

# Giving portraits greater impact

When most of us think of portraits, we picture the standard head shot of high school seniors or the executive in the newspaper who just received a promotion.

These shots are OK but they certainly lack pictorial impact and stopping power.

Imagine how thrilling it would be to produce portraits with a flair of excitement, pictures that really say something, pictures that tell a story about the subject. Wouldn't this type of portrait stand apart from the rest? You



## photography

**Monte Nagler**

bet. These environmental portraits contain drama not found in standard head shots.

ENVIRONMENTAL portraits are

taken in the subject's surroundings using elements and props that are part of the person's interests or field of expertise.

If photographing a string musician,

doesn't it make sense to show the person, violin or other string instrument in hand in perhaps a room setting conducive to the mood?

If your son is hooked on football, a portrait of him in full uniform right after the game when he's covered with sweat and dirt will be filled with impact.

In the accompanying photograph shown here, I gave much thought to how to best depict horse wrangler Marlin Holroyd of the Double J Ranch in Rothbury.

First, I asked him to wear his rain slicker and western style hat. The fact that the slicker was dirty and mud-splattered added realism to the portrait. The barn door opening frames Marlin and provides a black background for greater contrast.

Including the horsehead hitching post in the viewfinder is an important element in that it brings Marlin's interest in horses into the photograph.

Placing the subject slightly to left of center for compositional strength and adding the rope gave that extra touch of impact. His relaxed stance rounds out a neatly executed environmental portrait that says a lot about Holroyd and his interests.

Two acknowledged masters of the environmental portrait are Yousuf Karsh and Arnold Newman. It would certainly be worth your time to browse through their books during your next visit to your library or bookstore.

©1985, Monte Nagler



This environmental portrait of the cowboy by Monte Nagler, along with many of his other new works, is on exhibit at I Browse Bookstore, 33088 Northwestern, West Bloomfield.

## Scout attains Eagle rank

Chris Farley, who started as a cub scout in 1976, was presented with the rank of Eagle Scout, scouting's highest rank at an Eagle Court of Honor hosted by Troop 389, this month.

His service project — required to attain Eagle rank — involved the rehabilitation of an old pump house on the grounds of the Farmington Community Center.

Dewey Burton, assistant scoutmaster and member of the Ottawa district training group presented Chris with his Eagle charge. Veteran scout Robert T. Johnson of Sufferin, New York made the Eagle presentation.

With members of his troop, sponsored by Nardin Park United Methodist Church, Farmington Hills, Chris has camped at Lost Lake Scout Reservation, the official camp of Clinton Valley Council.

The troop is under the direction of Jim Miller. Chris has hiked the Wilderness, Pottawatomie and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base memorial trails and has backpacked in the Adirondacks and Canada. He's served in the Leadership corps of his troop since

1982 and has been an assistant patrol leader, bugler and librarian. For three summers, he's served on the junior staff at Lost Lake. He holds the Arrow of Light.

A June graduate of Harrison High School, Farmington Hills, Chris was ac-



tive in the marching, symphony, concert and jazz bands. He was a reporter and later editor of the band's student publication, "The Squeaky Reed." In addition, he's been a Farmington Observer carrier for two years and has worked at Hero's Buffet and Buddy's Pizza.

His interests include swimming, computers, camping, backpacking and movies.

A freshman this fall at Grand Valley State College, he's studying for a career which he hopes will allow him to produce, direct and write for the film industry.

Troop 389 meets at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays in Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 11 Mile Road, west of Middlebelt, Farmington Hills. Those interested in joining the troop should call its scoutmaster, Jim Miller at 478-9794.

## Cost of MS is high

Every week nearly 200 people are told they have multiple sclerosis (MS), a disease whose cause is still unknown, and which seems to strike young adults most often. The disease affects at least 250,000 Americans. It also affects society as a whole in terms of costs needed for research and treatment, and the loss of

productive manpower in many industries. Multiple sclerosis is a chronic, often disabling disease that affects the brain and the spinal cord. When a person has MS, the covering — myelin — that protects the nerves in the brain and spinal cord is affected so that messages cannot always get through. Myelin pro-

ducts the nerve fibers of the brain and spinal cord in the same way that insulation protects electrical wires.

According to Vice Admiral Thor Hanson, president of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS), the lifetime costs of each year's new case-load of MS patients may easily range up to \$3 billion.

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