## Here's how to photograph in cold weather

or those of you who live in cold climates or for those who live in the South but travel to snow country, winter photography can reward you with fabulous shots for your

weather pho tography can present you with some problems that make shooting more difficult than during fair Focus on

Photography

weather.
While photographers who live in a very cold climate are Monte

accustomed to such conditions,

more temperate weather can get caught unprepared.
Before setting off to take photographs in very cold conditions, you should spend some time preparing your equipment and your own clothing. Almost any camera can be operated normally to about zero degrees, but at temperatures lower than this difficulties may start to occur.

Why do cameras function less efficiently in the cold? The most common reason is loss of batterps power. Batteries not only operate the metering system, but also operate the shutter on most newer cameras. Batteries which always proceed more slowly at lower temperatures. Solution: Keep the battery in your pocket until just ready to shoot. Take your shots, then place the battery back in your pocket to keep it warm.

pocket to keep it warm.
There are precautions you should take, too, for photographing in very cold weather. Dress warmly, in layers, and make sure your clothing allows easy access to eameras and lenses.

easy access to cameras and lenses.
Wear two pairs of gloves: a heavy outer pair and a thin inner pair. Remove the outer gloves when you're ready to shoot. The thin pair will keep your hands warm yet will enable vou to work all camera controls.
In cold weather, you must take special care with your film Because it can become brittle, advance it carefully and slowly as you run through the roll

(turn off your power-winder) and rewind it carefully, too. Besides the physical prob-lems of working in low temper-atures, there are other consid-crations, a major one being

exposure.

Snow-covered scenery is quite different from the average scene and the meter can be fooled.

fooled.
Remember that all meters are programmed to read average gray, so with snow scenes, be sure to overexpose a stop or two in order to produce a good

two in order to produce a good negative.

When you come in from the cold, pay special attention to your camera.

Water vapor in a heated room condenses on cold metal and glass surfaces and your camera will become covered with moisture. No damage will be done, just be sure to wipe off your camera.

There you have it. During the next cold snap get out and snap some prize-winning shots.

Monte Hagter is a fine art photogra-pher based in Farmington Hills. You can leave a message for him at (734) 953-2047.



The temperature was below zero, but by keeping himself and his equipment warm, Monte Nagler was able home this exciting shot of Bond Falls taken in Michigan's upper peninsula.

## The new book on Motown is a slow read on music minutiae

MOTOWN: MILSIC, MONEY. SEX, AND POWER

By Gerald Posner (Random House, \$24,95)

really don't think it's just my imagination that much of this book, penned by the investigative journalist/historian Gerald Posner, is hard going. By that, I don't mean it's difficult to read or understand; I mean that it's slow as molasses in January—unless you might happen to be a recording executive or involved in the basiness somehow.

Though Posner brings us

Though I baser brings us many of the facts of the rise and fall of Detroit's historic Hitsville USA, he ultimately fails to bring that history to life. And there's really not a whole lot that's new on these pages, either.

As to plodding details, I doubt that most readers will be particularly interested, for instance, in finding out the names and backgrounds of every member of Berry Gordy's

promotion team back in the 60%, along with the sales department, and some of the most obscure artists. There's some pretty exeruciating minutiae here, too, about the ultimate and complex sale of Motown, plus the numerous lawsuits filed against Motown by performers who considered their contracts financially unfair. (According to Posner, "The bulk of those legal files are erammed into multiple steel cabinets in the basement of the Wayne County Court in downtown Detroit. Some lawsuits over royalty disputes that

downtown Detroit. Some law-suits over royally disputes that arose in the 1900s are still pend-ling...)
Not surprisingly, the lead player in this chapter of pop culture is Berry Gorly himself, the Detroit native who founded Motown, bringing a new "crossover" sound to the American sectie, and eventually developing some of the bright-est stars in musical bistory— Diana Ross and the Supremes, Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder, the Temptations, and Marvin Gaye, to name a few.

Marvin Gaye, to name a few. Before the Motown label ectore the motown tabel existed, a few amall recording companies like JVB and Sensation struggled to survive in Detroit. But, not long after Gordy obtained an \$800 loan from his close-knit family to start the business he would eventually sell (to Boston Ventures and MCA) for \$61

eventually sell (to Boston Ventures and McA) for \$61 million, these companies pretty much faded away.

In his early days, Gordy struggled to find a career niche. He served a stint in the Army, took up boxing, worked for his father's contracting business, toiled on the Ford assembly line, and finally began to try his hand at songwriting (though he had never had any mrana musical training, and still hasn'd). He hung out often at Detroits Flame Show Bar, where he met the clubs owner. Al Green, and young talents like the flamboyant Jackie Wilson. As it bappened, Green owned a music publishing company, and soon "BG" was one of its songwriters. Eventually, he was writing and producing songs, and had obtained the loan from his family to start his own label. In 1929, he purchased (for \$25,000) the rather plain-looking house at 2648 West Grand Boulevard that would become the headquarters for Histwile USA.

He ran the business some-

USA.

He ran the business something like a benign, paternalistic dictator, and modeled it after some of the assembly line pro-

cedures he'd witnessed while he was employed at Ford Motor

Company.

For Berry Gordy, the bottom For Berry Gordy, the bottom line was seemingly always the top priority. And for those on its payroll, being a part of Motown was, in many ways, like being part of a large family. Gordy even hired a cook to put together generous and unpretentious meals in the kitchen for any and all employees.

meals in the kitchen for any and all employees.
"You wouldn't think twice about pitching in to help with whatever had to be done, according to the Temptations' Otis Williams, "whether it was

singing backgrounds or mopping the floor.

To sner adds, "On any given day, a visitor...might find Pops Gordy doing some repair on the house, or Smokey Robinson cutting the grass.

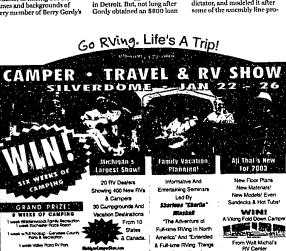
Things changed, of course, and drastically, as Motown gramore and more successful. Finally, the business outgrew its little home on Grand Boulevard and moved into comparatively cold and generic offices downtown. Then, Gordy fell in love with the sunshine of California, and moved the business there, repeated and costly litigation eated and costly litigation

put, Motown matters apparent ly became too much for him to

tried to.
Ever the gambler, Gordy saw himself as a winner of sorts in the end, however, even though he had to give up Motown in order to save it.

"From \$800 to \$61 million, I had done it," he once comment-ed about the sale, "I had won the poker hand."

Victoria Naz is a Livonia resident who writes about books for the Observer & Eccentric.



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