

## Part 25

We began riding at 4:45 AM. The faint glow of sunrise gave me enough light to ride without lights. I crossed into Indiana on Rt. 36 heading toward Indianapolis. A police escort would be waiting to take me across the city. There were over 50 traffic lights downtown and not having to wait for at least half of them would save almost an hour.

On the west side of the city two police cars were waiting for me and our support car. One of the police cars would drive ahead with lights flashing and wait in the intersections until I passed. The police car behind me would then leapfrog ahead to the next traffic light. The process would be repeated 50 times across the city. Our crew had several escorts already across the country so we were familiar with how to stay close to the police escort. As the police cars took us across the city they probably felt that 25 mph was a slow pace to maintain. For me on the bike I felt that I was sprinting to make it through each intersection and not delay the escort. At this point in the ride my legs could maintain 18 mph for hours but the slightest increase in effort caused me to have to stand on the pedals to pick up the pace. Finally we reached the east side of town and the police escort returned to their regular duties. I could relax into my 18 mph plodding speed.

We were now on Old Rt. 40 heading toward Ohio. This was part of the first highways in America from the mid 1800's. It was supposed to go across the United States but only went as far as St. Louis before the railroads were developed and took away the need for a cross country wagon road. The interstate system took away most of the eastern traffic in the 1960's. Now

Old Rt. 40 was a wide 4-lane without much traffic. It was one of my favorite sections of highway to ride.

Entering Ohio near Richmond, Indiana we started getting more traffic as we rode toward the Dayton, Ohio area. It was now late afternoon. I wanted to get in a good long day and put some miles in the bank before we got into the mountains again. I kept riding until almost 11:00 PM before we stopped near Mount Sterling, Ohio. It had been a good day and we covered 248 miles for the day.