On a Lighter Note!

Carl Størmer captured candid expressions of people on the streets of Norway with his Victorian era spy camera in 1893.

Størmer, then a 19 year old student at the University of Oslo hid the camera in his coat. Later he revealed the following to Hallvard Journal.

“It was a round flat canister hidden under the vest with the lens sticking out through a buttonhole... Under my clothes I had a string down through a hole in my trouser pocket, and when I pulled the string the camera took a photo... I strolled down Carl Johan (street), found me a victim, greeted, got a gentle smile and pulled. Six images at a time and then I went home to switch the plate.”

For his spy camera photographs Størmer is sometimes referred to as “Norway’s first paparazzi.”