

The flyers came in all sizes



A pair of young onlookers watch the competition during last weekend's kite-flying contest sponsored by the College Station Parks and Recreation Department.

by Gail Weatherly
Battalion Reporter

Ironically, the highest flying kite in the kite-flying contest Saturday came not from the inventive mind of one of the contestants, but from a Safeway store.

And one kite-flying winner was not even human. A puppy named Lincoln won third place in the smallest kite category for a small paper kite he had around his neck.

So the day went as seventeen kite flyers, ranging in age from 2 years old to 55, battled destructive winds to participate in the College Station Parks and Recreation Department kite-flying contest.

Some of the assorted kites crumpled under the pressure of the high winds and slowly drifted to the ground.

Others pulled hard enough to snap the strings holding them and flew into trees and over houses.

A pink box kite went rolling across the field next to the A&M Consolidated High School, eluding the owner who was chasing it.

But some of the kites exhibited the skill and care that had been put into them.

Sally Leshner's blue and yellow butterfly kite, which won first place for best decorated kite in the senior division (16 and over), looked intricate and fragile, but flew like it was meant for 30-mile-an-hour winds.

The kite was made in two evenings, Leshner said, out of the same paper used to make model airplanes and balsa wood. The wood had to be put in boiling water, she said, to bend to the design that she and her husband, Ron, got out of the encyclopedia.

They also entered the kite that won first place for smallest kite, flown by Lisa Ramirez since Ron Leshner had to go back to work.

Other categories were strongest-pulling kite and most active kite with a junior and senior division, largest kite, smallest kite, highest kite, and oldest and youngest kite flyer.

One kite was patented by the flyer's grandfather. Three-year-old Matthew Beachy, 3, was flying a red triangle kite that his grandfather built in the 1950s, and he won several awards with the kite.

The first place largest home-built kite was flown by Lowell Knox and was made of a large red-checked gingham cloth with a yellow-checked fin.

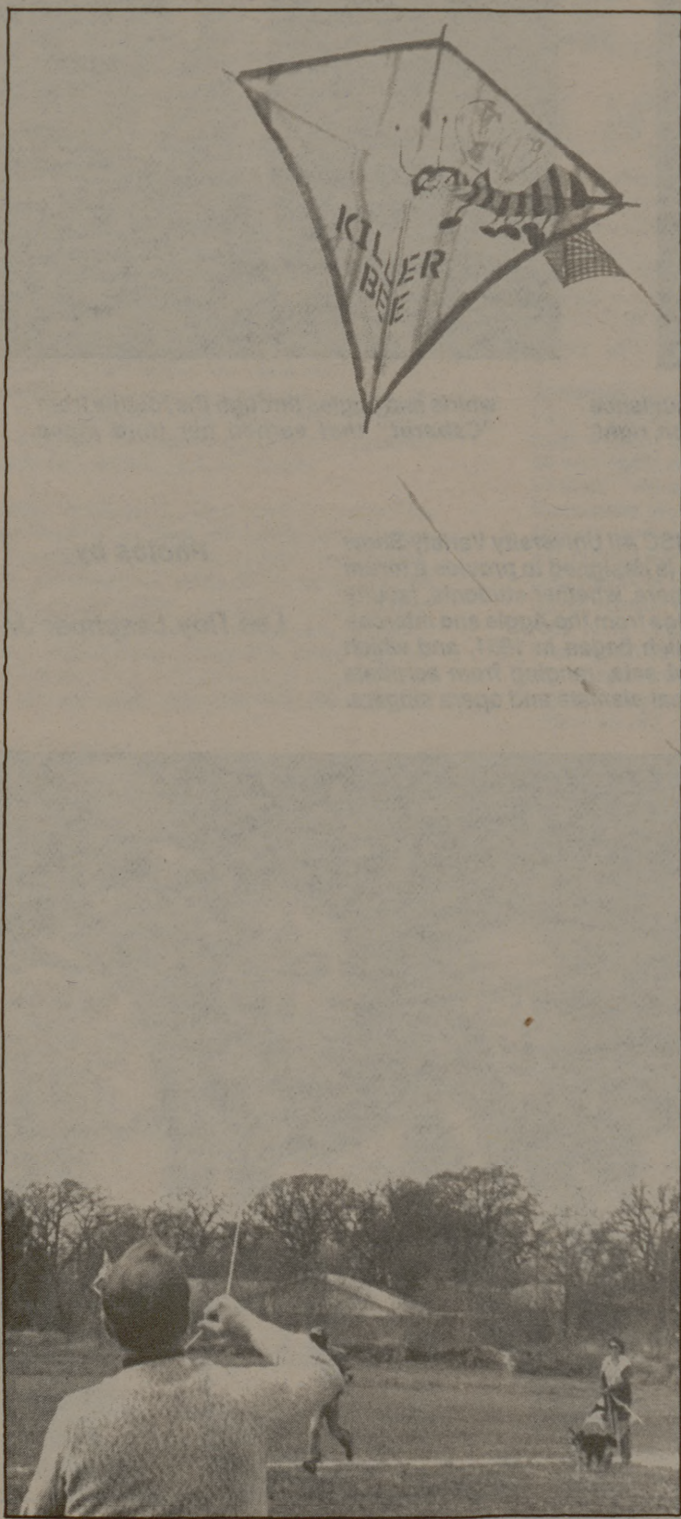
The smallest kite in the contest, winning second because it had trouble flying the full minute required, was about one inch across, made out of toothpicks and pink tissue paper.

Three small strings made up a tail, and the owners were discussing that it might not be flying because of too much tail.

All first place winners won T-shirts, and second and third place winners won ribbons.

The three judges, Susan Edens, David Fain and Jana Brewster made quick decisions on the winners. The winners were announced by Marci Rodgers, recreation superintendent for the College Station Parks and Recreation Department.

Rodgers, in the spirit of having a good time, gave out a few extra T-shirts to young on-lookers who received them with as much enthusiasm as if they had been a gold trophy.

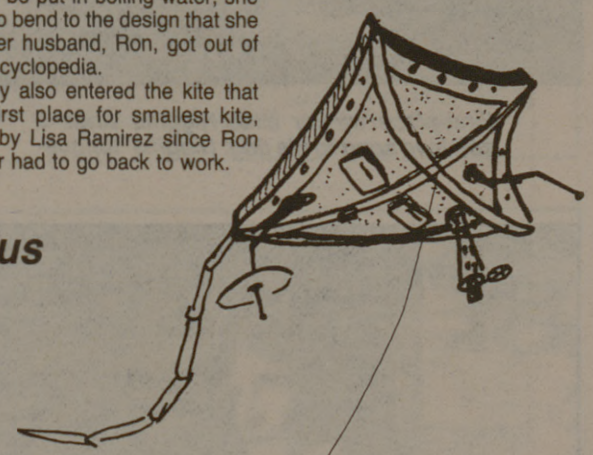


One contestant's entry at the kite-flying contest last weekend was called the Killer Bee.

Kite instructions by Susan Edens

Photos by Ed Cunniss

Drawings by Doug Graham



Two-year-old Rebecca Knox, the youngest kite-flyer last weekend, tries her luck in last Saturday's competition, while her mother Jean Knox lends a hand. Rebecca's father,

Lowell Knox, won first place for the largest kite at 5 feet long, second place for it being home-built and third place for it being the most active.