

## Happy Trails To You

Contributed by Larry Lawless  
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Wednesday morning up early as usual, free continental breakfast at the hotel, take a whiff of that good fresh air of Dalhart, Texas (there are several dairy farms in the area, for those of you who know what that smells like ... some say it's the smell of money) and back on the road by 7:45am. By now, I'm in road-mode, but I do stop a few times on the way for a break and more pictures.

The first stop is Plainview, where I visit with Barry Hurt, retiring band director of Plainview High School. He gives me the million dollar tour of their wonderful facilities there. They have an excellent program with over 350 band students in this small farming community. Their system runs like a well-oiled machine, and I certainly congratulate them on their success.

Next is a brief stop in Lubbock. I go by Texas Tech University, but get there just at noon, so Bill Ballenger, Dean of the School of Music, and Lisa Rogers, Percussion Faculty are gone, so I leave greeting notes. Bill came to the University of Nebraska to be the marching band director the year after I stopped instructing the drumline. I didn't actually work with him, but I respect the work he did there and later at Oklahoma State University. Lunch at a Mexican restaurant I stumble across, then it's more miles to cover.

After all this time (this is by far the longest I have been away from my wife and kids), it feels like I'm almost there as I pass through the familiar landscapes of Texas ... the wind farms on the bluffs between Lubbock and Snyder, Abilene (people there don't treat you mean) and finally the last turn-off to Stephenville.

But the best sight of all is the front porch of our house, as I pull in to the driveway 5 minutes ahead of my family coming in from Ft. Worth.

Well, at this point, the recording is done, most of the editing is done, but there still remains some work to be accomplished before the CD will be available to buy. The trail has ended for now, so I won't be posting as often, but as work progresses on the project, I'll keep you posted. I'm also going to get some more pictures of my travels up here as I can, so check back every once in a while ... as Jed Clampett would say, "Y'all come back now, y'hear?"

