

Announcing the opening of the PHOTOGRAPHIC VAN MUSEUM



The **Photographic Van** darkroom wagon was, for all intents and purposes, the *rescue vehicle* for the wet plate collodion process. Without it wet plate would likely have sunk completely into oblivion. The little wagon that could! Brownie the horse pulled it over 11,000 miles about the country from coast to coast and north to south, putting wet plate on the map again starting in the late 1970's. Despite the naysayer's nonsense that wet plate was "in the air" and the revival would have happened anyway, such was not at all true. What was in the air was how to fake it using modern methods and materials. Olde Timee photo studios with lots of costumes abounded. Doing original processes exactly how they were done was considered hair brained and downright dangerous. Damn the torpedoes, the Photographic Van rolled on at a steady two miles an hour rediscovering the process, and here we are today with wet plate collodion photography being practiced by thousands all across the globe. A veritable industry has sprung up in support of it. The Photographic Van is not just silly Coffey's stupid old darkroom wagon but rather an important *historic artifact*. It is in fact the last horse drawn itinerant photographer's wagon. Not another has

struck out since. **It must be preserved! Its story must be preserved!** And now it has a fighting chance.

All are welcome to come see and hear about its adventures. Coming soon to the museum will be a large map showing the Photographic Van's trails about the country along with various other memorabilia pertaining to it and Brownie, its horsy engine.

But wait! There's even more to this museum: The **Latticed Window Studio**. Latticed windows figure very highly in the history of photography and the history of the revival as well. Many a fine portrait has been taken using the light from such a natural simple source. It is the intent to show all how just a single window's well managed light can work to make totally stunning portraits. All will be sure to want to try it out at the workshops!

