



**Jocelyn
Krieger**

'Never neglect the cry of a child' for anything

A cry. Sharp. Piercing. Terrifying. This is the distinct cry of a child with meningitis.

The slightest movement brings excruciating pain, mostly a severe headache, enough to make a small body convulse with terror.

I know. I've cradled a 10-day old infant in my arms, his small body rigid, no longer crying but screaming. Finding no fever, the doctor dismissed my concern as that of an overworked mother.

I knew. As I drove home from the pediatrician's office, tears obstructed my vision. My child was in imminent danger.

The car radio provided musical accompaniment for the baby's screams. Driving can certainly frustrate maternal instinct when two hands are needed on the steering wheel and two hands want to reach for a crying child.

REACHING HOME, I began taking his temperature every hour. Four hours later — 104 degrees.

Now confronted with a fever, the doctor insisted that was the cause of discomfort. Cool baths would lower the temperature and end the crying.

Naturally, it didn't work. Hours later in Children's Hospital I passed two doctors engrossed in discussion, studying a chart like a road map.

"Krieger," one doctor said to the other. Eyes still fixed on the chart, he shook his head like someone regretfully denying a fact. "Not much of a chance."

Doug got that chance. While the doctors might have prematurely signed my baby's death warrant, it was canceled by the heavens. Eighteen years later, Doug saw his 6-year-old brother, Avram, writhing in pain. His head. Pain. Crying. Then — he screamed.

IT WASN'T a quiet trip to Children's Hospital. Fortunately I didn't have to drive so I could cradle my screaming son. Only the screams grew weaker, and the little boy in my arms became limp.

I stood before the emergency room nurse holding Avram as if I were making a sacrificial offering.

Intercepting the child, the nurse literally ran with him into an examining room where within a half hour the verdict was entered: meningitis.

During the week stay at Children's, 3-year-old Yaakov joined his brother, sharing the room and the disease. However, it was ultimately found to be viral meningitis and not the life-threatening bacterial form.

This led to a discussion about the disease with a friend who also had spent an agonizing wait while it was determined if her child had bacterial or viral meningitis.

"I'll never forget the way the baby cried," she told me. "It was kind of like a piercing wail I had never heard before and I never want to hear again."

THE WORDS of Rabbi Schneur Zalman, who lived in the 1700s, came to mind.

"Never neglect the cry of a child," he admonished his son who remained engrossed in prayer after his child had fallen from his cradle. Picking up the crying infant, the rabbi continued, "Nothing in this world is more important than a cry of a child."

Recently, a couple filed suit in Wayne Circuit Court against their church, which, they alleged, had warned them not to seek medical help for their desperately ill child. The parents had kept a diary of the progressive suffering of their beautiful 17-month-old son.

I'll spare you the details. The reading would make you as sick as it would me to write this chronological tale of agony.

The boy died in January 1977 after his parents finally took him to an east side hospital. Diagnosis: meningitis.

The court suit, asking \$10,000 damages, is really meaningless to the couple. Nothing will erase the cry they hear. Piercing. Terrifying. But there is no child to cradle in their arms.

Jocelyn Krieger is a freelance writer and music teacher who lives in Southfield.



One misty, moist morning on the way to work, Monte Nagler snapped this rustic scene on Maple near Drake roads in West Bloomfield Township.

Note how objects far from the camera appear to fade.

Gray days are great for those mood pictures

Are you a fair weather photographer? Do you wait for those bright, sunny days to get out the camera and load up the film? If you do, you're missing a whole world of photographic excitement.

Fog, rain, and gray skies — what many people term "bad weather" — can produce interesting and dramatic pictures. Conditions which seem most unfavorable could be the opportunity for that very special shot.

Good photographers live in a world of variety. Every change in lighting or atmosphere is a challenge and demands another shot.

EARLY MORNING MIST and fog diffuses sunlight, creating a calm, romantic picture. Distant objects are barely discernible, and close ones become soft-edged silhouettes.

Fog and haze produce beautiful results in color. Because the lighting is soft, colors will be subdued giving an artistic quality to your shot that's difficult to obtain in clear sunlight.

Rainy day pictures offer good opportunities, too. Look closely around you on the next rainy day and you'll see many subjects awaiting your camera.

Colorful umbrellas . . . children playing in the rain . . . glistening leaves and rocks . . . and reflections in puddles . . . These are just a few of the opportunities.

Also, some of the most dramatic landscape pic-



photography

**Monte
Nagler**

tures are available immediately after a storm when golden shafts of sunlight contrast against dark storm clouds.

OK, SO IT'S NOT foggy and it's not raining — it's just a "gray day."

Well, did you know this is the best lighting condition to photograph people? On "gray days" contrast is reduced, harsh shadows are eliminated, and flesh tones are more pleasing. The most flattering outdoor pictures of people can be taken on so-called "gray days."

So don't shelve your camera when the fog rolls in or the clouds come out.

Think of "bad weather" as really "challenging weather" and an opportunity to stimulate your photographic growth.

The writer is a suburban businessman who uses photography as his creative outlet. His one-man photo exhibit will be at the Fair Lane Town Center, Dearborn, until April 6.

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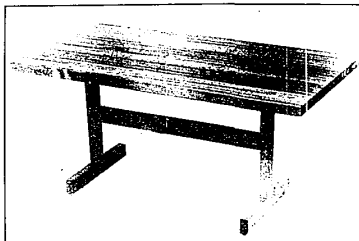
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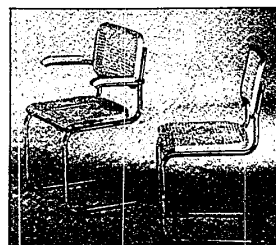
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