

snap shots

Volume 11 Number 2

October, 2005

Wish You Were Here: 50 Years of Postcard Production

When you ask Bernard L. Gordon where it started, he talks about Kodachrome.

"One of my brothers shot Kodachrome of the '38 hurricane. I was just small, but my two brothers took pictures and used the darkroom. They got me started."

Bernie has kept at it ever since, a dedicated photographer for almost three-quarters of a century. But it's been just one career among many.

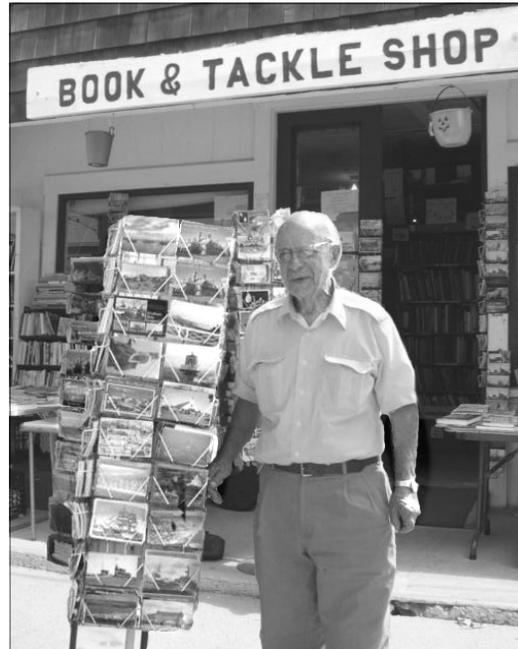
Hundreds of Postcards, Millions of Copies

Along the way he's run a bookstore, the Book and Tackle Shop, in Watch Hill, RI, for more than fifty years. He taught . He's written 16 books and thousands of articles. And he's shot and published hundreds and hundreds of postcards that have sold, he says, well over a million copies.

Along the way he's had postcards printed by all the major publishers, he says -- Dexter, Plastichrome, and the grand old Boston companies Tichnor Bros. and Colour-picture. He has shot and sold postcards up and down the Atlantic coast, and some he did 45 years ago, he says, are still selling.

Bernie Gordon (who's a PHSNE Life Member) will bring his postcards and the photographs -- and the stories behind them -- to PHSNE's October meeting at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 2, at Waltham High School.

One story, one postcard: He met his wife Esther when she bought a postcard in the Book and Tackle Shop. He's kept the card in print ever since -- a view of a seagull at



Bernard L. Gordon, educator, author, publisher, photographer, patron of deltiology, and for 51 years proprietor of the Book & Tackle Shop.

sunset. The marriage produced not only three children, but a series of books on extinct animals for young readers.

Gordon has written and lectured about the history and natural history of the sea and seashore his whole career. He majored in biology and physics (and used books) at the University of Rhode Island. After graduation and advanced degrees he taught astronomy, meteorology, geography and oceanography, mostly at Boston's Northeastern University, where he became professor emeritus in 2002.

And the Postcards Keep on Coming

Even though he's outlived Kodachrome, Gordon is still shooting film and selling postcards. He hasn't gone digital -- he bought a digital camera, but the batteries needed recharging too often, he says.

He's still publishing new cards: the latest are paintings by a friend, Eddy Thompson, who was a fisherman. Recently Gordon curated an exhibit of Thompson's work for the Stonington, CT, museum that will travel to the South Street Seaport in New York City.

The Book and Tackle Shop is still open May to October in Watch Hill, too. And now that he's no longer teaching full-time, he's opened a second, year-round Book and Tackle Shop on Main Street in Westerly.

October 2 meeting at 1:30 p.m. at Waltham High School — "50 Years of Postcard Production," by Bernard Gordon

Calendar Book Chronicles a Granite State Rediscovery

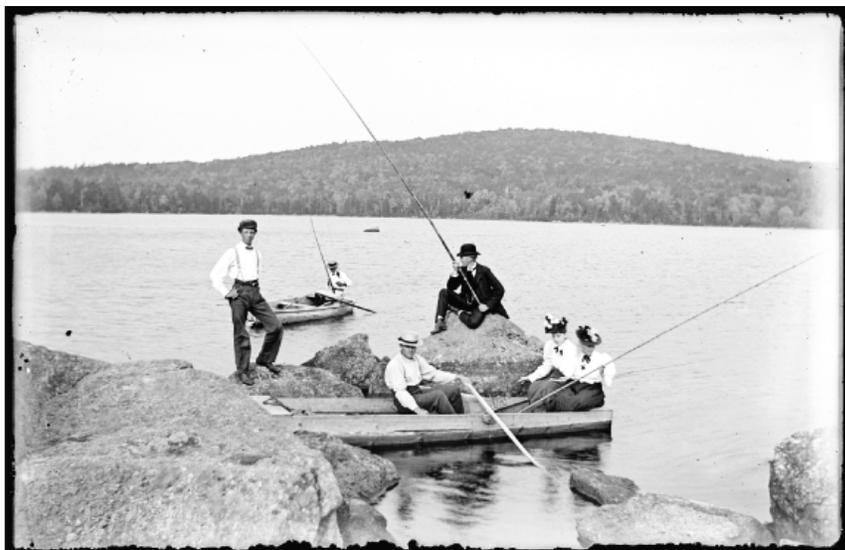
True Tales and Prized Pictures presents the work of New Hampshire photographers, brothers Arthur and Elmer Nelson.

The 9-by-8-inch volume includes 61 duotone reproductions taken from glass plate negatives made by the brothers in the 1890s. The accompanying text is taken from their own journals preserved by family members.

The plates were recently rediscovered in a barn that had belonged to Arthur Nelson Jr.

The 112-page desktop calendar for 2006 is printed on 100 lb. stock and paginated so that the calendar pages can be removed, leaving a large-format book of photographs.

All proceeds of the sale of *True Tales* benefit the restoration of the Goshen, NH, Grange Hall. The cost is \$18



per copy. To order, send a check made out to FOGGH to Friends of the Goshen Grange Hall, P.O. Box 1016, Goshen NH 03752.

Photography Events in the Museums and Galleries

By James Hill

At the **Fogg Art Museum** (32 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA 02115, 617-495-9400, www.artmuseums.harvard.edu) Until October 30 "*A New Kind of Historical Evidence: Photographs from the Carpenter Center Collection*" will be on display images from the vast collection of photographs, negatives, and related material from the four components of the Harvard University's Carpenter Center Photograph Collections: The Fine Art Photographers Collection, The Social Museum Collection, the American Professional Photographers Collection, and the Boston Transit Collection.

The Carpenter Center's Fine Art Photographers Collection is represented by such works as Edward Weston's *Nude* (1936); Marion Post Wolcott's *Negro Using Outside Colored Stairway to Enter Movie Theatre, Belzoni, Mississippi* (1939); Aaron Siskind's *Gloucester* (1944); O.

Winston Link's *Living Room on the Tracks, Lithia, Virginia* (1955); Bruce Davidson's *Untitled (Alabama)* (1965); and Josef Koudelka's *Czechoslovakia* (1968).

The Boston Transit Collection may be of special interest some PHSNE members, as it documents the construction and early days of the T.

The **Panopticon Gallery of Photography** celebrates their 35th Anniversary with a reception from 7-9 pm on October 20, and the opening of a new gallery location within the Hotel Commonwealth (502c Commonwealth Ave., Kenmore Square, Boston, 617-267-8929, www.panopt.com). On exhibit at the new gallery from October 16 through December 3 will be a collection of photographs of historic Boston by Peter Vanderwarker, featuring selections from his and Robert Campbell's *Boston Globe* Sunday Magazine series *Cityscapes*, and a Panopticon Staff exhibition through October 22.

PHOTOGRAPHICA IS COMING!

64th Photographic Show and Sale — Nov. 19 and 20

ARMENIAN CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL CENTER

47 Nichols Avenue, Watertown, MA

TABLES ARE STILL AVAILABLE.

Call Ed Shaw at 617-965-0807 or e-mail ebshaw@bu.edu

If a picture is worth a thousand words . . .

. . . surely hundreds of thousands of words are worth a picture of Pat MacMillan

By John Felix

And the picture is pretty! And although Pat is no longer at the helm of producing PHSNE's **snap shots** month after month, the standards she set will be influencing this monthly newsletter for many years to come.

After 10 years Pat stepped down as Editor of **snap shots** last month. She was *snap shot's* first editor and until last month when David DeJean took over the responsibility, Pat had been *snap shot's* only editor. Up until then, PHSNE's monthly meeting notices were a single 11" X 14" sheet announcing the upcoming PHSNE lecture. When Jack Naylor suggested PHSNE enhance the "notice" to include information about gallery shows, lectures and other information, and put Pat in charge as Editor, the Board of Directors knew it had a winner.

Whether it be editing **snap shots**, feeding items to the auctioneers at PHSNE's auctions, or helping Jack Naylor all those years when he was Editor of the Journal, Pat's



Photo by Dan Jones

A Letter From PHSNE to Pat MacMillan

Dear Pat,

This is will acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 13 offering your resignation as editor of **snap shots**.

In accepting your resignation I must tell you that we shall all miss your skill, taste and wonderful enthusiasm. Over many years your vital work editing PHSNE's newsletter has very effectively kept all our members abreast of our myriad activities. It will be challenging indeed for us to carry forward this vital work without your experienced, skillful hand at the helm.

Please allow me to speak for our entire membership in sending you our profound thanks for the immense contribution you have made to the well-being and success of this society.

With best wishes and enduring gratitude,

Most sincerely,
Daniel W. Jones, Jr.
President, PHSNE

snap shots, edited by David DeJean, is published by the Photographic Historical Society of New England, Inc., P.O. Box 650189, West Newton, MA 02465-0189. Send news briefs to ddejean@dejean.com.

many contributions to PHSNE have always been subtle but substantial.

Once in a while the photographer succeeds in capturing a great smiling face. Once in a while an organization succeeds in capturing the services of an outstanding individual. With Pat, PHSNE succeeded in capturing both.

Membership News

New Member: Robert O. Bond, Millersville, MD. Interests include: Exposure Meters; Flashguns; 3D, Cameras, Views (Farming), View Master. Member C.A.P.S., NSA, ISU, and formerly APHS. For contact information e-mail ALevesque@aol.com. Include "PHSNE" in the subject line.

PHSNE membership is \$30 for an individual, \$36 for a family, and \$40 for foreign members. Please send checks or money orders drawn in U.S. funds for dues payments. Communicate all changes of address and other status information, to: Adrian Levesque, 42 Deerhaven Dr., Nashua, NH 03064; or e-mail ALevesque@aol.com.

Contribute to The *Journal*

PHSNE members are among the most knowledgeable custodians of photographic history. Share your knowledge with others. Consider submitting a brief outline or summary of a piece that you wish to write (or have already written) for the PHSNE *New England Journal of Photographic History*, the Society's most important publication. The *Journal* is seeking articles across a wide range of subjects, including cameras and lenses, processes, images (both historic and contemporary), photographers, and digital photographic technologies.

Please send your summary or outline to the PHSNE Publication Committee, as hard copy (with Xerox copies of illustrations) to: PHSNE Journal, PO Box 650189, West Newton, MA 02465-0189; or by e-mail (without photographs) to TheJournal@phsne.org with the subject heading "PHSNE Journal". Be sure to add your full name and contact information with either method; after the

Upcoming Programs and Events

November 6 — Meeting at Waltham High School: Steve Jareckie, "History of Japanese Photography"

November 19-20 — Photographica Show & Sale, Armenian Cultural and Educational Center, 47 Nichols Ave., Watertown, MA.

December 4 — Meeting at the Museum of Our National Heritage: "Riding the Rails: The Boxcar Boys and Girls of the Great Depression"

PHSNE Meetings

Meetings are usually held on the first Sunday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at Waltham High School.

Directions

Waltham High School is at 617 Lexington Road in Waltham, MA. The high school is at the top of the hill, behind another school building.

From I-95 (Route 128) Northbound: Take Exit 27 and follow Totten Pond Road 1.2 miles east until it dead-ends into Lexington Road. Turn left and go .5 miles north. Turn right into the school complex.

From I-95 (Route 128) Southbound: Take Exit 28, Trapelo Road, east 1.3 mi. to Lexington St. Turn right and go south .8 mi. to school complex.

From Boston/Cambridge: Take Rte. 2 west to Exit 54B, then Lexington St. south 1.7 mi. to school complex on left.

From Lincoln and West: Take Rte. 2 east to Exit 53, Concord Ave. Go east 1 mi., then right onto Lexington St. and 1.3 mi. south to school complex on left.

PHSNE Online

PHSNE is online at www.phsne.org. PHSNE member Ralph Johnston is the Web master.

A Party Invitation

Join in helping to get *snap shots* to your fellow members! Ask any member of the board about the monthly mailing party, where you can get to know your fellow members better and help to put *snap shots* in the mail!

Address Service Requested

P.O. Box 650189
West Newton, MA 02465-0189

snap shots
PHSNE

FIRST CLASS MAIL

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2005
MEETING NOTICE