

# FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY

## Take your camera along when you 'hit the road'



MONTE NAGLER

We've all heard the expression "hit the road." Well, by hitting the road with your camera, you'll be able to add new and exciting pictures to your photo album.

Whether it's a freeway, highway or endless country road, photographing roads will open up new vistas for you. Roads have tremendous visual potential and pictures of them can capture an incredible variety of moods.

And remember, as we travel from place to place, it's most always a road that gets us there. So why not photograph them?

Begin by studying roads in different types of light and at different times of the day. Notice how a backlit road illuminated by a rising or setting sun will glisten and shine like an unfurling ribbon.

After a rainfall, a wet road with puddles offers reflections of overhanging trees and clouds that will add a mood to your shots no other weather conditions will do.

High angles and low angles will also add variety to your pictures. Climb a

nearby hill so you can get a bird's eye view of a winding road, or shoot from a low angle as the road undulates up the mountain.

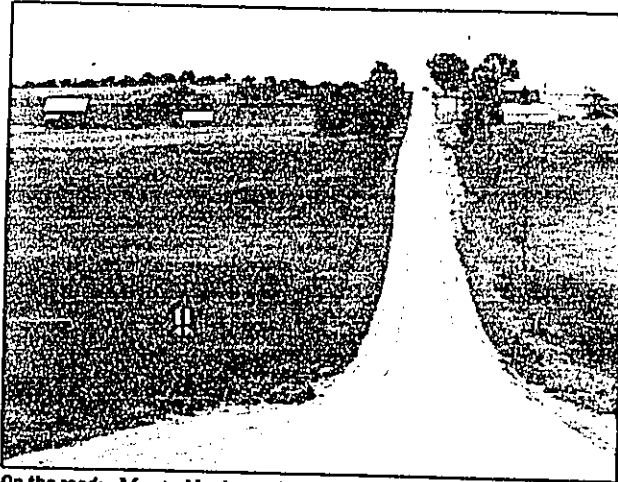
As in all good photography, pay attention to depth-of-field so that everything is sharp from front to back. You'll accomplish this by being sure to use a small lens opening.

I've always enjoyed photographing roads so that it appears the road is traveling into infinity. Whether the road ends in a bank of low clouds or at the top of a hill, there's an element of unknown and mystique because the viewer wonders what lays ahead.

The road intrigued me in the photograph shown here made near Traverse City, Mich. It looked isolated and made me wonder what was over the ridge. I wanted to snap the shutter until a single vehicle was at the very top of the rise to add a further element of loneliness.

So the next time you feel like hitting the road, do so! Just make sure your camera is with you. Roads, quite literally, will take you and your camera to new and exciting places.

Monte Nagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave him a message by dialing (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then his mailbox number, 1873.



On the road: Monte Nagler waited 'til the single vehicle was at the very top of the hill before he snapped the shutter. Doing so added an extra element of loneliness to the picture.

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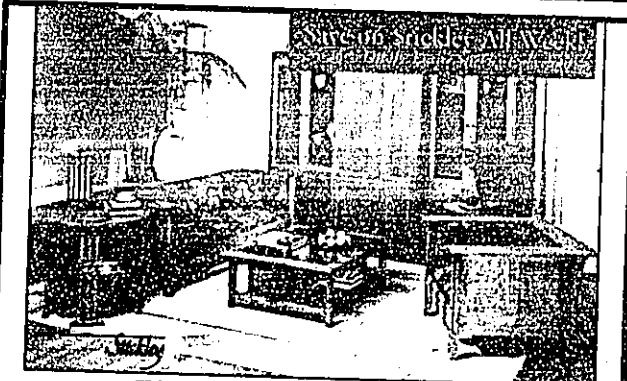
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