

RANGER FINDER

v63
N2
MPW 63 - CLINTON
MONDAY SEPT. 26

*Top--Scott Serio consults with
team D faculty Brian Kratzer and
Melissa Farlow on Monday afternoon.
Bottom--Joshua Boucher of team C
waits before his consultation.
Photos by Matthew Busch*



STORIES ABOUND

by Duane Dailey

There are 9,000 stories in The Golden Valley. Everybody has one. Just jab your finger on a phone book page and that is your subject. That's better for TV than documentary photojournalism. Video allows the subject to tell their history.

Documentary photojournalism shows us the now.

You find stories a thousand ways. Some subjects are so compelling they find you. Your first approach should be shoe-leather reporting. Go meet people. Ask them, "Who is the most interesting _____ (fill-in the blank)." Follow that thread as far as you can go.

• *continued on back cover*





*LEFT Sunday night--The mayor of Clinton, Sam Gibbons, addresses the photographer participants of MPW at the Elks' Lodge on the town square.
(photo by Matthew Busch)*

BELOW Saturday afternoon--Ben Hoste, graduate coordinator of MPW 63, takes a spin on the workshop bicycle. (photo by Jim Curley)

BOTTOM RIGHT Sunday night--Photographers and crew head back to the Benson Convention Center after a meal at the Elks' Lodge. (Photo by Matthew Busch)



*LEFT Saturday afternoon:
Rangefinder editors Leah Beane and Liz Pierson decorate the Benson Convention Center with lights.
(photo by Jim Curley)*



*MIDDLE Saturday morning:
The crew of MPW begins to set up the equipment in preparation for the start of the workshop.
(photo by Jim Curley)*



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Start with the people from the Elk's dinner last night. I heard Craig Walker pumping leaders at our table. He has a page of ideas. But, those are not stories; they are starting points.

As a workshopper you are empowered to talk to everyone. Don't be shy. Ask lots of questions of lots of people. Your interpersonal skills are more important than camera skills, today.

People will tell lots of history. But seek what's happening now. Read the local paper for names, events and times. Go find one of those.

If you seek a farm story, don't settle on the first farmer you meet. Ask yourself Peggy Peattie's question: Why does this matter?

Don't panic, if you can't find a prize story the first day. Keep working the beat.

• Always ask: Who else should I talk to?

• Ask, what is important in this town?
• What are the economic drivers?
• Who are the shakers making things happen?

• Go visit them. Keep your eyes open.
• Find dynamic locations.
• Follow the action. You are looking for photos with verbs, says Kim Komenich.
• Find a place with lots of verbs.

You are fishing for stories. Keep casting your line.

We've seen it happen: Terrific stories burst forth on the last day. Searching is a part of the learning. David Rees says, "Trust the process."

Many will come back with a subject or a place, not a story. Spend time with a subject so that you can hypothesize a story. Test your idea with your faculty. You are a reporter, digging for facts.

Make sure the subjects understand what you want — total access. This is not a shoot-and-run assignment. They may think that you'll be gone in an hour.

Remember, this is their story. You are their reporter. Be assured, that as you learn, your concept of story will change.

Keep your faculty informed; but, don't hang around all day. Get back out on the street. Talk a lot, listen more. Use your eyes when reporting. Note the unsaid details. Find subjects you would love to spend four days with.

Go get lucky.

— Duane Dailey

mpw.63 ten commandments

- don't turn in raw
- don't use strobe
- don't set up pictures
- don't be boring
- don't chimp
- do be honest
- do remember we are invited guests in clinton
- do challenge yourself every day
- do whistle while you work
- do re-format your card after each dump



Faculty member Brian Kratzer enjoys Missouri wines, thoughtfully, on Monday.
(photo by David Rees)



Today's QR-code takes you to MPW.62 special multimedia.

(Download a QR reader from the web, place it on your smartphone. Then allow it to follow the link to a video piece from last year's workshop in Macon, Mo.)

mpw.63 staff

- founders: Cliff and Vi Edom
- co-directors: Jim Curley & David Rees
- director emeritus: Duane Dailey
- MPW coordinator: Amy Schomaker
- graduate coordinators: Ben Hoste & Pinar Istek
- photographer: Matt Busch
- Rangefinder editors: Leah Beane & Liz Pierson
- follow us on Twitter at: @MPWrangefinder

Monday, 7:30pm

MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATIONS

FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

• Lois Raimondo
"Gaining access"

• Dennis Dimick
"How to tell a story visually"

• Chris Wilkins
"The bottom line:
Road map for a photo project"

• Melissa Farlow
"From 20 to now:
Thoughts on my changes as a photographer"

TEAM MEETINGS