

LASTING IMAGES

NEWSLETTER OF THE PHOTO FRIENDS OF THE LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY HISTORY DEPARTMENT • SPRING 2007

Going Digital

The newsletter you're holding is the final print edition of *Lasting Images*. Coming soon will be the debut of the Photo Friends Web site—www.photofriends.org—which will provide all of the features of the newsletter and more. Members and visitors will be able to read updates about our ongoing projects, including the Industrial Project and The L.A. Neighborhoods Project. You will also be able to read about the provocative speakers coming to The Photographer's Eye and to look at historic photographs that have been gifted to the collection.

We enjoyed producing the print edition and are proud of its thirteen-year-long run, but the printing and mailing expenses no longer make sense in the digital age. We trust that you'll enjoy the new format and, as always, we welcome your comments. **If you would like to continue to receive the newsletter and announcements from Photo Friends, please email your name, email address, and mailing info (for our records) to: amy@futurestudio.com. Put "Photo Friends" in the subject line.**

Focus on . . . The Photographer's Eye

Photo Friends continues its bi-monthly "The Photographer's Eye" series with two upcoming programs. Claremont-based photographer Doug McCulloh will speak about his ongoing experiences shooting throughout California. With a growing reputation for conceptually-based work, McCulloh, who has produced several books, will show samples from those projects, as well as his work shooting Hollywood for Photo Friends' "the L.A. Neighborhoods Project." His exhibit on Hollywood is on display in the Library's first-floor galleries through May 20. **Programming note: This "Photographer's Eye" will take place in the Library's Taper Auditorium from 6:15 to 7:15 P.M. Please note the time and location change.**

In June, gallery owner David Fahey will speak about the craft of collecting photography. Fahey has been a photography dealer in Los Angeles since 1975. He is best known in local circles as the co-owner of L.A.'s prestigious Fahey/Klein Gallery. Since opening the Gallery in 1987, Fahey has concentrated on exhibitions of rare, vintage and contemporary photography. The Gallery has represented or exhibited work by such notable photographers as Man Ray, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Joel-Peter Witkin, Mary Ellen Mark, and William Klein. **"The Photographer's Eye" will take place on Wed., June 13, in Meeting Room A at LAPL, from 12:15 to 1:15 P.M.**

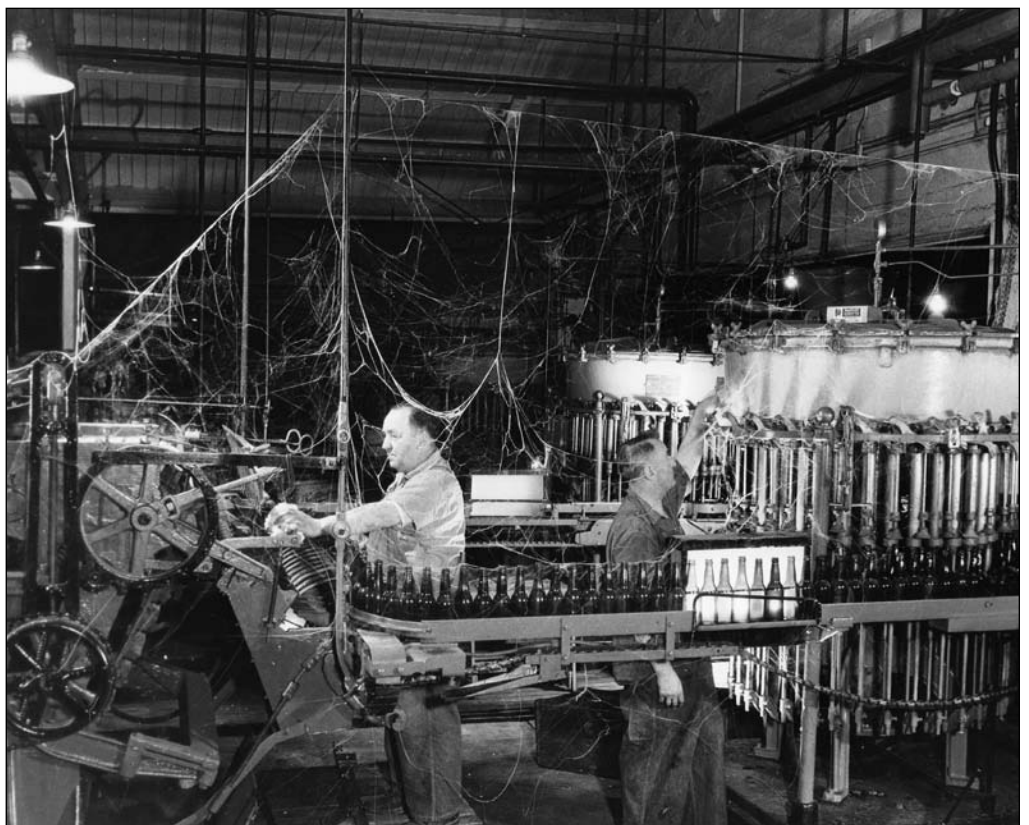
The Vinegar Syndrome

In the spring of 2006, the Los Angeles Public Library staff discovered a devastating condition within the photography collection. More than 11,000 acetate negatives (taken prior to 1941) in the Security Pacific National Bank collection and in the Works Progress Administration's Federal Writer's Project were affected by what is referred to as "vinegar syndrome," wherein the emulsion separates from the film base. Many negatives were intact, but some showed advanced signs of decay and, worse, complete degradation. Acting swiftly, the Library Foundation applied for and received a grant from the Getty Foundation to preserve the negatives. The staff are now scanning and cataloging the negatives for the library's website, then placing the negatives in specially designed freezer bags that are stored in the new industrial-sized freezer.

Said Carolyn Cole: "I'm grateful for the Getty's support to help us save the historic WPA negatives and the important industrial images that document our changing landscape."



Several men, most wearing hats, can be seen pitching horseshoes at the public horseshoe court in Lincoln Park, Long Beach. Several others sit on long benches behind the fence. Across the street, in the background, a building is surrounded by scaffolding. WPA Collection.



A fabulous photograph found by Industrial Project volunteers. Eastside Beer brewers clear away the cobwebs after Prohibition ends and business resumes. Security Pacific Collection.

**We need volunteers
to help with the Collection!
Call Carolyn Cole at (213) 228-7403**

CURATOR OF PHOTOGRAPHS
Carolyn Cole

Alexandra Rasic
Christy J. McAvoy
Kathy Kobayashi
Amy Inouye
Mark Evans
Michael Dawson
David Davis
Robert Dalton

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Los Angeles, CA 90071
630 West Fifth Street
History Department
Los Angeles Public Library
of the

photo
friends

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PASADENA, CA.
Permit #490

From the Collection: Spanish-language Theater

Writer William Lansford knows the breadth of the L.A. Public Library's photo collection well. In the 1990s, he shared a cache of family photographs and memorabilia for the "Shades of L.A." project. Recently, Lansford and his wife, Ruth, have returned to the Library in search of images to chronicle the vibrant Spanish-language theater scene in L.A. from the 1920s to the early 1940s. Lansford plans to publish a book about this topic, including material about his own family. "My mother was a singer-dancer, and my step-dad was a musician and performer," Lansford said. "They worked all the Spanish-language theaters, which were then located on Main Street, between what is now Cesar Chavez Blvd. and Fourth Street. That's where all the immigrants congregated." Lansford's work at LAPL has already paid dividends: because of his research, a previously undiscovered image of The Grand Theater surfaced. "The Library's photo collection is a wonderful resource," he said. "Going through the images is like going back in history through photographs."

The Grand Theater at 750 S. Grand Avenue was built in 1907 by George W. Walker. It was also known as the Walker Auditorium, the Orange Grove Theater and finally, the Actors Theater, before it closed down in July of 1946. It staged musical hits before becoming a "motion-picture" house in the mid-1930's. Herald Examiner Collection.



BECOME A MEMBER OF PHOTO FRIENDS

Photo Friends supports the photo collection and the history department of the Los Angeles Public Library by improving access to the collections, promoting the collections to the public through programs, events, and exhibits, and acquiring new photographs to supplement the collection.

Join Photo Friends at one of the following levels:

\$20 Student/Senior	Benefits include a subscription to <i>Lasting Images</i> , our quarterly newsletter, invitations to exhibit openings and other special events, and exciting volunteer opportunities.
\$30 Individual	
\$50 Household	
\$100 Patron	Benefits include the above, plus a \$20 gift certificate to Dawson's Bookstore, and your choice of an 8"×10" exhibit-quality photograph from the Library's collection.
\$250 Benefactor	Benefits include the above, plus a signed 5"×7" Gary Leonard photograph.
\$500 Lifetime	Benefits include the above, plus an invitation to an exclusive evening with a noted photographer.

For more information, contact Carolyn Cole at the Los Angeles Public Library at (213) 228-7403

To join Photo Friends, send this coupon to:

Photo Friends • Los Angeles Public Library • History Department
630 West Fifth Street, Los Angeles, California 90071

- NEW
 RENEWAL

Enclosed is my annual membership contribution of:

- \$20 Student/Senior \$100 Patron
 \$30 Individual \$250 Benefactor
 \$50 Household \$500 Lifetime

I have enclosed an additional tax-deductible gift in the amount of \$ _____ to further support important Photo Friends programs.

I am interested in volunteering. Please contact me with more information.

Make your check payable to "Photo Friends"

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

work

home

E-mail: _____