

"PROFESSIONAL HISTORY"



WHEN I EMBARKED ON MY CAREER IN PHOTOGRAPHY, ESTABLISHING *P-Tn* (ORIGINALLY NAMED PHOTO-TECHNIQUE) MORE THAN FOUR DECADES AGO, THE STANDARD FOR CONSTRUCTION PHOTOGRAPHS WAS 2-1/4 FORMAT FILM AND BLACK & WHITE PRINTS, TAKEN WITH A CAMERA THAT REQUIRED LUGGING A TRIPOD FOR MOST SHOTS. VIDEO WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND, AND DIGITAL IMAGING OF ANY KIND WAS NOT AN OPTION, OR EVEN A CONCEPT IN MY WILDEST IMAGINATION; THE FEW COMPUTERS THAT EXISTED HAD VIRTUALLY NOTHING TO DO WITH PHOTOGRAPHY.

THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND SKILLS I WAS COMPELLED TO BRING TO THE TABLE, AND WHICH FORMED THE BASIS FOR MY BUSINESS BACK THEN, ARE JUST AS IMPORTANT TO ME TODAY ... STANDARDS WHICH ARE NOW MUCH HARDER TO FIND IN OUR MODERN DAY MARKETPLACE AS A WHOLE.

I FELL INTO PHOTOGRAPHY ONE LONG SUMMER OUT OF SHEAR BOREDOM - NOTHING MORE, REALLY. THE DECISION TO SELECT PHOTOGRAPHY AS MY NEW HOBBY LANDED ME IN DEBT INSTANTLY (SEVERAL WEEKS OF ALLOWANCE), AND KEPT ME THERE FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.



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MY FATHER WAS A GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT AND CHIEF ESTIMATOR FOR GENERAL CONTRACTORS IN KC, ST. LOUIS, AND MILWAUKEE, WHICH MUST HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO MY DESIRE TO BECOME AN ARCHITECT. THAT NEVER HAPPENED, OBVIOUSLY, BUT INTEREST IN DAD'S WORK AND THE BUILDINGS HE BUILT KEPT ME FASCINATED WITH THE DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES, AND HELPED ME DEVELOP A COMFORT LEVEL IN THOSE ENVIRONMENTS.

MY EXPERIENCE OF WALKING DOWN THE INTERIOR EMERGENCY-EXIT STAIRWAY IN THE SOUTH LEG OF THE ST. LOUIS GATEWAY ARCH (A DESCENT OF 630 FEET FROM THE NEWLY JOINED KEYSTONE AT THE TOP), IS STILL A STRONG MEMORY FROM ONE OF MANY JOBSITE VISITS MY BROTHER AND I MADE TO THE LANDMARK WITH MY FATHER, WHILE IT WAS UNDER CONSTRUCTION; THAT DAY IN THE ARCH HAS MORE IMPACT NOW THAN IT DID WHEN I WAS A TEEN. A SERIES OF VISITS TO THE STUDIO & DARKROOM OF MR. ROBERT ARTEGA (THE OFFICIAL GATEWAY ARCH PHOTOGRAPHER) WAS THE NEXT STEP ... AFTER YEARS OF WATCHING DAD TAKE FAMILY PHOTOS ... THAT PROPELLED ME AND MY FIRST 35MM CAMERA ALONG A COURSE IN PHOTOGRAPHY THAT EVENTUALLY PUT ME WHERE I AM TODAY.

MY VERY FIRST PAYING PHOTO ASSIGNMENT INVOLVED CONSTRUCTION PROJECT DOCUMENTATION (OF COURSE) AND IT WAS COMPLETED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY MY FATHER WORKED FOR (OF COURSE). I FORGOT TO PUT FILM IN MY CAMERA, AND HAD TO RESHOOT; THE ENTIRE BILL FOR A HALF DAY'S WORK WAS \$44.34. ONE OF MY FIRST PROFESSIONAL/BUSINESS CONSTRUCTION PHOTOGRAPHY ASSIGNMENTS WAS THE MACY'S DEPARTMENT STORE BEING BUILT AT OAK PARK MALL, IN OVERLAND PARK ... ALONG WITH PRE-CONSTRUCTION PHOTOGRAPHY OF PRIVATE PROPERTY ALONG MANY, MANY, MANY MILES OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI DPW SANITARY SEWER MAIN PROJECTS.

I HAVE WATCHED AS BUILDINGS MY FATHER BUILT ARE TORN DOWN TO MAKE WAY FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION, AND I'VE FELT STRANGELY AT HOME WHILE COMPLETING CONSTRUCTION PHOTOGRAPHY ASSIGNMENTS AT PROCESS PLANTS WHICH HE ORIGINALLY BUILT. MY CAREER IN PHOTOGRAPHY HAS BECOME THE GREATEST MENTAL, PHYSICAL, AND EMOTIONAL CHALLENGE OF MY LIFE - SECOND ONLY TO MARRIAGE AND GROWING A FAMILY OF SIX CHILDREN AND TEN GRANDCHILDREN. NOW, I WORK ALONG SIDE MY SONS AS THEY CARRY-ON MY WORK AS THEIR OWN, NOW TAKING OUR BUSINESS INTO A NEW GENERATION OF TECHNOLOGY, AND CLIENT NEEDS ... LIFE COMES FULL CIRCLE.

"TEN THOUSAND" (?) PROJECT SITE VISITS LATER ... THAT DAILY WORK IS PASSED ALONG TO TRAVIS & TIM. BETWEEN SHOOTING ASSIGNMENTS I UPDATE & WRITE PHOTO/VIDEO SPECIFICATIONS, INTRODUCING OUR SERVICES TO COMPANIES WANTING TO UNDERSTAND PROFESSIONAL CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTATION IMAGING, AND MEETING WITH OTHER PROFESSIONALS WHO ARE WORKING TO BRING THE BEST MODERN VISUAL RECORDS TO BUILDING & ENGINEERING PROJECTS. WE SHARE TECHNICAL ISSUES AND HELP SORT THRU THE CONFUSION.

MY SONS BOTH RECOGNIZE & DEMAND (OF THEMSELVES) THE SAME LEVEL OF PROFESSIONALISM THAT I HAVE WORKED SO HARD OVER THE YEARS TO KEEP ALIVE THRU P-TN, IN MY CAREER OF CHOICE - PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGING.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Eric'.

ERIC BERNDT OWNER AND HEAD PHOTOGRAPHER

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