



Shot "from the hip," Monte Nagler grabbed this shot showing the strong military presence in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

Visit to Tiananmen Square

As the tumultuous events unfolded on Tiananmen Square, last summer I, like everyone else, was deeply moved by what was happening. At that time I was unaware that in less than a year I would be in Beijing on Tiananmen Square.

Even though the "incident" (as it has come to be called) is over, it was nevertheless a moving experience to walk through the square and reflect on what had occurred. There were chips in the cement, perhaps made by the tanks which unmercifully had crushed student protesters. Perhaps, I thought, I was standing on the very spot where blood had been spilled and later cleaned.

Before June of 1989, Tiananmen, at 100 acres the largest public square in the world, was always jam-packed with people. Past ceremonial gatherings have attracted more than 1 million people to the square at a given time. Yet, when I was there, the square wasn't crowded. The people who were there seemed ill at ease and uncomfortable as if they were remembering the sad events that had happened.

There was a very heavy military presence, and I was surprised at the youth of the soldiers. Every



photography
Monte Nagler

few yards a guard stood at rigid attention and units of soldiers were marching through the square as if to underscore the military strength.

IN A way I felt sorry for these young soldiers as I studied faces I wasn't allowed to photograph. They possessed an artificial look, stripped of individuality and motivation.

Every day since I returned Tiananmen Square has been in my mind. To me, it highlighted the tragedies resulting in my mind from an oppressive government over, what I found to be, a kind and gentle people.

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Short Shots

• A tribute to Joe Clark, HBSS 1904-1989: Junebug Clark, Joe Clark's son and ASHP Michigan Chapter president, will give a program on his father's work at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 25, at the Farmington Hills Library, 32737 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills.

• He will show his father's masterprints, tell stories, read some of his father's works and replay television interviews with the Hillbilly Snaphooter. No admission charge.

• Monte Nagler's spring photography class at the Farmington Community Center will start Tuesday. For information, call 477-8404.

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