

HISTORIC BLACK HILLS STUDIOS

HOME OF THE FASSBENDER PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION

Featured Artifact

The Argus Argoflex E is a twin lens reflex camera. The camera had Vorex 75mm f4.5 lens and used 120 and 620 films. It was made from 1940 to 1948 by Argus.



Argus Argoflex E

Photography Quote:

When people look at my pictures I want them to feel the way they do when they want to read a line of a poem twice.

-Robert Frank



Day in the Darkroom

The photography room at Spearfish High School was busy with “non-traditional” students in February. Participants attending the “Day in the Darkroom” event had access to the high school’s darkroom and also the expertise of a teacher and some of her students.

Black and white film was distributed in the weeks leading up to the day in the darkroom. Photographers exposed those rolls of film and gathered at the school to see the results.

The day consisted of demonstration and instruction on film processing followed by work with equipment to enlarge the negatives to prints up to 8”x10”.



Left: Spearfish High School Visual Arts Instructor Elise Fowlkes demonstrates some of the procedures for loading and processing b&w film.

Below: Inspecting negatives on a light table with a loupe.

Photography students at the high school became “teachers” for the day and assisted with all the processes.

Once film was processed, it was hung up to dry. The dry negatives were then cut into strips and put into clear sheets for handling.

The sheets of negatives were then printed onto a sheet of photosensitive paper by exposing a controlled amount of light yielding a positive “contact sheet”. A correctly exposed contact sheet would help with the editing process (selecting which of the negatives to enlarge.)

(More photos continued on page 2)



From the Collection



Undated "Winter Golf" Spearfish.



Winter Storm March 1929 Spearfish.



Winter Storm March 1929 Spearfish.



Winter Storm May 1942 Spearfish.

Darkroom (cont. from pg. 1)



Above: Pouring chemicals into tank. **Left:** removing film from tank and reel after processing. **Below:** Using a film changing tent to load film into tank while protecting from light. **Bottom:** Samples of prints from participants.



Photography Community

- Black Hills Focus Group** (historicblackhillsstudios.org/BHFG)
- Black Hills Photography Club** (blackhillsphotographyclub.com)
- Black Hills Photo Shootout** and related photography events (blackhillsphotoshootout.com)

