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The SNAPSHOT GUILD CHECK UP ON YOURSELF



Do your summer prints show the care this one does—the deft framing of foliage, judicious placing of figures, strong shadows against brilliant highlights and full exposure for shadow detail? Will trimming them help, as trimming on the white line helps balance this picture? When you make a mistake, do you note it down, so you can avoid it in the future? It's a helpful idea.

FALL is a season for taking stock in many businesses. It is also a good time for the amateur cameraman, after a busy summer, to take stock of himself and his work.

Are you improving? Are you taking better pictures now than you were six months or a year ago? And if not, why not?

If, perchance, you aren't improving as rapidly and steadily as you think you should, I'll venture this is the reason—you aren't studying your mistakes.

The first spare hour you have, why don't you collect all your summer prints and single out those that are bad—the portraits made in harsh sunlight with no provision for the shaded side of the face, the landscapes with dead foregrounds and no "framing" of trees or foliage, the prints that show "blank white skies" without clouds or tone.

Recall the scene and then write down on the back of each print what you should have done to make the picture good.

If you have a blank sky or very thin clouds, note down that you should have used a filter.

If a portrait has no detail on the shady side, note that you should have used a reflector near the face on that side, even if it was only a

sheet of cardboard or a white picnic cloth spread in the sun.

If a landscape is dead, analyze it and recall the scene. Maybe by backing up a little or moving to one side, you could have included a gracefully-curving tree branch fairly close to the camera, to give the picture depth and a natural frame. Maybe by a change of position you could have included a path or a hedge, that would lead the eye gradually across and into the picture. Write on the back of the print what you should have done.

Maybe you have child pictures in which backgrounds are mottled and confused, sticking up in meaningless fashion behind the subject. Another background, a change of viewpoint, might have made each picture perfect. Write down what you should have done.

After you have noted these mistakes, don't just stick the prints away and forget them. Use them as a reference file. Take a few out on your picture-making jaunts and be mindful of them when new picture chances arise.

Learn what you do wrong—decide how to do it right—think before you shoot. Here is one of the secrets of picture-making success.

John van Gulder.

Swiss Watchmaker First to Use Jewel Bearings

Before the year 1704, the pivot holes in watches were just holes drilled in the brass of the movement's framework.

In that year, notes a writer in the Washington Post, Nicolas Fatio, a Swiss watchmaker working in London, patented the idea and practice of using a piece of hard stone with a drilled and polished hole in it for a bearing for a pivot.

These were at first used only at the balance pivots, but the advantages of jewel bearings were so evident that it soon became customary to jewel some of the train holes in the best qualities of timepieces.

The direct advantages of jeweled pivot holes are two, the bearing is more durable and the pivot runs with less friction. The first named advantage is due to the hardness of the stone, and the second is due to the fact that hard stone takes a higher polish than soft metal can take.

For the better grade of watches, jewels are made of ruby and sapphire. In the less expensive watches, garnet is the material most generally used, because it is so much softer and hence less costly to work to shape.

When synthetic corundum (ruby and sapphire material) was introduced for the manufacture of gemstones, for a very long time manufacturers of watches hesitated to adopt it for making jewels, in the meantime giving the new material thorough trials in practical use.

The result of these trials was to satisfy the most conservative that synthetic sapphires and rubies are equal to natural stones in every quality called for in watchwork; and synthetic stones are used practically to the exclusion of the natural as raw material in the jewel-making trade.

Nearly all of the watch hole jewels used in all countries are made in Switzerland. Pallet stones and roller jewels are generally made in each factory for its own watches.

"Uncle Sam," Name Given to Grant at West Point

President Grant was named "Uncle Sam," but by a curious error he became known in history as "Ulysses Simpson Grant." When he was about seventeen years old, he received his appointment to West Point Military Academy through Congressman Thomas L. Hamer. Grant had been familiarly known by his middle name, and Hamer, who was sufficiently acquainted with him to know that, gave the young candidate's name as Ulysses S. Grant. Simpson was the maiden name of his mother, and also was borne by one of his younger brothers.

The circumstance, according to a writer in the Cleveland Plain Dealer, was probably the origin of the error.

Grant applied to the West Point authorities and later to the secretary of war to have the error corrected, but somehow it was never done. He did not press the matter, and his associates at West Point promptly adopted the initials U. S. and called him "Uncle Sam," a nickname he retained to some extent in the army. He was graduated in 1843, and his commission and diploma both styled him Ulysses S. Grant, by which name he was always afterward known.

Grant was born at Point Pleasant, Clermont county, Ohio, April 27, 1822.

King Is Father

The word "king" originally was the Anglo-Saxon "cyning," from "cyn" meaning a "tribe" and "ing" meaning "belonging to." In ancient times, says Pearson's London Weekly, families were grouped into clans, clans into tribes, tribes into nations, and each tribe or nation had a "head" or "father." Gradually the word "cyning" merged into "king." And "queen" comes from a Greek word meaning woman, which is equivalent to "mother."

Ferocious Baboon

The Hamadryas baboon, which hails from northern Africa and Arabia is one of the "toughest customers" in the animal kingdom, according to a writer in the Washington Post. Sullen and ferocious, it travels in packs, eats anything it can capture and kill. Even lions evade battle with them. The Egyptians dedicated this animal to their god, Thoth, who stood for letters, invention and wisdom, but just why nobody seems to know.

"Black Drink" Used by Indians

There is considerable question as to whether the North American tribes knew alcohol before it was introduced by the whites, but they were familiar with some quite effective substitutes. Among them was a brew of the leaves of a certain species of holly which is common in the Southeast. This was the celebrated "black drink" of the Muskogean, a foul-tasting concoction with a real intoxicating effect.

Boone Kept Coffin Under Bed

When Daniel Boone, the Indian hunter and pioneer, died of September 26, 1820, he was buried near Marthasville, Mo., in the coffin which during his lifetime he had kept under his bed. Twenty-five years later, says The Digest, his bones were transferred to Frankfort, Ky.

Harbor Seal Best Known of All Marine Mammals

One of the best known and most frequently seen of all marine mammals is the harbor seal. This is so because it has the widest geographic range of any seal. It is found in the Pacific from the coast of Japan north of Siberia, and along the American coast to Lower California, writes Colin Campbell Danborn in Field Museum News. In the Atlantic it occurs from about New York to Greenland, and from Spain, through the British Isles, to the Scandinavian peninsula. A coast-habiting species, it lives in fords and near rocky points, islets and sand bars. Often it enters the larger rivers and bays. Its appearance in these latter places, frequently as much as a hundred miles from the sea, accounts for its having been named "harbor seal." It was described and pictured by writers and artists as early as the middle of the sixteenth century.

The harbor seal is the smallest member of the family Phocidae, which comprises the true or earless seals. In these, the hind flippers form functionally part of the tail, and are useless for progression on land.

Harbor seals never exceed six feet in length. Large ones weigh between eighty and one hundred pounds. They do not gather in such large herds as other species—seldom are more than twenty-five found together. They are also less migratory, usually living in the same place throughout the year if weather and food conditions permit. A few come south along the New England coast each winter.

The coats of harbor seals are extremely varied in color. The fur of some is uniformly yellowish-gray or dark gray; others have the yellowish coat with irregular dark spots, or the dark coat with yellowish spots.

Gypsies Count in Greek, Speak Many Greek Words

The fact that gypsies all over the world count in Greek and use numerous Greek words further substantiates the theory of their early arrival in the Balkan region. For "seven, eight, nine, ten" gypsies say "epta, otto, enea, deca." In Macedonia at this period also were numerous Phoenician and Egyptian slaves who worked in Alexander's arsenals.

Undoubtedly the gypsies intermarried to some extent with the Egyptians, notes a writer in the Chicago Tribune, and when their descendants later set forth on their wanderings, still trying to forget their miserable days in India, they told people that they were from Egypt. Their tendency toward sleight-of-hand, fortune telling, and other magic which Europeans associated with Egypt undoubtedly gave them their most usual name of gypsies. Pharaohs (from Pharaohs) is another of their appellations. Their association with Rumanians probably accounts for the names Rom and Romany, so frequently applied to them. Other names for gypsies are Gitanos, Zingaries, Calos, Bohemians, Tziganes, Zigeuner, Czigany.

Duck Hawk Is Speedy

The duck hawk is the American version of the peregrine falcon of the falcon-hunting days of old. Its speed has been developed through centuries of pursuit for food. No bird is safe from this feathered destroyer. Sharp, cruel beak and talons, plus speed, make it almost certain death for any other bird, no matter what the size of the prey. It kills for pure love of slaughter, dropping like a plummet on a flock of smaller birds, striking again and again, then winging off without even touching its kills.

The Cottonmouth Moccasin

The cottonmouth moccasin is one of the most venomous of United States snakes. It gets its name from the cotton-white inner lining of its mouth. Found in southeastern states, it is a cannibal, eats other snakes. In captivity, it outlives all other snakes. Though its poison kills when injected by the snake, that same venom is used to combat a blood disease of humans called "haemophilia," which is uncontrolled bleeding.

Cultivated Before 1519

The Mexicans had cultivated the dahlias before the Spaniards arrived in 1519 but it was about 300 years later, in 1791, that the plants appeared in Europe, at the Botanic Gardens in Madrid, Spain. The newer forms have all been brought about since the year 1800. The native Mexican name of the dahlia was accotilli, which means water pipe and its present name is in honor of the famous Spanish Botanist, Dr. Andreas Dahl.

Ancient Hygiene

While methods of disease transmission are discoveries of recent years, the Mosaic laws made provision against transmission that are similar to our own, but go a long way further. A person who touched an unclean animal or thing caught the uncleanness and had to wash himself and his clothing in running water, sometimes the cleansing lasting for many days.

Rivers Belong to States Where They Are Located

Rivers are the property of the states in which they are located. The limited jurisdiction of the federal government over navigable streams is merely incidental to its constitutional power to regulate and improve navigation for interstate and foreign commerce.

When a river forms the boundary between two states the title of each state is presumed to extend to the middle of the main channel, provided there is no legal arrangement to the contrary. Sometimes two states agree, for police purposes, to exercise concurrent jurisdiction over a river which forms the boundary between them.

The Ohio, Chattahoochee and Potomac rivers are notable exceptions to the general rule. Kentucky and West Virginia have absolute jurisdiction over the entire Ohio river along their shores as far as the low-water mark on the Ohio, Indiana and Illinois banks. If a person commits a crime on that river near the Illinois, Indiana or Ohio shore he is amenable to the laws of Kentucky or West Virginia. This boundary line has been judicially recognized many times by the Supreme court of the United States and the Supreme courts of the states involved.

The Northwest territory, from which Illinois, Indiana and Ohio were carved, was ceded to the federal government in 1784 by the commonwealth of Virginia. The resolution of cession retained title and jurisdiction over the Ohio river to the low-water mark on the northern bank, and these rights were transmitted to Kentucky and West Virginia when they were later formed from Virginian territory.

Donner Lake Named for Party of '46 Emigrants

Lying high near the summit of the Sierras in California is Donner lake, named for an ill-fated emigrant party headed by George Donner, which suffered privation and even death in its attempt to cross the mountains toward the Pacific in the fall and winter of 1846.

Donner's party, formed in July, consisted of 67 persons—36 men, 21 women, and 10 children. Their wagon train was delayed by hardships encountered in crossing the Nevada desert. It was not until late October that it began the ascent of the Sierras. Early snows impeded its progress. The way was blocked completely when the party reached the shores of the lake which now bears its name.

Through the long winter the emigrants fought starvation and disease, many perishing before help reached them in the spring. A monument on the shores of Donner lake is dedicated to the memory of those who suffered and died on its shores.

A Mile

The measurement to which we usually refer by this name is what can be more particularly called the statute mile. It equals eight furlongs each of 220 yards, or 5,280 feet in all. There is another mile—the geographical or nautical. This mile is one-sixteenth of a degree of latitude, or 6,085 feet. The word comes to us from the Latin word "mille" meaning a thousand, says London Answers Magazine. The Roman mile was 1,000 paces. They measured a pace as the distance between the points where the same heel came down in making a stride. The Roman pace—which we should regard as two paces—was reckoned at about five feet. This made the Roman mile—5,000 feet—noticably shorter than the mile measurement we use today.

San Marino

Legend says San Marino, on the eastern shore of upper Italy, was founded in the Fourth century by St. Marinus of Dalmatia. Its total area is 38 square miles. Its known history begins in 885 A. D. By the Tenth century San Marino had launched its republic. The Montefeltro family and the papacy protected it. Once it was captured by Caesar Borgia, but soon regained freedom. Napoleon recognized its independence. Garibaldi, great Italian patriot, fed to San Marino on his first retreat and there disbanded his army.

Yellowstone, Largest Park

Largest park in the United States is Yellowstone. It exceeds in size the state of Delaware, is mostly in Wyoming, but extends into Montana and Idaho. Its creation as a park, at the suggestion of a Montana businessman, Cornelius Hedges, in 1870, was the start of our national parks system. Almost beyond belief are its natural wonders, and indeed early explorers who reported boiling springs, geysers, were called liars.

Much Water to Grow Sugar

About 4,000 tons of water are required to grow one ton of sugar, some of the cane fields in the less rainy sections of the Hawaiian islands are obliged to maintain extensive and costly irrigation systems, says Collier's Weekly. One of these sugar-cane plantations uses, throughout the summer, about half as much water as is consumed, during the same period, in the city of Philadelphia.

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Wade canny thro' this weary worl',
An' pick your steps wi' care;
Ne'er w' your neebors quarrel,
But aye do what is fair.
Folks fae an' never rise again
Who never fell before,
For there's aye a muckle slippy stane
At ilka body's door.

Gin your neebor chance to slip,
Ye maunna pass him by,
But len' a hand, an' help him up,
Dinna let him lie.
The case may some time be youd ain,
Tho' ye hae wealth in store,
For there's aye a muckle slippy stane
At ilka body's door.

There's a slippy stane where'er ye gang,
At palace, cot a ha',
An' ye maun watch an' no gang
Wrang.

Or owre they ye may fa',
For emperors an' kings hae fa'en,
An' nobles many a score,
For there's aye a muckle slippy stane
At ilka body's door.

—Selected.

Mrs. Blue—How do you control your husband while you are away?
Mrs. Black—I leave the baby with him.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

Fifty years ago when the organized fight against tuberculosis started, about 300 persons out of every 100,000 then living, died annually from this disease.

To-day in Canada, only 60 persons are dying of tuberculosis out of every 100,000 and the death rate is steadily declining.

If the same number of persons in proportion to population were dying from tuberculosis to-day as there were 50 years ago, we would have in Canada this year over 33,000 deaths—we have less than 7,000, a large enough number to be sure, but by comparison it shows that organized work has been successful.

In Ontario last year there were 1,327 deaths from tuberculosis. It is still true that only 38 per cent. of the population are insured against this disease within the Province. The saddest part is that more than half of those who die or now suffer from this disease are young people in the prime productive period of life.

In spite of the greater diagnostic facilities offered the public and the improved methods employed, it is still true that only 10-15 per cent. of sanatorium admissions are found to be in the early stages of the disease. This means that far too many unrecognized cases are still threatening their families and neighborhoods with infection.

To find the afflicted and to give them treatment and care is the one aim of the Toronto and Muskoka Hospitals for Consumptives and the Queen's Mary Hospital for Consumptive Children. Their success depends largely upon the amount of money received through contributions, for which an urgent appeal is now made.

Please try to help this life-saving work by sending a gift to National Sanitation Association, 228 O'Connell Street, Toronto.