

The mural at Nolan School covers 135 feet, measuring 11 feet at the highest point, four feet at the lowest (Staff photos by Michael O'Brien)

Mural Makes Wall A Surreal Fantasy

ANSONIA — "A mural is a good way for people who don't have time for museums to experience art," said Brenda Zlamany, supervisor of a mural project at Nolan School.

Some high school students and neighborhood children are painting a 135-foot-long mural in the Nolan School yard. Done mainly in primary colors, the painting is 11 feet high at the highest point and four feet high at the lowest.

It's a surrealistic fantasy, that is, it is a mixture of many kinds of images that might come together in a dream. Several different countries, including Africa and China, are represented. Viewers will be able to spot an Ansonia basketball player. Various kinds of animals were woven into the dream like theme to appeal to the elementary school children at the public school. Space is also represented through an imaginative sun, moon, stars and a rainbow.

Transforming the plain outdoor walls into brilliant colors and fantasies is a summer work experience program of TEAM Inc. TEAM is funding the effort.

A sophomore at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Ms. Zlamany is supervising painters Mark Harrison, Robin Allen, Elaine Barbara, Ursula Bolmowski, Michael Hokse and Darwin Elias. About half the painters have never painted before. According to Ms. Zlamany, who is studying art and video photography, some are planning to attend art school. Miss Bolmowski hopes to run the mural project next summer.

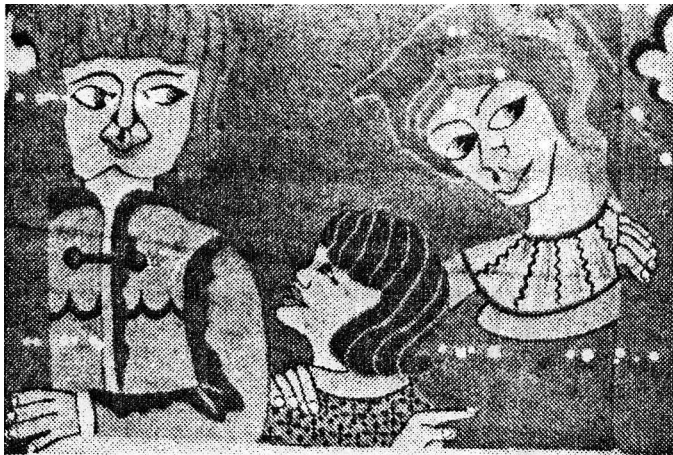
"I would like for the mural project to become a regular summer project in the valley," said Ms. Zlamany, who got the idea for the mural after reading about the mural movement in Mexico and observing

muralists in New Haven and San Francisco. "It really is a fantastic experience to see our ideas so large on the wall. We started out with just a small sketch and a lot of talking.

"The mural gave the workers a real sense of accomplishment," the former Shelton resident added. "On the first day when we saw the wall, it seemed like too much. We divided it in half just in case we couldn't finish. Now we are on the second half. It looks like we are going to be done early."

She thinks the mural has something everybody could relate to. She says she has had positive feedback from the neighbors in the Fourth Street area.

"Murals have been used as a way for people to express their views and needs, to unify people and to beautify a neighborhood," the art student commented.



A closeup showing the detail in the mural.



Brenda Zlamany blocks in a section.



The gang at work above, and at left posing in front of a finished section from the left, Robin Allen, Ursula Bolmowski, Mark Harrison, Darwir Elias, Brenda Zlamany, Michae House and Elaine Babara.