

This will be the second time in 10 years of doing this column that I have written something other than photography advice.



Joe Clark, HBSS, (1904-1989) was a masterful storyteller whether using words or a camera.



The first was my tribute to Ansel Adams shortly after he died in April of 1984. Today, I want to tell you about another giant in photography, Joe Clark, HBSS, of Farmington, who died early Sunday morning after suffering a heart attack.

I consider myself fortunate to have been acquainted with Ansel Adams, and I've always considered it a special privilege and joy to have had Joe as a friend.

Joe worked overtime giving, sharing and loving others. He was special, not just to his immediate family — son, Junebug, daughter-in-law, Kay, and grandchildren, Wade and Anna, but to everyone he came in contact with.

Joe's two trademarks were his straw hat, which he wore everywhere, and the HBSS after his name, which stood for Hillbilly Snaps Shooter.

His years of working at Life Magazine and his fame as a poet, notwithstanding, nobody in the history of photography documented life in Appalachia in the '30s and '40s as he did. With that body of work, he carved a niche for himself that will never be equaled.

Joe was a humble, down-to-earth,

caring and devoted friend. Just a few days before he died, we were having lunch together at the Buggy Works Restaurant in Farmington.

We were in the Joe Clark, HBSS Room, decorated with many of his magnificent photographs. Some people at the next table recognized him and a conversation ensued.

After we finished our lunch, Joe and I left and as we were walking out to the parking lot, he stopped and went back. He remembered he had forgotten to say goodbye to the people we had been talking to and to tell them how much he had enjoyed meeting them.

Most people would have just left, but not Joe — always the gentleman, always thoughtful and kind. This event may seem trivial, to me it exemplified Joe's warmth, sincerity and genuine love for his fellow men.

Joe lived a full and rewarding life. One of my favorite Joe Clark poems is typical of his zest for life. In a segment from his poem, "I Pledge," Joe wrote, I pledge to greet each morning joyously.

To sing the livelong day,
To laugh with happy comrades,
To while this life away.

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WELL, HERE it is again . . . December . . . Christmas. Wild-eyed husband shoppers come into my store waving a \$50 bill and saying, "I want to spend this on my wife but I don't know what kinda' art she does."



artifacts
**David
Messing**

Cleaner and Preserver." This is a soap for cleaning and conditioning artists brushes. Usually, if an artist has a choice between another tube of paint and a cake of brush cleaner, he/she will opt for the paint.

- Here's a \$12 dollar gift for artists who love more graphic art. A set of eight French curves. I really don't know what is so "French" about them since they are made in Texas. But these are so handy, not used everyday but when you need them, they're great.

- A Rotex is a spinning tray that

holds all artist's pens, pencils, markers and etc. The first time you set them up, they look great, but after a month or so they look like a rotating junk drawer. They are about \$14 and are a must for every artist.


● Rotring (pronounced ROW-tring) makes a 12-piece set of artist inks for about \$21. These inks are fade-proof and non-clogging. They can be used in pens, brushes, air brushes and even Tech Pens. This product is similar to Higgins Pig-

- Now we're up to \$25. Art Bin

- A Rotex is a spinning tray that

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