



photography
Monte Nagler

Set your camera for candid



As he ponders serious business decisions about his book store, 4-year-old Owen Platt of Ann Arbor makes a delightful candid subject for Monte Nagler.

Most of us remember the excitement of "Candid Camera," the popular television show from years back.

Well, with a little thought and planning, you too can become an Allen Funt with your camera. After all, people are among the most fascinating of photographic subjects. And if you can catch them unaware, you'll end up with shots that are natural in expression and exciting in content.

There are two basic approaches to candid photography: 1) you can intentionally provoke a reaction by attracting your subject's attention and snapping the camera at that instant, or 2) you can try to be unnoticed and capture a slice of life as it happens.

The first approach will freeze a person's instant response to your camera. You'll get expressions of surprise and humor that can be very revealing.

The second approach, shooting unobserved, will produce natural looking pictures of people going about their everyday lives. When photographing in a public place, an airport, a park, or crowded street, try to attract a minimum amount of attention to yourself. Blend in with the surroundings and become a quiet observer of the action.

TELEPHOTO LENSES are certainly helpful in candid photography

because you can fill the frame without having to get too close to your subject.

With a telephoto, you can often get striking shots of people absorbed in work or play and they won't even know you're there.

But don't rule out normal or even wide angle lenses. They'll give you more background in your shot which can be valuable in placing subjects in their natural environment.

Wide angle lenses, due to their increased angle of view, will enable you to include people in the viewfinder without having to point the camera directly at them. People rarely believe they're being photographed unless the camera is aimed in their direction.

Don't forget candid close to home. Whether it's a family gathering at holiday time or a ball game in the backyard, candid shots will provide you with natural looking, lasting memories.

To get good candid shots, have your exposure predetermined so that you can trip the shutter quickly without a lot of fussing with the camera's controls.

In all candid photography, speed is an important ingredient — not so much shutter speed or film speed, but the speed with which you can react to the image and decide on the

composition, focus and exposure of your shot.

A thorough familiarity with your camera equipment is essential if you are to operate quickly and unobtrusively to get the shots that count.

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Monte Nagler of Farmington Hills is a full-time freelance photographer and teacher. He has a masters in business from the University of Michigan.

Short shots

• The 17th Meteor Photo Seminar will open at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Meteor Photo, 1099 Chicago, Troy.

Instructor for the series is Gerald Gazda, prize-winning photographer and audiovisual producer. The seminar includes a review of the basics such as camera handling, lenses, filters, composition and lighting. There is an outdoor "shoot" at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 18 and a third session back at Meteor at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 22. For registration details, call 563-3098.

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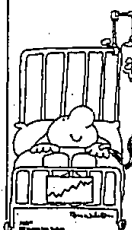
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