



Photo and story by Michael Heying

Painting Missouri

Billy "Billyo" O'Donnell of Eureka, Missouri visited Glasgow last Thursday to paint a scene from Howard County. Billyo choose the City Office building to represent Howard County in his new book.

O'Donnell is working on a book project with writer Karen Glins, called *Painting Missouri*, that will be the first art book of Missouri. The book will contain the paintings of Billy and will contain paintings from all 114 Missouri counties and St. Louis City.

Howard County is the 30th county the artist has visited on his quest, he has been working on this project for almost a year.

Billy is a 'plein air' painter, which means, 'out-of-doors' in French. His works are sold in an art

gallery in Laguna Beach, California called *Gallery Grace*, *Kodner Gallery* in St. Louis and at Hilton Head Island.

Billy O'Donnell designed the current Missouri license plate. His work is widely known, he is one of only 50 landscape artists invited to show his works at a New York City museum. He also was the first artist granted permission to paint a rehearsal of the St. Louis Symphony. The conductor was so impressed with the artist's work that he called a special dress rehearsal so that the artist could paint another canvas.

After the book project is completed and released the paintings will go on tour throughout Missouri. The paintings will be sold at auction after the close of the tour.