

# Photographing People

By Dora W. Burke

There is a great deal of difference between taking "snapshots" and trying to make really good pictures. A good photograph will be as interesting to other people, but a "snapshot" is seldom of interest to anyone but the person who took it. A good, well composed study of a person, or a good group picture will catch the interest of a stranger.

A common mistake of amateur photographers is trying to get too much in the picture. When taking pictures of people, backgrounds should be as unobtrusive as possible. You shouldn't have backgrounds which will distract attention from the features of the person or the activity.

When taking a picture of an individual, take it as close up as your camera permits and use a fast setting to avoid fixed smiles and deadpan expressions. Avoid pictures with a posed look, but take time to compose a good picture. Shoulders should be turned so that one is closer to the camera than the other, never square to the camera. If the person wears glasses, have the head turned to avoid picking up glare. A person standing will have a more relaxed look when the heel of one foot is at the instep of the other, rather than both feet planted firmly together on the ground.

Whether you are taking pictures of one person or a group, you will get more natural facial expressions if you talk about something interesting and click the camera without warning.

Light is important for lively, interesting pictures. Avoid the middle of the day in the summertime when the sun is high overhead. Bright light causes people to squint, frown and screw up their faces, and the eyes will have deep shadows. Early in the day, or towards sunset will give more interesting light; and hazy sunlight is ideal. Have the subject move and turn until you get interesting light effects. Forget that old rule about standing so the light is behind you; you'll have much better pictures if the light comes over your shoulder and falls to the right or left of the subject. If you must take pictures of people when the sun is bright and hot, take them in the shadow of a building.

If you are not satisfied with the pictures you take, spend a little more time composing your picture before "clicking" the shutter and you should have pictures which are good photographs rather than "snapshots".

# Grow But Not Old

HERE IS A TRUTH OF FACT — we are daily growing older with a multitude of other people, many our own age, but a thousand things can make it a pleasant voyage, whether we give much thought to it or not. Every minute we are that much older — and wiser. Grow — but grow more mature, more experienced, and more appreciative of all the endless blessings that are ours. Blessings keep us alive and ambitious. If we had no objectives in life, we would be poor indeed. It's the new, and all it represents, that simulates our pathway from day to day. We grow old but no faster than we choose. Let us let nature have an inning. Here is permanent experience. Growing older in body is nothing to worry about. It's the mind and heart that take on age, if you let them. I looked upon a tiny child today, not more than three, and suddenly I became three, and began to think of this changed world since I was three. I know one thing. I was happy. But I didn't know why. Neither does any child at any early age know why he or she is unhappy or happy. The years unfold and partly explain

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## HYMN OF ALL NATIONS

Tune Finlandia

This is my song, O God of all the Nations  
A song of peace for lands afar and mine,  
This is my love, the country where my heart is

This is my hope, my dream, my shrine,  
But other hearts in other lands are beating,  
With hopes and dreams the same as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,  
And sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine,  
But other lands have sunlight, too and clover,

And skies are sometimes blue as mine,  
O hear my song then, God of all the Nations,  
A song of peace for their land and mine.

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# Our Cover Picture

WHEN OTMAR SEIDLER of Nankendorf, Germany was one year old he became the foster child of Plattsville Women's Institute (assisted by four other branches). At that time the baby was being raised by the mother who was in very difficult circumstances. The Branches sent clothing, gifts and money. The mother has always replied and the replies have indicated her gratitude and that good use was made of the things sent. Otmar was eight years old on February 18 and attends school. The parcel that he is holding in the picture is a gift given to him on his first day of school.