

## Centennial Funds Offered Impetus To New Art Unit

The Klamath Art Gallery is built although the city of Klamath Falls is considered in many localities to be a young, wild west town and not particularly redolent with culture.

Now, the town has surpassed others of comparable size and many larger cities in the state in the interest of progress and aesthetic development. This has been demonstrated concretely in the last six months by the wonderful response made by business and industrial men and individuals who answered requests with help for building the gallery.



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### Work Left To Be Done At Art Unit

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Many Klamath area residents may be surprised to learn that all work on the Klamath Art Gallery is not yet completed.

Building, however, has progressed to the point that the Art Association members deemed it time to open the building to permit enjoying exhibits planned for the spring.

Members have set summer for a completed building but much work remains unfinished, and completion depends on the donation of labor, materials and funds.

The following is a list of work to be completed: installation of rest room plumbing and fixtures, kitchen fixtures, some interior and exterior painting to be completed by members in the spring, installation of wall covering materials to serve as background for exhibits and building cleanup.

Two patios are planned, one adjoining the side door of the art gallery, the other adjoining the large sliding door of the ceramic studio or "Pot Shop." The art gallery patio will be large enough to accommodate benches, outdoor exhibit space, a pool and perhaps a fountain. The second will provide an outdoor working area for ceramists, painters and other craftsmen.

Some new walkways will be needed. Old ones need repairing and the driveway and parking areas need working over. Plans call for a complete landscaping project with shrubs, trees and flowers. A large garden area on the hillside at the rear of the buildings, utilizing many native plants, is to be accomplished.

Remodeling of the Moore House (Art Center) is under way but completion of this area of the center also depends on donations of labor, materials and funds.

In April 1959, the State Centennial Commission offered through Ben Swartz, curator of the Klamath County Museum, the sum of \$3750 to the Klamath Art Association to build a gallery.

There were two stipulations, the association must submit historical information, articles of incorporation, plans for the proposed gallery and the sum which the state offered was to be matched by the association.

Only a small sum had accrued from donations made at exhibits and from percentages from sales. The association had little money and the deadline was two weeks hence.

The members took into consideration that requests for community enterprises in the form of cash and materials had been exceedingly heavy in recent months. Income taxes had just been paid, \$5,000 had been donated for a cen-

tennial building on the state line, the drive for \$50,000 for a new OTI site was just under way, a survey was to be made for a new hospital.

The financial coordinators of the association conferred with several businessmen on seeking public support to build an art gallery. All signs pointed to a successful venture. Each businessman present at that conference contributed \$100 each and the drive was on.

Two members started down Main Street. Not one person contacted refused help with either cash or materials for building. Contributions of cash were from \$5 to \$1,000. In 14 hours the match money was pledged.

The gallery is to be opened late in February, just eight months after the fund drive opened. The people of Klamath Falls should be proud of the part they have played in this community effort.

No other town in Southern Oregon has accomplished such a task. Klamath has started the ball rolling and others are expected to follow. Interest is increasing in art in all of Oregon, Northern California and western Nevada and members look forward to making this area the greatest cultural and recreational area in the West.

Many letters of inquiry on organization of the association, on financing, supporting members and time required to complete the building have been received.

Answers have given credit to those who have made the gallery possible. People have been asked to dig ditches, haul gravel, wash windows, furnish bricks and punice blocks, wax floors, paint, to furnish windows, doors, electric wiring, and other materials.

Those who could not contribute labor or materials gave cash. The building now stands as a

tribute to the public spirited people of the Klamath Community. The Art Association sponsored the work, but the gallery, the workshops and the park which surround it belong to Klamath Falls and those who wish to enjoy it.

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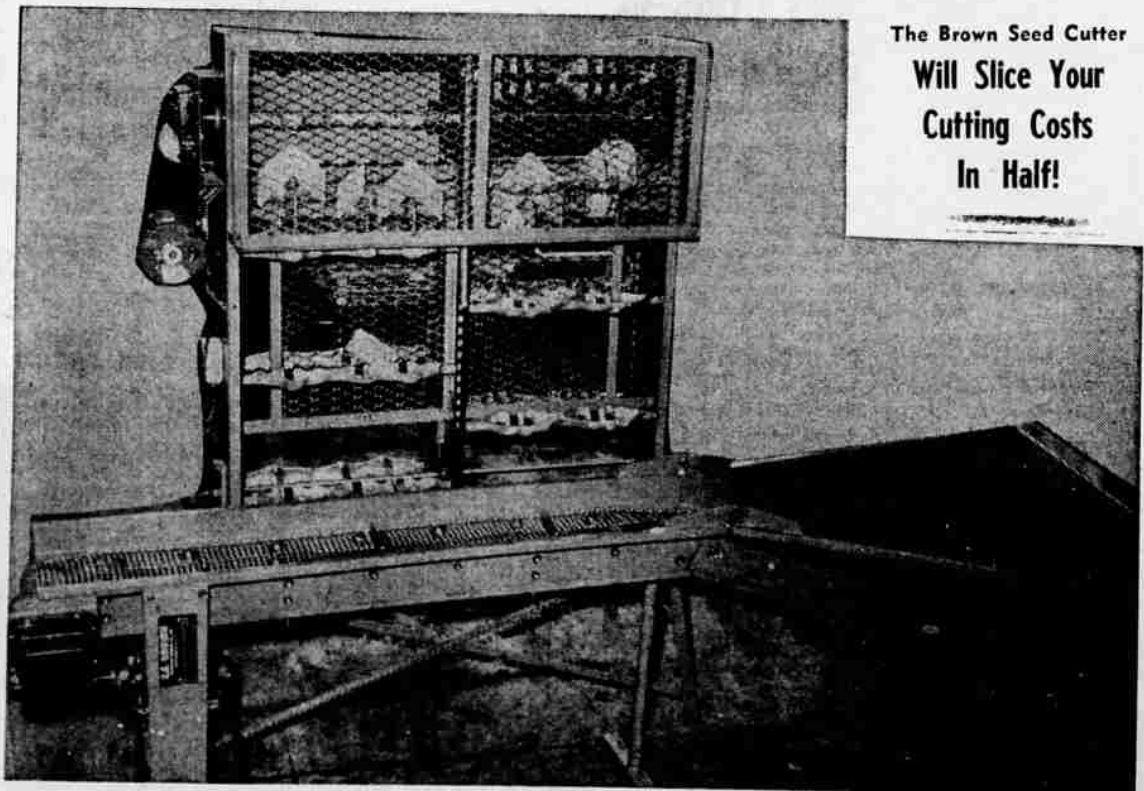


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