

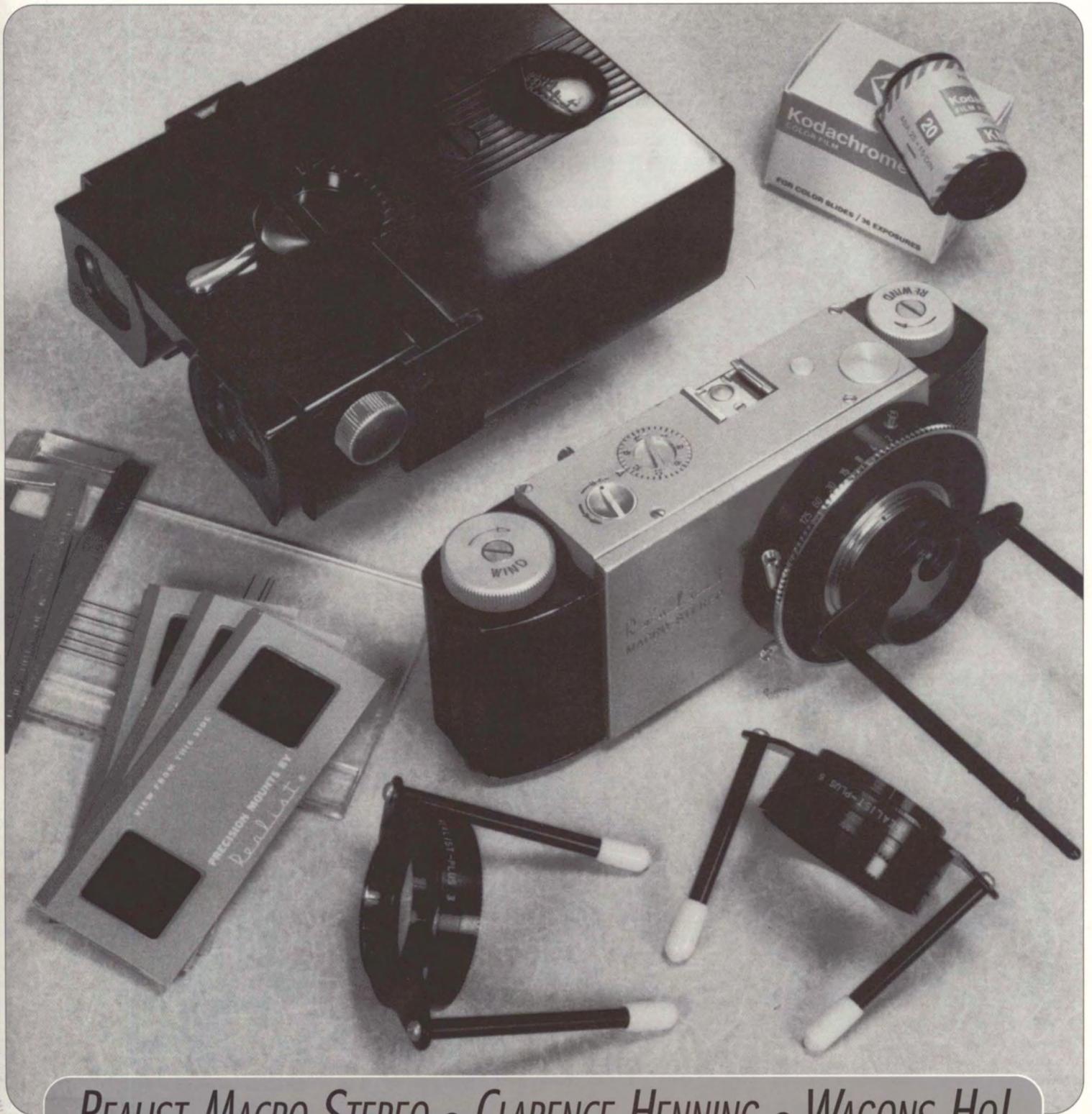
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REALIST MACRO STEREO • CLARENCE HENNING • WAGONS HO!

Stereographing a Montana Photo-Op

by Dave Davisson

When the most sensational news story since the O.J. Trial broke in his hometown, NSA member Dave Davisson couldn't resist documenting some of the media's coverage of the event with his stereo camera. Fans of Stereo World's "Assignment 3-D" Column may remember his stereo of a log truck spill in Vol. 22 No. 4—an event that made the Helena Independent Record but failed to draw the attention of CNN, BBC, or NHK.

ASSIGNMENT 3-D will return to this page in the next issue.

When CNN Broke the story of the capture of a suspect in the "Unabomber" investigation, it was immediately apparent that the quiet little capitol city of Helena, Montana would soon be overrun by national and even international media types. Doubtless, it would to some extent become another media circus ala the O.J. Simpson case.

I wanted to observe this for myself, to watch the pros at work and see the set-ups and cameras and all the other factors involved. On the morning of April 5, 1996, Ted Kaczynski was brought to the Federal Building in Helena for arraignment on charges of possessing bomb components. The media was out in force with satellite uplinks and more than a dozen trucks representing news organizations from all over—Canada and Japan included.

Video and still photographers lined the wall at the parking area. As the suspect was taken from the vehicle to walk the few feet to the entrance, the media swarmed. In that melee, a photographer was injured and a camera was destroyed.

The city police, U.S. Marshals and FBI were seriously angry and set rules for coverage of the suspect's return trip. After a five hour wait the officers came out and made (approximately)

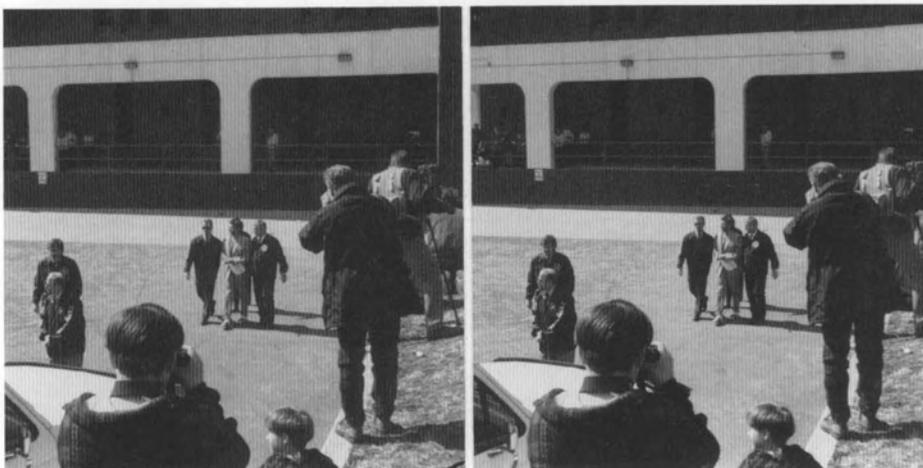
the following statement to the media: "Since you people act like animals or bees in a swarm, here are the rules. The first one of you that comes down off that wall will be swarmed by officers and jailed—do I make myself clear?"

Five minutes later Mr. Kaczynski was led out by the marshals and the media got their photo-op. The most professional person on the scene was an 11 or 12 year old with a good camera representing a grade school paper. He appears in the lower right of the only clear view I was able to get of Kaczynski. 📷

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A mix of local citizens and the media wait on a retaining wall for Ted Kaczynski to emerge from his arraignment at the Federal Building in Helena, Montana. A row of TV news vans with satellite dishes was parked on the road behind the crowd. Stereo by Dave Davisson.



Ted Kaczynski is escorted from the Helena Federal Building after his April 5, 1996 arraignment. Among those covering the event was the young photographer at left from a grade school newspaper. Stereo by Dave Davisson.

