

Art Center Draws 141,000 in Two Years' Existence

Founders' Day Exhibit Opens

Struggle to Start Center, Success Since Recalled on 2nd Anniversary

Salem's federal art center, in the old high school building, has come a long way from its early struggles in financing to its observance of Founders' day, with an exhibit of \$250,000 worth of oil paintings, one of the most pretentious displays ever shown in Oregon.

Since a group of civic minded Salem people got together in November, 1937, to discuss the possibility of starting an art center here, 1500 boys and girls, men and women have attended the classes that were soon made available without charge as a result of this group's efforts. Attendance at the center in its two years' existence has reached 141,481.

This group, which caught the gleam of worth in the art center program, soon undertook to raise the money needed from local sources to obtain the national art program which it would bring to Salem.

Clubs, Schools Help
As a result clubs, schools and other organizations were enlisted in a financing campaign, carried on by various forms of benefits and a beaux arts ball as well as by personal subscription. It was estimated 4000 school children and their teachers joined in helping bring the center here.

Two years ago this month the attractive Salem Art center opened its doors in its present location. Its two years of activities would fill a book.

The Art center maintains galleries with exhibitions changing at about three week intervals. Exhibitions of both national significance and local interest have been presented. Memorable among exhibitions are such as these: Walt Disney original paintings, Centuries of Etchings and Lithographs, Mayan Art, Index of American Design, Art from Timberline Lodge, work by Kaethe Kollwitz, famed German refugee artist; the art of Daumier, great 19th century French artist; in all over 100 art exhibitions, national and local, have been presented.

A review of the Art center program for the past two years covers a diversity of activities, such as extension classes in the state tuberculosis hospital, recreational program at Silverton, classes at the YMCA, summer camp, a varied series of extension talks and lectures, besides a weekly program of gallery lectures for students and the public. Fifty weekly radio talks have been given by guest speakers from Salem and other cities as well as members of the Art center staff. Public services include the making of posters for public agencies such as the Salem Philharmonic orchestra, Salem Youth center, Marion County Public Health association, designing and executing stage settings for the memorial service for the state American Legion convention, assistance in designing furniture for Salem Youth center, completion of two murals for Bush school and one mural for the Galesburg school.

Blind Students Study Art
A feature of the extension work has been the instruction given 22 students from the state blind school, who come to the art center once a week for modeling.

Rotating exhibitions have been maintained in the following extension galleries: Salem public library, Salem chamber of commerce, Barbara Barnes dance studio, McKinley school, Washington school, Bush school and Salem Youth center.

Courses are now offered in painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, weaving, and commercial art. Twenty two artists from Oregon, California, Chicago and New York have taught short courses at various times since the opening of the center. Most of them have been guest instructors, but a regular staff of four to six teachers is employed.

In general, efforts are to make work in the classes a reflection of community needs. Large numbers of people are given general training with facilities for the few who do want to go beyond the recreational and avocational uses of art into advance study. Classes are conducted so as to promote initiation and individuality of expression, to capture the imagination and interest of students, and to guide their appreciation of art through first hand knowledge of the materials and techniques of all the fine arts.

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American Master's Painting Exhibited



"The Catskill Mountains," by Frederick Edwin Church, one of the paintings on view this afternoon at the Salem Art Center for Founders' day. Church, born in 1826 and died in 1900, painted this in 1852 at the height of his abilities. This has been lent from the Albert Bierstadt collection of the Walker Art Center of Minneapolis. Church is recognized as one of the masters of American painting.

Art Classes Attract Young and Old

Take it from a gallery attendant, or guide, at the Salem Art center, this two-year-old institution has proved a tourist attraction. Visitors from nearly every state and from more than 60 towns and cities of Oregon have registered at the center, according to Carol S. Dibble of the Center staff.

Many interesting comments have been passed, many out of the ordinary, since the opening of the gallery attendant in October. Some of them are recalled by Miss Dibble as follows:

"A book compiled of the comments overheard by a gallery attendant in the Art Center would be a best-seller. Filled with laughter, guffaws, and drama it would give one a very real and different mental approach to art. 'A little of the voiced enthusiasm which echoes in the ears of the gallery attendant is occasionally put on record and includes such comments as this by the wife of a newspaper man of statewide reputation: I knew the Center would go rather slowly, but I think what has been accomplished in so short a time is marvelous.'

Merchant Notes Center's Effect
"A Salem merchant remarked: 'I've noted an improvement in artistic discrimination and the standards of taste among our patrons since the art center came to town.'

"A young business woman who spent treasured leisure moments in the Center galleries: 'You know you have to be exposed to pictures to understand them and this Center is changing the viewpoint of people and I've seen it taking place.'

"Another business man inspecting the Center declared: 'I was one of the early republican objectors to the WPA idea involved in the Center, but upon seeing and hearing what a place this Center is, I am entirely converted to its need.' An official on the social compensation board, seeking a loan of federal paintings for his office, and meanwhile looking the Center over said: 'At first it seemed a waste of money to me to set up all these needy artists, but when I see the widespread scope and vitality constructed...

...ive influence of the whole thing it takes on an entirely different front."

"In reply to those who feel the Center does not meet a practical need and hence is not a vital necessity in the scheme of things, the reflection of a man active in Grange and rural activities bears study. 'The people in the country districts are not in actual want, they don't lack for the material things of life, but they do need mental stimulus, food for their minds, and the state of depression is so universal they are on the way to insanity if something like these Center classes and its creative functions doesn't save them.'

Logger Studies Drawing
"Unique among others is the logger who, during his slack season, came to Salem and the Art Center. And took every course he could get, and a house-keeping room in the next block. He always wanted the work, had always drawn by himself and had always had a picture in a frame in his home, but never had opportunity for personal instruction, outside of a correspondence course. He stayed till he had to go back to camp. Two young men in overalls went through the galleries, picture by picture, standing by the desk and said to me: 'Do they teach drawing in these rooms?' Assured that such was exactly the case, and told further of the whole purpose and idea of the Art Center, one of them asked: 'Do you mean that anyone can come down here and take lessons?' Again, he had drawn all his life, with never a lesson.

"We have a lady over 70 taking several classes, quietly happy, thoughtfully content. Once the director asked her why she hadn't taken this work long ago. 'I never had the chance,' was all she said. A girl from the cannery wanted a picture in a Salem shop, but it cost \$5. Her mother said, 'Go down to the Center and paint your own pictures.' The wife of a college professor: 'I'm having such a good time down here, my husband says that I had better neglect other things and take this work.' Another housewife, hearing of the new pottery class, 'If any

more interesting classes open down here, I'll simply have to lock my house and come down here and stay!'

Exhibits Followed
"There is, of course, a large nucleus of familiar faces, Center friends, who come back again and again with, 'What have you new? It's about time you had a new exhibit.' Eager, hungry for fresh mental and spiritual fare, a glimpse of far horizons. There is, too, always a great and constant echo from the lips of older folk. 'I only wish I might have had it when I was a young teacher; I wouldn't have had to struggle with the cut and try method. If I could have had advantages of this sort when I was young I wouldn't have been a square peg in a round hole. And constantly repeated in one way or another, 'Something like this Center course should have been done long ago.'

"Then always with us is the great audience of warm feelings. We hear from them many times daily, 'This is wonderful.' 'It's something like this Center gives us something to think about.' And others freer with their words, 'It works for a higher life.' 'Some art helps to rug the dull spots off of things.' 'Among students enrolled in our classes is a small, elderly lady who spends an average of five hours a day in various workshops and study rooms. I noticed her in three classes I attended. 'A grand idea,' she told me. 'I never had time to paint or do sculpture, or ceramics, or weaving, or oil painting, and I always wanted to. Just as soon as the children married and had homes of their own I got an apartment here in town and I do nothing but attend your classes. I've never been any happier.' And she looks it.

"The wife of a former state legislator made an emphatic prophecy when she said, 'You know I think these Centers are going to bring about a renaissance. We have lived in an age of science and mechanics so long—almost a generation—it's time the cycle changed, and these Centers are going to do it, because they are going to be permanent.'"

Effort Necessary To Prevent Loss

PORTLAND, Ore., June 3—(AP)—Newton C. Farr of Chicago, president of the National Association of Real Estate Boards said today "the spreading out of city population to a very wide suburban area is a process which is going on in most American cities."

"Action with scope enough to ease the transition and prevent huge unnecessary losses in central estate values will require coordinated effort of business groups, owners of business and residential property and municipal authorities," he told the association's Pacific northwest regional conference.

"We need to attack the problem of low cost housing as a part of a much larger program which our urban communities are struggling with and must solve," he added. "If we can achieve successful neighborhood rehabilitation and redevelopment, we should solve many of the problems which are now thought of principally as low cost housing problems but which in reality reach much further in their effects upon real estate values and upon municipal tax structures."

Services Monday For Mrs. Brant

Funeral services for Mrs. Ruth A. Brant, 58, who died at her home here Saturday, will be held Monday at 3:30 p. m. from the Clough-Barrick chapel. Concluding rites, under auspices of Hal Hibbard auxiliary No. 4, will be at City View cemetery.

Ruth Purdy, born at Lansing, Iowa, came to Salem when three years of age. In 1904 she was married to Charles W. Brant. She was a member of the First Presbyterian church.

Mrs. Brant was past president of Hal Hibbard auxiliary, USWV, and junior vice president of the state organization. At the time of her death she resided at 434 South Cottage street.

Survivors are the husband, Julie Brown Colt, Beverly Hills, Calif., socialite-actress, and John B. Campbell, Seattle school of the soap manufacturing family, will wed in Washington, DC, July 4, she announced recently. Several months ago she was rumored engaged to Winthrop Rockefeller, Mrs. Colt is the divorced wife of Samuel Gilbert Colt, heir to firearms fortune.—IEN photo.

Charles W. Brant of Salem; daughters, Mrs. Dorothy D. Deacon of Mossyrock, Wash., and Marjorie Anne Brant of Salem; granddaughter, Patricia Ann Deacon; sister, Edna D. Purdy of Salem; uncle, Thomas G. Albert of Salem, and a number of cousins in Oregon and Iowa.

Dispute Ownership of Dog; Pooch Is in Jail
PORTLAND, June 3—(AP)—A Boston terrier enjoyed the "freedom" of the county jail today while deputy sheriffs sought to settle the question of ownership.

Joe White said Mrs. Grace Maitland gave him the dog, Mrs. Maitland said she didn't.

From Pistols to Soup
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Center Money Spent at Home

Ex-President, V. E. Kuhn, Says Need Filled in Program for Youth

By V. E. KUHN
(Former President Salem Art Center)
There are many phases of the organization and the well planned program at the Art Center, of which the public is not wholly familiar. Among these aspects of art center operation are the physical setup and the financial backing of the organization. I want to make it definitely clear that the sum contributed by the people of Salem is not altogether a donation, it is our own money spent for our own community's good. The Salem Art center is one of the units of the State Art Center association and, of course, being the first and the most important, its organization has been the incentive for the establishment of art centers in other sections of the state.

\$15,000 a Year Given
This center, like the others, receives from the Oregon project an allocation of funds in accordance to the sponsor's contribution and to the requirements of the center itself. In our case it means that the federal government is contributing to the city of Salem about \$15,000 a year. This money is used to pay the salaries of the staff of employees, also some of the special items of equipment, so that naturally this money, in turn, is all spent here at home with our own merchants and tradesmen. I believe that if you will figure the comparison of the contribution from the government with the comparatively small amount contributed by the association, that you will find it to be a very valuable investment especially from our standpoint. These cold facts and figures, of course, are purely mercenary; still they have direct bearing on the subject; it is only small in proportion to the good the art center is doing, particularly with our younger people.

During the term of office as mayor, I had occasion many many times to observe the tendencies and occupations and professions of many of our youngsters and I feel that if many of you parents realized the necessity of the creation of interest programs no matter what they might be, physical, cultural, or moral, you would agree with me when I say that the Salem Art center is a long needed place in our recreation program for the youth of our city. Many of these youngsters receive an inspiration from the work of the art center that has created within them a desire to do some of the more artistic things in life. The incentive perhaps they have changed their whole life's program.

The work in the crafts at the center is making it possible for not only the younger generation but also for the mature, the aged and older people to satisfy a desire which they have always had relative to creating something of a structural nature. I could go on at great length describing many technical problems that arise at the center and many diplomatic questions relative to the teaching of the youngsters and elders, but I believe that you would be surprised if you would pay the center a visit and see for yourself how broad the scope of the work is and you would be better able to judge the value of it to your community.

Salem Scout Press Notes
Scout Calendar
June 10—Polk district meeting and court of honor, Dallas, 7:30 p. m.
June 11—Silver Falls district meeting and court of honor, Mr. Angel, 7:45 p. m.
June 12—Cherry city district board of review, Salem chamber of commerce, 7:30 p. m.
June 13—Linn district court of honor, chamber of commerce, Albany, 7:45 p. m.

As was done for the mothers the evening after Mothers' day, a party is going to be given in honor of the fathers of Troop 20 on June 17, in George Strouzi's sunken garden.

The mothers' club of troop 20 will meet at the home of Mrs. J. T. Komate, June 11 at two o'clock. By KARL KOMATE.

District camp will be held at Camp Lucy July 5 and 6. Jack R. Taylor will be in charge of the over-night camp which is sponsored by the Cascade area council for those troops and scouts who can't get to regular summer camp at Camp Pioneer. Registration for Camp Lucy starts at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and each scout or scouter must bring his own camping equipment and grub. Registration is ten cents per scout.

Ronald R. Ruddiman, scout executive, Jack R. Taylor, neighborhood commissioner, and Donald D. Wood left for the regional camp training course that is being held at Camp Millard, last Friday night and will return to Salem today. This training course is to train the trainers. That is, to train those men who are going to be the trainers for their own council. The course will be on troop camping.

Troop five held a party last Tuesday night in the fireplace room of the boys' dormitory for the parents and for the scouts who are from the state blind school, who go home during the summer. The committeemen of the troop were invited to attend.

Also a troop five was presented with the new charter by Ronald R. Ruddiman, scout executive, last Thursday noon at the Lions meeting in the Hotel Marion. The Lions club sponsors troop five.

How Does Your Garden Grow?

The Campanula family is so varied that it would take pages to tell all about it—as one of my readers suggested. They come in small, tall or medium varieties. There are some that do beautifully in the perennial border and others that do just as well if not better in the rockery.

The campanula from the Austrian Alps and widely spreading. The flowers are blue and bell shaped, although there is also a white variety in this. But one of the best of the bell-flowers for the rock garden is O. Carpatica, both blue and white. It is resistant to disease and is free-flowering. The C. Gargarica is a light blue rock plant but four inches tall. The C. Wilsonii is dark blue and about 6 inches tall.

One of your Salem gardeners has quite a large collection of campanulas and one grower of rock plants in Portland has an unusual collection. It is very interesting to visit the growers now so that one may be able to see what the plants are in flower before one buys them. A number of these may be moved in flower if this is done with considerable care not to disturb the roots.

German Must Get Estate in Person
MEDFORD, June 3—(AP)—Under an order signed in the Jackson county probate court, Hans Struve of Schoobocken Der Lubeck, Germany, must report in person at the county clerk's office here within 90 days, to receive his half share of the estate of his brother, Nick Struve, long time Jackson county resident. Another brother, H. W. Struve, resides at Los Angeles. The estate amounts to \$168,688, according to the administrator's final accounting.

The order says, "Due to conditions existing in Europe and Germany any money forwarded to Hans Struve would not be delivered to him." The order was signed by former county Judge E. B. Day, resigned.

Postal Official Will Be at Clerk's Meet
WASHINGTON, June 3—(AP)—A representative of the postoffice department will attend the Oregon Federation of Postoffice Clerks' convention, June 22-23, at Eugene, Senator McNary was advised today.

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Admiral Rodman Funeral Monday

WASHINGTON, June 3—(AP)—The navy arranged extraordinary honors today for the funeral of Admiral Hugh Rodman, hero of the Spanish-American and World wars who died here at the age of 81.

A company of bluejackets, a regiment of marines and the navy band will stand at attention as he is buried in the Arlington national cemetery Monday. A navy detachment will fire volleys and a bugler will sound taps.

Admiral Rodman, commander of the American battleships in the World war and in 1898 a participant in the battle of Manila bay, died at the naval hospital last night. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Sayre Rodman.

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