

Hendersonville residents seek to save mural

Company considers options

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Art lovers from all over the country are pleading with officials at Hancock Fabrics to allow a mural to remain in the Hendersonville building the fabric company will be moving into this fall.

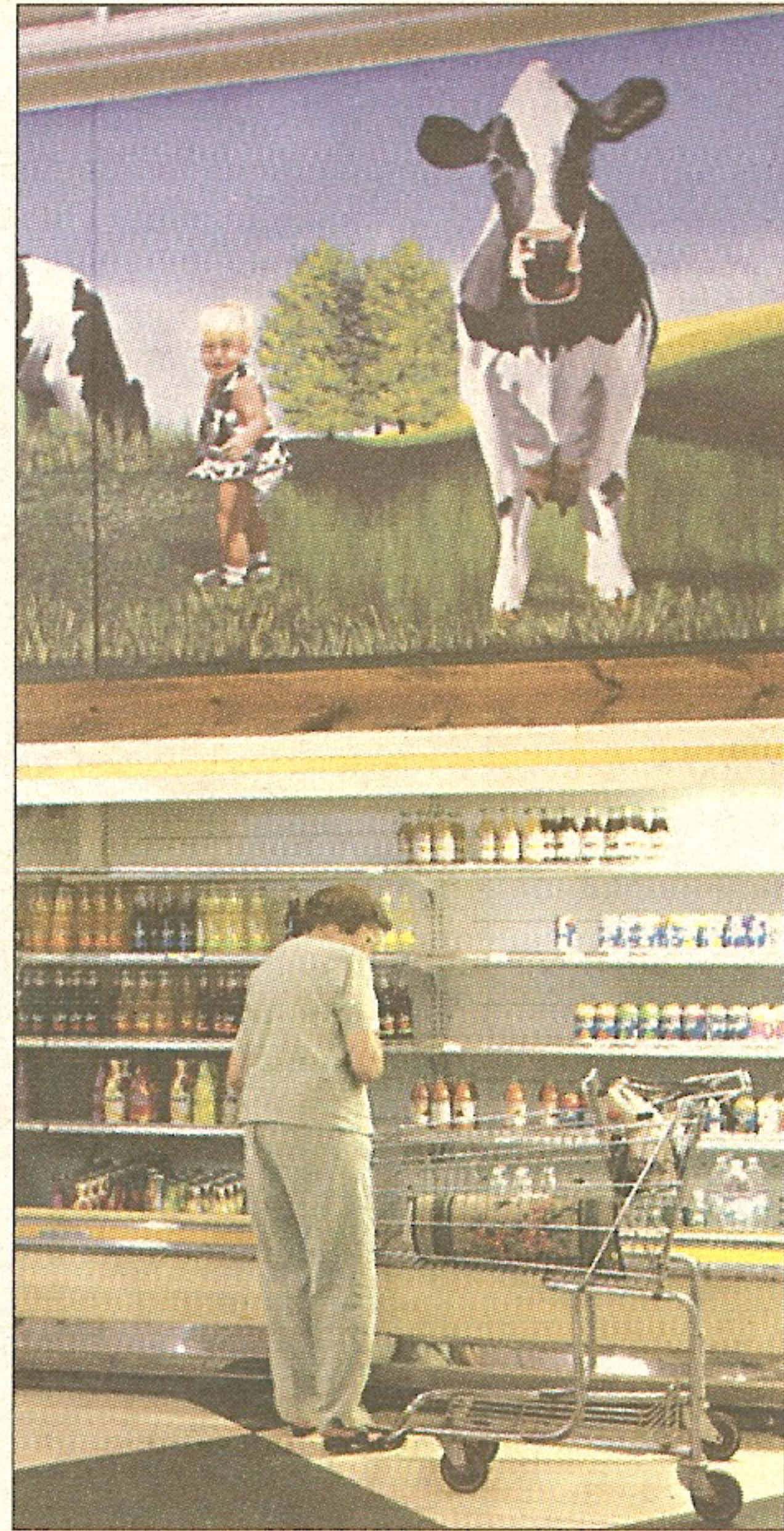
The building, which currently houses Four Seasons Produce, is at 235 East Main St., and its four interior walls have been covered with one of the largest murals in the area for more than five years.

Four Seasons Produce owner Meredith Hudgens enlisted the help of local muralist Michael Cooper to add a little excitement to his store. He said apparently it worked because the European-style market and street scenes, in addition to the other images on the walls, attracted people from all over.

"When we were ready to move into this building my objective was to make something that not only I could be proud of, but the city of Hendersonville could be proud of — and they were," Hudgens said.

"We had people come in to see the mural from quite a distance. ... It's been very appreciated by the people here and other places as well."

Louisiana muralist Abby Kent, whose work includes being involved in large-scale public art projects, saw the mural last spring when she was visiting Nashville. She said it would be a shame to paint over such a large unique work of art for a number of reasons.



"When we approach a community with a mural proposal, the response and support is overwhelming," Kent said. "These major pieces become symbols of community spirit and pride. They often generate more activity in cultural development, and they inspire all ages to try their own hand at creativity."

Hancock Fabrics Regional Manager David



Photos by Donn Jones

Four Seasons Produce owner Meredith Hudgens enlisted the help of local muralist Michael Cooper to add excitement to the four interior walls of his store. According to Hudgens, the wall images attracted people from all over.

Eversmann said store officials are looking into the fate of the mural. He said when the company moves into a new location it keeps the shell of the building and alters the interior.

"We're looking into all possibilities," Eversmann said.

Hudgens, who said he was hit hard by the economy, will be leaving his current location

within the next week to begin operating Fresh and Fancy, a similar store at 305 South Main St. in Goodlettsville.

"It was a very nice addition to our store," Hudgens said. "But more than that ... it was special to the city of Hendersonville. ... [The thought of it being painted over] saddens me almost as much as closing the store." □