

Art Association Has Had Long Pull In Klamath, But Is Now Well On Way

By CATHERINE BRUMBAUGH
When goals are coals, the fire of achievement seldom dies.

This is certainly true of the Klamath Art Association, as members struggled through 10 or more years, yet never forgetting the main objectives of the organization: to raise art and cultural standards in the community; to teach art and art appreciation.

These objectives may have seemed dim at times, but were never lost, although those early years were so beset by problems of self-preservation, there seemed little time for art.

However, each president in turn expressed a personal touch in programming. Each endeavored to develop some facet of art experience. One year a series of motion pictures on art, loaned from the University of Oregon were shown. Another year, the group sponsored well known West Coast artists in a series of demonstrations on painting methods. One president organized the first evening and Saturday classes for fall and spring sessions. Another officer stressed the finances of the club, which we so desperately needed.

With each passing year, the feeble flame was kept alive, and as new members were added to the roster, new ideas, new inspiration gave a stronger hope.

One of the most serious prob-

lems in those early years was the lack of an adequate meeting place. How could this club function without an exhibit room, a workshop and classrooms, a stove and a coffee pot?

There was never a lack of places for business meetings. However they changed so often an occasional member might miss attendance, only because he couldn't find the gathering . . .

These monthly sessions were often held in The Little Theater, or in Brumbaugh Studio, Pine Grove. The group used lodge halls for exhibits, church basements for dinners, private homes for teas or board meetings.

The first exhibits were held in the summer months when they could be shown out of doors, each member hoping against hope that there would be no wind. One year, the late Elmer Balsiger cleared out all new cars and trucks so that the Ford "Americana" exhibit could be displayed in his show room. The owners of the Art Center generously loaned exhibit space in their art and gift shop. Many persons who were not members gave the association moral and financial support during those formative years.

With the help of the General Extension Division, the University of Oregon, Oregon State College, Southern Oregon College of Education and Oregon Technical Institute, the objective of the club's art education program has never missed a season. Since 1949, the club has brought some eminent artist to Klamath Falls for a summer session, with classes held at OTI. This workshop was the first off-campus art summer school in the state. Because of its continued success, several more are now held in other cities throughout Oregon.

The first Klamath Art Association fall and spring classes designed for children and beginners were held at the YMCA. These

were so successful it seemed imperative that they continue. Because the program conflicted with other activities at the "Y," the group rented a store building on Radcliffe Avenue for club use, until, through the combined efforts of the school board and OTI, the Mountain View building was presented to the organization. Here, for the first time, the club members had a home they could call their own. Here, for the first time, they had interesting wall space for shows.

Surely the old "mouse-trap" adage proved right. Exhibits held in this inaccessible hard-to-find location were always well attended, often times crowded to capacity. Klamathites seemed eager and hungry for good art shows. This gratifying response was a just reward to the hard working members.

Now, in 1960, with this beautiful new center made possible by the state, the city and countless individuals, the members of Klamath Art Association are at long



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last watching their dream become a reality. Out of the fire of steady determination, there is a basic and enduring foundation which will enrich the lives of everyone in the Klamath area.

The members are proud of their efforts; yet humble, too, as they see wider horizons ahead for the possibilities of art development in the community. May the club continue to expand every facet of the visual arts, and may the new center always be a guide and an inspiration to everyone — whether young or old in art.

Weave Workshops Given Here Through Extension

By EVA BURKHALTER

Under the direction and sponsorship of the Klamath Art Association, there have been conducted two summer workshops in weaving, both carrying college credit through the Extension Division of the Oregon State System of Higher Education.

A class was held in the fall of 1957 under the sponsorship of the Klamath Art Association with Mrs. Oscar Anderson as instructor, and a gratifying enrollment of interested beginners. After the completion of this work a Weavers Guild was formed in 1958 and has been active since that time, participating in Members' Shows and Christmas Art Fairs of the Klamath Art Association, and visiting showings of other Weavers' Guilds in Roseburg and Eugene.

This organization provides members with the stimulation of shared

interest in one another's work, makes available sources of materials and supplies, for quantity buying, and maintains a sort of "round robin" of information on source books and periodical material on patterns and techniques in weaving. New members are welcome. Meetings are the fourth Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; call Mrs. Oscar Anderson TU 4-7287 for details.

Small table looms were made available for rental from the University of Oregon and work was done on these two harness 16-inch looms or on larger looms owned by members of the Klamath Art Association and lent for the purpose.

There are at present five looms which have been made available for use at the Klamath Art Cen-

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CERAMIC CLASSES have been popular with many artists who have studied under a professional instructor, Ruth Curtis of Eugene. Students have learned to handle clay, the potter's wheel, firing, and operation of the kiln. Classes will be organized at the Art Center in the spring with Martha McLaughlin, elementary teacher and Alice Howard, left, above, as assistant instructors. With Mrs. Howard, Klamath Union High School teacher, is Mrs. Paul Herron.



1959 SUMMER WORKSHOP in pottery. Left to right are John Guest, Ruth Curtis, instructor, and Bill Burk. Clay for summer workshops held here is imported.

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