



FAMILY NOTES

The Authorized Newsletter of
The Hubbell Family Historical Society
Descendants of Richard Hubball, Immigrant to North America

Incorporated in Missouri

Number 56

Fall 2013



Miss Julie Arcara

Julie Arcara: 2013-2014 Scholarship Award Winner

The Scholarship Fund Committee members congratulate Julie Arcara as the 2013-2014 Scholarship Fund recipient. Julie will receive \$ 1,000.00 to help her financially in pursuit of a degree in fashion.

She is the daughter of member Diane Arcara (A&R# 8624) of Westerville, Ohio and granddaughter of Shirley Hubbell Mack of Strongsville, Ohio. Julie recently completed two years at Miami University in Oxford Ohio, majoring in business and nutrition. Her real passion is in the fashion industry and is currently taking classes at Columbus State University and will transfer those credits to Ohio State University in 2014 to obtain a degree in fashion design. While at Miami University, she participated in several on-campus activities and is currently working in a retail position to provide her with a background in fashion.

The applicant was drawn at random by Patricia Tacchite, office manager and bookkeeper for Peck Engraving Company. The Committee wish to thank all those applicants that participated this year. The Scholarship Fund Committee would also like to thank all those Society members that have continued to support the fund with their contributions.

“My fear is that our progeny may forever live in a diminished world of crows, concrete and mechanical devices.”

It has been two years since Larry Dean Hubbell (A&R# 12177) took up the photographic hobby that has drawn a dedicated following for his blog, Union Bay Watch at: <http://unionbaywatch.blogspot.com>. These days, he gets more than 6,000 page views a month, up from 40 when it started. It was his chronicling of “Life after Eddie” last year that got Hubbell his fan base and got the attention of the Seattle Times newspaper. The Times did a front page story on Larry and his photography earlier this year.

Eddie was the bald eagle who used to sit atop a lamppost on the 520 bridge. He had become a common and beloved sight for commuters. Then, on the morning of Aug. 2, 2011, probably the biggest local news story was that Eddie was killed after flying into the windshield of a Metro bus going across the

bridge at 50 mph. The feathers that could be recovered were sent to a repository in Denver to be donated to Native American tribes.

It turned out that many people felt quite passionate about Eddie. One of his mourners wrote in an op-ed piece for Seattle Times newspaper that she’d “never again see his brave little profile on the lamppost. Everything he had survived for so long — civilization, humans — it got him in the end.”

What Hubbell did was tell the story of how Eva, Eddie’s mate, coped and found a new male in her life. Hubbell named the new guy Albert. The explanation for that name is that Hubbell, 58, as a teen had enjoyed the TV comedy “Green Acres.” It starred Eddie Albert and Eva Gabor. And that led to a couple of bald eagles named Albert and Eva.

Last year, the pair of eagles had two eaglets; this year, another hatched in early May. Hubbell took photos and blogged about Albert’s efforts to feed the family:

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Larry and Shelley Hubbell

THE HUBBELL FAMILY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Hubbell Family Historical Society (THFHS) is a volunteer not-for-profit organization, founded in 1981, to research the genealogy, preserve the history, recognize the achievements, and promote fellowship for the descendants of Richard Hubbell, the immigrant. The Society invites membership from descendants of Richard Hubbell of England and the New Haven Colony, Connecticut, from persons interested in genealogy and history, and from organizations supporting such activities.

President:

Dr. Peter O. Hansen

Vice President:

Marjorie M.H.K. Hlava

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Annual Dues:

(Payable in U.S. or Canadian dollars)
Individual / Family (w/ minor children) \$15
Contributing Member \$50
Participating Member \$100
Proud to be a Hubbell/Hubble \$200
Societies and Libraries \$10

Reunions:

Membership-reunion meetings are held every two years. The next Biennial will be held in Cleveland, OH in June of 2015.

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New shark species named after Gordon Hubbell.

An article in the Florida Paleontological Society NEWSLETTER Volume 30 NO.1 Winter 2013 by Danielle Torrent describes the misunderstood evolutionary history of the great white shark. Based on excavations in Peru, a new species of shark has been identified. The new species is called *Carcharodon hubbelli* named after Gordon Hubbell (A&R# 10061) of Gainesville, Florida. Hubbell is a collector who recovered the fossils from a farmer who in turn discovered them in southern Peru in 1988. Hubbell donated the specimens to the Florida Museum of Natural History in December 2009. Using Hubbell's hand drawn maps and descriptions, researchers were able to find the exact spot the fossils were discovered and extract more accurate age estimates that were 2 million years older than previously believed.

Gordon Hubbell is a trained veterinarian and considered the foremost expert on



Fossil remains of *Carcharodon hubbelli*

shark paleontology. See the article in the Fall 2010 Family Notes for more information about Gordon. Thanks to Katherine Hubbell Downing (A&R# 12900) of Silver Spring, Maryland and Hilbert Hubbell for bringing this article to our attention.

This is not the first animal species to be given the Hubbell name. To this authors knowledge, there is only one other Hubbell that has received this honor. He is Theodore Huntington Hubbell (A&R# 8659). Dr. Hubbell was a Professor of Zoology and Director of the Museum of Zoology at the University of Michigan.

There are six species of grasshoppers in the genus *Schistocerca* found in Florida. One species, the rosemary grasshopper (its scientific name is *Schistocerca ceratiola* Hubbell and Walker) occurs only in central and northcentral Florida and is poorly known and rarely seen except by those

Family Trip to England

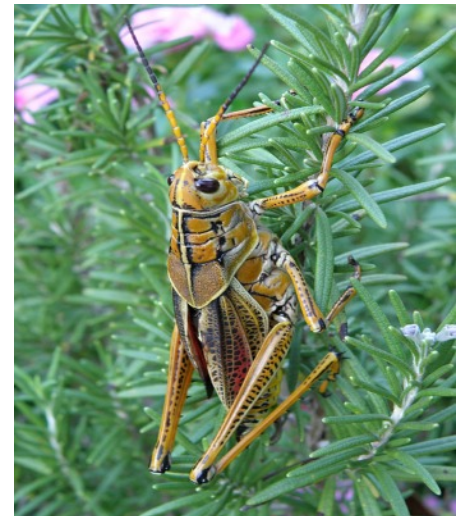
Don't forget. The Society is sponsoring a trip to visit "Hubbell" sites in England. If you wish to participate or want additional details, contact Margie Hlava at mhlava@accessinn.com



Map of England: Arrow points to approximate location of Ribbesford

Marjie Hlava has provided an update on the Hubbell House in Albuquerque, NM. Due to space limitations, her update has been posted to the website.

specifically seeking it out. The species was first described by Hubbell and Walker in a paper published in 1928. It occurs in sand scrub areas and feeds on Florida rosemary.



Rosemary Grasshopper
Schistocerca ceratiola Hubbell and Walker



2013 THFHS Reunion Photo: Photograph taken at the Governor's Mansion in Des Moines, IA
For Identification of participants see page 8

Des Moines Iowa Reunion: June 23-28, 2013

By Dr. Pete Hansen, President

LIGHTENING AND THUNDER..... MADE AN EXCITING NIGHT..... for this guy from Kenai, Alaska where it never occurs. Otherwise, the days were beautiful. The week was full of activities, doing things with cousins from all over the Continent.

On **Monday**, June 24, stormy weather did not deter about 75 cousins from attending the morning meeting; lunch at the Machine Shed (a local restaurant), and an afternoon exploring the Living History Farm. The Farm is a reconstructed village representing life in Iowa around 1875.

Each building, in the village, is a business, containing period equipment with an appropriately dressed docent demonstrating their vocation. Businesses as diverse as a broom makers shop, a blacksmithing shop and a newspaper office were all represented.

Dinner, that night, was an individual affair followed by an informative presentation and viewing of "Dislecksia" The Movie", a film by Harvey Hubbell V. Harvey's daughter Allie, who is credited with some of the production work on the film, was present at the reunion.

Tuesday was dedicated to moving about downtown Des Moines visiting one

or all of: the Botanical Gardens, Iowa State Capitol, Iowa History Museum and Library, the Science Center (a kid favorite), antique shops and the Hubbell Center. At the Hubbell Center, cousins could see memorabilia of many sorts, learning about some of our famous cousins and what they accomplished in life. Hubbell Center is also the genealogical showcase of our Society, and members got to see the original works tying us all together with explanations by Patricia Dawson, our Librarian/Curator.

Tuesday ended at Terrace Hill, former home of F.M. Hubbell and his son Chester

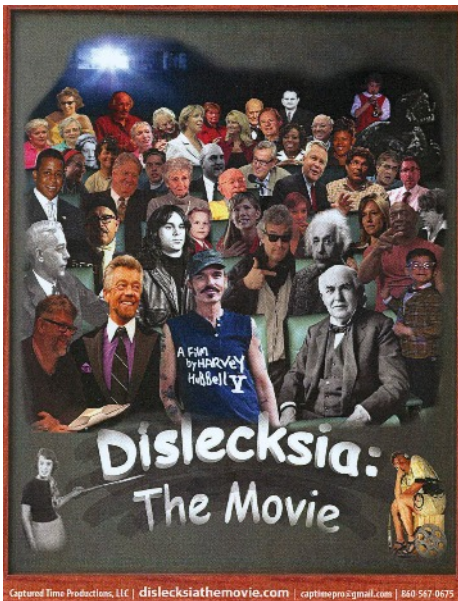
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Living History Museum docent Elysa Koss printing hand bills at the local newspaper office.

Hubbell and now the Governor's residence. We posed for a group photo on the front lawn of the Mansion and then had a private tour of the first and second floors. The governor and his wife live on the 3rd floor which is not open to the public. As it happened, Governor Terry Branstad and his wife were "home" and spent time chatting with members and posing for photos and then joined us at a Barbeque on the back lawn.

After dinner at Terrace Hill, we were entertained with a presentation on the



In the comic documentary Dislecksia: The Movie, director Harvey Hubbell V presents the latest scientific knowledge about dyslexia and his own personal experiences living with the learning disorder.



Kathryn and Lydia Wirkus

Kathryn is a retired Air Force Colonel living in Denver, CO. She now works in her Congressman's office as a liaison for the Women Veterans of Colorado and other non-profit organizations.

Lydia has a Masters in nutrition and special Ed and travels throughout Alaska as a program reviewer and consultant. Lydia is a new board member. She lives in Chugiak, AK.

paintings of Henry Salem Hubbell by Henry's great-granddaughters, Kathryn and Lydia Wirkus. Lydia has donated paintings, etchings and misc. related items pertaining to Henry Salem to the Hubbell Center. One of the items is a card catalogue of all, or most of, the painting painted by Henry. The card catalogue was kept by Kate and Lydia's mother, long time THFHS member Rosemary Wirkus. Lydia recounted how her mother would loan painting out to friends and keep track of where each painting was with the card catalogue. Many of Henry's paintings are now in private collections and have never been seen by the general public. The card catalogue could be a valuable tool in researching Henry's work. After the presentation some members congregated in the hotel bar to contemplate some of the world's affairs.



Harvey Hubbell V and daughter Allie (CT)

Harvey takes to the road this fall to screen his movie throughout the US. Harvey is a new board member. Allie is in High School in CT.



Elaine and Hannah Herzog

Hannah currently works in IT in Des Moines. She volunteers, one day a month, at the Hubbell Center and is now our new website administrator. Elaine lives in Normal, IL

Wednesday was a low key day. Some of the clan participated in a 1.5 hour tour of the world's largest John Deere Tractor factory, while others either continued the downtown tour or spent time at the zoo.

Dinner was unorganized except for Dr. Pete and Karolee's invitational dinner.

Thursday morning opened with a family meeting with committee reports and election of officers. To no one's surprise, all current officers held onto their jobs for another 2 years. Hanna Hertzog has graciously volunteered to take over the responsibilities of hosting the website.

Following the family meeting was a Board of Directors meeting which turned out to be a lively affair with discussions on how to reorganize the Society. A few of the topics discussed were: merging the Society and the Hubbell Center, changing the name of the Hubbell Center to Hubbell Museum and allocating monies to pay for the Center's yearly expenses (currently the Des Moines Hubbell Family is covering the shortfall with a loan). "Branding" of the Society was another lively topic discussed concurrently with how to bring in the younger crowd of Hubbells.



Reunion Chairman and THFHS President Dr. Pete Hansen and wife Karolee (AK)



From left to Right: Harriet (Rusty) Hubbell, Ellen Hubbell, Jim Hubbell III, John Zickefoose, Debbie Hubbell and Michael Hubbell at the Barbeque at Terrace Hill. The Society extends a special “Thank You” to the Des Moines Hubbells for hosting this years Reunion.

Many thanks to the following members who volunteered to serve as 2019 board members. They are: Richard W. Hubble, Jan Hubble Fulton, Harvey Hubbell V, John A. Hubbell, Laura Hubbell and Lydia Wirkus. Further details on the topics discussed at the Family and Board Meetings can be found in the Secretary’s Notes posted in the Members Only section of our website at (www.hubbell.org).

Thursday afternoon was open. Some visited the covered bridges of Madison County while others relaxed at the pool. The hospitality suite had a steady flow of Hubbell's.

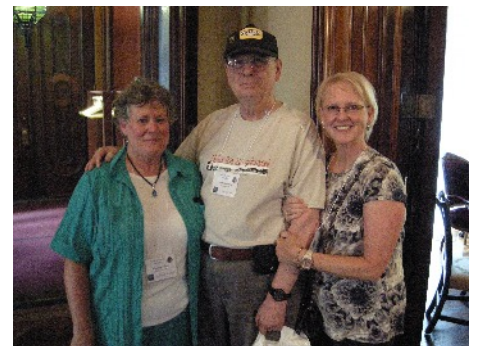
At the Banquet, held Thursday night, Mr. John Zickefoose, a docent at Terrace Hill, presented a DVD on the history of Terrace Hill. This was followed by many speeches and the presentation of three

“Hall of Fame” awards hosted by Barbara Kruse. The three recipients were John A. Hubbell, Patricia Dawson and Dr. William J. Hubbell (for his mother Mable Ruth Hubbell).

Ninety seven cousins attended the reunion including a dozen or more youth. The Board of Directors did their work well, and our Society is moving ahead. Our



Iowa Governor Terry Branstad and Roger Hubbell (OH)



Left to Right: Vice President Margie Hlava (NM), Past President and Genealogist Hilbert Hubble (MD) and Treasurer Jan Hubble Fulton (OH) enjoying the tour through Terrace Hill.

next (16th) biennial reunion will be in or near Cleveland Ohio in summer 2015, and chaired by John A. Hubbell with the help of others in that area.



Fred and Charlotte Hubbell of Des Moines, IA



The 2013 Hall of Fame Award winners. From left to right: John A. Hubbell (OH), Awards Host Barbara Kruse (VT), William J. Hubbell (VA), (accepting the award for his mother Mable Ruth Hubbell) and Patricia Dawson (IA)

Larry Dean Hubbell: continued from page 1

“Even though he stopped to rest on the way back to the nest, he did not take a single bite to eat. As a matter of fact it seems that all the food that he brings to the nest seems to be fresh and whole. Usually the diet seems to be fish, fish and more fish. Once the food reaches the nest Eva immediately takes over. Whether it is removing feathers or strips of meat ... Then she feeds the eaglet, herself and then finally Albert gets a turn. Quite often Albert simply leaves the nest without even eating. He just heads out to find more food.”

Hubbell says watching the eagles has brought vivid detail to what life is like in the wild. “It is brutal. Only the strong survive,” he says. And the eagles, says Hubbell, are at the top of the food chain.

“One time I watched an osprey dive 150 feet from the air into the water, catch a fish and then take it up to the light poles by the (University of Washington) baseball field. Then I watched an eagle fly a quarter mile across the bay, and he took the fish away from the osprey, and there was nothing the osprey could do about it,” he remembers.

Colleen Stinson, a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife office in Lacey, Thurston County, and a bald-eagle expert, says she likes Hubbell’s blog. “It was pretty impressive. He has good pictures and has good information,” she says. Stinson explains why bald eagles have such an emotional impact on people. The birds no longer are listed as a threatened species in this state but are protected. There are no recent counts of bald eagles in Washington, but a state report says that in 2005 there were 840 nesting pairs, plus an uncounted number of younger birds and birds that didn’t have a nesting territory. The report says it expects the population to stabilize at about 4,400, about half the number here before the arrival of white



Eva on the lamppost: Eddie’s mate until he was killed by a bus. Now it’s Albert and Eva



Larry and Shelley Hubbell’s children, Lillian (16), Nathan (23), and Christian (17). Lillian is the artist and the most focused scholar in the family; Nathan has degrees in Physics and Philosophy and Christian is aiming for degrees in Computer Science and Mechanical Engineering.

settlers. “They are our national symbol. They are big. They are charismatic. They are a very visible species that people can easily see without a spotting scope or binoculars,” says Stinson.

But Hubbell’s blog isn’t just about the 520 bridge eagles. Most of the photos he takes are of the more than 200 species of other birds that have been sighted at the Union Bay Natural Area and its surroundings. There is, for example, Elvis the pileated woodpecker. This is a bird that certainly has a showbizzy look about him, and Hubbell is building up a fan base for him, too. Pileated woodpeckers have mainly brown-black and white feathers. The males, however, sport a dramatic red-feathered forehead. That’s the way it is in the bird world, where the females don’t care much if a male boasts he’s a genius social-media guru at Google. Show ’em the plumage. Wrote Hubbell, “One might ask, Why call him Elvis? To begin with there is the ‘hair’ and the striking good looks ... Additional reasons for the name include being loud, proud and uninhibited by a crowd.”

It takes a lot of effort to continually update a blog devoted to bird photos. Hubbell figures he’s taken some 25,000 pictures, and deleted from his hard drives about 10,000 he deemed unsatisfactory. He goes out to take photos throughout the year, in the early morning and the late afternoons, in sun and in rain, when he wraps the camera gear in plastic. “You’d be surprised that even on rainy days, when it stops, you can sneak out in between showers,” says Hubbell. But mostly he hangs around and waits. Hubbell figures

he’s waited around for several hundred hours. “Patience, there is a lot of that,” says Hubbell, who in his other life is a system data guy for Starbucks.

He lives in the Montlake neighborhood, and began taking the bird pictures after he started taking his daughter’s dog out for hour-long walks. Having had some back problems, Hubbell had decided to wear a backpack loaded up with heavy climbing gear as a way to strengthen his back muscles. “Then I thought, why not carry a camera?” says Hubbell, and off he was in his new hobby.

Hubbell can get pretty philosophical about the birds he photographs. He tells his fans, “The other day my daughter asked, “Why birds?” Many thoughts came to mind but I realized that my reply required some history. Before my daughter was born I began collecting ideas and thoughts about how to make our world a better place. This collection eventually became a website called Utopianworld.org. That work led me to believe in four values: Children First, Accountability, Learning to Live and Living Lightly. Over time I realized this text-based site was not having the desired impact and a more visual message was needed. Eventually I retired the site, started taking art classes and began working to improve my photography. I find birds compelling, beautiful and symbolic of our impact on the natural world. To me they represent the life forms and ecosystems that are disappearing as humanity expands. My fear is that our progeny may forever live in a diminished world of crows, concrete and mechanical

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devices. I hope my focus on birds reminds us of what we need to save.

The above story are excerpts from a June 2013 article written by Erik Lacitis, a Seattle Times staff reporter.

Larry is a past THFHS member and now resides in Seattle, WA with his wife Shelley (Butler) and three children; Lawrence Nathan, Christian Weston Butler and Lillian Francis. In an e-mail to Family Notes, Larry says he spends his free time taking photos of birds, painting, blogging and hoping to somehow inspire

Seattle to become the first sustainable city of the 21st century.

Over the years, Larry has held dozens of different jobs. About 35 years ago when he was teaching school he developed the habit of signing hall passes with the initials, "HBL". It has become a lifelong habit and he usually signs his paintings and photos in the same way. Phonetically, "HBL" contains all the sounds needed to say, Hubbell.

In regards to his personal family history the biggest influences on his life have been his mother who taught him that he could do

anything and his uncle, Ronald Gilbert. His father and grandfather both died in 1964, the year he turned ten. His uncle and aunt (Aunt Delores, his father's sister) allowed him to spend a lot of time with their family. In particular his uncle took Larry out fishing and hunting in the mountains surrounding the Hood River Valley, which inspired his lifelong love of nature and the outdoors.



“You know, you could make Disneyland look depressing.”

Jack David Hubbell (A&R# 13948) by day is an Electronic Technician from Omaha, Nebraska but by night he is a photographer and poet. Jack is the son of past THFHS member (1991) Melvin W. Hubbell of Skidmore, Mo. Jack’s photographs have been published in a book and he is well-known in international photography circles for his unique and gritty perspective. Jack’s work is also in several permanent Omaha collections, and he hosts an Omaha poetry event called "Provoke." Jack has been blogging since 2006 where most of his photography and poetry can be viewed at: <http://subontic.blogspot.com/>

The following excerpt was recently posted on his blog and gives a glimpse into Jack’s artistic mindset. It’s interesting to note that, apparently, Jack still shoots with film and has not “gone digital”.



“If it ain’t one thing, it’s another,” and therein lies the concept of duality. A binary existence, this is a world of yes versus no; up versus down. Yin contrasting Yang. And whoa, but there’s very little compromise when you meet a man who sees everything in pristine black and white, for such a man is prone to say, “Ladies and gentlemen: we have no grey areas here at all.” Perhaps, he can pull that off in his political mindset, but in the chiaroscuro world of his visual existence, there’s no denying that a touch of grey now and again makes for a far more pleasant palette.

Shades of grey? I guess it all comes down to just how pleasant you want to be. Look at the majority of images I have posted on Flickr (<http://www.flickr.com/people/cyclops-optic/>) and you’ll quickly come to the conclusion that my demeanor is somewhat less than delightful. “A proper photograph must have a full tonal range!” Oh really? No sur-



Jack David Hubbell’s photo: CHALK

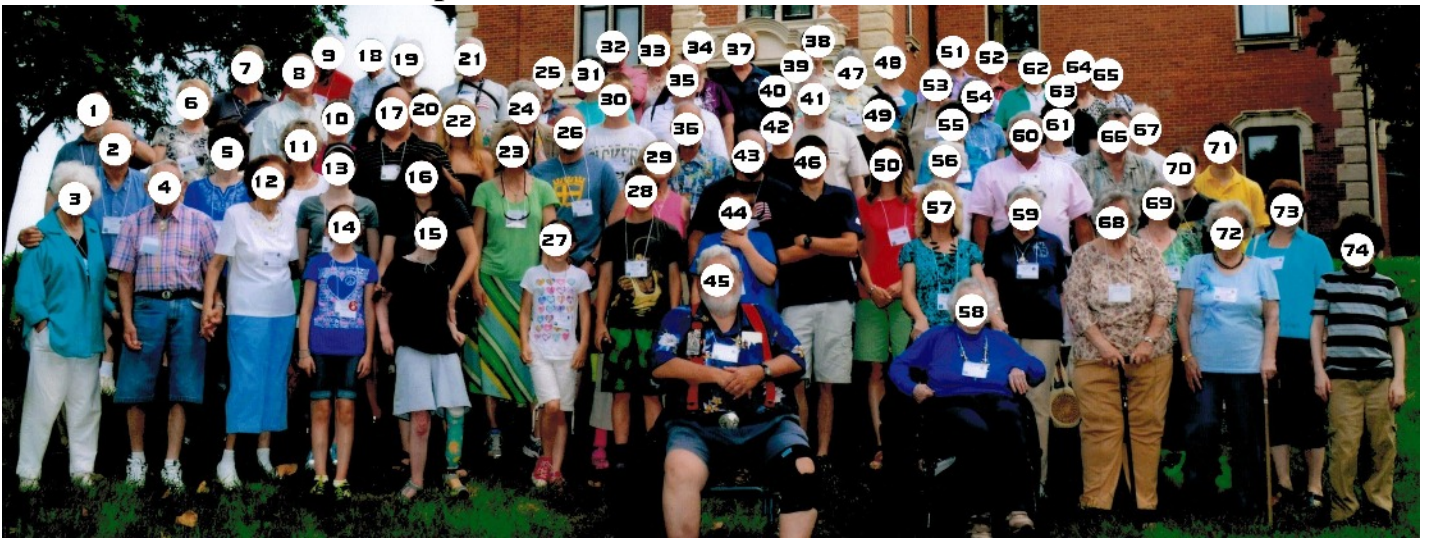


Jack David Hubbell’s Photo: Self with Camera

prise here but I’ve never been a big fan of the Zone System. Zone 0 to 10 and all those digits in between? You mean there’s supposed to be more than three? Let’s face it. There’s a limited latitude of tonal range inherent to a roll of Tri-X film and its 24 by 36mm rectangles of grain. Oh, you can spend a lifetime trying to walk in the shoes of Ansel Adams and attempt to stretch that latitude to its utmost limits, or you can thumb your nose at all that anal aesthetic and embrace the inherent limits your chosen medium provides. When it comes to calibrating your eye as to what qualifies as photographic art, you have to ask yourself which it’s going to be: a print by the above mentioned Mr. Adams or one by William Klein. The ultra-tonal

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“Hubbell’s” present at the Des Moines, Iowa 2013 Reunion



1-John A. Hubbell-Lakewood, OH
 2-Tom Simms- Lakewood, CO
 3-Bonnie Simms-Lakewood, CO
 4-Dorrance Hubbell Sr.-Noxen, PA
 5-Bertie Herman-Bridge City, TX
 6-Jan Hubble Fulton-Bucyrus, OH
 7-Richard W. Hubble-San Mateo, CA
 8-Roger Hubbell- Centerburg, OH
 9-Jim Dakin-Plainville, MA
 10-Sally Hubbell- Centerburg, OH
 11-Teri Bybee-Colville, WA
 12-Doris Mingus-Noxen, PA
 13-Victoria Bybee-Spokane, WA
 14-Allison Bybee-Spokane, WA
 15-Veronica Bybee-Spokane, WA
 16-Tonya Bybee-Spokane, WA
 17-Aaron Bybee-Spokane, WA
 18-Betsy Dakin-Plainville, MA
 19-Phyllis Hubbell-Chetopa, KS
 20-Patricia Dawson-Waukee, IA
 21-Larry D. Hubbell-Chetopa, KS
 22-Allie Hubbell-Litchfield, CT
 23-Binget Nilsson- Seward, AK
 24-Harvey Hubble V-Litchfield, CT
 25-Myrna Kepford-Winterset, IA
 26-Stefan Nilsson- Seward, AK
 27-Annika Nilsson- Seward, AK

28-Bjorn Nilsson- Seward, AK
 29-Karolee Hansen-Kenai, AK
 30-Kjell Nilsson- Seward, AK
 31-Laura Hubbell-Federal Way, WA
 32-Ron Kepford- Winterset, IA
 33-Kathryn Wirkus-Denver, CO
 34-Susan Okoniewski-Aurora, IL
 35-Bob Dawes-Ontario, Canada
 36-Pete Hansen-Kenai, AK
 37-Lydia Wirkus-Chugiak, AK
 38-Fred Hubbell-Des Moines, IA
 39-Helen H. Chase-Normal, IL
 40-Barbara Dawes-Ontario, Canada
 41-Hilbert Hubble-Silver Springs, MD
 42-Grant Brookover-Addy, WA
 43-Scott Brookover-Addy, WA
 44-Cole Brookover-Addy, WA
 45-Paul Hilava-Albuquerque, NM
 46-Trace Brookover-Addy, WA
 47-Nellie Peck-Lincoln, NE
 48-Margaret Jacinto-Normal, IL
 49-Emily King-Edmonton, Alberta
 50-Tonja Brookover-Addy, WA
 51-Jerry Jacinto-Normal, IL
 52-Mike Hubbell-Des Moines, IA
 53-Phyllis McCaul-Lincoln, NE
 54-Elaine Herzog-Bloomington, IL

55-Janet Watson-Edmonton, Alberta
 56-Jacqueline Evans-Lincoln, NE
 57-Kitty Verkuilen-Evansville, WI
 58-Mary Kimmel-Caledonia, WI
 59-Barbara Kruse-E. Northport, NY
 60-Ricki A. Evans-Lincoln, NE
 61-Martha Watson-Edmonton, Alberta
 62-Marjorie Hilava-Albuquerque, NM
 63-Hanna Herzog-Des Moines, IA
 64-Debbie Hubbell-Des Moines, IA
 65-Anne Weaver-Omaha, NE
 66-Glen Cooper-Brecksville, OH
 67-Marjorie Butler-Sullivan, IN
 68-Dorcas Aunger-Arcadia, CA
 69-Anne H. Cooper-Brecksville, OH
 70-Lisa Cooper-Des Moines, IA
 71-Roger Cooper-Brecksville, OH
 72-Jean N. Hubbell-Gaithersburg, MD
 73-Karen Wertanen-Negaunee, MI
 74-Alan Cooper-Brecksville, OH

Not in Picture: Jack Hubbell-Springfield, MO;
 Jim, Ellen, Andrew and Jay Hubbell-Des Moines,
 IA; Beth VanDyke-Des Moines, IA ; Kristin
 Krentz-Des Moines; Bob & Gretchen Birdsall-
 Moorestown, NJ; Margo, Kendall & Annette
 Born-Waynesville, NC

Jack David Hubbell: continued from page 7

range of a John Sexton photograph or the ink soaked pages of a Daido Moriyama book? I imagine if you’ve viewed my photographs, you’ve figured out just where my favor lies.

Speaking of Mr. Moriyama, the Japanese lexicon contains the word Notan. The concept of Notan is similar to that of chiaroscuro and likewise deals with the play and placement of light and dark tones. You are tempted to think of the manifestation of Yin and Yang, but that infers balance whereas with Notan there is a deliberate imbalance. A hint of white on a field of black? Where is the beauty in that? So, now that we’ve established I possess an imbalanced mindset, just how did

this visual perception of Notan transition from that cavity behind my eyes to that which you see as you gaze at your computer monitor? I could tell you what camera and lens I used to create the look of my images, but when you savage Tri-X or HP5 the way I have, does it really matter how well your optics can resolve a fine line? No, let’s skip all that and jump to the meat of the matter that which affects the transition from film to negative.

As well as being a fan of Klein and Moriyama at an impressionable age, I also came under the influence of Ralph Gibson’s early work. A good portion of Gibson’s look came down to the fact he liked a somewhat dense negative. He achieved this by both over exposing and over devel-

oping his film in Rodinal. In my case, I don’t care to over expose my Tri-X but will shoot at its normal ISO rating and develop in Rodinal as if it was one stop over. That is, processing 400 as if it had been pushed to 800. Do this in any fine art college class and you would likely get slapped for letting your negative’s highlights block up. Just plain evil. Debased negatives? Well, if such negatives were good enough for Ralph, they were good enough for me.

The best critique of my artistic vision I ever received was when my mother said, “You know, you could make Disneyland look depressing.” Oh how I wish I had the chance, but I imagine they’d stop me at the gate.