



photography

Monte
Nagler

Move in close for those treasured holiday shots

All the people I've talked to lately remark how this past year has flown by and that they can't believe the holidays are here. The year certainly did speed by, and it's time once again to prepare for Santa Claus' arrival.

This includes thinking and planning your holiday photography, too. For there's no better opportunity for recording happy memories than during the yuletide season.

KIDS ARE always on center stage at Christmas time, so let's start with them. Children and Christmas go hand in hand.

Begin by snapping the kids on Christmas morning as they unwrap their presents under the tree. Get down on their level, and move in close to fill the

frame and capture joyful expressions. Your shots will appear natural because in all the excitement the kids won't even know you're there.

Don't forget other family members and guests. They're important, too. Just as with the children, take candid, informal shots to obtain natural expressions.

If you should want a group shot, have everyone sit down in an informal, relaxed pose rather than stand stiffly.

You're an important family member, too, so be sure to include yourself in some of the group shots. Your camera's self-timer and tripod will do just fine. No tripod under the tree this year? A steady table will do.

WATCH YOUR backgrounds. Because you'll be shooting mainly indoor pictures, take a good, close look in the viewfinder before each shot to eliminate any distracting objects.

Watch for glare from windows, mirrors, and other glass that may reflect into your camera and spoil a good shot. Usually, a slight adjustment in camera angle will eliminate these problems.

Keep your eyes open for other details to shoot that will add extra excitement to your holiday photos. Close-ups of the dinner table, tree lights and ornaments, a colorfully filled Christmas stocking, or a beautifully wrapped and decorated

present — all will give your holiday pictures that added touch.

AS IN ALL good photography, add impact to your shots by moving in close and expressing a single idea.

Often times, switching to a vertical format will do just this.

Be sure to use the proper film. When using your flash, daylight film is in order. If shooting under indoor light, you'll need tungsten-balanced film or the correct conversion filter.

A reminder about the flash: To eliminate "red-eye" reflections, make sure the flash unit isn't too close to the camera.

A FRESH IDEA for your Christmas shooting this season is to take night pictures of house exteriors bedecked with Christmas lights.

Place your camera on a tripod with the shutter speed dial set at "B" (for bulb). With 400 ASA film, an exposure of f-5.6 at 1/4 second will give you properly exposed, colorful Christmas photos. With slower film, open up one or two stops accordingly.

Congratulations to all of you who will find new cameras and camera accessories under the tree on Christmas morning. And to all of you, please accept my sincere wishes for a happy, photo-filled holiday season.

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Snowstorms at Christmas shouldn't keep you indoors. Early in the morning, when the snow and frost are fresh, is the best time to be on the prowl, as Monte Nagler demonstrates with this stand of trees.

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