
P Manhattan/Riley County, Kansas RESERVATION ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

July 2006

Greetings from the President

Greetings from the President,

Ah, the warm weather is here and the living is easy. At least it seems easier now that the Depot Dedication is over and we have all had time to reflect on what we have accomplished over the last few months. The Dedication was everything we hoped it would be and more. The depot committee, indeed the entire executive committee worked hard to make it happen along with a whole phalanx of volunteers (thank you Megan Dowdy). We all owe a great deal of thanks to Liz Harmon in particular who put together a great dedication committee and kept everyone on track. And just so we didn't lose sight of what the PA does all the time, Debbie Saroff's committee is to be commended for thinking ahead and planning a stunningly successful membership drive and hosting our first event in the Depot. A stroke of genius to be sure.

I'd like to share with you some of the strange happenings and highlights from the dedication that made the day both incredibly fun and funny: Jim Sherow riding the little maintenance cars instead of getting ready to be President; Pat O'Brien running to buy eleven pairs of scissors to cut the dedication ribbon; forgetting the ice cream and having to run back to the house to collect it wearing a three foot wide hat, Debbie Saroff arriving with a cane to run the slide show; Linda Glasgow's command post at the kitchenette making sure we were in compliance with the health department; Judine's amazement at the amount of money we made at the merchandise display; Dixie's beautiful flower arrangement on the table; seeing Millie Schroeder in the mall parking lot with her walkie talkie helping people into the ATA bus, seeing dozens of people walking along the sidewalk to the depot as I drove to the lot (this made me cry for some reason);

Mike Mecseri's three hour grin; the STUPID flags that refused to hang down in front of the building, Dave Lewis' recovery after skipping the color guard and National Anthem in the program; Liz holding down the flag poles; Bruce Snead's comment that it was a great day because he was allowed to make TWO speeches, the fact that all the commissioners were there EXCEPT Ed Klimek; Roger Reitz's quip that when he needs money he turns to his children and my favorite moment when an extremely realistic Teddy Roosevelt took off his hat and waved it before a ridiculously excited crowd who acted like he was actually the President and made the whole day magical.

I'm sure we can all make a similar list of the things we did and observed that day. It's these little remembrances and memories that make all the planning and worry worthwhile. So, if you have a little story from the dedication you would like to share (like the woman who arrived three hours early and yelled at Sally Lee that we had not advertised the dedication adequately!) with the rest of us, please send Sally a note at cat_140203@hotmail.com and we will have a little section for your short pieces in the next newsletter. In the meantime, enjoy the pictures, pour yourself a tall cool one and put up your feet, you've earned it.

Bonnie

Calendar Of Upcoming Events

Thursday, July 13th

Monthly Board Meeting at the Union Pacific Depot
Fall 2006

Preservation Award Ceremony-
so check out the categories on our web site
www.preservemanhattan.org and keep an eye out
around town for potential nominations!

THE DEPOT DEDICATION DAY IS HERE AT LAST !



On June 3rd 2006 - or was it 1903? - the crowd gathered for the grand opening of our beloved depot.

The Depot looked wonderful both....



...inside...



...and out!

In attendance were...



...The President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt. (Known to his friends as Jim Sherow...)



...On the left, the Master of ceremonies Dave Lewis, in the center, and The honorable Mayor of our great City of Manhattan Mr Caulderhead (Bruce Snead) with President Roosevelt...



...And of course our fearless leader, and President of the M/RC Preservation Alliance, Bonnie Lynn Sherow...



...Bonnie was of course accompanied by the rest of the Lunatic Fringe, in full costume befitting the days theme, all of whom I believe would like to find more excuses for dressing up!



The VIPs and generous donors took their places....



...The crowd listened and the anticipation mounted....



...The ribbon was cut and the crowd poured in to see the finished building.



Volunteers kept the crowd cool with Ice cream and bottled water...




...everyone seemed to be having a wonderful time...



Liz Harmon, Chair of the Depot Dedication Committee, in a quiet moment in front of the tower. Thank You Liz for all your hard work!



...and through it all the lively Bare-foot Dixieland Jazz Band played on!



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