

## The Photo Studio

Take a look at the inscription on this old photo. It is credited to P.C. Edwards, Killarney Man. One finds that notation on many old photos from the region. In the early 1900's, Killarney had a Photo Studio.



Technology has always had a tendency to eliminate jobs, when labour-saving machinery, as the term implies, reduces the need for... labour.

Businesses fade away when technology gives people the tools to do previously highly specialized tasks.

Once settlers got established and their basic food and shelter needs were met they went looking for less essential amenities, like family portraits. Cameras were expensive and required training, so people looked for a professional.

Change started when the Kodak Brownie, an affordable and easy to use camera, was introduced in 1900. There was still a need for a professional photographer, but the business changed. Those Brownie snapshots still had to be developed. They could branch out into retail. There was still a demand for formal high quality portraits and commercial work.

The end result was that a photography business could still be viable in larger centres such as Killarney, until improved transportation links, especially cars and roads, made it easier for shoppers to find better deals and selection in the cities.