

How's Your Composition?

PHOTOGRAPHY FOR YOU

After learning how to load your camera and properly expose your film, the next step in making good pictures with either a Nikon or a Brownie is to learn composition. Good composition is one of the essentials that makes the difference between a picture and a snapshot. If you'll investigate the differences between a box camera and an expensive view camera, you'll find that the only distinction is one of greater picture clarity and control in the hands of an experienced photographer. So you can readily see that regardless of your equipment, if you can learn to recognize a picture, you will be well on your way to graduation from a shutter clicker to a photographer.

One of the first essentials of a good picture, composition, is learning how to recognize a good picture. Before you take that picture give it the railroad test, ask yourself will it be the kind of picture that makes you stop, look, and think about it when it is reduced to the two dimensional world of black and white or color. If it won't then try moving in closer and simplifying the picture. Get a different view-point, climb up or get down low next to the ground. Circle around your subject. Remember that there are 360 degrees from which your camera can approach a subject. Show what you are trying to picture and nothing else—make your pictures worth a thousand words but make them so they can be read in a glance.

A knowledge of lines is very useful if one desires to suggest a certain quality such as action, strength, or beauty. Diagonal lines tend to make a picture live—they suggest motion and activity. Curved lines will add softness and grace

to a picture. Straight lines can give a feeling of strength and solidity to a picture. Every good picture has one of the different classes of lines predominating. Remember the famous picture of the flag-raising on Iwo Jima? Diagonal lines predominated in that picture with the flag pole pointing in a diagonal line toward the left hand corner of the picture and the Marines at the base of the pole forming two diagonal lines of force into the pole. A main line form can be achieved by rotating the camera so that a speeding boat will be moving from one corner of the negative to the other, by darkroom work or by subject composition, but don't forget your lines if you want your picture to talk.

Are your pictures lopsided? Take a couple of your prints, especially landscapes, and stick an imaginary pin in the center of the picture. If that pin were the sole supporting force in your picture, would your picture remain stationary or is your subject matter so concentrated on one side that it causes your picture to rotate out of equilibrium and down into the trash heap.

Subject placement is always tricky. Usually, unless you are working with models, it is better not to place your subject but to let him place himself so that you will get a more natural candid shot.

There are a few rules that can aid you in emphasizing a certain person or object in your pictures. They are mainly concerned with contrast or location. One of the easiest ways of bringing out a subject is to place a light subject against a dark background or vice versa. This will eliminate superfluous attractions and will, especially if the picture is white on black, tend to draw the eye immediately to the subject you are emphasizing. For location use almost any place but dead center. Some photographers draw mental lines which divide their pictures into horizontal and vertical thirds. Then they try to place their subjects at one of the four crossing points of a horizontal and vertical dividing line. One of the best ideas which can be used immediately is to frame your subject. Include the branches of a nearby tree or shoot thru the doorway of a house to form a natural picture frame around your subject.

These suggestions should be of some help in giving you more control over your pictures, but always remember that a picture is your interpretation of a subject. Above all, don't be afraid to experiment. There never has and never will be a rule of composition that cannot be broken to your picture's advantage when your subject calls for it.

ON LOVE

(Continued from page 2)

find love after coming to an accurate knowledge of God? No. "He that does not love has not come to know God, because God is love." (I John 4:8-11.)

Our love must be genuine, for God and for man. Lip-service is sheer hypocrisy that brings death. Love from the heart brings one into closer communion with the Almighty God.

"A certain man versed in the Law rose up, to test Him out, and said: 'Teacher, by doing what shall I inherit everlasting life?' He said to him: 'What is written in the Law? How do you read?' In answer he said: 'You must love Jehovah your God with your whole heart and with your whole soul and with your whole strength and with your whole mind,' and, 'your neighbor as yourself.' He said to him: 'You answered correctly; keep on doing this and you will get life.'" (Luke 10:25-28.)

FRESHMAN: "Since I met you, I can't sleep, I can't eat, I can't drink."

COED: "Why not?"

FRESHMAN: "I'm broke."

Cornell Widow

NEW TEACHERS

(Continued from Page 1)

tionally speaking, she is a Queens girl, receiving her B.A. there; and a Duke girl, receiving her M.A. there! Her first teaching job was in Concord. Presently she teaches at Myers Park in addition to her work here at the college. Her favorite subject? American Literature! Her hobby? Photography . . . color photography! In pursuing this hobby, she has traveled the western part of our own country and looks forward to taking a European tour next. Welcome, Miss Freeman, to the faculty of Charlotte College!

While we introduce the faculty, we want to introduce to you Miss Evelyn Baker who is a part time teacher returning to us again after teaching part time last fall and winter. Miss Baker teaches one class of English One. She hails to us from Winthrop and Duke. A southern belle from Pageland, S. C., she has taught in our own dear Union County and is presently with Myers Park High School faculty. Her favorite pastime is taking tours via books. Her specialty in reading, however, is WHO DUNNITS. We are proud to claim her as a member of our Charlotte College faculty.

ALL STUDENTS interested in attending Student Council meetings are hereby invited to attend at any time.

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