

We All Make Mistakes...



We're in our 5th year of serving our community and helping families protect and preserve the memories they've recorded over the years. During that time, we've seen some wonderful videos, photos and slides that capture the essence of what it is to be a family. I've also been in a position to observe some of the common mistakes made by people who wanted to record their memories.

#1 – Scenery is nice but not always memorable. It's ok to take a picture of a mountain – just be sure to put someone you love in front of it. If you want to point a video camera out of a moving car to capture a road trip... try provide a running narration so we'll know decades later what we're seeing.

#2 – I know it can sometimes be annoying to have someone point a camera at you but you'll be thankful he or she did twenty or thirty years from now. So just grin and bear it. Why ruin a memory by showing your annoyance to the camera? Is that really how you want to remember this time?

#3 – Time stamping or mentioning the date and year will help you organize your video clips in the future. It is easy to lose track of time and place as the years pile on. Little clues go a long way when trying to fill the gaps of our older memories.

#4 – Keeping the camera steady will greatly add to one's viewing enjoyment. Fast pans, quick zooms and shaky footage

can actually bore or tire viewers out. When available, use a tripod or camera stabilizer. If you must go handheld, keep your elbows close to your body when shooting.

#5 – The bigger the family, the fewer the pictures or videos of the youngest members. I know it may feel a little like deja-vu to capture yet another 1st grade concert or Pop Warner football game but it's all about capturing the young one's first experience – even though you feel like you've seen it 100 times before.

#6 – If you find an old piece of media and you're not sure what's on it, please don't throw it away. It's like tossing away an old wallet before checking to make sure it doesn't contain anything valuable.

#7 – Don't assume that no one in the family would want to see the old stuff. Nostalgia can unexpectedly strike at any age. Teens may not want to sit for long periods of time watching themselves as babies but when they have tykes of their own, they'll be asking "what ever happened to my baby tapes?"

#8 – Family memories are best viewed, when possible, as a family. It is what we used to do in the 50s and 60s before our entertainment options grew to seemingly infinite bounds. Gathering in front of a projector or TV and telling the old family stories and jokes that come to mind as we watch the "olden days," is part of the family bonding process. One that is sadly in short supply. With the holidays fast approaching, consider having a tape or two transferred to digital so it can be played at your next family function.

Michael Ondrasik and Home Video Studio Mount Dora specialize in the preservation of family memories through the digitalization of films, videotapes, audio recordings, photos, negatives, and slides. For more information, call 352-735-8550 or visit our [website](#).