
MANHATTAN/RILEY COUNTY PRESERVATION ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

JULY, 2007

Will Manhattan Become a “Preserve America” Community?

The Preserve America program began in 2003 as a White House initiative set forth by President George W. Bush to preserve the historical sites and natural wonders of our country. The goal is to promote heritage tourism, adaptive reuse, and preservation through the cooperation of governmental entities, private institutions, businesses, and citizens.

Components of the program include an executive order that encourages the participation of federal agencies and their partners,

presidential awards, the designation of Preserve America communities and neighborhoods, grants, and educational opportunities.

President Bush’s budget request for Fiscal Year 2008 proposes \$10 million for the Preserve America grant program. Additional information may be found at www.PreserveAmerica.gov.

Our preservation community’s first Historic Summit, held on February 8, 2007, laid the groundwork for Manhattan’s participation in the Preserve America program.

The Manhattan/Riley County Preservation Alliance board of directors has voted to join with other groups to work towards a Preserve America Community designation. Representatives from the Manhattan Convention & Visitors Bureau, Downtown Manhattan Inc., the City of Manhattan, and the Riley County Historical Society & Museum will meet in the Chamber of Commerce’s conference room on Wednesday, July 11th, at 3:00 p.m. to discuss becoming a Preserve America community.

Tune in to “The Wildcat” – KSDB 91.9 FM

Thursday, July 12th, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Topic: Manhattan’s Eleven Most Endangered

Join guests Bonnie Lynn-Sherow and Dixie West in a discussion of Manhattan’s Most Endangered Historical Sites on the July 12th edition of **Community Bridge**, the progressive alternative to talk radio.

Community Bridge host Christopher E. Renner will discuss with Bonnie and Dixie what can be done to help preserve the history of our

community and why the choices we make today will affect us all far into the future.

Community Bridge airs each Thursday from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Kansas State University’s radio station, KSDB 91.9 FM. You can also listen to the station via the Internet at <http://www.wildcat919.com>. Click on the “listen live” button.

We thank KSDB and Chris Renner for offering an opportunity to amplify our message in a forum that promotes civil public discourse.

We also thank Bonnie Lynn-Sherow and Dixie West for getting the word out: preservation matters!

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www.preservemanhattan.org
info@preservemanhattan.org

Members Are Invited

To A Dessert Potluck

At Manhattan's U.P. Depot

On Thursday, July 12th, 7:00 p.m.

To Bid Liz Harmon Farewell

Table Service & Drinks Provided

Board Meeting To Follow

(bring dessert for twelve and a serving utensil)

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE MANHATTAN/RILEY COUNTY PRESERVATION ALLIANCE, INC.

ANNUAL DUES ARE USUALLY PAID IN SEPTEMBER.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- \$15 + STUDENT
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Hail and Farewell: Liz Harmon is Moving to Seattle

Liz Harmon has been an active member of the Preservation Alliance since before her graduation from Kansas State University in the spring of 2005 with a degree in history and a Russian minor.

She serves on the M/RCPA board of directors and as the chair of the program committee. She and her committee help to organize our special events.

Our most memorable special event was the dedication of Manhattan's Union Pacific Depot on June 3 of 2006. Liz helped plan the event and, through her contacts with the KSU Theater Department (where she worked as a seamstress while an undergraduate), organized the costuming for the Teddy Roosevelt era themed event.

Liz also helped to organize last fall's open house, December's winter holiday party, and February's Historic Summit—all held at the Depot. She also worked on the planning of this spring's Eleven Most Endangered Tour. Her work was essential in

the design and layout of the Tour booklet.

Liz works at the Riley County Historical Museum where she holds the title of Registrar.



In addition to her work and preservation activities, Liz has been active in the Flint Hills Masterworks Chorale, singing first soprano.

Now it's time for Liz to move forward professionally. She begins graduate school this fall at the University of Washington in Seattle where she will pursue a degree in museum studies.

Liz embodies the motto "it pays to participate." She parlayed her Riley County Historical Museum internship and her volunteer service beyond her internship semester into a staff position which has given her real-world experience.

Likewise, she has been a person who always volunteers for M/RCPA assignments.

She has made her mark and we salute her as she leaves us to begin a new chapter in her career and in her life.

Liz's boyfriend, Eric Lumpkin, is also moving to Seattle where he will begin graduate school at the University of Washington in civil engineering.

We wish Liz and Eric all the best, in grad school and in life, and we hope they will stay in touch with their Kansas preservation friends.

Some Early Bridges of Riley County

Historic Riley County bridges are a study in contrasts.
The photos are courtesy of the Riley County Historical Society.



The Union Pacific railroad bridge (foreground) and the wagon bridge (background) across the Blue River were photographed during the 1903 flood. At that time the Blue River looped very close to the eastern terminus of Poyntz Avenue. A later flood cut a new channel for the river, farther from Manhattan.



This bridge, most likely a fishing dock, is believed to have been part of the Eureka Lake Electric Park located west of Manhattan near the present-day K-18 highway in the vicinity of today's Job Corps Center. Electric parks on interurban electric trolley lines were popular entertainment spots in the early years of the 20th Century.



This railroad bridge, located one-fourth mile east of Bala, was built in 1887. The stones were laid up by hand. It may be the largest stone arch bridge in Kansas, according to the publication, **Bala Heritage**. The Chicago Rock Island and Pacific Railway Company is no more but the bridge endures.



The Pillsbury Viaduct, 1938—1996, provided a pedestrian walk on each side of the road. Stairs provided access to the sidewalks to those who were willing to climb! This photo was taken by Wann Towers just before the bridge was decommissioned and removed, leaving just two remnant Art Deco bridge piers.

National Trust News:

National Preservation Conference

The National Trust's website (www.nationaltrust.org) features an invitation to attend the Trust's upcoming national preservation conference in Minneapolis—St. Paul on October 2—6, 2007.

The conference is the year's premier event at which preservation professionals and volunteers will come together for information, ideas, inspiration, and contacts.

At least one of our own members will be in attendance this year. Georganne White has been awarded a National Trust Diversity Grant which will fund her registration and lodging for the conference. This year the National Trust has awarded grants to approximately sixty people of diverse social, economic, racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds.

Georganne qualifies for this grant as a "non-traditional" student.

The Manhattan/Riley County Preservation Alliance board of directors is also helping by assisting with her travel expenses.

Georganne White and her husband, Warren, are the parents of four children. About eight years ago Georganne, already a college graduate with a degree in sociology, decided to follow her dream to earn a degree in interior design. She also wanted to show her children that important goals are attainable, even if they are not easy.

Georganne graduated from Kansas State University in May of this year.

Family life and academic responsibilities have been Georganne's primary activities but she also

found time to both volunteer and then work for the Riley County Historical Museum. She serves as one of the Museum's "as-needed" weekend workers.

Now, with her new academic degree and as she nears the time when all of her children will be out of the nest, Georganne is ready to pursue additional professional responsibilities. She is exploring employment opportunities and plans to devote volunteer hours to the Manhattan/Riley County Preservation Alliance.

Contact Georganne by email at info@preservemanhattan.org if you would like her to look for specific preservation information for you while she is at the conference.

Colorado Novelist Thanks You for Your Help!

Our Colorado novelist, first mentioned in last month's newsletter, spent a productive week in Manhattan in early June.

The novel, set in 1959 Manhattan, is very near to being complete. The author wants to make details in the book as accurate as possible and, therefore, deeply appreciates the help and advice received during this visit.

Thanks go out to the lively group of people who met at the Riley

County Historical Museum at noon on June 6th to share their memories of Manhattan in the 1950's.

Thanks also to those people who allowed the Riley County Historical Museum to digitally duplicate their historic photos. They make a fine addition to the collection and are now available to researchers.

Special thanks go to the person who met with the novelist after work one evening to share his spe-

cial knowledge of south side Manhattan, railroad operations, and the depot area. He convinced the novelist that, in one scene, a character needs to walk a different route through town. Getting the details right can only add to our reading pleasure!

Because Manhattan's Union Pacific Depot plays a prominent role in the novel, M/RCPA members are sure to take a special interest in this book.

Preserving an Icon: Riley County's Courthouse Clock

About thirty years ago the citizens of Riley County reached into their pockets to help fund necessary repairs to their courthouse clock. David Seay of the Regulator Time Company was a key figure in organizing the fundraising effort to get the clock and its four faces back into working order.

For all these years David has been manually winding the clock, a weekly task. The time has come to install an electric winding mechanism and to make some other improvements to the clock tower.



*Photos courtesy of **The Manhattan Mercury**
and the Riley County Historical Society*

The Riley County Historical Society (RCHS) will take the lead in fundraising. The Kansas State Historical Society's Preservation Office has awarded a Heritage Trust Fund grant to help with the effort and the Preservation Alliance will loan its cardboard collection boxes for this worthy cause.

The RCHS has begun accepting tax-deductible donations for this project. You'll soon be seeing more publicity on the fundraising effort. You may send a check to the RCHS at 2309 Claflin Road, Manhattan, Kansas 66502. Please write "courthouse clock" on the comment line.

2006–2007 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

DUES ARE NORMALLY PAID AT THE ANNUAL MEETING IN SEPTEMBER BUT MEMBERS MAY JOIN AT ANY TIME DURING THE YEAR. CONTACT US AT info@preservemanhattan.org OR AT P.O. BOX 1893, MANHATTAN, KANSAS 66505 FOR DETAILS.

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