



photography
Monte Nagler

Isolated detail can give feeling, mood of whole

Many times a small area of a building, such as an ornate doorknob or ivy-covered window ledge, can create a photographic composition or feeling that is much stronger than the whole. Too often, the intimacy of a flower petal or the pattern of a breaking wave swirling on the beach are missed in our shots because we concentrate on the whole and fail to isolate detail.

Details of pattern, form and texture can tell us much about the subject we are photographing without the need to show its entirety. Isolating detail gives a certain impact and perspective to our photographs not obtained by shooting the whole.

The most exquisite details of architecture and nature, often missed by viewing the whole, can be captured on film when you learn to isolate. Any environment contains a inexhaustible supply of fascinating detail waiting for your camera.

FOR EXAMPLE. In architectural shots, isolate a pattern of unusual brickwork. Look for colorful window shutters. Move in close on a section of peeling paint.

Churches offer many picture opportunities. Here you can find abundant ornamentation, patterns of ceiling beams, and details in statues and stained glass.

Don't overlook bare framework of steel structures under construction that can form striking abstracts in silhouette.

In nature, the supply of detail is endless. Shooting a grouping of trees is fine, but try moving in close to isolate and photograph the texture of the bark. Photographing the lake in its entirety will give you a nice scenic picture, but don't overlook the delicate reeds and lillies at water's edge.

Overall winter scenes are beautiful, but don't forget to isolate that one unique icicle to obtain a special mood not obtainable by the whole.

CAN YOU ISOLATE parts of people? Of course. For example, the hand of an infant or of the elderly will produce photographs with special, personal impact.

Other than a keen eye, no elaborate equipment is needed to isolate detail. Of course, a moderate tele-

photo and close-up filter will help you to move in close. Also, a tripod should be used to maximize depth of field on close-up shots and make them as sharp as possible.

The key ingredients in isolating detail are your vision and your insight. Your aim in photographing detail should be to obtain a complete picture in itself while at the same time maintaining the favor of the whole.

1981, Monte Nagler. His photographs continue on exhibit in the summer group show at the Halsted Gallery, 560 N. Woodward, Birmingham.

Short shots

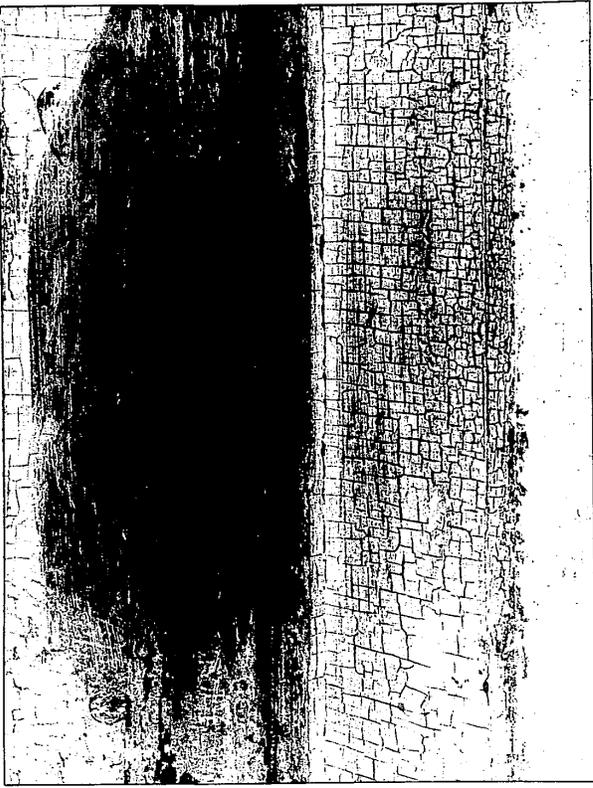
At the Oakland County courthouse in Pontiac during August is a display of black and white photographic studies by D.J. Elfont of Huntington Woods. Photos include little-known falls in the Upper Peninsula and other Michigan nature settings and are exhibited in the first-floor lobby of the courthouse Monday through Friday during business hours.

Elfont's collection, sponsored by the Oakland County Cultural Council, is featured as the cover story in the current issue of the Michigan Natural Resources magazine.

Elfont is an instructor in black-and-white photography at Oakland Community College and the Photo/Art Center in Livonia.

More than 300 nature slides will be shown at 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 30 at the nature center of Stony Creek Metropark northeast of Rochester. They were accepted in the 48th Detroit International Salon of Photography and illustrate the best in photos of plants and animals in their natural habitat.

The one-hour showing is free, but space is limited, so come early for a good seat. Narrator will be Bill Turner, ASFA, member of the Greater Detroit Camera Club Council.



Isolating a rustic door handle and peeling paint, as strong impact which gives the flavor of an abandoned house.

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