

HISTORIC BLACK HILLS STUDIOS

HOME OF THE FASSBENDER PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION

New to the Board

Welcome to Vicki Dar as a new board member for the Fassbender Photographic Collection. Vicki moved to Deadwood several years ago. Her background is in publishing and her current project is "SouthDakotaSenior.com," provides information and resources folks 50+ need to live the best life possible in South Dakota.



Vicki Dar

Black Hills Focus Group

The Black Hills Focus Group will resume as a virtual gathering in April. Pandemic restrictions have kept us from doing in-person meetings and continues to be an unknown. The April presenter is

Grace Pritchett, photojournalist with the Rapid City Journal.



Grace Pritchett

If we are able to resume meetings in person, notification will be on the Historic Black Hills Studios Facebook page and email.

Anyone interested in being invited to the Zoom meetings can email Richard at: fassbendercollection@gmail.com

Panoramas in the Collection

The Fassbender Photographic Collection contains a number of panorama prints and negatives. These images are typically created as horizontal or "landscape" orientation. While scenic images can often be accentuated with such a strong horizontal aspect ratio,

panoramas were often used for large groups as seen in some of the images on page 2.

One of the common (and larger) sizes was a piece of film that measured 8 in. x 4 ft.

(more on pg. 2)



Left: Verichrome panoramic film and boxes for "Cirkut" cameras.

Featured Artifact

The Mazda foil-filled blue flash bulb was among a series of products trademarked by General Electric (GE) in 1909 for incandescent light bulbs. The flashbulbs pictured are likely from the 1930s. They came in a variety of sizes and produced a large amount of light for photography and were used when an inadequate amount of existing light prevented practical exposures.

The duration of the flash was about 1/50th of a second. For comparison, current day flashes (or speedlights) have durations of 1/400th to 1/20,000th of a second.



Recently Digitized...



Early 1940s image of downtown Deadwood



Undated image of Air Fair at Black Hills Airport in Spearfish



Parade in Faith, S.D. dated 1911

Photography Quote:

“When you photograph people in color, you photograph their clothes. But when you photograph people in Black and white, you photograph their souls!”

– Ted Grant

Volunteering Through Pandemic

Jim Muchow has done his share of volunteering for the collection for years. In fact, in 2019, Jim earned a conservation merit award at the West River History Conference. Volunteering usually means coming into the facility where the collection is stored.

However, precautions due to the Covid-19 pandemic led to the decision to not have volunteers working at the facility. With Jim’s long and trusted history of handling the collection, we were able to send some boxes with him and he continued his efforts from home.

Muchow enters basic information about the packets in a spreadsheet along with the condition of the film or print.

The sorting of these items amounts to a basic inventory of the items on their way to being catalogued or digitized.



Above: Jim Muchow works on boxes of negatives in his home office.

Panoramas (cont. from pg. 1)

In order to create the image, the lens had to pivot during exposure to cast the image on the entire piece of film. Once the film was processed, a ‘contact print’ was made by exposing light through the film onto light sensitive printing paper which resulted in a print exactly the same size as the film. Panoramic films were available in smaller sizes as well.



Panoramas from the Fassbender Photographic Collection