

**The Photographic Society of  
Southern Africa, Ltd.**

P.O. Box 2007  
Johannesburg



**The West Rand Exhibition of Photography. . .**

. . . was superb. Those Randfontein organisers really know how to put on a public photographic show. Projection and presentation was outstanding and the display of prints up to the highest standards. The show was well attended on both nights of the 'run' and on the night I was there it was packed. I say with all sincerity —let no photographer or film maker in South Africa worthy of the name be reluctant to send their best work to the West Rand Exhibition of Photography. I can assure you that from judging right through to public presentation, your work will be shown to best advantage and handled by experts. The West Rand Exhibition of Photography is undoubtedly one of the premier photographic events in this country and worthy of the fullest support.



*Caught in a jovial mood at the West Rand Exhibition of Photography are from left, Andre du Toit who took away the premier award in the cine section with his Super 8 film on Paris; Ian Thompson, Exhibition Director; Peter du Toit, President of the Photographic Society of Southern Africa; and Ronnie Geffin. Ronnie (16) took away high honours in the Exhibition, including the Protea Plaque for the best slide.*

**Heard About Electro Photography? . . .**

. . . It's another name for video tape, so the Port Elizabeth Ciné Club tells me through their bright and cheerful newsletter. They've just had an important lecture and demonstration on the subject by a Mr. Cowper. This is very progressive and I agree that it is most important that ciné enthusiasts get to know about the latest developments in the production of moving images. Who knows . . . we could all be going 'electro' within a decade or two. Shocking, isn't it?

Incidentally, this club announces their intermission in their circular as 'Tea Brake' — stop for refreshments. A nice touch of humour there. What's more, the club has an idea which other clubs could borrow to advantage —a 'Magazine Swap Shop'. The way it works is that club members bring along magazines they have read and drop them in a box. They then scratch around and take out a magazine or two they haven't read. An excellent service to all members.

*LEFT: Backroom boys at the West Rand Exhibition of Photography hard at work . . . from left: Ben Bredenkamp (Krugersdorp), Norman Pearson (Florida), and Aad du Ryter and Justus van Tonder, both of Randfontein.*

*Part of the large crowd which packed the town hall, Randfontein, —to attend the 1972 West Rand Exhibition of Photography.*



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**Pan, Official Journal of the Durban Camera Club . . .**

. . . tells me that during 1971 sixty club members submitted 309 entries to the club's Annual Salon, of which 106 entries were accepted. Not a bad record, at all. They're out to try and beat that record this year — a noble objective, indeed.

**Honours and Awards . . .**

. . . well, you're too late for the second judging session of 1972 — all applications had to be in by June 30. But there's plenty of time to prepare for the next Honours judging. The closing date is January 31st, 1973. So don't sit back but assemble your best work and try for your Associateship or Fellowship of the Photographic Society of Southern Africa — an honour worth striving for. Write in for details to The Secretary, Honours and Awards, P.S.S.A., P.O. Box 2007, Johannesburg.

**"A Glamour Photographer Once Told Me . . .**

. . . that if he didn't have camera shake at 1/125 second, the model was not worth photographing!" Those are not my words — they come from Beth Grundlingh writing in 'Colorama', the monthly bulletin of the Springs Colour Slide Club. Handing out advice on how to hold a camera steady, she says that if you're one of those photographers who can stand like a rock at any shutter speed, you're lucky. Apparently, according to Beth, most of us have to learn how to hold a camera steady. We need steady nerves, a deep breath, long nose, sharp elbows (for digging into the ribs), relaxed knees and flat feet! Well . . . that describes me perfectly . . .!

Beth goes on to describe a very simple test for determining whether a tripod or camera support is really doing its job properly. This is what you do: tape a small piece of cosmetic mirror to your camera mounted on the tripod. Project a strong beam of light — a projector is ideal — onto the mirror and reflect this onto a wall a few feet away. Watching the reflected image closely to detect any movement, click the shutter. If there is the slightest vibration, your tripod is suspect. That's a good idea. Thanks Beth — and the Springs Colour Slide Club.

**What To Do On A Winter's Night? . . .**

. . . indeed, a number of interesting ideas come to mind . . . (!) but the Welkom Photographic Society in a recent bulletin suggests tabletop photography. "People shy away from this type of photography probably because of an impression gained from listening to persons talking about the months of preparation required building sets and the like . . ." says 'Focus'. Apparently, simple sets are often more effective. Basic equipment required for this most interesting branch of photography is preferably a SLR camera, rigid tripod and a couple of lighting units, including if possible a spotlight or two. Incidentally, according to 'Focus' slide projectors make very good spotlights. Background material can be poster paper in an infinity curve. Other materials suggested are thick string for rope, salt for snow, a sheet of glass for water, detergent suds for foam, and cotton wool for clouds. So why not go scratching about in the attic for props . . . those cold nights are drawing nearer.

## "I Think Our Club Members Are A Lazy Lot . . ."

. . . is how the Secretary of the Florida Camera Club—Vossie Vorster — begins a heated article in a recent edition of the club's magazine. He goes on . . . "They're not really interested in photography. They belong to the club only to enter their holiday snaps and want to go on like this hoping to gain awards. They don't want to learn anything new, but moan when the judges tear their work to pieces. Look at the way members never attend outings and workshops." Tough words, those. Vossie Vorster is in fighting mood and maybe he has every reason to lash out. And I can't help feeling that it would be a good thing if club secretaries and chairmen for that matter took up Vossie's cudgel . . . there are times when club members have to be shaken from their lethargy. The point is: if you're on the club committee trying to do a responsible job, don't be afraid to lead and advise and reprimand. You'll earn the admiration and respect of your members.

## Here's a New Game to Play . . .

. . . while you're waiting for your wife on a street corner says 'Infinity' in a recent edition of 'Flash', the journal of the Pretoria Photographic Society. What you do is to judge every woman who passes by on club standards and you apply all the rules applicable when judging slides. Points are awarded for the following: Impact: this is your first impression and very often a street corner is similar to an evening's colour slide entries — no impact!

Exposure is the next thing. Over-exposure usually gets a higher award than under-exposure but then the subject matter does not always lend itself to excessive exposure. Composition? The subject can be said to have good composition if the impact at first viewing is there, and of course, composition can usually be improved by over-exposure. Development: In some cases, the development should have been stopped by fixing at a much earlier stage. Impact is often reduced by over-exposure. 'Infinity' closes by saying that you can also award marks for points of interest, depending on whether your eye is attracted by any spot on the subject matter. However, a word of warning . . . be careful of close-ups!

## The Port Elizabeth Ciné Club Has The Right Idea . . .

. . . for holding the interest of beginners. They have introduced 'Beginners Workshops' which will include study projects, lectures and demonstrations by more advanced members. Subjects will include how to use the ciné camera to best advantage, tips and techniques, and other subjects all aimed at helping beginners to produce better films.

## From the Cape Ciné Club Journal . . .

. . . I gleaned some important facts about film making. Actually, club member Louis Gordan is responsible for a series of articles in the magazine dealing with important aspects of film making. They make good reading and I can well understand the injunction to Club members to keep the articles for future reference.

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