

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS FOR 09 PHOTO CONTEST, CMC SOCIAL  
Gerry McNabb

Yesterday I went to the **Governors' Celebration Ceremony** at Clingmans Dome in the Smokies. Our governor did not go but she sent Dee Freeman, Secretary of our **Department of Natural Resources and Environment**, who did a good job of representing the state. Tennessee's Governor Bredesen was there. In some of the remarks made during the event I was struck with how hard it was to create the park in that money was scarce during the depression, and both homes and industry occupied some of the land. That makes the efforts of CMC members Horace Kephart, Dr. Chase Ambler, and George Masa, **cited in the club's Proclamation** we sent, all the more appreciated. The odds were against them.

Since this event today is a nod to the continuing interest in photography by CMC members, it is fitting to recognize that George Masa, with photography as his tool, used a bulky **8 x 10 view camera and tripod**. His efforts contributed greatly to the park becoming a reality. He shot here for 18 years, dying in 1933, just a year before the park was established. To put photography in perspective consider this: The club was begun in 1923, 86 years ago. 86 years prior to that date, 1837, photography was in its earliest infancy, virtually non-existent for most of the world.

So here we are today, still shooting away, but with entirely new technology... cameras so small there is no hesitation about whether we should carry them on our hikes. It is appropriate and natural that we continue to follow in George Masa's footsteps. And besides it's just plain fun.

Back in the 60's and 70's the club had **regular slide show socials**. Two years ago, we had a photo contest where the winners were presented at our **annual meeting**. I am pleased to see the response to the contest that culminates today. This one is a little different in that the members present here today will judge the contest. The theme this time is "**Defining the CMC experience**"... so broad almost anything goes.

You have had a chance to preview the pictures on the laptop during the social hour 5-6. We have 37 images to consider and I will show them **3 times in succession**. This is a very simple process.

**The first time** they will each be on screen about 10 seconds so you can get a broad overview. You have **reference images** on your table with you that will help you recall the photos. You can make notes on your favorites. This will take about 6 minutes.

**The second time** shown will be shorter and allow you to narrow your choice to one. You still have 3 or 4 minutes to change your mind.

**The third time** will be a call for a show of hands on each slide asking how many thought this image is number one. The picture with the most votes after the tally will win first place and receive a **\$30 gift card** from Diamond Brand. The next most votes gets second

place, a **\$20 gift card** from Diamond Brand... you see the process. In addition to third place which gets a **\$15 gift card**, your votes will also award **two Honorable Mentions**. Even though there is no prize for these, they can take home the pride of knowing you really liked their shot. **In case of a tie**, Paula, who will not vote otherwise, and does not know who the photographers are, will cast a deciding vote in each case.