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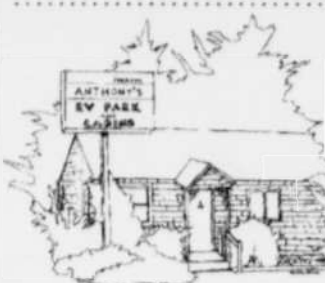
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OUR HISTORY

A Window Into The Monarchy

The Rose Court's annual art show presents a visual history

BY ERIN ROOK

Portland's very own royalty will display some of its relics January 11-30 at Q Center as part of the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court's Second Annual Art Show, *Embrace Our History*. Timed as a prelude to Q Center's Winter Gala, themed "Vive la Q!", the show aims to represent each reign in the court's 52-year monarchy with photos, posters, banners and more.

The centerpiece to the show is the coronation gown worn by Portland's legendary performer Darcelle XV when she stepped down as reigning Rose Empress in 1973.

According to Harold Strong (aka Rose Empress XXXI Cicely), the organizer for this year's art show, special care will be taken with the garment.

"We'll have to construct a facility to contain that," Strong says. The art show started out as a way to help beautify the bare walls of the brand new Q Center.

"Last year in August, after Q Center moved to the new facility [on Mississippi Ave.], the Rose Court was there and the walls were bare," Strong recalls. "We talked to Glenn [Goodfellow, former Q Center operations coordinator] about decorating walls and that's how the art show evolved."

The Rose Court also saw the exhibit as a chance to connect with a different part of the community. The ISRC is a charitable organization whose members and elected titleholders serve as ambassadors and fundraisers for community causes in need.

The first art show consisted primarily of photos from coronations and other events, but Strong hopes to build on the concept each year, incorporating more historical items and, eventually, artwork created by members of the court.

"This whole thing just started as an opportunity to reach out to the community and display things we have already available," Strong says. "Within our group there are artists who actually paint."

In addition to the artistic efforts of Rose Court members, Strong says he would like to one day display some of the court's most precious items—its crown jewels and scepters. While they may not be as valuable as those belonging to, say, the Queen of England, they are still expensive and, Strong adds, would require special cases to hold them securely.

Unlike many of the court's other events, the art show is not a fundraiser, but rather an opportunity to raise awareness about the organi-

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-HAROLD STRONG
(AKA ROSE EMPRESS
XXXI CICELY)



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