Contact Sheet

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Memories and Photography

People are creatures of habit and photographers may be the worst of the lot. We love to take our pictures, look at them when we get them back from the printer/photo store – or now we look at them on our computer screen – and then we store them somewhere. The image drifts into the nether and never is seen again. Yes, there are some pictures we blow up larger and hang on our walls or give to our friends and relatives - - or occasionally sell to someone - - but for the most part the image is just never seen again.

I just returned from my grandson's graduation from high school and this point was very evident. He had one of his aunts who gave him an extremely well done scrapbook that would have taken her an enormous amount of time for his graduation present. When I looked at the images, I realized that the majority of those fleeting glances into his past were from my camera! I live in Idaho Falls, Idaho, he lives in St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, and yet most of the images were from my visits. Why? Because I sent them duplicates of my images when I had them processed in the lab! In addition, when I did the B&W images for us in my darkroom, I made a copy of the image and forwarded it to my son.

The last few years in high school had far fewer images of my grandson

than the first fifteen years.

Why? Because I now send them a disc with the images on it instead of a hard copy! I'm sure that the people that are really into scrapbooking will solve this apparent shortage of information by the way they can cut and paste the images in the computer and put them on a sheet of paper, but the old fashion way of creating the book is truly gone. Or, we need to start making hard copies of our memories so that we can complete our memory books.

Memories! Our minds love to play tricks on us. Remember when we did such and such with so and so? If you have a photograph of the event, you look at it and confirm that it really was that way. In addition, you smile at the attire you each have on. My brothers and I have very few remnants of our childhood in the form of photographs. My father took quite a few pictures with his 35 mm Exacta camera (1953). Since he wanted to take pictures of his patient's teeth and didn't want a flash bulb close to his patients' face, he built a strobe unit with an external power pack (weighed **20+ pounds**) from parts purchased at an Allied Radio Store (the precursor to Radio Shack), and took pictures of us indoors and in all sorts of activities. We had numerous laugh sessions when we gathered 'round the ol' slide projector looking at the images. But the 35 mm slides were on Anscochrome which meant that the images were pretty much all orange and gone by the time I left

high school. He never really liked print film! Oh, to have a few prints, B&W negatives to look at now. My brothers and I talk on the phone now about the past and the fun we had, but it sure would be nice to have the documentary film evidence of those times!

I started out in the same mode since we really did enjoy gathering around the slide projector, the popcorn in hand, and talking about the last trip or two while showing the slides. But Kodak had just come out with the new high speed film Kodachrome 25, and all of my images of my children growing up were filmed with that media - - and the photograph still exist with no degradation. But I took zero prints. I now have another fifteen-year gap in our scrapbook, but for a different reason!

Will our fascination with all things digital end up with the same type of gaps in our own personal photographic history? Yes, we have the information on our hard drives, on our backup discs, etc., but will they ever end up as a hard copy from a printer? Will some of the early digital inkjet prints hold up and survive light exposure? Will the formats stay the same over the next twenty years? How many of you have data from your **first** computer? (My first one only had 32K of memory and did not even have a hard drive since they hadn't been invented yet! I have none of the first twelve years of this newsletter because I could not transfer data from the first two computers to my newer computers – I went too long between computer upgrades!) Where are the large floppy discs and streaming tapes of that generation? How many of today's computers will even read the 3 ½ inch discs that used to be your a-drive in every computer sold just a few years ago? Will the next generation of

computer only read blu-ray discs or the next step up in file storage and ignore our CD's of today? Will our RAW, JPEG, TIFF images, etc. be readable by the next generation of software manipulation? Look at the confusion caused by all the variations of what is a RAW file!

Make some hard copies of your photo memories now. Keep your inventory of photographic data in the most current archival format, and be prepared to update – **and change** - all of that information when the next generation of storage comes along. Even if you do not like the formats that eventually win out, keep abreast of those changes. Don't let technological advances erase your memories!

Club Notes

At the last meeting in June, we voted to have the rates of \$45 for members, \$60 for non-members for a booth space at the 7th Annual August Show and Sale on August 8 – 10 (along the Greenbelt on the west side adjacent to but south of the Duck Race). This has always been an opportunity to show your abilities and images as well as sell some of your photographs. There was concern about the Cadet Program being shut down and losing our security patrols, but we have used the Bonneville **County Sheriff's Department Cadet** Program which was not affected by the city police program's change of status.

Thursday, August 7 – set up tents starting at 7 p.m. – the more bodies present, the faster this goes for everyone

Friday, August 8 – booths open at 9 a.m., close at 7 p.m.

Saturday, August 9, Duck Race Day – booths open at 9 a.m., close at 7 p.m.

Sunday, August 10 – booths open at 10 a.m., close at 3 p.m.

Even if you do not have a booth, please help with the set up if you can. Also, visit and look at the images of what your fellow club members are presenting.

Special thanks to Farr's Jewelry for the use of the digital projector at the last Advancement Program. This makes our learning much more enjoyable!

The members who check our web site frequently know that Roger has found several links to websites that have free tutorial sections for PhotoShop. He continues to get our site linked to more sites so that your images on the EIPS site have a larger audience. The web site is upgraded frequently. Roger is going to have a page for each club member where they will have nine of their images along with a short blurb about the member. We need fresh images on your pages for new visitors.

Advancement Program

The theme of the Advancement Program for August is: **Photographer's Choice.** Please bring three of your best images, slides, digital image files and join us at 1900 Grandview in the Conference Room at 7:30 p.m. on August 21. It is amazing how your – and our – photography improves as we share these images with one another.

If you bring images from the original list of themes, I will still give you credit for them since several of the actual topics have been changed. Our main concern is to keep that camera in your hand taking pictures. This is the way you are going to improve the quickest.

FIELD TRIPS

For July, we took photographs at the Fourth of July fireworks celebration. We expect to see a lot of those images at our Advancement Programs! I do not know the August field trip to date (downtown Idaho Falls shoot).



Monthly Meeting

Date: Aug 7, 2008

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: see map on pg 3

Program:

Our yearly August picnic will be at Jan and Marty Larcom's house on 2050 Belmont Ave. Hamburgers, drinks provided by the club. Please bring a potluck dish and your table service – and a big appetite!

Graffiti

EIPS is a group of amateur and professional photographers who have joined together to further the art and craft of photography. Please join us and expand your horizons. Sharing knowledge makes all participants better at their craft. We meet on the first Thursday of each month for our educational lecture. Then the third Thursday is our Advancement Program where we share some of the images we have done. We meet at 7:30 p.m. in the 1900 Grandview Ave conference room. We all become better photographers!

Summer is short but very special in Idaho. Keep taking those pictures - - and then share them with us at the club meetings.

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