

THE TRIP

Starting off in San Francisco....
We packed a trailer full of our household stuff

Ronan Mulligan helped us pack up
Never dreamed we had so much kibble

Never dreamed so much kibble could take up so much space

Thought we had space enough to tow a trailer
Across country.....

Broke our trailer hitch before we left
Hitch and trailer were low to the ground causing sparks

Returned to UHaul for a new truck and trailer for the car
Found some guys who unpacked our trailer
Packed our truck....while we towed the car.....

We drove down 101 all the way to Gilroy
The truck was big and more than I could drive
The trailer behind seemed to swerve and move in another direction

This trip was going to be arduous

After Gilroy came Pacheco Pass
We almost didn't make it to the top

Strain on the motor and strain on my nerves
Haydee at my side reading the map and trying to figure out the
GPS

Somewhere around Bakersfield we crossed over into the desert
Mojave and all the way to Needles.....Hot through the night
Five in the morning. We had been up 24 hours and drove direct through heat and desert

We were already worried-could we drive this rig?

Woke up and we were in Arizona

Signs flashing up ahead
Delay....Traffic stopped

We thought-Delay would not be long



While unnatural rains poured over Arizona
Never seen so much rain in the dry country

We pulled off the road to visit the Meteor Crater

Thinking traffic would be better in a couple of hours

Saw the Crater stared down into the center
Hole in the ground from rock in the sky

Pulled back on to Interstate 40
Signs still flashing Delay Ahead

Thought this would be over in a hour

Somewhere close to Arizona state line
We thought we were safe and I thought we were in New
Mexico

How wrong
Traffic backed up for miles

People in lawn chairs sitting by side of the road
Nothing and nobody had moved for hours

The minute we could leave the highway
We left

Tired and confused drove around small town
Looking for a hotel.....we found beat up place with
Parking space

Driving this truck with the trailer
We needed wider spaces to make the turns

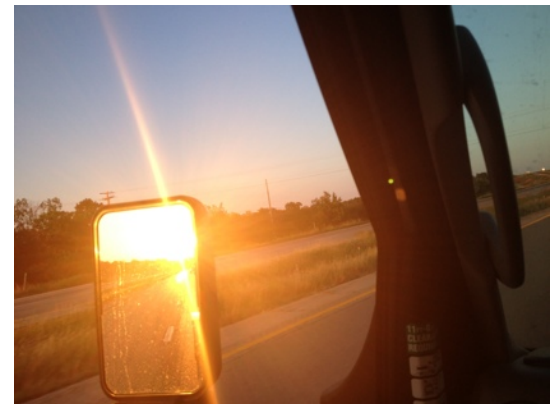
We kept almost jack knifing the whole journey

No place to stop except truck stops with Semi's

We moved across into Gallup early in the morning
Already tired and beat....bought a blanket

Drank down-endless Vanilla Cappuccino

Native Americans in pick up trucks passing us



On the road-We pull off at rest stop
Native Americans
Taking our photo and we took photos of them
Acoma Sky City.....and after.....endless Casinos

Native land turned into gambling havens

We got through Albuquerque and up the mountain
How, I will never know

Traffic fast and heavy on our side and angry.....going too slow

Hard to break and hard to change gears....keep control of the truck

We pulled into gas at Moriarty, New Mexico
Thought of Jack Kerouac and Neal

Was this were Jack got the name for Neal?

Then, crash...My worst dream come true
Ran the trailer towing the car

Right into big metal rail
And tore up the trailer

Piece of metal on the ground
And, I was jack knifed

Could not move back or forward

Woman at the pump drove stock truck
And, got me unstuck

How much luck?

Thanked her over and over and over

Out on the Interstate going to Amarillo
Amarillo by Morning,
George Straight

Insane traffic
Trailer with car swinging and

The supports holding one of the wheels on the trailer
Had slipped off.....



We shipped on into Oklahoma City
Roughest roads on the trip

All these states that don't want taxes
Don't want good roads

Until we get to Oklahoma Turnpike

Driving all night again to Champaign, Illinois
Five in the morning, again

Drive all day and drive all day
55 miles per hours

St. Louis, Missouri almost wiped us
Over passes and bad bridge over the Mississippi

By the time we got to Illinois
GPS was not working....tired and lost

We stopped in Champaign
Could not go on

Woke up in four hours and back on the Interstate
Driving into Indiana

Labor Day

Traffic so thick

Car and trailer swinging
Truck so wide

We stopped in Indiana three in afternoon
Ate at Cracker Barrel and slept for fourteen hours
Holiday Inn Hotel

Back on the Interstate,
Woke up at Five and continued on.....

Right through Ohio and Pennsylvania Turnpike
Pay money and drive with peace of mind

We fix the roads if you pay the tolls



Roads wide enough to support our truck and trailer

We get to Middletown, New York
Our truck so big that we can not pass under the eaves of hotel

We hear big bang and scrapping sound
Two in the morning and nobody hears

We park our load out in the street
Facing out to the interstate

The last day coming into Connecticut
Crossing the Hudson River

So many bridges
So many rivers
Bends in the road and curves

We get lost on our way back to New Haven
The GPS sends us on the fastest route not the easiest

We are in wide bodied truck,
Trailer and car....hitched on the back

Almost jack knife one last time
Before Naugatuck, Connecticut

We drive this rig to Uhaul
Where guy begins to shout about both wheel brakes
Slipped off the wheels on the car being towed

Could have slipped off the trailer

We have been driving with car ready to fall off the back
For several thousand miles

We unhitch the trailer
Drive the truck to the Condo and unpack

Six days of grinding across America

We understand each other better
We got to see the USA from the ground up

We finally got back to Connecticut

