
Manhattan / Riley County Preservation Alliance Newsletter

October, 2003

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings everyone. Tuesday night was an important one for the Alliance. The City Commission approved the rezoning for the Multi-Family Re-development Overlay district and set its boundaries according to the original recommendations of the City Planning Staff, Neighborhood Coalition and Alliance. As you might recall, the commissioners, by a 4 to 1 vote, had at a previous meeting extended the area under consideration for rezoning by an additional 15 square blocks. The Builders, Realtors, and Landlords Coalition supported the extension and basically thought that the addition of the those blocks would sail through the Planning Board and the Commission.

Thanks to the work of the city planners, and the combined efforts of the Neighborhood Coalition and the Alliance, this scenario failed to come about. Our members put in a huge amount of time in the outcome of Tuesday night, and I want to thank here those who put in such a tremendous effort: Marolyn Caldwell, Jan Borst, Kate Watson, Bernd and Enell Foerster, Dixie West and Mike Mecseri. Their combined efforts were instrumental in Tuesday's outcome.

Still, the effort to preserve and rehabilitate the traditional neighborhoods of Manhattan is just beginning. The Southside and neighborhoods north of Poyntz have yet to be rezoned with Traditional Neighborhood District overlays, and that effort will begin soon. Also, the city is looking at code enforcement and we know this is important to these areas as well. There will be tax incentive programs for historic rehabilitation in the traditional neighborhoods presented to the commissioners once all of the rezoning is completed. There is the 4th Street Corridor Plan in the making, in which Bernd and I serve on the steering committee. AND, if any of you are still willing, the Neighborhood Coalition can use donations to pay the attorney fees for Price

Banks, who was helpful in the M-FRO issue.

All of this is going on while we already have two important affairs before us. The Homes Tour is rapidly coming up and I hope that all of you will be sparing some time to help out in this important fund raising and public awareness program. More on this at the meeting tonight. Also, depot fund raising is still advancing and the work to move that off dead center is progressing.

Clearly, the Alliance has much to do! A reminder to all is that the Alliance cannot remain effective in the community if its tasks are left to just a core of its membership. I'm encouraging all of the members to attend the meetings, to make suggestions for improving our public involvement, to volunteer for the roles that preserve the historical integrity of our community, and to make recommendations for public programs and presentations. We also should consider how to build our membership base. It seems to me there is a lot of activity and interest in historic preservation in the community now, so let's capitalize upon it!

Looking forward to seeing everyone tonight!

Jim Sherow

Below: The Mecseri's "fixer-upper" at 1015 Leavenworth is shaping up nicely.



2003 HISTORIC HOMES TOUR

Linda Glasgow

The organizing committee for the 2003 Historic Homes Tour co-sponsored by the Riley County Historical Society and the Manhattan/Riley County Preservation Alliance, Inc. is pleased to announce this year's tour properties:

- 1010 Claflin—Residence of Elmer and Roxie Blankenhagen
- 121 North Juliette—Methodist parsonage residence of Rev. Jim and Sherry Reed
- 1630 Pierre—Residence of Kathy Biswell
- 2120 College Heights—Residence of R.C. and Melissa Jones
- 1932 Sunset Lane—Residence of Karen DeBres.

We thank all of our homeowners for allowing the public to learn about their historic residences. The tour will begin with our traditional "candlelight tour" on Friday evening, December 12th and will continue on Saturday, December 13th. Proceeds from the tour will be evenly split between the Wolf House Museum and the Manhattan Union Pacific Depot.

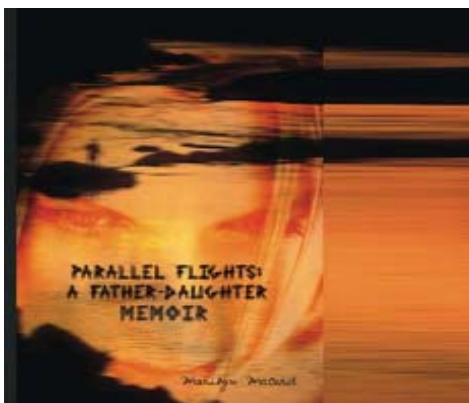
Ticket sales information will be available at a later date.

Anyone wishing to volunteer for this project is invited to call Linda Glasgow at the Riley County Historical Museum, 565-6490.

M/RCPA QUICK ANNOUNCEMENTS

★ **M/RCPA MEETING:**
Thursday, October 9, 2003, 7:30,
First Congregational Church,
Juliette & Poyntz

This book is available at the Riley County Historical Society.



More views of Mike Mecseri's handiwork at 1015 Leavenworth.



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1019 HUMBOLDT—LABOR OF LOVE BY A LANDLORD/PRESERVER OF OLD HOMES

Meet Susan Hummel, of rural Culver, Kansas, who greeted us warmly with her granddaughter in her arms, and proudly showed us the beautiful home, still undergoing renovation. Her married son and his family, her daughter, and three other tenants, are residents of the home. All are students at K State. Mrs. Hummel has spared no expense to rehab this old home. It formerly belonged to the Brighton's, who in times past owned a Home Furnishings store in Manhattan.

**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.

MEMBERSHIP FORM—2003-2004

Name or names: _____
 Street Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Membership fees are \$15 per individual; \$20 per family.

Sponsor fees are \$60/year. Please send a business card for display in the newsletter.

Further sponsorship information: _____

Are you willing to volunteer to help with money-raising activities to restore the Manhattan Depot?

Please send this form to M/RCPA, Inc. c/o P.O. Box 1893, Manhattan, KS 66505.



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**Our 2003-04 Sponsors also include
Doris Grosh, Pat O'Brien,
Marolyn Caldwell, Barbara Withee
and Marilyn McCord**

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