

JEANETTE KELSO



A glimpse at Jeanette Kelso: “Hey, Mom. Why aren’t there any baby photographs of me in the family album?” I asked as a wee child. Having been the third born child there are few photographs of me (This one is my favorite). I believe this lack of the photographs of me is what began my interest in photography at a very early age. As a very young child I loved pouring over photo albums and having relatives and friends tell me all about them.

Finally one day, my mother came home with an old camera she had purchased at a Rummage Sale. Today I realize that it was very similar to a Vest Pocket Kodak Series III camera. Finally with much searching, I was able to find film for it and off I went for an adventure. I excitedly waited for my photos to be returned, paid with my pennies and dimes and it was magical when I opened that photo envelope. I took photographs whenever I had a chance and the money to purchase film. I have a delightful photograph of Kitsap Lake I took as a youngster that dramatically shows the phenomenal growth in the lake area.

I had hoped to take a photography class in college but I always had a conflict with necessary classes. I was very busy with studies and had little time during college to take many photographs.

Then teaching elementary grades consumed much of my spare time as well as being a single parent of three rambunctious children, now 24, 26 and 28 years old. I enjoyed recording family events and adventures as any mother would do and did as well for my students’ special events at school.

Then in 1995, a friend gave my name to Barbara Pennington, owner of a small photography business – Rawls' Photography specializing in wedding photography. I became her photographer's assistant and was thrilled when she told people I was her "back up photographer." I worked for her several years until she retired. Though the pay was minimal, the experience was marvelous and a dream job for me.

A few years ago, I began to realize I really needed an outlet for my creativeness and after listening to a friend chat about his high school experience in a photo journalist class, I got excited about taking photos again.

I received a Canon film camera as a birthday gift and signed up for a beginning photography class taught at Olympic College in 2006. The instruction was great, the professor was nice and I learned a great deal. I got a lot of encouragement from my friends and was eager to learn more so I took the second photography class as well.

As time went I realized reluctantly that digital cameras were the wave of the future. Once again, as a gift, I received a Power Shot Canon A710IS digital camera. I knew little if anything about digital cameras so this was a great starter camera for me.

Then last Christmas I received a Canon Rebel digital camera. It has been my main camera since. I still believe in both film and digital images thought I am excited once again to learn about computers, digital cameras, and computer programs related to photography.

I would like to thank my good friend for all his support in helping me pursue a lifelong goal and the generous camera gifts. Also, I would like to thank all the people in the f:67 Camera Club for sharing their knowledge and expertise in photography. It is a great learning experience!