

December 18, 2003

Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc.

Vol. XXV, No. 4

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 18th..7:00 p.m. till 10:00p.m. (doors open about 6:15 p.m.)
WHY	This is our special Christmas meeting. We will begin with another of Shirley's wonderful spreads washed down with sparkling cider. After a VERY SHORT business meeting Santa's arrival will herald the beginning of our annual gift exchange.

HO..HO..HO...

Ah, its that time of year again. The time of year when camera collectors come in off the hunt to partake of our annual Christmas party and gift exchange. First, will be our feast of catered nummies provided by Shirley and John. Be sure to bring your whole family..wife, husband, kids, significant Other, Uncle Fred and even the family dog if he/she is party trained. Don't eat dinner..just arrive hungry and ready to partake.

Then, after a short meeting, and before we all fall into a stupor, it will be time for our famous (or is that infamous) gift exchange for all of those who choose to take part. Remember, you do **NOT** have to take part. Just come, eat, exchange holiday wishes and then sit, watch and enjoy the spectacle while sipping on a cup of sparkling cider. Santa has sent word that if his clothes get back from the dry cleaners in time he will take great pleasure in joining us and helping to hand out gifts..and provide a nice sitting lap.

If you would like to take part in our gift exchange just bring a wrapped photographically related gift for each member of your group who is taking part. Please bring a gift worth at least ten dollars on eBay that will make it's recipient happy..like something YOU would enjoy receiving.

As in past years we will draw numbers to determine the order of gift selection. Remember, the person picking can exchange their opened gift with any gift already picked. Lucky number one gets to exchange, if they want, after everyone else has had their turn.

This is a most enjoyable meeting. Come one, Come ALL!! Bring your appetite, a photographica present, a big bunch of happy holiday wishes and ENJOY! HO, HO, HO!

THIS MONTH'S MYSTERY QUESTION:

Answer at end of Newsletter

With thanks to the Arizona Photographic Collectors:

What year did the Tokyo company Nippon Kogaku make its first single lens reflex camera and what did they name it?

****BACKSIDE INFORMATION****

The November 20th meeting of the Puget sound Photographic Collectors Society came to order at 7:00 p.m. There were 32 members and guests in attendance. The minutes of the October meeting were approved as read. Treasurer, Shirley, reported the Club could afford to pay for the Christmas party nummies and cider. She also reported She had been successful in her negotiations to not have our meeting room rent raised for 2004.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Bill Kimber..seconded and passed..that Darrel Womack and Mike Immel investigate what type of web site would best serve the needs of our Club; and what the costs to design and run such a site would be. They are to report back to the membership as soon as possible.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Show Committee reported that they had held their first meeting. Bill Kimber is Chairman for our 24th great Show to be held on April 24th. All committee positions are filled and everything is "good to go". The print shop will have show brochure etc. ready for the January Bellows mailing. There are no changes in Show times and charges from last year. There will be a guest speaker on the Thursday of our Show Experience Weekend. The Committee is going to try for a curator from the Smithsonian. They are also analyzing how much interest there is in having our Friday night Hospitality Room again this year. A decision will be made in the new year.

PROGRAM:

Bill Adams presented a terrific slide show and presentation comparing identical pictures taken with the Petri Color 35 and the Rollei 35. Each camera had it's champions in the audience but the consensus seemed to be that both cameras did a good job.

SHOW & TELL:

Walter Hughson, Bill Kimber and Merle Carey had interesting Show & Tell items. Walt had found a Girl Scout Kodak with case that made us all wish we checked Value Village stores on a more regular bases.

AUCTION AND DOOR PRIZE: One item was auctioned for \$13. John Sparrow & Jim Passi won door prizes.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. for more nummie munching and sale tables discussion.

THANK YOU:

Inclosed you found the Puget Sound Photographic Collectors Society 2004 gift calendar. It's just our way of saying Thank You for being a P.S.P.C.S. Member...and a hint that it is time to contact Shirley with your dues for 2004. Dues are still just \$10.00 per year. Either see Shirley at our meeting or mail your Ten dollars to: Shirley Sparrow...P.S.P.C.S...300 Pease Road..Cle Elum, WA 98922. Thank you! Hope you're around to receive a calendar in 2005.



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: <http://www.geocities.com/pspcs/index.html>

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@jps.net



The following is from the Oct. 2003 Cascade Panorama and used with thanks. As you read this story will you wish you had been there with a Hertz truck and hand cart? Ed.

Saving Kodak Packaging

by Gene Flanders

Many interesting items surface on eBay. Less well known is that significant information and fascinating stories emerge as well, such as this instance. Gene Flanders, a Kodak packaging designer from 1966 until 2001, spent his last five or ten years at Kodak designing camera packaging, in particular the worldwide packaging for the single-use camera. He designed the Disc camera logo: the lower case "disc" with a slanted "d" and a circle over the "i." He recently auctioned some Kodak boxes on eBay which Charlie Kamerman won. Further discussion between Gene and Charlie prompted Gene to write this story and allow its publication in the Cascade Panorama. - Ed.

Just before the big employee buyout in 1990 at Kodak, my boss came to my office and said we would be moving to a different area. He had found less space — at less dollars per square foot — and we would have to be packed and ready to go by the weekend. Then came the bombshell. He said take this key and go in the storeroom and have the facility workers dump out all those cabinets and file drawers and haul it to the incinerator.

At that time, I was unaware that the storeroom even existed. I went in and there were four-drawer file cabinets about twenty wide. There were at least eight rows of cabinets stuffed with all packaging samples and correspondence! The samples dated back to the 1900s all the way up to 1990. Every package was there with its predecessor. If a packaging change had ever been made, the new sample was attached and extremely well documented by the faithful servants of the packaging department over the years. One of the ladies who had been doing the documentation for the last 44 years had just taken the buyout. It was fortunate for she would have had a heart attack.

The facility guys showed up with a whole row of "wheelie" dump carts and started flinging the stuff into the carts. I tried to stay ahead of them and grab a few interesting old packages for my office. I even ran back into my boss's office and asked him if I should call someone who might want all this history, like the Eastman House Museum. "Call them if you want, just get rid of the @\$%\$ stuff like I told you." I called the Eastman House, and they were not interested. I couldn't believe it. I hurried back to the storeroom to see what else was flying through the air. I did grab an old binder that had some film cartons and plate labels, mostly from the early 1900s. I kept running back to my office with nice old packages but soon did not have room for any more. The carts kept rolling, and soon the room was empty as directed.

I know I missed so many rare packages, but the ones I did save were displayed in our new conference room on the 7th floor. I had them arranged nicely and showed what Kodak looked like even before they started using yellow. I tried to get an assortment of film, plates, chemicals and, of course, camera packaging. Sadly, even that display was tossed out after I left Kodak in 2001. When I packed to retire, I found one drawer of old packaging that I had saved. Three boxes were sold on eBay to Charlie: the New York World's Fair Baby Brownie, the New York World's Fair Bullet and the Brownie Camera No. 0 (silhouette design).

The following is from the Nov.-Dec. 2003 Cascade Panorama and used with thanks. This is Mike Kessler's last column in the last issue of the Cascade Panorama. His thoughts and stories will be much missed. Lets hope he is just a bit too pessimistic. Ed.

Ode To A Camera

by Mike Kessler

(With apologies to Joyce Kilmer)

I think that I shall never see
Another camera meant for me.
No more shall lenses made of brass,
With rack and pinion, come to pass
Resplendent on mahogany.

I once found cameras by the score.
Each shop held eight or ten or more.
They sat alone and uncollected,
Waiting to be resurrected.
And thus spoiled, I wanted more.

It wasn't long until I filled
A shelf or two, and I was thrilled
To find that when displayed in class,
My fellow students couldn't pass
My treasures without praises spilled.

In time my small collection grew
To fill the house. I had no clue
Where it would end. 'Til then my test
Was "Keep the cream and sell the rest."
And then I heard the "other shoe."

So end it did. The shows dried up.
It's tough to be the only pup
Who never heard the last bell ring
Or even that large lady sing.
Reluctantly I lift my cup.

And journals too have bit the dust.
When ours gave up, I spit and cussed.
It's hard to keep a club alive
Without collectors, without drive.
It all reverts to senseless rust.

I keep on looking cause it's free.
But "Antique" shops embarrass me,
Especially where signs forswear
That "gifts" are also offered there.
Thus warned, I turn around and flee.

I'm not depressed, just realistic.
Collecting is a bit simplistic.
We who do it love the thrill
That each day brings — I love it, still.
I'd rather not be a statistic.

So now what's left I can not say.
Hope springs eternal anyway.
I guess I'll have to join those boys,
Who scrolling through the categories,
Find salvation on eBay!

Now What Would I Like?

by Mike Kessler

All good things come to an end, and this time it came in a Capsule. No, I didn't suddenly take up drugs. The "Capsule" I'm referring to is *the CAPSule, The Quarterly Newsletter of the Chesapeake Antiquarian Photographic Society*. More to the point, I'm referring to an article in their March issue by Ben Ehrman entitled, "The Acme Camera and Changing Box."

For the better part of thirty years, I've had a bug in my bonnet over a camera that never was: the Acme. I first "discovered" it as a woodcut in a James Queen and Co. catalogue where I instantly fell in love with its unusual, humpbacked silhouette and its myriad levers and buttons. When I read that it could take up to four images on a single plate using a set of swinging masks, I just knew I had to have one. Well I looked and looked from then till now without getting so much as a *smell* of one.

It was during those heady years when I spent many weeks a year driving all over the country in search of antique cameras. I visited countless collectors in nearly every state and jawboned at the shows those I couldn't visit. If there was an Acme anywhere out there, I would have picked up on it. As time went on, my favorite running gag became my reply, when asked what I would like (usually referring to a menu selection at some restaurant), "Oh, I'll have an Acme Camera with Changing Box, thank you!"

I even began to fantasize about the ethereal little beast when, at one of our WPCA shows, I acquired a wonderful cabinet card of a family group, the father and four daughters, all staring intensely, yet reverently, at the Number Four String Set Kodak in the father's lap. My fevered mind came up with a story which I wrote for issue No. 108, Winter 1995/1996 of *the Photographer* entitled, "The Adoration." Since the photograph was taken in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, I claimed that the father was none other than S.C. Nash, and the Kodak was a spiteful gift from the daughters to their father on the eve of the beginning of the first production run of Nash's own creation, the Acme. The shock of seeing how superior the Kodak was to his brainchild sent Nash into a cataleptic fit, freezing him permanently in the position seen in the photograph. For the ultimate fate of Nash and his four evil daughters, you'll have to scrounge up that particular copy of *the Photographer*, but I warn you it isn't pretty.

So much for history. The Acme has *finally* been found and Ben Ehrman did it. Would you believe it? A nearly complete example had been right there, under our collective noses, in the Photographic History Collection of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., where it had been donated back in 1927 by B.J. Falk.

Ben contacted me late last year with the news of his discovery, even letting me see the photos well before publication (under penalty of unspeakable death if I uttered a single syllable before I was authorized). I immediately offered two of my most cherished pieces of photographic ephemera for his article: my S.C. Nash catalogue and my Acme sample photo — the closest I ever got to owning the camera.

The article is out now, and copies may be had by contacting Ben (behrman2@comcast.net) who can provide copies for anyone who wants them. I won't spoil the surprise by revealing any of the neat details of this rarest of the rare, but personally I was just blown away by the wealth of historical information in Ben's extremely well written article. Gee, who'd have thought that S.C.'s first name was Scotto.

Finally, Ben let slip in his article that there is a rumor of another Acme in a collection somewhere in Japan. It's a good thing I don't take much stock in rumors — Sayonara!

Answer: The year was 1959 and the new SLR was called the Nikon F camera. This Professional camera is used by a few amateurs today, but is highly sought after by collectors. Prices vary from \$150 to as much as five figures for some of the rare models.



Nikon F, black with plain prism



Photo from McKeown's

SINCERE BEST HOLIDAY WISHES TO YOU & YOURS

