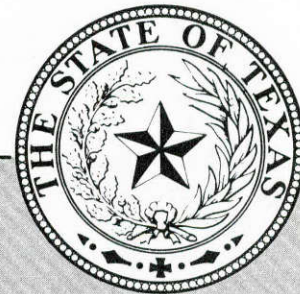


Report

State Commission For The Blind



Vol. I, No. 1

April 1984

COMMISSION REPORTS ON FFY 82 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A total of 286 blind individuals secured jobs in the competitive labor market during federal fiscal year 1983 (October 1, 1982 - September 30, 1983). Through the Commission's vocational rehabilitation employee assistance efforts, these Texans were able to secure jobs in diverse and financially rewarding employment areas. In addition, the average weekly salary for these 286 individuals was approximately \$200, which represents a record accomplishment for the Commission since its creation in 1931.

In 1983, 9,264 persons were served through the agency's vocational rehabilitation program. A total of 1,880 visually disabled adults successfully completed a training program during this period. The average weekly salary for all rehabilitants was \$149.18 per week. According to Terry Murphy, director of the Commission's Field Services Division, the implementation of a concentrated marketing approach to the agency's selective employment assistance efforts is resulting in increased diversity in the types of jobs blind people are securing. Ranging from musicians, computer programmers, radio announcers to college professors, geologists, syndicated columnists, and data processing workers, the opportunities for employment have

undoubtedly increased over the past few years. "While the quantity of jobs is important," notes Murphy, "the quality of those employment opportunities is just as significant." Increased emphasis on the latter has resulted in more and more blind and visually disabled Texans being able to obtain jobs that offer greater benefits.

The continued demand on the Commission's service delivery system is not unique to the VR sector. During 1983 a total of 6,001 children were served through the Visually Handicapped Children's Program. Approximately 66% of the children served through this program have no residual visual disability upon completion of the service delivery. "This program continues to address the special daily needs of the visually disabled children of Texas," Murphy says.

During FFY 1983, 175 blind and visually impaired persons were served in the regular evaluation and training program at the Commission's Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center in Austin. An additional 99 clients received short-term services during this time. Larry Rieber, Center director, reports the Center continues to emphasize the provision of an individualized and comprehensive training program for each blind person who enters its doors.

...PAN AMERICAN CONFERENCE DRAWS INTERNATIONAL FLAVOR

The Third Pan American Conference on Rehabilitation and Special Education was held March 6-9 on the campus of Pan American University in Edinburg. The gathering drew participants from throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico and included presentations on a variety of topics related to productivity and employability of disabled persons.

Commission Executive Director John Wilson joined Dr. Maria Martinez of the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C. and Dr. Orlando Rivera of the University of Utah for a panel discussion on the "Socioeconomic and Cultural Problems Affecting Rehabilitation and Special Education in the Americas." Linda Woodbury of the Commission's Career Development Unit delivered a presentation on the "Marriage of Technology to Career Fields for the Visually Impaired."

"Officials at Pan American University have done an excellent job of convening an international rehabilitation conference of this magnitude," says Wilson, adding that such a meeting "affords everyone a good opportunity to exchange information and learn about what others are doing in this field."

By now, many of you have either read or heard about a fraudulent memorandum that has surfaced across the state bearing the forged signature of Robert Packard, assistant director of Field Services. Essentially, the author/s of this document wishes to depict the Commission as an organization that denies equal employment opportunities to blind and visually disabled persons.

Because of the serious implications and damage a forged, false, and malicious letter such as this can have on our organization and its staff, the Commission has been in contact with the Department of Public Safety to ascertain what legal investigative assistance is available to the agency. Along with other members of our staff, I have met with investigators from the Special Crimes Division of the District Attorney's Office in Austin to discuss additional avenues available to the Commission in the investigation of this criminal offense.

*It is indeed unfortunate that one memorandum has created so much controversy and disarray among certain individuals. On March 10, while addressing the statewide meeting of the National Federation of the Blind in Houston, the subject of this document surfaced and the Commission was accused of conducting a campaign to rid itself of its blind employees. Newspaper articles in the *Houston Post* have placed this entire matter before the public and have added increased notoriety to distortion and lies. At least one letter to Governor Mark White talks about the alleged "disgraceful condition of the State Commission for the Blind" and makes claims that the Commission is being run in an "inefficient and incompetent manner."*

Attempts to maliciously discredit the integrity of at least one Commission staff member, and to depict the entire agency in a false manner to the public can only harm the clients of this agency when our resources and energies are diverted to defending itself against unfounded attacks and erroneous claims.

For the record, I want to state unequivocally that the State Commission for the Blind in Texas believes and practices what it preaches: that blind and visually impaired citizens represent an integral part of society and that they deserve an opportunity to participate fully, according to their various abilities. We will continue to promote their employment and sanction their right to secure jobs in diverse fields, including those within the State Commission for the Blind.

John C. Wilson

John C. Wilson
Executive Director

CONNER RECEIVES RECOGNITION

The American Academy of Ophthalmology has presented its annual public service award to William C. Conner of Fort Worth. In making the announcement, Academy officials cited Conner's extensive list of services and community involvement, including his role as the founding chairman of the advisory council of the Wilmer Institute. The Institute was the first in the United States to offer ophthalmologists complete training as teachers, researchers, or practicing physicians and surgeons. The laser developed by the Wilmer Institute is virtually the same instrument now being used for eye surgery all over the United States.

Conner, one of the founders of Alcon Laboratories Inc. and board chairman of the Commission, recently hosted a visit from Dr. Arnall Patz, director of the Wilmer Ophthalmology Institute of Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore. Dr. Patz is the ophthalmologist who discovered the role of oxygen in causing blindness of infants kept in incubators in the early 1950s, a discovery that has practically eliminated that type of infant blindness.



William C. Conner

EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE: A LOOK AT ONE APPROACH

Members of the Commission's Career Development Unit, working in conjunction with regional supervisors and field staff, have continued their efforts in the area of employer seminars. "The purpose of these sessions," says Ron Mansolo, CDU supervisor, "is to give us an opportunity to talk to a group of employers at one time about the agency's employment assistance services and the types of jobs being done by blind and visually impaired persons in the local area."

With a move towards a marketing-oriented approach to employment assistance, vocational rehabilitation personnel are using the employer seminars as springboards for follow-up contacts with individual companies or employers. "Our VR counselors are better able to establish contacts with employers in their areas as a result of these seminars and thus are in a better position to develop a good working relationship with numerous employers." The final outcome, however, still centers on employment opportunities for agency clients and, according to Mansolo, recently held meetings with employers have proven successful in this light.

"Employers who attend our seminars are treated to a comprehensive, yet entertaining, exposure to the Commission and its work," Mansolo notes. The gatherings feature presentations by the local regional supervisor and VR counselors as well as slide and photo presentations and an exhibit of various technological aids and appliances.

To date, sessions have been held in Fort Worth, El Paso, Dallas, Corpus Christi, Amarillo, Victoria, McAllen, San Antonio and Houston. Mansolo and his staff are working with regional supervisors across the state to schedule additional seminars and to follow up with each organization represented.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE PLAYS ACTIVE ROLE

The Consumer Advisory Committee continues to provide valuable assistance to the Commission. The Committee was established years back to provide blind individuals and other persons or groups who are involved and interested in the services of the Commission to the blind and visually disabled population of Texas with a formal mechanism for expressing their views about the agency's service delivery system and policies.

Members serving on the Committee include: Valerie Pena, Uvalde; Connie Alexander, Houston; Alice Butler, Amarillo; Terry Bureson, Dallas; Kenan Cowling, Austin; Noel Ysassi, Edinburg; William Harmon, Lubbock; Vincent Morvillo, Webster; Henry Nauret, Abilene; Carl F. Martin, San Antonio; Mable Richardson, Dallas; James R. Beeson, Houston; Pat Pound, Austin; Lee W. Robinson, Dallas; and William J. Pearcy, Austin.

The Committee meets together each April and telephone conferences are scheduled during the year. Nominations come from interested persons, consumer groups, and service providers, and may be sent in writing to the executive director. They should include a statement on the nominee's community leadership, knowledge of agency programs and services, knowledge of blindness, and willingness to serve on the Committee. Selections are based as nearly as possible to assure statewide geographical representation as well as persons with differing interests, such as current clients, parents of blind children, and organized blind groups.

Jerry Schlothauer, assistant to the director of Vocational Rehabilitation Field Services, is designated by executive director John Wilson as the agency liaison to the Committee and is actively involved in the activities of the group.

Additional information on the Committee is available from Schlothauer at 512-475-1781 (TexAn 822-1783).

COMMISSION OFFERS INFORMATION

The following is a list of some brochures and informational materials available, free of charge, through the Commission:

1. Services Of The State Commission For The Blind
2. Hire The Blind For Their Ability Not Their Disability
3. Stats And Facts
4. Blindness And Diabetes
5. We're Investing In Your Child's Vision
6. For An Unbeatable Investment
7. Sight Has Nothing To Do With Being A Whole Person
8. Recreation And The Blind Adult
9. Services For The Elderly Blind
10. Servicios Informativos Hacia Los Ciegos Y La Ceguedad

In addition, pamphlets on the Commission's Visually Handicapped Children's Program, Business Enterprises Program, Sunrise Program, Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center, Career Development Unit, and Talking Book Program are also available.

Requests for material may be addressed to the Public Information Office, P.O. Box 12866, Austin, Texas 78711.

ADP STAFF CONTRIBUTES TO AGENCY MISSION

Upon venturing into the Commission's Data Processing Division, one is struck with the startling reality that the automated future predicted in all our modern-day media has already arrived. Staff members in ADP conduct business in what can best be described as truly a different, if not, foreign language. Words such as "memory," "program," "field," and "batch" assume a totally new meaning, while others like "byte," "nanosecond," and "buffer" command a rather unique understanding. Not to be outdone by the always-present stock of acronyms that are inherent with any field or practice, ADP staff offer their fair share of these mind-bogglers: "SYCOM," "GEMCOS," and "ODESY," to name a few.

Once we have deciphered the technical language and agreed upon a more traditional medium for communication (namely, English), it is not hard to see that the real attraction to this aspect of the Commission's operations is the Burroughs B 1955, an exceptionally productive, responsive, and efficient computer system with a capability of one and one-half million bytes (characters). The system includes 55 video terminals and 38 hard copy terminal printers. It can perform in both the "stand alone" and distributed processing environment. The B 1955 features distributive processing power for maximum system throughput in a multiprogramming environment. This has allowed the Commission to implement a statewide network of terminals which allows for on-line capability to collect, store, and retrieve client and financial data.

The Commission has used data processing since 1973, using equipment at other state agencies through an interagency contract. However, in 1980 the B 1955 was installed and the Commission was able to meet the data processing needs in a more timely and efficient manner. Recalling the arrival of the Burroughs' system, H.C. Parr, data

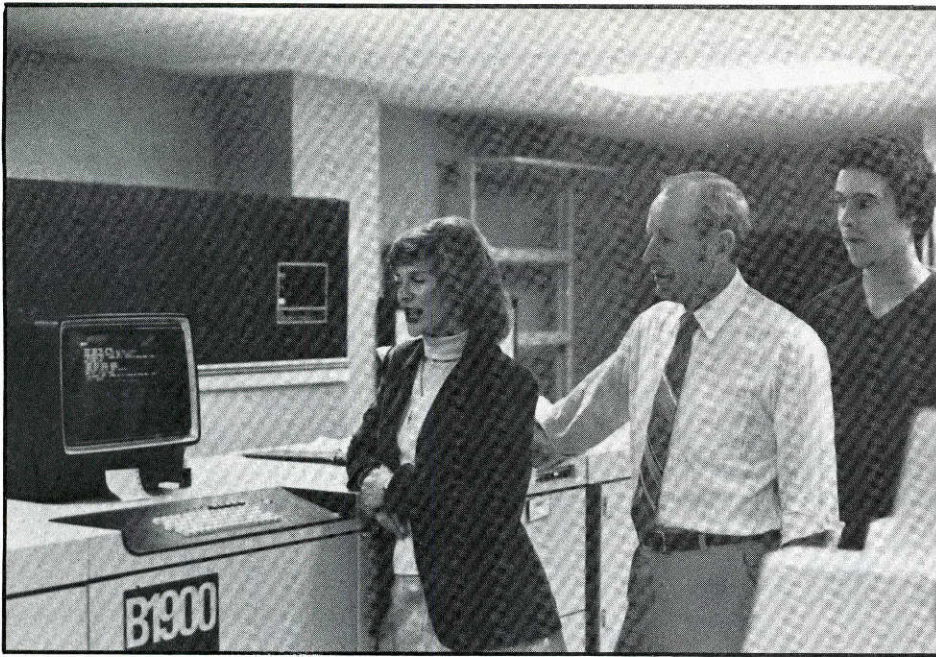
processing manager, remembers the "anticipation and excitement of ADP staff as they prepared for the new system." Before the B 1955 could be installed, a special location with a raised floor, intricate wiring to handle the unique electrical requirements, and a separate air conditioning system that would produce an environmentally controlled climate at 72 degrees had to be prepared. Once the B 1955 found its home, ADP staff had to be trained on the new system and the conversion of approximately 400 programs from a Univac system was initiated by Parr and two of his supervisors, Doris Jungmann and Ann Freeman. "It took a tremendous amount of effort on behalf of all ADP staff to accomplish the conversion of all our programs," notes Parr, adding that "we completed in five months what was projected to be a two-year project."

The ADP in particular and the Commission in general have greatly benefited from the advent of the age of automation. In a recent review of the Commission's automated data processing operations the Office of the State Auditor reported that the ADP Division "serves administrative and client service users effectively." The real beneficiaries of the Commission's computer operations are Commission clients. According to executive director John C. Wilson, "The primary purpose of the agency's computerized activities is to streamline the service delivery system so as to make it more effective." Already developed are a case service encumbrance system, a comprehensive operating expense encumbrance system and an automated case service payment system whereby staff across the state have the capability of entering data directly into the central office system and requesting that the computer print a purchase voucher on a case expenditure.

"The main purpose of the design of our data processing oper-

ations was to provide as much assistance to our client service delivery operations as possible," says Pat Westbrook, director of Administration and Finance for the Commission. He adds that the ADP staff have also designed and implemented a limited on-line automated talking book system. "The obvious benefit lies in the reduction of paperwork," says Westbrook. The B 1955 has improved the accuracy of agency data and allows the Commission to have direct access to diverse information on an accurate and timely basis. "Through computer edits and validation techniques," says H.C. Parr, "we are able to secure valid and reliable information that is used by practically every section of the Commission." Additionally, the use of the B 1955 has resulted in reduced mailing costs, lowered telephone expenses, and elimination of the time spent by accounting staff in resolving matters relating to encumbrances and expenditures for case services.

While it is perhaps hard to forecast the extent of the computer field in the future, Parr is certain of continued sophistication and automation by the Commission's operations. Already on the drawing boards are plans for the design, programming, and implementation of a comprehensive client job bank to facilitate the agency's employment assistance efforts. This system will have the capability of indicating clients who are "job-ready," employers who may have possible job openings for qualified agency clients, specific jobs acquired by clients, and other information that will help vocational rehabilitation counselors in their efforts to help blind and visually impaired Texans secure employment. New developments in the operating expense encumbrance system, the Visually Handicapped Children's Program system and the rehabilitation teacher client service system are also expected in the near future. In addition, the B



Freeman, Parr, and Mitchell (l.-r.) take a moment to pose with their prized companion and co-worker.

1955 will continue to offer valuable information and data used by the Commission in personnel matters, public information efforts, reporting requirements to state and federal authorities, and other activities.

If some experts have indicated, the hardware is the body of the computer and the software its soul, then most certainly, the members of the ADP staff represent the heart and conscience of the entire operation. Parr is particularly proud of his 15-member staff and the "degree of dedication and expertise they bring to their jobs." His two managers, Freeman and Jungmann, have more than 29 years of combined experience with the Commission. Parr himself has labored with the agency for more than nine years and has seen the ADP Division go through its growth pangs.

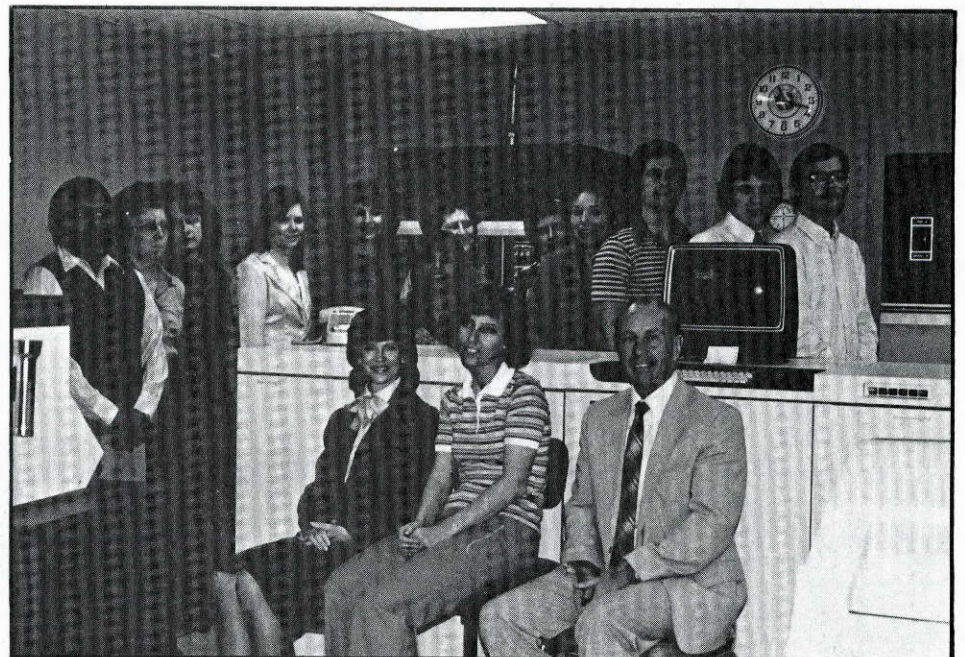
One of the newest members on the ADP staff is Randy Gatlin, a former Commission client who received a degree in computer information systems from West Texas State University. Gatlin has joined an ADP staff that includes one systems analyst, three programmers, three key entry personnel, three record control clerks, and two computer operators (the system is operated on two, eight-

hour shifts). The braintrust of the division lies with Parr, Freeman, the computer operations supervisor, Jungmann, supervisor of analysis and programming and system analyst George Rodriguez. We've been fortunate to attract some rather uniquely qualified employees," says Parr, noting that two of his staff members, Larry

Armstrong and Gary Mitchell, have joined the staff after starting off in the agency's mail room operations. Now a part of a continuously changing and demanding field, both Armstrong and Mitchell, who converse in their own "inorbital" language, agree that working in the ADP Division is anything but boring. "There is no question," says Parr, "that the basic components of any computer system are hardware, programs, data, procedures, and people. But it's the **people** that make the entire system successful and, in our Division, the one component that is totally invaluable."

"... it's the people that make the entire system successful, and, in our Division, the one component that is totally invaluable."

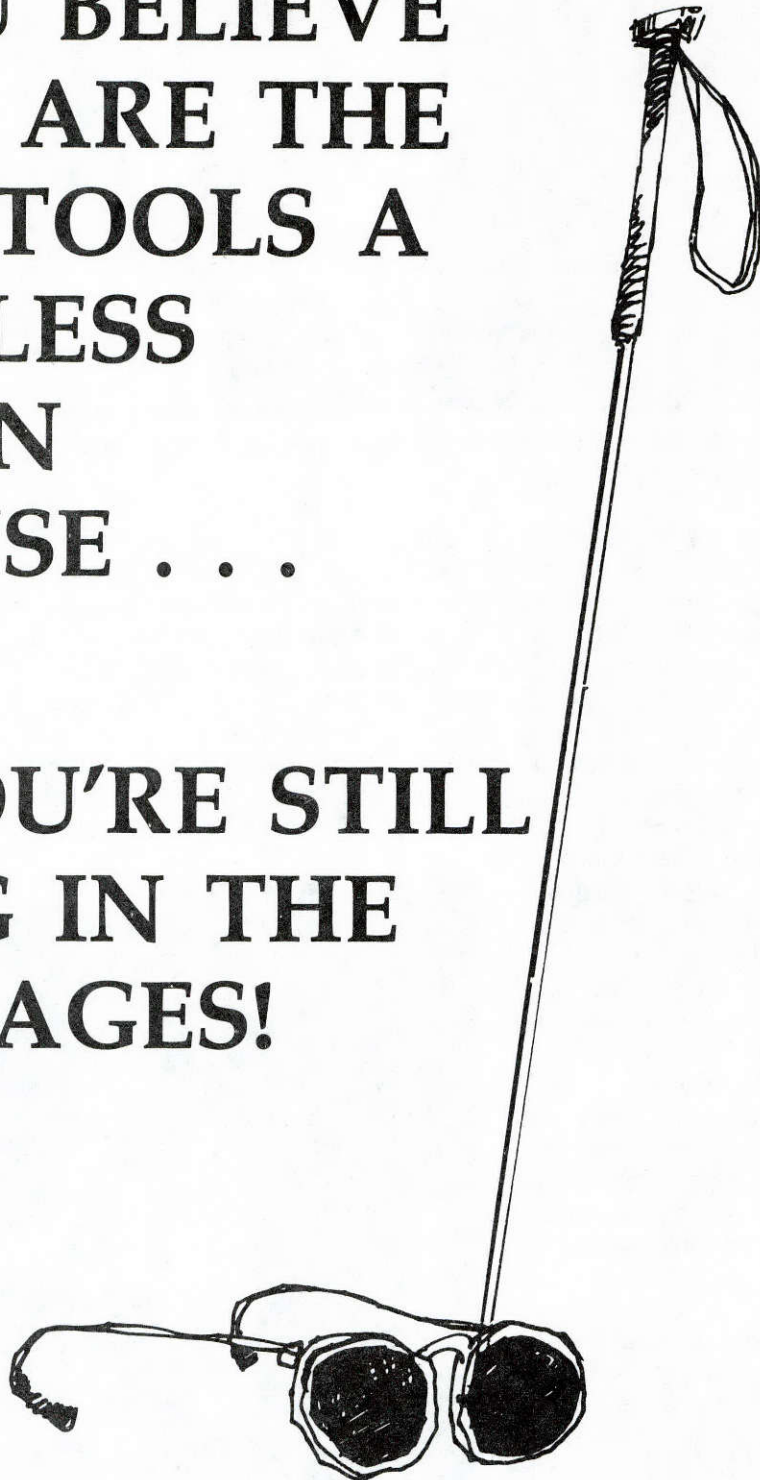
H.C. Parr



Pictured above are members of the Commission's ADP staff. Back row, (l.-r.) George Rodriguez, Mary Basham, Janet Pyle, Joy Hayter, Anne Cadenhead, Desy Mueller, Rosa Baladez, Lou Crawford, Vera Altum, Gary Mitchell, Randy Gatlin, and Larry Armstrong. Front row (l.-r.) Ann Freeman, Doris Jungmann, and H.C. Parr.

**IF YOU BELIEVE
THESE ARE THE
ONLY TOOLS A
SIGHTLESS
PERSON
CAN USE . . .**

**. . . YOU'RE STILL
LIVING IN THE
DARK AGES!**



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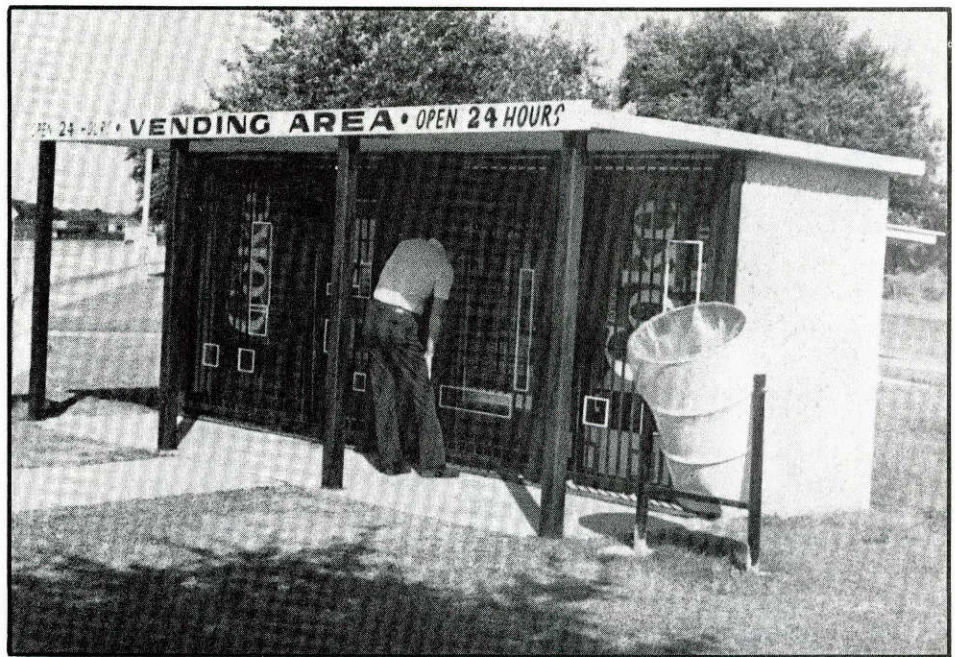
BEP PURSUES NEW PROJECT

The Commission's Business Enterprises Program (BEP) has installed vending machines in rest areas on both sides of IH-35 near Round Rock, San Marcos, and New Braunfels. According to Bill Davidson, director of the BEP. "Motorists who visit these rest stops will find soft drinks, coffee, snacks, candy, and other items available."

In accordance with the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation has allowed the placement of vending stands in rest stops by the Commission for the Blind. Under the act, the state highway agency must give priority to vending machines operated by the state licensing agency designated pursuant to the Randolph-Sheppard Act, which provided the enabling legislation giving blind vendors priority in running food service facilities in federal buildings.

Davidson notes that the Commission will work closely with the Highway Department to insure that the vending facilities are properly installed and that items dispensed by the machines are approved by the Department. He adds that prior to the Assistance Act of 1982, with the exception of a demonstration project in 1978, no commercial establishments were permitted on the Interstate system right-of-way.

"We feel that the facilities will offer a valuable service to all motorists in our state and are optimistic that the project will show favorable results from the three test areas that have been selected," Davidson says. The Commission expects to expand the program to as many as 120 vending machine shelters throughout Texas' Interstate highway system.

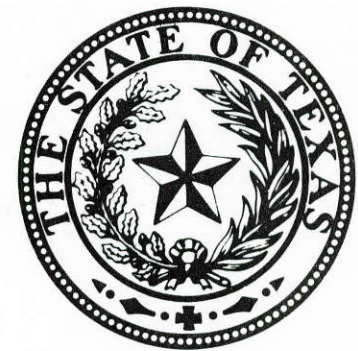


Vending machines in the rest areas near Round Rock will offer a variety of drinks, snacks, and candy to Texas motorists.

FORUMS CONTINUE

In 1982, the Commission began hosting a series of public forums across the state to provide consumers and other interested citizens with opportunities within their communities to learn more about the services of the agency, as well as opportunities to share their concerns about activities of the agency. Initiated by top administrative staff in Austin, the highly successful and well-attended forums have remained an ongoing activity of the Commission's field offices this year.

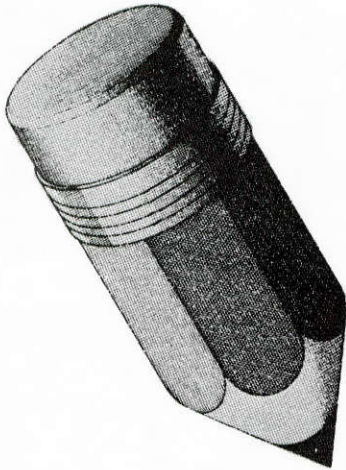
During the past year, forums were held in Waco, Bryan, El Paso, Houston, Midland, Victoria, Beaumont, Galveston, and Austin. "Our field offices will continue to host these gatherings during this year," says Terry Murphy, director of VR Field Services, adding that "it is important to keep consumers informed and involved in the activities of the Commission."



REPORT is an official quarterly publication of the State Commission for the Blind. It is available free of charge to any individual requesting to be placed on the mailing list. News articles should be forwarded to the Public Information Office, P.O. Box 12866, Austin, Tx. 78711 or call 512/475-3245.

William C. Conner, Chairman
John C. Wilson, Executive Director
Rolando Garza, Editor
Jean Wakefield, Editorial Assistant
James Tucker, Layout/Design

Toll Free Telephone Number
1-800-252-5204



COMMISSION INSTALLS TTY/TDD SYSTEM

It measures 12 X 14 inches and has a typewriter keyboard with a small computer-like screen across which a message is printed. Some models have a paper roll similar to that found on an adding machine on which a message can also be printed. A telephone headset is placed in the receiving and sending apparatus, and the caller dials the telephone number of the person he wishes to contact. Two of these instruments are required for communication: one in the home of a deaf person and the other in the residence or agency the person is calling.

The item described is a teletypewriter (TTY/TDD) communication system for deaf and hearing impaired persons; and as a result of a legislative mandate, a state agency network of telecommunication devices is being erected through the direction of the Commission for the Deaf. Already TTY's have been installed in several Commission for the Blind offices located in Austin, including Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center, the Sunrise Program, the Austin District Office, the Vocational Rehabilitation Field Services Division, and the Client Assistance Program. "The direct line of communication between deaf and

hearing impaired Texans and our toll-free (1-800-252-5204) line will be particularly significant as a source of general information on agency services," says Sue Whited, Commission staff person responsible for this activity.

As part of the cooperative agreement with the Commission for the Deaf, training on the operation of the TTY's is being offered by Commission officials. In late January several Blind Commission employees participated in a training session conducted by Ed Cook of the Commission for the Deaf on the use, care, and general maintenance of the TTY. The State Commission for the Blind anticipates the installation of the TTY's in all offices across the state by September.

NOTICE

When state funds are used to publish periodicals which are furnished without charge to readers, persons desiring to continue receiving the publication must indicate so in writing once each year.

By state law, persons currently receiving the REPORT, or persons who want to be placed on the mailing list, must contact the State Commission for the Blind (SCB) in writing to receive future issues.

If you wish, you may use the area below to respond. Fill in the information needed, cut this corner out of the newsletter, place the clipping in an envelope and mail to: SCB, P.O. Box 12866, Austin, Texas 78711.

... PROCLAMATION ANNOUNCED

The United States General Assembly has proclaimed 1983-1992 as the Decade of Disabled Persons. In his proclamation, President Ronald Reagan pledged his administration's cooperation in setting a national goal aimed at increasing the economic independence of every disabled citizen in this country.

"In partnership between the public and private sector, among national, state, and local organizations, and between the disabled and the abled, we can win the battle for dignity, equality, and increased economic opportunity for all Americans," President Reagan announced.

The State Commission for the Blind wholeheartedly supports this effort and encourages active participation in any effort that will create an environment in which blind, visually disabled, and other disabled persons can lead independent and productive lives.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This article shall constitute the second of three consecutive notices as required by law. Once you comply with the request, please disregard future notices. This newsletter is available on tape upon request.

COMMITMENT — A GUIDING PHILOSOPHY AT CHAPARRAL AIRLINES

Employer Profile . . .

The ability to make quick trips over short distances is a unique characteristic of the roadrunner. It is also a trademark that has largely contributed to the success of Chaparral Airlines. On September 15, 1976, when Chaparral's first flight departed Abilene — flight 101 to Austin in a 12CA with three passengers and a crew of two — a commuter airline was born that would realize growth and expansion beyond anyone's dreams. All initial departures were based out of Abilene and flew into Austin, Houston, Midland, and Lubbock. Over the years, Chaparral Airlines expanded its route system to include Dallas, Lufkin, San Antonio, and Alexandria, Louisiana. While some of these destinations are not presently being serviced (the Midland market provided to be unsuccessful and a switch to larger carriers made service to Lufkin no longer feasible), Chaparral and its president, Clark Stevens, look to the future with plans for continued success.

Like any fledgling enterprise, Chaparral is committed to customer satisfaction. "Customer service, convenience, and safety are priority concerns at Chaparral Airlines," writes Stevens in a recent issue of the airline's publication. He adds, "We strive to give you the best possible service from the reservation desk to the baggage claim. Each member of the Chaparral team is committed to this idea."

One such member of Steven's staff is Ed Bench, a former Commission client, who was hired as an airline reservations agent by Chaparral on November 14, 1983. No stranger to diverse and challenging endeavors, Bench has been involved in the Commission's Business Enterprises Program and has worked in the past as a building attendant, warehouse clerk, piano technician, and radio announcer.



More recently, he held a position in telephone sales with Satelco in San Antonio where he was recognized as the top salesperson in the long-distance service department.

Bench received formal training as a reservations agent through the Braniff Educational System. Through the efforts of San Antonio vocational rehabilitation counselor Martin Garcia and Career Development specialist Mike Nolan of the State Commission for the Blind, Bench was able to meet with Chaparral officials and land a position that would enable him to use his communication skills and talents in the field of customer relations.

During a recent visit with Ann Waldrop, reservations manager for Chaparral, Waldrop acknowledged an initial reservation about the idea of a visually disabled airline reservations agent. But as a member of an organization that has experienced noteworthy growth and development through aggressive and innovative approaches, Waldrop, like Stevens, realized that any commitment to quality service and professionalism can best be

exemplified through the employment of competent and qualified employees like Ed Bench. In the words of Waldrop, Bench is "doing well on the job." While the job of the six agents are fully computerized, the human element remains and Bench has shown a propensity for truly effective customer relations. He has an innate "courtesy and politeness" and is able to "deal well with people" Waldrop says, adding that Bench, like other agents, may at times be called upon to do other tasks like boarding flights and checking passengers to make sure they are on the right flight and their comfort, convenience, and safety are being catered.

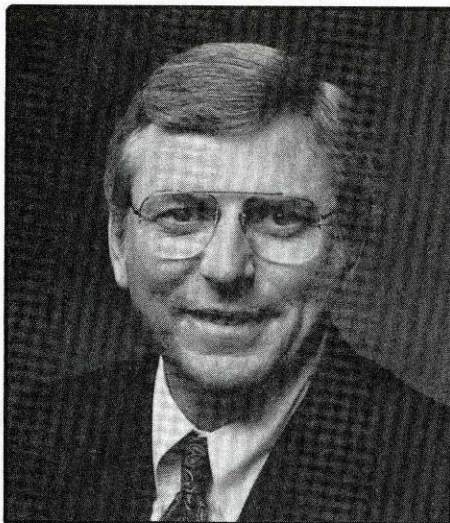
For Ed Bench, it's all business as usual. He's doing a job that he enjoys and offering a service in a friendly and professional manner. For Clark Stevens and his organization, the sky is literally the limit. Their commitment to excellence in the commuter airline business is unyielding and, judging by their association with Ed Bench, their commitment to hiring qualified blind and visually disabled persons is no less authentic.

**GOVERNOR
ANNOUNCES TRAIN-
ING PROGRAM**

Governor Mark White has announced the establishment of a new job training program to assist unemployed veterans and Texas businesses. This effort, the Veterans' Job Training Program, offers on-the-job training in the private sector for unemployed Korean conflict or Vietnam era veterans. Under this program, private employers may receive up to \$10,000 for each eligible veteran hired and trained.

Congress has already appropriated \$150 million to reimburse private employers who participate in this program. The number of Texas veterans who benefit is limited only by the level of employer involvement. "If private businesses actively participate," Governor White writes in a letter to the Commission, "we can provide quality training and jobs for thousands of Texas veterans currently unemployed and looking for work to support themselves and their families."

Employers or veterans interested in the program should contact the Veteran's Administration, local office of the Texas Employment Commission or county Veteran's Affairs officers for additional information. Interested parties can also contact the Governor's Office at 512/475-6156 for further information.



Governor Mark White.

**... LIGHTHOUSE PRO-
GRAM RECOGNIZED**

The Employment Skills Clinic of the Lighthouse of Houston is one of nine rehabilitation programs recently cited by the Regional Rehabilitation Exchange as exemplary in their job placement activities for disabled persons.

The Employment Skills Clinic was made possible in part through a State Commission for the Blind grant. According to Lighthouse director Gibson M. DuTerroil, "the support of counselors (Commission) on a statewide basis have contributed to its reliability and obvious success."

The Regional Rehabilitation Exchange is a federally-funded project based at the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory in Austin.

**... INSTITUTE WILL
AWARD FELLOWSHIPS**

The National Institute of Handicapped Research will award 15 fellowships in rehabilitation research for FY 1984. As authorized under Section 202(d) of P.L. 95-602, the Rehabilitation, Comprehensive Services, and Developmental Disabilities Amendments of 1978, the Institute maintains fellowships to procure the assistance of highly qualified investigators to develop and conduct research activities relevant to rehabilitation.

Each fellowship will be awarded for one year with a stipend of \$25,000 or \$30,000, plus an allowance of \$1,500 for travel and discretionary purposes. For additional information or an application packet, contact Mrs. Rheable M. Edwards, NIHR, U.S. Department of Education, Switzer Office Building, Room 3070, 330 C. Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202.

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