

MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – PHOTOGRAPHY – EARLY ARTICLES ON AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHY

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

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THE CAMERA CRAZE

**Amatuer *[sic – Amateur]*
Photography is Growing
Popular in Iron Mountain.**

**NEARLY TWO HUNDRED
NOW IN USE.**

**What a Reporter Learned of the
“Snap Shot” Fiends and Their
Work – Nuisance to Local
Photographers – No
Money in Finishing.**

“The camera craze is growing in Iron Mountain,” said a clerk in Seibert’s drug store this morning as he unpacked a new consignment of the little square black boxes and arranged them on the shelves in anticipation of a summer’s busy season in the amateur photography line.

“There are fully 175 cameras owned in this city,” continued the salesman, “and by the end of the coming season I believe there will be at least 300 in use. Like the bicycle the camera is here to stay and there is enough money expended on them each year to buy all the beer consumed in the various saloons in the city.

“Every instrument in the amateur photography line is commonly called a Kodak, but this is one of the many mistakes

of the age. The Kodak is manufactured exclusively by The Eastman Kodak Co., of Rochester, N.Y., and the word “Kodak” is the trade mark *[sic – trademark]* of this firm. Each manufacturer has a certain name for his make of instrument and “Kodak” is the one by which Eastman and Co’s. cameras are known.

The reporter dropped into the photograph gallery of S. Mortenson *[sic – Mortensen]* to learn how the camera craze effected *[sic – affected]* his business.

“It’s a big nuisance, that’s all I have to say about it,” the photographer said in response to the question asked him. “It don’t *[sic – doesn’t]* effect *[sic – affect]* my business any. If the camera has done anything it has caused the people to demand a higher grade of work. Cameras cannot do satisfactory portrait work, and when a person wants a good picture he is sure to go to a photographer to get it.” Mr. Mortenson *[sic – Mortensen]* admitted there was little outside work, but he laid it to other reasons than the camera.

Another photographer was called on, but he told a different story. “Yes it does effect *[sic – affect]* us considerably,” he said.

“It does away with a good share of the business we enjoyed for years. Years ago, whenever there was a family reunion the photographer was almost sure to receive a call. Now it is different. Some member in every family is almost sure to have a camera and when these family gatherings occur they take the pictures themselves. The work may not be as good as that of the photographer, but it pleases and that is all that is necessary.”

“At one time baby pictures were made a specialty by many photographers. Now we seldom, if ever, see a baby. The little ones often assume positions at home that would make a striking picture and the young

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parents seeing this lose no time in purchasing a camera.

“The baby is fired at from all sides, but a good picture is something that cannot be secured for the reason that the light is not favorable. By placing the child in the sun he is sure to squint up his eyes and this makes matters still worse. No complaint is heard, however. As to outside work we very seldom have any of it to do.”

With regard to finishing up pictures the photographer says he could not pay his expenses even if he had all the work he could do. His price for finishing is \$1 a dozen.