Interview with Edward F. Goetzman, 3/1/40
General Shipping Supervisor, Eastman Kodak Company

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Mr. Eastman, in 1908, planned to take a fishing trip with several friends to the Saguenay River in Canada. Mr. Goetzman packed the equipment which consisted of tents, blankets, bedding, food and fishing tackle. The men in the shipping department gave Mr. Goetzman "the razz" for being Mr. Eastman's "valet", and one time Mr. Eastman caught them doing it. Mr. Goetzman had gone to Mr. Eastman's office on the second floor to get an armful of blankets and clothing to carry back to the shipping room. Mr. Eastman walked along with him to open and close the doors in the corridor between his office and the shipping room. When they came to the shipping room, Mr. Eastman opened the door and stepped back while Mr. Goetzman walked in with his arms full and Mr. Eastman was not seen behind him. The men gave Mr. Goetzman the usual "salute" but they stopped abruptly when Mr. Eastman stepped into view. Mr. Eastman ignored the mild disturbance and, although he did not smile, he undoubtedly enjoyed the situation.
Mr. Eastman once caught Mr. Goetzman at a disadvantage but said nothing about it. Mr. Eastman had returned from a cruise to the West Indies (1910) and his trunks (he used six or eight "company" trunks of the sort used by Kodak salesmen and demonstrators) lay in the shipping room. Mr. Goetzman had not received instructions for disposal of these trunks and, as it was nearly closing time when they were brought in by the express company, he sat idly at his desk. In those days a newsboy came through the office in the late afternoon and when the boy came through the room Mr. Goetzman bought a paper and leaned back in his chair, with his feet on the desk, to read it. The corridor which led to the shipping room was behind Mr. Goetzman's chair and he heard someone approaching down the hall but paid no particular attention. When he knew the person was just behind him he turned and saw that it was Mr. Eastman. Mr. Goetzman briskly folded the paper, put his feet down, pushed his chair back and got up as quickly as he could. Mr. Eastman inquired "Have the trunks come in?" Mr. Goetzman answered that they had and Mr. Eastman gave him the keys and told what disposition to make of the contents.

Mr. Eastman, however, sometimes gave attention to relatively small matters. After Mr. Eastman had passed through the shipping room and observed its condition, Mr. Frank W. Crouch, the Manager, might relay such a message as "Mr. Eastman says you are burning too many lights in the shipping room. Always turn the lights out when you don't need them."

Apparently Henry Strong was not always as careful a man as his partner, George Eastman. One day in 1910, Mr. Goetzman was on duty in the shipping room during the noon-hour to answer telephone
calls, Mr. Strong came into the room smoking a cigar. This was contrary to regulations but Mr. Goetzman did not dare to speak to him about it. Mr. Strong stood at a bench beside which was an open box of excelsior. With his pocket knife he cut patterns from corrugated paper and fitted them together for about five minutes. To Mr. Goetzman's dismay he flicked cigar ashes into the box of excelsior while he worked. The moment that Mr. Strong left the room, Mr. Goetzman rushed to the excelsior box to make sure there was no fire in it. At the time, developing machines were being displaced by developing tanks, and Mr. Goetzman believed Mr. Strong had made a model of a part of a developing machine or tank.

Mr. Goetzman recalled evidence of Mr. Eastman's temper (in 1916.) Miss Whitney called Mr. Goetzman on the telephone and said Mr. Eastman wanted to see a certain type of Kodak from stock. Mr. Goetzman took one to him and had hardly returned to his work when he was called again and asked to bring another. When he went back to Mr. Eastman's office Mr. Goetzman noticed that the first Kodak and the carton, which had contained it, were lying in the fireplace. Mr. Goetzman placed the second Kodak on Mr. Eastman's desk, and after he had returned downstairs he was called again by Miss Whitney who said Mr. Eastman wanted to see one each of various types of Kodaks they had in stock. Mr. Goetzman took Mr. Eastman a dozen Kodaks on a tray. He noticed that the second Kodak and its carton were also lying in the fireplace. A week later Miss Whitney told him that Mr. Eastman was disgusted with some features in the Kodaks he had inspected and had tossed them, in anger, into the fireplace.
Mr. Eastman was a "handy" man but (in 1924) he had difficulty in learning to use the metal-tape binding tools. He had boxes at home which he wished to bind and Mr. Goetzman demonstrated the use of the tools, with Mr. Eastman apparently "catching on" very quickly. Several days later Mr. Eastman's chauffeur returned the tools and told Mr. Goetzman that Mr. Eastman had difficulty in properly using them. Mr. Eastman had refused to let anybody help him and he struggled for hours until he was able to handle the tools properly. Then he bound the metal tape around his packing boxes as he wanted to.

Mr. Goetzman recalled the use of a small tan, leather-covered book, indexed alphabetically, in which the record was kept of personal shipments made by Mr. Eastman. The book had been in use before Mr. Goetzman worked for the company and was kept up until Mr. Eastman's death, after which it was given to Mrs. Hutchinson. Among the shipments made by Mr. Eastman were bundles of his used clothing sent to Mrs. George Dickman (?) in New England. These included suits and overcoats and, less frequently, shirts and socks. Many shipments were made to Henry Myrick, caretaker of Mr. Eastman's Oak Lodge near Enfield, N.C. Shipments to Myrick included tools and implements for use on the Oak Lodge estate, and also packages of stamped, addressed envelopes in which Myrick sent reports to Mr. Eastman.

Mr. Eastman on his first African trip had about 200 small equipment-boxes of uniform size (each equipped with a lock) which the native porters were to carry on their heads. A record was made of all contents and the boxes were numbered. One key fitted all the boxes which held guns and ammunition, one fitted all the cases which contained food, and one key fitted all the cases which contained
personal effects. Each key was tagged with the numbers of the boxes which it fitted. A day or two before Mr. Eastman left for Africa, Mr. Goetzman transcribed his own pencil copy of the contents of the boxes in pen and ink for Mr. Eastman's reference. Mr. Eastman did not have systematic help of this sort in packing for his return journey. After his return, Miss Whitney asked Mr. Johnson, Mr. Goetzman and several others to come up as Mr. Eastman was "receiving." When Mr. Johnson and Mr. Goetzman came in, Mr. Eastman said, "Only one thing was needed to make my trip perfect. If you men had been with me in Nairobi, you could have helped me to get my things in proper shape to bring back." (The unskilled native labor and the lack of facilities made it difficult for Mr. Eastman to have his trophies packed properly.) Mr. Eastman was very cordial during the "reception" and he told his impressions of Africa at length.

Mr. Eastman was fond of "Charlie" Johnson, and he always called him by his first name. Even in later years when Mr. Eastman walked through the shipping room he went to Charlie Johnson's office and spoke to him. In 1925 the shipping room was moved into the present building and was equipped with steel shelving, tables, conveyors, and improved lighting. Mr. Eastman was shown the various improvements (by Mr. Frank W. Lovejoy and Mr. Frank Noble). The men stood near Mr. Goetzman, who had charge of the shipping room and they explained to Mr. Eastman the value of these previously lacking facilities. Mr. Eastman asked "Is this the way Charlie wanted it?" Mr. Lovejoy and Mr. Noble said it was and Mr. Eastman indicated that if the new equipment was satisfactory to Charlie, it was satisfactory to him.
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