

HORIZON NEWS # 71

IMAGES, THOUGHTS AND NEWS FROM HORIZON PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

"I'm still passionately interested in what my fellow humans are up to. For me, a day spent monitoring the passing parade is a day well-spent."

Garry Trudeau

The Parade *Before* the Parade

Steve Gottlieb

Parades can be fun to watch, but as photo opportunities, they have their limitations. You can't interact with parade participants; marchers and vehicles whiz by, crowds can interfere with getting into a good position; spectators can be visually distracting. Plus, they are totally choreographed and predictable events, so everyone's shots tend to look the same. So when our workshop group had to depart Port Townsend, WA, immediately before the start of the annual "Rhody (as in rhododendron) Parade," I wasn't especially disappointed.

Our schedule, however, did permit us to meander around the *parade staging area* before the parade began, something I'd never done before. I discovered that this was vastly better than being at the parade itself.

We were free to wander, observing participants practicing their moves or, well, doing whatever. They weren't inclined to wear the typical plastic parade smiles, and we could directly interact with them if we wanted to. We had the flexibility to thoughtfully pick our subjects and compose our shots. No crowds obstructed our view or created unwanted distractions. Most important to me, parades are scripted, while parade preparations are spontaneous, which makes for more interesting pictures. I felt more like I was part of the event than a mere observer.

"Don't rain on my parade," people say, but if you're actually shooting a parade, then rain is welcome—light rain anyway. It means pleasingly soft light and umbrella unveiling. (Use a sun shade and troublesome raindrops won't land on your lens.) In the fifty brief minutes we had before moving on, we produced many fine shots, generally with quite a different flavor than those we'd been able to get shooting the parade itself. These shots (and others) will make a great "chapter" in our post-workshop photo book.



Three judges were doing some evaluating before the parade began. [Sherman Levine] Parades are a big deal in small town America, getting attention from the local radio station. [Ginny Lockman]



Cont'd >>>

- Clockwise from right:
- Love those details and colors. [**Grace Bond**].
 - Up close and personal. Some floats were impressive for a town with fewer than 10,000 residents. [**Colleen Kenneally**].
 - The apron in the window makes this so real. [**Eldad Cohen**].
 - Can't miss subject: two faces, juxtaposed yet disconnected, joined together by matching magenta umbrellas. [**Ginny Lockman**]
 - A really natural looking portrait with the ever-present tiara. [**Delana Wilson**].

