

The Focal Point



March– April 2007

**Contributions from Hydes, MD
The Jordanain Desert
Germany, Great Britain,
Glen Echo MD
And other timeless and exotic
locations, and it's STILL not spring!**

REDISCOVER GLEN ECHO AND THE C& O CANAL

Capitol Beltway to Clara Barton Parkway (east) to Glen Echo and the canal



From Past to Present. For almost 100 years, the land on which the present Glen Echo Park sits has been dedicated to people. First, in 1891, as a National Chautauqua Assembly, a center where people could participate in the sciences, arts, languages, and literature. Then, until 1968, as a famous amusement park. Now, coming full circle, as a park emphasizing arts and cultural education for the community.

In this latest incarnation, the land and the historical remnants of former buildings host a variety of activities for both the community and visitors. You can simply wander on the Midway and remember the sights and sounds of an old amusement park where you came as a child or adult to play miniature golf, see yourself distorted in the Hall of Mirrors, dance to the music of Glen Miller, sun on the sand beach of the Crystal Pool, or whack your bumper car into someone else's while sparks flew from the electrified ceiling.

On Wednesdays, Thursdays, and weekends during the summer you can still ride and listen to the tunes from the antique, hand-carved Dentzel Carousel (above, background) preserved through community effort. You can visit an art exhibit in the Old Stone Tower the only usable structure from the Chautauqua Assembly. During the warm months, Glen Echo is host to a number of festivals and special events, and between March and November you can dance the evening away in the Spanish Ballroom. Year-round theater performances, classes and workshops in dance, visual and performing arts, have brought Glen Echo Park full circle back to beginning as a Chautauqua site.

...ABOUT OUR COVER (EDITOR'S NOTE)

This is an image with which Jim Eichelman won FIRST PLACE in the Maryland Wine Growers Association annual competition. He made the image with his Nikon D70 and Tamron 70 - 300MM lens at 290MM (435MM 35mm equivalent) from about 6 feet at 8:50 AM using a tripod. Other technical details - manual mode, ISO 200, 1/160 sec @ f 6 with Auto White Balance. Picture was taken at **Boordy Vineyards Long Green Pike at Jenkins Rd. Hydes MD** in mid-October, the Saturday before the harvest on the following Tuesday. Jim had gone to shoot knowing it was close to harvest and there was a decent frost. The sun was just coming over the hill.

Jim said, "I had taken a couple close ups of frosty leaves and saw groups of white grapes that were backlit. Right place, right time."

—ED

“Take it From the Hotel “contributed by Karen Dillon

So you got a room with a view at the hotel? Likely, you will take a photo out the window at sunrise, after dark, or when you see interesting people walking by. Make use of the things in your room and also take away a few things you can tuck in your camera bag.

1. Shower Cap - handy for shooting in rainy weather. Poke a hole in the top of the cap and fit it over your lens wrapping the elastic to the back side of the camera. You may secure the cap to the front of the lens using a daylight filter or rubberband. Your hands will fit inside the cap so you can continue shooting in light rain or misty conditions.
2. Shoe Polishing Mitts - handy for lens cleaning and for storing lens filters. Rub the cloth on the bathroom mirror to determine that it will not leave residue on your glass. Drop your polarizing filter into the mitt while in the field to protect it from coins, keys and the lint in your pocket.
3. Dry Cleaning Bags - handy for moving your camera between extreme environments. Coming in out of the cold can cause condensation to form on (and in!) your camera. So, before you head back into the hotel after a day of shooting drop your camera into the dry cleaning bag and draw it shut. Once your equipment has time to come back to room temperature it will be safe to open the bag and remove it.
4. Little Bars of Soap - useful for getting that soft blur around your images. Gently rub the soap around the edges of an old daylight filter for that romantic effect.
5. Ironing Board and Pillow - don't try to pack these into your camera bag, use them in the room. If your tripod isn't handy, set the ironing board up by the window and use the bed pillows to support your camera for those out-the-window night time exposures.
6. Sewing Kit - tuck away that free package of thread for tying back weeds when you're out in the country.
7. Toothbrush - free from the main desk (if you're brave enough to ask), a toothbrush makes a handy cleaning tool for the outside of your equipment.
8. Note Pad and Pen - tuck these away for field notes.
9. Area Map from the concierge - it's easier to remember where you took those award-winning shots if you mark up a throw-away map.

For more ideas like this visit http://magma.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0404/online_extra.html to see how National Geographic photographers turn their hotel rooms into mini-studios.

MARIA DRUMM CROSSES OVER JORDAN

March 9, 2006 found Maria Drumm in Amman, the capital city of Jordan. Jordan has a short history as a nation all though its story goes back to pre Roman Empire. It was about 1200BC that Abraham led the Israelites out of Egypt to wonder in the desert for 40 Years. After Abraham died and was buried on Mt Nibo, the Israelites crossed the Jordan to the West Bank, the “Land of Milk and Honey”.

Following a relatively peaceful 200 years the area was again in turmoil having been conquered by the Babylonians and then the Persian Empire. In 333 BC Alexander the Great imposed the Greek culture on the land. Pompey, the Romans General, took over from the Greeks around 64 BC. It is about this time that the Nabateans come into the history books.

The entrance to Petra is through a mile and a half long corridor. The gorge-like path, its walls measuring 450 feet high in places can be as narrow as two yard. The highly polished pink and red sandstone walls close in on the traveler as great flames engulfing a burning building. Then, all at once it opens and there is the Treasury. It is designed to impress and two thousand years has not changed its effect.

For more than 1700years the secrets of Petra were hidden. A series of earthquakes weakened the city and the Romans absorbed it into their Empire. In the 13th Century Crusaders camped near the area but it was not until 1812 that it was rediscovered by a Swiss explorer. It soon became an attraction for wealthy tourists, “A rose-red city, half as old as Time”.

I felt like I was in church. The feeling of awe, the sheer size of the buildings and yes, many of the buildings incorporated in this city were “High Places of Sacrifice” where religious ceremonies took place. Many of them are 220 feet from the floor of the valley and on ledges measuring 45 ft long and 18 ft wide. I left the group and followed the stone walkway up to the “Monastery”. The hawkers were happy to see me as most tourists do not venture up this narrow path. They posed for me and I collected addresses where I could send the photos. One young salesman was having tea and invited me to join him. He told me how the government was trying to get people to leave the caves and get more conventional habitats. He himself has always lived in Petra in a cave with his parents. He only went to school for 2 years.

Back from the “High Place of Sacrifice” I took a camel. Mohammad, my driver was insistent that I take his picture. By now the pink and red sandstone had turned to orange and blood red. The afternoon shadows changed the city. The flame-like colors of noon were now orchid and rose.

Jordan has many treasures. Wadi Rum, while it was the haunt of Lawrence of Arabia, is also one of the areas where the Bedouins people live. The Bedouins have adapted to a lifestyle that does not need refrigeration nor do they use much water. Their diet consists of dried foods, dates, camel meat etc. They eat yogurt made from sour camel’s milk.



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There are many secrets of these people that allow them to live under such harsh and inhospitable conditions. For example, scorpions are caught and dried. Then they are ground and mixed with oil and the mixture is rubbed on the body (especially children). This immunizes the person from the poison of the scorpion. Similar remedies are used for protection against poison snakes.

It was very humbling to be in this vast desert. It is easy to get lost. There are no “markers”. If you go 20 feet in one direction your footprints are erased by the wind and you can be totally disoriented in a matter of minutes. The wind, the harsh change in temperature from morning to night, the constant beating of the sand on your skin, the sand in your hair, your clothes and your eyes make it a treacherous place to live but its beauty is so deep and simple it is very compelling.

Jordan has many other wonderful things to see but I am giving you what I thought were the highlights.

Thank you for letting me share this experience with you,
Maria Drumm



Family Photography...don't forget it!

It was fun growing up with a dad who was always taking pictures!

Sometimes we get so busy we forget to grab the camera and record the simple family events that we participate in, during the course of our lives. After taking a walk down memory lane through the eyes of my father, captured on film, I would encourage each one of us to record more people images than maybe we do today.

Looking back, can be fun, sad and happy all at the same time; evoking many emotions.....pictures keep the connection alive. Memories of times gone by come alive again through images, and sometimes we can only imagine how life was.

At the club we think mostly of the "Artistic" image. The image that evokes a feeling from the viewer in an artistic way.

Family photos, can be even more powerful when viewed after many years have passed and maybe family members have as well.



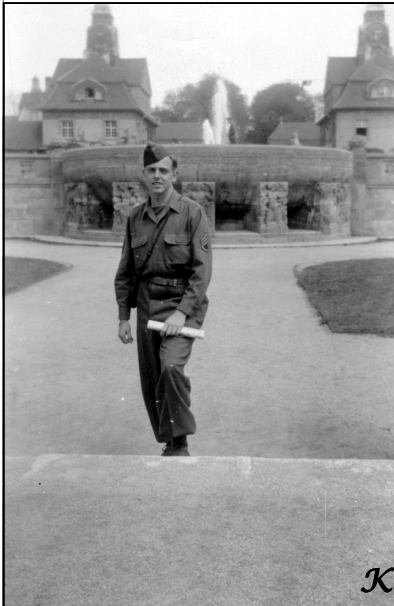
Now I don't even know what kind of camera Dad used, I am sorry to say, I should have paid more attention, but then hind sight is always 20-20. I can tell you he never left home without it!

My brother and his daughter took a lot of time scanning Dad's images and created discs for all of us to have as the original images were archived in my brothers house. What a great time we live in. years ago that would not have even been possible.

As I looked through his images he had many historical shots, "Baltimore", family, garden and vacation images.

You know the great thing about photography is, that the medium allows the exact image to be recorded, a moment in time, never to be again. OK I know I am rambling on but I just wanted to share my thoughts as I spent time just opening up files named by my niece, such as, Karen 1958, Praying Mantis and Holly, Baltimore Harbor, or war years.

I know he started taking pictures with a Brownie his brother gave him as a young man, and he took that into battle in WWII at the age of 23 and came home with a camera in his hand and never really stopped taking pictures all his life...he passed at 81, but he left a leg-



acy of photographs that endure and are enjoyed today.

I hope you enjoy these and capture more images of people, family and friends.

Karen Messick