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Kodachrome Fades-Out, But the Afterglow Lingers

John Bailey · Wednesday, June 15th, 2011

This is the last photograph on the last roll of Kodachrome film manufactured by Kodak. It was taken by *National Geographic* photojournalist Steve McCurry with his trusty Nikon F, the camera on which for decades he loaded thousands of 36 exposure rolls of the 35mm color-transparency film. This final exposure was made in a cemetery (what an apt metaphor) in Parsons, Kansas (location of Dwayne's Photo, the last lab in the world still processing Kodachrome). McCurry had brought the roll there himself, hand-delivering it to Dwayne Steinle, whose family still owns and operates the lab that he founded in 1956.

From its introduction in 1936, the year after Kodak had introduced it in the 16mm. motion picture format, Kodachrome reversal became a film of choice for professionals and shutterbugs alike.

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Image at left: Red ceiling by William Eggleston.

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