



photography
Monte Nagler

Putting a group photo together

Photographing groups of people is easier than you may think and can reward you with some exciting, impact-filled shots.

Using this group portrait of the wranglers at the Double JJ Ranch, as an example, I'll share my thoughts and plans with you as I took this image to help you in making your own group pictures.

The first thing to consider is where to take the shot. The setting of the group picture is very important. I felt the siding of the back room was an ideal environmental backdrop. An extra advantage here is that the

building shielded the sun from the wranglers' eyes which would have resulted in unflattering harsh shadows and squinty eyes.

Next, consider the positioning of the individuals. A straight line of six standing cowboys would have appeared too static. Notice how the one kneeling wrangler adds important strength and interest to the composition.

I asked the cowboys to assume natural, relaxed stances for a true-to-life look.

Smiling faces? Sometimes, de-

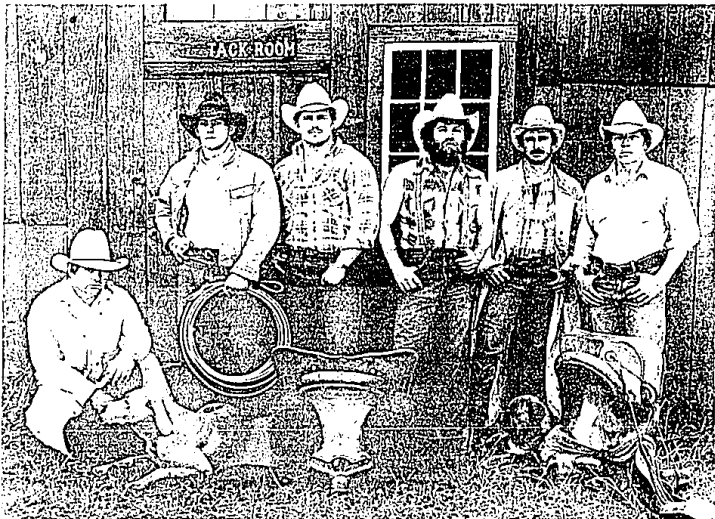
pending on what kind of group you're photographing. Here, I wanted serious looks. I wanted to involve the viewer in the photograph, to draw him in emotionally. Serious looks will do this. You begin to wonder who they are and what they're thinking and feeling.

Wouldn't some props in the shot add impact? You bet. Imagine this picture without the saddles and the dogs and you'll see what I mean. Just make sure the props make "environmental sense" and they will definitely help you to get that neatly executed group portrait.

Film? Us whatever you like but just don't economize on it. The larger the group, the more shots you may have to take to achieve one where everybody is playing their part and looking good.

What lens to use? Usually your normal lens will suffice. But if the group is big you may have to get out the wide angle to fit everyone in the viewfinder.

Incidentally, the Double JJ Ranch located in Rothbury, is open to guests 18 or older. Phone the Ranch at 616-894-444 for further information.



Wranglers from the Double JJ Ranch willingly let dog was willing to do his bit for the photographer's art. © 1986, Monte Nagler

DIA Patrons to enjoy Russian art firsthand

Detroit Institute of Arts Founders Society members at the Patron level are being invited to go on a trip to the Soviet Union, Sept. 17-28.

This cultural journey into the arts, theater and music has been especially designed for the group by Samuel Sachs II, DIA director, who made a trip there earlier this year.

Alan Darr, curator of European Sculpture and Decorative Arts, will be the lecturer throughout the tour.

The itinerary will include visits to Moscow and Leningrad and stops in Vladimir and Suzdal, two medieval Soviet villages famous for their 12th century churches, monasteries and icons.

In Moscow, the travelers will stay three nights at the Historic National Hotel facing the Kremlin on Red

Square and in Leningrad at the old world Astoria Hotel across from St. Isaac's Cathedral.

Visits are scheduled to the Pushkin Museum, the Ostankino Estate Museum of Serf Art, the Kremlin, the Smolensky and Archangel cathedrals, the Novodevichl Convent and Yasnyaya Polyana, the home of Leo Tolstoy in Moscow. In Leningrad, the visitors will tour the Hermitage Museum, St. Isaac Cathedral, Petrodvorets, the summer palace of Peter the Great and the State Russian Museum.

Lila Silverman of Southfield is chairman of the patron travel program. For information about the trip, contact Silverman, Development Department, Founders Society, 853-7892.



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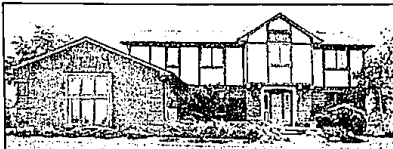
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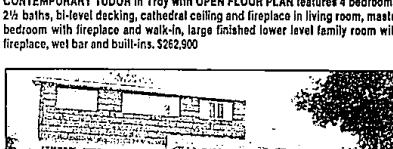
CONTEMPORARY TUDOR in Troy with OPEN FLOOR PLAN features 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, bi-level decking, cathedral ceiling and fireplace in living room, master bedroom with fireplace and walk-in, large finished lower level family room with fireplace, wet bar and built-ins. \$262,900



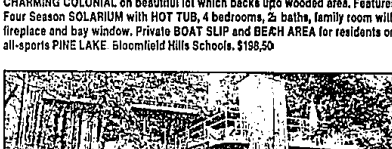
CHARMING COLONIAL on beautiful lot which backs up to wooded area. Features Four Season SOLARIUM with HOT TUB, 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, family room with fireplace and bay window. Private BOAT SLIP and BEACH AREA for residents on all-sports PINE LAKE. Bloomfield Hills Schools. \$198,50



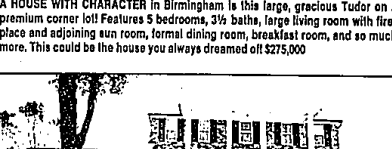
A HOUSE WITH CHARACTER in Birmingham is this large, gracious Tudor on a premium corner lot! Features 5 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, large living room with fireplace and adjoining sun room, formal dining room, breakfast room, and so much more. This could be the house you always dreamed of! \$275,000



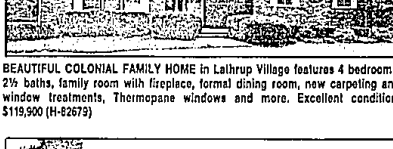
BEAUTIFUL COLONIAL FAMILY HOME in Lathrup Village features 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, family room with fireplace, formal dining room, new carpeting and window treatments, Thermopane windows and more. Excellent condition! \$119,900 (H-82679)



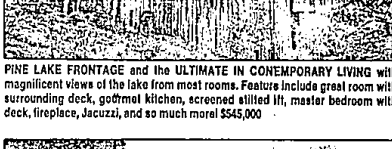
PINE LAKE FRONTAGE and the ULTIMATE IN CONTEMPORARY LIVING with magnificent views of the lake from most rooms. Features include great room with surrounding deck, gourmet kitchen, screened slatted lit, master bedroom with deck, fireplace, Jacuzzi, and so much more! \$545,000



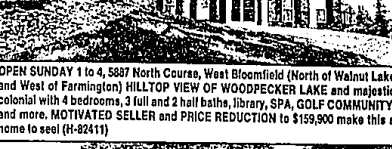
OPEN SUNDAY 1 to 4, 5887 North Course, West Bloomfield (North of Walnut Lake and West of Farmington) HILLTOP VIEW OF WOODPECKER LAKE and majestic colonial with 4 bedrooms, 3 full and 2 half baths, library, SPA, GOLF COMMUNITY, and more. MOTIVATED SELLER and PRICE REDUCTION to \$159,900 make this a home to see! (H-82411)



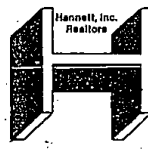
BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP COLONIAL features 3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, family room, dining room, two fireplaces, wet bar, private back yard with mature shade trees, central air, and POOL! Wonderful family home! \$119,900



CONTEMPORARY BRICK RANCH features large foyer and circular drive. Four bedrooms, 2 full and 2 half baths, dining room, family room, and huge finished rec room (great as in-law, teen hide-a-way or children's playroom). BIRMINGHAM SCHOOLS. \$129,900 (H-79314)



WONDERFUL FAMILY NEIGHBORHOOD and contemporary quad level home backing up to a large, private, natural park. Features 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, library, family room with fireplace and wet bar, and new white Formica kitchen. \$189,000



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