

expanses of Western beauty. Notice how many of the elements for prize-winning photos, which he writes about, are present in this picture.

Short shots

• Monte Nagler's new advanced photography class begins Tuesday at the Farminglon Community Center. Is addition to a constay shooting ser-sion, subjects to be covered include closs-up photography in a physical poly, antural and indoor lighting, zone system practices and Track mer. Phone the center at 477-8404 for regis-tration information.

• West Bloomfield Photo Club meets the first and third Thursdays at the United Methodist Church, 4400 Walnut Lake Road, Just west of Or-chard Lake Road, West Bloomfield, For Information, call 550-8818, noon to

a Photographers will have an op-portunity to photograph up to 40 mod-els in a variety of settings at the 1984

Photographers Model Show noon to 7 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 18, in the Woodhaven Community Center, 23101 Hall Road, Woodhaven. This is one block west of 1.75 Exit 32.

The event is again sponsored by the Creative Canera Ciub. Admission fee of \$4.50 includes the cntry fee for a photo contest. Photographers should bring day-light rated film to the show. For more information, contact Robert Robinson, 675-7853.

• Winter Photo Walk will be held 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Sunday at Independ-ence Oaks County Park. Guest Speak-ers Hartley Anglin and Bill Barnard will provide information on the special challenges of winter photography. Participants will meet "at the boat rental building. Bring camera and dress for the climate. The park is on Sashabaw Road, 2% miles north of 1.75 near Clarkston. For Information, call 858-0903.

Chamber music planned

Hints on photo competitions

Did you ever take what you knew was a prize-winning zhot and then won-der if it could capture first place in a photography contest? Well, there's a competitive spirit in all of us and unless you enter your pic-ture in a contest, you'll never know how you'd do.

Today I'm going to give you some advice about photo contests — where to locate them and how best to go about entering the competition.

After all, you may win an exotic trip, new camera equipment, or some useful cash.

The best source for finding contests is in the news media. The Observer & Eccentric Newspaper as well as the Detroit Free Press and the Detroit News all announce contests in their camera pages in addition to sponsoring their own contests.

Last summer, the Observer & Eccentric introduced its first photograph contest and plans are in the works for a new contest this year.

EACH YEAR Kodak and the Free Press co-sponsor the International Snapshots Awards contest and the Detroit News will host its sixth annual Color Photo contest later this year.

Major shopping mails in the area often conduct photography contests and, of course, the numerous camera clubs in the metropolitan area welcome your best abots in their competitions, too.

All major photo magazines have con-test announcements and our own Mich-igan Natural Resources has a special reader's photo issue each year. One of the best sources of keeping tuned into contest happenings is the Photoworks Journal. Photoworks is a local publication, free at most camera shops and galleries. It has thorough listings of all competitions. Knowing what judges look for in a

good photograph can be a valuable guide when entering a photo contest. Usually, judges base their score on three criteria.

FIRST, is subject matter. A judge will ask, is the subject unusual, or, if commonplace, is it treated in an unusual and way? Does it stand apart from the other entries and command attention? Are my emotions sittered and is this picture communicating anything to me? Secondly, judges will take a critical look at composition to determine if all the elements of the picture are arranged in the most effective way.

They'll ask themselves, is the photograph simplified and uncluttered? And, is there a strong idea being expressed and does the composition complement the subject?

THRDLY, and equally important, is the technical quality of the photograph. A judge will look for sharpness, proper exposure, and good color saturation. He'il look for a clean slide or print, and, if matted, he'll want to see neat, we'll-cut mats.

Make sure you read all the entry rules carefully and abide by them. You wouldn't want that special shot to be disqualified on a minor technicality. Most important, shoot those subjects that interest you. By putling your own feelings and emotions in your photography, you most certainly will increase your chances of producing a prize winning photo with impact.

Shooting for the judges and not for yourself will result in pictures that will lack that all important ingredient — you!

Keep it fun, enjoy the competition, and try to use photo contests as a means of improving your own photographic skills and interest,

• 1984, Monte Nagler



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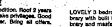
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