

**A note about this article – it was transcribed on behalf of the Archives Service Center at the University of Pittsburgh from an original news clipping [The Pittsburgh Leader, Sunday, October 28, 1888]. Large spaces in the document are intentional as these are areas where text on the available copy was missing.*

ENTHUSIASTIC AMATEURS

RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF PHOTOGRAPHY IN OUR MIDST

A List of Local Artists Who Have Taken Up the Study and Made Name and Fame by Their Artistic Work—The Practical Purposes to Which the Art Can be Put for Profit as Well as For Pastime.

The rage for amateur photographing increases as each year rolls by, and as it has come to be so popular for its artistic pleasure and unlimited possibilities in the way of perfections, it is no wonder it has been taken hold of and studied in its many branches by such a large number of our local people.

In fact, all stages of society have their representative amateur photographers, and no association, party, club, or meeting of any kind is considered complete unless pictures of the proceedings can be had to keep as souvenirs. The dramatic club, with its complement of actors, would no more think of undertaking a performance without a photographic display of the characters and surrounding at its close, than would the picnic party or the family group at a dinner, where four generations participate. It has almost become a breach in etiquette to give any social entertainment, unless the scene be photographed as a keepsake for those in attendance, and it would be quite a difficult matter to select a fair-sized

company of this entertainment without including among the list an amateur photographer.

Photographic concerns, realizing what an important part this will have to do with everything of a social nature, independent of the other various uses to which it can be put, have almost an endless style and variety of cameras now in the market, with innumerable improvements both to simplify and better the results being introduced almost daily.

Outfits are advertised extensively throughout the country for the beginner, from the \$10 apparatus to those that cost for the more advanced pupils, away up in the hundreds of dollars, and from which plates are finished that may well grace the drawing rooms of our most palatial residences.

Fishing clubs and other pleasure parties making extended tours, both at home and abroad, never fail on their return, to supply a large list of scenes taken for the enjoyment of the more unfortunate ones who have remained at home, giving for their inspection and comment a fair representation of the fun had and the beauties of the natural scenery encountered, as well as the works of architecture or the ruins visited.

For the various subjects, different styles of lenses must be used; for gallery work it requires a portrait. If the subject be landscape view work the rapid produce the best results, while, for views, the wide-angle lens produces the most favorable results. For smaller pictures, where space is an object in packing or carrying an instrument form point to point on ones' travels, or for use on bicycle tours, the Detective, Kodask or the Instantograph seem to enjoy the monopoly.

The beginner almost invariably makes in the first few attempts an excellent picture of some subject, to such an extent that his head swells proportionately and he believes he knows it all; but his self-assurance is soon destroyed with the change in weather or the hundred and one other difficulties which present themselves in future attempts. It is only by patient study and a complete memoranda of all work done in the past; of time, weather and effects, that the amateur arrives at any state of perfection. When this plan is adopted I is an earnest that one is thoroughly interested in the art, and it will not belong ere the novice is able to fully complete each of his subjects, which is a simple process when thoroughly understood.

As between male and female amateur photographers, a difference generally exists in the style of pictures taken; the woman who is naturally more tasteful and particular in her subjects, shows an originality and style throughout her work, which is of the more delicate and refined style, requiring them for perfection; the man, like in most things of the kind he undertakes, is more impetuous and his work is generally of that sort, where his nervous energy can be expended in what is called instantaneous views, requiring excellent judgment and a prompt and unhesitating manipulation of the camera. To complete a picture, after securing all the apparatus necessary, the cost will vary, but generally ranges from twelve to twenty cents each, according to the mounting used.

The best season in the year for photographing is during February, the sun rays and atmosphere seeming to afford powers for perfect outlining that cannot be equaled at any other time.

Of course perfect pictures are made at all seasons, especially so from February to December, but it is pretty generally conceded by all amateurs that the first mentioned month produces the best average results.

For beginners what is termed a slow plate should be used; it will afford chances to rectify mistakes, and when an exposure is made will not require such close timing as the instantaneous. A few seconds in cases where the light is good, or extra minutes on a longer timed subject, will be less noticeable and produce a result which will be satisfactory; on the other hand, instantaneous work must be timed to the exact second in order to obtain a good picture, and while it requires a more advanced pupil to work successfully, produces results which cannot be obtained by the slower method, taking with lightning-like rapidity the subject in motion as well as the still.

It is surprising what an important part the camera plays in most of the landscape painting of the present. Formerly the artist sought the shaded nook he painted, at a specified hour each day, to secure the delicate shading which is everything for his profit and reputations. Often on account of a change in the weather the effect would be lost, necessitating a long and anxious wait on his part. Now he carries with him in all his meanderings a camera, call the "Artist _____," and secures the lights and shadowswhere it previously required weeks to obtain. A flock of sheep to be introduced in the painting can, by this method, be photographed in all their natural positions while fielding or resting, with the best effects of light or shadow, and be so faithfully and actually portrayed that the painting with this help can only

fail on account of the artist's inability to reproduce perfectly.

Aside from the many practical uses to which the camera can be put, its use alone for pleasure is enough to warrant a large number of advocates; even to such an extent that in our midst at the present day, a flourishing amateur photographing society exists, independent of numerous other individual who carry on the art for their sole satisfaction and amusement.

The Pittsburgh Amateur Photographers' society was organized on May 25, 1885, and from the fruits of this first meeting has sprung the following list of local amateur photographers who are well known by the work they have accomplished. The original meeting of this society was held in the office of George S. Orth, and the following officers were elected: A. S. Murray, president; George S. Orth, vice president; F.R.C. Perrin, corresponding secretary, and W. E. VonBonnhorst, treasurer. Other members were: F. Smythe, T.K. Gray, J.R. Hunter and W. H. Nimick. The object of the society as now, was for mutual improvement and to further the art. Meetings have been held each month, and each time the of memberships showed large gains, the society now has over one hundred names on the membership list. It has required no little care and trouble for the LEADER to procure the following list of amateur photographers with the kind of cameras and lenses they have been using: George S. Orth uses a Blair camera and a Prazmowski lens, the latter being the first of the kind ever introduced here. He was successful with it that at the last annual exhibition he won the prize in his class. He most of his work to architectural subjects and is uniformly successful.

S. Bell is an expert and employs his moments with any sized camera, from to the largest size, which is 18x22 . Perhaps his best effort is a picture "Snow and Sunshine," and which has forth a good deal of comment and .

T. Carter manipulates a 5x8 Scoville camera and Dallmeyer lens. He has been photographing off and on for quite a while, can be looked upon as one of the pioneers. His taste in photography is of the kind and he was the inventor of the folding tripod.

W. H. Nimick uses the Blair camera and Euryscope lens. While his productions make a fair average with his cotemporaries, he has of late not been so ardent in the pastime of picture-taking.

F. R. C. Perrin has a Blair camera and Darlot lens. He is very enthusiastic, taking a great many pictures when business will permit. Being careful with all subjects he undertakes, he is above the average in his results. He has a penchant for photographing machinery, and has taken prizes in this line at all the society exhibitions.

A. K. Nimick carries a Compact camera and Beck lens, as well as one of Prazmowski's make, and in his travels though Florida and Mexico he never fails to have his outfit with him.

L. S. Clarke devotes most of his time to the Detective camera, and with excellent results. Some of his views of the late centennial occasion are remarkably good. He is a prize winner at all the society exhibitions.

William Connell boasts of his Blair camera and Prazmowski lens. While he is very enthusiastic over the occupation, he has of late not had much time to devote to this pleasure.

Louis Koelle has a 5x8 Scovill camera and Waterbury lens. He is somewhat of an artist in coloring photographs, and uses the camera for figures and groups.

Dr. C. A. Wilson employs his camera, a 5x8 Scovill, in the operating room at the Homeopathic hospital of scientific purposes.

John Carlin has an 8x10 Anthony outfit, and is always found on hand for any excursion planned by the society of which he is an active member.

A. S. Murray is the oldest and most enthusiastic amateur photographer in the vicinity. His first experience dates back to the tin type era when an outfit was given to him as a birthday gift, and which he worked with more or less success for quite a while; this was followed up with the more elaborate wet plate apparatus which required a house and wagon to transport. In those days it required for exposure of one plate the dark-room rigged up on the ground. While taking pictures under such circumstances, when dry plates first came out, it is no wonder he was quick to catch on. At present he uses a Detective camera, and makes the assertion that the time is not far distant when both the tripod and focusing cloth will be dispensed with entirely. He has photographed from Maine to California.

F. Smythe uses a Blair camera and Beck lens and executes excellent work. He devotes all the time he can spare from bicycle riding to the seductive art.

H. Hunter works with a Blair camera and Darlot lens, photographing machinery landscape, or figure work; he has with electric light

Wrenshall owns one of the complete outfits, composed of a

camera and Prazmowski lens. For many years past he has given the art careful study and to-day is considered an authority among amateurs. The principal views he has taken embrace scenery about Rock point and some excellent views of the family homestead, where his earlier days were spent.

W. E. VonBonnhorst is a pioneer photographer; being well up in the art he has taken numberless good views, but while still enthusiastic, of late years he has not been very active in the work, having business cares and responsibilities which demand most of his time.

T. J. McTighe, who has lately been residing in New York, is an enthusiastic photographer. He wields a 4x5 Scoville outfit and does excellent execution with it.

J. W. Brown uses the Blair camera and Dallmeyer lens; he is fond of travel and on all excursions from this city takes with him this outfit. His South Fork scenes have been admired by many, principally the groups h has taken around the cottages.

A. G. Barnett on all his summer vacations takes with him his Blair camera and Euryscope lens. To better his opportunities for landscape scenes he has made frequent trips in his buggy to various points of interest, and his results have always been more than satisfactory.

Willie Walker uses the Blair camera and Beck lens; is an enthusiast and admirable photographer and has won several special prizes at the annual exhibitions of the society.

N. Wells has won prizes on every exhibit, and usually in very large classes. His work is accomplished with a Blair camera and Prazmowski lens, and he is considered away up among the amateur photographers.

J. O. Horne's principal pictures have been taken at South Fork, and his best effort was in taking a group there, catching each person in the nick of time with a wide-open expression on their countenances. He uses a Blair camera and Anthony lens.

H. G. Otis has a Petite camera, which he uses principally for lantern slides, and works with good results.

G. A. Hays consoles himself with a Compact camera and Prazmowski lens. He has worn out the case of his outfit in carrying it through West Virginia looking for old clocks. His battlefield scenes, as well as architectural subjects, have been admired by his many friends.

G. M. Newcomer uses his 4x5 Blair outfit for photographing test columns. He does not do much other work than in this line.

W. E. Lincoln takes his Scovill camera and Prazmowski lens with him into the White mountains, and his landscape scenes have won for him several prizes. His hobby is instantaneous work, and locomotives his special subjects.

G. V. Marshall is a member of Hampton's battery, and the products from his Blair camera and Euryscope lens of scenes about the Little Round Top mountain taken for many years successively, illustrate the changes from the war-like then until the peaceful now.

Thomas Kennedy devotes most of his time to making lantern slides with his Lancaster camera and Darlot lens. His excellent work won for him a prize at the last exhibition.

C. F. Sidell, when out with his bicycle, takes his Blair camera and Prazmowski lens. Some of his pictures taken at Gypsy camp during the past summer are excellent. He is above the average among amateurs.

J. T. Wood, on Saturday, when he has recreation after school duties, employs his time with a Blair camera and Darlot lens. His results from snapshots of the campus are good, and make a diary for him to keep of his school-boy days.

Marvin Scaife while traveling abroad, found the necessity of a good photographing outfit for taking scenes through the lands he journeyed in, and bought an English camera and Prazmowski lens. As a result he has in his possession now a complete illustration of his trip.

Lucien Scaife is the owner of a 5x8 Scovill outfit with which he has made some most satisfactory views about Harpers Ferry.

Horace Moorehead has a Compact camera and Prazmowski lens. He has taken his outfit to Colorado and secured excellent photographs of the geysers and basin-fountains as well as interesting views of the Garden of the Gods.

Theodore Tonnele won a prize on single figure composition, with his Blair camera and Beck lens some two years since.

Reed Bailey makes a specialty of photographing machinery; he uses a Blair camera and Morrison lens with good results.

E. C. Schmertz works with an Anthony outfit and his subjects generally turn out in the most satisfactory manner.

O. C. Ganter is the photographic member of the Soho fishing club: he and his camera are indispensable paraphernalia on all excursions made by the club, and the views he has taken on their various trips are away above the average.

T. K. Gray, with his Blair camera and Darlot lens, takes in all the society

excursions. He is not only one of the originators of the society, but has photographing down to such a fine point that he is looked upon as an amateur away above the general run.

Miss Ellen S. Paul uses a Rochester camera and Steinheil lens. She possesses excellent views, not only of scenes on and about her father's orange groves in Florida, where she visits yearly, but has a large collection, made while upon her recent trip to Europe. Her pictures show a delicacy and care to detail which place her away up in the ranks.

L. C. Bergermister has a Blair camera and Dallmeyer lens, which he bought for steamboat photographing, river traffic and canal views.

W. R. Bull, the genial photographer most of the *Dispatch's* cuts, uses a camera and makes many elegant views

C. C. Mellor uses the Blair camera and Prazmowski lens as well as the camera; both are used in connection with the microscope for photomicrograph..... has a collection of slides and pictures.....to any scientist in the country, andhe does is among the best by our amateurs.

Campbell Bakewell has a Detective camera which he uses principally on histrips, as well as for regattas and other.....subjects.

G. B. McCandless discarded bicycling.....photographing; he invested in a Blair camera and Euryscope lens, and has a preference for photographing horses, in which subjects he excels.

W. L. Lapsley has a record from away back. Some three years ago he invested in a Blair camera and Prazmowski lens. Securing a covered

wagon he made an extensive trip south to Harper's Ferry, Shenandoah valley, Charleston and other historical points, securing some excellent views, although wind and weather were at times against him. He is looked upon as above the average.

Charlie Davis, a lad but 12 years of age bids fair to excel most of the amateurs. He has won a number of prizes in special compositions of animals at the annual exhibitions. He uses the Blair camera and Prazmoswki lens and has taken some remarkable views of the interior of the courthouse. He also has a Detective camera with which he snapped pictures of the centennial parade, and secured a tip-top picture of ex-President Hayes during his address at the dedication of the court house.

Miss Edith Darlington has a number of cameras but uses the Detective most. She has won a number of prizes from the society for her excellent work.

O'Hara Darlington, with his Blair camera and Prazmowski lens, frequently accompanies his sister on view-taking excursions. He has won several prizes on is art compositions, notably a duck picture, securing the birds while they were feeding in a pond. To obtain this result he filled a pocket with corn and, after having everything in readiness, threw the corn into the pond and while the ducks were feeding took them in a most novel situation.

John E. McCrickart took the best pictures at the opening of Davis Island dam. When not engaged too much with politics, he devotes his spare time to instantaneous work on horse races and other like sports.

Geo. Singer has a large collection of pictures taken in and about Bar

Harbor, with his Anthony camera and Dallmeyer lens.

Dr. W. F. Wilcox manipulates a 5x8 Scovill, using it principally in the dissecting room.

Dr. R. L. Walker follows out the scientific line with his Eastman camera and Prazmoswki lens. As a naturalist photographer he has excellent specimens taken of birds, bees, plants and flowers; he also employs his camera some in cases of surgery.

J. W. Morrison uses various cameras in his picture-taking; among others, a 5x8 Scovill, with which he does excellent work.

Miss Nellie Metcalf has a Blair camera and Beck lens, which she has used principally at the school she is attending, and with excellent results.

F. W. Rites, with his compact camera and Prazmowski lens, travels a good deal and has photographed from the Palisades on the Hudson river to points among the pine forests of the far north.

Jos. T. Speer has a Detective camera. He took it with him to Cuba and carried it into the arena while a bull fight was in progress, taking views at various stages as the fight progressed. These subjects are filled with interest and have been carefully studied by his many friends. He presented an elegant lantern with all its paraphernalia to the society.

Miss Maggie Boyle has been using a Detective camera, which accompanied her on her European tour. She has an elegant list of souvenirs of her trip, which have been greatly admired by her friends.

Miss Ida Walton is an enthusiastic and original amateur photographer. She has an elegant outfit composed of an Anthony camera and

Darlot lens; her penchant in picture-taking is to produce something which will be both original and unique. Among other of her good pictures is a "wheelbarrow" scene, which has been commented upon and praised highly for its artistic merit.

Mrs. E. M. Byers travels for her health a great deal, and on all occasions takes with her a Blair camera and Prazmowski lens. Her subjects are all carefully selected and the work she does shows the thorough artist.

W. H. White is a good but erratic artist with his photographing apparatus, which consists of an Eastman camera and Prazmowski lens.

J. M. Tate photographs for pleasure; he is much interested in a Kodak which he intends to purchase, and will then be able to take anything from a humble bee to a brown stone front.

Louis B. Hays uses the Scoville camera and Prazmowski lens. He has lately taken a trip to Denver and the northwest and has brought home a cart load of negatives. He is considered among the best in amateur work.

George Heisey won an prize for a composition about two years ago; he uses the Blair camera and Prazmowski lens,. His special subjects are a collection of.....pictures of mare and colt, which he has photographed in almost every conceivable.....

C. A. Ashburner, in his scientific researches, has used his Eastman camera and Dallmeyer lens to unusual good advantage. Whether in Arizona or Texas, or throughout the great oil fields nearer home, it has been one and the same, for he has a complete.....of pictures to recall each place.

Rev. J. A. Bausman has lately purchased a camera for out-door recreation and as a relief from the

confinement of his study. He takes excellent views, and is artistic in whatever subject he attempts.

G. G. Bruce has an Eastman camera and Bomke lens; his results from flash-lights and blue prints at the last exhibition will attest the use to which he has put his work.

John W. Beatty, instructor in the art school, has a Clarke detective, which he manipulated last summer at Scalp Level with excellent effect. He finds it a most useful addition to his summering outfit.

J. H. K. Burgwin, who is now located at Petoskey, Michigan, and is interested in railroad engineering, uses for practical purposes as well as recreation, a Blair camera and Prazmowski lens.

G. W. Bassler has an Anthony outfit. He has made a notable number of groups in and about Zelianople.

Henry Berger with his Blair camera and Prazmowski lens has taken some excellent views from Observatory hill; he is also quite a microscopist, having about the best instrument in the city.

J. H. Babcock has a series of excellent views taken of the Pack-saddle on the P. R. R., as well as fine subjects of the railroad washout on Chartiers creek, which occurred last summer. He uses the Anthony camera and Prazmowski lens.

Willie Caldwell, son of Charles Caldwell, has a Blair camera and Darlot lens. During the heated months of the past summer, while at Somerville, he made a series of views remarkable for their clearness as well as artistic beauty.

T. H. Dickson, although a comparative new-comer in the field of photographing, has proved by his work that he will soon become an adept. He

uses the Rochester camera and Prazmowski lens.

J. W. Elliot employs his spare moments with his Anthony outfit in photographing plants, flowers and shrubbery; his results show many beautiful subjects in anything which pertains to floriculture.

W. M. Faber, with his Peerless outfit, potters around, photographing principally machinery. He works his instrument with good results, and has taken some excellent subjects.

John Furgeson, while being an enthusiastic tennis player, is no less devoted to the photographic art; with his Blair camera and Beck lens, he has executed a series of excellent photographs.

Rev. J. Fisher photographs principally, interiors, and uses his Anthony camera with a Prazmowski lens for the healthful diversion which it affords.

R. A. Franks has taken almost a numberless amount of views, principally throughout Sewickley valley. His efforts meet success and he has a lovely not only comprises scenic effects, comprised of his many friends. One of his best ideas is a "water mellon taken in the act of eating.

.....Haskell, with his Anthony outfit, artist, and has secured some excellentof Sewickley valley.

.....Pears is quite an artist in his line and invariably takes his Scovill outfit when on a fishing or sketching tour.

W. I. Nevin has caught on to the photographic fever and has made some excellent views with his Rochester camera and Prazmowski lens.

W. R. Means uses the Rochester compact camera and Prazmowski lens. His best effort is a photograph of the Cyclorama, taken with the open lens and by natural light.

C. A. Painter has a detective camera which he uses when cruising around in his steam.....He has secured some excellent views of the natural scenery along the river shores.

C. J. Schultz employs a Blair compact camera and Prazmowski lens, which he uses to good advantage in photographing bridges, both complete, and under way of construction.

H. B. Shallenberger not only has a Lancaster outfit, but an Eastman camera and Prazmowski lens, which he uses in taking dynamos and converters.

Dr. O. W. Saddler, in his trips to Florida, takes with him his Scovill outfit, and has stored away a series of quaint scenes, among which the best are those of negroes on the plantations he has visited.

John G. Stevenson, with his Blair camera and Beck lens, has made a series of pictures in and about Bedford, which

have been greatly admired by his friends.

H. W. Tautde carries a Clarke detective all over the country. He is a member of the society, and his best effort was made during the past summer in Baltimore, where he took some very comical effects. He is original in his work and an expert in the art of snap shooting.

Tom Hartley has views and elegant ones they are, taken at Chautauqua with his Blair compact camera and Prazmowski lens.

N. S. Woolridge has an unbroken record in.....trip made to Erie. With his Blair camera and Prazmowski lens he made four dozen snap shots without a failure. His most notable picture was a group of cattle made from the car window and while in motion; it was taken near Rock Point.

Harry Watts, during his summer vacation in Sewickley, made a number of interesting pictures with a Blair camera and Prazmowski lens.