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I was born and raised in Kansas, served as an optometrist in the Army for 2 years and practiced my profession for 35 years here in Salina, Kansas – retiring in May 2006.

My interest in photography began in the mid-1980s as I began taking photos during travels on eye care missions with VOSH/International – an organization that does volunteer eye care work around the world. I would use the photos in slide presentations to local organizations. Having been on over 20 eye care missions and representing VOSH/International as President in 2004-5, I have seen many fascinating parts of the world. Through my photography, the intent is to share some of the sights I have experienced as well as sharing some of the images captured in everyday life.

Beginning in 1990, I became a member of Bluestem Gallery, the local artist's coalition, until it disbanded December 2006. The next April, I partnered with Stan Lauer, a wood artist, to form ArtXpressions Gallery in downtown Salina. We have local and regional artists exhibiting various media formats.

I have been fortunate to have received recognition for some of my work. In 2005 the Kansas City Star selected an image taken in Ghana entitled "Blue Net" as its winner of the annual Travel Photography Contest in 'People and Travel.' Over the years I have competed in the annual 5 State Photography competition sponsored by the Hays Kansas Arts Council. I have been lucky enough to have some of my entries selected for each final show. A photo of my wife Bev feeding an ostrich in Africa, entitled "He Bites!" received a Juror's Award.

I have been published in *KANSAS!* Magazine on numerous occasions and recently had a work published in a book entitled *Edible Earth*.

Photography has opened my eyes and mind to the world in a whole new dimension as I have learned to 'stop and smell the roses.' Over the years, photography has 'developed' into a major part of my life. Since retiring, I now consider photography, plus golf and travel, my full-time "occupation"!

Four years ago I finally gave in to digital and am now sold on this form of photography. With the age of digital photography, I now have complete control of my images – deciding which images to keep, crop, enhance, print, mat and frame. With all the computer programs now available to the photographer I continue to learn exciting things to do with my images and spend more time experimenting with new avenues than when I put in a full day at the office. I guess that is what retirement is all about!

I hope you enjoy my work and would truly appreciate any feedback you might have. You can contact me through this website or directly by e-mail at dcole4@cox.net

Look forward to hearing from you.

Dale K. Cole, OD