

- March 3, 1960 -

Art Association Begins Construction On New Wing, Doubling Present Space

Dr. Carl Marchison, president of the Provincetown Art Association, has just announced that construction has started on a new wing for the local art group to be built on land purchased last year from Mary Heaton Vorse, well known writer.

The new addition, planned for present and future needs, will incorporate a large exhibition gallery 30 x 60 feet in size, a large storeroom 28 x 36 feet, and a library and meeting room, all of which will practically double existing facilities.

The new wing, the primary project in the minds of Association officials and members for a number of years and the object of recent fund-raising events, will at last become a reality. Completion is scheduled for June 1, and the new exhibition gallery should be ready for the first 1960 show.

Committee Formed

Last Spring a Policy and Planning Committee composed of Ross Moffett, chairman, Reeves Euler, Philip Malicoat, Bruce McKain, Edwin Dickinson, Hudson Walker, Joseph Kaplan, Sol Wilson and Director George Yater, was formed to evaluate needs and requirements for a new wing, and last Fall this committee recommended to the trustees that a Building Committee of four; President Murchison, Ross Moffett, Philip Malicoat, and George Yater be appointed and authorized to draw up plans for the new addition, and to seek bids from a number of builders for the construction. These plans have been accepted by the trustees at a recent meeting, and the building contract has been awarded to Jean Kaesela, North Truro contractor.

The first step in the construction now under way, is to demolish the existing Little Gallery and old Storeroom, and to prepare the foundation for the new building. The roof of the new exhibition gallery will be supported by four large steel beams with no other inside supports, giving an open feeling of space in this room.

This gallery—connecting with the present Main Gallery—will be of about the same size and proportions. Three large skylights covered with translucent fiberglass will furnish daylight diffused lighting, and for evening there will be continuous strips of fluorescent lights.

Large Racks

The new storeroom will have large picture racks to facilitate handling of the huge volume of entries common to Association shows, and will also serve as a packing room.

This room will have a large north skylight and will be of such size that entries for art shows may also be used for art classes in Winter. This section will be insulated and contain a heater, and some kitchen equipment.

The new library will be used to house a growing collection of art books, and also for a meeting room of the trustees, and for various Association committees.

The Building Fund Committee with Hudson Walker, chairman, and members William Sachs, David Teichman, Lawrence Richmond, Joseph Hawthorne, George F. Miller, Jr., Dr. Philip Walker, Chester Peck and Anne Brigadier is expected to swing into action at once with a vigorous fund-raising campaign.

"This exciting new development on the local art scene," according to Director Yater, "proves once again that art in Provincetown, not content to rest on present wide recognition and acceptance as the leading Summer art center, continues to forge ahead by providing outstanding new facilities and opportunities for the ever-increasing number of artists attracted to these shores."



When C. A. Fuller of the Brockton Enterprise was in Provincetown this Summer he took the above photograph of Long Point Light. He was a bit mystified by the cross between the second and third light poles, surmounting the dune. It was moved there this Summer from the yard of the Provincetown Art Association and stands in memory of a young artist, Charles Darby, who seemed to have a promising future until killed in the war.

A Beachcomber and an artist friend had this to say as a tribute to the young man who loved Provincetown dearly—"Charles Darby, a fellow Beachcomber, did not intend to die when he enlisted early in World War II, nor did he care about becoming a hero. He lived for art. He painted well, but he also was a superb teacher and at 36 had founded a school of painting that attracted students from across the United States. Then came the war.

"He had everything; good looks, ability, a personality that won him friends everywhere. Early in the war his plane was shot down in flames over Germany."

Fellow Beachcombers, under the direction of Bruce McKain of the Provincetown Art Association, moved a 10-foot cross of oak timbers for which the late sculptor, William F. Boogar, designed a bronze plaque. This was raised on a prominent dune as a permanent memorial.

Serving on the committee were Harry Engle, artist and Summer skipper of the Beachcombers; Captain Manuel Zora; Carl Black, and a dozen others including Joseph Hawthorne, conductor-manager of the Cape Cod Symphony; Colonel Richard Magee, Sal Dalseo and Edward Thommen, manager-director of the Provincetown Playhouse.

The plaque reads, "To Charles Darby, gallant soldier. Feb. 29, 1908-Oct. 17, 1944. This cross is erected in his memory by his friends, the Beachcombers."

Many other friends of Mr. Darby were present as guests of Captain Zora.

NEW BEACON - AUGUST 5, 1964

The Provincetown Art Association: A Chronicle Of An Art Colony's Times

Beginning Years

In 1914 the Provincetown Art Association came into being on August 22nd. It had 147 members the first year. Large elms lined most of Commercial Street, horse drawn carriages pulled along the dirt roads, the fishing industry was evident all along the waterfront. There were two restaurants and no bars. Art activity in Provincetown centered around Charles W. Hawthorne and E. Ambrose Webster. Also working in town were William Paxton, a Boston artist; William F. Halsall, an old time marine painter; and Arthur V. Diehl, an Englishman disposed towards philosophical discussions of art. Impressionism was in vogue.

The initial meeting, held in the Nautilus Club Room, elected the following officers: President, William H. Young; Vice-Presidents, Charles W. Hawthorne, William F. Halsall, and E. Ambrose Webster; Acting Vice-President, Mrs. Eugene Watson; Treasurer, Mrs. William H. Young; Recording Secretary, Nina S. Williams; Corresponding Secretary, Moses N. Gifford. An art committee selected at this time consisted of Edwin W. Dickinson, Oscar H. Giebrich, Gerrit A. Beneker, Oliver Chaffee, and Frank Desch. When Mr. Gifford gave one dollar to the treasurer he became the first dues paying member.

1915 saw Provincetown's first general art exhibition when the Art Association held its first annual show in the North Room of Town Hall. Among the 44 exhibitors were: Agnes Weirich, Ethel Mars, Marion Hawthorne, Ada Gilmore (Chaffee), Mildred MacMillan, Margery Ryerson, Katharine Critcher, Stella Johnson (Edel), Elizabeth Thomas, Sarah Munroe, Florence Waterbury, Tod Lindenmuth, Ives Gammel, Dodge MacKnight, Henry Sutter, Arnold Slade, Lawrence Grant, Adolph Blondheim and Frederick Marvin.

In 1916 there were many more artists in Provincetown, due largely to the war in Europe which closed foreign travel. Among them were Max Bohm, George Elmer Browne, Richard Miller and Gifford Beal. Names appearing for the first time in the Art Association

Catalogue were: Peggy Bacon, David Erickson, Nancy Ferguson, Elizabeth Howland (Caliga), Blanche Lazzell, Brior J. O. Norfeldt, William Zorach, Marguerite Zorach and Beatrice Levy.

In 1917 the membership roll increased to 289. Art schools flourishing at the time included those of George Elmer Browne, E. Ambrose Webster and Charles W. Hawthorne. New names in the catalogue of the Art Association were: Maud Ainslee, Julie Morrow, Maude Squire, Mary Tannahill, Flora Schoenfeld and Gladys Young.

1918 saw the Art Association still growing. Two artists most active in the conduct of the Association were Gerrit A. Beneker and E. Ambrose Webster. Of great importance to the development of the organization was the interest of two leading bankers of the town, Moses N. Gifford and William H. Young, who has been called the "Father of the Art Association." New names in the catalogue this year included: Lytton Buehler, Charles Demuth, Alfred Groll, Charles Hopkinson, Louis Kronberg, Charles H. Pepper, Harley Perkins and Ellen Ravenscroft.

In 1919 the need for a permanent home was felt and the Association acquired the Bangs Street property for \$2,000. This house was later torn down. New exhibitors this year included: W. H. W. Bicknell, I. H. Caliga, Frank Carson, Elizabeth Taylor, Lucy L'Engle, Karl Knaths, Elizabeth Paxton and Frank Schwartz.

In 1920 the Association purchased the house adjoining the Bangs Street property. This "east building" became the following year the present "large gallery." John Noble, a colorful local artist became director of the Art Association. He was a modernist, but was none-the-less acceptable to the conservative faction within the organization. This was the last year that the annual show was held in Town Hall. New exhibitors this year were: William Boogar, Florida Duncan, Edna B. Hopkins, Dorothy Gregory, Albro Hibbard, Catherine Liddell, John Noble, Harry (Heinrich) Pfeiffer and Françoise Verheyden.