

Committee Grants Increase to V.R. Programs

On Oct. 20, the Joint House-Senate Conference Committee agreed to fund the nation's vocational rehabilitation program at a level 5.2 percent above the FY 1983 level. The committee, appointed to reconcile differences between the House and Senate versions of the regular FY 1984 Appropriations Bill, set the level of funding for Section 110 (basic support) grants to the states at \$993.9 million — the amount contained in the Senate Rehabilitation Extension Bill (S. 1340).

If President Reagan signs the bill into law, and observers are confident he will, this will be the first time in years the rehabilitation program has operated under a regular appropriation instead of a continuing resolution. The Texas Rehabilitation Commission's share of the total appropriation is an estimated \$48.4 million — a \$2.4 million increase over FY 1983.

The possibility remains that appropriations for vocational rehabilitation programs could increase during FY 1984. The House-Senate conferees must still come to terms on the reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act. In that process, the conference committee could set the authorization level for FY 1984 at a level higher than the \$993.9 million.



Steve and Carol Tadijanac, who've been married for 31 years, have faced some tough times together. "We came to Austin in the worst trouble of our lives," Mrs. Tadijanac said.

Austin Couple Recovers from Setbacks

by Connie Villec-Nemmers

Their life in a small Ohio city was what they'd hoped for after moving to the United States from Yugoslavia with their 10-year-old daughter.

Carol and Steve Tadijanac started over again — they got jobs, bought a house and after many years reached a point at which they felt financially secure.

Then a series of tragedies wiped out all that they'd worked toward for 17 years. Mr. Tadijanac, 56, lost his job, as did so many others caught up in the bad economy. Because their daughter lived in San Antonio, he moved there and found work. Mrs. Tadijanac, 49, put the house up for sale but stayed in Ohio to continue working in a newspaper advertising department.

Bad luck hit again when, after two years of working in San Antonio, Mr. Tadijanac was laid off. He stayed unemployed for five months before finding work in Austin. He was at his new job only a week when he had a stroke.

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Counselors Cited for Outstanding Work

Twenty TRC counselors and senior counselors recently received letters from Commissioner Max Arrell congratulating them on their exceptional performance in rehabilitating clients.

For the fiscal year 1983 ending September 30, these counselors each successfully rehabilitated at least 60 clients.

Jerrine Joseph, senior counselor in the Austin Field Office South, led the way with 90 successful closures.

"Although successful rehabilitations are certainly not the sole measure of a counselor's performance, they do reflect a substantial positive contribution to the success of our program," Arrell said.

As a way of showing his appreciation of their efforts, Arrell authorized a merit increase for the counselors, except for those who by state law are unable to receive the raise because they have reached the highest step in their classified salary position.

The 20 counselors are:

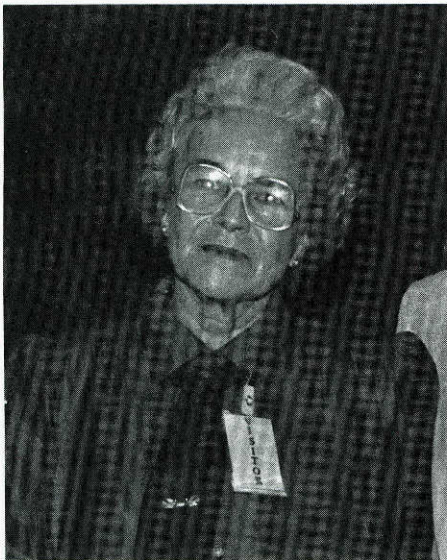
Jerrine Joseph, Don Buck and Jose Lawrence of Austin Field Office South; Benny Bowser, Alejandro Guerrero and William Parker of Austin Field Office North; Vernon Sydow, Jr., of Georgetown Field Office; Joe Rodriguez of Eagle Pass Field Office; J. P. Cardwell of Corpus Christi West Field Office and Jim Tom Nichols of the Beeville Field Office.

Also are Hector Flores, Del Rio Field Office; Glen Starnes, Plano Field Office; Jacquelyn Ramsey, Paris Field Office; Jane Jackson of Houston North Field Office; John Cosgrove, Fort Worth Field Office North; Donald Jones, Jr., Brownwood Field Office; and James Lee, Elmer Blankenship, Charles Wolston and Charles Byars of the Wichita Falls Field Office.

The Austin Field Office South had the highest number of successful closures per counselor of any field office in the state.

A story on the success of that field Office supervised by Jerry Simmons and on senior counselor Jerrine Joseph will appear in the next issue of "News and Views."

Knape, Brunt Honored by Board



Anne Knape

The TRC Board presented two special recognition awards in memory of Clifford Knape, at its September 30 meeting.

Knape, former TRC employee and member of the Board, died in May, 1983.

The resolutions to his wife Anne Knape and sister Mildred Spillman — a retired TRC employee who worked in the vocational rehabilitation field for 44 years —

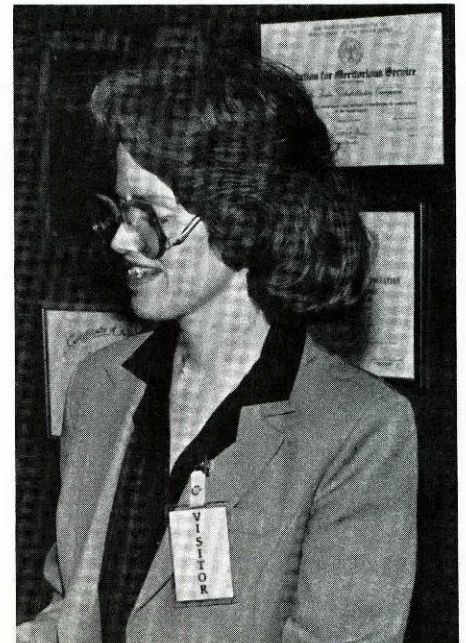
said that Knape "exemplified the qualities of leadership and knowledge which served as an inspiration to his coworkers, and he further exemplified the qualities of empathy and compassion for the handicapped citizens of Texas."

The Board also recognized Suzanne Brunt, record control clerk

in the El Paso Montana Place Field Office, for her "outstanding performance beyond the limits of her duties." She was cited for several accomplishments, including writing a secretarial information manual and developing systems for producing computer graphs and other reports.



Mildred Spillman



Suzanne Brunt

From the Field

Counselor Hector R. Flores of the Del Rio Field Office recently met his poetic muse and the result is the following lyric titled, "The Counselor."

THE COUNSELOR

When things seem dull and gloomy,
Do not despair, Counselor, way out
in the "Boonies"!

For referrals will come, and, then
some, and Counselor and Sec-
retary always will overcome.

Do not despair with number of re-
ferrals you bear,
In the end a smile from 26's you
both will share.

Problems, difficulties, and gainful
placements will surface,

The Counselor diligently 300 or
more he'll service.

Fiscal Year '83 will end,
'84 expectations were submitted
again.

Now . . . you may ask how Coun-
selor found time to write?

Notes from Management Training
I did not hide.

Now don't fret monies, handicap,
or impairment,

The Counselor and Client ideas will
complement.

But, if by chance, assistance is
needed by you,

Don't hesitate to call on Levy,
Sparks, and Perdue!

Retirements

Lois James, stenographer
III, East End Field Office,
Houston, employed Sept. 10,
1970, retirement effective
Sept. 30, 1983.

Ross Chambers, supervisor,
Athens Field Office, employ-
ed April 1, 1958, retirement
effective Jan. 17, 1984.



NATIONAL EMPLOY THE HANDICAPPED WEEK RECOGNIZED

All over the state attention was given to National Employ the Handicapped Week, October 2-8. Stories about TRC clients and programs appeared in newspapers and on radio and television. Public Service Announcements from the Commission aired on radio and T.V. and the Houston Chronicle ran a special supplement that focused on disabled people in the work force. In Eagle Pass (pictured) Mayor Enrique Montaluo signed a proclamation in honor of the week. From left are Joe Rodriguez, TRC senior counselor in the Eagle Pass Field Office; the mayor; Gloria Perry, Texas Employment Commission manager; and Rudy Villalpando, city council member.

Letters

The following is excerpted from a letter written by former Abilene client Mac Fitzgerald about training he received through TRC in 1975.

"When I completed the radio and television technology program I did not immediately put to use the training I had obtained. But, four years later in April of 1979 this training enabled me to be employed by West Texas Utilities. I worked there for three years and at this point my wife and I moved to Big Spring. I obtained a job as an electrician and in April of this year passed the test for my journeyman's license.

"I want to thank you for the help that you provided and I wanted to let you know that your efforts were not wasted. It is a good feeling knowing that I am able to provide for my family."

•••••

This letter to Regional Director Kenneth Vogel was written by Jones and Sherry Roach about Bud

Gregg, TRC counselor who retired September 30 after 14 years of service.

"For the last three years our son Joey Roach has been a client of Mr. L. E. (Bud) Gregg of the Pasadena, Texas office of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission. He has been most kind and helpful with educational assistance through the Texas Rehabilitation Commission and this is greatly appreciated.

"But what we appreciate even more is his professionalism, his attitude, his initiative, and his ability to get all the right things done in a thorough and efficient manner. Mr. Gregg is an individual who really cares.

"In a day when there is so much criticism toward persons who provide services, there seem to be a few bright spots. We believe Mr. Bud Gregg is one of those bright spots in your organization and brings credit not only to himself but also to the Texas Rehabilitation Commission.

Please convey our appreciation and warm regards to him."

Committee Award Winners

Mark White on September 30 to outstanding contributions to the em-

Austin at the general meeting and or's Committee for Disabled Persons. Employee of the Year, was cited for her on of the Temple Mayor's Committee

ns to the employment of disabled s chosen Physician of the Year. He is which specializes in the treatment of

in Tyler was named Small Employer people - 54 percent of its workforce. inson of Allied.

Instrumental in starting the Central ion Center in Brownwood, was given ous Service. Clements is known for yment of disabled people.

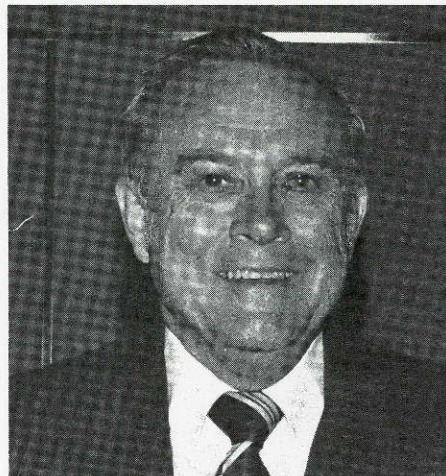
n of people with disabilities, the Red ilder and repairer of military equip- ncy of the Year. The depot has 6,000 have disabilities. Col. Jerry Lindsey, e agency.

employees is a priority for Headquarters, The award of Large Employer of the has 640 disabled employees out of a y Penzler, chief of staff, accepted the

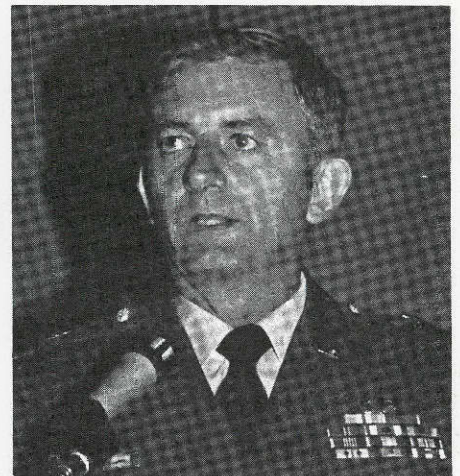
of the Year went to Claire Louise d since the age of 13, is involved in ts to increase public awareness of the s. She works as a community services ight.



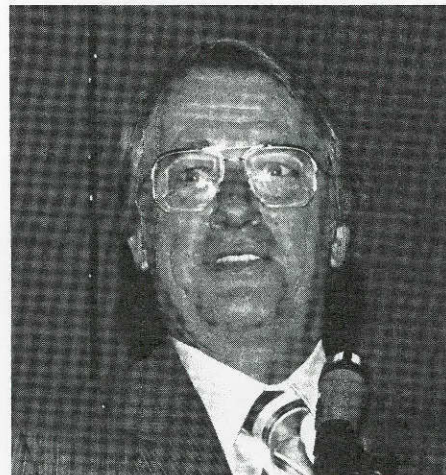
Mitchell
er and Light
an of the Year



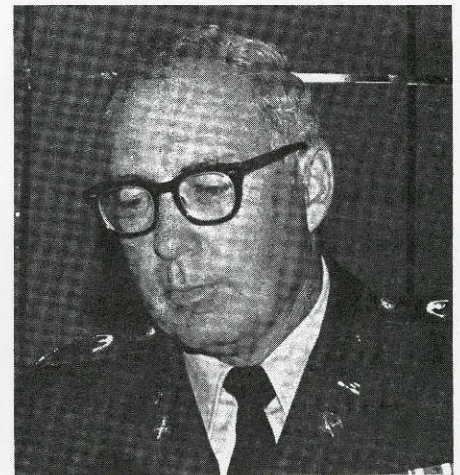
Thomas Robinson
Allied Transport and Oil
Company, Tyler
Small Employer of the Year



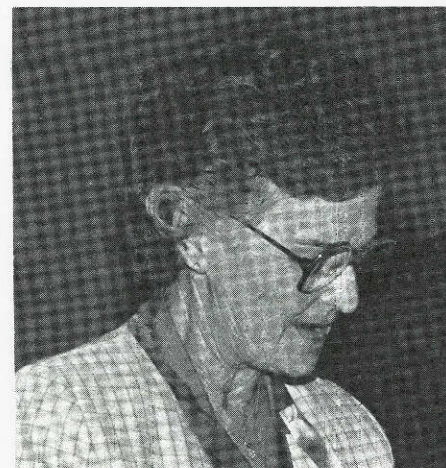
Brig. Gen. Harry Penzler
Fort Hood
Large Employer of the Year



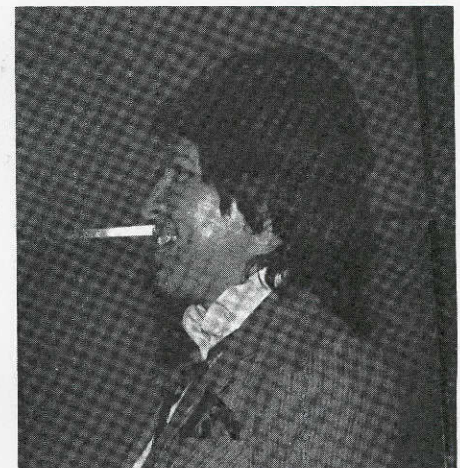
Dr. William Parker
Swiss Avenue Hospital, Dallas
Physician of the Year



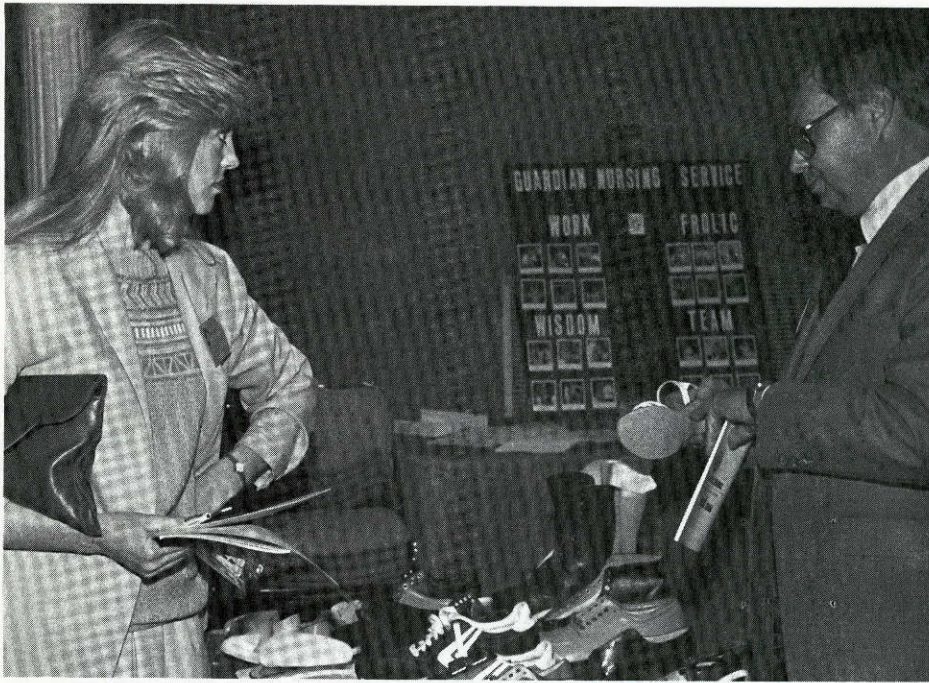
Col. Jerry Lindsey
Red River Army Depot
Governmental Agency of the Year



Janie Lowe Clements
Janie Clements Work Cen-
ter, Brownwood
Governor's Citation of Meri-
torious Service



Judy Morales
Temple Mayor's Committee
on Employment of Handi-
capped
Public Employee of the Year



Regina Hoffman (left), counselor in TRC's Midland Field Office, listens to an explanation of shoe appliances from one of the exhibitors at the On the Job Again II conference in Dallas in early October. The conference, sponsored by TRC, the Dallas Rehabilitation Foundation, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management and U. S. Department of Labor, attracted more than 350 participants from 28 states. Participants focused on the medical, legal and psychological aspects of returning persons injured on the job to work.



It's too early to say that "literally hundreds" of TRC employees have received the Commission's new CPR training, but it is fair to note that as of September, more than 100 Central Office employees have passed the two-day course. Joy Vaughn, (pictured) a secretary for program and facility services, recently became the 100th graduate of the program which began in April, 1983. The training includes instruction in one and two-person cardiopulmonary resuscitation, infant resuscitation and aid to someone who is choking. Five TRC employees - Steve Stump, Archie Malcom, Rich Holmes, Bruce Rollman and Leroy Forbes - have been certified as instructors and teach the course through DDD's staff development office. Another session may be offered in December.



Ed Stendebach (left) joined Region V Director John Halloran at a recent open house and tour of the new regional office in San Antonio. Stendebach, who began working for TRC in 1944 and retired in 1970, was the first director of Region V.

"Run, Max, Run"



It's not too late to give Max the run around. If you wish to sponsor Commissioner Arrell in a run to raise money for the coalition of Texans with disabilities, call the public information office at (512) 445-8745.

Calendar of Events

Date	Activity	Location
Nov. 13 - 18	Management Training for Supervisors	Lago Vista
Nov. 13 - 18	Managers of Managers Training.	Lago Vista
Nov. 14 - 16	Performance Appraisal Training	Austin
Nov. 16 - 18	Performance Appraisal Training	Austin
Nov. 27 - Dec. 2	Management Training for Supervisors	Lago Vista

Work with Tax Credit Program Pays Off in Abilene

One person may be good, but Abilene counselor Sterling Ellison has found that three or four are better when it comes to working with the targeted jobs tax credit program.

"If it were left up to one individual, we wouldn't be near where we are," Ellison said. "We need a team effort—we need people to get enthusiastic about the program."

For the last two years Ellison and secretary Olga Moreno have been working with the Texas Employment Commission, the Abilene Independent School District, half-way houses and a host of employ-

By Connie Villec-Nemmers

ers to place TRC clients in jobs through the tax credit program.

The federal program allows private employers who hire people belonging to one of nine target groups to receive a hefty tax credit the first two years the person is employed.

Handicapped people are one of the target groups, along with recipients of Supplemental Security Income, ex-offenders, economically disadvantaged youth and people receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children.

The Abilene team has had great success. In the last quarter, 30 clients were placed in jobs through the program and 20 more are waiting to be linked up to employers. Statewide, from Oct. 1, 1982 — Aug. 31, 1983, 1049 employers have used the program to hire clients.

Abilene clients have found jobs as construction workers, dish washers, room attendants, restaurant help, assemblers, cooks, nurses aides, grocery sackers, and custodians.

Both mentally and physically disabled people have found jobs. Many are teenagers referred by the Abilene Independent School District. Others are mildly to moderately retarded people in their 40's and 50's whose only previous work experience was in a sheltered workshop.

Ellison said 50 employers regularly use the program to find workers.

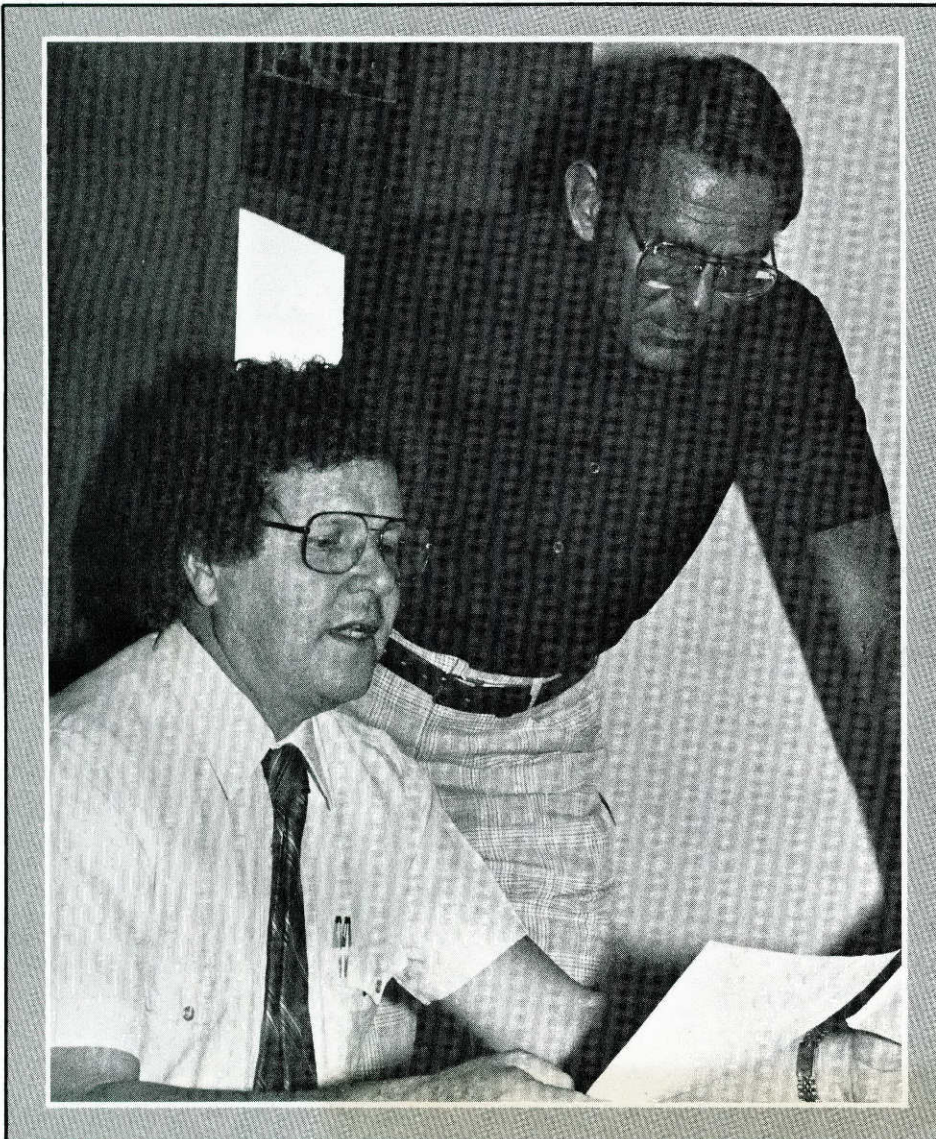
"It has definitely helped placement in this depressed job market," he said.

Aubrey Cranor, a targeted job tax credit representative for the Texas Employment Commission, said employers often call him to ask how they can participate.

"Some of these are employers who've never before hired disabled workers," he said.

Cranor said it really hasn't been difficult getting employers interested in the program. For one thing, there is little paperwork involved for the employer and the tax credit — up to \$3,000 for the first year and \$1,500 for the second year — is a good incentive.

"With this tax incentive, employers are more apt to give a client a chance to do the job," Ellison said. "Some of these workers may require a little extra time, and the tax credit may make the employer



Sterling Ellison, seated, and Aubrey Cranor look over a case together.

Continued on page 8

more understanding about the employee."

Even former TRC clients are eligible for the program.

"It's a very viable service," Ellison said. "I stress to clients that this program opens doors which quite possibly might not have been opened otherwise."



Dr. Robert Castle, (left) a pediatric cardiologist from Austin, recently received a certificate of appreciation from the Commission for the help he has given DDD. Among other things, he has offered several training programs for disability examiners. Dr. Castle has worked with TRC since 1979 as a state agency medical consultant. Bruce Rollman, DDD training officer, presented the award.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Jolly Garcia, stenographer in the Fort Stockton Field Office, who was named "Woman of the Quarter" by the Fort Stockton J.C. Women's Chapter.



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Results in Upcoming Issue**

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