

Local / State

Commandant's receptionist is a 29-year veteran

By CINDY GEE
Battalion Staff
"Commandant's office. Butch speaking," has been heard at 845-2811 for nearly 30 years.

than 29 years she has been the receptionist at the commandant's office, but she said she plans to retire soon.

"She's the old veteran," said Todd Hedgepeth, Corps public relations sergeant. "She knows how everything works. When I

get letters from high school seniors interested in the Corps, I send them to her. She always knows what to do."

Tewell contends she is shy, yet she meets and talks with many students and parents.

"When freshmen have to come in, they're scared," she said. "They're afraid that their military appearance might not be right, or that they'll forget to salute. We try to put them at ease. Whatever it is they need, we make an effort to help them."

Her help includes keeping files on the cadets, making phone calls for them, occasionally typing their letters, keeping a scrapbook of all Corps events and articles, and, most of all, counselling.

"When they used to starch their uniforms, they'd be so careful not to get any wrinkles in it that they'd ask me to push the button on the water fountain for them," she said.

The blue-eyed, gray-haired woman said she loves working with students. "I'm associated with the cream of the crop," she said. "They're a bunch of sweethearts. I get notes and letters from them a lot, and some even bring their babies back to see me."

"I'll really miss that," she said, sighing, remembering that she plans to retire in the near future.

The commandant's office has seen quite a few changes.

For the first 10 years Tewell worked for civilian commandants. She said that office has become more regimented since changing to military commandants.

"They brought in a sergeant major who ran the office," she said. "He told the secretaries to sit at their desks and not talk to each other, so we just wrote notes and passed them with the mail."

Tewell, who has worked for five commandants, said she thinks all bosses should see the movie "9 to 5"—a movie about three secretaries who revolt against their tyrannical boss.

She said she has had to stand up for her rights as a woman at Texas A&M from the time she was a part-time student through her years as a secretary-receptionist.

"I took some business law in 1962," she said. "The first day of class the professor said he had three rules; I remember two. One was if you go to sleep in class, you get an F and you can't return. Three was 'I just don't like women in my class.'"

She said she was the only female in the class. The men used to arrange their seats so nobody would have to sit by her, she said, until one day they decided they needed her help.

"I'm not a women's libber, but I sure believe in women's rights. If everybody paid their tuition, everybody ought to have the same rights," Tewell said.

The commandant's secretary was around when women were first accepted into the Corps.

"I thought the first year they looked like a bunch of little orphans, but they've improved, and so have their uniforms. I think the young ladies have done a good job of making their place," she said.

She said if she would have had the opportunity to join the Corps when she was in school, she wouldn't have because "it takes a certain personality to go in the Corps, male or female."

But, other than accepting women, Tewell said she hasn't noticed too many changes in the Corps as Texas A&M has swelled from 7,000 to 31,000 students.

The cadets are still as patriotic as they used to be, she said.

"When they leave this University, they're prepared to do something for their country," she said. "I get really excited when they come in and they're excited because they just got their orders. I haven't seen that attitude change even since Viet Nam."

And, "Every year the sophomore class says that they make it too easy on the fish," she said, shaking her head. "I don't believe it."

One change she noted was the frequent use of nicknames. It is difficult to file something for "Red" Smith, when he might be listed under Albert Henry Smith, she said.

"I don't think the quality of students is changing," she said. "It's their environment that makes them more casual."

Tewell said she is especially proud of the Corps scrapbook that she keeps. Another one of her endeavors was creating a file for Reveille, the only female with a file for many years. She said she did it because she thought it was necessary, but when word got out, it became kind of a joke.



Photo by Cheryl Menner

Serving under five commandants at Texas A&M University in 29 years, Juanita "Butch" Tewell has seen the University grow from 7,000 to 31,000 students and watched as women joined the school and Corps. She said she is not a "women's libber," but she is for women's rights.

"Quite a few clips went in when she bit the official at TCU," she said, laughing.

Tewell said although she will really miss her job, she is looking forward to the time when she and her husband Tom, who works at the University Printing Center, can travel more. They're planning

a trip to Alaska and many trips to see their seven grandchildren, she said.

Though many personnel changes have kept her job interesting, she advises students not to try and keep a job as long as she has because, she said, "Everytime you change, you improve."

DIETING?

Even though we do not prescribe diets, we make it possible for many to enjoy a nutritious meal while they follow their doctor's orders. You will be delighted with the wide selection of low calorie, sugar free and fat free foods in the Souper Salad Area, Sbsa Dining Center Basement.

OPEN

Monday through Friday 10:45 AM-1:45 PM

QUALITY FIRST

CHANELLO'S PIZZA & SUBS

PIZZA BUCK GOOD AT
Best Pizza In College Station **CHANELLO'S**

Try It!! **ONE DOLLAR OFF**

PLUS **2 FREE COKES ANY DAY** WITH THIS COUPON

Fast Free Delivery
846-3768 or 846-7751

Not Valid During Any Other Special Offer.

COUPON ONE DOLLAR OFF ANY 14", 17" OR 20" CHANELLO'S PIZZA

SUN. 11 A.M.-12 MIDNIGHT
MON.-THURS. 4 P.M.-1 A.M.
FRI. 4 P.M.-2 A.M.
SAT. 11 A.M.-2 A.M.

Legislation for uniform state training pushed

United Press International
AUSTIN — A group of legislators said today they will push for legislation establishing a State Personnel Standards Board to revamp the uniform training procedures and compensation for state employees.

Flanked by several legislators sponsoring the bill, Paul Wrotenbery, director of the Governor's Budget and Planning Office, said the legislation would be the biggest overhaul of state personnel policies since 1961.

Wrotenbery said the proposed board would provide uniform minimal standards for state employees in compensation, classification, management development and job evaluation.

The turnover rate for state employees for the last two years has been 28 percent and the cost to the state has been \$42 million, Wrotenbery said.

He said he could not estimate at this point how much it would cost to implement the bill.

The bill is the result of a study made by 20 corporations and state

volunteers and is part of the governor's Management Effectiveness Program.

Sen. Ed Howard, D-Texas, said the bill is an attempt to bring equity into the state personnel system.

"We do have employees who are underpaid and overworked," he said. "This bill gives management a tremendous tool. It sets up a training program that will help agencies put in place a system of standards throughout the agencies."

Rep. Tom Uher, D-Bay City, said the bill would bring some centralization to personnel policy programs, "where we have programs that can be established, but it leaves room to work within the guidelines for their own specific needs."

Rep. Wilhelmina Delco, D-Austin, said that although she strongly favors a centralized personnel agency, she is comfortable with this bill.

Wrotenbery said nine of 12 major state agencies supported the bill, but the Texas Department of Corrections, the Parks and Wildlife Department and the Water Resources Department had some reservations.

TEXAS STATE OPTICAL

Prescriptions Filled
Glasses Repaired
216 N. MAIN

BRYAN 822-6105
Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sat. 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sun Theatres
333 University 846-9808

The only movie in town
Double-Feature Every Week
10 a.m.-2 a.m. Sun.-Thurs.
10 a.m.-3 p.m. Fri.-Sat.
No one under 18

BOOK STORE & 25c PEEP SHOWS

FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD TO MSC ALL NITE FAIR

Come dressed as a character
FEB. 27
8 p.m. - 3 a.m.

MSC COUNCIL PROJECTS **IN THE MSC**

THE MSC COUNCIL & DIRECTORATE

is accepting applications for the following Council positions:

- *Vice President of Public Relations
- *Director of Advertising & Publicity
- *Director of Budgets and Planning
- *Director of Development Finance
- *Director of Procedures
- *Coordinator of Projects
- *2 Coordinators of Programs

The following Directorate Chairmanships are also open for application:

- MSC Aggie Cinema
- MSC Amateur Radio
- MSC Basement
- MSC Camera
- MSC Cepheid Variable
- MSC Free University
- MSC Great Issues
- MSC Hospitality
- MSC OPAS
- MSC Outdoor Recreation
- MSC Political Forum
- MSC SCONA
- MSC Town Hall
- MSC Travel
- MSC Video

All students are encouraged to apply if they are interested in developing their leadership skills. Deadline for applications:

Thursday, February 26, 5:30 p.m.
Pick up applications in Room 216 of the MSC.