

## Meeting with City Council and Historic Preservation Commission

### **A. Joint Meeting – Woods Mural Project**

The Preservation Commission asks for this meeting with Council to, first, be sure we both understand the development thus far of the Mickey Woods Mural Project, and second, we arrive at a plan for the installation of mural in the Council Chambers.

In 1988 Realtor Lee Neiderhouser, commissioned Mickey Woods to create a large mural for the east side of her building along Highway #1 to welcome travelers to the city. It graced the town for over 20 years with its delightful interpretation of life on the Hill. (See Postal Card)

The weather was an enemy of the mural and after twenty years the owner took it down. A few of our many artists in the community asked the city to hold the painting until a plan could be made for its future. The Historic Preservation Commission was asked to propose a plan for its future.

The Commission contacted a number of consulting conservationists who encouraged its preservation, and display at some interior public location. They urged the mural not be repainted but stabilized to save the original work and with it the historic interpretation of the town. Both the city and the mural had changed over the two decades.

Despite the death of the original conservationist and great difficulty finding another (over a two year period), the mural is now stabilized and safely in the Old Fire Station and ready to be installed. A grant from the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation to the Commission and gifts from a number of local and visiting persons provided help with the professional fees.

### **B. Recommendations:**

The original recommendation by the commission and endorsed by the previous Council located the stabilized mural on the north wall of the

Chambers behind the council. That recommendation was based on the assumption that some rotten areas in the plywood would require substantial removal or cutting.

The skills and talents of the professional conservationist saved nearly all the original wood and thus the mural is too large for the space on the north wall. There is sufficient space on the east wall for the entire uncut mural. **The Historic Preservation Commission recommends that council permit the installation of the Mickey Woods Mural on the east wall as soon as possible. Further, that future location and disposition of the picture boards now on the east wall be referred to the Historic Preservation Commission for study and council recommendation.** *Note: Mickey Woods is pleased with this placement on the east wall.*

### **C. Relations with the Greater Cedar Rapids Foundation**

The grant from the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation requires a comprehensive final report. The unfortunate death of our original conservator set us back at least a year. Finding another professional and his required time to work resulted in still another delay. The Foundation has been very generous with us by granting two extensions for the report. Today, (Aug 11) we filed the required final report with the Foundation. We have been assured the report will be accepted. The location of the mural is of little concern to the Foundation as long as it is in a public space. They would like to have a copy of our public celebration program for the mural.