

HISTORIC BLACK HILLS STUDIOS

HOME OF THE FASSBENDER PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION

Cold Storage

Most of the photographs in the Fassbender Photographic Collection are stored at the Homestake Adams Research & Cultural Center (HARCC) in Deadwood and on the second floor of Lead City Hall.

As cataloguing and organizing efforts progress, a portion of the “finished” boxes containing thousands of negatives will be moved from Lead City Hall to the HARCC.

Out of sight, but not forgotten, are the items in the rest of the collection that are in cold storage in Deadwood. A variety of retail photography items, studio and darkroom equipment, camera cases, flash bulbs and more will migrate to Lead City Hall later this year. The storage in Lead will be more accessible and the items can get in line for evaluation and cataloguing. The space will also offer more stable conditions for temperature and humidity.



Photography Quote:

“Photography is by nature a documentary art.”
-August Sander



Road Show in Spearfish

More than 80 people stopped by the Snappers Club in Spearfish City Park in April to help us identify a variety of portrait, wedding and group photos from the Fassbender Photographic Collection. More than 50 portraits were identified and will be catalogued and stored. The event, known unofficially as the “Fassbender Road Show,” is a chance to gather accurate information as well as enjoy a social gathering and relive memories.



Above: Shelves with unidentified prints were moved from the collection storage in Deadwood to the Snappers Club in Spearfish.

Right and below: Attendees work through stacks of prints at the Snappers Club. Information was added to the back of the prints when applicable.

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From the Archive

Josef Fassbender spent about 10 years in the Faith and Mobridge area before moving to Spearfish in 1924. Below are some images from the Faith Sheep Show, a prominent annual event.



Photography Community

- Black Hills Focus Group historicblackhillsstudios.org/BHFG
- Black Hills Photography Club blackhillsp photographyclub.com
- Black Hills Photo Shootout and related photography events blackhillsp hotshootout.com



Fassbender Road Show (cont.)



Above: Jerry and Sonia Ainsworth found portraits of their children Mistie and Layne while perusing the stacks of prints at the Fassbender Road Show at the Snappers Club in Spearfish.

Right: Identified prints will be stored in archival print boxes and catalogued.

The organization of the identified materials will make it easier to find and digitize when image requests are made. are planning another road show event this fall.

