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TRIBUTE TO KRYN TACONIS

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photographs by Taconis, and won a silver plaque at La Plata, Argentina, in 1967.

Competition in the profession intensified towards the end of the 1960s, and the market for photojournalism experienced a downturn. So in 1969 Taconis branched out into industrial photography, and covered gas development in the North West Territory for the Polar Gas Co. He also photographed ore processing in Ontario and the development of the Alberta tar sands.

Teacher and photo-essayist

In the 1970s Kryn Taconis taught photography at Conestoga College, Kitchener, Ontario. He also became a keen conservationist, using his art to portray the ravages of industrialisation and to fight for the preservation of natural sites in

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provincial parks. He was particularly fond of Quetico Park and did two stories on it, writing the text for one of them.

Grants from the Canada Council enabled him to work on two of the black-and-white photo essays he had begun in the 1960s. One portrayed the everyday life of a blind American boy, Barry Sheur, and the boy's efforts to become accepted by other children. His other photo essay concerned the Hutterite communities that had forsaken the US in 1918 for the prairies of Manitoba and Alberta. Theirs was a simple way of life based on sharing and respect for divine authority; Taconis was fascinated by the way this farming community's existence contrasted with that of the industrialised world around them.

Children and people outside the mainstream are two of the themes that recur frequently in Taconis' work. It was not just the Hutterites that engaged his sympathy, but also other isolated and threatened peoples such as the Indians and Inuit.

For his last essay he returned to his origins: a long visual poem in colour on the river region known as the Meuse (Maas). This was to be a very personal essay full of gentle pastoral images and tinged with melancholy, but it was never finished. Kryn Taconis died of cancer before the work could be completed.

The exhibition, *Kryn Taconis, Photojournalist*, is a smaller travelling version of one produced by, and first shown, at the National Archives of Canada. It opens on March 1, 1990, and runs until the end of the month. The exhibition's catalogue is also available for sale at \$34.50 (US) by writing to:

National Archives of Canada
Marketing and Distribution
344 Wellington St, Room 136
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0N3.

