

Lo and behold, May is upon us again.

As the world moves more and more towards filmless photography, let me mention a couple of items. The first is archiving. This refers to your placing all your pictures, negatives, images, etc. into cyberspace on the internet. More specifically, it means entrusting your images to be stored on someone else's computer disk, on some computer, somewhere for "perpetuity". Most online archive companies are offering you this storage for free. We know, however, that there ain't no free lunch. You would be given an account number, and then an access number for each image or roll uploaded. Where will you keep those numbers so that you'll find them when necessary in the future? This is like asking you your flight number and seat assignment from a flight you took 10 years ago. Convenient, no? The archivist then will charge you for prints, CDs, what have you when you want to retrieve the images in the future. I'm sure the rates will always be reasonable (from the archivist's point of view). But, what happens when the archivist goes bankrupt, or is taken over by another company? Who will "own" your images then: you, the original archivist, or the new conglomerate?

How do you pass the rights to these images to your descendents? Think about that before you upload the images. It might be too late after you've done so.

Next, Advanced Science Fiction (a company out of Austin, TX) has patented a process called "digital dry". It involves a machine about the size of a washer/dryer combination. You place an exposed roll of 35mm or Advanced Photo System film in the side, it pulls the film out, sprays 'pixie dust' on it, and without liquid chemistry, reads the latent image recorded on the film. It then begins you write your "negatives" onto a CD, or floppy, uploads them onto the internet, makes prints or enlargements, and then spits out your original roll of film in a form that is not longer conventionally processable, and no negatives. Everything is digital. The entire process takes about 3-4 minutes. This should be in production during 2001!

For those of you who shoot slides, we are now stocking Fuji Provia F and ISO 1600 Fujichrome. Nice films. Fuji claims that the Provia F has finer grain than Kodachrome 25. These are Fuji professional films, and are not available in 24 exposure 35mm rolls.

We've received a few suggestions for a photo field trip. If any of these sound especially good or bad to you, let us know.

Snug Harbor Cultural Center (Staten Island)
Manitoga (Garrison, NY)
Boscobel (Garrison, NY)
Ellis Island
Old Bethpage Village Restoration (L.I.)
Carousel World & Peddler's Village (Lahaska, PA)
Independence Seaport Museum (Philadelphia)
Philadelphia Zoo

For all you golfers out there, Fuji has introduced a One Time Use Camera they think will set the world on fire. The "QuickSnap Golf" takes 8 (1/8 size) sequential images per negative and prints them all on a 4x6 print. It uses ISO 800 film to stop action and is for outdoor use only. The camera has 15-exposure film inside (for 15 sequences). Exact price and availability is expected in late May.

During May, Kodak will repeat a great promotion in time for Mothers Day. Buy one Advantix Advanced Photo System camera and get one FREE! Not all model cameras are included, but most are. The FREE camera is delivered via the mail, but is FREE. Some customers saved the FREE camera and used it as a holiday gift, or as a beach & party camera. Anyway, it's a good deal.

Looking for a new photo magazine that covers both silver and digital photography? If so, take a look at www.zonezero.com. It's been updated frequently during the past several months, and has been informative, with good quality photos.

Thanks for your patronage, and I hope this communication is worth your while. If you have questions you'd like to see addressed, please let me know. An easy way to send me email is to go to www.madisonphoto.com, go to the staff page, and click on my face. Hope to here from you!

Jerry