

Getting The Most Out Of Your 35 Millimeter Camera

By JERRY FIELD

What makes a good picture good?

For one thing — its interest to you. And, while it would be easy to say that almost any camera can make pictures of equal interest, this is simply not true because there are many worthwhile picture opportunities the average camera just can't reach. For instance: "Not enough light" . . . "don't hold still long enough" — and other problems like these have ruled out many a fine shot. How limited our enjoyment of life would be if we, ourselves, were only permitted to look at it under bright light. And how dull it would be, even then, if it had to stand still so we could see it!

There is, fortunately, a camera family that can see every bit as well as we can. Existing light is usually all it asks . . . and it can splinter action into hundredths of a second and stop it cold.

Yet most of us make our pictures of average subjects under average conditions. And here, too, these same cameras, for the very reason that they can gobble up non-average opportunities, will make us far better pictures!

The camera we're talking about, of course, is the pint-sized but potent 35mm camera — fastest-seeing and quickest-shooting of them all. Its speed of eye and action can combine to give you just the effect you want for any picture, and the quality of its lens will produce images that are as sharp as a tack. In most cases, not just the object on which you've focused, but everything in the picture — just as things appear to your eye.

Let's say you're making a shot of a group of people on your back lawn. They're pretty well scattered, but you want 'em all sharp just the same. You're shooting at an average lens opening of "8," perhaps, and there being little motion, at a shutter speed of 1/30th. You've focused about midway into the scene at 15 feet. With a 35mm camera your range of sharpness will be from nine to 50 feet — and things somewhat nearer or further away won't be too bad, either!

But perhaps you want even greater depth of field? Remembering the rule of the smaller-the-lens-opening, the-greater-the-detail, you decide to close w-a-y down to the peepsight aperture of "22." This also lets in a lot less light than the "8" opening, which of course means that you must compensate by using a slower shutter speed so you can get more of it — and with a 35mm camera you can, by setting the camera to click at one-fourth of a second. Now your depth is from five feet . . . clear on out! Ever been able to get that in your pictures before?

But there's another side to the coin. There are times when you want but one object at one distance nice and sharp, and everything else as woozy as possible so as not to compete. Such as of a youngster busily splashing about in his wading pool. He's the only thing you really care about in the shot — and here's where, in effect, a 35mm camera can kill two birds with the same stone. Thinking back to that same rule, you give it reverse English. After focusing on the youngster to get him sharp as can be, you open the lens w-a-y up. With a 35mm camera this can probably be to "2," which will narrow down the range of sharpness to but a foot or two fore and aft of the boy and knock everything else out of the picture as far as detail is concerned. But you have to do a lot of compensating for that wide-open "2" aperture — and you can, with a 35mm camera, by setting the shutter to click off at one-five-hundredths of a second which will likewise stop all action in its tracks!

That's something of what many 35mm cameras can do. Equally important is how they do it — and how easily.

In a previous column we talked about how some "35's" have interlocking lens-aperture and shutter-

speed controls. You lock 'em together for whatever type of light you're shooting under — and when you change one, as we've just been doing, the other changes automatically to balance things exposure-wise. This makes for quick shooting.

Or take depth-of-field, itself. Some "35's" have a depth-to-field scale right on their lenses. For every lens opening it tells you at a glance your range of sharpness both ways from your focus point. Or take focusing. With most cameras you have to do your own estimation of distance before setting the lens. This is fairly simple and reasonably accurate — but there's a much easier and more positive way built into many 35mm cameras. And this is a lens-coupled rangefinder that's part of the viewfinder. In it, at first, you'll probably see a double image of your target. You superimpose the two by turning a focusing knob — and when you've made one image of them in the finder you've also focused the camera's lens. This makes for sure shooting!

All of which, I think you'll admit, adds up to far more picture opportunities . . . and far better pictures.



AVAILABLE LIGHT pictures are quite easy to make with today's fast films and fast lenses found on the 35mm cameras. If you don't own an exposure meter it is advisable to take several exposures at various lens openings and shutter speeds. This particular shot was made using only the airport lights and a full moon. While it is a spectacular picture, it could be made by anyone having the proper equipment and a desire to try something different.

California Game People Feel Depredation Hunt OK

By DEVAN L. SHUMWAY

United Press International
SACRAMENTO (UPI) — The state Fish and Game Department took a long look recently at its grand experiment of 1958 and pronounced it a success.

The experiment, deer depredation hunts, resulted in taking a total of 466 deer in Siskiyou and Monterey counties.

This may not seem like many deer on a statewide picture. But officials appear to believe that the ranchers whose croplands are being eaten by deer wanted to see how the first hunts came along before asking for assistance.

The hunts were authorized by a bill adopted by the 1957 Legislature. Introduced by Stephen P. Teale (D-West Point), the measure allows the state to act only at the request of ranchers troubled by deer.

There were problems and allegations.

For instance, the department was criticized on the physical condition of the deer. One hunter told how he passed up deer after deer because they simply were not fit for human consumption and he wouldn't have been able to feed the deer meat to his family if he bagged an animal.

There also was some suspicion voiced that depredation hunts — which are for both buck and doe deer — circumvent county supervisors, who turn down Department of Fish and Game recommendations that either sex hunts be held. Harry Wilbur, writing in the California Conservationist, charged that the Siskiyou County hunt was held after contact by officials of the commission and department had been made with the landowners.

The question is this: Who was the aggressor? The Fish and Game Department or the landowner?

If the department sought out the landowners and asked them to ask for hunts, that makes the department an aggressor and could prove intention to circumvent.

However, a spokesman for the department says that this is not true.

"This is a legislative law," said the official. "It's something we must work with. We're not circumventing anything or anybody."

The latest hunt was in Siskiyou County October 5-13. There were 1,360 permits available but only 1,303 of them were taken and not all of those who got permits actually bothered to hunt.

RELAX BAN

NANAIMO, B.C. — The city council has decided to modify its anti-noise bylaw, for fear it would frighten away potential industry.

As a result, only 427 deer were taken — 222 in the Dorris area and 205 in the Fort Jones area.

"We feel that the hunts were most successful," said the official. "Generally speaking the deer were in fair shape. But in the Fort Jones area some of them were in poor condition. There were just too darn many there."

The spokesman pointed out that depredation hunts differed greatly from regular season hunts and from special shoots.

"Let's face it," he said. "These deer are hungry or they wouldn't take a chance of being so close to civilization. So they may not be in the best of physical condition."

"Although we have no reports

yet on whether or not we've solved the depredation problem," he added, "we do have statements from the ranchers involved that they feel the hunts were successful. And they commend the hunters in all cases."

"I personally saw an area on the Dilman property in Siskiyou County that looked bad," he said. "The deer really had been busy in his alfalfa land."

He said that if the commission is informed that the hunts did not solve the local problems it will have to take additional action — possibly even set another hunt for the area. But once more, this must be done at the request of the landowner.

Apparently, the commission must

be convinced that a hunt is necessary.

A few days ago, the commission turned down a request for a depredation hunt on a Lake County ranch in the coastal hunting area.

The reason given was that the rancher was making his request at the wrong time. No depredations were occurring at the time and there was little likelihood that there would be any this year.

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