PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ENGLAND, INC.

PHSNE Reaches for the Stars
April meeting to take place at the Planetarium, Framingham State College
Sunday, April 5th, 1:30 P.M.

At the age of seven, Ed Jameson saw his first planetarium show at the Museum of Science in Boston. The original Science Museum Planetarium used a Spitz Model A planetarium projector. Ed now owns the projector he saw in 1949, and it will be on display at the PHSNE meeting on April 5th. At this meeting, Ed will present a short planetarium program featuring the seasonal night sky and discuss the role of photography in the creation and presentation of planetarium programs, past and present. There will be a Question and Answer session “under the stars.”

During high school, Ed took Saturday classes at the Boston Museum of Science and was witness to the construction of the current 60’ diameter dome at the museum’s Hayden Planetarium. He worked there part time from 1961-1963 building special effect projectors, and he apprenticed as a technician for the maintenance of the Korkosz projector that was installed in 1958. From 1964 – 1966 Ed worked full time at the Hayden Planetarium as lecturer, technician and special effects creator.

At the PHSNE meeting, Ed will show photos and describe some of these early electromechanical/optical devices. He will also discuss the building of the original Korkosz planetarium and explain the photographic process used to create the best night sky simulation of its time. When the Korkosz projector was replaced with a German Zeiss projector in 1970, Ed acquired some of its parts, including two of the original eighty-eight 4 foot by 4 foot hand punched aluminum transparencies that were photographically reduced to make the eighty-eight star plates. Each of the eighty-eight starfield projectors on the Korkosz projector had one of these 4 inch diameter glass positive star plates. Over forty more individual bright star projectors capped the end of the planetarium projector. Ed will have many parts from the Korkosz on display and will describe their operation.

From 1967 to 2003 Ed was the director of the Natick Public School’s Planetarium. It was shut down in 2003 because of flooding in the planetarium.

Since then, he has been at his current post as planetarium lecturer and technician for the Framingham State College Planetarium and the Christa McAuliffe Learning Center. The Planetarium has a Spitz Model 512 Planetarium Projector which was installed in 1974; the planetarium theater was renovated in 2003.

Join us on April 5th for this unusual presentation.

Directions to the Planetarium at Framingham State College are on page 4. BRING A FRIEND!
Call for photo entries

The Fitchburg Art Museum invites you to submit snapshots taken from 1890 to the present as well as entire photo albums for an exhibition called Point Click Shoot: Celebrating Life. Search for photos of family, holidays, vacations, vanished landmarks, pets, staged photos, and other pictures of interest.

Exhibition selections will be made by a panel of three jurors: Peter Laytin, Professor, Department of Communications/Media, Fitchburg State College, and PHSNE members Ron Polito, photo historian and retired faculty member, University of Massachusetts, and Georgia Barnhill, Director of the Center for Historic American Visual Culture, American Antiquarian Society.

Entry forms are due by May 22, 2009 and photos must be delivered by June 5. For further information, phone the museum at 9780345-4207, ext. 340, or check out the museum’s web site at www.fitchburgartmuseum.org.

Help Wanted

Can you help a fellow member who wants to know if anyone ever heard of a CROSLEY camera? He believes it is an inexpensive plastic 35mm Leica style camera manufactured between 1930 and 1940 by the Crosley Auto and Appliance Company.

The same member has an F0.87/76mm lens, serial number 120, patent 2846923. He thinks it was used in World War II. Does anyone know if it is an aerial or submarine camera lens? If you know anything about the camera or lens, please send the information to snapshots@phsne.org.

Places of Interest: Photo Center of the Capital District

Opened in 2006, the Photo Center of the Capital District operates in a renovated building on River Street in Troy, New York. Former State Department of Education researcher, statistician, and PHSNE member Nick Argyros used his retirement nest egg to open the multi-purpose center to support his lifelong hobby.

As stated on the museum’s web site, the museum “is meant to serve photography and photographers in several ways. It provides an exhibition gallery, a museum of historic camera equipment, work stations for photographers in need of scanners, printers and computer, a center for learning with a massive library of photography books and regular schedule of workshops, and a gathering place for events. Its three floors have space left over for a fully equipped studio where photographers who don’t have enough room or the equipment can photograph their favorite studio subjects.”

Upcoming exhibits include Fotografia: Images from Tuscany, featuring Elizabeth Opalenik ande Diana Grandi, which will run from April 24th through June 7th and The Unknowns: Images from a Bygone Era, June 12th through July 26th.

We would appreciate feedback from any member who visits or has visited this facility. It may be a good destination for a PHSNE field trip. Photo Center of the Capital District, www.photocentertroy.org.

- Lew Regelman

Gordon Hicks Joins Centennial Club

When he recently celebrated his 100th birthday, Gordon Hicks joined a fairly exclusive club. Other members who reached that milestone include Laurie Kattelle and Cliff Schofield. Happy birthday Gordon!

PHSNE Membership

PHSNE membership is $15 for students, $30 for individuals, $36 for a family, and $40 for foreign membership. Please send checks in U.S. dollars drawn on a U.S. bank or dollar-denominated international money orders for dues payments.

Current members can read their renewal date from the mailing label on snap shots. For example, "Dec 2008" means your membership expires in December of 2008. Please check your label before sending in your dues.

Send payments, changes of address, and other contact information, to Joe Walters, Jr, PHSNE Membership Chair, P.O. Box 650189, West Newton, MA 02465 (phone: 617-694-5594; email: membership@phsne.org, or use the Web form at www.phsne.org/contacts).

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Photographica 71 Needs Your Help

We need volunteers to help with setup, transporting materials to and from the warehouse, working the show, and tearing down. We expect to have about 80 tables along with special demonstrations and guest speakers. Photographica 71 will be held at the Americal Center, Wakefield, MA, April 25th and 26th. Contact John Dockery at 781-592-2553.

Book Review:

IN YOUR FACE 3D – SPORTS ILLUSTRATED/KIDS

Though written for kids, the subject matter and quality of In Your Face 3D by Sports Illustrated will enthrall readers of all ages. It offers 96 pages of color 3D images the size of the book (11”x11”) with some photo spreads 11”x 22”.

Using the anaglyph method of viewing, the red and blue filter glasses included with the book allow the reader to view the images in full 3D.

The images are stunning action shots, all of sports figures or sporting events: football, baseball, gymnastic, track and field, basketball, hockey, racing model airplanes, all-terrain truck competitions, ice skating, swimming, snow sports, rodeo, motor sports, golf, and more. By holding the book a certain way, some images jump off the page and it looks like miniature sports figures seen from above. You even get to see some of sports’ biggest trophies in 3D.

In Your Face 3D can be purchased at major book stores and at Amazon.com. The ISBN number is 1603200274. Printed 2008. Author David Klutho. 3D graphics designer Ron Labbe, Studio 3D, member of PHSNE.

Update:

PHSNE Forum and Publications Archive

The PHSNE Forum (www.phsne.org/forum) recently started a thread for members to post items in memory of Eaton Lothrop who passed away in September, 2008. Eaton was an internationally known collector and author of books on cameras. Nick Graver’s eulogy for Eaton has been posted along with Nick’s summary of the memorial service. To read these posts, or contribute your own remembrances of Eaton, please go to http://www.phsne.org/forum/index.php?topic=151. Anyone can read the posts, but you must be registered at the Forum to post a message.

Be aware that the PHSNE Archive site (www.phsne.org/archive) includes all issues of snap shots since September 2005 and selected meeting summaries with show and tell. To check out recent additions, go to the Archive site and click on New Items in the left hand menu.

Also note that as part of the reorganization of the PHSNE web sites, the Forum and Archive have been moved to the phsne.org domain. Check out the new PHSNE site at www.phsne.org. It contains an event calendar and much new PHSNE information. You can follow the links from there to the Forum and Archive.

In Memoriam: Charles P. Jones, Sr.

We are sad to report the passing of long-time PHSNE member Charles P. Jones, Sr., on February 24, 2009 at the age of eighty-nine. He was a retired teacher who had worked in the Holbrook school system. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was active with the Boy Scouts of America. He enjoyed woodworking, gardening, and spending time at home with his family. Members may recall the yard sale boxes of lower end cameras he set up at Photographicas.
Website of Interest.

Google has made it easier to get a look at all the photographs that appeared in Life magazine. You can search millions of photographs from their archives. Most were never published and are now available for the first time through the joint work of LIFE and Google.”

Photos are in five categories: people, places, events, sports, culture. Check it out at http://images.google.com/hosted/life

Thanks from Auction ‘09

A special thanks to members who contributed photo books, cameras, and other items to the PHSNE auction. It helps the bottom line when PHSNE receives the full sales price for some of the auction items.

Ritz Camera Files for Bankruptcy

This recent headline in the Boston Globe announced that the nation’s largest camera store chain was filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. The chain consisted of approximately 800 stores and included Wolf Cameras, Kits Cameras, Inkley’s, and the Camera Shops. Ritz also owned 130 Boater’s World Marine Centers. The combined Marine Center losses, due to oil price fluctuations, and the predominance of digital photography which cut into photo finishing profits, caused the firm to incur over $50 million in bank debts.

PHSNE Meetings

Meetings are usually held on the first Sunday of each month, September to June, at 1:30 p.m.

May 3 — Steve Jarecki, Military photography

June 7 — Visit to Peabody Essex Museum in Salem

Directions to Planetarium:
Framingham State College is near the intersection of Rt 9 and Edgell Rd. in Framingham, about midway between Exits 12 and 13 of the Mass Turnpike

Traveling on RT 9 East: Take the ramp toward EDGELL RD/ MAIN ST. FRAMINGHAM. Turn SLIGHTLY LEFT onto HIGH ST. Take NEXT RIGHT onto STATE ST., then NEXT RIGHT into State St. Parking Lot.

Traveling on RT 9 West: BEAR RIGHT at the fork just before EDGELL RD. At light, take a LEFT on bridge over RT. 9 and then an immediate RIGHT onto HIGH ST.

Turn next LEFT onto STATE ST. (Watch for oncoming traffic.) Take NEXT RIGHT into State St. Parking Lot.

After parking your car, walk up State St., cross Maynard St., and walk another 50 feet up State St. Cross to the other side of State Street and walk up the brick side walk along the wide driveway. You will come to a large model of the campus which can guide you to the planetarium. At that point, There will also be signs posted showing the way to the planetarium. The planetarium entrance is located at the rear of the Hemenway Hall Annex.

PHSNE Online

PHSNE’s Web site is online at www.phsne.org. George Champine is the Webmaster.

Join the PHSNE Forum online discussion: sign up and log in at www.phsne.org/forum, moderated by Joe Walters.