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THE WASHINGTON POST

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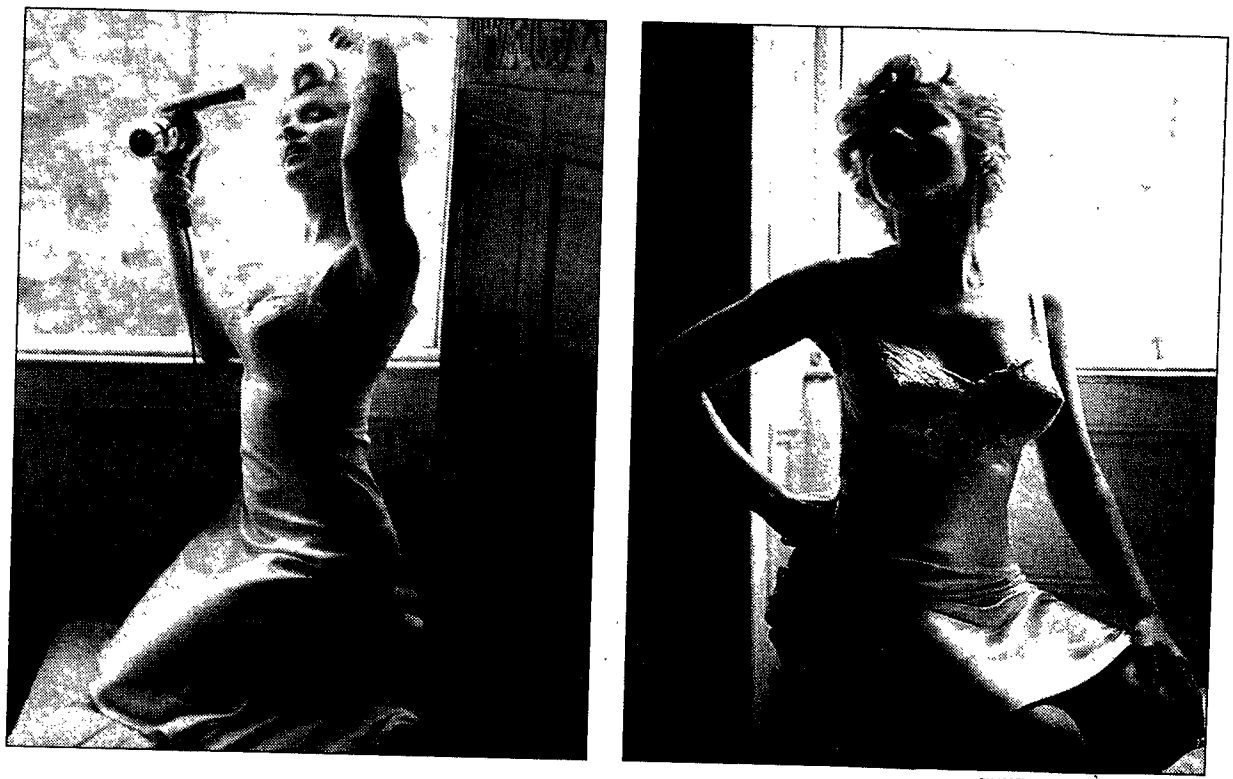
By Richard Leiby

An Enduring Portrait of Marilyn

Va-va-va-voom: For those of a certain age, **Marilyn Monroe** remains a goddess of glamour. So when we were offered never-published pix of the sex symbol—posing in lingerie, no less—we were helpless to resist.

The striking portraits were shot in Manhattan in 1955 by photographer **Joe Coudert**, who met Monroe while she was filming "The Seven Year Itch" (a movie we are also helpless to resist). "It was a lucky fluke," recounted Coudert's wife, **Ann**, who lives in Austin. Her husband, now in frail health in an assisted-living facility there, was part of a pack of *paparazzi* in the brownstone apartment used as the set. He normally worked for magazines like Field & Stream, but came to the set because he happened to live on the same block.

Ann Coudert recalls Joe's story of the photo shoot: He went into a bedroom to change the film in his Rolleiflex and re-entered the living room to find his competitors had been shooed out by Monroe's dresser. He offered to leave, but Monroe wanted him to stay until the photographers outside the building dispersed. The star was afraid they would all rush back in if he opened the door—or that fans would storm the building if he left and they realized she was still inside.



BY JOSEPH H COUDERT/SHARON COUDERT

Right place, right time: Photographer Joe Coudert took these shots of Marilyn Monroe while she was filming "The Seven Year Itch."

"She was very pleasant but somewhat intimidated about this complete adoration she was getting," Ann Coudert told The Post's Sylvia Moreno. Joe asked if he could continue shooting and the actress consented.

He made a few prints of the session for his office walls, filed the negatives and forgot about them, his wife said. The 72 negatives—including Monroe blow-drying her hair, filming the famous standing-in-her-white-dress-over-the-subway-grate scene, and working on the set with leading man **Tom Ewell** and director **Billy Wilder**—were discovered three years ago by Coudert's daughter, **Sharon.** "I was moving my parents from their home to an apartment and we were downsizing," she told Moreno.

With her 81-year-old father about to enter a nursing home, she decided to sell some prints. A limited collection is being offered on Snap (*www.snaptosell.com*), the Austin-based auction house and eBay broker. Proceeds will help pay for Joe Coudert's care.