



## Another Update from the Road Air Date: March 31, 2020

**“Long Haul” Paul Marhoefer:** [00:00:00] [truck motor humming and then turning off] Okay. Just turned the motor off and I've got the recorder up to my ear. It's Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, in the dirt lot of the old restaurant in Zolfo Springs, Florida, where we like to stop on US 17. Our next episode, episode four, airs in two days and it's a personal favorite of mine. But for now, we just wanted to give you an update on how things are looking out here.

So since the last time we've checked in, things have changed a little for me. Denise is riding with me now. So we're quarantining together. We loaded in Indiana and passed through Louisville on Saturday. And we always measure spring by how far the red buds have made it and the red buds were fully in bloom in Louisville. And I thought, "Oh, this would've been the weekend for the Mid-American Trucking Show" and I looked down at the convention center there to our right – there was just like an ocean of Kroger trailers – Kroger, of course, the nation's biggest grocer, presumably there with the relief effort: the tremendous, push to restock the supermarkets across the nation.

And it was just a beautiful spring day and you just see this sea of gray. So this week we wanted to hear from some other truckers on what they're seeing out there over the road. And we put the call out on Overdrive Magazine, and these are some of the voices we heard from:

**Ingrid Brown:** [00:01:50] [over the phone] I mean, it was – going across the bridge, GW Bridge out at eight o'clock on a Thursday morning last week, was literally no traffic. I mean, nothing. Came down yesterday to Bordentown where I'm at right now and made sure I went in in the middle of hours where there was nobody inside, grabbed a shower. My hands look like I've been digging fence posts because I've been cleaning them so much with Simple Green and Clorox wipes because I can't find anything else, you know?

**Mark:** [00:02:23] [voicemail beep] [over the phone] This is Mark from Linwood, Arkansas. One thing I have definitely noticed in West Memphis, Arkansas, there's a Petro truck stop. And last Saturday at 2:00 a.m. there were parking spaces available at that truck stop. I haven't seen 2:00 a.m. parking at a truck stop in five years. So yeah, it has definitely slowed some things down. Y'all be safe out there.

**Jason Miller:** [00:02:51] [over the phone] The road has been very weird. You know, picking up emergency relief supplies and, you know, they didn't want the driver getting out of the truck at all. The bills will be put back in the back of the trailer. They had somebody outside opening your doors for you, sliding your tandems. Can't even get in and get a vending machine anymore. And then on top of all that, you know, you have these truck stops and rest areas who really don't know how to handle everything. So they're shutting the restaurant down by eight or nine o'clock at night, forgetting that there's a driver driving at, you know, two o'clock in the morning. [acoustic guitar music comes in] So what's he going to eat?

**Jeff Clark:** [00:03:30] [over the phone] This is Jeff Clark from Kewaunee, Wisconsin. I'm the company driver for Paper Transport and I want to say thanks to all the people that support us on the road, from the people that clean the showers to the people that are bringing us coffee during this crap. Um, but the latest story of – I went to pay for my snack at the Love's in Menomonie, Wisconsin and they wouldn't take my money because somebody had dropped off a donation to pay for truckers' food. So thank you to whoever did this. And thanks to everybody that keeps us rolling during this time. Thank you. Bye.

**Paul:** [00:04:09] Special thanks to Jeff and Mark who called us with their thoughts and also to Ingrid Brown trucking that produce up to Hunt's point. God bless you. And Jason Miller, who we caught up with in West Virginia. Okay. So I gotta run. I'm on my fourteen and my half hour break is up, but I've got to grab a load of juice bound for Ohio, but in the meantime, take care everyone. We'll see you on Thursday. [truck motor humming] [acoustic guitar music fades out]

[Radiotopia sign-off] Radiotopia. Radiotopia, from PRX.

[00:05:03] **END OF AUDIO.**