

CAMERA *Angles*

By IRVING DESFOR
AP Newsfeatures

With Thanksgiving Day at hand, here's a way to get a real snapshot "bonus" on the same holiday menu. Since it's a day, traditionally, for family gatherings,



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why not make it the occasion to shoot family group photos for use on personal Christmas cards?

Photo greeting cards have a distinctive, individual touch that stand out from the "store-bought" kind and are becoming increasingly popular with camera fans. They linger longer, too, with the recipients and are often saved as personal mementos after the season's accumulation of Christmas cards are discarded.

The timing is just right now, too, for it permits an orderly and unhurried progression from the shooting, processing, selection of greeting card format and final printing to the mailing. In a little while, it'll become a last-minute chore with its last-minute problems: like the wrong grade of paper for a specific negative, or a horizontal format for a vertical picture or a shortage of envelopes.

Now that we've approved the idea and the time, what else do we need? Appropriate seasonal props, that's what, as well as the camera, film, light and subjects. With a house full of uncles, aunts or guests to choose from, a cameraman can be selected so that

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each complete family group can be photographed.

These few days before Thanksgiving might be used to ransack the basement or attic for Christmas props. Whether you have your own, borrow from a neighbor or buy them very early this year, it is necessary to have them ready for the Thanksgiving Day shooting session.

Christmas stockings, holiday wrapping paper, tree ornaments, a wreath, spray of pine cones, an evergreen tree branch, tinsel and ribbons are some of the props that can be arranged on a wall or fireplace mantel to make an appropriate background. It is amazing how little is needed to suggest the Christmas season and how much better it is to keep things simple rather than overdone.

If you have an assortment of props on hand, you might possibly want to change the background with each family group for variety's sake.

We assume the regular family camera will be put to work for this occasion. However, if some non-camera fan reader likes the idea and wants to try it out, the experiment could be most painless with one of the new 620-roll-film-size box cameras with built-in flash. This will give a big 2 1/4 by 2 1/4-inch negative which can be cropped to either vertical or horizontal format as needed.

As for film, the question is no longer what kind of black-and-white film but why not color negative? It's a bit more expensive but far more effective. If the mailing list is large enough to make the cost prohibitive, a color negative could serve a dual purpose. Color prints could be made for a small group of the immediate family and black-and-white prints from the same negative could be made for the balance of the mailing list.

For sharp pictures, some sort of camera support is strongly recommended. Turn a chair around, straddle the seat, rest your elbows and the camera on the upper edge of the back and you'll have a quickly improvised director's chair and camera-support combination.

The simplest lighting, though certainly not the best, is with the flash on the camera. A better lighting arrangement is obtained if the flash unit is detachable and can be held about three or four feet either to the left or right of the camera and about a foot or two higher.

Proper lens openings for flash pictures are determined by the distance of light from subjects and the guide number (divide guide number by distance). The guide number will be found on the flashbulb carton and is determined by the type of film being used and speed of shooting.

The most interesting lighting is possible with photo-floods to provide sparkling backlight and side-light. However, this is offset by the time, trouble and experience necessary to arrange properly and the hazard of wires ready to trip unwary feet.

But no matter what you do, have a snap-happy Thanksgiving for a Merry Christmas.



A SNAP-HAPPY THANKSGIVING can put the family Christmas greeting card in focus nice and early. Have some Yuletide props handy and one of the uncles can shoot from the back of a chair to steady the camera.

New Discs Fuse Jazz, Classical

By DICK KLEINER
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

NEW YORK (NEA)—The progress of jazz is mirrored in the experiences of Nesuhi Ertegun, now head of the album department of Atlantic Records.

As a teen-ager in Washington, D.C., where his father was Turkish ambassador to the U.S., Ertegun became interested in jazz. He invited jazz musicians to the



Nesuhi Ertegun

embassy, and the jam sessions became famous.

"That was 20 years ago," he says. "And then only eccentrics liked jazz. Those jam sessions were looked on as something crazy. But today you could hold a jam session anywhere and you wouldn't create a stir."

"Jazz has become respectable. It is now recognized as an art form. And it is worldwide in its appeal."

"America is still the center for jazz," Ertegun says. "There are good musicians in Europe but, so far, except for Django Reinhardt, no European has created anything new. I think it's only a matter of time, however, until somebody breaks through. It probably will be somebody from Sweden, where they have fine young jazz men, or France or England."

The jazz record field, which Ertegun and his company lead, is "better than ever," in his words. Sales are good, although the quantity does not compare with pop albums. Ertegun says if a jazz album sells 10,000 copies, it's good—"but jazz albums sell for years and all over the world."

New for Atlantic lately are jazz single releases. They do not expect to get a hit seller this way, but Ertegun explains that so many jazz albums are released they must find some way of "getting ours across to the public." They hope that singles will help do that.

As for recent jazz trends, Ertegun singles out Atlantic's "Third Stream" albums as a possible trend. These are a fusion of jazz and classical music, and he thinks that perhaps jazz will veer in that direction.

Concerning rock-and-roll, Ertegun is one record man who doesn't rap it. He thinks it will prove to be a good thing for music, "because basically it is honest music." He admits that there has been bad rock-and-roll "re-



corded by people who shouldn't have been in music at all" but feels that as a whole the good outweighs the bad.

"And the young singers," he says, "are real students of the blues. We record Bobby Darin, and when Darin comes in to the office, we talk and he'll sing me a phrase from some out-of-print record of the 20s. He really knows the blues."

Eddy Manson and his harmonica are doing triple duty these days—he can be heard on three versions of "Midnight Lace," the ones by Ray Conniff (Columbia), Ray Ellis (MGM) and Sid Feller (ABC-Paramount).

Meanwhile, Eddy continues with his other work, producing the music for radio and TV commercials. One intriguing trend, he reports, is the use of good music in these hard-sell concerts. He used a woodwind quartet in a cigarette spot and a string quartet for electric appliances.

Dick's Picks—Gogi Grant has a nice one, "Two Lovers By the Sea," on Liberty. Others: "Make Someone Happy" (Perry Como, RCA); "Dear John" (Pat Boone, Dot); "Many Tears Ago" (Connie Francis, MGM); "Somebody" (Johnny Nash, ABC-Paramount); "The Angry Sea" (Jane Morgan, Kapp); "A World I Can't Live In" (Jaye P. Morgan, MGM); "For You" (Jimmy Jones, Cub); "Brand New Heartache" (The Everly Brothers, Cadence).

Good recent records featuring vocal groups: On Kapp, The Easy Riders sing songs of the old southwest on "Remember the Alamo"; on MGM, "Presenting the Crosby Brothers" has Bing's boys singing better than you might imagine; on RCA, "The Ames Brothers Sing the Best of the Bands" is vocal arrangements of big band hits; on Liberty, there's a fine two-record set of "Bud and Travis in Concert"; on Decca, The Ray Charles Singers work on some standards in "Deep Night."

Three fine pianists in action on new classical releases: DGG has Geza Anda with Chopin's 24 Preludes; Kapp has Daniel Eri-court with a two-record set of Debussy's Preludes, Books I and II; and RCA has Artur Schnabel playing Brahms' Sonata in F Minor.

CHARGE PREPOSTEROUS

WASHINGTON (AP)—The State Department has branded as "preposterous" charges that it helped a group plotting to take over power in the Congo. The accusation was made by deposed Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba in a letter to Frederick H. Boland, president of the U.N. General Assembly.

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Letter Travels Million Miles

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Defense Secretary Thomas S. Gates Jr. has received a letter that traveled more than a million miles on a seven-cent air mail stamp before reaching him.

Gates said Wednesday the letter was postmarked in Sunnyvale, Calif., and was carried 31 times around the earth in the Discoverer VII satellite capsule which was successfully ejected and recovered in the Pacific Monday.

The letter was signed by Air Force Chief of Staff Thomas D. White.