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Hey, You With the Camera....

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When author John D. Bell found enough clues in this Provincetown, Massachusetts, street scene to pinpoint the exact year, day, and even hour that Louis Snow exposed his glass negative, he had no choice but to recapture the same scene — 73 years later to the minute.... (To compare the two photos, turn page.)

□ EMERGING FROM MY DARKROOM, I handed my wife a photograph of a Provincetown street scene taken in horse-and-buggy days. "Know where this was shot?" I asked, confident that I already knew the answer. My wife is an expert at one-upmanship. "Of course. It's the railway crossing in the middle of town. When was the photo taken?" She turned the picture over. The white side was blank.

I answered lamely, "Early in the century. This is a contact print from one of Louis M. Snow's big glass plates, the ones Morris and Stanley Snow gave me after their father died. Louis worked between 1890 and 1915, judging by the subjects in the collection."

"Hand me that magnifying glass," my wife said. She scanned the photo closely. "I see a poster advertising 'The Actors Holiday' for Wednesday, August 6, in Town Hall. Where's our *Old Farmer's Almanac*?" I found it for her.

Working from the *Almanac* formula for finding the day of the week for a known historical date, my wife soon announced with modest pride, "Using Wednesday as a known factor and the year as X, it works out arithmetically to be 1902, 1908 or 1913." (continued)

Evidence the author has compiled indicates that Louis Snow photographed the intersection of Commercial and Standish Streets, Provincetown, Massachusetts, on Sunday, August 3, 1902, at 1:45 PM, EST. To see how the corner looks now, turn page.



Commercial Street facing East in 1902