



Robbe Erin Diehl becomes bride of John Bendick

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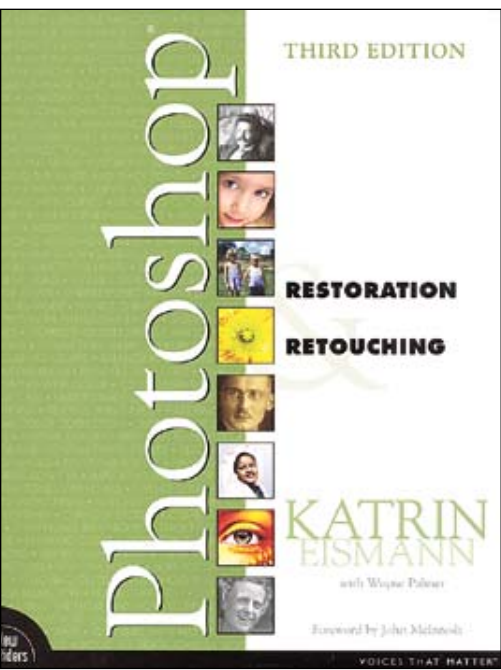
LIFESTYLE

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Digital pioneer of the West Branch Valley



Local Photoshop expert co-authors best-selling book

By ROBIN VAN AUKEN
Sun-Gazette Correspondent

Wayne Palmer gets the Big Picture. Usually, though, it's scratched, torn in half, faded or blurry. During the past 10 years, he's become an expert at seeing beyond the faults of a photograph, behind the errant thumb or the big-head-in-the-way, beneath the scratches or water stains, at building the missing corner. Basically, he takes the worst picture in your album and makes it into a work of art, a beloved memento.

"I look at a damaged picture and see a puzzle," Palmer said. "Solving the puzzle becomes my motivation."

He has some complex tools in his arsenal, but the most important is the expertise he's developed as a "Photoshop guru."

Photoshop is software created by Thomas and John Knoll, brothers who were as fascinated by technology as they were by art. It was a trait they inherited from their father, a photography buff with a darkroom in the basement and a penchant for early home computers.

Since 1989, the software has evolved and boasts more than 40 designers who produce new versions for their parent company, Adobe, every year. Along the way, Photoshop has become more powerful and more complicated.

Palmer kept up with each version, taking classes and attending workshops. Now, he is considered a world authority on the use of Photoshop for digital restoration and retouching.

In addition to being a Photoshop guru, he also is one of the digital pioneers in the region.

"I started working with digital imaging in 1994, probably before most people had a clue what it was about," Palmer said.

His interest in photography was fueled in high school by Dave Ward, the audio visual coordinator for Williamsport. Ward taught Palmer darkroom and photographic fundamentals.

His experience mushroomed at Bloomsburg State College where he served as the photo editor for both the college newspaper and the yearbook.

"Most of my work at that time was photojournalistic," he said. "I covered the major events at the college. I met a number of dignitaries and was backstage or on stage with recording artists."

He said his interest in photo restoration was



PALMER



An example of Wayne Palmer's photo restoration expertise is shown in the before (top) and after of the two photos above. Palmer is a local Photoshop guru and co-authored the best-selling book, "Photoshop Restoration and Retouching, Third Edition," top left.

It's important to preserve historic photos

By ROBIN VAN AUKEN
Sun-Gazette Correspondent

Need advice on the care of books, photos, videos and other media in your collections?

According to Wayne Palmer, an expert on digital imagery, it's important to preserve historic photographs for several reasons, and

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Origin, evolution of photography

By ROBIN VAN AUKEN
Sun-Gazette Correspondent

Photography (Greek for "writing with light") is a process for creating enduring images through a chemical reaction that occurs when light reflects upon a primed surface.

Nearly 200 years ago, through advances in chemistry and optics, European scientists sought to improve an artistic technique

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STEPHANIE PHILLIPS TAGGART/Sun-Gazette Correspondent

Above, staff from AIDS Resource review a flyer for the upcoming AIDS Walk, which is slated for April 23 at Lycoming College. From left, are Amy Harada, Kirsten Felix and Audra Hernandez.

AIDS Resource gears up for walk

By STEPHANIE PHILLIPS TAGGART
life@sungazette.com

When looking at Brunilda Martinez, 45, you might not know she has AIDS, but her condition is a reality that she lives with everyday.

"You couldn't tell I have it — I look so healthy," she said. "Right now, I am doing OK, but I get through life with the support of AIDS Resource. With AIDS Resource, I can live."

As a recovering drug addict who contracted HIV by sharing infected needles, she looks to AIDS Resource, 520 West Fourth St., to provide counseling, up to date information regarding her medications and financial assistance for housing.

Dedicated to providing culturally sensitive support of people affected by HIV-AIDS and to prevent further infection through educational and outreach pro-



grams, AIDS Resource Alliance Inc. serves Lycoming, Snyder, Union and Northumberland counties.

The organization offers free anonymous HIV testing by means of the Ora-sure Antibody Testing — a swab of the cheek, as well as financial assistance for medication, utilities and other emergency needs, housing assistance, food assistance, nutritional supplements, legal services (wills, funeral arrangements, protection of legal rights) transportation to medical and social service appointments, case management, client treatment education and support groups.

"Currently, we have 125 clients receiving direct care under our organization,"

said Kirsten Felix, executive director, AIDS Resource Alliance. "Surprisingly, it is a big problem in our area. The CDC (Center for Disease Control) estimates that 1/3 of the people infected don't know it yet. One of the problems in our area, is that people don't think it is a problem, so they don't protect themselves."

Initially formed in 1988 by a group of concerned community members, clergy and department of health employees, AIDS Resource was geared towards helping AIDS patients deal with end of life issues and help offset funeral costs.

"Fortunately, our mission has changed," Felix said. "As new research and drugs became available, the organization was able to focus on client care, education and prevention of AIDS."

According to Felix, one of the most successful components of the organization is

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COMING NEXT WEEK



Pennsylvania is known for its many different snack foods

Cover story

Photoshop expert co-authors best-selling book

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preceded by an interest in controlling the results of his own photographs.

"For years I would trust a photo lab to print the best results. Often they weren't quite what I wanted," Palmer said. "When the negative of one of my favorite shots came back scratched from the lab, I knew there had to be a better way to control results.

"That is why I like doing my own darkroom work — control," he added. "In the early '90s, when digital imaging was coming out of the gate, I saw the results of restoration work from a lab up in the Boston area and was hooked. That scratched negative I had could be fixed."

About a year later, he started his own business offering photo restoration, custom digital printing, film and video conversions, photography and videography.

"On occasion I have had to go back through old files and I am reassured that I have done well," Palmer said. "One time I had a customer ask if I could make a reprint of a job I did for him years ago. I could not easily find the file and just restored the image again. After completion, I did find the original and the results were identical."

Some of the tools he uses when working on images include scanners, digital cameras, copy stands, lighting equipment, computers and, of course, Adobe Photoshop.

"As far as computers and restoration, I am primarily self-taught; however I did go to RIT for a few continuing-education classes and have attended numerous Photoshop semi-



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY WAYNE PALMER
An example of Wayne Palmer's photo restoration expertise is shown in the before (top) and after, of the two photos above.

nars, which is how I met Katrin Eismann."

Eismann, an internationally respected teacher and lecturer on photographic imaging,

restoration and retouching, is a best-selling author of Photoshop books.

"She was at a conference I had planned on attending in



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY WAYNE PALMER
Wayne Palmer, holding Amanda Ailei, along with his wife, Dr. Pamela Herrington, stands in front of an award-winning photo of Amanda. The couple, who married in 1997, recently adopted her from China.

Orlando and was speaking on the topic of photo restoration. I was also planning on attending a conference in New York City where again she would be discussing photo restoration. As neither session was free, I wrote her and asked her if the presentations would be the same. She said there would be some overlap and invited me to be her guest," Palmer said. "We got to talking after the session and she said she was writing a book on photo restoration and solicited any examples or ideas I might have."

He was honored, Palmer said, that she used his work in the publication.

"We stayed in contact, and when the second edition was in the planning stages she asked me to be her technical editor. A technical editor goes over the book while it is in draft form and looks for errors, things that might not be clear, and offers insight into what is being

presented," he added. "She liked my work so much that she had me tech edit her next two books, and the publisher had me work on two other projects from other authors. This led her to invite me to co-author the third edition of the 'Photoshop Restoration and Retouching.'"

"Katrin trusts my opinions because I do this work professionally on a day-to-day basis, while her primary business is teaching and writing Photoshop techniques."

Palmer said he found the project challenging.

"We were trying to make a book better than the previous edition and we were working with software that was still in beta testing," he said. "Even though the book was technically a re-write of the previous edition, we updated more than 75 percent of the examples and also integrated the new features of the latest release of the program. Of course, all this

was done with a deadline of getting the book done before fall so it could be printed and on the stands for the holiday season. I already had a full-time job running a business and, in the middle of the book, I traveled to China to pick up my adopted daughter, becoming a father for the first time."

Palmer and his wife, Dr. Pamela Herrington, were married in 1997 and their daughter, Amanda Ailei, is 22 months.

So, who will use his new book? Restoration professionals and serious do-it-yourselfers are the primary audience but the book is handy for anyone who wants an above-average understanding of how to use Photoshop.

"Literally, it is the best-selling book on the subject in the world. It is already being prepped for French and German translations," Palmer said. "Katrin's books are simply considered superior to anything else published. I am thrilled that she trusts my opinions, has me edit her books and now, finally, to be her co-author."

Books Palmer has tech edited are "Photoshop Restoration and Retouching, 2nd Edition" by Katrin Eismann, "Real World Digital Photography, 2nd Edition" by Katrin Eismann, Sean Duggin and Tim Grey, "Photoshop Masking and Compositing" by Katrin Eismann, "The Glitterguru on Photoshop" by Suzette Troche Stapp and "Commercial Photoshop" by Bert Monroy.

Palmer can be reached at Palmer Multimedia Imaging, 832 Fifth Ave., by calling 321-9660, or online at www.palmermultimedia.com.

Origin, evolution of photography

(From Page E-1)

known as single-point or linear perspective.

This perspective was pioneered in the early 1400s by Italian architect Filippo Brunelleschi who, along with other artists, enabled them to depict three-dimensional space on a flat surface.

This technique also is called the vanishing point, a term that describes the point on the horizon where parallel lines appear to meet.

In the 16th century, artists such as Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci, used a new invention known as a camera obscura to help them depict space with single-point perspective.

The invention was a box with a pinhole on one side and a glass screen on the other. Light coming through the pinhole projected an image onto the glass screen and the artist would then trace it by hand.

By 1800, Thomas Wedgwood, an English chemist, produced images on leather that he had treated with silver salts but he couldn't prevent the images from becoming too dark.

Two discoveries were still needed before photography could produce permanent images: a way to combine a light-sensitive material with the camera obscura, and a way to fix, or make permanent, the resulting image.

In the 1820s, French scientist Joseph Nicéphore Niépce experimented with lithography and, in the process, discovered a way to copy engravings onto glass and pewter plates. He used bitumen, a form of asphalt that changes when exposed to light.

Later, he put a bitumen-coated plate in a camera obscura and produced the earliest camera photograph still in existence: view from the Window at Le Gras, which took eight hours to expose.

In 1826, Niépce shared his work with Louis Jacques Mande Daguerre, who experimented for more than 10 years before perfecting a quick process that he called the daguerreotype.

Then American artist and inventor Samuel F. B. Morse visited Daguerre and shortly thereafter, photography arrived in the United States.

Photographic portraits became very popular, even portraits of the recently deceased,

a genre now known as post-mortem portraits.

Interest in daguerreotypes dwindled after 1851 when English photographer Frederick Scott Archer invented the collodion, or wet-plate process, a negative-to-positive process. Because the negatives were made of smooth glass rather than paper, the collodion process produced sharper images. Glass also was more durable and many prints could be made from one glass negative.

Today, photographers are embracing digital imagery. This method does not use conventional photographic film. Instead, digital cameras and scanners record visual information and convert it into a code of ones and zeroes that a computer can read.

Digital cameras are now available for both professional photographers and amateur enthusiasts.

Some images (we no longer call them photographs) are transferred into a computer for storage, while others are saved on a compact disc.

The original high-resolution image can later be reproduced using a computer printer or as a conventional silver halide print.

The ease and popularity of digital cameras mean that more amateur photographers are able to create quality digital images and share them with others.

Some users connect their camera directly to a television set or computer and the family can look at snapshots together while others send their digital images to friends via e-mail.

It's odd that photography has evolved from the ability to capture a fleeting concept — one person's view of perspective — to another form of ephemera — a mathematical formula that can only be interpreted by a computer.

It's important to preserve historic photos

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these reasons vary upon the person.

"Every one might have their own personal reasons, but I think it is usually to simply pass along family history," Palmer said. "A client, an elderly woman, brought me her immigration photo, which consisted of the woman as a little girl and her mother. The woman's failing eyesight no longer allowed her to see the picture of her mother."

Palmer said that he enlarged the photograph and removed the stamped process seal that marked the background.

"When the woman came to pick it up, she started crying," he said. "I was able to restore not only the picture but a fond memory as well."

Tips for storage

Overall environmental conditions are the most important issue for storing the family memories. Palmer recommends dry and cool storage locations as one of the best steps a person can take.

Also, think about making duplications. All too often a fire or flood can completely destroy a family history, so any highly valued family memories should be copied and stored in different locations.

Different types of images require different types of care. From prints to negatives to video tape, Palmer had recommendations for all.

Prints

Important images should be put behind glass in a frame with a mat. The mat not only makes the image look nicer, it keeps the image from making contact with the glass. Photographs will stick to a glass surface if it is in direct contact.

Do not display the image where direct sunlight will strike it. If that is not an option, consider UV glass for protection. Avoid handling the important image excessively because your fingerprints can become part of the image. Because of dyes, color images will fade

sooner than black and white.

As soon as you become aware of an image fading or shifting color, have it restored. Copy that image and store it in a safe place. Fortunately, the new archival digital printing technology can produce prints that will outlast ones made conventionally.

Negatives, slides, movies

All three of these types of film share one common problem: the dyes used to make the image contain vegetable matter and can become a food source for mold.

Proper storage is probably the most important thing you can do to prolong their life. Avoid storage in humid and hot environments like attics or basements. Once mold begins, it will slowly eat away the image. Using a film cleaner may get rid of the mold, but not the damage.

Videotape

Videotape is the most vulnerable image of all. It only has a projected life span of 10 to 15 years. Some tapes more than 20 years old are unreadable. One of the best things to do to preserve video memories is to

copy them to another tape or, better yet, have them copied onto a DVD, which is not a magnetic recording method.

Original video tapes should be stored away from magnetic sources, such as speakers. Store them upright like a book to protect the control track of the tape and occasionally exercise it by running the tape all the way to the end and back again.

Digital files

Computer diskettes, like videotape, also are vulnerable.

Diskettes can become unreadable after 10 years. Copy the data to an optical form such as CD or DVD for long-term storage. Hard drives eventually fail, so back the files up on another drive for long-term storage. Files stored on CDs or DVDs should be duplicated as a back-up measure.

As a rule, run the file confirmation options when you burn a disc.

Palmer said he learned this option the hard way when he used a bunch of defective DVDs.

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