

Capture winter moods on film despite the cold

Don't let cold weather keep you indoors. Winter scenes are different, beautiful, with a mood all their own. The minor discomfort you might encounter in the cold air is more than worth the exciting picture that can be yours.

Bundle up both yourself and your camera gear and head outside for some great picture-taking possibilities. There are some things to consider in preparing for cold weather shooting.

First is your film which, without precautions, may become brittle and break in the camera. Minimize the danger by keeping your camera and film as warm as possible by storing them under your jacket and never leaving them in your car for prolonged times.

Also, on bitter cold days, the camera's meter can get sluggish because the battery has gotten very cold. A trip back to a warm car may be in order. Always be sure your camera batteries are fresh.

Use a slow, steady movement to advance the film from one exposure to the next. A slow cranking will reduce the strain on the film and cut the possibility of static electricity marks.

WEAR THIN wool or cotton gloves under your regular gloves. When you're about to take a picture, remove the outer pair. The inner gloves will give you adequate protection for the few seconds it takes to focus and snap.

If you plan to do a lot of cold weather shooting, it would be wise to purchase a photography vest. This garment consists of many pockets providing convenient space for carrying film, lenses, spare batteries, etc. Because the vest is worn right next to the body, all items are kept warm by your body heat.

HERE ARE SOME pointers to help add impact to your winter photographs:

- Back lighting or side lighting gives dramatic effects. Your pictures will capture the sparkle of sunlight on the



photography
Monte Nagler

snow and reveal textures not obtainable from direct, overhead lighting.

- When shooting color film on a blue sky day, use your polarizing filter. The sky's blue hues will be darkened for added impact without affecting the color values of other subjects in the scene. You won't lose the effects of the sparkling snow either.

- Sun or bright snow can cause "flare." Always use a lens hood.

- Your camera light meter can be fooled. The meter is calibrated to read normal proportions of lightness and darkness. But winter scenes often don't contain these average proportions. So pay particular attention to exposures. Try taking a meter reading off your hand. Then "bracket" your shot to be assured of obtaining a properly exposed picture.

- Daylight-balanced film will render true color reproduction of your shot. But you can get a special effect with tungsten (indoor) film (such as Ektachrome 160 ET) without the necessary correction filter. Indoor film used outdoors will give a blue tint to your snow pictures that may be different and pleasing.

- Watch for closeup picture possibilities: Frost patterns on a window, sun shimmering on an icicle, snow delicately etching a tree branch. They give impact.

© 1980 by Monte Nagler. His exhibits continue through Jan. 10 in the Oak Park Public Library, the Blitz Gallery in Ann Arbor and the Rizzoli Gallery in Chicago.



An overcast winter day provides a feeling of lonesome, peaceful beauty. (Photo by Monte Nagler)

1981: Quickie resolutions or future seeds?

The advent of a new year is often described as a fresh start or a new beginning. I wonder, however, if such a thought is not more of a wishful fantasy than a statement of reality.

We do not arrive at a new year out of a vacuum. In all likelihood, we will spend a good part of 1981 dealing with what we have created, for better and for worse, in 1980 and years previous. This year's diets are necessitated by last year's overeating.

The environmental problems of 1981 are the result of carelessness in previous years. Whatever prison riots arise in 1981 will find their origins in the quick solutions to the problem of crime in times gone by.

Much of the hunger felt around the world this year can be traced to selfishness or the apathy of the past. Nuclear fear in 1981, as well as nuclear fallout, will be the direct result of nuclear madmen and nuclear carelessness of earlier years.



moral perspectives
Rev. Robert Schaden

ON THE OTHER side of the coin, there are those who will truly enjoy their marriages in 1981 because they worked at their relationships in 1980.

Those who enjoy good health this year can attribute their peace of mind to having taken care of themselves last year.

This year's clean air will be the reward for last year's efforts. Even those who graduate in 1981 will do so because they opened their minds to an educa-

tion in 1980 and before. Rather than a fresh start, 1981, like other years, will be a time to reap the harvest of the past and to build foundations for the future. Last year's crops are already sown, but this year's opportunities lie before us. So the question for 1981 lies in what we will build for the remaining years of the 1980s and beyond.

AS INDIVIDUALS, we can make a list of resolutions, most of which will go the way of past resolutions — that is, nowhere. Or we can simply begin to take responsibility for what happens in our lives rather than complain because someone else has failed to make things better for us.

If we want our family life to be more fulfilling next year, we may be required to come up with something a bit less simplistic than resolving to be nicer to our spouse or more attentive to our children. It may even require some outside help. But in any case, such a reward will demand more effort than it takes to make a quick resolution that will be as quickly forgotten.

Our health — mental or physical — did not get to where it is through a crash program or a week's carelessness. Neither will it get to where we would like it to be without an effort-filled commitment to a change of lifestyle.

FOR THE NATION, this new year is ushered in with the inauguration of a new administration.

Again, we may wish to lay the burden of making things better at the door of another. There are those who would see Ronald Reagan as savior rather than president.

However, a good deal of what the nation will have to face in years to come will be far more contingent on the priorities and the lifestyle of the American public than on the policies set down by this or any new administration. We are a people who like quick solutions and instant convenience, both of which do much to produce larger problems and long-lasting inconvenience.

As far back as Jeremiah the prophet, it was suggested that the children of any generation will have to live with the outcome of their parents' ways. "The fathers have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are set on edge."

Interestingly enough, most sour grapes are the result of quick solutions. They are picked too early, or badly cared for.

This year may find some of us with chattering teeth, but it also provides the opportunity to choose different grapes.

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