

Little kids' playground, Mitchell Park, Palo Alto, California, circa 1967

Photograph by J.L. Groffie. Text by Frank Groffie.



My dad, J.L. “Hans” Groffie (1931–2017), enjoyed photography starting from a young age. He might have been interested in camera gear — been a gear-head — rather than the art of photography itself more than he would have liked to admit. Yet, some of his subjects and images are worth viewing.

Note here, above, that a wooden bridge shows both on the left and right sides of the photo. This view captures at least 360°, perhaps more like 430°, of scenery. Note that the boy under the bridge on the left is on his feet and is either falling to or getting up from his knees, and on the far right, he’s down on his knees. The camera that was used was able to capture a time-spanning image of 360+ degrees.

I wasn’t able to scan this negative in its entirety on my primitive scanner. I could do so only in segments. Thus, I have merged the separate scanned images. However, the original was created, by my dad, without any pasting or Photoshopping. The original is essentially the long, narrow color photograph shown here that my dad obtained in 1967. Or 1966 or 1968 or a few years later; who knows. I believe that he also performed the developing of the negative in his garage photography darkroom.