

Arkansas Highways



SPRING 1984





HENRY GRAY
Director of Highways and Transportation

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Many Uncertainties Ahead For Highway Funding

As we begin another year – with us are many of the problems from the past years. There is the uncertainty of whether the Governor will call a special legislative session and, if so, will it deal realistically with a funding program for the State's 16,000-mile highway system. The Governor and some legislators have expressed the opinion that addressing these programs can and should wait until the next regular session in January 1985. Addressing the problems can wait, but the problems themselves won't. We will continue to move faster and farther into the deferred maintenance era with growth and increasing use bringing on more disrepair. Deteriorating roads and highways are our problems. They are real and evident, and putting them off only delays providing and maintaining an adequate and safe road system deserved by the people and necessary to accommodate economic growth.

The situation is critical, and funding delays in concert with the harsh winter weather experienced in late December 1983 and early January 1984 puts us farther behind. The nearly \$4 million spent

to remove snow and ice from the highways and the ultimate \$25 million or more to repair the damage cuts deeply into our routine maintenance, limits our ability to match Federal-Aid monies, eliminates most of our Secondary Road construction, decreases our equipment replacement, litter pickup and many activities that improve safety, and aesthetics of our highways.

In 1983 truck weights were increased to 80,000 pounds, and traffic counts, traffic through weigh stations, and records compiled by the Highway User Tax Unit reveal that there are more heavy trucks on our highways today than there were last year this time. This increasing number of heavy trucks is adding to the rate of deterioration.

The weight-distance tax which has been in effect since July 1983 has produced about \$19 million so far and could reach as high as \$22 million by July 1984. The State Highway Fund receives 70% of this money, with 15% going to the counties and 15% to the cities. We are obligating this money to new construction and maintenance as quickly as we can in order to receive the most benefit from it.

This new revenue source is really only keeping us about "even" with where we were because of the declining revenues from other sources. It would drastically set back the highway program in this state if this tax was

to be repealed, as some truckers are suggesting. Even with the new tax, the trucking industry is still not paying its "fair share" of the highway user revenues. The owners of cars and light trucks are picking up the difference and will be paying a greater share of the tax burden if the weight-distance tax is repealed. Arkansas Gazette editorial cartoonist George Fisher graphically depicts this disparity in a cartoon he did last year while the truck weight issued was being debated in the state legislature.

Other states are also fighting the battle to obtain additional revenues for highways. According to the Highway Users Federation of Washington, D.C., higher motor fuel taxes will be considered in 23 states this year. Of these, five states were among the 18 states which raised motor fuel taxes last year. The average state gasoline tax is now 11.7 cents per gallon, up from 10.3 cents in January 1983. Arkansas' gasoline tax is 9.5 cents per gallon. Forty-one states now have a higher gasoline tax than Arkansas. In addition, 12 states will consider raising annual fees on passenger cars and 17 states will debate hiking taxes on heavy trucks.

Its easy to see that adequate funding for highways is a major issue nationwide. This problem must be addressed in order to protect the citizens' investment in their highways. The State Highway Commission is dedicated to this task.

I would also like to express the Commissioners' and my thanks to all of the employees who did an outstanding job in clearing the snow and ice from the highways this winter. I have heard nothing but praise for your efforts. Many

of the letters we received commending your work appear in this magazine and I encourage you to take the time to read them. Our crews were spread thin and many worked 12-hour shifts, or longer. The December storm hit during

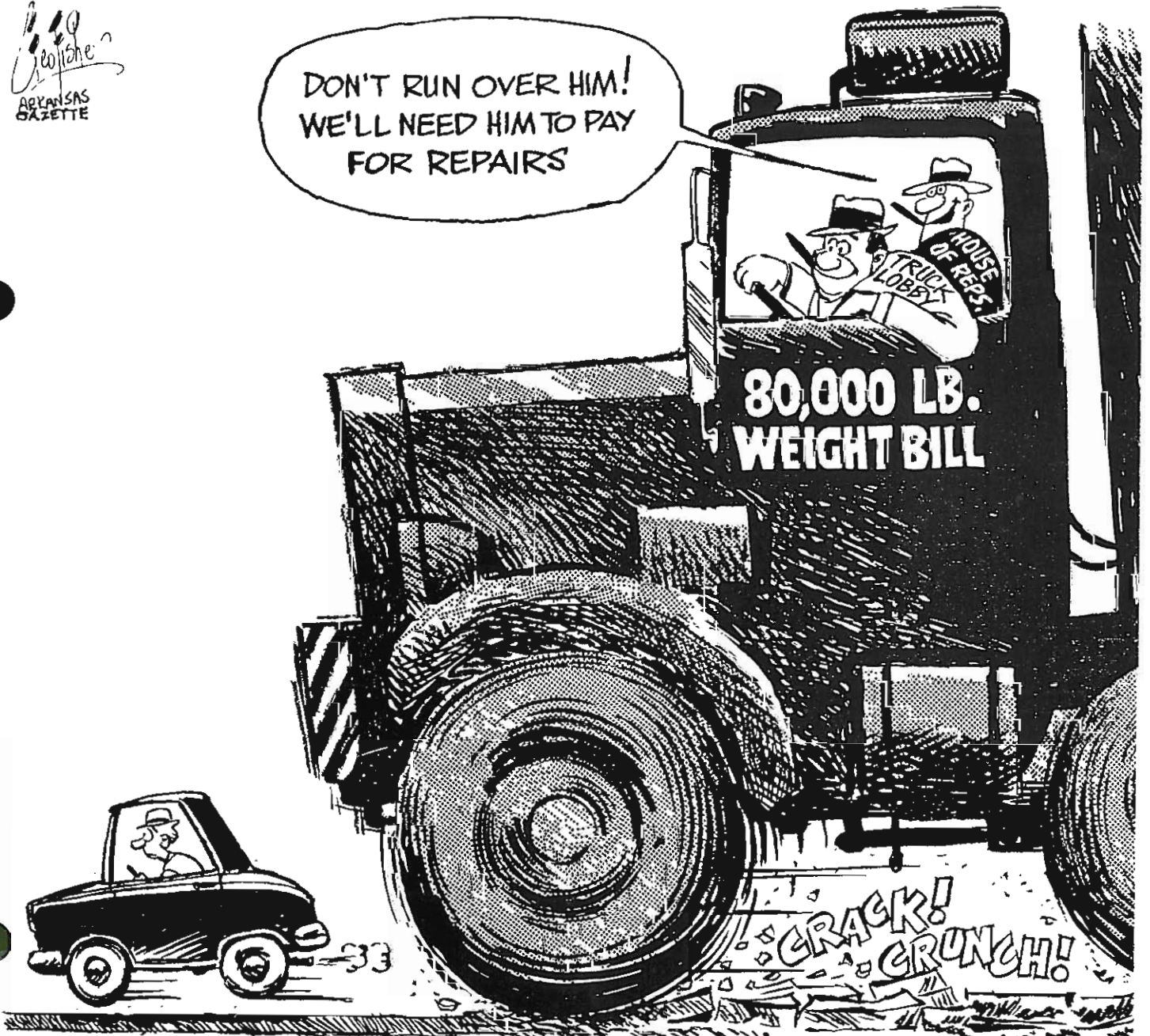
the holiday season and many of you were unable to fully enjoy this season with your families. It is very demanding work, and you are to be congratulated for the fine jobs you did.



Henry Gray
Director of Highways and Transportation

Geophone
ARKANSAS
GAZETTE

DON'T RUN OVER HIM!
WE'LL NEED HIM TO PAY
FOR REPAIRS





Arkansas Highways

VOLUME 30 - NUMBER 1

SPRING 1984

Arkansas State Highway Commission

David Solomon, Chairman
Patsy L. Thomasson, Vice Chairman
Bobby Hopper, Member
Raymond Pritchett, Member
Ron Harrod, Member



Henry Gray
Director of
Highways and Transportation

B.K. Cooper
Chief Engineer

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Public Transportation Progress in 1983..... | 3 |
| Winter 83-84 Proves to be Expensive..... | 5 |
| Dedications: | |
| 2000 Attend Dedication of Norfolk Bridges..... | 6 |
| Public Hearings: | |
| 64 Widening Receives Local Support..... | 8 |
| Railroad Overpass Proposed at Paragould..... | 9 |
| The High Cost of Bad Roads..... | 10 |
| District 3 Photo Feature..... | 12 |
| Safety On The Move..... | 14 |
| Poultry Trucks Checked at Weigh Stations..... | 15 |
| Highway 13 Bridge Replaced..... | 15 |
| News Briefs..... | 16 |
| AHTD Retirees Association News..... | 18 |
| Letters..... | 19 |
| Service Awards and Retirements..... | 23 |
| Around the Department..... | 24 |

FRONT COVER PHOTO:
Interstate 430, North Little Rock
looking south across the Arkansas
River. Photo by John Jackson.

BACK COVER PHOTO:
State Highway 154 as it winds
through Petit Jean State Park.
Photo by David Hunter.

ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS is published quarterly by and for employees of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department as a medium of departmental news and other information. Correspondence and material should be directed to ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS Editor, Public Affairs Office, Post Office Box 2261, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203. ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS is freely distributed to the public at their request and to all Highway and Transportation Department employees.

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Public Transportation Progress in 1983

In accordance with a 1974 proclamation from the Office of the Governor, the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) established the Public Transportation Unit to coordinate all transportation planning activities within the State of Arkansas. Since that time, there has been considerable growth and awareness of the need for reliable public transportation.

Authority for the ongoing duties of the Public Transportation Unit is presently vested under Act 192 of 1977. The Public Transportation Unit, operating under the Planning and Development Branch of AHTD, is responsible for administering the Section 3, Section 6, Section 8, Section 9-9A, Section 16(b)(2) and Section 18 Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) grant programs. These programs are designed to provide technical assistance and public transportation to rural and small urbanized areas, as well as improve the mobility of the elderly and handicapped.

In March 1983, the 74th General Assembly of the State of Arkansas passed Act 863 which made an appropriation of funds to be used by the State Highway and Transportation Department to provide assistance to rural and urban public transportation agencies serving the transportation dependent in Arkansas. By increasing the minimum corporate franchise tax, funds were made available to be utilized by the AHTD in the preparation of project applications, program development and as matching funds for United States Department of Transportation funds. The matching funds are being used to provide capital improvements and operating assistance for the public transportation programs operating in Arkansas under Section 9 and Section 18. In addition, matching funds are made available for capital assistance to private non-profit organizations providing transportation for the elderly and handicapped under the Section 16 (b)(2) Program.

The allocation formula developed for the distribution of these State matching funds, is based on the percent of total federal funds contracted for by each transit system against the total Department of Transportation funds obligated in Arkansas and an assigned value for each percentage point of each system's operating ration (revenue ÷ cost). The passage of this Act will help to maintain the current level of public transportation services being provided in Arkansas and make provisions for much needed expansion.

Section 6 Program

Section 6 grants for research, development and demonstration are available at UMTA's discretion. During Fiscal Year 1983, the Public Transportation

Unit administered one grant in the amount of \$150,000 to South Central Arkansas Transit (SCAT) for a small town Public Transit Demonstration Project. The purpose of the project is to demonstrate the effectiveness of different marketing, fare elasticity and education techniques in towns of under 20,000 population. The area of project impact is the towns of Arkadelphia, Malvern and Benton. The demonstration began in November 1982.

Because the project involves three separate small towns, each with very different characteristics, the demonstration's applicability to other small towns is immediately extended, plus it offers the opportunity to gain insight into the advantages and disadvantages of coordinating, in one operation, the management of transit services in separate but adjacent towns.



SCAT bus on its rounds in Hot Spring County.

Section 8 Program

A portion of UMTA's Section 8 annual planning program appropriation is allocated to states to conduct special studies, statewide planning, and at state option with UMTA concurrence, to provide planning support for rural and small urban areas. The state also has the option, which Arkansas has exercised, of receiving Section 8 funds for urbanized areas of 50,000 to 200,000 population. Under this option, the state becomes responsible for reallocating these funds among the small urbanized areas.

During Fiscal Year 1983, seven Section 8 technical assistance and planning grants were administered by the Public Transportation Unit for a total of nearly \$130,000.

Section 8 - Public Transportation Unit Staff Planning

The Public Transportation Unit staff expended \$70,882 for planning and the administration of the Section 8 Program. The Section 8 Planning efforts

included: High Occupancy Vehicle Study, Changes in Intercity Bus Service, Commuter Parking Lots, Van-pool Program, and Little Rock Transit Center.

Section 9A Program

Nearly \$1.8 million was appropriated to Arkansas in Fiscal Year 1983 for this program. Of this amount, \$441,000 has been made available to the Section 18 Non-Urbanized Area Program in Arkansas from the "Mass Transit Account" of the Section 9A Program. The "Mass Transit Account" was created by the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982. It is the "depository" for the 1 cent Federal Gas Tax which has been earmarked for mass transit purposes. The "Mass Transit Account" funds Section 9A of the UMT Act for Fiscal Year 1983 only and Section 3, thereafter.

The Section 9A Program also made \$550,000 available to all urbanized areas in Arkansas under 200,000 population. In July 1983, by request of the Governor, UMTA transferred \$530,000 in Section 9A urbanized funds from Fort Smith, Fayetteville/Springdale, Pine Bluff and Texarkana to the Section 18 Non-Urbanized Transportation Account, administered by the Public Transportation Unit. The City of Pine Bluff retained \$20,000 for public transit planning.

Although the Public Transportation Unit does not administer the Section 9A Program for urbanized areas over 200,000 in population, the City of Little Rock was appropriated \$792,000.



This wheelchair lift equipped bus was purchased with UMTA 16(b)(2) funds.

Section 16(b)(2) Program

The transportation grant program referred to as the 16(b)(2) Program was begun in 1974. Funding is available to private non-profit organizations on an

80/20 match and may be expended only for capital outlay to acquire vehicles and support equipment. Arkansas was appropriated \$377,000 for this program in 1983.

During the year, the Department released 33 vans and small buses to approved contractors, costing \$443,483 and submitted applications to UMTA for approval to purchase 28 more at an estimated cost of \$348,800. Seventeen vehicles are in the process of acquisition at an estimated cost of \$213,440. Since the 16(b)(2) Program began in Arkansas, a total of 241 vehicles have been purchased, of which 198 currently are in operation in approximately three-fourths of the state's counties and during Fiscal Year 1983 those vehicles made approximately 2 million passenger trips. In Fiscal Year 1983, the Public Transportation Unit expended \$64,378 in the administration of the 16(b)(2) Program.

Section 18 Program

In Fiscal Year 1983, \$1,307,000 in Section 18 funds was appropriated to Arkansas. The Public Transportation Unit presently administers Section 18 for seven transit systems in the state with an eighth due to begin operations in the near future. The seven systems and their locations are: Ozark Transit, serving Washington, Benton, Western Carroll and Madison Counties; South Central Arkansas Transit (SCAT), serving Saline, Clark & Hot Spring Counties; BRAD Public Transit, serving Clay, Randolph and Lawrence Counties; North Arkansas Transportation Service (NATS), serving portions of Newton, Carroll, Madison, Boone, Searcy, Baxter and Marion Counties; Mid-Delta Transit, serving Phillips and Monroe Counties; Intra-City Transit (IT), serving the city of Hot Springs; and the Eureka Springs Transit, serving the city of Eureka Springs.

Section 18 - Technical Assistance Planning Grants

There are no federal planning requirements for public transportation in non-urbanized areas. However, there are federal planning funds available to carry out such planning. A portion of the 15 percent funds from the state's Section 18 allocation can be used for planning in rural and small urban areas, and is available through the Public Transportation Unit. During the last year, four Section 18 technical assistance and planning grants were administered by the Public Transportation Unit.

In June of 1983, the Public Transportation Unit contracted with NTE Transit Management and Consulting Company, Inc. to provide Transit Management Improvement Plans for six (6) Section 18 funded rural transit projects in Arkansas. Each plan was a separate document so that individual transit systems

could integrate suggestions into their planning and operational functions.

The Public Transportation Unit contracted with Arkansas Transit Association for the development of procedures for establishing Transit Authorities in Arkansas.

The Public Transportation Unit contracted with the Western Arkansas Planning and Development

District to conduct a rural public transit feasibility study for Ozark and portions of Franklin County. The fourth contract was with the West Central Arkansas Planning and Development District to provide planning and technical assistance to the two Section 18 Transit Systems in their service area, SCAT and IT.

Winter 83-84 Proves To Be Expensive

The cost of removing snow and ice from the state's highways during the late December, early January winter storms, cost the Highway and Transportation Department nearly \$4 million. The biggest expense was for materials, labor and equipment. In addition, chemicals had to be washed from the bridges to prevent damage to the steel and equipment used to remove snow and ice had to be repaired.

Numerous highway signs and fences were knocked down and damaged, bridge ends were hit by vehicles and some median barrier walls were damaged. The more serious damages, such as shoulder deterioration, base failures, and surface damage, won't begin to appear until the spring thaw.

The state's gravel highways were the first to feel the effects of the thaw. State Highway 321 near Antioch in White County had to be closed for three weeks in January while maintenance crews made repairs. The road became impassable once it thawed following the deep freeze. Because of the mud, crews were unable to get equipment on the road for several days. Once the roadway dried some, it was graded and nearly 600 cubic yards of oversize rock and gravel were hauled in to build up the base on several

short sections that were the heaviest damaged. During the 22 days the road was closed, nearly \$11,300 was spent to repair it.

The state's hard surfaced roads probably won't fare much better. Water seeps in through the cracks caused by heavy vehicles and freezes. The ice expands and causes the cracks to worsen and potholes appear.

Past experience with winter storms, such as the ones in December and January, shows that damage to the highways could reach as high as \$25 million.

"The thing that concerns us the most is the short-fall of state revenues," Director Henry Gray said. "Federal funds cannot be used for maintenance; therefore, we must use 100 percent state funds for that. State funds also are required to match Federal-aid for highway construction and there just aren't enough state revenues generated to do an adequate job on both," he said.

Highway and Transportation Department maintenance crews worked 12-hour shifts around the clock in an effort to clear the highways. Temperatures remained below freezing and in the teens for about two weeks, making the task of removing the snow and ice much more difficult.



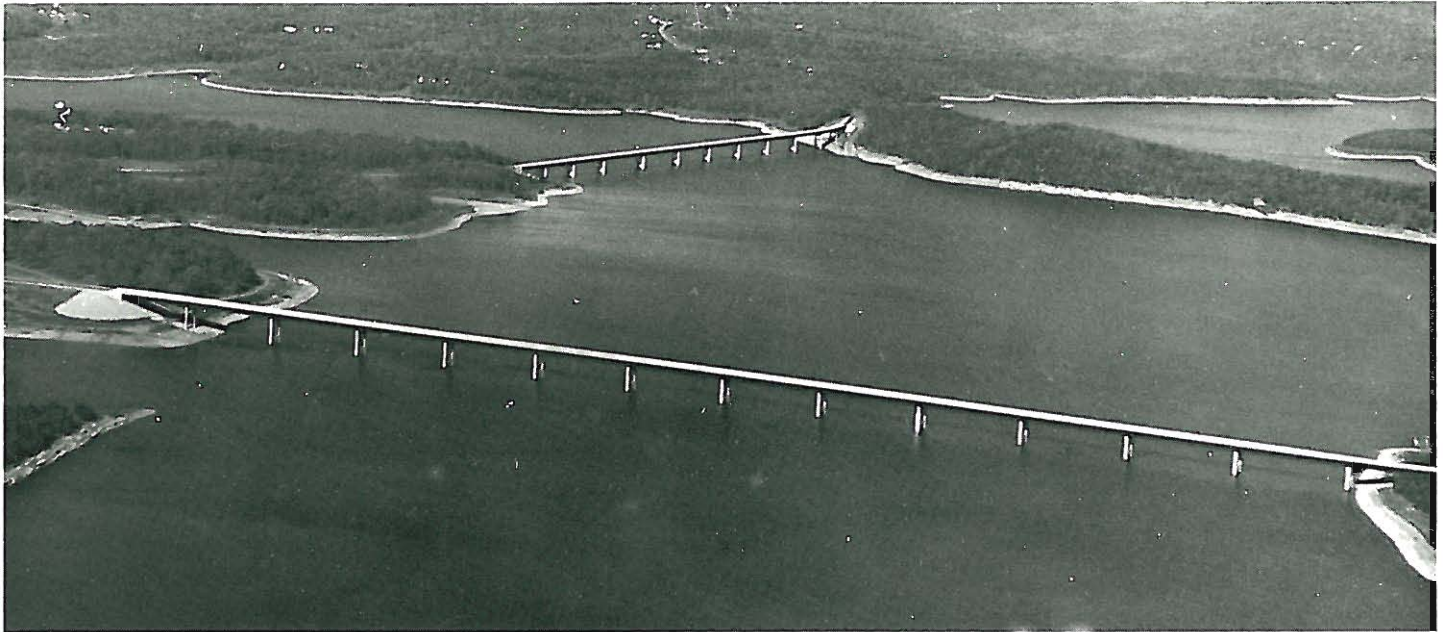
Nearly 600 cubic yards of rock and gravel were dumped on S.H. 321 in an effort to repair the road after it thawed and turned to mud.



Interstate 430 at Highway 10 in Pulaski County.

DEDICATIONS

2000 Attend Dedication of Norfolk Bridges



U.S. 62 Bridge, foreground, and State Highway 101 Bridge. Photo: Harrison Daily Times.

Federal, state and local lawmakers joined more than 2,000 north Arkansas residents and flag-carrying veterans for the dedication of the long awaited \$40 million twin Norfolk bridges on Highway 62 and 101, November 20, 1983.

The almost three-hour long ceremony, that included a wreath ceremony by veterans and ribbon cutting on the Highway 62 bridge, was punctuated by lawmakers' remarks on the rough road they traveled to get funding for construction on the twin bridges just east of Mountain Home and the bridges' economic advantages to Arkansas.

Dedicatory speaker Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt said the project was successful because "the entire Arkansas congressional delegation joined in sponsoring my bill in 1971" and because of the cooperation of the Public Works and Transportation Committee.

He noted that the bridges were "built largely with federal funds, under unique circumstances" and used the occasion to urge finding "new revenues... at the state level...to keep up with the wear and tear on our present system".

Hammerschmidt applauded the Highway and Transportation Department for "doing an excellent job with relatively limited resources," but said the state must "adopt an increased fuel tax, if expectations of furnishing the traveling public the type of road system needed are to be met, and if further

deterioration of existing roads is to be prevented".

The late Sen. John L. McClellan was saluted by various speakers for his efforts to get the project funded, and State Senator Vada Sheid of Mountain Home was repeatedly mentioned for spurring lawmakers on the state and federal level to update the north Arkansas' transportation network.

Also present at the dedication were Congressman Robert Roe of New Jersey, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Water Resources; Arkansas Congressman Bill Alexander; the State's two U.S. Senators, Dale Bumpers and David Pryor; Governor Bill Clinton, Master of Ceremonies; State Treasurer Jimmie Lou Fisher; Attorney General Steve Clark; various Army Corps of Engineers and veteran officials and Highway Commissioners Bobby Hopper and Ron Harrod.

The bridges ended almost 40 years of ferry travel on the lake that started when it was filled in 1944.

Henry Gray, Director of the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department, said the ferries had cost the state \$15 million, or about 92 cents per vehicle hauled across the lake.

Gray also presented a large facsimile of a check in the amount of \$1,342,000 to the Corps of Engineers representing the state's payback for the money it received in 1943 when the old Highway 62 bridge was inundated.



Photo: Harrison Daily Times
 Brigadier General Robert J. Dacey, of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, holds the check he received from Highway and Transportation Department Director Henry Gray.



Photo: Harrison Daily Times
 As U.S. Representative John Paul Hammerschmidt and State Senator Vada Sheid ready the large scissors, other dignitaries prepare to cut the ribbon with smaller scissors. From left to right: U.S. Senator David Pryor, Highway Commissioner Bobby Hopper, U.S. Senator Dale Bumpers, Governor Bill Clinton, AHTD Director Henry Gray, Senator Sheid, Representative Hammerschmidt, Miss Arkansas Regina Hopper, and U.S. Representative Bill Alexander.



Senator Dale Bumpers



AHTD Director Henry Gray



Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt



Photo: Harrison Daily Times
 State and national officials attending the dedication included, from left, State Treasurer Jimmy Lou Fisher, State Representative John Miller, State Senator Vada Sheid, Congressman Robert Roe of New Jersey, Senator David Pryor and Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt.



Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton

PUBLIC HEARINGS

64 Widening Receives Local Support

Strong local support was given to a proposed project to widen Highway 64 between Highway 9B and the Highway 9 bypass at a public hearing held in Morrilton December 6, 1983.

The project consists of widening the present two-lane Highway 64 (Broadway) to four lanes on the existing location, a distance of one (1) mile. Preliminary plans, environmental studies, and other pertinent information developed by the Highway

and Transportation Department relative to the proposed project, as well as a 16-foot-long aerial enlargement was unveiled for the general public's first inspection.

Highway Commissioner Raymond Pritchett, and the Highway Department's Chief Roadway Designer, Bob Walters, explained the great safety benefits to the Conway County highway users when the project is constructed as planned. The total estimated cost is \$1,500,000.

Fourteen civic and industrial leaders and local city and county officials testified in favor of the project. Senator Allen Gordon and Representative Bruce Hawkins discussed the great need to relieve the dangerous bottleneck that now exists between Interstate 40 and downtown Morrilton.

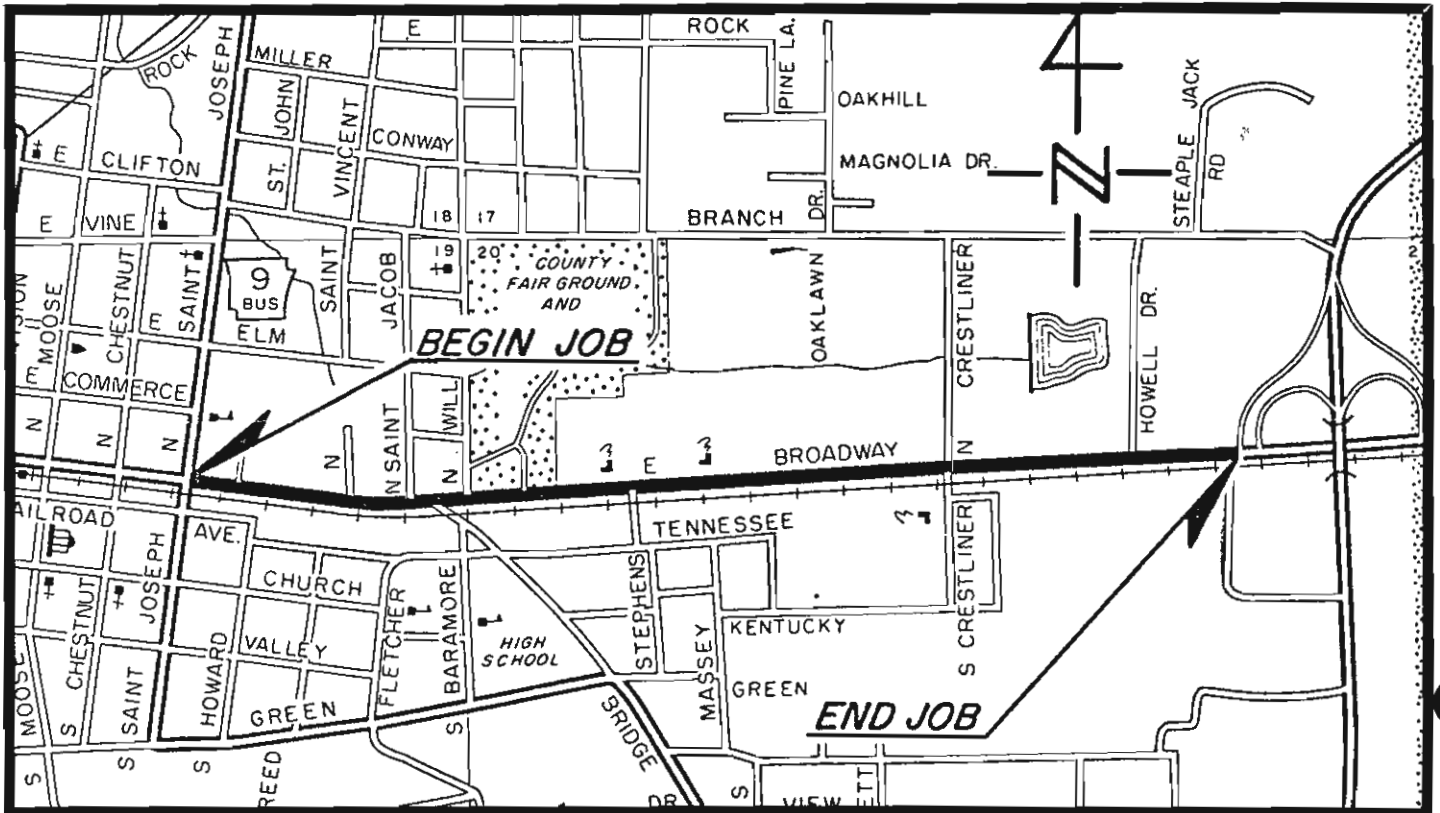
The new facility would provide four 12-foot traffic lanes with curb and gutter, as well as side-walks and modern street lighting facilities.

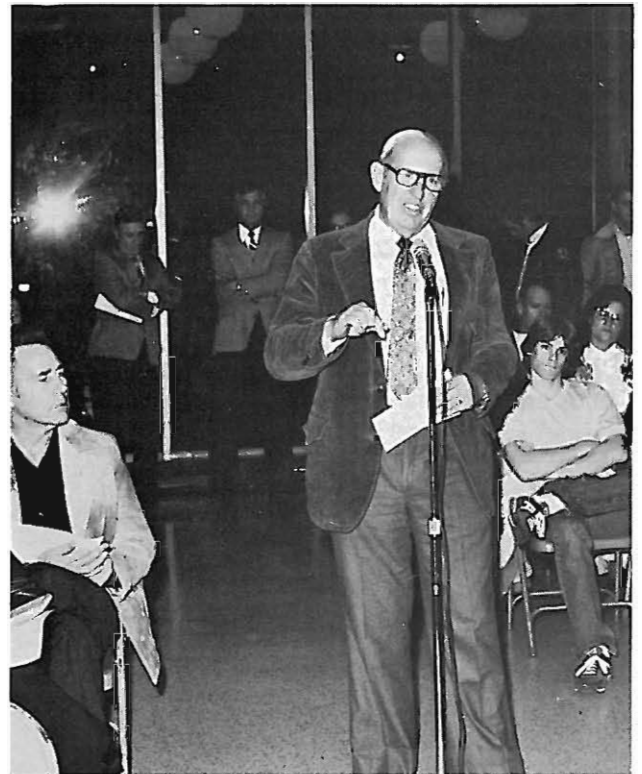
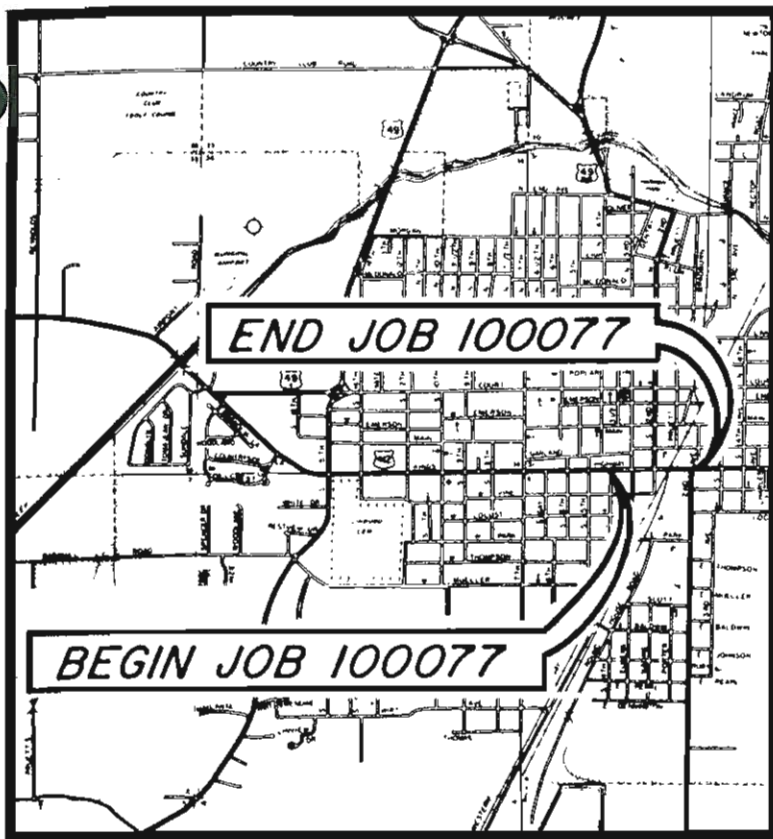
Mayor John Davidson and the City Council have also requested, as a part of this project, that modern traffic signals be placed, where necessary, on downtown Broadway.

Petitions bearing 438 signatures of citizens were turned in at the conclusion of the public hearing.



State Senator Allen Gordon, left, and State Representative Bruce Hawkins, right, discuss the proposed widening of Highway 64 with Highway Commissioner Raymond Pritchett, center.





State Senator Tom Watson speaks in favor of the Highway 412 Railroad Overpass.

Railroad Overpass Proposed at Paragould

About 200 Greene County residents crowded into the Paragould Community Center December 16 to express their support for the proposed Highway 412 Railroad Overpass in Paragould.

The Paragould Daily Press called it "a rare show of civic unanimity" as speaker after speaker—23 in all—stressed the need for a bridge on Highway 412 to connect the east and the west sides of the tracks. Most often mentioned was the need for emergency vehicles, most of which are stationed on the west side, to have uninterrupted access to the east side.

Petitions, resolutions and letters submitted for the record demonstrated that support for the project extended far beyond the people who had gathered at the community center.

Petitions signed by "more than 1,500" supporters were presented by King O'Neal, executive director of the Paragould Area Chamber of Commerce. Dale Christian, administrator of Arkansas Methodist Hospital, presented a petition signed by 250 hospital employees. Written statements were submitted by law enforcement agencies, local industries, civic clubs and individuals.

Those who spoke at the hearing also represented a cross-section of the community—elected officials, business owners and residents from both sides of the tracks, school administrators and other community leaders.

Their comments became a litany of concerns—the unreliability of the safety arms at the railroad crossing, the danger posed to school buses, the inadequacy of fire and police protection when trains block the tracks, the fear of elderly residents on the east side that medical care will not be available when they need it, work delays caused by train-tied traffic, frustration that leads motorists to try to "beat the train".

Other speakers included State Representative Mack Thompson, State Senator Tom Watson, Paragould Mayor Charles Partlow and Greene County Judge Jerry Shipman.

Thompson said he had heard talk of the need for a railroad overpass "ever since I can remember" and that during his 11 years as a legislator he has gotten more requests for the overpass "than any other highway project we've had in the county".

Partlow noted the irony that the railroad tracks which led to the creation of Paragould now separate the city.

Shipman labeled the overpass "overdue".

Roadway Design Engineer Bob Walters told the audience that a contract could be awarded in late spring or early summer. He said construction would take about two years, depending on weather conditions and other factors that would affect construction.

The High Cost of Bad Roads

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This article is a reprint of a major portion of the forward to "BAD ROADS - THE HIDDEN COSTS OF NEGLECT" by Pat Choate and published by the National Asphalt Paving Association.

The vitality of the U.S. economy, the quality of life of all Americans, the preparedness of the nation's defenses — all are bound inextricably to America's transportation system. It is this system that underpins the production and distribution of goods and services; facilitates personal mobility; provides access to a vast array of social services; and is a mainstay in the readiness of the armed services.

Yet despite its obvious importance, America's transportation system — most critically, its vital network of roads and bridges — is being allowed to deteriorate precipitously. The costs of maintaining good roads are high indeed. But the costs of bad roads, though often less visible, are far greater.

Wearing Out Faster Than Replacement

Today, America's roads and bridges are wearing out faster than they are being replaced. Twenty-three percent of the nation's 557,000 bridges are structurally deficient and another 22 percent are obsolete. Over 27,000 of the 260,000 bridges that are eligible for federal aid are so deteriorated and inadequate that they either operate under severe load restrictions or are already closed.

The condition of America's roads is no better than that of its bridges. Half the nation's primary, secondary and urban roads are currently rated in only fair condition.



This one lane wooden structure is one of approximately 1800 deficient bridges on the Arkansas State Highway System in need of replacement. The department hopes to be able to replace 100 bridges each year.

High Social as well as Economic Costs

The high cost of bad roads can be measured not only in terms of their economic costs, but in terms of their social and national security costs as well. For example:

The purchase and operation of motor vehicles consume over 20 percent of the average household's income. Today, the estimated cost of owning and operating a standard four-door sedan during its 12-year life span totals \$32,000. Depending on vehicle size, bad roads increase these operating costs by 15-40 percent.

Bad roads increase petroleum consumption in the United States by at least 2-5 billion gallons annually.

By 1995, current rates of road deterioration will produce the following annual costs to the economy: a 3.2 percent loss of Gross National Product; an 8.0 percent increase in the consumer price index; a 2.2 percent decline in employment; and a 5.9 percent decline in disposable income.

Accidents are at least twice as likely to occur on bad roads as on well-designed and well-maintained roads. The consequences are costly in both economic and personal terms. In 1981, for example, 48,337 people died in highway accidents and over 4.4 million were injured.

These personal tragedies cost the economy more than \$57 billion in lost wages and increased medical, hospital, funeral, insurance, administrative and property damage costs. Today, the annual cost of insurance premiums for protection against automobile-related losses exceeds \$30 billion — an astonishing 711% increase over the \$3.7 billion cost of such premiums in 1960.

Construction costs for deferred capital improvements on roads are up to 160 percent higher than the costs of making those improvements when the need arises.

Thousands of miles of rail roadbeds have been abandoned and 44,000 miles of Class 1 rail trackage are operating under "slow orders". As a result, highways have become increasingly critical to national defense. During the first 30 days of a full mobilization, for example, 5,000 reserve units and supplies would move to and through embarkation points nationwide.

Yet more than 2,650 bridges and other overpass structures on the nation's 54,500 miles of strategic military roads do not have the required 16 feet of vertical clearance needed to accommodate vehicles transporting essential military supplies, equipment and personnel.

The Costs of Inaction

The costs of rebuilding, completing and maintaining the nation's roads are identified and systematically considered in the economic and political decision-making processes. But the costs of inaction are not. Instead, the costs of inaction are only partially visible, emerging in isolated studies and unconnected statistical data. As a result, the costs of bad roads are only partially considered when key decisions are made.

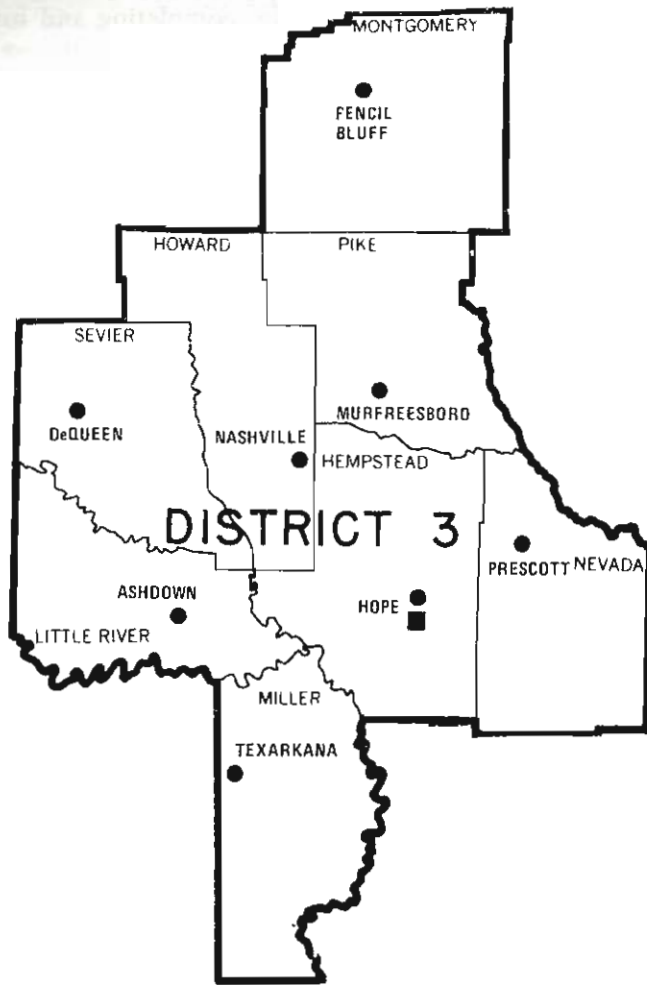
The many costs of bad roads must be identified, quantified and made an integral part of the nation's road investment decision-making.



Maintenance crews repair section of Interstate 40 in North Little Rock (left) and State Highway 298 in Saline County (right). Nationwide, over 2,000 miles of Interstate highways must be rebuilt each year.



Primary highways, such as U.S. Highway 71 in Northwest Arkansas, are also showing signs of wear as are the some 10,000 miles of secondary roads on the State Highway System.



DISTRICT 3 PHOTO FEATURE

Photos by John Jackson.

In this issue of "Arkansas Highways" we are featuring the third of a series highlighting District personnel. This is District 3 with headquarters located in Hope.

Mike Giles, Construction Aide with 8 years service, operates a transit to direct a line for a curve.



Larry Myers, Construction Instrumentman with 16 years of service, checks camber in bridge "I" beam.



Texarkana Resident Engineer Ronnie Garner, left, with 16 years of service, and District Engineer Charles Mitchell, 22 years of service, review construction plans on the job site.





Randy Rearden, left, 2 years service, and Mike McBride, 1 year service, repair fence along Interstate right of way.



District Secretary Vinie Holt, with 15 years of service to the AHTD, checks paperwork.



Robert White, standing, Stockroom Supervisor, 13 years service, and Joey Waddle, Assistant Stockroom Supervisor with 8 years service.



John Gray, Body Repairman and Painter with 7 years service, sand the hood of a truck for finish work.



Joe Fedd, left, 1 year of service and Morris Bennett, 5 years service, both Single Axle Truck Drivers, seal cracks on roadway surface.



Don Cearley, left, Bridge Crew Leader, 10 years service, and Curt Moritz, Crane Operator, 13 service, check bridge pier.

Kenny Wright, Senior Mechanic, 5 years service, overhauls a diesel engine in the district headquarters shop.



Annabelle Sumpter, Flaggperson and Park Attendant, 4 years service, directs traffic in a maintenance zone.



Joe Barham, Welder with 20 years of service, makes repairs to a portable welder.



A WORD ABOUT S-A-F-E-T-Y

Safety On The Move

By James Mansfield, Safety Officer

Employee safety is a never ending process simply because the nature of the work is never ending.

The taxpayers of Arkansas have a tremendous investment in our streets and highways. These roadways are in constant use by the traveling public. This heavy use, along with extreme weather conditions experienced recently, causes deterioration which, in turn, necessitates constant repairs.

If a road could be closed as necessary repairs are being made, it would simplify the hazards that AHTD employees face every day.

People must get to various locations that they desire. Therefore, when repairs are being made, the road must be kept open and traffic maintained. This causes no little amount of safety hazards for our maintenance employees. It means that all traffic must drive through and around our employees who are desperately trying to give the public the best roads possible.

Employees sometimes get the feeling that they are simply "in the way" of some of the motorists driving our roadways, especially on the interstate system.

The Safety Section is constantly studying ways to lessen the hazards that our maintenance and construction employees confront every day.

Accidents on the interstate and four-lane divided highways, involving our employees, vehicles, and the traveling public, prompted the review of our work sites on these busy thoroughfares.

In February and March of 1983, a field evaluation of the Department's fixed and moving operations on the interstate was conducted by the Safety Section with the cooperation of the District 6 Staff and Maintenance personnel.

Our review showed that there are two separate and distinct types of work areas that are created. One, a fixed or stationary type of work site and two, a moving type where the work area is constantly changing as the work progresses down the road.

These two types of operations (fixed and frequently moved) create different types of hazards in the work areas.

As a result of the above mentioned study and review, the newly revised Safety Manual reflects changes that hopefully will result in reduced hazards and fewer accidents.

The Safety Inspection Officers are meeting with all employees in the various Districts, pointing out the recent changes and encouraging the cooperation of everyone.



Signs mounted on trucks warn motorists of roadwork ahead. These types of signs are used in a moving or frequently moved type of operation.

Poultry Trucks Being Checked At AHP Weigh Stations

Arkansas Highway Police officers have taken on the additional task of trying to prevent the spread of Avian Influenza to Arkansas poultry.

Avian flu is a respiratory disease of poultry which appeared among flocks in Pennsylvania in early November 1983. No outbreaks have been reported in Arkansas.

When the flu was reported in other states, the Highway Police began checking poultry trucks at the weigh stations to make sure the trucks and cages were clean before they could enter the state. In the meantime, a task force composed of representatives of the of the Governor's office, Highway and Transportation Department, Livestock and Poultry Commission, Game and Fish Commission and State Police, began working on emergency regulations to prevent the spread of the disease in Arkansas poultry. The AHTD suggested that each poultry truck entering the state have a health certificate signed by a veterinarian from the state of origin and an Arkansas entry permit number. Empty trucks must display certification

showing they have been disinfected.

On February 20, AHP officers began checking all poultry trucks entering Arkansas for health certificates and or certification of cleanliness. Trucks will be checked for 120 days unless the regulations are withdrawn earlier.



Poultry truck stops at the Hope weigh station to be checked

Highway 13 Bridge Repaired

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department had to make emergency repairs to the Highway 13 bridge across Crooked Creek near Humphrey in Arkansas County after a concrete header fell over, creating a six-foot wide gap between the bridge end and the roadway.

A motorist traveling on Highway 13 early on the morning of February 1 noticed the gap as he approached the bridge and was able to stop before reaching it. The Department Maintenance Headquarters at Stuttgart was notified and the road was closed to traffic about 30 minutes before a school bus was scheduled to cross the bridge.



This large gap between the bridge end and roadway was created when a concrete header fell over on the State Highway 13 bridge near Humphrey

It took about 10 days to replace the header and repair the bridge deck.

The one-lane wooden structure on the gravel section of Highway 13 is just one of about 1800 deficient bridges on the State Highway System in need of replacement.

The 1982 Surface Transportation Assistance Act recognized the problem and provided about \$30 million a year over the four-year life of the Act for bridge replacement in Arkansas.

It is the Department's goal to replace an average of 100 deficient bridges a year during this period.



Highway and Transportation Department maintenance crews begin repairs to the State Highway 13 bridge near Humphrey.



NEWS BRIEFS

Looney Appointed To AASHTO Advisory Board

Bill Looney, Public Affairs Officer for the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, has been appointed to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials Editorial Advisory Board. He is the Region II member on the four-member Board.

As an Advisory Board member, Looney will be responsible for screening articles submitted to the AASHTO Quarterly magazine by the Public Affairs Officers of the 11 states in Region II.

Other Board members are: Paul Welsh, Delaware, Region I; Art Taylor, Missouri, Region III; and Tom Taylor, Texas, Region IV.

Looney, a native of Plumerville, is a graduate of Arkansas Tech with a degree in Business and Economics. He has been employed by the Highway and Transportation Department for 33 years.

During the 50's and 60's, he worked in the Planning Division and was involved with the original planning and financing arrangements for Arkansas' portion of the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways. He was promoted to Public Affairs Officer in July 1970.



Public Affairs Officer Bill Looney

Federal-Aid Highway Contracts To Minority Firms Set All-Time Record

Minority-owned businesses were awarded nearly \$720 million in federally funded highway contracts during Fiscal Year 1983, Secretary of Transportation Elizabeth Hanford Dole announced recently.

Dole noted that many contracts awarded in 1983 contain provisions for additional subcontracts for minorities to be awarded in future years. The actual minority contracts awarded in 1983, coupled with future subcontract commitments, bring the total dollar volume of minority contract opportunities to nearly \$800 million. This represents 9.83 percent of the nearly \$8 billion in total highway contracts let during the year, exceeding a nationally established goal of 8.84 percent by nearly a full percentage point.

In Arkansas, nearly \$9.2 million was awarded in Fiscal Year 1983 to Disadvantaged Business Enterprises. This is a 162% increase over Fiscal Year 1982.

Dole added that the overwhelming increase in minority contract opportunities in FY 1983 was in keeping with a congressional mandate, contained in the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982 (STAA) and signed into law by the President just a year ago, to expand minority contractor participation in highway building programs to 10 percent wherever possible. The STAA also provided a significant increase in federal funding available to the states for highway construction and rehabilitation.

John Bailey Assistant Chief Of Highway Police

John Bailey, 36, of Bryant, assumed the duties of Assistant Chief of the Arkansas Highway Police, December 27, 1983.

Bailey has 13 years experience in law enforcement with the Arkansas State Police and was the assistant troop commander of Troop "A" in Little Rock before joining the Highway Police.

The Highway Police Division of the State Highway and Transportation Department is composed of 197 employees responsible for enforcement of laws and regulations pertaining to heavy trucks.

Bailey worked on the Governor's Security detail from 1970 to 1974, spent three years as a Highway Patrol Trooper in Saline County, was assigned to the Criminal Investigation Division

in 1977, promoted to the rank of sergeant in 1978 and was a Patrol Sergeant at Troop "A". He worked three years as a special investigative assistant to the State Police Director and was promoted during that time to the rank of lieutenant. He became assistant troop commander in 1981.

Bailey is a graduate of Mabelvale High School and obtained a bachelor's degree in marketing and advertising from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in 1973.

He attended numerous law enforcement schools, including: the Arkansas Law Enforcement Academy, F.B.I. School on Hostage Negotiations, U.S. Air Force School on Special Weapons and Tactics Training, Police Supervision and Management, Selective Enforcement, Police Discipline and Labor Relations, and Northwestern Seminar of Internal Controls.

Bailey is married to the former Sharon Paxon of Lubbock, Texas. They have three children; Matthew, 11, Anna Marie, 7, and Sarah Beth, 18 months.



AHP Assistant Chief John Bailey

Commercial Vehicle Unit Established

The use of our highways and bridges by increasingly larger and heavier commercial vehicles continues to grow each year. This increase will produce more rapid wear, higher maintenance costs, off-tracking damage, higher accident and fatality rates, and numerous other impacts that will affect our operations and revenues.

In order to monitor and analyze these impacts so that informed policy decisions

can be made regarding heavy commercial vehicles, a unit has been established within the Planning Division that is charged with these monitoring and analysis responsibilities. Paul Simms, who was a Transportation Engineer in the Division's Statewide Planning Section, has been designated to lead this unit.

Road Construction Costs Increase for Fourth Quarter of 1983

Highway construction costs increased two percent in the fourth quarter of 1983, according to the Federal Highway Administration.

The fourth quarter results bring the FHWA's composite index for highway construction costs to 149.7 percent of the 1977 base index. (1977 average costs equal 100 percent.) The composite index shows little change over the past year, increasing just 2.5 percent since the fourth quarter of 1982.

Four of the six components of the price index rose during the fourth quarter, with structural steel leading the way with a 16.3 percent rise.

The three-quarter moving composite price index for the third quarter of 1983--obtained by combining data for the second, third, and fourth quarters of 1983--increased 0.5 percent from the previous three-quarter average.

Trends in highway construction costs are measured by an index of average contract prices compiled from reports of state highway contract awards for federal-aid contracts (other than those for the Secondary System) greater than \$500,000.

State Gasoline Taxes May Rise To Match Federal Increase

Higher motor fuel taxes will be considered in 23 states this year. Of these, five states--Colorado, Connecticut, Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Vermont--were among the 18 states which raised motor fuel taxes in 1983.

The average state gasoline tax is 11.7 cents per gallon, up from 10.3 cents in January 1983. For diesel, the average tax is now 12.1 cents per gallon. A year ago it was 10.5 cents. Arkansas' fuel tax is 9.5 cents on gasoline and 10.5 cents on diesel.

Most states fund their highway con-

struction, maintenance and safety programs with dedicated revenues from motor fuel and vehicle fees and taxes. In 1984, 12 states will consider raising annual fees on passenger cars; 17 will debate hiking taxes on heavy trucks. Last year, nine states raised automobile fees; 22 raised special fees and taxes on trucks.

States have been raising highway user fees to maintain and repair state roads and bridges and to provide the matching dollars required to use increased federal highway funding.

The Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, with its nickel-a-gallon increase in the federal tax on motor fuel, boosted federal highway aid to the states by more than 50 percent. States are required to provide up to 25 percent of the funding for projects on the federal-aid highway system. This includes the Interstate and many major routes, totaling about 21 percent of the nation's highway mileage. Federal aid is also available for major work on bridges on state and local roads.

Watt, Dupree, Binns, Elected Officers

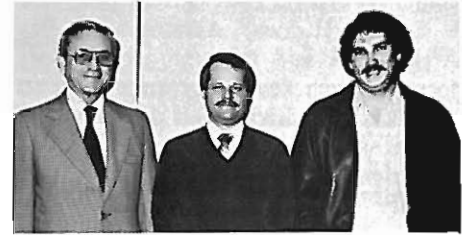
Arthur Watt, Assistant Chief of the Right of Way Division was recently named President of Arkansas Chapter 51 of the International Right of Way Association. Larry Dupree was named Vice President and J.R. "Randy" Binns is the newly elected Secretary-Treasurer. Both Larry and Randy are Realty Appraisers in the Right of Way Division.

The International Right of Way Association is an educational organization which plays a significant role in the development of the economies of Canada, the United States and Puerto Rico. The aims and purposes of the Association require a vigorous continuing education program, to better equip the right of way practitioners to fulfill their professional obligations. This organization encompasses all disciplines of right of way operations from engineering, abstracting, appraising, acquisition, legal, etc. and brings them together for this purpose.

The Chapters of the Association are the most important segment of the International Association. It is in the personal relationships at the Chapter level that the individual member will find incentives and opportunities for personal

professional growth.

The International Right of Way Association recognizes the responsibility of their profession to the people and business of our country, and believe that they should encourage and foster high ethical standards in their profession and have adopted a Code of Ethics as a guidance and inspiration predicated upon the basic principle of truth, justice and fair play.



Watt, Dupree, Binns

55 MPH Speed Limit, Truck Issues Still Seen As States Rights

The 55 mph speed limit debate is losing steam as a states rights issue. Bills were introduced in 16 states last year to repeal or circumvent enforcement of 55, but only one measure was enacted: Kansas will not allow public access to records of speeding violations between 56 and 65 mph.

States are required by federal law to monitor speeds on roads posted for 55, and may lose a portion of their federal highway funds if more than half of the drivers exceed the limit. No state has been sanctioned since the "double nickel" was instituted nearly ten years ago, but Massachusetts now faces possible loss of funds for noncompliance. Other states are now watching that case.

The Congressional mandate on truck sizes and weights became another states rights issue in 1983 which will continue into 1984.

The Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, which significantly increased the federal highway user fees paid by large trucks, also required states to allow trucks of 102-inch width, 80,000 pound gross vehicle weight, and twin-trailer combinations, to use all Interstate highways and some other major highways.

In 1984, 22 state legislatures will consider legislation on truck sizes, weights, and access routes to facilities.

DOT Launches National Truck And Bus Safety Campaign

The Department of Transportation has initiated a five-year truck and bus safety grant program by distributing an initial \$6.9 million in federal funds to improve state monitoring and enforcement of commercial motor vehicle safety rules. Arkansas is one of 24 states receiving funds to develop more effective programs. Sixteen other states will receive grants to expand their current programs.

Federal Highway Administrator Ray A. Barnhart said that the program will focus on such key safety areas as driver qualifications, driving and duty hours of service, vehicle operations and mechanical conditions, the inspection and maintenance of equipment, and the loading and handling of hazardous materials.

Lawmakers Shifting Focus On Drunk Driving Fight

Last year, each of the 49 state legislatures meeting in regular session debated new drunk driving laws. Forty of them enacted measures such as stiffer penalties for repeat offenders and help for police and courts to strictly enforce drunk and drugged driving laws.

This year, 31 of the 43 states holding regular legislative sessions are expected to take up new proposals against drunk driving. Of these states, 22 will consider raising the age for legal purchase and consumption of alcoholic beverages.

Nineteen States To Consider Seat Belt Laws This Year

Lawmakers in 19 states this year will consider requiring motorists to buckle up their safety belts, according to a Highway Users Federation legislative forecast.

The Minnesota Senate passed a belt use bill in 1983, which carries over to House deliberation this year. It would require only front seat occupants to buckle up, and sets no penalty for non-compliance.

The Federation's field staff made its forecast for 1984 state legislative activity on highway issues from discussions with state transportation officials and state association members, and from press reports, governors' messages and pre-filed bills.

AHTD Retirees Association News

**by Hurley Perkins
State Chapter President**

It is with pleasure that Marvin Beckett, Chairman of our Insurance Committee, announces that he has been notified by Governor Bill Clinton's office, that he has been selected to serve on the State Employees Insurance Advisory Committee. Mrs. Daisye Zimmerman, a retiree from the State Health Department, resigned her position since she planned to move to Harrison. Much thanks go to Mr. Henry Gray, Director of Highways and Transportation, and other interested parties for their effort in getting a retiree of the AHTD Retiree Association appointed to fill this vacated position. We want you to know that it is Mr. Beckett's aim to work toward preserving our outstanding insurance program and to do everything within his power in keeping premium costs for all state retirees at their lowest possible level and to get out-of-pocket premium costs on a more equitable level with those paid by active employees. Following is a report on the status of increased basic life insurance for all retirees under age 70 and the increase in minimum life coverage for those 70 and over. There have been unforeseen delays in getting the additional coverage approved by the State Legislative Committee on Insurance and Commerce. Mr. Bill Pryor, manager of the State Insurance Plan has assured us though that no problems are seen in getting the increases approved. Also, in case of the death of a covered retiree that occurs after January 1, 1984 and before the proposed increases in coverage are approved, whose life coverage amount was less than the new minimum of \$4,000 for retirees aged 70 and over, that the State Plan would pay the amount they had in force at the time of death and then at a later date after approval of the higher minimum amount, would make the higher minimum retroactive to January 1, 1984 and would then pay your estate the difference between the amount of coverage you had prior to January 1, 1984 and the new minimum of \$4,000. No additional premiums for the additional coverage will be collected until final approval of the life insurance coverage by the Legislative Committee. We will keep you posted on these changes and you could be notified upon approval, by your AHTD Insurance Representatives of the changes to your coverage and premiums and effective date.

John R. Hume V, Chairman of the Legislative Committee, reports that he met on Monday, December 5, 1983, with the District 8 Chapter of the Association in Russellville. The speaker for the day was Senator Luther B. Hardin of the 74th General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, a practicing attorney in Russellville and a law professor at Tech. Senator Hardin made a very interesting and forceful speech urging the development of a strong and effective retired employees association to protect our interests in our retirement years and, of equal importance, to lend strong support to the State's Highway and Transportation programs. The Senator outlined three goals to be pursued by retirees in their associations; first, to recognize and identify the components of the association objective to serve the best interests of its membership (and by extension all retirees) through fellowship and communication. And hence, by further extension, supporting highway interests in what is essentially a political action committee functioning in the area of transportation economics, or more exactly socio-economics. Second, to increase, indeed maximize, its membership by enlisting the support of, and enrolling, all retired employees; and third, to hire a skilled lobbyist to represent us in the Legislative field and to work diligently and cooperatively with that person.



LETTERS

September 16, 1983

Mr. Gip Robertson
Assistant Director
Arkansas Highway & Transportation Department
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Robertson:

The purpose of this letter is to express my appreciation for two Highway Department employees, Clement White and James Plum.

I was traveling with my family to Louisiana on September 2, Labor Day weekend, when my car broke down at the rest area just south of Arkadelphia on I-30. The fuel line and fuel pump were shot, and I was stranded with my family. About the time I was getting really depressed, James and Clement offered assistance. Their crew maintains the rest area. They drove me to Gurdon to get a fuel pump and gas line and put it on for me at the rest area. Instead of an aborted trip, we experienced a 3-hour delay and were on our way because of their generous good will. They certainly did not have to assist me, but they not only assisted but seemed glad to be helping us.

It is not pleasant to be stranded on the highway in the heat of summer, but if it happens to me again, I hope it is in the same spot. These employees' attitudes certainly went a long way in promoting good will for our state and certainly the Highway Department.

If you have some form of employee recognition in the state, my family would certainly support these two men being appropriately recognized. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Fred Collins
Sales Manager, Xerox Corp.
Little Rock, Arkansas

November 18, 1983

Arkansas Highway Department
Highway 65 South
Harrison, Arkansas

Gentlemen:

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Arkansas State Highway Department for making our school bus routes safe. I would like to say, as Superintendent of Western Grove School, that the School Board and the parents of our children appreciate your prompt response to help make our school bus routes safe.

We have great respect for the fine job that your department does for all of our people. Our children and their safety as passengers on school buses depends a great deal on the job

that the people from the State Highway Department do. Thank you for keeping us in good hands.

Sincerely,
Larry E. Flud
Western Grove, Arkansas

Editor's Note: This letter has reference to some recent work done on a County Road intersection with State Highway 123, about 3 miles southwest of Western Grove. The intersection was widened which increased the sight distance a great deal.

December 27, 1983

Allan Holmes, District Engineer
Fort Smith, Arkansas

Dear Everybody:

Thanks! Because of the hard work you all did during the holidays, I was able to get over the mountain safely to be with my family in Tontitown.

The mountain was the clearest part of my drive across the state, on Friday and again on Monday. I appreciate you.

Sincerely,
Dawn Hinshaw

December 30, 1983

Mr. Henry Gray, Director
Arkansas State Highway & Transportation Department
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Gray:

I would like to take this time to express my appreciation for the work your highway crews have done in the most trying of winter conditions.

I realize the time spent away from home by your crews and the long hard hours they spent trying to make the highways as safe as possible for the traveling public. Each of these men are to be commended for their efforts. Although the conditions have been long lasting I believe in general the public was able to travel almost at will with safety due to your efforts.

Again I express my appreciation and gratefulness for your work in these trying times.

Very truly yours,
George B. Thweatt
Little Rock, Arkansas

January 4, 1984

Arkansas Highway Department
Fort Smith, Arkansas

Dear Sirs:

To all of you who cleared 71 South between Fort Smith and Texarkana - Thank You! On the 29th, trying to get back to Abilene, we started across Oklahoma 40 -- it took us 2 hours to go the 40 miles to Webbers Falls! And 2 more hours to get back to Fort Smith! Those Okies hadn't done a thing! We were surprised when the State Police said 71 was clear, but we drove down it on the 31st, and much to our relief, it was great. We

know it took many hours of hard work — just want you to know it was greatly appreciated. The main roads in Fort Smith were kept in good shape too, — for that we also thank you, or whoever is responsible.

Please don't mistake us for Texans — we are natives of Fort Smith.

Harry & Sally Haislip
Dyess AFB, Texas

January 6, 1984

State Highway Department
Highway 23
Ozark, Arkansas

Dear Friends:

I am writing to express my deep appreciation for the fine service which you have given in the care of Route 219 South during the past snowy and icy period. In order to reach Citadel Bible College, Route 219 going up Manitou Mountain is the main way of travel and despite its steepness it is the best way to snowy and icy weather. Your care of Route 219 with cindering has been a great help to us.

It is good to know that you care about our being able to travel on the road with at least some degree of safety. We deeply appreciate your consideration and fine service.

Sincerely,
Paul Brownback, President
Citadel Bible College
Ozark, Arkansas

January 3, 1984

Mr. Keith Jones
Arkansas Highway & Transportation Dept.
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Jones:

I was very pleased when your secretary, Kathy Upchurch, called and offered the four large boxes of canned goods to the families of the Growth and Development Clinic here at Arkansas Children's Hospital. It was very courageous of Wayne Casteel to volunteer to deliver the food on such a cold and icy day. Please extend my thanks to both of them for all their help.

As you know, the Growth and Development Clinic is an outpatient service at Arkansas Children's Hospital which helps the families of infants and toddlers who suffer from failure to thrive and other developmental and behavioral problems. This year, we are working with 169 different families, 100 or more in the central Arkansas area, both at the hospital and in home visits.

The families we help have a wide variety of needs, and it is thanks to the generosity of organizations such as yours that we are able to provide so much of the support that is needed. This has been an especially tough year for many of the families that we work with, and the food came in very handy. This has been a very good Christmas, as so many organizations have assisted in making it a good Christmas for the children. Thank you again for your gift, and may I wish all of you a happy and

prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,
Betty Wortham, R.N.
Arkansas Children's Hospital

January 4, 1984

Mr. Henry Gray, Director
Arkansas Highway Department
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Henry:

Today about 3 o'clock traveling north on Highway 65, just as we crested the last hill from which you look down on your capital city, the right front tire on my car blew. My passengers included Dr. Harry Ward, Chancellor, University of Arkansas Medical Sciences Campus; Dr. Eugene Towbin, Chief of Staff, VA Hospital Complex, and B. Finley Vinson, Chairman of our holding company.

As we struggled to understand how to mount the jack, get the decorative rim off the wheel, and fend for the heavy traffic, across the median came our Good Samaritan, Fred Doles, District 6 of the Highway Department.

He quickly mastered the scene, took over, and changed tires for us, saving your writer from further humiliation.

Just a note to thank you for this kind of leadership in the Highway Department with a copy in appreciation to Fred Doles.

Cordially,
William H. Bowen
Chairman of the Board
First Commercial Bank
Little Rock, Arkansas

Reprint from the Montgomery County News, Dec. 15, 1983

Dear Editor:

Kind, caring, beyond the call of duty acts take place everyday I suppose, and I feel that they too often go unnoticed. Such has happened in Norman and I want to share it with you.

You may have notice over the years the huge tree beside the Gulf Station here in Norman. It covered part of Highway 8 and the Gulf Station and was very pretty for many years; however, it finally died and soon became very dangerous. The main danger was that school children use that area to catch the bus and big limbs had begun to fall off the tree. It had to be removed. I would have cut it myself except that it had a big Allied Telephone Company cable going through the middle of it which complicated the cutting down of it.

I tried several ways to get it removed and didn't have any luck so as a desperation move I called George Forthman of Arkansas Power & Light; within an hour he was over here and even though it wasn't his responsibility, since he didn't have any wires near it, he saw the danger of the situation and immediately sent his crew in to take care of it for me. I had already talked to David Carmack of the Arkansas State Highway Department and he also recognized the dangers, so he sent his crew to work with George's crew and they, in just a short time, rid the city of a very dangerous, life threatening

problem.

This may seem like a small event to some people but it certainly wasn't to me or the people of the City of Norman. I thank you George and David and both your crews on behalf of the City of Norman; it is very possible that you may have saved a life, possibly the life of a child. This is the kind of teamwork, effort, and community spirit that we need to try to intensify in this county; it can't do anything but good. Thanks again fellows, we really appreciate you.

Duane Cox, Mayor
City of Norman

January 4, 1984

Mr. Oxford, Supervisor
Arkansas Highway Department
Yellville, Arkansas

Dear Sir:

On Thursday, December 29, I left the home of my parents, the Rev. and Mrs. Roy Dunn of Sumit, to go home to Hot Springs. I'm certain I don't have to remind you and your department about the road conditions at that time.

I had traveled not too far, but still in Marion County, when I lost control of my car, ended up in the ditch, got myself out, but then, couldn't get up the hill. Along came two of your trucks, on their way back to Yellville, and these two good Samaritans stopped and helped me. I did not get their names, but let me say, "Hats off, thumbs up" and at least one nervous traveler's eternal gratitude to you and your employees, the wonderful Arkansas Highway Department personnel of Yellville, Marion County, Arkansas.

Thank you,
Mrs. Bonnie Allen
Hot Springs, Arkansas

Editor's Note: The employees who helped Mrs. Allen were Mike Nowlin and Donald Chenevey, truck drivers in the Marion County crew.

January 10, 1984

Mr. Dean Smith
Arkansas State Highway Department
Berryville, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Smith:

The City of Eureka Springs would like to express its appreciation for the excellent job that the Highway Department did in keeping Highway 62 in such good condition during the last period of bad weather. We realize that the Highway Department has a lot of area to cover, but the highways in and around Eureka Springs were certainly taken care of.

Again, thank you and all your men for a fine job.

Cordially,
Donald L. Thurman, Mayor
City of Eureka Springs

Reprint from the Arkansas Gazette, January 18, 1984

To the Editor:

I want to express my sincerest appreciation to each employee of the Arkansas Highway Department, the Arkansas Power and Light Company and Asplundh Company for their demanding, exhausting, self-giving, sacrificial labor during the icy weather conditions over the holidays.

The Monroe County workers of the AHTD were out immediately when the icy weather moved in. They worked very long hours salting bridges and roads, cutting and removing trees and limbs from the roadway, and responding to accidents. These men deserve our praise and thanks.

The AP&L crews which swept into Brinkley did a masterful job of repairing hundreds (perhaps thousands) of fallen and broken power lines. Working with them were the tree-cutting specialists from Asplundh. These men gave up time with their families, worked 16-hour days, often miles from home, and even missed Christmas Eve with their families so that we, the citizens of Arkansas, could have the comfort and luxury of being at home with our families during the holiday season.

We, as Arkansans, owe a debt of gratitude to the many fine employees of these agencies. While words cannot adequately express all that my heart feels, I, as one Arkansan, can simply utter the profoundly meaningful phrase - thank you.

Roger Singleton Oldham
Brinkley, Arkansas

Reprint from the Arkansas Gazette, January 26, 1984

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Arkansas Good Roads/Transportation Council, I would like to publicly thank the employees of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department for their untiring efforts to keep our highways open and passable during the recent extreme, adverse weather conditions.

While many of us were safe and warm in our homes, enjoying the company of friends and relatives during the holidays, these men and women were out braving the elements to ensure that the rest of us could travel the highways.

The entire state was covered with snow and ice, placing a tremendous burden on the Highway and Transportation Department. I have heard nothing but praise for their efforts from many people throughout the state and I would like to pass that praise on to those dedicated employees who had to give up their time with their families in order to provide safe passage for the rest of us.

Silas D. Snow, President
Arkansas Good Roads and
Transportation Council
Little Rock, Arkansas

January 17, 1984

Arkansas Highway Department
Editor of Public Affairs
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Sir:

On Tuesday, December 20, 1983, while driving home from work something happened to my car. The only light I saw was at the highway department headquarters. So, I stopped to use the phone and call my husband for help. In the meantime two of the state employees, Ray Morris and James Fourthman, came to see if they could help. They checked everything possible and found nothing wrong. So I came home.

I would like to publicly thank them for their help and concern. I know they were cold and tired since they had probably been working since early in the morning on the icy roads.

It is nice to know there are still people in the world that will take time to help someone they don't even know. Again, thank you Mr. Morris and Mr. Fourthman and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Reed Catlett
Palestine, Arkansas

January 23, 1984

Mr. Coy Campbell
Camden, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Campbell:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and all the personnel of the Highway Maintenance Office, Highway 51, Arkadelphia, Arkansas, for supporting and assisting this University.

All personnel have always been most professional and helpful in assisting the University in traffic management problems. They are courteous, willing to help, and seem to have very positive attitudes.

The personnel of the Highway 51 office are considered to be a true asset to the Arkansas Highway Department and the people of this area.

Sincerely,
Robert W. Neal
Dean of Students
Henderson State University
Arkadelphia, Arkansas

February 1, 1984

To All Employees of the Highway Department:

I want to thank each of you for the money you have given me. Also, thanks to Right-of-Way for the Atari, Helen in the cafeteria for the ham and pies and to Kathy Upchurch in State-wide Planning for her efforts in collecting the food. My entire family is very grateful. I appreciate all of your prayers and good wishes.

Sincerely,
Ken Rounsavall
Programs & Contracts

January 19, 1984

Mr. Kenneth Brown
Arkansas State Highway Department
Morrilton, Arkansas

Dear Sir:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the employees of your department for the splendid and effective job you have been doing on the state highways during the recent snow and ice conditions.

I realize the hazardous conditions and inconvenient hours in which you have to work to accomplish this task. I want to compliment you for a job well done.

Sincerely yours,
Jim H. Wilcox
Executive Vice President
The First State Bank
Morrilton, Arkansas

January 24, 1984

Mr. Jim Albritton
Arkansas State Highway Dept.
Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Albritton:

During the past ice storm, Arkansas Power & Light Company was placed in a situation that required an unusually large amount of fuel oil to be burned due to frozen coal at White Bluff Steam Electric Station in Redfield. December 27 and 28 were especially critical. The fuel oil inventory was critically low by this time, and truckers were not able to safely travel the highway between Little Rock and Redfield.

Mr. Havis Case, Fuel Management Supervisor at White Bluff, contacted you and requested special attention to the highways from the oil terminal in Little Rock to the White Bluff plant. You responded by personally checking the highways in Jefferson County that the oil trucks had to use. Your quick response and willingness to have your men available around-the-clock to service trouble spots enabled us to receive enough oil to continue to keep the plant on-line. I commend you and your personnel for a job well done.

Again, I would like to express my appreciation for a job well done. You are a credit to Jefferson County.

Sincerely,
Jerry L. Maulden
President, AP&L
Little Rock, Arkansas

January 4, 1984

Mr. Kenneth Brown
Arkansas Highway Department
Morrilton, Arkansas

Kenneth,

Just a note of thanks to you and your employees for coming up and working as much as you did on our roads. We realize that was during a holiday period and people were on vacation,

unable to get to work, etc., therefore, we want to express our thanks for the effort the AHTD made.

Sincerely,
Chris Snodgrass, Superintendent
Petit Jean State Park
Arkansas Department of
Parks & Tourism

January 30, 1984

Arkansas Highway Department
Harrison, Arkansas

Dear Sir:

Although this letter is a year late, I want to send it anyway to say thank you to two people in your department for their kind and timely help.

A year ago this time, I was returning to my home in Springfield, Missouri from a visit with friends in Baton Rouge. As I had planned my trip, I should have been home by 6:00 p.m. But the weather became really bad shortly after I started, so I was way behind schedule. Then, some little distance before I came to Harrison, conditions became really dangerous. Fog settled in and sleet covered the roads. I couldn't see and

I couldn't control my car. Try as I would, I simply couldn't manage and I was simply terrified. Your road crews came by once sanding the roads. For a few minutes it was better, but after a while I was just stalled on the highway and was crying because I couldn't handle the situation. Your crew came by again and stopped to help me because they thought I was in trouble.

I have never in my life been so grateful to anyone. They were so kind: one drove my car for me as the other followed with the grader and they got me to the Midway Motel in Omaha. What I would have done without them I shudder to think! Although I wrote their names on a paper to send to you, somehow, in all the confusion, I lost the paper. But I think the names are Mike Brasel and George Hicks. I hope that is right because both of them deserve commendation. You must have a wonderful department.

Sincerely and gratefully yours,
Mary Rose Sweeney
Springfield, Missouri

Editor's Note: Mike Brasel and George Hicks are employees of the Boone County Area Crew.



Service Awards

DECEMBER 1983

30 Years

Arthur P. Cole District 10
Melvin J. Reding District 5
Robert A. Skinner District 3

25 Years

Jim F. Carter District 2
Jarrell W. Chapman Planning

20 Years

F.E. Cagle Buildings & Grounds

15 Years

Carmet L. Crites District 8
Frank Duran District 10
Euel G. Holloway District 4
James E. Reed Highway Police
Jack C. Shankle District 4
Curtis J. Stokes District 10
Marvin R. Sullivan District 6

10 Years

James A. Cole District 6
Jimmie L. McAlister District 1
William F. Parker District 6
Miles D. Patton Surveys
Roy L. Pruitt, Jr. District 1
Ronald E. Smith Public Trans.
James W. Thomas Highway Police
Eddie T. Turner District 5
Calvin E. Voyles District 1

5 Years

Albert A. Allen District 8
Tammy K. Caple Roadway Design

Thomas W. Cariker Highway Police
Laura S. DeBro Planning
Willie W. Dow District 4
Leroy Doyle District 1
Faye D. Fatheree District 3
Karen J. Flynn Hydraulics
David E. Ford Heavy Bridge
John M. Freeman District 8
Billy R. Gray District 4
Jason A. Harrison District 2
James L. Hastings Traffic
Elizabeth J. Kimmel Traffic
Billy D. McGuire District 1
Laura L. Pifer Traffic
Eddie F. Shaw District 3
Teddy M. Widner District 9
William R. Winkler District 6
Bennie J. Winn District 5

JANUARY 1984

35 Years

Charles S. Hopper District 10

25 Years

Jack Coleman District 4
James C. Gipson District 8
Joe W. Lovell Planning

20 Years

Clovis A. Horn District 3

15 Years

Luther Brown Highway Police
Roger D. Cheney District 1
Jimmy P. Clark Planning
Felix P. Duran District 10
Harold E. Harrison Maintenance
David A. Hunter Public Affairs
Bonnie L. Wesson Bridge Design

10 Years

Gary E. East Highway Police
Patricia W. Gee Environmental
Billy L. Hamilton District 1

Thomas L. Harrell Programs & Contracts
Harold L. Higgins District 3
Willard Holt Right of Way
Doyle M. Hughes Internal Audit
Robert F. McKellar Highway Police
Eric C. Phillips Planning
Frank L. Shepherd District 10

5 Years

David R. Ball Bridge Design
William O. Bryant Surveys
Audrie L. Caldwell District 3
James D. Culp District 7
Fred Davis District 10
Richard J. Finkle Surveys
Charles F. Fuller District 5
Phil Johnson District 10
Lucian D. Lindsey District 7
Jerry D. Vail District 2

RETIREMENTS

NOVEMBER 1983

Verlin G. Richardson Henderson Ferry
Maurice W. Sims District 10
Robert P. McFadden District 1

DECEMBER 1983

Bernie L. Cox Equipment & Procurement
John R. Lewallen District 5
Thomas A. Stone, Jr. District 6
Curtis G. Pangle Maintenance
Lonnie E. Tilley Henderson Ferry
John M. Shastid District 4
Avalee Padgett Equipment & Procurement
L.D. Hopper District 7

JANUARY 1984

Lyall D. Parrish District 4
Everett M. West District 1
Kenneth R. Ellis District 8
Curtis H. Crow District 3
Stanley R. Fulbright District 5
Dave H. Ricketts District 9
Joe C. Hays District 2
Ernest C. Basinger District 5

Around The Department



25 YEAR AWARDS

Henry Gray, (left) Director of AHTD presented 25 year service awards to the following: (left to right) Sam Pack, Retha Griffin, Walker Watson, Oren Cossey, Charlene McClain, Les Perry, Jim Stringer, Wilbert Chapman, Jake Clements and Jim Francis.



30 YEAR AWARDS

Receiving 30 year service awards were: (left to right) Hub Holland, Chester Willis, Lee Gibbons, Cameron Lowe, Johnnie Gray, Perol Jones, Gip Robertson, and Ed Johnson.



RETIREES

Mr. Gray (left) and Patsy Thomasson, Commission Vice Chairman, (far right) presented retirement certificates to the following: (left to right) Jim Lowder, Bernie Cox, Cameron Lowe, Marlin Powell, Bob Andrews, Don Martin, and J.C. Merritt.

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE

On January 13, 1984, Sgt. Gary E. East was presented his 10 year service pin and certificate by AHP Chief Roy L. Johnson. Sgt. East is in charge of the patrol unit stationed in Texarkana.



BRIDGE DESIGN

The snow and ice we experienced in December caused mostly inconvenience here in Arkansas for those who were trying to get to work and do their Christmas shopping. Dale Loe and Mike Coogan decided to go where the snow was a pleasure, so they planned a ski vacation in Keystone, Colorado. The week was over all too soon and they were reluctantly back at work brimming over with stories of hot tubs, great restaurants, and uncrowded ski slopes. That trip was Dale's first time on skis, and he enjoyed the experience so much that he went back with his church group in January.

Frank Harrison, Assistant Bridge Engineer, has bought a new, very luxurious, GMC van. He must be planning a great vacation; perhaps he is going to take his three grandchildren to Disney World.

Jim and Karen Beatty have a two month old daughter, Kathryn, born December 4. They also have Jessica, almost two years old. Jim really enjoys his little girls.

Bridge Design has honored four employees with service award parties. They are: Tom Ballard with 10 years in November; Gary Ashley with 15 years in October; Bonnie Wesson with 15 years in January; and Alice Dong with 20 years in November. Congratulations.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Congratulations to Buildings & Grounds Supervisor Gene Cagle, who received his 20 year service award in December from Assistant Director for Administration Gip Robertson.

Gene has taken care of all our needs in these buildings for years and we don't know how anyone can call him "Scrooge" but on December 22 Gene was again presented the "Scrooge of the Year" award by Assistant Chief Engineer Al Johnson.

Along with the title, Gene was presented a cabbage patch type "Gene Doll", cigar and all, made by Deloris in the cafeteria.



Gip Robertson and Gene Cagle



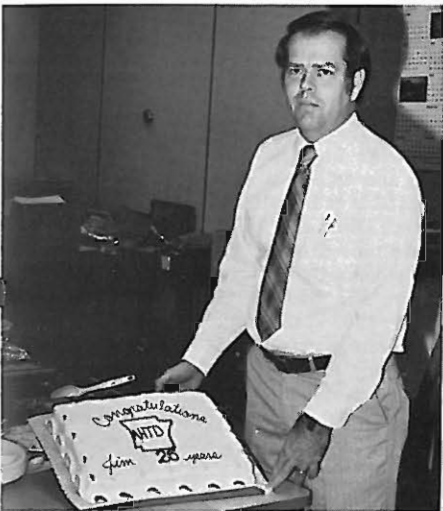
Gene and Al Johnson

COMPUTER SERVICES

Computer Services employees who received recognition for years of service with the Department were: Barbara Smith, 15 years in September; Pam Edwards, 5 years in November; and Jim Stringer, 25 years in November. Our congratulations to each of you for a job well done.



Barbara Smith and Jerry Stussy



Jim Stringer

CONSTRUCTION

We said goodbye to Clara Huie at a party in her honor. Refreshments were served and she received several gifts. She transferred to Bud McMillian's office in the Conway area where she and husband Jerry make their home. Best of luck and we will miss you.

Welcome Peggy Martin from Final Estimates. She loves to garden and raises all kinds of beautiful flowers and is also helping her Eskimo Spitz raise puppies.

Our Christmas party was held here in the office and decorating the tree Doyle Carson brought was fun. Final Estimates Section joined us and even some guests came out in the snow for potluck dinner. It was really a feast because we have so many good cooks.

Vershall Roy proudly informs us that his son-in-law, Kurt Horton, has been awarded a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois and has taken a position with Bell Laboratories in New Jersey.

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Commission Secretary Joyce Spencer retired in February after 32 years of service with the Department.

A reception in Joyce's honor was held February 8 following the Highway Commission meeting. Not only were the current members of the Commission present, but former Commissioners George Kell, Wayne Hampton, Maurice Smith, F.H. Martin and Miss Willie Lawson also attended, as well as many Department employees and retired employees. Joyce's husband, William "Gick", son Bill, and daughter-in-law Peggy also attended.

Joyce received several nice gifts including a crystal fruit bowl and smaller matching bowl from her co-workers and a Layman's Parallel Bible from the members of the Highway Commission.

Joyce began her career with the Department in October 1951 as a stenographer in the Highway Commissioner's office. Over the years she has served in various capacities including secretary to the Director, secretary to the Chief Engineer and Commission Secretary.

Joyce is a family oriented person and her church is an important part of her life. Whenever possible, the Spencers head for their home on the lake where they enjoy hunting, fishing, solitude and the ever changing miracles of mother nature's paint brush.



David Solomon and Joyce Spencer

EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT

We would like to wish Mrs. Avalee Padgett and Mr. Bernie Cox congratulations upon their retirement. The retirement party was given November 30, 1983 in the Conference Room by the Procurement Office. Mrs. Padgett was with the Department for 25 years. She is going to be spending a lot of her time at Piney Creek, where she and her husband own a trailer where they will be spending some of their weekends just taking it easy. Mr. Cox was with the Department for 31 years. He is going to be doing mission work and preaching some.



Maurice Head and Bernie Cox



Maurice Head and Avalee Padgett

We have had another wedding in our office. Paula Johnson and Doug Davis tied the knot December 16, 1983 at LifeLine Baptist Church. Paula is the word processor operator in our office. We wish them both the very best in the years to come together.



Paula and Doug Davis

After waiting a full month for the bad weather to let up, Karen Rankin and her family moved into the new house they had built in Benton. Good luck Karen in your new home.

INTERNAL AUDIT

Two of our auditors were blessed with new additions to their families since our last magazine article. Johnnie and Veolia Parks received a bundle of joy when their second son, Jay Meekus made his arrival on August 20, 1983 weighing 5 pounds and 13 ounces. Jay is presently five months old and is a fine, healthy baby who gets a lot of attention from his big brother, Deldrick, who is 4½ years old.

Bryan and Susan Stewart became proud parents for the first time when Virginia Elizabeth made her debut on November 24, 1983. She weighed 7 pounds at birth and is presently

two months old. Cute "Little Ginny" gets everyone's attention when she cries, and I'm sure she is the apple of her dad's eyes. Congratulations to both sets of parents on their new arrivals.

Doyle M. Hughes was presented his 10 year pin and service certificate on January 12 from Bill McDorman, Chief of Internal Audit in the presence of a few co-workers. Congratulations Doyle! We wish you many more years of loyal and dedicated service.



Doyle Hughes and Bill McDorman

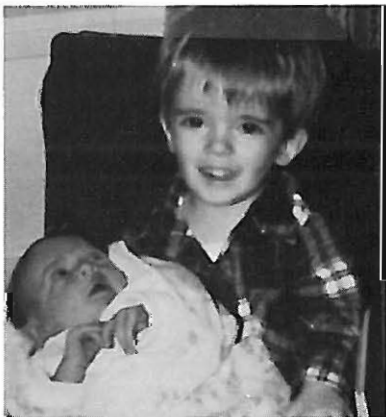
LEGAL

Several people in our office have been busy in 1983 settling in new homes. Karen Horton moved in a new home in North Little Rock in September. Chris Parker moved around the holidays to his home in the downtown Broadway Street area. Evelyn Allison moved the first part of December to her home in the South Pulaski County area.

Karen Horton will also be busy in 1984 since she is expecting her second child in July.

All the snow and ice we had this winter put hardships on many people. Mr. Keys especially had a hard time Christmas Eve when he broke his ankle while out on the ice. Mr. Keys is recovering quite well and we are all glad to see him come back to work.

Several grandparents in our office enjoyed their grandchildren this holiday season. Betty Schmidt visited her grandson and daughter in Virginia around Christmas and was able to enjoy her grandson Adam. After Christmas, her daughter in Texas, had a sweet baby girl who was born January 2, 1984. Alisa Lorene Stanley weighed 6 pounds and 13 ounces and her brother Aaron is enjoying helping out with his new sister. Phil Gowen also enjoyed his grandchildren this Christmas season. Nicholas Newton Gowen is his youngest grandson and he was 6 months old January 27, 1984. Mr.



Aaron and Alisa Stanley

Thomas Keys' son and daughter-in-law had a baby boy in November. Kristopher Keys is the first grandchild, so his grandparents are going to especially enjoy spoiling him.



Nicholas Newton Gowen



Kristopher Keys

MAINTENANCE DIVISION

There were several service awards in our Division this time around. Jim Francis, Chief of Roadside Development, celebrated his 25 years of service with cake and punch. Madge Livingston, Division Secretary, was surprised with a potluck luncheon to help celebrate her 20-year award. David Ford and W.L. McIlroy each received his 5-year pin and certificate from Don Brown, HBM Supervisor. Congratulations to you all.



Bert Rownd and Jim Francis



Don Brown and David Ford



Don Brown and W.L. McIlroy

We are very sorry to have to let go of Curtis Pangle, but because of health reasons, Curtis has retired. Curtis will be much missed by all in this office and I'm sure around the Department. We hope he will get to feeling better soon and enjoy his retirement. Curtis received a portable radio with scanner from the Maintenance Division.

We missed telling you in the last issue, but Maintenance Division, Debbie, has a new name - Meyer. She married Doyle Meyer on October 29, 1983 at their land northwest of Clinton. They were married outside having as their only attendant, Hanna, their beagle. The pictures were really pretty and they even got one of Hanna with flowers in her collar. Seems she was the flower girl (girl?). Oh, yes, so that this news concerning the two is not late, Doyle and Debbie are expecting their first child in September. Nothing slow about those two. I'm sure baby pictures will follow. Doyle is employed at District Six.

Mr. Rownd is a proud grandparent the second time around. His son, Ed and wife Bonita, had their second son, Jacob Christian on January 25, 1984. Jacob weighed in at 6 pounds, 13 ounces. Jacob was born on his big brother's birthdate. Congratulations to the Rownd family.

MATERIALS AND RESEARCH

Materials and Research welcomes three new employees. Kathy Ballard is our new General Secretary she was previously employed at the Bank of Malvern. She and her husband Ron reside in Malvern where he is the minister at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church. They have three children: Ronnie, age 19; Robbie, age 16; and Kim, age 12. She enjoys baking.

Cathy Haley is our new clerk typist and was previously with the Benton State Bank. She lives in Benton, is single and her hobbies include going to the car races, to the lake, and listening to music. She is 21 years old and her nickname is Caley.

Joann Niehaus is our new division secretary. She has been with the Department for 18½ years and is transferring from the Traffic Division. Joann's husband's name is Bob. She

enjoys sewing. We are glad to have her with us. We are sorry to see Kathy King leave us. Kathy had 12 years of service with the Department. She is going to work part-time with North American Marine Jet in Benton. Everyone wishes her the best.

Congratulations to Harold and Rhonda Banks. They are the proud new parents of a beautiful 4 pound, 15 ounce baby boy, Harold, Jr. He was born December 12 at Doctors Hospital. Both mother and son are doing fine. Harold also won a trip to Puerto Rico to compete in a golf tournament at Dorado Beach. Harold finished second in a field that included golfers from all over the United States. Congratulations, Harold.



Harold Banks Jr.

Jerry and Lucille Stacks are proud new grandparents twice within the same month. First, son Clay and wife Norma added to their family on November 3 at Baptist Hospital with a 7 pound baby girl named Judith Leigh. Then on November 30 at Doctors Hospital, an 8 pound baby girl named Tabitha Krista was born into the family of their daughter Dorothy and husband Chris House. This is their first addition. Congratulations to all.



Judith Leigh Stacks



Tabitha Krista House

John Hancock and wife Gale spent a week vacationing in Jackson, Wyoming. They visited relatives and spent a lot of time skiing. They spent 3 days at Jackson Hole Resort going over the slopes. John says he's improving and graduating on to the expert slopes, then off to Yellow Stone for a 60 mile snowmobile ride staying at a lodge next to Old Faithful. Then they spent two days cross-country skiing around the Geyser Basin. They experienced -50 degree temperature and saw various different kinds of wildlife including an American Bald Eagle.

PERMITS

Congratulations to Alma Stephens, who was presented a 10 year Certificate of Service, by Section Head, V.W. Dumas. Alma is certainly an asset to our office and we are happy to work with her.



V.W. Dumas and Alma Stephens

PHOTOGRAMMETRY

Even though the roads were icy, everyone in Photogrammetry made it to work December 22 for our annual Christmas party. As you can see from the photographs, everyone seems to have enjoyed himself. As usual, there was plenty of food for everyone. After the meal, we exchanged gag gifts, and some of the gifts were very comical. One of the funny gifts, a set of barbells made from foam rubber made for a lightweight, was received by Bob Barnett.



Photogrammetry Christmas Party



Congratulations to Vicki Barnett and Jeff Slater, who were wed February 17. Vicki is the daughter of Bob Barnett, our Lab Supervisor.

Congratulations also to Rebecca Cullins and Mark Shrewsbury, who were married February 10. Rebecca is the niece of Sue Walls, our secretary.

Roy Walden, our avid deer hunter, was lucky enough to kill an eight-point buck this deer season and just missed another deer. He would probably call it skill instead of luck, though. Congratulations, Roy.

PLANNING

In September, 1983, a 25-year surprise party was held in honor of Ed Johnson, State Rail Coordinator. Cake and punch were served as people dropped in to congratulate him. To help with the surprise, he was taken out of town during which another surprise occurred when he had car trouble. The party was delayed an hour or so but we all still had a good time and we do congratulate Ed on this achievement.

Wilbert Chapman, Assistant Division Head, Planning, was honored at a 25-year party given for him December 6, 1983. Cake and punch were served to the many people who came by to congratulate him. Bryan Davis, Chief, Planning Division presented him with his 25-year pin. In addition to this honor, Wilbert has been recognized as a Distinguished Toastmaster. This is the greatest honor earned by a member of the Toastmasters organization. He has been associated with Toastmasters for several years and has held various offices within the Club during that time. We all congratulate Wilbert on achieving this status.

Don Finkbeiner was presented an accident-free award by Governor Bill Clinton. The award was in recognition of 50,000 miles without any mishap. Don drives one of the carpool vans of the State supported system. We are proud of his accomplishment.

Joe Lovell having completed 25 years of service was presented his certificate by Bryan Davis, Chief, Planning Division. Joe works in the Mapping and Graphics Section and is responsible for map compilation. He is a very versatile and competent employee. His professionalism is greatly appreciated.



Bryan Davis and Joe Lovell

PROGRAMS AND CONTRACTS

As many of you know, Ken Rounsavall suffered a severe stroke on November 1, 1983. This was the fourth and most damaging stroke Ken has had since March, 1982. After a 15 day hospital stay, he underwent intensive physical therapy at Arkansas Rehabilitation Institute until January 13 and is presently being given

tender, loving care at home by his wife, Darla and two sons, Allen, age 12 and Shawn, age 9. Family and friends have also been helpful.

Due to constant medical bills over the past two years, it was felt that Ken could use some financial assistance to ensure his family a good Christmas and to defray some of the costs of a major illness. Millie Houston and Judy Fort initiated a financial contributions drive which totaled \$1,303 from highway employees, an Atari with two cartridges from Right of Way and Utilities (with rebate money for additional cartridges), a baked ham and pies from Helen Bledsoe of the highway cafeteria and a huge box of non-perishable foods collected from highway employees by Kathy Upchurch of Statewide Planning. Ken's almost speechless reply was "Mercy!!" when the box was torn open and money spilled into his lap.

We would like to introduce our new employee, Roy Douglas, who recently moved to Little Rock from Jonesboro. Roy worked for the Department from June, 1969 to September, 1977 in the Jonesboro Residency and was re-employed in our Division last fall. Roy, along with his wife Marian, enjoys raising Tennessee Walking horses.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Congratulations to David Hunter upon his completion of 15 years of service with the Department. David has been a staff photographer for the past five years. Prior to that, he worked in the Photogrammetry Section.

Public Affairs Officer Bill Looney presented David with his pin and certificate February 13.

Bill Looney was recently appointed to the AASHTO Editorial Advisory Board. This is a big honor and all of us in Public Affairs would like to congratulate him. (See News Briefs for more details.)

In January of this year, Assistant Public Affairs Officer Bill Stanton attended a week-long course on Resolving Transportation Related Conflicts. The course, sponsored by the National Highway Institute and the Federal Highway Administration, was held in Santa Fe, New Mexico.



Bill Looney and David Hunter

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Elizabeth Nichols, 3½ year old daughter of Kerry, had her tonsils removed in January. The mother did not do nearly as well as Beth, but is rapidly improving since returning to work the following week. Beth is improving daily.

Brenda Kirkpatrick had a streak of "bad luck" during December's holiday season. Her hot water pipe burst in the floor of her house and for a week she did without the luxury of going to the faucet, turning it on and hot water

coming out. Fortunately, her insurance came through, so for further details, call her.

Two employees transferred to Public Transportation in December, Sharon Bowen and Ricky Bradford. Welcome!

The above same Ricky Bradford resigned February 1st to accept employment with USGS in Rolla, Missouri. Good luck!

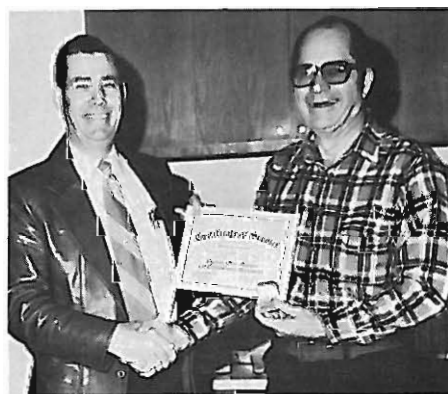
Douglas, son of Jim Head proudly displays 14 ducks he and three others killed January 14 near Clarendon. This was the height of "Master" Douglas' hunting season. He shot the teal and is bragging to everyone about this feat. Dad did not fetch his limit, but is going to have the pleasure of having son's teal mounted.



Doug Head

RADIO

Congratulations to Harold Harrison who was recently presented his 15-year Certificate of Award and pin by Cal Porterfield, Section Head. Harold's wife, Berniece, attended along with his fellow employees. Cake and coffee were served to mark the occasion.



Cal Porterfield and Harold Harrison

RECORDS AND REPRODUCTION

Pictured is Marty Oliver and her four children, Stephannie, Jo-Jo, Steven and Aleese. She is very proud of her family. Stephannie was married last April 20 so Marty has a new son-in-law. Jo-Jo and Aleese will graduate from

high school this year. Jo-Jo plans to attend UCA in Conway for training to become a basketball coach. She has the honor of being Senior Homecoming Maid at Glen Rose. Aleese is now going to Metropolitan Vocational Technical School one-half day and learning Radio Broadcasting. She DJ's five days a week.



Marty, Stephannie, Jo-Jo, Steven and Aleese

Tommy Daniel ran in the White Rock 26-mile Marathon in Dallas, Texas on December 4. His time was around 5 hours. He would have made better time but started having knee problems about the 21st mile. Even though he was having problems, he finished the race. There was a lot of construction work on the course which slowed the runners down. Tommy plans to run again in December this year and hopes to do much better.

Larry Foreman was the only lucky deer hunter in our section this year. He killed a 6-point deer.

RIGHT-OF-WAY

Congratulations to Linda Chivers, secretary in the Acquisition Section of Right of Way, and her husband, Charles, on the birth of their son, Christopher Alan. Chris was born on December 7, 1983, and is pictured here with sisters Micki Lynn, age 4 and Mandy Jo, age 17 months. Christopher weighed 6 pounds, 14½ ounces and was 20 inches long at birth.



Mandy Jo, Micki Lynn and Christopher Alan

Congratulations also to Arthur Watt, Assistant Chief of the Right of Way Division, and his wife, Betty, on the birth of their granddaughter, Melissa Marie Watt. Melissa entered this world on January 9 and weighed in a 8 pounds and 6 ounces. Arthur and Betty have three sons and one grandson, so they were very pleased about this granddaughter. Melissa's parents are Randy and Linda Watt of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

We have three other people in our Division who deserve congratulations also. They are: Dick Lucas who recently received his Masters Degree from the University of Arkansas in Secondary Administration; M.D. "Buddy" Cazer for completing 20 years of service with the Department and Willard Holt for completion of 10 years of service.



Jim Bartlett and Willard Holt



Sheryl Fletcher

A warm welcome to Sheryl Fletcher, our new employee in the Administrative Section of Right of Way. Sheryl lives in Benton with her five year old daughter Kerri. She commutes to work with her sister Karen Rankin who works in Equipment and Procurement.

Sheryl replaced Tammy Willis who was transferred to the Acquisition Section of Right of Way.

It is indeed a pleasure to report that Jim Moody is back at work and looking great. Jim had an Angioplasty (balloon dialation) done in August. It was not successful so he returned to St. Vincent Infirmary on November 22, 1983, and had open heart bypass surgery on November 29. This surgery was successful and after six weeks of recuperating at home, Jim and his smile returned to work on January 10.

TRAFFIC

We would like to welcome Willie Gilcrease and Michael Brown to our Division.

Our annual Christmas party was held on December 16. Included among our guests

were Commissioner Bobby Hopper, Mr. Cooper and Mr. Venable.

Deer season came and went with hunters leaving but very few returned with anything to show off. Chuck Sitton got a 9 point from Stephens, Bert Porterfield got an 8 point from Warren and Mike Jester got an 8 point from Clark County.



Mike Jester



Mr. & Mrs. Howard Stoebener & Lee Gibbons

Howard Stoebener, Sign Shop Supervisor of our Division, was honored in December by fellow employees who gathered to extend best wishes to him upon his retirement from the Department. Howard worked for over 36 years in our Sign Shop. Howard will be missed by all of us that had his friendship.

We would like to congratulate Laura Pifer and Tony Sullivan for completing 5 years of service in December and Betsy Kimmel for completing 5 years of service in January.

Harold Guinn was promoted from Assistant Sign Shop Supervisor to Sign Shop Supervisor. Congratulations Harold!

Allan Loring was promoted from Sign Layout Specialist to Assistant Sign Shop Supervisor in February. Congratulations Allan!

Our loss in February was a gain to Materials and Research. Joann Niehaus, our Division Secretary, transferred to work in their Division. Her presence will be missed by us all. Good luck, Joann.

We were sorry to lose Jarrel Robertson in November and Gordon Leach in January. Gordon left us to return to school and will be attending the Arkansas College of Technology. We wish them both the best of luck.

DISTRICT ONE

Hopefully by the time this issue of the magazine comes out, all of the ice and snow will be long gone. The winter of 1983 started out with a bang, and was one we are not likely to forget for a long time to come.

Congratulations to the following employees who were presented service awards by District Engineer, Ray Woodruff. Jack Lindley, Sealing Job Superintendent received his 30 year award; Calvin George, District Maintenance Superintendent received his 25 year award; and Lynda Thomas, District Office Manager received her 15 year award.



Jack Lindley, Calvin George, Lynda Thomas, and Ray Woodruff.

The following employees received certificates after completion of CPR training in December: Kenneth Brazile, Ray Duff, Annette Gilmore, Vella Jeffrey, Bobby Weatherford, Rick Owens, Roy Morris, Paul McConnell, Rodney Hicks, M.J. Jordan, J.L. Riley, Elbert Thomas, Jerry Vest, Ammon Belcher, Eddie Bryant, Jimmy Bryant, Billy McGuire, James Nicks, Lewis Peeler, Glenn Reed, Van Woosley, and Ray Clark.

All of the employees of District One join together to wish everyone a very happy and prosperous New Year for 1984. The Christmas season was a very busy time with our Maintenance Crews working day and night fighting the ice and snow. We hope Santa Claus was able to make his run to everyone's house despite the weather.

DISTRICT TWO

One of the nicest get-togethers we've had in a long time was held during the Christmas season and a special occasion was added to honor our District Engineer. M.S. "Sam" Smith was presented with a certificate for 30 years of service with the Department. Making the presentation was Construction Engineer, Dan Flowers. We appreciate Dan and his wife for their efforts in making this a special night. Dan related the successful career Mr. Smith has had during these 30 years and many of his experiences and accomplishments. Also we had a surprise guest show up in a red suit that delighted the young people and many of the old. By the way, thank you John Herrington for helping us out. The food was great as always and even though it was a very rainy day, the fellowship was worth the trouble. We always enjoy seeing our retirees at this time of the year.

By the way, we sure are proud of the District Two Chapter of the AHTD Retirees Association. Each of their luncheons has brought much interest for the former employees. Some of us were invited to the Christmas luncheon in Monticello and enjoyed every

minute of it. Congratulations on a successful organization.

The winner of the Maintenance Crew of the Year went to the employees and foreman, Scarler Lyons at Stuttgart in Arkansas County. This is an honor to be the best crew in District Two. A new award was added this year for the Most Improved Crew and the winner was the crew and foreman, Clinton Bohannon, from DeWitt in Arkansas County. Keep up the good work during this year. Awarded to Rick Neal and the employees at Rison in Cleveland County, were the November and December Crew of the Month. These awards have encouraged better work habits and accomplishments from all the crews.



Sam Smith and Dan Flowers



Scarler Lyons and Clinton Bohannon



Sam Smith and Ricky Neal

Mary Lynn Mabry is a mother-in-law again. Her son James Clifton was married to Mary Ellise Cingolani on October 7, 1983. Mary Lynn is in the Engineer's office at McGehee.

We extend our sympathy to B.R. "Buddy" Henley on the loss of his mother, Mrs. S.A. Henley in October.

Shown in the picture is the first deer killed by Debbie Pruitt. Debbie is the Station Atten-

dent at Jefferson Headquarters. Way to go Debbie! Okay guys, try to out do that one. Also Debbie wants to show off her pet, a Pit Bull. He is 3 years old.



Debbie Pruitt



Debbie's Dog

Our District Engineer, Sam Smith is a grandfather again. Another girl, Mary Valerie Belden, born August 31, 1983. Little Mary is the daughter of Mr. Smith's daughter Leslie and her husband Ted.



Mary Belden

A 25 year certificate was presented to J.F. Carter by his Foreman, Joe Akin. Thank you for being a dedicated employee for 25 years.

Five year service awards went to Jason Harrison, District Caretaker and Jerry Vail, Crew Leader in Ashley County.

CPR classes are being held in District Two this time of the year. Some are being recertified and some are taking the course for the first

time. Most of the employees have been instructed in CPR now.



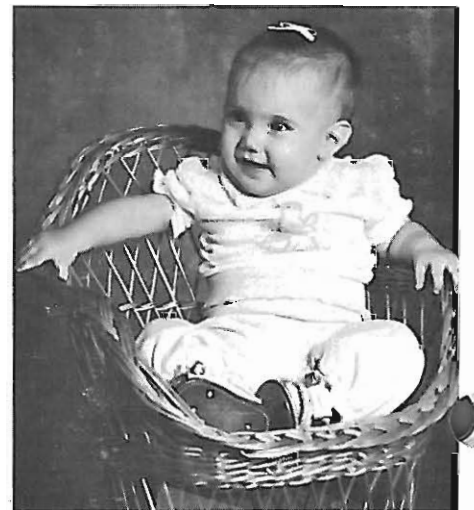
J.F. Carter and Joe Akin

One of our nicest retirees, Mr. John C. Ashcraft and his wife Pauline, celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on January 15 in the fellowship hall of the Bethel Baptist Church at Herbine in Cleveland County. A reception was hosted by the couple's children Jacqueline Johnston, Patsy Smith and Mary Nell Atkinson all of Pine Bluff and John Edward Ashcraft of Warren. The couple has 9 grandchildren. Mr. Ashcraft reports his arm was sore from hugging so many ladies.



Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Ashcraft

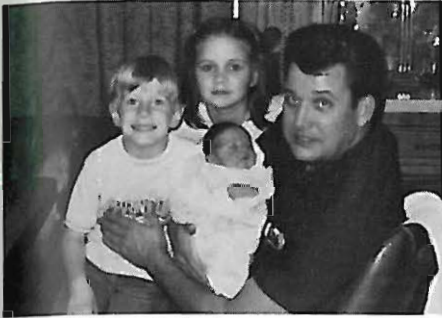
A daughter was born to Steve and Diane Karnes on April 25, 1983. Steve is the son of retiree George Karnes and this is the niece of Roxane Karnes from the Engineer's office in Monticello. The darling little girl is Kandice Erin Karnes.



Kandice Karnes

Sammy Denton and his wife Kay vacationed this winter in Florida. Must be nice, Sammy. Sammy works in the Engineer's office in Monticello.

James Ralph Davidson and his wife Denise welcome a new son, Wade Riley Davidson, born January 10. Wade Riley weighed 7 lbs. 11 ozs. J.R. and Denise have a daughter, Lora, age 10 and a son Byron, age 5. This is a family to be proud of.



James R. Davidson and family

We welcome Stefanie Hawkins, our new District Receptionist. Stefanie is the wife of Jerry Hawkins, an employee of International Paper Company. They have two sons, Kevin and Brandon. She is a native of Cleveland County and enjoys camping, water skiing and canoeing as hobbies. It is a pleasure to work with Stefanie and we're happy to have her in our District.



Stefanie Hawkins

Danny Davis and his wife Lesa are the parents of a daughter, Crystal Ann. Crystal was born on December 18 and weighed 8 lbs. and 1 oz. She is a little doll. Danny works in the Maintenance Crew in Jefferson County.



Crystal Ann Davis

The First Baptist Church in Pine Bluff was the setting on June 25, 1983 for the candle-light wedding of Molly G. Owen and Jack J. Hollingsworth, Jr. Molly is a student at the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences in Little Rock and Jack is employed by Valmont Delta as an IBM computer salesman. After a Caribbean cruise, the couple will make their home in Pine Bluff. Molly is the daughter of District Two's Payroll Clerk, Melanie and Glenn Owen. Their oldest daughter, Mrs. Melanie Vest, graduated December 19, 1983, with her B.S. Degree as a Nurse Practitioner from the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences in Little Rock. Melanie and her husband, Matt will be moving to Houston March 1st where she will be working at the Texas Children's Hospital and Matt will be employed at Vesco.



Mrs. Jack J. Hollingsworth, Jr.

DISTRICT THREE

Congratulations to the following employees on their years of service with the Department: K.W. Fore, D.R. Fryar, Faye Fatheree, Frankie Shaw, and Audrie Caldwell for 5 years; H.L. Higgins for 10 years and Clovis A. Horn for 20 years.

Pictured is the Hempstead County Crew presenting a 30 year pin to crew member Elmer Clark. Congratulations Elmer!



Hempstead County Crew

The Little River County Crew had a fish fry in honor of Curtis Crow who retired on November 30, 1983. They presented him with a pocket knife and many wishes for a happy

retirement. Also attending were District Engineer Charles Mitchell, Assistant District Engineer William Tyler, District Maintenance Supt. Jerry Whitehurst, and Assistant Maintenance Supt. John W. Barham.



Curtis Crow and Jerry Burnett

The Howard County Maintenance Crew held its first Christmas Party at their new area yard on December 12. The party was attended by the crew members and Assistant DE William Tyler and Assistant Maintenance Supt. John Barham. The food was prepared by the Area Foreman's wife, Minnie Zachry, and Shop Attendant Debbie Stewart.

We would like to congratulate David Carmack, Area Foreman of Montgomery County, for receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from the City of Norman for his help in managing a hazardous situation in the City of Norman.

Congratulations to Jimmy and Joyce Auld on the birth of their first child, a bouncing baby boy named Jamie Lee. Jamie Lee arrived on October 21, 1983 weighing in at 7 pounds and 4 ounces. Jimmy is Crew Leader of the Hempstead County Crew.



Todd Cross and "Pilot"

Pictured is Todd Cross with his Limousine bull named "Pilot". Todd is the 13-year old son of Frank and Jackie Cross from the Hope Residency. Pilot won Reserve Grand Champion at the Nevada County Fair in Prescott in the fall. He was later entered in the Third District Livestock Show at Hope, where he won Grand Champion. At the State Fair in Little Rock, Pilot won first place in the Junior Division and first place in the Open Division. We know that Todd is proud of the winnings and that Frank and Jackie are proud of their son.

We had our annual Christmas party at the Hope Residency this year. Ham sandwiches and other delicious foods were served potluck. Afterwards, gifts were exchanged. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, in spite of the pranks pulled on some.



Hope Residency Christmas Party

DISTRICT FOUR

Old Man Winter sure hit us hard. Spring will be most welcome. We want to thank all the road crews for the outstanding job they did with clearing the roads. We received many compliments from people who had to go to work and were able to make it because our crews had been out. Again, thank you.

We were saddened by the loss of Lyman Roper in October. He was a senior inspector with Jack Coleman's Residency in Van Buren. He will be missed by all of us. His daughter, Autumn wrote a poem about her father which we would like to share.

Coach Dad

He was my coach through all the years.
 He yelled a lot, there was some tears.
 He not only coached my many sports;
 He was a growing-up coach of sorts.
 He taught me how to lose with grace.
 He taught me what to stand up and face.
 He taught me about life and all its pain,
 He taught me how to win life's game.
 He told me I should never stop,
 Not even if I reach the top.
 I might not see it as my father saw,
 But, I'll take his advice and obey without flaw.
 For he was wise, much wiser than I,
 His philosophy was simply reach for the sky.
 The house is filled with flowers for Dad,
 Sometimes, I remember; my feelings are sad.
 My father can't come back to me,
 But, through his eyes I'll always see.
 He taught me well with love and care,
 The loss of him is much to bear.
 I'll never stop, only slow down to think of
 him...and remember.

On November 25, 1983, our Assistant Store-room supervisor, Rachel Villines, became Mrs. Robert Danny Turman. Our sincerest congratulations to the newlyweds.

Congratulations also to Gene Holloway, Washington 1 Area Foreman, on receiving his 15 year certificate of service.



Gene Holloway

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Peerson would like to show off their new grandson, Joshua Benjamin Peerson, born November 23, 1983 at Fort Polk, Louisiana. Ken is the headquarters attendant,

Sebastian II Headquarters in Fort Smith. His parents are Lt. and Mrs. Kenneth Peerson, II. Lt. Peerson is an intelligence Officer with a brigade at Fort Polk. Joshua and family were in Fort Smith January 6, 1984 to visit very proud grandparents.



Joshua Benjamin Peerson

Deer season must have been slim pickins. The only deer hunters that have come forward with success stories are once again those deer slayers from the Mena Residency: Randall Barnett got a 9-point, Waylon Chambers got an 8-point, Mack Rose got an 8-point, 11-point and a spike and D.C. Spencer bagged a 6-point. Fine shooting fellows.

Congratulations to Jerry Stukey, Inspector at the Springdale Residency, and wife Kathy on the birth of daughter Lisa Kay. She was born November 14, 1983 and weighed 6 pounds, 11 ounces. She is the pride and joy of the family. Now that's a real cutie.



Lisa Kay Stukey

DISTRICT FIVE

WHEW! This winter will long be remembered. All the snow and ice made walking and driving a major event. All our employees did an excellent job working long hours, trying to accomplish all the extra work to keep everything moving.

We were glad that our holiday parties were planned and held in advance of the bad weather. We enjoyed the potluck and the good fellowship at the White River Country Club,

hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Randy Satterwhite and Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy T. Sexton.

On December 16th, the Service Awards Presentations were held at the District Headquarters. Commissioner Raymond Pritchett made the presentations to the following honorees: Carvel L. Bradberry, Clemons E. Pectol, Melvin J. Reding, and John Ed Smith, 30 years; Troy A. Case, James K. Mathis, Fred Medlock, and Siegle L. Swink, 25 years. Those attending thoroughly enjoyed the interesting presentations by Commissioner Pritchett.

Employees receiving awards since the last issue: Charles F. Fuller, 5 years; Eddie T. Turner, James Brinkley and George Mathes, 10 years. Congratulations.

On December 1st, the District Shop employees gave a retirement party for Stanley Fulbright, Welder, who retired with 25 years service. Stanley was one of our favorite employees and we wish him the best in his retirement.



Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Fulbright

Our Assistant District Engineer, Clif Martin, always has a successful hunting story to tell. He killed a 12-point buck hunting near Silka in Sharp County. He telephoned the Meat Packing Company the day before his trip, to make arrangements for processing the meat. Talk about confidence!!



Clif Martin

Kerri Nixon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Nixon, was elected Fall Festival Queen, at Judsonia Elementary School. Dennis is a single axle truck driver for the Bald Knob Area Crew.



Dric Meharg and Kerri Nixon

Tina Satterwhite, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Randy Satterwhite, won the title of Junior Miss in the Southern Beauty Revue at Southside High School.



Tina Satterwhite



Lisha Drake and Brian Slayden

Brian Slayden, son of Randall Slayden, won the title of King of Kindergarten at the Fall Festival at Strawberry Elementary School. Lisha Drake, 5 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dickey Drake, was elected flower girl. Dickey and Randall are both employees of the Fred Boutwell crew.

DISTRICT SIX

Congratulations are in order to the newlyweds, Lee Roy Farr and Myrtle Mackinrush who were married October 7. Lee Roy is District Caretaker.

Melissa Rowland, Assistant Storeroom Supervisor was married November 11 to William Asbille, Chief Parts Clerk at Moody Equipment.

Judy Smyser and David Martin were married October 29 in a morning ceremony at Arlington Park Lawn. Judy is the daughter of Pay Smyser, Garland County Headquarters Attendant and Le Roy Smyser of Covington, Louisiana. David is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman B. Martin of Hot Springs, Arkansas. The bride is employed at First Federal Savings and Loan. The groom is with Reynolds Metal Company.



David and Judy Smyser

Freddie Hall killed a 9-point during the first gun season. Freddie works on the District Concrete Crew. Other deer hunters in the District are John Allen from Saline Area Headquarters who killed a 3-point. Steve Rowland killed a 3-point. Woody Jones killed a 2-point and Ricky Cranford killed a 2-point.



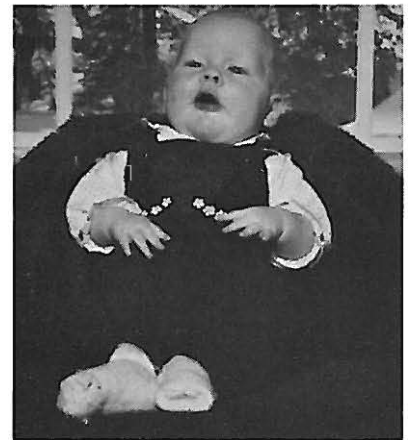
Freddie Haff

We had our Christmas Open House December 16th serving cookies and punch. Awards were given to Shorty Bradford and Harold Parsley with 35 years of service, Chester Ketchum and Paul Griffith with 25 years of service. Sue Berry and Al Langhorn received their five-year pins. They are Rest Area Attendants at White River Rest Area in Prairie County.



Bradford, Parsley, Griffith, Ketchum

Here is a picture of Christina Louise Haney, daughter of Eddie and Adda Haney. Eddie is with the District Bridge Crew. Christina is 4 months old.



Christina Louise Haney

Jerry Zuber, Crew Leader for the Interstate Maintenance Crew wanted to give us a picture of his two children, Nicklaus Andrew and Katherine Page. Nicklaus is 2 and Katherine is 10 months old.



Nicklaus Andrew and Katherine Page Zuber

Congratulations to Allen and Carolyn Cheek on the birth of their son Seth Allen Cheek. He is the first grandson of Johnny Cheek, Area Foreman for Lonoke County. He was born August 10, weighing 7 pounds and 12¼ ounces.



Seth Allen Cheek

We had two CPR classes during January. Our instructors were Jerry Zuber and Jerry Stovall. The classes were the Interstate Maintenance Crew, District Shop, and Storeroom.



CPR Class

We had a birthday in the District this month. Steve Malcom, Storeroom Supervisor celebrated his 27th birthday on October 31. Birdie Laws from Prairie County Area Headquarters made him a birthday cake. Happy Birthday and many more Steve. We also want to say good luck to Steve who is going to be the new Inventory Coordinator for the Highway Department.

We want to welcome Jim Doster, our new Storeroom Supervisor. Jim transferred from Final Estimates.

The North Little Rock Residency would like to express our best wishes to Mike Dudoich who was promoted to the Equipment & Procurement Division. Cake and coffee was served to all and Mike was presented with a going away gift.

We would also like to express our best wishes to Major Conley who resigned the first of January to pursue another career.

Congratulations to David & Donna Crain who were married November 5. They were married at Berean Baptist Church and it was a very lovely wedding. David Crain works in the North Little Rock Residency as a Construction Aide.



Donna and David Crain

Well, the buying fever has hit the guys in the North Little Rock Residency. Don Pipkin bought 2 acres and had a house built on it and moved into it right before Christmas. Bill Terry and Joe Gardner finally bought the pick-up trucks that they have been wanting. Gary Neely bought a brand new Bass Boat at the Boat Show and then turned around and bought a house trailer.

We would like to congratulate Danny Dennie who killed his first deer, but what a deer...15-point buck! We told him not to expect that everytime. Congratulations again to Danny on his first deer.



Danny Dennie

DISTRICT SEVEN

"Old Man Winter" visited District Seven, as well as all of Arkansas, as evidenced by this photo taken at the Gurdon Rest Area on I-30 and submitted by the Clark County Crew. We appreciate those of our employees who worked days and nights to assure public travel and safety on the highways.



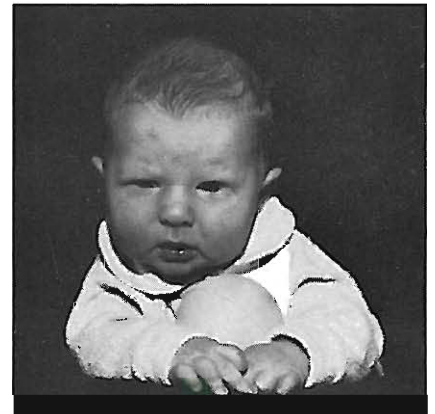
Gurdon Rest Area

On January 27, 1984, we had coffee and cake in honor of those who received Ambassador of Good Will Certificates and Service

Awards for 1983. State Highway Commissioner Ron Harrod was our honored guest and presented the awards. Retirees receiving Ambassador of Good Will Certificates were: Woodrow Brown, 29 years of service, Crew Leader, Lafayette County; William A. Herring, 34½ years of service, Motor Patrol Operator, Union County; and Doyle P. Jacks, 31 years of service, Area Foreman, Columbia County. Billy R. Bethea, Crew Leader, Bradley County, received an award for 30 years of service. Receiving awards for 25 years of service were: Donald L. Beard (Buddy), Senior Inspector, R.E. Myers' Residency; Donald D. Brandon, Area Foreman, Calhoun County; and Edward E. Lindsey, Dozer Operator-Finish, District Maintenance Crew. These men are pictured along with Commissioner Harrod and District Engineer Coy Campbell. We extend special thanks to Commissioner Harrod for his attendance, to each employee for dedicated service and to members of their families who helped us celebrate this event.



Mr. and Mrs. Dannie Launius, Storeroom Supervisor, are the proud parents of a new baby boy. He was born on October 29, 1983 and weighed 8 pounds and 7 ounces. His name is Chad Daniel Launius and he was only ten days old when this picture was taken. Big sister, Janda, is five years old. She is very proud of her brother and helps take care of him. Congratulations Dannie and Jan!



Chad Daniel Launius

On December 7, 1983, we had cake and coffee in honor of our friend and faithful employee, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor L.D. Hopper who retired with 21½ years of service. L.D. and his wife, Nolika, are pictured with his cake which we had decorated with a picture of the Moro Bay Ferry in remembrance of all the weekends and holidays that were interrupted with a call from the ferry personnel. District Engineer, Coy Campbell, presented L.D. with a framed certificate proclaiming him to be honorary ferry boat pilot. L.D. received a picture frame containing a gift of money from

fellow employees. We extend our congratulations and wishes for much happiness to you, L.D. Come to see us often!



L.D. and Nolika Hopper

Stan McMahan, son of Chick and Henrietta McMahan (District Payroll Clerk), has made quite a showing in high school football. Stan is a 17 year old senior at Hampton High School and plays defensive tackle for the Bulldog team. During this school year, the team has scored 7 wins and 3 losses; while during the three years that Stan has played on the high school team, they have scored 23 wins and 7 losses. Among the honors that Stan has received are All Conference Defensive Tackle, Class AA Honor Roll and recognition in Dave Campbell's Arkansas Football Magazine for 1983. Stan, number 74 on the team, lists art, football and listening to music as his hobbies. He plans to attend college after graduation at University of Central Arkansas in Conway.



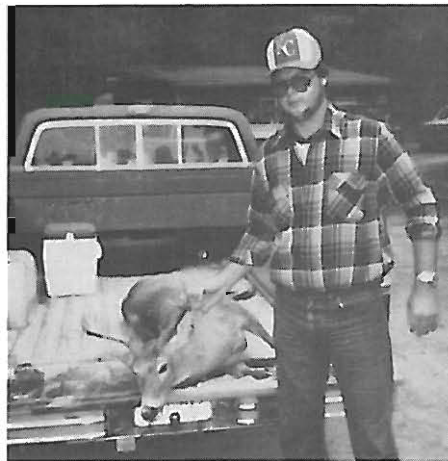
Stan McMahan

Miss Valorie Priddy, four year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerald Priddy (Roller Operator for District Sealing Crew), was crowned Little Miss Calhoun County in September's Pageant held at the County Fair Barn in Hampton. There were 19 contestants. Valorie's hobbies are dancing, singing and playing with Barbie dolls. Congratulations Valorie!



Valorie Priddy

Phil Benson, Motor Patrol Operator-Rough, is pictured with an 8-point buck which he killed on Monday morning during the first week of deer season. He bagged the deer at the airport in Hampton at 250 yards. Phil works with Donald Brandon and the Calhoun County Crew. Congratulations Phil!



Phil Benson

DISTRICT EIGHT

Congratulations to all Service Award recipients. They were Donnie Duvall, 10 years; Marvin L. Whorton, 10 years; Floyd Cates, 10 years; Robert F. Hutchins, 20 years; Lester L. Mathis, Jr., 10 years; Mike L. Norton, 10 years; Rayburn D. Gipson, 10 years; R.H. Williams, 10 years; John C. Garrigus, 10 years, Carmet L. Crites, 15 years; and Noah Moody, 30 years; Eddie Deckard, 15 years; and Sam Kizer, 20 years.

The annual District 8 Christmas Open House was held December 9, 1983. As always, we were happy to see so many of our retirees who came by to visit with us. Highway Commissioner Raymond Pritchett joined us and presented 25-year Service Certificates to William Martin and Erwin Oliger; and a 30-year Service Certificate to Noah Moody. The girls in the office prepared a table full of delicious goodies and the office was filled with Christmas decorations. When the afternoon was over, we all knew that Santa would soon be here.



District 8 Christmas Open House



Erwin Oliger and Raymond Pritchett



Commissioner Pritchett with Jane & Noah Moody



Mr. & Mrs. Bill Martin
with Commissioner Pritchett

Noah Moody was surprised recently at a Supervisors Meeting by receiving his 30-year pin. Noah is our District Wide Job Superintendent for our Sealing Crew. Coffee and cake were served while Noah was congratulated by his fellow employees.

Kenneth Ellis retired January 4, 1984, with over 27 years of service with the Highway Department. Kenneth was a Senior Mechanic working out of our District Shop. On pretense of needing to sign more retirement papers, Kenneth was lured to the office one day around lunch time and was surprised with a going away dinner, cake, presents and other surprises. Kenneth will be missed.

We were saddened by the death of Carl Van Pelt of our Faulkner County Crew. Carl was fatally injured in a traffic accident on his way to work during one of our recent bouts with bad weather.

Congratulations to District Engineer Lawrence Fletcher on the birth of his newest grandson. Steven Joseph Copler was born December 30, 1983, in Connecticut. He weighed 6 pounds, 15½ ounces. Steven has an older brother Chris, who is two years old.

District Permit Officer Don Wilkinson is proud of his daughters. Stephanie is 13 years old and Natalie is 4 months.



Stephanie and Natalie Wilkinson

Sam Kizer, Assistant Resident Engineer from District 8, Clarksville Office is shown here receiving his 20-year service award and pin from Remond Jones, Resident Engineer. Sam started working for the State in October, 1963, and has worked in Districts 4 and 7 also. He and his wife Jerri have a son, Sammy, and a daughter, Candace.



Remond Jones and Sam Kizer

DISTRICT NINE

Tommy Jackson, Shop Foreman, had a successful elk hunting trip in Colorado last fall and contributed steaks and burgers for the dinner hosted by the Shop Crew. The crew brought all the trimmings and it was enjoyed by all. A delicious meal, fellows.

The Annual District 9 Christmas Party was held on the afternoon of December 9th with approximately 250 employees, retirees, and guests present for the presentation of Service

Awards and Ambassador of Good Will Awards by our Commissioner, Mr. Bobby Hopper. Thirty-Year Service Awards were presented to Marion Downs and Shirley Morton; 25-Year Service Awards were presented to J.L. Dickey, Gene Taylor and Bud Wilson; Ambassador Awards were presented to Carroll Mathis, Pete Pyeatt, and Lonnie Tilley. Special guests included Mrs. Bobby Hopper and Dale Gossien. Refreshments were served during the festivities.



Commissioner Hopper, Shirley Morton, Lonnie Tilley, Marlon Downs, Carroll Mathis, Gene Taylor, Bud Wilson, and Pete Pyeatt.

David Dodson, his wife, and sons had good luck during deer season. Each one got an 8-pt.



Rocky, Jason and David Dodson

Marcia Holt, District Bookkeeper, won "hundred bucks" sponsored by various merchants in Harrison during the Christmas season over 97 Country Radio Station. Needless to say, she was very excited and had a ball spending the "bucks".

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Carl McCutcheon on the arrival of their baby son; to Mr. and Mrs. Danny McMullen on the arrival of their first child, a girl. Congratulations to the Grandparents, too. Belated Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Willard Henson who have a new grandchild.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Stevenson enjoyed a vacation trip to California during the Christmas holidays. Mr. and Mrs. Bob Smart traveled to Florida and Mr. and Mrs. Marion Downs enjoyed a visit and trip to Texas with their family.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Willis Cantrell who passed away in January. Willis was the District Permit Officer prior to his retirement. We also send our sympathy to Ronnie Risley whose father passed

away recently. Our sympathy is extended to the families of Jim Foresee and Gerald Sisk, two of our retired good friends.

Get Well wishes are sent to Jay Parker who is recuperating from heart bypass surgery. We hope you can return to work soon, Jay.

Our Maintenance crews worked around the clock for many days during the December and January ice and snow cover. They are to be commended for their good work in clearing the roads during extreme cold and unpleasant conditions.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Lyn Smith of Western Grove gained a daughter-in-law on September 3rd, when their son, Richard Smith and Lisa Reddell exchanged vows during a beautiful ceremony in the Western Grove Assembly of God Church. Richard is employed at Flexsteel in Harrison and Lisa works at the Newton County Bank at Western Grove, where they reside in their new home. Congratulations to the Smiths.



Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Lyn Smith

DISTRICT TEN

With spring peeking around the corner, this reporter is not the only one in District Ten who will be happy to say goodbye to the bitter winds of winter. Much of the holiday time was spent by members of our Maintenance Crews removing snow and ice from roadways and bridges. Although this may seem a thankless job to many, to be associated with such a dedicated group of people is very rewarding and satisfying. So we would like to take this opportunity to say a big "THANK YOU" to all of the men who worked such long, hard hours to make the roads safer, not only for us, but also for those we love.

When you mix a room full of jovial people, tables laden with a potpourri of specialties from some of the best cooks in Northeast Arkansas and the Spirit of Christmas, the result is undoubtedly the best Christmas Party District Ten has had in a long time. Over 100 employees and family members gathered at the District Headquarters on December 16th to celebrate and join in the fellowship of this

joyous occasion. The children spent a delightful evening making new friends and exploring through the District Building while their parents visited and reminisced back over the years of association with the Highway Department. The highlight of the evening was a feast fit for a king (or queen). The wide array of foods ranged from the traditional to very tempting desserts that included a variety of cakes, pies and puddings. Just thinking of it makes this writer wonder how our District Engineer feels about celebrating Christmas early...say in July!



District 10 Christmas Party

Our Maintenance Crew at Osceola said goodbye to Area Headquarters Attendant Cecil Lewis who is retiring after 17 years of service. Cecil was presented with a rod and reel, and a tackle box from his fellow employees. Cake and doughnuts were enjoyed as service award presentations were also made to Crew Leader Aaron Pannell for 25 years; Truck Driver Felix Duran for 15 years; and Laborer Frank Duran for 15 years. Congratulations to all!

Also receiving service awards were Area Foreman Curtis Stokes for 15 years; Job Superintendent Charles Hopper for 35 years; and Resident Engineer Frank Shepherd for 10 years. Again, congratulations!



Cecil Lewis and Bill Montgomery

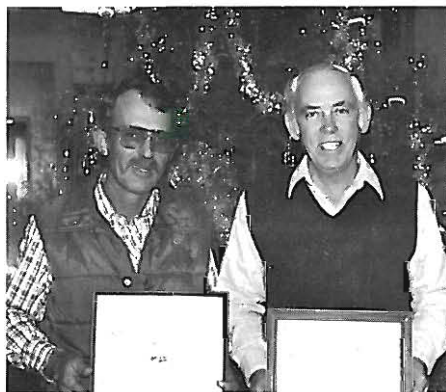


Aaron Pannell, Felix Duran and Frank Duran



Stokes, Hopper and Shepherd

Billy Arnold received his 20-year service award and Leonard Nelson received his 25-year service award at the Christmas Party. We were very proud to have both these men with the Department and wish them many more years of association with the Department.



Billy Arnold and Leonard Nelson

Our Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Rex Hall was also presented his 25 year service award at our Christmas Party. Congratulations Rex, we all hope to have you around for another twenty-five!



Rex Hall and B.J. Barnett

On the evening of December 10, the Osceola Resident Engineer's crew met at Kirby's in Leachville for our Christmas get-together. Bob Glover, District Materials Supervisor and his wife, Joyce, joined us. Catfish and all the trimmings was our feast and was enjoyed by everyone.

Several of the men in our office spent much of the winter deer hunting, in spite of the rain, ice, snow, and cold weather everyone reported having a good time. No reports of a big kill this year, maybe next year.

Jerry Barnes, Senior Inspector has been in the hospital two times this winter. He is back at work now and is doing fine.

Frank Shepherd and his family enjoyed a vacation to Disney World in Orlando, Florida through the Thanksgiving holidays. Frank says that everyone should visit Disney World.

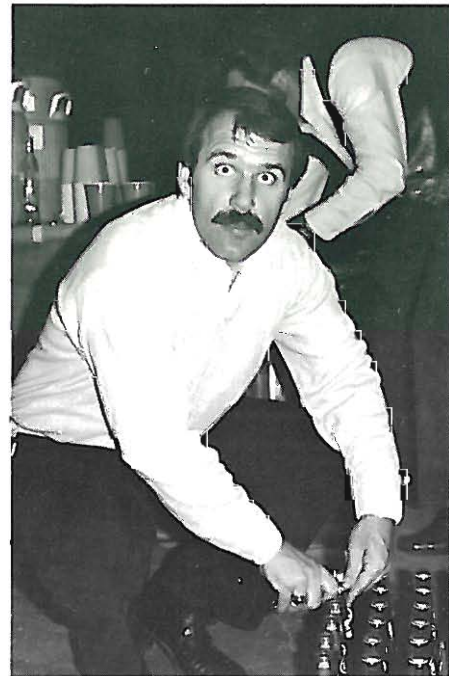
Our congratulations also to Frank for receiving his 10 year service award in January.

On January 13, the Resident Engineer's Office at Jonesboro had a retirement party for Warren Glenn. Warren had 35 years of service with the Department. Employees from Frank Russenberger's office and several from the District Office came by to bid Warren and his wife, Imogene, farewell. Cake and doughnuts were served, and Ralph Blackwell presented Warren with a retirement cap and a gift certificate. Good luck Warren and come by and see us from time to time.



Imogene and Warren Glenn

From all indications, someone was caught with his hand in the cookie jar at the party!



Lyndal Waits



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& Transportation Department
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