

CATCH TIME

Mavis, a woman of a certain age, piled the volumes on the coffee table, on a nearby chair, on the floor--preparing for "the search"-- a requested picture one of her sons had asked for.. "Dad and I were fishing and I caught a big one" he had said. Apparently it hadn't landed in his album, the one of four she had made . One for each of her sons. It didn't turn up in the second volume of the three albums she had lovingly assembled in remembrance of her husband. Much family and many friends were included in that enterprise Still there were odd boxes and piles to go through. She really didn't mind doing this now and then. It was nostalgic, yes but it brought back more than just the images. Her first pictures with a brownis camera were such a thrill and she was such a bother! Even the pets were posed and photographed. It was exciting to take the film roll in and see what was on the negatives--then get some prints. It seemed a little like magic. Later, in college she had had a Speed Graphic on loan from the Journalism Department. That was fun and great experience--even if it didn't lead to becoming a famous photo-journalist. Her mother-in-law had given the family her big unfolding Kodak--top of the line for the thirties--and it had a good lens.. Point and shoot at its best. The big photo breakthrough came just after the war when living in Germany. A Leica was the first family purchase. What possibilities! What a learning curve! And so the albums grew with travels and family Here we were in Germany, Spain ,Holland, Then later Hawaii, Austrailla, Greece , friends all over. They had lived in Texas--what a blast--then Reno and even bigger blast. ~~So much was~~. Finally she spies it. Here it is, the last of a series never put in a book. What a catch. That moment caught in time was when she took a picture of her twelve\\twelve year old and a big trout,dad proudly grinning--with a magic lens Somehow she couldn,t stop looking at the piles of memories. No pictures at all of any sorrowful times. No hint of sadness. No wonder she couldn't stop looking

Mari Lu