

Lifelike Murals Add Final Touch to Interior of Capitol



OUTSTANDING INCIDENTS in the history of the northwest are depicted in lifelike manner in the mammoth murals placed within recent weeks upon the walls of Oregon's new capitol. For the reason that the capitol was planned throughout as a monument to Oregon's pioneers, and with the art work in mind in all of the planning so that the murals are integral parts of the completed structure, the effect is all the more striking and appropriately harmonious. The four largest murals portray especially notable events in the exploration and settlement of the northwest. Depicted above is the landing of Captain Gray at the mouth of the Columbia. His discovery of the river in 1792 marked the beginning of northwest exploration. The mural was painted by Barry Faulkner of New York. (All cuts on this page by courtesy of The Oregonian.)



THE OREGON of today is also symbolized in a series of murals now in place upon the walls of the new capitol. The far-flung wheat and fruit industries are exemplified in this mural by Faulkner. The two artists were selected on the basis of their achievements and standing in the art world rather than competitively, the capitol commission and the architects feeling that such a method of selection would result in decorations of the best quality.



UNITED STATES claims to the Oregon country, based upon the first land exploration and actual occupancy, date back to the expedition of Lewis and Clark, 1803-'06. In this mural by Frank Schwartz of New York, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark are pictured together with the members of their party, including the Indian woman guide, Sacajawea. Both of the mural artists, Schwartz and Faulkner, devoted many months to historical research before beginning their work and the pictures, though idealized, are historically accurate as to persons and dress.



TWO OF OREGON'S earliest industries, sheep raising and mining, both susceptible to treatment suggestive of the ruggedness and simplicity of life on this "last frontier" and of the natural resources still abundant, are exemplified in this mural by Schwartz.



DR. JOHN McLOUGHLIN, director at Fort Vancouver for the Hudson's Bay company, is shown greeting early American settlers at his post on the banks of the Columbia river near what is now Vancouver, Wash. The earlier white occupants of the territory were trappers and fur traders. This mural was painted by Faulkner. The murals are of varying dimensions to fit the wall spaces, but these larger ones are approximately 150 square feet in area.



THE COVERED WAGON period. A typical wagon train in camp for the night, already in the Oregon country but not yet arrived at its goal; a mural, by Schwartz, which represents the real "winning of the west" by homeseekers. Faulkner and Schwartz were commissioned to paint the murals in the spring of 1936 when it was found that funds available were sufficient to include the art work, in view of the fact that the bids on construction of the capitol were lower than expected. They began actual work on the paintings in April, 1937.



THE DAIRY industry, now highly developed in Oregon, and the cattle industry, which still thrives with much of its typical "wild west" setting unaltered, are symbolized in this mural by Schwartz. The nine murals, two of which are not reproduced here, cost the state \$80,000 and complete the interior of the capitol, with the exception of some minor decorating and the purchase of some furniture and similar equipment.