

Up, up and away Balloonist delights in the wind

By MAURIE WALKER

"Wouldn't you like to fly in my beautiful balloon? Way up in the sky in my beautiful balloon?"

Words to this song at one time may have seemed far fetched, but not today. Flying in hot air balloons is fast becoming a favorite pastime with many persons. The colorful balloons, standing seven stories high are seen frequently at fairs and festivals.

There are even balloon clubs. The activity has become so popular that a Livonia company not only sells them, but teaches balloon flying and supplies balloons for events in Wayne, Oakland and Washtenaw Counties.

Called The Wicker Basket Balloon Center at 11905 Mayfield, the company is owned by Gordon Boring, who belonged to a balloon club in Oakland County until a year ago.

"I decided this would be a good business to get into, so last September I formed a company. We are a dealer for the Balloon Works Co. in North Carolina.

Boring has sold three balloons to individuals this year.

"Prices for the balloons start at about \$9,000 and go upward from there. I have a few in stock now and we can also place special orders."

There are about 75 licensed balloon pilots in the state, Boring said. Every pilot must be licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration.

"There are 30 of these hot air balloons in the state. My company has the sales area of Wayne County and part of Oakland County."

'Balloon flying is not at all like flying in a plane. There is no sensation of movement, you don't feel any wind. It's a quiet, peaceful ride unlike anything else.'

— Gordon Boring

Each balloon is required to have an aircraft recognition number on it similar to an airplane.

The wicker baskets attached to the balloons can hold four persons including the pilot, Boring said.

"Balloon flying is not at all like flying in a plane. There is no sensation of movement, you don't feel any wind. It's a quiet, peaceful ride unlike anything else," he said.

The balloons are filled with hot air from a propane burner that creates air, causing the balloon to lift up.

"There is a burner above the heads of those in the basket which can be controlled as needed. When we want to descend, we adjust the burner so that less heat goes into the balloon," he explained.

The balloons don't have to be tied down prior to lift off unless it is a windy day. Two persons hold the basket until it is ready to take off.

Boring's firm will be supplying three balloons for Livonia's Spree 23, June 19-24 and for the Redford Township Ox

Roast this summer. His balloons have flown out of Rochester and will be in the Pickney races this month.

Balloons at Spree 23 are sponsored by the Livonia Lieutenants and Sergeants Association. They will ascend at 7 p.m., weather permitting, from Veterans' Park on Stark Road, south of Lyndon, each night of the festival. The balloons will not be carrying passengers at this event. It will be a demonstration of how balloons are inflated and launched.

They will spend about an hour in the air, traveling to the borders of Livonia before descending.

Boring said the giant balloons, which can be packed so that they can be carried in the back of a pickup truck, are becoming a new form of hobby for a great many persons.

"Once a person has flown in one, they usually are hooked," he said.

When asked who would spend from \$9,000 and up for a balloon, he answered:

"Anyone that's crazy enough about balloon flying to want to own one."



Colorful hot air balloons are becoming a familiar sight as more people are finding experience. (Staff photo by Art Emanuel)

Energy-saving cars to be at OU

Student engineers from more than 40 colleges and universities will be in the Detroit area Aug. 12-17 for an energy-efficient vehicle competition.

Oakland University will host for the competition sponsored by SCORE, Student Competition for Relevant Engineering, a non-profit educational group.

Testing and judging will be held at the General Motors Proving Grounds in Milford.

Winners will be announced at a dinner Aug. 17, featuring U.S. Transportation Secretary Brock Adams.



St. Clair Art Fair

June 22-23-24

Riverview Plaza
St. Clair Michigan

Featured Artist
JON BUECHEL
Detroit Free Press

FRAMES & Framing

20% OFF
ON ALL
CUSTOM FRAMING
now through June 30th

626-2750
ORCHARD MALL
Orchard Lake Rd. & Maple
WEST BLOOMFIELD
Open Daily 10-9
Sat. 10-6

651-2750
CAMPUS CORNERS
115 S. Livernois
ROCHESTER
Mon., Tues., Wed., Sat. 10-6
Thurs. & Fri. 10-9

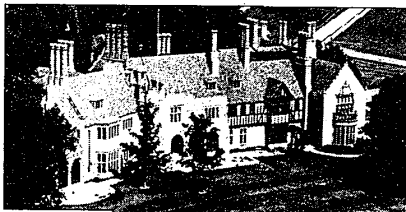
ANNOUNCING AN AUCTION TO BENEFIT

Meadow Brook

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

ROCHESTER, MICHIGAN

JUNE 15, 16 & 17



In commemoration of Meadow Brook Hall's 50th anniversary, C.B. Charles' Galleries will present a benefit auction to help preserve and maintain Meadow Brook. The public is cordially invited to attend this event which will take place June 15, 16 & 17 at the Meadow Brook Riding Ring. Meadow Brook's proceeds will be used for maintenance and preservation of the Meadow Brook estate buildings and grounds.

The C.B. Charles' Galleries is one of the leading national auction firms with more than two decades of success in presenting responsible, reputable auctions.

This exciting event features a large collection of fine antiques, collectibles, and unique decorative accessories for your home or office. The collection includes items from several major estates and collections. Of special interest will be a self-portrait by Katharine Hepburn.

Other items that will appear on the block will be period and ex-

emplary furniture; oriental screens, original oil paintings (referenced artists); bronze and marble statuary; large ivory collection; netsukes and snuff bottles; fine porcelains-Meissen, Sevres, KPM, etc.; oriental rug-room size, throw rugs and runners; jade and hardstones-lapis, malachite, rose quartz, etc.; chess sets; clocks; oriental-Satsuma, Cloisonne, Kutani & Chinese porcelains; art glass; crystal; pewter; sterling silver; and a large jewelry collection.

Featured in this auction is fine jewelry from the estate of Joan Crawford (not previously released for sale) as well as items from other noteworthy estates and private collections.

SPECIAL FEATURE
RARE PEAR SHAPED
11.08 ct. Natural
Black Diamond
w/ certification papers
to be auctioned
Sat., June 16th at
3 P.M. Sharp!
SATURDAY SESSION

THREE SESSIONS:

Friday, June 15, at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, June 16, at 12 noon.
Sunday, June 17, at 1 p.m.

LOCATION: Meadow Brook Hall and the Riding Ring are located on the East Campus of Oakland University (Adams Road entrance, 1/3 mile south of Walton Blvd.) Take I-75 to O.U. exit 25 miles north of Detroit. Drive to the University entrance on Squirrel Road and follow signs to Meadow Brook Hall from there.

EXHIBITIONS:

Friday, June 15, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, June 16, 10 a.m. to 12 noon; Sunday, June 17, 12 noon to 1 p.m.

ADMISSION is free. Complete catalogs (\$2). Refreshments available.

TERMS: Cash Check, American Express, VISA and Master Charge.



C.B. Charles' Galleries
Estate Specialists • Auctioneers • Appraisers
825 Woodward Avenue, Pontiac, Michigan 48053
For information, please call (313) 338-9203.

DISCO
AND MORE!
WLBs 102.7 FM
The total experience in sound!