Open new vistas, point your camera to the road

We've all heard the expression thit the road. Well, by hit-ting the road with your cam-era, you'll be able to add new and exciting pictures to your photo album.



capture an incredit ble 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 photography to most always a road that gets us there. So why not photograph them?

Ragier Begin by studying roads in 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 birds-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



Placing the road off center made a much more interesting composition. Monte Nagler photographed this road in northern Michigan.

everything is sharp from front to back. You'll accomplish this by being sure to use a small lens

being sure to use a small lens opening.

Ive 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 lies ahead.

The country road shown here was taken in northern Michigan. Notice how I placed the road off center and waited for a whicle to reach the very top for added interest.

est. So the next time you feel like hit-ting the road, do so! Just make sure your camera is with you. Roads, quite literally, will take you and your camera to new and excit-ing places.

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

There are bad guys aplenty in new book

WHEN THE WOMEN COME OUT TO

DANCE
By Elmore Leonard (William Morrow, \$24.95).



Well, maybe not real-life bad guys.

Well, maybe not real-life bad guys.

Well, maybe not real-life bad guys.

Generally, what I'm referring to here are the bad guys in fiction. Specifically, these days, the bad guys who intrigue me the most are those I find on the pages of Elmore Leonard's work. Who can forget that old redneck, Bod Gibs, of Maximum Bob, for instance, or his low-life nemess, the Crowe family? Or the murderous Ordell Robbie from Rum Punch? Sometime later, in Tishomingo Blues, we had the juicy pleasure of meeting the creepy-crawly eigar-chomper, Arlen Novis, and several of his cohorts.

Remember them?

The bad guys in When the Women Come Out to Dance are sometimes not exactly bad, and sometimes they are not even guys, but one of the company of the cohorts.

We meet a seemingly ambivalent insurance investigator, as he checks up on a young, flirtations widow who may or may not have set her posh manion ablaze.

Maybe the best thing about this steamy story is Lomard's dead-on

Maybe the best thing about this steamy story is Leonard's dead-on depiction of the sparks that fly, and the chemistry ignited between these two

rather wayward souls.

In the title story, we're introduced to two frustrated females who decide to take the bull by the horns – investing in,

shall we say, a bit of home improvement. The glam Mrs. Mahmood wants to off her husband (who seems bent on getting rid of her, too, in a particularly brutal way).

Her obsequious Cuban maid, Lourdes, appears helpful at first, until a twist emerges in her own twisted psyche. The locale is colorful south Florida. They had dug oual together as young men. Now it looked like they'd be meeting again, this time as lawman and felon, Raylan Givens and Boyd Crowder.

felon, Raylan Givens and Boyd
Crowder.
Thus begins "Fire in the Hole," one of
the strongest, most well-developed stories in the collection.
Boyd, a Vietnam weteran fresh out of
the penitentiary the balked at paying
his income tax), has organized something called the East Kentucky Mithia.
This is a bunch of boys wearing Doe
Martens and swastika tattors... all natural-born racists and haters of authority," (Lawman Givens calls them "serious
morons.")
Seems Givens' ("Biding the Dort"

morons.")

Seems Givens' ('Riding the Rap" and 'Pronto') one-time girlfriend, Ava, has plugged her hateful hubby, Bowman, who happens to be Boyd's brother (stay with me here).

Looks like maybe she had an understandable reason for doing so, and Givens (who tends to view himself—in his heart of hearts—as a sort of cowboy here out of old Western movies) wans. to help her out, in more ways than one. T

hing is, he ends up needing some help

hing is, he ends up needing some help himself.
On the pages of "Karen Makes Out," we're up-close-and-personal with a par-ticularly charming bad boy. Carl Tillman. Many readers may think Carl a practically perfect match for our "hero, the hard-working U.S. marshal, Karen

02/03 UMS winter segson

Sisco (remember her in Leonard's 'Out of Sight?), but they will be forced to think again (regretfully) by story's end. Not all these tales are contemporary. Set amid a dasty, bloody landscape of the American Southwest, 'The Tonto Woman' and 'Hurrah For Captain Early' take place during the 19th centurials.

One story seems misplaced in the collection. Though it's a compelling, equivistly observed vignette, 'Hanging Out at the Buena Vista' has nothing to do with felonies or misdemeanors of any kind, but, instead, provides a gentle, shightly wry look at two oldsters, making the best of their last days in a Florida retirement community. It's sparked by Leonard's famous 'voice' and exquisitely convincing dialogue (not surprisingly, so is the entire collection.)

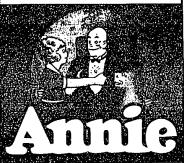
tion.)
Finally, Leonard's love for and knowledge of the movies provides further texture throughout.
His characters sometimes talk about or think on such celluloid luminaries as Jack Nicholson or Christian Slater or Dennis Quaid. One player seems to bear a resemblance to actives Linda. Fiorentino, another to Harry Dean Stanton.

Stanton.
Occasionally, the characters "love Ocasionally, the characters 'low' film stars, and/or they fall in low with individuals who remind them of film stars ('Karen remembered Christopher Walken in 'The Dogs of War' ... at one time she was in low with Christopher Walken, not even carring that he wore his pants so high.')
Obviously, Leonard's low-key humor punches up the collection as well.

Yictoria Diaz is a Livonia resident and writes about books, movies, theater and travel for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

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