

ACCENT—On Women—

Three Arts Club: A cultural force in city

This is another in a series of articles appearing Mondays on this page about major women's service organizations in the Baltimore area.

By Alice A. Ellison

As it was 50 years ago when the late Mrs. Edward V. Milholland founded the Three Arts Club of Homeland with 12 friends in the immediate community, the current 650 members remain dedicated to the promotion of art, literature and music.

Mrs. Milholland believed that sharing the three areas of the arts with members and with the community would be an asset to the cultural life in Baltimore. Awards to young local talent were established as the club grew in membership.

The members have maintained the habit of sharing, observed through the years. The public is regularly invited to attend the steadily growing number of programs and exhibits held at the clubhouse at 4 Wyndhurst avenue.

"Things happen almost every day at the clubhouse," says Mrs. Marius P. Johnson, club president, readily admitting that while she is president most of her time will be spent in the direction of her commitment to the work of the Three Arts Club, which usually results in her enjoyment. "We work right through the (club) year, from May to November," she says.

Besides making annual awards of scholarships in art, literature and music, the club members, in performing another important service to young artists, often make up the audience needed by the singers and musicians. Or they are viewers and buyers of their works such as paintings and sculptures.

The competition winners participate as well in the workshops held for the members by the Three Arts Club.

Since they were initiated in the late 1940s when Mrs. Alfred C. VerValen was president (1948-51), the club workshops have gained in popularity.

The club began giving awards to deserving young talents during Mrs. VerValen's presidency. In addition, the club colors of blue and gold were adopted; the club seal was designed and the first awards were given to the best decorated Homeland residences at Christmas time.

Today Mrs. VerValen is chairman of scholarships and awards for the Three Arts Clubs and for the Baltimore Opera Guild which underwrites the international vocal competitions for the Baltimore Opera Company. The Baltimore competitions are second only to the annual Metropolitan Opera Auditions. (The Alfred C. VerValen Memorial

Women Who Help



MRS. MARIUS P. JOHNSON
President, Three Arts Club

Award of \$1,500 is an annual opera competition prize.)

The scholarships and awards committee is composed of a council of past presidents. They include Mrs. E. Sherwood Dickinson, Mrs. Daniel H. FitzSimons, Mrs. W. Thomas Giarrel, Mrs. Walter E. James, Mrs. Edmund D. Meyers, Mrs. Kirvan H. Pierson, Mrs. C. Albert Ruppertsberger and Mrs. Burdette B. Webster.

The workshops sponsored by the Three Arts Club seem to establish a bond between the members and bring out the best in the participants. While not all the members have specifically developed talents, many do.

Even when women maintain they have no special interests and say they can't do anything, Mrs. Johnson has noticed most will "become proficient," at whatever activity they choose, whether it be in the area of painting, writing,

drama—or any other workshop category within the three areas of art, music and literature.

Recently the women added a fourth dimension to the familiar trio when they produced a cookbook, the "Art of Cooking," which still is in print and is being sold at the clubhouse.

With their scope expanding each year to still newer dimensions, usually in accord with the times, the club programs have expanded to include "Investment Planning" and "Fitness in Tempo," which is exercising to music, in addition to an already existing yoga program.

Although the Three Arts Club of Homeland eliminated the rule about residential boundaries for membership in 1954, new members still are gained by invitation, not application. An initiation fee of \$45 will be paid upon notice of election (by the executive board) to membership.

Additional changes at the quarter-century mark in 1954 included: the revision of the constitution and the bylaws of the club, the formation of a chairman's council and the departmentalization of the workshops. That same year 18 paintings were produced at the painting workshop and were shown at the Baltimore May Flower Mart. Eight were sold.

The same year, the members and their friends celebrated their 25th anniversary at the Belvedere with a "formal evening banquet which included music, dancing and a recital."

Awards to local talent in art, literature and music are rotated according to the funds raised by the club. Since there are so many schools, awards in this area are rotated too, according to funds available.

Two awards remain firm. One is to a student at the Peabody Preparatory School, the other is the Rose Marie Milholland Award of \$200 given each year to the most outstanding piano student at the Peabody Conservatory of Music. The award in honor of the founder is in piano because Mrs. Milholland's instrument was the piano, says Mrs. Johnson.

Even so, the first area of the arts established by the club was literature instead of music. The first members of the club, which remains exclusive to Baltimore, simply met in their homes to discuss the books they had read.

From such a humble beginning, the scope of the members has ranged far and wide as they continue to gain on their ultimate goal of being "a cultural force in Baltimore, second to none," as cited by Mrs. Ruppertsberger in her president's report to the membership at the annual meeting this month a year ago.



Evening Sun Photos—Irving H. Phillips, Jr.

Invitational Art Show

Whimsical wood sculptures by Charles Palmer, in background, were among the works of seven artists who exhibited recently at the Three Arts Club clubhouse during the annual Invitational Art Show.

Club members assisting with the event included, from left, Mrs. Edward V. Coolahan, Mrs. F. Lester Simon, Jr., Mrs. Karl M. Graf and Mrs. George H. C. Williams. Drawings on the table are by Mr. Palmer.

ANN LANDERS . . . On Life

Dear Ann Landers: It is important that you print this letter because I speak for a lot of teenagers who don't have the guts to write. I'm a 14-year-old who smokes pot, drinks beer and whiskey, and does other drugs.

For some reason the rest of the world considers us scum and they treat us that way. Adults think kids get high to be cool and go along with the rest of the gang. Wrong. We get high because we want to. No one holds a gun to our heads and makes us to it.

I've been smoking pot since I was 12. I smoked cigarettes four year before that. I quit because I found out it was a medical fact that smoking tobacco was

more dangerous to your health than smoking pot. So, leave us potheads alone and worry about yourselves. I think the jocks have more of a problem than we do.—Ridin' High in Evansville, Ind.

Dear Ridin' High: Better put on your crash helmet—you're heading for a fall. And when it happens, we "squares" are the ones who will pick you up and try to put you back together.

As to why you get spacy, it doesn't matter whether it was peer pressure or your own personal decision. The results are the same. Fried brains, nerves shot, motivation nil, years wasted.

I find it interesting that you quit

me. I feel hurt. Am I too sensitive?—Beaumont, Tex.

Dear Beaumont: If your wife didn't want to waste "all those diamonds" she could have had a dinner ring made for her right hand. She may not realize it, but she's wearing her ex-husband's jewelry on the finger that should be reserved for you. Don't just sit around feeling hurt. Say something!

Dear Ann Landers: Yesterday I received a letter from my 34-year-old son who works in the lumber camp about 60 miles north of here.

Dan's letter was four pages long—mostly about a very fine girl he had met. Toward the end of the letter I