

Teachers Assail WPA Painting at Industrial High

84 Rap Sanger Mural
to Which They Con-
tributed as Unworthy

The teachers of Brooklyn Industrial High School held their first meeting of the term this morning in a mood of intra-mural rebellion.

The 84 instructors had contributed \$100 toward materials for an auditorium mural being painted by a WPA artist, Walter Sanger of 186 W. 80th St., Manhattan, and they don't like it and have halted its completion.

Take it from a non-critical reporter, these industrial women think Mr. Sanger painted big (the preliminary cartoon measures 20 feet by 20 feet) but he didn't paint good and they're telling every one within earshot just what they think of it.

Principal Also Opposed

In the office of the principal, Mrs. Margaret Furney, the tall, white-haired executive, is a model of restraint compared to her subordinates.

"I'm not an art critic, I know," Mrs. Furney said, "but the mural doesn't appeal to me and to the teachers who contributed to its expense."

Mrs. Furney turned on her heel and went back into her office where, she said, she had too much to do to discuss art.

In the auditorium about half the teaching staff sat, glared at the large scene of seamstresses, cutters, models and other workers of the needlework trade.

Buns a Sore Point

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Buns a Sore Point

"The women are shapeless, ill-favored and have muscles in the wrong place," said one who declined to give her name. "It looks very institutional, with their hair all fixed alike—and with buns, mind you. There's hardly a teacher or pupil in the school with a bun."

Another ridiculed what she termed "Greek dancers flitting around the molding." There are heroic figures engaged in terpsichorean movements and sports postures near the ceiling.

"The whole scene has the atmosphere of a sweat shop and then he put those classical figures up there at the ceiling."

Miss Mary McGrady, another teacher, had something to say and was ready to be quoted.

"The figures are entirely too large. They seem to hit you right in the face," she complained. "Then, too, I don't like the coloring. It should be pretty shades with the figures in proportion."

Figures Also Criticized

The figures do bear a certain uniformity, it was pointed out, and all, including a statuesque model, have expressions of resignations not calculated to inspire the students of the school to a career of needlework. It is estimated that 80 percent of the girls attending will enter that trade and hence the approval of the subject.

The original plans were approved by the Municipal Art Commission, but its emergency committee recently told **Sanger** to suspend work. It was revealed that Mrs. Furney had appealed to the commission to halt the project.

Mr. **Sanger** complains that he has been stymied by persons "not qualified to criticize" and all await the art commission's action.