

3-D Imaging Past & Present

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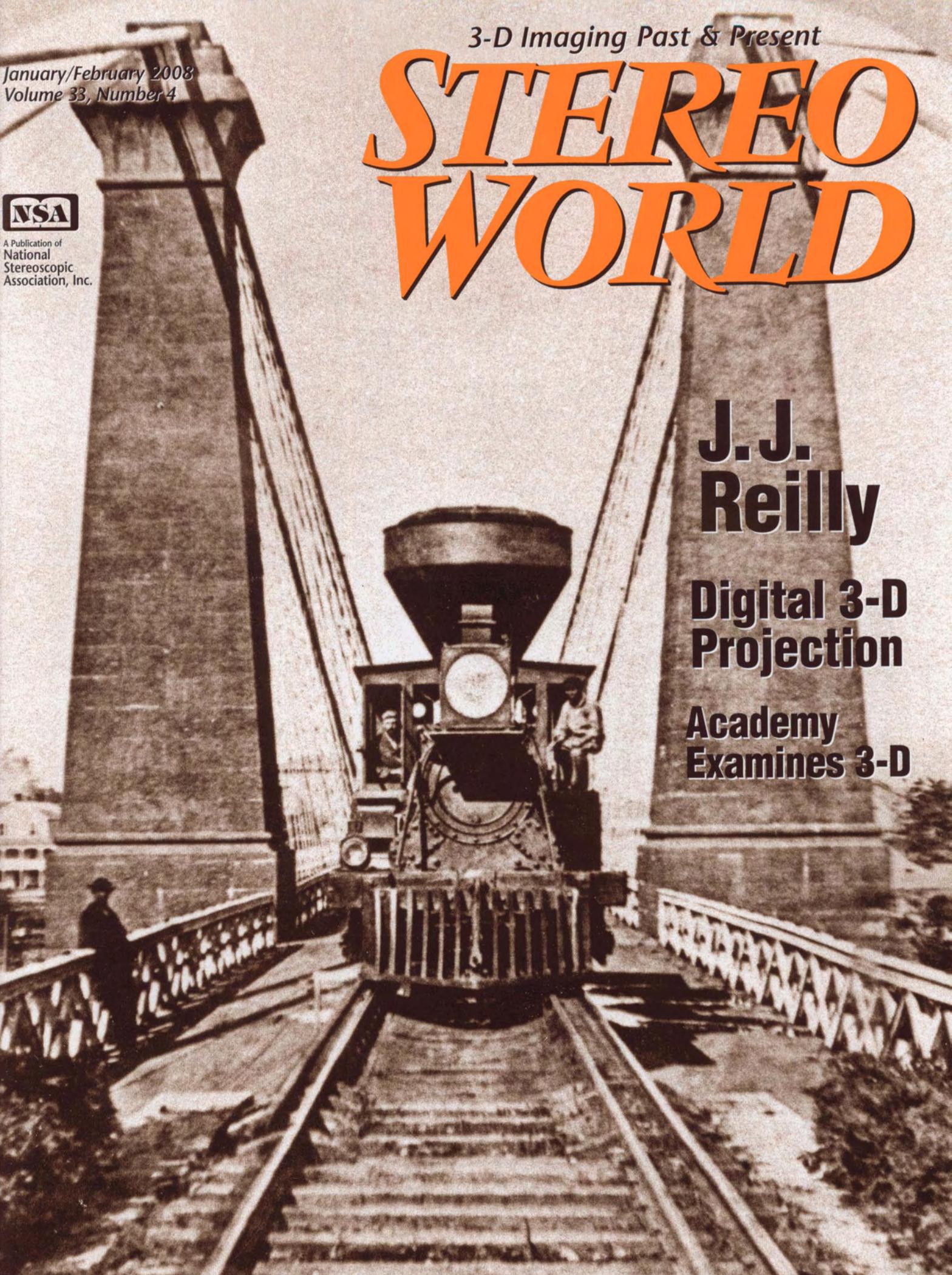


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'50s Flavored Finds

A taste of the late '40s through the early '60s found in amateur stereo slides

by Mark Willke

Summer Vacations in Winter

I was just thinking about how I have yet to finish mounting my stereo slides from my summer vacation five months ago. That inspired me to pull out a couple of summer vacation views for this column, even though the snow is falling as I write this in December!

The first is unlabeled, mounted in a Realist heat-seal mask and cardboard folder. A Native American man and tepee appear in front of a General Information Bureau booth, which advertises "Dells

Trips Hotels Motels". I am guessing this slide was taken at *Wisconsin Dells*, home of famous stereographer H.H. Bennett's studio (See *SW* Vol. 21 No. 2, page 12, or www.wisconsinhistory.org/hhbennett). By the looks of the vintage cars partially visible behind the booth, I would guess this image was taken in the late '40s or early '50s.

Our second view was made a bit more recently—the Kodak heat-seal mount is stamped "SEP 64"—and a notation written on the mount says only that it was taken in Yellowstone National Park. Bears

were more commonly seen there in the '50s and '60s, judging from other Yellowstone images from that era that I've come across, but I've never seen one showing tourists casually standing so close! The bear appears to have just wandered into the parking area, and those two girls look as though they are about to reach out and pet him! We didn't see any bears in Yellowstone this past July, but if one had come this close, my wife would have instantly grabbed the kids and sprinted for the car! An extra bonus in this view is that the man with his hand raised has a Kodak Stereo camera (in its case) hanging from his neck.

John Ladd in Burbank, California wrote concerning last issue's image of what he confirms is a land speed racer at the salt flats. "What the shot depicts is not a car show but the actual speed trials. The 'pits' for this event are located on the salt where you will find a wide variety of racers plus the tow cars/trucks. The racers range from Model A Fords to modern streamliners." 📷



This column combines a love of stereo photography with a fondness for 1950s-era styling, design and decor by sharing amateur stereo slides shot in the "golden age" of the Stereo Realist—the late 1940s through the early 1960s. From clothing and hairstyles to home decor to modes of transportation, these frozen moments of time show what things were really like in the middle of the twentieth century. If you've found a classic '50s-era slide that you would like to share through this column, please send it to: Fifties Flavored Finds, 5610 SE 71st, Portland, OR 97206.

As space allows, we will select a couple of images to reproduce in each issue. This is not a contest—just a place to share and enjoy. Please limit your submission to a single slide. If the subject, date, location, photographer or other details are known, please send that along too, but we'll understand if it's not available. Please include return postage with your slide. Slides will be returned within 6 to 14 weeks, and while we'll treat your slide as carefully as our own, Stereo World and the NSA assume no responsibility for its safety.

