

February 2012

Dear Clients and Friends:

My family can enjoy home movies from the 1950's, because when something interesting was going on Dad was quick to grab his camera. It was a wind up Kodak Brownie black and white 8 mm camera, with no sound of course and the video was a little choppy. To see those old films again, which we've now put on DVD's, is a real treat.

We can watch ourselves running around looking for Easter eggs, drawing pictures, building sand castles, playing with the animals, opening Christmas presents, riding a bike for the first time, and doing all the fun stuff kids do.

I don't remember ever using Dad's camera, but the world has moved on. There are video cameras now designed for three-year-olds. By the time a child is kindergarten age, they can be taking movies of themselves and their friends, then uploading them to a computer. Unlike most cell phone videos, chances are these recordings will end up on a disk, to be duplicated and preserved for a lifetime.

Have you seen the new pocket camcorders? They're light, cheap, durable, and easily fit in a kid's pocket. Most can take two to four hours of video, with good color, sound and resolution. To check them out, stop by a Frye's or Best Buy.

We bought a Sony Bloggie camcorder for our grandson who is going on a school trip to Washington D.C. this summer. He'll upload clips to the internet for us to watch. The camera was about \$80, half price because we found it refurbished at Geeks.com. Don't forget you can always buy items used or refurbished (kids don't care!) at Amazon or Overstock on the internet. That might take care of a few birthdays this year.

Regards,



Charles M. Shackelford