



Photographica Digest

Western Photographic Historical Society

Volume XXIII No.2

www.wphsociety.org

February 2016

Paul Garrett's Memorial Service

Saturday, January 30th at 10:30am

Catalina Foothills Church

2150 E Orange Grove (at Skyline Dr.)

Reception afterwards

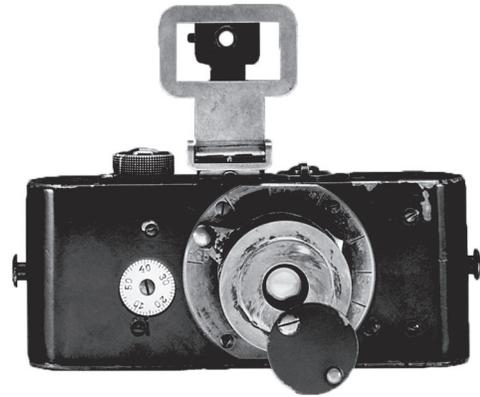
Please join us in celebrating the life of a dear friend and a founding father of the Western Photographic Historical Society.

The Leica: More Than a Mystique

by Matt Cook

Around the turn of the Twentieth Century, cinematography was rapidly growing into the first modern mass medium. But, the 35 millimeter film used in the production of movies proved erratic in sensitivity from batch to batch.

Oskar Barnack, an optical engineer, who first worked at Carl Zeiss, came to Ernst Leitz in 1911 as director of microscope research. In 1912 he was working on 35mm movie camera design when he developed an instrument that would take a short length of film for exposure tests to determine the best exposure and development of that emulsion batch. Realizing this exposure device could become a useful miniature camera, he enlarged the film gate from the movie standard 18 X 24 millimeters to 24 X 36 millimeters, to allow for reasonable enlargement, developed a focal plane shutter connected to the film advancing mechanism to prevent double exposure, and employed a lens designed by Leitz's Max Berek, the ELMAX (for E. Leitz and Max), which became the Elmar.



The Original, or "Ur-Leica" of 1914

Although the Leica was not the first 35 millimeter camera, its optical and mechanical quality, its dependability and its growing system of lenses and accessories, made the Leica the choice for reportage and scientific photography. The Leica also inspired the candid photography movement, which led to the development of picture magazines, such as Life Magazine in 1936.

The success of the Leica encouraged Carl Zeiss to develop its Contax camera, which differed from the Leica in details intended to not infringe Leitz's patents. The Contax utilized rotating glass wedges in its rangefinder because

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Notice - Meeting Change

We are meeting at the Ward 6 Tucson City Council offices at:
3202 E. First Street, Tucson.

The meetings, for at least the first six months of 2016, will be normally on Thursdays. **However, our February meeting will be on Friday, Feb 5th.**

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of Leica's patents on the swinging mirror rangefinder mechanism; the Contax had a vertically operating focal plane shutter; and Contax used a bayonet lens adapter with a top-deck, gear tooth, fine-focusing wheel.

From the early 1900s, press cameras, in 2-1/4 X 3-3/4 and up to 4X5 inch film sizes, as well as 2-1/4 X 2-1/4 twin-lens reflex cameras (starting in the 1930s) were the dominant press cameras up to the early-60s. When I got into photography as a high school Sophomore, the camera magazines were running all sorts of stories with titles like: "2-1/4 versus 35mm: Which One is Best", and "The 35mm Rangefinder versus 35mm Single-Lens Reflex: Which One is Best". It was the tipping point where 35mm became Photography.

Apparently, one of the pre-initiation requirements for membership in the Western Photographic Historical Society is having had possession of at least ten different cameras by the age of twenty, and the possession of at least twenty-five by the age of fifty. My first camera was an Argus A2, followed by some sort of Wollensak 120 viewfinder camera. Then, in April 1962, I bought my first Leica.

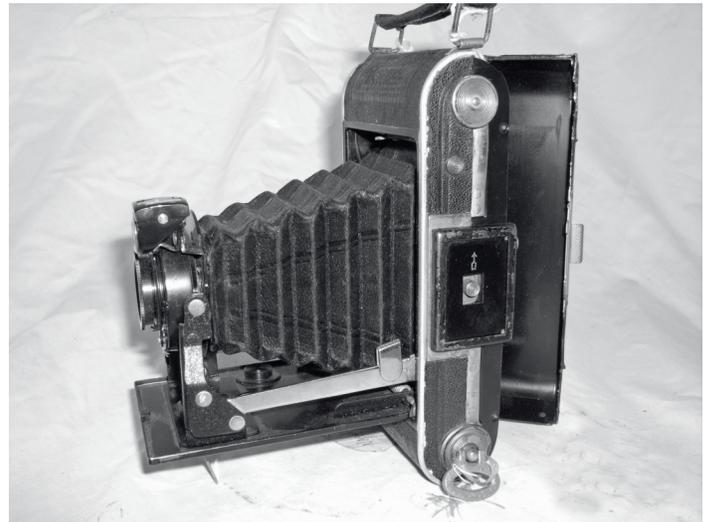
At next month's WPHS meeting, I'll show my "collection" of Leicas and we'll discuss our own relationships with this legendary camera... and its mystique.

Nagel's Vollenda

Ron Kuykendall

One of the more interesting 6x9 rollfilm folders on my shelf is a Nagel Vollenda (not Kodak which was 6x6). A very ordinary looking metal bodied, leather covered "pocket camera" of the 1930's, it is the last of Nagel's 120 6x9 folders. Uniquely, a button inside the folding eye level finder, releases the back latch and the back swings open, hinged on the right side—no parts to drop, plenty of space to unload and reload the film roll, no back to fumble with upside down. The lensboard is self-erecting with two

unique struts latching parallel to the lens bed. The bellows is of good quality leather with 7 folds – giving the camera a unique appearance. The shutter is a Gaither dial set (TB, 100, 50, 25) with a Nagel 6.3 Anastigmat, first element focus to 5 feet. There is the usual rotating waist level reflex finder with the folding frame eye level finder on the left end plate.



Designed to appeal to the two current schools of photography of the day, the Vollenda was natural to use as a landscape camera, horizontally with either finder, or vertically as a portrait camera for the, at 5 foot, nearly full height images. The camera is natural to use and gives excellent images for the advanced amateur market of the 1930's. The Vollenda was part of the line of 127, 129, and 120 6x9 (European) and 6x6 (US) cameras marketed by Nagel (US badged as Kodak) from 1927 to 1932, made in Stuttgart. The lenses were Nagel Anastigmat, Doppel Anastigmat, Scheidner Radionar and Xenar, Elmar and Tessar lenses. Kodak depended on Nagel for its higher quality Vollenda, Pupille, Recomar, and Retina cameras – all designed and manufactured in Stuttgart. The Vollenda is an example of a better designed camera that didn't sell in large numbers because of the lesser advertized and less popular name plate.

**WPHS Spring 2016
Camera Show
March 20th, 2016**

The Spring 2016 Camera Show will be held at the Hotel Tucson City Center – Inn Suites (I-10 and St. Mary’s) on Sunday, March 20th, 2016. The show hours for the public are 9:30AM to 2PM.

Doors will open for exhibitor set up at 7:30 AM on Sunday.

A table registration form and single page flier on the show itself are available on our website wphsociety.org.

As in the past, requests for specific table positions will be done on a first in – first serve basis – with completed application and payment in the WPHS offices.

We look forward to a good show this spring. We thank you for your past support of the shows and look forward to seeing you again on March 20th.

Please e-mail Ed Jackson with any questions or visit our web site.

Ed Jackson
WPHS Show Committee Member
WPHS Spring 2016 Show
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**The WPHS is always accepting Consignment
or Donations for our upcoming**

Please contact

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Western Photographic Historical Society

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www.wphsociety.org

Board Members

- (Open)..... President
- Mark Sawyer..... Vice-President
- Jozef Pacholczyk..... Secretary
- Martin Kebschull..... Treasurer
- Imre de Pozsgay..... Consignments
- Robert Suomala..... Programs
- Matt Cook
- Candee de Pozsgay
- Ed Jackson
- Brian Nemetz..... *Photographica Digest* Editor
- Jerry O'Neill..... Ex Officio

Committee Members

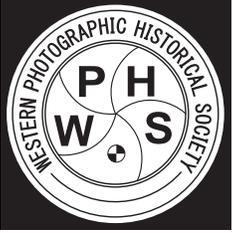
- Jerry Day..... Student Support
- Clayton Wilson..... Setup
- Mark Sawyer..... Education
- Ron Kuykendall..... Donations

**WESTERN PHOTOGRAPHIC
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

NOTICE OF BOARD MEETING

The Board of Directors 1st quarter of 2016 meeting will be held on

Saturday, January 23, from Noon to 2PM
at Bookman's Community Room
1930 E. Grant Road,
near intersection of Grant and Campbell



Western Photographic Historical Society

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UPCOMING EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

Jan 23rd WPHS 1st Quarter Board Meeting

Feb 5th Monthly meeting (**Friday**)
Matt Cook will give a presentation on
Leica cameras.

Mar 20th **2016 WPHS Camera and
Photographica Show,**
Hotel Tucson City Center (Inn Suites),
475 N Granada Avenue, Tucson, AZ,
From 9:30 AM to 2 PM.

We'd like your help in developing new
programs especially product presentations.
Please contact Robert Suomala, Program
Chair, at 520-399-2796.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Next WPHS Meeting February 5th

Join us at a new meeting place, the Ward 6
Tucson City Council offices at:
3202 E. First Street, Tucson.

Consignment and member camera sales,
show and tell and a brief program are
featured every month (except the last two
summer months). The meetings run from
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM with show programs
beginning at 7:00 PM.

All are welcome!

WPHS is a non-profit
501(c)3 organization