

HISTORIC BLACK HILLS STUDIOS

HOME OF THE FASSBENDER PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION

New to the Board

Welcome to Dan Blakeman as a new board member for the Fassbender Photographic Collection. Blakeman, who replaced Mike Stahl as Lead's city administrator, fills the role of liaison for the city of Lead on the board. Blakeman's most recent service includes council and mayor positions in Pinehaven, WY and operations officer in Moorcroft, WY.



Dan Blakeman

Photography Events

The Black Hills Focus Group will resume as we work on scheduling future presenters, both virtual and in-person. Keep tabs on us on Historic Black Hills Studios Facebook page and email. Also soon to come will be a mini classroom with 3 computers to learn how to edit photos.

The Black Hills Photo Shootout is scheduled for Sept. 24-26, 2021 after an all virtual event last year. For more info goto:
<https://blackhillshotout.online/>

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

Retouching Part of the Image Making

Stating that an image has been "Photoshopped" is commonly understood terminology these days. It may mean simple retouching or compositing or completely replacing parts of an image. Digital photography and the software tools used to edit and manipulate images are now the norm. Some of those retouching tasks had a place in the past as well. Spotone and other colored dyes were used for retouching or colorizing images. (more on pg. 2)



Below: Spotone was a commonly used dye for touching up black & white prints. Different bottles in a kit were for matching cool and warm tones in addition to lightness and darkness of the area to be retouched by varying the dilution. Sometimes this method was used simply to remove a light spec on the image resulting from a bit of dust on the print. This saved the cost of reprinting the image.

Featured Artifact

The Kodak "Tourist" camera was produced from 1948-51 and was replaced by the "Tourist II" series. The camera used 620 film with each frame measuring 2 1/4" x 3 1/4" or roughly 6 x 9 cm. One roll yielded 8 exposures. The camera was also capable of using a different sized film called 828 which resulted in a slightly "telephoto" effect due the film's smaller size.



The lens was not interchangeable and the camera was also available with a Kodak Tourist Adapter Kit which consisted of some masks to overlay on the film for different sizes.

The Kodak "Tourist" camera

Recently Digitized...



Queen's Motel Spearfish July 1959



Rainbow Motel Spearfish September 1962



Royal Rest Motel Spearfish June 1961



Excel Motel Spearfish, June 1961

Photography Quote:

"To me, photography is the simultaneous recognition, in a fraction of a second, of the significance of an event."

- Henri Cartier-Bresson

Retouching (cont. from pg. 1)

Hand-coloring black and white photographs can be traced back to the beginning of photography. The arrival of the first Kodachrome color slide film in 1935 diminished the need for the skill. Present day digital artists now use software to add color to historic photos.



Above: Marshall photo color oils used for retouching or coloring photographic prints.

Spearfish High School Job Shadow

Spearfish High School student Madalen Sprigler spent some time with the Fassbender Photographic Collection this spring as a part of her career planning class. Sprigler has interest in pursuing a career as an archivist and used her time to become familiar with the process. Sorting, repackaging, cataloguing and digitizing were all part of the job shadow experience. "I met several people while job shadowing that really helped guide me in a good direction for what schooling I'd need in order to go into a history related job field" said Sprigler who also happens to be a descendant of the Fassbender family.



Above: Madalen Sprigler sorts envelopes to be repackaged and cataloged.