

Stereophotographs rare, collection one of largest

By FLAVIA KRONE

Almost everyone, at one time or another, has had the urge to collect something. Most of us satisfy the urge by accumulating books of stamps, coins or old bus tickets.

However, T. K. Treadwell Jr., associate professor of oceanography at Texas A&M University, ranks among some two dozen experts in his country who specialize in the collection of stereophotographs. In fact, Treadwell's collection of stereophotographs is one of the largest in the nation, numbering around 50,000.

A stereophotograph is taken with a double-lens camera, the lenses separated by a distance equal to the space between the eyes. The result is two pictures of the same subject taken at slightly different angles. When inserted into a stereoviewer, which helps focus the eyes, the two pictures appear to blend into a single, three-dimensional image.

Between 1860 and 1910, stereophotography constituted a major commercial enterprise and popular hobby in America, according to Treadwell.

"You have to remember that until about 1910 traveling was rare in this country," Treadwell said. "There was no television or radio and even newspaper illustrations were uncommon. If a person wanted to see places, he had to rely on photographs."

Famous people, historical monuments, disasters and novelty pictures, which capitalized on the 19th century sentimentality, were so popular subjects for the stereophotographer.

Although the principles of three-dimensional reproduction were known before the invention of photography, the development of the stereophotograph paralleled the advancements of regular photography.

The earliest stereophotographs were printed on copper or glass plates.

The process was difficult and dangerous because it required the use of mercury or cyanide," Treadwell said. "Unfortunately, many photographers died quite young."



With the combination of a stereoviewer, left, and photographs in foreground, two pictures appear to blend into a single, three-dimensional image, taken by stereophotography.

Battalion photo by Susan Webb

Around 1850, a breakthrough in paper printing processes made cheap and reproducible stereophotographs possible. Photography became so popular that, in 1890, America had more photographers per 1000 population than any other time, before or since.

The popularity of stereophotography diminished with the advent of the automobile, newspaper photography, radio, motion picture and

television. With more people able to "see for themselves" the need for the three-dimensional picture disappeared.

Treadwell's interest in stereophotography is tied to his interest in science.

"Some years ago, I was researching an article about the HMS Challenger scientific expedition," Treadwell said. "I found that the best photographs available were

stereoviews. That got me interested since my own concern is the history of science."

The beginning collector can find stereophotographs in old bookstores, antique shops and at auctions. They cost between 10 cents and \$100 depending on historical value, age and condition of the print. However, Treadwell said that he once sold a mint condition stereophotograph of Abraham Lincoln for \$400.

Persons interested in stereophotography may contact the National Stereoscopic Association in Columbus, Ohio, according to Treadwell.

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Outwardly speaking, I'm a very ordinary human being; a young person going to school, working part-time, and one who enjoys spending time and doing things with my friends — BUT — life isn't so ordinary because I have a real living person living inside of me and His name is Jesus! No longer is going to school, working and being with my friends such ordinary things like they use to be. Now I am learning how to experience this wonderful person inside of me whether I'm with a friend, studying, working, or whatever I'm doing. Life is worth living?

About 12 maybe 14 years ago when I was very young, I asked Jesus to come into me and I became a Christian. That was a wonderful experience but the wonderfulness of it all more or less ended at that point. No one ever told me that I could touch and contact this person whenever I wanted to or that He could become my life. I only knew to ask Him into my life and that was it. Needless to say, I was quite frustrated in my young christian years. I still had so many questions. Why did I experience many times being so lonely and feeling even empty; wondering

what life was about? Why did I feel so disappointed after having a "good time" with my "christian" friends? Why did the satisfaction of doing well in school or working hard at my job to please people go away so quickly? Wasn't there anything in life that would really satisfy and last and yet not go away? Then I thought, but I'm a Christian... and I shouldn't have these questions, should I? Wasn't becoming a Christian the solution? Didn't God save me to go to Heaven? That was what so many told me, but was that what life is supposed to be all about to get saved and go to Heaven? What about the inbetween part? And what was God's will for my life? And how was I suppose to find out if He had one? As I said before, I was really frustrated. I had some ideas of how things should be but my experience with all my questions didn't come close to any of my ideals.

Finally about three years ago someone told me how I could touch and contact this person Jesus who had come into me many years before. He was like a little seed planted in the ground which needed water and nourishment from the soil in order to grow, and

as Jesus grew within me He would become my life. I learned to contact the Lord by calling His name just like I would call any person's name when I wanted them to come, and by contacting the Lord in this way, the seed of Christ was nourished and began to grow within me.

Now in my every day living, when I'm with my friends, studying, or working, I'm contacting this Jesus who lives in me and He in turn is growing in me to become my life. All those once empty places in me are being filled with this living person. Now I realize that, yes, being a Christian is the answer to life — but not to be saved so God can take me to heaven, but so that the Lord Jesus can fill me with Himself. Eventually God will have a way to be expressed here on the earth through a group of people who as one are filled with His Life!

Now I know God's purpose for my life and LIFE IS TRULY WORTH LIVING!
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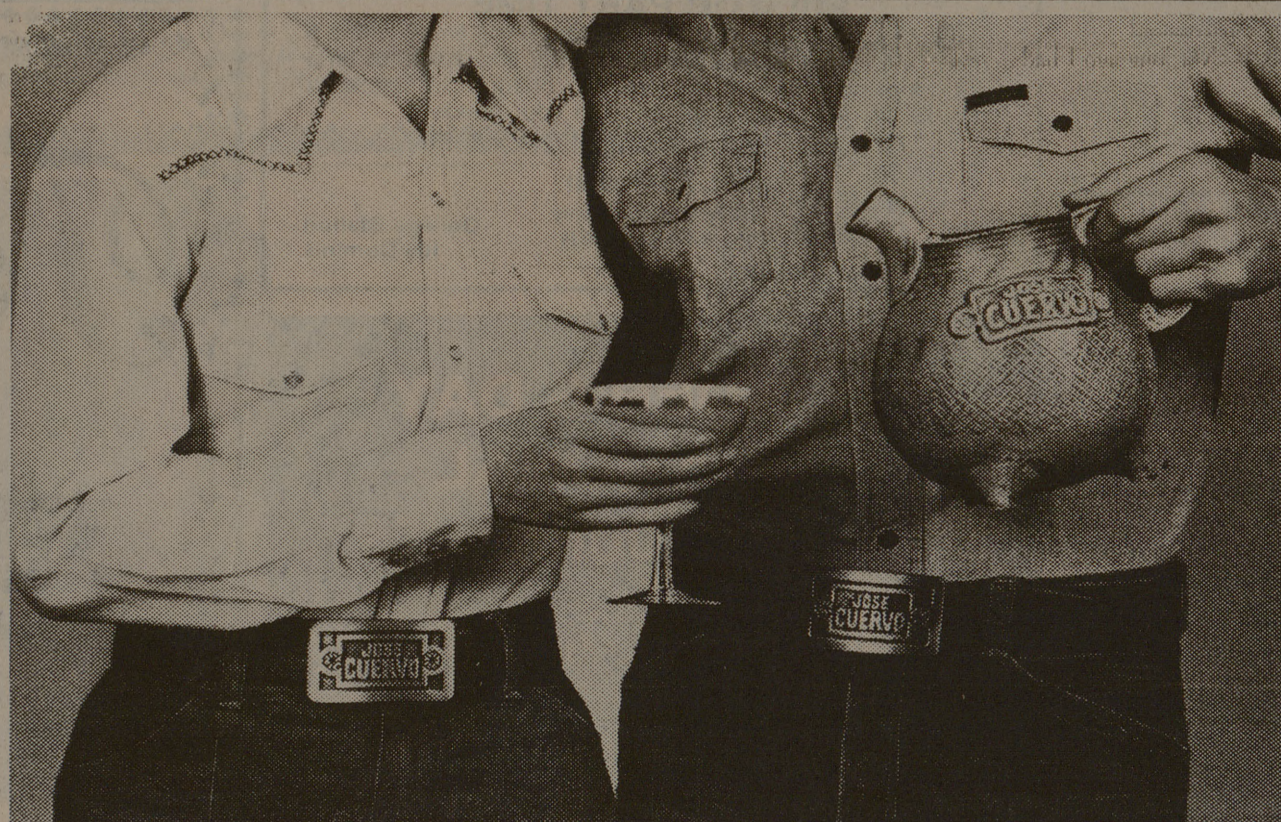
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