



# The Acanthus Vine

WESTERN ROSEMALERS ASSOCIATION    FEBRUARY 1978    Barbara Laskowski-Editor

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 \* Mary.... \*  
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 \*        The members of the Western Rosemalers Associ- \*  
 \* ation take this opportunity to express our deep \*  
 \* appreciation for the many hours you have given us. \*  
 \*        Your open, fair and honest leadership has been \*  
 \* an inspiration to us all. \*  
 \*        We are looking forward to another good year \*  
 \* under your guidance are are eagerly waiting to sup- \*  
 \* port you. \*  
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### CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

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| April 1st  | DEADLINE for THE ACANTHUS VINE. Please send news, articles of interest, advertisements etc. to new editor: Barbara Laskowski, 3836 So. 8th, Tacoma 98405.   |
| April 23rd | WESTERN ROSEMALERS ASSOCIATION Meeting 1:00 P.M. at Doce's in Edmonds. (Note: Regular meeting date was changed due to Easter being on that day.)  |
| May 6th    | FESTIVAL OF NORWAY SALE at P.I.U. - Please start painting now! We'll need all we can get for sale as rosemaled items are becoming more popular as gift items. We are also becoming better known and people are planning for this event. Beginners: don't be afraid to bring your items for sale too!! |

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

It's time to renew your membership for 1978. Our membership form is included in this issue of The Acanthus Vine. Please fill it in and return with your check (payable to Western Rosemalers Association) as soon as possible. Mail to Jean Alfsen, 3815 Vernhardson, Gig Harbor, WA 98335.

We would like to prepare our new membership roster by mid-February. Please try to get your renewal in early so your name will appear in the roster.

AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

Vice President Celia Hendrix presided at the September meeting in the absence of the President. The meeting was held at the Sons of Norway Hall in Bremerton.

Hostess Chairman, Marva Connelly and her committee were thanked for the delicious refreshments served before and after the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP New members were introduced and Jean Alfsen reported 216 members in the Association as of September 25. (We have grown considerably since then.)

MEETING PLACE Acting upon the recommendation of the Board, it was moved, seconded and carried that we alternate our meetings between Seattle and Tacoma inasmuch as 70% of our membership live within this and the immediate surrounding area.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE A nominating committee was appointed to nominate officers for 1978. It was requested that the committee present two names for each office.

PROPERTY CHAIRMAN Celia announced that Peg Piltingsrud will be our new property chairman.

No written recommendations to change the by-laws were presented.

PROGRAM After the meeting the members were entertained by the Nordiska Dancers, dressed in costumes representative of Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland. The dances too were representative of each of these countries and were executed with dash and aplomb by the members of the group. After the dancers, Carol Ramstad, showed and narrated a film of a trip that she and her husband took to visit Norway. This was a very fine film and enjoyed by all. Thank you, Carol for a memorable program.

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TROLLHAUGEN

Signs directed us over the river and through the autumn woods to Trollhaugen for the 1st Annual Rosemaling Retreat.

Mornings were for the beginner's lessons and afternoons for the more advanced students. Many projects were completed, even a Hallingdal owl.

Evenings, we were entertained with different talents. Handicrafts and cooking specialities were shown and taught. Teacher Florence Buck demonstrated wood finishing and narrated a slide show on Rosemaling in Norway.

As the first group to use Trollhaugen, we had experiences...ask about getting into the upper bunks? Always ready, coffee and "treats" kept the artists inspired.

Ione Bard and her helpers planned a gourmet menu and shared recipes.

Those who attended plan to return-so make your reservations early for the next rosemaling week.

OFFICERS ELECTED

at the Jan. 22nd meeting for 1978 are:

President: Mary Ellerman  
Vice Pres.: Celia Hendrix  
Secretary: Esther Einmo  
Fin. Sec.: Jean Alfsen  
Treasurer: Dena Iverson

THE PATTERN for this issue is an original from Celia Hendrix. Thanks for contributing to our growing collection of beautiful patterns.

MARY ELLERMAN is teaching rosemaling at Annette's in Seattle! Even has a genuine Norwegian male in class!

ONE OF BERGLJOT LUNDE'S panels still remains for sale. A red Telemark design...the price is \$40.00.

PLU YULE BOUTIQUE

Our show at the PLU Yule Boutique on November 19 was a wonderful success as well as a lot of fun. Thirteen artists sold a total of 123 items for a total of \$1094.83. A big thanks goes to Peg Piltingsrud, Shirley DeBower, Jean Alfsen, Marian Athow, Yvonne Martinec, Susan Elshaug, Loretta Pullis, Terry Hurley, Adeline Svehaug, Audree Rush, and Erna Harrison for helping set up and/or working the booth. Thanks also to Gudrun Berg and Florence Buck for demonstrating.

Bonnie Smith and April Meier, Co-Chairmen

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SCANDINAVIAN DAYS IN TACOMA

For the second year, Western Rosemalers participated in Scandinavian Days held during the first week in October. And for us it was an unqualified success, the best sale we've had so far.

Eleven artists contributed 138 items. Of these 108 (72%) were sold for a total of almost \$1000.00. A fifteen percent commission of \$141.34 went to the Leif Erickson Society Scholarship Fund. We could have sold many, many more rose-maled articles if we had had them. By Wednesday, we had almost no small or in-expensive articles left to sell.

Our eleven artists received \$739.79 for their work. That amount would pay for a lot of classes and woodenware for rosemaling. Hopefully it will encourage more of you to paint articles for our sales.

I would like to thank everyone who helped to make this activity such a success. Our sales personnel were Peg Piltingsrud, Marian Athow, Barbara Laskowski, Min Kopra, Dena Iverson, Esther Einmo, Adeline Svehaug, Bea Raynes, Ruby Knowlen, Asta Oden, Audree Rush and Yvonne Martinec. Demonstrating rosemaling were Gudrun Berg, Mary Ellerman and Celia Hendrix.

Thanks a lot. It was great!

Jean Alfsen, Chairman

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<u>FOR SALE</u>	MINK BOARDS	Ideal for Rosemaling
	50¢ each or	\$48.00, plus shipping
Order from:	R & R Wood Craft	
	Rt. #4 Box 327	
	Medford, Wisc. 54451	<b>Pd. Ad.</b>

WESTERN ROSEMALING ASSOCIATION PINS!

Western Rosemaling Association pins will be available at the April meeting. They are in color, enameled on metal - very nice..... Bring a dollar and go home with this lovely symbol of our art to wear proudly.

FLORENCE BUCK ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Florence Buck was named the first west coast member of the Board of Directors of the Norwegian American Museum in Decorah and has a slide show on the history of the museum that she can show to any interested group or lodge. No charge.

FLAMING FESTIVAL

Eleven Western Rosemalers submitted items for sale at the Flaming Festival which was held at the Museum of History and Industry in Seattle on October 26, 1977. The total sales for the day was \$165.22. The event was not as well attended as had been hoped for or as had been in the past. It was felt this might have been due to a change of format, so it is possible this will be taken care of at another time.

SIGMUND ARSETH CONTEMPORARY SHOW AND ANNUAL DINNER

Sigmund Arseth's first west coast exhibit of contemporary rosemaling at Pacific Lutheran University opened to a crowd of 170 eager viewers. They gathered promptly at 2 p.m. January 15, 1978 to watch Sigmund demonstrate first a traditional panel, followed by a contemporary painting. Of 26 pieces in the exhibit, 9 were sold during the afternoon and orders for several more taken. It was an exciting demonstration and certain to inspire all who were present.

At 5 p.m. 72 Western Rosemalers and guests enjoyed their 2nd Annual Dinner and program. Arrangements for the dinner were made by Thelma Johnson. In addition to opening remarks by Dr. Janet Rasmussen from the P.L.U. faculty, we were entertained by the Nordiska Musikarters - a four piece band headed by our own Sylvia Storvasli. They provided us with dinner music as well as special numbers and accompaniment for our Norwegian sing-a-long. Arthur (Grandpa) Stavig from Seattle shared his special troll stories with us as he introduced us to "his little people" of Norway.

Eight young Mayfest dancers entertained us with their special folk dances and helped to maintain the Scandinavian mood.

Our guest of honor, Sigmund Arseth, outlined the Norwegian American Museum's forth coming Heritage Tour IV scheduled for August 1978 in Norway. He encouraged us to take advantage of the classes in rosemaling, weaving, needlework and carving during the tour.

An enjoyable day was had by all--hope to see you all at next year's social.

Florence Buck

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SIGMUND'S CLASS

Along with thirteen other Western Rosemalers, I took Sigmund Aarseth's rosemaling workshop which was a very revealing, inspiring and rewarding experience. The revealing aspect came early -- it revealed how much I needed to learn and improve in my rosemaling. Sigmund's comment on my work the first day was a thoughtful, "um hum." It was the wort of remark a doctor makes when you realize he has diagnosed an illness and you are left wondering how fatal it is! Apparently the illness my rosemaling had was not fatal, as the 3rd day prompted the slight bit of encouragement -- "it's coming." (However, that day was also when he used my work as an example of how not to!)

To see Sigmund handle his brush in such a manner that it seemed he never made a bad stroke was most definitely inspiring. It made one desire and strive to improve and attempt that which had not seemed possible the first day.

There were several comments Sigmund made which will stay with us from now on. One was his comment about some of the red boards being "sweet" colors. Another was the instruction to "paint more juicy." My own personal reward came when after being so instructed I made the attempt at "painting more juicy" and drew the comment from Sigmund that it was very good and that I could go home that 4th day feeling proud of what I had done. (Needless to say, I attempted no more that day as I wanted to go home on that positive note and couldn't chance undoing it!) It was also very rewarding on the 5th day to sit down and freehand a Telemark design on my board -- not that it was anything great, but it was something I could not have accomplished the first day.

The only regrets I have about the workshop with Sigmund are that it was my first one with him as I had not taken advantage of the one last year, and that I know it will be sometime now before I will have this opportunity again.

Mary Ellerman

## SIGMUND'S DEMONSTRATION AT NORWAY CENTER

Eighty-three people attended Sigmund's demonstration at Norway Center on January 23. As was true last year, these people sat for three hours and quietly watched with awe and admiration as Sigmund painted two large 4' x 7' panels and one smaller panel. Comments from several people were that they enjoyed this year's demonstration even more than last years! Both large panels were sold.

An interesting side light of the demonstration was an interview that Carla Wulfsberg had with Sigmund. Carla has a radio series, TALK ABOUT COMING TO AMERICA!, which is sponsored by the Seattle Arts Commission with C.E.T.A. funds. The series will be broadcast over local radio stations and is made available as archive and educational material.

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### RECIPES FROM SIGMUND'S WORKSHOP

At the beginning of Sigmund's workshop, he was telling us that he definitely would not be back next year. However, after Wednesday lunch when everyone brought something for a potluck, it was evident he was having second thoughts! The potluck proved so popular that it was continued the rest of the week. Since it was difficult to get all the painting done everyone wanted to--and copy recipes, it was decided it would be better to print them in the newsletter and let others have a chance at them too.

#### Pocket Bread

2 pkg. yeast	2 c. warm water
2 T. Dimalt or sugar	approx. 6 c. white flour (or
1 tsp. salt	2 c. whole wheat flour and
¼ c. melted shortening -- or oil	4 c. white flour)

Dissolve yeast in warm water. Add dimalt and let sit 5 min. Add rest of ingredients making a soft but not sticky dough. Let rise until double, punch down. Take small amount of dough (about ½ c.), roll out round ¼" thick. Bake on un-greased, heavy cookie sheet at 450° for approximately 5 - 8 min. or until brown on bottom (top will not be brown). Let cool at least 5 min., break in half by hand (do not cut them) and they are ready for filling.

Marva Connelly brought the pocket bread and a delicious ground meat filling for it -- maybe we can get the recipe for the filling for another time.

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Ragnhild Feroy brought a delicious casserole that appeared in the middle of many of the rosemailing notebooks in amongst the notes on glazing, transparency, etc....

#### Chicken Broccoli Casserole

Cook 2 10 oz. pkg. broccoli -- drain -- put on bottom of casserole.

Over this place 3 c. cut-up chicken.

Combine: 1 c. mayonnaise	½ tsp. curry
2 cans cream of chicken soup	3 T. sherry
1 tsp. lemon juice	

Pour over chicken. Sprinkle ½ c. shredded cheese & ½ c. buttered crumbs. Bake at 350° for 25 - 30 min.

