



A Wall Dog Meet With Unusual Treats!

Phil and Maria Ghi of Ghi Sigh Service, Canaan, Connecticut, hosted a fantastic Wall Dog Meet September 16-18, 2005. The wall that was revitalized, was that of the Canaan Market, belonging to Ron and Joan Baker. Much to our contentment, the Baker's kept us all happy with a never-ending supply of delicious food and Guida ice cream for desert.

The images on the 106' wall consist of nostalgic farm scenes inspired by the Guida Dairy Company. Each scene (10' x 24') reflects one of the four seasons of the year. The Spring scene was designed by Bill Riedel, Sr., Summer by Alan Johnson, Howie Nisgor and Glenn Taylor collaborated on Fall, Bill Beckner concluded the visual year with a serene Winter scene and Mike "Z" (Szczoczarz) dedicated his entire weekend tying them all together with massive proscenium stone arches painted around each.



Mike Z (Szczoczarz) creates stone arches



Alan Johnson and Bill Riedel on day number one



Bill Riedel begins...



Alan Johnson and Frank Manning paint the basic background



Aerial photo taken of the Canaan Market wall by Stanley Segalla, from his airplane

The wall was prepared with twenty-four sheets of 4'x10' Dibond. Gary Rovelto, Tom Elliott and Phil Ghi of Ghi sign service took renderings created by the team leaders enlarged and transposed them on the panels that were then attached to the masonry wall.

The list of the weekend's hard working, Wall Dogs, were as follows. Bill Riedel's team was: Randi Dalaker, Bill's daughter, Maryanne Rogers and her husband and son, Craig and Nick. Alan Johnson's team: Alan's wife, Judy, Frank and Beverly Manning, Peg Beckner, Bill Riedel, Mike and Deb "Z" (Szczoczarz) and Carol Mittelsdorf. Howie Nisgor's team: Glenn Taylor, Nub (Rob Collard), Alan Ackerman, Kirk VanSwearingen, Carol Mittelsdorf and Peg Beckner. Bill Beckner's team: Peg Beckner, Alan Ackerman, Alan Johnson, Carol Mittelsdorf, Phil Ghi and Jessie Smith.

We all got an extra thrill, Friday, with an unexpected, overhead visit from Stanley Segalla (Joan Baker's father) the famous, Old Reinbeck Aerodrome stunt pilot, known worldwide as "The Flying Farmer." He "buzzed" the parking lot and took amazing aerial photos of us painting from not-so-high above.



Wall Doggin with Glenn Taylor, Howie Nisgor and Bill Beckner!



Bill Riedel watches Glenn Taylor as Maria Ghi photographs Bill Beckner and his unruly whiskers as Phil Chi shakes his head in disbelief.



Jessie Smith, Mike Z and "smokin" Bill Beckner



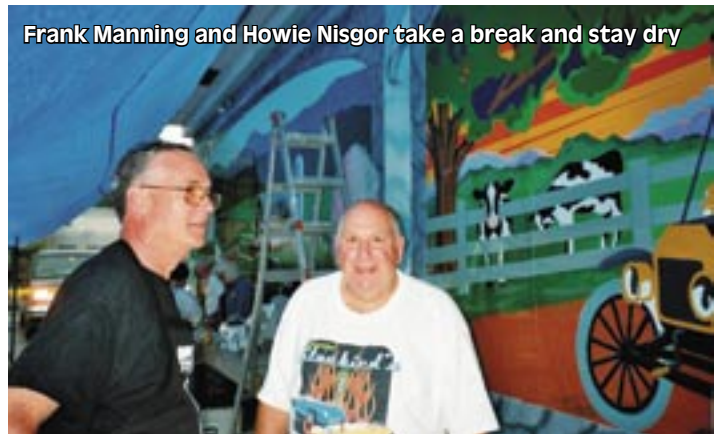
DiVinci himself would be proud of our Wall Dog Tarp
Cherubs: Tom Elliott and Gary Rovelto



Kirk VanSwearingen and
Glenn Taylor continue
painting as it rains!



Peg Beckner, Jessie Smith and Phil Chi



Frank Manning and Howie Nisgor take a break and stay dry

All-in-all the weather was cooperative, except a brief bit of rain on Saturday afternoon that just added to the fun... The painting continued although in a more intimate setting. Special thanks to the efficient preplanning of Phil and his team, who erected a lovely "blue tarp" canopy that kept us dry. Once the rain cleared, Bill and Randi lead everyone in a brief moment of silliness and had us all doing "The Wall Dog Boogie," inspired by the great music of Nat King Cole.

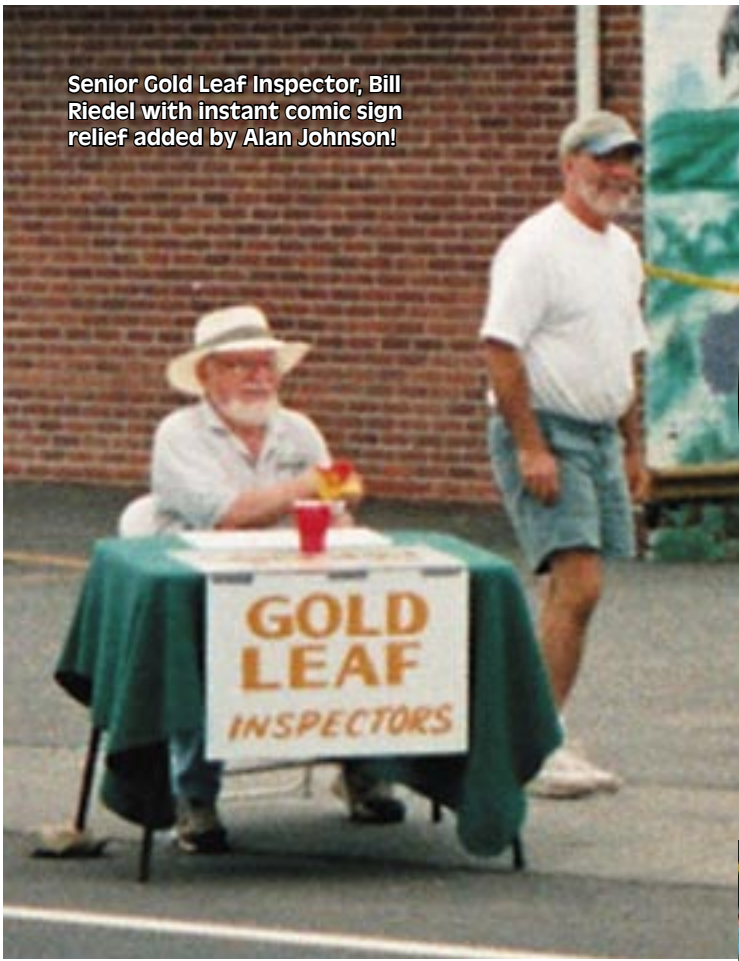


GREAT food and great fun

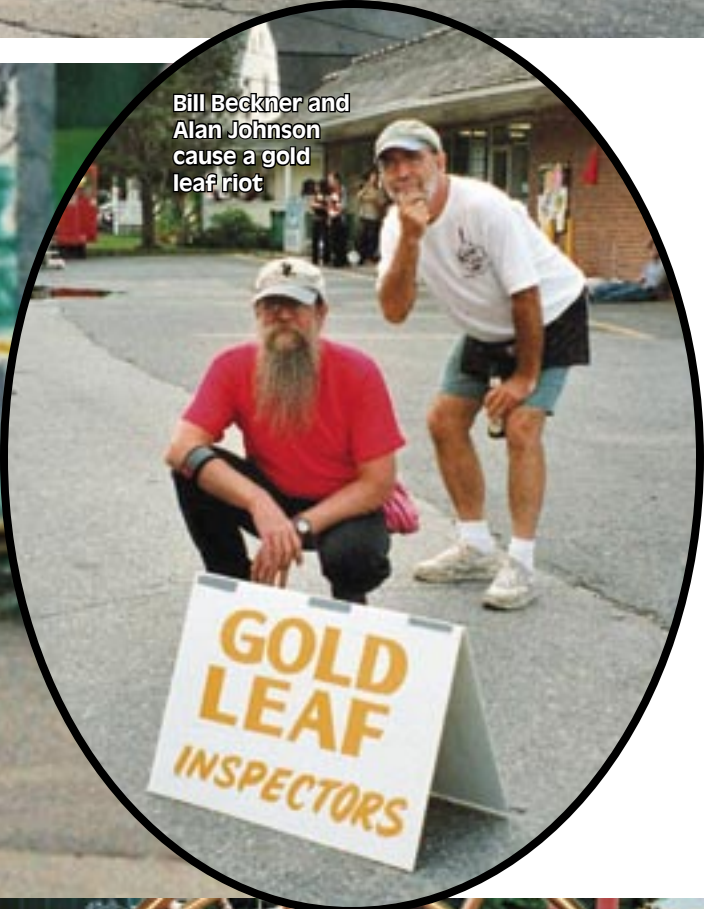
Bill Riedel and Randi Dalaker cut the mud with Alan and Judy Johnson with an old fashioned Wall Dog boogie!



An infamous group of Gold Leaf Inspectors, Glenn Taylor, Bill Beckner, Jessie Smith and friend, Peg Beckner, Alan and Judy Johnson, Bill Riedel and Randi Dalaker, Craig and Maryanne Rogers and Alan Ackerman.



Senior Gold Leaf Inspector, Bill Riedel with instant comic sign relief added by Alan Johnson!



Bill Beckner and Alan Johnson cause a gold leaf riot

Sunday had yet another delightful surprise. The city of Canaan, hosted the State of Connecticut Fireman's convention. An impressive collection of new and vintage fire equipment paraded right past our wall. Bill Riedel, Alan Johnson and Bill Beckner embraced the opportunity to elect each other as the parade's official "Gold Leaf Inspectors." They're antics created a frenzy of fire truck polishing and loads of side splitting laughter...



Unanimous gold leaf winner!



Glenn Taylor and his many brushes



Canaan, CT Wall Dogs, September 18, 2005: Nick and Maryanne Rogers, Peg and Bill Beckner, Frank Manning, Alan and Judy Johnson, Carol Mittelsdorf, Randi Dalaker, Bill Riedel, Phil Ghi, Glenn Taylor and Alan Ackerman.

The combination of everyone’s remarkable ideas and talents were reflected in the beauty of each individual section of the wall. Bill Riedel’s bright sunny Spring scene incorporates a farmer on a tractor (which originated from an old photo of Alan Johnson on a junk yard tractor), which he modified to resemble the Market owner, Ron Baker. Bill’s brushwork is a sight to behold; he can create cast shadows that are incredibly realistic. On that 600 square foot wall, not a brush stroke in sight! Alan Johnson’s Summer scene incorporated every color in the 1-Shot rainbow. His contrasty, edgy color combinations are psychedelic and vibrant. He added a personal touch of immortalizing his family dog, Willard, scurrying after the antique dairy truck. Watching Glenn Taylor create Fall, with no less than three brushes at once, perched comfortably a-top a scaffold for endless hours, was a

testament to his honed talents of a “True Wall Dog.” He masterfully added Stanley Segalla and his favorite stunt plane flying overhead. And... if you are ever in Canaan, and you take a real close at the bushel of red apples, you can see a tiny fruit fly (actual size) painted by “Nub” on one of Howie’s red apples. Last, but most certainly not least was Bill Beckner’s crisp cool Winter scene, complete with a shimmering blue moon. Bill made it all look like child’s play, as his perfect lettering skills, effortlessly transformed that huge wall into a Winter wonderland.

Phil summed it all up when he said. “You really have to know how to sling paint to do this kind of work well.” The wall was a tremendous success. It will remain the one-and-only Flying, Dancing, Gold Leaf Inspecting, Wall Dog Meet in history!

Thanks Phil... now that’s Wall Doggin’!



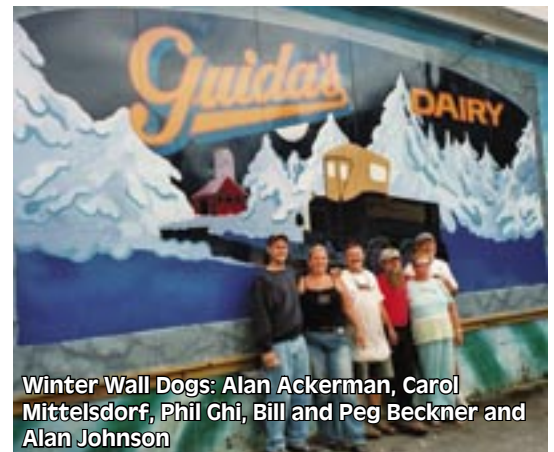
Spring Wall Dogs: Bill Riedel and his daughter Maryanne Rogers



Summer Wall Dogs: Bill Riedel, Carol Mittelsdorf, Frank Manning, Judy and Alan Johnson



Fall Wall Dogs: Alan Ackerman, Peg Beckner, Carol Mittelsdorf and Glenn Taylor



Winter Wall Dogs: Alan Ackerman, Carol Mittelsdorf, Phil Chi, Bill and Peg Beckner and Alan Johnson