

PHOTO from

that his interest in photography really took off.

Aided in part by a friend who owned a camera store, Kadrmas taught himself the art of photography. When he first started out, he recalled using a Nikon F4 and Pentax 6x7, relatively modern single-lens reflex cameras,

with long-range lenses to take shots of nature and wildlife.

Gradually, however, his interest turned to older and older technology.

“Everything has to be thought out,” he said of his affection for this older but purer form. “And with the older lenses, you’ve got a nice softness to them.”

He hesitated, then said, “It’s just like being a real photographer.”

The learning curve was steep, however.

“It was a lot of trial and error,” said Kadrmas. “You take a lot of pictures before you get them to be fantastic.”

Kadrmas’ multiple sclerosis impacted his ability to expend energy and move, but he adapted his style.

“Everything’s been shot by the vehicle or in my van or my power chair,” he said of the photos decking his walls. “And so it takes a lot of patience to get something.”

Kadrmas’ range of photography includes shots from eastern Oregon, coastal shots from Bandon and Gold Beach, and also scenes from Montana,

British Columbia and North Dakota.

Back in the day when he would put on galleries, some photographs sold for as much as \$1,800, he said.

Kadrmas is also fond of pinhole photography, which uses a tiny aperture to allow in light and creates a softening effect on the photo. This means the shutter must be open for several minutes to properly capture all the light.

Windy days, Kadrmas said, can have unintended beautiful effects.

“You have a five- or six-minute exposure and the camera’s vibrating a little bit. ... To me it’s magic to see what you get from it,” he said.

Kadrmas only takes a handful of photos each time he goes on an outing, waiting patiently to capture these perfect moments.

One side of the wall in Kadrmas’ room displays a series of framed lightning shots from North Dakota, a testament to his ability to wield the antique objects.

“It doesn’t matter what you shoot it with,” he explained. “You could have the ugliest taped up camera as long as you know its lightproof and if you have a good lens on it.”

Still, the lightning photos are stunningly crisp, rivalling anything produced in the digital age.

Kadrmas explained that he used to spend time in Bismarck, North Dakota visiting family.

“I ended up spending nine weeks there in the summer and I got hooked on this,” he said as he scanned the framed lightning photographs. “They’re all shot with me standing right outside my van with a tripod, camera and a cable release. And you can feel the lightning when it’s coming.”

He vocally emulated the rising sense of a lightning strike.

“Your hair stands up. And so, what you do is, as long as you have the shutter open, and it’s black — all you’re doing is getting black — so when it got close — I could feel it — and at a certain second, I let go and close shutter. And sometimes I got it, sometimes I didn’t.”

He scanned the wall of photographs again.

“But I love them because nobody else has the same one. That’s what I like about lightning,” he said.

He also experimented with star trails, taking up to six-and-a-half-hour exposures of the night sky to create whirling bands of light.

Like many who swear by film, Kadrmas absolutely refuses to go digital and rejects the use of Photoshop for his art.

He recalled years ago a gallery he put on in Portland.

“And everybody was coming up to me and saying, ‘How did you Photoshop that?’ It pissed me off,” he said. “But I kept my cool, I waited until the next day in the morning, I got up and went to a printer and got little plaques made and put them underneath: ‘These pictures have not been digitally violated.’”

Kadrmas insisted that his love for film and older technology isn’t just nostalgia, though. He compared his approach to photographer friends who have taken the digital path.

While the digital photographer shoots hundreds of shots during an outing, Kadrmas will shoot only a handful, forcing him to be very selective of light and scenery conditions. This means a lot of sitting and waiting,

though in this time “you see so many things that you don’t normally see,” he said.

Taking Another Shot

The challenge of MS has been a factor throughout his photography career, but has not been insurmountable.

Kadrmas described the increasing difficulty he had in going out over the years as his condition worsened, his energy depleted and his mental outlook degrading. Photography, however, kept him going.

“I kept pushing myself,” he said. “Once it got the bug of doing this, I learned that you can’t say, ‘Well, I don’t feel good,’ and let the picture go because you’ll never get that light or you’ll never get that scene. So have to push yourself.”

Today, Kadrmas no longer puts on galleries or sells his photos. He still shoots, but uses his smaller cameras, in particular a “baby” Graflex, as he can’t shoot with his larger, older models any longer.

“I don’t have the strength to put a wood tripod here and hold the camera with me and the film holders and all that,” he explained.

Locally, he’s enjoyed photographing Dorena Lake, forested areas by the Middlefield Golf Course and the Village Green.

On the latter, Kadrmas is disappointed to see it closing.

“That garden in there was really neat,” he said, describing the joy of using pinhole photography on the property. “You never know what you’re actually going to get. ... But I got some really fantastic stuff.”

Though he describes the future of living with MS as a “crapshoot,” he is looking forward to another year in the area to continue his photography and take advantage of the changing colors.

“There’s still a lot more to shoot and see,” he said.

Kadrmas also hopes his own story can serve as inspiration for people who face similar challenges.

“You don’t have to give up and die,” he said. “You could have terminal cancer and you’re not going to be able to do certain things, but you can put up with it. And, you know, it’s not been a completely joyful journey, but it’s been rewarding. But I have to work at it and I want people to see that you don’t have to stop doing things.”

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Worship Directory

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10:00am
Christian Education: Pre-K through 5th
Tim Baker, Senior Minister
www.6thandgibbs.com

Calvary Baptist Church
77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290
Pastor: Riley Hendricks
Sunday School: 9:45am
Worship: 11:00am
The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm
Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm

Church of Christ
420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565
Sunday Service: 10:30am

Church of Christ Non-Denominational
1041 Pennoyer Ave
541-942-8928
Preacher: Tony Martin
Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am
Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm
www.pennoyervecc.com

Cottage Grove Bible Church
1200 East Quincy Avenue
541-942-4771
Pastor: Bob Singer
Worship 11am
Sunday School: 9:45am
AWANA age 3-8th Grade,
Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm
www.cgbible.org

Cottage Grove Faith Center
33761 Row River Rd.
541-942-4851
Lead Pastor: Kevin Pruett
www.cg4.tv
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33087 Saginaw Rd. East
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9am - Classic in the Chapel
10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium

First Baptist Church
301 S. 6th st • 541-942-8242
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Sunday School 9:30am
Worship Service 10:30am
Youth Wednesday 6:30pm
cgfirstbaptist.com

First Presbyterian Church
3rd and Adams St
541-942-4479
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Worship: 10:00am
The Journey: Sunday 10:00am
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United Pentecostal Church
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541-942-3420
Father John J. Boyle
Holy Mass:
Saturday Vigil - 5:30 pm
Sunday - 10:30 am
For weekday and Holy Day of Obligation schedule see website
OLPHCG.net
Confession: 4 PM to 5 PM
Saturdays or by appointment
St. Philip Benizi, Creswell
552 Holbrook Lane
Sunday 8 am

St. Andrews Episcopal Church
1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050
Rev. Lawrence Crumb
“Scripture, Tradition, Reason”
Worship: Sunday 10:30am
All Welcome

Seventh-day Adventist Church
820 South 10th Street
541-942-5213
Pastor: James D. Boram
Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am
Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40
Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00

Trinity Lutheran Church
6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373
Pastor: James L. Markus
Sunday School & Adult Education 9:15am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur 5:00pm TLC Groups
tlccg.com

United Methodist Church
334 Washington 541-942-3033
Worship 10am
umcgrove.org

“VICTORY” Country Church
913 S. 6th Street • 541-942-5913
Pastor: Barbara Dockery
Worship Service: 10:00am
Message: “WE BELIEVE IN MIRACLES”

CRESWELL:
Creswell Presbyterian Church
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The City of Cottage Grove Public Works Department will be conducting its annual Leaf Pickup during the following weeks:

October 25th – 29th • November 15th – 19th
December 13th – 17th

Tips for Leaf Placement in Street

- ✓ Only piles of loose leaves will be picked up
- ✓ Pile leaves on the street surface near the gutter, keeping gutter and catch basins free of leaves so storm water is not obstructed
- ✓ On streets without curbs and gutter, pile the leaves near the street surface away from ditches
- ✓ Stack the leaves so that they don’t block bike and traffic lanes
- ✓ Leaves should be piled in rows so they do not block the flow of water along the curb and do not encroach on the traffic lane
- ✓ Do **not** place leaves in the streets where curbside parking does not exist. You may bring those leaves to the designated area outside the Row River Water Treatment Plant at 3300 Row River Road
- ✓ Do **not** place your leaves in plastic bags
- ✓ Branches will **not** be picked up
- ✓ Shrub prunings and blackberry vines will **not** be picked up
- ✓ Do **not** include rocks, metal or other debris in your leaf pile
- ✓ Lawn clippings will **not** be picked up

For more information please contact the Public Works Department at (541)767-4100 during working hours of Monday through Friday, 8:00AM to 5:00PM.

Our Worship Directory is a weekly feature.
If your congregation would like to be a part of this directory, contact us today!

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Cottage Grove Sentinel