

Mendel presents 13 outstanding paintings to art centre; curator lauds generous gift

A presentation of an outstanding collection of Canadian art was made by the Mendel family to the citizens of Saskatoon Thursday evening at the Mendel Art Gallery, when Fred Mendel, speaking for his family and to a large crowd, offered 13 paintings to the Saskatoon Art Centre to form the nucleus of a permanent collection. At the same time, the east gallery, where the paintings will hang, was officially dubbed the Mendel Salon.

"When this child was born," said Mr. Mendel, referring to the Mendel Art Gallery, "it needed help to walk. It is not enough to bring something into this world without giving it the necessary frame."

The gallery, he continued, needed a permanent collection, paintings to hang that would attract people and give joy and happiness to all, including his family who had lived with most of the paintings for a long time and who were happy to see them hanging in such worthy surroundings.

John E. Climer, curator-director of the Saskatoon Art Centre, introduced Mr. Mendel to the crowd of members and friends. He reviewed briefly the story of the Mendel Art Gallery, beginning five years ago with the Mendel family's gift of money on the occasion of their 20th anniversary in Saskatoon. He recalled that the design of the building was the result of a national architectural competition, again the idea of Mr. Mendel.

"Each beginning," Mr. Climer said, "calls us to re-interpret our aims and obligations and demands of us the courage to break with tradition and find the higher solution — regardless of cost."

"We, in Saskatoon," he continued, "are fortunate indeed to have had the leadership of a man who contains these qualities, and has the ability to in-

spire and involve the community."

In thanking the Mendel family, the curator remarked that had the centre been left to its own resources, "a generation of Saskatoon children would have grown up denied the enjoyment that only comes of close acquaintance with original works of art."

"Curator-directors and boards of directors come and go," Mr. Climer concluded. "The society and the institution live on. And so it is in the name of the Art Centre that I gratefully accept this gift from the Mendel family, to hold in trust, with pride and confidence in your selection for the en-

richment of Saskatoon, the pride of the province and of the nation, and for the enjoyment of all who may visit this gallery for years to come."

Spectators among the crowd came from all parts of Canada, Europe, the United States and Australia. Messages of goodwill and congratulation were received from galleries as far

separated as Victoria and Hamilton.

The gift, which includes George Czato's portrait of Mrs. Mendel and Konrad Ignac's painting of the Mendel stables in 1935, commemorates the 25th anniversary of the Mendel family and the firm of Intercontinental Packers in Saskatoon.

"Pictures for an empty frame"



THIS PICTURE was taken at the Mendel Gallery at the Art Centre on Thursday night when Fred Mendel donated 13 outstanding paintings to the gallery. Mr. Mendel is seen addressing a large audience which included visitors from the U.S., Australia, Eastern Canada and the West Coast. Seen on the platform are members of Mr. Mendel's family, left to right, Mrs. Mendel, Johanna Mitchell and Mrs. Max Miller, daughters, Camille Mitchell, daughter of Johanna, and Mrs. Bobby Mitchell, wife of a grandson of Mr. Mendel.