

# ARTIST PRESENTS BIG OIL PAINTING TO CITY AS GIFT

Cemetery Board Accepts  
Beautiful Canvass by Gus-  
tav Behncke to Hang  
in Riverside Chapel

Gustav Behncke, artist and resident of Oshkosh for 54 years, has presented to the city a large oil painting depicting the resurrection of Christ.

The cemetery board Wednesday evening accepted the gift on behalf of the city and it was announced the painting will be hung in the chapel at Riverside cemetery, Friday.

The gift of Mr. Behncke will fill the alcove at the rear of the altar in the chapel, and the cemetery board has agreed to see that it is properly lighted. The location of the painting is that selected by the artist.

Councilman Oaks today extended a written expression of the gratitude of the board and city to Mr. Behncke. He stated the subject was carefully chosen by the artist for this purpose in order that it might not be contrary to the beliefs of any religious creed and asserted the painting is strictly non-sectarian.

## CONCEPTION OF ARTIST.

Mr. Behncke, who was interviewed, stated he had in mind not so much the story of the resurrection of the Christ in itself as the general theme of the rising from the dead.

The predominating color notes of the picture are warm browns which make up the background. The use of rich greens, purples, and blues livens the effect of the whole.

The figure of the Christ is not shown, but the most striking figure is that of an angel, who hovers upon the side of the open grave to the right and above a group composed of Mary, the mother, and two other women.

The winged angel above the tomb and the gravestone, which has been pushed to one side, brings to the painting the touch of light and revived life which it portrays.

The face of Mary expresses reverence and composure while the countenances of the two women are filled with awe and astonishment.

## SHOWS CROWN OF THORNS.

On the side of the tomb are draped the grave clothes and the crown of thorns, while on the ground are the flasks of oil which were to have been used in anointing the body.

The garb of the women and the flasks bring the richer colors, Mary's robe being green and that of the attendants purple and blue. Laurel plants in the lower foreground express the idea of peace.

Though Mr. Behncke has resided in Oshkosh for more than two generations, he has traveled the world since his birth more than 78 years ago.

In his late youth he was a sailor and traveled the North and Baltic seas. He has traveled extensively in Europe and the western hemisphere and can relate many thrilling experiences of the time when he was in the western United States before the Indians of the plains had been subdued.

He has been painting for 60 years and was one of the early church decorators of Wisconsin, having worked in 175 churches in this state.