



Photos by Gary Gebhardt

Wrap-Around Mural at Peacock Alley

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The students of Crossroads School have just finished a mural that is called "Outside-In". The mural was painted on three of the four walls of the Community Center Auditorium. It took the students of Crossroads four days to paint it.

In January, a mural class was offered to the students. In the class, the students learned of the different types of murals, and the ways in which they had been made. The students were very interested in painting a real mural. Thus, with the permission of Jerry Berger and the LaCleda Town Company they began a mural on the walls of Peacock Alley.

Bob Fishbone and Sarah Linquist were advisors to the Crossroads students and the LaCleda Town community. Bob and Sarah were working through a grant provided by the Missouri Council of the Arts. They worked with the mural class for a week, showing the students slides and movies of murals. In addition, they took the class around the city to see some murals, including some which Bob and Sarah had painted.

On Friday of that week, a brainstorming session was held in the auditorium with the community. Over fifty ideas were presented. Some people thought the mural should be a dedication to Hank Aaron's 715th

home run, while others thought that it should be dedicated to Bruce Lee.

After long tedious hours of discussion, the mural class finally decided to do what they called a fantasy. This was to be a mural of exotic plants and animals.

The students designed creatures and plants of every shape and size for their fantasy mural. Each design was discussed and was either to be used on the mural or thrown out. Then the students had but one week in which to design, draw, and paint the idea for which they had spent so many hours preparing.

On Monday of the second week, the designs were projected on the walls with the help of an overhead projector. Then each figure in the mural was outlined. Tuesday through Friday were busy days for the students. They painted everything from a dragon to wild trees and birds. The doors were painted over as if they weren't there. In addition, a clock on the wall was turned into a bug! On Friday a gloss was painted over the mural, and finally the task was complete! The students made a plaque with the names of the people (including all 50 students of Crossroads) who had participated in the making of the mural. The mural was then named "Outside-In" by a vote of the students because they felt that they were bringing nature inside from the outside.

The students spent two weeks working on the mural and invite everyone to come in to see it.