

I grew up in Carmel in the 1950's and attended Carmel Woods School. I had an older brother who joined the Navy and when he returned from a cruise to the Far East, he brought me my first camera, probably a Holga style 120 format. We moved to Monterey in the early 1960's and shortly after I began using the Holga on a cross-country trip. This was the beginning of my interest in photography. When I was in Junior High I began working as an assistant to a local photographer, Dave Christensen, who took me under his wing. I assisted him on numerous weddings and some commercial jobs. I soon began attending Monterey High School and began photographing sports. I was soon making \$3.00 per photo for each photo that was published by the Monterey Herald! I continued working as an assistant to Dave and soon was printing most of the black and white weddings for him. I continued working for Dave, The Monterey Herald, The Galleon (MHS school newspaper) and the MHS Yearbook creating wonderful memories and friendships that have lasted over the years.

After graduation I began working full-time for Trend Studio of Photography in Del Monte Center operating their photo lab. I attended MPC, and eventually graduated with an AA in Photography. I was drafted into the Army and spent time as a photographer. In 1974 I got a job operating the photo lab at what was then called The Environmental Prediction Research Facility, a Naval research facility, over by Fleet Numerical. This was my first experience working with digital images. In 1975 we got married and we purchased our first home. I began buying used photo equipment and reselling the extras at camera swaps. This was the beginning of our camera store.

In 1979 we started Myrick Photographic, specializing in pre-owned camera gear. In 1982 we opened Myrick Photographic next to the El Estero Car Wash on Fremont Street where we would remain for 32 years. During this wonderful period We were able to work with some wonderful photographers and see some amazing changes in the photo industry. We installed the first digital lab in the area and had a superb selection of darkroom materials in addition to the standard camera gear. Over the years the industry changed dramatically and in January of 2016 I made the decision to close the store. According to one of my sales reps, in the early 1980's there were almost 300 camera stores/photo labs in Northern California and when I closed there were under 15! Digital innovation, Amazon and the manufacturers had fundamentally changed the business model of camera stores and had profound impact on photographers as well.

It was a wonderful run and I will forever be grateful to my wife Linda for allowing me to pursue my passion for photography, to David and Chris, my two Sons, for working at the store while in school and for the great folks that I had the opportunity to work with, many of them who have gone on to great careers in photography. I am also very grateful for the clients that we served and their passion for photography. I have wonderful memories of the great photographers we were able to serve. Many were artists, some were commercial, portrait or wedding photographers and some were enthusiasts. We greatly enjoyed and appreciated their support over the years and have so many wonderful memories to hold onto.

The Monterey Peninsula has been blessed with an amazing number of wonderful photographers, great photographic galleries, numerous photographic clubs and it is a place that photographers come to visit

from all over the world. Thank you for allowing me the honor of participating as judge of the Photojournalism competition and I wish you all the best as you continue to capture the World around us.

Stephen Myrick