

Steppin' Out



Eddie Mone
He's a lot like
Wile E. Coyote.

The Janesville Gazette/Thurs

He scores big with big photos

PHOTOGRAPHER

Continued from 1C

In the local diner across the street, Busch, like his workers, finds solace within. Steam floats from a hot cup of coffee, smoke rises from the ashtray and warm conversation flows.

Busch, 37, received his first camera, a 35mm Pentax, from his parents while in high school and obtained a combined architecture/photography degree from the University of Illinois-Champaign.

After graduating, the Miami native moved to California where he worked under the auspices of well-known photographers Wynn Bullock, Morley Baer, Ansel Adams, Arthur Sinsabaugh and Al Weber.

He worked in the lab and field in addition to assisting at workshops. Later, he returned to Illinois and married, then moved to New York where he worked in the jewelry business for nine years.

But Busch's strong desire for photography compelled him to get back into the art in 1982.

Among his credits is a yearlong Denver project, a Northern Illinois project titled "Contrasts," which includes 50 original black-and-white images of Rockford-area cities. The exhibit will open Monday in Springfield, Ill.

Busch also did the photography for the commemorative poster "Divine Obsession," with proceeds benefiting the Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra.

McDonald's Corp. recently acquired two of Busch's prints for its corporate art collection. His works have been featured in one-man shows throughout the country, and his photographs have been printed in virtually every international photographic magazine.

This year, the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. purchased four of Busch's prints. One is displayed in a colotype exhibit in The National Museum of American History.



Douglas I. Busch photo

'Frank Lloyd Wright' is one of 50 black-and-white images featured in Busch's one-man show, 'Contrasts.'

Busch's recent show, "Epiphany," was exhibited in The Gallery of J.R. Kortman Center for Design, 107 N. Main. The collection focuses on western landscapes, primarily Colorado.

Presented in 8-by-10, 11-by-14, 14-by-17, 12-by-20 and 20-by-24-inch formats, each photograph is the size of the negative.

"Negatives are always the same size as the original prints, creating better quality, detail," Busch said.

Because no image is ever enlarged or reduced, Busch's photos disclose extraordinary detail to viewers.

Besides taking photos, Busch designs and creates cameras and photographic equipment for his own use.

His company, de Golden Busch, sells hand-built large-format cameras of brass and mahogany. He is working on designing and building the world's largest portable camera, measuring 64-by-52 inches and 18 feet long. The lens alone will weigh 21 pounds.

Working with black and white allows Busch to be more in control of creating the picture he wants, he explained.

"It's different shooting a big camera than a little one and a lot more difficult carrying 200 pounds of equipment," he said.

Photographers shoot for different things—Busch aims for details. It's not unusual for him to spend a half-hour setting up equipment in preparation of the shoot.

"It takes a lot of endurance,

patience and commitment to get that one photo," Busch said, adding: "A lot of thought goes into one picture. Composition depends on where you want to place your values."

Although Busch is concerned about the quality of his work, he claims he never talks about why

he chooses to do the type of photography he does.

"I never analyze it, but hopefully my vision is different," he said.

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