

Rangefinder

The Missouri Photo Workshop September 26, 2013 • Volume 65 Issue 5



ABOVE: A frame from Ralph Hodgson's home schooling story. **BELOW:** From Ryan Dorgan's test roll, a scene in downtown Trenton.





A pair of working mules owned by Bob W. Taber, Mountain View, MO
(Photos by Duane Daily)

DUANE DAILEY'S **BEST SCAM**

By *Katie Alaimo*
Crew member

Duane Dailey is known for his many accomplishments; an agriculture writer, author of the column *Hometown Boy*, a University of Missouri educator and photographer.

Less known about the University of Missouri professor emeritus is the co-founding of what he describes as one of the best scams.

“We created the Missouri Mule Skinners Association, and for 25 dollars you could get an honorary plaque that said you were a fan of

Missouri mules,” Dailey said.

It was a scheme used to fund the brainchild of Dailey and Dr. Melvin Bradley, livestock specialist for the MU Cooperative Extension office, a project on the Missouri mule and the men who continued to work with them. To their surprise, the plan enjoyed a modest popularity, and money soon began filtering in from people wanting to become honorary “Muleskinners.”

“That gave us enough money for gas and travel,” said Dailey. “We’d be out for a week interviewing people and we’d come back and there would be more 25 dollar checks there.”

The scheme, which also played a large role in the successful campaign to make the mule Missouri’s state animal, financed the interest both Dailey and Bradley felt toward documenting an important and fading part of Missouri culture.

The idea for the project that paired audio interviews with Dailey’s photography, grew from Dailey and Bradley’s travels together and a mutual fondness for the reputedly stubborn beast of burden. Bradley served with the cavalry during World War II and was the horse and mule specialist with the MU Extension Office, while Dailey grew up on

a farm at a time when mules and horses did the work of modern-day tractors.

Dailey's grandfather was a farmer and "small town innovator," according to Dailey, who established the first Ford Model-T dealership in Lineville, Iowa. Mules were used as trade-in on cars and were later used on the family farm.

"There are still people who are mule fans and keep mules but they do different things," said Dailey. "They're popular for trail riding and coon hunting. We want to maintain some of that tradition and history."

Dailey's connection to the people and land of rural Missouri well suited him for his work on the Missouri mule and a career in agricultural journalism. His path in writing was set after having his first article published in eighth grade.

"I wrote up a story about [a] pie and box supper and took it to the Princeton Post-Telegraph and they printed it on the front page," said Dailey. "That was the turning point in my life."

Translating complex agriculture topics into language easily understood by a broader audience while retaining the story's significance is a skill that has come naturally to Dailey.

"That's my goal to translate scientific farming, scientific agriculture into words that people will be interested enough to come

and contact the extension specialist," said Dailey. "I can't teach the whole thing, I just get the attention."

Though never intending to become a professor, education has characterized much of Dailey's career as a teacher, photographer and writer covering College news with MU Extension and as a columnist. His column, Hometown Boy, which primarily covers agricultural news runs in six papers, including the Trenton Republican-Times, and allows Dailey to continue informing the community on best farming practices.

Wendell Lenhart, publisher of the Republican-Times, first met Dailey at a Missouri Press Conference meeting 25 years ago. Through a shared upbringing in neighboring Missouri counties Lenhart established a lasting friendship and a beneficial connection to agricultural reporting.

"He's passionate about what he does," said Lenhart. "I think people look forward to his articles because they are informative and easy to read and understand. And it helps me be a better newspaper because I can get that story right away."

Dailey takes pride in having learned most of what he knows about reporting from being on the job and traveling most of Missouri's blue highways in the process.

One of the chief lessons gained from the Missouri mule project was

the importance of gaining rapport with your subject and establishing connections within the community.

"It's all in your approach," said Dailey. "You have to be able to work your way in, you can't just barge in on someone's private life. They didn't teach me that in journalism school."

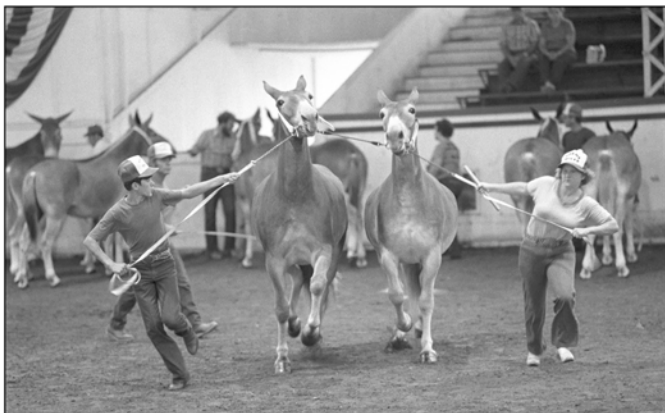
With economy and patience, Dailey said he was able to achieve success, lessons that he has passed on to his own students who have gone on to work for publications including the Dallas Morning News and National Geographic.

Four photo books were the result of the Missouri mule project, but after the Bradley's death Dailey archived the 36 exposure Tri-X negatives where they were unseen for 20 years.

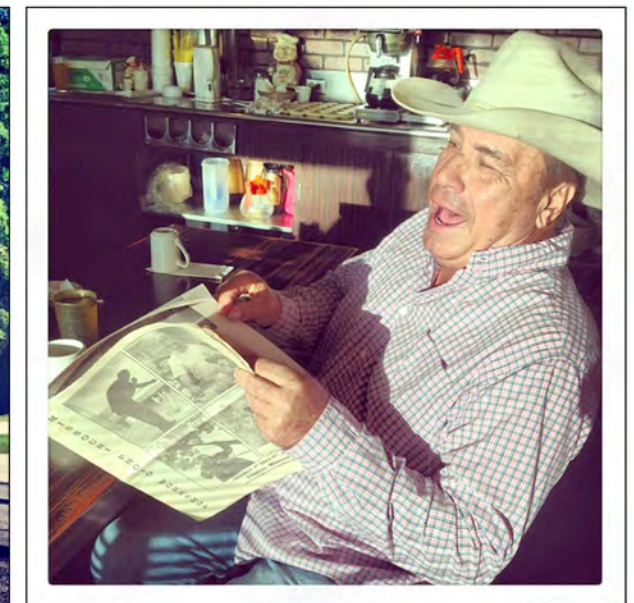
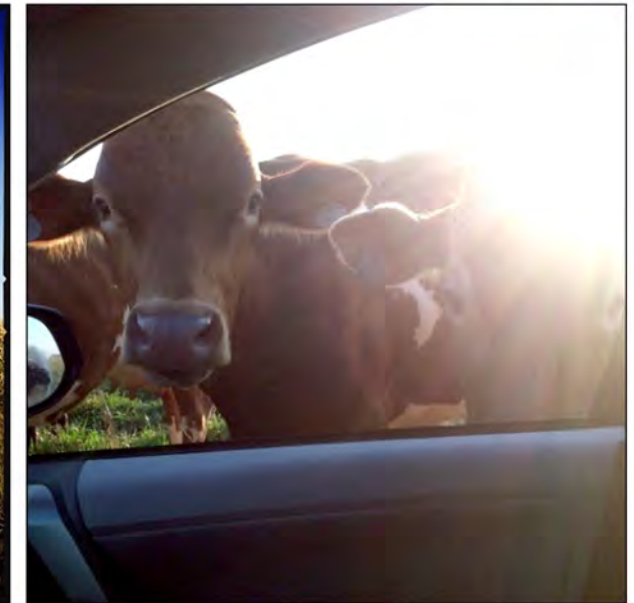
"In three days he was gone and that just really took my spirit away. He was a driving force," said Dailey.

But the story is being revived through the combined efforts of Dailey and the Missouri School of Journalism. His work will continue to educate community members on an important aspect of state agriculture as well as the historical and cultural significance of the Missouri mule.

"A lot of the people, the Missouri mule skinnners who financed this are gone, and so I have an obligation to continue to tell that story about the Missouri Mule."



INSTA TRENTON



ABOVE: Photo by @mophotoworkshop

FIRST ROW, from left: Photo by @k_zeisy, photo by @gregkb, photo by @gregkb

SECOND ROW: Photo by @mophotoworkshop, photo by @itsdorgan, @jtierneyphoto.

THIRD ROW: Photo by @abbyconno, photo by @abbyconno, photo by @katemunsch



Marie Hald and Dustin Michelson talk with Dennis Dimick and Melissa Farlow of Team Gilka on Wednesday night.

(Photo by Whitney Hayward)

PUTTING IT TOGETHER... **THE PICTURE PUZZLE**

By *Duane Dailey*
Co-Director Emeritus

MPW65 photographers have been collecting pieces to fit together to tell a story. But, like a jigsaw puzzle, a missing piece makes for an incomplete picture.

Thursday night is time to list pieces to the story. You should have a list in your mind. Look at what you have. Take inventory of pictures vital for your story.

Then, on paper, list what you have. Follow with sub-lists from that inventory.

Do you have a lede? Which picture grabs attention of the viewer and draws them into the story?

Then find a photo as ender. The climax. The resolution.

Next, fill in the middle. List the photos that do the heavy lifting of telling your story. Use the concept of chapters, the subparts of a story. There are mini-stories within your story.

Do you have strong, story-telling photos that play with the words of the story you will write.

Find strong detail shots. Do you have transition photos that carry your farmer from family out to working the fields?

Is there a mix in these "selects" that range from close-up to medium shots to inclusive

scene setter. Find and list photos that give context. Can we tell this story is in Trenton? In the Green Hills?

Lists provide reality checks. In future story assignments do these listings constantly, not just on the last night before deadline.

Friday morning you can fill the holes in your last hours with your subject. If you know what is missing, you'll have a better chance of seeing photos to fill the holes.

In the olden days, photographers saved one roll of film, 36 exposures. It was not uncommon for a photographer to save a hopeless mess by wise use of that roll of film. That requires thinking! It is a thinking workshop, after all.

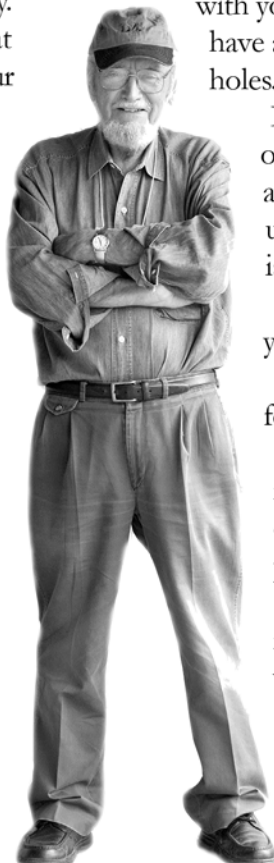
In the digital age, with a limit of 400 frames, you should have saved frames for filing gaps.


Friday morning will be busy. There is still time for surprises that change a story. Be ready.

Besides wrapping up the photo story, you must do our word checking as well. Double check spellings of names. Get addresses, cell-phone numbers, and ages with other identifiers.

Then there is the paper work -- signed releases. These let you to be part of the MPW website, the print story you sell and the Trenton book. Keep it legal, get the signatures.

Next will be your word story and captions. Be prepared.





Wendell Lenhart, owner and publisher of the Trenton Republican-Times, works at his desk in the newsroom Thursday. The paper celebrates its 50th anniversary of the Lenhart family ownership this year.

(Photo by Whitney Hayward)

THE TRENTON REPUBLICAN-TIMES

By Abby Connoly
Crew member

The Trenton Republican-Times celebrates its 150th anniversary of covering local news this year, making it the oldest business in Grundy County.

“To me it’s amazing. You see a lot of towns loosing their papers and having to make changes,” said editor Diane Lowrey. “And we have had to make changes.”

When Lowrey first started working at the paper they published six days a week, Monday through Saturday. During the nineties they dropped down to five. In more recent years the paper has downsized their staff and outsourced their publishing to Gallatin, about twenty miles away.

“It’s about being able to adapt,” said Wendell Lenhart, the publisher and

owner of the paper. As the newspaper age transitions into a digital world more and more papers are going online; but for the Republican-Times online production is more of a means to an end.

The online presence “is most important for the people away from here that want to read the paper because the postal delivery service is limited.” Lenhart said. More than 2300 papers are published everyday and for right now the majority of local residents still prefer to hold the newspaper in their hands.

This year also marks the 50th anniversary of the Lenhart family ownership of the paper, one of the few left today that remains family owned. Lenhart is unsure about the future ownership, as his daughter is currently studying fitness and nutrition at the University of Missouri.

However right now the most immediate concern is with the paper’s resources. “The challenge for us to continue to serve the community is to remain viable, which is harder than it used to be,” Lenhart said. “You can tell since 2008 it has gotten tighter and tighter,” but Lenhart remains optimistic that it will start going the other way.

Both Lowrey and Lenhart find working for the local newspaper a rewarding job. “I think it’s getting to know the people and community,” said Lowrey, “Trenton is a tight-knit community.”

“I think it’s rewarding to help make a difference,” added Lenhart. As apposed to a metro paper, local papers can really help promote community. “If our town’s going to be able to grow we have to be a voice and a positive influence.”

KILE'S GUIDE TO TRENTON

As a teenage Trentonite, there wasn't much to do. I was really left with two options, I could've cruised down Ninth Street, wasting fuel and time, or I could find places to explore on foot, camping, hiking and building fires. I didn't want to blast through town, burning diesel in a huge truck, so I went exploring.

Some of my favorite places were those you couldn't see from town — away from the high school, and the Sonic and McDonald's. I walked the willow patches and sandbars near the Charlie Dye Bridge, right, which has since been closed.

The woods around the bridge became a safe-haven for fireworks, BB gun hunts and beers with friends. A short drive to Trenton's west side, continuing past Moberly Park and down Crowder Road would get you to the small gravel parking lot where I would leave my car for days at a time while building fires and pitching tents



along the muddy tributary.

Another one of my favorite spots was a little further out of town. Crowder State Park is a favorite for RV'ers and fishermen, but the real gems are found away from the playgrounds, parking lots and lake. The extensive set of hiking trails will take you as far as you want to go, spanning miles of the Thompson River.

Sometimes I felt bored of these places, and then I would take to the gravel roads, which can be found on almost all corners of the town. Once you've travelled far enough everything turns to gravel, scattered with abandoned homes, and scenes of rural life. You'll find trees covered in shoes, old rickety wooden bridges, wild badgers and green onions growing just past the shoulder.

Maybe some of you have found these places, if you haven't, don't leave without exploring a little bit.

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WEATHER FORECAST


TOMORROW

 85° / 65°

SATURDAY

 79° / 56°

SUNDAY

 79° / 53°

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BEATRIZ COSTA-LIMA

SHELBY FEISTNER AND

RANDY COX

REMEMEBER ON SATURDAY: *All members of the community and your story subjects are invited to attend the showing of this year's photography in the Trenton High School Commons. 10am to 2pm.*