Arthur Griffin Timeline

1903  Born September 12th Lawrence, Massachusetts to Andrew and Mary Dietel Griffin. One of eight children of which five would survive infancy.

1921  Graduated from Lawrence High School.

1924  Graduated from the New School of Design, Boston, Massachusetts with major in Graphic Design and Illustration.

1923-25 Employed by the Brand Company as a designer of lighting fixtures and electric signs.

1924  Established a design and illustration business with clients including House Beautiful, New England Telephone, and Houghton Mifflin.

1929  Purchased first camera - a second hand folding Eastman Kodak Brownie. Worked as an illustrator with the Boston Globe.

1932  Took first trip to Europe. Photographed in France, Germany, and Italy. Began utilizing the Bromoil Process.

1934  Married Lawrence native Claire Kress. Sold first photograph to American Home Magazine.

1935  Daughter Lee born. Studied with Boston portrait photographer, John Garo whose students also included Yosef Karsh.

1936  Became exclusive photographer for the newly created Boston Globe Rotogravure Magazine which debuted in November - the same month as Life. It eventually featured over 2,000 Arthur Griffin images.

1937  Became the New England photojournalist for Life and Time.

1938  The cover of August 8th issue of Life featured an Arthur Griffin image of boys diving into a Quincy, MA granite quarry. Pioneer in the use of the recently invented color film.

1939  First photographer to capture in color the image of Red Sox player Ted Williams. First show: a Zeiss sponsored exhibition of black and white photography of New England, which toured America.

1940  First photographer to capture in color the fighter Joe Louis.
The Boston Globe published color photography for first time.


1950  Began the exclusive use of color film. Claire Griffin continued the use of black and white film.

1958  Provided the first color images used in Yankee magazine 1958-1962.


1966  Published New England Revisited - the second in his trio of color photo essays of New England.

1977  Claire Griffin died.

1979  Married artist Polly Lee.

1992  Founded the non-profit Arthur Griffin Center for Photographic Art to house his archives of over 75,000 images and to provide gallery space for rotating exhibitions devoted to the art of photography. It is the only center constructed in the greater Boston area for this purpose.

1997  Established a public works endowment fund in Winchester, MA.