

Reel Memories Made Sweeter

Having a video created for her husband's 40th birthday was something that Diane Siebert wanted to do for a long time. With the help of Nyna Bryant, owner of A Door to Memories, Diane was able to accomplish the project and give her husband a beloved video of their memories. The project was easier too, she said, because Nyna brought her scanner to Diane's home and was able to scan several framed photos that Diane was hesitant to take down and remove from her home.

Mary Miller worked with Nyna to create a special video for her daughter's high school graduation.

Mary's project encompassed a potpourri of audio cassettes, videotapes, and photos. What's more, Mary enjoyed the opportunity to personally narrate portions of the video. It's a project that will be cherished forever by her daughter.

"When I put people's old pictures, films, or videos onto DVD's, I'm creating a legacy that their families can enjoy for generations to come," she says. "People tell me all the time how thrilled they are that I can give their old, worn out photos a new life, that the DVD's are so easy and fun to watch, and fun to share with new generations at family gatherings. These things are heirlooms." Nyna said.

She hopes to do more of the same for families like Diane Siebert and Mary Miller, now that she's back in the Robinson Township area.

A Door to Memories is back, located at 6300 Steubenville Pike in Robinson Township, in the lower level of the former Instant Replay Video store.

Nyna's company not only helps people create digital memories, but also offers transfer services from film and video to digital media.

For the past several years, the company has had drop-centers within area Instant Replay Video stores, where people could leave their photographs, films, and videos to be put onto DVD's, with the transfers completed at the Aliquippa production facility. "The arrangement with Instant Replay Video made an ideal partner for my business," said Nyna.

Although the arrangement had been working out quite well, Instant Replay stores have been going out of business, one by one, over the past several years. Last year, the closings of two of their three remaining locations, in Moon and Imperial, left A Door to Memories with only one drop-off point, in Mt. Lebanon, and Nyna with a new challenge. "I knew that it was not a question of *if*, but *when*, it would come," she said.

When she remembered that the owner of the *We Sell Now* e-Bay seller in Robinson had once mentioned that he might have some

room to share in his office, Nyna called him and found out that the space was, indeed, available.

"The more I thought about it, the more I realized what a great opportunity it was," says Nyna. "With video rentals on the decline, and e-Bay becoming more popular every day, it was a natural match for my business. I figured that there would be a lot of good synergy, because, when people go digging for items to sell on e-Bay, they inevitably stumble across old photos and home movies that they haven't seen in years. It sparks nostalgia, and that's what my business is all about – preserving those precious memories. It just made sense."

Nyna, who has always had a passion for preserving the past, started in the video transfer business with Instant Replay Video Productions, the sister company to Instant Replay Video Rental stores. With ten locations, it was the largest independent video rental company in Allegheny County at the time. In 2001, it was purchased by Warhola Video Productions; and, when it eventually split into two entities, Bryant took over half of the business, and created A Door to Memories.

"Back then, I had this vision to acquire the consumer transfer side of Warhola Video Productions," Bryant says. "When I looked back and realized that my career path had groomed me well for this undertaking, I knew that this was what I was supposed to be doing. I decided to make it my life's work to help folks tell their stories. It's my purpose and my passion." There's no question that Bryant is ardent about her business.

Beyond simply putting images onto DVD's, Bryant has a flair for weaving them into touching presentations, complete with music and captions, for special occasions and celebrations. "I've seen family memories in the making, from birthing rooms, to graduations, weddings, anniversaries, and retirements," she says. "I know how much people cherish their photos and movies, and I treat them as if they were my own. In fact, after getting to know these people so well over the years, and marking all of these milestones with them, I sometimes feel that I am a part of their families."

Nyna's belief that A Door to Memories was to end up in Robinson once again was reinforced by the fact that her new location just happens to be in the same building and office that were once occupied by Instant Replay Video Productions, where she honed her craft many years ago.

"There's no doubt about it," Nyna said. "It was just meant to be."

To contact A Door to Memories, call (724) 630-1212.