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"American Sniper" and Working with Clint Eastwood

California Views

A Focused Look into the Past

BY MICHAEL CHATFIELD   PHOTOGRAPHY FROM THE PAT HATHAWAY COLLECTION

A visit to Pat Hathaway's California Views shop on Pacific Street in Monterey is like a photographic time machine: step in and prepare to be transported back in time to California's early years.

The echoes of the past reverberate around the many buildings and sites of profound historical significance concentrated in downtown Monterey. At the center of this garden of early California historical delights is California Views Photo Archives, where Pat Hathaway has amassed photographic images that eloquently paint a high-definition picture of the past.

Hathaway didn't set out to become the caretaker of this treasure trove. After a stint in the Army, he tried his hand at photography, securing commercial work such as weddings, portraits and magazine assignments. "I didn't find the work fulfilling," he says. Then one day he heard that the family of early Carmel photographer and painter Lewis Josselyn had been unsuccessful in finding a museum willing to accept the late artist's personal collection of 7,000 photographs.

"I acquired those images and started this archive on Nov. 29, 1970," Hathaway recalls. Unsure what to do with all those pictures, he hung a few around his apartment. "A friend came over and said he would like a copy of one of them for himself," he says. "And then others did the same." A flashbulb went off: "Hey! Maybe there's a market here."

The collection has now grown to 81,000 images—and counting. "I guess I have that collecting gene," Hathaway says. "As a kid, I had lots of collections…rocks, coins, stamps, shells." He's still at it. "I recently picked up some 100-year-old photos of Monterey that were in a private collection in Texas," Hathaway says.

His shop on Pacific Street is like a time machine, crammed with fascinating photos, categorized by subject and location. The place has a cluttered, archival feel. Binders, boxes, file folders and prints in glassine envelopes are piled everywhere. Rows of filing cabinets hold negatives, including thousands of rare and delicate glass negatives. But, true to a man who remembers the exact date he started this collection more than 40 years ago: "I'm very organized. People

Hathaway was commissioned by Cal Trans to document the seismic retrofitting of Bixby Creek Bridge. The structure has long been one of his favorite subjects.

A few popular images from Hathaway's trove. From top to bottom: this photo of a pensive Ed Ricketts has been reproduced in dozens of publications; an early scene of Carmel's Ocean Avenue; the Del Monte Express chugs through Pacific Grove.

walking into my shop might not believe it," he laughs, "but I know exactly where everything is."

Hathaway's images have been reproduced in more than 100 books and magazines, including *Smithsonian*, *National Geographic*—even *Sports Illustrated*. Acclaimed documentarian Ken Burns visited Hathaway's shop and came away with several images that appeared in his PBS series "The West" ("Burns loved it here," Hathaway says). UC Santa Cruz Professor Julianne Burton-Carvajal used 180 California Views images in her recent work, "Artists' Honeymoon: Rowena Meeks Abdy and Harry Bennett Abdy at Work and Play in Monterey and Beyond, 1910-1920." Those photos were culled from nearly 600 negatives in Hathaway's collection.

So what's going to happen to this collection when Hathaway himself becomes part of Monterey history? His answer is ironic, given that no museum would take the collection that became the germ of his life's work: "I'll most likely donate the collection to the Bancroft Library at UC Berkley," he says.

For more information, visit California Views at 469 Pacific St. in Monterey by appointment only, call 831/373-3811 or go to www.caviews.com. ∎