

Holiday Books: Photography

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This is a double-barrel moment for Mike Disfarmer, who, from the 1920's to the 50's, photographed a steady stream of townspeople in Heber Springs, Ark. Two books — **ORIGINAL DISFARMER PHOTOGRAPHS** (Steidl, \$45), edited by Steven Kasher, and **DISFARMER: The Vintage Prints** (PowerHouse Books, \$60) — present recently discovered prints. Disfarmer photographed in an era when self-consciousness was less about how to play to the camera than about the shyness of posing in front of it. That awkwardness is captured in his American Gothic style of portraiture, leaving a record of people at a particular time and place.

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