

Local

Woman not handicapped; she just has her own way

By CATHERINE J. THOMAS  
Battalion Reporter

Between Pasta's and Rudy's Exxon Service Station is Photo-Tech. Inside that little film booth is Reba Harbert. The woman is legally blind, operating a dependable film service.

"I wanted to prove that I wasn't handicapped," she said. "That's why my husband and I established Photo-Tech nearly two years ago."

Harbert, 52, said she gained experience from working in another film booth three years ago.

"I've learned things that routine clerks don't learn," she added.

While she was in the first booth, the blue-eyed woman said, she saw the business's clientele nearly double, so she and her husband, Bob, started Photo-Tech for the added income and a hobby.

"We wanted to try an innovation getting the film back the next day," she said.

Her cubicle is papered with pictures of her husband, who is a civil engineer researcher at Texas A&M University, and her sons, Robert and Stuart.

Harbert said she has no supervisor to bother with and she more or less does the work when she wants to.

Being legally blind, Harbert has vision of no better than 20-200 with correction. It poses a problem in her work.

For example, she has difficulty recognizing her customers.

"The same people come in all the time," she said, "but I don't know them from Adam. The only way I can recognize my customers is by their cars and voices."

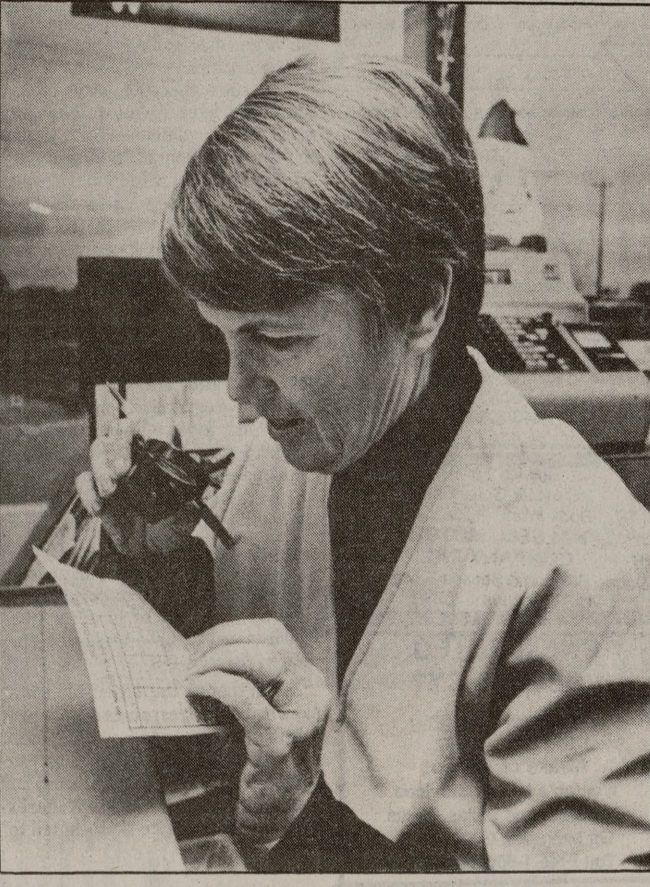
"I'm real self-conscious about it. People occasionally laugh at me when I don't recognize them and tell me to put on my glasses. That hurts."

Still, her blindness hasn't gotten in her way. She has her own way of doing things.

She files the film under last names rather than numbers and writes in big letters. She has some reading tools, a pair of magnifying glasses and two magnifiers with battery operated lights, that enable her to read prices.

"I'm dependable and the same people always come back," she said happily.

Harbert's work doesn't stop at Photo-Tech. "I spend 80 to 85 hours a week doing things directly related to the business," she said.



Staff photo by Greg Gammon

Reba Harbert goes over some of her photo orders for her business, Photo Tech on Texas Ave. Harbert is legally blind. She runs her successful business with her husband who develops in his darkroom at their home overnight for their customers to pick up the next day.

But Photo-Tech has kept her home life steady, she said. Most important, she said, "It kept my kids from thinking I was handicapped."

Harbert explained, "They're used to it, they know that I'm slow sometimes and can't see well, but that's how they know me."

Her husband enjoys photography, she said, and he does the black and white processing in his darkroom at night.

"I help him dry the prints and do

the bookkeeping intermittently with the wash and housework at home," she said.

She said she and her husband plan to keep the business until their youngest son, a senior in high school, graduates from Texas A&M.

After that, she and Bob would like to move back to their land near Waco, she said.

"We have a lot of land there and Bob has always wanted to piddle around with farming."

Coalition charges San Antonio picked for trial due to few blacks

United Press International  
SAN ANTONIO — A spokesman for the San Antonio Coalition Against Racism said Tuesday the city was chosen as the site for the trial of a Dade County, Fla., policeman charged with violating the civil rights of a black businessman, because of a low black population.

Rick Green said during a news conference that Charles Veverka, 44, a former policeman in Miami, is being tried by the federal government in San Antonio because it thinks the large Mexican-American population in the city will not care about a black man.

Veverka is charged with filing false criminal charges and false police reports in the death of insurance company executive Arthur McDuffie.

"We say to the Justice Department that we are well aware that San Antonio was chosen for this trial because of its small black population," Green said.

**AM AGGIES!**  
Douglas Jewelry

**10% AGGIE DISCOUNT**  
ON ALL MERCHANDISE  
WITH STUDENT ID  
(Cash Only Please)  
We reserve the right to limit use of this privilege.

**Downtown Bryan (212 N. Main)**  
and  
**Culpepper Plaza**

**MSC Cepheid Variable**  
presents a

**Science Fiction Triple Feature**

"Plan Nine From Outer Space" 7:30

"Invasion Of The Star Creatures" 9:00

"Cat-Women Of The Moon" 10:20

**Thursday, December 11** 301 Rudder Free Admission

**THE STORE YOU HAVE TO FIND!**

**GUSTOM SOUNDS**

and **SANYO**

**are still in the Christmas Spirit with SPECTACULAR STEREO SAVINGS!**

---

**SANYO FT C8**

- Automatic music select system
- Vertical or horizontal mounting
- Full auto reverse
- Fader
- Separate bass and treble controls

**Reg. 159.95 SALE 99<sup>95</sup>**



---

**SANYO FT645**

- Digital tuning/Quartz Clock
- Full auto reverse
- Locking fast forward & rewind
- Fader control

**Reg. 200.00 SALE 159<sup>95</sup>**



---

**SANYO PA6100**



**SALE 149<sup>95</sup>**

**SANYO SP772**



**SALE 79<sup>95</sup> a pair**

**SANYO FTC4**



**SALE 79<sup>95</sup>**

---



**Having a Christmas party? Want incredible sounds to entertain? CALL CUSTOM SOUNDS**



**GUSTOM SOUNDS**

3806-A OLD COLLEGE ROAD  
846-5803  
OPEN: MON.-SAT. 10-6 P.M.