



photography

Monte Nagler

Darkened sky adds impact

We all recognize that darkened skies add impact and drama to our photographs. This is true for both color and black-and-white film.

Let's talk about black-and-white today, starting with some basics on light and color.

White light (sunlight) consists of a mixture of three primary colors.

A barn appears red to your eye because, when the barn is struck by white light, only red is reflected — blue and green are absorbed.

Similarly, a red filter appears red because it transmits only red light while absorbing the blue and green. Filters always absorb (subtract) some of the light reflected from a scene before the light reaches the film in your camera.

The color which is absorbed has less density on the negative and hence appears darker in the finished print. This is the concept of how you can darken blue skies in your black-and-white photographs.

FILTERS FROM YELLOW through orange and red all absorb varying amounts of blue in a blue sky. The resulting darkness in the final print will vary in proportion.

A yellow filter will produce a normal looking sky. An orange filter will produce a darker than normal sky. And a red filter absorbs all blue light and will produce an almost black sky.

Remember that clouds are white, and so filters will not affect them. What happens is that the value separation between the clouds and sky will increase, giving your photo very dramatic results.

I took the accompanying photo with an A (deep red) filter. Darkening the sky made the clouds stand out, and I wanted the fleecy white of the clouds to contrast to the weathered angles of the empty house and the tumble-down fence.

If you shoot color, you can darken the sky by using a polarizer filter. It cuts haze, eliminates reflections and darkens a blue sky.

BECAUSE A FILTER cuts the amount of light reaching the film, you must increase your exposure to obtain proper results.

The amount of increase is expressed by a number called a "filter factor." The factor varies according to the color and density of the filter.

This increase in exposure can be obtained by using either a larger lens opening or a longer shutter speed. However, while a basic understanding of filter factors is important, all cameras with through-the-lens metering systems automatically compensate for filter factors, and you will obtain the correct exposure.

So, black-and-white fans, invest a few dollars in some yellow, orange or red filters and make those skies more dramatic.

Monte Nagler, a West Bloomfield resident and area businessman, is president of the Greater Detroit Camera Club Council.



Jocelyn Krieger

Listening to accolades got her act together

There was this woman. She had a million problems with few solutions. Whenever anyone complimented her on her accomplishments, she looked behind her to meet the fantastic person they praised.

"Me?" she'd shrug. "I just simply did it."

No bravado. No enthusiasm. Just work. The problems depressed her, so she tried a psychiatrist. One-way conversations were a bore. She fled the couch.

It was vanity to look in a mirror; adding more faults to her escalating list wasn't what she needed. Besides, she really didn't like what she saw. She began side-stepping mirrors.

FASHIONS WEREN'T for this lady either. How idiotic to be preoccupied with what material to cover a naked body, she mused.

Anyway, her dress size kept increasing while the

styles kept decreasing. A dress in a size 20, regardless of elegant material, too closely resembles a tent. Besides, trying it on was a chore, especially trapped in a dressing room with a mirror. Forget fashion.

Life was a turntable of monotony — all her husband's fault, of course. He never let her do anything and never suggested anything she might like to do. Obviously she hadn't married a seer.

THEN SOMETHING happened.

She realized that if some persons took the time to say a kind word, they must have felt something which they had wanted to express. Maybe there was truth to their accolades, and she was really accomplishing wonders.

Next discovery — what she had accomplished. By taking things one at a time, she could appreciate

her own efforts and polish each to a gem-like quality. Anyone knows trying to digest an entire meal at one time either leads to choking to death or at best survival with acute indigestion.

Without noticing it, she started to lose weight. Outside working hours had kept her away from the dinner table and only permitted a late evening snack of salad or fruit.

Lunch time was the *piece de resistance*. Hearty. Nutritious. Relaxed.

Before the lady knew, she was searching the racks for size 14 and enjoying every minute.

THE THOUGHT also occurred to our blossoming friend that her husband might anticipate her wishes if she'd communicate verbally.

What prevented her from saving and planning for

the out-of-town trip of her dreams?

Only herself. The essence of the situation had been that her husband had never vetoed anything she wanted to do. So when she decided to visit their college daughter, while he chose to stay on the job, the escort to the airport was none other than her husband, kissing her with customary ardor at the gate.

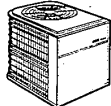
Now this woman had a million solutions and few problems. The other day she looked in the mirror and said to me:

"It's about time you got your act together!"

Jocelyn Krieger is a freelance writer and a former actress in off-Broadway productions. She is currently a teacher of piano and voice.

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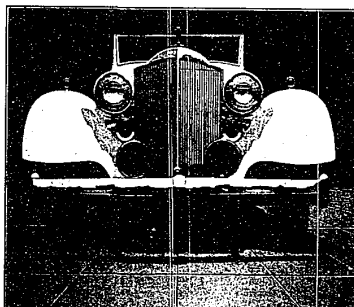
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"The Straight Eight was inspired by a Packard I had seen at a car show on Long Island. After many compositional sketches, this car and background changed considerably from the original subject."

—Robert Bidner

The Straight Eight is just one chromograph in a series by Robert Bidner. This Designer portrays cars with unerring attention to detail, lending them abstract rather than realistic. His most recent one-man shows include:
Far Gallery, New York City - '75, '77
Mickelson Gallery, Washington D.C. - '70, '72, '74, '77
The Brownstone Gallery, New York City - '73

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