

The New Haven Register

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LETTERS

Unsigned letters will not be considered. Names will be printed upon request for acceptable reasons. Double-spaced typing should be used, if possible. Be brief — lengthy letters stand less chance of publication.

Warrant Space

To the Editor:

Recently, while running an errand in the vicinity of Yale-New Haven Hospital, I happened on a group of black, white and hispanic youth industriously working on a mural located near the intersection of Howard and Washington Avenues. It warmed and impressed me greatly that they were so earnestly involved in their endeavor. But, as with many such observations, it passed from my conscious to the unconscious and ended there. — until this morning when I was glancing over the Journal-Courier and noticed on one of the Suburban News' pages the picture and caption on the "All Weather Flag" being painted on St. Stanley's in Seymour.

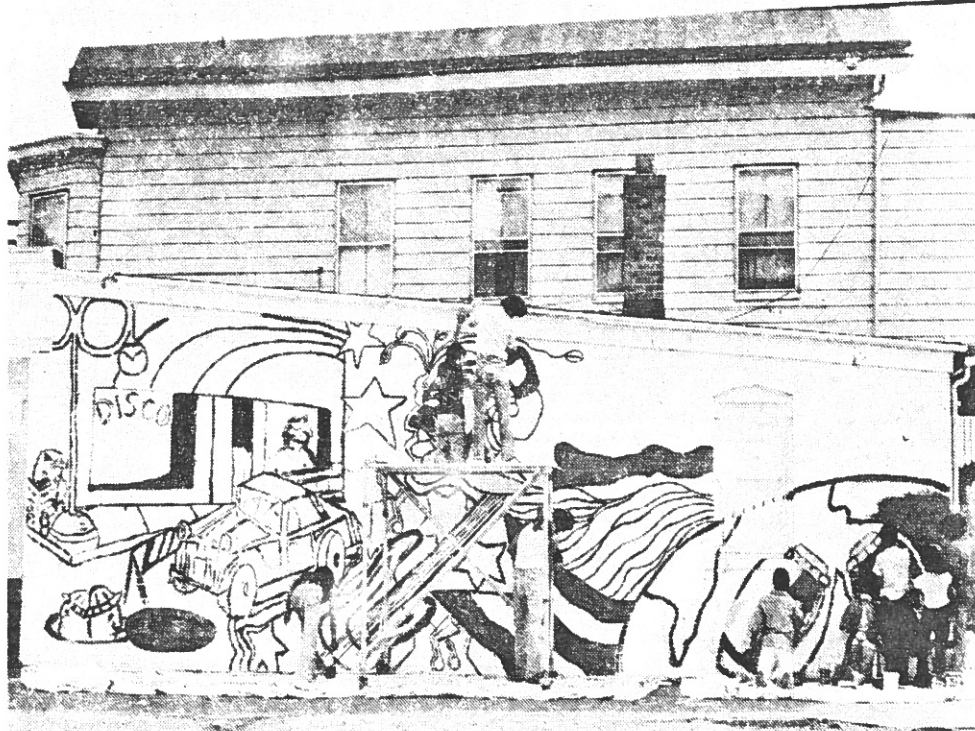
It was at this moment that it occurred to me that the only interesting thing about this Betsy Ross flag was its Bicentennial significance. On the other hand, here were these young people — representative of a group of people subject to "over-publicity" when they do something wrong and "none" when they do something right — engaging in a community-beneficial project (which I might add, also incorporated a Bicentennial significance) which I just happened on by sheer chance (this is not my normal route of travel)!

My point then is that if the "All-Wather Flag" was considered of general enough interest to justify newspaper space, then I feel this particular mural which I observed warrants the space even more!

JUDITH AMRI

West Haven

New Haven Register July 13, 1976



Residents in the Hill area collaborated with Ruth Resnick, CETA muralist, to design this mural for the side of a store at 301 Washington Ave. The artist for the mural was Angel L. Miranda Jr., a member of the Puerto Rican Youth Services.

N.H. Reg. 8/8/76

Murals Brightening City Scene

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Bringing art to the people is part of the New Haven scene this summer. Many muralists employed either by CETA (the federally funded Comprehensive Employment and Training Act) or ArtsJobs are introducing neighborhood volunteers and CETA sponsored youth crews to the beauty and educational value of mural paintings.

One of the CETA muralists, Ruth Resnick of the Arts Council of Greater New Haven began working this past spring with neighborhood youth to paint a mural on the wall of Frank's Paint and Wallpaper Store, Inc. at 301 Washington

Avenue. "With the help of Hilda Nineto of the Puerto Rican Youth Services (PRYS), Cynthia Grant of the Hill Cooperative Youth Services and Michelle Harper of the 4-H Club, we got a group of young people together for a slide presentation about murals," Ruth explained. "Some of them were interested to help design and paint Frank's Hardware Store wall.

"With Ed Verapapa supplying the wall and Frank and Pat Iamele, owners of Frank's Paint and Wallpaper Store supplying the paints, we got started. After the volunteers and I made a few attempts to come up with a specific theme and a

few sketches, I was introduced to Angel Miranda Jr., a Hill teenager and a member of the P.R.Y.S., who made the final design for the mural which is now completed."

Resnick explained that a mural has to relate to people of the neighborhood. "The idea of this mural has to do with neighborhood music and where it comes from. In general, murals represent what is of interest to some of the youth in 1976," said Resnick.

Resnick who graduated from Southern Connecticut State College with a B.S. in art education is interested in getting

art out to the streets. She feels murals are popular and important because the process of making a mural is as important as the final product. "The mural project gives the painters valuable experience not only in painting but also in working together. It can be a real learning experience in group dynamics," said Resnick. "Working together is as important as the final mural."

In order to paint a mural, a wall must be secured and the proper approval obtained. After this step is completed, the wall is surfaced and primed, and an idea for the content of the mural is developed. "The decision of what the mural will portray is a team decision," said Resnick. The team decides on an idea and the imagery. I will help with the actual drawing, but the ideas must come from the team members."

After the idea is formulated and a color scheme is decided upon, the drawing is transferred from the mock-up to the wall. "When the drawing is transferred to the wall and the painting is ready to begin, the team grows as other people from the

neighborhood begin to show up and participate in this final step," explained Resnick. "With the help of Rolando Martinez a staff member of Crossroad, Inc., we got some volunteers to paint. The final painting team was enormous. Many of the painters were youngsters in the community who had seen the drawing being put up and wanted to help."

In addition to the hardware store wall, Resnick has also worked with the Barbell Club in a mural for the Hill Health Center, with the Freddy Fixer Parade Committee, and the students in the Martin Luther King School whose mural will be completed in the fall.

Next week a mural will be unveiled at the Farnam Neighborhood House in Fair Haven. With the cooperation of Bob Sheely, director, and Lou Perno, Resnick worked with the young members of that community house to make a mural in their game room.

Twenty-one CETA enrollees are involved in various mural projects throughout the city for eight weeks. Resnick now works with 6 enrollees on a mural on the wall of the Hill Neighborhood Corporation on Congress Avenue. In the Newhallville neighborhood, Terry Lenox is supervising a mural painting on the back of a bleacher support on the corner of Ivy and Newhall Streets. A mural is being painted on the side of the West Rock Neighborhood Corporation building located on Wilmot Road under the direction of Elizabeth Celotto. Two other CETA muralists, Ida Gallagher and David Rodriguez, have a team of painters who just completed a mural at the Wooster Square Neighborhood Corporation on Wooster Street and they are now at work on the wall of the Fair Haven Neighborhood Corporation on Grand Avenue.

MARK SHAIKEN

bob kilpatrick

20 May 1976

Dear Ruth,

The float won first prize and I want to thank you and your team of muralists for the splendid contribution you all made to our winning effort. We got an awful lot of compliments on the mural. If we had room anyplace, I think we would have put it on display so more people could see it. Please convey the great thanks of the Hill Health Center to all who were involved. I look forward to future murals adorning our walls.

Best wishes,

Bob