

THE BELLOWS

25 GREAT YEAR

April 22, 2004

Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc.

Vol. XXV, No. 8

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, April 22..7:00 till 10:00 (doors open about 6:00 p.m.)
WHY	This our special <u>Show Experience Weekend</u> meeting with a very short business meeting & Show report followed by a, "dynamite presentation" by this years guest speaker, Mr. Benjamin W. Ehrman.

ITS SHOW TIME:

Here we go again. Our 24th great Sale, Swap & Show is here on Saturday, April 24th at the Puyalup, Washington Fair Grounds. Your dedicated Show Committee has been hard at work to insure that the Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society will again have the best one day Show in the United States. There is still time to sign-up to take tickets at the door or help with the off-load door parking detail. Remember, you will be providing a much needed service to your club and, by way of thanks, you will be able to be in the hall when the sellers first put out their, "for sale treasures". Our Show is the high point of the year..if you don't count Santa coming to our Christmas party feast and gift exchange..and not to be missed. There is even time for you to obtain a FREE display table and show off a portion of your collection. Remember, your Club gives you \$25.00 to cover any expenses you might incur. Come, take part..help out..become an "active" P.S.P.C.S. Member.

SHOW EXPERIENCE WEEKEND BEGINS ON THURSDAY APRIL 22:

This is the first day of our Show Experience Weekend. We begin with our special meeting and yearly guest speaker. In this..our third S.E.W. year..our guest speaker is Mr. Benjamin W. Ehrman. (to be referred to as Ben from here on) Ben is a collector of 19th Century American photographic items as well as an amateur photo-historian. During the past several years he has been working with the curators of the Photographic History Collection at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. Thus, he has been "playing with" the Museum's vast collection of photographic equipment, patent models, images and ephemers.

Ben has prepared what is discribed as a very interesting and visual presentation that should delight both the serious collector and interested members of the general public. Please make an effort to attend this special Club meeting and bring with you anyone you think might enjoy a great presentation by a most interesting person. Remember, our meeting begin at 7 p.m. Come a bit early and meet old friends while you partake of our table of rummies and soft drinks.

****BACKSIDE INFORMATION****

The March 18th meeting of the Puget Sound Photographic Collectors Society came to order at 7:08 p.m. There were 41 members and guests in attendance. The minutes of the February meeting were approved as read. Treasurer, Shirley, reported that the Club still had funds but high expenses were drawing down the Club's reserve. She will have a financial statement to present at the May meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Show report, by Show Committee members, said all was proceeding on schedule. All ads have been placed; however, a mix-up caused our free announcement in Shutterbug to be omitted. As of April 8th over 200 tables have been sold. We still need club members for ticket taking and to help with Friday evening and Saturday morning off-load parking. The Club's new PSPCS.org website has been advertising our Show.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

SHOW & TELL:

Six members had interesting items to show and discuss.

PROGRAM:

Five members presented some of their favorite cameras and shared with the group why they were among their favorites.

AUCTION:

Six items were auctioned for a total of \$107.00.

DOOR PRIZE:

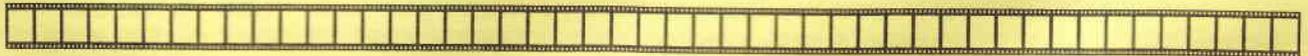
Joe Story won the door prize. The meeting then adjourned at 8:08 p.m. for more nummy munching and selling.

THIS MONTH'S MYSTERY QUESTION:

Answer at end of Newsletter

With thanks to the Western Photographic Historical Society:

What detective camera looks like monocular and shoots at a right angle?

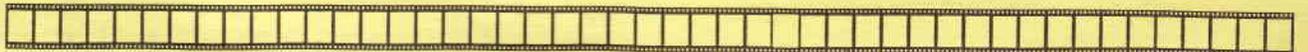


THE BELLOWS Newsletter is published 10 times per year by Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc. Information for The Bellows should be sent to Bill Kimber 1413 Weathervane Dr., Tacoma, WA 98466-5712 (253) 564-4046, billkimber@webtv.net

The P.S.P.C.S. internet address is www.pspcs.org

Dues are \$10.00 per year and should be sent to Secretary/Treasurer Shirley Sparrow, 300 Pease Road, Cle Elum, WA 98922 (509) 674-1916, ssparrow@eburg.com P.S.P.C.S. members receive first notification of our last Saturday in April yearly show.

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



YOU PRESS THE BUTTON, THEN DO THE REST: TWO ATTEMPTS AT "INSTANT" PHOTOGRAPHY

Thomas Featherstone

Despite their limitations, early photographic processes did enjoy one distinct advantage: they were close to being instantaneous. The daguerreotypes, ambrotypes and tintypes that dominated the first twenty years of the medium were all direct positives. With no negative involved, a finished photograph could be produced while the customer waited. This changed with the adoption of negative-positive systems in the later part of the 19th century. Very popular with the general public, the nature of the technology required a certain amount of time to perform the needed operations. With the explosion in amateur photography during the 20th century, waiting days for photographs to be processed became part of the routine. Human nature being what it is, attempts were made to speed up the process. Much of this technology remained in the realm of the itinerant photographers who developed photographs in or near their cameras and quickly presented them to customers. A few, however, were aimed at the amateur market, two of which are described here.

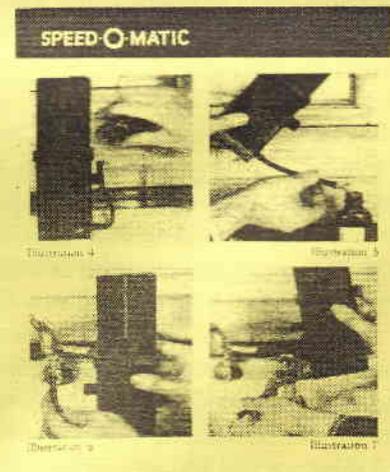
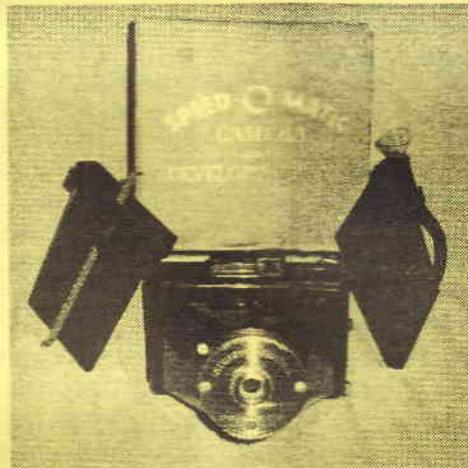
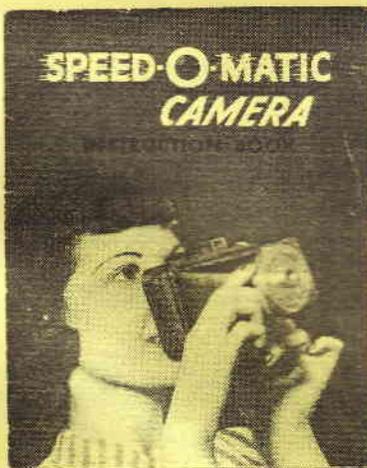


The
PHOTO-SEE
CAMERA
and
DEVELOPING TANK

Read the contents of this booklet
carefully before operating the
camera and the developing box.

PHOTO-SEE CORP.
New York City

The Photo-See camera was the product of noted photographic inventor Herman Casler. Introduced in 1936, it was the first "instant" system marketed to the general public. The outfit consisted of a simple cardboard box camera with an art deco design and an oddly shaped developing tank. Like many of its brethren, the camera used direct positive paper. The image was formed using the bleach and redevelop process in four steps. Finished photos required about 5 minutes to process. Although a workable system, its complex nature (the manual reads like stereo instructions and is just as hard to understand) and difficult economic times made the camera a commercial failure.



Introduced around 1948, the Speed-O-Matic updated the Photo-See with an all new plastic camera and processing accessories. Using 2 x 3 inch direct positive paper in light tight cardboard sleeves, the Speed-O-Matic had a clever plastic slide holder to transfer the exposed paper from the camera to its thin flask-like developing tank. Although it too was a workable system, using

Continued on page 4...

the Speed-O-Matic required the willingness to pour four chemicals in and out of the tank, all at the proper temperature and with water rinses in between. Also, as with all direct positive systems, there were no negatives for making duplicates. The year 1948 also saw a new milestone for home instant photography with the introduction of the Polaroid Land Camera Model 95. Using an entirely different system, Edwin Land's camera produced good quality continuous tone photographs with no external tanks or chemicals. Faced with that competition the Speed-O-Matic had no chance, but the camera did reappear later as the Dover 620, using conventional 620 size roll film.

Although they were marketplace failures, the Photo-See and Speed-O-Matic did help prepare the way for instant cameras to come.

WANTED: STAR PHOTO. INFO.:

Do any Club Members take pictures of the stars..with or without a telescope? I would like to try my hand at some star photography and would love any help or advice I can get on the subject. If you can help me to capture some heavenly bodies on film please call Maxine at: 425-235-7516 in the evenings before 9 p.m. Thank you.

A word from Kodak: Do you want to make every picture a classic without investing in a classic camera? Kodak says **"Make any picture a classic with the Kodak Black&White One-Time-Use Camera!"** (Product code 334 843) The APS sized camera with built in "Power Flash" (2.5 to 12 foot range) is loaded with 27 Exposures of 400 speed chromogenic (C-41) black&white film, the lens is a two element Kodak Ektanar, ("for sharp pictures"), a label on the camera says "Made In Hungary", the carton is printed in France and who knows where the film comes from! Viva globalization!

The following letter from The Photogram of April-May 2004 is by Alan Kattelle. A past president of the Movie Machine Society..and is one more example of why "the hunt" can be both enjoyable and rewarding. It is used with thanks. Ed.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Just wanted to convey my congratulations on a simply wonderful issue of *The Photogram* [February-March 2004]! As a would-be amateur astronomer, I was entranced with the story and pictures in Leonard Walle's article. And of course the account of finding a daguerreotype camera was great — encourages one to think that it might happen again! Actually, I had a somewhat similar experience. Nearly 20 years ago, my wife and I were doing our favorite weekend pastime, "Yard sale-ing." We were about ready to quit but saw one more place. They were actually starting to put things away, but we went up to the owner and asked our standard question: "Do you have any old cameras?" His wife said, "Honey, why don't you bring down that old camera we have." And shortly her husband appeared carrying a shiny circular metal device hanging from a neck cord with a lens sticking out on one side. I was fairly sure that I had seen pictures of this camera, so asked: "How much?" He said, "Well, I think we had \$40 on it before and it didn't sell, how about \$30?" I quickly agreed, and you can guess the rest. When we got home we discovered that we had bought a Stirn Vest Camera!! So keep looking!

Regards, Alan Kattelle (Hudson, MA)

So

What detective camera looks like monocular and shoots at a right angle?

Answer: *The Ergo by Zeiss, circa 1927-32, shoots single shots of 4.5 x 6 cm images at right angles to direction of viewing with Tessar 55 x 4.5 lens in self cocking shutter. Very rare, up to \$2,000.*



Ergo (301) - 1927-31.