



MANHATTAN/RILEY COUNTY PRESERVATION ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

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Arts & Memories Board Renovating the Hassebroek Building to be a Museum

by Cynthia Harris

In 1870 at the age of 34, Casper William Hassebroek came to Riley County and settled in Madison Township where he farmed 160 acres of land. Since there was no fencing material available to keep work horses and cows at home, Hassebroek began making barbed wire for himself and the other settlers (Pioneers).

In 1877, Hassebroek opened a general merchandise store in Riley. In 1887, he moved into a newly built limestone building, which he operated until his son, Enoch and his wife, Ellen, bought it in 1901. They operated the store until their deaths, at which time their sons, Casper and Donald, took over the business. After the death of Casper in 1969 and Donald in 1972 (Pioneers), various others ran the store, such as Argil Pultz, Woody Woodyard and John Holden.

In the early 1990s, Keith and Rita Kraushaar purchased the former American Legion building in Riley. They made their home in the basement of the building and stored their family heirlooms upstairs. In

1995, they decided to open the upstairs as a private museum. In 2000, the Kraushaars purchased the lot next to them that was left empty after a fire destroyed a building, and they purchased the empty Hassebroek building next to the empty lot.

In 2006, they decided to turn the museum into a 501(c)(3), non-profit museum. Board members were recruited, and very slowly the public started learning about the museum. The empty lot was turned into a flag garden, honoring all active duty military and coast guard, military and coast guard veterans, military killed in action, military missing in action, and prisoners of war.

After spending about seven years trying to get active board members to help with fundraising, etc., the Kraushaars succeeded in 2013. The board came together to decide what to do about the current museum, which has no heating or air-conditioning and is not ADA compliant. The board spent many hours working on fundraising, and Keith and Rita donated the flag garden and the Hassebroek building to the Arts and Memories Museum, Inc.

March 2014 found the president of the board and the Kraushaars meeting with the Riley City Council to discuss renovation plans for the Hassebroek building. The very next month, April 2014, Ed Doyle



Above, a historic photo of the Enoch Hassebroek General Store in Riley, built approximately 1887. The photo is courtesy of the Arts and Memories Museum.

volunteered his time and equipment and began the demolition on the back of the Hassebroek building. This portion of the building was the old meat locker section built from wood. Ed also removed the old elevator tower and elevator shaft the store owners used to raise meat and supplies from the basement to the first floor, to raise supplies for storage to the second floor, and to lower them when needed.

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The year 2015 found the Kraushaars and most of the board down with some illness or injury;

therefore, no work was done on the Hassebroek building.

January 2016 found the board members, once again, hard at work raising funds to do the second phase of the demolition on the Hassebroek building. Ed Doyle is looking forward to a mild fall when he begins the second phase, which is to bring down the rest of the roof and remove all debris from inside the building. The third phase of the renovation project will be putting on a new roof, followed by phase four to start re-building the inside of the building.

The plans for the inside of the Hassebroek building is to have an art studio for workshops and for local artists and school children to have a place to display their work; the Kevin Larson Research Room (named for a long-time history teacher at Riley County

High School and local historian) where folks can come to research about all the towns impacted by the Tuttle Creek Reservoir; the Clementine Paddleford Gallery (named for a famous food writer from Stockdale) to display life and culture of the Blue River Valley; and other interactive galleries where visitors can take a "hands-on" approach to history.

Anyone wishing to be part of the Arts and Memories Museum Board or to help with the renovation of the Hassebroek Building can do so by contacting Keith Kraushaar, Director, at 785-485-2972. If anyone would like to donate, donations may be sent to Arts and Memories Museum, 213 S. Broadway, P. O. Box 354, Riley, KS 66531-0354.

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Pioneers of the Bluestem Prairie. Manhattan, Kansas: Riley County Genealogical Society, 1976.

Cynthia Harris is a member of the Arts and Memories Museum Board of Directors. She has served on the board since 2009 and was president of the board from 2012 to 2015.

Top, the Hassebroek Building as it looks today. Middle, another historic photo of the Hassebroek general store. Bottom, the failing wood-frame section at the rear of the building, which has since been removed. All three photos are courtesy of the Arts and Memories Museum.

Remembering the 1951 Flood

The summer of 1951 Manhattan experienced a major flood event, impacting a large portion of the town. Beginning in April, storms had dumped 28 inches of rain over the Kansas River basin, resulting in heavily saturated ground that couldn't further absorb the heavy rains that fell in July 1951.

Just a few days before the river waters left their banks, an article in the *Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle* noted that rain in both the Blue and Kansas Rivers' watersheds had raised water levels, but there was no immediate danger ("Rains"). Then, over 12 inches of rain fell the first 13 days of July, with over four inches of rain falling between July 9 and 10, ("13.88 Inches"), causing the Kansas River to rise 1.8 feet in 18 hours, and then rise another five feet just a few hours later, which helps to illustrate how quickly the situation escalated. Suddenly, Manhattan residents were bracing for a major disaster.

As the waters were rising, a *Mercury* reporter went out to survey the situation and noted that in addition to downtown, the southeastern section of Manhattan was flooded. Water stood in front of the former jail at Sixth and Colorado Streets, and about 15 blocks between Tenth and Fourteenth Streets, and between Poyntz Ave. and El Paso Lane were flooded. The reporter found himself needing to turn back, as water along Fourth Street, which was ankle deep when he set out, had risen to knee deep in a span of only 45 minutes ("Water"). The rapidly rising waters caught residents off guard.

River water flowed through downtown, with swift currents reported on Second, Third, and Fourth Streets ("City fighting"). Merchants sandbagged their downtown stores and tried to keep out the water, which was ultimately

unsuccessful. The National Guard was called in to help evacuate residents and to assist with patrolling flooded areas ("Police"). Evacuated residents were taken by boat to City Park, and their names were recorded at the rescue command post at Thirteenth (Manhattan Ave.) and Poyntz. The K-State Student Union served as the flood headquarters, and evacuees were housed in several locations, including Nichols Gym, Ahearn Fieldhouse, and Memorial Stadium. Many others were taken in by friends ("List"). The services of K-State's radio station, *The Collegian*, dairy, bakery, hospital, and cafeteria all were used to help with the emergency, and 1,800 evacuees were housed on campus (*Royal Purple*).

Just as many residents were caught off guard and trapped in their homes by flood waters, owners and employees of downtown businesses were stranded in their buildings. Employees of Chappell Creamery, located at 118 N. 4th Street, KMAN Radio, 114 N. 4th, and Duckwall's, 320 Poyntz Ave., spent almost three days stuck downtown. They survived by consuming milk, orange juice, ice cream, and cookies from the creamery. They slept on cushions they had taken from the Community House earlier in anticipation of possibly spending the night downtown. They watched as merchandise from downtown businesses were swept from the stores, including footballs, tires, coffee makers, clothing, pressure cookers, store mannequins, and a large deep freezer. In order to be rescued by boat, the stranded employees exited KMAN's building to get to the roof of the creamery,



Above, flood waters cover Poyntz Avenue (looking east from Fourth Street). The photo is courtesy of kansasmemory.org, Kansas State Historical Society. Copy and reuse restrictions apply.

went down through the creamery's attic, and then were picked up by boat from the creamery's loading dock (Rowlands).

Four men were trapped in the First National Bank Building, located at 330 Poyntz Ave., including bank vice-president Alvin Hostetler. Mr. Hostetler was quoted in the *Mercury* as saying the men had a thermos with water in it and chewed a lot of gum to stave off hunger. The people stranded in KMAN's building were able to string some sort of wire conveyance across the alley to send over milk and candy to the men trapped in the bank. The men in the bank climbed down a rope from a second-floor window in order to reach a boat when they were finally rescued after three days ("Rescue").

Approximately 100 guests staying in the Wareham Hotel, 418 Poyntz Ave., were also stranded. The water was five feet deep in the lobby at its peak. For food, an employee and a guest swam into the hotel's basement to salvage canned goods. One of the guests had a camp stove in his car that they were able to reach and bring into the hotel. An employee had parked (*continued on pg. 4*)

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his motor scooter on the hotel's roof to avoid the rising waters, and the employees and guests drained the scooter's gas tank to use the fuel for the camp stove to heat the salvaged canned goods. To pass the time, guests used window cords and coat hangers in an attempt to catch some of the merchandise floating by on



Top, the Riley County Courthouse and the flooded Wareham Hotel. Middle, residents being rescued from the flood waters. Both photos are courtesy of kansasmemory.org, Kansas State Historical Society. Copy and reuse restrictions apply. Bottom, the 1951 flood line on Brown's Shoe Fit, 311 Poyntz.

Poyntz. They reported seeing a refrigerator floating down the street that was responsible for breaking many storefront windows as it sloshed about. Despite these conditions, the guests told the *Mercury* that they had "never had such wonderful treatment at a hotel" (Rippey, "Flood").

These stories are just a representative few of the countless stories of Manhattan residents who found themselves trapped, the ingenuity they employed to get through it, the numerous volunteers who helped rescue people and bring them to safety, and the neighbors who helped fellow neighbors get through the disaster.

The water crested the morning of July 13, and almost immediately after that, residents noticed that the water level started to drop a few inches at a time, and they would soon be dealing with clean-up. By July 18, city officials were able to move back into City Hall, 112 N. 3rd St., and start cleaning up. The National Guard was relieved of duty. Residents were asked to pile debris on the curb so trucks could pick it up and haul it away. Flood mud was collected and deposited on lots between El Paso and Riley Lanes ("Move"). The state health department had flown in by Coast Guard helicopter 15,000 typhoid vaccines. Evacuees staying on campus were inoculated, and everyone who had contacted flood water was encouraged to be vaccinated ("Doctor").

The flood damage was surveyed, and estimates began to roll in. The city estimated a minimum of \$650,000 would be needed to rehabilitate essential services, including streets, sewers, water department, and the police department, and the city estimated \$1.5 million in damages to city facilities ("Costs"). The school district estimated \$500,000 in damages and wasn't sure school would be able to start in the fall as

scheduled (it did) ("School"). Riley County estimated \$500,000 in damages to county roads and bridges ("County"). In the area south of the depot and east of Fifth Street, 20 homes had been destroyed, and another 60 had been severely damaged ("May"). The overall total estimate of damages was \$20 million. The flood also caused one death: Mrs. Mable Doyle. Mrs. Doyle was caught in her home, located at 721 S. 3rd Street, when the flood waters rose and caused her house to collapse ("Believe").

By Aug. 3, there were no longer any evacuees staying in Ahearn Fieldhouse. The evacuees had either returned to their homes or had been taken in by other residents ("All"). For residents whose homes had been severely damaged or destroyed and they were going to need longer to clean-up or rebuild, the federal government provided trailers for temporary housing, which were placed on a site near 18th Street and Rock Hill Road ("City moves").

Manhattan residents quickly worked on rebuilding. An article in the August 16, 1951, edition of the *Mercury* reported that much hammering, sawing, and pouring of concrete was going on in the flood-damaged area and that all of the construction was "turning Poyntz into a new street" (Rippey, "Hammers"). Downtown businesses gradually re-opened, and two Aggieville businesses announced plans to open locations downtown to demonstrate their belief that the flooded area would recover ("Two").

As the dirty and smelly job of cleaning up and rebuilding played out, there were few complaints and repeated newspaper accounts describe how people viewed the damage and loss of property as insignificant because what mattered was that friends and neighbors were safe. A *Mercury* editorial noted, "This is the time to resolve that we as persons will be more neighborly, (continued on pg. 6)

Riley Co.'s Registered Properties

The National Historic Preservation Act was signed into law in 1966, and the M/RCPA will be featuring locally registered properties in the newsletter in 2016 in honor of the 50th anniversary.

Grimes House

1918 Humboldt Street, built 1916
National Register, 1997

The Grimes House is an excellent example of the Arts and Crafts style. It features original windows, doors, radiators, and light fixtures; oak-beamed ceilings; and quarter-sawn oak trim. The front lawn is terraced, and features a 55-step stairway to the porch. Dr. W. E. Grimes was a professor in Ag-Econ at KSAC, and he was an advisor to Gov. Alfred Landon.

Washington & Julia Marlatt Homestead

1600 College Avenue, built 1856
Register of Historic Kansas Places, 2006
The Marlatts' home is the oldest stone house in Riley County. When the original Bluemont College building was torn down, Washington purchased the materials and used them to construct a barn, which still stands on the property. Numbering on the roof timbers used to assemble the barn is still visible. Carved stone blocks with the lettering "Bluemont College" were installed above the barn's west entrance and are now in the KSU Alumni Center. Washington was one of the founders of Bluemont College, and both Washington and Julia were among the first faculty of the college.

Houston & Pierre Streets Residential Historic District

built 1866 - 1940
National Register, 2009
The district is significant for its reflection of the community's residential building patterns associated with Manhattan's economic growth, resulting from its role as a railroad market center, county seat, and college



town during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The oldest structures were built in the 1860s. The district includes brick sidewalks and streets and limestone curbs, which were installed in 1904.

E. A. & Ura Wharton House

608 Houston Street, built 1897
National Register, 1995

E. A. Wharton operated the New Dry Goods Store in Manhattan, which was well known for its quality merchandise and unique store window displays. Prof. John Walters, who started the architecture program at KSAC, is believed to have been the architect. Romanesque influences are found in the rusticated limestone first floor. The second story is clapboard with shingle accents. The second-floor sleeping porch is supported by massive limestone piers.

Mattie M. Elliot House

600 Houston Street, built 1927
National Register, 1995

The house was designed by prominent local architect Floyd O. Wolfenbarger for Mattie McNair Elliot. Mrs. Elliot was one of the founding members of the Manhattan Carnegie Library Board in 1903, and her husband founded the W. S. Elliot Clothing Store. The Elliot House is an excellent example of the Tudor Revival style of the 1920s and 1930s.

Manhattan Carnegie Library

Fifth and Poyntz Ave., built 1904
National Register, 1987

Manhattan received a \$10,000 Carnegie Library grant in 1903, and the Neo-Classical style library was completed in 1904. It's significant for its historical association with the Carnegie Corporation Library Building Program, which significantly influenced the development and expansion of the public library system by providing the funds to help construct libraries.

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and that the spirit of cooperation and goodwill exhibited during the disaster will become a part of our community character. . . If we all pull together this will be a bigger and better community despite the flood of 1951" ("Editorial").

Manhattan residents unaffected by the flood pitched in and helped those who had been displaced by sharing their homes; by scrubbing, laundering, and shoveling mud; by repairing damaged property; and by doing whatever needed to be done to help flood victims get back on their feet. This strong community spirit didn't go unnoticed. The National Municipal League recognized Manhattan in 1952 with an All-American City Award for Effective Citizen Action for the "action of her citizens after the devastating flood of 1951, and for the faith they have shown in her continued growth and prosperity." Manhattan successfully recovered from the 1951 flood, and it seems it was because its citizens

were determined to ensure it would.

"13.88 inches rain fell here in 13 July days." The Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle. 12 July 1951.

"All evacuees have left fieldhouse for temporary units." The Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle. 3 August 1951.

"Believe woman dead." The Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle. 17 July 1951.

"City fighting its worst flood in history today." The Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle. 11 July 1951.

"City moves for quick stop-gap housing units." The Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle. 13 August 1951.

"Costs city \$650,000." The Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle. 17 July 1951.

"County Damage." The Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle. 20 July 1951.

"Doctor Bestgen gives out set of health procedures." The Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle. 13 July 1951.

"Editorial." The Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle. 20 July 1951.

"List of evacuees, where to locate." The Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle. 13 July 1951.

"May Condemn Part of Manhattan." The Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle. 1 August 1951.

"Move to City Hall." The Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle. 18 July 1951.

"Police force grows in flood emergency." The Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle. 12 July 1951.

"Rains will bring both rivers up again; No danger." The Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle. 6 July 1951.

"Rescue from 1st National." The Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle. 13 July 1951.

Ripsey, Jim. "Flood along Poyntz Ave." The Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle. 13 July 1951.

Ripsey, James C. "Hammers, saws, concrete aid in turning Poyntz into new street." The Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle. 16 August 1951.

Rowlands, Marvin. "Get out 20 from KMAN." The Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle. 13 July 1951.

The Royal Purple. Ed. Dave Weigel. Manhattan, KS: Kansas State College, 1952. Web 16 July 2016.

"School Loss \$500,000." The Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle. 23 July 1951.

"Two Aggieville merchants show faith in city, move downtown." The Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle. 16 August 1951.

"Water rises too fast for reporter to keep ahead." The Manhattan Mercury-Chronicle. 11 July 1951.