

Portrait of America

For fans of good old-fashioned film, this 114-year-old Illinois
CAMERA STORE really clicks.



Central Camera Company *Chicago*

WHAT This 3,200-square-foot emporium proves that cell phone snapshots haven't rendered the art of photography completely obsolete. In addition to the latest digital equipment, Central Camera stocks hard-to-find film, darkroom chemicals, and other seemingly anachronistic supplies, like lenses and photo paper.

WHO Albert "Don" Flesch (*above*) helped out at his family's store as a kid. "I always wanted to be here," says the 64-year-old, who took over the business in 1990. His grandfather opened the place in 1899, 11 years after Kodak introduced its first camera.

WHY "Our shop is alive today because we don't simply sell products," explains Flesch. "We pass on knowledge for using them." (centralcamera.com)