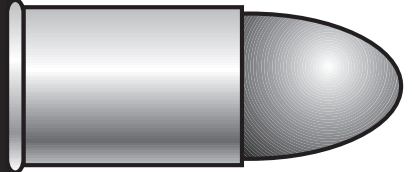


Silver Bulletin

A RIVER CITY SILVER PUBLICATION

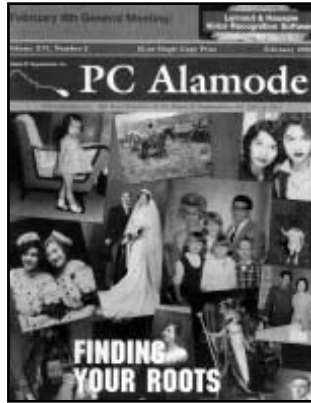


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RCS HITS THE COVER OF PC ALAMODE

River City Silver has provided the cover artwork for PC Alamode, the news magazine of the Alamo PC Organization (APCO). RCS had been an advertiser in PC Alamode for more than a year, when Editor Clarke Bird approached RCS's Digital Services Director Paul Vaughn about the cover assignment. "I was intrigued with possibilities of the project," says Vaughn. The issue's focus was on Genealogy and the software available for tracing your family tree. The artwork designed by Mr. Vaughn shows a collage of various old family photographs retouched by the digital technicians at RCS.



PC Alamode is published monthly by APCO, and consistently wins awards for its high quality. The magazine recently won three Editors of Excellence awards at the recent meeting of the Association of PC User Groups. PC Alamode even won the award for Best User Group Magazine at the recent Apple User Group Breakfast in San Francisco!

The Alamo PC Organization is on the internet at www.alamopc.org. They can also be reached at the APCO Resource Center at Central Park Mall at (210) 375-7300.

RCS NEEDS PHOTOS!

In our ongoing efforts to show the benefits of Kodak PhotoCD technology, River City Silver displays customer images on televisions at the front desks of both locations. Now is the time to submit images for this display. Images must be 35mm slides or negatives in horizontal format only. Images with the main subject on the far left or far right may not work due to the cropping of the television screen. RCS creates a title screen with your name and contact information. We request 10-15 images to choose from, and all materials will be returned.

If you have questions or wish to submit images, contact Paul Vaughn at (210) 734-2020 or email to digital@rivercitysilver.com.



DIGITAL RETOUCHING: OLD PHOTOS-NEW LIFE

The scope of custom image manipulation has grown and diversified with the rise of the personal computer. There is a large array of professional and consumer level software packages available, many scanners even come bundled with some variety of image editing software. With these facts in mind, if you have a computer with the proper software and scans of your images or just an interest in what can be done digitally, you can manipulate your own images.

Restoration, the repair of old or damaged photos, is one of the most common uses of digital image manipulation. A digital image is scanned, the image repaired on the computer and output to a new photograph. The process is non-destructive to the original and allows you to make a mistake on the computer that is easily undone if you save often. Photos can suffer from the ravages of time and nature causing damage from mild to extreme. Scratches and stains are common and many can be easily removed. Photos that are creased, torn, crumpled or otherwise mutilated can usually be made to look significantly better. So if the portrait of your great grandfather has a big scratch across his face and the brittle old paper surface is starting to flake be assured that this damage can often be easily repaired.



(continued on back...)

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"We've tried Photo CD scans from a number of vendors around the country, and have been very disappointed with the lack of quality and consistency. After hearing that your lab had introduced Photo CD to the Central Texas market, we decided to try your services. We were extremely pleased with your quality and your turn-around. You have our business for life!"
 — Mike White, Digital Design Studios

(...from front)

Alteration of images is one of the really exciting things that can be done but most people aren't aware of the extent of what can be done. People or objects can be removed from or added to images. Trying to get that definitive family photo but you just can't one shot where you like everyone's facial expressions? Well with a lively round of head transplanting and body snatching you can assemble the picture that you wanted. You can change your eye and hair color, remove or soften wrinkles, or drop a few pounds.

Aside from such pragmatic alterations that can be made to images, there are countless other changes that are limited only by imagination. People can be put in photos of places

they have never been, or times they weren't alive in. The process is like a refined collage using photographic elements to create images that would otherwise never exist. I have composited the humorous picture of a 6" squeak toy Loch Ness monster rising like a behemoth from a very real seascape. In another picture I placed myself on a large stone chair crafted from various pieces of Stonehenge.

If you have a computer and the interest, you'd be surprised at what you can accomplish altering images on your home computer. The means for doing this have become almost commonplace. Acquiring scans of your images and outputting your finished files to professional media has become affordable. I would encourage anyone interested in the digital aspects of photography to experiment with these processes, with a little effort and patience you can achieve stunning results.

Peter Loxsom is the principal restoration artist at River City Silver. He can be contacted at (210) 734-2020 or emailed at ploxsom@stic.net.

LIGHTJET SPECIAL

Now through March 31st, all 11x14 and 16x20 LightJet Digital photo prints are 20% off of the list price. Now is the time to try out this exciting new technology.



Technically Speaking

THE RUBBERSTAMP IS YOUR FRIEND

The most useful tool for retouching is the rubberstamp tool. Also called the clone tool, this is used to copy information from one area of an image to another. You use this on images by cloning information onto things you want removed, or to fill in missing areas. For example: to remove a scratch from the sky choose a similar area of sky, select that as your clone source and then paint out the scratch. The majority of all retouching is done with the rubberstamp, using it to remove cracks, scratches and other damage. Much of this will only be learned through trial and error as you train your eye to recognize what the best place to clone from is depending on what needs to be done.

There are a few issues of which to be aware. The edge hardness of the rubberstamp brush should generally be at least 50%, or cloned areas can get muddy or soft. Similarly, you can vary the opacity of the stamp to achieve more subtle effects, but can cause image softness. Something else to watch out for is patterning. This occurs when a lot of cloning is done in an area without varying the source point, which can result in a repeating image pattern.

Silverian in the Spotlight

PETER LOXSOM

Peter Loxsom, the son of Yankee carpetbaggers, had the good taste to be born southern and has lived in San Antonio for over 28 years. A graduate of Trinity University, Peter studied painting and sculpture as well as teaching himself various aspects of video production.



Peter has been working with and around computers since his first job assisting in the computer service department of Computer Solutions. He also spent a number of years working as a wedding and event videographer. Over time as computers grew in power and versatility he began to incorporate their use in art and video production.

He began interning at River City Silver some three and a half years ago, and Peter now works chiefly as a restoration artist. You may see his work in the front lobby, or ask to see a sample. His work is top-notch.

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