

Christmas card entries sought

By David Messing
special writer

artifacts

Last year the Artifacts column, the Art Store and many suppliers sponsored a "Christmas Card Contest." The response was overwhelming and exciting. Several school districts entered as an art class project for credit or extra credit. Many art teachers in middle and high schools even posted the contest in their classrooms. The value of the prizes won last year totaled over \$1,100.

Well, there is even more this year. I'm very excited to tell you about them. Were it not for the Observer newspaper and our many sponsors this contest would certainly be impossible. So our greatest appreciation is extended to all. Dan at Q.P.S. Printing, Claudia at Silver Lead Co., Joe at Alvin, Herb at Rosco Association, Lou at Grumbacher, Gordon at Westing, Bob at Eberhard-Faber, Greg at Grand Art, Dan at United Art, and Dave at Morrilla.

THIS YEAR'S prizes are divided into first, second and third with two honorable mentions in each category. The categories are divided according to ages.

That makes it fair for everyone. The first category is 6-9-year-olds. The second is 10-13-year-olds. The third is 14-year-olds to adult. Also this year we have included a "Best Entry" award.

Before the rules or prizes offered, I would like to first say a word about originality. Usually the word "originality" scares the ink right out of some people's pens. It need not be a problem. Last year, the judges and I had 25 drawings laid out on a table, because of the ability they represented, anyone of them could have been first prize. Then one judge said, "I think this one is a 'Holly Hobbie' card," and another said, "Oh, I saw this card design at a card shop" and so on and so on.

Originality can be simple. A drawing of a cardinal, for example, can be drawn from a photo and by rendering in pen and ink become, somewhat original. Let's say you put the cardinal on a

snow covered pine bow or mailbox. So even though you used several photos you have, in effect, created an original Christmas card. I guess what I'm trying to say is that a well drawn Ziggy or Garfield just isn't going to win. So feel free to use photos and references for accuracy but do not copy a design or simply redraw a Christmas card you found at a card shop.

SO here's the nitty gritty: all artwork must be (or proportionate to) 4 1/2 by 5 1/2; no artwork should exceed 6 1/2 by 11; all art must be rendered with black ink on white paper or board; all shading must be done in stipple or crosshatching; no grays or washes will be accepted; the artwork will be judged on the basis of technical skill, creativity and originality. All art work must be received by 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 28. A name, address and phone number must be included with each entry.

Prizes:

• 14 year-adult — first prize, Alvin folding spacesaver drafting table and lamp, also free printing of your Christmas cards; second prize, Grumbacher's Steno C.S. Technical pen set and a portfolio; third prize, a 35 Prismacolor pencil set and a Strathmore drawing pad.

• 10-13-year-olds — first prize, "Pioneer" wood drafting table and lamp with free printing of cards; second prize, an art bin, 24 Prismacolor pencil set and one Strathmore drawing pad; third prize, a \$15 gift certificate from the Art Store and More in Livonia.

• 6-9-year-olds — first prize, Wallace drafting table and lamp with free printing Christmas cards; second prize, art bin, 24 Prismacolor pencil set and one Strathmore drawing pad; third prize, a \$15 gift certificate from the Art Store and More in Livonia.

• The "Best Entry Award" is a 72 Design Marker set.

• The six "Honorable Mentions" will receive a watercolor palette, pencil and an eraser. So everyone get busy and good luck. If you have any questions call the Art Store at 522-6311 in Livonia.



A 200mm lens enabled Monte Nagler to bring the mandolin player up close for added impact. An exhibit of Nagler's recent work is at I Browns Bookstore of West Bloomfield.

Reach out with telephoto lens

Two weeks ago, I talked about the uses and benefits of wide angle lenses. Today, let's do an about face, stretch our vision, and discuss telephoto lenses. By definition, a telephoto lens is one whose focal length is greater than that of a normal lens. The longer the focal length of the lens, the greater the degree of magnification.

In fact, the magnification is mathematically related to focal length. For example, a 100mm lens produces an image exactly twice that of a normal 50mm lens. A 400mm lens gives you an image eight times your normal lens.

As the lens lengthens, interesting things happen. The angle of view becomes narrower and depth-of-field shallower. A narrow angle of view enables you to isolate a detail in a distant building or eliminate a cluttered foreground.

A SHALLOW depth-of-field is great for blurring distracting backgrounds so that attention is directed toward your subject.

By far the most useful telephoto lenses are those with medium focal lengths, between 85mm and 200mm. Because they minimize facial distortion and allow a comfortable distance between photographer and subject, medium telephotos are ideally suited for portraits.

In addition, they are great for many other situations in which you have to keep a moderate distance from your



photography

Monte Nagler

subject such as candid street shots or animals at the zoo.

Telephoto lenses of 300mm or longer are usually for specialized demands and would be too powerful for average usage. However, if you have a keen interest in wildlife photography or prefer huge suns in your sunset shots, then these and longer lenses may be for you. For the occasional "long reach," a tele-extender combined with your telephoto will do just fine.

Remember, because the magnification of telephoto lenses accentuates the effect of camera movement, faster shutter speeds are needed. To obtain a sharp picture, the rule of thumb is to use a shutter speed closest to the reciprocal of the lens' focal length. For a 135mm lens, hand-hold at no slower than 1/125 second with a 200mm lens, you should be at 1/250 second. If slower shutter speeds are required because of low light or aperture requirements, better get out your tripod.

So "reach out" to new and exciting photographic horizons with telephoto lenses.

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<p>BUILDERS OWN CUSTOM RANCH includes 20x40 Granite pool with cabana, plus extensive decking, sauna, 3 bedrooms, beamed living room ceiling, spacious master suite, 2 fireplaces, 3+ car garage. 628-9100 \$187,500 (EFL)</p>	<p>SPECTACULAR LANDSCAPE highlights breathtaking Contemporary style Colonial with gazabo, plus extensive decking with extraordinary views. 4 bedrooms, den, basement finished in hi-tech design, family room and more. 628-9100 \$179,500 (BFR)</p>	<p>SUPERB FARMINGTON HILLS RANCH offers stop-down Great Room with vaulted ceiling plus three doorways to tiered deck. Two commanding fireplaces, gourmet kitchen, magnificent lower level with kitchen and cedar closets. Jacuzzi in master suite. 628-9100 \$189,500 (LFU)</p>
<p>FARMINGTON HILLS Sharp 4 bedroom Tudor in like-new condition offers lovely neutral decor, crown moldings, French doors leading to study, fireplace family room opens to rambling deck. 628-9100 \$154,500 (MFE)</p>	<p>VACATION AT HOME in this spacious 4 bedroom Colonial with Jacuzzi hot tub, expansive dock and nearby subdivision pool and clubhouse. Lovely yard, heated porch, library, family room. 631-9100 \$129,000 (PWE)</p>	<p>FANTASTIC CONTEMPORARY on beautifully landscaped lot includes brick foyer, Jenn-Air range and lovely oak cabinets in kitchen. Custom window treatments. Farmington Schools. 628-9100 \$169,500 (AFP)</p>
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<p>SHARP CONTEMPORARY on Long Lake's sandy beach offers lake views from every room. 3 bedrooms, spiral staircase, plus neutral decor and many extras. 831-5100 \$99,500 (BWH)</p>	<p>LOVELY JUST PAINTED Cape Cod across from nature center offers 3 bedrooms including large master bedroom, separate dining. Wonderful starter home on treed lot. 628-9100 \$89,000 (HFI)</p>	<p>CRANBROOK VILLAGE Sharp one owner contemporary Ranch, where hardwood flooring, fireplace with plenty of charm. Recreation room, 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths. 628-9100 \$64,900 (FFA)</p>

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