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Capture Your College Years Candidly

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Capture Your College Years Candidly

Is that faithful Brownie of yours collecting dust along with other high-school memoirs on a deserted closet shelf? Good pictures can be taken with a box camera, and the memories you record can mean much to you after you leave college.

Snapshot photography is an excellent field in which to make use of some of the things you learned in Applied Art. Remember the rule that tells you to divide your area into thirds both ways and place the center of interest at one of the intersections? This guide holds true in photography also. Art teachers preach the uncluttered, unobtrusive background in composition. This factor is especially important in taking pictures; make the background enhance the subject, not fight for attention. Watch especially for trees and telephone poles; they look funny growing out of your boyfriend's head. Don't forget that most cameras can take a horizontal and vertical picture. Sometimes just that quarter turn of the camera produces a more effective and flattering picture. The vertical composition is especially useful when you want to emphasize height.

Psychology courses tell us that every person is different because of his unique experiences. This principle can work in photography, too. Give each person the individuality in snapshots that he has in real life. Include some of the experiences that show your subjects' personality; catch the golfer in full swing, or snap Mom mixing up your favorite cookies. Purpose is important to a picture, too. Decide on your intention before clicking the shutter, and make each picture tell a story. You may want to say, "This bridge with the quiet stream running under it, has a homey, peaceful feeling." You can do this by framing the rustic bridge and stream in soft foliage. Be sure that you aren't depending on color to tell your story when using black and white film. Or maybe you want to show the excitement of a football game. The intense excitement is more evident in the faces of the crowd around you than in a shot of the players from high in the stands.

Framing has other uses. Take pictures through archways. Frame a landscape or waterfall with a familiar object near by, for example a tree or rock. This will give significance to the viewer of the distance or position of your subject.

Your camera is a piece of equipment. Learn its directions and limitations and your pictures will benefit. A grainy, blurred pictures will have no interest regardless of its composition and subject matter.

Above all don't forget, "Science with Practice." The science of picture taking, like any other, is improved and applicable only through practice. After graduation, you'll recall fond memories, while looking over your bulging photo album.