Getting Around

By ETHEL SIMMONS

Travel with camera for memories

Do you have a summer romance with your camera? That is, do you take your camera along only when the day is nice and sunny and you're on a warm-weather outing or vacation?

If so, you're missing a lot of memories.

A January project I got into last week was to fill my expandable photo album with all the color pictures I snapped last year and into the new year.

I wasn't looking forward to this troublesome task but actually found it went reasonably quickly, a couple of hours, especially since photo shops now stamp monthly dates on the back of each print.

Once I had the pictures separated by months, it was easier to divide them into events and trips.

NOW, THAT waterfront scene...was that Mackinac Island, or Cleveland, or Canada, or the Bahamas...well, if it's September, it must be Cleveland.

I found I seem to specialize in boating backgrounds. Unfortunately, boats docked in a harbor or someone standing against a setting of sailboats on the water can tend to photos that look alike from place to place.

You might look over your pictures to see if you, too, overspecialize, or overlook the commonplace that maybe makes a better photo. Sometimes the camera captures a smaller view more attractively than a bigger vista.

There were some trips that, for one reason or another, I just didn't take the time to photograph—although I had my camera with me.

LOOKING BACK, I wish I had more photos of these occasions. And I shouldn't have been deterred because someone with me was shooting that same thing on movie film. "Missing links" in a photo album can't be recaptured.

I also regret not taking a picture at each of the hotels I stayed on vacations. While you're there, you may think there are a lot more interesting things to photograph, but where you stayed is fun to recall.

The few hotel scenes I did take—such as around the pool in Uxmal, the Yucatan in Mexico last March—showed splendor and charm. The lavish Hotel Uxmal (I think)....

It would also be nice if I would keep a record of the names and places and things photographed. My memory on these six months or a year later, when I want to put the photos away, isn't as good as it is on people.

I'D LIKE TO add a caption to each photo in my album, just so I won't forget the particulars in years to come. Maybe type this on a slip of paper, or write a line in the margin of the album.

Once I'd put all the pictures in my album, even the mediocre ones looked a lot better. The brilliant color of the photos, contrasted against the white album pages, made the past vivid.

The most satisfying part of the project was to turn the pages of the filled album and see the seasons change, from resort winter to soft spring, hot summer, blazing fall, floral Bahamas, and the glow and chill of winter with New Year's at a farm in the country.

I'd like to try to get more pictures, too, of friends and family doing things, rather than just grinning into the camera. This includes pictures taken of me.

I've closed the cover on my 1974-75 photo album. It's stuffed. For 1975 I'm going to start a new one, and promise myself to take my camera for all gatherings and travelings.

I'm going to take more indoor photos. They look great in color, and all you need is to keep a big supply of flashbulbs on hand.

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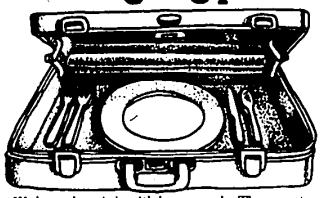

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