

3-D Imaging Past & Present

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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

Glacier Transportation

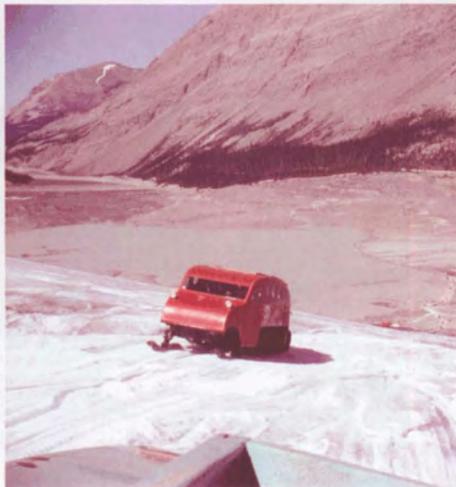
Our images this issue have their flaws, but I found them too interesting to pass up. They were taken by a Portland, Oregon-area photographer who apparently was a serious amateur or maybe even a professional photographer. In a bit of bad timing, I learned of the auction of his entire massive photographic estate a week *after* it had occurred in the late '80s! Fortunately, much of his equipment and images seemed to stay in

the area, offered for sale by various local photographic dealers over the next few years, so I was gradually able to obtain a selection of his stereo slides. He apparently climbed several mountains in the northwest, making stereo images as he went. In fact, I found some beautiful 2x2 Kodachrome slide stereo pairs that he made with a couple of non-stereo cameras during a climb of Oregon's Mt. Hood in 1943! He eventually began shooting Realist-format images, and documented many scenic areas in the region in stereo.

These particular images were mounted on Realist heat-seal masks taped between glass. They are dated Sunday, August 19, 1956, and while they are labeled "Canada" and "Snowmobiles on Glacier", they do not reveal the exact location. However, there is a popular glacier tour located between Lake Louise and Jasper, and I would guess that is where these images were made, especially since the signs on the vehicles read "Snowmobile Tours, Jasper Park".

The first image shows a nice (if distant) grouping of the vehicles. What appear to be wheelwells on the front of these vehicles make me wonder if they were adapted from some odd-looking wheeled vehicles or if they were custom-made as snowmobiles from the start.

The second image was apparently made from the open top of one vehicle looking back at another as they climbed the glacier. (Sorry about the window violation!) A great view of the valley below can be seen where the tour began. ☞☞



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.

