

THROWBACK THURSDAY

In 1946, when the world's future seemed to be in the hands of the victorious North Atlantic alliance, The Times commissioned a 20-foot mural for its newly renovated lobby at 229 West 43rd Street. Painted by Eugene Kingman of Omaha, it depicted Earth as it might be seen by a viewer suspended in space over Newfoundland. Above the planet's horizon were lines from a poem by Sarah Chauncey Woolsey: "Every day is a fresh beginning — every morn is the world made new."

Long before we moved out in 2007, the mural had been rolled up and put into long-term storage. It came along with us to 620 Eighth Avenue, but there was never any money for a much-needed restoration. Happily, however, Kingman's work had inspired a number of persevering admirers, including the muralist's daughters, Elizabeth Kingman and Mixie Kingman Eddy.

Their efforts to persuade The Times to part with the mural and allow it to return to Omaha, where Kingman painted it, have paid off. "Last week, it was flown by private plane from New York City, and now resides at the Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center in Omaha," Elizabeth Kingman told me on Wednesday. "Under the direction of Kenneth Bé, Omaha's top conservator, the mural will be restored once the funds needed to do this vital work are raised."

Matthew Hansen of The Omaha World-Herald tells the terrific story in his column, ["Omaha artist's mural hung in New York Times lobby for 40 years; now it's home."](#) Another morn. Another new world.

— David W. Dunlap



Eugene Kingman's mural in The Times's lobby at 229 West 43rd Street was witness to some frivolous events... (John Orris/The New York Times, 1979)



... and events as momentous as a visit by a sitting United States president, Lyndon B. Johnson. Just above Johnson's head, an illustrated explanation of the mural hangs on the lobby wall. (Carl T. Gossett Jr./The New York Times, 1964)



Michael Gallagher, at left, a second-generation Times carpenter with a keen sense of history, unfurled the mural briefly on the 14th floor for Michael Golden, Arthur Sulzberger Jr. and Janet L. Robinson. (David W. Dunlap/The New York Times, 2007)