

Way We Were

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Title: A Look Into the Past: The Kendall Webb Collection

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A Look Into the Past: The Kendall Webb Collection

It is a long standing tradition in this town to celebrate with dancing and live music. From LDS Gold & Green Balls to High School formals, Parkites seize any and all opportunities to rejoice in this manner. The pictures seen here, taken by local photographer Kendall Webb, capture stolen moments and warm embraces at these occasions. As the Park City Museum gears up for the second annual Silver Queen Ball to honor this longstanding tradition with a night of dinner and dancing, we have decided to honor the beloved photographer as well through our Fund-A-Need project.

Kendall Webb came to Park City in 1946 and opened a photography studio on Main Street. During the next 29 years, Webb actively collected historic photographs of Park City, and used his camera to capture history as it happened around him. He meticulously documented, cataloged and preserved each of his negatives. Webb's collection of images tells an important part of Park City's history. His photographs captured the faces and daily activities of the people who made this place their home during the second half of the last century.

Due to a generous donation, the Kendall Web Collection is now a part of the Museum. Caring for such a collection, however, is no small feat. Early photographic film, which was nitrate-based, is highly unstable and requires special attention. It is extremely flammable and releases hazardous gases as it deteriorates. It should be separated from other negatives and stored in cold storage, such as a commercial no-frost freezer, to minimize deterioration and protect the rest of the collection. A later type of film, called acetate film, is more stable than its predecessor, but is still prone to deterioration. Acetate film should also be stored in cold storage to slow down the rate of deterioration. The Kendall Webb Collection contains both types of film.

One of the top goals of the Park City Museum is to preserve the Kendall Webb Collection. This extensive project is currently in the planning stage, and is projected to take at least two to three years to complete. It will involve scanning, inventorying, sorting, re-housing and moving all the negatives in the Kendall Webb Collection to cold storage. Because of the large scale of this project and the expected costs involved, we have selected the Kendall Webb Collection as this year's Fund a Need event at the Silver Queen Ball on Thursday, December 27 at Montage Deer Valley. Purchase your tickets to this fabulous event, and consider supporting us as we embark on this exciting project! Call 649-7457 or visit us online at <http://www.parkcityhistory.org/events/silver-queen-ball/> for more information.



Object ID: 1946.10.4 Photo Credit: PCHS&M Kendall Webb Collection



Object ID: 1946.10.5 Photo Credit: PCHS&M Kendall Webb Collection