



Clement S. Donnelly of Warwick applies a few final touches to his Italian beach sand mural in the Old Stone Bank.

New Bank Quarters to Show Sand Murals

By TED HOLMBERG

ITALIAN beach sand murals are a rarity in this country but Providence will have one on permanent display when The Old Stone Bank opens its new offices on Westminster and Dorrance Streets tomorrow. The mural tells the story of banking in "modern and abstract terms," according to its creator, Clement S. Donnelly of Warwick.

The idea for the mural in sand was the brain child of designers Edmund F. Capozzi and Antonio Guerra of the Modern Store Fixture Co. of Providence which designed the new quarters for the bank office.

The main mural is divided into 24 units of 2x4 slabs and is 24 feet long and 8 feet high. Three separate sand murals hang on another wall of the bank and these show the basic elements of man's life, according to the artist — the earth, the sea and the sky. They are 3x8 feet each and divided into two equal sections.

To construct the murals, ordinary beach sand was placed in wooden forms and then patted and gouged into the shapes required by preliminary sketches. Plaster was then poured into the forms and when it hardened, it was removed. The coating of sand which sticks to the plaster of paris gives the mural the appearance of a mural in sand.

A heavy wire mesh was set in the wet plaster while it was in the mold with an overlap at each end to provide a means for removing the sections from the molds, to allow for easy installation and to provide reinforcement for the mural.

Intentionally created in the work are what the artist calls "pure motifs," mingled with abstracts that can easily be identified. On the main mural, a large free form indentation encloses most of the motifs.

In the center is depicted an hourglass showing pennies growing into dollars and denoting savings. Surrounding this are old and new coins, a ledger and barred windows to show vaulted protection, a keyhole referring to locked

doors, a seal on a ribbon representing mortgage services and a chain linking depositors with the bank staff for mutual strength.

Surrounding these motifs are such things as the tree of life, a honey bee and wampum. The tree of life, based on a strong foundation, denotes the advance of banking; the wampum emphasizes the span of years through which the bank has been serving the needs of the thrifty and the bee is one which buzzed around the artist's head occasionally last summer in Warwick.

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