

Arts & Entertainment

Adams bridges political differences

By Billy Shaffer

Editor's note: This article contains opinions of the author.

The word patriotism used to piss me off. Being a child of the 60s (although a young and precocious one at that), the term seemed to represent the "pigs," the politicians, the rednecks, the John Birch Society, the KKK, S. I. Hayakawa, and any other "rightist" factions. And, in fact, some of these groups worked under the banner of "patriotism" for either self-serving, biased, bigoted, or downright oppressive reasons.

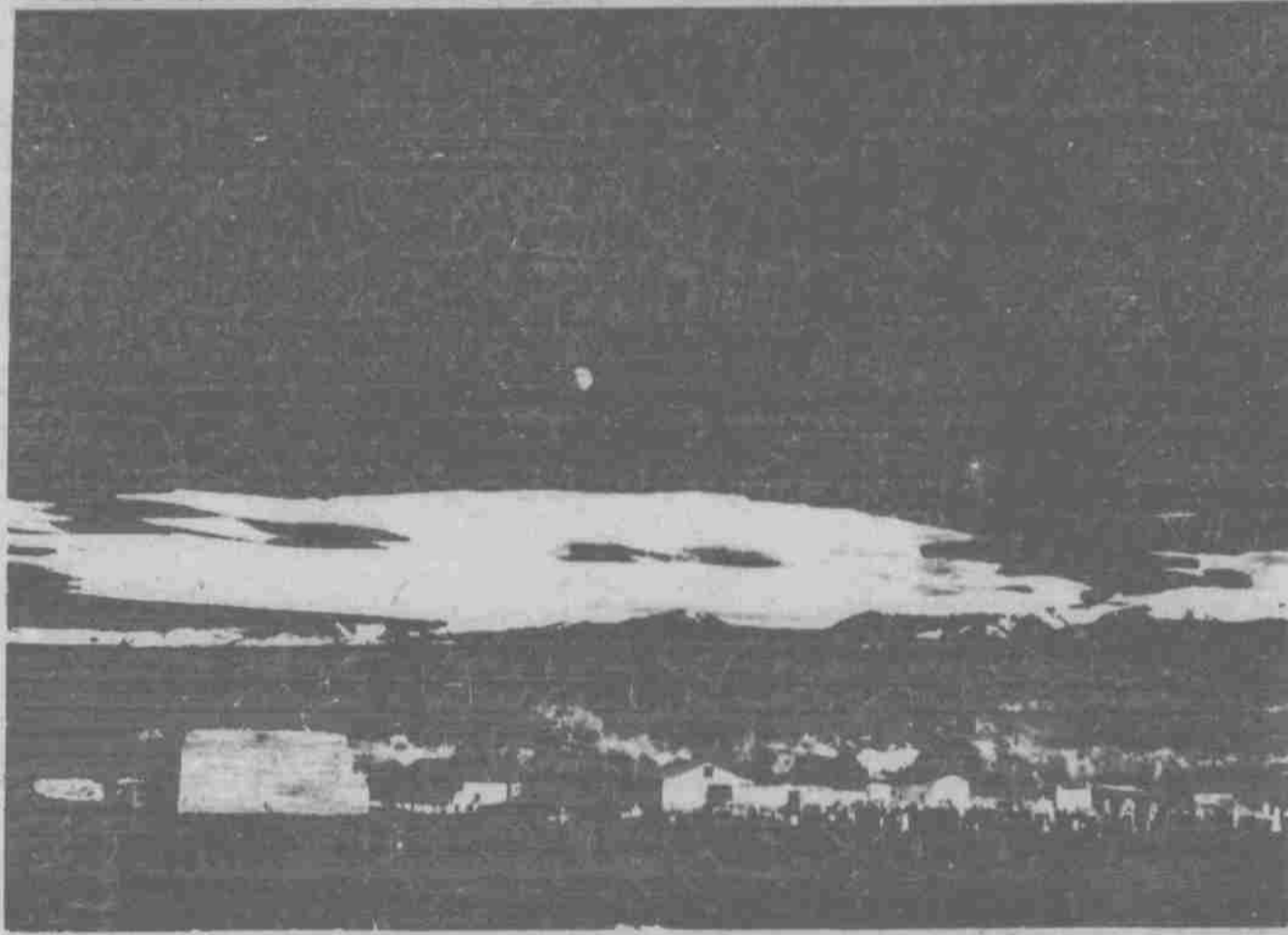
Getting off my high horse though, I stepped into a big pile of rhetoric from the "left" stating that *their* way is the absolute right way, sometimes under the banner of patriotism also. The battle lines were drawn easily 15 years ago. It was the "love it or leave it" bumper stickers on the Buick 88s to the "Love it or change it" stickers on the VW vans. A simplistic stereotype to be sure but one that at least sets the stage for the rest of this rambling. One thing for sure between these two sides was they loved this big country.

It seems appropriate on this eve of the Fourth of July to celebrate the work of the great American landscape photographer Ansel Adams. I'll lay even money that if you take a redneck and a rainbow child and drop them into Yosemite park, you'll get very much the same reaction...awe. And love. And then some more awe. It was this kind of beauty that Ansel Adams explored for 82 years until he died of heart failure on April 22, in Carmel, Calif. At the time he was working on his backlog of thousands of unprinted negatives and reprinting and improving his favorite shots from the past.

As a tribute to Adams, the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery is exhibiting a selection of his photographs, now through the month of August, drawn entirely from the Sheldon's permanent collection.

Adams was recognized internationally as a premier photographer and master printmaker. Having combined total mastery of technique and photographic seeing with subject matter universal in its appeal, he created a body of work of special importance to the history of 20th century photography. Many of his best known photographs were made in Yosemite National Park. They consisted of breathtaking landscapes and majestic vistas. Adams also worked through his workshops and publications. He

What does it take to create a Moonrise?



"Moonrise," Hernandez, New Mexico, 1941, part of Sheldon Art Gallery's permanent collection of Ansel Adams photography.

was fully committed to passing on his incomparable knowledge and understanding of photography to younger artists.

Adams was truly a renaissance man. Besides his many artistic endeavors, he devoted considerable time and energy to environmental concerns. He was a champion of wilderness ideals and often testified before Congress in behalf of preserving and protecting the landscape of the West.

Volumes upon volumes have been written about Adams, but if a picture is worth a thousand words, it's doubtful that historians will ever catch up to him.

Ansel Adams called photography "the art of miraculous instants." He has said he feels landscape photography is the most difficult form of photo-

graphy, because of the inability to manipulate the subject matter, as in portrait or still photography. He has said "a photographer must carry his trained sensitivity around with him like a loaded and cocked gun...also sometimes have the patience to stalk."

Adams stalked out literally thousands of "miraculous moments" in his life celebrating the wonder of nature in the American outdoors. His work bridges, no, circumvents, moral and political differences. After all, it's the country itself that we really love, not the Republican or Democratic parties. Look at one of Adam's sunsets one time and you won't think of yourself as an elephant or a donkey. Just a human being with the beautiful frozen moment of a miraculous instant.

Celeste outsmarts Jackson in Podunk

In last week's episode, Harley Davidson broke down and got himself a job. In the meantime, Otis P. Davenport continued his successful marketing of 'Perky Lite,' the drink that picks you up and slows you down. Where, you may ask, was Celeste when all of this was going on?

Mary Louise Knapp

Celeste walked into the sheriff's office of Podunk, Neb., a pistol by her side and a determined gleam in her eye.

"Jesse thinks he's so smart," she muttered. "I'll show him. It ought to be a cinch to get these prisoners out of jail. How many of them are there, Antoinette?"

Antoinette Chateaubriand, who was dressed, like Celeste, in Levi's, leather boots, a flannel shirt and a Stetson, could only think of the miserable heat.

"Celeste, I want to free these poor souls just as much as you do. But do I have to look like a bum while I'm doing it? Besides, I'm sweltering in this outfit!" Celeste marched grimly on.

"It's the American way," she said, pausing to pick a hayseed from her front teeth. "America's standing tall now, and we've got to stand tall with her. As future president of this land, I pledge myself to release these victims of Communist oppression, even if I lose my life."

"Your life!" Antoinette screamed. "Celeste, you didn't tell me we might be in danger! I'm not going to die looking like this, I can tell you! Addison would never forgive us!"

The office door opened and the sheriff appeared.

"What do you want?" he said, squint-

ing with dust-reddened eyes.

"I'm Celste Underwood, presidential candidate, and this is my running mate, Antoinette Chateaubriand," Celeste said. The sheriff eased his considerable bulk into the chair behind his desk and grunted.

"Yeah, I remember," he said. "You're those two crazy dames that want to repaint the White House. We don't stand for any of that commie stuff here in Podunk, I can tell you. Why don't you women stay home where you belong?"

"We have come to talk to you about those unfortunate people in jail here," Antoinette said. "We have reason to believe that they have been unjustly accused and are being held here as political prisoners."

The sheriff laughed explosively, expelling a plug of tobacco.

"Ha, ha," he said. "You're not talking about that bunch of drunks in there, are you? The ones that we picked up on a raid Saturday night?"

"If you mean those poor souls you stopped on the highway and brought in here, yes," Celeste said. "We demand their release in the name of all that is fine and decent in America."

"Hell, woman, they ain't fit to go nowhere!" the sheriff said. "Their own families won't even claim 'em. No, here they are and here they stay till they get good and sober. Now, why don't you ladies run along to the PTA or something. I got work to do."

"But, sheriff, don't you see that they're more trouble to you here than on the street?" Celeste asked. "You have to feed them, clean up after them, and listen to their noise. Plus, the taxpayers are putting out good money to support them. Why not let them go? You'll save money, there will be peace and quiet in your jail, and you'll never be open to the charge of coddling crim-

inals. I know one thing the people of Podunk hate worse than a Communist, and that's criminal coddler. You wouldn't want that kind of name, would you?"

The sheriff listened attentively.

"Well, maybe you're right," he said. "But I don't want to be the one responsible, you see? So, I'll just slip you the key kind of quiet-like, and make out like I've been asleep, and you all just put the old key back in my drawer

when you're done, and nobody'll be the wiser."

"You're a good man, Sheriff," Celeste said, slipping a bottle of Jack Daniels into his hand.

"Gee, thanks," he said. "Now, remember, if there's anything the Podunk Police Department can do for you..."

"Good Lord, Celeste, there's 30 of them here!" Antoinette whispered as the two stole around to the side of the jail. "Move over, Jesse Jackson!"

Go Fourth and find fun

The Fourth of July is near and once again Holmes Park will be a hub of activities. All day there will be boat races, music, break dancing, puppet shows and softball.

The day will climax with a half-hour firework display. The display will be sponsored by the Lincoln Jaycees, the Jaycee Women, the City Parks and Recreation Department and the Journal-Star Printing Company.

Holmes Park's children's activities

8 a.m. to 11 a.m. — Fishing tournament, 12-year-old and under
8:30 a.m. — 1932 American LaFrance fire truck

11:30 a.m. — Penny chase, 2- to 3-year-olds, 4- to 5-year-olds and 6- to 7-year-olds.

Noon to 12:45 a.m. — Good News Puppets

1 p.m. — Big Wheel race, (must provide own Big Wheel)

2 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. — New Version Players (mimes)

3:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. — Good

News Puppets

Holmes Park's adult activities

9 a.m. — Canoe portage

10 a.m. — Paddle-boat races

10:30 a.m. — Sailboat Races

Noon to 2 p.m. — Street Beat Connection (break dancers)

2 p.m. — Softball exhibition, KLIN

Radio Raiders vs. Eagle Company

2 p.m. — Canoe races, two-person

standing, four-person seated, six-

person seated, two-person no pad-

dle, four-person no paddle and six-

person no paddle

3 p.m. — Gunned pump

3 p.m. — Country-western singing

group

3:30 p.m. — Swamping contest,

15-years-old and up and 14-years-

old and under

4 p.m. — Two-lap canoe race

4 p.m. — Scanner (Contemporary

music group)

7 p.m. to 8 p.m. — Municipal band

8 p.m. — Two-lap canoe race

8:30 p.m. — Parachutists

9:30 p.m. — Fireworks display