

Fairfield Post Office Murals ...depicting our heritage



 Our Golden Year

United States Post Office
Fairfield, Ohio

Origin of the Murals

Internationally known muralist Eric Henn of Franklin, Ohio transformed the original design of Fairfield's Post Office into a three-dimensional work of art depicting Fairfield landmarks as they appeared in the early days of its history. The project was part of the City's 50th Anniversary celebration in 2005.



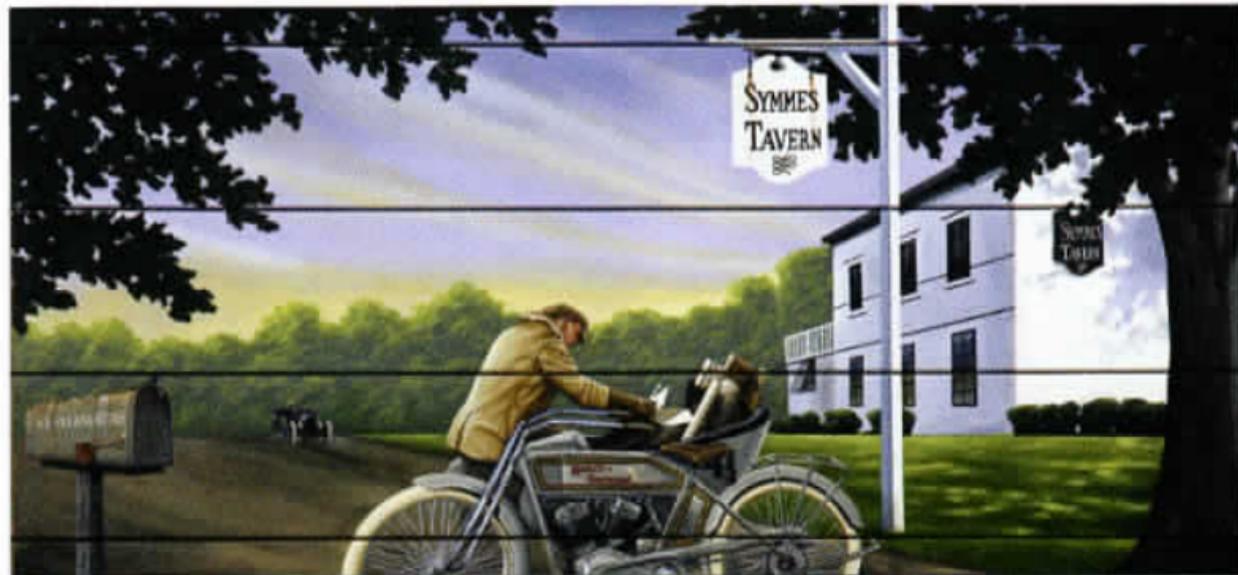
The artist's other canvasses include steel water tanks, historic buildings, and any number of other imaginable surfaces. Eric's works are featured at aquariums, zoos, and theme parks. Working off of hydraulic lifts, he has created murals up to 150' high and covering 49,000 sq. ft. Mr. Henn's murals have appeared on the PBS special "Super Murals", on CNN, the Discovery Channel and on Sesame Street, as well as being featured in numerous publications.

Sherwin Williams Company, of Fairfield, donated the paint materials used by the artist.



The Original Symmes Tavern

(Front of building, center, left panel)



The original Symmes Tavern opened in 1852 in the area known as Symmes Corner. It served as an overnight rest stop for guests traveling between Cincinnati and Dayton. Benjamin and Joseph Symmes built the tavern/residence on the site where an earlier shop had been destroyed by fire. The property was transferred to new owners in 1891 and again in 1904.

Both owners resided in the structure. Otto and Louise Kuehlthau purchased the property in 1940 and eventually restored it as a tavern in 1946.

Symmes Tavern remained in business from 1946 to 1980. It was a popular place to eat and drink with friends and family and to discuss business and government concerns. A mini-recession and increasing competition forced the owners to close the tavern in 1980.

The Kuehlthaus' signed a lease in 1985 with Shell Oil Company who planned to raze the vacant, two-story, brick building and replace it with a gas station, convenience store and car wash. City Council and the Planning Commission were unable to deny the request, as no zoning restrictions were in place. However, a few local outraged residents joined forces to preserve the historic landmark.

Growing community objection led the gas company to offer to abandon their plans if a buyer would step forward to preserve the structure.

Subsequently, Savings of America offered a plan to buy, restore and convert Symmes Tavern for use as a bank branch. Today, after a succession of bank mergers, the old Symmes Tavern still stands on the northeast corner of Nilles Road and Pleasant Avenue. The original name of the restaurant lives on, however, as patrons dine at "Symmes Tavern on the Green", constructed in 2002 in the Fairfield Village Green area.

The Miami & Erie Canal ...canal boat stopping at an ice house (Front of building, far right panel)



A means of transportation between Cincinnati to Middletown. This mural depicts a river boat stopping at an ice house.

Fairfield received a deed for 17 acres of Miami and Erie Canal lands in 1966, including a nature preserve, now known as Gilmore Ponds.

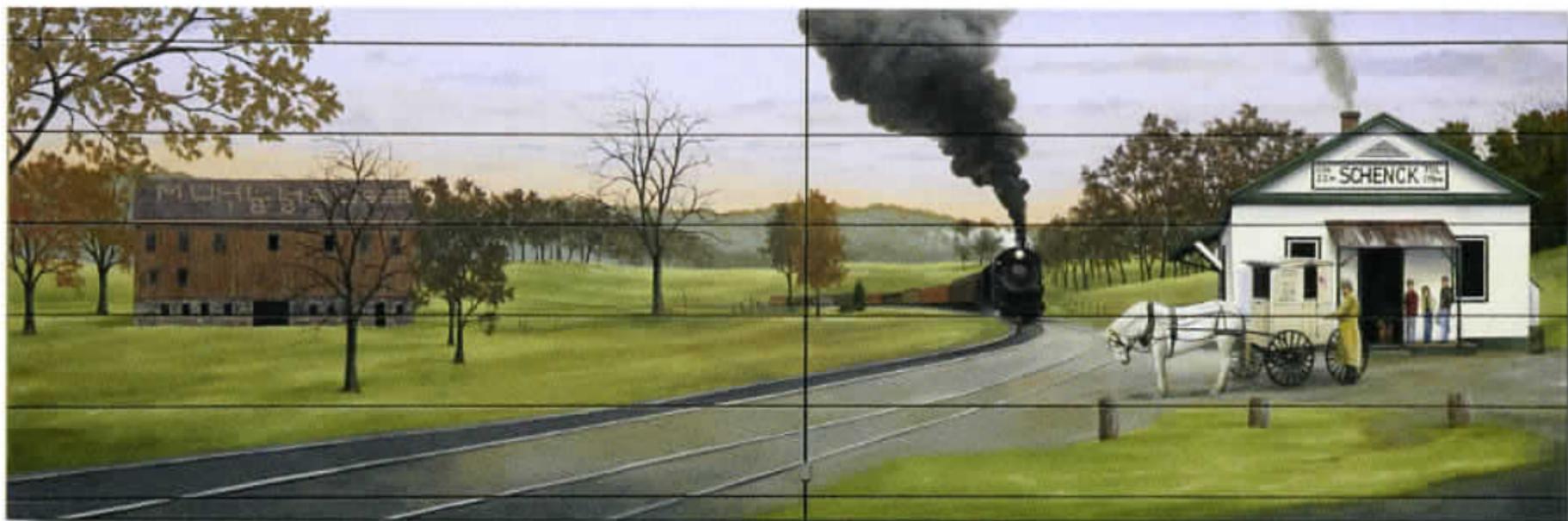
Remnants of the canal can still be seen in some areas of Fairfield, including Ramona Lane, Bobmeyer Road and North Gilmore Road near the Butler County Regional Airport.

Schenck's Station & Muhlhauser Barn (East side of building)

A scene from Fairfield's historic past. Pioneers who settled the area, which eventually became Fairfield, chose the area's name for the natural beauty (or "Fair Fields") of the surrounding fields.

Fairfield had four thriving railroad stations which served both the Baltimore and Ohio (B & O) and Cincinnati-Hamilton and Dayton (C H & D railroads). The Railroads started operation in Fairfield in 1853.

The Schenck station was on the original CH&D line, chartered in 1847, which ran from Cincinnati to Hamilton to Dayton. The station was located where present day Route 4 passes under the CSX Railroad at the Fairfield/Hamilton boundary. Until the 1930's, CH&D offered regular half - hourly commuter service to Cincinnati. In addition, freight trains moved farm goods to Cincinnati from Butler County.



One of the other railroad lines passed the farm owned by the Muhlhauser family, and a passenger station located at Muhlhauser Road was named for the Muhlhauser family in 1881.

Milders Inn

(Front of building, center, right panel)



A trip down memory lane would not be complete without Milders Inn.

The rustic restaurant, run by Jacob and Mary Milders, stood on the northwest corner of Pleasant Avenue and Nilles Road in the then Fairfield Township community known as Symmes Corner. The flood of 1913 severely damaged the Inn and three other businesses owned by the Milders. The Milders previously lived in Hamilton but they moved to Symmes Corner and lived in a cozy apartment above the restaurant after the

flood. At that time, the building was over 100 years old.

Patrons of Milders Inn came from every direction – Columbus, Indianapolis, Lexington and other large cities, traveling by traction service or by horse and buggy to sample the fare. Milders Inn signage and menu included the slogan “The Best in the Middle West” and for good reason. The fried chicken and steak dinners prepared by “Mom Milders” and her staff of German cooks was considered not only the best in Ohio but also the finest from coast to coast.

The Green Lantern

(Front of building,
far left panel)

The Green Lantern was located at 4647 Dixie Hwy.

With the birth of the automobile, Dixie Highway motorists would pull up to the Green Lantern to fuel up and get supplies or a bite to eat. In this 1930's image, the Sunoco Station attendant reviews a map with a patron. The Hicks Shopping Center was later constructed on the adjacent land. The purple car is a 1933 Plymouth passenger sedan.



