Manhattan/Riley County, Kansas RESERVATION ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2006

Greetings from the President of the Preservation Alliance

Happy New Year to everyone in the Alliance and all our friends throughout the community. I'm looking forward to a very busy and rewarding year as the Depot nears completion and we officially begin to have our meetings there. Whoopee!

We all owe Michael Mecseri a basketful of thank yous for his oversight of the Depot Project—his presence on site has already headed a few wrong moves off at the pass. Public funding is a tricky thing when paired with volunteer-raised funds and Michael is doing everything he can to ensure that our (the community's) money is being put to its best and highest use for the restoration. His report on the project is the subject of this newsletter, so have a look!

In other news, the Riley County Courthouse was added to the National Register of Historic Places just a few weeks ago and the Marlatt House and Barn nomination was submitted to the state office in November by Pat O'Brien. We'll keep you posted on that. The Historic First Ward District is shaping up thanks to some students at KSU. The cover document is written and the rest will be up to the neighborhood to pursue.

I'm also happy to report that Downtown Manhattan Incorporated, Lisa Rockley Director, is very excited to co-sponsor a public meeting with the Alliance to bring one of the directors of the Emporia Main Street program to Manhattan to tell us how they turned downtown Emporia around with the help of preservation planning. Winner of a national main street award, Emporia has restored a beautiful historic theater, created a revolving loan fund and made it easier for owners of historic houses to get the information and permits they need quickly and easily. It's a model program and we should work very hard to make sure the presentation is well attended by several different constituencies in the community—such as the historic neighborhood groups, the chamber of commerce, and city planners. Our January meeting on the 12th with be dedicated to planning the

meeting and advertising it along with the DMI staff. That meeting will likely be Thursday February 9th so mark your calendars!

Lastly speaking of calendars, we need to think about two dates this spring. It has been suggested that we old Manhattan fuddy duddies need to get out on the road! We are looking at doing a road trip to St. Joseph Missouri in either April or May when the weather is nice. Put your two cents in so I can put it into our calendar and the newsletter.

The second date is equally exciting. We should start to think about what we are going to do to dedicate the Depot. I and some others have suggested the weekend of Manhattan Day as an appropriate time to put the spotlight on our history as a community and the efforts of this organization in preserving it. First Saturday in June is the target. I'll fill everyone in as things shape up. Buy champagne now while it's still on sale,

As Ever,

Bonnie Lynn-Sherow

MANHATTAN/RILEY COUNTY PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

Regular Meeting: Second Thursday of each month

7:30 pm

Location: First Congregational Church, Juliette and

Poyntz unless noted

President: Bonnie Lynn-Sherow **Vice President:** Michael Mecseri

Secratary: Linda Glasglow Treasurer: Barbara Poresky Newsletter Editor: Sally Lee

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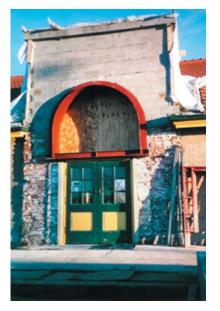
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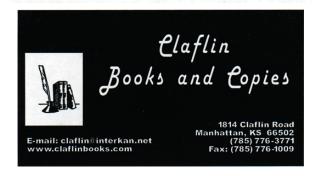
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