

snapshots

YOU PRESS THE BUTTON
WE DO THE REST

Volume 12 Number 6

February 2007

Next Up for Bids. . . *The annual Members Auction is your* *chance to buy and sell*

PHSNE's annual Members Auction is on tap for the February 4 meeting — your chance to go home with a box of treasures, or to unload a box of junk.

An early peek into the PHSNE warehouse indicates that there will be many interesting lots to go on the block, not only collectable cameras, but other equipment and accessories, and some rare books and ephemera.

Of course the entertainment value of the afternoon will be high, with the very lovely and very talented Larry Rochette and Marti Jones once again handling the auctioneer chores. And Paul Nisula will run the legendary dollar table, once again piled high with just what you need.

You are encouraged to buy, of course, but you may also sell. If you have items to auction, no advance notice is required. Just bring items for the auction with you to the meeting.

The complete rules for the auction are posted on the PHSNE Web site (go to <http://www.phsne.org/auctions>).



Photo by David DeJean

Working at the PHSNE warehouse preparing lots for the Feb. 4 auction are Joe Walters, auction manager Lew Regelman, and Ed Shaw.

Some of the most important points:

- Anyone, whether a member of PHSNE or not, may register to bid at the auction.
- Anyone may consign a maximum of six items or box lots to be sold at the auction. Sellers may specify a reserve for each lot, below which amount the item or lot will not be sold. (PHSNE reserves the right not to accept lots from any prospective seller.)

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The Journal
New England Journal of Photographic History



A New Issue of PHSNE's Journal Is Off the Press and In the Mail

The 2006 *New England Journal of Photographic History* is in the mail! The latest issue features full color cover to cover, and 40 pages of articles on cameras, images, photographers, the military and photography, collecting, preserving, experimenting, and adapting equipment to modern technology.

Co-editors Adrian Levesque (photographs) and Ruth Thomasian (the written word) are gearing up for the 2007 *Journal* and encourage members to be in touch with ideas for articles they would like to develop. Adrian: 603-889-4056/alevesque@aol.com. Ruth: 617-923-4542/archives@projectsave.org. When emailing, please start the subject line with "PHSNE Journal."

The Last Supper (of Alaska Trip) Ashore In Seattle

The last night of the recent PHSNE trip to Alaska, this group gathered at a local restaurant near Seattle. Seated from the left, Michael and Pauline Levesque, Sin and Michele Choo, Ruth Thomasian, Ed Shaw, Adrian and Jane Levesque.

PHSNE's next travel event is already scheduled: Ed and Ruth will lead a trip to China from June 20 to July 3. For more information call Ed Shaw at 617-965-0807 or email ebshaw@bu.edu.



Photo by The Applebee's Waitress using Michele Choo's camera

Collectors' Publication CameraShopper Launches Internet Edition

CameraShopper, the photographic collector's magazine published by PHSNE member Barbara Tepper, is going online. The editorial content of the publication will be available via its Web site for \$15 a year (10 issues). The classified advertising section of CameraShopper will continue to be available free through the Website, <http://www.camera-shopper.com>.

"Many of our readers have asked us if we were going to be available online," said Tepper. "It allows people outside the United States to have easier, less expensive access to the magazine."

Subscribers to the electronic edition will be able to download and print out articles, and the move to the Web allows Tepper to publish photographs, article illustrations and advertising in full color.

In addition to articles on photographica, exhibitions, collectables, and antique and vintage cameras, each issue contains a calendar of camera shows and a list of museums having photography exhibitions.

CameraShopper will continue to be available in print for \$20 in the US; \$25 airmail to Canada and Mexico, and \$75 for international airmail, \$45 for international sea mail. CameraShopper accepts Visa, MasterCard and

checks written on American banks.

To read CameraShopper's classifieds, see sample articles, or create a user account for the online edition, visit the Web site at www.camera-shopper.com.

Maurice Bursch Dies

Maurice Bursch, a PHSNE member since 1978 and a former member of the organization's board of directors, died after Christmas.

Bursch, who was 88, had volunteered at just about every Photographica show since he joined PHSNE.

He enjoyed many aspects of camera collecting, according to his son, Lowell Bursch, who with his wife Susan joined PHSNE with his father, and had a special interest in collecting Polaroids and instant picture cameras as well as stereo items and ViewMaster products. He passed his interest in photography on to his grandchildren as well, who often attended PHSNE meetings.

A WWII veteran, Bursch was retired from the Prudential Insurance Co. in Boston, where he worked for 46 years.



Maurice Bursch

Photo by Lowell Bursch

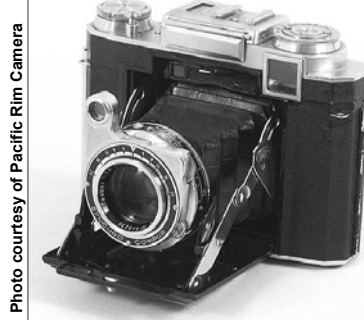
snap shots, edited by David DeJean, is published by the Photographic Historical Society of New England, Inc., P.O. Box 650189, West Newton, MA 02465-0189. Send news briefs to ddejean@dejean.com.

PHSNE Has Connection to an Exhibit of Ansel Adams Rarities

When *Ansel Adams in the East: Cruising the Inland Waterway* goes on exhibit at the Fitchburg Art Museum on Feb. 11, the show of some 50 photographs will have a double connection to PHSNE. It is curated by one PHSNE member, Stephen Jarecki, and it will include a camera owned by another, Bud Midgley.

The exhibition will present 50 five-inch-square prints never before exhibited, photographs taken during a cruise aboard a private schooner from Norfolk to Savannah in 1940 with David H. McAlpin. (McAlpin was a driving force behind the establishment of the department of photography at the Museum of Modern Art the next year.)

While Adams is famed for his mastery of large-format photography, the camera used on the 1940 cruise was a 120 roll-film folder, the Zeiss Super Ikonta BX. Jarecki wanted to include an example in the exhibition and with



The Zeiss Super Ikonta had a long history, beginning in 1935 with the B series. The BX was introduced in 1937, with a combination rangefinder/viewfinder and selenium lightmeter. The design was updated in 1952 and manufactured until 1957 (For more history, see <http://www.pacificrimcamera.com>).

the help of PHSNE President John Wojtowicz finally tracked an example down in the collection of Bud Midgley.

The Midgley Zeiss Super Ikonta BX — and the Adams photographs — will be on exhibit at the Fitchburg Museum of Art through June 3.

Do the Math: Photography Problems In a 1930s Textbook

By David DeJean

The book, found in an attic, is a fourth-grade arithmetic text published in 1939. Its title, *Social Utility Arithmetics*, indicates its intent: to teach practical math using everyday examples. On page 292 we meet Jack, who is using a folder to take a picture of his dog. The text poses three problems:



1. Jack saved \$23.74 last summer when he was working on his uncle's farm. He wanted to buy a new camera that cost \$29.50. If he borrowed the rest of the money from his father, how much did he borrow?

2. Jack promised to pay back the money he borrowed in 8 wk. How much must he save each week for 8 wk. in order to pay his father what he owes him? See ex. 1.

3. A roll of film for Jack's camera costs \$.26. He pays \$.10 to have the roll developed and \$.05 for each of the 8 prints. How much in all does it cost to get 8 pictures?

(The antique schoolbook was copyrighted in 1939 by

George D. Strayer and Clifford B. Upton, and was published by the American Book Co.)

Inflation of about 1300 percent since 1939 has changed the prices Jack would pay for his photography hobby considerably. A Web-based inflation calculator (<http://www.westegg.com/inflation>) tells me that the \$29.50 Jack spent for his camera is the equivalent of \$387.06 in today's dollars. His 26-cent roll of film would be \$3.81, and his 50-cent processing would be \$6.56.

The prices in the 1939 schoolbook seem to be fairly accurate, given that their 2006

equivalents also seem fairly realistic.

Of course merely multiplying by the inflation rate doesn't produce an apples-to-apples equivalence. Today, Jack's \$387 would buy a quality 35mm zoom-lens SLR with automatic exposure control and autofocus. (Even his \$29.50 might buy a 35mm with some automatic exposure control and built-in electronic flash — of course, it would be made in China rather than Rochester.)

And rather than eight black-and-white photos, his \$10.37 lay-out for processing and eight prints would buy him 24 full color pictures and a CD with his images scanned to post to the Internet. (And Jack would probably wear blue jeans rather than knickerbockers.)

Annual Members Auction February 4

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- Auction lots may be previewed before the start of the meeting. Previewing ends at the posted time for the start of the auction.
- All sales are final, and all items are sold "as is," with all faults, and neither the auctioneer, the Society, nor the seller makes any warranties or representations of any kind or nature with respect to the property, its value, or the correctness of any description of the item.
- The buyer pays a 10% buyer's premium, which will be added to the hammer price of each item. A 15% seller's premium will be deducted from the selling price. These two premiums constitute PHSNE's commission.
- All purchases must be paid for in full and removed on the day of the sale. Payment will be accepted in cash, or personal check with ID at the discretion of PHSNE. Credit cards are NOT accepted.



PHOTOGRAPHICA!
67th Photographica Show and Sale
NEW LOCATION!
Americal Civic Center
467 Main St., Wakefield, MA
April 14 and 15
 Tables are still available.
 Call John Dockery at 781-592-2553

PHSNE Meetings

Meetings are usually held on the first Sunday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at Waltham High School, preceded by a mini trade fair at 12:30 and a PHSNE board meeting at 11:00 a.m.

March 4 — "An Introduction to the History of Digital Photography," Myron Allan Seiden.

April 1 — "Large-Format Photography," Jim Hemenway.

Directions

Waltham High School is at 617 Lexington St., Waltham, MA. The high school is at the top of the hill, behind other school buildings.

From I-95 (Route 128) Northbound: Take Exit 27 and follow Totten Pond Road 1.2 miles east until it dead-ends into Lexington St. Turn left and go .5 miles north. Turn right into the school complex.

From I-95 (Route 128) Southbound: Take Exit 28, Trapelo Road, east 1.3 mi. to Lexington St. Turn right and go south .8 mi. to school complex.

From Boston/Cambridge: Take Rte. 2 west to Exit 54B, then Lexington St. south 1.7 mi. to school complex on left.

From Lincoln and West: Take Rte. 2 east to Exit 53, Concord Ave. Go east 1 mi., then right onto Lexington St. and 1.3 mi. south to school complex on left.

PHSNE Online

PHSNE is online at www.phsne.org. PHSNE member Ralph Johnston is the Web master.

FIRST CLASS MAIL
 Address Service
 Requested

Photographic Historical Society of New England
 Next Meeting: Sunday, February 4,
 'The Annual Members Auction'

PHSNE
 P.O. Box 650189
 West Newton, MA 02465-0189



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