



LLOYD - MEURER PORTRAIT STUDIO of POTOMAC VILLAGE

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## ***Two Easy Steps Toward A Successful Portrait***

### **1. Good Mood**

When you look at your portrait down through the years you will always remember how you felt when it was taken. It is for this reason that we urge you to **make sure everyone is well-rested and well-fed** prior to coming in to the studio on the day of the portrait. The subtleties of each personality are best portrayed under positive conditions where good moods translate into good expressions on the faces of each person.

Through years of experience we have found that good expressions are best achieved when there are as few people as possible in the camera room. If we need help with small children or special problems, we will enlist your assistance. Otherwise **we ask that everyone remain in the waiting room when not at that moment being photographed.** This will also make the portrait sitting much less stressful for the "sitters." They will be more able to relax in front of the camera without feeling like they are "being watched."

### **2. Coordinated Clothing**

Because the faces are the most important part of a portrait, we strongly advise that you select **clothing which is coordinated.** That means, simply, that everyone's outfits should go together harmoniously, with no strong or bright areas in the clothes, shoes or socks which might draw attention away from the faces.

For example, it would normally be undesirable to have all dark clothing on everybody but light clothing on one person. That one person in light clothing would tend to stand out in the context of the dark on all the others. Similarly, a white belt or white socks on a person dressed in darks will also stand out inordinately.

If everyone is dressed in light colors, you would want to avoid dark shoes, socks, etc. because they would stand out like the proverbial "sore thumb," drawing attention away from the all-important faces. **Solids tend to be better than patterns** to accomplish this goal. Or try to stay with subdued patterns.

To make all of this very easy, we suggest that you **lay all of the clothes out together at home and see how they look.** If anything doesn't seem to "go" then select something else from the closet or at the department store. It will be well worth the effort when you see how much it improves the portrait.

### **Additional tips:**

- **Long pants or dresses** on all persons to cover the legs as much as possible
- **Hair carefully brushed and sprayed** to keep it off the face and out of the eyes
- **Remove glasses** or take the lenses out to avoid distracting reflections over the eyes

**That's it!**

**Good Mood and Coordinated Clothing.**

If you will help with these two simple things, we guarantee you that we will take care of everything else and create a wonderful portrait for you. Our best portraits are collaborations. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

**--Gary Lloyd and Louise Meurer**