

# Being camera-shy not a problem for this collector

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WHITTIER

A collectible camera can be defined as any old camera and a person who collects old cameras could be defined as an "enthusiastic shutterbug."

Apparently that aptly describes Ed Flutot.

"That would be a good term for describing me and my camera collection," said Flutot, 81, longtime Whittier camera collector and repairman.

Flutot has been collecting cameras for 57 years. He has about 100 in his collection, displayed in a glass case in the shop behind his home.

"I started collecting in 1936 and, generally, I collect mostly old or antique cameras," Flutot said.

His oldest camera is a 1896 wooden Zeiss the size of a woman's jewelry case. It uses film that is no longer manufactured, Flutot said.

His rarest is a panoramic camera.

"When you trip the shutter, it exposes the film as rolls goes by," he said.

The camera was made in 1906 through 1908 and cost \$3.50. Now it is worth between \$250 to \$350, Flutot said.

"There were two sizes made. I have the baby size, (but) it uses regular size film," he said.

Flutot also has a 4-by-4 Graflex, a "must" for press photographers before the advent of 35mm technology. It has a genuine wood case and uses 4-inch by 4-inch film.

"It still has its original lens

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*Ed Flutot  
Camera enthusiast*

and dates back to about the early 1900s," Flutot guessed. The camera is so old that it is not listed in Flutot's camera collectors' books.

Even though he doesn't collect many modern cameras, the one he uses most and is his favorite is a Minolta Talkie, which is about 10 years old and is still unavailable.

"It's easy to use because the camera tells the person what to do, such as: 'load film,' 'you're in the dark,' or 'the camera door is open,'" he said.

Flutot also teaches people how to take photographs and how to repair their cameras in his backyard workshop.

"A lady brought a man in from the State Rehabilitation Department and she wanted me to help him learn about camera repair. He was my first student in the early 1940s," he said.

Flutot put an advertisement for camera repair and classes in the Society of Photographic Technology magazine and has been receiving letters from



**A UNIQUE** "AI-Vista" Panoramic Camera he bought with several others for \$25 is displayed by Ed Flutot.

Staff photo by KEITH DURFLINGER

prospective students from all over the world ever since.

Flutot charges each student \$500. Anyone who wants to learn how to shoot or repair cameras can stop by his shop from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The course has no monthly or yearly time limit.

"It's whenever you finish the course," said Lee Miller, Flutot's

son-in-law.

Flutot has had up to five students in his class at one time. Miller was one of his last students.

"Basically, he gives you a camera and tells you what to do with it and, if you can't fix it, he will tell or show you how," Miller said.