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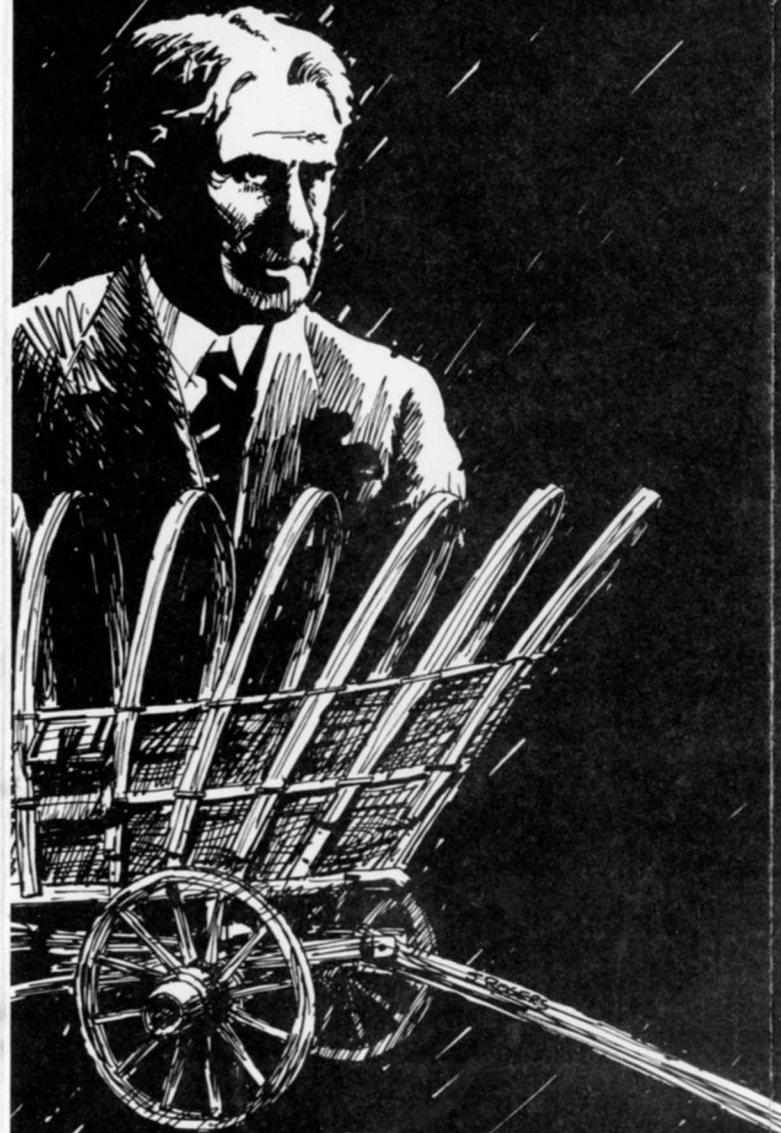
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# The National Road Zane Grey Museum



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### Zane Grey

He has come to be known as the father of the adult western, a title which at first might seem curious for a man whose roots were so deeply entwined with his home state, Ohio, and his birthplace, Zanesville. But there was a streak of the adventurous spirit in the family. His great-grandfather, Ebenezer Zane, was the man who cut from the Ohio wilds the first public trace, and on whose land rose the town of Zanesville. Although Zane Grey penned three important historic novels, the setting for which was the Ohio Valley, his most popular works were the 60 novels which brought the romance and adventure of the West to a nation of people who never got a chance to rope and brand a doggie, or spread a bedroll next to a prairie campfire.



### National Road

It was once the "Main Street of America"; the only significant land link between the east coast and the western frontier. It was the national thoroughfare on which travelled huge conestogas hauling freight, pony express riders and thousands of families on their way to a new life in the West. It was dotted with toll houses and roadside inns with names such as The Sheep's Ear, The White Goose and the Bull's Head, where coaches stopped to "water the horses and brandy the gentlemen." The National Road was the trail on which the philosophy of manifest destiny became a reality, the road which opened the heart of the nation.



### About the Museum:

The National Road-Zane Grey Museum, opened in 1973, recalls one of the most colorful chapters in the land transportation history of Ohio and the nation.

The National Road, which stretched from Cumberland, Maryland to Vandalia, Illinois, was the dream of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. They believed a trans-Appalachian land link was essential for moving crops and goods between the West and the East, and unifying the first states of the new nation with its swiftly expanding frontier. The museum traces the development of the road through a series of exhibits which depict the history of both road and vehicle technology. Historic vehicles, including a conestoga wagon, a carriage, an early bicycle and antique automobiles are featured on various roadbeds to illustrate how wheel and vehicle technology prompted improvements in road surfaces from gravel to macadam, brick, asphalt and concrete.

Scenes, signs and services once found on the National Road are presented by means of life-size recreations. The open air scene of a transient family stopping for the night would have been a common sight in the early years of the road. Other exhibits include a tavern common room, blacksmith and wheelright's shops and dozens of authentic historic items and tools.

Unifying the museum's presentation is a 136-foot miniature diorama, meticulously crafted in three-eighths inch scale. This "chronology shelf" shows by means of models the buildings, structures, vehicles and human activities on the road from the days of its initial construction to the auto age. It depicts the road crews of the early nineteenth century who were paid \$6 a month to break stone into three-inch pieces to be used for paving, the stagecoaches which once made the run from Wheeling to Columbus in an amazing 20 hours, the conestoga, the automobile and bus.



For several decades, the National Road was America's busiest land artery to the West. But when rail lines began to stretch across the country offering faster and more reliable transportation for freight and passengers, it became clear that the heyday of the road had passed. Only with the invention of the automobile and the popularity of the bicycle was the road saved from abandon and neglect. What had once been called the National Road, became known as U.S. Route 40 in 1925, a thoroughfare spanning America from coast to coast.

Today, Interstate 70 parallels the old National Road. The colorful inns, the cantankerous toll house agents, the Y bridge and the S bridge are no longer part of the trip on the four-lane interstate, though they still can be seen on the old road. The photographs of Model T Fords lodged firmly in hub-deep mud on the old road are merely reminders of the colorful life and times of the nation's main street, the National Road.



The museum also commemorates the life and career of Ohio writer Zane Grey (1872-1939). Grey authored scores of books during his lifetime; historic novels, hunting and fishing stories, but perhaps most importantly, adult westerns. His books made real the rounders and train robbers, gunslingers and heroes of the rough-and-tumble life in the unsettled West. Through the generosity of Grey's family, the Ohio Historical Society has received many of the writer's manuscripts, first editions, trophies and personal equipment. Many of these items are on display here. There is also a reconstruction of Grey's Altadena, California study depicting the writer working on a manuscript.

The National Road-Zane Grey Museum also exhibits a fine collection of Zanesville art pottery. These examples of Weller, Owens and Roseville art pottery were assembled through the generosity of several contributors and lenders. (While in the area, be sure to see the Ohio Ceramic

Center, located on State Route 93, between Roseville and Crooksville in nearby Perry County.)

The National Road-Zane Grey Museum is located on U.S. Route 40 at the Norwich exit of Interstate 70, ten miles east of Zanesville. The museum is open weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sundays and holidays 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (hours subject to change). It is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Advance reservations for group tours can be made by calling (614) 872-3143, or by writing National Road-Zane Grey Museum, Route 1, Norwich, Ohio 43767.

The National Road-Zane Grey Museum is one of more than 60 historic attractions operated by the Ohio Historical Society, a private, non-profit corporation. We welcome your remarks and suggestions on our museums and restorations. Address your comments to: Dr. Thomas Smith, Director, The Ohio Historical Society, Ohio Historical Center, Columbus, Ohio 43211.

