

FEBRUARY, 2022

Crystal Lake Camera Club

Serving Crystal Lake, IL and Surrounding Communities Since 1980



The Hand of Man (1902)

By Alfred Stieglitz (1864 - 1946)

Google Art Project, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=110117442>

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From Rich's Archives

A note from Rich Bickham: As Editor of the CLCC newsletter for over five years (October 2013 to January 2019) I have written many articles related to photography for inclusion in past issues. I thought it would be of interest to readers (many of whom are new to the club) to read some of the older articles. I will try to make this a monthly feature.

THE LAST ASSIGNMENT

Submitted by Rich Bickham

(Originally published in the February 2014 newsletter)

In early April of 1980, Reid Blackburn, a photographer for *The Columbian* newspaper, photographed a smoldering Mount Saint Helens belching smoke and ash. Using several cameras, he captured many photographs from a helicopter, some of which were published in his newspaper. Five weeks later, on May 18 Reid was on the mountain

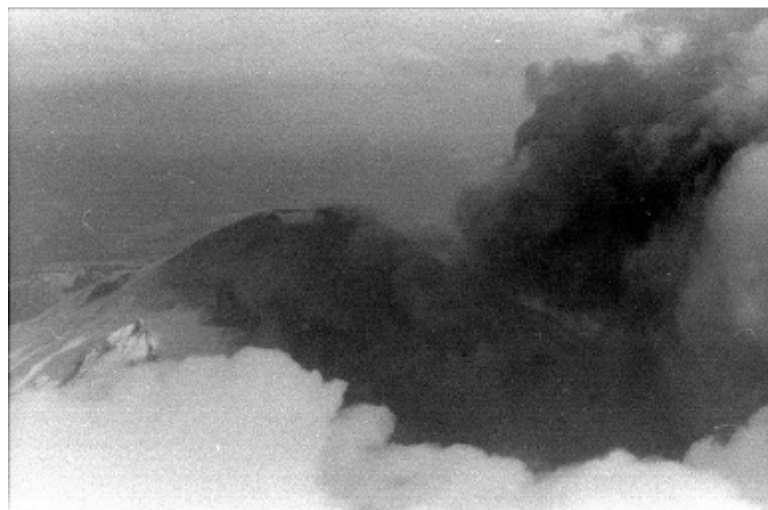


taking more photographs when the entire side of the mountain blew out in what has become recognized as a historic event in recent North American history.

Reid's body and a camera were found in his car during subsequent searching of the devastation from the eruption as conditions allowed. The film in the camera was too damaged to be processed.

In December 2013 an undeveloped roll of black & white film was discovered in a storage box in *The Columbian* archives – it was from his April helicopter shoot. Processing of the film has yielded never before seen images of the volcano (an example is shown on the right).

Reid was not initially assigned to cover the 'local' eruptions and felt left out of the action. "He did express his frustration. He was on a night rotation. ... While other staffers were booking flights to photograph Mount Saint Helens, he was shooting high school sports". When his shift rotated around to daylight hours Reid's wife Fay Blackburn said, "He was excited to get into the air."



Reid died doing what he loved. One can only imagine what his final images would have shown.



Say cheese! No?

Even famous photographers hate getting their picture taken

By Jerry Davich

Post-Tribune

Jan 10, 2022

Submitted by Sandra Wittman

My interview with the 47-year-old woman was going perfectly for an upcoming column. She was candid about intimate details of her life, revealing things that would be in the next day's newspaper for thousands of people to read. This fact didn't faze her. She talked openly about the skeletons in her family's closet and she had no problem sharing her full name for the record. We talked for more than an hour in her kitchen as she showed me old photographs of her life, each one adding another piece of a puzzle that would always seem incomplete.

"Is there anything else you need for your column?" she asked as I closed my notepad and rose from my chair.

This is the moment I usually pause to consider the best approach for the same question. It all depends on the person I've interviewed. I never know for sure how my request will be perceived.

"Can I take a photo of you for this column?" I asked the woman.

Her posture immediately changed. She instinctively began fixing her hair and adjusting her shirt without realizing it. I've seen this reaction hundreds of times.

She bristled a bit, looking visibly nervous with rising anxiety. Her eyes darted around the room at her surroundings. Questions likely raced through her mind: do I need to apply makeup? What's my hair look like? Is my kitchen a mess? What's behind me as a possible backdrop for a photo?



"Do I have to?" she asked me.

No, I told her, just as I've told hundreds of other people at that moment of our conversation. But even a single photo — taken at that moment in someone's life — can illustrate their story or situation more than all of my words. This is what I routinely tell people who are hesitant or nervous.

The woman eventually agreed, but only after a minute of contemplation and another couple of minutes to spruce up her appearance. From *my* perspective, she looked exactly the same. From her point of view, she now felt ready for a photo of herself.

I recalled our interaction, and so many similar ones, while reading a Chicago Tribune story on legendary portrait photographer Annie Leibovitz (photo on the left), who's famous for taking intimate, dramatic and iconic photos of more

(*Say cheese! No?*, continued)

celebrities than I can name.

“No one likes having their picture taken,” Leibovitz said.

Even she squirmed when it came time to take her picture for that story.

“I don’t see myself. Some see themselves. I don’t. I don’t like having my picture taken,” she told the Tribune photographer.

I’ve heard this from so many people that I’ve become numb to its reality. Yet I also agree with its premise. When I first became a newspaper columnist, it came with a conditional requirement — my photo had to accompany every column I wrote. I pleaded with my editors against it. No, they said, this is how it works with opinion columns (as opposed to news stories).

“Get used to it,” a former editor told me. I eventually got used to it, though I’m never happy with my current mug-shot photo.

When digital photography became the norm for all of us, it revealed a juxtaposition that continues today. Many of us have taken hundreds or thousands of photos of ourselves — and shared them on social media — yet we claim to hate photos of ourselves.

Our age plays a factor. Older generations of people tend to not like their photo taken as much as younger generations. We live in a youth-obsessed culture with looks and appearance meaning more than it should. Many older people I know would rather share photos of themselves in their younger days, even if it’s five or 10 years ago.

“Is a new photo really needed?” a woman my age asked me last month via social media.

She had just shared with me revealing details about her life, her marriage, her financial situation and her career. When I asked for a current photo, she hesitated before promising to send me one. The next day I received this message: “Call it vanity or insecurity, but I really don’t want to send you a photo taken today.” I understood completely. I used a photo taken several years ago.

I prefer to take photos for most of my columns, though the pandemic and its social restrictions have curbed this practice. In the past, when a newspaper photographer would take photos for my columns, I would request they show up near the end of my interview because their mere presence affected my conversation with people.

Instead of focusing on our discussion or my questions, people would be distracted by the photographer and the camera. They couldn’t take their eyes off either one. I’ve since learned to broach the topic of a photo only after my interview or conversation. Otherwise, it infiltrates most people’s thoughts.

Unless, that is, they’re accustomed to being photographed for their job, such as with public officials and celebrities.

For the rest of us, getting our photo taken can cause instant fear or anxiety. As Leibovitz said, “They feel like they are at the dentist.”

She’s right. For my job, it can be like pulling teeth. And then sharing that painful photo with the world.



Chimping again?



It's all about gear, right?

The Future of CLCC

Notes from the discussion at the January 4, 2022 online meeting

Submitted by Steven Szalaj

As we continue to shape the future of the CLCC, there will be open-forum discussions at club meetings. Your thoughts about this are important!

In January, it was decided that ***all 2021 members are in “good standing with the club” until March 15, 2022.*** There are two reasons for this. At that time, the office of treasurer had not been given to the new person taking on that role. Also, since our competition winners are entered in the CACCA Competition the following month, entrants in that competition must be paid up members (i.e., “in good standing”) with their club. So, any paid up 2021 member can enter the April Competition, as entries will be due to Rich by March 13.

There was also an interesting discussion of printing papers, with several member sharing their favorites. **Red River Paper** was highly recommended.

Also referenced was **Jose Rodriguez, the “Photo Printing Techie.”** Rodriguez has a YouTube channel with many “how to” videos about anything related to photo printing, the printers or related software.

The photographer, Martin Bailey, was discussed, particularly in relation to landscape and nature images. He has many galleries online at **Martin Bailey Photography**. Many of his collections are in Japan, though he has been all over the world. Bailey also has a podcast that can be found on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and Audible. Be inspired!

We had further discussions about topics for future meetings.

Be sure to join the next meeting so you can participate in the future of CLCC!

Ansel Adams: Early Works

An Exhibition at the Liberty Dunn Museum (Libertyville, IL)

Submitted by Sandra Whitman

Dunn Museum

1899 West Winchester Road

Libertyville, IL 60048

(847) 968-3400

<https://www.lcfpd.org/museum/>

Hours & Fees

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 10:00am - 3:30pm

1st & 3rd Thursday 5:00pm - 8:00pm Free admission

Sunday 12:00 noon - 3:30pm

Nonresident Adult \$10

Nonresident 62 yrs. + \$6

Nonresident 62 yrs. + \$3 Discount Tuesdays

The exhibition is open now through March 27, 2022

Take a trip to see the interesting Dunn Museum. *Ansel Adams: Early Works* focuses on these masterful small prints from the 1920s into the 1950s. By capturing the abject power of nature, Adams changed our understanding of landscape photography, solidifying it as a legitimate form of modern art.

The in-person exhibition has over 40 images on display. You can also view eight of the images with commentary online at [Ansel Adams: Early Works Online](#).

A Photographer For The Ages

Submitted by Steven Szalaj

Alfred Stieglitz (1864 - 1946) is a photographer whose work was at the time when photography was emerging as a serious and unique art form. It was also a time when photography was becoming accessible to many more people with the popularization of easy-to-use equipment. Through the galleries that he ran in the early 20th century, and his quarterly journal, Camera Work, Stieglitz was very influential in elevating photography to an accepted, powerful genre of artistic expression.

Stieglitz was studying in Germany and at the age of 23, he traveled to Italy during the summer of 1887. In the town of Bellagio, he took a photo he called The Last Joke, Bellagio (also known as *The Good Joke*). He submitted the image to *The Amateur Photographer* magazine for the Photographic Holiday Work Competition, and the image won first prize, notable for the spontaneity.

In Camera Work, Stieglitz advanced his vision of photography as a fine art and “medium of individual expression.” The magazine featured artistic work by pictorial photographers who strove to project mood, feeling and meaning. It was published from 1903 - 1917, and you can view and read most every volume at the Modern Journals Project, a free website, that is “a resource on the

(A Photographer For The Ages, continued)

rise of modernism in the English-speaking world.” The cover image of this newsletter, *The Hand of Man (1902)*, was published in the first issue of *Camera Work*.

Stieglitz’s association with the painter Georgia O’Keefe was significant - she was his muse.

Arthur Stieglitz - a photographer for the ages.



The Last Joke, Bellagio
(also known as The Good Joke)
By Alfred Stieglitz

National Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C., online collection, Public Domain
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=11488400>



Old and New New York

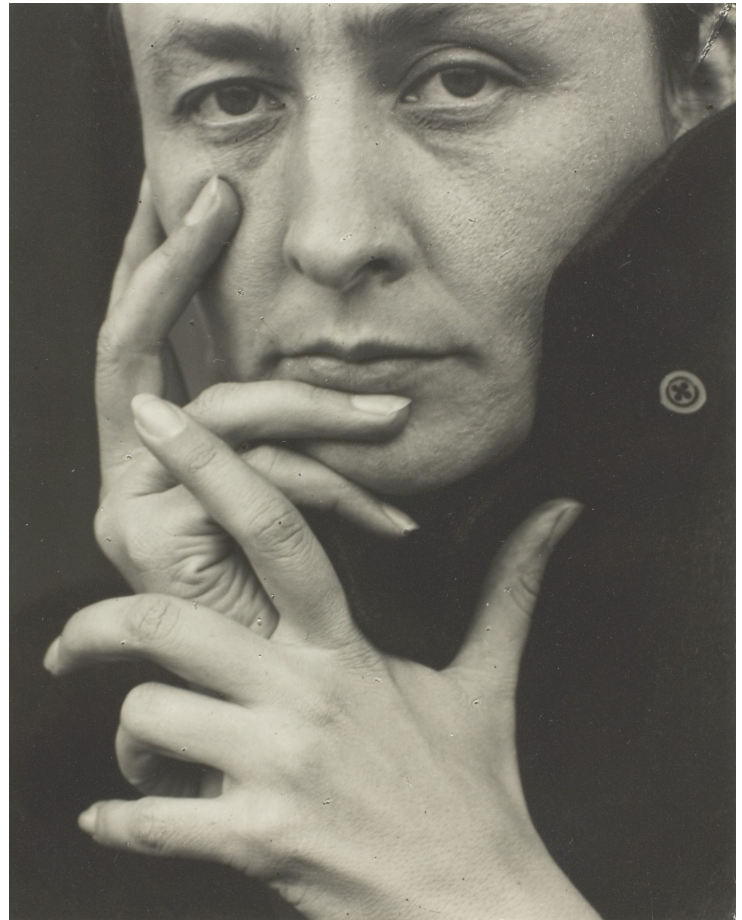
By Alfred Stieglitz

Camera Work, No 36 1911, Public Domain,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=5533118>

Hands (Georgia O'Keefe)

By Alfred Stieglitz

Art Institute of Chicago, Public Domain,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=5758481>



LOOKING AHEAD - CLUB MEETING CALENDAR

CLCC meetings are always on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. and will remain Zoom meetings until it is safe to meet in groups, and we have a place to meet. Before each meeting, members are sent the Zoom login information by CLCC Secretary, Royal Pitchford.

Competitions are always at the February, April, October and December meetings.

February 1, 2022

Competition (Submissions closed)

March 1, 2022

To Be Determined

April 5, 2022

Competition (See submission guidelines on Pg. 9)

May 3, 2022

To Be Determined

6X6 PROJECT ARTS FUNDRAISER

Raue Center's **6×6 PROJECT** fundraiser and online art auction/exhibition celebrates its fourth year of supporting arts with Art! All proceeds benefit Raue Center's fine arts education programs, Mission Imagination and Raue Center School For The Arts, which have been enriching the lives of over 20,000 kids a year in the local community since 2001.

Artists of all ages and abilities are invited to participate by creating original works of art, in a variety of mediums, on 6×6" canvases. Since our inaugural event in 2019, 6×6 Project has raised over \$45,000 for MI and RCSA with canvases coming from around the nation!



All artwork submitted to the **6×6 PROJECT** will be available for viewing and bidding online at Auctria.com starting June 6, 2022. Artists and the public are cordially invited to our Reception on June 25, 2022, from 5:30-8 pm to mix, mingle and bid on your favorite pieces!

Create a mini-masterpiece and support the arts in your community!

Several of our CLCC members have participated in this event. It is a good way to get your images seen by a public that loves art, and you are supporting an arts venue right here in McHenry County. Entering is easy! Complete instructions are at the [**6x6 PROJECT WEBSITE**](#).

Purchase one or two 6" X 6" canvases from the project partners (listed on the website and the links below) for \$5 per canvas. You must use these official canvases. Mount or print an image on the canvas and drop your artwork off by May 9, 2022. All artwork submitted to the 6×6 PROJECT will be available for viewing online and can be bid on in an online auction starting June 6, 2022. All auction proceeds go to education programs at the Raue. On June 25, 2022 will be an artists's reception at the Raue Center that is free and open to the public.

[Click here for Participation Guidelines.](#)

[Click here for the FAQ Page.](#)

PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS:

Out of the Box – 71 N. Williams Street | Crystal Lake, IL | (815) 444-7446

Brush Studio – 121 W. Main Street | Cary, IL | (847) 516-3880

Creative Arts Inc. – 400 Highland Avenue | Crystal Lake, IL | (815) 219-9243

Material Things – 103 E. Van Buren | Woodstock, IL | (815) 575-9710

Piano Trends – 35 Berkshire Dr | Crystal Lake, IL | (815) 477-4266

SUPPORT THE ARTS WITH ART!

GET READY FOR THE APRIL COMPETITION!

Our next intra-club competition will take place for the February 1, 2022 meeting, if held. Here's what you need to know:

- As in February's competition, this is all digital--no prints. You may submit up to three (3) color images and three (3) monochrome images.
- The size limit for competition entries is 1400 pixels wide x 1050 pixels high
- We ask members to submit their entries well ahead of the meeting, as we did for the December meeting. ***Please submit entries to Rich Bickham by Sunday, March 20.***
- Each judge will review and score the entries "off line" and provide results to Rich Bickham before the meeting. Scores will be tabulated for each image and all images and scores will be presented during the meeting.
- At the April 5 meeting, we will view the images and scores, and then review them with open discussion by anyone who cares to comment.
- **Send your entries no later than March 20 to Rich Bickham at richbickham@comcast.net.**

CRYSTAL LAKE CAMERA CLUB OFFICERS

See The Club Directory For Contact Information

Vice Presidents	<u>Rich Bickham</u> <u>Judy Jorgensen</u>
Secretary	<u>Royal Pitchford</u>
Treasurer	<u>Andy Gruber</u>

YOUR IDEAS MATTER!

Do you have a story, images, trip, post-processing technique, event, etc. that would be good for Camera Club members to know about? Your submissions will make this newsletter valuable! Write it up, and send it to Steven Szalaj, **Newsletter Editor** at the email address in the club directory. **Please make your submission by the 15th of the month.**

SUPPORT PERSONNEL

See the Club Directory for Contact Information

Newsletter Editor	<u>Steven Szalaj</u>	Competition Assistant	John Williams
Webmaster	Sandy Wittman	Competition Assistant	Ernie Hagenow
CACCA Delegate 1	Lance Lagoni	Small Groups	Maureen Harris
CACCA Delegate 2	OPEN	Outings	Andy Gruber
Education	Peter Pelke II	Refreshments	Larry Swanson
Advisor	David Jilek	Librarian	OPEN
Advisor	Jim Pierce	Mentor Program	Paul Minkus
Facebook Administrator	Scott Migaldi		
Membership	OPEN		
Publicity	OPEN		
Competition Chairman	Rich Bickham		