

# THE BELLOWS

26 GREAT YEAR

December 16, 2004

Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc.

Vol. XXVI, No. 2

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, December 16th..7:00 p.m. till 10:00 p.m. (doors open about 6:00p.m.)
WHY	This is our special Christmas meeting. There will be a good holiday spread. After a very short business meeting we will have our annual Gift exchange. Family members and our of town guests are most welcome.

### ITS CHRISTMAS TIME IN THE CITY:

Yes, dear members it is time once again for our annual Christmas feast and infamous gift exchange. This is the meeting to whcih you bring your appetite, your family (wife, kids, main squeeze, Uncle Norm up from the basement etc.) or your best friend(s) as long as they are interested in joining P.S.P.C.S. Shirley has promised a spread to fill your belly and make you glad to be a paid up member.

We hope that Santa will be able to pull himself away from his bucket in front of Walmart to again preside over our famous gift exchange. Remember, you don't have to take part in the gift exchange if you would rather just sit back, sip some more sparkling cider, and watch the fun. But, if you do take part please bring a wrapped photographica gift worth at least ten dollars in todays market place. Something YOU would enjoy receiving. Something that will get traded for at least three times. As always we will draw numbers to determin the order of gift selection. After you open your gift you may exchange it with any already opened gift. The person with number one gets to exchange after all the gifts have been opened.

This is our most enjoyable sociable meeting of the year. Come and take part. Ho, Ho, Ho.....

### REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR CHECKBOOK:

If you ordered a McKeown's Price Guide to Antique & Classic Cameras in Shirley's second order your book is here. She will have them at the meeting to pay for and pick up. If you want it mailed to you in a plain brown wrapper add five dollars to your bill and mail a check to Shirley. Shirley may have two or three books which have not been spoken for if you forgot to give her your name but would like to aquire this "bible" of photographica information.

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### THIS MONTH'S MYSTERY QUESTION:

Answer at end of Newsletter

With thanks to the Western Photographic Historical Society:

What 1965-66 camera had a "pellicle", an immovable silvered mirror which split light between the finder and the film?

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

The November meeting of the Puget Sound Photographic Collectors Society came to order at 7:10 p.m. There were 36 members and guests in attendance. The minutes of the October meeting were approved as read. Treasurer reported we had money in the bank.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Our 2005 Show Committe had their first meeting. Bill Kimber was again pushed into the chairmanship. He reminded everyone to be ready to volunteer for ticket takers etc. He also reported that the committee is planning on cutting expenses by about \$2,000. Tables will be \$40.00 this year (a five dollar increase) but everything else remains the same. The Friday evening hospitality room will be in the same place with table snacks such as peanuts, etc. and complimentary beer, wine and soft drinks. Table length will remain at 6 feet.

Bob Green reported that the Kitsap Camera Show on October 30th had folded it's "tent" and was not to be found.

Members reported that Sigge's Show was good as usual. There were lots of people in attendance but not too much older material and fewer sellers than at past Shows. Still, there was a lot to pick from. Prices seemed higher partly because the money exchange rate is down.

The Portland Show was o.k. but not as many buyer, or sellers, as in past years. Again, there were few older Collectable treasures on the tables.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

There was no new business other than planning for our December 16th Christmas Party Meeting.

**PROGRAM:**

The program was a very informative well done presentation by Gary Sivertsen of his trip to Japan to visit Mr. Amai. Gary had many slides of Mr. Amai's hugh collection and of a camera club swap and sell meeting.

**SHOW & TELL AUCTION DOOR PRIZE:**

Several members had interesting Show & Tells. Bill Kimber startled members with his melted kitchen camera clock caused by the fire in his home that afternoon.

Six items were presented for auction. Three brought a total of \$34.00 to their owners. The other three returned home with their original owners.

Joe Story won the door prize.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 for more buying, selling and nummie munching.

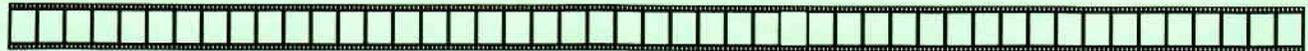


**THE BELLOWS** Newsletter is published 10 times per year by Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc. Information for The Bellows should be sent to Bill Kimber 1413 Weathervane Dr., Tacoma, WA 98466-5712 (253) 564-4046, billkimber@webtv.net

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)



## CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS OF A LUCKY PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTOR:

This is your editor speaking. I would like to share some news and thoughts with you at this Christmas time. As some of you know I had what every collector dreads...my home and photographica collection of thirty years was gutted by fire on November 18th. The fire started in my 40 year old gas furnace at 4 p.m. while I was out picking up some groceries. Had I not returned the house would have burned to the ground. As it is I have lost about 70% to 80% of my collection.

Here is what I have learned from this life changing experience. 1. If you don't have working smoke detectors in your home stop reading now and go buy some. Had my random fire been at night I would now be dead and someone else would be writings this newsletter. 2. Your home insurance is worth every penny (or dollar) you pay..but be sure your have enough coverage to rebuild or fix your home. Most people don't. 3. Have a record of at least your most valuable items...when they are all melted it is hard to remember what was on that shelf.

Thats about it. I don't know if I will try to rebuild the collection..I will have to get back to you on that..but I do know that my many treasures were just interesting "things". The fact that I am able to say thanks and Merry Christmas to all of you who have given me a smile and a hug is what is most important. Editor, Bill

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The following is from the April 2004 Western Photographic Historical Society and is used with thanks. Ed

### **Where There is Light**

by Ria Ryne

The single most important element required for photography is light. In the earliest days of photography, this, of course, meant sunlight - bright middle-of-the day sunlight. The famous "Heliograph" by Joseph Nice phore Nie pcs is believed to have required an exposure time of about 8 hours.

As photographic materials and techniques improved, exposure times decreased and photographers began taking photos under conditions that previously would have been impossible. It was not until 1857 that it began to be possible to provide one s own portable lighting in the form of photogenetic substances, commonly known as flash powder. They consisted of a mix of charcoal, sulfur, and potassium chlorate etc. (similar to fireworks.) They burned brightly for several seconds to illuminate the scene, but also produced smoke that could obscure it. In 1959, magnesium appeared which yielded less smoke and a brighter light. It was magnesium that O Sullivan used inside the mines of Nevada in 1867.

In Paris in 1860, Nadar opened an "electric portrait salon" using carbon arc lamps powered by Bunsen batteries. Shortly afterwards, he transported his equipment and took photographs in places where the sun had never shone - the catacombs and sewers of Paris.

By the 1880 s the sensitivity of photographic plates had improved to the point that they could be exposed with "flashes" of light, usually provided by magnesium powder.

Jacob Riis, who came to America from Denmark in 1870, began photographing the slums of New York using blitzlicht pulver (flash light powder) which was invented by Adolphe Miethe and Johannes Gredicke of Germany in 1887. The highly explosive mix of powdered magnesium, potassium chlorate, and antimony burned instantaneously and thus was an improvement over the magnesium flare, which lasted several seconds. Still, it was dangerous and difficult to control.

Eventually, however, this particular genie was captured and put in a bottle, or to be more precise, a bulb. Paul Virekoter, in 1925, patented the first flash bulb. The inflammable mixture was placed inside a glass bulb, from which all air was removed. This ignited when a weak electric current was passed through it yielding a brilliant flash for a fraction of a second. This bulb was improved in 1929 by J. Ostermeir by the addition of aluminum foil. It was marketed in Germany as VacuBlitz, in England it was known as Sashalite and in America, by 1930, it was the Photoflash Lamp. Immediately adopted by news photographers, it s believed one of its earliest uses was in photographing President Herbert Hoover signing the Unemployment Relief Bill. Originally the "open flash" method was employed. The shutter was opened on a tripod-mounted camera, the flash was fired, and the shutter was closed. When it became possible to synchronize the shutter release with the flash hand - held flash photography was possible.

In 1931 science once again aided art in the person of Harold Edgerton of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Edgerton, in searching for a way to examine rapidly moving machine blades, designed an electric lamp that could flash repeatedly. Current built up in a condenser to a high voltage, which was then allowed to discharge in a gas-filled tube. This repeatable flash was extremely bright and extremely brief. It is this same basic technology that is used in present-day flashes, including those built-in flashes found in one-time use disposable cameras.

(Sources: *The History of Photography* by Beaumont Newhall, *A New History of Photography* edited by Michel Frizot)

The following is from the February 2004 Western Photographic Historical Society and is used with thanks. Ed

## **"You Push the Button, We Do the Rest"**

by Ria Ryne

From the earliest beginnings of photography the high degree of technical skill (both chemical and mechanical) as well as the large quantity of equipment required limited the practice of photography to professionals and the most dedicated of amateurs. If we can point to just one person responsible for making photography a nearly universal pursuit, that person would be George Eastman.

Eastman, who began his professional life as a bank clerk in Rochester, NY, bought his first wet plate camera in 1877. He soon came to the conclusion that "...ought to be able to carry less than a pack-horse load..." in order to photograph. He had begun experiments as early as 1881 with the goal of creating a new system of photography; a system that would use a flexible base for emulsion.

A roll holder had been proposed as early as 1854 by an Englishman named Melnuisn. This roll holder was an auxiliary device, not an internal part of the camera. Such a holder was loaded with photographic paper that had been coated with a thin coat of water-soluble gelatin. The photographic emulsion, made non-water soluble by the addition of alum, was spread over the layer of gelatin. These holders took the place of the plate holders for cameras then in use and thus were fairly large for plates of 5x7, 8x10 or 6x8.

By the 1880s two techniques were perfected that made fast, dry photo material possible and eliminated the need for glass plates altogether. The first development was a new emulsion in which silver salts could be suspended. Thus emulsion retained its speed and could be applied to the second invention, flexible rolls.

After much experimentation George Eastman developed the equipment to mass-produce flexible film. In July 1888 a new style of camera was placed on the market in which the roll holder was an internal part of the camera. Compared to plate cameras this new device was quite small, 6" long by 3" deep and wide, weighing a mere 22 ounces.

The roll film Kodak was an overnight success. The camera loaded with a toll of film sold for \$25.00. For \$10.00 the dealers would reload the camera. The exposed roll was processed by the dealer or sent to Kodak for development and printing.

Soon after the invention of the new style of camera Eastman began the advertising campaign that reached out to the general public and created a new class of patrons. Photography became nearly universally accessible and people began to realize the truth of the statement made in one of Kodak's advertisements: "A collection of these pictures may be made to furnish a pictorial history of life as it is lived by the owner, that will grow more valuable every day that passes".

Sources: *Photography*, Barbara Upton and John Upton, *History of Photography*, Beaumont Newhall, *Photography and the American Scene*, Robert Taft.

## **Evolution of Photographic Science**

(Editors note: The information following as well as some snips in the last two issues of this newsletter are taken from the Centennial Issue of Kodak *Studio Light* No. 2 Special. We will continue with the 1840's milestones next month.)

"Prior to 1839, isolated experiments in mechanics, optics, and chemistry leading to the invention of photography" included the following:

1826 "World's first photograph," a Heliograph by Niepce. Afterwards, Niepce made permanent images in the camera on bitumen-coated plates.

1829 Niepce and Daguerre entered a partnership.

1833 Fox Talbot began experiments with light-sensitive paper, products called "photogenic drawings".

1835 Fox Talbot made camera pictures on paper.

1837 Daguerre developed Daguerreotype process. Used silvered copperplate, sensitized with iodine as a base. Latent image developed with mercury vapor. J. B. Reade used 'hypo' to fix photographic images against fading on sensitized paper.

1839 *January*-Arago announced Daguerre's discovery: *The Daguerreotype (produced a positive without a negative and remained in wide use until about 1860).*

Fox Talbot's photogenic drawings shown at the Royal Institution.

*February*-Details of Fox Talbot's published (*first negative-positive process*). Coatings were placed on paper bases heavily sized with gelatin.

*August*-Details of Daguerreotype process published, but patented only in England.

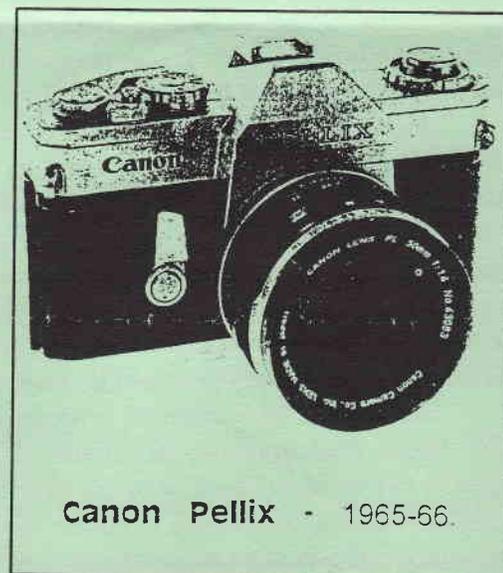
*September*-Herschel made a photograph on glass.

Giroux made and sold Daguerreotype cameras.

Portraiture was main use for photography.

### **Answer:**

*The Canon Pellix had this unique design. The advantages of an immovable mirror was offset by the lack of brightness to the image and finder.*



Canon Pellix - 1965-66.