

Fine Art Photography — From the Heart

Every person has a story worth telling...

... And I'd like to tell yours

WHAT PEOPLE SAY

***“EVEN IF
YOU’RE ON THE
RIGHT TRACK,
YOU’LL GET
RUN OVER IF
YOU JUST SIT
THERE.”***

WILL ROGERS

Railroads



Tiger's Story — The Story of a Strong Man

A long time ago men thrived by doing hard work. It was a rite of passage.

Such a man was Tiger. He thrived back in the 1960's.

Tiger worked for the railroad at a time when it took men, real men, to lay down track and drive steel.

This was the end of an era. Such men are now extinct and live only in memory. In even older days these men had many names. Once known as Gandy Dancers. Such names are still remembered with honest pride. These are the

men who built the Road of Steel for the Iron Horse.

Needing a job in the summer of 1969 I got a job driving steel for the railroad. It was a magical time in my life. A time when I had one foot in the world of boyhood and one foot in the world of men.

We had one 'old man' on the crew. He was ancient by my teenage standards; my guess is he was 60. Short of stature, barrel chested. The man looked like he was made of iron.

A piece of railroad equip-

ment would punch out the ties and then we boys would pull out the deadheads with ice tongs, replace the old ties and spike them home. Frequently we had to get out of the way because trains would come by. I loved trains all my life, so for me it was a continuing romance with heavy metal.

I didn't pay much attention to the 'old guy' at first because I was learning my job swinging a 12 pound maul and hitting the head of a railroad spike no bigger than the surface of a postage stamp.

We would take a break

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WHAT PEOPLE SAY

“Thinking is difficult. That’s why most people judge.”

Carl Jung



when trains passed and that’s when I noticed the 60-year-old man. He’d taken off his T-shirt like the rest of us and I noticed the sinewy muscles on his arms and the rippling muscles on his barrel chest. He was like one of those ancient Greek sculptures of the idealized man who threw the discus. Yet he was standing in front of me. Talking to me.

I asked him his name and he said “people call me Tiger”. I later came to understand that he was aptly named. In my eyes, he was larger than life.

The second day on the job some of the boys didn’t show

up. “Too Tough” they said. These were the quitters of life.

During the first week it was easy to find Tiger, he was always the guy in the lead helping out wherever he could, driving steel, telling a joke, encouraging us. As we got stronger in the job, for those who stuck it out, there was a sense of pride when you finally realized that you were good enough and strong enough to keep up with ‘Tiger’.

Tiger may not have known it, but he was an important role model in my life. I learned that hard work is good work

and that any profession can be an honorable one. I learned from a man who gave of himself to others, shared his experiences, made us laugh and helped advance us on our paths to become men. I respected Tiger.

Today, I’m an old man with wonderful memories of life.

Yes at one time I was a ‘railroad man’ – driving steel with a twelve pound maul.

I did this in a world created by a king – a Tiger King.

I know that now Tiger is in Railroad heaven. And I know he would like that, for he was a Railroad man.

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BIOGRAPHY

WHAT PEOPLE SAY

*“The essence of
leadership is
vision. You can't
blow and uncertain
trumpet.”*

*Father Theodore
Hesburgh*



Dad was a small town photographer in the days of B&W film: wedding, portrait, commercial, events, he did it all. I remember when I was small, sometimes he would set up the camera and I would be able to press the cable release for him. He showed me how to develop and print film. Dad's photography left me with some great memories. Later in life, I found myself drawn back to photography. I decided to pick up a camera. My dad has long since passed, but when I take a picture, I am connected to him. -- Thank you dad, I cherish our memories.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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WHAT PEOPLE SAY

“Your vision will become clear only when you look into your heart.

Who looks outside, dreams.

Who looks inside awakens.”

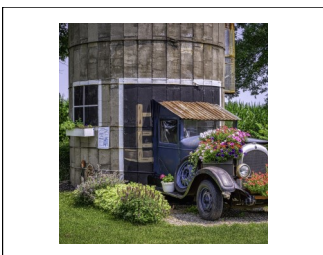
Carl Jung



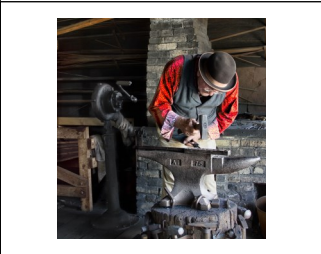
Portraits



Transportation



Fun Shops



Location Photography



Railroads



Nearly Abandoned



The Highground

About Augie as a photographer?

Creative photographer Augie Stark is based in Madison Wisconsin. His photographs reflect people who love what they do at work or play. Every person has a story

worth telling... Whether a person spends a lifetime developing a skill, or someone who creates a mini museum in their front yard with antique cars, trucks, gas

pumps and creates an atmosphere where it's forever 1939. People are creative. The environment they create, the work they enjoy, tells a compelling story.