

# Taking good photos can become a 'snap'

PHOTOS ARE ALMOST as much a part of the holiday season as candles, mistletoe and Santa Claus. But you won't have photos if you don't take photos.

"It's really important to have a camera ready and at hand throughout the holidays," said photographer Doris Pinney.

"Nearly everyone's ready to take pictures during the exchange of gifts, but a lot of people are unprepared for other times during the holidays that make wonderful photos," Pinney said. "The family trimming the tree, your son hanging a wreath on the front door, children baking cookies — they all make terrific pictures."

"You don't have to be a professional photographer or use complicated cameras to take pictures that catch the spirit and excitement of the holidays," she said.

Almost as important as having a camera ready is knowing how to use it, according to Pinney.

"If you have to fumble around with a camera that's too complex, you're likely to miss a good picture and you could become so frustrated

you'll give up on picture taking," she said.

MANY CAMERAS are designed to compensate for common picture-taking mistakes, said Pinney, a spokeswoman for the Kodak tele disc camera. Some features to look for are automatic exposure and focus, automatic film advance, and built-in electronic flash.

"Not having to worry about when to use a flash is a big plus for the holiday picture taker," Pinney said. "Another big advantage is the ability to take a fast sequence of pictures. That means you can have a whole series of pictures — a family member receiving a gift, opening it, reacting to it and thanking the giver. That sort of sequence really tells a story," she said.

Pinney offered the following tips to perk up holiday pictures — or any pictures.

Get in close. "Close-ups convey emotion and personality, the characteristics that make photographs special," she said. "Moving in close also helps to eliminate distracting backgrounds."

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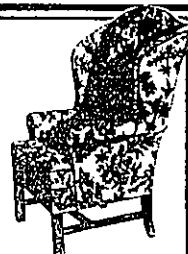
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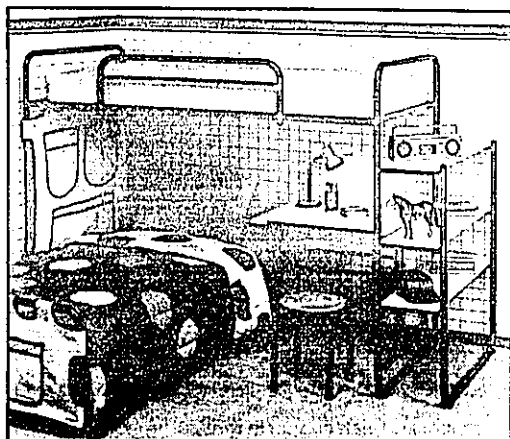
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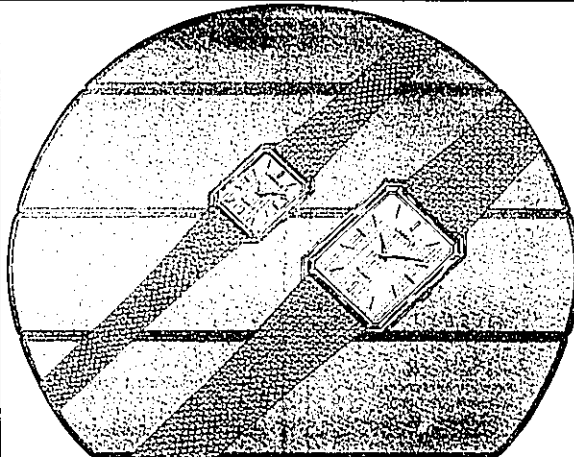
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