By Jan Rahn
Managing Editor

Perkins County veterans have a new service officer who is learning the ins and outs of how to best serve their needs in the first floor office of the courthouse in Grant.

Larry Kuskie took over the position of Whitey Shirley who retired but has been filling in until a new service officer was placed.

Kuskie, a Vietnam veteran, was approved by the commissioners and began his duties the first of July. He said he expects it will take him quite a while to get accustomed to all there is to learn because there are so many different forms to fill out depending on the various needs of a veteran.

There are 346 files on veterans in Perkins County. An average of between 50-60 are served on a monthly basis.

Kuskie is looking forward to being able to help those seeking medical or financial help who come to the Veterans Service Office during business hours of 8 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays.

The Army veteran is a native of Perkins County. He served his country during a six-month tour to Germany in 1969 and again for one year in Vietnam prior to marrying Norma Jean and settling in Grant where the couple raised four children, Jacob, Julie, Jeannie and Janet.

As Kuskie gets acquainted with his new position, he will have the continued guidance from Shirley for a few months. CJ Rezac has been on board since March assisting with duties in the office until the recent hiring of Kuskie.

The former grain clerk at Frenchman Valley Co-op (FVC)was able to almost complete this year's wheat harvest prior to leaving the job he had held at the elevators on the south edge of town for 19 years. Prior to his grain clerk position, Kuskie worked for the co-op in the station downtown servicing vehicles when it was known as Grant Co-op Exchange. His work history also includes being a mechanic and shop foreman at Dudden Implement years ago.

He is looking forward to different hours and atmosphere at the courthouse, perhaps allowing him to pursue his hobbies and interests of playing golf and gardening.

Stop in at the Veterans Service Office and get acquainted.