Filters have special touch for color

FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY

MONTE NAGLER

Recently, I wrote about the filters that were important with color photography. For lovers of black and white, there are important filters, too. Similar to color photography, the right filter with black and white film can turn an ordinary picture into something quite special.

Today, I'm going to discuss the filters essential for black and white photography.

Red-Orange-Yellow Family — These filters are the most important when shooting in black and white. Beginning with yellow and ending with red, this family of filters progressively darkens the blue of the sky to add all-important impact to your pictures.

With no filter, separation between blue sky and clouds will be lost in a black and white print and the sky will appear washed out. But by using one of this family of filters, here's what happens. A yellow filter darkens the sky to a light gray. The orange filter darkens it further and the red makes the sky almost black. The clouds always remain white.

So can you visualize the drama these filters will add to your shot? The way they work is that yellow-orange-red filters progressively block the blue light from the sky from reaching the film during exposure — yellow the least, red the most. The resulting prints therefore show progressive darkness in the sky.

Green — This filter lightens its own color, making foliage such as grass and leaves lighter in the finished print. Greater contrast is achieved and a more pleasing picture results.

Common Filters with Color Film — Three of the filters I recently discussed in my column on color filters are also very useful when shooting in black and white.

The skylight serves as protection or "insurance" for an expensive lens. The diffusion filter softens harsh facial lines in a black and white portrait just as it does with color. And a set of close-up filters moves you in close for those in-tight shots of springtime flowers.

Filters are an inexpensive investment that will produce a high rate of return for your photography!

Degree of separation: *Monte Nagler used a red filter to dramatically darken the blue sky in this picture of a lone tree in Window Rock, Ariz. Note the separation between the sky and the clouds produced by the filter.*

Short shot

Monte Nagler's popular photography classes begin Tuesday, May 3, at the Farmington Community Center. Don't miss this special opportunity to sharpen up your photography skills. Call 477-8404 for registration information.

Monte Nagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave him a message by dialing (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then his mailbox number, 1873. His fax number is (810) 644-1314.

Picture Lady seeks helping hands, hearts

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

The Artists' Gallery in Farmington Hills was the site of a special display Wednesday.

It was a Gala Evening of Art Enrichment at the gallery, 30905 Orchard Lake Road, for Picture Lady Program volunteers. They celebrated Michigan Glass Month with artist Annette Berenholz, who gave a demonstration about her jewelry creation.

Picture Lady volunteers (there are Picture Grandpas and other male workers, too) are gems of another type. They present art in the classroom to students in kindergarten to fifth grade. They focus on a variety of subjects, such as the artist's techniques or the mood or historical significance of the works. Prints or reproductions are left in the classroom for a month.

The art enrichment program expands beyond the immediate area to Farmington as well as Fenton, Clarkston and Battle Creek, among other communities.

"It's such a worthwhile program," president Pam Woodside said.

There are many encouraging stories about the program. A child visiting a museum recognized a work by an artist; the youngster knew the artist from a presentation of another of his works by a Picture Lady volunteer. A young woman became an artist; her love of art began when her mother served as a Picture Lady.

Training sessions for the program take place twice a year. The next session is scheduled for late September. A board meeting is set for May to look at long-range plans.

New ideas are encouraged. If you'd like to help, call vice president Bernice Lee at (810) 646-5167 or write the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association, 1516 S. Cranbrook Road, Birmingham 48009.

Individuals or groups may volunteer for positions in five areas:

- Training committee — Plans traditional fall and lighter spring training sessions. Meets with the board two to four times a year.
- Social committee — Selects the continental breakfast menu for training sessions, sets up and cleans up. Meets with the board two times a year.
- Enrichment — Can be formal or non-traditional, open to new ideas. Meets with the board one or two times a year.
- Media staff — Secures and publishes newsletter, does public relations work for media coverage and to encourage new memberships. Meets with the board two to four times a year.
- Grants — Researches and requests grant funds. Meets with the board one or two times a year.

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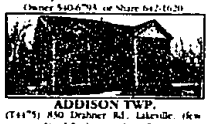

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