



SODUS POINT, July 15 - The third historic theme mural in Sodus Point depicts Sodus Point's involvement in the Underground Railroad in the 1850's. (l-r) Artist Luis Zarate, village workers: Michael Perce, Henry Martin, Rich Mayo and Angus Hopkins, mural committee member Tom Lightfoot. A special thank you was given to all for their assistance in mounting the mural.

Commemorating the long road to freedom

By Alice Irwin

SODUS POINT, July 14—Getting around these days is a no-brainer; just fire up your GPS, TomTom, or have those nice people at OnStar plot your course for you and talk you through your journey in a lovely Australian accent. For the people who had been wrenched from their homeland in Africa, stripped of their humanity and forced into bondage as slaves, the long and dangerous road to freedom didn't have any tour guides. As slaves made their way north, praying for and dreaming of a better life...a

free life...the stars were their guides and in the years to come folk songs captured the feelings of the journey along that long road.

On this beautiful summer day nearly 100 people gathered for the dedication of Sodus Point's third historic mural, located on the east wall of the fire department. Through the sponsorship of the Neighbor-

hood Association of Sodus Point and the generosity of private donors, the magnificent mural depicting the history of the Underground Railroad in Sodus Point has been brought to life. NASP President and local historian, Bruce Farrington, greeted the large crowd and began the festivities by playing a ballad performed by the New

Christy Minstrels in the 1960's. Farrington explained that what we know as the Big Dipper constellation in the night sky was referred to as "the drinking gourd" by the slaves on their

*Follow the drinking gourd,
We gotta follow the drinking gourd.
Think I heard the angel say,
Follow the drinking gourd.
Stars in the heavens gonna show you the way,
Step by step, keep a-travelin' on,
Sleep in the holler till the daylight is gone,
Follow the drinking gourd.
Keep on a-travelin' that mighty road to freedom.
There's a good day comin' and it won't be long.
All of God's children gotta sing this song.
Follow the drinking gourd.*

Excerpt from Follow the Drinking Gourd

way north, guiding them to freedom.

He gave hearty and sincere thanks to the members of the Sodus Point Highway Department, who have been instrumental in getting the three historical murals mounted at the fire department. Farrington also noted that if it hadn't been for the stories shared by long-time Sodus Point residents George Arney and Elsie Parsons, the story of the role of Sodus Point in the Underground Railroad's operation may never have been told. A warm welcome and thank you was given to the mural's creator, artist Luis Zarate,

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