

In Focus

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Spring

May 2004

What Do Photographers Do?

As a life-long Green Bay Packers fan I can remember the glory years. I remember the book Run to Daylight. I remember hundreds of photographs that presented the Packers and professional football in a light never seen before, and perhaps never to be seen again.

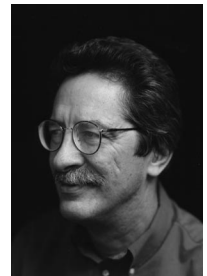
As a family member, I have taken many pictures. The good, the bad, and the really bad, and I've heard about it, too? "I look so terrible there," said Aunt Martha. "Surely, with all that equipment you can take better pictures than that!" I didn't have the courage to tell her that the camera saw her as she was.

We don't see ourselves as gallant, but we often capture a subject and sometimes rescue beauty languishing in the corners of the dull and the dreary. Our cameras see things that are surprising, sometimes shocking, hopefully exciting. We never know exactly how the light will penetrate the lens and fertilize the film or the computer chip.

But we do capture the light of the moment. And then the moment is gone, but we have captured it. A recent presenter at the Riverside Camera Club, Nancy Klemp, made this point with powerful simplicity. She photographed flowers, vases, found art, and ordinary household objects, in an exhibition of tabletop photography. Varied backgrounds produced dramatic differences. Gray cards, white cards, red cards, and you-name-it cards gave a totally different look at a constant subject. Most often the cost of lighting was born by the sun, as it beamed through a nearby window. She did use a meter to measure incident light. And, of course, there was our friend, the tripod. And there was the macro lens, helping her to get in really close.

But mostly there was the courage to experiment. There was the desire to playfully try something different. She took me to the edge of her tabletop, and into unknown potential. Now that I have seen her light, I can develop a vision of my own. Then I can capture it. The moment will be gone, but the captured light will be suspended in time, to be enjoyed forever.

Charles J. Trimberger
April 18, 2004



Please feel free to join Edith Hoefler and Kathy Werlein at the Oakland Trattoria before the May 6 meeting for socializing and/or dinner.

Coming Events:

May 6 - Edith Hoefler - "The Seasons of Door County"

June 3 - RCC Semi-annual Photo Competition

September - Urban Ecology Center Student Photography Competition

May's miscellaneous photography web sites (not endorsed by RCC):

Black and white darkroom info:
<http://www.digitaltruth.com/devchart.html>
Exhaustive independently tested timings for black and white film processing in a variety of developers.

The Riverside Camera Club is a group dedicated to learning about photography that meets monthly in the Fall, Winter, and Spring at the Urban Ecology Center.

Meetings of the Riverside Camera Club are held on the first Thursday of the month at the Urban Ecology Center at 2808 N Bartlett Ave (1 block southwest of Locust and Oakland) behind Riverside High School, at 7:00 PM sharp. For more information, call 414-964-8508, or email rcc@yeah.org.



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Mike Crivello's Camera Center
Larry Orzwalla, Owner
Mon-Fri 9-5:30 Sat 9-3
1700 E. Capitol Dr.
414 322 1550

Riverside Camera Club Officers

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Film is cheaper than opportunity.

-- Steve Silberman