

Drive down U.S. 36 inspires man to write ode to towns on way

*Kansas U.S. 36
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From east to west - U.S. 36 runs,
runs close to the famous parallel,
the link between Show-Me and the Majestic Mountains.

Many towns, cities, history and Native Americans make this
a special link; thirteen counties over small rolling hills,
stretching toward the flat, the level, the view for Don Quixote,
the straight road moves.

While White Cloud has the the spectacular view,
it didn't have it didn't have the cash for Jesse,
but it sets the beginning high...

WATHENA - welcome at the Show-Me border and begins the
stretch to the West to meet the rest...
Indian reservation and each county seat, moving on to...

TROY - timely treasures, quiet, but the center of rich farmland,
rich heritage of Native Americans,
but nearby another rich treasure stands in Highland-
the oldest educational building in Kansas; it begins turning toward...

HIAWATHA - hearty history, a turn left, a turn right, then straight on the
brick streets, the square, then toward...

SENECA - swift, silent, the wheel turns, a light - then see you in the rear
view mirror - the wind turns, then on to...

MARYSVILLE - many moments, brick streets, historical courthouse, black
squirrels, railroad, Pony Express moving - pause at a light then
gallop on - turning to the wind,
Across the rolling hills, pastures, crossing the famous Big Blue
River toward -

WASHINGTON - worth wondering - another blinking; brick-lined streets
around the square - slow to know - many pies - but,
turning then on the go to...

BELLEVILLE - blending both crossroads for U.S. 81 - quiet to the right -
but world's fastest high-mile dirt oval dirt track - catch a glance,
near Pawnee Indian site, then, rotating a little faster on a steel
tower, but going on to -

MANKATO - mainly magnificent within Jewell; historical, cavalry, brick
buildings, ornate, quiet - the place for a moment - a blinking light,
turning, turning, go to -

SMITH CENTER - sure and significant; yes, the near center - center of
geographical United States; the hearty, the proud - wind crosses
the prairie - turning the blades - proudly on..

PHILLIPSBURG - pleasantly proud - go slow, a light, a crossroads to the
north, stretches fields of wheat, wind, tall tower turning, then
move on...

NORTON - notably proud - tradition - sports, hard working farmers,
more wheat, turning with more wind, before...

BERLIN - open, obvious - brick streets. Last Indian Raid; history; the
stretch begins to rise - so slowly from the plains; still turning,
groaning, warming wind - the blades, then...

ATWOOD - attentive, adequate - quiet, consistent; birds - the pheasant;
now a wooden on turns - used with the hand-dug well, turning,
lifting - wind blowing, steady toward the close of route 36 for
Kansas, but to...

ST. FRANCIS - fair but first - friendly, flat land, bird hunting, "The
Breaks," - the first and last Kansas smile - before it passes across
the border to the Majestic Mountains.

Travel Kansas U.S. 36 - it may seem the same - the town, the light, the
blinking light -- the houses, the brick streets, the square, the people, a
Land of Mancha - turning and turning upon its sturdy frame; but U.S.
36 is still parallel, the link, this stretching, reaching, smiling U.S. 36.



Sellers and buyers had a chance to get together to bargain, haggle and come away with a good deal during the first two Great U.S. Highway 36 Treasure Hunts. This year's is planned for Friday-Sunday, Sept. 19-21.

Bargains line roadside from Missouri to Colorado

Yard sales come in all sizes and a big one is being planned along U.S. 36 this fall.

The third annual Great U.S. Highway 36 Treasure Hunt will give buyers and sellers a chance to get together from the Missouri state line to the Colorado border and beyond.

The event, basically a 400-plus-mile-long garage sale along U.S. 36, is planned for Friday through Sunday, Sept. 19-21.

Last year dozens of vendors lined up along the highway and many others had signs on the road showing how to get to their homes or businesses.

Chambers of Commerce work with the U.S. 36 Association to get maps and signs out and, while last year the event was free to all vendors, organizers say they may ask for a small fee this year to cover the expense of signage.

Jim Erickson, Scandia, a U.S. 36 Association director, proposed the idea more than two years ago and with popularity growing a committee has been formed to keep the event a continuing success.

While the sale does not officially extend into Colorado several people in the Centennial State have said they would