

Friends Meeting Friends

by Mart McCann

As a regular feature, we hope to acquaint you with other Friends of the Center in the community of stereo photographers and collectors. This is the eighth in the series.

Once a month I drive to Federal Way, WA, for the meeting of the Puget Sound Stereo Camera Club and, almost always, I stop in Tacoma to have coffee with my best friend beforehand. Just down Pacific Ave. from Starbucks is BKB & Company, "the Tacoma gallery of wearable and decorative art." For years I've been buying note cards there featuring anaglyph fine art photographs made by **Dean Walch**, but it wasn't until our conversation for this article that I discovered he is also featured in the Art-o-mat at BKB. Picture an old-timey cigarette vending machine that's been converted to dispense small works of art in a package about the size of a pack of cigarettes. So what does one get from the Art-o-mat? "Eight photos, like small trading cards, and a 3D viewer I make myself to fit in the package."

Dean majored in Fine Arts and Photography at Marylhurst University, and "...expected to make a living at photography, but after a summer

of weddings, I decided to do something else." The something else is the design and programming for Clackamas Community College's website.

Long a fan of Dean's images of Astoria, I asked how he came to make images of that particular community. "In 2005, we adopted a child from Guatemala. I took lots of walks with Carlos and started taking pictures of Oregon City, which is where I live. I got feedback from college friends and eventually got a show. A gallery in Astoria (the now-defunct Shanahan Gallery) asked if I could do the same for Astoria." The images of Astoria displayed on Dean's website feature several of architectural details, so I wasn't surprised to hear that Dean and his family live in an historical house. "The house was built in 1865 as servants' quarters for the house next door. In 1895, the two were divided and a separate dwelling was created. We're only the



Dean and Carlos

fifth family to own the house, and we've been in contact with every previous owner or a member of their family." Dean calls owning an historical house "a labor of love," but he loves history and craftsmanship. I asked Dean if he had any stereo photos of his house and he replied that he doesn't make many images of it because of the overhead power lines that seem to creep into every view. "I could Photoshop them out, but what would Ansel Adams say?" So I told Dean about *Orland's Penultimate Compendium of Photographic Truths*. It features the wit-and-wisdom of Ted

Orland, who used to work with Adams, but it is illustrated with a large picture of Ansel photographing a class of school kids. The caption reads "EVEN ANSEL ADAMS HAD TO EARN A LIVING."

The Astoria images, as well as those of Oregon City and Seattle's Historic Pike Place Market, were made with two one-megapixel "toy" cameras. "It's not about the camera, it's about the person taking the photograph." We all know this is true, but seriously, one megapixel? See the results at www.deanwalch.com and look for his note cards in the 3D Center gift shop next month.

