

A: None other than what I was getting in teaching the engineer ROTC students. I did not take any courses or undertake any specialized research at KU. However, I did organize the courses that we were giving to the students.

Ours was a little more difficult situation because the ROTC there was voluntary and not compulsory. In the land grant schools, all of the students had to take basic ROTC for the first two years. I had to do a selling job in trying to get the students to come in and enroll, and by reason of that we had relatively small units. That in turn made it difficult to get our courses to fit into the curriculum without conflicting with the other required engineer courses that these students had to take. As a result, I had to have two or three sessions in the same course because we had civil engineers, electrical engineers, mechanical engineers, and you couldn't get them all to get a common free time for the ROTC courses which they were taking. So I did have, even though it was a small unit, a greater number of courses that had to be given. I was the sole engineer officer on duty there at the time.

[**Note:** Casey wrote "Muscle Shoals" for the *Kansas Engineer* at this time, see Appendix B.]

Q: Did any of the students stay on in the Army?

A: Yes, several of them did. One in particular, I'm trying to think of his name. He was a cadet captain, and he was commissioned in the infantry later and served over in the Pacific. I ran across him there, and he was doing very well. He was with Sixth Army. I can't recall his name right now—oh yes, later a Colonel [August E.] Schanze. We had several others that went into the engineers.

### Company Officers Course, the Engineer School

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Q: In 1926 you returned to Camp Humphreys to take another course at the Engineer School. I think we discussed that somewhat already. This was your first real introduction to the civil works function of the Corps of Engineers. Was it already a foregone conclusion that you were going to receive a civil works assignment after graduation?

A: Not necessarily. People were normally assigned initially to military duty but the personnel office, I think, did try to conform to a general schedule

whereby an officer would have certain graduate schooling, so much ROTC or organized reserve duty, so much military, and so much civil works service. I had not had any of the civil works duties as of then. I imagine that was one of the factors that they had in this assignment.

I think the other one was that from there I was sent up to Pittsburgh to take charge of the flood control survey in the Pittsburgh District. John Paul Dean, my classmate, had been in charge of that. He was ordered to the Chief's Office, and they needed to fill that slot, and I think John Paul probably recommended that I be assigned to it. That may have been one factor connected to my being assigned to Pittsburgh on civil works duty.

Q: Did any of your classmates or instructors at the Engineer School have particularly outstanding careers subsequently?

A: Instructors, we had Bill Hoge, and we talked about him. I had Bill Heavey, and we talked about him. Of the students, Em Itschner, later Chief of Engineers, was a classmate of mine, but he was one of the junior ones; and [Emerson L.] Cummings, who was later Chief of Ordnance, both with subsequent distinguished careers, but at that time didn't demonstrate anything particular. They were just second lieutenants and fellow classmates, and they didn't end up at the top of the class or at the bottom. They just went through with the run of the mill. I don't remember anybody special outside of Ed Leavey. He was very competitive and was fighting intensely with me to be number one.

### **Pittsburgh District**

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Q: Your first civil works duty was as assistant district engineer at Pittsburgh under Jarvis Bain. What were your primary duties in Pittsburgh?

A: The main purpose of my being sent up there was to take over from John Paul Dean the Pittsburgh flood control studies. Pittsburgh had sustained serious damage in 1907 from the " flood of all floods, " as they termed it, and John Paul had initiated these studies proposing a series of reservoirs on the various tributaries.