

BAA Roots Take Hold, Weave a Home for Art

EDITOR'S NOTE: Who has headed the Bloomfield Art Association? How did it get its start? How has it progressed? These questions are answered today in the second in a series on the BAA. The organization, which will soon bring esthetics to the local sewage disposal plant, has been a working force

in the community for four years. Its brief history is reported here.

By DENY SCANLON
Staff Writer

The bloom that blossomed into the BAA sprouted four years ago—and it still grows. About a year ago, an idea that germinated in the minds of members of the Birmingham Women Painters, the prospect of an art association for this area met with many an approving nod. But approving nods don't seed a plan, much so, the ladies contacted Robert Thom, creator of the Parkside-Davies Co. "Hudson" series, and asked him to spearhead the move.

The organizational meeting consisted of Thom and six women. The second meeting found a few more in the picture. About the time there were a dozen at the meeting, things really began to shape.

"I CAN REMEMBER Clarence Patterson, Clifford West and a few others listening to the long-winded discussion regarding plans for such a group," Thom stated.

Patterson saved the whole association idea from being talked to death, Thom added, when he dug into his pocket and produced the first \$25 as a membership fee.

"What else could we do but donate too," Thom laughed.

A total of \$200 in dues was collected in 10 minutes.

FROM THAT moment, with a treasury to do the talking, the Bloomfield Art Association was on its way.

Harry M. Denyes Jr., whose wife Betty is a member of the Birmingham Women Painters, set out with Morgan Douglas Jr. to find a home for the new association.

They found the old white house at N. Woodward. It was what the BAA needed, so almost the entire treasury was plunked down for the first month's rent. Then the core group set out to find other members.

THOSE OTHER members were there. As a result, the Bloomfield Art Association was forced almost immediately into a big program of recruitment.

Classes to teach techniques of art are usually offered during the year but not so with the BAA. There was too much demand and too many working artists in the group to ignore the need. The BAA was fortunate to have those experienced leaders.

ABOUT THE TIME the BAA was gaining strength, the Detroit Founders Extension Service of the Detroit Institute of Arts was set up in which to develop. The Saturday Young People's Workshop, the BAA was the result of the cooperation.

Within the first year of operation, the association had all the programs that are presently going on. Those programs, however, have changed each year.

WITH THOM at the helm, the BAA undertook the first Birmingham Arts Festival during its first year. Paul N. Averill, (his wife, Mae, is a member of the Birmingham Women Painters) was treasurer during the initial year. He became president in 1958 and held that position until spring of 1960 when Robert Bender was named to head the group.

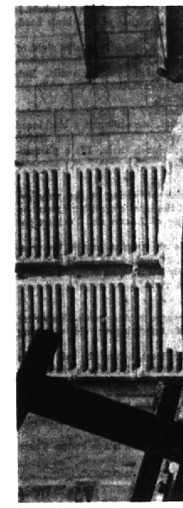
Since the time when Thom headed the first Arts Festival, Harvey Krugge and Robert Vanderkloot have managed the annual event. Robert Owen is in charge this year.

ASSISTING BENDER in running the BAA this year are vice presidents Mrs. C. A. Hall and Albert deSalle. Mrs. Don E. Ahrens is secretary and Max H. Fraubert is treasurer. Mrs. Carl D. Rogers is corresponding secretary.

Directors of the association include Mrs. J. Vinton Birch, Roger Dimarco, Mrs. George G. Hill Jr., Charles B. Kasper, Mrs. William G. Averill, Mrs. E. Lee Vincent, Mrs. Thom and Vanderkloot are also BAA directors.

IT HAS taken a vast number of artists, businessmen, housewives and students to build the Bloomfield Art Association into what it is today.

Like every other growing thing, the BAA continues to amaze its caretakers with the strength and productivity it has shown at such a tender age.



Mrs. Robert Bender, wife of the BAA president and director of the association's education program, and Albert deSalle, second vice president of the group, list "things to do" in process of renovating the sewage disposal plant to house the art association.

NATURE NOW

Fiber Glass Represents Modern Miracle Fabric

It is probable that primitive man bending over a log-ended and stone-banked fire first saw molten metal as it dripped from a piece of ore-laden rock. When he learned to shape and later to cast this new substance, he was well on his way from the stone age to the iron age.

Since that far-off day man has increasingly explored the use of minerals, hidden in the bowels of the earth or exposed on its thin crust.

Slowly learning how to combine and shape these minerals, he has turned them into the tools, machinery, buildings, artifacts and jewels which implement and enrich our present-day civilization.

MAN HAS frequently combined these basic substances producing new and useful materials. One such is glass which was made in Egypt more than 4,000 years ago. It was much used by both the Greeks and Romans and so skillfully colored by Venetian artisans of the Middle Ages that some remnants of its incomparable beauty yet remain to enrich our culture.

Most glass is made by fusing under intense heat a mixture of silica sand, an alkali such as potash or soda and some other base such as lime or lead oxide. Its brittle hardness softens when heated and finally melts so that it can be blown, pressed, cast, or drawn into threads thus serving an ever increasing variety of uses.

ONE OF TODAY'S miracle fabrics is fiber glass. A substance so easy to shatter cannot be pulled apart. This ability to stand tremendous strain is largely responsible for its serviceability as a fiber. Material made of glass fiber will not shrink, stretch, rust, rot or wrinkle.

To make cloth, molten glass is first drawn through tiny holes at speeds up to three miles per minute then stretching it into long strands about one three-hundredths of the thickness of a human hair.

When these filaments are twisted or plied together, the glass yarn is ready for weaving. The resulting fabric is then softened and fluffed by treating it at 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit. This process also makes it permanently wrinkle-proof thus eliminating ironing—bugbear of many a housewife.

FIBER GLASS CLOTH can be dyed or printed as desired. Finally it is baked at 320 degrees Fahrenheit to set the color and give it almost perfect and effortless washability.

"WE GET SO used to handling large sums of money that it becomes an easy piece of paper," she said.

She grinned, then added, "If it ever gets to be anything else, it's time to quit."

Her husband is an interior decorator. Both her children are grown and she "can't imagine not working."

Her working schedule gives her the lie to the old saw about banker's hours. She reports to work at 8 a.m. Monday through Thursday and begins by working in the bookkeeping depart-

WEEKLY VISIT Spends Her Days With Money

By IRMA DAVIS
Staff Writer

"Money really does smell, sometimes," said Mrs. Lenora Bailey. "I can always tell when bills are from a bakery or a gas station, for example. Once in a while, it even smells like it's been buried—you know, a musty kind of odor."

Nevertheless, the personable bank teller likes her job. She works at the Wabec branch of the Detroit Bank and Trust Co. in downtown Birmingham.

"I like to handle money," she smiled, "although handling it scares some people."

She explained that she had taken three weeks of training at a tellers' school, two years before she began work at the branch. She has been there six years. The training covered all phases of bank business, from dealing with mortgage payments to customer relations.

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DOWN TO EARTH Knowledge Is Reaped In Williamsburg Visit

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

As we left Washington in our car, headed toward colonial Williamsburg, I had the same excitement one might have on returning home.

With our present business partners, men are sent from city to city—with various branches of our age companies' families leaving their home roots. Here, however, a visitor is welcomed by a staff vanguard to share gracious living.

Here from 1650-1780, in the capital of Virginia, we become a part of this ideological training ground or leaders of American independence. This was the social, cultural and political center of our country in this period.

Upon registering you are invited to see a movie showing George Washington's role in the war. Thomas Jefferson in debate as they established the foundation of our country. This is one of the finest colored, wide screen productions I have ever seen.

COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG is a completed dream of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and financed solely by him. Now William Rockefeller is chairman of the board of Trustees.

The restoration of a completed dream of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and financed solely by him. Now William Rockefeller is chairman of the board of Trustees.

As for the hospitality areas, you can select an inn, a lodge or a very large motor house. There is a golf course for restless fathers. On this occasion, while work is the annual Williamsburg garden symposium.

STRICTLY FRESH

A friend of ours went looking for a book entitled "Man, Master of Woman." Naturally, he was directed to the fiction department.

Definition of intellectual girl: One who can think up excuses that her boy friend will believe.

We know an executive who's so busy he always asks his secretary to tell him where his pencil is—then gets mad when she doesn't tell him which ear it's on.

That unbreakable toy we gave our 4-year-old last Christmas has really stood up. Unfortunately he's broken all the rest of his toys with it.

Ad carried in the college newspaper: "Found, a sum of money. Will the owner please contact the administration building."

She finishes her day about 4 or 4:30 p.m., after compiling her day's records. On Friday, she works until after bank closing at 8 p.m.

IN HER SPARE time she reads mostly light fiction. Bridge and pinocch are favorite games. After-work hours, however, are usually spent in caring for her West Bloomfield home and, "of course," her husband.

She likes Birmingham people and says an occasional amusing incident tends to interest to her job, "such as the man who—very seriously—asked for a \$25 bill."

People occasionally bring money to her in the form of pennies and it is not uncommon to have requests for an old silver dollar or a certain year bought usually to mark a birthday for an old timer.

COIN COLLECTORS come in very often to buy silver or pennies and it is not uncommon to have requests for an old silver dollar or a certain year bought usually to mark a birthday for an old timer.

He finds the job exciting and full of interest.

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