
Manhattan / Riley County Preservation Alliance Newsletter

June, 2003

RAILJOINERS CONTINUE LOYAL SUPPORT OF THE WHISTLESTOP CAMPAIGN

If you've missed it, look sharp. The Manhattan Area RailJoiners are up and running every Saturday in the building on the north-east corner of Juliette and Poyntz that once housed a florist shop. For over 25 years these model train enthusiasts, now numbering at least 30, from places as far afield as Marysville, Chapman and Topeka, have been creating their wonderful displays, and reminiscing about the golden days of railroading.



Initially they met in the homes of their members. The only time they could really spread out was when they packed up their trailer and transported their exhibits to shows in shopping malls, schools, and halls big enough to accommodate the accumulated

wealth of their joint hobby.

The chance to use the building on Poyntz, however, was the opportunity of a lifetime. Come see the show, and join in the fun!



Above left to right: President Ralph Findlay, Robert Slack, and Treasurer Les Kuehne pause as the train races by. Members represent every profession. What they share is a love of trains and railroading history.



Left: Ralph Findlay's granddaughter Katlyn demonstrates the universal appeal of railroads.



Right: Check out the hardware and the extensive layouts, which include a Union Pacific hot air balloon!



WORDS FROM JIM

Greetings preservationists of Manhattan! The potluck dinner last month was great; great camaraderie, great food, and great planning for the future. Toward that end, Linda Glasgow, Judine Mecseri, and I met with Becky Blake and the Manhattan Convention and Visitors' Bureau about historic tourism and its potential in Manhattan. We'll report on this development Thursday.

Also, Bernd Foerster and myself have been appointed to the 4th Street Corridor Steering Committee. I hope that between the two of us we can successfully promote historic preservation along 4th Street. We will energetically pursue this goal. And certainly we will be seeking guidance from and keeping informed the membership of the Alliance.

At this Thursday's meeting of the Alliance Bruce McMillan will be giving a special presentation on Main Street planning. He attended a conference pertaining to Main Street development and preservation, and will be sharing what he learned at that conference. This kind of information is particularly important and valuable given the fast moving developments pertaining to TNOs, MFROs, and the 4th Street corridor plan.

Bonnie, Jean and Pat are involved in the sesquicentennial planning, and this has important implications for the depot and historic tourism. And, we need to redouble our efforts for depot fund raising given that KDOT has informed



the city that the grant application for restoring the depot has been approved. Raising the matching funds WILL COMPLETE THE RESTORATION OF THE DEPOT. The Manhattan CVB is keenly interested in establishing its office there. That could be an exceptionally good move.

Kate Watson has been doing a wonderful job as our Chamber liaison. It has been through her initiation that the Alliance is now working hand in hand with the CVB. As you can see, by working together, each of us pulling on the rope a



little, will can advance historic preservation in this city. Manhattan is at an important turning point in its development as city, and we can make a difference shaping

that future. Hope to see all of you on Thursday night.

Jim Sherow

Above: Judine Mecseri and Mel Borst admire one of the Depot Tower posters being offered for sale at the Pot Luck dinner.

Left: M/RCPA Secretary Barbara Poresky, Bernd Foerster, and President Jim Sherow.

Below: Michael & Judine Mecseri's newly acquired "fixer-upper" at 1015 Leavenworth. We will be following the renovations!



**PARALLEL FLIGHTS
A FATHER-DAUGHTER MEMOIR
BY MARILYN McCORD**

WWII stories, aviation escapades, family history...

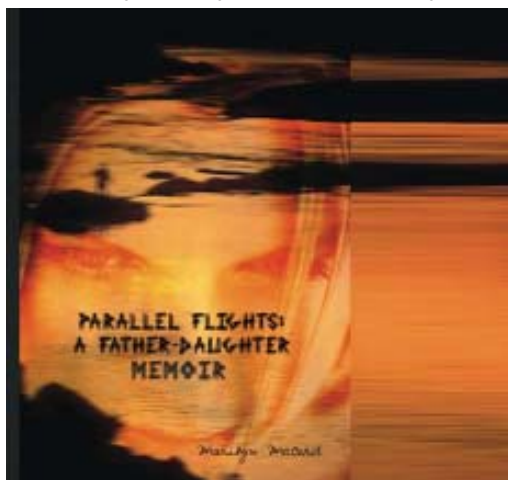
Hal McCord, a young personnel officer, was selected to hand-deliver secret documents to General Stilwell in India. A case was chained to his wrist and his mission was to deliver or destroy the contents along with himself. He later realized he carried war plans for the Chinese Theater.

To boost troop morale in Casablanca, he requested music scores from Kansas State and formed musical groups that became the envy of two continents. He midnight-requisitioned Navy refrigerators to keep beer cold in desert outposts. He flew the length of the Nile in a B-25 salvaged from the Sahara. When the higher-ups left Paris for meetings shortly after he arrived, he became the ranking officer in the command and responsible for getting Mrs. George Patton to the dying General.

There was danger, too. He was part of a search-and-rescue team looking for a downed plane in Western China when machete-brandishing bandits attacked from nearby hills.

This book details a life spanning most of the 20th century that began in Manhattan, a small college town in Kansas, built to a successful military career, then to being subject of FBI scrutiny Washington, D. C., and finally, leading to retirement.

This book is available at the Riley County Historical Society.



**MANHATTAN/RILEY COUNTY
PRESERVATION ALLIANCE**

Meetings: Second Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m.
Location: First Congregational Church, Juliette and Poyntz
President: Jim Sherow
Vice-President: Michael Mecseri
Secretary: Linda Glasgow
Treasurer: Barbara Poresky
Newsletter Editor: Marolyn Caldwell

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Dues date from the Annual Meeting in September. Dues paid mid-year confer membership status until the next Annual Meeting. Dues are \$15 for an individual, \$20 for a family, and \$60 for a sponsor. Checks should be made out to the Manhattan/Riley County Preservation Alliance, Inc. c/o P.O. Box 1893, Manhattan, Kansas 66505. Questions? Call Linda Glasgow at 785-565-6490. If anyone has contributions for future M/RCPA newsletters, please contact Editor, Marolyn Caldwell (776-4862), or email marolync@flinthills.com.



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The businesses and members featured in the Preservation Alliance newsletter are helping to defray our mailing and printing costs by contributing \$5 per issue. We welcome any and all new sponsors.

M/RCPA QUICK ANNOUNCEMENTS

★ **MEETING: Thursday, June 12, 2003, 7:30,
First Congregational Church, Juliette & Poyntz**

What to Watch for in Upcoming Issues:

- Rehabilitation of the Wolf House. Right: Kay Cardella, Martha Gray, and Linda Glasgow celebrate the Open House.
- Further updates on the rehabs and additions we have been tracking.
- Plans being developed for the Holiday Historic Homes Tour.
- And much more!

