



# photography

## Monte Nagler

# How to preserve photos, slides

How many times have you tried searching for a box of slides or set of prints from that special occasion years ago only to be mystified as to where you last put them?

Do you have boxes of loose slides and drawers full of loose prints that are totally disorganized?

You're not alone. A great many photographers regard the filing and storage of negatives, prints and slides as a baffling, disheartening task to be avoided.

Imagine how convenient it would be to have an organized filing system; to have your prints and negatives orderly, neat and available at a finger's touch. It's easier than you might imagine.

**SOME COMMON storage methods actually are harmful to your work.**

Cardboard boxes, throughout the years, will emit discernible amounts of gases and peroxides that will tarnish the silver in films and prints, causing fading and loss of picture detail.

The same is true for brown paper envelopes often used to hold prints and negatives. Glue in the seams of many envelopes can cause bleaching and discoloration if they get too close to the emulsion of a picture.

Rubber bands wrapped around transparencies or rolls of negatives contain sulfur compounds which can turn your pictures yellow or brown. Even some plastics that are intended to protect your pictures may in fact be harmful.

Here is some advice on how to avoid these dangers and to assure the safety of a photographer's most valuable possessions: pictures.

**NEGATIVES:** Care in preserving your prints must naturally begin with your negatives.

This is most easily done by slipping them into polyethylene transparent holders which in turn can be perforated and stored in vinyl binders. Larger negatives can be stored in polyethylene sleeves and housed in small steel cabinets.

Polyethylene will resist moisture

and will not decay or grow misty with age. Furthermore, contact sheets can be made of the negatives without removing them from their holders.

**PRINTS:** Sunlight fades and bleaches color prints. Acids in some mounting board and papers can affect the images in black and white photographs.

To avoid these difficulties, use acid-free mounting board with all your pictures and place acid-free interleaving papers between each print when you store them. Special print storage boxes help, too.

Cellulose acetate holders with an edge punched can be used if you wish to display your pictures in an album. If you're going to hang color prints on your wall, be prepared every few years to have replacement pictures made. Gradual fading may not be too evident,

but will nevertheless occur.

To minimize fading, never hang photographs where direct sunlight will strike them.

**SLIDES:** The biggest enemy to color transparencies is moisture. In an atmosphere of more than 60 percent relative humidity, fungus can form on your slides and damage them.

Storage methods for slides should therefore provide for fully circulating air. Most slides trays and metal slide storage boxes are specifically manufactured to permit air circulation and thus reduce moisture.

Preserving your photographic memories in easy. A few simple measures will ensure that they'll be around to enjoy for a long time to come.

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Contrasting textures give this Monte Nagler photo impact. Sunlight through fleecy clouds contrasts with silhouetted grass and wind-ruffled sand. The scene is California's South Padre Island, but it could have been taken at any Lake Michigan beach by any photographer with imagination to see it.

## Why counties issue 'red alert' warning

County road commission employees contend that declaring a "red alert" is effective in keeping many drivers off roads, allowing snowplows to inch their way through hazardous conditions.

Red alerts are issued when drifting and blowing snow overcomes the road commission's ability to clear roads, said Dennis Pajot, Oakland County Road Commission public information officer.

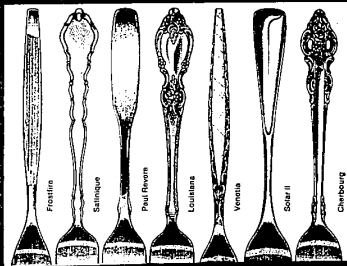
"We think most people pay attention to it, because if they didn't, traffic would be a lot worse," Pajot said.

In Wayne County, Louis Sugo, director of news relations at the Road Commission, agrees that the alert works.

"Declaring a red alert is a fairly scientific process. When we see we can't keep up with plowing and roads are blocked by snowdrifts and automobiles, we declare the alert," Sugo said.

Wayne County has a three-alert system. A yellow alert warns drivers that road conditions are hazardous. Red alert means severe drifting. "Condition red" means to stay off the roads unless it is an emergency.

Sugo said Wayne has never declared a condition red, but added that state police have agreed to ticket violators should the condition arise.



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