



AT THE INTERSECTION of U.S. 36 and U.S. 83, Bernie Vacura (above) of Old Czech Country Antiques talked with a shopper about his items during the U.S. 36 Highway Association Treasure Hunt on Friday. Kem Bryan (below), who had set up her garage sale in front of the old Truck Town building on the highway, worked on a puzzle.

Treasure Hunt draws shoppers to county

Tables were set up along U.S. 36 early Friday as store owners and others set out their treasures for shoppers to find.

It was the first Great U.S. Highway 36 Treasure Hunt, which started on Friday and lasted until Sunday along 401 miles of the road across Kansas. Organizers said people could travel across the state on the highway while shopping for antiques and other treasures.

In Oberlin, some dealers set up at the intersection of U.S. 36 and U.S. 83 and in front of the old Truck Town building, while others stayed in town with signs pointing the way off the highway.

Friday afternoon, although it was windy, local residents and those passing through stopped to shop.

Kem Bryan, who was selling her wares at Truck Town, said she thought the Treasure Hunt had gone well for the first year. She said she was amazed by the number of

people who stopped.

Mrs. Bryan said she talked with a couple from Colorado who said they planned on coming again next year.

Friday was probably the best day, she said, with Sunday not so good. For the most part, she said, they were busy all the time.

This was a good experience, she said, something that could grow and be better next year.

In Norcat, Bob Strevey, an association board member, said he thought the hunt had gone well. He said he has had some feedback from vendors who said they sold a lot of items.

The first year was a learning process, said Mr. Strevey. There wasn't as much traffic as they would have liked. There were a lot more people coming to look for antiques and not as much local traffic.

He said, with the positive feedback, he hopes the U.S. 36 Highway Association will do the Treasure

Hunt again next year.

Glenva Nichols, Decatur County Chamber of Commerce manager, said she made the maps for the event. She said the Oberlin Antique Guild, made up of store owners, gave her a list of locations in town where there would be sales.

She said the event went over well, but people in town who were having garage sales the same day need to plan earlier so that they can get their names and locations on the map.

Maps were handed out here and in nearby counties and posted on the association's web site.

Down the road in Norton County, Carolyn Applegate, a field representative with the association, said they had 26 vendors and were nowhere near prepared for how big and wonderful the turn-out was. There were lines at restaurants and the headquarters registered visitors from 12 states, she said.



WILLA URBAN of Oberlin (above) looked at kids' clothes at one of the sales while Marlin Bowen, (right) owner of Cabin Antiques, helped a customer.

