Examining photos encourages you to grow

How many of you have seen the many photography exhibits at the Detroit Institute of Aris or area li-brarles?

Who's been to the Halstead Gal-lery (now open only by appointment) or to the Pierce Street Gallery? Both are conveniently located in down-town Birmingham?

If you haven't, you're missing an opportunity to build awareness and erich your knowledge of photogra-pby, There's a lot to be gained by what I call "looking at pictures". Mu-seum and gallery personnel are gen-erally eager to answer your ques-tions.

Begin by studying photographs carefully. Look for things such as composition, use of light, carnera po-sition, lens selection and darkroom techniques. Look "into" the picture — see what the photographer is feeling and what he or she is trying to say. Did you know you can learn a lot about a hotographer by closely studying the work? Look at the magnificent content appreciation of photography will be enhanced and your own photograph-ic growth stimulated.

Begin with books. Not so much "how to" books, but photography pic-ture books, Study the works of the masters. Learn techniques and styles. Photography books are an in-expensive way to have and enjoy many photographs.

Consider investing in photographs. There is much line work available at reasonable prices. Even the works of many well-known photographers are affordable. Photography can be a

handsome investment, but any pur-chase should be based primarily on your enjoyment of the print.

Perhaps the best book available to help you get started in "seeing ple-tures" is "The Photograph Collec-tor's Guide" by Lee Witkin. This book covers the history of photogra-phy, contains a guide of exhibition photographers with biographies and samples of their works and has in-formation to stimulate your interest in photography.

Being a complete photographer means much more than understand-

photography Monte 31 Nagler

ing and operating your camera. It in-cludes an appreciation of photogra-phy as an art form.

When you find yourself truly en-joying plctures, learning from them

and being inspired by them, you'll know your photographic growth is taking place and you'll find yourself heading in new, exciting directions.

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