

The Research Club met with Miss Nellie Putnam Wednesday evening, Jan. 31. The subject for the meeting was "An Evening with Artists." After the regular business was settled, a paper was read on "The Art Colony of Provincetown."

The Art Colony of Provincetown.

The subject assigned me is indeed a broad and interesting one. That Provincetown will in the near future be one of the largest art centres in the country, one has only to look at the streets on a summer day, alive with artists sketching here, there and everywhere, in every available space.

Probably the pioneer among the well known artists to see the beauties of the place was W. F. Halsall, the well known marine painter, who first came here many years ago. Not long after this came J. A. S. Monks, noted for his sheep pictures, and Marcus Waterman, whose specialty was pictures of Morocco and Algiers, and who made also many pictures of the sand dunes.

The pioneer among the teachers may have been Miss Dewing Woodward of New York, who for several years had a class here, and conducted an Art Class in the winter at her studio. The next to start a class was Charles W. Hawthorne of New York who came here almost seventeen years ago and still has a large class every summer.

That art is broad is proven by the many schools of art numbered among the art colony at the present time. George Elmer Browne, the well known painter of marines and clouds, and who has had several very successful classes abroad, had a large class last summer.

Among the impressionists one finds E. Ambrose Webster and Oliver N. Chaffee.

The Modern School of Art is conducted by Bror. J. B. Nordfelt, and Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Zorach.

Last summer George Senseney of Chicago started a class in etching which included among its pupils such well known painters as Albert Grall, Wm. M. Paxton and Reynolds Beal.

Among the younger artists who are making a name for themselves may be mentioned C. Houghton Smith, Tod Lindermuth and Harold Putnam Browne.

Each class paints things as they see it, not as others see it, and each school is striving for one goal, the key note of that goal is the same, viz: Simplicity.

Some of the art colony remain with us during the winter, and of this number we find Adolph Blondheim, Gerritt A. Beneker, Oscar Gieberich, F. H. Marvin, C. Arnold Slade, John Siebert and several of the women artists.

It has been estimated that six hundred artists and students were in town last summer and the number seems to be growing every year.

Two years ago the Provincetown Art Association was formed, first as an experiment, but the numbers have grown, until now there are about 200 members. The exhibitions are given in Town Hall in summer, one in July, one in August, open to the public every day, and they have been well patronized.

The past season a circuit exhibition was started which has visited several of the largest cities.

Last summer the men artists started the Beach Combers Club and fitted up a club room on one of the wharves. Here all classes and types meet on the same level, teacher, pupil, artist, writer, musician, and the main object is to cast aside the cares and worries of the profession and for the time being each one is a jolly good fellow. It is said the ladies are to start a similar club next summer.

Beside the permanent art colony, we have many celebrated painters who are here only occasionally, or for a short time. Of these may be mentioned F. Luis Mora of New York, Louis Kronberg of Boston, the painter of ballet girls. Mr. Kronberg also travelled with Richard Mansfield, the actor, making portraits of him in different characters. And another occasional visitor among the artists is Childe Hassam of New York.

The artists are a happy, jolly class of people as one would care to find, and it is for the interest of the towns-

people to give them a welcome, that in the years to come our little town may be the haven to which they may turn their faces in the summer after a long winter of hard work.

Nellie Barnes Was "Mother Hen" To Many

Provincetown Advocate
August 28, 1952

Artist Painted Cape End People

Nellie Barnes opened her restaurant for art-students in 1918. The

Early Fledgling Artists

picture Nellie was painted by Hawthorne one year later.

At that time, most of the students lived on or near Pearl St. Her place was at 33 Pearl Street, near Henry Hensche's present school.

She was born Nellie Marshall.



Another Art Class, on beach behind Lizzie's
- About 1921 -

