

Art Gallery To Open Doors Next Week

By RUTH KING

Years of thought and planning slanted toward a permanent home for the Klamath Art Association and adequate space for art exhibits, will be climaxed February 27-28 with the formal opening of the Klamath Art Gallery.

The struggle to keep alive interest in art in its various mediums in this community for more than a decade is at last ending in achievement with the cutting of a ribbon at the door of the new Art Gallery.

Mayor Lawrence Slater will officiate at the opening ceremony, at 3 p.m. Saturday, February 27. The new gallery, nearing completion at a cost of \$15,000 is located on Riverside Drive across the Link River Bridge.

The public is invited for the opening ceremony and to view the art exhibit which will be open until 10 p.m. and again on Sunday.

Donors who have made possible realization of a 12-year goal of members through generous donations will be honored Sunday, February 28, at a tea in the new building from 2 to 5 p.m. A surprise feature is planned.

Dr. Viron Moore, head of the general extension division, Oregon State System of Higher Education, a loyal supporter of the summer work program in Klamath County, Mrs. Moore, and Winston Purvine, director of Oregon Technical Institute, who has permitted all workshops to be held on the OTI campus, will also be among the honored guests.

Klamath Falls has the distinction of supporting the first summer art workshops in communities outside the major cities.

Present officers are Nina Pence, Klamath Falls architect, 1959 president, who is continuing until an election can be held, Gordon Kessler, Ed Casey, Blanche Casey, Fern Short and Roberta Blomquist.

Other past presidents have been Vern Swansen, Robert Banister, Lorraine Johnson, Catherine Brumbaugh, Mrs. Elsie McNee and Helen Balentine.

Articles of incorporation were filed December 16, 1946. In July 1947 the group of 50 members met and elected Vern Swansen, president, Elsie McNee, vice president, Catherine Brumbaugh, secretary, Art Reinhart, treasurer, Clayton Burrell, Klamath Falls attorney, Robert Banister, director of art in Klamath Falls schools, Mrs. U. S. Balentine, the Rev. Godfrey Matthews, Community Congregational Church and the Rev. Fred Wisenbach, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, directors.

The first art show was held in Moore Park August 4, 1947, with more than 100 exhibits displayed. Other shows followed. Members sponsored teas and small art exhibits in homes, others were held in downtown Klamath Falls.

There are three classes of membership, active, patron and junior.

Summer art workshops since 1949 have brought famous persons here as instructors. Among them are Professor Emmy Zweybruck, Nora Zweybruck, Vern Swansen, Bob Banister, James Edward Peck, Hardie Gramatky, Mary Fullington, Louis Bunce, Roy W. Mallery, Vera Arnold, Jack Wilkinson, Mark Ritter Sponenburgh, David P. Hatch, David McCosh, Charles B. Ryan, E. Nelson Sandgren, Demetrios G. Jameson and Ruth Curtis.

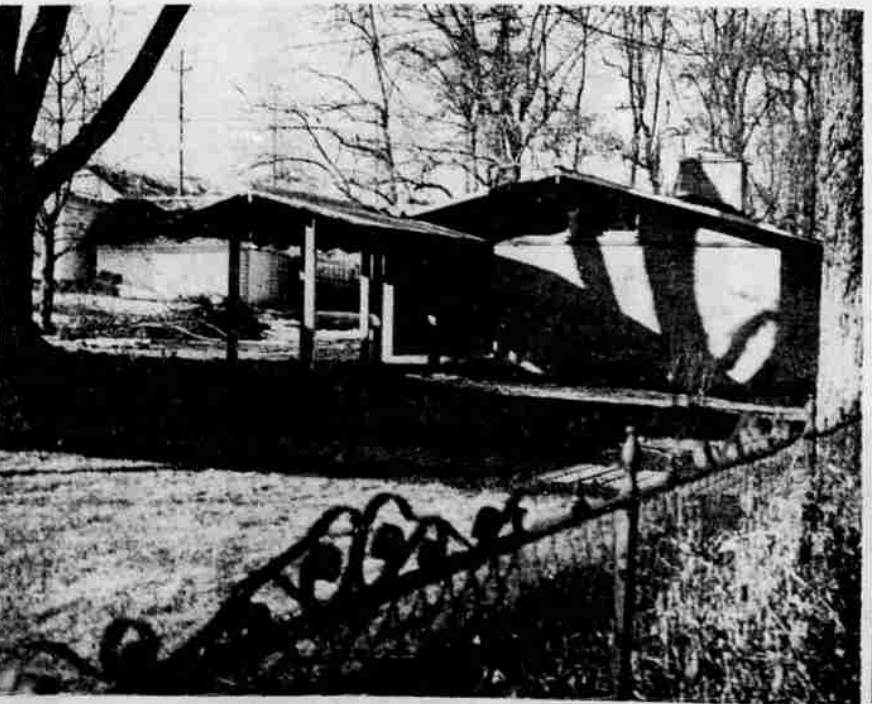
Classes are offered in water colors, oils, ceramics, weaving, metal jewelry, silk screening, serigraphy, plastic glazing, and photography.



HISTORIC RUFUS MOORE HOME on Riverside Drive in Maple Park is being remodeled to be used as a workshop in connection with the art gallery. The home was built about 50 years ago and is much as it was when Mr. and Mrs. Moore lived there.



THIS BUILDING rented from Oregon Technical Institute was first home of Klamath Art Association and was used for three years. It was located in Mountain View Housing Project on Alameda Street. During World War II building was Marine Base Hospital, later used as personnel recreational center.



EXTERIOR VIEW of the fireproof Klamath Art Gallery to be opened formally February 27-28. The building will be used for exhibits of local artists and those of famous artists elsewhere. In addition to the gallery the building provides storage space, a kitchenette and rest rooms.

Donations Still Needed For Art Work

A great deal of money, materials, and labor, have been donated for the construction of the Art Gallery and the Art Center. Many people in the community are asking, "How can I help?"—"Why didn't someone contact me about a donation?"—"Do you still need donations?" Here is some information that will help answer some of the inquiries.

Even though the Art Gallery is opening, the entire project is not complete. Materials, labor, and funds are still needed. Since the Art Association is not paying anyone for the solicitation of funds, much of the collection has been done by the members in off hours and whenever time could be found from their jobs.

This has limited the number of contacts that could be made and members hope that many people will offer aid during opening of the gallery. Members will be present at the gallery to accept donations.

When all the building, remodeling, and landscaping of the grounds is completed, the expenses of running the gallery and the art center will continue.

For many years the art association has operated on a small budget, mainly accumulated by the dues of a relatively small membership. In recent years the budget has been increased by revenue from classes and the Christmas Art Fair but the core of the budget is still the membership dues.

It should be emphasized that no member of the art association is ever paid for the work that he does, all work done by the members is of a volunteer nature.

Expenses of the Art Association are mainly lights, heat, water, insurance, postage, supplies for general upkeep of the buildings and equipment, and purchase of new equipment for the continuing and expansion of the art programs. Klamath County residents will be invited to subscribe to a membership to the Art Association. Memberships are designed not only for the active participating members, but also for the large number of persons who enjoy coming to the exhibits and would like to help support this fine community project. Memberships are offered in the following categories: student membership, \$3; non-participating member, \$4; participating member, \$5; per couple, \$7.50; donor member, \$10; patron member, \$25.

Membership dues are ordinarily paid from September to September. However, dues collected this year will be counted only until next September in order that the Art Association can open on a sound financial basis with the extra expenses that are being incurred with the opening and completing of the gallery.

THE COVER

An artist for an art section cover. Mrs. George Knoll, well known Klamath art enthusiast, is shown here with instructor Demetrios G. Jameson with whom she studied water colors last summer. Demetrios Jameson is a member of the faculty at Oregon State College. He has exhibited his works in many galleries in this country as well as in Italy. He is currently showing at the Portland Art Museum.