

Feature

Freelancer teaches photojournalism

Marie Thompson
to Editor
Freelance magazine
ographer, David Falconer
be teaching the winter term
photojournalism class here at
Clackamas Community College
Monday from 7 to 10p.m.
Falconer began his career as a
vs photographer for the
gonian in 1953. It all began
when he was a copy aid at the
gon Journal, and was con-
stantly hanging around the
kroom, asking questions. So-
one referred him to a "two
k job" opening up in the
tography department at The
gonian. At that time, The
gonian had six photographers
the cameras they used were
bulky four by fives. He stayed
in The Oregonian for 25 years.
Falconer has since been out of
"news" business for seven
years, working freelance, doing
tures for Time, Life, People,
tional Geographic and USA
day. He does a lot of
eople" pictures, scenic photos,
features.
When asked about what he felt
his most interesting assign-
ment, Falconer described the time

he spent behind the scenes with
President Ford. David Kennerly,
a well-known photojournalist,
had been on the staff of The
Oregonian and was back for a
visit during the time that he was
President Ford's personal
photographer. Falconer asked
Kennerly when someone else
would be allowed behind the
scenes and Kennerly replied,
"When do you want to come
back?" Falconer soon found
himself riding in Air Force One
with the President, in private
quarters in the White House, on
the other side of secret service
blockades, and even eating meals
with the President. He had open
access and felt as though he was
in a special, elite group.
"It was a different world. I
mean, here you are with the most
powerful man in the Western
World and I'm as close to him as
I am to you, and no restrictions.
I've always enjoyed the privilege
of getting to do that. It was fun."
Falconer also did a shoot of
Portlandia for People Maga-
zine. Because it is published
weekly, the daily publications
already had pictures of it out,
and David wanted his picture to

be unique.
"There isn't a picture that
hasn't been taken," he said,
"so do it different." Falconer
had Portlandia's sculptor's
wife, who was the model for
Portlandia, stand profile with
the sculpture to show the
resemblance. He then had her
kiss Portlandia on the nose,
making the shot a definite
original.
**"No news is good
news. If you do hear
back, it generally
means something's
wrong. You're ex-
pected to produce."**
Because he is freelance,
Falconer's work schedule is not
regular. He works on assign-
ment and often he will be the
one to make the first move. He
will call the Picture Editor of
various magazines presenting
them with possible feature
ideas. If they give him the go-
ahead, David will do the shoot,
send the film in, and not hear
anything until his check arrives.
"No news is good news. If
you do hear back, it generally

means something's wrong.
You're expected to produce."
When it comes down to ac-
tually getting a job, Falconer
says that the old saying, "It's
not what you know, it's who
you know" still holds true, and
that editors definitely have their
favorites.
Falconer now does 90% of
his work for magazines, the
other 10% is for USA Today.
Because of the type of work he
does, Falconer must travel a lot,
usually outside of Portland,
often outside of Oregon, and
occasionally outside of the
Pacific Northwest. He never
went to college and says that his
experience on the newspaper
helped him to recognize pic-
tures.
Falconer doesn't normally do
any writing to accompany his
photos, but says that times are
changing and it's becoming
necessary to "try and learn to
do a little writing and to use
computers."
**"The weather and
lighting will never be
right. Learn to work
with that."**

As for the photojournalism
class here at Clackamas Com-
munity College, Falconer's goal
is to "teach people to 'see' pic-
tures. To see, recognize, and do
something about it." There won't
be any instruction on how to use
a camera, but "this will be a
hands-on learning experience."
There will be weekly assignments
to be critiqued by himself and the
class, weekly and term layouts,
The Print and a daily newspaper
will be critiqued in class.
There may possibly be a guest
speaker from television.
Deadlines will be stressed. "No
alibis," says Falconer.
Falconer's advice to anyone
wanting to become a photojour-
nalist?
"The weather and lighting will
never be right. Learn to work
with that. Learn to shoot and
print color film. All publications
except for People Magazine are
color now. Get a journalistic,
newspaper background. Photo-
graphers today are better
educated, better equipped. Get
out and 'sell' yourself.
"Don't be afraid to take
chances," Falconer added.

Symes' "Pioneers" wins silver medal

Marie Thompson
to Editor
Bill Symes has many respon-
sibilities as Public Information
ervisor here at Clackamas
mmunity College. Among
m is the production of multi-
slide shows. In September
this year, his production "The
w Pioneers" won a silver
dal at the Northwest Regional
ociation for Multi Images
tival in Coos Bay.
"The New Pioneers" is a 15
ute show on the history of
ckamas County that ties the
neer past in with the pioneer
ure. "The New Pioneers"
uments the past with old
otographs, paintings, and
nts, and covers the whole
tory of the county. The pro-
m was used as a theme for the
ckamas Community College
Anniversary Community
nquet last May and has been
wed by over 5,000 people.

Bill began producing slide
shows eight years ago when he
was working at Oregon Health
Sciences Center. OHSC needed a
production for their poison
center and found the \$5,000 to
\$7,000 bids from Portland's pro-
fessional producers over their
budget. OHSC decided to make
it an in-house project, and Symes
took it on. It took six months to
complete because "I had to do
everything wrong and then do it
again." Since then, Bill has done
between 15 and 20 shows, four in
the last year, two of which were
done in the same week.
When asked how a show is put
together, Symes rolls his eyes and
says, "Don't ask! It's an agoniz-
ing process." First there are the
given basics: an unreasonable
deadline, a low budget, and a
purpose. From there, it's in Bill's
hands. He must create a concept
that flows naturally and will have
an impact on the audience. "I

want it to get 'em." Next, a script
for the show, be it a brief descrip-
tion or a word-for-word account
of what will be going on. The
script is a sort of blueprint for the
production. After the script is
written, the two elements of a
slide show, soundtrack and
visuals, must be created and
brought together. Location
photographs or graphics, such as
titles or backgrounds, must be
shot, and the tapes must be
made.
Bill often uses location recor-
ding in a documentary fashion
along with music, the main
source of sound, and an occa-
sional narration. Once he has
the location tapes made, a
transcript of the tapes is writ-
ten, the desired material is
marked, and Symes heads into a
studio. There he dubs the
sounds he wants onto a four-
track reel to reel, mixes
everything on a multi-track,

leaving one track open for cues.
Cues are computer programmed
onto the tape to automatically
cycle the projectors. Thus, a
seamless master soundtrack is
made to accompany the visuals.
"The soundtrack and the
visuals compliment each other
and work together to have an
emotional impact on the audi-
ence. That's what you shoot
for. Hopefully the effect on
screen is that you don't sense
any of the technical stuff going
on in the background. All you
see is a show that looks logical
and sensible and flows together
well. A lot of times, though,
you'll get people who turn
around and watch the projec-
tors instead of watching the
screen."
Besides "The New
Pioneers," Symes has done a
show focusing on the Oregon
Trail which played at the
Oregon Pavillion at Exop '86. It

was done in "one extremely in-
tense week. Slide shows are real
labor intensive," commented
Symes.
Symes also did a show for
Clackamas Community Col-
lege's staff 20th Anniversary
program using "original music
and graphic pzazz" to accom-
pany the photographs of the
staff members being honored.
As well as these, Symes is also
responsible for the current col-
lege presentation used in
recruiting high school students.
As it is five years old, Symes is
thinking of doing a new one this
spring.
"I'm not planning on doing
any more slide shows for a
while. But I always recover, or,
I guess forget. And generally,
after a little bit of rest, I'll get
excited about doing another
show."

SEASONS GREETINGS



Wishing you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!

John S. Keyser, CCC President

Posters for New Pioneers!



Oregon City on the Willamette River
c. 1852 oil on canvas by western painter John Mix Stanley

Full color, limited edition posters commemorating
Clackamas Community College's 20th Anniversary.
Available now at the CCC Bookstore or call the Foundation
Office at 657-8400, ext. 402. \$10 unframed, \$50 framed.

Proceeds benefit the Clackamas Community College Foundation.