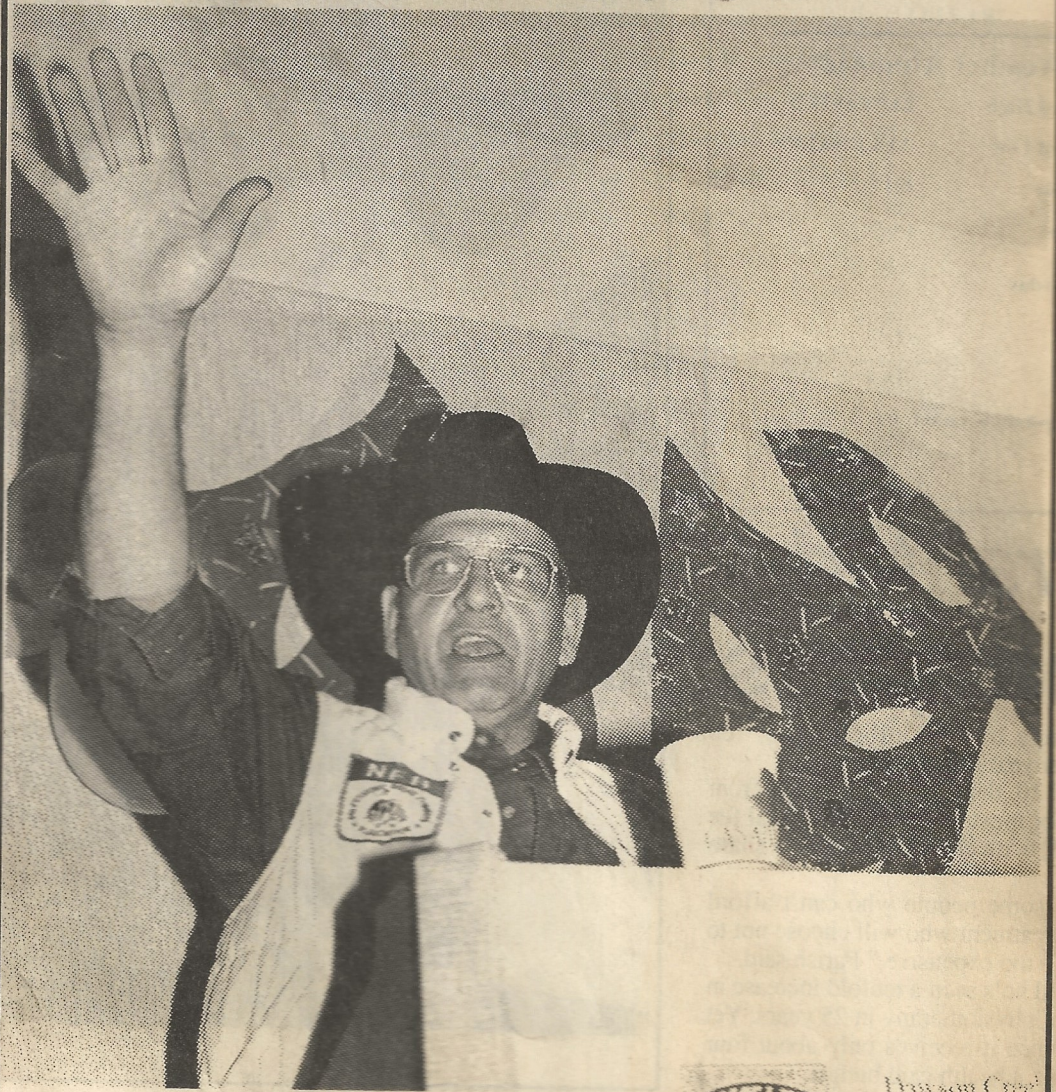


Art Auction



Dawson Creek

In 15 years of Dawson Creek art auctions, Ken Haverland has encouraged bidders to fork over about \$150,000 through his witty speed-talk style. Haverland brought his skills to the art auction last Friday at the George Dawson Inn. (Photo by Cees Mond)

Artists honored

BY CEES MOND

Daily News Staff

Fifteen years of art auctions already contributed \$135,000 to the art gallery, and last Friday another \$14,000 was added to that amount as another 60 pieces of donated local artwork found their ways to art collectors.

The annual art auction contributes greatly to funding for the art gallery, said curator Ellen Corea, and the participation of artists — 238 over the last 15 years — as well as the generosity of the business community is greatly appreciated.

"Fifteen years can do an awful lot for people," added auctioneer Ken Haverland as he took off his distinctive cowboy hat. "Look at this."

Part of the evening at the George Dawson Inn, which started with a dinner, saw 10 artists honored for their art contributions over the 15 years, together responsible for more than \$37,000 in art gallery funding with their donated art work. The 10 were Edna McPhail, Hilda Bittmann, Inez Demuynck, Suzanna Dixon, Evelyn LaForge, Shirley

Ravelli, Phylliss MacKay, Verne Soderquist, Betty Mundy and Harriet Fellers.

Haverland, as the auctioneer for 15 years, was also put in the spotlight before he continued to fast-talk money out of the public's pockets for the art pieces. The biggest amount — \$550 — was received for a watercolor/mixed media picture, Rail Fences, by former area artist Don Mattson. Other pieces, however, went for bargain prices, much below their actual value, proving that the auction is a good place to acquire quality art for relatively little money.

The grand door prize, two tickets to Vancouver, courtesy of AirBC and Uniglobe Phillips Travel, was won by Dawson Creek's Jean Johnson.

All in all, it was a wonderful success, said South Peace Art Society president Carrie Schafer.

"It was really great to honor people who've worked for many years for the gallery," she said, "and wonderful to see the continued support from the business community who've once again shown their community support."



South Peace Art Society president Carrie Schafer (left) and City of Dawson Creek representative Frank Grant pose with the artists and auctioneer Ken Haverland (second from left) who have contributed to the art auction for all 15 years. Pictured artists are Edna McPhail, Hilda Bittmann, Inez Demuynck, Suzanna Dixon, Evelyn LaForge and Shirley Ravelli. Not pictured are Phyllis MacKay, Verne Soderquist, Betty Mundy and Harriet Fellers. (Photo by Cees Mond)