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Acc. No,
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WALKER R. SMITH, PHOTOPRINT COLLECTION
(ca. 1936-1991)
1 Half Flat Box

Container List

Silver gelatin photoprints, 11" x 14", 81' x 10", 6" x 11", 4"x 10", 5" x 7", 4" x 5" and smaller on paper sheets with miscellaneous ink notations and identifications; quotations and dates are from captions.

Folder

People, Portraits

1. Local resident Calvin Whalen, 91
2. Mrs. Oscar Rhodes, with feed sacks
3. Grace Peddicord, with cat

People, Groups

1. Three girls, ca. 1940's
2. Three men, in suits and hats, 1940
3. 5 Girls with hula hoops, 1958
4. 19 Women wearing "their mothers’ wedding dresses”, Adamstown Church
5. Lutheran Church "Young Peoples’ Group”, Jefferson, Maryland
6. Ice Hockey on Frozen River, ca. 1949’s
7. Point of Rocks baseball team
II. Baseball game, 1957
   Boys in swimsuits jumping off bridge, 1983
Folder

People, Occupations

1 12. Interior of Doub store, with owner and worker
13. Interior of Doub store, with Christmas decorations
14. Interior of Doub store, two women behind counter
15. Children with ice cream cones at Doub store
16. "Wall phone in Doub store"
17. "Lois (Mrs. Smith) cooking hamburgers" at Doub store
18. Lois (Mrs. Smith) washing hair at stump
19. Dickerson storekeeper, postmaster with friend, 1940
20. Dickerson storekeeper, postmaster, 1940
21. Dickerson post office and postmaster with safe
22. Mr. & Mrs. Stoll at Stoll's Grocery
23. Stoll's Grocery-Post Office "on Far End"
24. Three boys in front of store, 1940 or 1941
25. "Cup of ice cream" at store front
26. William Robertson at drop front desk
27. "Guernsey Milk Bar"
28. "Dowsing for water"
29. Dan Matthews skins rabbit, was born "the year 'Old Massa' planted potatoes back of the barn"
30. "Coon feet on Rhodes garage"
31. "Pop" (photographer's father) returning from hunting with 1893 pump Winchester and 2 rabbits
32 "Butchering,"
33. Carpenter with "two-handed wood drill" at "Old Tool Show," ca. 1970
34. "Good mechanic"
35. Painters on scaffold at church
   Fisherman with turtle, 1947
   "Pop" (photographer's father) and scroll saw
   Horse drinking from bottle

Railroad

2 36. "Signal at Doub Switchover"
2 37. "B&O Crossing watchman"
38. Unloading mailbags, newspapers, "cartons of baby chicks"
39. Unloading mailbag
40. Passengers from "5:15 from Frederick," ca. 1940
41. "Conductor checks hotbox"
42. "Capstone" under B&O old main line
43. "Cleaning up after wreck"
44. "Uncoupled," "Toppled" car
45. Railroad gang "weeding side track"
46. "Single tie machine"
47. "Pusher" coming through snow
48. "Brunswick Yard in the days of steam"
49. Engine, signal
50. "Point engine," 1950
52. "Chessie" at Point of Rocks Station, 1988
53. Freight train, 1988
   1-3 Two-man team welding rails, 3 prints
   "Steam locomotives lined up at water tanks," 1947
   Wreck, "Caboose took the easy way out"
   British "Coronation Scot," in U.S. for 1939 World's Fair

Rural Industry

55. Mill wooden cogs, conveyer
56. Two-horse wagon with milk cans in snow, 1947
57. "Runklers cowbarn," 1969
58. Cows, barn
59. Farmer, 2 cows at milking stations
60. "Sodcutter at work"
61. "Setting sheaves" to "make shocks"
62. "Side delivery rake"
63. "King (dog) and feed truck"
64. Farmer with Massey-Ferguson Tractor
Folder

3  65. "Straw baler"
   66. "Tractor & corn planter"
   67. Corn Combine with "audience"
   68. "Six-row picker & combine"
   69. Farmer mowing meadow
   70. "Wheat combine," ca. 1957
       Horse-dawn wagon unloading grain at Carroll's Mill, 1947
       Carroll's Mill, 1947
       Horse-drawn wagon leaving mill
       Repairing elevator belt
       Horse-drawn manure spreader

Transportation

4  72. Potomac at Mouth of Monocacy, copy of C.H. Clagett sketch
    73. "C&O Canal aquaduct" over Monocacy River
    74. Aquaduct railing, 1974
    75. Aquaduct stairs, 1974
    76. Aquaduct "metal staples," 1974
    77. Iron ring at top of Aquaduct, 1958
    78. "Garber Bread Truck" delivery, 1941
    79. "Check point for MG's," Doub, 1951
       Keel, ribs of barge at low water

Landscapes

5  80. Power lines along Doub Road, 1988
    81. "East across Carroll Manor"
    82. "Lower end of Middletown Valley," 1175

Disasters

6  83. Point of Rocks flood, 1889, copy
6  84. Potomac flood, 1935
   85. "Hurricane Agnes" flood, Point of Rocks, 1972
   86. Fire - small barn, 1959
   87. School fire, Dickerson, Md., 1959
   88. School fire from playground, 1959
   89. Farmhouse burned by C.M. Fire Co., 1950
   90. Truck off road in snow, Dickerson, Md., 1951
   91. Cameraman shoots woman's hat from plane crash, 1947
       Air crash, horse pulling wreckage, 1940

World War II

7  "Draftees off to camp"
   Honoring service flag, Frederick, Md.
   Parachute reported, troops search fields, 1942
   "Boxed war material" for convoy, 1943

Miscellaneous

8  92. Traveling to "cultivate their marijuana plants"
   93. "Old German Thomas Graveyard"
   94. Wilkie campaign rally, Frederick Fair Grounds, 1940
   95. "Ditching for MCI cable," 1984
   96. Old stove, now farmer's mail box
   97. Totem, Utica
   98. Doll's head on fence post
   99. Road sign, Revolutionary War historical marker, 1(80
   100. "Little 'Cocky' & Eastako re-zoning notice," 1(6
    1-2 Muskets at Antietam, ca. 1940, 2 prints
While noting that 'snapshot," was "an 8-letter dirty word" when he began taking photographs, he considers his output "just snapshots." He only posed pictures at weddings, his sole commercial photography. He wanted a number of people he knew, "who were fine people and a credit to their town and community, and even to their country" to be remembered. He said that people were "born in the system, worked in the system, and died in the system." Photographs were his method of beating the system. His grandson said that he had "come up with something to keep your neighborhood a few hundred years." His photographs also reflect his interest in local history and in his part of Frederick local history includes the B&O Railroad and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. His photographs show lifestyle and technology that is fast disappearing if not already gone.

Walker Smith's wife Lois has passed away, but he has 2 sons, 3 grandsons, 3 granddaughter 1 great-grandson and 2 great-granddaughters.

**Scope and Content**

This collection contains 122 silver gelatin photoprints, most taken during the 1930's and 1940's. The sizes vary, from 11" x 14," 8" x 10," 6" x 11," 4" x 10," 5" x 7," 4" x 5" and smaller and all are unmounted. Most photographs were taken near Doub in Frederick County or Dickerson in Montgomery County, Maryland between 1936 and 1991. Most photographs carry notes from the photographer, some extensive, naming the person show or identifying the subject chosen. Many notes show involvement in the local community and extensive knowledge of local history, farm machinery and railroad technology and history. Mr Smith photographs his friends and neighbors, their leisure activities and their disasters, his neighborhood -- rural Maryland -- in peacetime and during World War II. His photographs also show the economy of the area: the stores and storekeepers; the farmers their machinery; the grain mills; rural crafts and skills such as hunting, fishing and dowsing the Chesapeake and Ohio canal; the Potomac River near Point of Rocks, particularly during various floods; the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad; and other forms of transportation.

**Related Collections**

The Maryland Historical Society, in Baltimore, also has a collection of Walker R. Smith’s photographs
NOTES

1. My text is based upon biographical information collected during a taped interview with Walker R. Smith in Doub, Maryland in October, 1995.

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Mary June Owen, working under the supervision of David Haberstich, 11/25/95