

Picture This! & Awkward Family Photos Things to Know for Volunteers and Front Desk Docents

Introduction:

Picture This! and Awkward Family Photos are the Laurel Museum's two temporary exhibits that are on display from September 14th to December 22nd of 2024. Picture This! Photography from Silver Plates to Pixels shows visitors how photography is fascinating and historic. The exhibit explores how the magic of capturing moments has evolved from the delicate art of silver plates to the instant gratification of digital pixels. Awkward Family Photos is a traveling exhibit. It has been in several museums prior to ours since it began in 2012. Together, these sections illustrate the incredible evolution of photography while also honoring the timeless, human side of capturing life's imperfect yet beautiful moments. Enjoy this journey through time, technology, and the endearing awkwardness that makes us all human.

Picture This (West Gallery):

- This exhibit showcases the remarkable journey of photographic technology, highlighting key milestones and the ever-changing ways we preserve memories. From the intricate processes of daguerreotypes and tintypes to the sleek efficiency of modern digital cameras and smartphones, photography has continually transformed the way we see and remember our world.
- This exhibit features several photos from the Sadler collection. Bert Sadler was a well-known amateur photographer from the 20th Century. His unique photographic collection documented life in Laurel (and beyond!) from 1905 to 1917. Sadler's photographs were taken using large, bulky cameras and heavy glass negatives that were typical for the time period. A single photo could take up to 65 seconds of exposure depending upon the time of day! We are working to add a large amount of the Sadler photos to the iPad for guests to browse at their leisure.
- There are several different cameras currently on display. The cameras, as well as the older photographs, will be rotating during the course of the exhibition. If a visitor is interested in loaning a camera please have them email info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org
- Special panel in this gallery: Laurel's Own Awkward Family- The story of the Awkward family, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, and "Cold Oven Pound Cake" – a legendary cake known to many at St. Mark's and beyond.
- The light inside the wall niche MUST STAY OFF to help preserve the delicate items in the niche. There is a note taped over the switch. Please do not remove this note.
- Please watch the [2024 LHS September Webinar](#) to learn more about this exhibit!

Awkward Family Photos (East Gallery):

- Awkward Family Photos remind us that no matter the era or the equipment, the essence of family life—filled with quirky, candid, and sometimes hilariously uncomfortable moments—continues to shine through.
- As a reminder: The exhibit is a TRAVELING EXHIBIT! It opened to record attendance at the Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, Wisconsin on June 17, 2012 and has been traveling ever since.

- Most of the photos in the exhibit are NOT from Laurel. You can identify the Laurel photos by finding the “Laurel Edition” tag next to the photograph (or groupings of photographs).
- We are actively collecting photos to add to the exhibit! Please encourage visitors to send any photos our way that you would like to see as a part of the “Laurel Edition.” These photos do NOT need to be “awkward,” they can also just be fun or memorable or simply a photo that someone wants to see shared! The goal of sharing photos for this exhibit is to encourage community participation. It does NOT matter if someone grew up in Laurel. We still want them to feel welcome to participate and to send in photos.
- How to submit a photo?
 - Option 1: Email the photo to info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org
 - Option 2: Bring a copy of the photo to the museum
 - Option 3: Bring the original photo to the museum- we will scan the photo and return the original photo to you and provide you with a digital copy
- This exhibit is meant to be FUN! We want visitors to smile, laugh, and think about their childhood memories and anecdotes. There are objects on display in the cases in the East Gallery that complement the photos. These objects are intended to complement the photos and/or invoke nostalgia. If a visitor has a specific question about the history of an object please have them email info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org.
- Please encourage participation in the current game in the interactive room. For the months of September and October that is Board Member Baby Photo Matching. There are game boards in the room and prizes are at the front desk.

Notes:

- Remind visitors that we also can assist with digitization of any photos for FREE. Interested visitors should email info@laurelhistoricalsociety.org with the subject “photo digitization”
- Please review the upcoming events on the monthly update sheet and encourage visitors to participate! We have several events this fall and we would love to see as many people at them as possible.