



# THE BELLOWS

26 GREAT YEAR

March 17, 2005

Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc.

Vol. XXVI. No. 7

WHAT	NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF PSPCS
WHERE	DES MOINES MASONIC TEMPLE 2208 S. 223rd St. (Take Midway exit #149 west off I-5...go to first stop light west of Pacific Hwy. South...Turn right.)
WHEN	Thursday, March 17th..7:00 p.m. till 10:00 p.m. (doors open about 6:00 p.m.)
WHY	A short business meeting..auction (one item lot per member please)..door prize..Show & Tell..Member's trade and sell tables (free to members, please cover during business meeting.) <u>Program:</u> Bring your favorite green camera in honor of St. Patrick's Day. Also, <u>Don Friend</u> will discuss and demonstrate re-leathering a camera.

## SHIRLEY AND BILL RETURN:

Good news. Shirley and John have survived the cold rainy trip to the Southwest and we can look forward to their happy faces..good nummies and a treasures report at the March meeting. Also, your Editor has return from China with one Granddaughter, one camera, no lasting social diseases and many a tale to tell.

## WELCOME PAID UP PSPCS MEMBERS:

If you are reading this March copy of The Bellows it means you are a paid up member in good standing. It's great to have you continue as a Club Member and we hope you enjoy the year with us. If, by chance, you have NOT remembered to pay your 2005 dues of \$20.00 but still received a newsletter it means that Shirley, in all her wisdom, knew you had just forgotten and will be sending payment momentarily.

So far this year things are going well. Our 25th Show Committee is hard at work. Our speaker, Mr. Mike Kessler, is set to go at the start of our Show Experience Weekend on Thursday evening, April 21st. We have sold close to half of our tables with more requests coming in every day. If you have not yet ordered your tables it would be wise not to wait as table location requests are handled on a first come first served bases. We still have room for several more display tables which are provided FREE to Club Members..don't get left out of this fun way of showing off a favorite part of your collection.

We had to move our Friday night hospitality room across the parking lot from our usual location. (some other group had the audacity to reserved it months ago) But, we will provide a new map in the seller's packet to guide your way to free libations, snacks and good fellowship. (or is that personship?)

## DON FRIEND IS INTO LEATHER:

As you read above Don is going to give a presentation at the meeting on recovering old cameras with new leather. For those of you that have always wanted to try this, but had a problem finding the correct leather, Don recomends going to: www.cameraleather.com where there is a wealth of information; and leather for sale for between \$20.00 and \$50.00 dollars depending of the amount and quality desired.

**\*\*BACKSIDE INFORMATION\*\***

The February meeting of the Puget Sound Photographic Collectors Society came to order at 7:01 p.m. There were 35 members and guests in attendance. The minutes of the January meeting were approved as read. There was no treasures report as Shirley and John were STILL on a vacation trip to the Sothwest.

Darrel requested the members to remember our departed friend and member Ed Frey with two minutes of silence. He will be missed.

**SHOW REPORT:**

Chairman, Bill Kimber, was in China so president Darrel presented the report. The meeting was held in Stuart Curry's Tacoma home. It was reported that table reservations are coming in a bit slowly..but they are beginning to add up. Walter passed around this years Show Button so everyone could get a good look. It received a most favorable responce. Mike Immel passed around the sign-up sheet for ticket takers and when members were done signing up only two time slots remained open..2 and 3 pm. Mike reminded thoses who have not yet volunteered that as a thank you they receive free early-in admission to the Show and the undying gratitude of us all.

**SHOW & TELL:**

Several members had Show & Tell items which member "Bob" felt we should call "Bring & Brag" items. However, there was not a clear consensus on this and several members felt that "brag" had a rather negative connotation that did not truly reflect the joyfull report of a sucessful "treasure hunt".

**AUCTION, NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM AND DOOR PRIZE:**

Five items were put up for auction and three were sold for a total of \$32.00 going to the lucky sellers.

In honor of St. Patti's Day, which is on our March meeting night, members were asked to bring their favorite Green Camera(s). No green beer stained cameras, please. Also, please bring a CAN OF FOOD for the Food Bank.

The door prize winner name was not written down by Mike as he rushed to the kitchen for a final nummie of the evening.

Meeting adjurned at 7:50 p.m. for more buying, selling and nummie munching.

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**THIS MONTH'S MYSTERY QUESTION:**

Answer at end of Newsletter

With thanks to the Western Photographic Historical Society:

What c1947-55 plastic camera has a plastic lense, simple shutter, uses 127 film and the lens housing extends for picture taking?

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**THE BELLOWS** Newsletter is published 10 times per year by Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc. Information for The Bellows should be sent to Bill Kimber 1413 Weathervane Dr., Tacoma, WA 98466-5712 (253) 564-4046, billkimber@webtv.net

The P.S.P.C.S. internet address is [www.pspcs.org](http://www.pspcs.org)

Dues are \$20.00 per year and should be sent to Secretary/Treasurer Shirley Sparrow, 300 Pease Road, Cle Elum, WA 98922 (509) 674-1916, [ssparrow@eburg.com](mailto:ssparrow@eburg.com) P.S.P.C.S. members receive first notification of our 4th Saturday in April yearly show.

PRESIDENT: DARREL WOMACK (206) 244-6831 [DARRELCAM@COMCAST.NET](mailto:DARRELCAM@COMCAST.NET)

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### THREE OTHER SPRING SHOW:

Yes, Clyde there are still other groups who think Camera Shows are not a relic of the digital revolution.

First: On Sunday, April 10th, Siggie is holding his spring show at Cameron Rec. Centre, 9523 Cameron at Lougheed Mall in Burnaby B.C. Admission is \$4.00 at 10 a.m. \$15.00 early bird at 9 a.m. Under 14 get in free with an adult. Tables are \$40.00. This has been a good Show in the past and also provides a great excuse for a "getaway" weekend in Vancouver B.C. For all the information call or fax Siggie or Brigitte at: 604 941 0300 noblexcanda@hotmail.com

Second: The Western Photographic Historical Society located in Tucson is holding it's 40th Show on Sunday, April 24th from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This is the day after our Show but you could fly in without a problem. I don't know too much about their shows but they seem like a good strong club and I have heard good things about their past shows. For all the information call: 520 529-5072.

Third: The Columbia Gorge Camera Club is holding it's 10th annual Gresham Camera Swap Meet on Saturday, May 21st from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It will be located at the Gresham Grange..875 NE Division St. in Gresham, Oregon which is just east of Portland off of I-84 at the 238th Drive Exit. Admission is \$4.00 with a \$10.00 early bird at 7:30 a.m. Tables are \$35.00. This has been a very friendly, but small, show in the past but would be a wonderful excuse for a trip into the scenic Columbia River Gorge. For all the information call Krystal (503) 239-8912.

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The following is from the Western Photographic Historical Society Newsletter and is used with much thanks. Ed.

### **Metric/English Threads?**

By R. A. Suomala

I recently needed to make a threaded adapter to allow me to attach an enlarging lens to a lens board. I seemed to recall that the 39mm Leica thread was a mixture of metric and English measurements. Sure enough, the Leica thread has a 39mm nominal outside diameter with a pitch of 26 threads per inch.

The Schneider Optics web page <[http://www.schneideroptics.com/info/faq/photo\\_enlarging/](http://www.schneideroptics.com/info/faq/photo_enlarging/)> explains this phenomenon as follows: "In 1931, Leitz introduced a thread-mount of 39mm x 26tpi (threads per inch) for its Leica cameras. This combination of a metric diameter with an English imperial pitch was designed in order to forestall competition from aftermarket lenses being used with the Leica screw-mount rangefinder cameras. Although it was patented in the same year, other companies pirated the design and introduced lenses with the new 39mm thread.

Presumably in their haste to introduce their own products with the Leica thread, some rival companies did not take the time to verify that the Leica thread's pitch was indeed 26 threads per inch. They came out with products that used a metric pitch instead. These "almost" Leica thread lenses would bind to true Leica mounts (if forced). For this reason, Leica thread lenses (not made by Leica) should be GENTLY screwed into their mounts. If resistance is felt, they should not be forced.

At the same time, Leitz also marketed enlargers with the Leica thread in order to allow the use of solid 3.5/3.5cm Leitz Tessar taking lenses as enlarging lenses. By mid-decade, Zeiss Ikon offered enlargers which used the Leica thread and other companies followed suit. Eventually, the Leica thread became one of the standard mounts in the enlarger industry."

As you may already know, all internal threads used for mounting a camera to a tripod are either 1/2-20 or 3/8-16. Both are English threads.

The metric DIN (Deutsches Institut fur Normung e. V.) standard (DIN 58888) for microscope objective threads is the odd English RMS (Royal Microscopy Society) Whitworth screw thread. Almost all "V" threads, both metric and English, have an included angle of 60 degrees but the RMS thread uses 55 degree plus the slightly rounded Whitworth form.

The next time someone suggests we convert to all metric ask them about changing all of the tripod, Leica, and microscope threads. Long live the inch!  
(End of rant)

P.S. Every German Mauser Model 98 rifle barrel is attached to the receiver with a 1 inch x 13 tpi thread. This was the standard rifle used in WWII. Millions of these were produced and they are still being used as well as being converted into hunting rifles today.

## The Collodion Conundrum

By Ria Ryne

Even when using the best, latest technology, the collodion wet-plate process, the field photographer of the mid-19th century faced obstacles that would dissuade all but the most dedicated.

The collodion process, first publicized by Englishman Frederick Stott-Archer, represented an improvement over both the daguerreotype and the Calotype. Its superiority over Daguerre's process lay in its reproducibility, while the sharp detail afforded by the glass support of the image bested the image quality of the Calotype. Unfortunately for the photographer of the time, this improvement in image making was not accompanied by a simplification of the process.

After choosing his subject and setting up his camera, the photographer would retire to his darkroom to prepare his glass photographic plate. An appropriate amount of the viscous collodion, containing potassium iodide, was poured onto a clean, polished glass plate, which was tipped back and forth to ensure an even coating. After the collodion had set, but while it was still wet, the plate was sensitized by soaking in a silver nitrate solution. It was then removed from the silver nitrate, allowed to drain and placed in the waiting camera, the exposure was made and the photographer went back to the darkroom. The plate was developed by inspection in a solution of pyrogallic acid. When development was complete, the plate was fixed with hypo and rinsed with clear water. The fixed plate, (if it was a "keeper"), was then gently heated and the image varnished to protect the delicate surface. Any one of these steps offered ample opportunity for disaster, not to mention the inherent fragility of the glass plate itself.

The necessity of going from the prepared plate to finished negative before the collodion dried meant the photographer had to have all of his darkroom equipment at hand, set up and ready to go whenever

a photograph was to be made. In the case of the field photographer, it all had to be portable. All the necessary chemicals, containers, trays, glass plates, tripods, etc. had to be packed up and transported to wherever the photographer wanted to work. Included in the long list of required items was a portable darkroom, sometimes incorporated into the wagon carrying all the other supplies, sometimes a tent. William Henry Jackson describes a portable darkroom he used on one excursion as "a canvas tent lined with orange calico about six feet square at the base with a center pole". When one considers that one of the cameras Jackson took with him on the Hayden survey of the Rock Mountains weighed over fifty pounds and used 20X24 inch plates, one can appreciate the enormous amount of planning and sheer hard labor required to produce a photograph.

Climate, too, could be an adversary. The collodion might freeze in very cold weather or fail to set if very hot. If light was dim, requiring an overlong exposure, the collodion could dry out causing the silver nitrate to crystallize, thus ruining the image.

And, as happened to the photographers on a survey with John Wesley Powell, your pack-horse could fall off a cliff and land on your camera, to the detriment of both.

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What c1947-55 plastic camera has a plastic lens, simple shutter, uses 127 film and the lens housing extends for picture taking?

Answer: The Beacon II camera made by Whitehouse Products, Brooklyn, NY. They came in black and colored models.

The colored camera prices range from \$25-50 and the black \$1-10.

