



Diane Ronayne
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Notes recorded by Cindy Salo (Your Humble Scribe)

Diane Ronayne edited Idaho Wildlife magazine for 15 years, then began a free-lance career in writing, editing and photography in 1998. She is also a columnist for the Idaho Statesman.

Form follows function: books that combine words and photographs

Uelsmann: Process and Perception, by Jerry Uelsmann and John Ames. Black and white photos with unusual effects created with pre-Photoshop techniques such as multiple enlargers. Pages are larger than most books to accommodate photos in both portrait and landscape formats and to surround them with ample white space to set off accompanying words. The order of the photos tells a story as the reader moves from one to the next. Western European readers move from left to right and top to bottom for both words and photos. Light objects in photographs draw the eye. Readers take time to savor these photographs, in contrast to those in the following book.

Capture the Moment: the Pulitzer Prize Photographs, by Cyma Rubin and Eric Newton, editors. Includes winning newspaper and magazine photos of the past 80 years. As readers spend only a few seconds on a news photo it must tell its story quickly. Photographers can't be shy about photographing people if they want to capture their emotions and tell their story.

The Writer's Desk, by Jill Krementz. Show writers' habitats and their approaches to life. Text is the writers describing how they write. Each photo contains clues about the writer that the reader must discover to understand them.

Between Home and Heaven: Contemporary American Landscape Photography, essays by Merry Foresta, Stephen Jay Gould, and Karal Ann Marling. The photographs are not always pretty but they show the times in which they were taken. The effect of people on the landscape can be positive or negative. Rephotography of historical photos shows change over time.

A Short Guide to a Happy Life, by Anna Quindlen. Sweet, wise, and happy.

Idaho Wildlife Magazine

Diane edited this Idaho Fish and Game (ID F&G) magazine until it ceased publication in 1998. Had been started by Royce Williams in 1978; Royce later started the TV program that became Outdoor Idaho. Was a four color magazine with 20,000 subscribers.

Diane was neither a hunter or a fisher, but she wanted to be a magazine editor. She had 36 pages to fill every two months and relied heavily on free lancers for content. Contributors that provided both words and photographs were especially helpful.

Later she was able to assign stories to staff members, but she continued to purchase excellent wildlife photos. The magazine wasn't able to pay as well as other outlets, but photographers agreed to lower prices as ID F&G does good work for the industry.

Photography classes & photo archives

Idaho Camera has a series of photography seminars at their Vista store. Diane has taught Community Ed classes in the past and currently teaches digital photograph to students at charter schools.

Hint: Portrait (vertical) photos fit publication pages better than landscape photos -- get comfortable with this format.

There are many photographs in the public domain, such as those taken by federal employees. The Bureau of Land Management's archives are available on line.

Recommended books on writing and photography

The Artful Edit: On the Practice of Editing Yourself, by Susan Bell.

Diane recently discovered this book and found it helpful.

Photography and the Art of Seeing: A Visual Perception Workshop for Film and Digital Photography, by Freeman Patterson. We look but often don't see; being a photographer changes the way you look at and see things.

Local books that combine words and photographs

The Treasure Called Tubbs Hill, by Scott Reed. Author is an attorney in Coeur d'Alene. This history of Tubbs Hill is a fund raiser for the local historical society. Diane edited and designed the book. She used a perfect binding on the book (as opposed to the saddle stitch binding used in magazines), which needs a

minimum number of pages. As the book includes different types of information (bird lists, flowers, etc.), she added a colored band at the top and bottom of each page to unify the entire work. She added interest and unity to each of the many photographs with a drop shadow.

The Resurrection of the Bar O by Tom and Jemima Davis. The Davises are cattle ranchers in Cascade who have owned 22 ranches over the years; this book describes how they did it. Their daughter, Diane Myklegard, recorded the family's oral history and collected photos. Diane Ronayne transformed the tapes into a written history. This self-published book was printed by Kinko's on an inkjet printer rather than a four color printer.

Combing words and photos in magazine and newspaper pieces

Doing both words and photos gives you an edge, as the periodical market is getting tighter and it is hard to get paid for online work. Read several issues of a publication to understand its audience and attitude. Some have want lists: articles they will need six months from now.

See Diane's handout for more information:

<http://www.sageecosci.com/Writers/BNFW03Se08.DRonayne.HowTo.pdf>

Diane shoots with a Panasonic body and a Leica lens with an 18x zoom.

State of Idaho media and news links to print media:
<http://www.idaho.gov/aboutidaho/medianews.html>

The Idaho Press Club links to media outlets:
<http://idahopressclub.org/General/Idaho-Media-Links.html>

Idaho Tourism Division's news page has press releases, story ideas, newsletters, and multimedia features for writers:

<http://www.visitidaho.org/news>

Q&A

Q: When is a photo release needed?

A: Not needed at public events (unless it's a public place in which they may not want to be photographed, ex. a casino).

A2: Take the photo first, then ask.

Q: How much Photoshopping can you do?

A: In photojournalism: none. National Geographic got caught early on removing wires from a photo and promised not to do it again.

**Succeeding as a
freelance writer:
"It's all about
relationships."**