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Best winter in years for shooting snow pictures

By LEM MESEE

Whatever misery this winter has caused drivers and snow shovelers, it's been a great one for lovers of outdoor beauty—deep snow, many clear days with blue skies.

And it means camera buffs are getting plenty of excellent snapshots and slides for next December's greeting cards. Here are some tips from our staff photographers and local lensmen on getting good snow pictures.

TREES ARE most beautiful after a fresh snowfall, when there's snow on the branches. In a day or two the wind will blow off the snow and the branches will appear stark and bare.

Best snow shots are taken early in the morning or later in the afternoon, when the sun strikes the snow at an angle. At those times, the snow's texture is revealed at its loveliest. High, flat lighting at midday or on a cloudy day creates a barren effect.

A light meter is useful because sunlight reflecting off the snow—or, in summer, the beach sand—increases the intensity of your lighting. If you don't have a meter, close your aperture by one f-stop (for example, f-16 instead of f-11).

Advance the film slowly after shooting. There's more static electricity in winter, and you could get static marks on your film if you advance it too quickly.

Keep equipment out of the snow and protect it from bouncing and bumping on a snowmobile trail. A dark bag is ideal.

Don't carry a cold camera into a warm, humid building if you can avoid it. If you must do so, wrap the camera in a coat or scarf while it's adjusting to the warmth. That will prevent lens fogging and freezing.

TIGER MUSKIES—the hybrid northern pike and muskellunge that have such voracious appetites—are being taken in several Oakland County lakes where they've been planted. These include Pontiac, Heron and Tipsico.

TURKEY HUNTERS have until Feb. 29 to apply for 5,850 permits that will be issued by the State Department of Natural Resources. Last year 24,000 hunters applied, only 4,900 got permits in the drawing—and only 349 were successful in the hunt.

Your application must specify the area, the unit and the season of choice. The options:

•Allegan State Game Area. Unit one is 83 square miles north of the Kalamazoo River; unit two, 92 square miles south. There are two seasons, April 28 to May 2 and May 5-9.

•Baldwin area (1,580 acres in Lake, Mason, Manistee, Mecosta, Oceana, Osceola and Wexford counties): three five-day seasons are April 18 to May 2, May 3-7 and May 12-16.

•Mio area with four units—two on most public lands and two on mostly private lands where advance permission is required to hunt. Seasons are the same in each unit: April 28 to May 2, May 3-7 and May 8-12.

To apply for a permit, print your full name and address on both sides of a stamped nine-cent post card. On the message side, specify the unit, season and area of choice, and add your small game or sportsman's license number and signature.

Place the card in an envelope with a 13-cent stamp and mail it to Wild Turkey, PO Box 4013, Lansing, 48904.

Post cards will be returned notifying you whether or not your card was drawn for a permit.

Robberies lead crime parade

Serious crime in Oakland County increased by 10 percent in the first nine months of 1975 compared with the same period in 1974. Robberies were up 24 per cent, the Oakland County Sheriff's Department reported.

The most dramatic rise came in the first quarter of the year when serious crime (murder, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny and auto theft) rose 31 per cent. The third quarter, however, showed only a one per cent rise over the same period in the previous year.

Not all serious crimes showed an increase. For the nine-month period the sheriff's department figures show that murder/manslaughter crimes occurred at a rate slightly below the previous year. Rapes and attempted rapes fell 17 per cent in the same period. In the remaining category of crimes against persons, assault, however, authorities reported a hefty 19 per cent increase.

Crimes against property showed the heaviest increases with the robbery increase being followed by jumps of 18 per cent in burglary, seven per cent in larceny, and one per cent in auto theft.

In the first nine months of 1975 there were 44 murders or manslaughters, 141 rapes or attempted rapes, 1,884 assaults, 1,134 robberies, 12,356 burglaries, 26,851 larcenies and 3,982 auto thefts.

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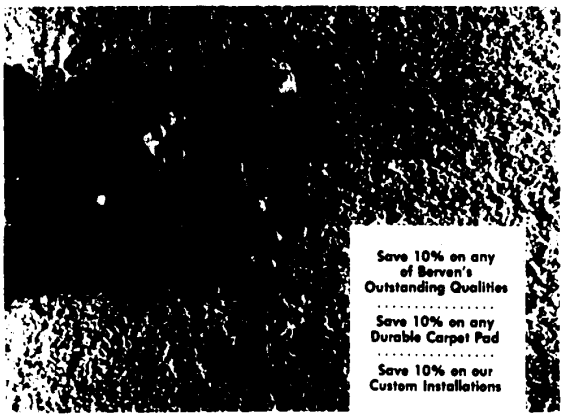

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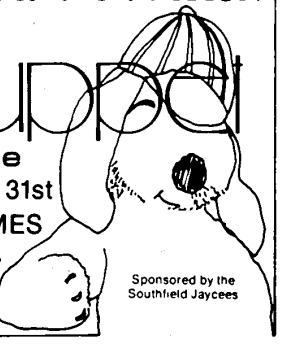

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