A NOTE ON THE RED WING ART ASSOCIATION

Three phases of development in the arts in Red Wing led to organization in 1951 of the Red Wing Art Association. The first was the 1933 decision of the Red Wing School Board to form a High School Art Department. An art teacher, Marjorie E. Gray (Mrs. Arnold Vogel) from the University of Minnesota, was hired. Also of importance were the art classes offered to the public, sponsored by the local branch of the American Association of University Women. Finally, there was a program of recreation at the City Center which included arts and crafts for adults and children. Initiated by the Public Works Department of the city in 1945, classes continued until 1951.

In the late fall of 1950, a group banded together to promote a variety of arts in Red Wing for the enjoyment of all. An invitation to a public meeting on January 28, 1951 was extended.

In bitter 17 below zero weather, over five hundred people turned out to hear William Saltzman and Newton Holland of Rochester and Gertrude Lippincott of Minneapolis promote the arts. Soon after, articles of incorporation were drawn and signed.

The Red Wing Art Association was formed to serve the needs of the community. Mrs. Arnold Vogel was elected the first President of the Board of Directors.

The Art Workshop Committee of the R. W. A. A. carried the burden of planning classes and programs during the first eight years. Mrs. Russell Edblom, chairman, directed her committees through a series of elaborate art shows featuring lectures, films, displays, demonstrations, and children's games.

Kenneth Carpenter, who served as president in 1959, inaugurated ART WEEK. Under his leadership art activities of the association became geared for a wider audience — the entire city. A spring or fall event held annually, it involves as many groups as possible in a wide variety of projects.

Art tours and seminars were initiated in 1960 by the Art Education Committee. A memorial scholarship fund was begun in 1964 to provide more opportunities for talented children.

The Performing Arts Committee became the fifth permanent committee of the Art Association in the fall of 1969. "Here's to You, Ole Man River" — a variety show — was the culmination of that year's ART WEEK. Since then the group has served as a clearing house and sponsor for State Arts Council theater projects, bringing Shakespeare-in-the-Streets and the St. Paul Center Opera Company to Red Wing. In addition, the committee has produced several evenings of song and literature — "I've Got Enough Problems Without Listening to a Leaky Faucet," and "Maybe It's Goofer Dust," as well as a children's Show, "The Silly Sammy Slick Show" and a series of vaudeville acts preceding the return of the silent film "Son of a Shiek" starring Rudolph Valentino.

Members of the Performing Arts Committee include Marilyn Albrecht, Jean Jackish, Curt Gruhl, Avis Walter, Robert Prigge, Mary Hess, Mike Cliff, Debby Campbell, and Caroline Vogel.

In its twenty year history the Art Association has moved its headquarters and workshop from the YMCA to the Red Wing Potteries Annex, from the Elks Building to the lower level of the St. James Hotel. It now resides on the second floor of the Friedrich City Center overlooking Red Wing.

Throughout its history the Art Association has evolved as it has attempted to meet the needs and artistic interests of the community it was formed to serve.

The Performing Arts Committee of the Red Wing Art Association wishes to thank all who made the production of "Pygmalion" possible, including:

Marcy Doyle of Viviane Woodard Cosmetics, who furnished makeup

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Attic Players picture courtesy Mrs. Paul Wintervold.