"INDUSTRY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE" MURAL
REFERENCE ROOM-LIBRARY

Designed and executed by

ARTHUR ESNER
For the mural in the Reference Room I have taken as my theme "Industry in New Hampshire." The subject is approached from a contemporary point of view in keeping with the spirit of the University.

For reasons of clarity and design only the outstanding industrial activities of the State are included in the mural. These cover Farming, Shoe and Textile Manufacturing, Recreation and Logging. To facilitate the following discussion I have divided the mural into panels under the above headings, plus the inclusion of a center panel.

Since the major industries of New Hampshire are shoe and textile manufacturing these panels occupy the center of the mural. Recreation activities, which are recognized as a third major industry in this State, farming and logging are relatively placed.

The very center panel I consider the most important. The motif of the time-clock acts as a basic unit out of which flows the rest of the mural. I have deliberately introduced here the time-clock, the worker punching his time and the lunch box as a symbolic idea embodying workers of all kinds and of all labors. This idea is carried out by the shape of the panel which has its base in the row of books below, the shoe and textile panels above, and narrowing to the face of the clock where its widens out and reaches over the roofs of the factories into the sky beyond.

The first panel embraces farming and a small section showing men and women reporting to work in the mills. Since the cultivation of the land is the basis of all other activities the mural necessarily begins on this theme. Here I have tried to show the close relationship that exists in this State between the many subsistence farms and the factories. The key to this is the worker shown leaving his home, lunch box in hand, starting off to work, while below him in the foreground others of the same family are working the soil. The lunch box is important since this motif recurs throughout the mural symbolizing the industrial worker. It has its greatest expression in the center panel.

The body of the first panel is the farmhouse which is surrounded by the various buildings and activities usually found in a farm area; the barn, tractor, henhouse, chickens, small truck, grazing cows and so on.

In the foreground several farmers are plowing and removing rocks from the field. A double-hitch team is used expressing the perverse nature of the soil. Directly in front, a fence divides the workers in the field from the industrial workers. A young boy leans across the fence indicating by his attitude and his expression that he is faced with a future decision regarding his own type of work.

**Prepared by the artist Mr. Arthur Esner**
Reference Room Mural

In the middle distance appears a small village where emphasis is placed on the city hall and the church, indicating the governing forces in the lives of these workers.

The background is composed of the rugged hills and mountains that are so typical of New Hampshire. His background is carried across the entire mural forming a strong basis for the design.

From the village, walking and riding, men and women are going to work. In the front a man is about to enter the factory door.

This leads directly to the time-clock panel, then to the shoe and textile panels on either side. In the latter panels I have used the device of cutting away the factory walls to give a clearer interior view of the type of work done in these important industries. Only several of the major operations in each plant are shown. The shoe panel includes, in the foreground, women stitching quarters and linings. At left, men are working at Goodyear stitching machines, and at right operating upper leather cutting machines.

The textile panel shows a cotton textile mill in operation. The worker in the foreground operates a carding machine, the woman at left a roving machine and above right another woman works at a spinning machine. At the far right, in his office, a foreman of the floor keeps check on the operations.

In the middle background appears the factory buildings with their beautifully designed industrial shapes.

From here we go into the recreation and logging panel. Here I have attempted to include most of the sports for which the State is noted. At the left foreground a bathing group and a tennis player. At the right a group including fishing, hunting and skiing. The seasonal difference between these groups is suggested by the sharp line of the rocks on which the bathers are seated.

In the middle distance a line of freight cars and trucks carry the industrial note into this panel, and at right loggers are at work. The saw mill and lumber yard occupy the far right. A lake, outlying farms, a tourist camp and the hills form the background, while in the far distance a small break in the hills gives access to the sea denoting the small shore line of the State.

In designing and executing this mural I have tried to harmonize the design and color scheme to the flowing structural forms of the Library building, and to the surrounding campus areas. I have also tried to keep in mind the architectural forms of the Reference Room in which the mural is painted.

The medium used is egg tempera. This is egg yolk mixed with water which is then mixed with dry pigment.