shutter release button **92** through which an imaging start instruction is issued, an operation dial **93** and the like are disposed. At the camera front surface, a photographic lens **94**, a light emission window **95** of an electronic flash unit, an objective window **96** of a view finder and the like are disposed. At the camera rear surface, a plurality of operation members **97** and a display device **100** are disposed. It is to be noted that while the figures show a compact digital camera, the present invention may instead be adopted in a single lens reflex-type digital camera.

[**0131**] It is to be noted that since the display device **100** assumes a structure similar to that adopted in the display device in the first embodiment, the same reference numerals are assigned to its components so as to preclude the necessity for a repeated explanation thereof.

[**0132**] FIG. **18** is a control block diagram related to the display control executed in the digital camera in the second embodiment, showing only the primary structural components of the digital camera. An imaging device **337**, constituted with an imaging element, an A/D conversion circuit, an image signal processing circuit, a recording circuit and the like, generates image data based upon a photoelectric conversion output from the imaging element and records the image data thus generated into a memory card MC. A drive circuit **332** controls the drive of the image display module (first display module) **10** having been described earlier, and comprises a liquid crystal drive circuit **332***a* which drives the liquid crystal via the transparent electrode and a backlight control unit **332***b* which controls the backlight unit **14**. A liquid crystal drive circuit **333** controls the drive of the character display module (second display module) **20**. In addition, these drive circuits, an operation unit **334** which includes the power switch **91**, and the shutter release switch and a clock **335** are also connected to a CPU **331** constituting a control means (circuit)for controlling the overall device. Power is supplied to the CPU **331** and the various circuits from a battery BT.

[**0133**] Examples of displays that may be brought up at the display device **100** mounted at the digital camera are now explained.

[**0134**] The digital camera enters a power ON state as the power switch **91** is turned on and enters the power OFF state as the power switch **91** is turned off. In the power OFF state, the power supply to most circuits is turned off and photographing operation is disabled, but power is still supplied to some components such as a time counting circuit engaged to realize a clock function via the clock **335** and the CPU **331**. In addition, in order to minimize power consumption, the camera has an auto power off function, which enables it to automatically enter the power OFF state when a predetermined length of time elapses with no operation executed in the power ON state. If any operation (e.g., a halfway press operation) is performed in the auto power OFF state, the power ON state is recovered.

[**0135**] Now, the auto power off function is explained in further detail. Power is supplied at all times from the battery BT to the CPU **331**, the clock **335**, the operation unit **334**, an operation detection circuit **310** and a switch control circuit **312**, regardless of the operation status at the power switch **91**. This particular condition is equivalent to the power OFF state that the digital camera will enter in response to the power OFF operation at the power switch **91**. In the power ON state, on the other hand, power is supplied via a switch **313** to the other circuits in addition to the CPU **331**, the clock **335**, the operation unit **334**, the operation detection circuit **310** and the switch control circuit **312**. In the power ON state, the clock **335** measures the length of time over which the operation unit **334** remains unoperated, and once the length of time thus measured becomes equal to or greater than a predetermined length of time, the switch **313** is set in an open state via the switch control circuit **312** of the CPU **331**, thereby cutting off the power supply to the other circuits. It is to be noted that as an alternative, operations of the other circuits may be set in a standby state (sleep state) via a control input terminal through which the operating states of the other circuits are controlled, and in this case, the power supply to the other circuits may be sustained. The power consumption can be reduced through such control as well.

[**0136**] As the operation detection circuit **310** detects in the auto power OFF state that an operating member at the operation unit **334** has been operated, the switch **313** is set in a closed state via the switch control circuit **312**, thereby starting power supply to the other circuits. As an alternative, the operations at the other circuits may be switched from the standby state (sleep state) to an active state in response to power input to the control input terminal, instead of starting the power supply.

[**0137**] (Power ON State)

[**0138**] In response to a power ON operation, the camera starts an imaging operation and sequentially updates the display at the display device **100** with images captured in sequence (through image display). This means that the display device **100** can be utilized as a view finder. In response to a shutter release operation, an imaging operation is executed in order to capture an image to be recorded into the memory card MC and the captured image is displayed at the display device **100** over a predetermined length of time (freeze image display). In addition, in a reproduction mode selected by performing a specific setting selection operation, an image recorded in the memory card MC can be read out and displayed at the display device **100** (reproduced image display). A single image may be brought up in the reproduced image display, or a plurality of images may be brought up as thumbnail images in a single screen in the reproduced image display. The through image display, the freeze image display and the reproduced image display are all brought up by adopting the display mode illustrated in FIG. **5** in reference to which the first embodiment has been explained.

[**0139**] In addition, an image and image information (the photographing date, the photographic data and the like) can be brought upon display simultaneously by adopting the display mode illustrated in FIG. **7** in reference to which the first embodiment has been explained. Furthermore, a menu display for custom setting and the like, instead of an image, can be brought up on display so as to allow the user to select various settings by viewing the display. Since better visibility can be assured for the menu display by providing it in color, the menu display is brought up in the display mode shown in FIG. **5** under normal circumstances. However, the menu display may be provided by adopting the mode shown in FIG. **6** or FIG. **7** when, for instance, the remaining battery power available at the battery is low. For instance, a high