



# The Photogram

Michigan Photographic Historical Society

Winter 2023

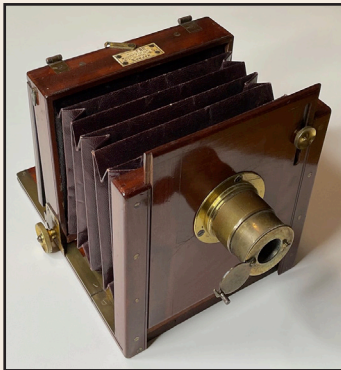
## IN THIS ISSUE:



Dodging the Detroit House of Correction.



A Panorama Photograph.



George Hare  
Pocket Camera.



Lemke's Cafe - Harsens Island.



Sears Sold Some  
Sophisticated Stuff!

The **2023 MiPHS Annual Meeting** was held October 7 at the Michigan League Building at the University of Michigan, which featured a presentation by Jacob McCormick on Panoramic Photography.

The annual **Photographica Show & Sale** was held October 22 and was well-attended.

# The Michigan Photographic Historical Society (MiPHS)

## Board of Directors



**President:** Doug Aikenhead.....dougaikenhead@gmail.com  
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**Secretary:** Bill Christen.....gwchris@earthlink.net  
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**Photogram Editor:** Karen Fehl.....michiganphotohistory.org

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### Membership Renewals for 2024: Modest Dues Increase Voted on by the Board

Membership dues for 2024 can be submitted now. **Regular membership dues: \$40 (if receiving digital copy of *The Photogram*) and \$50 (first class mailed hard copy of *The Photogram*).** All new and renewing members are asked to complete the online membership link at <https://miphs.org/join> when paying by check or PayPal. *Some members paid their 2024 dues in advance during 2023, were recipients of the door prizes at the Photographica Show, or recipients of sponsored memberships.*

Mail — Remit checks (payable to MiPHS) to:

Michigan Photographic Historical Society, 19 Chestnut Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118-9416

PayPal — Use this PayPal link (<https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/miphs>) after you complete the form, or use a “pay to” email address of [payments@miphs.org](mailto:payments@miphs.org).

**The Michigan Photographic Historical Society — (MiPHS)** is dedicated to advancing an understanding and appreciation of the history of photography through membership meetings, special events, publications, and shared endeavors with other organizations and the general public. The MiPHS is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation chartered in the State of Michigan. ISSN 1082-6874

The **MiPHS** welcomes new members. Dues are \$40 or \$50 per year (January 1 to December 31) depending on whether you receive a digital or printed, mailed copy of *The Photogram* and \$20 for students with a valid ID. The **MiPHS** has a PayPal link for paying dues at our website “[MiPHS.org](https://miphs.org).” The **MiPHS** is on Facebook at “MiPHS Public Group.” **MiPHS** mailing address: 19 Chestnut Dr., Chelsea MI 48118-9416.

**The Photogram** is the official newsletter of the Michigan Photographic Historical Society. The contents are copyrighted the year of publication. Copyright © 2023.

Contributions from **MiPHS** members and non-members are welcomed. To submit an article, review, occasional photo ad (free to **MiPHS** members annually), an informational item for publication, or questions about submissions formats, contact **Karen Fehl**, Editor, at: [michiganphotohistory@gmail.com](mailto:michiganphotohistory@gmail.com). **Submission Deadlines**

November 1: Winter Issue    February 1: Spring Issue    May 1: Summer Issue    August 1: Fall Issue

Authors and advertisers are responsible for the accuracy of their contributions to **The Photogram**. The views of the authors do not necessarily reflect the views of the Society.

## Message from the President

### ***MiPHS at a Point of Reckoning***

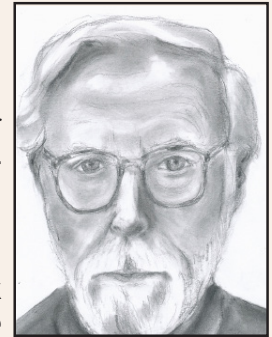
Greetings, and best wishes for the New Year. No matter how productive the year has been, it always stuns me to confront the closing of one year and the wide-open possibilities of a fresh new year.

For our Board of Directors, 2024 is the year in which we will confront the big question: does the MiPHS have a future, and if so, what does that future look like? If you read the Minutes of the Annual Meeting, printed in this issue of *The Photogram*, you know that the MiPHS is financially sound. Money is not our challenge. Rather, it's participation. Only 10 members attended the Annual Meeting, and six of those were Board members. We barely had sufficient attendance to constitute a quorum (ten percent of active membership as defined in our bylaws). The audience for our outstanding guest speaker was embarrassingly small.

We are not alone in this membership and participation quandary. A member of the Photographic Historical Society of New England recently circulated a list of 24 regional photo history societies that were formed in the 1970s, including the MiPHS. Only seven of those organizations remain in operation. (See page 5). Aging memberships and the challenges of recruiting younger members likely contributed to the demise of the 17 societies that no longer exist. Without new and younger members, participation declines and it becomes increasingly difficult to generate attendance at events and fill vacancies on boards of directors. Three MiPHS board positions remain unfilled, and the Vice President for Special Events position is vacant. While we have worked hard to re-energize the MiPHS post-Covid, we cannot sustain this pace without additional help.

We will keep you updated as our board works through possible options for the MiPHS, and we will be emailing a survey to determine priorities as our members see them. We invite your input as we consider our options, and we beg you to volunteer to serve on the board. We need you!

*Doug Aikenhead*



Art by Tracy Gallup



From the Christen Collection.



## Time To Renew Your MiPHS Membership

The Board of Directors of the Michigan Photographic Historical Society remind you that it is time to renew your membership for 2024.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *The annual membership dues have increased from \$35 to \$40 for a regular membership (for those receiving a digital copy of *The Photogram*) and \$50 (for those receiving a first class mailed printed copy of *The Photogram*); \$20 student (student dues remain the same).*

ALL renewing members, even those who have already paid for 2024, are required to fill out the online membership renewal form on our website <http://miphs.org>. This will ensure the accuracy of our membership records.

Renewal is **via the ONLINE FORM ONLY** with three payment options after the renewal form is submitted:

- PayPal from the MiPHS website link at the end of the form
- Using your PayPal account to: "payments@miphs.org"
- Check payable to "MiPHS" mailed to: 19 Chestnut Drive, Chelsea, MI 48118-9416

### 2024 Membership benefits:

- An in-person or a Zoom annual meeting presentation.
- An online Board of Directors Election (Early June).
- The Photographica Show in October or November.
- We hope to organize at least one field trip.
- *The Photogram* will continue to be published four times a year. The Board hopes that you will consider the "PDF only" option (which you can print at home) and reduces our cost.
- A membership Directory is published in December.

We encourage members to contribute articles to *The Photogram*. Send your submissions to the editor, Karen Fehl, at [michiganphotohistory@gmail.com](mailto:michiganphotohistory@gmail.com)

The Board members are looking for your contributions to further the Society's growth and success in 2024. Are you interested in serving on a committee, running for the Board, or contributing your talents to future projects?

**MiPHS Membership Committee (Bill Christen, Chuck Fehl, and Nick Valenti)**



# Early Regional Photographic Historical Societies

## Compiled by Ron Polito

This list will be an appendix to an article I am writing on active and defunct photographic historical societies for the *New England Journal of Photographic History* for PHSNE's 50th anniversary issue. This is a work in progress.

### Early Regional Photographic Historical Societies in North America.

Compiled by Ron Polito (November 11, 2023)

This document attempts to identify the regionally-defined photographic societies that began to emerge in the late 1960s; societies whose broad collecting and photo-history interests differed from groups with a specific focus or camera clubs geared to active photographers.

Unfortunately, much of the documentation regarding these regional societies has slipped from sight. The listing below would not have been possible without contributions from many individuals, much based on their first-hand experiences. Their names will be found below. Given the circumstances, this list should be considered a work-in-progress; additional information, details, and corrections are most welcome. Contact: [ron.polito@umb.edu](mailto:ron.polito@umb.edu).

Early Regional Societies & First Known Postal Locations *Bold = 8 still active	Founded
<b>*Photographic History Society, Rochester (The), New York</b>	January 1966
<b>*Ohio Camera Collectors Society, Columbus, Ohio</b>	1968
Photographic Historical Society of New York (The), New York, New York; later renamed the American Photographic Historical Society	January 1969
Chesapeake Antiquarian Photographic Society, Severna Park, Maryland; renamed 2007, the Maryland Photographic Society	1971
Chicago Photographic Collectors Society, Winnetka, Illinois	1971
Midwest Photographic Historical Society, Florissant, Missouri	1971
Photographic Collectors of Houston, Houston, Texas	1971
<b>*Photographic Historical Society of the Western Reserve, South Euclid, Ohio, later renamed the Cleveland Camera Collectors</b>	1971
Western Camera Collectors Association, Riverside, California; emerged from the Camera Collectors' Club, 1969	by 1972
<b>*Michigan Photographic Historical Society, Wayne, Michigan</b>	June 24, 1972
Bay Area Photographica Association (BAPA), Sunnyside, California	before 1973
San Francisco Collectors [ <i>San Francisco, California?</i> ]	before April 1973
Tri-State Photographic Collectors Society, Blue Ash, Ohio	before April 1973
<b>*Photographic Historical Society of New England, Buzzard's Bay, Massachusetts</b>	April 8, 1973
Cascade Photographic Historical Society, Portland, Oregon	1974
<b>*Photographic Historical Society of Canada, Toronto, Ontario</b>	October 23, 1974
<b>*Puget Sound Photographic Collectors Society, Tacoma, Washington</b>	1979
<b>*Western Photographic Historical Society, Tucson, Arizona</b>	1980s
Delaware Valley Photographic Collectors Association, Delanco, New Jersey	by September 1980
Florida Photo Collectors Club, Plantation, Florida	by September 1980
Great Plains Photographic Historical Society, Lincoln, Nebraska	by September 1980
Pennsylvania Photographic Historical Society, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania	by September 1980
Vintage Camera Club of Wichita, Wichita, Kansas	by September 1980
Western Canada Photographic Historical Association, Vancouver, British Columbia	by September 1980

My sincere thanks to the many keepers of disappearing history who responded to my request for information. Their input allowed this list to expand in very significant ways: Doug Aikenhead, William Allen, Bill Christen, Nick Graver, Dan Hausman, David Haynes, Mike Immel, Yuki Kawai, Ralph London, Cindy Motzenbecker, Richard Palmer, Bill Rosenthal, Jeremy Rowe, Gary Saretzky, Peter Schultz, Gary Sivertson, Len Walle, and Richard Wood.

# James Barnor Photo Exhibit at DIA a Huge Success

*By Chuck Fehl*

The historic DIA photography exhibit by the Ghanaian and UK photographer James Barnor entitled “James Barnor: Accra/London—A Retrospective” has now concluded. It ran from May 28 through October 15, 2023. Approximately 30,000 patrons attended. It was held in the museum’s main traveling exhibition galleries and included over 170 photographs covering Barnor’s work between the 1950s and the 1980s. This was an expanded exhibition originated from London’s Serpentine galleries and will be the only U.S. showing planned at this time. Barnor, now 95 and living in London, filmed a short introduction to his life and craft that was shown as a part of the exhibit.



**Nancy Barr (right) DIA’s Head of Prints, Drawings and Photography provides a tour of the Barnor exhibit and the DIA’s photography department’s backroom.**

The importance of this retrospective are the cultural reflections of an African country emerging from its colonization by England and London’s pop-culture explosion in the 60s and 70s. Barnor powerfully captured both subjects with his large and medium format cameras—types of which were also on display there from this writer’s collection.

The mainly black and white photos captured life in one of the least developed countries to one of the most developed—both going through major societal changes. Whether it be a small Accra (pronounced a-Craw) wedding with all the lively dress—to celebrity sittings in London, Barnor captured these events with both a sympathetic and, at times, a gritty perspective.

He was also a noted fashion photographer for UK’s *Drum* magazine—which emphasized African style and Black feminine beauty—a first for popular photo-orientated magazines. He was also directly involved in the technical side of photography, doing much of his own lighting, developing and printing, which allowed him to perfect techniques needed to correctly render his darker-skinned subjects.

This exhibit was co-curated by MiPHS’ Member/Advisor Nancy Barr, DIA’s head of Prints, Drawings and Photography. She gave our group an insightful tour of the Barnor exhibit followed by the same of DIA’s back room. This included the first floor Photography Hall (soon to be closed for complete renovation), the photography archive vault, art-book library, and her office. She said that although these areas are not all open to the public, anyone can request usage of the reference facilities and/or photo vault with supervision when made in advance through her office.

The lucky participants in this September 13th MiPHS exclusive field trip were Cindy Motzenbecker, Doug Aikenhead, Nick Valenti and Chuck Fehl. Many other members previously attended the show on their own. Special thanks to Nancy and her team for spearheading this important exhibit and accommodating our viewing requests. More exclusive MiPHS member-only field trips are being planned. Keep your eye on Upcoming Events in *The Photogram* and our website at [miphs.org](http://miphs.org).





*Photos courtesy of Nick Valenti and Chuck Fehl.*

# Dodging the Detroit House of Correction

*By Shayne Davidson*

It's not often that you come across a photograph of a policeman looking amused while escorting a prisoner. The prisoner—the guy in the center with the cigarette hanging out of his mouth—also has a curiously cheery look on his face. Intrigued by the uncredited N.E.A. photo, I bought it on eBay.

According to pencil scrawl on the back, the prisoner's name was John D. Dodge. He was photographed leaving the Detroit House of Correction on March 17, 1922. The distinctive arched windows of the prison are clearly visible in the background of the photo.

Born in 1898, John Duval Dodge was the first-born son of John Francis Dodge. With his brother, Horace Elgin Dodge, John F. Dodge cofounded the Dodge Motor Company.

Why was the son of a famous Detroit industrialist leaving jail under police escort? The answer to that question required some internet sleuthing.



**John D. Dodge (center) leaving the Detroit House of Correction with his attorney.  
Author's collection.**

When John was born his father was still a struggling bicycle manufacturer. By 1918, when John married 18-year-old Marie O'Connor, his father was one of the wealthiest men in America. Dodge was not happy about his son's choice of a bride and he cut John off with an allowance of only \$150 a month (about \$3000 in 2023 dollars).<sup>1</sup>

The Dodge brothers died of respiratory illnesses in 1920. John F. Dodge left an estate valued at between \$50 and \$80 million. (Eventually the brothers' widows sold the company to an investment bank for \$146 million.)<sup>2</sup> However Dodge had made no provision in his will for his eldest son and John sued the estate. In March 1921, he agreed to drop the lawsuit for a single payment of \$1,600,000 (worth over \$27 million in 2023 dollars). Even so, he would continue to fight his father's will for the rest of his life.<sup>3</sup>



On the evening of Saturday, March 11, 1922, John and a friend named Rex Earl were out for a drive in Kalamazoo when they came upon three young women walking near the road. The women were college students at Western State Normal School (now Western Michigan University) who were returning to their rooming house after a dance. John stopped his car and offered them a ride home. They accepted and hopped into the back seat.

Rather than drive straight to the rooming house, John turned off the main road onto a “cut-out,” or side road. He started to drive at a very high speed. Witnesses would later estimate that the car was traveling between 60 and 90 miles per hour when one of the students, Emeline Kwakernaack, became so frightened she jumped from the vehicle.<sup>4</sup>

She was seriously injured. A passing motorist found her unconscious by the side of the road and rushed her to the hospital.<sup>5</sup>

John and Earl were arrested. The police found alcohol in the vehicle. Prohibition being the law of the land, both men were charged with transporting and furnishing liquor (to the women). John was also charged with speeding and driving while intoxicated.<sup>6</sup> Fortunately Emeline recovered. (According to city directories, she went on to become a teacher in Flint.) In Kalamazoo, he was found guilty of speeding but not guilty of driving while intoxicated. His driver’s license was revoked, he was fined \$100 and sentenced to spend five days in the Detroit House of Correction.<sup>7</sup>



**A photo of the first Detroit House of Correction (1861-1931)  
taken in the early 20th century. Note the distinctive arched windows.  
Detroit Publishing Company via the Library of Congress.**

*continued next page*

John had just changed into stripes and was about to be assigned a prison job when his attorney showed up demanding a hearing. John redonned his street clothing. Cigarettes weren't allowed in the prison and they'd just been returned to him when the photographer snapped his photo.

His attorney filed a writ of habeas corpus and got him released on bail.

Following several months of additional court hearings and legal wrangling, John was convicted on the federal alcohol charges. The judge placed him on a year's probation, ordered him to work at some "useful occupation," and fined him \$1000.<sup>8</sup>

John's post-jail life did not improve. In 1933 he and Marie divorced acrimoniously. She got a large chunk of his inheritance in the divorce settlement. A week after the divorce was finalized, he married Dora MacDonald Cline.<sup>9</sup>

On the night of August 13, 1942, John and Dora had been drinking heavily and had a violent argument. Dora fled their home. John went to a friend's apartment in search of her.

The friend was not home, but a neighbor saw him lurking on the back porch of the apartment. Worried John might be a prowler, the neighbor called the police. Two patrolmen arrived at the apartment. By then John had broken into the place. Still very drunk, he opened the door and took a swing at one of officers. He missed. After showering the policemen with verbal abuse, they took him into custody.<sup>10</sup>

At the station house, the officer in charge became concerned about how inebriated his new prisoner, whose name he did not yet know, appeared to be. Was it safe to let him sit on a chair? Before he could move him to the floor, John fell off the chair and hit his head.<sup>11</sup>

He was rushed to the hospital with a fractured skull. He never regained consciousness and died later that night of a cerebral hemorrhage. His death, at age 43, was ruled an accident.<sup>12</sup>

A new Detroit House of Correction opened in Plymouth Township in 1930. Shortly thereafter the buildings that housed the prison and the Warden's residence were torn down. Eastern Market now stands on the grounds of the old prison.

## Endnotes

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<sup>1</sup> *Detroit Free Press* (Detroit, Michigan) · 14 Aug 1942, Fri · Page 1

<sup>2</sup> *Detroit Free Press* (Detroit, Michigan) · 30 Nov 1921, Wed · Page 13

<sup>3</sup> *Detroit Evening Times* · 12 Aug 1942, Wed · Page 2

<sup>4</sup> *The News-Palladium* (Benton Harbor, Michigan) · 23 Mar 1922, Thu · Page 1

<sup>5</sup> *The News-Palladium* (Benton Harbor, Michigan) · 13 Mar 1922, Mon · Page 1

<sup>6</sup> *Battle Creek Enquirer* (Battle Creek, Michigan) · 13 Mar 1922, Mon · Page 6

<sup>7</sup> *Detroit Free Press* (Detroit, Michigan) · 17 Mar 1922, Fri · Page 1

<sup>8</sup> *The Herald-Press* (Saint Joseph, Michigan) · 6 May 1922, Sat · Page 1

<sup>9</sup> *Detroit Free Press* (Detroit, Michigan) · 14 Aug 1942, Fri · Page 1

<sup>10</sup> *Detroit Evening Times* · 12 Aug 1942, Wed · Page 1

<sup>11</sup> *Detroit Evening Times* · 12 Aug 1942, Wed · Page 2

<sup>12</sup> *Detroit Free Press* (Detroit, Michigan) · 28 Aug 1942, Fri · Page 1

## From the Collection of Cindy Motzenbecker

### *A Cold Wet Snow*

Love the ankle socks... and the "hat knob" on the "snowman's" head. Hats were always worn everywhere back then. Always... To me, this snapshot looks earlier than "robots", but that's just my own perspective. (Late 1930's, early 1940's?) That "robot" sure has sturdy legs...





# Lemke's Cafe - Harsens Island

By Steve Hanley

Adapted from: <https://www.psychogenealogist.com/blog/2021/12/31/lemkes-cafe-1907>  
hanleys@gmail.com 248-420-4841

Over time I have tried to limit my photograph collection to storefronts, store interiors, and street views. I am especially interested in photos that have potential clues that could lead to positive identifications of places or people. I enjoy finding and telling the stories of these long-forgotten places of business and the communities they served.

I was especially excited to find this photograph of "Lemke's Cafe" at a Detroit area antique store a few summers ago. It shows a group of men (and boys) standing in front of a large porch area with a Lemke's Cafe sign. Written on the back is "1907" which suggests a year that matches the style of clothing shown in the photo.

My research suggests that the proprietor of this establishment was Walter Lemke (1871-1940). Walter was born in Detroit and lived most of his life on Harsens Island. On one of the pillars toward the far right of the photo there is a "Koppitz-Melchers Brewing Co. Beer" sign, a Detroit area brewer of the time. This increased my confidence that, even though there were a few Lemke's in other parts of the country, this photo showed the only Lemke's Cafe near Detroit.



Lemke's Cafe. Full photo with mat.





Photo with mat cropped out.



Close-up of "Lemke's Cafe" sign.



Close-up of Koppitz-Melchers Beer sign.

*continued next page*

Walter Lemke owned this cafe (which also served as a hotel and tavern) near Tashmoo Park, an amusement park and popular summer tourist destination on Harsens Island. Here are some of the newspaper mentions of Lemke's, including his 1940 obituary.

**LEMKE'S**

Beautiful new summer resort, located between Tashmoo Park and Sans Souci, Harsen's island; situated on high ground overlooking the St. Clair river; the table is supplied with the best and freshest fish, meats and vegetables to be procured; refreshments of all kinds always on hand; our rates are 35 cents a meal or lodging at \$7 per week. After leaving Tashmoo landing turn to your right for a walk of two minutes to this resort. **WALTER LEMKE, Propr.**

Article in the *Detroit Free Press* (Detroit, Michigan), July 4, 1903.

**Lemke's Summer Resort...**

WALTER LEMKE, Prop.  
Harsen's Island, Sans Souci, Mich.  
Convenient to Tashmoo Park.  
**RATES: \$1.50 PER DAY**  
Dinner on arrival of the "Tashmoo"

*Detroit Free Press* (Detroit, Michigan),  
June 25, 1911.

**Lemke's  
Summer  
Resort  
Hotel**

WALTER LEMKE,  
Prop.

---

**An Ideal Spot  
for your  
SUMMER  
VACATION**

Harsen's Island  
Sans Souci, Mich.

*Detroit Free Press* (Detroit,  
Michigan), July 29, 1914.

**Lemke's New Cafe and Grill Room**

**NEAR TASHMOO PARK**  
BOARDERS ACCOMMODATED



Owing to an erroneous impression, a great many of my friends, acquaintances and former patrons have been informed that I am out of business. I desire to inform the general public that I am still in business, with more and better accommodations than heretofore. I still retain and own the hotel that I occupied for the last 12 years, and in addition I have erected a fine and Modern Cafe and Grill Room, where the best food obtainable is served daily at reasonable prices. **FISH, FROG and CHICKEN DINNERS** a specialty.  
Best of Liquors, Cigars, etc.  
**WALTER LEMKE PROP'R.**

*Detroit Free Press* (Detroit, Michigan), July 4 1915.



## Former Tashmoo Tavern Keeper Dies

Harsen's Island, June 4—Walter Lemke, 69, died Monday night in the state hospital, Pontiac, after an illness of more than four years.

Mr. Lemke was born in Detroit and had lived on Harsen's Island for about 40 years. In the days when the river boats ran between Tashmoo Park and Detroit, and the island was the most popular resort for this entire area, Mr. and Mrs. Lemke kept a popular tavern which was visited by thousands annually.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Clara Blankert Lemke, Harsen's Island.

Obituary: *The Times Herald* (Port Huron, Michigan) June 4, 1940.

Finally, I also found this image mentioning Lemke and the building in *Images of America: Tashmoo Park and the Steamer Tashmoo* by Arthur M. Woodford. As it states, this building was destroyed in a 1951 fire and never rebuilt.



THE ISLAND HOUSE. One of the last operating hotels on Harsens Island was the Island House, seen here in the 1940s. Originally known as the Lemke Hotel, its name was changed when the owner, Walter Lemke, retired. Located near the town of Sans Souci, it was only a short walk to Tashmoo Park. In the spring of 1951, the Island House was destroyed by fire and never rebuilt. (Courtesy of Barb Crown.)

*Images of America: Tashmoo Park and the Steamer Tashmoo* by Arthur M. Woodford (page 114).

# George Hare Pocket Camera

*By Ralph London*

In a previous article in *The Photogram* (Vol. 38, No.2, September, 2010), I wrote, "British camera maker George Hare invented and produced fine cameras and accessories, all of the very highest quality materials and construction."<sup>1</sup> One of my favorite cameras is his Pocket Camera from the 1870s, which is currently one of the oldest cameras in my collection. The Pocket is a tailboard plate camera, 4 x 5 inches, with rack and pinion movement of the camera's back. This "transitional camera uses wet collodion plates in single holder or dry plates with changing slide and changing box."<sup>2</sup> The very dark maroon bellows has square corners. There is possibly one small silver nitrate stain on the bottom of the back, indicating that the camera may actually have been very carefully and minimally used with wet collodion plates.



**George Hare  
Pocket Camera,  
4 x 5, showing  
Ross lens extended  
with cover open,  
lens board partially  
raised, maroon  
bellows with  
square corners  
and white inset  
nameplate.  
*Photo by author.***

The brass lens is marked A. Ross, London, with a serial number of 5168. It can be pulled forward about 5/8 of an inch. A circular lens cover, which serves as a hand-operated shutter, is anchored on one side with a screw and stopped 180° away by a fixed pin and a slot on the cover's edge. The serial number probably indicates its manufacture is much earlier than the 1870s.

The lens board with a vertical slot rises and falls, secured by a brass knob which screws into one of two holes on the front of the camera. With the knob in the top hole, the lens board can fall to be even with the top and bottom of the camera's front. With the knob in the bottom hole, the lens board can rise to a position that still allows complete focusing of the lens. Two brass tabs on the camera's base are located very near the front of the camera. If the back of the camera is racked forward, then moving the tabs forward allows the base to hinge to a vertical position, covering the rear of the camera and protecting the hinged ground glass and its frame.



On the top back of the camera is the maker's identification on a white inset nameplate held in place with four screws. It reads:

G. HARE,  
MANUFACTURER  
26 CALTHORPE ST  
London.

Hare was at this address from 1877 until the business ceased around 1911. He introduced his Portable Bellows Camera in 1878.<sup>3</sup>



**(Left)** Wet collodion plate holder with leather tab and two hinges. **(Right)** Dry plate changing slide showing the brass connector that attaches to the changing box. Note the trapezoidal shape of the longer side.

*Photo by author.*

There are two tripod sockets (or bushes). Using the one on the bottom of the camera produces a landscape picture while using the one on a rear side of the camera produces a portrait picture. (This explains what I mean that the size of the Pocket is 4 x 5 inch rather than 5 x 4 inch.)

The body appears to be made of mahogany. All of its screws are aligned. Nearly all edges and corners are beautifully and carefully rounded.

I have one holder for wet collodion plates. The door has two hinges and a leather tab for opening and closing. The door is held closed by two rotating brass tabs. Inside, the plate rests on a diagonal wire at each corner. The dark slide has two hinges near the end opposite the pulling tab. The inside of the dark slide is numbered in two places, on each side of its hinges.

*continued next page*

For dry plates, I have a changing slide but not the changing box. The changing slide has a door and a dark slide of somewhat similar construction to those of the wet collodion plate. One end of the changing slide is noticeably thicker than the other end. This accommodates the brass connector that attaches to the changing box to allow the transfer of dry plates.

"Hare joined the camera making firm of Thomas Ottewill in London, and after a year or two with Ottewill, started his own business about 1856." I previously described a different favorite Hare camera, a tailboard camera outfit "with a flap shutter, two book style double plate holders, and four Ross London Symmetrical brass lenses with green leather caps." That camera has one hinged side wing for support.<sup>1</sup> I no longer have this outfit.



**Wet collodion plate holder with open door and showing a wire at each corner on which the plate rests.**

***Photo by author.***

## References

1. Ralph London, "George Hare Tailboard Camera Outfit," *The Photogram*, Michigan Photographic Historical Society, 38, 2, September-October 2010, 9. Reprinted as "Ralph London's Hare Tailboard Camera," *Snap Shots*, Photographic Historical Society of New England, 21, 7, March 2016, 2.
2. James M. McKeown and Joan C. McKeown (eds.), *McKeown's Price Guide to Antique and Classic Cameras*, 12th Edition, 2005-2006, Centennial Photo Service, September 2004.
3. Norman Channing and Mike Dunn, *British Camera Makers: An A-Z Guide to Companies and Products*, Parkland Designs, March 1996.

From the Collection of Cindy Motzenbecker



Cabinet Card. *"Working Dogs."*



# A Panorama Photograph

By Bill Christen



After listening to Jacob McCormick's excellent presentation on panorama photographs at the recent MiPHS annual meeting, I dug this one out of my family history files. It shows the attendees at the farewell dance for the officers and crew of the *USS Indiana* (BB-1) at the end of the First World War. It is not a yard long, but it does demonstrate the utility of the panorama to capture a view of a large group.

The image was taken at the Mercantile Club in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on March 5, 1919. The Mercantile Club was located at 1422–1426 North Broad Street. The photograph was sent home to my great-grandmother by Harry and came to me in four pieces. The image is part of a collection of about 50 other photographs connected to his service in the U.S. Navy from 1917 to 1920. The size of the image when re-assembled is 10 by 19 inches. The photographer is unknown.

The *Indiana* was first of its class of pre-dreadnaught battleships built in the early 1890s. It was launched in February 1893 and saw service in The Spanish-American War. She took part in the destruction of the Spanish Fleet at the Battle of Santiago off Cuba on July 3, 1898, one of the two major naval engagements of the war. My grandfather joined the Navy in June 1917 at age 25 and was rated as a Baker, First Class. He was promoted to Commissary Steward in February 1919. After the *Indiana* was de-commissioned he made two cruises to Europe on the *USS General Goethals* to return U.S. servicemen to the United States.





**The U.S.S. Indiana (BB-1) at the Philadelphia Navy Yard.**



**RPPC of Harry Fox (left) and an unidentified shipmate.**

My grandfather, Harry A. Fox, was a Chief Commissary Steward on board the ship at the time of the dance. He and the woman who would become my grandmother, Ida Bruppacher, are seen in the second panel from the left. Ida is on the left in the dark dress with a flower corsage and Harry is on the right with the lower portion of his face hidden behind the woman in front of him. Ida was born in Philadelphia and was employed at a store. Harry was from Toledo, Ohio. Harry returned to Philadelphia and married Ida, who was living across the Delaware River in New Jersey.



**Details of the photo segment second from the left showing Harry Fox and Ida Bruppacher.**



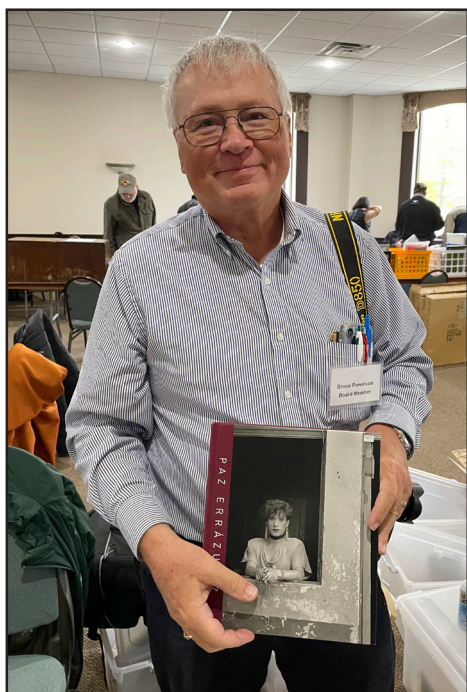
# 2023 MiPHS Photographica Show & Sale in Pictures

*Photos courtesy of Bruce Powelson and Chuck Fehl*

The 2023 MiPHS Photographica Show held on Sunday, October 22 at the Royal Oak Elks Lodge had excellent attendance with over 100 participants. On display were classic cameras, memorabilia and historical images. Dealers reported increased sales from last year and once again our auction of donated items was a profitable and fun event. Many thanks to Cindy Motzenbecker, Lifetime member and President Emeritus of MiPHS, who coordinated this event and worked hard to make sure it happened. And thanks to our auctioneer, Clint Hyhorijiw, President of the Photographic Historical Society of Canada.



The Show was well attended with over 100 participants.



**Bruce Powelson, MiPHS Member-at-Large and active dealer.**



**Peter and Cindy Motzenbecker. Cindy has successfully organized the Photographica Show & Sale for the past 20 years.**





**Lifetime MiPHS member Len (and Jean) Walle display their Daguerreotypes.**



**Dealer/Members Mike Vilensky and Igor Resnik with his newest acquisition.**



**MiPHS President Doug Aikenhead sets up auction lots.**



**Marianne Mitkus inspects auction donations and was an active bidder**



**Andrew Rothman had a nice selection of used cameras and accessories.**



*continued next page*



## 2023 MiPHS Photographica Show & Sale in Pictures



**MiPHS Secretary Bill Christen and Elayne Gross.**



**MiPHS Treasurer Chuck Fehl, Igor Resnik and John White.**



**Abraham Vinegar and Jack Darrow.**



**Dealer Cezary Bienczyk at his table.**



**Peter Motzenbecker manning his table.**



**"Ruben" and Dealer Tim Carrig.**

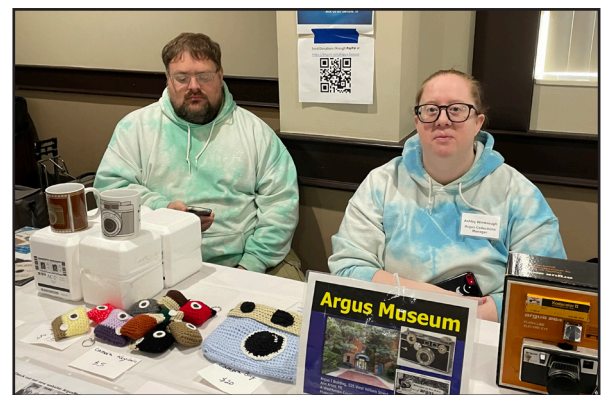




**Mike Vilensky checks prices online.**



**MIPHS Board Member-at-Large Yuki Kawai and Member John White.**



**Argus Museum staffers and display.**



**Auctioneer Clint Hyhorijiw, President of Canadian PHS stepping in as auctioneer. Cindy Motz records sales.**



**So many interesting displays!**



# MiPHS 2023 Annual Meeting

## Michigan League Building at The University of Michigan

The 2023 MiPHS Annual Meeting featured guest speaker Jacob McCormick, Photo Archivist and Educator for the Michigan State Capitol Commission. His lecture was titled *"By the Yard: Michigan in Panoramic Photographs"* and encompassed the history of panoramas and how panoramas are executed. He displayed some fun examples from Michigan history.

In addition, he explained the complex workings of certain panoramic cameras. Also of interest was the level staging of scenes so that all subjects appeared of near equal size and lineage. Other challenges using panoramic cameras include using indoor lighting that would not be a fire hazard, and the special equipment needed to develop and print such elongated scenes.

*Meeting photos courtesy of Jeffrey Rowe.*



**Jacob McCormick, Photo Archivist and Educator for the Michigan State Capitol Commission.**



**Police on Motorcycles, unidentified;  
Courtesy of the Dan Barber Collection. Michigan Historical Society of Greater Lansing's *By the Yard: Michigan in Panoramic Photographs* Exhibit.**





**Bill Christen, MiPHS Secretary, speaking about 2023 membership after a social hour which included wine, soft drinks and tasty hors d'oeuvres.**



**MiPHS President Doug Aikenhead kicks off the meeting with his report of 2023 activities, including our new website, membership brochure and photo club.**



**Cindy Motzenbecker, Vice President: Programs, awarded Len Walle the MiPHS Lifetime Member award, after more than 50 years of service to MiPHS.**



**Treasurer Chuck Fehl reports on club finances.**

# MiPHS Annual Meeting Minutes — Saturday, 7 October 2023

## Koessler Room, Michigan League University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

**Board members present:** Aikenhead, Motzenbecker, Valenti, Fehl, Christen, and Kawai.

**Board members absent:** Haenchen (excused) and Powelson (excused).

**MiPHS Members and Guests:** Jean and Len Walle, Tracy Gallup, Peter Motzenbecker, Jeffrey Rowe, Clayton Lewis, John White, Sigrid Christiansen, and Richard Levey.

**Clements Library Staff and Guests:** Angela Oonk and Helen Harding

**Guest Speaker:** Jacob McCormick.

The meeting was called to order at 4 PM and welcoming remarks were made by Doug Aikenhead MiPHS, Board President.

Doug then introduced the MiPHS Board of Directors who were present. *Photogram* Editor and MiPHS Webmaster Karen Fehl was unable to attend, but her husband, Chuck, reported on the quarterly publication and the new website.

Len Walle, a member for nearly fifty years, was given award of appreciation and a lifetime membership for his dedication and service to the Society.

Doug introduced William L. Clements Library representatives and thanked the library for hosting the meeting and its ongoing support of the Society.

Bill Christen, Secretary, gave a membership report. Membership rolls shrank from over one hundred fifty in 2014 to less than seventy after Covid in 2019. We currently have seventy-four members. The Board now offers six sponsored (paid) memberships each year and three (paid) memberships are awarded by raffle to attendees at the Photographica show each October. As a result of these efforts along with a new membership brochure five new members joined since the end of August. There are three empty Board positions and other activities that are available to members who wish to volunteer time and communication skills.

Chuck Fehl's Treasurer's report is appended.

Cindy Motzenbecker, Vice President, Programs, shared an update of the 2023 Photographica Show and Sale scheduled for 22 October 2023.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

At that time Jacob McCormick, Photo Archivist and Educator, Tour & Education Service, Michigan State Capitol Commission presented a talk. "By the Yard: Michigan in Panoramic Photographs." His excellent presentation focused on panorama photography in general and specifically photographs on display at The Historical Society of Greater Lansing.

Bill Christen, 25 October 2023 [revised 1 November 2023]

# MiPHS Treasurer's Report

## Michigan Photographic Historical Society

Cash Basis BALANCE SHEET

As of September 30, 2023

Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
Cash – Comerica Bank	\$9,002.62	
Savings – Comerica Bank	\$1,683.88	
Fidelity Investments	\$25,575.57	
Fifth/Third Investments**	\$0	
Inventory & Supplies	\$25.00	
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>\$36,287.07</b>
Liabilities (for info only)		
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		
Credit card balances and other estimated bills*		<b>(\$1,200.00)</b>
<b>Opening Balance Equity</b>	<b>\$40,713.00</b>	
Income		
Net Operating Income/(Deficiency) (NOI)	(\$5,186.00)	
Investment Income	\$1,157.00	
Outstanding checks	(\$396.93)	
<b>YTD Net Income(Loss)***</b>	<b>(\$4,425.93)</b>	
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>\$36,287.07</b>

\*MC Credit card detail awaiting auto payment:

- Fehl - \$357.58 includes Photogram V51N3 printing and postage.
- Christen - monthly recurring In Design program fee \$33.38 and \$36.16 GoDaddy web expense (net)
- Motzenbecker/Fehl - Pending Photographica Show expenses totaling \$772.88 from outstanding \$350 Hall payment check and anticipated miscellaneous expenses based upon prior show (unknown until after show ends).

\*\*The recent Fifth Third Bond account has been terminated for poor performance and balance of \$7,546.30 was transferred to Comerica checking on September 18, 2023. Cash balances will mostly consolidate into MiPHS' Fidelity MMA after Photographica Show.

\*\*\* 2023 YTD Net Loss was adversely affected by extraordinary operating expenses totaling \$2,775 including: \$1,280 Website enhancement expenses, \$1,000 Clements honorarium, \$154 in an Educational project, and \$341 in Membership brochure printing and related expenses.

Charles Fehl, MiPHS Treasurer, 30 September 2023



## Grab & Brag

*Grab your photographic gems and brag about them here. They can be historically important photographs, technically unique cameras, or some interesting stories you are willing to share. Just a short one or two page article!*

### Sears Sold Some Sophisticated Stuff!

*By Chuck Fehl*

When most think of Sears Roebuck & Co. they think of an old line, value-oriented department store usually located in second rate shopping malls and likely closed or re-purposed for some time. Those with really good memories remember its unique mail-order sales operation that offered EVERYTHING else. At one time Sears sold cars made by Kaiser Steel (Henry J), kit homes (bungalow in a box) and—more to the point—high-end cameras from Asahi/Pentax, Mamiya, Aires, Ricoh, Olympus and Nicca, to name just a few. These outfits were marketed under the name “Tower” with usually a two-digit non sequential number designating the camera model or package.

These outfits were sold in boxed kits including a particular lens, case and instruction book. There was a slight price advantage to Tower cameras over the “name brand” manufacturer’s prices, but you had to take the package as assembled. The real advantage to the Tower merchandising was that it gave small town and rural customers access to the photographic product variety offered by big city retailers.



The Tower 22 was a thinly disguised Asahiflex IIA featuring an instant return mirror—a first on a SLR. This camera soon morphed into the “Pentax” when a pentaprism replaced the waist-level viewfinder and the lens flange was increased to 42mm—later known as the M-42 Praktica or Pentax mount.



The 58mm f/2.4 five element Takumar was the Asahiflex’s top of the line normal optic. It had a unique 37mm flange that was a system dead-end as 42mm soon became a standard.



Although a SLR, many waist level finder cameras of the day had a 50 mm direct viewfinder to accommodate action shots.



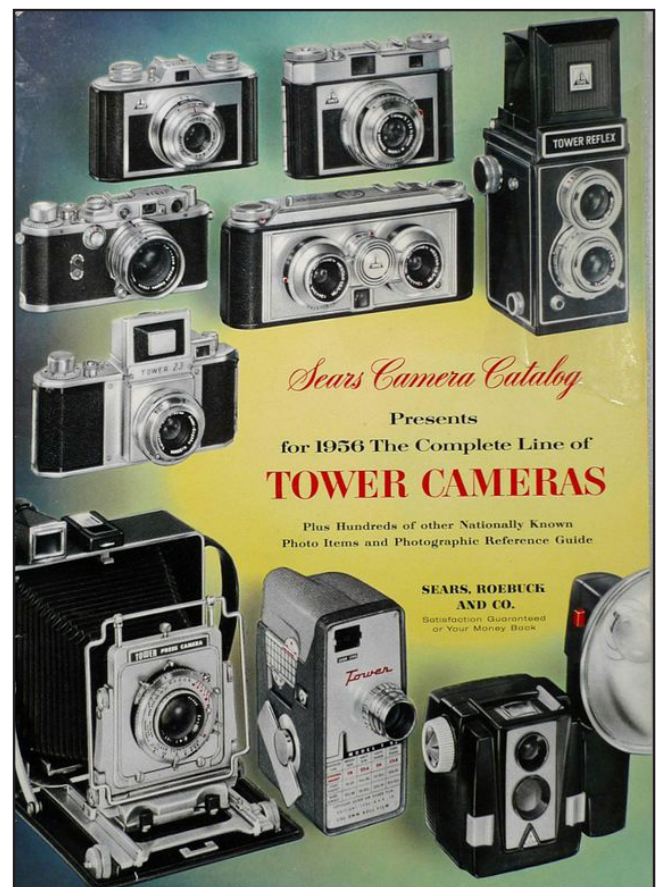
The Tower 22 was a relatively compact camera weighing a hair over 22 ounces. It was also quiet compared to other SLRs even with its two stage mirror flap—an entirely new sound for 35mm photography.

At one time I was going to start a collection of “Tower” branded cameras but found that many of its more interesting models sold in low volumes and are hard to come by. Some Tower models were model-end buyouts where the Tower name was hastily applied over the manufacturer’s name, and many included only entry-level optics. One area of Tower branded cameras worth exploring is its plethora of quality Leica (screw mount) copies made by Nicca and Leotax—some with thumb lever film advance. Those also came with first-rate Nikkor or Konica optics.

An early jewel in this line was the Tower 22 which was an Asahiflex (A-saw-he flex) IIA that came with the premium f/2.4 58mm Takumar preset manual lens. This camera is dated around 1955-57 and appears in the Tower (Sears) 1956 mail order catalog. This camera was highly advanced for its day and included a super-fast f/2.4 five element Takumar coated lens, when most lenses had four elements with f/2.8 or f/3.5 as the fastest setting. Interchangeable lenses included an 83mm f/1.9 portrait lens and telephoto lenses of 100, 135 and 500mms with no wide angle lenses due to mirror entanglements. The IIA also had shutter speeds from 1/2 to 1/500 second and a direct viewfinder for action shots. This camera was of such superb quality and features as to be a bellwether of things to come from Japanese makers. German manufacturers in Wetzlar, Dresden and Stuttgart were surely looking over their shoulders at Asahi!

Besides all this, the Tower 22, 23, and 24 (Asahiflex IIA, IIB and IA) were most noted in history for being the first (popular) 35mm SLRs with an instant return mirror in the reflex viewfinder—albeit of the waist-level variety. Check out all the entire Tower Camera descriptions (and their manufactures) in Camerapedia Wiki.

Tower branded cameras pretty much reflect the value of the manufacturer’s branded camera. The Tower 22 or Asahiflex IIA with case and IB will bring \$250 to \$350 in today’s market depending on its condition.



Sears produced beautiful color mail-order catalogs giving detailed descriptions of its wares that could be ordered from numerous suppliers.

# Photographic Collector Corner

***Please check websites for updates. Listings on this page are FREE.***

## **Antiquarian Book and Paper Show**

[www.curiousbooks.com/shows.html](http://www.curiousbooks.com/shows.html)

## **Bièvres Photo Fair (France)**

<http://www.foirephoto-bievre.com/en/>

## **Camerama Camera Show**

<https://ca.eventbu.com/toronto/camerama-camera-show/6143133>

Edward Village Hotel, 185 Yorkland Boulevard, Toronto Ontario M2J 4R2,  
9:30 am - 2:30 pm Admission \$7.00

## **Chicago Camera Show**

[www.photorama.com](http://www.photorama.com)

## **Chicago Postcard and Paper Show**

[www.courthousesquare.net](http://www.courthousesquare.net)

10:00 to 6:00 & 8:00 to 3:00  
Admission \$5.00

## **Cleveland Camera Collectors Show**

<https://10times.com/cleveland-camera-show>

9:30 am - 2:30 pm

## **The Daguerreian Society**

[www.daguerreiansociety.org](http://www.daguerreiansociety.org)

## **DC Antique Photo and Postcard Show**

<http://www.antiquephotoshow.com/>

## **Detroit Stereographic Society**

<http://detroit3d.org/>

## **Grand Rapids Postcard & Paper Show**

[www.postcardarcheology.com](http://www.postcardarcheology.com)

2327 Byron Center Ave SW, Wyoming, MI  
American Legion Hall 10-4

## **London (ON) Camera Show**

<https://londonvintagecamerashow.vpweb.ca/>

Carling Heights Optimist Community Centre  
656 Elizabeth, London, ON 10 am - 3 pm

## **Michigan & Ohio Postcard & Paper Show**

[www.postcardarcheology.com](http://www.postcardarcheology.com)

## **MiPHS 2024 Photographica Show & Sale**

**TBA 10am-3pm.**

**Elk's Hall, Royal Oak MI**

[www.MiPHS.org](http://www.MiPHS.org)

## **National Stereoscopic Association**

[www.stereoworld.org](http://www.stereoworld.org)

[www.3d-con.com](http://www.3d-con.com)

## **Ohio Camera Collectors**

[www.cameratradeshow.com](http://www.cameratradeshow.com)

## **Ohio Civil War Show**

<http://ohiocivilwarshow.com/>

Richland County Fairgrounds  
750 N. Home Rd, Mansfield OH 44906

## **Photographic Historical Society of Canada**

<http://phsc.ca/> Trident Banquet Hall

145 Evans Ave. Toronto, ON 10 am- 3 pm

## **Photographic Historical Society of New England**

<https://phsne.org/index>

## **Rob Niederman's website for Camera Shows**

[www.antiquewoodcameras.com/shows.html](http://www.antiquewoodcameras.com/shows.html)

## **York International Postcard Show**

<https://www.marylmartin.com/>

York Fairgrounds, 334 Carlisle Ave, York PA