



Amid collection of her photos and others, Miss Doris Offerman discusses hobby that has almost become way of life. If memory serves her correctly, man at seaside is her first photo.

(News-Sun Photo)

✱

DORIS OFFERMAN

Camera's eye changes view

By SUE CHILDRESS
Staff Writer

The eye of a camera has given Doris Offerman an ability to see things others do not. It has sharpened her awareness and made her more appreciative of the environment, she says.

For these reasons the Sun Citizen is indebted to photography, and photography might just as well claim her as one of its own.

A graduate of St. Lawrence University in New York, Miss Offerman heard rumors that the school was planning to build a new fine arts complex. In the interest of photography, she wanted to obtain a collection for display.

SHE KNEW the early days of club photography were no more—that old black and white prints and processes were set aside, lost, or discarded by widows or widowers now disenchanted with the "masterpieces."

When the university heard of her preservation collection idea, it enthusiastically approved and vowed to help her whenever possible.

Today, a decade later, the university's fine arts department holds a collection worth more than \$15,000, including several color prints made by one of the first two men ever to experiment with color photos.

Miss Offerman also managed to obtain original slides of Greece and the Holy Land suitable for university introductory classes in fine arts. One of her photos appears in the collection.

A YOUNG travel buff, Miss Offerman was tired

of "the same old shots of people sitting beside fountains." It was after she traveled on a West Indies cruise and a gentleman on the tour took "a most imaginative sequence of color movies" that she became interested in doing some work herself.

A peek at delightful, "very moody," black and white pictures in 1941 also spurred her interest. However, World War II intervened, and "I didn't get started until 1945."

The amateur photographer joined the Old Miniature Camera Club of New York and began her new hobby with a \$15 second-hand camera, and the first year took first place in black and white beginners' competition.

The forerunner of the "Through the Lens" trips, a journey to the Gaspé Peninsula offered her the chance to shoot color. Shortly thereafter, one of her color prints of the trip appeared in the New York Sun.

A SERIES of black and white photos of children for the Fresh Air Fund was printed by the New York Herald Tribune at a later date.

In 1951, she joined the Photographic Society of America and helped to organize the Color Camera Club of Westchester, N.Y.

A few years later, she was awarded an associate in the PSA for her ability as a photographer and her contribution to the advancement of photography through the St. Lawrence project.

Since "most good camera clubs give special photography courses and informative lectures at the meetings," Miss Offerman said she learned many of her techniques

from PSA. Her specialty is scenic photography.

BESIDES shooting photos, she has held several national PSA offices, has served as a lecturer and judge, and recently was elected secretary of the PSA color slide division.

She has won several medals and honorable mentions for her work and has accumulated four stars in color pictorial work and four in nature photography.

To attain one star, a photographer must have six pictures in 30 international exhibits, she explained.

Miss Offerman also is proud of her contribution to veterans hospitals. As part of their patient recreation program she has identified (located and described) more than 4,000 slides for bedridden vets.

WHEN a patient in a

mental ward refused to look at any pictures, much less anything else, the hospital obtained slides of his home town. "The man was on his road to recovery when he responded to the familiar sites and names," she said.

The Beatitudes Rest Home in Phoenix now is utilizing the slides, and the Red Cross, one-time participant in the program, is taking a second look at its worth.

A former record systems analyst in New York and a local resident for more than four years, Miss Offerman lives at 10013 Forrester Dr.

She is involved with the Sun City Photo Club and Canyon State Chapter of PSA. She is an honorary member of the Color Camera Club in Westchester, and is a Scintillating Sister of Sun City.