



Rangefinder

The Missouri Photo Workshop
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Searching for Stories

If you don't have a story approved yet, the editors have some advice for you.

"Don't panic. Take a deep breath," said Alan Berner, co-editor of team A, "I ultimately believe that these things always work out—because they must." Now that you are breathing again, what can you do to find a story that will work?

"Every interaction between a photographer and their subject is a chemical equation, so it's all about finding the right chemistry," Randy Olson explains. He advises looking at the news, local or national, and finding individuals whose lives address larger topics. Thinking about issues that you are an advocate for or things that make you angry are often good leads to newsworthy projects.

"It's easier to see how something affects someone through one or two sets of eyes," Olson said.

The editors are asking you to challenge yourselves, "This workshop isn't only about photography. It's also about how to think and research, about learning to find and see the



PHOTOGRAPH BY BEATRICE DE GEA

Annie Tritt and Betty Bastidas do research for their stories on Market St. Monday morning.

things that are in front of you, beside you, and behind you," said Berner, "everyone you meet is auditioning." Thinking about how people that you come in contact with might be part of a story or be able to connect you to one is essential.

Olson instructs photographers to trust their intuition as to how or whether a story will unfold over time. "Think of a movie or a play," he said, "Will there be drama, will

there be conflict?"

The editors are looking for stories of people, but not simply where they are and what they do there. Instead, they want to see who these people are and what makes them tick. Berner said that, in the end, they hope that the photographer will learn something about themselves as well."

Story by Ashley Twiggs

Golden Nuggets from Last Night's Lecture

"...as I shoot, I look for 'cover photos' and 'enders'."
— ALAN BERNER

"If you aren't already amazingly curious, you are probably in the wrong occupation. You must be genuinely interested in people."
— MAGGIE STEBER

Move your camera and your body to reveal a cleaner, layered frame.
— KIM KOMENICH

"We are moving out of the back of the bus. Watch us; we will be driving the bus."
—MAGGIE STEBER,
comparing photojournalists to Rosa Parks.

You will learn to gear down and go with the flow.
— ALAN BERNER

"You learn from everyone, but you must develop your own style."
— MAGGIE STEBER

Strangers in a Strange Land

Photographers attending MPW from foreign countries are having a positive experience in this town of six minorities.

Being a stranger to this country is not hindering German native, Uwe Martin. He is finding it easy to make contacts here in Hermann.

"When the people find out I am from Germany they are intrigued," Uwe said.

Hermann has a slight resemblance to his native land, Uwe said. Residents here know a minimal amount of German and hold on to variations of the German Heritage that have been passed down from generation to generation. This town reminds him of Germany a few decades ago and for him he must search to locate the similarities. He said that Hermann is similar to tourist towns scattered throughout Germany.

There is one difference that stands out among the rest.

"We don't have so many American flags in Germany," he said.



PHOTOGRAPH BY: ADAM MASLOSKI

Uwe Martin talks over ideas with Betty Bastidas Tuesday morning.

Gang Wu, originally from Beijing, is also finding that the community is very receptive and welcoming.

"Everyone is friendly," Gang Wu said.

Gang Wu said he is encountering difficulty with the language.

"I make my subjects speak slower and worry about keeping up," Gang Wu said.

Alfredo Gardenas, who travelled from Equador is enjoying Hermann.

Alfredo is meeting "very nice" people.

"I am really happy in Hermann," Alfredo said.

Valentina Petrova of Bulgaria is having a different experience here.

"Today was a struggle," Valentina said.

Valentina said that she can not convince people to allow her to

photograph due to the language barrier.

"Ninety percent of the people are friendly and ten aren't willing to communicate," Valentia said.

She is currently working with the local paper to find a story.

Story By: Olivia Wyatt



Photograph by workshop photographer Kevin VanPaassen.

The Rangefinder

"Documenting the Missouri Photo Workshop"

(www.mophotoworkshop.org)

Cliff and Vi Edom

Founders

David Rees and Jim Curley

Co-Directors

Duane Dailey

Director Emeritus

Angel Anderson

Administrative Assistant

Adam Masloski

Photographer

Ashley Twiggs & Olivia Wyatt

Editors

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Story Pitches

1- So there's this German guy...

2- I met this guy running out of a bank in a ski mask. He told me that he didn't have time to talk right now, but that I could meet him later by the abandoned silo on the north edge of town.

3- I was thinking about this really interesting woman, although I don't know her name yet. She told me to come back because she'll be sitting on the porch all day. Oh, and she has a cat.

4- This isn't really a good story but...

5- I've got this story idea about a really cool guy, but five people are already photographing him.

6- Stop me if you've heard this before, but...

7- You might think there's not much to do at the outhouse, but bare with me before you dump on it.

8- I had a really good one, but a German Shepherd ate it.

This was a joke... repeating this was only a joke.