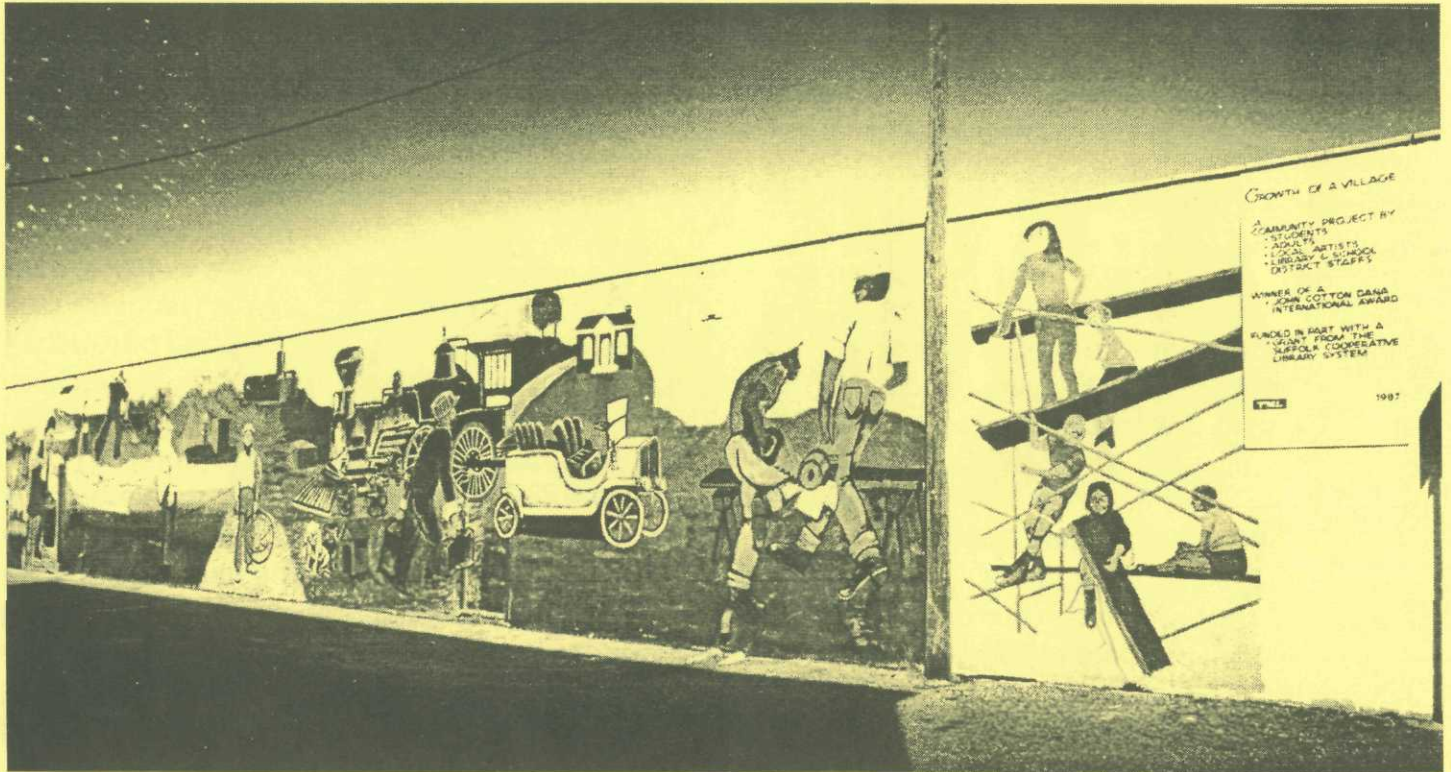


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2001*

PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD LIBRARY MURALS



54-60 East Main Street, Patchogue, NY 11772

HISTORY OF PATCHOGUE (front cover)

In 1986, in an effort to discourage the painting of graffiti on the outside wall of the Library, Barbara E. Hoffman, Young Adult Librarian, organized the painting of this community mural on the west wall of the library through Roe Alley. The project was aided by a grant from the Suffolk Cooperative Library System and help from John Boularis, Chairman of the Art Department of the Patchogue-Medford High School, Will Ryder and Gerald Grace of the Bellport Art Society, professional artist-friends Dolores Bolt and Bob Carter, Friends of the Patchogue-Medford Library, and the Patchogue-Medford Library Board of Trustees. The volunteer workers were often joined by media personnel, politicians, off-duty staff members and passers by who were encouraged to grab a brush and join the work parties.

The initial negative reaction to the project delayed it for six months. On October 1, 1986, a supportive newspaper article by Frank Mooney, editor of the Main Street Press, turned community thinking around to acceptance. This was followed by articles in the New York Times, Long Island Advance, Newsday, and The Record and television interviews by Channel 55 News and News 12. Progress of the mural was recorded by photographer Carl Rozycki and videographer John Traversa. Singer/songwriter Janice Bruckner wrote the song "A Wall, A Will and A Way" for the project and performed it during a midwork celebration of the mural.

The subject of the mural, The History of Patchogue, was chosen and researched by Library teens. A working diagram was created by Bob Carter, who also contributed the Indian in the upper left hand corner. John Boularis demonstrated techniques to transfer drawings to large sheets of brown paper and eventually to the wall itself. The last portion of the mural is a replica of the photograph of the teen artists which appeared in the New York Times. After the preparatory work of research, design, public relations hurdles, preliminary sketches, and organization of volunteers, work began in earnest. Every weekend started with a cleanup of windblown trash, the setup of heavy scaffolding, and the arrangement of paint, brushes and the master plan and ended with a dismantling and storing of the scaffolding, cleaning of the brushes and the capping and marking of paint cans. Volunteers worked in all manner of weather, fueled only by juice, pizza and determination. The project, from beginning to end, took almost 2 years to complete and was, at the time, the largest mural in Suffolk County and the first of its kind in Patchogue Village.

The mural, "History of Patchogue," won a national public relations award (The John Cotton Dana Award) sponsored by the American Library Association in 1987 and was dedicated during a huge outdoor celebration in the Village parking area in May 1988.

READ THE WORLD OVER



This mural located on the east wall of the library, was created by artist Christine Green, the Multi-Cultural Youth Council of the Patchogue-Medford Youth Services, Inc., American Red Cross Youth Volunteer Corps, Library Teen Advisory Board and patrons and staff. It commemorates the Young Adult Summer Reading Program of 1995 and the theme "Read the World Over." Unlike the first mural, it was completed in under four weeks.

ELAINE PHIPPS PLAZA MURAL

The Elaine Phipps Plaza (in the cul-de-sac of the Library through Roe Alley and connecting the Village parking lot with Main Street) mural was made possible through a Suffolk County Cultural Arts grant administered by the Office of Economic Development, the estate of Elaine Phipps, Long Island Flower Garden, and the Patchogue-Medford Friends of the Library. Originally conceived by another artist, the project began in 1999. The project, fraught with delays, unforeseen problems, and the onset of winter, was at a standstill and eventually taken over by artist Holly Mydland. Ms. Mydland redesigned the mural with a Spanish Courtyard effect and painted the present mural single-handedly, completing the project in two months time.

The mural is complemented by the architectural design of the adjoining building and the addition of the brick-stamped concrete walkway completed by the Business Improvement District and the Patchogue Village.

