

Some Impressions of my truck tour through the US in September 2005.

DHL Inc. Wilmington OH and Jamestown Inc. OH deserve my greatest respect. After a lot of emailing across the Atlantic, numerous insurance questions to be solved before hand, finally in the end my US dream became true. I crossed the US in a wonderful truck in less than seven days

I earned affording my law studies in Berlin at Free University (founded after WW II by Henry Ford) as a truck driver, who transported beer from Berlin Kreuzberg thru the Communist sector around Berlin on the old A 5 via the Dreilinden route to Hamburg. Born in Bremen 1940, raised up during WW II in Berlin, I was captured by the Communists after 1945, a terrible time for me and my mother, before the lifesaving US airlift freed us 1948/49 from starvation. I will never forget what these American airmen have done for us in Berlin and later on until reunification on October 3, 1989. 79 of them died during the airlift. They are honoured for ever in our hearts. The older inhabitants from Berlin will never forget that time.

The American people are wonderful. On my tour through many States of the US I met great people, comrades, and fine personalities. With many of them a long lasting friendship will probably be the outcome of my tour. Richard, the driver and Amy his girlfriend are simply great. We had so much fun together. But let the following pictures speak for it.



Keeping fit while driving, Richard Barber, the 32 year old driver of “our” 550 horsepower Freightliner truck



After washing it without the semi trailer it lucks like new



25 Dollars for 6 people working hard for nearly an hour...







Refuelling at night time. Two tanks on each side à 300 gallons, altogether 600 gallons, which means about 1100 litres. That keeps the engine running day and night because of the need of electricity on board e.g. for the fridge, air-condition, TV, coffee machine etc. Average fuel consume of our truck: About 7-8 miles a gallon, which is about 3, 7 litres. Not bad for the 6 cylinders, 14 litres engine Detroit diesel, powering 550 hp to track 40 tons. No synchronized gear box!!! Drivers are shifting gears alone while listening to the sound of the engine... This reminds me at my own time in the German Army back in the mid sixties. While learning to drive a truck, our truck was a Borgward Kübel. No automatic gears either, shifting only by listening to the sound of the engine...



Unbelievable is the enormous amount of space that US truck stops offer their customers. They are open 24 hrs. per day and that for 365 days. Warm meals, breakfast, spare parts, coffee, everything is offered all around the clock. Marble bathrooms (free for truck drivers when they are refuelling their tanks) we met just behind Flagstaff, AZ on the legendary Route 66, now the Interstate. 40



If times allow it, truckers enjoy



breakfast together in one of the various truck stops.



The author: Sleeping bag and pillows are necessary to survive in a truck



Altogether a very comfortable sleeping place in a US truck



Working place of Richard, the very skilful driver from Jamestown Inc. OH



Amy, Richard's heartbreaker



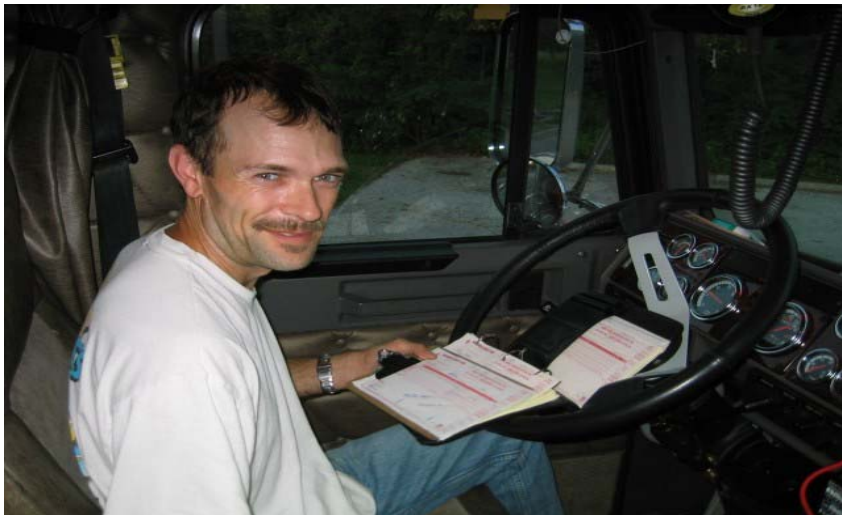
Here with a large beer...



Driver and "co-driver" starting at DHL Wilmington OH. USA



Our 14 litres engine 550 horsepower



Sleepy after 11 hours driving, Richard doing his paperwork...

The Pit bull normally takes my seat as a co-driver



Wes, Rob and Dave make it all happen, that my US dream could come true in the end



And here is my sweetheart from good old Germany