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**Using Your Kodak**

By H. P. DOOLE

**THE IOWA HOMEMAKER**

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**WHEN** we pack up the car for that touring trip this summer, there will be one thing that won't be packed away as far out of sight and reach as possible. That is the camera, and it will be where we can get it at a moment's notice. It may be an ordinary box camera costing a dollar or it may be a high-priced folding kodak with all the newest attachments and lens worth a month's salary. But the kind of a camera isn't the main thing. Any kind, no matter what, the person who has a camera worth a month's salary for every traveler. But maybe a few hints may be useful in helping you to get the best pictures possible.

The first thing I would say is "know your kodak". If you don't know it already get acquainted with it. What I mean by this is, know what your kodak will do, know what kind of a picture to expect after you have set it and made an exposure. Of course this will mean to take pictures under a lot of different conditions, and, if possible, record, or if you can't write it down, remember how the kodak was set as to focus, time, size of diaphragm and kind of day or light with which the picture was taken. If a picture is not as good as it should have been, try to figure out what is wrong from the negative, and if you do not know how to do this, ask the man who develops your film. Then you won't be so likely to spoil another picture in the same way.

You must not expect too much from any old kind of a kodak. That is, you can't expect to get a clear-cut motion picture of a train going by you at full speed with an ordinary lens and a slow shutter. Of course you know that an ordinary kodak does not take snapshots indoors.

The cheaper the kodak, the easier it usually is to operate. In a box camera the focus is fixed, there is no diaphragm to be adjusted, and only one speed of time exposure. All one has to do is to choose the subject, arrange it properly, get it in a good light and snap it. This may sound like an advantage over a more adjustable kodak, but the kind of pictures that may be taken are limited to the ordinary so-called snapshot and time exposure.

Everyone should know what the adjustments that their kodak has are for, what they do, how they will help to make the picture better.

One thing that is not usually used to the fullest advantage is the diaphragm. Its adjustment we usually speak of as "stop", "close-up", "landscape", "portrait", numbers corresponding to the former being 7.7, 11, 16, 22, 32, 45, which are found on the more expensive makes. In all of these systems the numbers increase as the shutter is opened. The largest openings are for use in snapshots or when the light is poor. For all ordinary instantaneous pictures 1/25 second is the best time to use, but if the sun is very bright or if the picture is on the water a faster time, i.e., 1/50 second could be used for ordinary landscapes. A closer stop or smaller object on the other side of the center of the picture and the object of interest. This gives the eye somewhere to start and advance upward to the main motif. A secondary object on the other side of the center from the principal object would next attract the eye, and from that one could leave the picture with an arrangement of satisfaction that he had seen everything of importance. A picture with no arrangement at all and containing a multitude of objects leaves a person with an uncomfortable feeling that he may not have seen everything there was to be seen. Much more could be said on the artistic side or composition; in fact, this article could cover the subject well.

A great help in landscape work is the color filter. This serves to cut out the blue light to which a film is most sensitive. With this, cloud pictures may be taken as the blue of the sky is not recorded as fast as usual and so gives the clouds a chance to be impressed on the film. With the color filter you must be careful to exclude motion as the time of exposure required is eight times as long as for the same picture without the filter.

Some people prefer to develop their own pictures, while others like theirs done by professional finishing firms. There are arguments on both sides of this question. Of course the cost is less if one does it at home, the only disadvantage being the time required for the pictures. Especially for the tourist, the 24-hour service offered in most towns will enable him to have his films developed and printed at any town where he may stop for a day.

The best pictures of artistic value or of association should be enlarged if the original kodak view is of small size. Enlarging may be done at home with the use of a suitable enlarging machine, but for ordinary home use the cost of the pictures. Especially for the tourist, the 24-hour service offered in most towns will enable him to have his films developed and printed at any town where he may stop for a day.

If you take the time to study your particular kind of camera, you will be well repaid next winter with a book of clear beautiful pictures to remind you of your travel. Better yet, if you can get your kodak out of focus when you snapped this scene."