



# CONTACT SHEET

June, 2001

Editor, Paula Morris

Volume 24, No. 6

## METRO CAMERA CLUB MEETINGS

The Metro Camera Club meets the second and fourth Mondays of each month (except holidays) at the Will Rogers Garden Exhibition Building, Will Rogers Park, 3400 NW 36<sup>th</sup> Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Socializing starts at 7:00 pm, meetings start at 7:30 pm.

**Meetings this month – June 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>**

**THIS MONTH**  
**June 11<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 pm - Program:**  
**Jerry Poppenhouse**  
**Professor of Visual Communications**  
**OSU/Okmulgee**  
**“Photos from World Travels”**

***Board Meeting – June 18<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm***

**June 25<sup>th</sup> – Competition – 7:30 p.m.**

### MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

It's not too soon to be thinking about getting enough competition entries in to qualify for end of the year awards. To be eligible for an award, a member must have no less than 12 entries and no more than 20 entries in a given category. The closer you can get to having 20 entries, the better off you'll be, because only your 12 highest entries will be used in the calculations. Since we're missing the regular competition nights in May and November, due to holidays, members will be allowed to enter 6 pictures per category in the remaining monthly competitions. This will prevent us from having to cancel programs to make up for the lost competition nights. But it also means

October will be our last competition. So dig through your pictures and avoid the year-end rush! Good luck!

Tommy Evans

## OUR FOCUS IS ON YOU



**Bill Ellis**

Rather than expanding a photographic hobby into a vocation, Bill Ellis took a different approach. Bill is a geologist and a professional writer, and he first began taking photographs to illustrate articles he wrote for technical and professional publications. By a circuitous route, this eventually led to his joining Metro Camera Club. But to begin at the beginning, Bill arrived in this world at the start of the 1920s, and spent the first 17 years of his life in the house where he was born. This house was on a hill overlooking a small mountain town in northern Arizona, where he developed a childhood fascination with airplanes.

It was his childhood fascination with aircraft that led him to a commercial vo-tech school in southern California where a crash lesson in aircraft sheet metal work resulted in a job at North American Aviation. By now he was almost 19 years old and the United States was at the brink of war. North American was located at the

south edge of the Los Angeles Municipal Airport, now known as L.A. International. The product manufactured by North American was the Harvard Trainer, built for Canada and used to train British RAF pilots. This plane was the prototype for the United States AT-6 and SN-J, the standard intermediate trainer put in use when the United States entered World War II.

Bill spent his days in the factory and his evenings taking pre-engineering classes at college. He became an engineering draftsman and received a job deferment from the draft. Despite this deferment, he joined the United States Army Air Corps.

Bill served in a 5<sup>th</sup> Air Force B-25 unit in the Philippines and he was on Okinawa when the war ended. One of life's coincidences, working on drawings for modifications of the B-25 was Bill's project when he left North American for the Air Corps.

At the end of the war, he came back to southern California, but after serving in the Air Corps he found the confinement of an engineering office just didn't work for him. An outdoor life looked better and studying geology at UCLA led to his first semi-serious use of a camera. In 1949, his dissertation relative to the surface geology of a quadrangle in northeast Nevada is illustrated with several photographs he took with a newly acquired Argus C-3.

Bill's work took him to West Texas, where he lived for 18 years, from 1950 to 1968, working in oil and gas geology and publishing technical articles in professional journals. He acquired an Exacta with an F-2 Zeiss Biotar lens and photographs taken with this camera were published with a couple of his articles. However, photos taken on trips and of his family were the main, and not too frequent, use of that camera.

Now living in Oklahoma City and winding down a 55 year geologic career, Bill switched his writing focus to non-technical articles. He found that photographs made his articles much more interesting and also made them more likely to be published. He now belongs to one local and one state writing group, and writes feature articles – an illustrated article on the town of Arcadia, Oklahoma, its people and history, was recently published in **ROUTE 66** magazine – and he is also now writing longer fiction..

A couple of photography classes at Francis Tuttle Vo-Tech brought him to the Metro Camera Club, which he joined in 1996. It didn't take long for the club to discover his talents. A year after he joined, in 1997, in Class A he took second place in Black and White and third place in Color Print. In 1998 he took first place in Class A Color Slides and third place in Class AA Color Print. In the year 2000 he took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Class AAA Color Print. In 1998 Bill served the club as Vice President and Program Chair.

As well as his writing focus, Bill's preferences in cameras has changed. In 1996 he acquired three other Exactas and four or five lenses. Then half way through his first photography class at the vo-tech, he decided he needed more flexibility and got an Olympus IS 10 bridge camera. Soon after joining the club he acquired a Nikon N 2000, then a Nikon Photomic (he says it's very good for old eyes as to view finder and exposure meter!). Then a Nikon F3 HP, and now an N-90.

Bill's interest in photography now covers the spectrum from photo-journalism to landscapes to human interest. He has a particular affection for black and white photographs and so, of course, Ansel Adams is a hero. Bill says he learns at club meetings, finds the "Treasure Hunt" to be fun and enjoys the people. He and his family travel some, mostly Central and South America and the western USA. As to his goals? Well, in his own words: "Staying alive for a while! " That's a wish we all share with you, Bill!

#### PROGRAM NOTE

In addition to being a world traveler and accomplished photographer, Jerry Poppenhouse, who is presenting our June program, was Project Editor, Photographer and Photo Editor of the book, "**PHILMONT**", the story of the Boy Scouts of America camp in New Mexico.

#### COMPETITION NOTE

Because holidays in May and November cause the Garden Center to be closed on our competition meeting nights in those months, you may enter **SIX** entries in each category for the rest of the year. Remember, October will be the last competition month this year.

#### THE IPHF SAYS 'THANK YOU'

*By Derrell Dover*

The International Photography Hall of Fame wishes to thank all who volunteered their time during the Festival of the Arts. Thanks to your help we were able to earn over \$1,000 for the IPHF.

#### FIELD TRIP REPORT

Can you believe it? We had 25 folk attend the May field trip to the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge! Joe Spence did an excellent job as a guide, Linda England was a great leader, and hey! – the club members, and guests, were good followers, too! Most of us stayed clear to the end – including a tour of the Holy City, an early supper at Meers and sunset atop Mt. Scott. Some of us camped overnight and went home Sunday. It was a fun trip – the photo ops were many and varied – and

for some of us it was a great learning opportunity – which proves the old adage – you get out of something what you put into it.

### **REMINDER**

Check our web page for timely updates, program information and club news too late for inclusion in the **CONTACT SHEET**. Webmaster Jack DeLisle is doing a great job of keeping it current. You can find us at:

[www.metrocameraclub.org](http://www.metrocameraclub.org)