

# Rx: home videos

## Book outlines techniques aimed at amateurs

A Detroit television news cameraman is the author of a book that could become one of the hits of the Christmas shopping season.

Area resident John Fuller has worked as a cameraman for 20 years. He also conducts home video-making workshops for video stores.

"Prescription for Better Home Video Movies" was published by HP Books, a division of Price Stern Sloan and is available at book stores and video stores nationally.

Fuller says the idea for the workshops and eventually the book grew out of being forced to watch some horrible home video movies at a friend's swim party.

"The host shot movies all afternoon and we had to watch those boring home videos all night. I thought the night would never end. The only thing I could think of was how difficult it was for me to learn how to shoot motion pictures."

Fuller began taking still pictures in high school as a photographer for the year book. But he was forced into using a movie camera at a television station in Moline, Ill. because report-

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— John Fuller  
TV news cameraman/author

ers had to shoot and edit the news film.

"My experience as a still photographer proved to be invaluable," Fuller recalled. "But even more valuable was the little bit of instruction I received from a veteran cameraman on the news staff."

FULLER SAID HE really became interested in the cameraman's role

in broadcasting while at a television station in Flint. He said that even while he was anchoring the 6 and 11 p.m. news each night, he was working on developing his own shooting technique.

"There were no books on shooting video so I had to learn like most cameramen — by trial and error. As it turned out, I developed a simple yet effective technique, one that

works equally as well for the home videomaker as it does for a news videographer."

It was the very lack of instructional material available for the amateur that gave Fuller the idea for his book. "People at my workshops kept asking where they could get more information on making home videos and I couldn't tell them. Everything I had read was either oriented toward the technical operation of the camcorder or too advanced for the new and inexperienced camcorder owner."

"The very idea you can put your family on TV and relive those precious moments is incentive enough to spend between \$800 and \$2,000 for a camcorder. That's a lot of money to spend and not get good results."

Among the home videos he treasures is the one he shot of his parents' 50th wedding anniversary in 1981. "Whenever I look at it and the other videos, it takes me back to the days when I was growing up in Ottumwa, Iowa."

Fuller and his wife, Jan., have two sons and live in Canton.



Canton resident John Fuller, a Detroit television news cameraman, decided to write a book on home videomaking when he discovered the lack of instructional material available for the amateur.

BILL DRESLER/staff photographer

## Loving sights and sounds of Christmas

I LOVE Christmas — the sights, the sounds, the... "What is it, Adam? I'm trying to write my column," I said sleepily. "And what are you doing out of bed so early?"

"Gee, Dad, I just remembered I have a social studies test and I forgot to study."

"Well it's not even 7 a.m. yet, how much do you have to study?" I asked wearily. "Well," I said, "You study here by the Christmas tree, and I'll write over in the chair."

"OK, Dad, I'll be quiet," Adam pledged.

I love Christmas — the smell and

the tastes of Holiday treats. I love the lights, the... "Dad?" Adam whispered, "where's the coastal plain?" "I gotta' know 'cuz it's gonna be on the test for sure."

"Adam," I whispered back, "I don't know. I'm already a day late turning my column in. I can't help you."

"THAT'S OK, Dad. I was just wondering if you knew."

I love Christmas — the business, the events and even the cold weather but what I love the most is... "Poor little guy" I thought to myself as I glanced over by the Christmas

tree and saw his little fingers fanning a great big social studies book looking for the elusive coastal plain.

"Did you find it yet?" I asked with more than a puffed conscience.

"No, dad, but it's here somewhere. I'll find it."

Finally I gave in and sat on the floor and studied with Adam by the light of the Christmas tree. After Adam and I spent a good hour together, I slipped back to my article and tried to write. I love Christmas — the meaning, the love, the giving and... "Dad," a husky voice came from the hallway, "Can you move Scott's car? I have to leave for

school. I'm drivin' this week." "OK, Kevin," I mumbled.

I came in from the freezing cold with snow on my slippers, grabbed the notebook with a scribbled paragraph on it and said to myself: "Now I'm going to write my article." I walked into the kitchen and there were Sandy and Scott making breakfast. Well, I got roped into driving Adam to school and when I returned Scott had also left for school. For sure, I thought to myself, I can write with no interruptions.

I LOVE CHRISTMAS — ring! "Honey," Sandy yelled, "it's for you,



artifacts  
David  
Mesaling

it's Shirley from the store." All the special orders for Christmas had arrived, the store was full of customers and Sally had too many pictures to frame. I hung the phone up, looked at my three opening sentences and heaved a big sigh wondering if I would ever get my Christmas article completed. But then I kind of smiled as I thought — this pretty much is Christmas. My family close by, one son in college, one son in high school

and the other in elementary school. Our family business keeps all of us busy but at least we all work together, and we enjoy the business of the season, the smell of cookies, the crackle of the fireplace, the smell of the Christmas tree, it's all part of the season.

So I grabbed my pencil underlined the words, "I Love Christmas" and rushed off to the store.

So Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from my family: Sandy, Scott, Kevin and Adam. The Art Store and More employees: Shirley, Cheryl, Steve, Sally and Peggy; my mother-in-law and business partner: June; and all of our teachers: Suzanne, Joyce, Carman, Sandi, Kim, Ellen, Rhonda, Shirley, Mike, Betty, Gary, Peggy, Rose Marie, Sue, Marsha, Betty and Terry.



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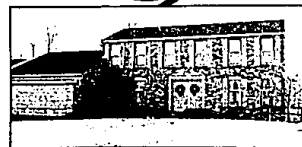
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