

Sixty (60) years in the making: 1954—2014.

To preserve the History of the Billings Arts Association , I write & scan the following:

Spring 2013, the Billings Public Library, in accordance with plans to get ready for transfer into the New Billings Public Library, reviewed records stored in the basement area. The New building was not set-up for this type of record retention, and the records not removed were to be destroyed. A call was received that the Billings Arts Association had records in the Library Basement.

The records were picked up from the Library Basement by BAA Member Jeanette Magstadt.



Records in the form of Scrapbooks stored in the Billings Public Library Basement dated back to 1955.

These Scrapbooks were heavily covered in dust and obviously had not been opened for many years. Upon further investigation; 1954 seemed to be the oldest date, but the section behind the tab was blank.

Facts: The Montana Institute of the Arts was founded in 1948
With offices in Billings, MT.

The Billings Arts Association was formed in the fall of 1954 as a branch of
The Montana Institute of the Arts (with no address)

The following article tells of the beginning.

A few notes from an article published in The Billings Gazette September 21, 1960

"Wide Variety of the Arts Has Thrived Since Billings Founded"

By Iris O. Malmin

".....the modern world is ruled by science, but given its shape and color by art, its most pleasing sounds and meaning by music and poetry, its categories characters and catch words by philosophy, fiction and history"...
Jacques Barzun.

Billings has never been a cultural cactus patch. It has been unique among western frontier towns because since its beginning Billings has made consistent efforts to bring exhibits and the performing arts of drama and music to this area.

The Billings Studio Theater provides top-rate winter footlight entertainment to sell-out audiences, while during the summer a playhouse workshop with an enviable reputation draws actors from all over the county.

The Billings Symphony and Community Concert Association plays to capacity audiences year after year.

The Yellowstone Historical Society has developed a remarkable museum of western lore, preserving our heritage for future generations. The Billings Camera Club focuses on improving techniques and preserving the current scene for posterity. Private and adult educational art and craft classes are filled to capacity.

The Montana Institute of the Arts was founded in 1948 to ".....preserve the heritage of the state as found in its history and folklore; to stimulate creative work in the several arts, and to make these cultural resources available for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of Montana".

MIA started an art collection for Montana in 1959, and has 12 items as nucleus of a collection to be shown permanently in the Montana Historical Museum in Helena.

The Institute is unique both in goals and principles. There is no other state organization where artists, historians, writers, weavers, photographers and craftsmen have banded together to further mutual interests.

“Wide Variety of the Arts Has Thrived Since Billings Founded”

By Iris O. Malmin

Arts Group Formed

The Billings Arts Association formed in the fall of 1954 by state members as a branch of the MIA, is open to anyone. It has grown from eight members to nearly 100. Eugene Carroll has been followed as president by Mrs. Ben Forbes, Malcolm Lewis, Irene McPherson, Bill Sage, Robert Fehlberg and Isabelle Johnson.

The association sponsors the Foreign Film Festival* to bring to Billings outstanding films from Sweden, Germany, Austria, Italy, England and Japan such as ‘Aida’ “Genevieve,” “Green Magic,” “Romeo and Juliet,” “Othello,” and “Animal Farm.” These films vastly different from usual American film and television fare, afford a glimpse into foreign cultures. Proceeds since 1955 have gone into a **building fund** for a local art center.

An annual Christmas art exhibit sale and reception, held since 1956 in the EMC Union building draws large crowds to view oil and watercolor paintings, sculpture, mosaics, carving and ceramics produced by association members.

“Bits of Sage,” a collection of prose and poetry by members of the writers’ group, has sold 2,000 copies since 1957 and a fourth edition will be published this fall.

.....The Billings Arts Association after six years is active and growing, and it looks forward to widening horizons in all fields.....

***Film Festival Poster**

THE BILLINGS ARTS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS
THE BILLINGS FILM FESTIVAL
UNUSUAL FILMS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD
BABCOCK THEATRE — BILLINGS, MONTANA

Tues. Nov. 1
"Sensational... Astonishingly beautiful! Unsurpassed color!" — LIFE MAG.
GATE OF HELL
N.Y. Film Critics Awards Year's Best Foreign Film!
Technicolor
1955 ACADEMY AWARD

Tues. Nov. 15
FOR THE 1st TIME S. HUROK presents A BERTHOUD PICTURE
VERDI'S AIDA
A COLOR
It's powerful drama surging across the screen... its glorious music sung by great voices... AIDA is the film event of our age!

Tues. Nov. 29
ALEC GUINNESS To Paris with Love
A J. ARTHUR BARK Organisation presentation Color by TECHNICOLOR
A fascinating fishing adventure "BENEATH THE SETTING PLEIADES" In the straits of Messina, Italy

Tues. Dec. 13
LOUIS DE ROCHEMONT PRESENTS
The Great Adventure
CREATED BY ARNE SUCKSDORFF

Tues. Jan. 3
"ON DOCTOR!"
Doctor in the House
Color by TECHNICOLOR
DIRK BOGARDE · MURIEL PAYLOW
KENNETH MORE · DONALD SINDEN
RAY KENDALL · JAMES ROBERTSON JUSTICE

Tues. Jan. 17
The 8th Wonder of the World
GREEN MAGIC
IN STUNNING COLOR

Series Subscription 6 PROGRAMS FOR \$4.50 (TAX INCLUDED)
MAIL YOUR CHECK TODAY . . . MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE BABCOCK THEATRE
ONE SHOWING ONLY . . . at 8:30 sharp
A COFFEE SOCIAL . . . from 8:00 to 8:30
NO TICKETS SOLD FOR INDIVIDUAL SHOWS

Above article stated that the BAA was originated by eight (8) members. Notes were found listing nine (9) members, assume (maybe) the founding 8 plus 1 new member, in any case the names are as follows: Gene Carroll, (President), Agnes Corrigan, Chuck Harrington, Donna Forbes, Esther Gray, Antoinette Fraser (Secretary), Malcom (Mac) Lewis, Mrs. Albert Schunk, & Mrs. Henry Lohof.

1950's..... 1960's.....

In the 1950's and 60's additional names appeared on Exhibit Lists, such as: Isabelle Johnson, Bernadine Fox, Ben Steele, J. K. Ralston, Edith Freeman, Odetta Wardell, Lyndon Pomeroy, James M. Haughey, Hap Gilliland, Leo Olsen, Ted Waddell, Virginia Snook, Bill Sage, Walt Woodcock, Terry Palm, Joan Rambold, Bruce Haughey, Donna Loos—only to mention a few.

The interest groups /committees were:
Architecture, Crafts, Fine Arts, Writers, Home/Community Arts, Music, Studio Theater/Drama, History, Photography, Music, Weaving, Newsletter.

A membership list in 1956 listed 59 members.

The Yellowstone News

Fifteen Cents

BILLINGS, MONTANA, DECEMBER 4, 1958

VOL. 7—NO.

—Spell Arts with an 'S'—

Cultural Interests Join Forces To Expand Influence in Billings

The "unity" that provides the proverbial "strength" for a host of Billings cultural activities is the four-year-old Billings Arts association. That's "arts" with an "s."

Opening of the association's third annual Christmas exhibit in the Eastern Montana college student union lounge serves as a reminder that the young organization has increased its strength from eight to more than 100 in four years.

Its diversified membership includes Billings artists, actors, writers, musicians and "interested observers."

Many Fields

Formed in the fall of 1954, organizers were a small group who felt that some kind of an organization was needed for persons interested in and participating in the various arts fields. All were members of the Montana Institute of Arts, so the new group was made a branch of the M.I.A. and given

the name Billings Arts association.

Gene Carroll was named first president of the combined interest groups—fine arts, writers, social studies (now discontinued) and music—which together made up the organization. These groups are still functioning, along with the Billings Studio Theatre and two new groups formed this year, crafts and arts in daily living.

By the end of its first year the arts association had 30 members and was formulating plans for community activities.

Under the new president, Mrs. Ben Forbes, the association began sponsoring the Film Festival, a series of foreign films shown at a Billings theatre. With the revenue from the films, members began a building fund which eventually will provide them with a suitable building.

In February 1956 the first annual dinner for Billings M.I.A. and

B.A.A. members attracted 120 persons to hear Robert Athearn, M. I. A. president, as the speaker.

With Malcolm Lewis and Mrs. Irene McPherson as presidents in 1956 and 1957 the B.A.A. added several exhibits by the Billings painters and began its annual Christmas exhibit in conjunction with the EMCE art department. The movie of Michelangelo, "The Titan," was shown free to the public.

Believing their goals are similar, the Billings Studio theatre and the

Billings Arts association last year joined forces.

In the fall of 1957 the group decided to begin an annual Festival of Arts. With the cooperation of the Billings Symphony and Chorus, the American Association of University Women, the Billings Camera Club, the Studio Theatre and Eastern Montana college, they printed a brochure listing all of the cultural events taking place in Billings during the months of April, May and June this year. This included the one-act Puccini

"...With the revenue from the films, members began a building fund which eventually will provide them with a suitable building."

From Column 3

opera, "Il Tabaro," presented by the music group of the association and a chamber music presentation by the same group.

First Book Published

The writers group at the same time published the first edition of "Bits of Sage," a collection of members' prose and poetry. The book has had two editions and sold nearly 1,000 copies.

In May the fine arts group conducted their first outdoor exhibit and auction of paintings, ceramics and sculpture at Pioneer park.

Under the present direction of Robert Fehlberg, the arts association has continued to expand its

program:

Two auctions and exhibits were held this fall, a traveling exhibit of 15 paintings by members of the fine arts group is showing throughout northern Wyoming, an hour TV program once each month has been initiated for discussion of the arts, a bi-weekly exhibit by two member painters has begun at the YWCA, an exhibit and gallery talk at Eastern Montana college by William S. Stockton was sponsored by the fine arts group, an exhibit and gallery talk by the renowned sculptor John Rood will be sponsored by the association in the spring of 1959.

As you can see this was published by the Yellowstone News in December, 1958. The Billings Arts Association appeared to be a cultural leader in the late 50's. Note the quote: "That's 'arts' with an 'S.'" I hope you all can read this copy as I think the historical meaning would be lost if re-typed.

The Billings Arts Association continued as a Branch of the MIA and the first Newsletter of the BAA was published in November 1958.

Newsletters are a very important part of telling a story; no exception in the archives of the BAA. Volume I, Issue Number 1 was printed in November, 1958. Simply called: BILLINGS ARTS newsletter, Billings Arts Association a branch of the Montana Institute of the Arts. President Robert Fehlberg, Editor Edna A. Swab. No doubt printed on a mimeo. (The stencil duplicator or *mimeograph* machine (often abbreviated to mimeo) is a low-cost printing press that works by forcing ink through a stencil onto paper. These print machines were widely used in the 50's, replaced in the late 60's.)

Copy of the first BAA newsletter. Consisted of 2 pages and is quite readable. Many of the newsletters are faded / hard to read a characteristic of the mimeo.

Page 1

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I think with the start of a new publication and a new president of Billings Arts Association, we should review the reasons for having an organization like the Montana Institute of the Arts and the local branch, Billings Arts Association. To do this I am going to take a paragraph from the leaflet printed by M. I. A. "M. I. A. stands for participation---participation of the creative worker and of the creative audience. For the creative person working alone or for the individual who has never participated in any of the arts but who inwardly has desire to do so, M. I. A. provides a meeting-ground which is stimulating to production."

This is basically what we are trying to do in Billings through the following ways: our art shows and sales, our displays of other artists' work, both in fine arts in co-operation with Eastern Montana College of Education and in dramatics through our film festival and our program of visiting artists and lecturers. With the profits from our film festival, we have started a building fund for an art center in which the creative workers could work together and where the audience could see the creations. A center of this nature would be of great value to the people who do not have facilities in their homes to carry out their work.

All of these activities have been spear-headed by a small group of loyal members who have done the work at every work session or planning meeting. These few are always in attendance and through their efforts, they have raised the building fund, arranged the art shows, the exhibits and the lectures.

Many more activities could be carried on if more members took an interest in the work and showed their appreciation by taking advantage of the opportunities provided for them. It is

the purpose of M. I. A. to bring people of like interests together. It is important that the artist meet artist, writer meet writer, artist meet writer, that the amateur meet professional as well as the professional meet professional. During its ten years of existence, M. I. A. has continued to prove that it is needed in Montana and I can see no reason why we shouldn't have the largest, most active, creative branch in the state.

To better fill the needs of the people of Billings, two new interest groups are being formed-- Crafts and The Arts of Daily Living. The Crafts group will include ceramics, enameling and jewelry. The Arts of Daily Living group is new to M. I. A. as well as to Billings, so will be an interesting group to watch in its activities. The primary function of this group is to form a place in M. I. A. for people who are interested in art in all its forms, but do not do any work themselves.

If you are interested in one of these groups or if you have a friend who would be interested, contact Robert Fehlberg, 619½ Parkhill Drive. Phone 7-7158.

Should there be interests in any other interest group---music, history, photography or weaving, please make the need known and a group can be formed. Robert Fehlberg, President.

DIRECTORS' MEETING

The board of directors of the Billings Arts Association met Tuesday evening, September 30, at the home of Bob Fehlberg, President. Plans for future general B. A. A. meetings were discussed. They will take on a new look. They will be designed to please and interest you. They will be your meetings, so watch for the announcements. Watch for the dates. Make B. A. A. your organization by making these general meetings a must on your business and social calendar.

Arrangements were also made to publish a monthly newsletter. All interest groups are invited to mail or phone their information to Edna A. Swab, 732 Miles Ave. Phone 9-0155. Submit individual or group news, announcements, achievements or sales. Share your successes with others. You'll be glad you did. But be sure to get your news in by the 20th of the month. This deadline must be set in order to get the newsletter out to you by the first of the succeeding month.

"..... Plans for future general B. A. A. meetings were discussed. They will take on a new look. They will be designed to please and interest you. They will be your meetings, so watch for the announcements. Watch for the dates. Make B. A. A. your organization by making these general meetings a must on your business and social calendar." November, 1958

BE A STANCH MEMBER

Only active, loyal members can make an active, growing organization. Build B. A. A. by being a solid member who attends meetings, both general and interest. Do your part to make your organization the best of its kind in the state.

OFFICERS OF B. A. A.

President.....Robert Fehlberg
V. President.....Malcolm Lewis
Secretary.....Marjorie Zepp
Treasurer.....Virginia Snook

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

When you pay your dues this year make out your check for \$4.00 so that you will have membership in the state group also. There is no reason to go halfway into something. Go all the way and join M. I. A. If you are talking about Billings Arts Association to a prospective member, make it clear to the prospect that B. A. A. and M. I. A. are inseparable and to join the one, you ought to join the other, because both have the same foundation.

FILM FESTIVAL

The Film Festival has gotten off to a good start. On the evening of October 8, three artists of Billings displayed their work in the lobby of the Babcock Theater. These artists, who were also introduced to the audience were Isabelle Johnson, James Knight and Dr. Lutz. On October 22, three other artists, Judy Mengel, Virginia Snook and Walter Kuetzing, displayed their work and were introduced to the audience. Be watching for the next film on Wednesday, November 5, when three more artists will display their work. "Bits of Sage", a collaborative work of the Writers' Group is also on display in the Lobby on Film Festival nights.

Film Festival results cannot be calculated until all outstanding money and tickets are in. Please return these to the member from whom you received tickets at your earliest convenience.

LAST MINUTE PRESS-TIME ANNOUNCEMENTS

Newsletters were published monthly thru 1959, then summer months were skipped thru 1965. After that it seemed to depend on the Editor.

FINE ARTS EXHIBIT AND AUCTION

The exhibit of paintings by the San Francisco Bay artists in the Student Union Building of Eastern Montana College of Education this past month was the setting of the regular October meeting of the Fine Arts Group. On October 7, Isabelle Johnson gave a gallery talk on the paintings and pointed out that the artists whose paintings were shown were among the up and coming moderns. Miss Johnson led a group discussion of these paintings.

Larry Gill of Great Falls and State President of M. I. A. was a guest at this meeting and gave the group a pep talk on M. I. A., its branches and their activities.

Due to the lack of material, the exhibit and auction on October 18, was NOT a howling success! Not even half the members brought in their work for exhibition and there were only a few small things for sale. The Fine Arts Group needs the support of more than ten of its members to make its projects a success. It needs you....and YOU....and YOU! It needs the co-operation and support of each and every member.

Note:

STUDIO THEATER

"Visit To a Small Planet" was very successful in Billings. It was taken to Red Lodge for a Sunday evening performance on October 19 and was very well received. Tentative plans to take the play on the road are being seriously considered.

The next production of the Theater Group will be "Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee Williams. Mrs. Neil Mellblom, director, will hold casting try-outs during the middle of November. Present plans schedule the play for February. Watch this bulletin for further announcements and dates concerning "Glass Menagerie". Regular meetings of the Studio Theater Group are held on the third Saturday of each month.

WRITERS' GROUP

The Writers' Group of the Billings Arts Association met Monday evening, October 20, at the home of Norma Holt, 322 North 31st Street. Original manuscripts read by new members, Roberta Reynolds and John Hartpence, were discussed by the group. Virginia Snook, treasurer of the B.A.A. was a guest. During the social hour, the members viewed television's version of Bernadette. The next meeting will be held on Nov. 17, the third Monday, at the home of Roberta Reynolds, 241 Terry Ave.

"Bits of Sage" is available through any member of the Writers' Group. They'll make fine Christmas remembrances. GET YOUR ORDER IN EARLY!

Much has been recalled about the "Old County Jail" and recorded as narrated by Leo Olsen on the Home Page of the BAA web site, History of BAA.

This is a copy of the Petition for funds to convert the Jail into a Museum for the exhibition of Curiosities and works of art. This Museum is to take place as soon as the jail is moved to its new location. Bond was for \$36,750.00. Petition circulated in the Spring of 1960.

PETITION FOR COUNTY BOND ELECTION

Dated at _____, Montana

this _____ day of _____ A.D., 1959

To the Board of County Commissioners of
Yellowstone County, State of Montana.

We the undersigned, being more than twenty per centum(20%) of the qualified registered electors and taxpayers upon property within the boundaries of Yellowstone County, State of Montana, whose names appear on the last completed assessment roll for State and County taxes, do hereby ask and petition that an election be called and held within and for the County of Yellowstone, State of Montana, and that at such election the question be submitted to the qualified electors of the County, who are taxpayers upon property therein and whose names appear upon the last completed assessment roll for state, county and school district taxes, of whether or not the Board of County Commissioners of Yellowstone County, Montana shall be authorized to issue, negotiate and sell bonds of the County of Yellowstone, State of Montana, in order to obtain funds for the purpose of converting the old County Jail located at 401 North 27th Street, Billings, Montana, County of Yellowstone, State of Montana into a Museum for the exhibition of Curiosities and works of art. This museum is to take place as soon as the jail located in the new Yellowstone County Court House is ready to receive and properly care for prisoners.

We estimate that the amount necessary to carry out this conversion contemplated in this petition is the sum of thirty-six thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars(\$36,750.00).

NAMES OF PETITIONERS

POST OFFICE ADDRESS

VOTING
PRECINCT

*Petition circulated
Spring 1960*

1963

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER.....

"Today it appears that the dream may materialize....."

As most members probably know by now, Mike Kennedy, the B.A.A. President, resigned November 1st and I, as Vice-President, succeeded to the Presidency. We all regret the loss of Mike as President, but we are happy to note that he continues as a member of B.A.A. and M.I.A.

Now for a resume of what has happened during the month of November. A board meeting was called and the members voted to give a check to the Yellowstone County Fine Arts Center. A check for one thousand dollars has been contributed toward this center. This one thousand represents the dreams and plans of B.A.A. members and officers for many years. The sum has been slowly accumulated through the sales of theatre tickets for a series of foreign movies shown in past years. Many members and past presidents worked hard to accumulate this savings, for it was their dream that one day Billings would have an art center. Three of the past presidents who worked hard for this dream were Donna Forbes, Isabelle Johnson and Robert Fehlberg. These I know about; there were probably others. One member, Virginia Snooks, probably takes first place for always selling the most tickets. To these people, and countless others, we all owe a genuine vote of thanks. Today, it appears that the dream may materialize and the work of the past bears

DO REMEMBER that the Festival is approaching once again. Lets show the state what the Billings group can do.

A HAPPY, HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON TO ONE AND ALL.

What disappointment when the realization set in that Billings was NOT going to have a community Art Center.

Quinne Ireson
Quinne Ireson

Billings, Montana

January 1963

e

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

"More power to you" - all of you have offered your strong support to obtain an extension of time on the proposed sale of the old jail.

It is generally acknowledged by progressive people of our community that Billings needs a cultural center. The site of the old jail is especially desirable because it offers a downtown location, easily accessible. In turn this will contribute to the local economy by helping to attract out-of-town people to our downtown area, and contribute to our tax economy by enhancing the value of surrounding property.

We have a long way to go and the time is very short. I urge the members and friends of the Billings Arts Ass'n to help, and to obtain the support and participation of their friends, neighbors, and other groups with which they are affiliated to help in securing the old jail for the benefit of the citizens of our community.

To each and every one of you, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Walter B. Woodcock

Billings, Montana

May, 1963

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

The end result of mankind's achievements thru the ages has been exemplified and remembered in its art.

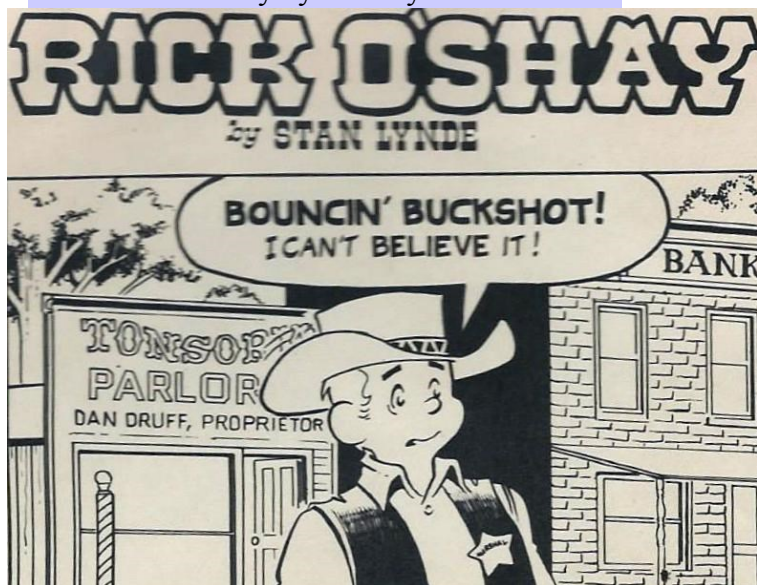
My administration intends to honor and extend an understanding and appreciation of the arts in all the many forms that it may take in this--our industrial, atomic age; so to the artists tried--and trying, let me say, "I am your partisan."

Willard E. Fraser

JAIL HOUSE GALLERY

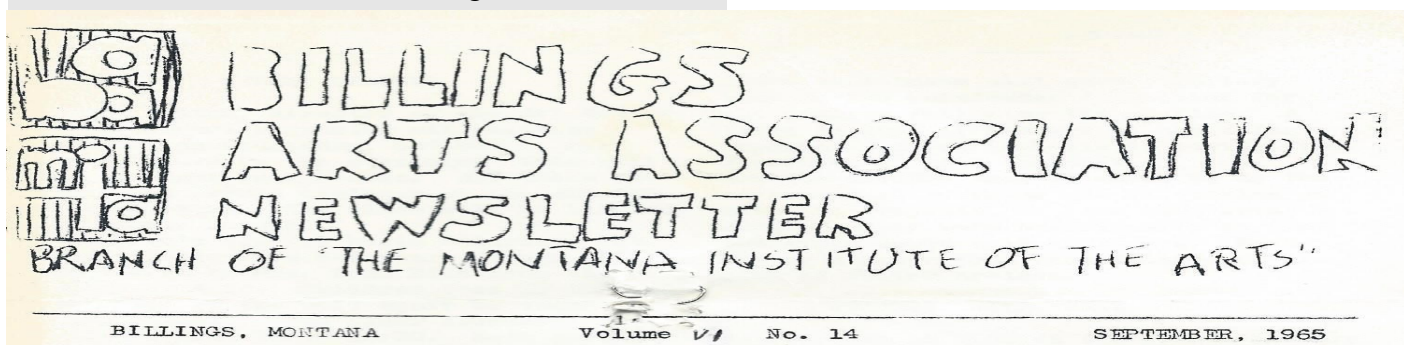
Robert Fehlberg State President of MIA, is chairman of a citizens' committee for alunching the Yellowstone County Jail House into a more sociable type establishment. Bob Morrison, John Schiltz, Walt Woodcock and Morris R. Colberg are other members. \$25,000 are to be raised by January, 1964, in order for the group to get permission to take down the bars and put up the pictures. Of course the bars might be left up, as now; then we might call it by the name used by a man Stan Lynde told about at a Fine Arts Group meeting sometime ago. This fellow once told Stan that since he used the establishment frequently he thought of it as the "Crowbar Hotel." But then we don't want a hotel--we want a gallery!

1964 Rick O'Shay by Stan Lynde



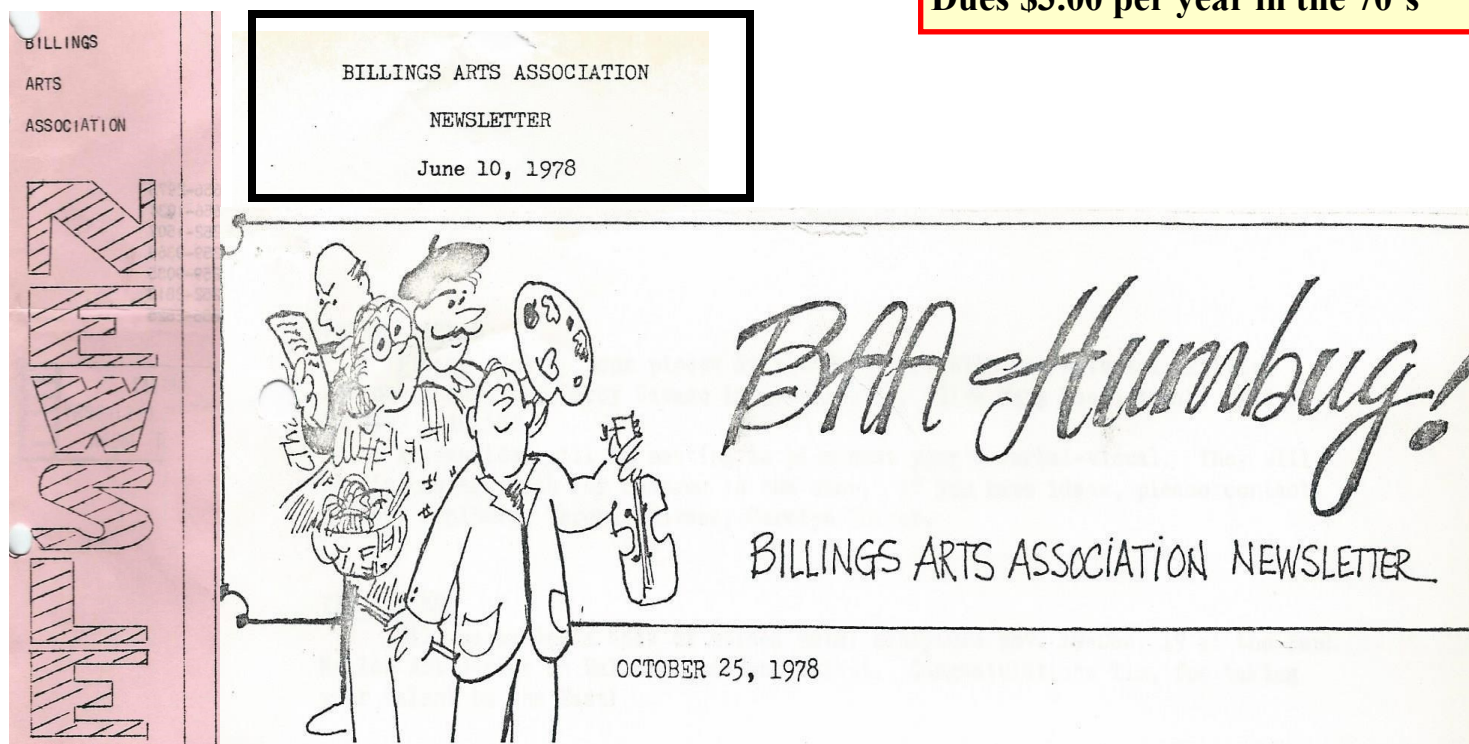
Bouncin' Buckshot! I can't Believe it!! No Art Center.....

1960's1965 Newsletter Design

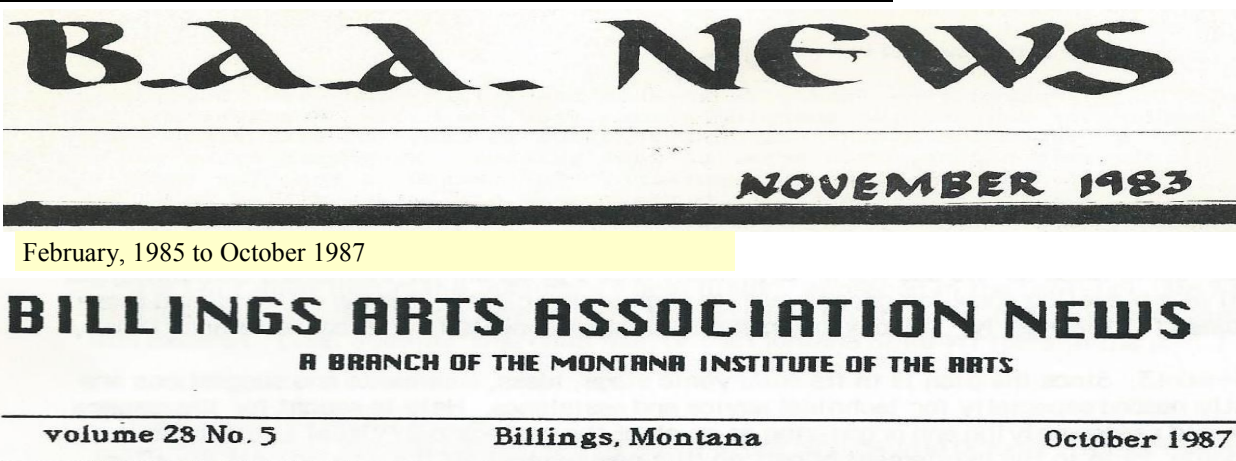


The 1970's were the years of change—lots of designs appeared on the newsletters.

Dues \$3.00 per year in the 70's



The BAA Humbug! Lasted from 10-1978 until October 1983



October 1987: Robert & LaDonna Fehlberg will be moving to Oakland, CA, Robert retired from CTA July 1, but has not retired from Architecture, the arts or life.



November 1987 to Spring 1989

A BRANCH OF THE MONTANA INSTITUTE OF THE ARTS

Volume 29

SPRING 1989

NUMBER 7

SUMMER

1992



NEWSLETTER

billings arts association

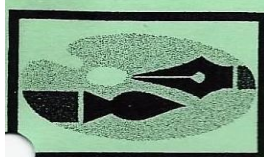
Summer 1992 to Spring 1997

VOLUME 36

A Branch of The Montana Institute of the Arts

No. 18

Fall 1997 to September 1999



BAA NEWSLETTER

billings arts association

Volume 53

Fall

A Branch of The Montana Institute of the Arts

No. 36

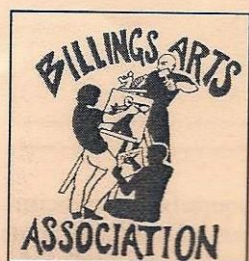
1997

A Newsletter for the Artists & Writers of the Billings Arts Association - A Branch of the Montana Institute of the Arts

Images

January
2000

January 2000 to January 2005
New Name... IMAGES



June, July and August

2005 to 1/2007

The Summer News

For the members of the Billings Arts Association, sharing our creativity and inspi-

A Newsletter for the Artists and Writers of the Billings Arts Association - Sharing Our Creativity & Inspiration

Images

Hello Billings Arts Association,

IMAGES design from June 2007 to time of this writing, 2014
A good recognizable header.



The following is an accounting of the leadership of the BAA from its first president to time of writing, 2014. In glancing at the years listed; if elected you shall serve and serve and serve. Association volunteers do (you fill in the word) amounts of work.

BAA Presidents/ Directors

Eugene (Gene) Carroll	1954	
Mrs. Ben (Donna) Forbes	1955	
Malcom (Mac) Lewis	1956	
Irene McPherson	1957	
Robert Fehlberg	11/1958	9/1960
Isabelle Johnson	10/1960	10/1962
Walter B. Woodcock	11/1962	8/1963
Michael Kennedy, Jr	9/1963	11/1963
Quinn Ireson	11/1963	3/1965
Leo Olson	4/1965	1967
Ed Hakert	1/1968	4/1969
Walter B. Woodcock	5/1969	3/1973
Archie Elliot (acting)	1973	
Sue Geering / Donna Loos (Co)	1973	1974
Ben Steele	4/1975	1976
Dave Darby	1977	1978
LaDonna Fehlberg	1979	7/1981
Margaret Myhre	8/1981	4/1984
Leonard Sundell	5/1984	4/1986
Don Powers	5/1986	8/1987
Leonard Sundell (acting)	9/1987	5/1988
Jess Schwidde	6/1988	1990 ?
Hap Gilliland	1991	3/1992
Sally Old Coyote	4/1992	3/1994
Jenny O'Dell	4/1994	3/1997
Jacquie Pritting Kittson	4/1997	4/2002
Jolene-Yellow Robe	5/2002	4/2005
James Steward	5/2005	1/2007
William Crain (Committee Chair)	6/2007	8/2009
Lana Bittner (Events)	9/2009	12/2011
Bonnie Eldredge (Events)	1/2012	1/2014
And the Committee directs.		

**The Billings Arts Association, Inc.
Articles of Incorporation on file with the
State of Montana—Dated January 9, 2006;
Filing Date: January 17, 2006.**

Newsletters were published from 1958—
2014... it was noted that
Sue Hammersmark was editor from:
1992 to 2000
2002 to 2004
2007 to 1/2013 & I may have missed some
dates.

**Scholarships were awarded in the
50's 60's to students in the Art De-
partment of Eastern Montana Col-
lege.**

**The IMAGE Art Grant was
implemented in December
2007.**

**Web page designed in 2007 by
Jeanne Broveak**

January 2014 Membership List:

**118 Members
Dues: Family \$25.00
Single \$20.00
Student \$15.00**

BAA Exhibits / Art Show & Sale / Juried Art Shows were held in an array of different venues: Yellowstone County Court House Lawn, Yellowstone Art Center (Saved Jail), Eastern Montana College (MSU-B) Northcutt Steele Gallery, Rocky Mountain College, Yellowstone Art Museum (YAM), Western Heritage Center, Yellowstone County Museum, Frame Hut Gallery, Crumbacher Gallery, Gallery 85, 4th Floor Gallery, West Park Plaza, Anderson Gallery, Sandstone Gallery, Toucan Gallery, (Deaconess) Billings Clinic, Billings Nursery, St. Johns Lutheran Ministries, Carbon County Arts Guild, Gainan's, CTA Atrium Gallery — after 60 years, no doubt many more locations.

I can not end this accounting of the “First 60 Years” without placing in print frequently mentioned names— (by year—in no particular order) (if someone is not listed or listed in the wrong year...sorry... this is only an attempt to list some BAA members for general history information) Many of the names listed in the 50’s / 60’s forward continue to be active members in good standing on the “January 2014 Membership List “.

1954 BAA was originated by eight (8) members. Notes were found listing nine (9) members, assume (maybe) the founding 8 plus 1 new member, in any case the names are as follows: Gene Carroll, (President), Agnes Corrigan, Chuck Harrington, Donna Forbes, Esther Gray, Antoinette Fraser (Secretary), Malcom (Mac) Lewis, Mrs. Albert Schunk, & Mrs. Henry Lohof.

In the 1950’s and 60’s Others frequently mentioned: Isabelle Johnson, Bernadine Fox, Ben Steele, Shirley Steele, Robert Fehlberg, LaDonna Fehlberg, J. K. Ralston, Edith Freeman, Odetta Wardell, Lyndon Pomeroy, James M. Haughey, Hap Gilliland, Leo Olson, Ted Waddell, Virginia Snook, Bill Sage, Walt Woodcock, Terry Palm, Joan Rambold, Bruce Haughey, Donna Loos.

In the 1970’s in addition to names already listed: Fern Hickey, Caroline Thayer, Marilyn Hughes, Nancy Olsen, Donna Loos, Connie Landis. (Note: very few records in the 1970’s were in the archive boxes.)

In the 1980’s—90’s: in addition to names already listed: Sue Hammersmark, M’Lis Dahl, John Greenleaf, Betty Hupp, Nellie Israel, Kate Schwidde, Jess Schwidde, Ted Walters, Leonard Sundell, Zack Garretson, Michiko Conklin, Jenny O’Dell, Michael Kennedy, Lou Lynn, Hal Olsen, Ron Paulick, Lucille Scott, Lance Johnson, Jacquie Kittson, Mike Walter, Hap Gilliland, Sally Old Coyote Louise Payovich, Dianne Greenwood, Carolyn Gainan, Dorothy Kosech, Mary Blain, Jean Mehlhoff, Dori Eccles, Elliot Eaton, Pegee Hamon, Laura Anderson.

In the 2000’s: in addition to names already listed: Jolene-Yellow Robe, James Seward, Mana Lesman Seward, Linda Duncan, Dick Moulden, Madelein Bladow, Lanna Bittner, LaVonne Rice-Gordon, Bonnie Eldredge, William Crain, Jeanne Broveak, Barbara Butler, Lou Taylor, Kathy Davies, Mary Knapp, Jo Firm, Karen McBride, Donna Moore, Carol Wang, Eva Morganthaler, Phil Bell, Bill Arbizzani, Ron Marshall, Sara Marshall, Jeanette Magstadt, Helen Widenhofer, Gerre Dunham, April Seekins, Thelma Senrud, Ev Bergeron, Marjorie Harpold, Kay Larson, Jim Vincent, Mick Gainan & the Gainan’s Heights Garden Center.

I hope you found this as interesting as I did—may it bring back only the good memories — history is appreciated as we age — looking forward to the next “Sixty (60) Years with BAA”.

Respectfully submitted this February, 2014. Jeanette Magstadt