

# Ohio National Road Association



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[WWW.OHIONATIONALROAD.ORG](http://WWW.OHIONATIONALROAD.ORG)

Spring 2017

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Judy Williams—Preservation Consultant

Tom Barrett—ODOT



## ONRA Members and Friends,

As I write this message, there's finally a break from the rain. Everything around me is green – grass that needs mowing and weeds to be pulled. With the reprieve from the weather, it's time to repair, replace and find remedies for the (mostly minor) problems caused by the wet conditions – everyday challenges on the farm.

Speaking of challenges, I think challenge is going to be the ongoing theme for the ONRA, at least in the near future. **Board Challenges:** Several county representative positions need to be filled. And now that several board members who winter elsewhere have returned, we shouldn't struggle to make a quorum at our board meetings, but we still seek to fill the vacancies. **Membership Challenges:** At the beginning of this year, ONRA averaged 8-10 members per county, including board members. To help improve these numbers, our membership committee has worked diligently to create a new membership brochure. **Funding Challenges:** Early grants provided funding for various activities, including administrative assistance. Those funds are done, we're "on our own" now. Funding was set aside for specific projects like the interpretive signs, which is nearing completion. Our finance/fundraising committee is exploring some sponsorship possibilities and ways to reduce some of the administrative expenses. **TAP Grant Challenge:** ONRA was awarded \$105,000 for Phase 2 of the milemarker project. Representatives from ODOT, Licking County Planning Commission and ONRA met with Dean Ringle, who successfully oversaw the Phase 1 grant, for information. While we are updating the status of each milemarker from Jacksontown to the Ohio River, it is crucial we name a contact person. One person declined our request and we can't locate another excellent prospect. If I can't reach this... **cont. on Page 2**

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**continued from Page 1**....prospective contact soon, I will (reluctantly) take it on. **Yard Sale Challenge:** Orange and white barrels line both sides of US Route 40 from the edge of Brownsville to the west end of Zanesville. Highway work begins May 11th to take up the asphalt and re-surface the road. The work will likely go along one side at a time. There is no guarantee the status of the road by the end of May.

On the brighter side, the Glenn A Harper Endowment Fund awarded \$2500 in three grants to local groups in Muskingum and Belmont counties (described elsewhere in the newsletter) and four board members attended the Ohio Byway Links Conference in Granville (also in newsletter).

I hope to see you somewhere along the Road

~Elizabeth Reeb  
ONRA President

## News From the Road

### Ohio Byway Links Conference

Doug Smith, Nancy Campbell, Bill Flood and Elizabeth Reeb attended the Ohio Byway Links Conference in Granville on March 21. Except for the host group from Ohio's newest byway (Granville Scenic Byway), the Historic National Road had the most representatives present. The agenda included a presentation about the local history, regional and national updates, and ODOT services available to byways. We also learned how popular Tom Barrett with the byway groups!

### News From Belmont County Representatives

#### **Rick Kolb Added to ONRA Board**

Welcome to ONRA's newest board member, Rick Kolb of Brookside, Belmont County. Rick has a long and knowledgeable history of the road which will be invaluable to ONRA. Some years ago, as a Historic National Road buff, Rick took it upon himself to restore Mile Marker 132 in Brookside that had been damaged when struck by a car, and more recently Rick rebuilt Mile Marker 134 in Lansing that had also been broken into many pieces in a car wreck. Welcome, Rick!

#### **Grants to Morristown Preservation Society and The Great Western School House**

Last fall, the Morristown Preservation Society and the Great Western School House received grants from the Glenn Harper Endowment for restoration of the Black Horse Inn and the Great Western Schoolhouse, respectively. Rep. Andy Thompson, Dr. John Mattox and John S. Marshall presented the grants on behalf of ONRA & the Harper Endowment.

#### **Ohio Historical Marker**

The Ohio Historical Marker, sponsored by ONRA, The Rotary Club of St. Clairsville and the Ohio History Connection to commemorate the groundbreaking of the Historic National Road in Ohio on July 4, 1825, will soon be in production. Hopefully, the marker will be received in time for dedication on July 4, the 192nd anniversary of the groundbreaking and will be erected in front of the Belmont Co. Courthouse in St. Clairsville.

#### **Belmont County Engineer Recognized**

ONRA recently recognized outgoing Belmont County Engineer Fred Bennett with a certificate of appreciation for his ongoing efforts in helping ONRA preserve the Historic National Road. The certificate reads in part, "In recognition of the Rehabilitation of Two Stone Arch bridges (CR40B & TR814).....along the Historic National Road in Belmont County." The certificate was signed by ONRA President Mary Ellen Weingartner. Bennett retired on Dec. 30, 2016 after more than 30 years of service to the citizens of Belmont County.

#### **Doc Householder Retiring**

Finally, Eugene "Doc" Householder, the long time director of the Belmont County Tourism Council, has announced his retirement. Doc was the council's first and only director since its inception in 1989. Congratulations, Doc, and thank your long years of service to the tourism industry. If you would like to send Doc a congratulatory message you may send it to "320 Leatherwood Road, Barnesville, OH 43713".

## Gant Foundation Awarded a Harper Endowment Grant



Elizabeth Reeb presented a check from the Ohio National Road Association through the Glenn A Harper Endowment Fund to Connie Norman, President of the Nelson T. Gant Foundation, as Dr. Anita Jackson and Mary Ellen Weingartner look on. The funding was designated for beautifying the entryway of the Gant House. The project included removing residue from a rug previously glued on the wood floor, refurbishing and bracing the original stairs to the second floor and installation of a double door to make the house look more like the house Mr. Gant lived in. To date, the Gant Foundation folks have done amazing work on the restoration of the historic Gant House in Zanesville.

**Before**



**After**





## In Memoriam - Icons and Establishments Lost Along The Road

In the last quarter of 2016 National Road fans saw the loss of two iconic restaurants along the central Ohio stretch of the route. In October, it was the razing of the Jack Town Pub in Jacksontown in Licking County. Then in December, came the shuttering of the Florentine restaurant in the Franklintown area of Columbus.

The Jacksontown Pub, commonly referred to by locals as the “Jack Town Pub” was located at 6820 National Road on the southwest corner of Ohio 13 and U.S. 40. The 19th century building had been serving travelers in one form or another for at least a century. Its current incarnation was a family business owned by Wendell Parkinson that had been in business for 23 years. It was a local favorite, known for all-you-can-eat walleye, and seemed to have a special draw for motorcycle travelers on the route.



The building that would become Jacktown Pub, Circa 1940's (far left). Photo Courtesy of the Doug Smith Collection

Loss of the building may have been inevitable. Faced with a pricey mandate to connect to the town's new sewer system, the owner had planned to build a new restaurant at the site and raze the current structure anyway. Yet, connections costs for a new facility were substantially more than those for the existing building - any of which apparently proved to be too costly. New construction never commenced, the existing building was razed and the site placed up for sale. Currently, the approximately 1 acre, now vacant commercial plot, is for sale for \$575,000.



Jacktown Pub Building Demolition. Photo Courtesy of Theresa Clawson Moore

Then in December, the Florentine, a beloved classic Italian restaurant in Columbus closed its doors after 71 years in business. The restaurant, located at 907 W. Broad Street in the Franklinton area of Columbus had been open since 1945. According to the company's history, Italian immigrants Tony Penzone and Joe Scuro opened the restaurant, and three generations of the Penzone family have operated it since. Brothers Peter and Nick Penzone had been at the helm since 1995.

The brothers' announcement of the closing remains on the restaurant's website:

*"With the help of our loyal, loving staff we have proudly served classic Italian cuisine to our community for three generations. Our doors have been open for 71 years at 907 West Broad Street all thanks to you, our customers!*

*However, it is with a heavy heart we announce The Florentine will be closing its doors on December 23rd, 2016. This was a very tough decision to make; but one which ultimately had to be made."*



*Florentine building, a popular National Road landmark, closed after 71 years in business. ONRA held its annual meeting there in 2013.. April, 2017. Photo courtesy of William Flood*

The Robert Weiler Company, a Columbus developer, acquired the property for \$500,000 and hopes to find a new restaurant to locate there. However, the Weiler did not acquire the Florentine name, so it is unlikely there will be a new incarnation of the treasured restaurant at the site. If a replacement restaurant is not secured, Weiler acknowledges the building could be demolished for redevelopment - a distinct possibility given the level of redevelopment taking place in Franklinton.



## The Hopalong Cassidy Trail

Guernsey County's newest heritage trail, the Hopalong Cassidy Trail, recognizes the impact of William Boyd, Cambridge Ohio's beloved cowboy hero. A collection of Hopalong Cassidy items are on display throughout Historic Downtown Cambridge at various locations:

- In the display window of COUNTRY BITS located at 700 Wheeling Avenue.
- The history of William Boyd, from Hendrysburg to Hollywood, can be seen in a mural at the LONGINIE-GIBSON AGENCY building located at 122 Southgate Pkwy on the corner of Southgate Parkway and Turner Avenue with a visual exhibit inside.
- A remarkable six-foot bronze statue greets visitors and residence alike at the GUERNSEY COUNTY SENTIOR CENTER located at 1022 Carlisle Avenue.
- The site of the school attended by William Boyd at Wheeling and Highland Avenue is home to a monument and the Hopalong Cassidy walk dedicated to his memory at the corner of Wheeling Avenue and Highland Avenues (150 Highland Avenue).
- An exhibit is also displayed at the Cambridge/Guernsey County Tourist Information Center located at 627 Wheeling Avenue where a brochure highlighting the Hopalong Cassidy Trail is available.



*Well-known Zanesville, Ohio sculptor, Alan Cottrill, poses with a Hopalong Cassidy look alike in front of the bronze Hoppy statue Cottrill created.*

For more information, contact the Cambridge/Guernsey County VCB office at 627 Wheeling Avenue, Suite 200 in downtown Cambridge, call 71-800-933-5480, email info@VisitGuernseyCounty.com, or log on to VisitGuernseyCounty.com.

# Historic National Road Yard Sale Days

**Along the National Road (aka US 40)**

**824 Miles of Road Side Treasures!!!!!!**

**May 31 - June 4th 2017**

**Dawn to Dusk**

You'll find everything from Antiques, collectibles,  
furniture, glassware, fresh garden produce and much  
more!!!!!!



**FIND US ON FACEBOOK**  
***"Historic National Road Yard Sale"***



## Zane Grey Family Day at National Road/Zane Grey Museum

For the 7th year we had a wonderful Zane Grey Day event open to area residents and visitors. We were able to highlight the NRZG Museum with many interactive events for the entire family. The museum was open and free to all visitors, although we most certainly accepted donations to our Educational Fund. We featured ODNR fishing skills, followed by our Dutch Oven Cooking team fileting some catfish and cooking them on the open fire for us to sample. The BSA instructed on some bow and arrow shooting skills while families could make a stick horse to race in the Wild Horsey Race at 3:00. Some of our volunteers



helped young ones make a beaded necklace while all of the time the "Wayfarers" our local Blue Grass group entertained with their wonderful music. After this the "Sweet Adelines" from Cambridge, Ohio sang their beautiful barbershop style music. Then to round out the day, the Ohio Village Muffins played some old fashioned base ball with some of our local teams. It was a wonderful day. If you missed it this year, please put it on your calendar for next year **Sunday, April 29, 2018** along the National Road.



## Past-President Cyndie Gerken Receives History Award



On Oct. 29, 2016, Burt Logan, executive director of the Ohio History Connection presented Cyndie Gerken with the State Historic Preservation Office's Public Education and Awareness Award for her years of dedication to promoting the appreciation and preservation of the National Road in Ohio.

In Cyndie's 2015 book, *Marking the Miles Along the National Road Through Ohio*, she covers one of the most popular aspects of the Road. The mile markers were placed along the roadway during its construction in the 1820s and '30s. They told travelers the distance to the next big town and the next small town, as well as the distance they had travelled from the National Road's starting point in Cumberland, Maryland.

Mile markers have been updated, stolen, vandalized, discarded, and replaced over the years, but it is an enjoyable quest to drive the National Road and notice the markers as you go by. Cyndie has tracked down the current and original locations of many of the mile markers, providing photographs and precise locations on topographic maps. She also has included many historic photographs and, when necessary, adds a circle to show the marker in the distance. For missing markers, the book provides the original location and information about other features in the vicinity.

The book is both scholarly and easy to read, and serves as a handbook for travelers, a reference book for researchers, and an interesting compilation of stories from history. Cyndie's extensive research has revealed some long-unseen features of the National Road, including a stone culvert partially covered by Interstate 70.

Cyndie's research has supplemented her work with the Ohio National Road Association, serving as a board member for many years, including a two-year term as President. She served on the Interpretive Signage Committee, helping produce and dedicate dozens of signs across the state.

## Membership Information

*You have the opportunity to play an important role in the preservation and development of the National Road by becoming a Member of the Ohio National Road Association and donating to a Special Project, Endowment Fund, or Merchandise*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT ONRA? \_\_\_\_\_

### NEW MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL:

- INDIVIDUAL: \$30.00
- FAMILY: \$50.00
- BUSINESS: \$100.00
- COMMUNITY ORG: \$100

*Thank you for supporting ONRA!*

### DONATION AMOUNT TO SPECIAL PROJECT, FUND OR MISC:

- SPECIAL PROJECT  \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ENDOWMENT FUND  \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ART PRINT, PIN, ARDS  \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



SEND FORM AND PAYMENT TO:  
Ohio National Road Association  
c/o Chris Harkness—Byway Coordinator  
20 South Second Street  
Newark, Ohio 43055  
-or-  
Join, contribute or purchase online at  
[www.ohionationalroad.org](http://www.ohionationalroad.org)

*If you enjoy receiving this newsletter, be sure to renew your membership or join ONRA today!*

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*Spring 2016 Newsletter*

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