

YOUR CAREER— PHOTOGRAPHY

This information about photography has been extracted from the booklet "Background to Careers", published by the Vocational Guidance Bureau of the Department of Labour and Industry.

Young people interested in a career in photography have the opportunity of working in a number of different fields, including commercial, advertising, fashion, portraiture and press photography.

Other fields which are perhaps less well known but which are becoming increasingly important, include industrial photography (where the work may include making slides, film strips, motion pictures for such things as publicity and staff training), and scientific, medical, and aerial photography (widely used in surveying).

Opportunities in motion picture, newsreel and television photography are somewhat limited in Australia at present, but are improving. Photographic sales and photo copying are other possible fields of work, and of course, photography is widely used in many printing processes, and is allied to radiography (where X-rays are used to diagnose and treat medical conditions).

The processes involved in production of a finished photograph are camera operating (that is, arranging the subject and taking the photograph), processing

(preparing the negative), printing (making the photographic print), spotting and re-touching (minimising blemishes) and finishing (mounting and trimming pictures).

PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS These vary according to the type of work performed. However, imagination, ingenuity and creative ability are of utmost importance for those who take the photographs. Enthusiasm, keen eyesight, patience and accuracy are other qualifications.

A news sense and a good memory is required for newspaper photography, whilst fashion or portraiture photographers and those employed in photographic sales work should be able to get along well with people. Colour blindness could restrict employment in some fields.

TRAINING Most training is obtained from experience on the job, but useful supplementary training is provided by a two-year part-time course in photography conducted at Sydney Technical College.

The course is open to those already employed in the photographic industry. Fees are £9 a year. Courses are available in photo-lithography and photo-engraving for those employed in the printing industry, and various courses in art and/or advertising also could prove useful.

PROSPECTS Juniors usually commence by obtaining sound all-round experience in various aspects of photography, for example, proofing, printing and processing. Progression to camera operating is competitive and depends on demonstrated ability, interest and enthusiasm.

There are no standard rates of pay for photographers. The main openings for girls are in re-touching, spotting, finishing or colouring, or in work as a receptionist. The opportunities for a girl to become a commercial photographer are limited.

FURTHER INFORMATION Large photographic firms, photographic studios, and photographic departments of newspaper and magazine publishing houses can supply further information. The Vocational Guidance Bureau's leaflet *Photography* should be read by anybody interested in photography as a career.

Mervyn Bishop, from Brewarrina, has been employed for 2½ years as a cadet news photographer on the *Sydney Morning Herald*. Mr Graham Wilkinson, photographic manager of the *Herald* told *Dawn* (see story about Mervyn, *Dawn*, February, 1965) that Mervyn is doing very well.