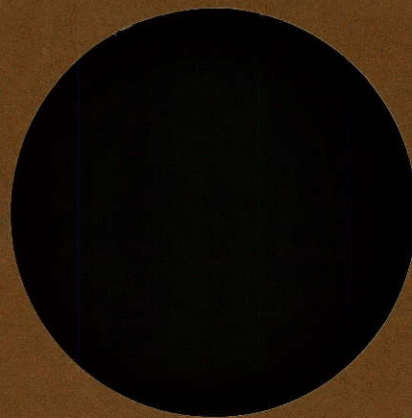


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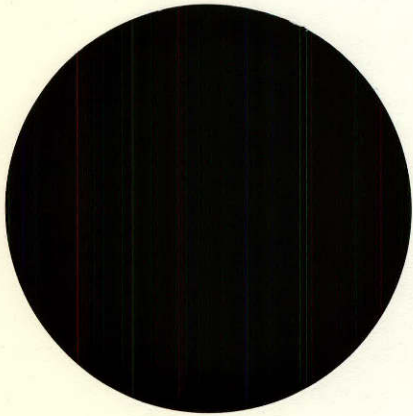


Biennial Report State Commission for the Blind 1968-1970

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The directive power of the State Commission for the Blind is vested in a board of six members, two of whom are legally blind. Two members are appointed by the Governor each biennium to serve terms of six years. They serve without remuneration except for reimbursement of actual expenses incurred in the transaction of business for the Commission.



Blindness is no respecter of ethnic origins, and the residents of the State of Texas, regardless of race, color, or creed, are provided services by the Commission for the Blind on an equal basis.

TO THE GOVERNOR, THE 62ND
LEGISLATURE AND THE PEOPLE
OF TEXAS:

It is with both a sense of great pride and deep appreciation that your State Commission for the Blind tenders this account of its activities and accomplishments for the past two years.

All who are associated with the Commission for the Blind are justifiably proud of this organization's accomplishments. Inspired by the clear and unequivocal commitment Texas has made to the rehabilitation of the visually disabled, this agency has redoubled its efforts

to assist maximum numbers of eligible clients in entering more fully into the lives of their respective communities. In local offices throughout the state, the premise that severely handicapped individuals can be assisted to lead useful and productive lives is daily being validated. In a very real sense, the Commission's activities simply represent state investments made for the purpose of maximizing the potential of human resources; the Commission is proud to report that these investments are being returned to the state—with large and significant dividends.

Nowhere in the United States has a state agency for the blind achieved a higher level of productivity. In no other state during the period covered by this report were more visually disabled individuals rehabilitated, and no other state was able to offer as high a quality of services at costs comparable to those experienced in Texas.

The credit for these accomplishments is shared by the State Commission for the Blind and a variety of cooperating organizations. That is to say, Texans understand and support the Commission's objectives; employers are willing to give visually disabled job applicants an opportunity to demonstrate the practicality of vocational training provided through the Commission; the Legislature has provided the Commission with a statutory framework that serves as a model for other states; and the agency has been provided with the resources necessary for carrying out the greater part of its statutory responsibilities in an orderly and efficient manner. Second, the enlightenment, understanding and support of the general public and

their elected public officials have not gone unnoticed by those persons who are eligible for the Commission's services. The confidence manifested by the people in the ability and potential of the blind has, in a subtle but significant way, given the blind more confidence in themselves. The primary determinant of this agency's success has been the courage, determination and effort of those individuals the agency serves. Visually disabled persons are not content to subsist on charity or public assistance. They are determined to earn a share of our state's abundance. Their aspiration and motivation for useful and productive lives have resulted in ever-increasing applications for Commission services, but this drive and determination has simplified the task of providing those services effectively.

Services extended through this Commission have two basic objectives. First, the Commission endeavors to prevent blindness and thereby to minimize the occasion for extended rehabilitative assistance to individuals. Second, when visual disability cannot be prevented, however, it is the objective of the Commission to assist its client in developing the attitudes, special techniques and compensatory skills necessary for a full and successful return into the cultural, social and economic mainstream of society.

For thirty-nine years, the State Commission for the Blind has been assisting clients to integrate themselves fully and successfully into a sighted world. If it is fundamentally unsound for a visually disabled person to segregate himself from society, it would seem similarly unsound for a state agency for the blind to attempt to operate in isolation from other programs and organizations having interests and objectives similar to those of the Commission. During the past two years, therefore, particular attention has been given to relating the Commission's activities to those of other state departments, agencies, institutions and schools. The basis for this effort was provided by the 59th Legislature, through the enactment of progressive and carefully considered legislation.



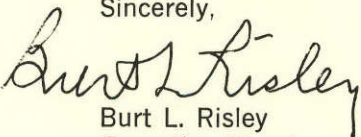
The legislative mandate given the Commission five years ago is not today fully implemented. This agency has not yet developed the capacity for responding promptly and effectively to the needs of *all* Texans who are eligible for its services. Budget requests to be considered by the 62nd Legislature are not designed to create that capacity in the immediate future, but rather to permit orderly growth at a pace compatible with the fullest and most efficient utilization of all resources available.

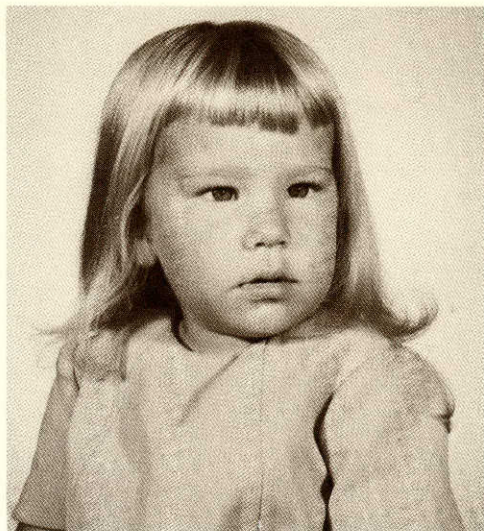
Urgent human needs make orderly growth imperative. The critical fiscal problems of the state make it equally imperative that the Commission balance the need for growth against the necessity for continuing to maintain a high level of effectiveness and economy of operation. The pages which follow contain specific information showing the type of balance achieved in recent years. More clients than ever before are being served by the Commission directly, the quality of those services is high, and the costs of those services are among the lowest in the nation. At the same time, the agency is effectively relating its services, objectives, interests and resources to those of the state's

medical schools, to state special schools and state hospitals, to state-supported institutions of higher education, to special education programs, to new federal programs now being implemented in local communities throughout the state, to all who are interested in reducing spiraling costs of public assistance, and to certain state agencies and departments having responsibilities which relate in an important—if peripheral—manner to the handicapped.

With your continued support, this balance will be maintained. On behalf of the Commission's board, its staff, and the thousands of visually disabled persons we are serving, I express to you our very genuine appreciation for the interest and support which have made possible the progress and success reflected in this report.

Sincerely,


Burt L. Risley
Executive Director



SERVICES FOR VISUALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

At ten, Michael Donaldson (left), of Waco, lost most of his sight as a result of a brain tumor. Commission personnel instructed him in communicative and other skills. He now attends regular school classes and can use a Braille-writer.

As a result of early, corrective surgery, Paula Kay Becker (center, after surgery; right, age one, before surgery), 2½, of Elgin, now has straight eyes and good vision. The strabismus would have led to loss of vision in the crossed eye if uncorrected.

The State Commission for the Blind offers two basic services for visually impaired children. One has as its goal prevention of blindness, conservation of sight and visual restoration, while the other aids parents in training and guiding children who have irreparable, severe visual impairments. The caseworkers maintain close working relationships with other agencies and organizations offering services to children and with groups and individuals concerned with the welfare of visually limited children.

Ernest Lowe, Jr., (opposite page), nine, had congenital entropion, a condition in which the lashes turn in and erode the cornea of the eye. Surgery was performed and he is now able to do things like play baseball at his Valley Mills school.

The effectiveness of an agency, such as the Commission for the Blind, depends largely on the degree of cooperation received from other organizations and concerned individuals.

This is especially true in working with visually handicapped children. The parents, as well as the children, must become totally involved in the rehabilitation process. Many individuals and agencies throughout the state, working in cooperation with the Commission for the Blind, have contributed generously toward making these programs successful.

Half of all blindness could have been prevented. Visual problems are present in one out of every four school age children. Many untreated eye problems will become permanent. Many lead to total blindness.





100% VIRGIN WOOL
TANGLEPROOF
READY TO KNIT - PULL OUT SKIN



Early referral of visually handicapped children enhances opportunities for effective service results. Every child with a significant visual impairment should be given the benefit of the best medical techniques and optical aids available for the improvement of sight.

EYE MEDICAL SERVICE

Eye medical care is offered to prevent blindness, to conserve sight or to correct eye conditions that cause a cosmetic problem. Available to visually impaired children who reside in Texas and whose parents are unable to meet the costs involved, services are contingent upon the written recommendation of an examining eye doctor.

Services incidental to eye medical care include eye examination, eye surgery or treatment, hospitalization and the provision of prosthetic appliances. The caseworker provides follow-up on each case. Inadequate funding of this

program makes it necessary for the Commission to rely heavily upon local organizations and individuals in securing prosthetic appliances. There are many communities throughout the state where such assistance cannot be effectively obtained.

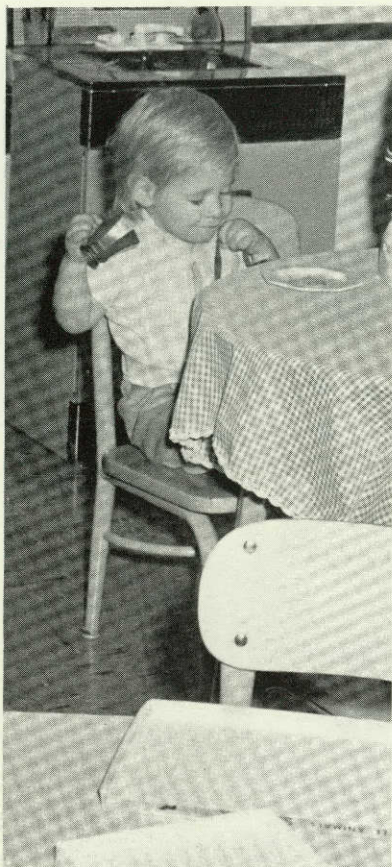
Toni Michelle Ware (above), of Texarkana, is five years old. Her mother had German measles during pregnancy, and as a result Toni is a "deaf-blind" child. She has a small amount of vision, is hard of hearing, and has mild cerebral palsy.

In June 1970, the Commission sponsored a pilot program for deaf-blind children in northeast Texas. Toni is experiencing her first formal training through this program, which is a team effort on the part of state, regional, and local service agencies.

COUNSELING

It is during the visually impaired child's preschool and pre-teen years that a caseworker works with the parents in order to assure the greatest possible opportunity for the child to develop the firm foundation upon which he will build his life. The child with a permanent severe visual impairment should be given maximum opportunity to develop physically, mentally, socially and emotionally.

Rebecca Vela (opposite page), of Odessa is eight years old. She has no measurable vision, but functions in a natural manner. She helps her mother with the housework, and has learned to knit. She has become very adept at Braille and has excellent mobility, at home and in school. She is an active member of a Brownie Scout group.



During preschool years the focus is on maximum growth and development leading to school readiness. Continuing growth and development of the child while in a formal educational program may require parental counseling supportive to the child's formal educational experience. Counseling goals include the reduction of the parents' anxieties, fears and misconceptions concerning loss of sight, the development of an awareness of the child's special needs, and a knowledge of training methods to meet these needs. Pertinent and specific information is provided about educational and vocational opportunities, special aids and devices and services available to visually limited children and adults.

PROGRAM EXPANDED

During the past biennium, the caseworker staff was increased to make this service available through all the Commission's district offices.

CASE SERVICE FUNDS

This program is totally dependent upon state appropriations; federal funding is not available for any part of these services.

Case service funds for the first year of this biennium totaled \$218,335. A total of \$292,096 was spent during the 1970 fiscal year. The number of visually impaired children on the agency's active rolls during 1969 totaled 2748; in 1970 the number was 3832.

Michael Tamez (center), age six, is an agile, independent youngster attending the Texas School for the Blind. Michael is totally blind due to congenital glaucoma. Since 1964, the Commission has worked and counseled with Mike and his parents.

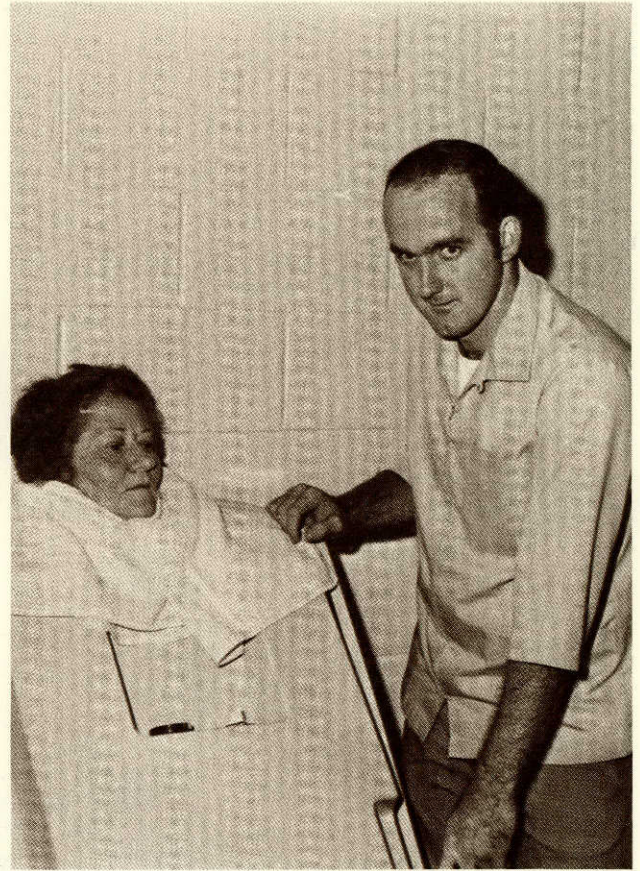
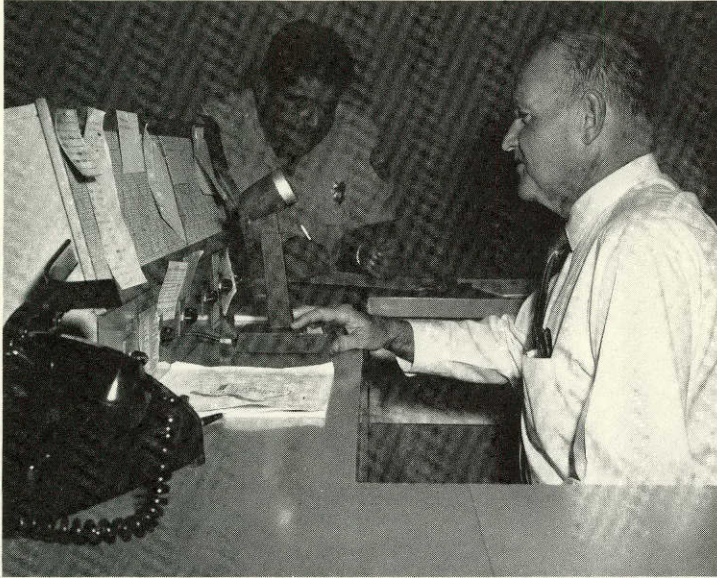
Following cataract and ptosis surgeries, Jo Ann Spears (right), ten, of Luling, is able to make maximum use of her low vision.

THE CHILD AND THE CHALLENGE

The constant increase in case service costs and the limitation of funds present an untenable situation . . . the visually impaired child either received no services at all or the services provided were inadequate—incomplete. Yet there has been a steady increase in the number of referrals each year.

There is no simple solution to the problems of a blind child who has other physical or mental handicaps, yet the number of multi-handicapped blind children is increasing significantly. There must be funding for adequate diagnostic and evaluative services!

At age five months, Bobby Gene Wright, Jr. (left), of Lubbock, was found to have optic atrophy. The local Commission representative offered counseling and guidance to Bobby's parents in order to help him with his special problems resulting from his permanent severe visual loss.



VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Health club owner-manager Gaylon Bailey (right), of Tyler, who has an eye condition characterized by a progressive opacity, began receiving counseling for his future while in high school. The Commission arranged for him to train as a health club director, and worked with the Small Business Administration to get a building for his club.

The Texas State Commission for the Blind has rehabilitated more blind people than any other state. The Commission, with the cooperation of Texas business and industry and with the help of public and private non-profit organizations, has been able to help thousands of blind people develop their skills and talents. These people, in turn, contributed greatly to the economy and culture of our state.

George Cox (left), totally blind as a result of diabetes, is a radio dispatcher for the Del Rio Police Department and a member of the City Council of Del Rio. He owns his own home, is married, has two children and works for the city. He received counseling, guidance and placement through the Commission.

In tax payments made during the remainder of his working life, the average individual served through this program will return far more to the state and federal government than the investment required for the individual's rehabilitation.

SERVICES

Although the Commission makes no direct monetary payments to individuals, a wide range of services is provided by the

Blind and totally deaf, William F. Melton (next page) of La Marque, also has a cervical spine disorder which necessitates his working at home. The Commission counseled with him to give him a better understanding of his problems and potential, and he chose training in the making of ceramic ware. A kiln and supplies were provided from rehabilitation funds, and he now sells a variety of ceramic items.

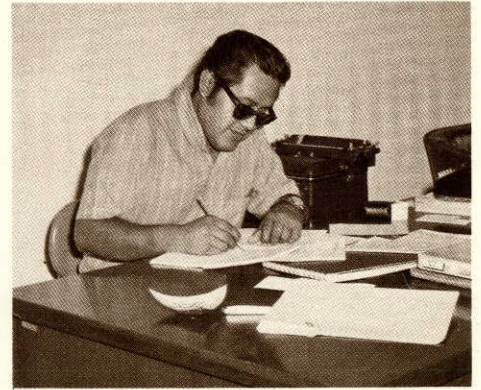


Samuel de Leon (bottom), 22, of Corpus Christi, has suffered failing vision since a football injury caused atrophy of the optic nerve. Visual restoration was not possible. He went first to the Lions League at Kerrville for personal adjustment and vocational training, and then was placed as dark room technician and orderly at Memorial Hospital in Corpus Christi.

Thomas B. Davis (right), formerly of Gainesville, was blinded in a 1967 hunting accident. After an operation and extensive treatment, he went to Kerrville for personal adjustment training. Here he made such excellent progress that his name was mentioned when an opportunity opened up at the Oklahoma League for the Blind where he is now coordinator of rehabilitation services.

A dictaphone typist and receptionist in Houston, Mrs. Natalie Black (below), who is totally blind, uses a dog guide to help her travel to and from work. She also keeps house for her husband and five children.





agency without cost to clients. Some of the services, such as guidance and counseling, are provided without consideration of the client's economic circumstances. However, when medical services, maintenance during training, special tools and equipment or other similar items are required, the client absorbs as much of the cost as his economic circumstances permit.

Any one or a combination of the following services may become a part of the individual's rehabilitation plan:

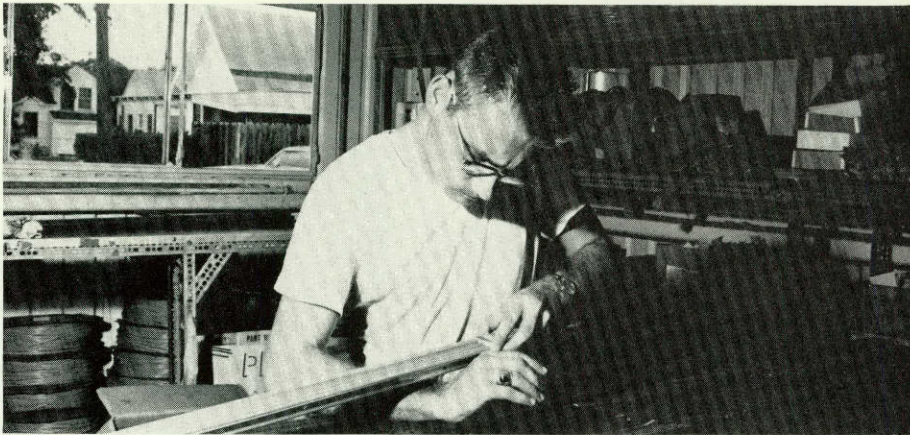
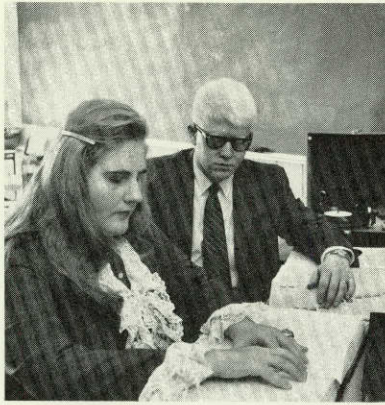
Wilmer Douglas Foxworth (left) was referred to the Commission for vocational upgrading in 1968. He received training in electronics assembling and is now employed by Western Electric Company. He has more than doubled his salary as a sheltered workshop employee.

COUNSELING—Personal counseling, often extensive, assists a client in understanding the varied problems presented by visual impairment. The counseling is provided by specially trained rehabilitation counselors. These personnel assist clients in reaching appropriate solutions to their problems.

George Brown (center), McAllen, father of 13 children, was referred to the Commission when cataracts and an assortment of other optical ills began to cost him his sight. After counseling and surgery, Mr. Brown's sight has been restored and his health regained. He has bought a small farm in Hidalgo County, farms his own land, and does carpentry work to supplement his income. His social security and state welfare benefits have been discontinued, and he is proud to be able to support his own family again.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS—A complete eye examination by an eye doctor and a general physical examination, as well as other needed medical specialty examinations, are obtained by the agency for all individuals applying for vocational rehabilitation. These examinations are necessary for a disabled person and the counselor to understand the physical or mental limitations of the case and the medical recommendations for treatment or correction of these conditions.

Accidentally blinded in 1963, Norberto Capetillo (right), received corrective surgery, followed by counseling services and training at the Southwest Lighthouse for the Blind in Lubbock, where he is now foreman of the mopshop division. He also assists blind freshmen at Texas Tech in a campus orientation program.



PHYSICAL RESTORATION—If the medical examinations reveal a condition which constitutes a vocational handicap that can be improved or corrected through hospitalization, surgery, medical treatment or prosthetic appliances, the first step is to remove or alleviate the problem. If the condition cannot be corrected medically, the vocational rehabilitation program is designed to assist the client in compensating for these limitations through other means.

Joe Listi (left), 27, of Houston, has cerebral palsy and, due to optic atrophy, poor vision. Mr. May, president of A. J. May Manufacturing and Distributing Corporation, hired him in April 1969, in an on-the-job training situation to learn aluminum expansion joint assembly, and since that time Joe has earned four salary increases.

REHABILITATION TRAINING—Partially blind or totally blind clients frequently benefit from specialized training programs in a rehabilitation center designed to help the individual learn to use special devices, tools and aids. The client is instructed in self-help skills necessary in his day-to-day living. Such services are termed "prevocational."

The Commission began working with Roger Price (top), in 1962, about the time he graduated from the Houston Independent School District. He has been partially sighted all his life, having only travel vision and being able to do limited reading with optical aids. In 1967 he graduated cum laude from the University of Houston, and recently received his Master's degree there in special education.

He is now a special education teacher in the Houston school system, working with blind and visually impaired students.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING—The type of vocational training provided in a particular case depends on the individual's interest, ability, ambition and motivation. Some clients are better adapted to on-the-job training to meet the requirements of an industrial occupation. Others can function more adequately in a sheltered workshop setting. Still others are interested in and capable of professional or clerical employment.

Mrs. Manuela M. Brayand (right), Sweetwater, had a cataract condition so severe that she could only see hand movement with the left eye, and had limited vision in the right eye. The Commission arranged for bilateral cataract extraction and cataract glasses, and Mrs. Brayand has now resumed her job as nursemaid.



The Commission develops on-the-job training opportunities, provides training in sheltered workshops, trade schools, business schools, colleges and universities. Services which may be provided eligible college students include tuition, reader service, room and board, and special equipment such as Braille writers and tape players.

REHABILITATION TEACHER TRAINING—A rehabilitation teacher, in cooperation with a rehabilitation counselor, works with a blind person by offering counsel to him and his family to develop understanding and acceptance of his disability. Instruction, usually pro-

In 1966, the Commission helped 53-year-old Lewis Vandiver (left) resume his study of law at St. Mary's University. He had only limited vision in his right eye, due to a detached retinal condition. He graduated in 1969 and is now assistant district attorney in Bexar County.

vided in the home, is given to develop special skills in communication, homemaking activities, personal grooming, constructive use of leisure time and independent mobility.

OCCUPATIONAL TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT—Frequently, occupational tools and trade equipment and necessary licenses are provided to aid the visually disabled individual in the performance of his job.

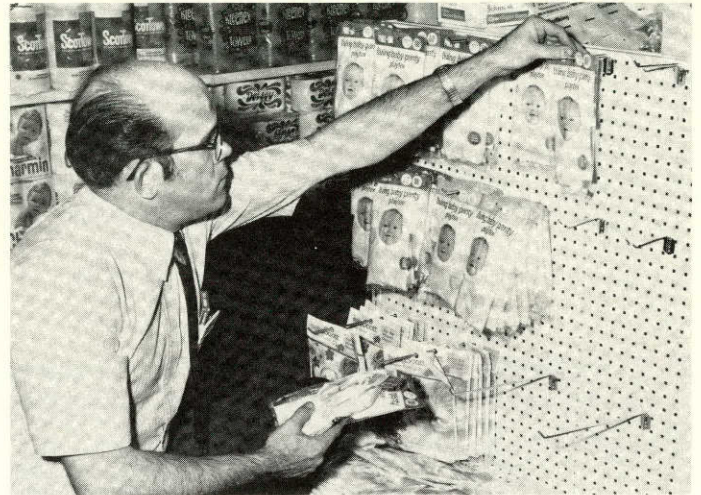
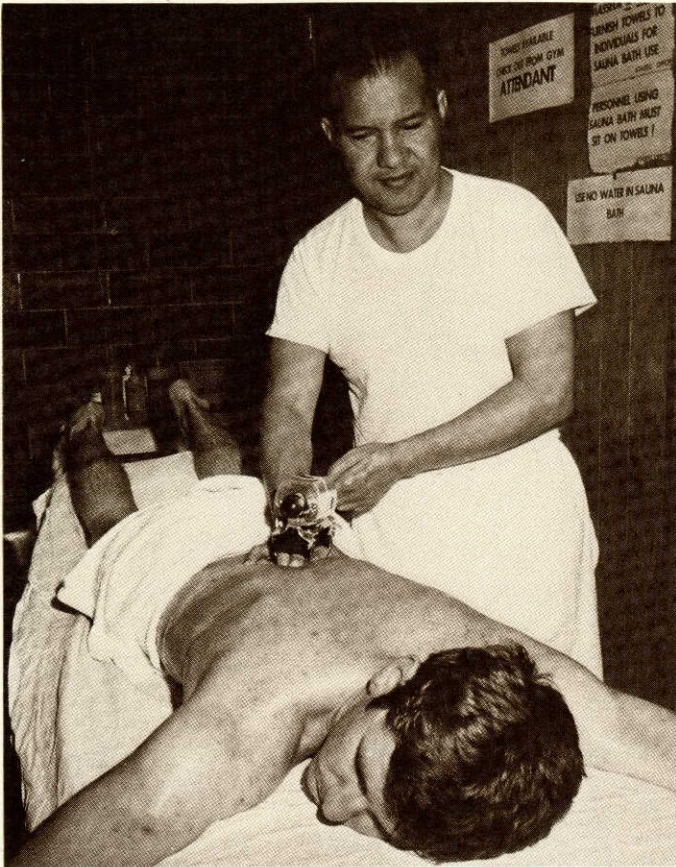
Totally blind, Jerry Melton (right), of Dallas, has completed his law degree at Southern Methodist University. He now works part-time for the Urban Rehabilitation program of the City of Dallas, and the Commission is assisting him in completing his Master's degree requirements, at which time his job will become full time.

PLACEMENT—Placement specialists devote their full time to contacting employers and developing job opportunities. A rehabilitation counselor and a placement specialist frequently work together in planning with a disabled person for a suitable vocational objective.

FOLLOW-UP—These services are provided to aid the rehabilitant in achieving optimum productivity on the job and to assure satisfaction on the part of both the employer and the employee.

James Addison (opposite page) does bench work at Martin Sprockett and Gear, Inc. in Fort Worth, filing burrs from parts. He has only light perception, and he also wears a leg brace as a result of polio, but after adjustment training, on-the-job training, and placement by the Commission, he is proud of his financial independence.





Adjustment to blindness is one of the first steps a blind person must take in the rehabilitation process. Personal grooming, table etiquette, communication, independent travel ability and participation in recreational activities are all part of a daily routine which requires a new approach . . . new techniques. A variety of special skills must be developed to meet a multiplicity of new needs. It is in this way that a visually impaired individual gains competence and confidence. This is called "personal adjustment." Having achieved this an individual is ready for the next step toward his vocational rehabilitation.

It is through the cooperation of public agency and private organization that this important program of services is available in Texas. A personal adjustment center for the adult blind is operated by the Texas Lions League for Crippled

In April 1970, the Commander of the United States Naval Base at Corpus Christi gave Joe Salinas (left), a special award for his outstanding work and his contribution to the morale of the men there.

Joe is a severe diabetic with almost no sight in one eye and very little in the other. The Commission arranged for personal adjustment training at Kerrville for him, and he then entered masseur training at the YMCA in Corpus Christi. He uses a cane to assist him in mobility. Joe is a full time employee at the Naval Base.

Children, Inc., Kerrville, September through May. The average length of training is three months. The client is evaluated by the staff on all phases of his training and this information is transmitted to the rehabilitation counselor. Approximately 75 persons are trained at this facility each year.

It was becoming impractical for Byron Shipman (right), who is blind in his right eye, to continue his job with Simpson Drug Company in Tyler, because of the growth of a cataract in his left eye. Surgery was put off as long as possible because of the danger of retinal detachment in the left eye. After successful surgery, he was fitted with a contact lens and cataract glasses, and is now back on the job.



Each year, almost 3,000 Texans become newly blinded. All newly blinded individuals need comprehensive adjustment services, and the services provided by the Lions League will be vitally needed in future years, as in the past.

REHABILITATION TEACHER PROGRAM

The greatest increase in blindness is occurring among older citizens of the state. Many of these newly blinded individuals are homebound until provided with adequate services through the Commission's rehabilitation teacher program. In addition to working

with homebound cases, rehabilitation teachers also assist rehabilitation counselors in serving appropriate clients who are on the vocational rehabilitation caseload.

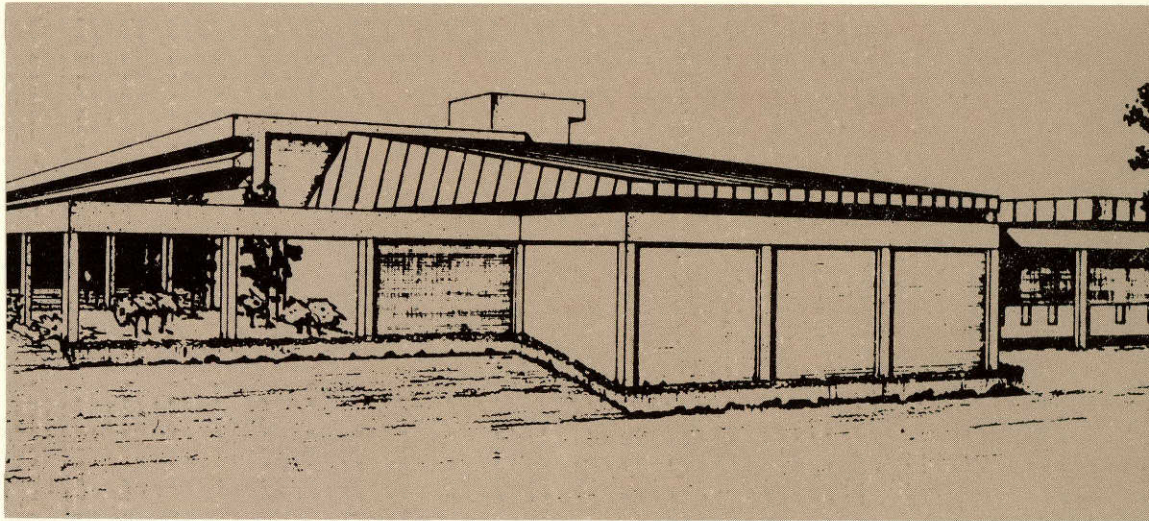
An essential member of a rehabilitation team, the rehabilitation teacher is a versatile individual whose job is to assist with adjustment problems of the adult blind and to teach basic skills required for successful rehabilitation.

James Younger (left), of Plainview, is blind in the right eye and color blind in both eyes, a condition which was endangering his position in the data processing department of Mobil Oil Company. He was referred to the Commission for the Blind, and after counseling and guidance sessions, began on-the-job training at the West Texas Optical Company. He is now a dispensing optician with a Plainview ophthalmologist. . .

Because many clients are homebound and cannot avail themselves of the benefits to be derived from participating in formal courses at an adjustment center for the blind, a rehabilitation teacher carries a condensed version of such services into their homes; for this reason a rehabilitation teacher is often referred to as a "walking adjustment center."

Tom Lemons (right), of Austin, was stricken in 1965 with a rare form of chorioretinitis, leaving him with only peripheral vision. Treatment arrested his disease, and the Commission assisted him with counseling, financial advice, and in obtaining a loan from the Small Business Administration. He is the proprietor of the Denmark Shop in Austin.

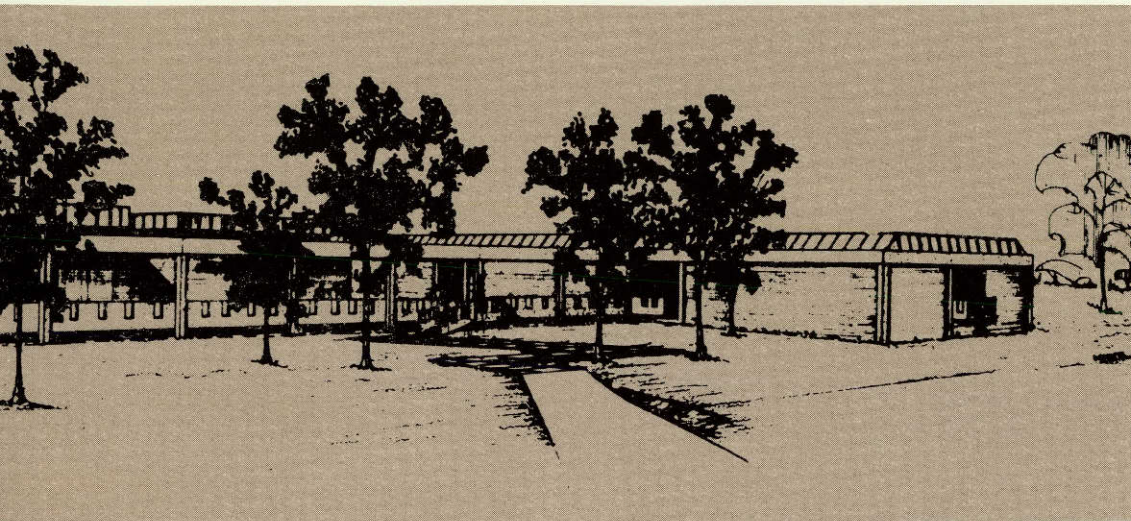
ARTIST'S RENDERING OF THE CRISS COLE



During the past biennium, great progress was made developing the first phase of this facility. The 61st Legislature was able to authorize 50 percent of the cost of building the Center, and effective use of available federal grants made it possible to employ the necessary planning staff.

The Center will provide comprehensive, diagnostic, evaluative and training services for blind adults. Most clients who will receive services through this facility will be newly blinded and will

REHABILITATION CENTER FOR THE BLIND



need intensive training in their personal adjustment in order to function successfully.

At the Center, clients will receive intensive evaluation to determine their best vocational aptitudes, and other testing information obtained at the Center will subsequently be used by field workers of the Commission in helping these clients realize their highest vocational aspirations.

At present, adequate facilities do not exist in Texas for newly blinded persons, and the Commission must send many clients to other states for these services.





Rehabilitation teachers are knowledgeable about community resources from which additional help may be available. They assist newly blinded persons in becoming oriented to their environments and encourage participation in community activities. Instruction is given in various types of crafts for recreation and profit. Communicative skills such as Braille,

The Commission sponsored Angelita Sanchez (opposite page), of San Antonio, for personal adjustment training at Kerrville in 1964. Still under Commission sponsorship, Angelita, who is legally blind, later received her B.A. from North Texas State and her master's degree in rehabilitation teacher training from Western Michigan University. She is now a teacher in the Commission's San Antonio office.

typing, scriptwriting and telephone dialing are taught, as are techniques involved in meal planning, marketing, cooking, sewing, ironing and other homemaking responsibilities. Independence is encouraged and counseling and guidance in mobility, personal grooming, table etiquette and other demands of daily living are offered. These personnel rely greatly upon volunteer groups, whose assistance is invaluable.

Judy Scott, (right), who is totally blind, is a Commission for the Blind rehabilitation teacher whose example is an inspiration to her clients. Here she is teaching Mrs. Eula Parker, of Dallas, to cook again. Mrs. Parker's gradual and irreversible loss of vision had been a source of great anxiety as she had supplemented her income by taking in a boarder, and the loss of sight was making it impractical for her to cook.

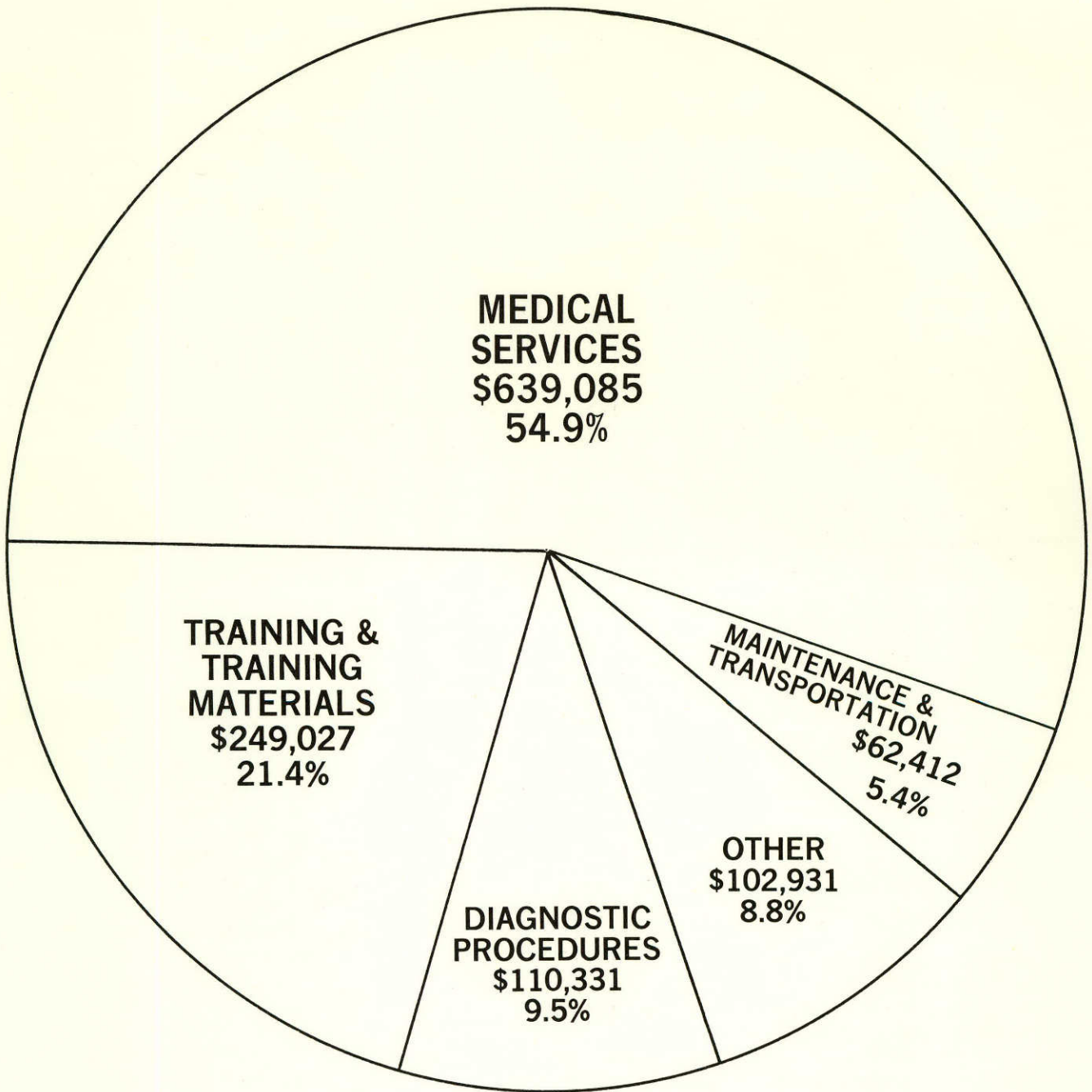
Rehabilitation teachers are stationed at all district offices of the Commission.

In many states, these services are funded exclusively with state funds. The Commission, however, has restructured this program to assure maximum involvement of federal funds.

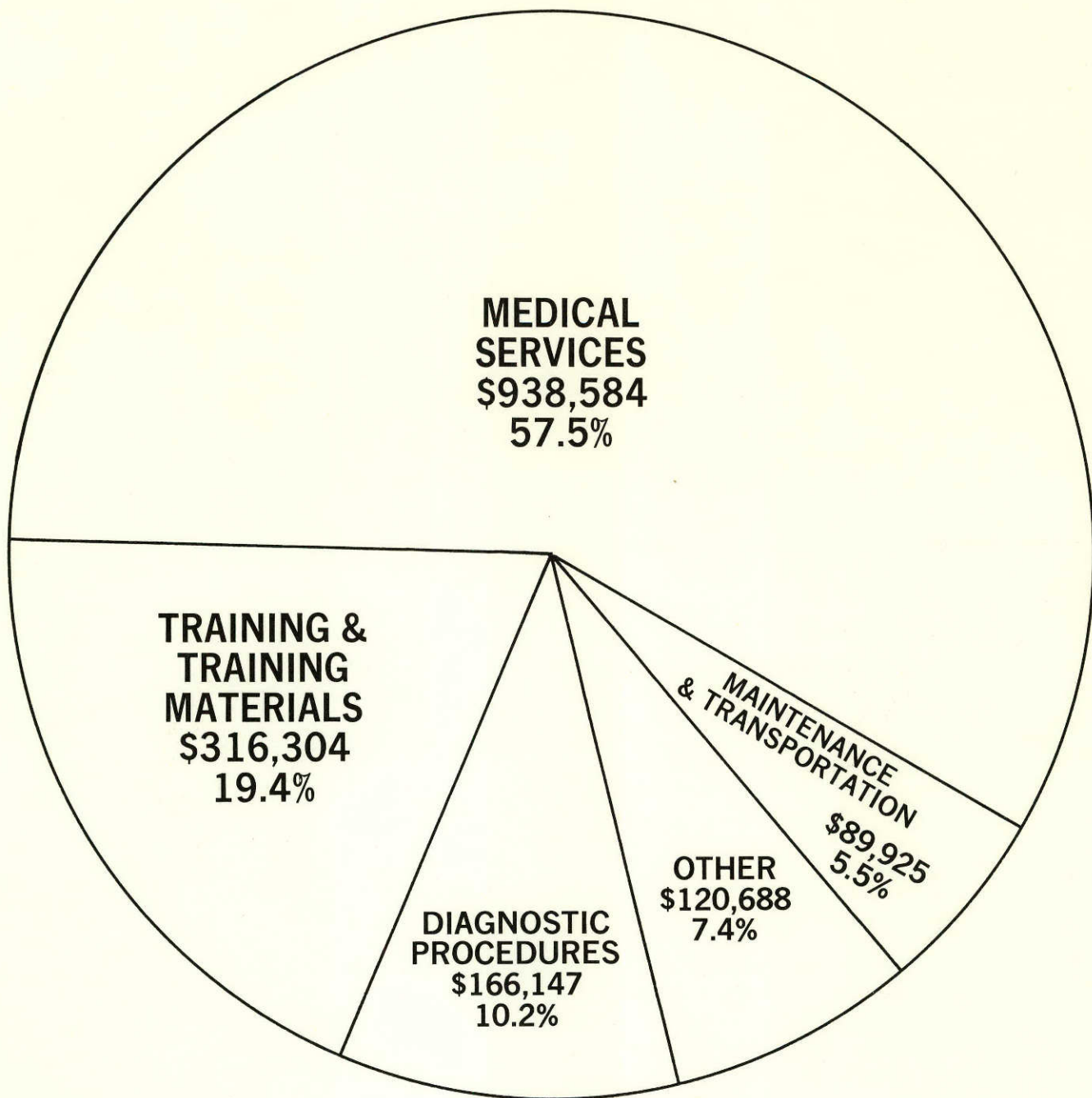
With the broadening dimension of the rehabilitation teacher, 23 rehabilitation teachers worked with a total of 2,955 visually handicapped individuals during the 1968-1970 biennium.

Mrs. Charles Walker (left), of Harlingen, had been a beauty operator for many years but had retired because of diminishing sight caused by poor circulation. The services of a Commission rehabilitation teacher have enabled her to do her own shopping and housekeeping again. She goes about alone with the aid of the long cane and enjoys a talking book machine in her leisure hours.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION



July 1, 1968-June 30, 1969
Total Case Service
\$1,163,786



July 1, 1969-June 30, 1970
Total Case Service
\$1,631,648

OCCUPATIONAL GROUPINGS OF 3,745 REHABILITANTS

	TOTAL	
	1968-69	1969-70
Occupations for pay or profit, except in sheltered workshops	1243	1654
Professional, technical and managerial occupations, except		
vending stand operators	123	145
Clerical and sales occupations, except vending stand		
operators and vending stand clerks	112	168
Vending stand operators	20	122
Vending stand clerks	5	7
Service occupations	449	552
Farming, fishery and forestry occupations	181	229
Industrial occupations, other than work in sheltered workshops .	353	431
Work in sheltered workshops	51	51
Homemakers and other unpaid family workers	314	432

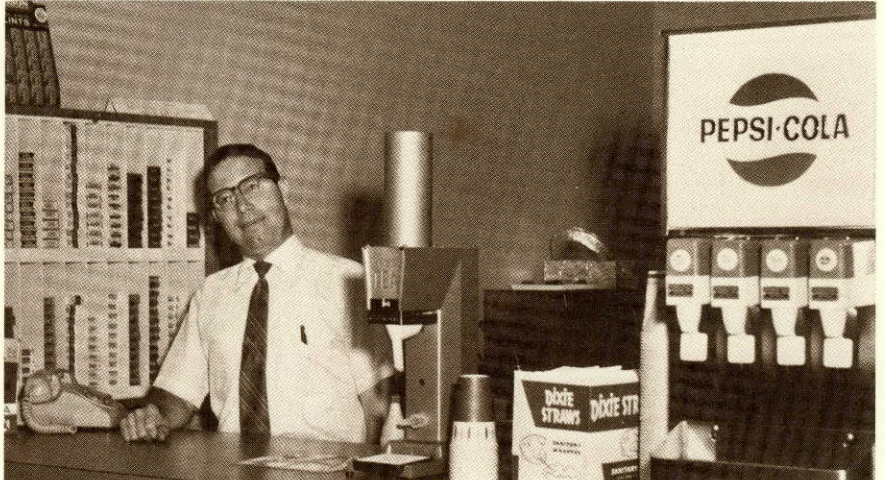
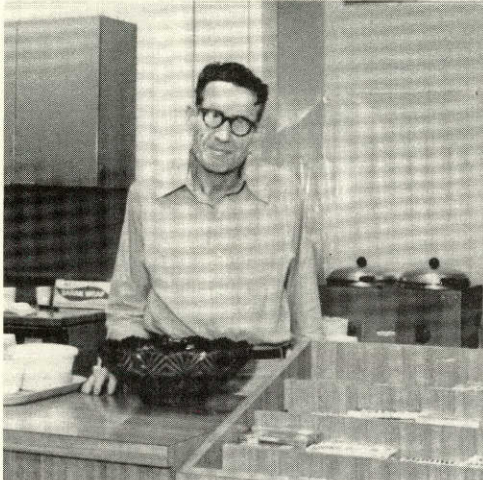
	Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1969	1970
Total Number of Persons		
Rehabilitated	1608	2137

	Weekly Earnings by Wage Groupings of Rehabilitants			
	BEFORE Rehabilitation		AFTER Rehabilitation	
	1969	1970	1969	1970
\$0	1208	1460	351*	469*
More than \$0 but less than \$20	61	83	152	226
\$20-\$39	122	137	329	343
\$40-\$59	100	165	277	303
\$60-\$79	72	127	255	334
\$80-\$99	20	68	106	160
\$100 and over	25	97	138	302

	1969	1970
Average Case Service Cost per		
Rehabilitant	\$598	\$585

	1969	1970
Age of Rehabilitants at Time of Referral:		
Less than 20	215	255
20-34	345	456
35-44	211	341
45-64	766	1007
65 and over	71	78
Total on Referral/Applicant Rolls	6060	8358
New referrals received during year	4645	5985
Accepted for service (following investigation)	2031	2768
Accepted for Extended Evaluation**	294	434
Not accepted for service	1362	1546
Referrals/applicants remaining at end of year	2373	3611
Total Receiving Extended Evaluation Prior to Acceptance or		
Non-acceptance for Vocational Rehabilitation Service	397	698
Accepted for service following Extended Evaluation	95	175
Not accepted for service following Extended Evaluation	38	46
Remaining in Extended Evaluation at end of year	264	477
TOTAL ON ACTIVE ROLLS DURING YEAR	3925	5090

*This figure represents non-salaried workers such as homemakers, family workers and farmers.
 **An intermediate status when necessary to determine vocational rehabilitation potential, first authorized in 1966-67.



SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

The concession stand at the Union Bottling Works in Houston is operated by Marlon Patterson (left).

Under this program, qualified blind* individuals operate small businesses, receiving supervision and management assistance from the agency. To insure maximum efficiency of operation, special training is given each operator prior to his licensing as manager of one of these enterprises.

The agency secures the business location and provides needed equipment and initial stock of merchandise. For a monthly charge, the agency provides care

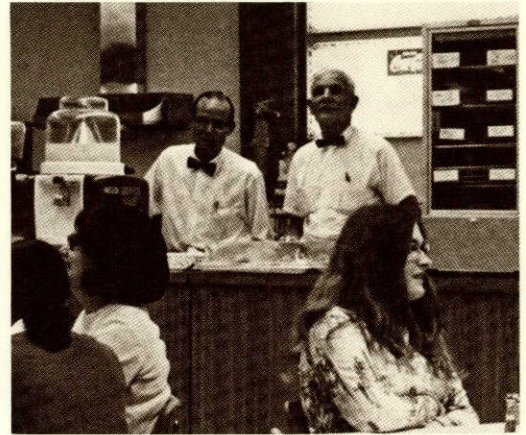
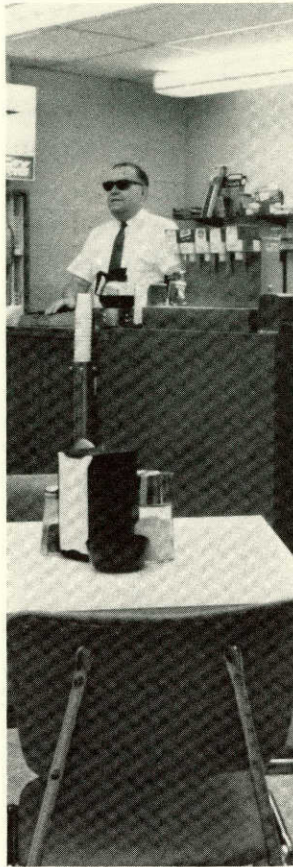
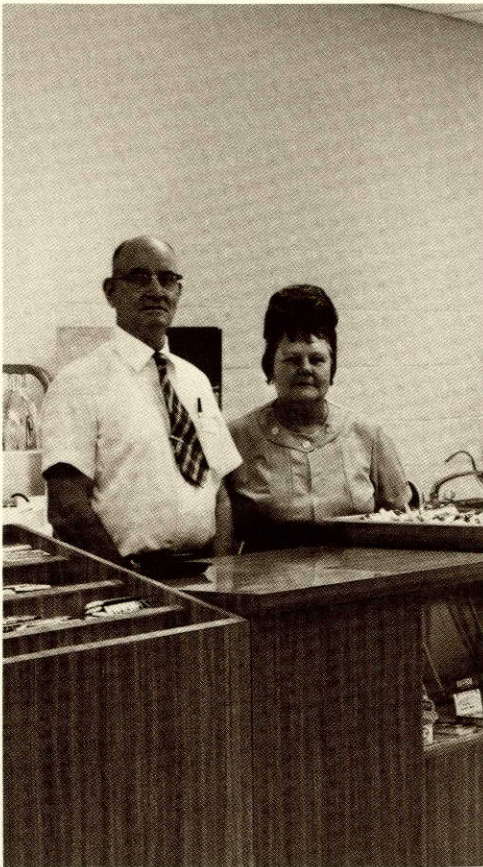
of equipment and general stand maintenance. The operator receives continued supervision and consultation relative to good management and sales promotion.

In many states, substantial amounts of state funds are used to underwrite this activity. During the past biennium, the Commission restructured this program and agency budget requests for the next biennium reflect that, for purposes of the General Revenue Fund, this program has been virtually self-sustaining.

*** Definition of legal blindness—**having not more than 20/200 visual acuity in the better eye with correcting lenses, or visual acuity greater than 20/200 but with a limitation in the field of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle no greater than 20 degrees.

Carlos Gattis has the concession stand at the Infototronics Corp. in Austin (top).

Calley Spear is the operator of the business enterprise in the Modern American Insurance Building in Dallas (right).



Concession stands, which represent the majority of the businesses, serve the public and at the same time make it possible for qualified blind persons and their families to enjoy economic independence. A stand operator is recognized in his community as a successful, independent businessman and thus gains personal pride as a result of his self-employment.

Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Chance operate the concession stand at Aileen, Inc., in Abilene (left).

This program tends to break down popular misconceptions about the "helplessness" of the visually disabled by bringing the general public into greater contact with successful rehabilitants. Agency policy requires that, where feasible, only disabled assistants be employed in the stands.

	July 1, 1968 June 30, 1969	July 1, 1969 June 30, 1970
Number of Businesses	125	137
Total Gross Sales	\$3,138,453	\$3,588,924
Total Net Profit	676,632	756,644
Average Monthly Income	476	484

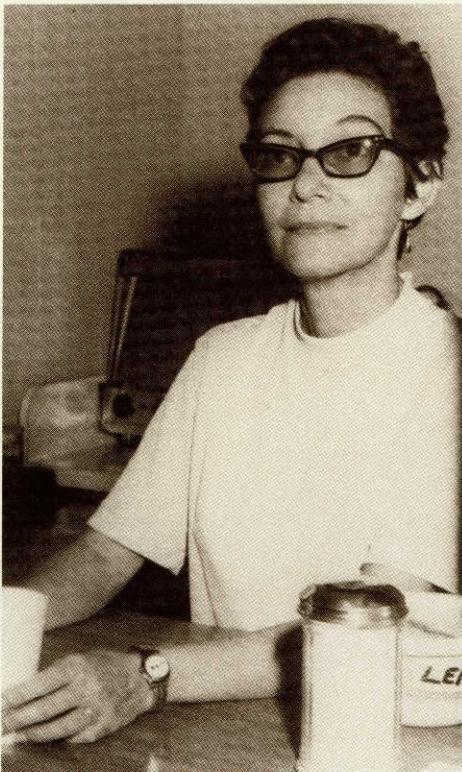
The Mission Chevrolet Snack Bar in San Antonio is run by Mr. Virgil Alexander (center).

On July 1, 1968, this agency had 113 small businesses under its jurisdiction. On June 30, 1970, 137 stands were in operation. Accordingly, profits to the operators increased. The average monthly income to the operator during the 1968 fiscal year was \$410 as compared to \$484 per month in 1970—an increase of more than 18 percent!

Charles Garrett (l.) has the Fox Stanley Photo Snack Bar in San Antonio (right).

The concession stand in the Boggus Ford Motor Co. in McAllen is operated by Mrs. Celia Saenz (opposite pg., left.)

Governor Preston Smith about to enjoy a meal at the Camp Hubbard Cafeteria, Austin, operated by Jay Goodman (opposite pg., right).





COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

Under Project Sunrise, mentally retarded, blind young people are taught basic functions such as making a bed and setting a table (above pictures).

Visual disability presents individuals and society with unique, complex and costly problems. The more severe the visual loss, the more substantial an individual's disorientation, dependency and psychological devastation. The problem of visual disability statewide is of such magnitude and complexity that effective response and assistance frequently require a coordinated, cooperative service approach that involves representatives of varied organizations and professional disciplines.

During the past biennium, the Commission for the Blind has intensified efforts to relate its service programs more effectively to those of other public and private organizations. Cooperative programs have been established with a variety of other public and private organizations, such as state-supported institutions of higher education, state medical schools, the State Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, (MHMR), the School for the Blind, the Department of Public Welfare, local non-profit organizations and certain political subdivisions of the state.



These cooperative programs allow joint use of staff and special facilities, and permit the best possible use of available federal funds. The net effect is to initiate and support certain services which otherwise would in due course require funding from state tax revenues.

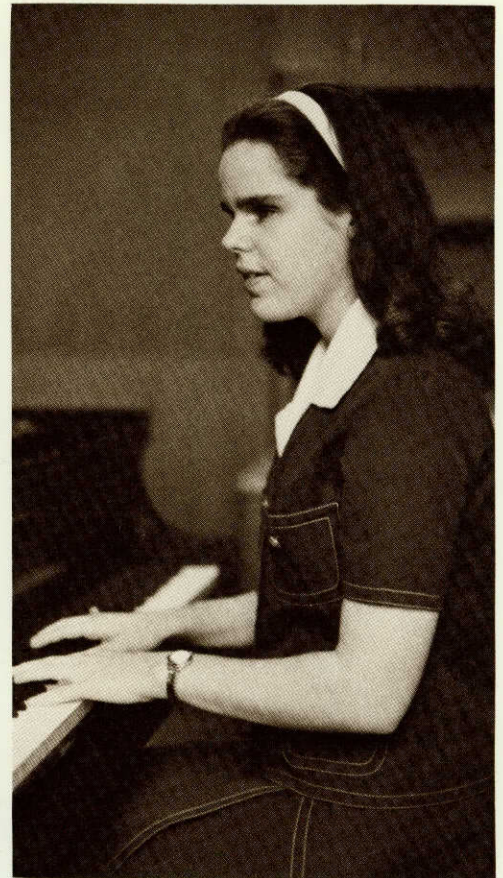
The following special projects are illustrative of the types of cooperative activities undertaken by the Commission during the past biennium. Not included, because of space limitations, are cooperative programs undertaken in concert with the State Building Commission, the Texas Legislative Council and various other public and private organizations throughout the state.

MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL RETARDATION

The Commission for the Blind and the State Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation pooled certain resources during the past biennium to make fuller and more effective use of available federal support. The result has been the establishment of a cooperative service program which has the following objectives: (1) to

Project Sunrise provides recreational facilities for mentally retarded, blind youth (above pictures).

serve multiple handicapped individuals more effectively, in order to preclude the need for institutionalization when possible; (2) to intensify services to residents and patients of the state's special schools and state hospitals in an attempt to help visually disabled individuals who have additional handicaps to develop greater capability for personal independence and productive activities; and (3) to assist a maximum number of these residents and patients in returning to their local communities and to provide such services within the local communities as are necessary to assure that these individuals will be able to function successfully and within minimal, long-range support from local facilities.



PROJECT SUNRISE

Included in the cooperative service program is a special project for blind retarded youth at Austin State School. This activity, Project Sunrise, is expected to have substantial long-range implications for all who are involved in work for the blind or in serving the retarded. Project Sunrise is a pilot program to determine and develop the rehabilitation potential of individuals who have in the past been termed "hopeless cases." The project includes a separate building, specialized equipment and specially trained staff who provide intensive diagnostic, evaluative and training services. Prior to enrollment in this project, the blind-retarded youths receiving these services had been categorized as severely or profoundly retarded. Most of the youths had been residents of the Austin State School for many years and had required constant custodial supervision. These individuals lacked the ability to take care of even the

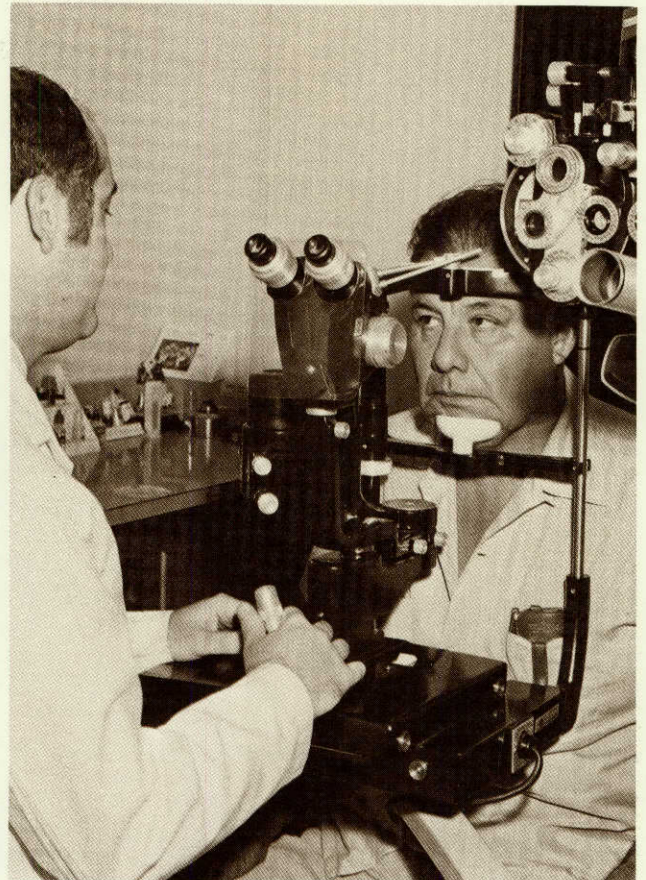
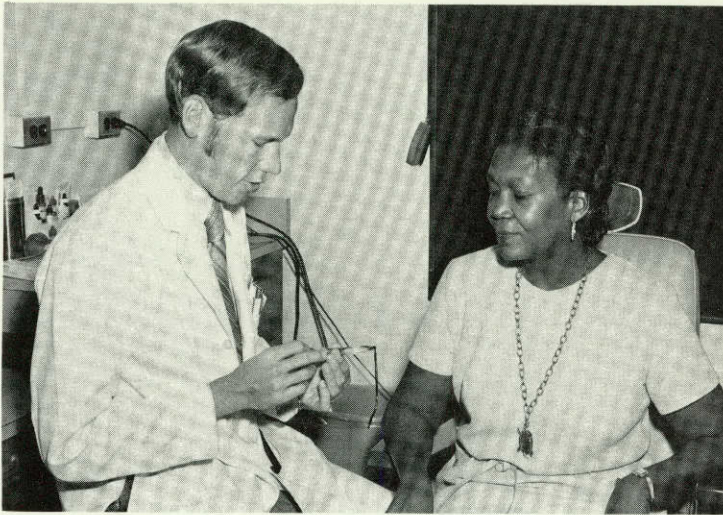
more elementary of their daily living needs, and many spent most of their time at the school hiding under tables, benches or in corners. Self-mutilation was not uncommon. The best prospect for improvement was thought to be the inculcation of self-help skills which might slightly reduce the enormous state expenses of main-

Mary Jane Cummings (right), is a 1970 magna cum laude graduate of the College of Fine Arts of the University of Texas at Austin. In May of 1970 she traveled to Washington, D.C. as one of three young women to whom the First Lady presented Scholastic Achievement Awards and \$500 checks, awards given annually by Recording for the Blind, Inc. in recognition of extraordinary academic performance. Janie, who has been blind since infancy, has been a client of the Commission since 1965.

taining these individuals in the school for the rest of their lives.

As a result of determined, cooperative efforts on the part of Commission and Austin State School representatives involved in Project Sunrise, all of the individuals served through this special project are learning to talk, take care of their personal needs, and explore the world around them. Some of these youths are learning Braille; one of the clients served

Olivia Chavez (left), of South El Paso, is a University of Texas freshman. Congenitally blind, she has used the counseling and rehabilitation teacher services of the Commission since 1968. In the summer of 1969 Olivia did an outstanding job as a Neighborhood Youth Corps worker in the El Paso office of the Commission. In early 1970 she had muscle surgery to enable her to open and close her eyes normally.



through the project—a girl who had been categorized as an “imbecile” on the basis of psychological tests previously administered has been removed from the project and enrolled in a special education program, where she is reading Braille at a high school level. It is expected that increased numbers of these individuals will be enrolled in special education programs and will not return to state schools for custodial care. Although the cooperative program may not successfully rehabilitate all clients being served through Project Sunrise, state costs will be greatly reduced in providing future custodial services to those cases who might not be successfully returned to their local communities.

Larry Page (center) works as a technician with the Model Cities Program in Houston.

Equally important, the population of blind persons who have additional major disabilities is increasing throughout the nation. Project Sunrise is demonstrating that such persons can be substantially and significantly helped. The special project is demonstrating the economic soundness of providing such services at an early date, testing new techniques for working with the multiple handicapped and establishing the inadequacies of previously used testing procedures and techniques. In work for the blind, Project Sunrise already has received national attention.

Mrs. Curlie M. Wagner (left) of Trinity, had visual acuity in her right eye corrected from 20/200 to 20/30 with cataract extraction at UT Medical Branch, Galveston.

Rodolfo Alvarado (right) of Falfurrias, is being checked for progression of Retinopathy and results of cataract extraction at UT Medical Branch, Galveston.

Project Sunrise, together with other activities undertaken in cooperation with the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, has been initiated without imposing additional demands upon state revenues.

OTHER PROGRAMS

Other features of this cooperative service program include the establishment of visual rehabilitation clinics and visual screening and evaluation programs at the larger MHMR facilities. During the past biennium clinical programs were put into full operation at state hospitals located at Austin, San Antonio, and Terrell and a clinical program was established at Richmond State School. Groundwork has been laid for similar programs at MHMR facilities located at Wichita Falls, Vernon, Rusk, and Denton. Junior and senior residents of the ophthalmology departments of state medical schools work closely with these clinics.

The staff assigned to this program has been expanded to allow services to be extended to eligible persons at all MHMR facilities. Approximately 250 patients and residents received medical services necessary for visual restoration during the past year, with many of these procedures proving extremely successful. Additional rehabilitation services are being extended to assist these clients in achieving their maximum personal and vocational potential. In addition to sight conservation and visual restoration services, staff employed on this program provide eligible persons with instruction in tasks of daily living, communicative skills, arts and crafts, orientation and mobility training. Because of extreme deprivation and lack of prior learning experiences, services to these clients are highly complex and require unique adaptations of traditional rehabilitation procedures.

Approximately 3,500 residents of MHMR facilities are considered to be eligible for some part of the Commission's services under this project.

TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

As a part of a cooperative project between the Texas Commission for the Blind and the Texas School for the Blind, a full-time vocational rehabilitation counselor is providing the full range of rehabilitation services to the students at the School for the Blind. These services include diagnostic evaluations in the form of complete physical examinations and a complete eye medical examination along with other special medical examinations as may be needed. Counseling and guidance are a very important part of the services provided to the students. Such items as personal adjustment to blindness, prevocational and vocational counseling, along with work evaluation, are provided.

There are over 100 blind students at the School for the Blind receiving services from the Commission for the Blind. Students who graduate at the end of each school year are sponsored in four-year college training programs or they are enrolled in vocational training programs which will result in employment.

POVERTY AREAS PROGRAM

The Poverty Areas Program is funded through a special federal grant made for the purpose of assisting the Commission for the Blind in developing a new approach for delivery of services for visually disabled individuals who reside in rural and urban poverty areas in the state.

The State Commission for the Blind is now working with the Model Cities Program or related federal programs to serve severely disadvantaged individuals in five Texas cities: El Paso, Houston, Laredo, San Antonio and Texarkana.

In Houston and Texarkana, the Program is centered in areas where the population is predominantly Negro. In El Paso, Laredo, and San Antonio the people in the Model Cities areas are largely Mexican-American.

Features of the project include the use of bilingual forms, literature and staff; comprehensive screening programs conducted with the involvement of various public and private organizations within local communities; expanded use of para-professional workers; and cooperative working relationships with all local programs and resources to assure the provision of necessary services to persons diagnosed as having a visual disorder.

In many instances, visual screening in these areas results in the detection of individuals who simply need eye glasses in order to correct a visual deficiency, but who lack the financial resources with which to obtain the needed glasses. In these cases, the Commission usually has been able to obtain the needed eye glasses through local civic groups and service organizations.

BLIND COLLEGE STUDENTS

In 1965, six blind students were on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin. More blind youth are realizing, however, that automation is supplanting many jobs once performed through manual labor. Similarly, because competition for adequately paying jobs in semi-skilled trades is particularly keen in a time of above average unemployment, increased numbers of blind individuals are now enrolling in college to qualify themselves for employment in a wide variety of professional occupations.

During the past fiscal year, approximately 600 clients of the Commission were enrolled at institutions of higher learning. At this time, 60 blind individuals are attending the University of Texas at Austin. As a result of cooperation between the University, student organizations, and the Commission, a special facility has been established to assist these students.

Blind persons attending college have special needs in terms of orientation, reader service, special equipment, Braille or large print reference materials, and vocational guidance. At UT-Austin, space has been made available for a Commission office on campus, as well as for special reading rooms and areas for using Braille reference materials and equipment needed by blind students. A counselor from the Commission has been assigned to work with the blind UT-Austin students (and a limited number of students in other educational facilities in the Austin area) full-time.

As a result of financial support from student groups at UT-Austin, the special facility for blind students provides typewriters, Braille-writers, and taping equipment needed by these students. Financial assistance has been provided by student organizations on a continuing basis.

The average blind student at UT-Austin maintains a slightly higher grade point average than his non-handicapped classmates.

The success and growth of the special project at UT-Austin led to the development of similar projects at other colleges with large enrollments of visually disabled students. Similar projects have been established at Texas Technological University, the University of Houston, and North Texas State University. Financial support for these projects is provided through student organizations on campus, through various civic groups in the local communities, or through interested individuals. The courtesy and cooperation extended by volunteer workers has been a major factor leading to the success of these projects.

COOPERATION WITH NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The Commission has never attempted to provide all of the services needed by the state's visually disabled population. Many necessary services are provided by local organizations, usually called "lighthouses." There presently are ten such organizations in Texas; at Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Houston, Lubbock, San Angelo, San Antonio, and Waco.

These organizations basically are funded with money from private sources. In addition, under Section 6 of Article XVI of the state constitution and under related statutory authority, the Commission works closely with such organizations in developing and administering federal grants available for the support of these programs.

During the past biennium, the Commission assisted these organizations in obtaining federal grants in a total amount of approximately \$810,000. These federal grants are used within local communities for construction, staffing and various evaluative and training services which complement the rehabilitation effort of the Commission.

In addition to evaluation and training services extended in cooperation with the Commission, the lighthouses usually offer certain social and training services to individuals not served by the Commission, and these local organizations also are engaged in extensive manufacturing and sales operations involving blind labor. Under federal statutes, the Commission is required to work with the Department of Labor in administering federal wage and hour legislation applicable to organizations employing large percentages of blind workers.

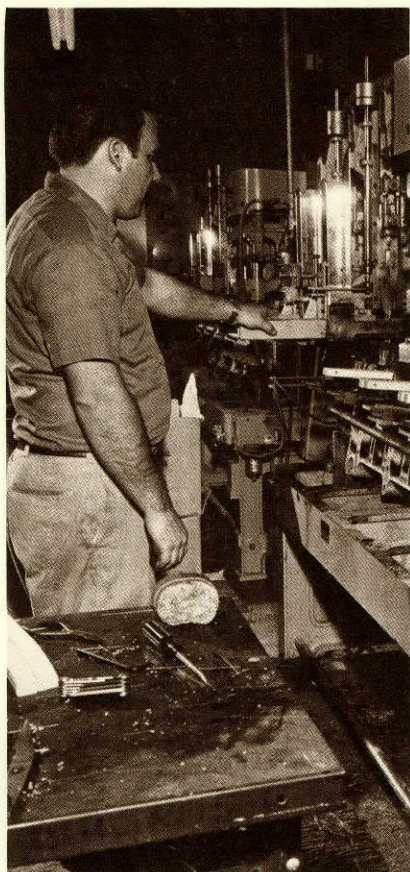
These local organizations make a vital contribution to the total service program available for the visually disabled of Texas, and the cooperation of these organizations represents a key factor in the Commission's ability to operate with a high level of efficiency and economy in use of public funds. Additional lighthouses are needed in other areas of the state, and it is expected that these facilities will be developed as soon as necessary support can be obtained from private sources within various communities expressing an interest in undertaking these types of programs.

STATE MEDICAL SCHOOLS

For several years, the Commission has been involved in a cooperative program with the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. During the past biennium a similar project was initiated with ophthalmology representatives of UTMB-San Antonio. A three-party project involving Baylor Medical School, Ben Taub Hospital and the Commission recently was initiated in the Texas Medical Center at Houston, and all necessary groundwork has been laid for a cooperative program with ophthalmology representatives of UTMB-Houston when the new medical school is established there. A close working relationship also has been developed with the Ophthalmology Department at UTMB-Dallas, but because of space limitations presently existing at the teaching hospital it has been necessary to defer the implementation of an extensive project there.

These cooperative activities have proven mutually beneficial for the Commission and the medical schools involved. Essentially, the projects represent a pooling of resources to allow more effective utilization of available federal funds and to minimize the overhead costs of certain activities. Through these projects, Commission clients—many of them from areas of the state lacking adequate eye care resources or from state institutions—receive necessary medical services under the supervision of some of the state's leading physicians.

The medical schools, on the other hand, are assured a more adequate supply of cases needed for the proper training of new doctors and are placed in a position to offer indigent cases ancillary rehabilitation services which otherwise would not be available.



Although established primarily to meet education and service objectives of the Commission and the medical schools more effectively, it is expected that these cooperative projects will also develop greater research dimension in the years ahead. For example, largely as a result of contacts made through projects of this type, during the past biennium the Commission assisted in the development

Under the cooperative program with the Houston Lighthouse, Jerry Birdwell (left) learned to operate a brushmaking machine.



of a five-year research study on the prevention and treatment of diabetic retinopathy—a condition which is rapidly becoming a leading cause of blindness. These research studies, involving a budget of \$200,000 in private and federal funds is viewed as a part of the total effort undertaken by the Commission, in cooperation with other concerned organizations, to prevent visual disability within Texas.

Joyce Smith (right) learns clerical skills at the Lighthouse for the Blind.

Dallas Lighthouse rehabilitation training instructor (right, opposite pg.) teaches a pre-vocational client the rudiments of chair caning.

HERMANN LOW VISION AID REHABILITATION CLINIC

Blind individuals sometimes have residual vision which can be used to maximum advantage through highly specialized optical aids. Specialized evaluation and expert training must be provided to such individuals in order for them to be able to obtain maximum benefits from their custom-made optical devices.

During the past biennium, the Commission was able to establish a well equipped, adequately staffed low vision optical rehabilitation clinic in the Houston Medical Center. The clinic, established as a result of a generous donation from an interested citizen, is expected to serve clients from throughout the state.

The Hermann Low Vision Aid Rehabilitation Clinic will be closely related to the new University of Texas Medical Branch at Houston.





SPECIAL SERVICES

Irene Trajada (right), a patient at the Austin State Hospital, uses a talking book machine.

This tape duplicator (left), was made available through a special federal grant and is used to duplicate tapes for clients in college and in other organizations.

Braille watches donated by the Zale Jewelry Company, Dallas, to the State Commission for the Blind for distribution to eligible blind individuals continue to be one of the most popular features of the special services of the agency. To be eligible for a free Braille watch, one must be financially unable to purchase his own watch and be unable to tell time visually. Individual distribution to the client is made directly by Commission field workers.

Special aids and appliances, designed especially for the use of the blind, may be purchased from the Commission at cost. Examples of available aids and devices include such items as Braille writing equipment, canes, Braille timers and recreational devices.

Since the suppliers of these special aids and devices are not located in Texas, the Commission maintains an inventory of these much needed items. As a result, ordering has been made easier for a visually impaired individual and the length of time for delivery has been considerably reduced.

Specially designed portable phonographs or tape players, known as "talking book machines," are distributed for the Library of Congress by the Commission for the Blind. Records and tapes are distributed by the Texas State Library. Talking book machines and records or tape cassettes are available to all blind or other physically handicapped individuals who cannot use normal printed materials.

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El Paso 444 Executive Center Boulevard
1900 North Oregon
Fort Worth Guardian Title Building
1612 Summit Avenue
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