

Artist: Eddy Poindexter

**Education: at 9 years of age tutored by two road sign painters;
had no formal art education**

At 9 years of age, Eddy began his painting career by painting wooden clothespins. This is what the road sign painters had him work on because that was what was around the house. He was a road sign painter (which included the Bull Durham signs) for 50 years. His work included murals in homes, businesses, bars, water towers, and churches in several states. He also painted drop curtains for stage work in places such as Branson, MO and scenes of cowboys, farmers, and the prairie that are used for backdrops at the Walnut Valley Festival here in Winfield. Some of his specialties include painting baptisteries, commercial semi-trucks such as moving vans, and the backgrounds seen on carnival rides.

In his early years of painting for Mohawk Oil Co., each Monday morning he would have to make the paint with his hands by mixing 400 lbs. of lead, 100 lbs. of zinc, and 5 gallons of linseed oil together. His 1 inch brushes were handmade of boar or ox hair and would cost up to \$10.00 each. Today, each brush costs \$60.00.

In days gone by when the merry-go-rounds still had wooden horses, carnivals from New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma trucked in thousands of horses to his Oklahoma shop every year to be repaired and painted for the next season. Over the years he would paint whatever he stumbled on to. Today, he is retired from active painting. Mr. Poindexter lives in Oklahoma and has been painting for over seven decades.

