

MY PHOTOGRAPHY LIFE eBay & Film Photography Part 10

After Berkley Risk

In 2017 of February our entire department in the mail room at Berkley Risk was laid off. I got severance pay and unemployment. At this time, I was seriously thinking about retirement, and when I was going to retire, at this time it would not be wise financially to seek early retirement. I eventually decided to wait two years since I would be 66 years old and eligible for full social security benefits in October 2019. My plans for retirement were to finish the last two years working for temp agencies and then retire.

The first temporary job I had was working for the pwc or Price Waterhouse Cooper. This company is a large accounting firm and has offices in several locations. They had an office downtown Minneapolis located in the pwc Plaza. There was an outdoor plaza on the 35th floor of the building and sometimes at noon I would take my camera and photograph the downtown buildings from the 35th floor. I still sell some of these images as stock. Here is a photo I took of the downtown buildings from the 35th floor on the outdoor plaza. This job lasted about a year.



The second temporary job I got was another customer service type job for Target. I did not work in the store but worked in the corporate side. I was to deliver samples of merchandise to buyers. Many of these samples came in on freight. Some came in through UPS or FedEx and some of the sample products were hand delivered. I held this job till I retired from work in July 2019. My lease on my apartment would be up and I wanted to move out of Minnesota.

Plans for Retirement



Right after my job ended with Berkley Risk. I was making plans of what to do after retirement. I wanted to start a new life. Since my Twin City Scenes were starting to sell again, I thought I could probably sell travel type photos wherever I lived. It would be exciting to photograph the cities, scenes, and landmarks of where I lived and sell those photos. I might even write articles about what I photograph since I like to write.

I wanted to move to another state. I looked at some old view master slides I had as a boy. I remember the Black Hills near Rapid City, South Dakota. My parents and I went there on a vacation. There was so much to see including the Bad Lands. I remember purchasing the view master slides from that trip to the

Badlands and the Black Hills. Since South Dakota was still considered in the Midwest it would not be that far of a move. I knew they would have snow in the winter but doing research on the western area of South Dakota I found that they can get some severe snowstorms that pop up without warning. I decided to look for another destination.

When I was a youngster, my parents took me to Florida twice. I had an uncle and aunt that lived in Daytona Beach. I certainly could photograph the whole state. I thought being centrally located in Orlando would be the best spot for me if I was going to move to Florida. I remember I had always said as a boy I wanted to move to Florida. I researched the idea. It was warm there most of the time. I found out that it does rain a lot there and it is very humid. But I experienced a lot of humidity in Minnesota summers. The whole state is surrounded by water so I would be photographing a lot of scenes with water. I do not know how to swim. I still wasn't sure about Florida.

I remember when I was still working at Berkley Risk my best friend Louis shared with me, he was thinking of someday moving to Arizona. He had visited there with his folks when he was young. I told him I might want to join him. He would talk a lot about Arizona. So, I kept that in the back of my mind. After Berkley Risk I thought I would also think of the possibility of moving to Arizona. It was a desert so it would be warm most of the time. It had very little rain. I had never been to Arizona. I started to research the idea of moving to Arizona. I would read about Arizona and watch You Tube videos about Arizona. My friend never moved to Arizona.

Finally, I made the decision to move to Arizona. My roommate used to live there at one time and the manager who hired me at Target used to live in Phoenix. My last year in Minnesota I bought an Arizona calendar. Since I was going to move out of my apartment in July 2019, I decided to clean the house of a lot of stuff. I threw a lot of junk out. I also wanted to sell stuff I had in my closet, and I still had cameras to sell on eBay. My friend Louis said he would help me sell on eBay and he also had some stuff he wanted to sell along with one of his neighbors. I would photograph the products and post them on eBay and Louis would help wrap the products and deliver them to the post office.

eBay

The last couple of years before retirement Louis and I sold our stuff on eBay. It was a lot of fun. I always liked still life photography. I used my Nikon D90 because it gave smaller files than the D7200 and I did not need large files to upload to the internet. Most of the photos were taken with my Nikkor 60mm f/2.8 macro lens. That lens is very sharp. I shot everything RAW and saved them as jpegs.

My friend Louis had a lot of tools and household items he wanted to sell. One of my favorite products I photographed for him was a spark plug gap tool. It was so small, and I managed to get a lot of detail in the photo. I used my copy stand since I was looking directly above the tool. I placed a white sheet of paper on the copy stand and elevated a sheet of glass and laid the product on the sheet of glass. The glass eliminated shadows completely from the tool. This is one way how we photographers eliminate shadows. It was



processed in black-and-white since the finish on the tool was all metal. I used bounced flash on the subject.

One of Louis' neighbors had an all-metal car collection he wanted to sell. I had fun



photographing all these cars. He also had airplanes. I'm not sure what kind of cars these were some sort of vintage cars. eBay preferred white backgrounds so most of the products were photographed on a white background. Photographing small objects like this you

always have a problem with dust. Dust is that four letter word that gives a still life photographer problems. I had some games that I sold on eBay. The most exciting photo I made for eBay was of a crystal lead wine glass set. These were very heavy glasses and beautifully cut glass. Here is a single glass that I photographed and processed it as a black-and-white image. The set did not sell on eBay but on Craig's List. I still



had cameras to sell, and people were always giving me old cameras, because they knew I used to collect old cameras. I remember someone even gave me a slide projector. My favorite subject to sell and photograph was camera equipment. I sold cameras, lenses, flash, and other photographic accessories. I also sold my flatbed film scanner since I could not download a new driver for the new operating system upgrade.



Here is an example of the Canon AE-1 that was very popular at one time. I sold this camera on eBay. For lighting I bounced the flash off the white ceiling, and I used a small white index card as a reflector to add light to the prism area of the camera with the



Canon logo. With my efforts on eBay, eBay awarded me with the Yellow Achievement Award for my feedback profile from satisfied customers.

Back to Shooting Film

I never lost my interest in film photography since that is where it all started. I would listen to some podcasts about film photography and watched some YouTube videos about film and film cameras and still do. One of the organizations called the *Film Photographic Project* had a podcast and they also have a following on flickr. They would talk about photographers

rediscovering film and about using film and film cameras. Many young photographers are becoming interested in shooting film because from their perspective it is from the past. It is a sense of nostalgia.

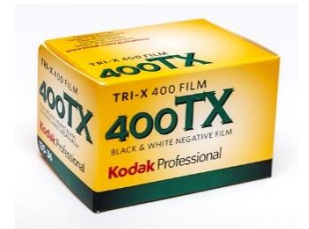
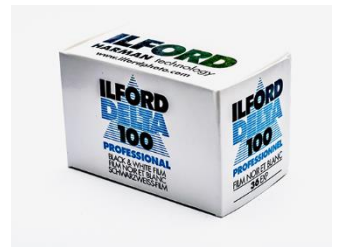
The Film Photographic Project sells products on their website. They would buy films in large quantities and reload the film in 35mm film cassettes. One day I visited their website and found a roll that they reloaded from a larger roll; it was Kodak Color Infrared film. Back in the days of film I shot a little color

infrared film. **Only** Kodak made color infrared film in the whole world. In the year 2011 Kodak discontinued their production of Kodak Color Ektachrome Infrared film. I

bought this roll from the *Film Photographic Project* (FPP), it was only one year past the expiration. I had it processed in E-6 and scanned by an outside professional lab.

It was in December of 2018 when I decided to photograph as many brands as possible of 35mm black-and-white film that I could find. During this period there were small film manufacturers popping up all over, especially in Europe making films. Some companies look for film

manufacturers to make films for them to resell, which they put their own label on the film. I bought my film from B&H Photo. They still have a large selection of films. I photographed with eleven different black-and-white films, and I used a general-purpose film developer which was Kodak D-76. Below is a chart that I made in Excel. It covers the data about the films I shot. I am displaying photos of the various boxes of film on the sides.



LONNIE PAULSON: FILM PROJECT/BLACK & WHITE

Film	ISO SPEED	Camera	Lens	Filter
ARISTA 100	100	Mamiya/Sekor 1000 DTL	Sears 28mm f/2.8	None
ARISTA 200	200	Nikon F2	Nikkor 55mm f/3.5 Micro	None
FUJI NEOPAN ACROS 100	100	Nikon F2	Nikkor 50mm f/2	#8 Yellow
ILFORD DELTA 100	100	Nikkormat FTN	Nikkor 55mm f/3.5 Micro	None
ILFORD HP5 Plus	400	Nikkormat FTN	Tamron 80-210mm zoom f/3.8 - f/4	#8 Yellow
ILFORD DELTA 3200	3200	Nikon F2	Nikkor 55mm f/3.5 Micro	None
KODAK T-MAX	100	Nikkormat FTN	Nikkor 50mm f/2	None
KODAK Pro Tri-X	400	Nikon F2	Tamron 28-70mm zoom f/3.5 - f/4.5	#8 Yellow
KODAK T-MAX	400	Mamiya/Sekor 1000 DTL	Quantaray 400mm f/6.3	None
KENTMERE 100	100	Mamiya/Sekor 1000 DTL	Vivitar 85-205mm f/3.8	None
ROLLEI INFRARED	400	Nikkormat FTN	Tamron 28-70mm zoom f/3.5 - f/4.5	#29 Red

I thought I would post three of my favorite black-and-white photos from this project and the technical information that went into the photographic process. See photos on the next few pages.

Construction Crane in Silhouette



I photographed this image just a short walk from my apartment in Minneapolis bordering St. Louis Park, Minnesota. I wanted a silhouette, so I photographed this image in the evening after the sun went down. The sky was still light. During this time, I was photographing with some classic 35mm SLR film cameras. My camera of choice here was a Mamiya/Sekor 1000 DTL. I mounted this camera with a Quantaray 400mm f/6.3 telephoto lens which was mounted on a sturdy tripod and cable release. Quantaray lenses were a Ritz Camera store brand which was made by Sigma a major photographic lens manufacturer. The film was a Kodak T-max 400. I developed it in Kodak D-76 1:1 dilution at 9.5 minutes between 72-75 degrees F. It was scanned in an Epson V550 flat-bed film scanner and edited in Photoshop.

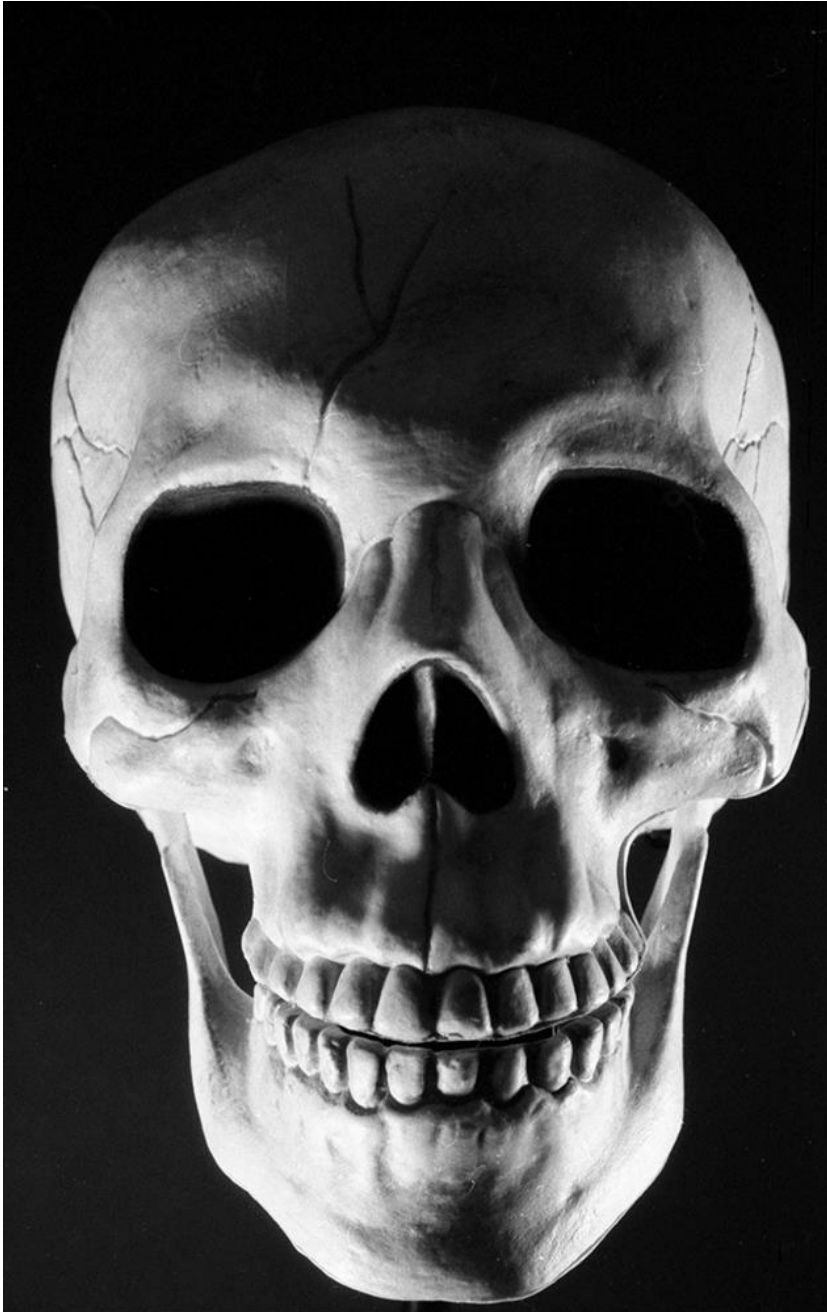
Railroad Track Closeup



This photo was taken behind my apartment building in Minneapolis. The photo was taken with a Mamiya/Sekor 1000 DTL 35mm SLR. Lens: Sears 28mm f/2.8 wide angle lens. I was surprised by this lens. It is very sharp and easy to use and focus. I found out Sears lenses were made by Ricoh and so were their cameras which bore the name Sears. The film I used was Arista 100 which I bought from Freestyle Photographic Supplies. The name Arista is Freestyle's own name which they labeled their film made by a European film manufacturer. The film was manufactured in the Czech Republic. I believe this film is Foma Fomapan 100 Classic because Foma is in the Czech Republic. Anyway, this film is of very high quality, and fine grain. I developed this film in Kodak D-76 1:1. When I processed this photo in Photoshop I slightly brown toned it.

Human Skull

Around Halloween I bought this plastic human skull to be used as a photographic prop. I started



I started shooting film again and decided that I would photograph this skull with black and white film. The camera I used was an old Nikon F2 with a Nikkor 55mm f/3.5 macro lens.

The skull was positioned on a stand and a black background placed in back. I used two photofloods low below the subject and both were placed in about a 120-degree angle from the camera position to give lower cross lighting which is known as horror lighting in the movies. This lighting causes the shadows to go up instead of down and because the lights were placed slightly behind this would give more contrast to the photo. There were no other fill-lights added.

The 35mm black and white film I used here is Arista 200 and is manufactured in the

Czech Republic. The film speed is ISO 200. I developed the film in Kodak D-76 at 1:1 for 8.5 minutes at 68 degrees F. I scanned the negatives in my Epson V550 flatbed photo scanner.

**The End of Part 10
eBay & Film Photography**