

Caravan with Ohio National Road Association visits Englewood



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Photo by Ron Nunnari

Pictured above are a few of the vintage vehicles parked in front of the Englewood Government Center that were participating in the caravan along the Historic National Road.



Photo by Ron Nunnari

This 1929 Model A Ford pulled into the parking lot of the Englewood Government Center to join up with the caravan headed for Cumberland, Maryland.

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The “Caravan of the Bells,” a motorcade with the Ohio National Road Association visited Englewood Tuesday, May 3 during its journey from Vandalia, Illinois to Cumberland, Maryland along the Historic National Road or U.S. Route 40.

The caravan consisted of only six vehicles by the time it reached Englewood with more scheduled to join the procession as it headed east to Maryland. The group stopped in Englewood for an overnight layover before proceeding. The excursion is an example of one of the many celebrations taking place this year as part of bicentennial celebration of the historic roadway.

Construction began in 1811 in Cumberland, Maryland on the Potomac River. Extending west the road reached what was then Wheeling, Virginia (now West Virginia) at the Ohio River in 1818. Plans were made to continue through St. Louis, Missouri, on the Mississippi River to Jefferson City, Missouri, but funding ran out and construction stopped at Vandalia, Illinois, in 1838.

The caravan disembarked from Vandalia, Illinois with an average of three people per car. The group’s next destination was a stop in Columbus where the caravan would join up with a horse and buggy team and bikers. In Columbus the expanded caravan was scheduled to have a police escort.

While in Columbus the caravan participants took part in the dedication of the “National Road Condominium Project” located at 1059 E. Main Street in downtown Columbus with Mayor Michael Coleman attending a ribbon cutting ceremony. From there the caravan planned to visit National Trail Raceway where vintage cars and trucks would join in for a trip to Zanesville.

Caravan members deposited some copies of the book, “A Traveler’s Guide to The Historic National Road in Ohio” at the Englewood Government Center during their layover. A few copies may still be available for those interested. The 49 page book contains many interesting photos and historical facts about the roadway, towns and interesting sites along The National Road.