

Go for the 'good' — let feelings show



photography

Monte Nagler



I'm often asked by students and photography friends: "What makes a picture good? What separates the dynamic photograph from the ho-hum snapshot?" There are a number of key ingredients that get a picture noticed and give it attention-getting power. First is impact — difficult to describe, but so important in the formulation of a good photograph.

What makes this picture good? Unusual camera angle and composition give this photograph by Monte Nagler impact and a strong graphic quality.

You might say that if a picture arouses feelings and emotions of joy, appreciation, or excitement, even anger or sorrow, then that photograph most assuredly will have impact.

How do you obtain impact in your shot? Begin by selecting subject matter that is either unusual or is treated in an unusual way.

USE A different camera angle or perhaps a different lens. Place the subject in an unusual environment or try special filtration for a unique effect. Pay attention to good composition. Place the elements of your picture in the viewfinder in the strongest way possible.

Express on film what you see and feel when taking your shot. Fill the frame for added impact and watch backgrounds for distracting objects.

A good picture will hold the viewer's attention and will keep him thinking about the image. It will also stir up his imagination.

A good photograph will often have a story to tell that will have meaning and substance. How best to put meaning in your shot is to photograph those subjects that capture your own interest.

If your own feelings become a part of your photograph, you most certainly will produce a fine picture, one that will have more impact for others to enjoy.

Not only should a photograph say something worthwhile, but it also should say it well. The pic-

tures must be sharp (or unsharp as desired through selective focusing) and have proper exposure. Color saturation and contrast should be technically correct and your pictures should be presented in a neat, professional fashion.

Also, sharpen your visual awareness and your perception of the world around you. If you do, your photographs will be remarkably improved.

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Short shots:

Monte Nagler's winter class series begins Jan. 17 at the Farmington Community Center. Phone the center at 477-8404 for registration information.

Alan Lowy, free lance photographer and instructor, will teach two photography courses at Cranbrook Institute of Science. Starting Thursday, Jan. 26, "Winter Landscape Photography," will be given 7-9 p.m. Feb. 2, 9, 23, with a special field trip at 9 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 12. Open to students of all levels, but a single lens reflex 35mm camera and tripod are required.

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Starting on Thursday, March 1, Lowy will teach "Nature Photography: Advanced Still-Life Techniques." It will continue 7-9 p.m. March 8, 15, 22 with a 9 a.m. field trip Sunday, March 18. The class is designed for students who are interested in advanced studio, still-life techniques. A single lens reflex 35 mm camera and tripod are required. Both classes are \$35 and \$33 for non-members. There is a \$4 lab fee for the second course. For information, call Cranbrook Institute of Science.



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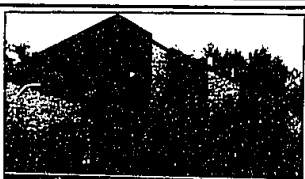
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