



Twin City Camera Club *ViewFinder*

Member of the PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA and THE SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF CAMERA CLUBS

Jan., 2004 Editor: John Opie Assoc. Ed. Dennis Mally Roll 68, Exposure 1

Our January Competition—theme: **autumn**—was especially rich in colorful autumn prints.

Judges were: *Ray Damaski*, a long-term experienced photographer from St. Joe.
Bruce Nowmum of TCCC, has his own studio and does a lot of school pictures, sports, and groups.
Ron Bonczkowski of TCCC judged prints
Dick Lyons of TCCC judged slides

Missing slides from Monday, Jan. 12: Ron Bonczkowski is missing 3 of his slides from Monday's competition. Anyone pick them up by mistake? Phone Ron at 429-9902.

TCCC Website: Dan Penrod reported that we have a new, fresh, updated website. Check it out at: <http://www.members.aol.com/tccameraclub> How about a notice of the *ViewFinder* on the Home Page?

New Member: Patrick J. Conlin

601 Port St., Apt. 907
St. Joseph, MI 49085
982-2819

Patrick is interested in color and b/w printing processing and enjoys nature and close-ups. He uses Fuji equipment and is Carl Hartman's neighbor. Welcome!

Program Night Monday, January 26: Table Top and Still Life demonstration by *Elaine Harju*.

Upcoming competition topics:

February 9	Windows or Doorways
March 8	Silhouettes
April 12	Machinery
May 10	Chimneys or Smokestacks
June 14	Nature

Interesting Piece of Information: Earlier this month three scientists at the University of Illinois reported that they had **re-invented the transistor so that it emits light** instead of an electrical impulse. This is revolutionary! I suspect that it will have a major impact on media like photography, computers, television, and other forms of imaging. Soon, too!

Want to Sell Your Equipment or Camera Collectible? Several TCCC members suggested that the *ViewFinder* is a good place to sell, barter, or give away photo and related equipment. For example, after my notice in the December *VF*, my Zeiss Ikon Contessa is gone, my old German Kodak rollfilm may be gone, but my Chinese Seagull twin-lens reflex, my Voightlander folding rollfilm, and my Kodak 3A Autographic folding rollfilm (with British manual) are still available. If you have something to offer, write me, or e-mail me at: joscribbler@comcast.net, or tell me at a TCCC meeting. *Please, let's limit this to photo or photo-related equipment. I suppose we could include cameras, accessories, darkroom equipment, computers, scanners, printers, and software (shh!). No collectible china dolls or used pickup trucks!* Deadline? The next issue of the *VF* won't go in the mail until mid-March because I will be out of town for an extended time. So, send me your information anytime before March 9, the sooner the better. I hope we can get this running on a regular basis!

Professor Guides Members On How To Judge Photos

(and then make better photos)

by Dennis Mally

The November 2003 program meeting featured what amounted to a brief seminar on critiquing by David Curl. David taught for 26 years at WMU and Kalamazoo College and currently conducts workshops at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Over his 50 year career he has made, published and exhibited thousands of images, and as a teacher, exhibit juror and judge has critiqued many thousands more.

It was a cold, snowy night and David quickly warmed up the group by commenting on how impressed he was with TCCC's long history and fine facilities. He then engaged attendees in the discussion by asking for their one-word thoughts on the judging process. Words such as "biased", "inconsistent", "accepting", "picky" and "capricious" came forth, to which he said it was important for us to realize that a critique of the work is not a critique of the maker. He commented that even the best photographers have and will produce some unattractive photos. Furthermore, he pointed out that the maker, the judge and all others who view a finished image will look at it via the unique perspective that is formed by their different human experiences. Consequently, the art component of the art and craft of photography is "in the eye of the beholder" and cannot be judged objectively. He admitted that he is biased toward simple images with strong graphics, is a stickler for clean printing, appreciates creativity and looks for prideful care in the matting and presentation.

Mr. Curl then launched into feedback to the group on the large number of images they had brought along for his review:

- Poor cropping is the most common problem. Experiment with different cropping areas, shapes and sizes, even when it seems unnecessary.
- Photography is mainly about light. Look for good quality light and pay close attention to the angle at which it strikes the object.
- Look for overall tone quality. Avoid blown out highlights and blocked up shadows.
- Seek to balance the image through composition and cropping.
- Avoid distracting elements that draw the viewer's attention away from the principle subject. The eye seeks light in a dark environment and dark in a light environment.
- Repetition, with minor variation, of shapes and forms is pleasing to the human eye just as repeating musical phrases are to the ear.
- When composing, move around and view the subject from different points, up/down, right/left, front/back, top/bottom, angle/straight.
- Avoid lines that lead the eye to nowhere.
- Placing people or objects in the image is sometimes necessary to give the viewer a sense of size and scope.

Before thanking the Club for inviting him, David said that photography provides endless opportunities to learn, explore and experiment, and he responded to a question on the digital manipulation of photos that is so popular at present by saying: "It's the image that counts. I recognize quality regardless of how it was created."

YEAR 2003-2004 Competition Statistics

CLASS A MONO PRINTS	Jan.	Total
Curtis Drake	10	47
Joe Littleton	11	40
Richard Lyon	13	36
Herbert Hein	6	33
Ralph Harju	6	27
John Opie	8	27
Dennis Mally	5	20
Dan Penrod		10
Jim Lynch		9
Wilbur Dick		2

CLASS B MONO PRINTS	Jan.	Total
Caryl Olson		13
Colleen Lawrence		12

CLASS B COLOR PRINTS	Jan.	Total
Rick Keffer		47
Amber Robinson	2	31
Colleen Lawrence		18
Mary Lee Burkle		8
Patrick Conlin	8	8
Caryl Olson		2

CLASS A COLOR PRINTS	Jan.	Total
Jim Lynch	19	68
Don VanderMolen	18	67
Ralph Harju	12	51
Dan Penrod	20	47
Herbert Hein	9	44
John Opie	14	41
Sue Makinen		35
Don Hunt		31
Barbara Yack	14	29
Jamie Keffer	7	24
Wilbur Dick	9	15
Bruce Newnum		14
Victor Coar		14
Dennis Mally		2
Paul Hicks		2

CLASS B SLIDES	Jan.	Total
Paul Hicks		17
Caryl Olson		6

Total Mono Prints	22	116
Select	8	53
Open	14	63
Acceptance	13	55
Honors	0	2
Rejects	9	59

Total Color Prints	34	209
Select	22	98
Open	12	111
Acceptance	25	120
Honors	4	14
Rejects	5	75

CLASS A SLIDES	Jan.	Total
Gorson Drake	12	57
Don VarderMolen	14	57
Jim Lynch	14	52
Ken McKeown	14	50
Sylvia Schlender	17	50
Curtis Drake	11	48
Ray Reip	6	45
Herbert Hein	14	40
Wilbur Dick	14	36
Ron Bonczkowski	9	28
Ralph Harju	6	27
Joe Littleton	2	26
John Opie	2	25
Howard Nahikian		22
Carl Hartman	5	12
Claude Hines		2
Dennis Mally		2
Jamie Keffer		2

Total Color Slides	56	283
Select	39	142
Open	17	141
Acceptance	29	122
Honors	1	8
Rejects	26	153

Total Entries (all categories)	112	608
Select	69	293
Open	43	315
Acceptance	67	297
Honors	5	24
Rejects	40	287