

The SNAPSHOT GUILD

BETTER CHILD PICTURES



Your child pictures will be more interesting if they "tell a story." Show the child busy at something—such as this repair job. And don't stand too far back.

VIRTUALLY every parent takes snapshots of the children—and would like to take better ones. It's not difficult to take a good child picture, and there's no subject more appealing. But most of these pictures can be made still better, if attention is paid to a few common, easily-corrected faults.

The commonest faults are: lack of "story" interest, wrong choice of background or setting, subject too far from camera, and movement which blurs the picture.

Almost any child snapshot will be better if it "tells a story." Simply give the child something to do—dress a doll, draw a picture, fix a toy wagon wheel, blow soap bubbles. Such activity adds interest to the picture—and also makes picture taking more interesting for the child. Give a small baby a rattle or brightly-colored object to play with—it will arouse his interest, and you will get livelier, more expressive pictures.

Be careful in choosing backgrounds. Look beyond the subject—your camera lens will. Avoid a background that has a definite, obtrusive pattern, such as the side of a clapboard house. And try for good contrast with the subject. For example, if the child is wearing light-colored

clothes, a dark hedge may make a good background. A hilltop with the child against a sky background is also good.

Examine the child snapshots you have taken. If the subject appears too small in most of them, you're taking pictures at too great a distance. See if you can't get closer. It's easy with a focusing camera, or an inexpensive box or folding type that has a "two-point" focus setting. A portrait attachment is also useful for "close-ups" at three and one-half feet or even a bit nearer. You need not fear cutting off part of your subject, provided you locate the subject accurately in the view finder and then do not move the camera when making the exposure.

Movement—either of camera or subject—blurs the picture. Take care to hold the camera still at the moment you snap the shutter. And, with a box camera, pick a time when the subject is not moving rapidly. If you have a finer camera, use a shutter speed of 1/100 second or faster, with a correspondingly larger lens opening.

Watch these points in taking child snapshots. They're all simple, no trouble—and they'll insure you better pictures.

John van Gulder

Support Established Business

(Bowmanville Statesman)

Bowmanville merchants are facing a difficult situation, a situation that is largely a product of the times, but serious, none the less.

Local bakers, in particular, find that outside concerns are making it harder and harder for established places of business to make a living.

Dealers state that these firms, who contribute practically nothing in taxes to the upkeep of the community and are putting local men out of work, are providing a form of competition, which is difficult, if not impossible, to combat.

Several of these merchants have pointed out this condition to the Statesman. In these days when money is scarce, there seems to be no sentiment in business. But judged purely from the angle of business, is it "good business" for Bowmanville houseswives to purchase their requirements from out of town firms, to the detriment of the established merchants?

It is not. A town without stability is a poor place in which to live, and a poorer place in which to do business, is it "good business" for any town only through established places of business. It is the business man with his store on Main Street who makes a bigger and better Bowmanville. Household should remember that when they buy their requirements.

Find Culverts Not Bridges

Metal culverts are not entitled to exemption from sales tax on the score that they are "bridges," the Tariff Board has decided. In announcing its decision, the board upheld a national revenue department officials against whose ruling appeal was taken to the tariff board some weeks ago.

Provincial government engineers appeared at that time and argued that sheet-metal culverts were bridges, within the dictionary meaning of the term. Against this the department contended that they were merely tubes installed for drainage purposes. A bridge, they said, was a structure built for the purpose of carrying a roadway across a depression or obstacle, whereas a culvert is merely carried water under a roadway from one place to another.

The appeal was taken under the provision of the statute which exempts from tax machinery and tools to be used exclusively for the framework and support of buildings and bridges.

Heyday of Valentines

Was During 19th Century

The heyday of valentines as we know them came during the Nineteenth century. During its third decade printers both here and in England had so perfected their methods of printing, of embossing paper and of die-cutting it in lacy patterns that they could produce those elaborate and ornate valentines which now interest collectors with a fondness for items of the Victorian period.

In fact, these intricately wrought pieces of paper made for use on a single day in the year, St. Valentine's, bear a distinct relationship in elaborateness of pattern to a contemporary product, lacy sanitary glass, writes Agnes L. Sascier in "American Collector." Consider the minute details of both the valentines and the glass of the Cape Cod factory and you will find that the spirit was the same. Both were products of the romantic movement which permeated Europe, England and the United States, influencing literature, art, music and architecture. Applied to decoration, it has come to be known as early Victorian.

But the idea behind the custom of sending these decorative missives on February 14, stemmed back to an old pagan practice. Just how the name of a Roman bishop, who perished during a persecution of the Christians in 170 A. D. became associated with this feast is not clear. There is a tradition that the Emperor Claudius, finding married men loath to leave home to wage his wars, decreed that no new marriages were to be performed; but Valentine ignored the mandate and continued secretly to marry the young couples. Whereupon he was beheaded.

Whether this is fact or fancy, February 14 became known as St. Valentine's day early in the Christian era.

Pirogues Race on Bayou;

Log Canoes in Fast Race

As indigenous to the bayou country as Mardi Gras are pirogues, canoes dug out of cypress logs. Louisiana's first mode of transportation, pirogues are still used by Cajun and Baratarian trappers to navigate the swamps and bayous south of New Orleans, observes a writer in Time magazine. Pirogues weigh from 50 to 100 pounds, are 18 inches wide, 6 to 20 feet long. Among Cajuns rate Jean Lafitte's band of buccaneers, a pirogue is a family heirloom, the result of two or three years of painstaking labor. First the tree trunk is scooped out with a mattock and fire, then chipped with a hand axe and machete, finally scraped with a piece of broken glass until it is as smooth as a wooden salad bowl.

On the glassy Bayou Barataria 70 of these homemade vessels lined up recently for the third annual 4-mile race to determine the No. 1 piroguer of the United States. Favorite with the 5,000 spectators who gathered under the ancient moss-draped woods was nineteen-year-old Adam Billiot, winner in 1936 and 1937.

Sitting in the center of his pirogue, with one leg doubled under him, Adam Billiot furiously dug in his homemade paddle when he heard the starting bomb, jumped into a five-yard lead, zoomed past the fishermen's huts along the banks, crossed the finish line first, amid piercing pirogue yells of "A-la-baaa." But the first prize of \$200 was not for Adam Billiot. After finishing his four-mile sprint he discovered that the bomb that sent him off was a prankster's firecracker.

Winner of the \$200 was another Billiot named Israel, who won the official race an hour and a half later. Dipping his paddle fifty-two times a minute for the first two miles, fifty times a minute for the last two, Israel covered the distance in 45 minutes 45 seconds. Adam, who was too tired and disgusted to start in the official race, did not even get one of the 69 merchandise prizes that included two pigs and a bull.

Will Move Police Every Five Years

A "rotation scheme" whereby provincial police would be moved every five years, has been recommended to Maj.-Gen. Victor Williams, commissioner of police, by Hon. Gordon Conant, attorney-general. In a memorandum that will result in the redistribution of the force by August 1st, the attorney-general stated:

Major-General Victor Williams, commissioner of the Provincial Police, has been directed to arrange in future for transfers of officers by rotation, so that a certain number of constables will be shifted every twelve months until the entire force is covered by the arrangement.

The idea, as settled policy, has been in the attorney-general's mind for some time, but it only reached the clenching point during the past month—in fact, since the announced redistribution of the force as scheduled for August 1st. This redistribution involves a number of transfers of officers, and such is reported to have been the "interference" on the part of certain municipalities and outposts to keep the constables in long accustomed posts, that Mr. Conant has deemed it advisable to bring his carefully-considered policy into operation without any further delay.

"It would be in the interests of our force and of the administration of justice if all our men were moved at least every five years," said Mr. Conant. "The representations that have been made to me regarding distribution and transfers have not been directed toward improvements of the force or betterment of law enforcement. On the contrary, they have been based on local, personal or domestic considerations."

The Provincials, he stressed, should be a mobile force. Several of the objections to transfers which he reached him had been based upon a fact, he said, that the officer had a wife and family and that a shift of duty would be an inconvenience and perhaps interfere with the schooling or other arrangements of the family. Such reasons or objections, he warned, must not prevail. "We cannot run our police force on the basis of the convenience to constables or their families," he added.

"I have previously instructed," he notified Commissioner Williams, "that only unmarried men be taken on the force with a view to avoiding exactly the situation that now develops and the reasons which are now advanced for not transferring certain men. I realize that my former ruling may have been rather unfair to married men. That ruling, therefore, will be altered to the extent that hereafter every man taken on the force must be all the expenses of transfer and moving over and above what it would cost the province to move him as an unmarried man. Furthermore, I realize that my former ruling is subject to transfer at any time."

Imperial Fruit Show

A reminder that the summer is fleeting is given by the arrival of the catalogue of the 1939 Imperial Fruit Show, announcing that this great fruit feast of the British Empire will be held in the Horticultural Halls, Westminster, London, England, from November 13th to 18th, inclusive. The Imperial Fruit Show is rightly regarded as the principal and the largest in the fruit growing industry of the Empire. It will be the 19th meeting of its kind and was originally organized to foster a general improvement in quality, grade, and price in the fruit industry throughout the Empire, and at the same time to maintain the best types of fruit produced in the various Empire countries.

On several occasions, Canada has won some of the most coveted awards and as this year's show will be held in the largest centre in the world, Canadian fruit growers will have a special opportunity of exhibiting again the wonderful apples which are produced in the Dominion. So far as regards Canada, there are few alterations in the rules of this year's show. In the British Empire section for apples, in which Canada has so often distinguished herself, competitors are required to provide 12 boxes each in the classes 1 and 2 (dessert and cooking apples, respectively). Two of these boxes in each class are for the close examination of the judges, while the ten boxes will be staged on exhibit.

Another feature is the British Empire apple packing competition. The 1st prize is \$100 (\$500); 2nd, £75 (\$375); 3rd, £25 (\$125); and 4th, £10 (\$50). Diplomas are awarded with these prizes. If there are more than four competitors, additional prizes of \$50 will be awarded. One packer from each country will compete for the championship of the Empire. A judge's score is again a feature in the apple competitions for Canadian apples in hampers, as the Canadian apples may be judged in bushel baskets, half barrels, barrels and hampers (Canadian standard).

Grand Jury's End Urged For Ontario

Abolition of the grand jury; retention of the twelve-man petit jury in criminal cases, but adoption of a six-man jury in civil actions; use of alternate jurors; higher educational qualifications for jurors; introduction of the pre-trial system in civil actions; increased fees for filing jury notices; appointment of assessors or experts to assist trial judges; and simplification of proceedings in mortgage actions, are among the far-reaching recommendations for improvement of the administration of justice in this province which Fred H. Barlow, K.C., master of the Ontario Supreme court, has made to Attorney-General Conant following an intensive, six months' government-ordered survey.

Mr. Barlow supplements an interim report on the situation—made public at Queen's Park on Tuesday—with further recommendations that the necessary amendments to the Criminal Code and the Provincial Court Act, and the rules of practice, be made to take care of the proposed changes.

Possibility of early implementation by the province of some of the recommendations appeared to be forecast in a brief comment from Mr. Conant on the report. "It contains some very constructive suggestions," he said, "but in effect, they would save considerable money for the taxpayers of the province. Furthermore, the administration of justice would be greatly expedited. Many of Mr. Barlow's recommendations have already been adopted in other countries and jurisdictions, including England and other parts of the Empire. I am very hopeful that we may be able to adopt many, if not all of them, in this province."

"The tin can," in which so much of our food comes today, is made of very thin sheet steel, coated with tin; and the American canning industry has grown to such proportions that it now uses more steel than every other industry except automobile manufacture, taking a greater tonnage even than the combined railroads of the country or the nation's building requirements.

American can producers now make more than 12,000,000,000 containers annually, 60 per cent of which are used for the canning of food and 40 per cent as containers for tobacco, paint, oil and other commodities. Laid end to end and side to side this number of cans would cover an 80-foot highway from New York to San Francisco.

Cabinet Makers' Work From Cradle to Coffin

The scope covered by the work of Chester county, Pa., cabinet makers was literally from the cradle to the coffin. The daybooks are filled with orders for these two articles, which with that other symbol of man's recumbency, the bed, seems to have been the most popular furniture of the day. In between, of course, were the various articles which a man used and from which he drew a large measure of comfort during his earthly existence, writes David Stockwell in "American Collector." There were chairs, tables for dining and other purposes, chests of drawers for storing his clothes, desks for his accounts and letters, tall clocks to measure the passing of time, and sundry items that filled the home of the Eighteenth and early Nineteenth centuries. All these were made, and made well, by the cabinet makers of Chester county.

According to the records, however, it was late in the Eighteenth century before any craftsman of this section actually styled himself cabinet maker. The reason is not far to seek if one remembers that Chester county had no large centers of population at the time.

There was no courthouse in Goshen and the town of West Chester was not only unincorporated but consisted of a little group of houses at a crossroads known as Turk's Head. Through the hills and hollows of the county, every township, hamlet or tiny cluster of houses had its own group of artisans. These were a cobbler, a tailor, a potter, a wheelwright, a joiner, a whitesmith, a blacksmith, and possibly, if the farmers were prosperous enough, a silversmith and a cabinet maker.

Washington Still a Forest

When First Congress Met

Washington still was just a forest on the Potomac "some place between the mouths of the Eastern Branch and the Comogocheague." The United States was a government on paper. It had a Constitution, freshly ratified, writes Robert C. Albright in the Washington Post. It lacked a President, a legislature and a judiciary, all duly provided in aforesaid document.

In New York a small group of perplexed gentlemen impatiently were trying to muster a quorum for the first congress under that constitution. The quorum wouldn't muster. It looked as though it never would. It was in fact, March 4, 1789, a sizeable span back across the arc of years that have since linked 75 congresses in unbroken progression and cemented a loose confederation into a power among nations.

But the gray dawn of that day in 1789 was not as auspicious as that of a daring young government. Faint words penned into a faded old journal tell the story of that first meeting of the first congress.

"The number not being sufficient to constitute a quorum, they adjourned from day to day—" Out of 22 elected senators only 8 were present. Of 59 representatives but 14 were on hand. From "day to day" stretched into weeks. It was 27 days before the house could count a quorum. It was another six days before the senate could proceed.

Canada's Status

Canada, like Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, is a self-governing part of the British Empire or Commonwealth of Nations. She pays no taxes to the mother country and is not bound to render her military help in time of war. Her governor-general is appointed by the king on the advice of the Canadian ministry, and has a theoretical veto power over legislation. The supreme judicial authority of the British empire is the judicial committee of the Privy Council in London, before which appeals may be brought (in the form of a petition to the crown) from consular courts and courts of vice-admiralty and from the courts of India and every British dominion. India has a limited amount of self-government with two native legislative chambers. Other portions of the empire consist of crown colonies and protectorates.

Fox-Squirrel's Diet

The diet of the fox-squirrel ranges from crow's eggs to muskmelon, although it will live almost exclusively on various kinds of nuts if they can be had. Cutting down of nut-bearing trees has helped crows by limiting the squirrel population. When squirrels become too plentiful, they will at times raid truck gardens and cause heavy damage. It is better, according to the National Wildlife federation, for hunters to harvest the surplus of any species of wildlife than for it to increase beyond the limits of its natural food supply.

Most Famous Stoic

Epictetus was a Greek Stoic philosopher who lived approximately between the years 50 and 120. He was born a slave in Thrygia, banished from Rome by Domitian and taught philosophy in Ephesus. The nobility and moral earnestness of the man and simplicity of his style have made him a favorite with many not otherwise interested in the subject which he taught and of which he wrote.

About Cans and Canning

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