

# Along the way

## Photographer has eye for simple life scenes

BY JOSEPH HOFFMAN  
STAFF WRITER

For many people, life in suburban Detroit seems typical, routine, and increasingly high-tech. But for Edward Balian, there's more here than meets the camera's eye. Balian writes his own column in the national magazine *Shutterbug*, and some of what you'll find featured in this publication is photographs of the Detroit area and northern Michigan.

"The Detroit area very much represents a microcosm of the rest of America," Balian said.

He should know. For three years (1989-91) he took summer sabbaticals examining the old highways in almost every state in the U.S. He traversed over 100,000 miles each year.

From this experience he acquired his own pictorial record of the people and places he and his wife, Judy, encountered along the way. So he appropriately entitled this montage "Along the Way."

To locate many of these old and disregarded highways that have experienced a slow demise since the rise of the superhighway, Balian used road maps from the 1940s.

"Of these old highways, Route 66 is the most famous, but there are so many more out there, like Routes 59 and 35, that are just as impressive for their time," said Balian, a Farmington Hills resident.

But his photographs are not about the past. They are about the types of businesses and lifestyles from a simpler time that still remain intact today, defiant of today's technological pace.

Be it the mom-and-pop stores, the basket maker, blacksmith, or vintage gas station, his photos are proof positive that there is still a place for the small enterprise in the '90s.

"Right here in this area, all you have to do is go off the beaten path and you'll find the

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type of living mom-and-pop stores that founded this country," he said. "The beauty of simplicity and the small enterprise is still around us if you take the time to look for it."

"These are genuine, honest, hard working people that are extremely happy to be who they are, with a certain quality, character and charm that many of us are losing."

The people he met he now calls friends, and he and his wife keep in touch with every one of them, by phone and Christmas cards.

But not all of his photos are of people and business; some of them, distant and local, are of land and sky. These photos he calls "Silverscapes."

"I named them Silverscapes after the type of process they go through in development," he said.

Balian has been perfecting his craft for more than three decades. He got his first Brownie box camera at age 9.

He has put much of his photographic fine art collection on video ("Along the Way"), and it is scheduled to air on the MetroVision Livonia Access Channel later this month.

Balian's photography has been displayed around Metro Detroit at such places as The Fabulous Gallery in Rochester and Madonna University in Livonia, where he teaches market research.

For a notification of where they will turn up next, contact Silver Sky Publishing at 539-0248.



Seeing things: A ghostly image of Mona Lisa appears on Edward Balian's photograph of a weathered old barn in Bloomfield Hills.

## Stakes are getting higher for students taking test

BY MARIE CHIESTNEY  
STAFF WRITER

Clarenceville High students took their state math, reading and science tests last fall knowing how crucial the tests have become to their future.

In 1994, the state will require that graduates earn passing scores on the three Michigan Education Assessment Performance (MEAP) tests to earn a diploma officially endorsed by the state.

That endorsement might become a measuring stick used by colleges and employers.

The stakes jump even higher for the Class of 1997.

In 1997, graduates won't get a high school diploma at all unless they receive passing scores on the three MEAP tests.

"Students who don't pass the tests won't get a diploma, even if they have fulfilled school requirements for graduation."

### State crackdown

The new rules are the state's way of cracking down to make sure graduates have the skills needed for the workplace in the 21st Century.

In Clarenceville, which includes southeast Farmington Hills, there were 41 11th graders who did not pass at least one of the three tests given in 1991-92, said Patricia Vickery, administrative assistant for instruction.

School officials just got 1992-93 scores last week, and have not yet determined how many students passed.

During retests, students will get a second and even third chance to pass the tests. Even so, some students will not get a state-endorsed diploma in 1994.

To get a state-endorsed diploma, students must:

- Master the reading section with a scale score of 300.

- Achieve at least 59 percent of the objectives on the 10th grade math test.

- Achieve at least 50 percent of the objectives on the 11th grade science test.

Students who fail the tests can still receive a diploma; however, it will not be state-endorsed.

At this point, school officials are unsure how much weight colleges and employers will put on this endorsement.

In the past, some educators have criticized the MEAP tests because it was not devised by test makers.

However, when the state handed down the new rules for a state-endorsed diploma, they gave districts the option of using the MEAP tests or use another state-approved test.

Most districts, including Clarenceville, have opted for the MEAP tests.

Clarenceville must soon decide whether to do away with its own reading, writing and math competency tests so that the district can put its full effort behind the MEAP tests, Vickery said. The district does not have a science competency test. "I expect a lengthy discussion on this issue."

In Clarenceville, 10th grade reading and math scores dropped in 1992 while 11th graders improved their science scores.

In 1991, 10th graders scored 55.6 in reading; in 1992, 41.1. They also scored 24.4 in math in 1991; 15.4 in 1992.

Eleventh grade science scores jumped from 36.0 in 1991 to 45.0 in 1992.

Two scores — math and science — for middle school students also dropped.

In 1991, 7th graders scored 30.7 in math; in 1992, 25.0. In 1991, 8th graders scored 45.1 in science; in 1992, 40.3.

Seventh graders increased their reading score from 1991's 32.5 to 1992's 33.5.

Elementary scores were mixed, one dropped, one increased and one stayed the same.

Fourth grade reading scores dropped from 1991's 40.1 to 1992's 38.7.

Fourth graders increased their math scores, from 36.5 in 1991 to 39.5 in 1992.

And 5th grade science scores stayed about the same, 71.6 in 1991 and 71.5 in 1992.

## Orloff will head health network

Deborah Orloff has been named to head Health Development Network (HDN), Botsford General Hospital's community health and wellness outreach program.

Orloff will guide Health Development Network's efforts to broaden opportunities for preventive health care programs for the community, business and industry from the Network's home in the Botsford Center for Health Improvement on Grand River Avenue in Novi.

"The Health Development Network has offered an array of health promotion and wellness

programs throughout Oakland and Wayne counties for the past 10 years.

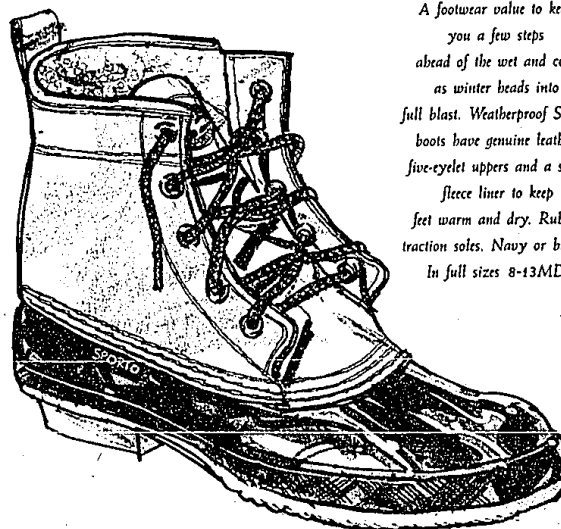
HDN programs cover areas such as stress management for employees and managers, nutrition education and counseling to new and expectant mothers and to other special groups, and smoking cessation and special programs for diabetics and asthmatics. There are also childbirth education classes for Japanese language speakers.

Orloff's involvement in health care spans 23 years. She most recently was the clinical nurse man-

ager for Ambulatory Care at the University of Michigan Hospitals in Ann Arbor.

Before that, she headed Detroit's Harper-Grace Hospital's community health programs and Harper Hospital's patient education efforts. Orloff is a co-founder of the Michigan Parkinson's Foundation and an active board member.

Orloff holds a bachelor's degree in nursing and a master's degree in public health, both from the University of Michigan. She lives in Farmington Hills.



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