



ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON, Kem Bryan (above) took the price tag off an item at the U.S. 36 Treasure Hunt sale, while across the street, a wooden clown (below) stood on the side of the highway to show where one of the sales was.

Shoppers find scads of goodies on, off of U.S. 36

Books, clothes, knickknacks, antiques, furniture, just about every treasure possible lined the sides of U.S. 36 over the weekend.

Store owners and others wanting to sell a few of their collectibles or homemade things moved them up to the highway starting Friday for the annual U.S. 36 Treasure Hunt, billed as a 400-mile-long garage sale. The hunt extended across the state along the highway, allowing people to drive east or west and stop in each town to shop.

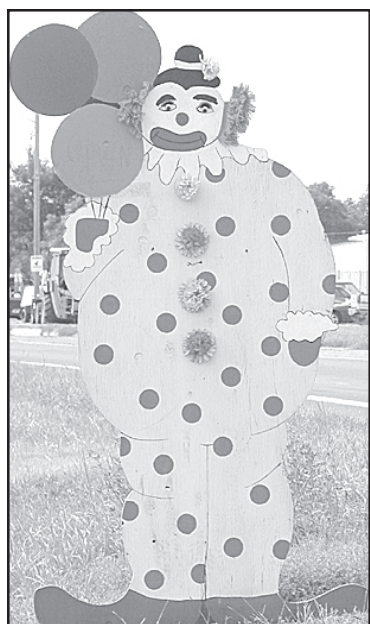
In Oberlin, at least 20 places had sales, some on the highway and others downtown or at people's homes. Items on sale included hand-made furniture, jams, jellies, antiques, knickknacks and store items.

Friday night, a few couples stopped at the LandMark Inn to eat after shopping. They included a man and woman from California who were traveling to Nebraska to see family. They said they had shopped all day at the sales along U.S. 36 and had planned their trip this way to hit the treasure hunt.

The restaurant also served people from Missouri and Oregon who had taken part in the sale.

One of the couples, who had traveled from St. Francis that day, said it took them four hours to make the journey as they stopped along the way.

Kem Bryan, who had her items at



the old Decatur Co-op fertilizer building on the north side of the highway, said she thought the sale was tremendous. She, Kathy Brainard, Beth Harmon and Jeanette Miller all had items in and outside of the building.

Mrs. Bryan said she saw people from Utah, California, Colorado

and Tennessee and there may have been others, but she couldn't remember. There were lots of people from out of town, she said, and many of them were buying some of the higher-end items, with lots of the antiques selling. There were also lots of local people out buying, she added.

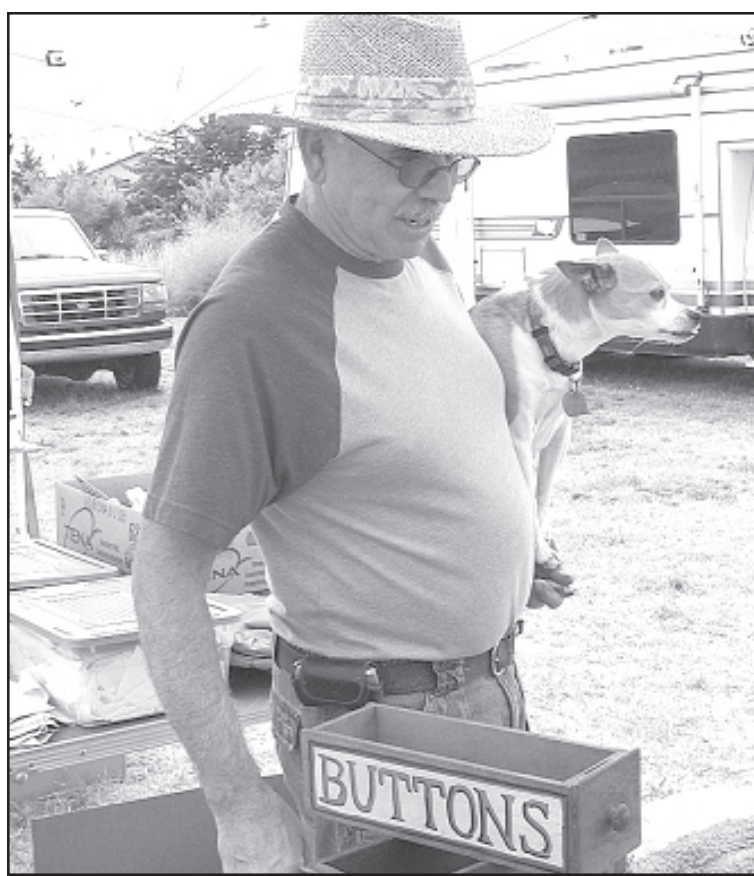
She said not just the higher-end items went, but the garage-sale-type stuff sold, too.

Mrs. Bryan said she probably did about the same amount of business as she did at the first weekend sale last year, and thought that was good.

Most of the shoppers said they had planned on coming for the Treasure Hunt, with several starting in Missouri and moving towards Colorado or vice versa. Several spent the night in town.

Saturday, said Mrs. Bryan, was the busiest day, although there were still people shopping on Sunday as they were closing down.

She said several people asked why Oberlin doesn't have its city-wide garage sale the same weekend. She said the Chamber of Commerce is looking into it.



AT A SALE IN TOWN, Fran Harman (above) from Brush, Colo., shopped on Friday during the U.S. 36 Treasure Hunt. LaVern Burtis (left) watched as people looked at his items on the south side of the highway.

Herald staff photos and story by Kimberly Davis