



LOOKING FOR A GOOD DEAL — Angie Gleason, Los Lunas, N.M., was looking at all the bargains at the Northrup lot.

Many from far and near attend Treasure Hunt

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkanssas.com

The U.S. 36 Treasure Hunt was held Friday, Saturday and Sunday across the state of Kansas. However, in St. Francis, there were people from out of town shopping the sales, if there were items out, as early as Thursday.

"We couldn't have asked for nicer weather," said Betty Orth, one of the St. Francis coordinators.

In fact, it was hot if the seller had no protection. Rodney Neitzel at Hilltop General Store had provided tents for many of the vendors and, the Northrup lot at 316 S. Benton has many trees which provided shade. Mrs. Orth said she suggests that anyone having a booth next year, to line up a tent or find a place where there is protection.

She said the vendors were pleased with the turnout, especially on Friday and Saturday. Many people, she said, had come from the east so they could start out in St. Francis and head back toward home. Sunday was a slow day for most vendors.

Those coming from other towns commented about the variety of nice older items and planned to come through again.

Shirley Sherlock, one of the vendors, said she had a good sale and had very little to pack up. In fact, she had put some of the leftover items on a table by the street with a sign stating they were free.

"Most of the things were gone by morning," she said.

Both Mrs. Sherlock and Mrs. Orth said many people commented on how clean and beautifully kept St. Francis was.

Those having sales on the Northrup lot were very happy with the returns from the sale. That lot had everything from old tractor seats and tools, to Depression glassware and other glass pieces, to pictures, vegetables, furniture and jewelry.

There were some interesting stories about those coming through.

Two women from Salina had traveled to St. Francis Thursday evening and spent the night at the Roadside Park. Phylliss Werth said they had woke up, hit the grocery store for some chocolate milk and donut holes and were set for a lot of shopping at the garage sales down U.S. 36. She said they had been planning the trip and were happy to be able to make it.

Angie Gleason of Las Lunas, N.M., had gone on the 400-mile garage sale in Tennessee and was starting the U.S. 36 Treasure Hunt in St. Francis. Beverly Packer of Kirk said this was the second time she had been to the Treasure Hunt.

Bob Harper of Brewster was digging through a table of old tools, parts and other vehicle-related items. He said he had already taken two loads to his vehicle and he was still looking for more.

Grace Kuscherirt of Wichita had met her daughter in Beloit. Gwen Shepherd, who lives in Leadville, Colo., and her mother had been planning the trip since last year when they were able to take in the Treasure Hunt.

Laurie Martinger and Dolores Stramel, Hays, were happy to find two new cookie jars at the home of Merlin and Shirley Sherlock. Mrs. Sherlock told them that she had once collected cookie jars but didn't have an interest in them anymore. She told them the jars had never been used and the two ladies from Hays were happy campers as they carried them to their vehicle.

Doug and Marla Ross, who live

beside the Northrup lot, had decided to serve biscuits and gravy in the mornings and a barbecue beef sandwich lunch at noon.

"We sold out of the biscuits and gravy right away, made more and we had to restock for the next day," Mr. Ross said.

County Collage Antiques, located east of St. Francis, was busy, Donna Northrup, owner, said. There were many from out of town and out of state, she said, adding that the people were enthusiastic about the Treasure Hunt.

There were two couples from Tennessee and one from Montana at the shop. They had seen the advertisement in "Country Living" magazine.

"The Treasure Hunt is good for everyone and especially good for the whole town," Mrs. Northrup said. "Many people don't realize that there is something out here!"

The new owners of GAM Antiques and Collectibles, Amanda and Glenn Mahon, were happy with the business brought in by the Treasure Hunt. They had bought the antique business at U.S. 36 and Francis Street on Sept. 9 and spent many long nights and a weekend getting ready. Mrs. Mahon found the number of people coming from far distances amazing.

"We had people from Tennessee, Oregon, Colorado, Nevada, Oklahoma, Florida, Texas and Nebraska as well as those from Kansas," she said the sales really started from about 4 p.m. on Thursday although there were people in Wednesday afternoon from Colorado. Those buyers were headed east to start the sale but saw they were open and stopped.

Those people who were staying in town to start the Treasure Hunt the next morning were busy checking out places on the map and they stopped where ever people were setting up.

One couple from Nevada was headed to the Nebraska Junk Jaunt which is set a week after the Kansas Treasure Hunt.

Mrs. Mahon said toward the end of the day on Sunday, a couple from Colorado stopped. They had spent the weekend on the Treasure Hunt and, as Mrs. Mahon put it, they had a "glazed-over look" about them. The woman stayed in the car and the man got out. They were looking for silver and, since the shop had several pieces, the woman came in, too. It was a good stop for the buyers as well as the sellers as they bought not only the silver but some toys.

The Mahons plan to have the shop open after they have cleaned and organized. Look for more information about their opening in the near future.

Mr. Neitzel, owner of Hilltop General Store, had his tent up with vegetables and fruit displayed early Saturday morning. A big majority was sold by noon but people were still coming to buy. Joan Knodel sold out of her baked goods early so the 4-H food booth moved from across the street and was able to sell out.

Kevin Andrews was roasting peppers and had people not only watching the interesting process of roasting but also purchasing them.

Sally Parker was having more fun than those people who stopped to have their fortunes told. She and the "lolly" were telling some wild, funny fortunes.

This was the third year for the U.S. 36 Treasure Hunt. Rumor has it that the event will be held again next year on the third weekend of September.



TREASURE HUNT BARGAINS were all over St. Francis on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. At the top, (l to r) Margaret Voorhies, McDonald; Beverly Packer, Kirk, Colo., and Manette Henderson, St. Francis, were checking out items; clockwise: Jessie and Jamie Krien, Waverly, had their fortune told by Sally (Parker), the Fortune Teller; Carol Northrup picked up a plate of barbecue from Doug Ross; Laura Pugh shopped for vegetables at Hilltop.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien