

# Try taking a second look through the viewfinder

Have you ever taken a family shot only to discover to your chagrin when you pick up the photos at the lab that there's a telephone pole "growing" out of your mother-in-law's head?

Have you ever gone to the zoo, taken what you thought was a terrific shot of the lion, and decided to impress your friends into thinking you just came back from Africa?

But, lo and behold, you pick up your prints only to find out there's a refreshment stand in the background!

Well, don't jump in despair into the lion's den.

There's a simple way to avoid these mistakes in your pictures. The solution is what I call the "hard, second look"

through the viewfinder before you snap the shutter.

It's true... most people don't

look closely through the entire viewfinder and they'll end up with distracting chair legs in the shot of junior crawling on the floor or the floor or the floor "sprouting" out of your outdoor subject's head.

But by taking that second, hard look through the viewfinder, you

can eliminate all these problems. Once you see the distraction, all that's required is simply moving yourself or moving your subject just enough to remove it.

Understanding depth-of-field can eliminate a distraction, too. Using a large aperture will significantly reduce depth-of-field so that an unwanted object in the background or even the background itself will be blurred out in the finished print.

Taking a second, hard look through the viewfinder can also cause you to see something that will enhance your photo.

Say you're photographing a family member at the edge of a lake and just before you trip

the shutter, you see the majestic mountain across the lake.

You think, "What a great backdrop for the picture!" And by simply moving you and your subject slightly, you can include the mountain in the composition for a much stronger photograph.

Are you beginning to see the value of taking that second, hard look through the viewfinder before you snap the shutter?

If so, your photographs will be greatly improved and you won't have to throw yourself into the lion's den!

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



No distractions here. Monte Nagler's "second, hard look" assured a non-distracting background in order to focus attention on this delightful woman from China.

## WHERE CAN I FIND?

Through reader feedback, this interactive feature is dedicated to helping readers locate retail merchandise that's difficult to find.

If where a product is sold or service is available, call (248) 901-2555 and leave a message with your name and phone number.

Please be patient about your requests and feedback; we receive an overwhelming number of phone calls.

Also, please spell any uncommon items. If you don't see information about your request, we couldn't find it. Requests are published twice.

## WHAT WE FOUND

For teddy bears made from old fur coats there is a lady at the Town Peddler Craft & Antiques Mall on Plymouth Road in Livonia, (734) 513-2577.

For '50s, '60s and '70s memorabilia try the Town Peddler Craft & Antique Mall on Plymouth Road in Livonia.

For men's pajamas with-

out button on the top try the Vermont Country Store catalog (802) 362-8470.

For 8mm movie film made into DVD or VHS try the Transfer Zone in Oak Park, (248) 548-7580.

## FIND AND SEARCH

Need the name and telephone number of the person who called wanting the 30-year-old sewing machine for Harlan School in Birmingham.

## WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

A women and children's consignment clothing store for Gladys of Detroit.

A store that sells Walden Farms chocolate syrup 0 calories for Mary of Livonia.

A pattern for gowns. Dresses and sleepers for cabbage patch dolls and preemies for Margaret of Livonia.

A store that sells V620 color film for an Argus camera for John of Livonia.

A store that sells Adamski's Original chili starter champion chili in a 5 3/8 glass jar made in Livonia for Ollie of

## Garden City:

A store or catalog that sells Muscle Rub by Dr. Sheffield (for arthritis) for Loretta of Southfield.

A business that buys used opera albums in original jackets for Mrs. M.

A copy of the Harvest Moon vegetarian cookbook formerly in Plymouth (no longer in business) for Veronica.

A store that sells the sugar cookies from the Butcher Block formerly located (no longer in business) in Livonia for Melissa.

A store that sells Glade stand and zip bags and Zip-Loc easy stand bags for Mirabel.

A store that sells fabric to be used in making a women's bath robe in colorful material, preferably 100 percent cotton for Carmen of Orchard Lake.

A store or someone who has the animated (little) Land Before Time figure toys sold at Burger King four years ago for Mary of Livonia.

A store that sells the book American Babies 1st year of Life for Toni of Farmington.

A store that sells the Fantasy dolls by Candice

## Spelling, wife of Aaron

Spelling. A store that sells Corning Ware grab-it bowls for Betty.

A store that sells a therapeutic herbal pad (holy pad) that was formerly sold at Angela's Garden in Royal Oak and that can be used as a hot or cold pack for Vicki of Canton.

Someone who has the recipe for Bill Knapp's tortilla soup for Delores.

A business that buys LPs from 1960-1970 for Helen.

A VHS tape of the Bonanza show titled Forever with Bonnie Bedelia for Pam.

A company that manufactures little spice jars with the labels on the top of the jars for Tom of Bloomfield.

A store that sells a stirring spoon with a hook that attaches to the side of a pot for Connie.

A store or catalog that sells women's cargo pants by Yours ASAP - California for Marilyn.

Compiled by Sandi Jarachas

## Discover the nature of things at interpretive centers

Here's a partial listing of nature/interpretive centers in the Observer & Eccentric coverage area.

Most offer educational programs on a regular basis for a small fee. Exhibits also change periodically.

Environmental Interpretive Center, University of Michigan-Dearborn, 4901 Evergreen Road, between Ford and Michigan Avenue, Dearborn.

Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Free admission. (313) 593-5338.

Highlights: Exhibit of the Rouge River watershed, feeding stations for wildlife, and ceramic tiles created by children on what nature means to them. Nature trails, Rouge River, pond, meadow and grounds of the Fair Lane Estate are nearby.

Nankin Mills Interpretive Center.

Wayne County Parks, 33175 Ann Arbor Road, between Farmington and Merriman roads, Westland.

Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Free admission. (734) 261-9990.

Highlights: Exhibits of Rouge River history, live reptiles and amphibians, Hersey Ford and his cottage industries, and Native Americans cultures. Easy access to Hines Park is nearby.

Maybury Farm and Interpretive Center at Maybury State Park, Eight Mile about a mile west of Beck Road, Northville Township.

Open 8 a.m. to dusk daily. (248) 349-6390. Daily vehicle permits entry fee is \$4; annual permit good for all state parks and recreational areas is \$20. \$5 for senior citizens at least 65 years of age. No additional charge for admission to

farm area. Highlights: This is a working farm that includes animals, barn, machinery and staffers wearing period clothing of the late 1800s to early 1900s.

Marshlands Museum and Nature Center at Lake Erie Wetlands, 33401 W. Jefferson between Woodruff and Huron River Drive, Brownstown Township. Open 1-5 p.m. Monday and Sunday. (734) 397-5020 or (800) 477-3189. Daily vehicle

permits entry fee is \$4; annual permit, good for all Michigan state parks, is \$20. \$10 for senior citizens at least 62 years of age. No additional charge for museum/nature center. Highlights:

Displays of mounted birds and firearms, plus nature trail.

Interpretive Nature Center and Farm Learning Center at Kensington

Metropark, Kent Lake Road exit at I-96. Millford Farm Learning Center open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Interpretive Nature Center 1-5 p.m. Monday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. (248) 685-1584 or (800) 477-3189. Nature center is at confluence of several nature trails.

Lloyd A. Stage Nature Center, Troy Parks & Recreation, 6685 Coolidge, between Square Lake Road and South Boulevard, Troy. Open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Free admission. (248) 524-3567. Highlights: Exhibit of birds and duck decoys, wildlife viewing room, library. The center is gateway to 100 acres of preserved land and nature trails.

Compiled by Doug Funkle

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**Annie**

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