



"Pilgrim Eye" includes such vistas as the Grand Canyon, from a period when Halpern served as artist-in-residence of the national park service. David Halpern, Bill Standerfur (right)



making art

David Halpern's book is as much fun to look at as it is to read

By **JAMES D. WATTS JR.**
World Scene Writer

Ask the average, Kodak-wielding shutterbug what he or she is doing, and the typical answer is, "Taking pictures."

Put the same question to David Halpern, and the answer is almost the same: "Making pictures."

But that difference of a single letter is what separates the amateur from the artist when it comes to photography.

The amateur imagines that all it takes to capture an enduring image on film is to be at the right place, at the right time, with one's finger on the shutter button.

The artist understands that these are simply the most basic steps in the creation of a picture — akin to a painter mixing his paints on the palette or a writer filling a fountain pen and taking up a blank sheet of paper.

The work of "making pictures" involves a wealth of skills and talents, all of them directed by the artist's individual vision. Pictures that have been "taken" are just that — images plucked from reality and affixed to film. Pictures that are "made" express a point of view, show us objects and places in new ways, make us look

more closely at the world around us.

Halpern has been *making* pictures for more than 50 years, becoming nationally known for his photographs of the American landscape and of his adopted hometown's Art Deco architecture.

His most recent book, "Pilgrim Eye," is several books at once: a retrospective look at his career as a landscape photographer, an artistic manifesto, and a kind of philosophical autobiography, in which Halpern seeks to explain the why as much as the how of what he does.

Halpern's life, coincidentally, parallels the history of modern photography. He was born in 1936, the same year that Kodak introduced Kodachrome film and the single-lens reflex (SLR) camera — for years a photography mainstay — first came on the market.

He took his first photographs with his parents' Kodak Brownie, and bought his first "real" camera — a Century Graphic — in 1951, when, Halpern writes, "I became serious about making pictures."

That seriousness continued as Halpern earned his living in advertising and marketing. By the mid-1970s, soon after settling in Tulsa, he had his first solo shows of his work. A decade later, Halpern de-

cidated to focus on personal rather than commercial photography.

This was also about the time he began serving as an artist-in-residence at many of the U.S. national parks, tenures that would produce some of Halpern's most famous work.

Halpern addresses a number of aesthetic and ethical questions in "Pilgrim Eye," from the reasons for creating black-and-white images of colorful landscapes, to the pleasures and challenges of digital photography, to the manipulation of images to create a desired effect.

While Halpern is known as a visual artist, he's also a fine writer. The essays in "Pilgrim Eye" are clear and direct — effectively communicating his ideas and memories as his photographs communicate the way he sees and celebrates the majesty of the American landscape.

"Pilgrim Eye" is, not surprisingly, a gorgeous thing to look at. Award winning designer and former Tulsa Carol Haralson designed the volume with a loving hand. The paper used has a heft close to fine photographic paper, and the quality of reproduction of Halpern's photographs — the book includes images from the early 1950s to 2006 — is often breathtaking.

signing

David Halpern will hold two signing events to mark the release of his new book, "Pilgrim Eye."

He will be at Pierson's Gallery, 1307 E. 15th St., from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday. The gallery is hosting a signing and the opening of a show of Halpern's work. Copies of the collector's edition — a signed and numbered copy of the book and a signed and numbered print of a Halpern photograph in a clamshell box — will be available for \$350. The exhibit of Halpern's photography will be on display through April 7.

Halpern also will sign copies of his book at Steve's Sundry, Books & Magazines, 2612 S. Harvard Ave., from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday.



Pilgrim Eye By David Halpern (Gneissline, \$50)

Special: A limited-edition copy, including prints and autographs, is available for \$350.

Strike *that*: Mantle novel finds a home

NEW YORK (AP) — A racy novel about baseball great and Oklahoma native Mickey Mantle has found a new home after being canceled in the wake of publisher Judith Regan's firing.

Lyons Press, an imprint of Globe Pequot Press that publishes many sports books, will release Peter Golenbock's "7: The Mickey Mantle Novel" on April 3, with a planned first printing of 250,000.

"Peter is a terrific storyteller with a great track record, and we're proud to have him on our list," Lyons associate publisher Eugene Brissie said last week in a statement. "7: The Mickey Mantle Novel" is a book that absolutely deserves to be published."

Golenbock has written numerous other books, including "Red Sox Nation," "Personal Fouls" and "Dynasty."

Regan's ReganBooks, an imprint of HarperCollins, was supposed to publish the Mantle book in March. But Regan had been strongly criticized for her attempted O.J. Simpson project, "If I Did It," and "7" was endangered after



Associated Press

Peter Golenbock's novel of the "Commerce Comet" has been denounced by former teammates.

family members and former teammates of Mantle's objected to the novel, which includes an imagined tryst with Marilyn Monroe.

After Regan was fired in December, her imprint was disbanded and the Mantle book called off.

Women's History Month, in words

booknotes

"Centennial Voices," a celebration of Women's History Month, will reverberate to the words of Oklahoma writers March 27 in a special event co-sponsored by the Oklahoma Center for Poets and Writers at Oklahoma State University-Tulsa and Tulsa Community College.

The stellar gathering of authors who will read from their work will include Oklahoma Writers Hall of Fame authors Rilla Askew, S.E. Hinton, Billie Letts, Wilma Mankiller and Joyce Carol Thomas.

Clifton Taulbert, literary ambassador for the Oklahoma Center for Poets and Writers, will make a special appearance.

The readings, scheduled at 7 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center for Education, on the southeast campus of TCC, are free and open to the public. Books will be on sale, and all of the authors will be available for autographs.

The occasion will mark the launch of Hinton's new story collection, "Some of Tim's Stories," and Askew's novel, "Harpson."

Thomas, a National Book Award winner who now lives in California, is flying to Tulsa especially for the occasion.

For more information, call Teresa Miller, executive director of the Center for Poets and Writers, at 594-8215.

Learning to study the Bible

Susan Heck will sign copies of her book, "With the Master in the School of Tested Faith: A Ladies Bible Study of the Epistle of James" (Tate Publishing) at 2 p.m. Saturday at Borders Books, 2740 E. 21st St.

Heck conducts seminars for women on starting Bible studies, mentoring programs and scripture memorization. She has been a pastor's wife for 25 years. She is certified with the National Association of Nouthetic Counselors, and serves at Grace Community Church in Tulsa.



S.E. Hinton

Promotion the foxy hen way

Romance Writers Ink has scheduled a workshop by Jackie King on "Self-Promotion the Foxy Hen Way" for its meeting at 1 p.m. Saturday on the campus of OSU-Tulsa, Room 110, North Hall Conference Center.

King studied journalism at the University of Oklahoma and has published dozens of short stories and articles about women and women's problems. In 2006, she and three local authors saw the release of their anthology, "Chik-Lit for Foxy Hens," which included King's first novella.

Along the way, King learned to overcome her fear of the public, using innovative and savvy techniques to promote the book on a limited budget. She'll share those tips at the workshop.

King and writing colleague Peggy Fielding are working on a nonfiction book, "Women-of-a-Certain-Age Make Life's Best Lemonade."

The workshop is open to interested writers at no charge. For further information, e-mail jackiekramer7@netscape.com.

— Judy Randle,
World Book Editor