



LINDA SPILLUM

HODGEPODGE...PHOTOS & MIXED MEDIA COLLAGE

My delight in shooting photos can be attributed to my mother and her little box camera and my father's curiosity to see new sights. We made many special trips from our central Nebraska home. When I finally received my first camera, a small "Kodak Brownie," I was elated! Trips to SD and photographing Crazy Horse and Mt. Rushmore were high points of my early days! Hot springs and buffalo beckoned.

A critical point in my youth was the move of my family to Philomath, Oregon where I began 7th grade. Photography classes were offered in school. SLR cameras were loaned! There were in my young eyes, important sights to "shoot." I had never seen the ocean, such huge trees and mountains the size of Mt. Hood! I hungered for a better camera!

Photography has always been a big part of my life. Throughout school and college, I displayed my work off and on, but never seriously. I Attended OS(U) and went on to teach at Oregon City (Ogden Middle School).

My middle school teaching days found me in Oregon City at Ogden M.S., often out of my area (Health-Science). I had fun teaching Arts & Crafts, Calligraphy, Computer Technology and presenting Graphic Arts Shows. For years, voluntarily shooting and producing the "End-of-the-Year Slide Show" for the school was my "baby."

West Linn and the Bolton neighborhood became home in 1971. I continued to take many classes in a variety of arts including camera and computer techniques too numerous to list here. Late in the 70's, another teacher/neighbor and I put our skills together and opened the West Linn Music Arts & Crafts Center Childcare. It still operates today under different owners.

My trusty camera of those times was a 35 mm SLR Minolta. I especially loved its 28-80 zoom lens. Of course, along came digital cameras and I bit!

Beyond OR & NE, one of my favorite places to "photo shoot" is the National Bison Range in Moise, MT. Wherever I am, I keep a look out for reflections, windmills and monsters!

Since my 2003 retirement, I was introduced to multimedia collage by a friend and neighbor. I discovered that collage is a real fit for a "collector" such as myself, and a lot of fun. I have enjoyed taking numerous collage classes at Multnomah Arts Center. I like to identify "something" in my creations, so I prefer to follow a theme. I inherited from my "depression-era parents" a sense of recycling! I often begin my first collage layer with the insides of old bill envelopes. Daily walks around the Bolton area allow me to find many special treasures to add, ranging from mosses, and leaves to bottle caps and dried up bees and dragonflies. The opportunity for creativity is limitless. "Letting go" is sometimes the hardest part.

My Name, "Hodgepodge Art", reflects my varied interests in fine arts, as well as crafts. I am making unique Dream Catchers and donating 20% of the profits to help support the St. Joseph's Indian School in Chamberlain, South Dakota. I also work on 1950's "retro-rocking horses," a pattern inherited from my father. In my spare time I enjoy refinishing furniture. My most ambitious project to date has been a piano.