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## National Road part of 800-mile yard sale

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One person's junk is another's treasure - that is the concept behind yard sales. But, the National Road yard sale took that idea one step further. The idea for the 800-mile yard sale is to get people to experience the history along Route 40 across six states.

Stops in Muskingum County include several businesses around the Norwich exit to the opposite end of the county on National Road in Gratiot.

"It runs from Maryland to Indiana. So people can find bargains and be able to travel and see all the historical sites like the Smith House," said Herb Pfeffer of Columbus.

"The National Road through Ohio gives people the chance to learn a little history about how the pioneers lived hundreds of years ago."

Pfeffer, who helped his sister, Judith Lowther, owner of Smith House Antiques, run the weekend long yard sale, stated that they had visitors from New England and as far west as Missouri, stop by the sale.

Some were looking for specific items while others were just enjoying a day with family.

Jordan Sharrer of Nashport was searching for hunting and fishing items. He and his parents, John and Lynn of Nashport, had started in Hopewell and visited several sales going west past Brownsville before heading back and stopping off in Gratiot at some of the sales.

"I found some baby clothes for our grandkids," Lynn said.

"There's a wide variety of items, the people are friendly and it's a beautiful day to get out with family."

Carla Devine, the Licking County representative for the National Road Association, was out traveling the sites to show her support for the event.

"Jeff Charppening, a Bowling Green Township trustee, put together a Web site for us," she said. "If you go to [www.ohio40.com](http://www.ohio40.com), you can learn about the sale and other things happening along the National Road."

In its third year, the National Road yard sale is branching out and gaining momentum.

"Every state does its own thing. We're fortunate that Ohio is so involved," Devine said.

"It's great if you can find what you are looking for and if you look long enough you'll find it," said Marlene Hoskinson, who was out shopping with her husband, Fred.

"We accumulate stuff all year and bring it out for the sale," said Pfeffer. "What doesn't sell will go to

Good Will."

"We come out every year. We're retired so it's something to do," said Linda Wilson, of Blue Rock.

"I got a chain saw for \$35 to clear a view on the back of my property, so I'm happy." said David Scott.

"Even if you don't see what you want. If you ask the people you meet may chirp up and give you suggestions," Scott said. "You just have to work it."

A collector of old music in various medium, Scott found vinyl record albums and 8-track tapes. "This Stillwater and Zappa are hard to find and the vinyl is in good condition," he said.

"Next year I plan to get a trailer and travel further. There are lots of bargains, not just kitchen knick knacks."

"If they can't find it at a yard sale, they probably don't need it," said Jeanie Quinn, who was part of a seven-family yard sale located at My Place Molds near Hopewell.

Making money, having fun and supporting an event that gets people to travel the National Road were goals for the event. If you haven't already stopped by the sales run through Sunday.

The annual sale runs from the Wednesday after Memorial Day through the weekend. To find out more visit [www.ohio40.com](http://www.ohio40.com), visit your local travel and tourism office or just Google "National Road Yard Sale."

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