

Arkansas Highways

WINTER 1994



Director's Message

1994 has been a year of challenges and changes. Change brings new opportunities and Department employees have risen to the occasion. Thanks to their cooperation and the support of our Commission this has been a productive and enjoyable year.

Adjustments have been made to increase productivity and better utilize personnel. We have always been an efficient organization, and remain so today in spite of the fact that the workload is greater and we have fewer employees than 15 years ago. New technologies account for a portion of this increased efficiency, but a dedicated workforce remains the key.

What lies ahead? One thing is certain: there will be more challenges and opportunities in the days and months ahead. The 1995 legislative session, funding concerns, continuing work on the 1991 Highway Improvement Program, metrication, further implementing our Quality Initiative Program — these are some of the issues which will command our attention in 1995.

We, as employees, should be very pleased with the advancements the Department has made and should continue the efforts that have made our agency one of the most efficient and productive state highway departments in the country. With our team pulling together, 1995 will be another year of accomplishments.



DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION



ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS

WINTER 1994

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION



L.W. "BILL" CLARK
CHAIRMAN



BOBBY HOPPER
VICE CHAIRMAN



HENRY BRANSCUM, JR.
MEMBER



JOHN "M" LIPTON
MEMBER



J.W. "BUDDY" BENAFIELD
MEMBER

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COVER PHOTO: State Highway 5 in Stone County.
BACK COVER: The White River Bridge at Cotter on Highway 62B which was built in the early 1930's.
Photographs by John Jackson



Jimmie Ivory, Single Axle Truck Driver for District 1, operates a tractor-mower along Interstate 40 west of Forrest City in St. Francis County.



Lois Turner, Construction Aide I for the Pine Bluff Resident Engineer's office in District 2, tests materials from a construction site to ensure all specifications are met.

AHTD DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Activities at the Department are diversified and require different types of expertise. Shown are just a few activities of District employees.



Patti Clowers, Construction Aide III, and **Gary Roberts**, Senior Inspector for the Texarkana Resident Engineer's Office in District 3, inspect contractor's work on the Highway 41 bridge crossing the Red River south of Foreman.



Tom Reed, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish for the District 4 Sebastian II maintenance crew, hand sprays tack prior to a patching operation in preparation for an overlay on Highway 71B in Fort Smith.



Doug Smith, Construction Aide III for District 6, checks grades along a new section of Highway 270 in Hot Springs.



Danny Fleetwood, (left) District 5 Storeroom Supervisor and **Merbert "Bub" Milon, Jr.**, Parts Runner, check parts inventory.



Cedric Burris, Station Attendant at the District 7 shop in Camden, airs up a tire.



Kenneth Jones, Bridge Repairer II on the District 8 bridge crew, operates a concrete saw in preparation for concrete patching along a section of Interstate 40 west of Conway.



Herb Jordan, District 9 Huntsville Area Headquarters Attendant, checks the oil in a state vehicle.



Barbara Parks, Personnel Clerk at Paragould, updates the records of District 10 employees.

In Memory

Two Former State Highway Commission Members



Armil A. Taylor
1899-1994



Willie A. Lawson
1894-1994

Two former members of the Arkansas State Highway Commission died in October.

Miss Willie A. Lawson died Saturday, October 22, 1994 at her home in Little Rock. She was appointed by former Governor Francis Cherry as a member of the Arkansas State Highway Commission when it originated under the Mack-Blackwell Amendment in 1952. Drawing a four-year term, she served from January 19, 1953 to January 14, 1957. "Miss Willie" was the first woman appointed to the Commission and during her tenure was the only female highway commissioner in the United States.

Armil Taylor died Thursday, October 20, 1994 at his home in Clarksville. He was appointed to the State Highway Commission January 28, 1959 by former Governor Orval Faubus and served until his term expired on January 14, 1969. He was Chairman of the Commission the last two years of his term.

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT OPERATORS' ROADEO

Pick up a golf ball and drop it in a can. *How hard could that be?*

Very, if you have to pick up the golf ball using a tiny metal ring, soldered to a bucket, dangling from the end of a big hydraulic arm.

That was the scene in the backhoe competition at the 1994 AHTD Statewide Equipment Operators' Roadeo, held September 28 at the Central Shops.

One backhoe operator after another picked up orange golf balls from a box of sand and deposited them in a coffee can. The talented operators coaxed delicate, birdlike movements from their machines

— most of the time.

"I buried two golf balls both runs," moaned Don Hudson of District 7. "Had to dig 'em up." His wife, Allison Hudson, and their son, seven-year-old Keeton, still were impressed. "It's amazing how they can pick them up with those things," Mrs. Hudson said. Could Keeton do what Dad did on the backhoe? He shook his head shyly. "Huh-uh."

Other competitions demanded equally sharp skills. Motor patrols used their blades to skim tennis



FIRST PLACE STATEWIDE ROADEO WINNERS

(L-R) Commission Chairman L.W. "Bill" Clark; Rick Carmack, D-10, Single Axle Dump Truck; Lance Humphries, D-5, Tractor/Mower; Jamie Martin, Central Office, Tandem Axle Dump Truck; Kenny Riley, D-9, Backhoe; Harry Jobe, D-6, Motor Patrol; Willie Leming, D-4, Tractor/Lowboy; and AHTD Director Dan Flowers

1994 TEAM CHAMPIONS DISTRICT 3

Shown with the Team Champion trophy at the District presentation ceremony are left to right:

David Morton, Stanley Rogers,
Kenneth Adams, Pete Gentry,
Donnie Buck and Orval Hudson.



balls from atop tees. Truck tractor/lowboy rigs, single and tandem-axle dump trucks, and tractor mowers ran obstacle courses with tolerances measured in quarter-inches.

The atmosphere was festive, but competitors felt the heat. "I was about to go nuts by the time I got on the tractor," said Samantha Crews of District 10, who entered the tractor/mower competition (Crews won fame by whipping her boss, District Engineer Joe Barnett, at the district semi-final Rodeo).

"These guys get competitive out here," observed Harry Jobe of District 6, who took first place in motor patrol. "They take this pretty seriously."

Maybe it's because the challenges at the Rodeo

remind them of their everyday jobs. Toby Goodwin of District 5, a single-axle dump truck competitor, talked about his toughest real-life obstacle course: "Driving up on a hot mix scale. It's just about mirror width, no more than a few inches clearance on either side. You have to readjust your mirror sometimes."

It's no accident that the Rodeo resembles real life. "Rodeo tests safety and proficiency," said Lynn Caple, a Human Resources Division employee in the Training and Safety Section. "This isn't just fun and games."

"Just pretend those cones are a building or another truck," added one competitor, "and by golly, avoid 'em."

1994 AHTD STATEWIDE EQUIPMENT OPERATORS' ROADEO WINNERS

SINGLE AXLE DUMP TRUCK

- 1st — Rick Carmack, District 10
- 2nd — Donnie Buck, District 3
- 3rd — L.W. Fuches, District 2

TANDEM AXLE DUMP TRUCK

- 1st — Jamie Martin, Central Office
- 2nd — Stanley Rogers, District 3
- 3rd — Sammy Horton, District 2

TRACTOR/LOWBOY

- 1st — Willie Leming, District 4
- 2nd — Tommy Jackson, District 9
- 3rd — Kenneth Adams, District 3

TRACTOR/MOWER

- 1st — Lance Humphries, District 5
- 2nd — Ernest Rose, District 1
- 3rd — Johnny O'Neal, District 7

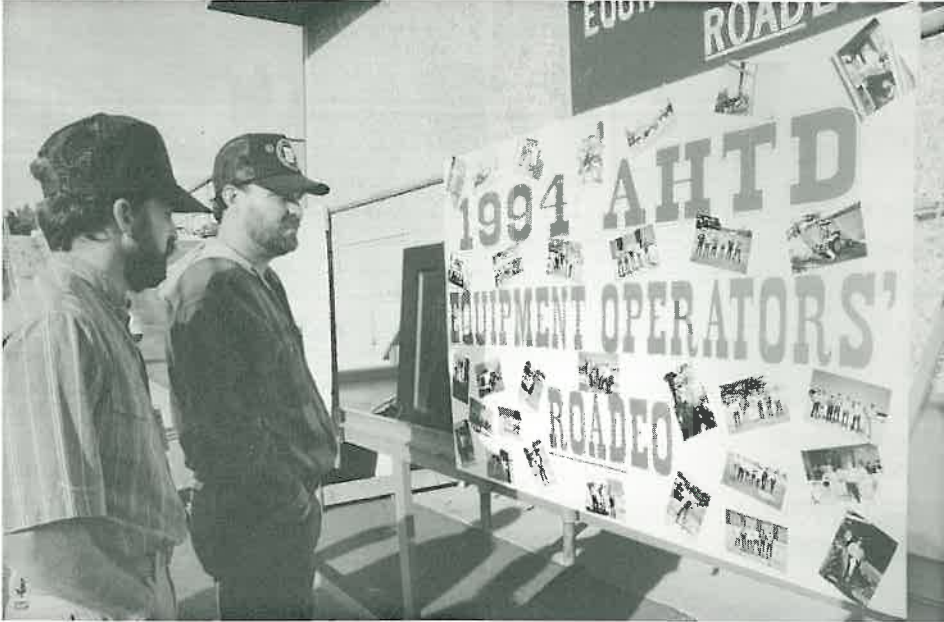
BACKHOE

- 1st — Kenny Riley, District 9
- 2nd — Rick Hale, District 10
- 3rd — David Morton, District 3

MOTOR PATROL

- 1st — Harry Jobe, District 6
- 2nd — Hoyt "Mickie" Taylor, District 5
- 3rd — William "Hickie" Hickman, District 7

A Day At The Rodeo . .



Dennis Langston, left, from District 8, and Rick Hale from District 10, both Backhoe/Front End Loader Operators, enjoyed looking at pictures from semi-final Rodeo competitions.



Deputy Director and Chief Engineer Roger Almond opened the day by welcoming participants.



Odls Barker, Equipment Specialist, center with stick and clipboard, explained the rules to the contestants before the truck driving competitions.



Joanie Shields, District 9 Distributor/Roller Operator, completes the alley dock segment of the Single Axle Dump Truck competition.



Ernest Rose, District 1 Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, maneuvers through the course during the Tractor/Mower competition.



A Tractor/Lowboy contestant on his final approach to the alley dock.



Pete Gentry, District 3 Motor Patrol Operator, in the Motor Patrol competition.



David Morton, District 3 Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, participates in the Backhoe competition which was a great interest to the onlookers.



Toby Goodwin, District 5 Vegetation Controller, during the Single Axle Dump Truck competition.



Highway Commissioner Herby Branscum, Jr., center, with Perry County Area Maintenance Supervisor Joe Phillips, left, and Van Buren County Area Maintenance Supervisor Smitty Bonds, right.



Bob Parker, Right of Way Division Head, measures the accuracy of one of the contestants during the Tractor/Mower competition.



Tommy Fife, District 7 Station Attendant Supervisor, maneuvers through the serpentine course.



Director Dan Flowers presented certificates to all the winners.



District 10 Engineer Joe Barnett was presented a "Gave It My Best" award for his participation in his district semi-final Rodeo.



Highway Commissioners Herby Branscum, Bill Clark, and John Lipton were on hand for all of the day's events.



Ralph Fulton, Don Stovall, Calvin George, Randy Satterwhite, and Larry Hodnett came to support their respective district employees.



The District 2 Rodeo team, David Waters, Curtis Aud, Dorothy Austin, Worthy Morgan, Burl Robertson and Edward Jones, have a team meeting before competition begins.



Don Hudson, District 7 Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, brought his wife Allison and son Keeton to enjoy the day's events.

Citizens Rally For Interstate 49 As U.S. Transportation Secretary Peña Visits State

On his visit to Texarkana October 13, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Federico Peña learned what Arkansans have known for a long time: that proposed Interstate 49 enjoys solid support.

Some 300 people from Arkansas, Texas, Missouri and Louisiana greeted Peña at the "I-49 Briefing and Rally" held outside the post office on State Line Avenue (Highway 71B). The event was hosted by the Texarkana Chamber of Commerce.

Among those attending from Arkansas were U.S. Senators Dale Bumpers and David Pryor; U.S. Representative Jay Dickey; Governor Jim Guy Tucker; Highway Commission Chairman L.W.



U.S. Secretary of Transportation Federico Peña.

"Bill" Clark; Commissioners Herby Branscum, Jr., John "M" Lipton and J.W. "Buddy" Benafield; Director Dan Flowers;

Deputy Director and Chief Engineer Roger Almond; and Jane Wilson, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs.

Attending from Texas were U.S. Representative Jim Chapman; Bill Burnett, Director of the Texas Department of Transportation; and Clint Winters of Governor Ann Richards' office. Staff members represented U.S. Senator Phil Gramm of Texas and U.S. Senator John Breaux of Louisiana.

I-49, the popular name for Corridor 1, was designated a high priority route in the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991. The corridor stretches from Kansas City, Missouri to Shreveport, Louisiana and follows existing Highway 71.



(L-R) Commission Chairman L.W. "Bill" Clark, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Federico Peña, Commissioners J.W. "Buddy" Benafield and John "M" Lipton and AHTD Director Dan Flowers.



AHTD Director Dan Flowers



U.S. Senator Dale Bumpers



U.S. Senator David Pryor

ISTEA provided \$170 million to Arkansas for work along the route.

Flowers updated Secretary Peña and the crowd on the progress of Highway 71's construction and provided the following status report:

- A location for the 30-mile section from Texarkana to the Louisiana state line should be finalized by the end of the year, and the first contract awarded by the end of 1995.

- A consultant is completing the draft Environmental Impact Statement on the 55-mile section from Texarkana north to DeQueen. The Department hopes to hold a location public hearing by the end of the year.

- The Department is in the process of selecting a consultant for environmental and location studies on the 120-mile section from DeQueen to Interstate 40.

- Construction is underway on all but 16 miles of the 43-mile

segment from Interstate 40 to Fayetteville. Bids scheduled to be let in 1995 total about \$100 million and include the Bunyard tunnel.

Senators Bumpers and Pryor who have been instrumental in obtaining funding for Highway 71, both stressed the importance of upgrading the highway to interstate standards, and the benefits not only for Arkansas but for the entire region.

Commissioner Lipton added, "A good system of national highways is valuable for all of us. The benefits from an Interstate 30 or an Interstate 49 do not stop at state lines. They flow in every direction."

Lipton called the corridor "a red carpet for industries and agriculture, truckers and

tourists" and "a conduit for the billions of dollars in trade between the Mid-continent, Canada and Mexico."

Governor Tucker expressed the hopes of the crowd: "I look forward to the day when I can drive to Texarkana and see a big sign on the interstate that says 'I-49: Next exit.'"



Secretary Peña and Bill Clark

Employees Recognized for Quality Initiative Team Participation

Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department employees work hard. Now they're working smarter. The collective effort of 32 AHTD employees was recognized August 24 at the Quality Initiative Recognition program held at the Central Office.

The program recognized the AHTD team, Workplace Policies and Procedures, and three joint AHTD/FHWA teams: Alternative Fueled Vehicles, Cleaning Supplies for Rest Areas, and Construction and Materials Management of Documentation

"All of us face the challenge of improving the quality of our service and product," said Commission Chairman L.W. "Bill" Clark, who was present at the ceremony with fellow Commissioners Herby Branscum, Jr., John "M" Lipton and J.W. "Buddy" Benafield.

"We have produced significant results," said Clark. "Our employees have been the vital force behind this effort."

Awards were handed out by Director Dan Flowers and Bill Richardson, Division Administrator for the Federal Highway Administration. Also present was Melanie Kennedy, who heads Governor Jim Guy Tucker's Quality Management Program.

Among the teams' accomplishments:

- The Alternative Fueled Vehicles Team compared and purchased equipment to convert some

Department vehicles to alternative fuel use. Federal regulations require 10 percent of the AHTD fleet to operate on alternative fuels by 1996. Data gathered from these test vehicles will guide future compliance.

- Recommendations from the Cleaning Supplies for Rest Areas Team will save the Department

some \$7,000 annually in the use and purchase of cleaning supplies.

- The Construction and Materials Management of Documentation Team helped tame the paper tiger with its recommendations for simplifying procedures. "Through streamlining the paperwork process we'll save a lot of time for ourselves and our construction



ALTERNATIVE FUELED VEHICLES TEAM
(L-R) Carl Kraechmer, FHWA; Donnie McMillen, Mike Webb, Larry Johnson, James Sanders, Frank Russenberger and Doug Nielsen



CLEANING SUPPLIES FOR REST AREAS TEAM
(L-R) Lamar Coyle, Al Sacco, Lois Farr, FHWA; Emma Barbee, Danny Keene, Debbie Caster and Calvin George

partners," said Director Dan Flowers. "We'll also save in the neighborhood of \$20,000 a year."

•The Workplace Policies and Procedures team emerged from the minefield of work schedules with several recommendations, including flextime and optional lunch periods. "You step on a lot of toes when you start messing with people's lunch and work schedules," said Mr. Flowers, "but I think this team has done a fine job."

The ceremony by no means marks the end of the Quality Initiative Program. Six teams are now at work on tasks ranging from landscaping to equipment maintenance.

"This kind of work is never-ending," said Mr. Clark. "There's always something that can be done to improve the process and to improve ourselves. We as a Commission appreciate all the time and effort you have invested in this program."

The Quality Initiative Program

continues to churn out bright ideas four years after its inception at the Department.

Eight teams have completed their tasks and six teams are now at work. What are they up to? Take a look:

•Members of the new Maintenance and Materials Management of Documentation Team are scheduled for training soon. Ralph Hall, Assistant Chief Engineer for Maintenance, will meet with them to define the scope of their project.

•The Emergency Response Team has finished looking at fire evacuation and is now working on other emergency procedures, including tornado and earthquake response. All such procedures will be included in a new manual.

•District Three Equipment Maintenance and Repair Team is reviewing procedures to prevent repeat repairs.

•The Adopt an Intersection Team has made recommendations on the procedures to implement a program to landscape and beautify intersection islands and rights of way.

•The Automated Procurement System Team is investigating ways to reduce paperwork and streamline procedures through the use of electronic documenting.

•The Mail Operation/Distribution System Team is finalizing recommendations on improving efficiency in communications.

While the Workplace Policies and Procedures Team has already made its report, the team will continue to monitor the flextime pilot project through the end of January to detect any problems.



CONSTRUCTION & MATERIALS MANAGEMENT OF DOCUMENTATION TEAM
(L-R) W.H. Reynolds, FHWA; Eric Phillips, Mike Limbird, Mike Sebren, Dale Loe, and Frank Russenberger. Not pictured: Gary Joe Lewis



AHTD WORKPLACE POLICIES & PROCEDURES TEAM
(L-R) Front row: James Braden, Larry Lanes, Angela Johnson, Doris Mixon, Marilyn Coffman and Harden Steele. Back row: Dorothy Rhodes, John Harris, Tommy Littleton, Steve Teague, Wanda Bynum, Melba Shepard, Ken Jordan and Alvin Vaughn

Quality Management Spells Survival

Quality management is more than a buzzword, it's the key to survival. That was the word at a luncheon August 24 hosted by the Department, Associated Equipment Dealers of Arkansas and Associated General Contractors at the Little Rock Hilton Inn.

About 110 people attended, including the Highway Commission, Director Dan Flowers, Deputy Director and Chief Engineer Roger Almond, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson, and Assistant Chief Engineers Steve Teague, Bob Walters and Ralph Hall.

Keynote speaker was Peter K. Wert, vice president of Haskell Lemon Construction Co. and a member of the National Quality Initiative Steering Committee.

Wert stressed the need to build customer satisfaction. And who are our customers? "All of us are highway customers," he said.

To build customer satisfaction directly: "Minimize customer delays and inconvenience through proper design and construction," said Wert. "Make the mobility experience as pleasant as possible."

To build customer satisfaction indirectly: "Provide the most ef-



Pete Wert, of the National Quality Initiative Steering Committee, was the keynote speaker

fective and efficient highway transportation network possible," he said. "We make a vital contribution to our customers' economic well-being, which builds his or her satisfaction."

Government highway agencies cannot build customer satisfaction without help from contractors, consultants, suppliers and so forth, Wert said. All these groups must work together in the quality management process.

"Work together in an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect," Wert advised. "Partnering builds bridges of understanding."

Quality management is no game. "What's at stake in this drive to build customer satisfaction?" Wert asked his audience. "Nothing less than the long-term support — that is, willingness to pay user fees — of our customers."



Commission Chairman L.W. "Bill" Clark, front left, and AHTD Director Dan Flowers, front right, listen intently to Pete Wert's address at the luncheon.

Former Legislator Honored in Little River County

National, state and local dignitaries gathered Thursday, September 1, 1994, in the cafeteria of C.D. Franks Elementary School in Ashdown to pay tribute to Marion H. Crank of Foreman.

A former legislator and long-time advocate for county governments, Crank, 79, was honored for his contributions to Little River County and the State of Arkansas. "Marion Crank should be 150 years old to have accomplished all the things he has," joked U.S. Senator Dale Bumpers at the dinner.

Bumpers was joined at the event by U.S. Senator David Pryor, Governor Jim Guy Tucker, Highway Commissioners John "M" Lipton and J.W. "Buddy" Benafield and a host of others who worked with Crank over the years.



Governor Jim Guy Tucker, far right, along with Highway Commissioners John Lipton and Buddy Benafield, presents a bridge plaque to Marion Crank, far left.

The Little River County Chamber of Commerce hosted the dinner

which drew more than 400 people.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of a bronze plaque designating the Highway 41 bridge currently under construction across the Red River as the "Marion H. Crank Bridge."

Governor Tucker made the presentation along with Commissioners Lipton and Benafield. "You are a builder, not just of Little River County, but of the whole state," Tucker said.

The plaque will be erected at the bridge as it nears completion in 1995.



(L-R) Commissioner Lipton, Senators David Pryor and Dale Bumpers, and Commissioner Benafield

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Highway 65 Improvements Subject at Ridgeway

Anyone who drives Highway 65 between Harrison and the Missouri state line can attest to growing traffic and safety concerns. A proposal to solve the problem with a new four-lane divided facility drew more than 240 area residents to an open forum public hearing Aug. 11. The hearing was held at the Church of Christ in Ridgeway, a small community about eight miles north of Harrison.

Safety and congestion are top concerns along this section of Highway 65, a gateway to the booming tourist town of Branson, Missouri. Traffic volume is 7,040 vehicles per day and is projected to increase to 14,790 vehicles per day by 2014.

The proposed 18-mile section will start off with a new inter-

change at U.S. Highway 62/412 at Bear Creek Springs and continue north. A map of the preferred alternative shows the new route moving north in an almost straight line with the existing highway me-



Danny Arendt, Right of Way's Relocation Section Head, discusses proposed improvements to Highway 65 with area residents.

andering back and forth across its path.

Many area residents appeared to favor the project. Business owners along the existing route expressed concern about the economic impact on the communities of Omaha, Burlington and Ridgeway, which would be bypassed by the preferred alternative.

After acknowledging neighbors' concerns, one Omaha resident said, "I think we ought to do it. Get on with it."

Relocates along the preferred route include 23 residences, 10 businesses, seven personal properties, a non-profit group and a cattle farm. The project is estimated to cost between \$50 and \$70 million.

Bypass Considered at Huntsville

Judging by the number of scrapes along the narrow bridges in downtown Huntsville, few motorists will object to a proposed bypass of Huntsville on U.S. Highway 412. Support was nearly unanimous at a public hearing on the project held August 30 at the Huntsville Community Center. About 80 residents and AHTD personnel attended.

Plans call for a two-lane highway with climbing and passing lanes at selected locations. The

preferred alternative route begins near the AHTD area maintenance headquarters just east of Huntsville, continues westward about four miles, and intersects with the existing highway northwest of town. An interchange with State Highway 23 is located at the half-way point along the proposed route. Enough right of way will be acquired to make room for a future four-lane divided facility.

Three residences will be relocated and about 10 acres of prime

farmland will be converted to right of way. The preferred alternative route will cost about \$9.89 million.

"I'm upset," said one relocatee, but "I think Huntsville needs this bypass."

The project is part of a long-range plan to improve Highway 412 across the northern tier of the state. The area's growing population and economy require better access for trucking, tourism, agriculture and industry.



Numerous citizens looked over the aerial maps colored with the proposed alternatives.

Highway 71 at Texarkana Discussed

While work continues on a four-lane divided facility near the north end of U.S. Highway 71 in Arkansas, a public hearing was held on a similar project planned at the south end.

More than 340 people attended the open forum hearing, held October 6 at the Southwest Arkansas Electric Cooperative building in Texarkana.

The project will build an interstate-type divided highway from Texarkana south to the Louisiana state line, a distance of about 30 miles. The north end of the project will tie in with the proposed State Highway 245 loop around Texarkana.

Consultants selected three possible corridors, each about the same

length and each costing from \$180 million to \$200 million to construct.



Bill Richardson, left, AHTD Assistant Environmental Division Head, explains crossovers to a Texarkana resident.

An estimated 26 to 43 homes and business will be relocated, depending on the chosen route. The final route may be one of these corridors in its entirety or some combination of the three.

Participants were asked which corridor or combination of corridors best suited their needs. Residents of Fouke and Doddridge examined maps of possible bypasses to the east and west of their towns.

"I favor either one of the alternatives that runs closest to Highway 71," said a Fouke landowner. "I feel like that would benefit the people of Fouke, which is a growing little town."

Said another Fouke resident, "I love to see progress in our community."

DEDICATIONS

Pine Bluff Receives Third Railroad Overpass

Highway Commission Chairman L.W. "Bill" Clark helped wield the ribbon-cutting scissors at a dedication held September 29 for the new overpass on Convention Center Drive in Pine Bluff.

Convention Center Drive is the third Pine Bluff street to receive a railroad overpass in recent years. Plum and Sixth Streets now cross the railroad on viaducts as well.

"I know everyone here has a story about being held up waiting on a train," Mr. Clark told the crowd. "I am extremely proud that these projects became realities during my tenure on the Commission. Over \$7 million has been spent for these structures."



(L-R) Jefferson County Judge Jack Jones, Commission Chairman Bill Clark, State Representative Jacqueline Roberts, Pine Bluff Mayor Jerry Taylor, and Co-chair of the Pine Bluff Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee Louis Ramsey

Airport Road Dedication Held at Walnut Ridge

Walnut Ridge boasts a unique asset in its large airport, a legacy of World War II. With the help of the AHTD, that civic asset is easier to reach. A new airport access road was formally opened October 6. A \$544,457 contract for the 1.96-mile roadway was awarded in June 1993 to the J.W. Githens Company of Poplar Bluff, Missouri.

Highway Commission Chairman L.W. "Bill" Clark attended the dedication along with Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield; State Senators Nick Wilson and Mike Todd; State Representa-

tives Claud Cash, Mike Davis and Tom Baker; Walnut Ridge Mayor



Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield

Tommy Holland; and Lawrence County Judge Alex Latham. Representing the AHTD was Roger Almond, Deputy Director and Chief Engineer.

"The Commission has placed a great deal of emphasis on the construction of access roads around the state," Commissioner Benafield told the gathering. "Access roads allow people and goods to flow more smoothly. They are a key to intermodalism."

The dedication was sponsored by the Walnut Ridge Chamber of Commerce.

New Section of Highway 361 Opens in Randolph County

A new section of State Highway 361 was opened at a dedication held October 6 near Old Davidsonville State Park in Randolph County.

The ceremony was attended by Highway Commission Chairman L.W. "Bill" Clark and Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benfield; State Senators Nick Wilson and Mike Todd; State Representative Mike Davis and Randolph County Judge Jim Andrews. Representing the AHTD was Roger Almond, Deputy Director and Chief Engineer.

The new section of Highway 361 connects Highway 166 in Randolph County to the new Spring River bridge at the Lawrence/Randolph county line. Improvements to Highway 361 across the river in Lawrence County were completed last year, as was the bridge.

Commissioner Benfield said the bridge and highway projects were "the first projects Rodney Slater got programmed when he came on the State Highway Commission. He recognized the need and acted on it. The Commission

takes great pride in striving to satisfy needs."

A \$339,000 contract for the 1.6-mile roadway was awarded in June 1993 to the J.W. Githens Company of Poplar Bluff, Missouri.



Highway Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benfield speaks to the dedication attendees in front of the newly dedicated State Highway 361.



State Senator Mike Todd and Commission Chairman Bill Clark



Clark with State Senator Nick Wilson and Commissioner Benfield

New Link Added To U.S. Highway 67

The first settlers of Newport wouldn't recognize the old Southwest Trail anymore. A new interstate-type section of the trail, now U.S. Highway 67, was dedicated October 25 at Newport. The ceremony marked the completion of a 3.2-mile section from Highway 17 southwest of Newport to Highway 18 east of Diaz. A \$10.7 million contract for the work was awarded in February 1992 to Four F Corporation of Memphis.

Public officials at the dedication included U.S. Representative Blanche Lambert; Governor Jim Guy Tucker; Highway Commissioners Herby Branscum, Jr., John "M" Lipton and J.W. "Buddy" Benafield; State Senator Steve Bell; State Representatives Tom Collier and Owen Miller; and Newport Mayor Wayne Beard, Jr.

Also attending were Department Director Dan Flowers and Roger Almond, Deputy Director and Chief Engineer.



Highway Commissioners Buddy Benafield, Herby Branscum and John Lipton assist U.S. Representative Blanche Lambert and Governor Jim Guy Tucker in officially opening the new section of Highway 67.

"The old Southwest Trail has come a long way since the days when wagons rolled through Jackson County," Commissioner Herby Branscum, Jr., told the crowd. "The history of the Trail is one of steady progress, from a dirt track to a paved road, to the con-

crete superhighway we dedicate today."

The first section of the interstate-type facility on Highway 67, from Interstate 40 to Jacksonville, was completed in 1962. Nearly \$145 million has been spent on the highway since then.

New Prison Access Road Dedicated at Calico Rock

The Department of Correction hosted a dedication October 13 for a new prison access road at the North Central Unit prison near Calico Rock. The dedication also formally opened a new State Police substation near the prison. The new route, which connects the prison to State Highway 5, is designated State Highway 834.

Highway Commission member Herby Branscum, Jr., shared the speakers platform with Colonel John Bailey, Director of the Arkansas State Police, and Winthrop Paul Rockefeller, Chairman of the Arkansas State Police Commission. Also attending were State Representative John Miller and Department of Correction Director Larry Norris.

"The Highway Commission worked closely with local civic leaders, area legislators, and other elected officials to fulfill a need," Mr. Branscum said. "As a result, this new highway helps nearly 120 people get to work at the prison each day."

Branscum praised Representative Miller's "tireless efforts on behalf of the citizens of northeast

Arkansas. He knows that a good transportation system pays dividends far beyond the amount paid for it.”

The dedication was followed by a barbeque lunch hosted by Representative Miller.

(L-R) Winthrop Paul Rockefeller, Chairman of the Arkansas State Police Commission, Highway Commissioner Herby Branscum, Jr., State Representative John Miller and Col. John Bailey, Director of the Arkansas State Police, cut the ribbon dedicating State Highway 834.



State Highway 309 Becomes Second Scenic Byway

The stunning scenery along State Highway 309 between Webb City and Havana now enjoys official recognition. A dedication was held October 19 at the Logan County courthouse in Paris to signify the designation of Highway 309 as the state's second Scenic Byway. State Highway 7 from Arkadelphia to Harrison was the first to be so designated.

The new 44-mile Scenic Byway travels from the Yell County town of Havana to Webb City, just across the Arkansas River from Ozark. Along the way it passes through the Ouachita National Forest and climbs Mount Magazine, the state's highest point. Paris lies about halfway along the route.

Those attending the dedication included U.S. Representative Tim Hutchinson, Governor Jim Guy Tucker, Highway Commissioners Herby Branscum, Jr., and J.W. "Buddy" Benafield, State Repre-

sentative Frank Willems, and State Tourism Director Joe David Rice.

"Highway 309 has long been recognized as one of the most beautiful drives in the country," said Mr. Branscum. The scenic byway designation will do more than draw visitors to the area," he told the

crowd. "It also means the route qualifies to receive special federal highway funding to provide enhancements."

The event was sponsored by the North Logan County Chamber of Commerce.



(L-R) State Representative Frank Willems, Commissioner Buddy Benafield, Governor Jim Guy Tucker, and Commissioner Herby Branscum.

“Highway Day” Celebrated at Jonesboro with Two Dedications and One Groundbreaking



Highway Commissioners Benafield, Lipton, Branscum and Clark, former AHTD Director Maurice Smith and other dignitaries join Governor Jim Guy Tucker as he snips the ribbon opening the new section of Highway 63.

The final four-lane link on U.S. Highway 63 connecting Jonesboro to Interstate 55 was formally opened October 20 with a dedica-

tion at Bay. Participants then traveled down the Jonesboro bypass to dedicate a new interchange at Highway 49 and break ground for

an interchange at Highway 226.

The activities, billed as “Highway Day” by the Jonesboro Area Chamber of Commerce, culminated in a luncheon at the Arkansas State University Convocation Center. About 200 people attended.

The luncheon crowd heard remarks by Governor Jim Guy Tucker, Highway Commission Chairman L.W. “Bill” Clark, Commissioner J.W. “Buddy” Benafield, and State Senator Jerry Bookout. Others attending included Commissioners Herby Branscum, Jr., and John “M” Lipton, Director Dan Flowers, Deputy Director and Chief Engineer Roger Almond, District 10 Engineer Joe Barnett, Jonesboro Mayor Hubert Brodell, and



AHTD Director Dan Flowers cuts the ribbon for the opening of Highway 49 along with Governor Tucker and other dignitaries.

Craighead County Judge Roy "Red" Bearden.

"This highway is a red carpet for industries and agriculture, truckers and tourists," Commissioner Benafield said. "It will generate new opportunities for Marked Tree, Trumann, Bay, Jonesboro, and all of Northeast Arkansas."

Construction on a four-lane divided highway from Interstate 55 to Jonesboro began in 1968 with bypasses at Jonesboro and Marked Tree. To date, more than \$117.3 million has been spent on 48 miles of Highway 63 from its intersection with I-55 at Lake David to the northwest end of the Jonesboro bypass. The final 10.3-



State, county and local officials dug deep into the dirt to begin construction on the new Highway 63/ Highway 226 interchange in Jonesboro.

mile section, from Trumann to Bay, was built at a cost of \$23.3 million

awarded in three separate contracts. Work began in August 1990.

Improvements to Highway 412 Dedicated at Hardy

Long-range efforts to improve U.S. Highway 412 across northern Arkansas moved closer to completion with the October 21 dedication of a newly widened four-lane section between Hardy and Highland. The ceremony also symbolically "broke ground" on the widening now underway between Highland and Ash Flat.

Those attending included Highway Commissioner Herby Branscum, Jr., AHTD Director Dan Flowers, State Representatives John Miller, Larry Goodwin, and Mike Davis, Sharp County Judge Frank Arnold and Craighead County Judge Roy Bearden.

"Today, we are seeing some of the results of the Highway Improvement Program," Commissioner Branscum said. "All in all, the Commission has spent nearly

\$9 million improving this section of Highway 412. And we believe it's worth every penny."

A \$5.1 million contract for the 6.15-mile section from Hardy to Highland was awarded in February 1991 to Howard Construction

Company of Sedalia, Missouri. A \$3.6 million contract for the 3.5-mile portion from Highland to Ash Flat was awarded in November 1992 to White River Bituminous, Inc. of Batesville. Work is about 50 percent complete.



State, county, and local officials braved the rain to officially open the newly improved section of U.S. Highway 412 between Hardy and Highland.

Chaney Retires at District Five

More than 300 people gathered at a reception September 29 to honor District Five Engineer James R. "Jim" Chaney, who retired this fall with 32 years of service.

The retirement gathering, held at the District office in Batesville, drew employees, family, current and former Highway Commission-

ers, legislators and other friends of Chaney's. The guests included Commissioner Herby Branscum, Jr., Director Dan Flowers, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson, State Representative John Miller, former Highway Commissioners George Kell and Raymond Pritchett, retired Assistance Chief Engineer for

Operations Calvin Peevy and George Cavaness, Chaney's predecessor as District Engineer.

Chaney's wife Shirley Ann was in attendance along with their three children, Karen, Kathryn and Steven, and their families.

"The people who live in this district owe a lot to Jim Chaney," Commissioner Branscum said. "He has been dedicated to his job and the highways of District Five show it."

Chaney was also honored with a breakfast the following morning at a Batesville restaurant. About 40 Chamber of Commerce officials and area business people gathered to thank him for his work.

Chaney began his career with the Department in 1960 as an Engineer Technician. After a stint with the Corps of Engineers from 1963 to 1965, he returned to the Department as Resident Engineer in Little Rock and Malvern. He later served as Assistant State Construction Engineer, and was promoted to District Five Engineer in July 1969.



Jim Chaney, left, with his family at his retirement reception at the District headquarters.

Waits Named New District Engineer

Assistant District Five Engineer Lyndal Waits was named to succeed Jim Chaney as District Engineer. Waits served ten years as Assistant Engineer in Batesville prior to his promotion.

"Lyndal knows District Five and he has done a fine job," said Director Dan Flowers. "He is the obvious choice for District Engineer."

Waits began with the Depart-

ment as a summer employee for five summers in the Jonesboro and Paragould areas. He began full-time employment in 1975 after graduating from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville with a degree in civil engineering.

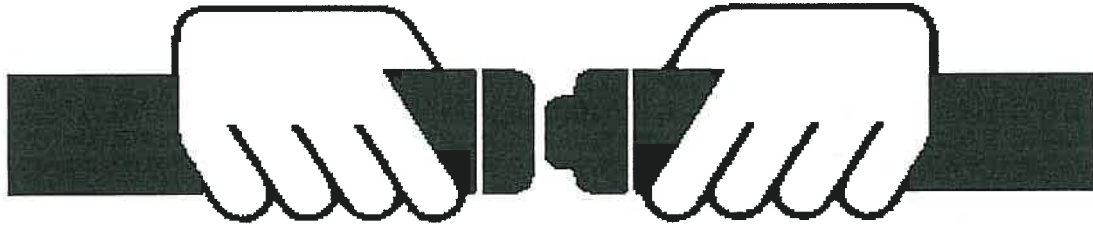
He served as Assistant Resident Engineer and District 10 Maintenance Engineer in Paragould before moving to Batesville in 1984.



Lyndal Waits

District Four Employee Debbie Smothers Wants To Work Another 10 Years Thanks To Being...

SAVED BY THE BELT



Next year, District 4 Lead Person Debbie Smothers plans to celebrate her 10th year with the AHTD. She owes it all to hard work — and a seat belt.

At 4:30 p.m. June 20, Smothers had just jump-started a truck and was headed north on Highway 255 in Lavaca in a crew-cab pickup. At a railroad crossing, another car strayed over the center line and the two collided. Somehow — Smothers cannot remember how — a third car wound up lodged against her truck as well.

Bruised and sore, Smothers unfastened her seat belt and tried to open one of the front doors. Both were jammed. She clambered into the back seat and opened a rear door. Outside, she saw her coffee mug lying in a ditch several feet away. The impact had sent it flying out a window. Without her seat belt, Smothers realized, she might have been thrown out with it.

Smothers suffered a cut lip and bruises on her chin, elbows, knees and ribs. She was taken to St. Edward's Hospital in Fort Smith,

where she received five stitches in her lower lip. The pickup she was driving was totaled.

She continued to feel some pain after the accident, and a recent scan with Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) found two herni-

ated disks. She is now taking medication and resting at home. She hopes to return to work at the end of November.

“My not being more seriously injured,” she said, “was due to the seat belt and God.”



Debbie Smothers is the Lead Person for the Fort Smith maintenance crew.



Cpl. Ronnie Cole, Sgt. Ray Davis, Capt. George Coffman, Cpl. Randy Peek and Ptl. J.B. Ketchum

AHP Officers Receive National Recognition

Five officers of the Arkansas Highway Police Division have been recognized nationally for their drug interdiction and enforcement efforts. Sgt. Robert Scott of North Little Rock, Cpl. Randy Peek of Little Rock, Cpl. Ronnie Cole of Piggott, and Ptl. J.B. Ketchum of Lonoke received Certificates of Recognition from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); Sgt. Ray Davis of Benton was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); and Capt. George Coffman of Benton was honored with a Meritorious Service Award from the FHWA.

The awards were presented during the National Training Conference on Commercial Vehicle Drug Interdiction held in Chicago in September.

The conference was part of FHWA's Drug Interdiction Assistance Program. Other sponsors were: the Drug Enforcement Administration, the El Paso, Texas Intelligence Center, and the Illinois State Police.

"We're very proud of the work our officers do in the areas of drug enforcement and interdiction," said Director Dan Flowers, noting that through September 1994, over 9,500 pounds of illegal drugs had been confiscated by AHP officers.



Capt. Coffman presents Sgt. Bob Scott with his award.

LETTERS

Employees Receive Recognition

To: Director Dan Flowers

Your department has many employees who deserve special recognition, and I appreciate the many kindnesses they have extended to me. Jimmy Finley, who works at the Social Hill Rest Area near mile marker 93 on Interstate 30, is someone I am especially glad to have representing Arkansas to travelers and tourists.

On Saturday, September 17, I was lost and stopped at the rest area for directions. Unfortunately, I was so disconcerted by being lost, I locked the keys in my car. Mr. Finley was mowing. He interrupted his work, helped me get into my car, and gave me very careful directions to my planned destination. He was very kind and courteous. I drove on excellently maintained Arkansas highways and arrived safely at my destination. Thank you for having such a nice person available to help troubled travelers of our state.



Jimmy Finley
District 6 Social Hill Rest Area Attendant
Hot Spring County maintenance crew

Sincerely,

Wilandra S. Dean, Investigator for Consumer Protection Division
Arkansas Attorney General's Office

To: Director Dan Flowers

I would like to commend two of your employees for a job beyond the call of duty. On August 23 I was driving to Malvern from Hot Springs, going up a hill, when a pickup truck passed me and threw out a can onto my windshield. It blinded me and it looked like white paint. I couldn't even see to stop.

Your department was close at hand so I drove in and ask if they could help me. Jimmy Finley and Donna Pasley came to my rescue. We got it cleaned enough that I could drive back to Pine Bluff. Without their help I would not have made it. Thank you for hiring employees that care. It makes a difference.

Sincerely,

Loucette Johnson of Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Ms. Karen Colclasure
Arkansas Highway Department

Words often fall short of expressing one's strongest intentions; however, I wanted you to know how much we at Southwestern Bell and the United Way of Pulaski County really appreciated your participation in our joint kickoff programs from September 12-16.

Thanks to people like you who generously volunteer their time, talents, and abilities, the United Way kickoff programs were most effective. In fact, many comments were made about your group "Redeemed." Your words through song were very moving; moreover, the United Way song you performed was certainly a crowd pleaser, and affected in a positive way people's willingness to give.

Through the years, Southwestern Bell employees along with other companies and their employees have developed a long-standing tradition and reputation for supporting communities which the United Way serves. Thanks for being part of our campaign kickoffs.

On behalf of our SWB/CWA co-chair, Alma Diemer, thanks again for helping us with a successful campaign kickoff and for sharing your talents with our employees for the benefit of the United Way of Pulaski County.

Larry Ross, District Manager External Affairs
Southwestern Bell Telephone Company



Karen Colclasure
Maintenance Management Analyst
Maintenance Division

Mr. William Tyler
District 3 Engineer at Hope

As pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope Catholic Church, I would like to thank you for your work crews on behalf of the parish for the great job they did cleaning around the curbs and gutters of the highways within the Hope city limits.

With the Watermelon Festival underway, the many out-of-towners will certainly appreciate your efforts, as do those of us who are so proud of our small city. Officials like you who truly do the best job you can should be applauded.

Sincerely, Father Bill Thomas



Hempstead County maintenance crew

Dear Mr. Tyler

This is to offer my sincere "thank you" to you and your crews who have worked so diligently to clean around the curbs and gutters on the highways in the Hope city limits.

I am, of course, most impressed with the cleanup on South Main Street where I have a business location.

Your attempt both this year, and last, to make our highways clean and neat as we anticipate many out-of-town guests for the Watermelon Festival is appreciated. Your efforts have not gone unnoted and those of us who take pride in our city are grateful.

Sincerely,
Dr. Don W. Freel, O.D.
Hope, Arkansas

Arkansas Highway Police

Dear Sirs:

I would very much like to extend a special "thank you" to Officer J.W. Vickers. On a trip to visit my aging parents in Texas, my daughter and I experienced our first flat tire on the interstate. We felt very confident since we had a good spare and the booklet that came with the car. However, it soon became clear to us that we were still not fully equipped. Together we were unable to remove any of the lug nuts from the tire and we didn't realize how hot it was that day until we were out there a few minutes.

There was not a house in sight and we were becoming quite frightened. Imagine our relief when Officer Vickers came along and saw us. He promptly changed our tire and didn't even complain as the sweat poured from his face.

I have no idea how to get a message to him, but I wish he knew how much we appreciated his help. It makes us feel good to know our Arkansas Highway Police officers are out there.

Thank you Officer J.W. Vickers.

Yours truly,
Elaine Grace
Monticello, Arkansas



Pfc. J.W. Vickers

Arkansas Highway Police

Dear Sirs:

I wish to relate to you the actions of one of your officers, namely, Richard Moreau. My wife Alice and I were returning from Michigan on Interstate 40, in heavy traffic, when we had a loud blowout on our right front tire. We were very lucky to be in the right lane and able to pull off on the shoulder very quickly.

Our auto was loaded with baggage, golf clubs, both the trunk and the back seat were full! To make matters worse, our little spare tire was below all of the above items. We had no alternative but to empty the trunk completely, putting all the items on the ground, taking half an hour or more. Finally I was able to get the small spare tire and jack out.

While I was in the process of jacking the car up, a state patrol car pulled in right behind our car. Officer Richard Moreau got out and immediately began to help us get the blown tire off and the spare tire on.

This officer was very business-like and courteous. I'm sure he did more to help us than I could expect in this situation and I felt very much obligated to report his excellent conduct to you.

Officer Moreau also warned us to drive slowly on our small spare and told us where we could replace the tire at a service station in Hazen. He followed us for the 4 or 5 miles to Hazen, until we could exit the freeway.

Having had state trooper friends while living in Michigan, I know very well what is expected of them while on patrol. Evidently your people receive excellent training, as evidenced by Officer Moreau. We believe he has taken it even a stop or two further.

My wife and I have great respect for your organization, as demonstrated by this officer. Both of us are in our mid-70's and we did need his help.

Very sincerely,
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Pollard of El Paso, Texas



Pfc. Richard Moreau

Governor Jim Guy Tucker

Arkansas Highway Police

Dear Sir:

Officer Rick Hickman is one of the best things Arkansas has going for it in the way of public relations.

On Sunday, June 12, my husband Bob, age 67 and I, age 62, were on our way home from our grandson's graduation in Atlanta, Georgia. Just west of Lonoke, on Interstate 40, the top radiator hose on our Buick broke. We pulled over and raised the hood.

At that time Officer Hickman, who was going east, saw us, turned around and returned to assist us.

If our own son had come to our aid, we could not have been better cared for. This was 3 p.m. on Sunday. In one hour, we had a new radiator hose and were on our way home to Oklahoma.

Officer Hickman made sure we were safe and cared for and would only take a handshake as thanks. He said, "This is my job and what I am here for is to assist you when you are in trouble." With a final handshake we departed for home.

Rick Hickman has been the center of many stories we have told family and friends. We wanted you to know Officer Hickman is out there doing the best public relation work you could ever hope for.

Please be sure Rick Hickman's department head knows of our appreciation for his kindness and care.

Sincerely,
Edith and Bob Lowder of Guthrie, Oklahoma



Ptl. Rick Hickman

Arkansas Highway Department

Dear Sirs:

On Tuesday, September 13, my delivery person had delivered flowers to Baptist Hospital. When she left the hospital and started to get on I-630, there were some large rocks in the roadway. She swerved to miss them and almost made it with the exception of one large rock which grazed the side of the tire.

She did not realize at the time that a large hole had been torn in the tire. When she got on the freeway her tire was flat. I have a brand new van and she had no idea how to get the spare to change the tire.

A former employee of yours and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Leigh Johnson, were on the other side of the freeway and they turned around and went back to help her. Mr. Johnson has been ill and was not able to change her tire but let her use their car phone to report it to me.

About the same time, Todd Nebling, a current employee of yours, also stopped to assist. Mr. Nebling changed her tire and she was on her way.

I want you to know how very much I appreciate the kindness of your employees. There are not too many people in this day and time willing to help someone else.

I would like to tell them once again how much I appreciate their kindness.

Sincerely,
Donna Horton of Donna's Flower Shop
Little Rock



Todd Nebling, center, Vegetation Controller for the District 6 Interstate maintenance crew, is shown with Michelle Red and Donna Horton of Donna's Flower Shop.

Jim Briley
District 2 Engineer
Pine Bluff

Jim Chaney
District 5 Engineer
Batesville

Coy Campbell
District 7 Engineer
Camden

On behalf of the Star City Area Chamber of Commerce, I thank you for the sign you placed at Highway 425 for the Industrial Park. We sincerely appreciate your contribution, time and consideration.

We appreciate your department and the hard work you have done in our area and look forward to future growth and expansions that help our economic development so much.

Sincerely,
Judy Story, President
Star City Area
Chamber of Commerce

With reference to our recent correspondence regarding the sign at the intersection of Highway 14 and the Blanchard Springs Cavern Road near Fifty-Six, please accept our "thank you" for honoring our request.

The sign looks great!

At this time I would also like to say that the Highway Department mowing crews did an excellent job in this area, and as usual, the roadways look neat.

Barbara Wallace, Mayor
Incorporated Town of
Fifty-Six

Just a note of thanks for the work done in Caddo Valley. Everyone I have spoken with is delighted that Frost Road has been replaced. Your people did an excellent job.

Royce Howell, Mayor
City of Caddo Valley

Retiree Association Hosts 12th Annual Meeting

Longtime friends greeted each other over a barbeque lunch at the 12th annual meeting of the AHTD Retirees Association. More than 160 members attended the event at the Burns Park Hospitality House in North Little Rock.

The Department was represented by Director Dan Flowers, Deputy

Director and Chief Engineer Roger Almond, and Jane Wilson, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs.

Flowers briefed the retirees on changes and innovations in the Department, including the Quality Initiative Program, the continuing reduction in workforce, and closer cooperation with the Federal Highway

Administration.

"The people who work at the AHTD today have a big advantage as we face change," Flowers told the group. "We can build on the hard work, experience and leadership of our retirees."



Association members elected, left to right, Charles Frazier, president; Charles Broadway, senior vice president; Sibyl Maddox, secretary-treasurer, I.H. Nute, vice president and John Hall as the Association's representative to the retirement board.



AHTD Director Dan Flowers

IN MEMORY

Former Commissioners

Miss Willie A. Lawson
Commissioner from 1953-1957
died October 22

Arnil A. Taylor
Commissioner from 1959-1969
died August 22

Employees

Shelia Campbell
Receptionist, District Three
3 years service, died August 17

Garry Price
Senior Inspector, District Ten
20+ years service, died August 22

Martin H. Childres
Heavy Bridge Maintenance
died August 4

William N. Pendergrass
District 5 - died August 5

Shelby D. Wools
District 5 - died August 16

Wayne S. Harper
Planning - died August 27

Roy Ward
District 3 - died September 14

Lawrence Younger
District 5 - died September 14

Harrell D. Henry
Traffic - died September 21

Retirees

Richard A. Pierce
Central Shop - died September 25

Millard Singleton
District 2 - died September 29

Clyde J. Miller
District 8 - died October 8

Leigh Johnson
District 6 - died October 14

Lester J. Mullins
District 3 - died October 14

Carl J. Dycus
District 6 - died October 22



Buckle Bear, along with Vince and Larry, the crush dummies, were big hits with the children at a booth sponsored by the Department at the Arkansas State Fair held in October.



1994-1995 COOPERATIVE EDUCATION STUDENT EMPLOYEES

(L-R) Bottom row: Natasha Barkins, Niketa Nelson, Bridget Watkins, Elizabeth Reed, Angela Ingram, Allison Gray, Alissa Worley, Robyn Jackson and Valarie Davis. Top row: Tonya Ross, Tara Ashley, Joy Moore, Derrick Dickerson, Blake Welch, Chuck Moreland and Brian Gilkey.

AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

BRIDGE



Karen Sutton and Michael Sage, son of Staff Bridge Design Engineer John and Beck Sage, were married June 25 in Little Rock.



Jerry Stussy, Division Head, received his 25-year service award in June.

Also receiving service awards were Karen Turner, Squad Leader for Final Estimates, and Kennie Birch, Division Section Secretary, 20 years.

Welcome to Valarie Davis, a seasonal employee working in the file room. She attends Bryant High School.

EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT



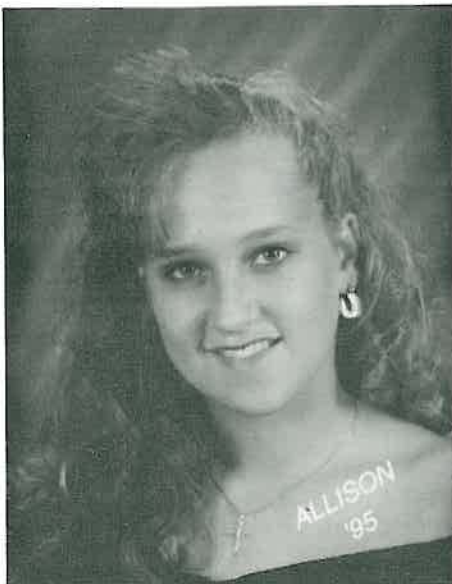
Tommy Willcockson is the son of Equipment Specialist Harry and Shelby Willcockson. He received a Master's degree in Divinity from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Tommy worked in Planning & Research from 1977 to 1988. He currently resides in Wake Forest, North Carolina with his wife Vonna and children Tom, 18, and Andera, 2. He is an associate pastor of the Ridge Crest Baptist Church.

CONSTRUCTION



Ralph Hall, left, Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations, presents Allan Holmes, State Construction Engineer, with a 30-year service award.

COMPUTER SERVICES



Allison Gray is a Cooperative Education student from McClellan High School working in Computer Services this year. She is assigned to the Production Control Section. Allison is a senior ranked 9th in her graduating class. She is cheerleader and member of the National Honor Society, FBLA, Youth and Government and other various organizations.

HIGHWAY POLICE



Mr. Holmes, left, presents Larry Payne, Squad Leader for Final Estimates, a 15-year service award.



Robert Matthew Lewis, left, is the son of Henry Lewis, Permit Technician. He was born July 16. Shown on the right is his sister, Britny Shurfune, age 2.

INTERNAL AUDIT



Chief Auditor Bill McDorman, left, and Assistant Chief Auditor Johnnie Parks, right, present Robert Jones, Senior Internal Auditor, with a 10-year service award.



Cindy Nutt



Roy Peterson

Welcome to two new employees: Cindy Nutt and Roy Peterson. Both are Internal Auditors in the Maintenance related area.

MAINTENANCE



Bill Harrod, left, Senior Traffic Investigator, receives a 30-year service award from State Maintenance Engineer Jim Barnett.



Dual Schales, left, Maintenance Specialist, receives a 25-year service award from Bill Mulhollen, Assistant State Maintenance Engineer.



Al Langhorn, left, Bridge Painter II in Heavy Bridge Maintenance, receives a 15-year service award from Keith Briggs, HBM Supervisor.



Cheri Pounders, Traffic Clerk in the Traffic Services Section, receives a 10-year service award from Tony Sullivan, Staff Maintenance Engineer.



Tommy Satterwhite, left, Sign Crew Supervisor in Traffic Services, receives a 10-year service award from Tony Jones, Signing Superintendent.



William Wood, left, Finish Carpenter in Heavy Bridge Maintenance, receives a 5-year service award from supervisor Keith Briggs.

PLANNING AND RESEARCH

Shown below (top picture) are Sattrick Anthony, Engineering Intern and Denver Duncan, Highway Data Collection Supervisor, of the Technical Services Section installing Piezo electric axle sensors on Interstate 30 near Hope during August. The sensors are used to collect traffic data such as weight, speed, classification and traffic counts for various state and federal transportation programs. Shown in the bottom picture are Jason Clark, Highway Data Collection Supervisor, and Tom Black, Civil Engineer IV.



Bill Richle, left, Heavy Bridge Maintenance Crew Leader, and David Mayberry, Heavy Bridge Maintenance Supervisor, won first place in the Sunrise Bass Club fishing tournament this summer. Bill was also named "Angler of the Year."

MATERIALS



Materials had seven seasonal employees this summer. Pictured above left to right: Ashley Thomas, Rodderick Armstrong, Dave Pantangla and Jason James. Not pictured: Marcus Rainwater, Lanier Corbin and James Hays.

Ashley is an electrical engineering student at the University of Oklahoma; Rodderick is an architectural engineering student at the University of Oklahoma; Dave is a civil engineering student at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and Jason, Marcus, Lanier, and James are all civil engineering students at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.



David Woodson Greenwood, born June 17, is the son of Mark and Tamara Greenwood. Mark is a Materials Technician III.



PROGRAMS AND CONTRACTS



Roy Douglas, Preconstruction Program Coordinator, left, presents Debbie Barclay, Programming Analyst, with a 20-year service award.

Also receiving service awards were Tammy Goshien, Programmer Analyst, 10 years; Katherine Hamilton, Programming and Scheduling Specialist and Vonda Shell, Administrative Assistant I, 15 years.

Receiving 5-year service awards in the Traffic Safety Section were Charles Marsh and Stephen Rountree, Safety Program Managers; Cathy Bonds, Ann Jordan, Verletta Robinson and Garren Stewart, Accident Coding Clerk II's; Susan White, Accident Coding Clerk I and Everlena Owens, General Secretary.

Welcome to John Bettis, Programming and Scheduling Engineer, and Kim Kealer, Civil Engineer III, to the Project Development Section.



Renarda Kendrick is the 11-year old daughter of Gail Scott, Administrative Aide in the Traffic Safety Section.



Jerry Dixon, Jr. is the son of Jerry Dixon, Needs Development Officer in the Program Administration Section. Jerry and his wife Pat visited their son on his 21st birthday at Lackland Air Force Base.

RIGHT OF WAY

Bonnie Harvill, Appraisal Section Secretary, was married to Danny Elam August 19 at the Bauxite Community Center.



Danny Arendt, left, Relocation Section Head, presents Rex Boothe, Relocation Coordinator, with a 20-year service award.



Arendt, left, presents Gary Bullock, Relocation Coordinator, with a 20-year service award.

STATE AID



Scott Johnson, 16-year old son of Sam Johnson, State Aid Section Head, is a junior at J.A. Fair High School in Little Rock where he is the starting left offensive tackle for the football team.



Brianna Palge Oldham, 18-month old granddaughter of Barbara Crosswell, Division Secretary, attended the National Gingerbread Pageant in Dallas where she received a "Sweet-heart" trophy and won 2nd alternate in the talent competition.

SURVEYS



Robert Kesl, Topographer in the Photogrammetry Section, received a 15-year service award in July.



Robert "Lindy" Bragg, Aerial Reproduction Specialist, received a 5-year service award in August.

DISTRICT ONE



10 Year Service Awards
(L-R) Cornelius Tucker, Body Repairer and Painter, District shop; Randy Still, Assistant Resident Engineer, West Memphis; and Jerry Mitchell, Bridge Repairer II, Districtwide bridge crew



15 Year Service Awards
(L-R) Ocie Williams, Single Axle Truck Driver, Lee County; Coleman Nesbitt, Street Sweep Operator, Crittenden County; and Alan Davis, Assistant Storeroom Supervisor, District parts room



5 Year Service Awards

(L-R) Joe Brown, Vegetation Controller, Lee County; Ramon Hansberry, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, Lee County; Luther Davis, Senior Mechanic, District shop; Sammie Davidson, Single Axle Truck Driver, Phillips County; and Johnny Bankston, Street Sweeper Operator, Phillips County



The District One Semi-Final Equipment Operators' Rodeo was held August 16 with 39 employees participating. Pictured are the first place winners and the administrative staff. (L-R) Front row: Charlie Fryer, Ernest Rose, Floyd Eskridge, Billy Waggle, Jim Lloyd, Frank Smith and Harold Mullins. Back row: David McFadden, Assistant District Maintenance Supt.; Calvin George, District Maintenance Supt.; Gene Belknap, Assistant District Engineer and Ray Woodruff, District Engineer

**DISTRICT ONE SEMI-FINAL
EQUIPMENT OPERATORS' ROADEO WINNERS**



Single Axle Dump Truck

Billy Waggle, Vegetation Controller, first place; Carl Andrews, Lead Person, second place; and Charlie Fryer, Motor Patrol Operator, third place



Tandem Axle Dump Truck

Eric Roebuck, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, second place; Jim Lloyd, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, first place; and Lee Hamilton, Spreader Operator, third place



Tractor/Lowboy

Jimmy Pulley, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, third place; Wayne Hamilton, Senior Mechanic, second place; and Harold Mullins, Roller Operator, first place



Tractor/Mower

Floyd Eskridge, Lead Person, first place; Calvin Jackson, Single Axle Truck Driver, second place; and Troy Tims, Motor Patrol Operator, third place



Backhoe

Frank Smith, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, first place; Ronald Dunigan, Crew Leader, second place; and David Morgan, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator; third place



Motor Patrol

Charlie Fryer, Motor Patrol Operator, first place; Joey McClanahan, Motor Patrol Operator, second place; and Larry Clark, Motor Patrol Operator; third place



TEAM CHAMPIONS - Woodruff County

(L-R) Larry Clark, David Morgan, Frank Gregory, Area Maintenance Supervisor, and Troy Tims



Mike Davis, Construction Aide I for the Pine Bluff Residency, received a 5-year service award



Kristle Kersey is the daughter of Assistant District Engineer Gene Belknap and his wife Darlene. She graduated in August from Arkansas State University magna cum laude with a degree in Sociology.

DISTRICT TWO



James Reeves, Multi-Axle Truck Driver for the Lincoln County maintenance crew retired in August with 27+ years service.



Harrison Ross Hollingsworth is the fourth grandson of District Bookkeeper Melanie Owen and husband Glenn. Harrison's parents are Molly and Jack Hollingsworth, Jr. of Pine Bluff.



Keaton Lamar Collier is the son of Crittenden County Crew Leader Jeffrey and Constance Collier. He was born April 28. Keaton's grandfather is George McDaniel, Crew Leader for Monroe County.



Burl Robertson, left, Equipment Supervisor, presents Tommy Smith, Guard, with a 20-year service award.



Adam Jennings, left, age 11 months, and Jacob Patterson, age 7 months, are the grandchildren of District Secretary Joyce Patterson.

DISTRICT THREE



Clint Martin is the son of Susan Monroe, District Office Manager. He was selected Who's Who Among American High School Students for the second time. He is a junior at Hope High School and plays linebacker for the Bobcats. He is listed in the Arkansas football magazine not only for athletic but for his 4.0 GPA.



Stacye Roam, Field Clerk II in the Alma Residency, stands next to a "large" dump truck being used on the Highway 71 relocation project near Mountainburg.



Mary Katelyn Pennington, daughter of Construction Materials Inspector Steve and Suzy Pennington, was born April 29.



The children of Gail Ratcliff, Stock Clerk, were all winners in the livestock division of the Nevada County Fair. (L-R) Ben, 2nd place; Josh, 1st place; Wesley, 4th place; Aaron, 1st place; Ell, showmanship; and Kelsey, 1st place with her billy goat.



Debra Lynne Bonds, daughter of J.L. and Beverly Bonds, was married June 4 to Jeffery Allen Henderson. J.L. is a Motor Patrol Operator at Greenwood. Debra is a senior occupational therapy major at UCA in Conway and Jeffery is a senior at Arkansas Tech majoring in fisheries and wildlife management.

DISTRICT FIVE



District Engineer Jim Chaney retired September 30 with 32+ years service. Jim has been the DE for 25 years. A reception was held September 29 and a scanner was presented as a gift from District employees.

DISTRICT FOUR



Aren Beaver, daughter of District Engineer Harold Beaver and his wife Elaine, was married August 20 to John Wesley Couch at Grand Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Smith.



Balley Mychale Nelson is the 10-month old daughter of James and Lisa Nelson. James is a Construction Aide I at the Waldron Residency.



Hershel Smith, Roller Operator, District maintenance crew, receives a 25-year service award.



J.T. Smith, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish, District maintenance crew, receives a 25-year service award.



Lynette Varner and Rick McKinney were married August 20 in Batesville. Rick is the son of District Secretary Norma McKinney and husband Harold.



Carol Stafford is the new District Receptionist. She began work April 7.



Cecil Medley Dowdle is the son of Christina and Rick Dowdle and was born July 15. Rick is a District Bridge Inspector Helper.



Melissa Clark was a seasonal employee. She is a student at Hendrix College in Conway.



(L-R) Paul Matthews, Permit Officer, 20 years, Carl Anderson, Independence County Area Maintenance Supervisor and Neal McCandlis, Fulton County Area Maintenance Supervisor, 25 years



Brent Talmadge and Lorisa Donis were married September 17 in East Brunswick, New Jersey. Lorisa is the daughter of Resident Engineer Jim Leggett.

DISTRICT SIX



Jaime Bolanos is the son of Jim Bolanos, Bridge Inspector Helper. He played second base for the Sherwood Yankees who placed first in their league.



Chelsie Brooke Nebling is the daughter of Tom Nebling, Vegetation Controller for the Pulaski interstate crew. She went on her first fishing trip this summer at Little Maumelle Creek.



District Six 15-Year Service Award Recipients
 (L-R) David Tenner, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator; Steve McNeese, Single Axle Truck Driver; Roger Elder, Motor Patrol Operator; Bob Irons, Area Headquarters Attendant; Sam Harris, Jr., Area Headquarters Attendant; Ronnie Southerland, Advanced Construction Field Engineer and Danny Burnett, Construction Field Engineer I. Not pictured: Jim Doster, Storeroom Supervisor and Larkie Cobb, Distributor Operator.



District Six 20-Year Service Award Recipients
 (L-R) Ben Franklin, Station Attendant Supervisor; Herman Elder, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator and Larry Wilkins, Senior Inspector. Not pictured: Stanley Sutterfield, Single Axle Truck Driver and Frank Russenberger, Assistant District Engineer.

DISTRICT SEVEN

District Seven welcomes Gary Grimes as the new Resident Engineer at Camden.

CPR training really pays off! Tom Garland, Distributor/Roller Operator, proved that his time in the classroom was well spent. Recently in an El Dorado restaurant, Tom administered the Heimlich Maneuver to save an 82-year old woman's life.

J.B. Caldwell, T.L. Hill, and R.A. Hilton, Single Axle Truck Drivers with the Clark County maintenance crew, stopped to offer assistance at the scene of an accident. They administered CPR to a teenage girl until paramedics arrived.

DISTRICT EIGHT



The District Eight semi-final Rodeo was August 10. (L-R) first place winners: Randy Ward, Motor Patrol Opr.; Tommy Bridges, Multi-Axle Truck Driver; Dennis Horn, Motor Patrol Opr.; Donald Cowan, District Caretaker; and Dennis Langston, Backhoe/Front End Loader Opr.

DISTRICT NINE



Frank Rose, Assistant Maintenance Superintendent, received a 30-year service award.



Allison Lynn Ledbetter, daughter of District Parts Runner Aline and Stacy Ledbetter, was crowned Princess in the Tiny Miss Division in the Ribbons and Lace 1994 Holly Springs Princess Pageant on October 1. She is 8 months old.



Lucas Bennett Dorrrough, son of Senior Mechanic Gary and Gwen Dorrrough, was born March 18. Lucas' grandpa, Glyn Rackley, is also a Senior Mechanic for District Eight.



Joanle Shields, Distributor/Roller Operator for the Carroll County maintenance crew, receives a 10-year service award from Kit Core, Area Maintenance Supervisor.



Hunter Lee Konemann is the grandson of District Secretary Edith Korcheck. He was born August 25.



Kendall Sarah McEntire, the granddaughter of James and Margaret McEntire, was born May 17. James is the Senior Materials Inspector for the Bentonville Resident Engineer's office.



Katie Core is the daughter of Kit Core, Area Maintenance Supervisor for Carroll County. She is a sophomore cheerleader for Berryville High School.



Stephanie Core is the daughter of Kit Core, Area Maintenance Supervisor for Carroll County. She is a freshman and captain of the Berryville Junior High Bobkitten cheerleaders.

DISTRICT TEN



Assistant District Engineer Bob Faulkner, right presents Burl Hudson, left, Osceola Resident Engineer, with a 20-year service award.



Sherry Pratt, left, Office Technician at the Jonesboro Resident Engineer's office receives a 15-year service award and Willie Mitchell, right, Vegetation Controller in the Poinsett County maintenance crew, receives a 10-year service award.



Christopher Dale Serlitt, Jr. was born September 14 to Chris and Jackie Serlitt. Chris is a Construction Aide I at the Harrison Resident Engineer's office.

Congratulations to Rick Carmack, Area Station Attendant for the Jonesboro area headquarters, for winning first place in the Single Axle Dump Truck category at the Statewide Equipment Operators' Rodeo.

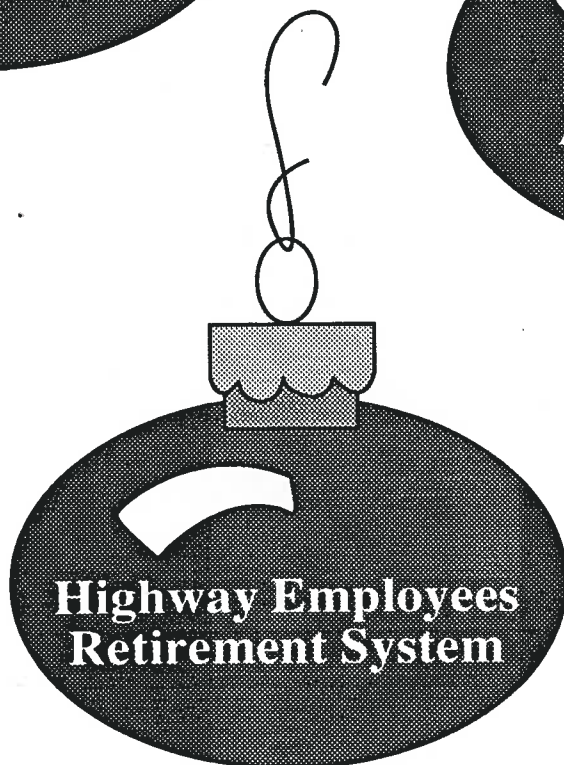
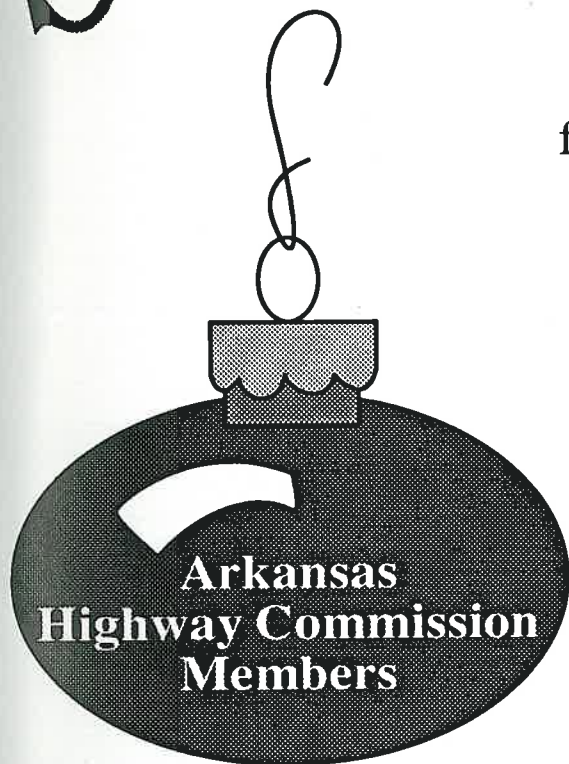


**NATIONAL DRUNK AND DRUGGED DRIVING
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