

Paul's 2011 Film Diary

January: During 2010, I either purchased or was given 15 movie cameras, 2 projectors, 2 editors, 2 light meters plus several other camera related items. The two editors are very nice units. One is a Regular 8 model & the other is a Dual 8. I used the Dual 8 while editing my 2010 films & splicing them together. It worked great. I paid \$5.00 for it.

I spent several days working on these cameras, cleaning them up & getting them working again. Three or four of the cameras were beyond repair but look nice on the shelf in my collection.

Two of the Regular 8 cameras were top of the line full feature cameras of their day & should still take great pictures. One, a Cine Nizo with 2-lens turret, was given to me. The film door was corroded shut & it wouldn't run. I took the screws out of the hinge on the door & got it opened. I cleaned & lubed necessary areas & got the door to open & close as it is supposed to. I opened the rest of the camera into the mechanism & lubed it & got it to run. It all works fine now.

The other camera is a Pathe` Royal with zoom lens. I paid \$5.00 for it. It ran but the auto exposure didn't work. The compartment that held the round flat batteries for the electric eye was all corroded badly. It was a job getting the old batteries out. I purchased some "Deoxit" from Radio Shack & cleaned the compartment. It took the old PX13 mercury batteries which are no longer available. I put in the new zinc oxide replacement batteries & it all worked fine. I can't locate an owner's manual for this camera anywhere on the internet & it has several features that I don't know how to operate without instructions. I can put film in it & take pictures; I just can't use some of the fancy features it has.

I haven't tried either camera with film, but am anxious to see how they work.

I spent one day editing & splicing together the films I took over this last year. I had to wait for the films that I took on Christmas day to come back

from the processor. I only took 11 or 12, 50 foot rolls of film over the year so it wasn't a big job. We didn't do much sight-seeing this past year, so didn't have much for vacation films. It was mostly family get togethers, etc. We did spend quite a few days going around to different cemeteries & locating grave stones of family members. I took almost three rolls of Black & White Tri-X film of grave stones. We also took lots of stills. We also located an old hotel that a relative built back in the 1800's in Whitewater, WI. We ate lunch there! That was of great interest to our family.

February: I have spent quite a few days watching old family films & Hollywood films. I spent one day transferring our video tapes we took last year onto DVD's. We bought a DVD recorder last year & it works fine. I wanted to get all of my old video tapes transferred to DVD's before they all fade away. Video tapes only have a life of 10 to 20 years!

Back in December while selling trees, I was given a Bell & Howell 16mm projector. I didn't have time to check it out back then, but have been playing with it off & on this winter. The main drive belt was slipping so I treated it with rubber rejuvenator liquid & got it to run. It is old enough that the sound amplifier has vacuum tubes, but they all lit when I turned it on. I put a film on it & the sound played loud & clear. It just has a built in speaker but has a jack to plug in an external speaker. But wouldn't you know it, the jack is a rare size of 3/16" instead the of 1/4" phone jack. I did find a place to order a new old stock plug & hooked up a remote speaker that I had from an old RCA 16mm projector. Boy, it sounds great! It has a 1000 watt bulb so has a great bright picture. After running several films, the belt started slipping again. I guess I will have to order a new one. I found a place, "Urbanski Films," that have them for \$10.00. Also tubes are available for the amplifier so I think I will order some extras just to have on hand along with a new bulb. So with a little cleaning & greasing a few parts, this should

make me a nice 16mm projector. I don't have many 16mm films as they are more expensive than 8mm & take up a lot of room. But boy what sound & picture 16mm has!

February 6: Super Bowl--Packers 31, Steelers 25--GO PACK!!

March 17: On March 15th I purchased an old 8mm projector & a 16mm camera at the antique store in Brodhead. The projector is a Kodascope Eight Model 50. I would guess it was made in the 1930's. The Model 20 was the first 8mm projector made in 1932 when 8mm film was first introduced. The Model 50 is a little later model, but looks almost identical to the Model 20.

The bearings in the motor were set up but I could turn the shaft by hand. I put some oil on both ends of the shaft & started turning by hand. After a few minutes, it started to loosen up & soon spun freely. I completely cleaned & lubed the entire projector (Film path, all bearings, light reflector, etc). Everything turned freely by hand. I plugged it in & turned it on. The bulb lit & it purred like a kitten. I threaded up a film & watched a film on a projector that is about 70 plus years old! It had a nice bright, sharp image. I paid \$16.50 for it.

The 16mm camera is a Revere 16 magazine type camera. It runs fine but is a little noisy. The camera was \$15.00. It just needs a good lube job. That's a job for another day, maybe next winter, as I am now getting busy working in the Christmas trees.

March 23: I sent off for a new belt & extra bulb for my Bell & Howell 535 16mm projector & it came the other day. I installed the new belt & it now works perfectly.

It was nasty outside the other day so I decided to check out the Revere 16mm camera. I removed the lens, it has a screw mount. I let the camera motor run down & while it was running very slowly, I stopped it with the shutter open. I could see the shutter bearing, etc through the opening. I took a toothpick & put a

drop of oil on the end of it & put it in through the opening very carefully & touched it to the bearing being careful to not get any excess oil where I didn't want it. A little oil goes a long way. I then wound the camera motor back up & pressed the on switch. It purred like a kitten! It runs like a new one. Now if I can get a couple 16mm magazines that I can hand load with fresh film, I know it will take great pictures.

August 20: I recently acquired almost 100 Super 8 movie films (new but outdated film). A lot of it is Kodachrome 40 & the rest is Ektachrome 160 & Type G. There is no processing available for these films any longer. I did find out that "Film & Video Services" in Minneapolis, MN will cross process the Kodachrome as black & white so I am going to check into that. The Ektachrome uses the old E26 chemicals, but I read that current E6 chemicals could be used, but the film has what is called a REM-JET backing which has to be removed & I guess that is the big problem. If I could figure out a way to remove this backing, I may try processing some myself. I have processed Black & White film in the past. The film was refrigerated in the past so it should still be okay if I can figure out how to get it processed at a reasonable cost.

August 22: I sent an order off today to John Schwind, International Film Brokers, Dixon, CA for (2) regular 8 black & white films, (2) super 8 Tri-X black & white films, (2) Ektachrome 64T & (2) Ektachrome 100D films.

August 29: John Schwind called Saturday about noon & informed me the last of the 64T was sold out so I told him to send 100D instead. This is Monday & the films arrived here by Priority Mail USPS this afternoon. Boy, that was fast! The post office is on the ball. That was shipped out after 12:00 our time Saturday from California & got here in my mail box on Monday afternoon. I am anxious to use the reg-8 film in a couple of cameras I recently acquired.

September 24: Helen & I took several days & drove over into Iowa and up along the Mississippi River. We stopped at every antique store we

came across. I found a real nice Keystone regular 8 camera with 3-lens turret for \$10.00. It runs great. Of course I had my Canon 814 Super 8 movie camera along & took pictures as we went.

I also bought a Canon 310XL Super 8 camera at the local thrift store for \$15.00. It's like new & all works fine.

On September 19th we went to the Rochelle Railroad Park, Rochelle, IL to watch the trains. I took some footage of the trains. We also found, in Rochelle, an old gas station that had been completely restored. We took pictures of it. Every time we find an old gas station from back in the 1930's & 40's we photograph it for our collection. We also photograph old gas signs like Standard Oil, Gulf, Shell, etc.

On the 20th I sent (3) Super 8 Ektachrome 100D films to Dwayne's Photo in Parsons, Kansas for processing.

September 26: The films came back from Dwayne's today. I cleaned & lubed them. Years ago when you got movie films back from the processor, they were already lubed. The labs don't do this any longer & haven't for quite a few years. You have to do it yourself. The lubrication helps the film run through the projector smoothly & helps keep the film in good condition & helps to prevent scratches. I never project a newly processed film without treating it with a film cleaner/lube first. Of course you must clean the film path in your projector on a very regular basis! Film cleaner/lube is available from "The Reel Image, 2520 Blackhawk Road, Kettering, Ohio 45420. You don't need a fancy device to use to lubricate your film. I just made a simple hand crank device & hold a dampened lint free cloth on the film.

October 2: I watched the films I got back. They turned out great. I have a Canon 814 Electronic camera that I purchased a few years back. It has a problem with under exposure in the auto exposure mode. I took some footage on these films with this camera & I believe I figured out the problem. It is beyond my expertise of

camera repair so I guess I will have to send it somewhere & have the camera completely gone over. It's expensive to have a camera repaired, but this is a good camera & it will be worth the cost. It's too good of a camera to not be using it.

More to come, check back after the holidays.....