

Your Historian Remembers: by Mufty Mathewson (Nov 27, 2018)

Once upon a time, in the olden days of film cameras, I was walking in Meadowlark mall and saw two women sitting at a table with some beautiful photographic prints. The photographs were of mountains, people, flowers and trees. I stopped to admire the photographs, at which time Helen McArthur and Flo Duggan told me the photographs had all been made by members of Images Alberta Camera Club. Was I a photographer? They asked. Why didn't I come and check them out? They met on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at Prince Rupert School on 113th Avenue and 115 Street. We're having an excellent speaker next Thursday, Why don't you plan to come.

I checked my calendar; saw that I didn't need to drive any of my four teens anywhere that evening so thought maybe, just maybe this would be interesting. I loved taking pictures and maybe, just maybe, I could learn something.

And so, on the next Thursday evening I entered the gymnasium of the school and was greeted at the door by a short, balding man with a heavenly basso-profundo voice. "What is your name?" he asked. "Mufty Mathewson" I replied and he said, "Welcome to the club, Mufty." in his deep rich basso-profundo voice.

(an aside: I am a total pushover for a man with a low rich basso-profundo voice and will do my damndest to just stand close to him, so already I love this camera club. I'll turn up every Thursday just to hear him say; "Welcome to the Club, Mufty." His name was Saul Rabinovitz and later, Saul became a great friend, but that night, as I took a chair at the back of the room, the speaker was introduced and began his talk.

Without a word, he began his slide show. The lights went down, quiet music began playing and exquisite images slid onto two screens, one immediately beside the other, so the pictures were side by side. The images melted into one another, matching the feeling of the music featuring stunning image after image mesmerized me with beauty.

After his slide show, he began a teaching segment. His subject was composition, simple composition and I was captivated by his easy to understand concepts. He illustrated his talk with more thoughtfully composed and amazing photographs. Then he finished his presentation with another two-projector, side-by-side images slide show with more exquisite sounds, matching the mood of the pictures.

I was captivated, enthralled and entranced. I could hardly move. I could hardly applaud. But I did and came out of my trance. I wanted to learn more from this man. I wanted to learn how to do this, to make beautiful pictures and fit them with beautiful music. Who is this man? I asked, Who is this speaker?

His name is Freeman Patterson, said my new friend Saul. Isn't he marvelous?

I joined Images Alberta Camera Club that night, way back in 1978 and have been a member ever since. Looks like my 40th Anniversary with the club! And maybe, just maybe, I'll keep on learning.