

# Photography bug bit exhausted muffler man

By MARY RODRIGUE  
STAFF WRITER

This is one in a series of stories featuring winners of the Farmington Artist in Residence award, which has been honoring local artists for 20 years now.

Readers of the Observer & Eccentric are familiar with the powerful nature photographs of Monte Nagler, a columnist with the newspaper chain since 1979.

Nagler, the 1987 winner of the prestigious artist in residence award of the Farmington Area Arts Commission, was a jack of many trades until the photography bug bit in the 1970s.

By then, with a bachelor's degree in engineering and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Michigan, he had worked for Ford Motor Company as a product planner, and then owned two Midas muffler shops in downtown Farmington and Taylor.

"1979 was a major turning point for me," said Nagler, who

**'I was teaching, writing, taking pictures and working in the muffler shop getting real exhausted — no pun intended.**

Monte Nagler  
photographer

spent the decade running his muffler business while pursuing photography as a hobby.

"I met Ansel Adams when I was accepted in his photography workshop in California. I approached the Observer about writing a column. I started teaching photography classes at the Community House in Farmington (now Longacre House) and I began an affiliation with the Halstead Gallery in Birmingham."

The frosting on the cake that year was winning the grand prize in the first annual Detroit News photography contest for a picture of an old woman in Rome covering her face. The prize was three weeks in Spain.

"I am very proud of the Artist in Residence award," Nagler said. "The plaque hangs in my dark room. It has always meant a great deal to me."

"Betty Payne was my nominator. To pick a photographer over other media was a little extra special. It was a real thrill."

Nagler has lived in Farmington Hills for 12 years. For his work, he has traveled to Russia, China, Korea, remote northern Canada and all over Europe.

Nagler's next class at the Longacre House in late photography is a four week session beginning Tuesday, May 7. To register, call 477-8404.

## Art exhibit springs opening

The Farmington Artists Club will present its free Spring Exhibit April 28 through May 6 at the Farmington Hills Activities Center on 11 Mile Road east of Middlebelt.

Hours will be 2-5 p.m. Sunday, April 28; 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Saturday, April 29 to May 4; and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, May 5. An opening reception will be 2:30-5 p.m. Sunday, April 28.

The event is co-sponsored by the Farmington Community Arts Council and the Festival of the Arts.

## INKWELL

Inkwell provides information about educational issues and on people in the Farmington area. Mail information to: Inkwell, Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335, or fax information to 477-9722. Items can be sent by E-mail to: packy@oeonline.com. Please include a daytime phone number on your news release. Items will not be taken over the phone.

### MATH FUND-RAISERS

Highmeadow Common Campus students and staff raised \$5,987 to benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation through a schoolwide math challenge. Laurie Petzer and the Highmeadow Parent Teacher Organization coordinated the fund-raiser in which 114 students participated. Money raised will be used to help find a cure for cystic fibrosis, the number one genetic killer of children and young adults.

### U-M SCHOLAR

Farmington High School student Matt Hankins of Farmington Hills has been awarded a University of Michigan Regents Alumni Merit Scholarship for the 1996-97 academic year. The scholarship is awarded to incoming freshmen who achieve a minimum of 3.9 grade point average and are in the top 1 percent of their class. They also have excellent scores on the ACT or SAT.

### OU HONOR

North Farmington High School student Michael Murphy of Farmington Hills has been awarded an Oakland University Merit Scholarship for the 1996-97 academic year. The OU Merit Scholarship is awarded to incoming freshmen who have maintained high levels of academic performance throughout their high school career. Students must have at least a 3.3 grade point average.

### BOOK 'EM

Some 132 Gill Elementary students participated in the school's annual book parade, according to the Gill school newsletter. In all,

students read 826 books. The 73 kids who read seven books earned a trip to the Bill Britain author assembly. Thirty-one students read the maximum number of 12 books and receive free books from the district's media center.

### INVENTIVE MINDS

Gill Elementary student Lee Devito was the overall winner in the school's Invent America contest. Devito developed a Silen H20 alarm. All students received a ribbon and certificate for taking part. Grade level winners included: (Second grade) Christopher Judson, car screen; Tony Devito, easy ketchup bottle; Allison Davis, air mail; (third grade) Carolyn Maue, color comb; Kathryn Schalek, apple washer; Christine Osimovitz, miracle folder; (fourth grade) Erik Devito, apple peeler; Johnnie T'ung, hot wheel; and Sara Hodges, easy arm; (fifth grade) Tom Peszek, sound band; Margo Sakuta, three-in-one eraser; Andrea Frenley, Kristen Marcus and Allison Lopes, portable answering machine.



MATT HANKINS

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