

**PHSNE Returns to Fort Adams State Park, Newport RI  
Tour new redoubt and Eisenhower House  
Sunday, October 1, 2017, 12:00 P.M.**



PHSNE will sponsor another field trip/shoot to Fort Adams State Park in Newport RI. This time we will tour the recently reclaimed redoubt, also known as “Castle Fort”. In addition, we will tour the Eisenhower House known as Quarters Number One, the residence of Fort Adam’s commander. The tour will commence at noon. Family and friends are welcome to join PHSNE hosts.

Located at the mouth of Newport Harbor, the fort commands a view of the harbor and Narragansett Bay. The fort was in active use from 1841 to the mid 1900s.

Built in 1873, the Eisenhower House is so named because it was a summer residence of the former president. Known as an avid golfer, Eisenhower chose the location because of its proximity to the Newport Country Club.

The Eisenhower House was incorporated into Fort Adams State Park in 1964 and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. It is not generally open to the public, but a special tour has been arranged for PHSNE. Its current use is for weddings and special events.

Driving directions are printed on page 4.

## Perfect Timing For a Very Special Dag



As the Concord Museum prepared to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Henry David Thoreau, an unexpected surprise occurred: a daguerreotype of Thoreau's sister Sophia, not previously known to exist, was bequeathed to the

museum. It was added to the exhibit *His Ever New Self: Thoreau and His Journal*, which opens at the Concord Museum on September 29, 2017 and runs through January 21, 2018.

Sophia Thoreau was the only sibling who lived to adulthood and may have been the driving force behind the publication of some of Thoreau's late works. Neither sibling ever married, and they had a very close relationship.

Visit [tinyurl.com/y7xv7ccq](http://tinyurl.com/y7xv7ccq) for more information about the daguerreotype and about the influence Sophia Thoreau had on her famous brother.

## PHSNE Membership

*New members are invited to join for half the rates for the first year.* Regular PHSNE membership (U.S. and Canada) is \$20 for students, \$40 for individuals and institutions, and \$45 for a family; foreign membership is \$50. Join or renew online at [phsne.org/join](http://phsne.org/join) or [phsne.org/renew](http://phsne.org/renew), or send a check in U.S. dollars, drawn on a U.S. bank or dollar denominated international money order. Members should check the expiration date on the *snap shots* mailing label before sending in dues.

Send payments, changes of address, and other contact information, to Joe Walters Jr, PHSNE Membership Chair, 47 Calvary St., Waltham MA 02453. (Call: 617-826-9294; email: [membership@phsne.org](mailto:membership@phsne.org); or use the Web form at [phsne.org/contacts](http://phsne.org/contacts).)

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## Two Photo Exhibits at MFA

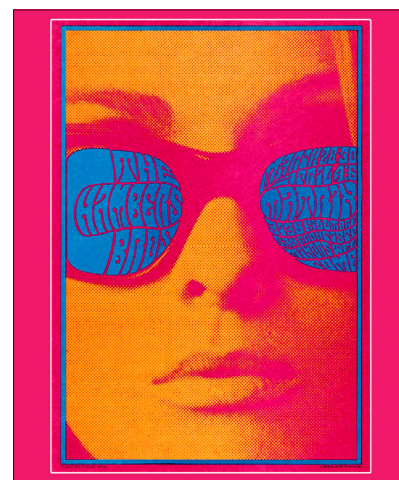


The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston is offering two concurrent photographic exhibits. *Alfred Stieglitz and Modern America* consists of 36 images from the museum's collection including portraits and views from New York City and Lake George where his family had a country home.

"The New York views reveal the artist's lifelong interest in the city, from his early explorations of the picturesque effects of rain, snow and nightfall to later ones that focus on the inherent geometry of modernity's rising architectural structures. The portraits include 10 images from Stieglitz's magnificent extended series of images of his wife, the celebrated painter Georgia O'Keeffe—a 'portrait in time' that reflects his ideals of modern womanhood and is evocative of their close relationship. . . . The Lake George photographs include, in addition to views of the family property, a sequence of the mystical cloud studies that Stieglitz called 'equivalents,' which explore the interpretation of inner states of being."

The exhibit runs through November 5<sup>th</sup>. Visit [mfa.org/exhibitions/alfred-stieglitz-and-modern-america](http://mfa.org/exhibitions/alfred-stieglitz-and-modern-america) for more information.

While at the MFA, view *The Summer of Love* through October 22<sup>nd</sup>. "In celebration of the Summer of Love's 50th anniversary, this exhibition explodes with a profusion of more than 120 posters, album covers and photographs from the transformative years around 1967. That



summer, fueled by sensational stories in the national media, San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury neighborhood became a mecca for thousands seeking an alternative to the constrictions of postwar American society."

~Photos from MFA press releases



## Vintage Camera Corner: Clarus MS-35

A beautifully styled and somewhat obscure American camera was the Clarus MS-35 manufactured by the Clarus Camera Manufacturing Company of Minneapolis, MN between 1946 and 1952. Despite various cosmetic changes, it was the only model manufactured by Clarus. It is a 35mm coupled split image rangefinder camera, featuring screw mount interchangeable lenses and a focal plane shutter with speeds of 1/25 to 1/1000 second plus B. Standard lens was a Wollensak Velostigmat 50mm f/2.8 lens. Cost new was \$116.25. A Wollensak Raptar 50mm f/2.0 lens was also available for \$168.50, as were wide angle and telephoto lenses.



Although designed in 1940, the war interceded and production of the Clarus was delayed until 1946. At that time, the MS-35 was rushed into production, but despite its stylish looks, had some major drawbacks including design and mechanical problems which weren't corrected until 1949. Even though the later cameras were of much better quality, it was too late for the company, and after a production run of 20,000+ cameras, they ceased production in 1952.

Unfortunately, the Clarus could not escape its reputation as a troublesome camera with poor image quality and a less than accurate shutter. The film winding knob was too close to the shutter release guard, making it difficult to turn. The shutter also served as the film rewind button, which had to be continually depressed while rewinding the film. In addition, its heavy weight and disproportionate dimensions, most notably the oversized depth of the body, made it uncomfortable to hold and balance.

When the user held the camera, the left index finger was automatically placed over the left rangefinder window rendering it useless, which necessitated moving the finger to another location. In addition, the rangefinder and viewfinder were placed in separate windows at the rear of the camera, a common feature for that era, but the Clarus reversed the windows by placing the rangefinder window to the right of the viewfinder, making it necessary for the user to shift his eye from right to left before framing the subject.

The earlier models which did not have the flash synchronization had an accessory shoe of unusual design, consisting of two separately mounted castings. Afterwards, it was switched to a more typical single sheet metal accessory shoe. Later models were synchronized for flash utilizing the common one piece hot shoe found on other cameras.



The Clarus is another example of what could have been an exceptional 35mm camera that was rushed into production, but due to inexperienced designers, insufficient financing, and minimal advertising, the Clarus joins a long list of camera companies that just faded away.

~Richard Berbiar

This is the second of two articles submitted by PHSNE member Richard Berbiar about an interesting camera in his collection. Look for more in the future. Remember that we welcome articles from all collectors. They will be edited and printed based on relevance to the membership and space available.

### The B-Side: Watch for it in Your Area

*The B-Side: Elsa Dorfman's Portrait Photography*, a movie based on the life of the artist, has received

critical acclaim. Released to a few select theaters in June, 2016, it travels the country, appearing at various art movie theaters and film festivals. Its only scheduled New England showing is on October 12th at the Portland Museum of Art in conjunction with the Maine Jewish Film Festival. You can look for it in your own



area by visiting [fandango.com/the-b-side-elsa-dorfmans-portrait-photography\\_201748/movieoverview](http://fandango.com/the-b-side-elsa-dorfmans-portrait-photography_201748/movieoverview) and entering your zip code.

### PHSNE Meetings

Meetings are usually held on the first Sunday of each month, September to June, at 1:30 p.m. preceded by an open meeting of the PHSNE Board at 11:00 a.m.

### Upcoming meetings:

**November 5**—Peter Bosco on American Snapshots

### Driving directions to Fort Adams from the north:

Take I-93 south to Rt. 24 south. Route 24 turns into 114 south. Turn left onto Route 214 which merges onto 138a, which becomes Memorial Blvd. as you pass Easton's beach on the left. Turn left onto Bellevue Ave, then right onto Ruggles Ave. Follow Ruggles past the High School, taking a left at the 3rd stop sign onto Beacon Hill road. Continue straight at the next stop as the road merges with Harrison Ave. The entrance to Fort Adams State Park will be on your right. From the park entrance, follow the signs to the Fort.

### Connect to PHSNE Online and by email:

PHSNE's Web site is online at [phsne.org](http://phsne.org). See [facebook.com/phsne](https://facebook.com/phsne) for items of PHSNE interest. Comments are welcome, so join the discussion of photo history. Visit [phsne.org/archive](http://phsne.org/archive) for PHSNE history and *snapshots* issues. Scheduling changes due to weather conditions or other factors will be posted on this website.

Stay connected to PHSNE via our emails: a *snapshots* e-copy, and *Photographa* show announcements. Sign up at [phsne.org/emails](http://phsne.org/emails).

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Photographic Historical Society of New England  
Next Meeting: Sunday, October 1, 2017, noon  
Field trip to Fort Adams State Park, Newport RI



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