

Women's News

Tiny Artist Paints Huge New York Theater Mural

By GAY PAULEY
UPI Women's Editor

New York — (UPI) — A tiny woman has put the finishing touches on a monumental work of art 9,500 square feet of murals for a remodeled theater in Times Square.

The artist is Bessie Johnson, five feet and two inches of talent and energy in blue jeans. The versatile painter also is doing the rug and stage curtain designs and the overall scheme for the theater, the new Astor, scheduled to open Thursday.

The abstractionist works suggest a summer night in the city and the overall mood is blue, from ultramarine to pale cerulean, with touches of green and cobalt violet, a network of soft black lines and accents of crimson, white and yellow.

Among World's Largest

Two of the murals — among the world's largest — cover the side walls of the theater and measure 44 feet high by 110 feet long. The third mural in the lobby is 10 by 25 feet. Miss Johnson, a trim, blue-eyed woman with dark hair worn in a French twist, clambered down from a scaffold to discuss the way she did the murals.

"These are the first I've done," she said, "and because they were so huge I had to start with panels."

She began in the studio of her home at East Hampton, N. Y., first carving her design on wood sections five by 10 feet. Then she and a couple of assistants applied artists' oils in the desired colors, using rollers. On top of each went a larger sheet of art canvas, rolled on like pie dough flattened with a rolling pin.

Jig-Saw System

She then peeled off the canvas and hung it to dry. Because her studio is only 25 feet high, she could only dry two panels at a time.

But from last spring until last week, she completed 224 such panels, numbering and lettering them according to their final place in the murals. Once the panels were glued in place on the walls, she scaled scaffolding to add final touches with brush and paint.

"Exactly 224 gallons of blue paint up there," she said. Miss Johnson got \$50,000 for the job, which she said was a bargain when you considered that murals usually go for about \$20 a foot. "At that rate," she smiled, "it should have been closer to \$200,000."

But I had never done a theater before."

The artist, a native New Yorker studied painting and interior design at the Art Students' League, New York, and UCLA. Her works hang in museums and galleries in New York, Baltimore, Boston, Cincinnati, Newark, Minneapolis, London and Paris.

Master Point Session Held

Although the attendance was reduced because of the fog, two sections of bridge players were on hand for a master point session of Medford Duplicate Bridge club Tuesday night.

Section A winners, north-south, were Dr. Elliott Harlow and George Polski, first, 100 points; Mrs. Fred Burick and W. A. Stiles, second, 90½ points; Mrs. Dolph Phipps and Mrs. Frank R. Baker, third, 85½ points. East-west winners in this section were Miss Isobel Stuart and Mrs. E. L. Miller, first, 99½; the E. K. Rickers, second, 88½; Mrs. Sam Richardson and Ray S. Wise, third, 87 points.

Section B winners, north-south, were Roy Pruitt and Robert Dickey, first, 82½; Mrs. W. W. Stevenson and George W. Rode, second, 80; Mrs. James Winslow and Mrs. R. T. Jones, third, 71. East-west winners in Section B were the H. J. Boyds, first, 75; Mrs. Sam Van Dyke and Mrs. John Dougherty, second, 74; Mr. and Mrs. Roger Smoot, third, 65½.

Play was preceded by a dinner in charge of Mrs. Dolph Phipps. Christmas gifts were exchanged.

The club announces that play will continue as usual each Tuesday night during the holidays, with the sessions to begin at 7:30 p.m. at Girls Community club.

Christmas Party Planned by Lodge

Pocahontas lodge will hold a potluck dinner Friday, December 18, at the Redman hall on Apple st. at 6:30 p.m. A business meeting will follow at 7:30 and the children's Christmas party will close the evening's program.

Members are privileged to take guests for the dinner and the Christmas party. There will be no meetings Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, since these are holidays. The next meeting will be Jan. 8.

Social Events



Christmas in Costa Rica means bull fights and fireworks according to Mrs. Diamond Flynn, who left Medford earlier this year to spend the holidays with her daughter in San Jose, C.R.

In a letter which arrived a few days ago Mrs. Flynn wrote: "Christmas season in Medford certainly was never like it is here in Costa Rica! In the first place, the year is all turned around and summer arrives the first of December, which means that school vacation is from December to March. The flowers all in full bloom now—the poinsettias are taller than most of the houses and even the poorest people all have a yard full of them."

The country of Costa Rica declares a holiday between Christmas and January 2, so almost every store in town will be closed in order that everyone can properly celebrate. I am told that among all the other activities that week, they have a bull fight down town on one of the soccer fields. Instead of having one matador though, every boy or man who wants to try his skill gets out in the arena with the bull—which means about 500 against one bull. Every year two or three men are fatally injured, but that doesn't seem to discourage anyone.

They also have a fire works display at the arena every night that would drive any fire marshal in the states completely mad. The rockets always land in the wooden grandstands which are completely filled with people. The smart ones figure which way the wind is blowing then sit so they won't have fireworks burning them up.

There are a large number of Americans living here; quite a few are working for the U.S. government and almost all large U. S. companies have representatives here. That, of course, means Christmas is also celebrated in the good old-fashioned Medford way, with turkey dinners and cocktail parties and all that sort of thing.

For a Christmas tree we are using the tops of two cypress trees which have been wired together, and they serve the purpose very well. It's the Christmas shopping that's so difficult. Prices, because of shipping costs and import duties, are so high for toys and gifts that I don't see how anyone can afford to buy a thing.

The streets are just as crowded here as they are at home at this time of year, but they do one thing differently. They close the main street to car traffic and let the pedestrians roam all over. Every night down town San Jose has the atmosphere of a carnival during the Christmas season—all the ox carts and wooden stands are parked in the middle of town, and you can't walk two steps without being covered with confetti or streamers. The biggest seller on the street corner stands are apples and grapes, imported from the states and selling for 15 cents an apple or 60 cents for a pound of grapes.

Coffee picking is in full swing this time of year, too, so I've been out to a "finca" or farm to watch the whole process from the picking to the washing, drying, sorting and bagging of it. Of course, since there is so much coffee grown here, I've learned to drink a lot of it. It's so black it looks more like ink than coffee. Only 45 cents a pound, incidentally.

A very merry Christmas to you all and a fine and happy New Year. Hasta Luego!

A few seasons ago Christmas shoppers were able to buy a completely new product—toothpaste flavored with scotch and bourbon. Now there is another new product just in time for Christmas — gold toothbrushes with interchangeable bristles. The New York Times recommends it for "the girl who has everything—if such there be."—O.S.

Onion Cheese Rolls

Company coming? For a delicious cocktail snack your friends will love, serve these delicious "Onion Cheese Roll Ups." Trim the crusts from a loaf of unsliced bread, and cut the bread into thin slices. Spread lightly with a mixture of grated sharp cheese, instant minced onion, drained chopped canned pimiento and enough mayonnaise to moisten. Roll up like tiny jelly rolls and secure with a toothpick. Just before serving time, heat the rolls in the oven until the cheese melts and the bread is lightly toasted. Serve hot. They'll disappear like magic.

Wine Sauce

Wine flavored cranberry sauce adds an extra touch to poultry and lamb dishes. Use a rich port as part of the liquid when making the sauce. A red or white dinner wine is good, too. Brown sugar for half the sweetening is a pleasant variation, as well as a little grated orange rind.

Olives and Eggs

Ripe olive wedges stirred into scrambled eggs just before set make breakfast or supper news. Add finely chopped herbs or chives or a faint touch of curry powder if you enjoy an exotic flavor note.

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New Toys Accented to Science

By MARY PRIME
United Press International

New York — (UPI) — Mom and Dad will have a tough time keeping one jump ahead of the kids after Santa's visit. This year's crop of toys aims to turn Junior into a scientific genius.

The accent is on reality and not-so-childish versions of adult scientific equipment, reports the Toy Guidance Council, an independent business organization which keeps tabs on play needs and preferences.

This year, the industry predicts that \$1.65-billion worth of toys will be sold, compared with one and a half billion last year.

Space and science toys will account for a large chunk of business. Many science toys are laboratories in kit form, created originally by experts at the Library of Science for their own teen-aged and pre-teen-aged children. Instruments are precision-ground and actually work. The increased quality and emphasis on scientific toys is due to the cold war, the council said.

There are crime detection labs which employ techniques used by the FBI; photo-micrography labs with equipment to photograph specimens through a microscope; and biology kits which include specimens of fish, worms, frogs and crayfish ready for dissecting.

A "Branic" (like Univac) comes in parts which can be made into various computers that work. A youngster also can study molecular structure with a molecular model building set, build an actual model of an atomic power plant (it measures about two feet square), or raise chickens in a plastic hatchery complete with a coupon redeemable in fertile eggs.

Space Category

In the space category are secret rocket test centers, parachute rockets with nose-cone recovery features, rocket salvo bases with plastic rockets that fire by remote control, lunar rockets that fire 300 feet in the air, and trains with guided missiles and exploding box cars. The cars can be put back together after the explosion.

Another important trend centers around movie and television westerns. There are toys keyed to characters such as a Bat Masterson outfit with cane and vest.

A variety of guns will produce a generation fast on the draw. For example, the "flip special" rifle that flips and fires in rapid succession, a

"Ric-O-Shay" pistol with built-in ricochet sounds, and a gun that buckles to a holster. The pistol is cocked flat and imbedded in the buckle. All that's required to "shoot" the gun is to flex the stomach muscles.

The wild west influence also includes models of old-time trains, some with cow-catchers.

Look for a trend to bigness, too. There are child-size kitchens with appliances more than four feet high, sports cars which run on electric batteries, checkers which measure five inches in diameter, and a survey with the fringe on top, which is large enough for

an adult to squeeze into. Miniature toys tend to be life-like, such as machine shops and factories with assembly lines.

Best sellers still are trains, cars, planes, animals (mainly dogs, horses and bears) and girl dolls, the council reported. The dolls this year include life-size models sculptured to measurements released by the U.S. Bureau of Standards.

These dolls come in sizes corresponding to children of three months, one, two and three years old, and stand as high as 36 inches.

A "get well" doll is designed to be life-like if not life-sized. It comes with casts for broken legs and arms, crutches, bandages and hypo needle, and paste-on measles and chicken pox spots.

Market Cart

For girls who like to wander around supermarkets, there's a cart with brand-name products (just the boxes, Mom, not the products).

Prices fit all pocketbooks, but parents who can afford luxury for their children can invest in such items as complete miniature kitchens. One contains nine units, including a washer, dryer and dishwasher, and a refrigerator.

Probably the most expensive toy that will sell in volume is an electric grand console organ. It costs \$90 with bench.

Perhaps the most startling toy which reflects the trend to reality is a wall safe concealed by a picture. But it does not come with safe-cracking tools, said the council.

CALENDAR

Thursday:

6:30 p.m.—Adelphi chapter, Order of Eastern Star, Masonic temple, Jacksonville.

7:30 p.m.—Medford Business and Professional Women's club, Girls Community club.

8 p.m.—Xi Mu chapter, Beta Sigma Phi, home of Mrs. J. E. Moir, 1105 Shafer lane.

8 p.m.—Secondary schools' Christmas program, Hedrick Junior High school auditorium.

8 p.m.—Eagles' auxiliary, Eagles hall.

8 p.m.—Phoenix Thursday club, home of Mrs. V. L. Quackenbush, 5643 South Pacific highway.

8 p.m.—Medford Jaycettes, home of Mrs. Charles Henry, 349 Lindero avenue.

Friday:

10 a.m.—Phoenix Home Extension unit, home of Mrs. Ray Hendrickson, Carpenter Hill rd.

11 a.m.—Episcopal Church Women, at church.

12:30 p.m.—Fifty Plus club, St. Mark's Guild hall, Fifth and Oakdale avenue.

1 p.m.—Electa Social club, Girls Community club.

1 p.m.—Gettogether club, Girls Community club.

Freshman Student In Cast of Play

Theodore Lawson, freshman at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, is in the cast of "The Lost Birthday" now in production at the school. The young man plays the role of a toy maker.

The play was written by Bernice Harvey, speech and drama instructor, especially for the entertainment of pre-teen children.

Young Lawson is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Earl L. Lawson, 301 Windsor avenue.

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Nancy Arens, Scribe.

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