

Amateurs shoot up a storm in suburban photo contest

The hardest part was choosing the winners from the photo entries that came pouring in from all over the Observer and Eccentric circulation area.

Our color photo contest theme was "Life in the Suburbs," and the entries proved that the suburban lifestyle is a many-faceted one. The color slides submitted ranged in subject from the blizzard of '78 to the balloon races in Rochester. A panel

of Observer and Eccentric photographers and editors participated in judging.

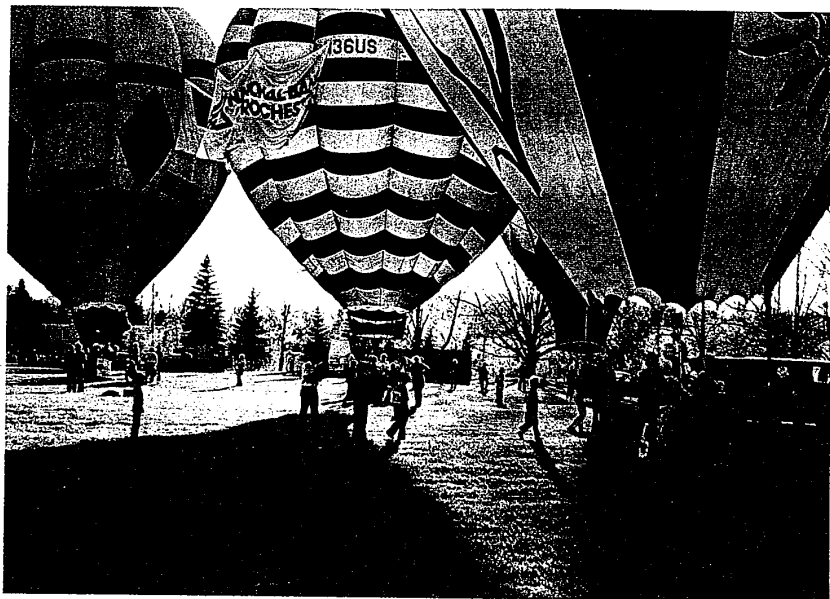
Each slide was presented without identification by city or name, and final winners were selected through the process of elimination.

Our judging criteria were based on originality, theme, technical quality, and suitability for reproduction.

The first place winner, by Mary Lemon

of Canton, was a clear favorite all the way through, but judging other entries proved to be an agonizing process.

We think the suburbs should be proud to have photographers (who are all amateurs) as fine as the ones who took our winning pictures. The prizes were gift certificates of various denominations provided by World Camera and Sound.



ROBERT BABIARZ of Rochester lives right across the street from the launch field for the HighAmerica balloon races held this summer. Babiarz's picture of the graceful balloons expresses his own interest in subject. He says he'd like to try ballooning, but so far his wife Carol is the only member of the family who actually has taken a balloon ride. Babiarz is an employee of Farmer Jack's supermarket in Avon Township. The Babiarzs have two children. Our third place winner, who says he thinks the balloons look as good from the ground as they do in the air, won a \$40 gift certificate.



Monday, August 21, 1978

(F)1C



BRENDA AHRENS, second place winner, has just graduated from high school and isn't sure yet what the future will bring. She is staying with her aunt and uncle, Joyce and Dennis Capp of Canton, which is where her charming portrait was taken. The two children in the picture are Ms. Ahren's cousins, Elizabeth and Larry. Ms. Ahren's says she likes "taking pictures of kids." She learned photography while working on her high school yearbook. She won a \$75 gift certificate for the photograph.

Honorable Mention winners



MARC HULET of Westland says he took this sensitive picture through Thermopane glass at his girlfriend's apartment. The seal on the double pane was broken, which caused the misty effect. Hulet, who won a \$10 honorable mention, is working for Ford Motor Co. during the summer, but plans to go to Schoolcraft College to enter the nursing program this fall. He's been taking pictures for about four years. "I read a lot about it. You make a lot of mistakes along the way," he says.



BARBARA ORTO of Canton likes to take pictures of celebrities like Paul McCartney, Sonny and Cher and the Bay City Rollers. The only celebrity in her winning picture "Don't pick the Daisies" is her daughter Ami, age 2. Ms. Orto is a registered nurse by trade, but is now staying home with Ami and her other daughter Bockt, 5 months. Both Barbara and husband Tom Orto take pictures. They first became interested in photography as a hobby when Nikon offered a special camera rebate about three years ago.



BARBARA BLOCH of Westland calls this picture "Wat, Wild, Wonderful Westland." Ms. Bloch says she hadn't intended to take any pictures that day. "But the kids in the neighborhood pulled out a slip and slide, and I just started taking pictures." Ms. Bloch says her husband, Gerald, bought her a Nikon for Christmas "after a lot of persuading" and told her he hoped she got results. This picture is one of the results. The Blochs have four children: Kevin, Pamela, Timothy and Rebecca. The family has lived in Westland for 10 years.