

Ohio National Road Association

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ONRA Website: www.ohionationalroad.org

★★★ *An All – American Road National Scenic Byway* ★★★

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President's Message

Dear ONRA Members,

Spring has sprung, and I am proud to say there is much sunny news to report about ONRA's ongoing projects. Our Interpretive Signage Committee's project received a big boost as we were awarded a \$160,000 Federal Scenic Byways grant for the implementation phase. Your Board is working to procure the \$32,000 (20%) matching funds needed to secure the grant money, but ONRA members are encouraged to assist us with this fundraising. With success, signs could start to go up as soon as this summer.

The Education Committee has been working to compile the Ohio Academic Content Standards as they relate to the National Road, in their work on a National Road History Education Kit. Coincidentally, as an extension of this effort, they have become involved with Think TV, a Dayton-area Public Broadcasting station, in their production of a National Road section for the next edition of their social studies resource series, *Our Ohio: Exploring Our Heritage*. With the help of sponsors, we hope to purchase this product and donate it to fourth grade classrooms in the ten National Road counties.

The Membership Committee has designed an Ohio National Road Association informational rack card to be placed at visitor bureaus, travel centers, etc. This tool will help to get the word out about our organization and will hopefully lead to an increase in membership. The first 10,000 units were graciously printed for us by the Montgomery County Commissioners. We extend our thanks to them for this generous donation.

Be sure to check out the March issue of *Ohio Magazine* for another wonderful National Road article entitled "Wish You Were Here", a nostalgic postcard view of the golden age of auto touring, written by Board members Glenn Harper and Doug Smith. Already, the reader response to ONRA's ad has been outstanding!

Thanks to Teri Davis, ONRA webmaster and recipient of our second annual Milestone Leadership Award (read more below), our website has been expanded and improved. If you have not visited it lately, be sure to check it out at www.ohionationalroad.org, and we would also appreciate your feedback.

As you make plans for the upcoming vacation season, I hope you'll consider making the Historic National Road one of your travel destinations.

Enjoy the Journey!

Denna Johnson - President

Milestone Leadership Award

On February 19th, Teri Davis was presented with ONRA's Milestone Leadership Award for her "invaluable contribution to ONRA, in designing, establishing, and maintaining the organization's website. Her innovative approach to technology has helped ONRA to advance our mission on the world wide web." Thank you, Teri for all that you have done on our behalf!



Funded in part by the Federal Highway Administration

Ohio's Byways... A Sunday Drive Any Day!

Spring 2008

WEBSITE UPDATES!

If you haven't visited our website recently, then you are missing out on the vast amount of resources and news available featuring the Road. We have made many updates in the past few months including a bibliography of National Road books and articles. Also, we have added a PDF version of our award winning *Ohio Historic National Road Design Handbook* for download and several new links that show the interpretive panels, news on the Road, and much more. If you are interested in having your business or website linked from www.ohionationalroad.org please contact Zachary Balassone at (937)-521-2136.

NATIONAL ROAD TRAVELOGUE

Whether you are looking to travel the Road or be entertained, you will love to be on a "Ride Through Time." Sylvia Miller will be speaking, playing, and singing! Sylvia, an ONRA Board member, will be traveling along the Road to tell the history in a fun and exciting way. By singing, and playing the spoons and banjo, she brings out the true essence of the Road. Below are her upcoming engagements:

May 7: National Active and Retired Federal Employees, 3105 Westerville Road in Columbus, OH 11:30 a.m.

June 30: Charles I. Lathrem Senior Center, 3600 Shroyer Rd., Kettering, OH 2:00 p.m.

Check out the March issue of the *Ohio Magazine* for a feature article on the National Road!



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A New Look for the City of Reynoldsburg by Nadine Morse

At a time when facelifts are fashionable, the City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio has taken the procedure to a new level. In the fall of 2006, the community celebrated the completion of a four-year major facelift to their aging Main Street—an area that had fallen victim to time and neglect. Through the vision of City leaders and the expertise of some of Ohio’s finest engineers, architects and contractors; they were able to take a run-down, outdated commercial corridor dotted with an eclectic mix of retail, businesses and residential and, quite literally, breathe new life into it.

Where a lackluster metal city limits sign once stood, an elegant brick entry wall with illuminated brass lettering now greets visitors driving west on this section of the Historic National Road. The 1.75 mile stretch is further enhanced by low, decorative brick walls that buffer parking, along with higher brick walls in selected areas that provide privacy and noise reduction to residents. Unattractive signage and crumbling sidewalks void of significant plantings have been replaced with uniform brick-based business signs, extensive landscaping and brick/concrete sidewalks. The new, pedestrian friendly corridor also is punctuated with historically designed metal benches and trash receptacles, as well as aesthetically pleasing traffic lights supported by decorative mast arms. All of these enhancements have been painted a burgundy-red to honor the City’s heritage as the birthplace of the first commercially-grown tomato. Throughout the process, special care was given to preserve the existing historic US Route 40 markers that have become an integral part of the community. Perhaps the most dramatic change to the corridor was burying the

tangle of overhead utility wires into a duct bank running parallel with the Road. The effect is so dramatic that it essentially takes the veil off of the community and opens it up to the skies. Along with the visual improvements, the community reaped the additional benefits of new water lines and repaired storm sewers.

With the successful completion of the Main Street Revitalization, a new energy and pride have spread throughout the community. That is certainly, in part, because the project has garnered two significant awards: a 2007 Scenic Ohio Award presented by the State of Ohio, and a 2007 ACEC Engineering Excellence Award. More importantly, however, residents are proud to have taken part in restoring this once vibrant highway back to its glory days. Take the occasion to travel through the City of Reynoldsburg on the Historic National Road!



Photos courtesy of E.G. & G. Inc.

Looking for a Treasure?

It’s that time of year again! The 3rd Annual National Road Yard Sale will be held from May 28—June 1, 2008. For a whole week, there will be numerous people traveling the Road looking for deals and treasures to bring home. *How do you participate?* You can either be one of



the many tourists and shoppers, or you can grab your antiques, collectables, clothing, furniture, glassware, fresh garden produce, or toys, put whatever else you have out in your yard, and take advantage of all of the passersby. While the six-state yard sale has brought tremendous attention and success to the mission of the Ohio National Road Association by increasing the tourism on the Road, it has not yet been tapped to further our goal of education concerning the history and need for preservation of its many landmarks. While ONRA is working hard to create and take advantage of educational opportunities, our Education Committee is forming a National Road curriculum consistent with state standards, working with Think TV on an educational video, and is seeking community involvement. So at this year’s National Road Yard Sale Days, we will take the opportunity to reach out to the many buyers and sellers, hopefully getting them interested not only in the history and character of the Road, but also in the need to preserve that history and embrace its splendor.

My “Little O.B.” by Vice President Cyndie Gerken

I attended first through third grades at the Olive Branch School building located at 9710 W. National Road, 10 miles west of Springfield in Clark County’s Bethel Township. Also, ONRA President Denna Johnson spent grades 6-7 there. Because of its unusual design it was sometimes called the “round” building. But we always referred to it as “Little O.B.” since there was a large two-story Olive Branch Junior High building next door. Built in 1908, Little O.B. served as a rural high school until 1928 and continued in use as a school in one way or another into the early 1970’s. It is used today as the Tecumseh Local School’s warehouse and storage facility and remains as the lone surviving historic school building on the National Road campus. Recently a group of local community members (including yours truly)

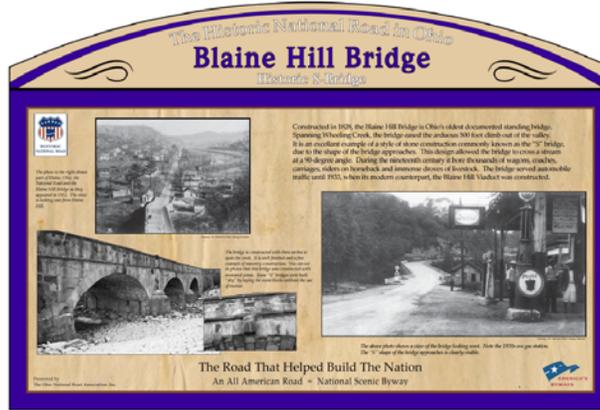


formed the Olive Branch School Preservation Society (OBSPS), whose mission is “to promote and fund the preservation of Olive Branch School and local history, and to further the legacy of cooperation between schools and community through public engagement.” The OBSPS recently received word from the Ohio Historic Preservation Office that the Olive Branch School building qualifies for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. A subcommittee has been formed to explore funding sources to renovate the old building, and will be pursuing opportunities for grants, donations and other fundraising options. For more information or to become involved, visit the Preserve Olive Branch link on the district’s website at www.tecumseh.k12.oh.us or call Assistant Superintendent Matt Curtis at 937-845-3576.



Signage Progress

The Ohio National Road Association received a National Scenic Byway Grant of \$160,000 for the implementation of our interpretive signage to be placed along the Road. As with most Federal grants though, we will have to provide a 20% match of the funds, so we will be seeking matching funds of \$32,000. A consulting firm has been working on the design of 30 different signs which will serve as Phase 1. In all, we are looking to implement a total of 60 signs which will help enhance the



tourism of the Road, as well as increase the educational capabilities. As part of our effort to increase the educational aspect on the Road, we are seeking geocaching of the signs, as well as providing a multimedia function through podcasts or cell phone for additional information concerning each site. We will be looking to start implementation of the signs by the end of this Summer, but the whole process will take up to 2 years to complete. Contact Zach Balassone for signage sponsorship opportunities.

Newark Wanted the National Road by Dan Fleming

From the beginning of westward expansion into the Northwest Territory, roads were a necessity. Besides moving settlers west, they moved produce to market. Without access to the outside world, a new town might fade away. Newark, Ohio had little going for it until transportation routes were established. It became the county seat with the founding of Licking County in 1808, but it suffered economically until the canal was built. When word came that the Cumberland Road (later called the National Road) was being extended through Ohio from Wheeling, a core of insightful men from Newark banded together to see that it came from Zanesville to Columbus via Newark. Col. Robert Davidson presided over a meeting at the Courthouse on April 18, 1825 to appoint a committee to survey the best route. Attending were William Wilson, William Stanbery and Alexander Holmes. John Cully and Lucius Smith raised money to defray the cost of the survey. The results were to be given to Jonathan Knight, the government surveyor. Knight first surveyed the course that the Road now takes through the county. He compared the Newark route and found it slightly longer, but cheaper and easier to build and maintain. He then left the decision up to the government. The Ohio Legislature voted 17 to 13 on February 9, 1829 to postpone indefinitely the consideration of changing the Road from its original course. They wanted it to be straight. William Stanbery of Newark met with the House in Columbus on March 2, 1829 and moved that the bill be continued and amended to bring the Road through Newark. Once again, he was out-voted. Ironically, around 1831, the construction west of Jacksonstown caused stages to be detoured north to Newark and then west through Granville toward Columbus.



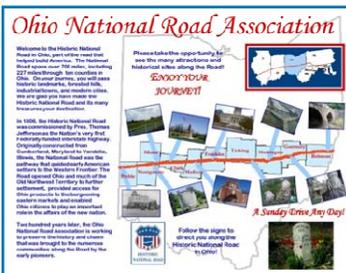
Rack Card

We have created an Ohio National Road Association brochure that will be distributed to the local Convention and Visitor Bureaus along the Road as well as to the Tourist Information Centers in Ohio. The brochure will serve as a way to get more people, both visitors and residents, interested and involved in the Road (and hopefully ONRA). We are currently seeking more funding for printing of the brochures. We would like to extend our appreciation to Montgomery County for generously sponsoring our first printing of 10,000 copies. Our goal is to print an additional 30,000 copies before the end of the Summer to help promote the history and need for the preservation of the Road. If you can help with this project, please contact our Byway Coordinator.

Interpretive Panels Schedule

The interpretive panels are on the move again! In 2008, they have already been at the Clay Township Main Office and the Springview Government Center in Springfield. The schedule is starting to fill up for the rest of the year so if you are interested in having them at your business or community, please contact Zachary Balassone at (937) 521-2136. Below is the schedule for the display panels, so make sure you come and see them when they are at a location near you!

- Tecumseh High School (9830 W. National Rd., New Carlisle, OH) from March 4—March 31
- Village of Hebron (934 W. Main St., Hebron, OH) from April 1—June 12
- Bowling Green Township Office (15508 Main St., Brownsville, OH) from June 13—June 16
- Preble County Historical Society (7693 Swartzel Rd., Eaton, OH) from June 18—July 25
- The Works Museum (55 South First St., Newark, OH) from July 26—September 12
- Reynoldsburg Municipal Building (7232 East Main St., Reynoldsburg, OH) from September 15—October 15

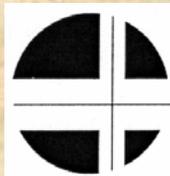




Ohio National Road Association
 C/O Zachary Balassone—Byway Coordinator
 3130 East Main St.—Suite 2A
 Springfield, Ohio 45505

National Road Yard Sale Days May 28—June 1, 2008!

The Ohio National Road Association would like to thank its sponsors:



CLARK COUNTY-SPRINGFIELD
 TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

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.

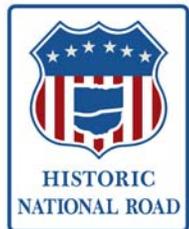
NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT ONRA? _____



SEND FORM AND PAYMENT TO:
 OHIO NATIONAL ROAD ASSOCIATION
 C/O ZACHARY BALASSONE—BYWAY COORDINATOR
 3130 EAST MAIN ST.—SUITE 2A
 SPRINGFIELD, OHIO 45505

Founding/Business Membership

Membership: For your donation, you will receive a bi-annual Newsletter and National Road Postcards.

Student Membership:	\$10
Individual Membership:	\$30
Founding Membership:	\$50
(Family)	

For the following membership rates you will receive a pewter National Road Keychain, canvas ONRA Tote, and an Audio Travelogue.

Weekend Rover:	\$100
Ohio Voyager:	\$250
Byway Pioneer:	\$500+

Business Membership: Like Founding Members, your donations will afford you a position in the ONRA community. You will have the opportunity to add your website link to ONRA's website for advertising. Business members will also receive a National Road window sign, a pewter National Road Keychain, and a canvas ONRA Tote. The following business rates apply:

1 - 10 employees:	\$100
11 - 100 employees:	\$250
101-500 employees:	\$500+

Donations will help ONRA continue to serve as a viable and active organization seeking to preserve, protect, and enhance the Ohio Historic National Road, an All-American Scenic Byway.