

Travel Pictures Can Be Improved

One of the joys of travel is seeing everything for the first time. Every scene is new. Every detail is exciting. The traveling picture-taker, his awareness sharpened, records it all happily and effectively.

Once home among familiar surroundings, however, he lapses back into the state of non-seeing. His camera goes back on the shelf.

AND YET it is entirely possible that the opportunities for beautiful scenics, interesting mood shots, amusing people pictures, and abstract pattern studies are plentiful right where he lives. All he has to do is follow the late James Thurber's advice and "look around with awareness."

Try it yourself. For the next few days look at your home, your neighborhood, your route to work and the view from your window as though you had never seen them before.

Notice how the trees on your street are backlit by the early morning sun. And then, at the end of the day, notice how the rich light of the setting sun sharply defines each color and outline.

ALL DAY long, as you have the time, observe the shadows. A city fire escape, a wrought iron fence, a strand of ivy, can all become interesting abstracts when accented by a shadow.

Days without bright sun have picture potential too. An otherwise ordinary tree or building becomes an object of beauty and mystery when partially shrouded in mist. Outlines are softened and colors are muted. The resulting low-key almost no-color color pictures can be works of art.

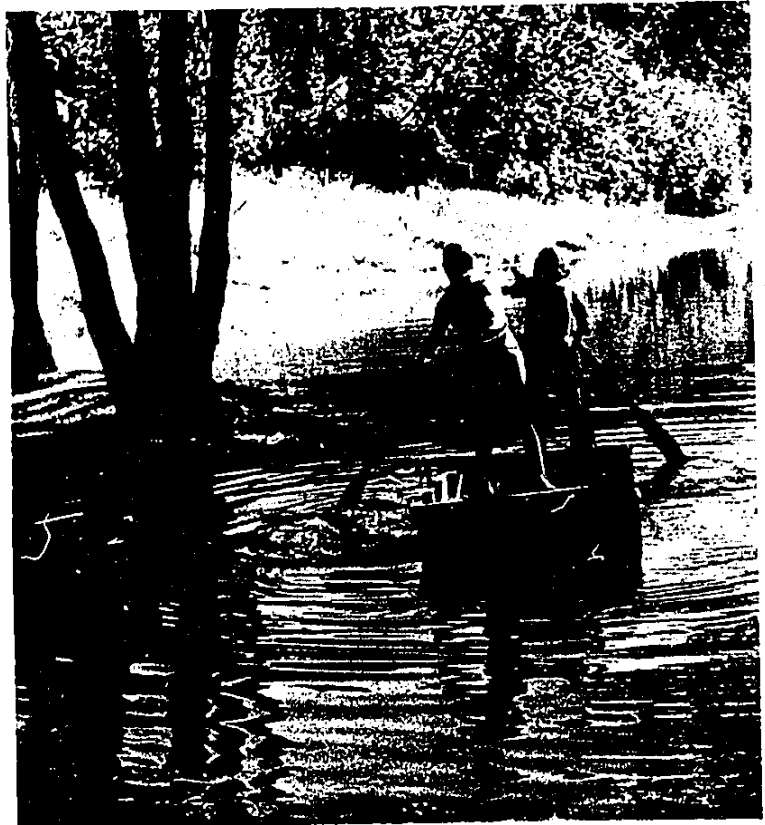
There's no need to stay outdoors, either. Put a bouquet of orange nasturtiums in a sunny window and record their brilliance. Put the bouquet on a glass-topped table, shoot the flowers from below for a really crazy angle.

ANY OF the foregoing can be photographed with any simple, nonadjustable camera.

As your awareness sharpens, however, you will begin to notice potential pictures indoors too.

A sleeping cat, for example, draped over a chair in the total relaxation only a cat can achieve, or the roses in a gleaming silver bowl brightening a rainy afternoon, or the multiple shadows cast by a candle-lit figurine.

THESE, TOO, are now perfectly possible pictures, thanks to cameras with electronic shutter which measures the time exposure for you automatically. All you have to do is to remember to mount the camera on a firm support in low-light situations, when a time-exposure will be necessary. The camera does the rest.



THIS SCENE, in a foreign country, would be a picture of charm and atmosphere to delight the traveling photographer. Would you be aware of its potential if you saw it in a local park?

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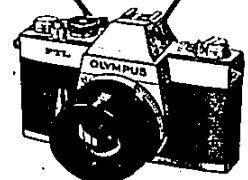
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