

Michigan cowboys star in photography show

By Corinne Abelt
Staff writer

Well-traveled photographer Monte Nagler will be showing some 45 photographs at Somerset Mall Thursday, Oct. 9, through Sunday, Oct. 19.

Nagler, photography columnist for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, teacher and free-lancer, will present his new series of photographs on Michigan cowboys, as well as many from recent trips to Alaska, California and Hawaii.

"Most," he said, "are brand new since my last show at Somerset Mall in 1985."

Many of his limited edition, black and white prints are 16 by 20 inches, a few of the "action shots," are 11 by 14 inches. Among his favorite photos is one taken in California of the brittle cone pine, "one of the oldest living things in the world."

OTHER CALIFORNIA settings represented are Death Valley and Big Sur.

As he spoke of the Death Valley photographs, he said, "I really believe you have to get off the tourist path of life to get meaningful photo-

graphs. We had to hike a long way out to the sand dunes at 6 a.m. when it was 100 degrees. You've got to be willing to do that to get the pictures. You gotta be willing to get out in the rain and to get bit by bugs," he said recalling that he and his wife, Mickey, hiked a lot of heavy equipment across the dunes.

The cowboys, he said, are the first people he has done for a long time.

"While all these years I've been known for landscapes, I'm kinda coming back to people," he said, recalling that the prize-winning photograph of the lady covering her face with her hands, taken in Rome, was really what started him thinking about photography as a profession. At that time, Nagler, who has a master of business administration degree from the University of Michigan, was purely a businessman.

Discovering the cowboys of the Double JJ Ranch near Rothbury provided the impetus for Nagler's new series. "I find these guys very exciting to photograph, very exciting to talk to and very exciting to be around. They love what they're doing, and they are as honest as anyone I've ever met."

Then after a pause, he added, "I find myself when I photograph. I get so excited, it's such a high to come back and be able to share the photographs — a very rewarding feeling."

Nagler is also a booster of black and white photography, which he regards as a pure, telling form of the art.

"I use the zone system on everything. I learned the zone system from Ansel Adams."

NAGLER not only enjoys taking photographs and teaching others in his classes at the Community House of Birmingham and at the Farmington Community House, he's a collector as well.

"I like being surrounded by photographs. It keeps the juices going and produces a level of excitement," he said.

In addition to showing regularly in this area, his works are in many galleries on both the East and West coasts.

Monte Nagler will be at the exhibit 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9, and Friday, Oct. 10, to meet the public and answer questions.



Aaron Adamson is one of the Michigan cowboys whom Monte Nagler talked with, photographed and came to admire.



To benefit children

This painting by well-known Michigan artist Helen Cartnell, with an estimated value of \$1,000, will be offered for the benefit of the Children's Trust Fund at a sale by the Underground Collector 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday. The sale will be at 1011 Westwood, Birmingham. The painting was donated by Booth Newspapers Inc. in memory of Shawn B. Moore whose father, Bruce Moore, is employed by that corporation. The Fund implements programs to prevent child abuse. The Moore boy was abducted and murdered a year ago.

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