

Bank mural depicts Clive's history

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Les Aasheim of the Clive Historical Society, left, and Clive Mayor Scott Cirksena unveil a new historical mural in the Wells Fargo bank atrium at 9801 University Ave. in Clive. Beth Currie, right, of the Wells Fargo mural program prepares to unveil the key to the photos in the mural. (Photo: Special to the Register)

Snippets of Clive's history are captured in a colorful wall mural unveiled March 10 at Wells Fargo Bank, 9801 University Ave.

The mural, created by a graphic designer with Wells Fargo, depicts historic images of the city's coal mining past, its railroad depot, a baseball team, maps and documents. The inspiration for the images came from the archives of the Clive Historical Society.

"We have a Clive (baseball) team dating back to 1908, then the classroom of children are from the second school established in Clive in the early 1900s," Wells Fargo representative Beth Currie said. "We like to focus on images from the late 1800s to the early and mid-1900s, when Wells Fargo started. It was neat to find the train depot and town photos, since Clive was a coal mining town that served as a railroad and shipping point for St. Louis."

Former Clive Mayor Les Aasheim said the historical society worked with Wells Fargo for six months to piece together the mural.

"We provided them with several historical photographs from which to choose and they did a great job of selecting ones for the mural. It looks pretty awesome," he said.

Marta Codina, area president for Wells Fargo Bank, said the company launched the mural program a few years ago to capture the history of the towns where its banks are located. There are murals at banks in Sioux City and Iowa City as well as the private Wells Fargo suite at Wells Fargo Arena and the downtown Des Moines skywalk location.

"We are community-oriented, and it's great for us to capture each community's history," she said. "Not everyone associates Wells Fargo with Iowa, but in fact, 150 years ago, we were here."

Currie, the mural program manager, said there are approximately 1,500 murals at Wells Fargo locations across the country.

"We reach out to local historical societies, universities, museums, wherever we can to capture the history of the local community," she said.

The historical photos were scanned and digitally arranged. The image was then printed on a 12-foot-by-5-foot canvas.

"We kept it hidden under a veil until our unveiling ceremony Tuesday, hoping to make it very special for the customers and the town to see it together," Currie said.

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