



Lynne Baillie, a 24-year old Georgetown artist, has a most unusual "gallery" for some of her recent pieces: the Beardmore tannery in Acton. She was commissioned by the plant last year to liven up some of the thousands of feet of drab wall space in the factory. Now, workers enjoy colorful depictions of their jobs and a light, pastoral scene in the lunchroom.

(Herald photo)

Her murals brighten up Beardmore

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

Where there's leather, there's art. Company officials at Acton's Beardmore leather processing plant must have realized that an imaginative artist would find a great deal of color and drama among the piles of hides and raw muscle-power provided by its employees.

Last fall, they commissioned 24-year old Georgetown resident Lynn Baillie, a Sheridan College illustration course graduate, to turn some of the plant's drab interior walls into cheerful murals underlining the company's pride in its trade and honoring the labor of its workforce.

It took Miss Baillie and a couple of chums from Sheridan nine weeks to grid the walls, sketch designs and finish painting. Her designs, some of which stretch over 100 feet and hurl themselves around corners with racy stripes of blue, blue-green and burnt yellow, can be found in the shipping and dry, dip and curing departments, the machine shop, employees' entrance and lunchroom.

When she walked into the plant, Miss Baillie admitted, she really had no firm plans about what would go on the walls.

"I walked in there totally cold," she told The Herald. "We had a couple of conferences with (plant officials) and they wanted things relating to the tannery to brighten up the place."

Now, interspersed with the roving bands of color, are scenes of the plant's operation which would have been familiar to workers a half-century ago and which really haven't changed much since. A worker is depicted using a lathe in the machine shop mural, while in another part of the plant, a man is shown preparing a shoe sole.

During the mural's preparation, there were several tours through the factory, familiarizing Miss Baillie with the tanning process.

She prepared by first draw-

ing a small scale version of each design on graph paper and then, joined by helpers Marie Hurley and Kent Buries, transferred the grid to the walls, sketched in the designs and began painting. Painting, Miss Baillie said, proved to be the most time-consuming and painstaking task, beginning first with a white enamel background and later adding the stripes and figures in colored paint.

Because murals depict roles played by each department in the tanning process, the lunchroom could have posed a problem. Miss Baillie broke away from the "work" theme briefly and designed a quiet, pastoral scene with vast, rolling hills of grass, an enormous blue horizon and, fittingly enough, a cow contentedly nose-deep in alfalfa.

"I figured the employees need a break when they go into the lunchroom and they may not want to see pictures of people working around them," she explained.

Special attention was paid to the color schemes of her murals. In some departments the colors are particularly warm and vibrant, but Miss Baillie intentionally used cool blues and greens for her work in the dry, dip and curing department, where temperatures can be quite high.

Greeted at first with curiosity, the work Miss Baillie and her companions were doing was soon appreciated by most of the employees at the plant and they were generally supportive of her efforts. Others, less inclined to accept the color changes made in their working areas, simply shrugged at the whole episode.

Currently, she's free-lancing and has done a couple of other smaller projects for local Georgetown organizations. Her Beardmore work has drawn interest from another tannery and more work from the Acton plant as well.

Miss Baillie said she has a special interest in children's book illustration and dreams of one day tackling an illustration contract for a publisher.



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Ort bazaar

Toronto Women's Ort holds its annual Ort bazaar May 19 from 10 'til 11 at the St. Lawrence Market (Front and Jarvis Streets), featuring household items, antiques, crockery, produce, international cheeses, home cooked goodies, crafts, records, toys and games, used clothing and much, much more. The \$1 per person admission (children under 12 free, seniors free after 3 p.m.) gets you a chance to win \$1,000 cash or a color television.

'Spring into Spring'

The annual B'nai B'rith Women's Bazaar, with a theme of "Spring into Spring", takes place May 26 at the CNE Coliseum from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Some 1,700 women are preparing this year's bazaar, guaranteeing great bargains in a wide variety of goods.

Smithville crafts

The Kinetite Club of West Lincoln holds its third annual craft show and sale June 5 and 6 until 5 p.m. each day. Admission is only 25 cents at the Smithville Arena, where a tea garden, children's art contest, door prizes and a snack bar complement the sale. All proceeds to Kinetite community work.



LEGION LINES

By Tom Elliott

L.A. elections

Car Club draw winners are Ray Inglis, Patty Barber, Josie Tost, Irene Curry, Bill Harrison and Gerry Osborne.

Touch of Silver will be entertaining in the Lounge Saturday evening.

The ladies auxiliary general meeting will be held May 20. Keep this date open and plan to attend, because this is the meeting to elect the officers for the coming year. The meeting will commence at 7:30

instead of 8 p.m. After the elections the incoming executive will be sworn in.

Still on about elections, do not forget the Branch general meeting May 27 will be nomination night. All members should plan to attend and nominate comrades who they think would do a good job in a chair and on the executive.

There are still some membership cards behind the bar which have not yet been picked up.

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