



Photo courtesy Hoosier Farmer

Giant ear of corn as it appears on Vernon Taylor's barn.

BARN MURAL ADDS POPULAR SPLASH OF COLOR TO FARM COMMUNITY

World's Biggest Ear Of Corn

The world's biggest ear of corn isn't in a field or showcase. It adorns the side of a barn on the Vernon Taylor farm near Williamsburg in Warren County, Ind.

The modernistic painting of a huge ear of corn is one of three eye-catching murals which are winning acclaim from local people and tourists alike in the community.

"It all started as a project to involve students to get more art into their community," explains Dorothy Paul, art teacher at Seeger Memorial High School in West Lebanon, Ind. The Indiana Arts Commission, which gives grants for such purposes, provided \$1,700 and the community raised the same amount.

For the first of three murals, the students painted the giant ear of corn on the Vernon Taylor barn near Williamsburg. The project took about 1½ weeks to complete.

The second "community" mural painted is a historic scene showing William Henry Harrison and some of his troops marching in November, 1811 on their way to the Battle of Tippecanoe. This scene is painted on a barn on the William Winfield Mathis farm near Attica, Ind.

The third mural is more contemporary and shows three vegetables — a

radish, a carrot and a turnip — and two lengths of rope. It's painted on the side of the Warren County Historical Museum in Williamsburg.

Scaffolding for the painting projects was paid for by the Arts Commission. Paint for the murals was donated. Some of the funds went to the artists who created the original sketches. A small amount of money from the fund was given to the participating students for T-shirts and the painting crew chiefs were paid \$50 each for their organizational efforts.

"The students had to sign a release saying they wouldn't sue the school or the farmer if they got hurt on the job," Dorothy told FARM SHOW. "The murals have become popular attractions in the community and we think the idea has possibilities in other communities interested in adding a splash of color and a touch of art. We would be happy to share our experience in working out the details for painting specific murals on the sides of barns and other buildings, and our experience in funding such a project."

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dorothy Paul, 900 South 10th Street, Lafayette, Ind. 47905 (ph 317 742-8256).



Truck owned by Midwest Truck Body has same rural scene painted on both sides.

TAKE YOUR FARM WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO

Paint Your Farm On Your Truck

"Take your farm with you wherever you go," suggests John Brown, a Spokane Wash., artist and van re-builder who's doing a booming business painting farm trucks with scenes from the owner's own farm.

Brown works from photos, or visits your place himself, to get the exact scene you want on your truck, pickup or wagon sides. On the job, he first sands the surface so his paint will stick, then "draws" in the scene with an air brush "pencil". When finished, everything is covered with seven coats of clear acrylic lacquer.

Midwest Truck Body, Paris, Ill., attracts a lot of attention at farm shows and fairs with the painted truck box pictured above. The same rural scene was painted on both sides by a commercial artist. A clear plastic coating protects the painted surface against weather and sunlight. "A number of farmers and farm wives have told us they went home and painted farm

scenes on their own steel truck bodies after seeing the artwork on our truck," reports Bob Sunkel of Midwest Truck Body.

"It's much more distinctive than painting your name, although we can add that too," says Brown, who began the business as a sideline to his van remodeling business. He'll also paint mountains, landscapes or wildlife scenes on your vehicle, if desired.

"I'll travel most anywhere if there are two or more jobs in an area, or you can bring your vehicle to me. On grain trucks, the charge is about \$300 a side, or \$600 a truck. A pickup costs about \$150 a side to paint," says Brown. Depending on location, there may be extra charges for travel.

For more details, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Brown, High Country Art, 14505 N. Denver Court, Spokane, Wash. 99208 (ph 509 466-9173, or 509 325-9168).

Snow Sculpture "Hogs" Attention



This icy, gravel-coated pig with "beer can" eyes greeted passersby on Highway 106 near Plympton, Mass. last winter. It was sculpted from snow by Scott Baker and Karl Froehlich.

Photo by Eileen Picariello