

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Fall 2024

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT

Grandma's Negatives

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Last year I decided to make a "Thanksgiving at 26 Delaware Ave." photo book to give to all the cousins. I toiled for weeks scanning Grandma's photos and Dad's slides. I created a 78-page book with over 330 photos and was feeling pretty good about it. However, I was concerned that I wasn't going to get it done and printed in time to hand out at Thanksgiving. Then I rediscovered a group of pictures Bill had sent me that were definitely of Thanksgiving which led me to a group of Dad's slides that

I hadn't realized were taken on Thanksgiving. That was that. I wasn't going to get it done. Oh well, I thought, there's always next year.

And here I am again. I jumped back into the project too late. Sure, I could slap in the extra photos I'd found and let *that* be that. But, no, I had to start digging through Grandma's negatives.

My attempts to scan Grandma's negatives have been hit and miss. It's

nearly impossible to get all the flecks of dust off the negatives and the scanner glass. I've even tried using my rechargeable air blower thingy. Also, my skills at color correction aren't always up to the task. It's a time-consuming pain, but I still think it's worth it. The negatives often produce a better image than the original print, and the negatives aren't cropped like the prints. Here are some examples of the difference.



Thanksgiving 1959 – Gasp! You can really see the details on that cheese grater!



Thanksgiving 1975 – Wow! Now you can see more of Gary giving Dale side eye!



Thanksgiving 1975 – Look at this lost gem! It's not in the photo album!!
Hey! Is Dale doing the "brain eater" bit on me??

See, totally worth it.

So, I'll keep toiling and scanning, and maybe one of these days I'll actually finish the book.
Maybe *next year*??