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# Manhattan / Riley County PRESERVATION ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

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MAY 2004

**FROM THE PRESIDENT—JIM SHEROW**

Greetings Alliance Members. The upcoming meeting, May 13, 2004 promises to be an exciting event. Bonnie Lynn-Sherow's students are giving illustrated presentations on eight historic buildings in this community, and one student is describing an historic property located in Abilene. They have been working all semester long researching their projects and they have acquired considerable information regarding their various buildings. They have prepared Preliminary Site Information Questionnaires (PSIQs), which will generate an opinion from the State Preservation Office as to the potential of the buildings for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The eight buildings in Manhattan are: the Community Building; the Bethel AME Church at 401 Yuma; the Goetsch-Irvine Building at 221 N. 4th; the Laurie and Allen Archer House at 629 Houston Street; the Stolzer House at 529 Houston Street; the Daughters-Hulse House at 617 Colorado Street; the Stone House at the corner of Osage and 5<sup>th</sup> Street; and

Ron and Dixie West's House, 1014 Houston Street.

The Abilene building is a commercial brick structure on Broadway in Abilene.

As we all know, the Community Building may be in some peril even though the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Plan, as currently rendered, calls for its retention. By coming to this meeting we can demonstrate our commitment to both historic preservation in the community at large, and our adamant stance that the Community Building itself should remain a landmark in our community.

I encourage you to attend, AND to invite friends or neighbors to accompany you to this meeting.

Please take note; the meeting time is at 7:00 p.m., and will be held at the Community Building.

Refreshments will be provided.

Come celebrate and learn about the history of Manhattan! See you and your guests soon.

Jim Sherow, President

617 Colorado Street



529 Houston Street



**FOR THOSE OF YOU WITH COMPUTERS: CHECK OUT THIS SURVEY**

A downloadable survey has been developed to assess the recreational needs of the Manhattan community. <<http://www.ci.manhattan.ks.us/document.asp?ID=910-2004-05-06-40411-82>

**PA MEMBER BERND FOERSTER RECEIVES  
HONORS AT HOME AND AWAY**

Recently Bernd and Enel Foerster were invited back to Troy, New York, where they had lived before the Foersters came to Manhattan to join the faculty at Kansas State University. Some forty years ago Bernd authored a documentary on the historic preservation of Troy, and wrote a book covering the same subject. Grateful residents of Troy wanted to meet and greet the person who had been the force behind the saving of their architectural legacy.

Bernd gave a public lecture, and seminars at Siena College and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, to great acclaim. The trip was partially

funded by the New York State Council for the Humanities, and the rest by a variety of local contributors. Bernd and Enel did not know any of the planners before the trip. They were fans of his work and simply wanted to meet him.

Below is printed a portion of a column that appeared in the *Troy Record* following Bernd's appearance.

In addition to the honors he received in Troy, the Kansas Preservation Alliance gave Bernd a lifetime achievement award at its annual meeting in Wichita, April 29, 2004. He is also scheduled to get a distinguished service award at the graduation ceremonies at Kansas State University this month.

**Rittner: A hero's welcome**

By: Don Rittner  
from *The Record*, Troy, NY, 04/13/2004

**It isn't often that you get a chance to meet one of your heroes.**

And yet, on March 24, I, along with a few hundred others got a chance to listen to a lecture and slide show by Bernd Foerster, a preservation pioneer and early supporter of Troy's historic architecture from the 1960s.

Foerster is the former dean and professor of RPI's School of Architecture. He delivered his lecture at the First United Presbyterian Church on Fifth Avenue. The event was organized by TAP's Michael Lopez and supported by RPI, TAP, and Siena College.

I've been a big fan of Foerster since I was a kid, and my barely holding-together copy of his "Architecture Worth Saving (Rensselaer County)" is testimony to its worth. This 200-plus-page book published in 1965 promoted restoring, not destroying, historic structures way before it became the preservationist's mantra.

Recently, we showed his documentary "What Do You Tear Down Next?" at the Ilium Roundtable; a 1964 film that showed the start of the destruction of hundreds of downtown buildings in Troy and Schenectady. This film has seen the rounds lately in Troy and makes you wonder what local officials were thinking as historic building after historic building was unceremoniously razed and replaced by—well, usually nothing.

While I didn't notice many elected officials at the lecture, others in the packed house clearly felt the message he has been delivering for all these years—"Troy has forgotten what it was and not yet seen what it can be."

The story does have a good ending since we are still blessed with hundreds of great buildings, thanks in part to Foerster's early work. Even he was impressed that after 40 years, not all was lost.

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Don Rittner's column appears Tuesdays in *The Record*.

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629 Houston Street



Bethel AME Church, 401 Yuma



1014 Houston Street



Goetsch-Irvine Building, 221 North 4th

**MANHATTAN/RILEY COUNTY  
PRESERVATION ALLIANCE**

- Meetings:** Second Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m.  
**Location:** First Congregational Church, Juliette and Poyntz unless noted  
**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](mailto: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.

**PLEASE COME TO OUR SPECIAL EVENT—THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 13, 2004  
AT THE COMMUNITY BUILDING ON NORTH 4TH STREET, 7:00 P.M.**

M/RCPA  
P.O. Box 1893  
Manhattan, KS 66505