

RANGE FINDER

The Missouri Photo Workshop // Sept. 24, 2014 // Volume 66 // Issue 4



94-year-old Charles Bradley on his 450-acre farm in Weston, Mo., is unsure who will continue their legacy in the future. The farm has been in the family since 1888. (Photo by Michelle Siu)

THE ABOVE AVERAGE CREW

CODY LOHSE
graduate coordinator
What is your spirit animal?
"A grizzly bear."



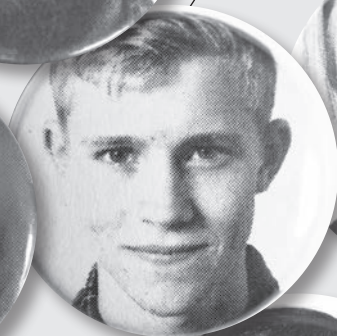
RANDY COX
rangefinder helper
What is your strategy to win the Hunger Games?
"Load up on Tootsie Roll Pops in advance, preferably grape."



JOSH BACHMAN
graduate coordinator
What is your favorite photo app?
"Hipstamatic."



ZACH BAKER
rangefinder editor
What is your favorite photo app?
"Photoshop Express."



HANNAH STURTECKY
conciierge
What is your strategy to win the Hunger Games? "I would breath fire."



JOHN HAPPEL
nikon assistant
What is your favorite photo app?
"I just learned Instagram."



SHANE EPPING
multimedia
What is your strategy to win the Hunger Games?
"Start shooting. (People or pictures)"



SARAH BELL
rangefinder editor
What is your spirit animal?
"A spider monkey."



HANNAH BALDWIN
printer
What is your spirit animal?
"Honey badger."



LOREN ELLIOTT
photographer
What is your spirit animal?
"An emotionally distant Mother Goose."



HANY HAWASLY
multimedia
What is your spirit animal?
"Chameleon because I show no mercy to my prey."



SARAH ROTHBERG
multimedia
What is your strategy to win the Hunger Games?
"Get a chainsaw and a samurai sword and join a group of bad asses."



BEATRIZ COSTA-LIMA
rangefinder editor
What is your strategy to win the Hunger Games?
"I would get a Nikon D4 because I could take really awesome photos and hit people with it."



JUSTIN STEWART
vortex
What is your strategy to win the Hunger Games?
"To kill the other people so I win. Thats how you win."



ABBY CONNOLLY
tactical sgt. & printer
What is your favorite photo app?
"Cat Paint."



LEAH BEANE
printer
What is your strategy to win the Hunger Games?
"I would hide in the trees the whole time."



DEREK POORE
multimedia
What is your favorite photo app?
"VSCO Cam app."



LAUREN KASTNER
conciierge
What is your spirit animal? "Dolphin, because Hannah Baldwin said so."



THE MISSOURI PHOTO WORKSHOP THROUGH THE AGES

A modern Huck Finn. MPW 9, Hannibal 1957

Bill Ray said he was looking for a “modern” Huck Finn when he found this young subject at MPW 9 in Hannibal in 1957.

In an email exchange with MPW Co-Director Jim Curley about that workshop Ray wrote:

“The Photo Workshop in Hannibal in 1957 changed my life and gave my brief career as a newspaper photographer a springboard into top level of magazine photojournalism. On the basis of my work in Hannibal I was offered and accepted a staff photographer job at National Geographic. I drove to Washington DC, filled out a form for Dept of Defense, was given a key to the men’s washroom and told to always wear a jacket in the hallways. Then I was escorted to meet Melville Bell Grosvenor. I did not have to report to work for a couple of weeks so I hopped in my MG and drove to New York where I had a “come up and see some time” from LIFE magazine, partly on the basis of the workshop. LIFE was the biggest, best & most famous magazine



in the world and the place I had wanted to work since was 12 years old. They offered me freelance work if I moved to NY, so I checked into a hotel, called Geo and quit. Young Huck Finn needs no caption except to say that when I saw him I didn’t walk but ran to get his picture. Hope he is alive and well and getting ready to retire.”

HYPOTHESIS RESEARCH ENHANCES

By Duane Dailey, Co-Director Emeritus

The stories arrived! Wait, just photos are here. We see scenes from inside Platte City situations that might become stories.

We see tests of workshopers’ ideas of stories. No one has a story, only subjects and situations. Now comes the testing, the critical heart of this workshop.

MPW aims to show “Truth with a camera.” Cliff Edom brought us a crazy idea. Before photography begins, let’s do research by looking and asking questions with feet on the ground.

From that you get an idea to test as a possible story. It is what Bill Kuykendall and I brought to the process. Let’s be scientific and form a hypothesis about what happens here.

In workshop terms, give a story summary. Randy Olson showed what a well-prepared student can do. A single declarative sentence will amaze your faculty. Let them see a story in your words. As Scott Sines says, a rambling “wah, wah, wah” won’t do.

To go with the photos seen last night, I didn’t hear any hypothesis.

We are story tellers, not picture snappers. This workshop sorts out the difference.

Every subject has a story. Only a few will amaze, shock, soothe or educate. Research can sort out the boring. That improves your potential. It’s so simple, why make it so hard?

When I started the mule project, all mules looked alike to me. An old-timer assured me, “No two mules look alike.” The same applies to stories. No two look alike. If I do a farm story, I want the most interesting farm.

Driving down a gravel road and pulling into the first drive will not assure that I will have the best farm story in the county. That applies to families, garages, barbershops, clinics and care centers. Local folks can help you find the best starting places.

When starting, first find the narrative, the compelling words.

From what you’ve seen and heard, so far, you should write a simple declarative sentence of what

the story can be. That is a hypothesis. It will be confirmed, or disproven, by the photos you make.

Thoughtful research improves your chances. You want to go to the right place and time with the right people. Then enter with open mind, eyes and ears. Your photos must tell us something true.

Some will look at your photo and see wheat, others see weeds. So each photo needs words to clarify, explain or affirm.

As you work, gather words to write a story and a caption for each final select. Take names and people’s metadata. Friday night, you’ll need those notes. If you do a good job of gathering words and hypothesizing your photo story will improve.

This system worked in the past. I hypothesize it will work in Platte City.

If lucky, your hypothesis will be proven true. An apple will fall on your head. You’ll be a genius.

Hot tips to improve your work:

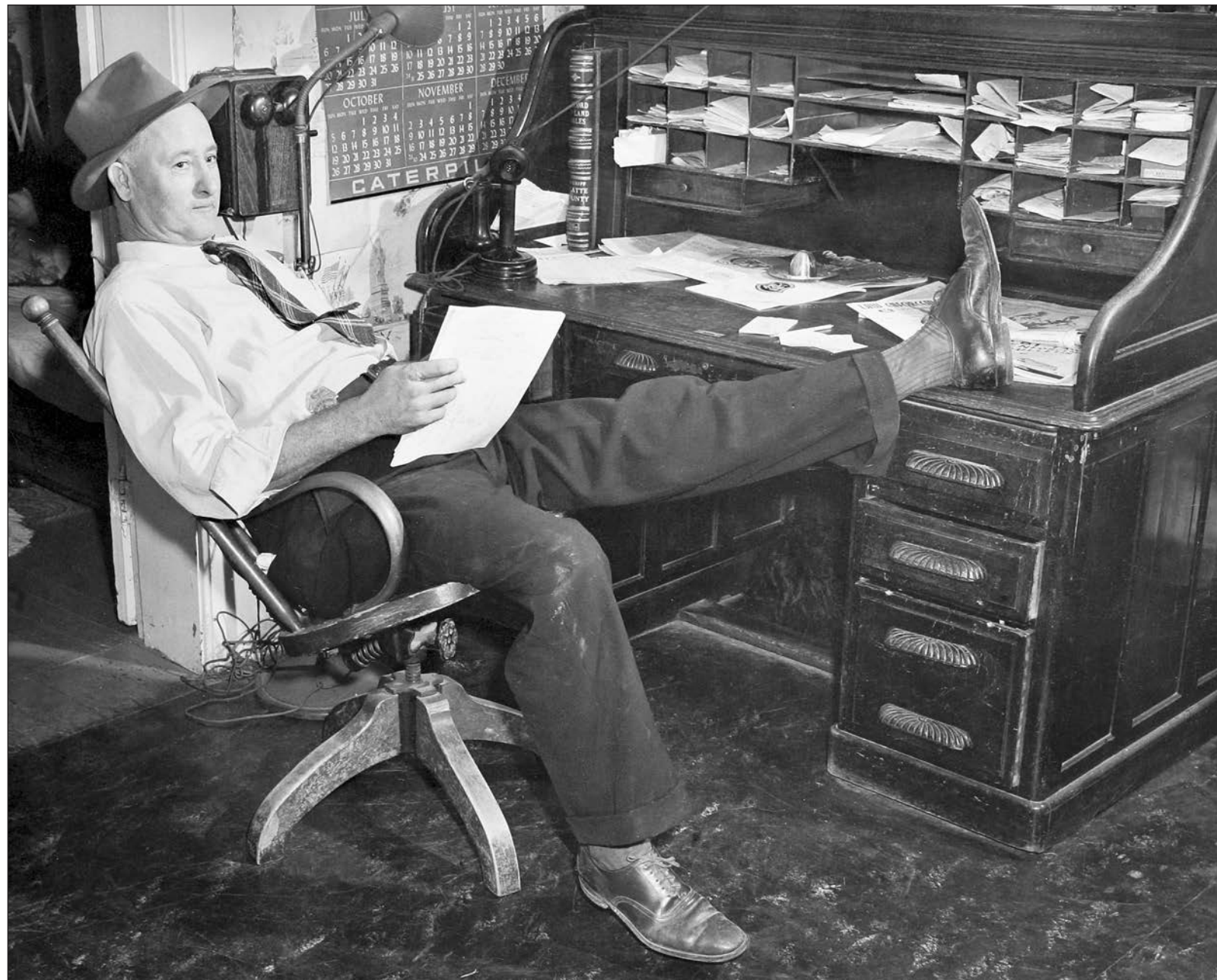
1. Really see. Really hear. Take notes. Take photos.
2. Check your photos to confirm your hypothesis.
3. A 400-image limit should force thinking before snapping. Follow the rules, don’t delete.
4. If you take three photos, one will always be better than the others. (Recall the band director.)
5. In dynamic situations snap away; don’t do that when bored.
6. People interacting make a story.
6. Action makes still pictures move.
8. Once you have a photo, wait patiently for the next scene. Structure your story in sub-groups. List the keepers. Name the chapters.
9. Start writing your story now. Don’t wait in line, work in line.
10. Drop cards early, not just once. Update your faculty, but don’t hang, Go back to work. Or write.



PLATTE CITY

FROM THE INSIDE

Platte City native Keith Myers talks about his hometown, how it's changed over the years



Don Myers, grandfather of Keith Myers and former Platte County Sheriff, lounges in his office in 1981. (Photo courtesy of Keith Myers)

By Beatriz Costa-Lima,
Rangefinder Editor

Kansas City Star staff photographer and MPW alumnus Keith Myers was born and raised in Platte City, Mo.

He has vivid memories of hitting small bullets with hammer on the sidewalk by his house with his friends, and accidentally nicking one of his compatriots in the butt when one of the bullets fired with “not too much power,” Myers said.

He remembers hiking past the cemetery and exploring the creek to hunt for crawdads.

He remembers when the town was too small to have its own police force so it had only a night watchman instead. The quiet town was safe enough for kids to play in the streets during the day and ride bikes around at night.

Myers and his friends skate boarded to Water Tower Hill and went sledding when the snow came.

“It was like any other typical small town,” Myers said. “Everybody knew everybody’s business because everyone saw each other on the street or at church.”

His graduating class had roughly 70 students in it and he went to junior high in what is now the Platte City Civic Center and also MPW headquarters (he remembers his shop class being a little to the left of the room with all the trophies now.)

On election days, the town would host an ice cream social in order to inform all the residents of the results.

“That’s how you got the word out about who won,” Myers said. “Back then, there was no radio in town and the newspaper would only come out the next day.”

But, times change and Platte City has changed too.

During his childhood in town, the population was roughly 1,100 to 1,200 people. Today, Platte City has a population of 5,000 people. Kids have Facebook and video games instead of the creeks and crawdads.

The highway to and from Kansas City brought new



Kansas City Star staff photographer and MPW alumnus Keith Myers plays around with his many cameras Wednesday Sept. 24, 2014 on Main Street. Myers is a Platte City native. (Photo by Loren Elliott)

developments, such as chain businesses and suburban communities to Platte City.

Living in Platte City is more affordable than living in Kansas City, so many people live in town and commute to the city for work, Meyer said.

Just like any town that grows in size, Platte City lost a some of the tight-knit quality of the community, Myers said.

“That connectedness that you had hack then is being lost,” Myers said.

The Platte City native became interested in photography in high school. His brother bought back a few cameras from his time with the navy in Vietnam and Myers shot for his high school yearbook. After studying business in undergrad in business, and work with the Social Security Administration, Myers decided to take a career shift.

“I didn’t like actually working for a living, but I thought, ‘well, I like to shoot pictures,’” Myers remarked with a laugh.

Myers went to MU for graduate school and shot for UPI while staying in Platte County before completing his thesis.

“I enjoy the making of images, the creative challenge it is to tell a story visually.” Myers commented on the profession of photojournalism. “I enjoy that entré into peoples lives. They let you in because they trust that you will be truthful.”

TECH STORIES: THROUGH THE VIEWFINDER



Nikon Rep Kristine Bosworth discusses technical details with participating photographer Lucas Carter. (Photo by Loren Elliott)

By Zach Baker, Rangefinder Editor

A huge component of the Missouri Photo Workshop is the state-of-the-art photo equipment made available to the participants to help them create great pictures.

Nikon has been a longtime supporter of the event and helps enable these photographers to be extraordinary. This year's representative for Nikon is Kristine Bosworth, in her second year at MPW. Her role is to provide equipment and distribute it to participants. She also helps photographers who have technical questions.

Kristine has been with Nikon for 16 years and became interested with the brand after buying her first Nikon camera. She remembers, "I bought a FE2 and I've never shot another brand since." Kristine then continued her passion for photography at school. "I have a bachelor's

degree in Fine Art, so I was a photographer before I came to Nikon."

After realizing how much she enjoyed the business, she joined the Nikon team and began to staff workshops and campuses across the nation.

Her favorite Nikon camera body is currently the Nikon D750 and she often carries a 24-120mm lens with it.

Nikon brought 38 camera bodies, 55 lenses and four speed lights. The total value for the all the gear is about \$283,000 and sets a new standard of support provided by Nikon.

Kristine is often asked "What's coming next?"

She says, "No one reads the manual, so sometimes it's really simple instructions. We have to re-explain auto focus because that's been updated in the last couple of years."

With Kristine's expertise she is able to help participants work to their greatest

potential and not worry about technical issues on assignments. She predicts, "I think we're going to continuously see smaller and lighter equipment." Also the market is constantly changing because, "iPhones killed the compact camera market."

She also believes the WiFi technology that's now being incorporated in the newest DSLR cameras will be popular for photographers to be able to easily add their images to social media outlets. She says about being at MPW, "My mission for this is we're connecting with future pros and if we can influence the students of today, they're likely to be future customers."

Without the longtime support of Nikon, the workshop would not be the same, says MPW co-director David Rees. They bring a level of professionalism and support that is appreciated by all of the faculty and photographers. We value Nikon's support enormously."

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