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Master Photographer: Jim White

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Indian Paintbrush

...capturing timeless memories on a thin piece of celluloid.

A sparkle appeared in Jim's eyes as he leaned back in his leather chair, and I began by questioning about his long career as a professional photographer. It quickly became obvious to me that this 71-year-old Clinton, Oklahoma resident is living his life as he had dreamed—capturing timeless memories on a thin piece of celluloid.

To literally thousands of Western Oklahoma residents, Jim White, Master of Photography, Photographic Artisan, is no stranger. For many, Jim created their first baby pictures; and as years passed, he captured the expressions of joy for the wall portraits cherished by all in the family.

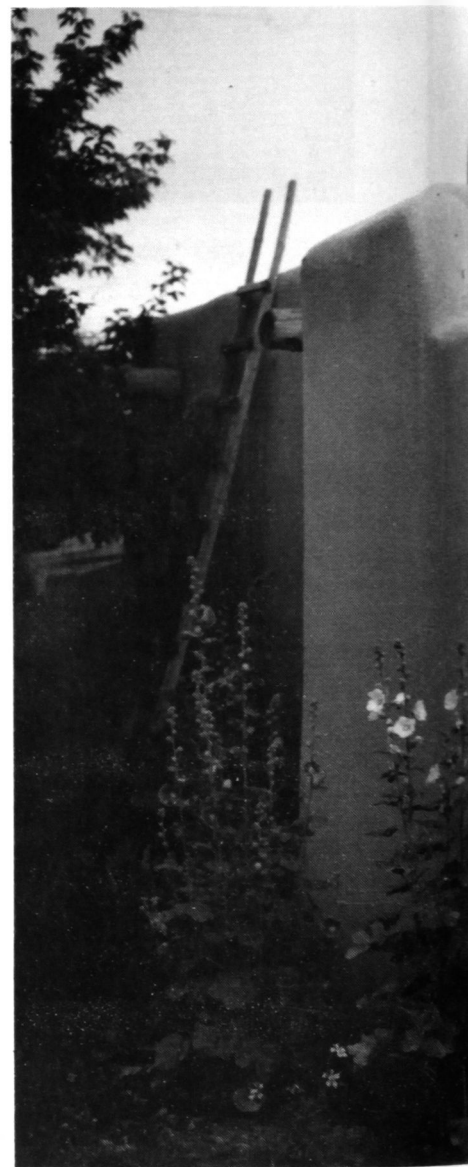
For photographers across the nation, Jim represents a leader who thrives on perfection. He has been in demand as a seminar lecturer for most of his career because of his unique ability to skillfully manipulate light, film, lenses, perspective, and creative energy into an unforgettable portrait.

Jim's initial interest in photography began in the 1930's. When his father was an adolescent, he had been an amateur photographer. When the elder White went into a hospital because of tuberculosis, he began acquiring photographic chemicals for enjoyment. After his father died, Jim's inquisitive nature about how the photographic process worked set into motion his future career as a professional photographer.

After graduating from high school, Jim was employed by a commercial photographer in Oklahoma City for the summer. However, not until he purchased his own studio on

MASTER JIM

By David



A Taos bookstore — a adobe structure

February 1, 1940 in Seminole, Oklahoma, did he consider that his professional career began. After selling his own studio, he became director of photography for Blunck's Studio in Clinton. His career was set because in his new position, he proceeded to utilize his talents to train other photographers to use his unique photographic talents.

Over the years, Jim has photographed such clients as Senator David Boren, Governor George Nigh, Governor Henry Bellmon, the McCain Brothers, and many other state and local notables. However, when asked what his most important subject is, he said, "Whatever I'm photographing

PHOTOGRAPHER: WHITE

Burlison



at the moment." Speaking from experience as his protege, I know that he treats every click of his shutter as if his long successful career depended on the outcome of each exposure.

One of his most favorite portraits is of his daughter at seven years of age. Jim gracefully placed her by an open window; with the manipulation of light, lens, exposure, negative development, and special printing techniques, he managed to create not only a lasting portrait of his daughter but also an award-winning portrait. With the portrait of his daughter, he won the coveted Ken Carson award.



Jim White's daughter at age seven.

During his career, Jim has won many other awards, one hundred print merits from the Professional Photographers Association, and four loan Collection prints (merit and loan collection prints are prints selected by master photographers, prints that meet the high standards set by the Professional Photographers Association).

One of Jim's photographs that I particularly enjoy is a photograph of a Taos bookstore. By choosing the proper time of day for optimum dramatic effect, he captured the unique shape and visual unity of the adobe structure. He not only received monetary compensation for his efforts, but he was awarded a print merit with the Professional Photographers Association.

Jim White continues to share his knowledge with Oklahoma photographers as director of photography for Blunck's Studio in Clinton. Also, he can still be found catching smiles and angelic expressions while creating timeless portraits of children, brides, seniors, and adults.

DAVID BURLSON of Moore, husband of Kaye Burlison, whose article appears in another section of this issue, is a professional photographer and aspiring writer. He enjoys putting into practice the many creative ideas and innovative techniques he has learned from Jim White, subject of his article.