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# Manhattan/Riley County PRESERVATION ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

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OCTOBER 2004

**FROM THE PRESIDENT—DIXIE WEST**

As the city of Manhattan is gearing up for the sesquicentennial celebration—and it looks like it will be a wonderful celebration indeed—we in the Preservation Alliance have our own reason to celebrate. Ten years ago a group of individuals met for the first time because we all shared the vision that old things in Manhattan were worth saving. We met at the Riley County Historical Museum and many of us were strangers. We began that informal meeting by stating our names, where we lived, and our thoughts on preservation. Ten years later as I look back, I remember the hours spent at the City Hall as we waited our turns to present ideas on neighborhood character, sympathetic infills, TNOs, downzoning, superduplexes, and the Depot renovation to commissioners, the Urban Planning Board, or the Board of Zoning Appeals. We carried hundreds of pounds of pumpkins and corn stalks to the Union Pacific Depot as we kicked off the Whistle Stop Campaign, the fundraiser for the depot rehabilitation. With the vast organizational powers of the employees at the Riley County Historical Museum, we wrote scripts, trained docents, decorated houses, and advertised for, and “pulled off” five successful Historic Homes Tours. We’ve joined the Chamber of Commerce and are creating our website. We are nearing the completion of the Union Pacific Depot rehabilitation. A small house on Yuma, the historic Black hotel, is being restored by Elaine Mohr. Manhattan structures are being added to the National Register of Historic places. We are educating folks in the community, to quote the National Trust for Historic Preservation, that “Old friends are worth saving.” We can be proud of ourselves that as preservationists we have made a difference in this community. Ten years ago, an

old house that had seen better days might have been quickly razed to make way for a new inappropriate structure. Now, as a community, we pause and consider whether the old structure is worth saving. It’s been exhausting but rewarding work. I predict that during the next ten years, preservation and all of its merits will be fully recognized and come into full swing in the City of Manhattan. I look forward to the opportunities the next ten years hold.

*Dixie West*

## **HISTORIC LANDMARK WATER TOWER NEIGHBORHOOD MYSTERY TOUR**

**See Page 2 for Details**

## **MHS STUDENTS AID UP DEPOT**

The Manhattan/Riley County Preservation Alliance would like to recognize one very special group for its significant contribution to the depot project. Last spring the three sections of Manhattan High School’s Interpersonal Skills class selected the depot as the beneficiary of their fund-raising efforts. The students and their teachers, Lori Sherley and Annie Haefke, used seed money provided by a grant to purchase concession products which were sold at the Eisenhower sports complex. After refunding the original seed money, this group of young entrepreneurs donated their profit of over \$900 dollars to the Whistlestop Campaign. To these students and their teachers we say “well done!”

## **HISTORIC LANDMARK WATER TOWER NEIGHBORHOOD MYSTERY TOUR**

**C**heryl Collins, director of the Riley County Historical Museum, will lead a tour of Manhattan's Historic Landmark Water Tower Neighborhood on November 6, 2004, from 10 am to 2 pm. The tour, which is sponsored by the Manhattan/Riley County Preservation Alliance, includes visits to four private residences within the water tower district. The owners will personally conduct the tours within each house and there will be refreshments at all four houses.

This is a unique opportunity to view four beautifully appointed historic houses with commentary on their architecture, history, furnishings, and garden features. None of the home owners anticipate placing their homes on subsequent tours.

Participation in this tour is limited to a maximum of twelve and a minimum of six adults. Tickets are priced at one-hundred dollars each and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. The entire cost of the ticket is tax deductible.

Checks should be made out to the Manhattan/Riley County Preservation Alliance, Inc. and mailed or hand-delivered to the Riley County Historical Museum, 2309 Claflin Road, Manhattan, Kansas 66502. Please write "Mystery Tour" on the outside of the envelope and provide contact information (home address, email address, and telephone number). Participants will be contacted in advance of the tour with exact information as to where to park, etc.

All proceeds from this event will be matched four-to-one by the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and will go towards the rehabilitation of Manhattan's Union Pacific Depot.

Questions may be directed to Linda Glasgow at [lglasgow@co.riley.ks.us](mailto:lglasgow@co.riley.ks.us) or 785-565-6490.

### **Quick Peek: Everything You Need To Know About The Mystery Tour**

**Date:** Saturday, November 6, 2004

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Ticket Price:** \$100.00

**Tour Sponsor:** The Manhattan/Riley County Preservation Alliance, Inc.

**To Benefit:** Manhattan's Union Pacific Depot

**Tour guides:** Cheryl Collins and the homeowner of each of four houses.

**Bonus:** Refreshments in each of the four houses.

**Another Bonus:** The ticket price is tax deductible.

**Bonus x 4:** Each dollar raised will be matched by KDOT on a 4 to 1 basis.

**Participation:** Limited to a maximum of twelve adults and a minimum of six adults.

**Check Payable:** Manhattan/Riley County Preservation Alliance, Inc. (MRCPA) mailed or hand delivered to the Riley County Historical Museum, 2309 Claflin Road, Manhattan, Kansas 66502. Please write "Mystery Tour" on the outside of the envelope.

**Deadline to purchase tickets:** Monday, November 1, 2004

**Details:** We do not anticipate handing out actual tickets. Receipt of your check will put your name

on the list. Participants will be contacted in advance of the tour with exact information as to where to park, etc. Please include contact information including home address, email address, and telephone number. The Riley County Historical Museum's telephone number is 785-565-6490.

#### **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:** Dixie West

**Vice-President:** Michael Mecseri

**Secretary:** Linda Glasgow

**Treasurer:** Barbara Poresky

**Newsletter Editor:** Marolyn Caldwell



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**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.

## **HISTORIC PHOTOS**

Starting with this issue we are adding a new feature, historic pictures pulled from the files of the Riley County Historical Museum. In this issue we see 228-230 Poyntz as it appeared around the 1920s.

What appears to be one building at the northeast corner of Third and Poyntz is really two buildings. The corner structure, known as the Green and Hessin building, was designed by George Ropes of Topeka. The firm of Smith and Sargent had the contract to erect the building in 1884 at a cost of something over \$7,000.

J. N. Limbocker's building at 228 Poyntz was built at the same time. The Ulrich Brothers worked on the matching facades of both buildings. The Long, Brown, and Allen dry goods store first occupied the ground floor of 230 Poyntz and the J.S. Corbett hardware store moved into 228 Poyntz. The *Manhattan Nationalist* newspaper reported that hitching posts were put up along the west side of Green and Hessin's block in May of 1885. The First National Bank acquired the Green and Hessin Building in 1890 for \$12,000. Plans were made for a large window to be added to the west wall "to furnish light for the business counters." The year 1900 saw the bank's addition of a standard electric clock to be wound daily and set hourly from Washington, D.C., using Western Union telegraph wires that were connected to the master clock in our nation's capital.



Courtesy of Riley County Historical Society

**PLEASE JOIN US ON THURSDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 14, 2004  
AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, JULIETTE AND POYNTZ, 7:30 P.M.**

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