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"By bringing together the fractional seconds of life captured on film by his cameras and instincts, David has woven a tapestry of the human spirit that transcends cultural, geographic, and ideological boundaries. In a world that generally pulls our attention in too many directions at once, *[Pictures of Human Life]*, which invites us to take time to savor the everyday, is a welcome change of pace." —Professor Roger Grant

David J. Marcou's *Pictures of Human Life* suggests the human family is just that—a family. In 1979, Marcou chose, at age 29, to interact more with and picture human life by buying and teaching himself how to use his first camera, a Rolleiflex35SLE. Photographing many subjects, but especially people, he has come to understand better why people should appreciate their differences yet celebrate their similarities. He was trained as a writer first and eventually combined writing with photography, teaching, and editing. He hopes his work has many positive resonances and uses for his family and friends, especially for his son, Matthew, and for the entire human family.



Pictures of Human Life

David J. Marcou

Pictures of Human Life



Documenting Personal Spirit

in My Little Black-and-White Photobook



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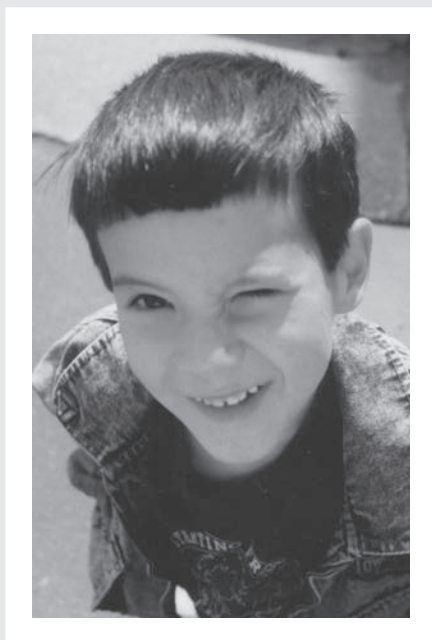
Main Photos and Text by David J. Marcou • Introduction by Professor Roger A. Grant
Appendix Photos by Matthew A. Marcou • Technical Advice by Steve Kiedrowski

*“Do not go where the path may lead,
go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”*

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

Pictures of Human Life

Documenting Personal Spirit
in My Little Black-and-White Photobook



Matt winking
in sun,
La Crosse,
Memorial Day,
circa 1992
(DJM) .

Main Photos and Text by David J. Marcou
Introduction by Professor Roger A. Grant
Appendix Photos by Matthew A. Marcou
Technical Advice by Steve Kiedrowski

“Think like a wise man, but communicate in the language of the people.”

WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS

SPERANZA, LLC

KALAMAZOO, MI

*Note: All references to La Crosse refer to La Crosse, Wisconsin, USA.
All photos credited to DJM were taken by David Joseph Marcou.*

Pictures of Human Life

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For God, my parents, ancestors, son and his mom, other family, friends, and the good intentions of Teresa, Dominica, Cleopha, Aggie, Sara, Gary, Jeremy, Abby, Linndah, two Johns, Ron, Deb, Michelle, Greg, Sam, Michael, Larry, Leah, Yvonne, Jason, Marty, Kyle, Cory, Jean/Jeanne/Jeanine, Jerry, and the Olsons.



Above left: "Passing through one door": Bishop John Paul's funeral, La Crosse Cathedral, March 10, 2006 (DJM).



Above right: Two knights and my reflection, La Crosse, 2003 (DJM).

*"[P]ersonalism... places a spiritual value, i.e., the person...
at the very heart and centre of all human reality."*

EMMANUEL MOUNIER

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Sponsors: Don and La Vonne Zietlow;
Msgr. Bernard McGarty; Dr. Mark and
Roberta Stevens; Tom and Joy Marcou; and
Mike and Mary Temp.

Front cover, clockwise from upper left: Little girl on a bus, Seoul, Korea, 1984–85 (DJM). Shaking hands, an everyday event for a President, a once-in-a-lifetime event for everyday people who get this close, La Crosse, May 2004 (DJM). Girls in choir loft, St. James Church, La Crosse, circa 1993 (DJM). George, legally blind, with big dreams, La Crosse, 2005 (DJM). Bert Hardy and his dogs, Surrey, England, 1981, image for British National Portrait Gallery (NPGx126230), made by David J. Marcou during his enrollment in the London Reporting Program of the University of Missouri. Little Aleena Hellerud, asleep, Red Cloud Park, La Crosse, Memorial Day 2004 (DJM). Mother Teresa's smile, Anyang, South Korea, 1985 (DJM). Roberta Stevens in cowgirl hat, La Crosse, 2005 (DJM)
Back cover, clockwise from upper left: Steve Kiedrowski and sons Ryan (L) and Andy, Centerville, WI, circa 2002 (DJM). Don and La Vonne Zietlow, lead sponsors, Lake Louise, Canada, courtesy of the Zietlow Family. Frank Lloyd Wright's Nakoma Statue, Johnson Wax Building, Racine, Wisconsin, 1991 (DJM). David A. and Rose (Muskat) Marcou Family, La Crosse, 2005 (MAM). Matthew A. and David J. Marcou, La Crosse, November 25, 2000 (David's 50th birthday), by Diane Marcou Skifton. Chair in Pittsburgh apartment of David W. Johns, 1991 (DJM).

Author David J. Marcou's Preface

Edward Steichen said photography should be human-centered. Stefan Lorant and Dorothea Lange said it should speak to all people. Mark Twain said humor is the great, saving thing. Mel Brooks said people should jump around to stay alive. Jackie Spinner is also right: "It's a good life, if it doesn't kill you."

In late 1950, as war raged in Korea, I was born in La Crosse, Wisconsin, a town along the Mississippi River. My early teachers included my parents and several members of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. One nun led my St. James School mates in creating a book for me when I was home for five months with rheumatic fever. I learned writing, history, and art at Aquinas High School and the Universities of Wisconsin and Iowa, mainly from Jack Nockels; Sisters Carola, Julia Anne, and Geneva; Dan Rodgers; Esther Jackson; James Dennis; Jon Walton; Rich Horwitz; Albert Stone; and Hanno Hardt.

One wife inspired me to buy my first camera (Rolleiflex35SLE). I taught myself street photography; studied with Jim Southworth, Veita Jo Hampton, Angus McDougall, John Whale, Karen List, Ernie Morgan, the Missouri Group, and Roger Grant (who wrote this book's fine introduction); photographed Hannibal for *Missouri Life* in 1981 and Bert Hardy with his dogs for Britain's National Portrait Gallery (NPGx126230). I've lived abroad, belong to the Royal Photographic and National Geographic Societies, and am often published in group-books I edit. I've covered the IRA in London, a Manila typhoon, Korea, Mother Teresa, and the first woman graduate of the first J-School (Mizzou's)—Mary Paxton Keeley, Margaret Truman's godmother—who died in 1986 at age 100. Sheryl Crow, Elizabeth Vargas, David Johns, Major Garrett, and I graduated from that school in 1984. The Universal Journalists' Tassel is red, Ms. Paxton's pick in 1910.

Professor Jackson wrote, "[F]orm is the projection of human understanding into sensible shape; it is a momentary union of traditional meanings and individual discoveries." For me, photography is journalistic art—discovering, forming, documenting, inquiring into personal spirit via sensibly shaped moments; in other words, the paces, personalities, thoughts, and feelings of human beings as seen in photos. I like good black-and-white photos, even those converted from color, like Arnold Newman's. Color shows clothes; black-and-white, spirit. Intuition and guts help. Like Henri Cartier-Bresson, staged photos don't move me much; I take informal, often impromptu, shots of subjects where they are, including environmental portraits; my approach is more like Steve McCurry's than Mr. Newman's in this regard.

I thank God, Bob Mulock, Deb Abraham, Charlie Keeble, Steve Kiedrowski, Sue Knopf, and Walsworth Publishing for the reproduction quality of my images; Mother Teresa; my parents, my son, and his mom; friends; subjects; readers; and the Niestrath, Zietlow, Grant, Marcou, Muskat, Sim, Born, Hall, Temp, Stevens, McGarty, Majeska, Ebert, and O'Connell families.

Picture Post and *Life* magazines inspired my main title. Included here are rich/poor; thinkers/players; able/disabled; believers/nonbelievers via human-made environments, informal photo portraits, people who move, family, and Matt's Appendix. (Some of Matt's work is here, for he's been crucial to my work since 1987.)

I hope I can say, as a great playwright said, "I've fought the good fight." Ms. Vargas's once-war-wounded co-anchor, Bob Woodruff, shouted, via proxy-statement accepting the David Bloom Award—"To Life!" When I win like recognition, I'll add, "To *Pictures of Human Life!*"



David Joseph Marcou, photographer-author of this book, *La Crosse, 2006*, by Steve Kiedrowski.

Introduction by Roger Grant: Savoring Everyday Human Spirit

Pictures of *Human Life* is a fitting title for David Marcou's newest book of personal photography. In the group-books he's edited, David—a student of mine in 1983—has explored the spirit of the human condition on regional, national, and international levels through the pictures of many photographers. And his personal photographs have focused, as well, on people in various parts of this nation and world.

His journey in photographic publishing began, for me, with his personal book *Images: The Body of Christ, Matthew, and Me—Or a Little Bit of Creation*, in 1995, when his son, Matthew, was in second grade. What followed were several group publications with an underlying theme: revealing the human spirit as found mainly in everyday activities. In 2000, he and his group focused on his hometown, La Crosse, Wisconsin, in *Spirit of La Crosse—An American River City Remembers and Looks Ahead*. *Spirit of America* followed in 2001, featuring the photography and writings of his Western Technical College students. In 2003, *Light, Shadow, and Spirit* emerged, containing more than 500 photographs by more than 100 photographers. *Spirit of Wisconsin* (2005) celebrates the state's diversity via images of its geography, history, and people.

Spirit of the World (2006) reveals David's connection, as editor and co-contributor, to his roots and influences—his group is headquartered in La Crosse, yet depicts many subjects around the world. His passion for photography, journalism, publishing, humanity, and his faith in God are evident in those glimpses and studies of photo subjects. David's personal image-making comprises part of that group-book's images, helping express—often with subtlety but sometimes more overtly—his deep belief in the spiritual connectedness of all people.

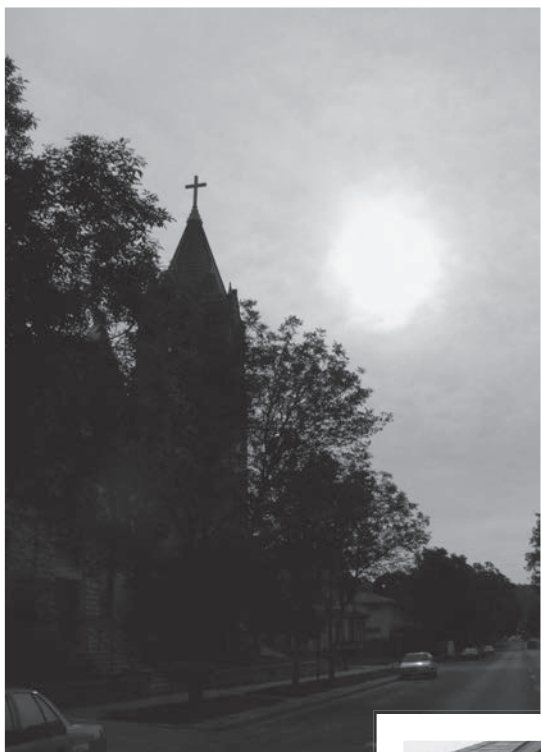
The images in *Pictures of Human Life* are selections from twenty-six years of his personal photography (1980–2006). The style is informal, with all reproduced images presented in the more abstract—and timeless—monochrome. The people are sometimes posed, sometimes revealed unaware of the photographer. As a collection, David's work is, in key respects, his own view of history, told through the gestures and expressions of notables, ordinary folks, and those near and dear to him—rather like a personal homage to Edward Steichen's famous *Family of Man*.

As an educator, photographer, author, editor, and devoted father, David invites readers to witness our humanity through his photographs. By bringing together the fractional seconds of life captured on film by his cameras and instincts, David has woven a tapestry of the human spirit that transcends cultural, geographic, and ideological boundaries. In a world that generally pulls our attention in too many directions at once, this book, which invites us to take time to savor the everyday, is a welcome change of pace. Read and enjoy *Pictures of Human Life*, a concise visual testament to the human spirit.

Professor
Roger A. Grant,
University of
Wisconsin-
La Crosse Art
Department,
La Crosse, 2005
(DJM).



Human-Made Environments



Above: Vertical view of spire, sun, and traffic,
La Crosse, 2005(DJM) .

Right: U.S. flag in brick house door,
La Crosse, 2005 (DJM).

Below: An immigrant mother's shoes,
La Crosse, circa 1988 (DJM).

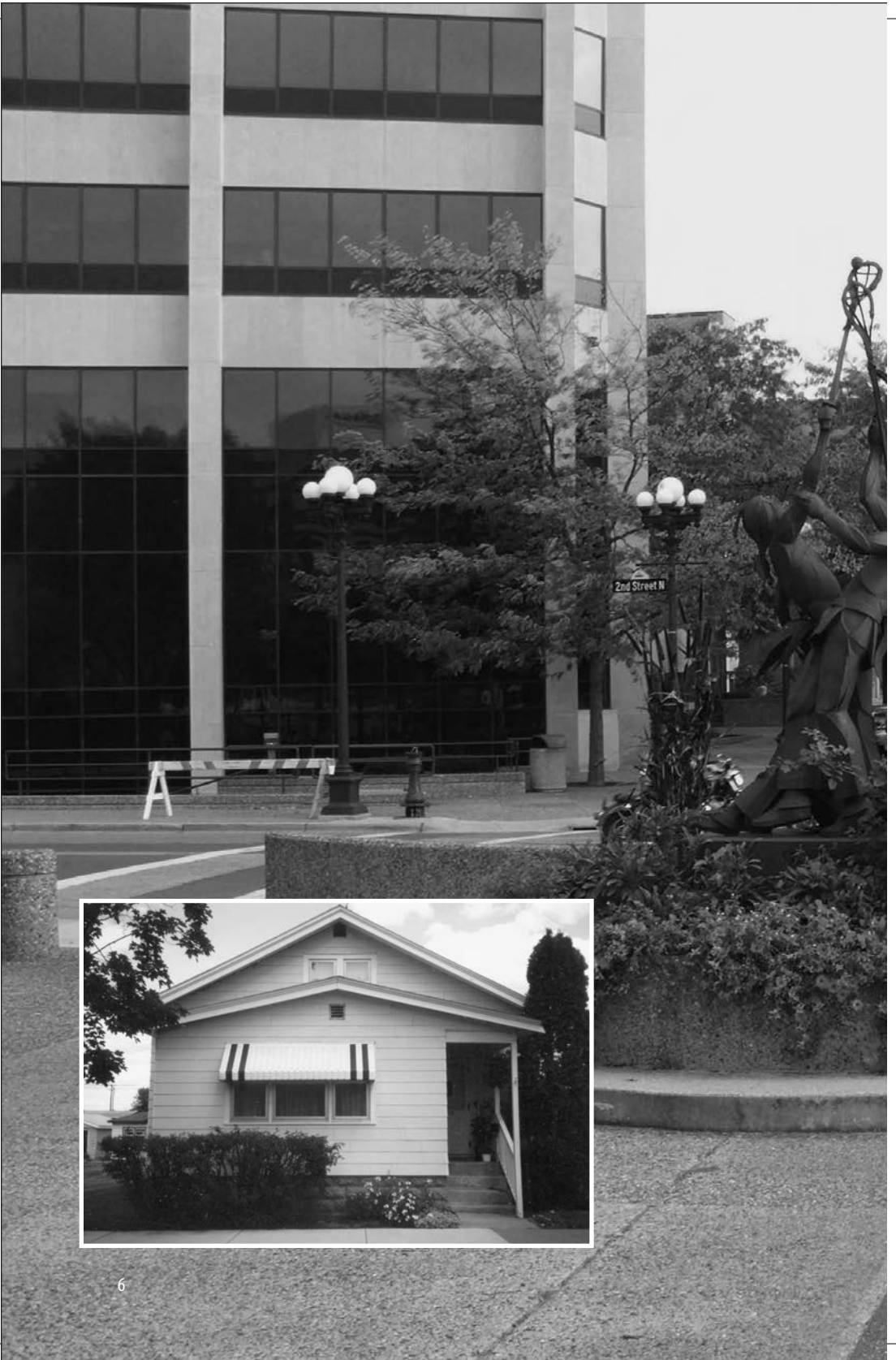


Humankind creates many things from the essentials provided in the Creation of the Universe: from other people to human-made environments. Often, the signs of significant human impact are evident, as in shops, building interiors, or still-lives; at other times, items such as trees, rivers, animals, and fields may be wild or may be human-influenced. In either case, humanity needs to appraise these environments to understand their fuller meanings and uses.

*“Let each man exercise
the art he knows.”*

ARISTOPHANES

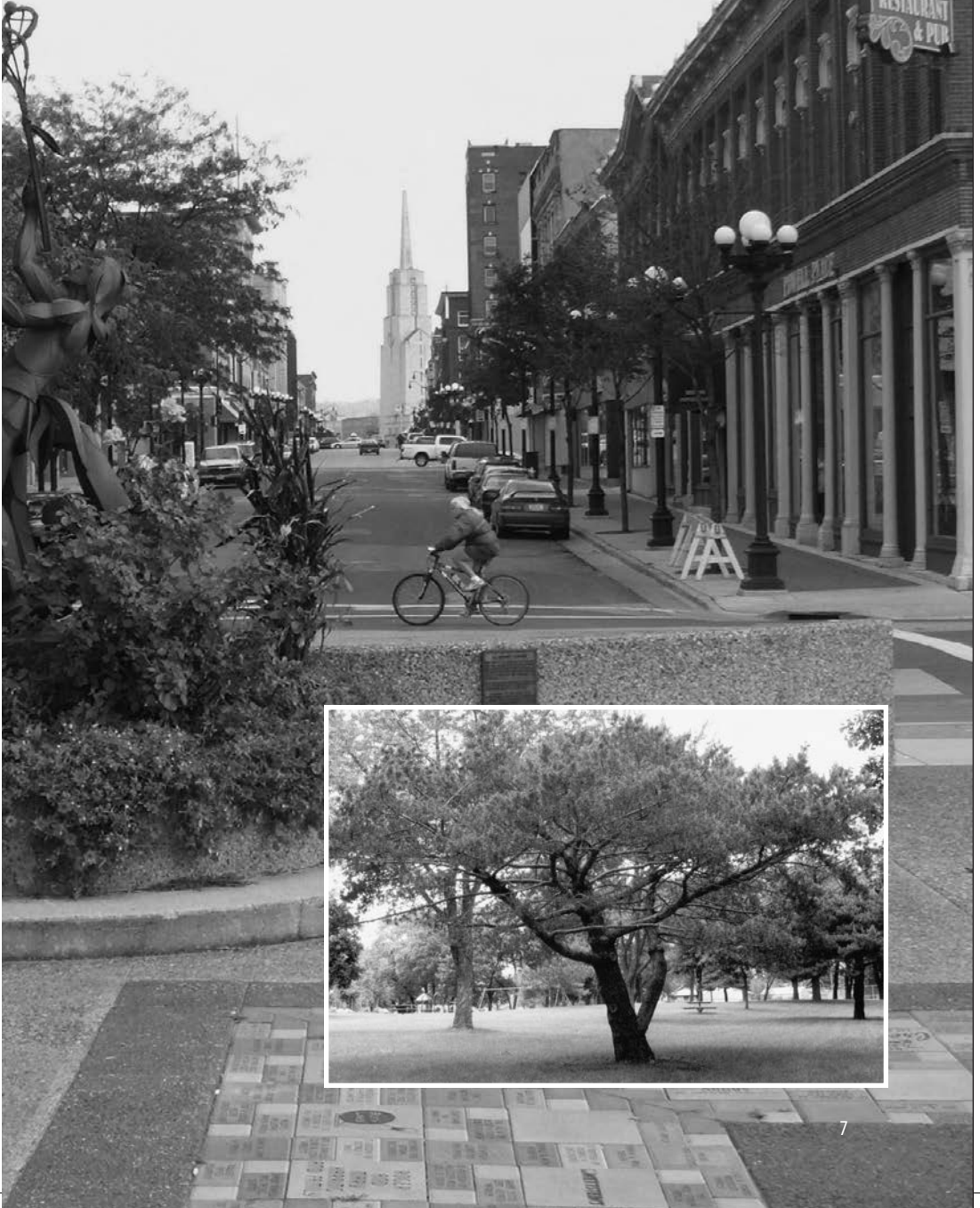


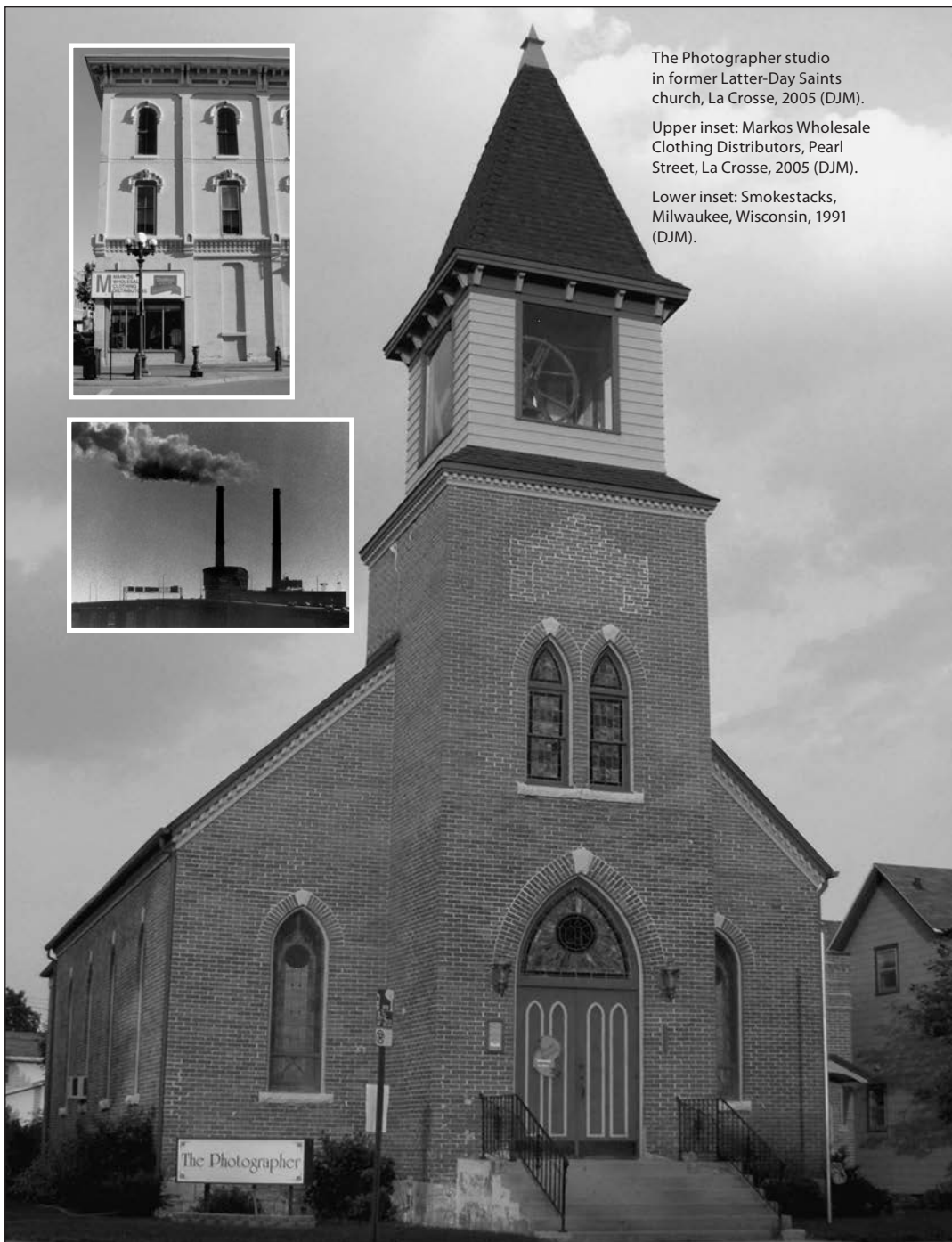


Elmer Petersen's *Lacrosse Players*, La Crosse, 2005 (DJM).

Inset left: My parents' home: 1720 Prospect Street, La Crosse, ca.2005 (DJM).

Inset right: Asian tree, (Mitchell) Red Cloud Park, La Crosse, Memorial Day, 2004 (DJM).





The Photographer studio
in former Latter-Day Saints
church, La Crosse, 2005 (DJM).

Upper inset: Markos Wholesale
Clothing Distributors, Pearl
Street, La Crosse, 2005 (DJM).

Lower inset: Smokestacks,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1991
(DJM).



Top: Kati Freiberg's bedroom, Wausau, Wisconsin, 1998 (DJM).

Above: Rice farming in the Philippines, 1986 (DJM).

Right: 732 Rose Street, former address of Marcou's Market, the apartment above which, half a century before this photo was taken, was the first home of David J. Marcou, La Crosse, circa 2000 (DJM).





Above: Africa bench, Kansas City Zoo, 2001 (DJM).

Below: Bus garage, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2002 (DJM) .





Above: Beautifully restored antique car, and leaves, La Crosse, 2005 (DJM).

Below: Buses, Lincoln Middle School, La Crosse, 2005 (DJM).





Above: A little bird's death, La Crosse, 2005 (DJM).

Below: Spooky night, La Crosse, 2005 (DJM).





Above: Nailing it twice in Columbia, Missouri, 1981 (DJM).

Right: Nazi graffiti on train, La Crosse, circa 1995 (DJM).

Below: Crips' gang graffiti and "face," La Crosse, 2006 (DJM).



Right: Snow fence, La Crosse, circa 1991 (DJM).

Bottom: Snow-removal vehicles, Main Street, La Crosse, 2005–2006 (DJM).





Top: Gnarled tree, early spring,
La Crosse, 2006 (DJM).

Right: Snowy tree by brick
building, La Crosse,
circa 2004 (DJM).





Opposite: Birds on lines and trees, La Crosse, circa 2003 (DJM).

Above: Prowling tiger, National Zoo, Washington, D.C., 2000 (DJM).

Below: Panda Chia-Chia, London Zoo, 1981 (DJM).





Above: St. James Church exterior, La Crosse, 2005 (DJM).

Left: Family by Birthright billboard, La Crosse, 2006 (DJM).





Reflection in African art poster,
University of Iowa, 1993 (DJM).

Frank Lloyd Wright's Nakoma, Johnson
Wax Building, Racine, Wisconsin, 1991
(DJM).





Above left: Triangle Diner, La Crosse, circa 1991 (DJM).

Above right: Trees, clouds, sky, La Crosse, spring 2006 (DJM).

Below left: St. John's United Church of Christ, La Crosse, 2006 (DJM).

Below right: Dave's Restaurant, Waukesha, Wisconsin, circa 1990 (DJM).



Top: "Never give up!" Courtney Chambers and Sir Winston Churchill, La Crosse, circa 2003 (DJM).

Middle left: Mom's daylily, circa 2000 (DJM).



Middle right: Lincoln billboard, La Crosse, circa 2005 (DJM).

Bottom: Arlington (Virginia) Cemetery tombstones, wall, and trees, 2000 (DJM).





Above: Old-Style giant 6-pack, La Crosse, circa 1997 (DJM).

Below: La Crosse Lager giant 6-pack, La Crosse, circa 2002 (DJM).



Clearing train litter,
La Crosse, circa 1996
(DJM).



Donna Morrill's little dog,
Angel, La Crosse, 2005 (DJM).

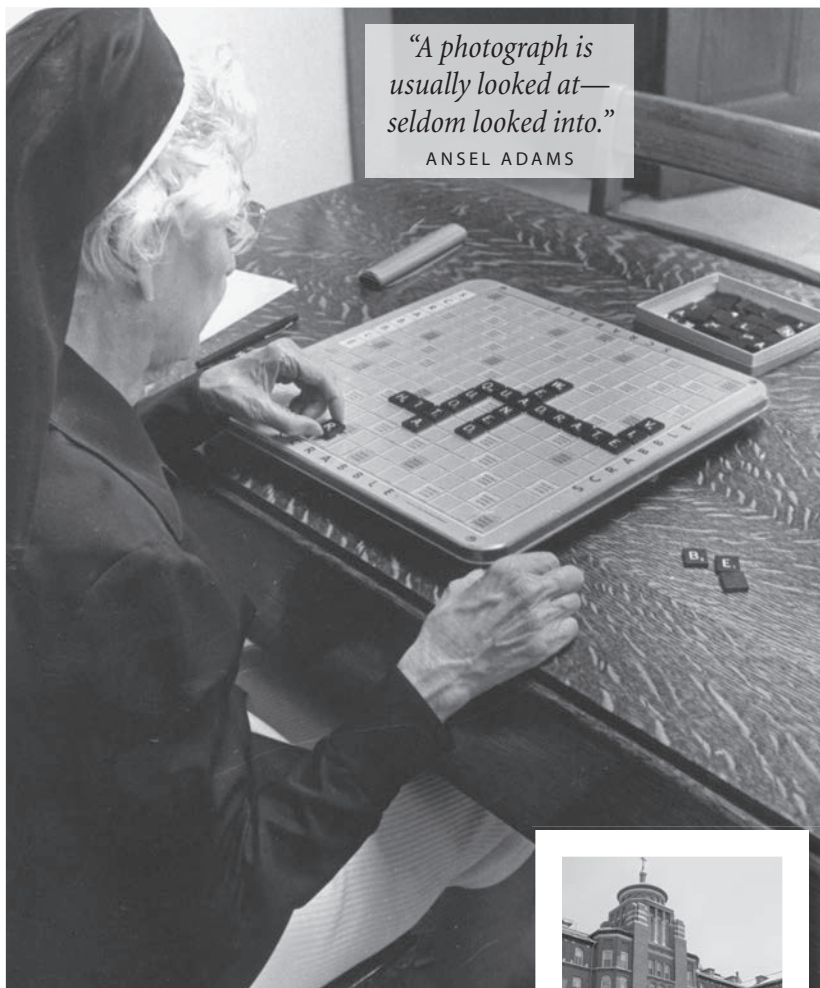


Left: High Art Alone Is Eternal, Kansas City, Missouri, 2001 (DJM).

The ducks of war, or family on the move, Black River, La Crosse, circa 1980 (DJM).



Informal Photo Portraits



To BE: Sister Cleopha Lechtenberg practices Scrabble, St. Rose Convent, La Crosse, circa 1983 (DJM).

Inset: St. Rose Convent exterior, La Crosse, 2006 (DJM).



Most famous people in modern times have had their photo portrait taken. These people often deserve attention. But everyday people also deserve the attention a photo portrait gives them. In some important way, I hope to have documented, via photo portraits, the personal spirit of as many people as possible. You will be the judge as to whether or not my informal portraits succeed. I hope they do.

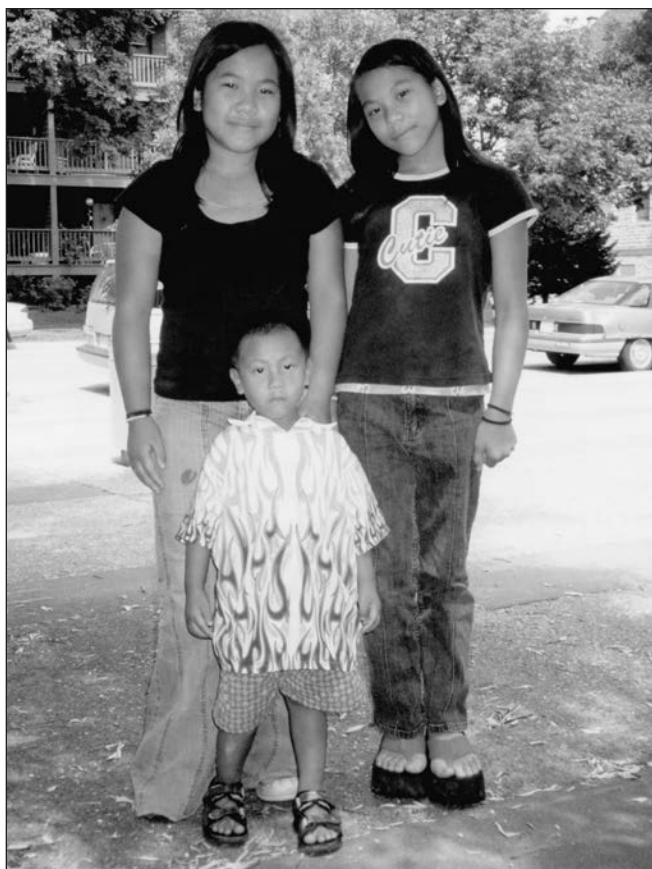


Above left: Mother and sleeping child on bus, La Crosse, 2005 (DJM).

Above right: ABC's Charlie Gibson and little girl, La Crosse, 1991 (DJM).

Right: Priscilla Skrade, La Crosse, 2005 (DJM).

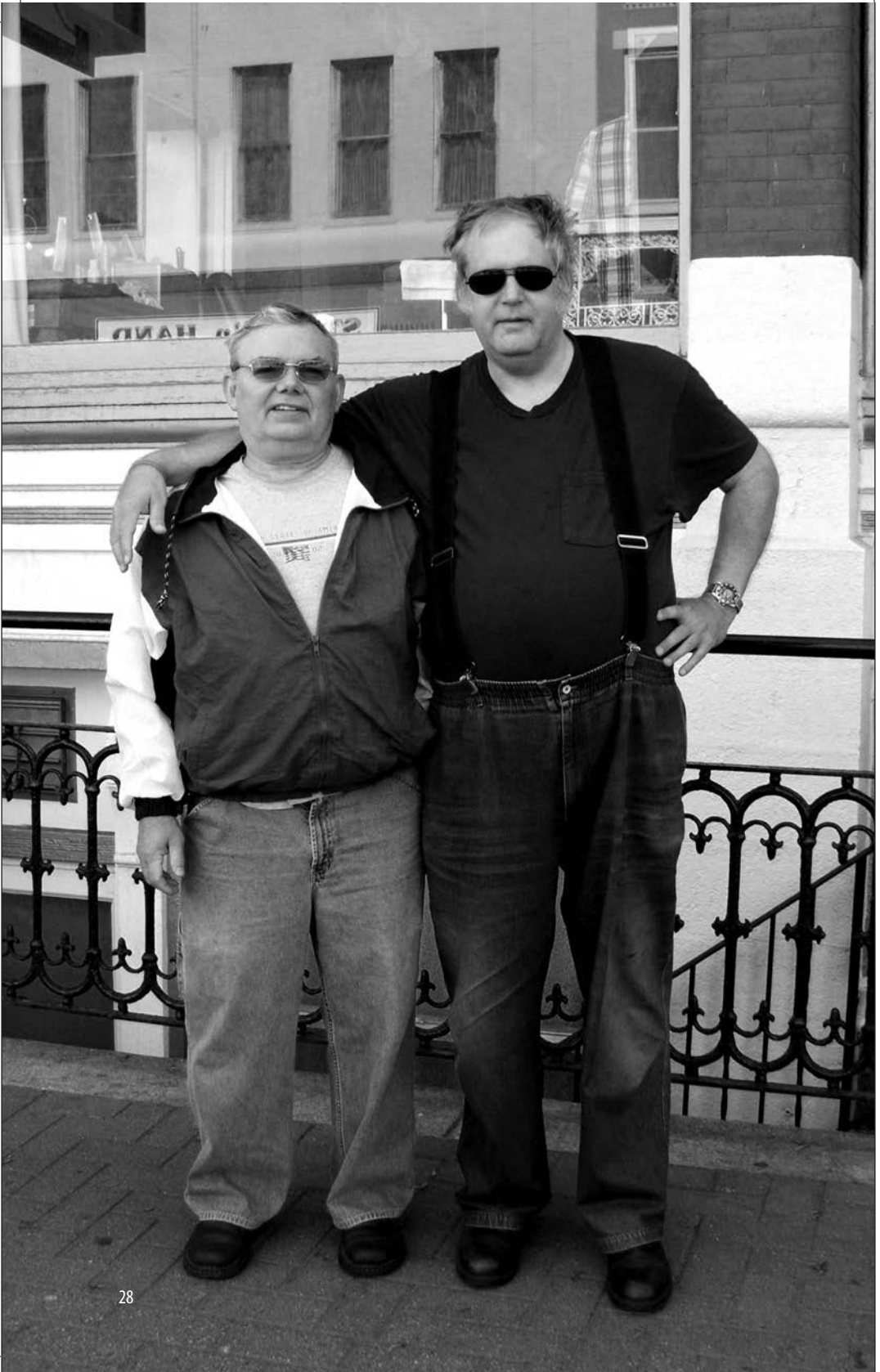




Top: Boy in swimming pool,
London, 1981 (DJM).

Bottom left: Little girl in profile,
Boulder, Colorado, 1980 (DJM)

Bottom right: Hmong trio,
La Crosse, 2005 (DJM).





Opposite: Dave Ferries (L) and John Ford, La Crosse, 2006 (DJM).

Left: Boys on bubbler, La Crosse, 2005 (DJM).

Below: Girls in choir loft, St. James Church, La Crosse, circa 1993 (DJM).

Bottom: Kool-Aid kids at state track meet, La Crosse, 2005 (DJM).





Left: Girl on a bus, Seoul, Korea, circa 1984–1985 (DJM).

Bottom left: African American woman outside Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1991 (DJM).

Bottom right: Manila boy, the Philippines, 1986 (DJM).





Above left: Manila woman, 1986 (DJM).



Above right: Father Robert Cook's prayer, Cathedral, La Crosse, circa 2000 (DJM).

Right: Dan Balaban in profile, Columbia, Missouri, circa 1981 (DJM).



Below: Jinny Kwak in XXX T-shirt, South Korea, 1986 (DJM).





Top: Wisconsin Historical Society's Jon Nelson and Helmut Knies, La Crosse, 2005 (DJM).

Above left: Bill Peterson, Assistant Archivist, La Crosse Public Library, 2006 (DJM).

"Lick Bush," La Crosse, 2005 (DJM).



Above left: Mary and Brett, May's Photo, La Crosse, 2005 (DJM).

Above right: Reenactors John Satory and son Max, Grand Excursion, La Crosse, 2004 (DJM).

Left: Jeremy and Abigail hugging, La Crosse, 2006 (DJM).

Below: Tattoo shop gang, La Crosse, 2005 (DJM).





Above: Woman with walker, La Crosse, circa 2005 (DJM).

Right: Arnold, a neighbor, sitting outdoors, La Crosse, 2005 (DJM).

Children walking to Children's Museum, La Crosse, 2006 (DJM).





Nathan Wong and his mom, Roxanne, La Crosse, circa 1997 (DJM).



Top: Michael David by library hours sign, La Crosse, 2005 (DJM).

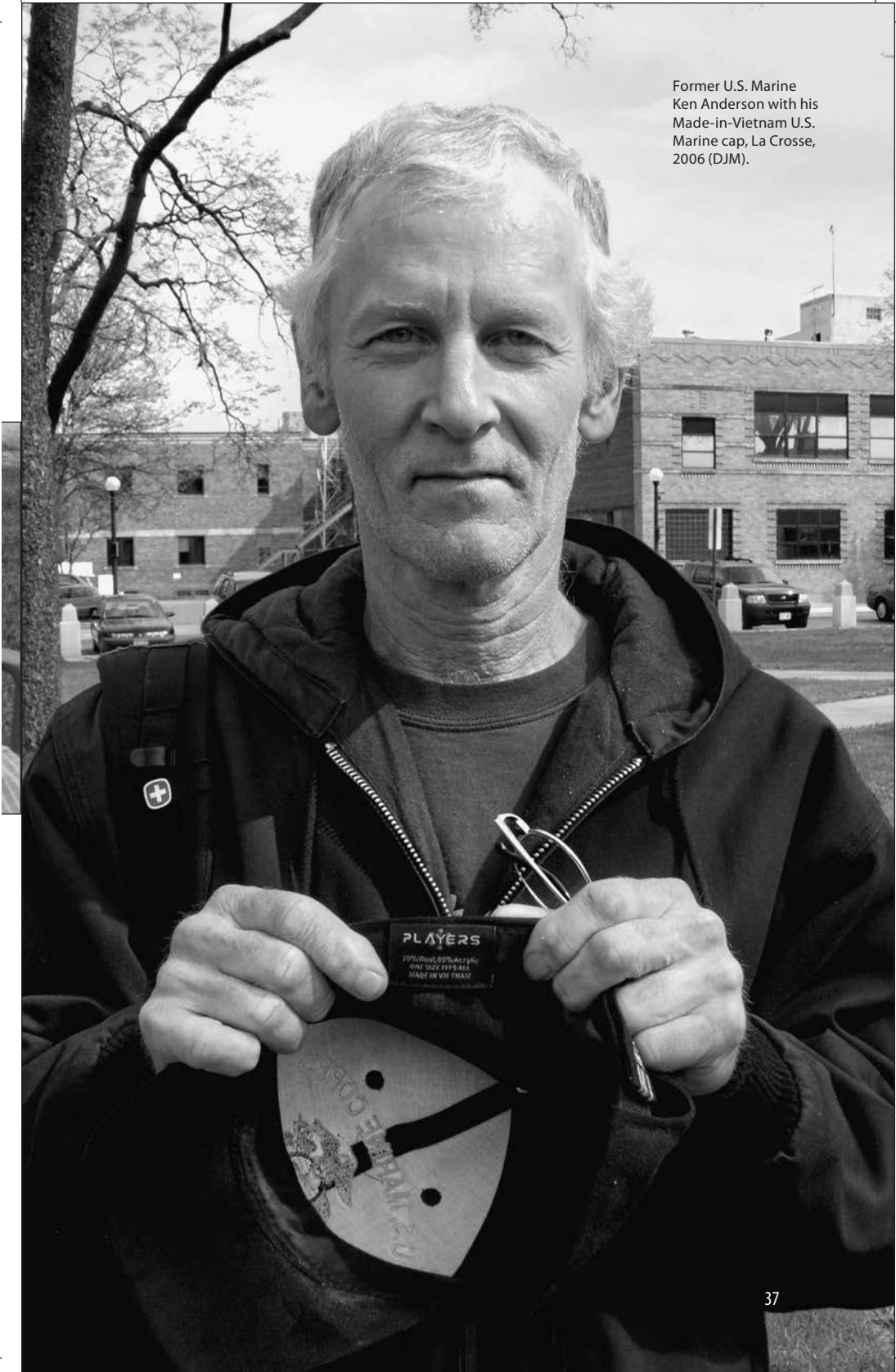
Middle left: Vanessa by library, La Crosse, 2005 (DJM).

Middle middle: Maurice by library, La Crosse, 2005 (DJM).

Middle right: *La Crosse Tribune* opinion page editor Dick Mial, June 2, 2006 (DJM).

Bottom: Mary and Art Heberd, La Crosse, circa 1991 (DJM).

Former U.S. Marine
Ken Anderson with his
Made-in-Vietnam U.S.
Marine cap, La Crosse,
2006 (DJM).





Jeff Ceason's dad, Al,
chuckling, La Crosse,
2005 (DJM).



Barber Ken Garves,
La Crosse, 2005 (DJM).



Above: Jeff Ceason by his work truck, La Crosse, 2006 (DJM).

Below: Charlie Freiberg with binoculars, Camp Randall Memorial Arch, UW-Madison, 2002 (DJM).





Sister of St. George the Martyr, Cathedral, La Crosse, March 1, 2005 (DJM).



FSPA Sister Marie Leon La Croix, Viterbo University Theatre, La Crosse, 2005 (DJM).



Cardinal Edward Cassidy, Image for National Library of Australia (nla.pic-vn3586469-v), "Ecumenism Today" conference, Viterbo University, La Crosse, May 2005 (DJM).



Above: Bishops Freking and Paul with Lord Runcie, La Crosse, 1991 (DJM).

Below: Clerics and friends, Viterbo University Theatre, La Crosse, 2005 (DJM).

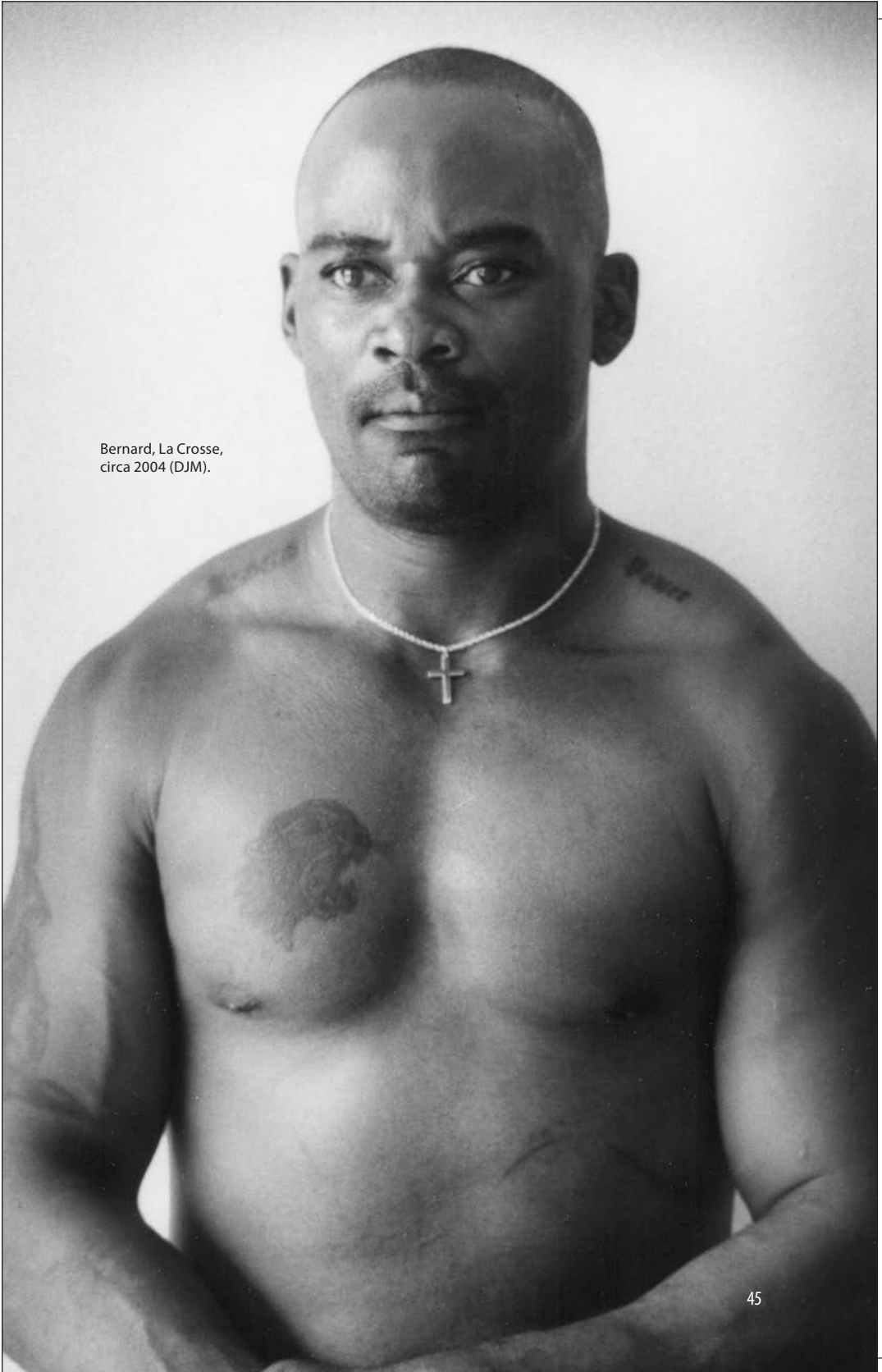




Noel, a man on a bench,
La Crosse, 2006 (DJM).



Maurice, with spina bifida,
in wheelchair
and friend, La Crosse,
circa 2005 (DJM).



Bernard, La Crosse,
circa 2004 (DJM).



Left: Mother Teresa's smile, Anyang, South Korea, 1985 (DJM).

Below: Actor Steve Kiedrowski and Director Scott Thompson, Rivoli Theatre, La Crosse, circa 2004 (DJM).





Left: Chad in Grateful Dead T-shirt, La Crosse, 2005 (DJM).

Below: Clerk and fan, Seoul, Korea, circa 1986 (DJM).







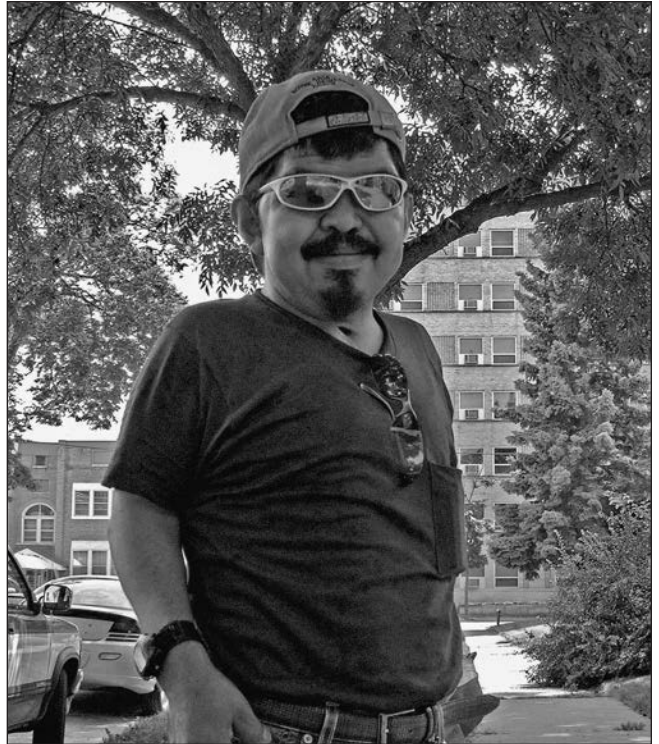
Opposite top: John Zoerb in his garden, La Crosse, 2005 (DJM).

Opposite bottom left: Jessa on her last day of work at People's Food Co-op, La Crosse, 2006 (DJM).

Above: Emma Raith's informal birthday group, La Crosse, circa 1998 (DJM).

Below: Youngsters, 4th and Main Streets, La Crosse, 2006 (DJM).

Below right: George, legally blind, with big dreams, La Crosse, 2005 (DJM).





Above: Girl interviewed at Bush rally, La Crosse, May 2004 (DJM).

Left: Hmong woman at Bush rally, La Crosse, May 2004 (DJM).

Below: Protesters outside Bush rally, La Crosse, May 2004 (DJM).



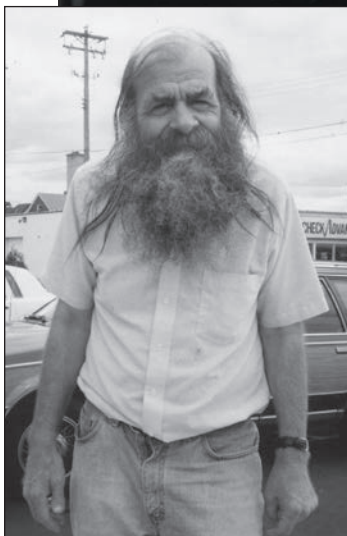


Above: George Bush shaking hands, an everyday event for a president; a once-in-a-lifetime event for everyday people, La Crosse, May 2004 (DJM).

Left: Spectators at Bush rally, La Crosse, May 2004 (DJM).

Below: Non-uniformed troops at Bush rally, La Crosse, May 2004 (DJM).





Above: Monsignor Bernard McGarty and Mayor John Medinger, La Crosse, 2000 (DJM).

Left: Ricky, La Crosse, 2005 (DJM).

Opposite: Two men in profile at Gore/Lieberman rally, La Crosse, 2000 (DJM).



