 50's low 60's.

The ride was nice riding the median of I94 for 20 miles to Northway Mt. where we stayed in the old town area of old iron dealer buildings and I resident Ray Hanson an 80+ year old.

The afternoon was spent sitting and visiting grilling burgers etc.

Leo played his guitar while Rita + Jeff sang. Being fathers they were decided to get a Dairy Queen cake for all the kids. So we all had ice cream cake.

Evening brought more fun.
The ropers came out and they
were doing Roping Pairs and
ones in a while each other.

Finally the bond fire was
started and stories were
told.

Linda Roper

Even though I haven't been
able to ride this week this
has been a very special
time spent with some
really good people. Thank you
for bring us into your group.

TOM BLAZE

June 16, 2014

28 mi Hathaway to Rosebud mt.
Beautiful morning as we enjoy
Sue H' coffee at 5:30. I was
drinking about our host last
nite, a 600 baobab named Rex
Hanson. What a wise & wonderful
gentleman! He also was related
to a friend of mine back in Napoleon.
We will out about 7:00 from
camp extra horses stayed back.
The scenery this day was splendid,
& the company is always great!
About 7 hrs later we arrived
at this evening camp site, a
pasture with grass for horses.
My Blue horse was a pretty
good mes today, he seemed
to really like one of Julie's mares
so its easy to ride together.
We had outside entertainment
tonite & also our own take
good time after supper.
I took sled for this time
in the saddle with new & old
friends!

June 17, 2014

today was a 28 mile ride to the meray ranch the day started off pre good saddled up and before we left camp rodder said a good prayer to start us off I see beautiful buttes reminding us we are getting closer to the little big horn mountains everyday we seen alot of animals like beautiful horses, bells, and antelope as me my uncle Ben and John rode into ~~the~~ the new camp site we seen a rattle snake and not to long before that me and sierra seen two other little snakes but today was a good day I had a good birthday and spent it with amazing people that I now can call my friends ~~I~~ I thank god for all this and who ever reads this remember to pray I'm signing out

Styler David Bird ^{18 years} old

Today's better sweet as we head out on the last leg of this years ride. Many stopped to pause and take in the sweet sight of a baby fawn curled up in the tall grass on the trail. The countryside when we ventured off the beaten path was simply breath taking. To make it even better was the history as told by John. Better than any history book I have read. I have to admit I was a little nervous the last mile of the ride. I got chills as we passed at the top the hill & looked down to the last stand ground. Riding down the hill to the river - Crossing the river - well that was a whole other adventure in itself! I have a new love & respect for Spud. Cross the river was a joyful celebration of hugs, tears, and hollers. Then seeing Luke and my parents was a treat! The celebration continued with supper by the river as we all sat together reminiscing about the last 444 miles and what's in store for next years ride. Then it was time to go.

Nicks & I feel blessed to be part of this amazing journey. we both learned so much listening to the stories of the many new friends we met along the way. I was not good-bye's but until next year. Thank you all... and as they say Happy trails to you until we meet again. Good Bless

Rita Zawojny