

Dispute Over High School Mural Put Up to City Art Commission



The disputed mural at Brooklyn Industrial High School and the artist, **William Sanger**.

purpose of dissection by the artist, who pointed out that his oils and water colors are in the Brooklyn Museum, the Newark Museum, the Avery Library at Columbia University, the Hispanic Museum and the Whitney Museum of Modern Art.

He was born in Brooklyn, **Sanger** said, in the Laurel Hill section, attended Public School 23 in Williamsburg and started his 23-year painting career here, though he now lives at 166 W. 80th St., Manhattan.

"The teachers say they contributed \$100 toward materials for the mural," he said. "That is not so. They contributed \$55 for scaffolding and pastels."

Incidentally, the work is in no sense complete now, being only in pastel colors on paper. Mr. Sanger said he worked a year at \$22.86 a week on the project, taking it because the space and the modern interior "intrigued" him. Such a mural under ordinary conditions would be worth \$5,000, he said.

As to the charge of teachers that the women in the picture wore "buns," Mr. **Sanger** laughed. "I fixed the hair to carry out the rhythm," he said. "And then they say the mural looks like a sweatshop. That's not so. It's a rhythmic combination of different types in the needle trades. I visited the shops day after day in preparation for the work."

"The trouble with those teachers is that they can't stand realism!"

But the artist was saving up his knockout blow for last.

"As for the charge that the figures are all alike, that makes me laugh," he said. "They are different in color and they have an element of design. In contrast, I may say, with the rule at the school that all the girl students must wear blue smocks which make them look like inmates of an institution!"

DIES IN DENTIST CHAIR

Oakland, Cal., Sept. 18 (AP)—John Howard Jr., 24-year-old Harvard University student, died in a dentist's chair yesterday while an anesthetic was being administered. Dr. Lyton Warren, the anesthetist, and Lyall Bishop, dentist, said young

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Artist **William Sanger** Defends Work Against Teacher Critics Who Object to 'Monotony' of Design and 'Buns' on Women's Heads

By O. R. PILAT

William Sanger, a dark little man of 53 with nose glasses, stroked his chin nervously today and blasted away at those teachers at Brooklyn Industrial High School whose protests halted completion of his mural for their school auditorium.

"To please the girls," he said, referring to the teachers, "I'd have to get down to the calendar and picture-book level. I can't do that, because in a large sense I am working for the city, depicting for the public the ideals of our time.

"I don't deny their right of opinion, but it has been too long assumed by teachers that they own

schools. They don't. They are public servants.

"If we grant their right to criticize because they must live with a mural, then we must also concede their right to tell the architect of the school how to build it."

In short, said Mr. **Sanger,** he would carry his fight for vindication before the Municipal Art Commission, to which the matter has



been referred by the Board of Education.

One by one, the statements of the teachers were mentioned for the

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