

DIVERSIONS

# Black and white photography may surprise you



MONTE NAGLER

**FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY**  
 Taking photographs in black and white can be a very rewarding experience. Most people would not think of putting anything but color film in their cameras. Undoubtedly this is because they want their photographs to record the way they remember a scene. Yet the lack of color in a black and white photograph can make a far more striking interpretation of a scene. And since black and white is an interpretation rather than a documentation of a subject, the onus is on the photographer to create a picture through the use of textures, tones.

and tones are considerations, but in black and white photography they are all important. You may say that color photographs are analogous to seeing a movie while black and white is like reading the book.

If you have two cameras, try loading one with color and the other with black and white film. Take a shot of the same subject. When you compare your prints, you may be surprised by the power of the black and white image.

Portraiture in black and white can be very effective indeed. Look at some good black and white portraits, study them carefully, and you'll see the impact they possess. I've always felt that color portraits show the likeness of a person while black and white brings out the character of the face.

**Express yourself**  
 The tonal range from black through various shades of gray

to white is known as the gray scale. By utilizing these tones in an interpretive way, a photographer can truly express him or herself through their photography.

A black and white print using the extremes of the scale (no mid-tones) is referred to as a high-contrast print. Just the opposite, an all mid-tone print is called low-contrast. If the tones are toward the white end of the scale, it's called a high-key picture. A photo where most of the tones are near the black end is low-key. One that uses the full range of tones is called a full-tone print.

By using the tones creatively and effectively, a photographer is able to "make a statement" through his or her pictures.

Monte Nagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave him a message by dialing (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone. His fax number is (248) 644-1314.



**Perfect subjects:**  
 Sand dunes are the perfect black and white subjects. Early morning produces tones and textures and impact just not obtainable in color. These dunes are in Colorado's Great Sand Dune National Monument.

## Delightful book captures days gone by

**The Frozen Dead Lady - Michigan Memories**  
 By Robert William McCutcheon Sr., \$16.95

By KEELY KALESKI WYGONIK  
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Don't let the title, *The Frozen Dead Lady - Michigan Memories*, scare you. Robert William McCutcheon's book is a delightful, autobiography that will warm your heart.

The former Birmingham resident shares his adventures growing up with his parents, grandparents, older sister Kay (Dit) and brother Ted in Birmingham and Bellaire, Mich., from the early 1920s through the 1960s. Each chapter is a short story, a family snapshot of a simpler more innocent time.

It begins on Quaron Lake in Birmingham when McCutcheon and Ted stumble upon a frozen dead lady while ice skating. Ted sat down on what he thought was a log to tighten his skates.

"Well, it turned out that the log was, in fact, the frozen body of an elderly lady who, the previous night, had decided to take a short cut home across the frozen lake! Except, unfortunately, the lake wasn't as frozen then."

**Conversational**  
 Written in a comforting, conversational style, McCutcheon brings the reader along with him down memory lane as he

recalls this and other interesting tales from his childhood and early adulthood.

You'll feel the thrill of sneaking into grandma's wine cellar, while she was taking a nap, to swipe a bottle. It was during Prohibition, and "she had to exercise extreme discretion." Grandma "Grossmama" was born in Germany, and was well into her 80s when the story takes place. In the safety of the barn, the author and his cousin Rudy learned how to sip wine.

One of my favorites was "Pete the Crow." Like a lot of people, I used to rescue birds as a child and try to nurse them back to health. Except I never succeeded like McCutcheon did.

The boys found Pete on the ground underneath a tree. At first they fed him bread and milk, but figured that "most crows don't grow up on a milk diet." So they started feeding him bugs. Pete got healthy and stuck around for awhile.

"It was Pete's habit to emit a soft little coo, almost like a purr, when he swooped down and plunked himself at your feet (or shoulder or head or whatever)."

Some of the stories take place in Bellaire. McCutcheon's father sold lots on Torch Lake for Torch Lake Lodges, a corporation formed by a group of investors from Birmingham and Detroit.

McCutcheon and his wife Martha live in Bellaire in the



**Memories: Author Robert William McCutcheon Sr. (left) with his sister Kay, and brother Ted. The photo was taken in 1938.**

house built by his maternal grandparents. He learned how to fly airplanes, and became a licensed airplane mechanic, commercial pilot and flight instructor after graduating from high school.

In 1942, he joined the Air Force and later attended Eastern Michigan University. He taught at the high school and college levels, but did lots of other things before that including work at the Packard Motor Car Company in the traffic department. It was a neat job. He got to move new cars wherever they needed to go, inside or outside the factory.

His "in" was a neighbor in

Birmingham who was "up" in the company. He got laid off during the holidays when model change-over took over and went up north. Because he was away, he missed his recall notice and was terminated.

But working at Packard was just one chapter in the author's life. Later on, he worked as a crop duster and liked the work because "you're pretty much your own boss."

Pilots will enjoy reading about his close encounters with telephone wires and propeller problem.

McCutcheon has a way of making you feel you're his best friend along for the ride. You'll smell Grossmama's German Christmas cookies, feel the mud as the author describes the private mud slide he created with Ted, and the thrill of being in an airplane flying over farm fields.

He admits, "not all this historical information is presented sequentially. You're going have to take it as it comes to the surface."

Oh, he tries "to keep it honest and more or less truthful. But be advised," he says. "I ain't perfect. Close, maybe. But not perfect."

*The Frozen Dead Lady - Michigan Memories* book is available via Amazon.com and Borders.com, and at Borders in Ann Arbor and Novi Town Center.

## Breakfast In a Bottle is fast, nutritious

Breakfast In a Bottle, a fast, nutritious way to start the day, is now available in three flavors - Creamy Milk Chocolate, Strawberry, and Mocha Cappuccino - at all The Vitamin Outlet locations throughout southeast Michigan.

Developed over two years by The Vitamin Outlet founder David Farber, Breakfast In a Bottle contains 12 grams of protein, 16 grams of carbohydrates and 1 gram of fat. The product retails for \$2.49.

Each flavor contains important nutrients necessary to start the day, including proteins, vitamins and minerals. Just add water or milk, turn upside down, shake, and drink a healthy breakfast.

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"People and families are busier now more than ever," Farber said. "They rarely have time for a. at home, family breakfast, and don't always have time to stop and get a muffin and a coffee. They end up skipping the most important meal of the day, which results in feeling lousy all morning and gorging at lunch."

"Breakfast In a Bottle is just the ticket for breakfast meal

■ **'People and families are busier now more than ever. They rarely have time for an at home, family breakfast, and don't always have time to stop and get a muffin and a coffee.'**

David Farber  
 -Vitamin Outlet founder

replacement. It's healthy, tastes great, and has everything people need to get their day off to a great start. What could be better than that?"

The Vitamin Outlet specializes in vitamins, minerals, herbals and dietary supplements, as well as sports nutrition and body building products, all at discount prices. It also offers natural products, including shampoos, soaps, and breath fresheners.

The Vitamin Outlet was started in 1994 by Farber and currently has 10 stores throughout metro Detroit, including locations in Bloomfield Hills, Livonia and Southfield. For more information, call (248) 344-0030 or visit [www.thevitaminoutlet.net](http://www.thevitaminoutlet.net).

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