

Arkansas Highways

WINTER 1996

Director's Message

Wintertime can be a time of reflection and a time for thinking and planning ahead. This last year has been an interesting year for the AHTD.

Progress continues on highway improvements throughout the State. Every mile of the Highway 71 relocation project between Alma and Fayetteville is now under construction. Highway 63 improvements from Jonesboro to Interstate 55 are complete and major improvements are underway on Highways 65, 82 and 412.

Changes were made in the way we maintain some of our roadsides in 1996. Contract mowing is being used for the first time statewide on selected routes in an effort to utilize our money, our personnel, and our equipment in the most efficient way possible.

After a detailed study by the Planning and Research Division, speed limits were raised on many controlled access highways in the state in 1996. This required the installation of nearly 750 new speed limit signs.

In looking ahead to 1997, we must first get through the winter months. Arkansas weather is very hard to predict, but our employees have established an excellent record of maintaining our highways in good condition even through some of the worst snow and ice storms.

The Arkansas General Assembly will convene in early January to consider many issues, some of which will pertain to the AHTD and our employees. With or without additional funding, we will continue improving our highway system. That rate of progress will be dictated by the amount of funding available, but as usual, we will make the most of what we have.

In September 1997, the AHTD will serve as host for the Southeastern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (SASHTO) Annual Meeting in Little Rock.

1996 was a year filled with challenge. We look forward to 1997. The progress that has been made to date and our future successes will be due to the hard work and dedication of our employees and the excellent support of our Commission.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season.



DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION



ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS

WINTER 1996

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION



L.W. "BILL" CLARK
CHAIRMAN



BOBBY HOPPER
VICE CHAIRMAN



HERBY BRANSCUM, JR.
MEMBER



JOHN "M" LIPTON
MEMBER



J.W. "BUDDY" BENAFIELD
MEMBER

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COVER PHOTO: State Highway 65 in Searcy County
BACK COVER PHOTO: State Highway 65 in Van Buren County
Photographs by John Jackson

An Interview With Commission Chairman L.W. "Bill" Clark

L.W. "Bill" Clark's ten-year term as a member of the Arkansas State Highway Commission expires in January 1997. He was appointed to the Commission on January 21, 1987 by Governor Bill Clinton to replace Patsy Thomasson. He has served as Chairman of the Commission for the last four years. A native of Clarksville, Clark is currently President of L.W. Clark, Inc. which owns franchises of the Burger King Corporation. He lived in Hot Springs at the time of his appointment and currently resides in Little Rock.

In a recent interview with Randy Ort, AHTD Public Affairs Officer, he reflected on the progress and accomplishments of the Commission and Department during his tenure.



L.W. "Bill" Clark

ORT: *Congratulations on a successful 10 years. What have been the highlights?*

CLARK: I think there are two things that stand out. One of them is the substantial completion of the gravel road portion of the 1985 Rural Road Program which is very important to people who don't live on a major highway. It's very important for them to have good highways and that program focused on the rural areas.

The other thing I think is significant, from the standpoint of statewide impact, is the 1991 Highway Improvement Program. We didn't have much money when I first came on the Commission. You really couldn't do anything to address all the needs that were out there. We didn't have the funds necessary to start new projects until we got the revenues associated with the HIP. The HIP has made a significant difference for Arkansas.

ORT: *You were appointed to the Highway Commission in 1987 by then-Governor Bill Clinton. Prior to your appointment, you were on the Governor's staff. How did that experience help you as a Commissioner?*

CLARK: Serving on the Governor's staff as a liaison taught me a lot about the operations of state government. Until I began working for him, I had never been involved in government. When I went to work for Bill Clinton, I met a lot of people all over the state. I got to meet all the legislators because I lobbied for several years and became friends with most of them. It helped me when I was appointed to the Commission because we have to deal with the same people.

ORT: *During your tenure on the Commission, the Department celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Mack-Blackwell Amendment which created the current structure of the Highway Commission. What is your perception of the amendment, and do you think changes need to be made?*

CLARK: Well, as far as the Mack-Blackwell Amendment is concerned, I think it is critical to the continued efforts of the Highway Department. The fact that we are an independent state agency keeps the continuity of the programs and the staff. Without Mack-Blackwell, we would be like some other states. Every time you change governors we would change directors and most administrative positions. That just doesn't lead to continuity. What makes our Department so successful is the fact that the leadership has been here a long time. They came up through the system and are familiar with all aspects of the Department. The people that work here generally stay because it is a stable place to work. That is important to this state and to the Department.

ORT: *The 1991 Highway Improvement Program, or HIP, called for about 6,000 miles of improvements on Arkansas' highways. How important has the HIP program been to Arkansas?*

CLARK: The HIP program is critical for the development of Arkansas. It can't be completed fast enough to satisfy the needs of the people. If we had more funding, we could satisfy those needs sooner. We are doing our best to do what was promised and see to it that the program is completed on time. As different areas of our state continue to grow, the needs are going to become greater. The biggest drawback to the HIP program is that it just doesn't go far enough. We have had rapid growth in several areas of the state during the first four years of the HIP. But the projects needed to address that growth are not in the HIP. Our money is tied up for 15 years on HIP projects. Not much is left for addressing other projects and maintenance needs. We are going to have to address needs that have come up since 1991. Those improvements need to be funded some way.

“We are going to have to do something about additional funding in order to have the kind of highway system that is necessary for this state to develop economically and for the people to travel safely.”

L. W. “Bill” Clark





Commissioner Clark with Public Affairs Officer Randy Ort

“This organization, to be as large as it is, has some of the finest, most skilled and knowledgeable people in state government.”

L.W. “Bill” Clark

ORT: *During your term, there has been one tax increase for highways. Has that been enough to keep pace with our needs?*

CLARK: We have had one tax increase since I have been on the Commission, and that is for completing the HIP program over 15 years. That doesn't address needs that have been identified since 1991. We are going to have to do something about additional funding in order to have the kind of highway system that is necessary for this state to develop economically and for the people to travel safely.

ORT: *Many employee programs have been started at the Department in the last 10 years. The Career Development Program, Career Enhancement Program, the Equipment Operator's Rodeo, and the Employee Assistance Program. How beneficial are programs like these?*

CLARK: Any time you can improve your employees either in the knowledge they have or their ability to address problems, it is great for an organization. It develops skills that will make them better employees and make them more productive. I am in favor of any kind of program that can do that. I think our programs here at the Department are really good and help develop people, and I support them wholeheartedly. I do it in my own company. We have all kinds of programs to help employees. It makes for good relations too. The more you are involved, the more personal contact you have, the better the relationship you have with your employees.

ORT: *The Commission and the Department have taken on additional responsibilities in recent years. In spite of these changes, the Department maintains about the same number of employees we had 20 years ago. What are your thoughts on that?*

CLARK: It is not by accident we have the same number of employees we had twenty years ago. We have strived to ask our people to do more, and that goes back to the programs that enhance their abilities. Therefore we ask them to do more, and as they do more you can get by with fewer employees.

One of the false impressions I had before I got to know the folks at the Highway Department is that it was just another state agency. I have dealt with some agencies that were very inefficient and terrible to deal with. I think this organization, to be as large as it is, has some of the finest, most skilled and knowledgeable people in state government. It makes our agency not only efficient, but one of the outstanding agencies in the country. It's a tribute to all the people working in the organization. You're only as good as the people you have working for you. Fortunately, we have some very good people working for us.

ORT: *What are some accomplishments that stand out in your mind during the last ten years?*

CLARK: Well, I mentioned the 1985 Rural Road Program and the 1991 Highway Improvement Program. I think another major accomplishment is the fact that we are going to complete the Highway 71 Relocation Project in early 1999. The scope of that total project is so enormous, not only from an engineering standpoint but from the construction aspect. When finished, it is going to be an outstanding engineering achievement, as well as one of the most beautiful drives in the whole country. I think it is a major accomplishment that we are as far along as we are under the financial conditions we are working with.

ORT: *Has there been anything or any project you would like to have seen completed during your term that hasn't been?*

CLARK: I would love to have seen the bypasses in Pine Bluff and Hot Springs completed during my tenure on the Commission. The portions of those routes that are complete and in use have made a tremendous difference in those towns. I had a guy tell me that the arterial in Hot Springs to Malvern Avenue had increased his business 30 percent because people from Hot Springs Village save 20 minutes getting to his meat market. It just helps people go from one side of town to the other for shopping or whatever reasons.

I would have loved to have completed Highway 71, not only north but south to Louisiana as well. That will be a major highway when it is done. I would like to have seen us start Interstate 69. I think Highway 67 going north is a very needed highway, as well as Highway 65 both north and south. I wish we could have completed all those highways. I would like to see the Northbelt completed too.



ORT: Not being considered a full time position, being on the Highway Commission can be very time-consuming. How has being a Commissioner affected your personal life?

CLARK: The only way it's affected me is that it turned out to be a lot more time-consuming than I had originally thought. As a matter of fact, if I had still been in the timber business, I couldn't have served. I had a 100 people depending on me for a living. In the timber business, I was the one who bought a lot of the

timber. I was the one who sold all the material we produced. I was the one who made the inspections and bought the material and I traveled all over the areas where we had mills. Back in those days, I would go to work at 7:00 in the morning and might not be home until 8:00 at night. I couldn't have served on the Commission because of the amount of time that business required.

Fortunately, I have a lot of good people working for me in the hamburger business who know a lot more about it than I do. My partner has been with me for twenty years, and my son, Terry, four or five years. He was in the restaurant business on his own before he came to work with me. Because of my staff in Springdale, I have been able to serve on this Commission and not worry too much about my business. I am looking forward to getting more involved in it now that my term is up on the Commission.

ORT: If you had the opportunity, would you accept a reappointment to the Highway Commission?

CLARK: Well, you know, I don't think so. Not that I wouldn't like it, because I hate to leave the association and the people I have met. But I think 10 years is a long time for anyone to serve on anything. After 10 years maybe it helps if you get some new ideas and some new people. Therefore, I'm ready to step down from the Commission and let someone with new ideas and newer goals come in. I don't think that kind of change is bad. You still have stability because you have the other four Commissioners, but it can bring some new, in-depth thought that might enhance the Commission and the thought processes of the Department.

I think Arkansas has one of the most outstanding Highway Departments in the country. I have been to meetings around the country and know a little about how other states operate. They all have good people but I think our Department is the best and I think we have a lot of exceptionally qualified people. That's what I hate about leaving the Commission, the association I've had with the people of the Department.

I would have to say I have really enjoyed serving the 10 years. I wish we could have done more. But I have loved working with all the people at the Department. It's been a great experience for me and I would not have missed it for anything.

Barbara and I want to thank all the employees of the Department for their hard work in making Arkansas a better and safer place to live. Keep up the good work!

Federal Grant Announcements Highlight Fayetteville Ceremonies

Two federal grants for Arkansas transportation projects were announced in ceremonies in Fayetteville October 30. The announcements were made by U. S. Senator Dale Bumpers and Federal Highway Administrator and native Arkansan Rodney E. Slater.

The first press conference was held at the interchange where the Highway 71 relocation project will intersect with existing Highway 71. AHTD Director Dan Flowers welcomed the crowd and introduced members of the Highway Commission as well as other dignitaries who were in attendance. He then turned the podium over to Bumpers and Slater who announced that Arkansas would receive \$1.039 million in federal funds to continue studies for the location of Highway 71 south of Interstate 40.

"The money will be spent to study alternate routes between Alma and the Louisiana state line," Bumpers told the crowd. "This will include looking in detail at any environmental factors that may arise in the building of this roadway."

"An investment in this particular roadway is not only an investment in western Arkansas," Slater said, "but it is an investment in all of Arkansas, and really, an investment in the health and well-being of the nation as a whole."

After the announcement regarding funds for Highway 71, the



Left to right: AHTD Director Dan Flowers, Federal Highway Administrator Rodney Slater, Commissioners L.W. "Bill" Clark, Bobby Hopper, Herby Branscum, Jr., J.W. "Buddy" Benafield, AHTD Deputy Director and Chief Engineer Roger Almond and U.S. Senator Dale Bumpers

group moved to the mall area in front of the University of Arkansas Student Union for the second ceremony.

University Chancellor Dan Ferritor announced plans for a \$7.4 million intermodal transit facility on the U of A campus. The facility will include a multi-level parking deck and bus transfer area for Razorback Transit located adjacent to the Student Union.

Slater presented Chancellor Ferritor and University Board of Trustees member Carl Whillock with a check in the amount of \$3,176,000 to begin construction on the facility. "I am pleased to be here today as a son of this great state and of this institution to make a down payment on this dream of serving all the fine students, faculty and individuals that come to

this special place," Slater said.

"I would have thought that every student who has an automobile would be here this afternoon because I know what the traffic conditions are here," commented Bumpers, another former University student. "I know there are roughly 3,000 more permits out there than there are parking spaces, but this project will help rectify that."

Flowers told the crowd of his experiences riding Razorback Transit's first "bus" nearly 30 years ago. "I can remember riding on that first system when it was nothing but a trailer being pulled by a tractor," Flowers said.

Razorback Transit now has 12 modern buses running seven routes throughout Fayetteville and the campus.

Interstate 69 Rally

Federal, state, and local leaders gathered at the Grand Prairie War Memorial Auditorium in Stuttgart Wednesday, October 16, for a rally to support the proposed Interstate 69 project.

Local organizers had hoped to attract a crowd of 500-600 people for the event. An estimated 700 were on hand, which pleased Stuttgart Chamber of Commerce President David Leech. "This rally is not being held for Stuttgart," Leech said. "It's being held to show unity for the corridor. Wherever it crosses Arkansas, it will be good for Stuttgart and the state."

The event had all the ingredients of an old-fashioned pep rally including music, cheerleaders and plenty of speakers who were well-versed on the topic of Interstate 69.

U.S. Congressman Bud Shuster of Pennsylvania, Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, was the featured guest at the rally. Other speakers included AHTD Director Dan Flowers, U.S. Representatives Tim Hutchinson and Blanche Lambert-Lincoln, State Senator Kevin Smith, and State Representative Wanda Northcutt. Congressman Jay Dickey served as master of ceremonies.

"A very important case has been made today for I-69," Shuster told the gathering. "I am confident the reauthorization next year for



AHTD Director Dan Flowers (at podium), Arkansas U.S. Congressman Jay Dickey and Pennsylvania U.S. Congressman Bud Shuster



Pennsylvania U.S. Congressman Bud Shuster, Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

the transportation bill will address the issue of emerging trade corridors like I-69." He went on to say that Arkansas is in a favorable position for the route because of its existing facilities for river and rail transport.

Flowers told the crowd the project would cost about \$6 billion. "The Arkansas portion alone is expected to run approximately \$1 billion," he stated. "Twenty percent, or about \$200 million, would have to come from state funds."

"Funding is always a problem," Shuster cautioned, adding that the project might require some innovative financing. "Other sources need to be looked at besides the federal and state matching funds."

Highway Commission members L.W. "Bill" Clark, Chairman; Bobby Hopper, Vice Chairman;

Herby Branscum, Jr., and John "M" Lipton attended the rally. "We have said all along that we support this

project and we will do whatever we can to see it become a reality," Chairman Clark said.



Arkansas Highway Commission Chairman L.W. "Bill" Clark with Louis Ramsey of Pine Bluff



FHWA Division Administrator Bill Richardson, Arkansas Highway Commissioners Hopper, Branscum and Lipton were in attendance with over 700 others at the I-69 Rally in Stuttgart.

Commissioner Lipton Honored With Community Development Award

Arkansas Highway Commissioner John "M" Lipton was honored at a luncheon Tuesday, October 29 with an Individual Exceptional Accomplishment Award at the 48th Annual Community Development Awards Program.

Lipton, who was unable to attend the banquet due to the death of his mother, was nominated by the Bradley County Industrial Development Corporation's (BCIDC) Board. His work as president of BCIDC has made him instrumental in making economic development a priority for Bradley County.



Most significantly, through his leadership, a one-cent sales tax was passed by 78 percent of the voters in Bradley County. One half of the sales tax was earmarked for economic development endeavors such as marketing, land development and industrial recruitment.

Lipton has also been instrumental in leading the community in their endeavors, through the BCIDC, to become an Arkansas Community of Excellence "ACE." Warren received that designation by the Arkansas Industrial Development Commission on June 28, 1995.

Earlier this year, the BCIDC developed a direct-mail marketing campaign targeting 7,000 CEO's throughout the United States. It provided information on four available buildings and four sites in the industrial park. The package included a response brochure and a quality-of-life video. The Community Development Awards Program is sponsored by the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce.

350 Auction Items Net Department \$447,565

"One man's junk is another man's treasure" is an often-used proverb and on October 22, the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department auction proved that adage to be true.

Over 350 items were sold to the highest bidder in the annual auction of retired and worn-out equipment, which was held at the Equipment and Procurement Annex in Little Rock. Approximately 300 bidders withstood the cool, wet weather to tender their best offers. Everything from used Highway Police light bars to dump truck beds brought in \$447,565 after expenses.

Al Sacco, Equipment and Procurement Division Head, said this year's auction was very successful. "We had what people wanted

to buy and when they want something bad enough, it just pushes the bidding that much higher," he said. "I also think Blackmon Auctions did a good job in keeping things moving," Sacco added.

Charles Phelps of Little Rock was back for his second AHTD auction to find a bargain automobile. "I came here four years ago and bought a 1985 car that had 150,000 miles on it and it still runs good," Phelps said. "I'm going to try to buy another one. As long as you keep the oil changed, the car will last a good long while."

Other bidders were looking for a second family car as they kicked the tires, checked the oil and examined each potential vehicle. Dan Shea, a C-130 pilot stationed at Little Rock Air Force Base, was

looking at a sedan for his fiancée. "I own a Corvette and she said she wanted one too. I told her a two-Corvette family didn't make much sense. She said she likes the power and I thought a police cruiser would be just the thing," he said with a smile. "I guess you could say this is my 'Blues Brothers Mobile,'" Shea said referring to the police vehicle used in the John Belushi movie.

The prices being paid on police pursuit vehicles were a pleasant surprise to Sacco. "They are all in pretty good shape. I'm real satisfied with the outcome," he said. "The weather didn't bother the bidders. It may have gotten rid of the lookers, but not the buyers," Sacco added.



The rain and cold temperatures in no way deterred the bidders from getting bargain buys.



Over 300 people registered to bid on the more than 350 items offered by the AHTD at the auction conducted by Blackmon Auctions.

DEDICATIONS:

Curve Redesigned on Highway 49 in Marmaduke

Traveling U.S. Highway 49 will be much safer now that a curve has been redesigned. Highway Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield and District 10 Engineer Joe Barnett were on hand for the dedication held October 23.

Large trucks had a difficult time negotiating the old 90-degree turn on the highway before the redesigned curve was completed about a month ago.

Benafield told the crowd of about 60 people that getting the curve rebuilt was a project that he was proud to have had a part in. "This is an outstanding example of how city and state government can work together. It's now much safer and easier to negotiate," Benafield said. Barnett called the new portion of the highway a "kinder, gentler curve."

State Representative Richard Simmons of Rector told those in attendance that the new curve was an important safety factor and thanked Benafield for his assistance in getting the project finished. "This is the final piece in the puzzle in highway improvements between Paragould and Piggott," Simmons said.

Marmaduke School Superintendent Jerry McIntosh related a story from his youth about the curve. "I used to pick up watermelons from trucks that didn't make the curve," McIntosh said.



Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield speaks at the dedication ceremony. In the background are State Senator Mike Todd and State Representative Richard Simmons.



Left to right are: School Superintendent Jerry McIntosh, Greene County Judge David Lange, Mayor James Hensley, Senator Mike Todd, Commissioner Buddy Benafield, Representative Richard Simmons and District 10 Engineer Joe Barnett

New Bridge Dedicated Over Highway 16's Weaver Creek

Arkansas Highway Commissioner Herby Branscum, Jr. and Director Dan Flowers, along with local officials, helped dedicate a new bridge on State Highway 16 in Van Buren County October 1.

Work began on the project, which is approximately halfway between Clinton and Shirley, in early 1995. The Commission awarded a \$1.4 million contract to Jimmy A. Patton Contracting, Inc.

The new bridge and approaches over Weaver Creek have taken two sharp curves out of Highway 16. Retired AHTD employee Noah Moody of Clinton cut the ribbon during the dedication.

Branscum told the crowd to congratulate themselves on the new bridge since their money was used to build it, but warned that there are no excess funds available to the Department.



Commissioner Herby Branscum, Jr.



Left to right: Smitty Bonds, Van Buren County Area Maintenance Supervisor; Commissioner Herby Branscum, Jr.; Senator Allen Gordan; Representative Roger Rorie; District 8 Engineer Lawrence Fletcher; AHTD Director Dan Flowers



AHTD retiree Noah Moody, who officially cut the ribbon dedicating the new section of highway, clips souvenir sections of the ribbon for those in attendance.

"I would like to remind you that we are totally supported by user fees - motor fuel taxes and registration fees. So what you hear about the state having a surplus of funds doesn't apply to us. As a matter of fact, the opposite is the case," Branscum said.

Explaining that the state has a large highway system with very little revenue to support the infrastructure, "We've made a lot of progress in the last decade and we've been able to do that in spite of the fact that we have the 16th largest highway system in the country, but we rank 41st in revenues to support that system," Branscum said.

Razorback Road Extension Project Dedicated in Fayetteville

The City of Fayetteville sponsored a ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 25 for the new Razorback Road Extension Project (State Highway 112) in Fayetteville.

About 100 people were on hand for the dedication at Baum Stadium (home of the Razorback baseball team and located on the new extension). AHTD Director Dan Flowers told the crowd this new road will provide much easier access to the University of Arkansas and various athletic stadiums.

"For people traveling from the south, this new road provides another, even more direct route to the University and all the great athletic facilities on the U of A campus," Flowers added.

A feature of the new road is it connects with the Highway 71 Bypass at the same interchange where the Highway 71 relocation project will intersect. The relocation project is expected to be complete in early 1999.

University of Arkansas Athletic Director Frank Broyles, Fayetteville Mayor Fred Hanna and Fayetteville Assistant Public Works Director Charles Venable were also on the dedication program.

The new five-lane section of Highway 112 (Razorback Road) extends south from its intersection with Highway 16 (15th Street) to the Highway 71 exit at Highway 265 (Cato Springs Road). The new road was opened to traffic on



Fayetteville Mayor Fred Hannah cut the ribbon on the new Razorback Road Extension. Left to right are: County Judge Charles Johnson, AHTD Director Dan Flowers, U of A Athletic Director Frank Broyles, Mayor Hannah, Commission Vice Chairman Bobby Hopper, Representative Sue Madison, Alderman Len Schaper, Commission Chairman L.W. "Bill" Clark, Alderman Woody Bassett and Representative Charles Stewart



Left to right: Fayetteville Assistant Public Works Director and former AHTD Chief Engineer Charles Venable, Commissioner Bobby Hopper, Director Dan Flowers, Commissioner Clark and District 4 Engineer Harold Beaver

October 4 to provide better traffic flow in the area.

The \$2,019,602.40 contract for

the road was awarded to APAC-Arkansas, Inc., McClinton-Anchor Division of Fayetteville.

1996 Equipment Operators' Rodeo

Rose, Byers and Riley Win Again - District 6 Takes Team Championship

Good food, friends and intense competition is how participants in the Department's Annual Statewide Equipment Operators' Rodeo described their day-long test of skill.

Over 70 Department employees demonstrated their expertise in six different categories in the sixth annual event held September 25 at the Central Shops in Little Rock. Equipment operators from around the state competed in the Tractor/Lowboy, Tandem Axle Dump Truck, Single Axle Dump Truck, Tractor/Mower, Backhoe and Motor Patrol events.

Cool, overcast skies in the morning led to sunshine by the end of the day as the competition heated up with the change in the weather.

Kevin Evans from the Materials Division made his first appearance at the Rodeo in the Single Axle Dump Truck competition and not even a walking cast on his ankle could keep him out of the event. "I think it's pretty cool. It's a chance for everyone to get together from around the state and meet each other. I've only worked here since February and I really enjoy getting to meet other Department employees who do the same thing I do," Evans said. Kevin placed third in his event.

Margaret Byers, District 4; Ernest Rose, Jr., District 1; and Kenny Riley, District 9 all retained their 1995 titles by winning their respective events in Single Axle Dump Truck, Tractor/Mower and Backhoe competitions. Rose was also the Tractor/Mower champion in 1992 and 1993. Riley

has held the Backhoe competition title for the last four consecutive years.

Commission Vice Chairman Bobby Hopper and Director Dan

Flowers presented certificates to the first, second and third place finishers in each category. Team Champions for this year's event was District 6



1996 TEAM CHAMPIONS - DISTRICT 6

Commission Vice Chairman Bobby Hopper (far left) and AHTD Director Dan Flowers (far right) with the 1996 Team Champions. (Left to right): Lee Collins, Stan Wagner, David Wilson, David Atherton, Danny Posey, James Medlin, and District Engineer Leonard Hall.



1996 STATE CHAMPIONS

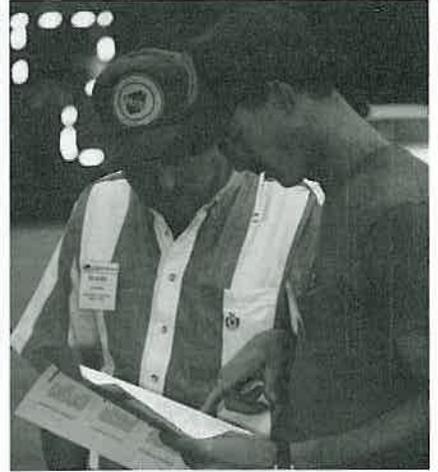
(Left to right): Commissioner Hopper; Donie Bray, Tractor/Lowboy; Ernest Rose, Tractor/Mower; Kenny Riley, Backhoe; Howard Farmer, Motor Patrol; Joe Showl, Tandem Axle Dump Truck; Margaret Byers, Single Axle Dump Truck; AHTD Director Dan Flowers

who captured one third and three second place finishes out of the six events.

Commissioners Herby Branscum, Jr. and John "M" Lipton were also on hand to show their support for the competitors. A barbecue lunch was part of the day's events.

The major emphasis placed on the competition is the demonstration of skills, concentration and safety.

FACES OF THE ROADEO





1996 AHTD Equipment Operators' Statewide Roadeo Winners



TRACTOR TRUCK/LOWBOY

(L-R): Commission Vice Chairman Bobby Hopper; 3rd Place: Stan Wagner - District 6; 2nd Place: Harold Mullins, Jr. - District 1; 1st Place: Donie Bray - District 5; AHTD Director Dan Flowers



TRACTOR /MOWER

(L-R): Commissioner Hopper; 3rd Place: Johnny O'Neal - District 7; 2nd Place: Johnny Hayes - District 8; 1st Place: Ernest Rose - District 1; Director Flowers



TANDEM AXLE DUMP TRUCK

(L-R): Commissioner Hopper; 3rd Place: Brad Fultz - District 10; 2nd Place: Lee Collins - District 6; 1st Place: Joe Showl - District 4; Director Flowers



SINGLE AXLE DUMP TRUCK

(L-R): Commissioner Hopper; 3rd Place: Kevin Evans - Materials; 2nd Place: David Atherton - District 6; 1st Place: Margaret Byers - District 4; Director Flowers



BACKHOE

(L-R): Commissioner Hopper; 3rd Place: Anthony Prescott - District 7; 2nd Place: Dennis Langston - District 8; 1st Place: Kenny Riley - District 9; Director Flowers



MOTOR PATROL

(L-R): Commissioner Hopper; 3rd Place: Euclid Elliott - District 7; 2nd Place: Danny Posey - District 6; 1st Place: Howard Farmer - District 9; Director Flowers

RETIREE PROFILE:

Association Officers Work To Benefit All Department Retirees

Bringing a wealth of experience to the job is an understatement for the president and secretary-treasurer of the AHTD Retiree Association.

Charles Broadway has been re-elected for a second year as President of the Association and Sibyl Maddox will be serving her fourteenth year as Secretary-Treasurer. Both Broadway and Maddox say they are serving their last terms as officers of the almost 900-member group.

"I guess they couldn't find anybody else to serve this year," Broadway said with a laugh.

"I'm not going to do this after this next term. I'm going to be 80



Sibyl Maddox, retired from the Department for 18 years, has served as Secretary/Treasurer of the Retiree Association since it began.



Charles Broadway, as he presides over the 1996 Retiree Association meeting, is entering his second term as President of the Association.

years old, so I'm ready to get out," Maddox added.

Both officers agreed that gaining more members of the potential 1,900 retirees and reducing the cost of insurance premiums were the most pressing problems facing the Association. "Our greatest concern has to be the cost of insurance," Maddox said. "With the recent increases some people will be paying their entire retirement to insurance expenses," he added.

Maddox also said insurance was an item that the Association would be looking into as well as recruiting new members. "We have almost 1,900 people who are



Charles Broadway, retired District 6 Job Maintenance Superintendent, with three of the District Engineers he worked for. Seated (left to right): Deputy Director and Chief Engineer Roger Almond, Director Dan Flowers, and Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations Ralph Hall.

retirees from the Department and we have 868 members. We would like to increase that number to 1,000," she said.

The annual membership fee for the Association is \$10 and covers expenses including the cost of mailing newsletters and information articles to all retirees, not just those that are members of the Association.

The two are spending their retirement working for the Association, but they have been busy in other aspects of their lives. Broadway helped his son Shane campaign for the District 46 seat in the House of Representatives, which he won on November 4. "He really had a tough three campaigns: the primary, runoff and general election," he explained.

Maddox spends her spare time with her husband following the University of Arkansas athletic teams. The couple have a Razorback-embellished recreational vehicle that goes to all the Little

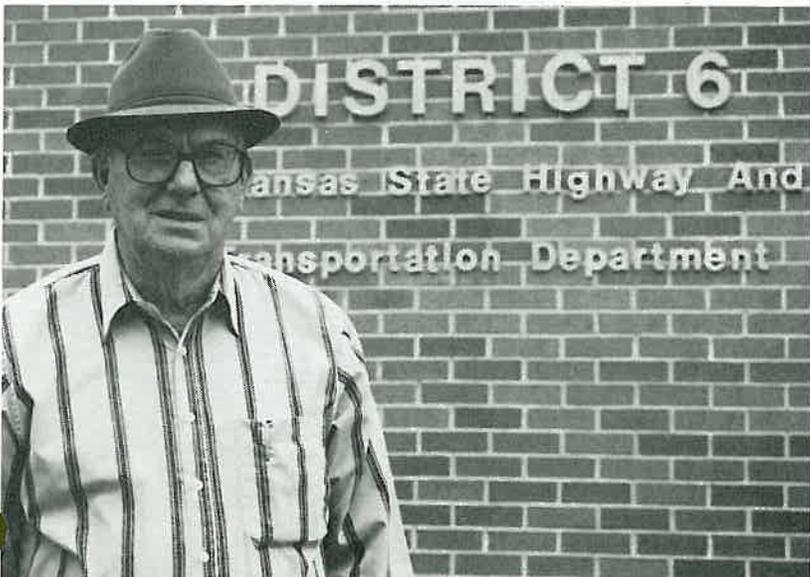


Sibyl Maddox, retired Division Secretary of the Materials Division, with items of her University of Arkansas Razorback memorabilia.

Rock Razorback football games and is parked in the same spot year-in and year-out. "We take the RV over to War Memorial Stadium on Thursdays. We have gotten to know a lot of the bus drivers who drive to the games and we feed just about all of them," she said.

Broadway was a Maintenance Job Superintendent at the time of his retirement in 1989 and worked for former District 6 Engineers Dan Flowers, Roger Almond and Ralph Hall.

Maddox, who retired in 1979, worked as a secretary in the Materials Division for 17 years.



Charles Broadway
1997 AHTD Retiree Association President



Sibyl Maddox
1997 AHTD Retiree Association Secretary/Treasurer

AHTD Retiree Association Hosts Annual Meeting

Over 140 members of the AHTD Retiree Association filled the North Little Rock Burns Park Hospitality House October 24 for their fourteenth annual statewide meeting.

The Association, formed in 1982 to preserve and promote the benefits of all AHTD retirees, has evolved from 63 initial members to its current membership of nearly 900 statewide.

Featured guest at this year's event was AHTD Director Dan

Flowers who showed a documentary video of the construction of Arkansas' Interstate System, featuring many of the retirees present at the meeting.

Other Department personnel in attendance were: Jane Wilson, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs; Ralph Hall, Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations; Melba Shepard, Human Resources Division Head; and Diann Gwatney, Insurance Representative.



Dan Flowers, AHTD Director



1997 AHTD Retiree Association Officers:

(Left to right): Charles Broadway, State President; Calvin Peevy, Senior Vice President, Sibyl Maddox, Secretary/Treasurer; Max Koehler, Vice President; and Jim Chaney, Association Representative to the AHTD Retirement Board





Former AHTD Director Henry Gray and current Director Dan Flowers



Senior Vice President Calvin Peevy with Jane Wilson, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs



Retirees Joe Lovell and Dave Conner



Retirees Dave Conner and Neb Bingham with AHTD Insurance Representative Diann Gwatney



Retirees Ralph Jones, David Moore, and Jim Chaney



Retirees at the association's annual meeting at Burns Park Hospitality House in North Little Rock

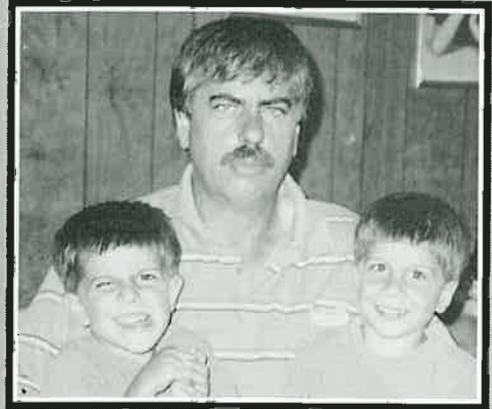
AHTD Employee Involved in Fatal Accident

Glenn Page, Single Axle Truck Driver for the Pope County maintenance crew of District 8, died October 21.

The accident occurred while Page was operating a backhoe off the shoulder of Interstate 40 near the 83-mile marker in Russellville. A tractor-trailer rig veered off the interstate hitting the backhoe. The driver of the truck told police he tried to pick up a spilled drink when the truck went off the eastbound lane of the interstate.

Page, 42, began his employment with the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department in 1990. He is survived by his wife, Patricia; a 16-year-old daughter Heather; and twin eight-year-old sons, Scott and Nathan.

The Arkansas Highway Commission and Department extends its sincere sympathy to the Page family.



Glenn Page with sons Scott and Nathan

Department Hosts Booth at Arkansas State Fair

For the eighth consecutive year, AHTD employees greeted the public and handed out numerous tourist maps, information and safety brochures, litter bags and Adopt A Highway brochures from the AHTD booth in the Hall of Industry during the Arkansas State Fair and Livestock Show.

Over 30 Department employees helped staff the booth during the ten-day fair October 6-20.

"The booth was a big success thanks to the volunteers who staffed it," said Public Affairs Officer Randy Ort, who coordinated the booth. This year's workers include: Donna Simpson and Jelyn Thomas, Computer Services; Mike Sebren, Construction; Emanuel Banks, Brad Fryar and Mark Voyles, District 6; John Baber, Patty Bryant and Lynn Malbrough, Environmental; Toni Barnes and Doug Ramer, Fiscal Services; Marcia Zeno, Yvonne Wright,



(L-R): Robert Jones, Internal Audit; "Larry" Melissa Marshall, Highway Police; "Vince" Garren Stewart, Traffic Safety Section and Bob Tyler, Right of Way

Bucky Thomas, Donya Thompson, Ross Batson and Melissa Marshall, Highway Police; Crystal Cole and Lynn Caple, Human Resources; Johnny Parks, Robert Jones and Shirley Wesson, Internal Audit; Calvin Gibson and Mark Whitmore, Legal; Scott Bennett, Planning & Research; Laura-

DeBro Carter, Debbie Barclay, Bill Bradberry, Margarita Olive, David Mayo, Garren Stewart and Angela Johnson, Program & Contracts; Keith Stephens, Kera Crowder, Jimmie Sneed and Randy Ort, Public Affairs; Bob Tyler, Right of Way; and Dorothy Rhodes, Roadway Design.



Comments to the Department

Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

My wife and I recently did some extensive touring in your fine state by car. We had a wonderful time. The roads we traveled on -- interstates and others -- were in excellent condition and allowed us to safely reach our destinations with time to spare. Even the occasional work zones encountered were well marked and managed and presented no problems.

I am very proud of the quality of Minnesota's highway system, typically taking every opportunity to brag about it -- and frankly, my standards are high. Because of that, I wanted you to know how impressed I was with our travels in Arkansas. I can only hope your own motorists realize and appreciate the great benefit they are receiving. My compliments to you and your entire team.

Sincerely,
James N. Denn, Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Transportation
Saint Paul, Minnesota

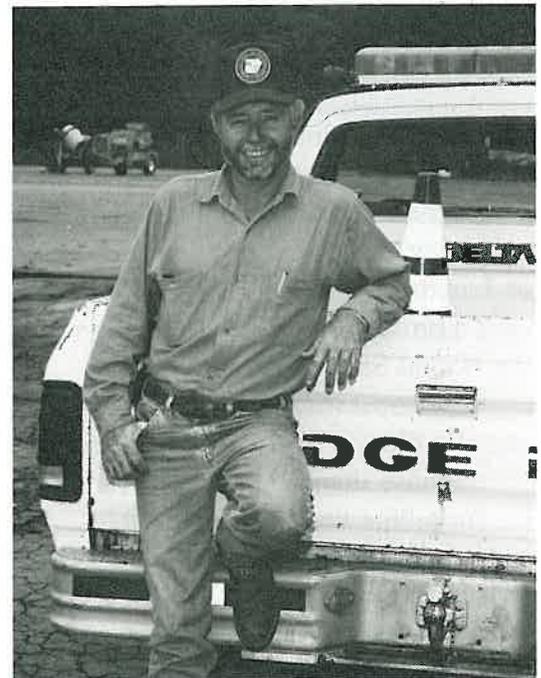
Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

This letter is to commend Joel Wise of the north Pulaski County facility for his kindness on August 22. My friends and I were east-bound on Interstate 40 when I hit debris in the road. The result was a blowout and damaged rim.

Mr. Wise, who was clearing debris from the road, pulled up only minutes after the incident. He immediately offered to change the tire and even apologized because he had been behind us and hadn't had the opportunity to clean the debris off the road before I hit it.

Mr. Wise refused any compensation for his help. He had us back on the road in less than 20 minutes. I'm a bit jaded about mankind and government workers, but Mr. Wise's actions went a long way toward reaffirming a fact too easy to forget: there are kind and compassionate people in the world.

Sincerely,
Leeanna Walker, Day Metro Editor
The Morning News of Northwest Arkansas
Springdale, Arkansas



Joel Wise
Crew Leader, North Little Rock maintenance crew

Arkansas Highway Police
Little Rock, Arkansas

I just wanted to thank a very nice Arkansas Highway Police officer that helped me Saturday afternoon on Interstate 40 westbound.

My name is Mrs. Charlotte Lee and I live in Aberdeen, Mississippi. I was on my way to Conway to visit my children when my car took out on me around Exit #130. This AHP officer stopped and called my daughter and stayed with me until they arrived.

She was so nice and polite. You are very lucky to have her on the force. In my book, she is super!

Mrs. Charlotte Lee
Aberdeen, Mississippi



Sgt. Linda McKay
AHP Unit 173 at Conway

Lyndal Waits, District 5 Engineer
Batesville, Arkansas

Yesterday morning on my way to work, the fuel pump failed on my truck and I was stranded in the middle of the intersection on Ramsey Mountain. I sat there, not knowing what to do. I was cursed at, had fingers pointed at me and was passed by two police officers.

And then three gentlemen who work for the Highway Department rescued me. Scott Qualls, Keith Skelton and Glenn Melton took the time to push my truck to the Exxon station and then insisted on driving me to work at Pro-Dentec on Lawrence Street.

I am so grateful for them being "Good Samaritans" when they could have passed me by, as everyone else did.

Please thank them again for me for taking the time and trouble to lend a helping hand.

Sincerely,
Ernestine Doucet
Batesville, Arkansas



Keith Skelton, Crane Operator, District 5 bridge crew; Glenn Melton, Single Axle Truck Driver, District 5 maintenance crew; Scott Qualls, Distributor Operator, District 5 sealing crew

Lawrence Fletcher
District 8 Engineer
Russellville, Arkansas

On behalf of the Dardanelle City Council and the citizens of our community, I wish to express our appreciation to you and the employees of the Highway Department for the project recently completed on Highway 7 in Dardanelle.

The entire project of taking up the old asphalt and repaving was done in a manner of a few days and with little inconvenience to our motorists.

We always strive to improve the safety and welfare of our citizens and this highway improvement project will make Union Street a much safer one. Thank you again for seeing this project completed.

Sincerely,
Carolyn McGee, Mayor
City of Dardanelle



District 8 Pope County/Russellville maintenance crew

Lawrence Fletcher
District 8 Engineer
Russellville, Arkansas

My physical address is 13148 SR 124 in Russellville and I want to compliment you on the work of some of your employees.

Recently on a Thursday morning I went to Jim Sigler's office and reported to him that the entrance to our driveway off State Highway 124 was getting in real bad shape. He said he would check it out and if work needed to be done, the repairs would be made.

The following Monday, a crew was out with gravel and a road grader to work on the entrance and they did a real good job. While the crew was here making the repairs, I personally went to thank them for the work. They were all very friendly and courteous.

A few days later, a mowing crew came along and did a super neat job of mowing the highway frontage. I just wanted to let you know how pleased I am with the promptness and quality of this service.

Sincerely,
Carey Mayfield
Russellville, Arkansas

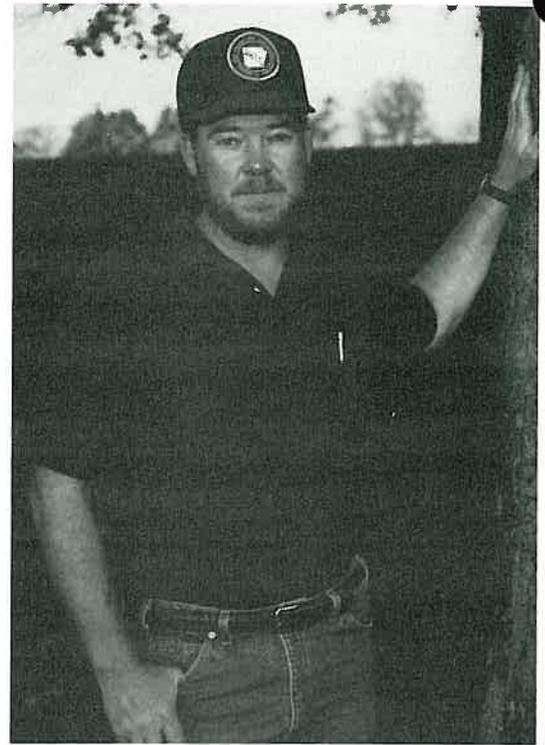
Wayne Hamilton
Wynne, Arkansas

I just had to let you know how I feel! I know words aren't enough to express the thanks to you for saving my life when I was choking at the Western Sizzlin on September 6. To me, you saved my life! I don't know, or hate to think what would have happened to me if you and your wife had not been there that night.

It means so much to me that I am alive today because of your quick action. I had just returned that night from the funeral of my youngest sister in Quincy, Illinois. When I was choking all I could think of was, "I'm next." I gratefully thank you for being there at the right time. I'll never forget you saved my life.

Thank you again and again,
Nancy Chappell
McCrary, Arkansas

Editor's Note: Wayne Hamilton is a Senior Mechanic at the District One Shop. He performed the Heimlich maneuver on Mrs. Chappell when she became choked during dinner at the Western Sizzlin Steak House in Wynne. Wayne and his wife were there for dinner.



Wayne Hamilton
District 1 Senior Mechanic



Captain James R. Brown
AHP District Commander

Arkansas Highway Police
Little Rock, Arkansas

On September 12 I had a flat tire on my car on Interstate 40 just east of Mayflower. Apparently motorists called in to mention I was on the side of the road and within minutes Captain James R. Brown arrived.

I really appreciate the fast response and help and I just wanted to write this letter to say "thank you" to Captain Brown and the others who were so helpful.

My husband is also in law enforcement and helps others, but until you are the one needing help, you never realize just how helpful, courteous and appreciated these law enforcement personnel are.

Many, many thanks to you all.

Marge Nelson
Quitman, Arkansas

Ray Woodruff
District 1 Engineer
Wynne, Arkansas

I am writing to let you know how much I appreciate one of your employees.

I had a tire blowout on my car and thank God he sent Phil Metcalf to my aid. He was the only one who stopped to help me.

He changed the tire and I want to thank him from the bottom of my heart. I want to say he must be a good worker, he was so nice.

Thanks again,
Mrs. Chester Lott
Jacksonville, Arkansas

Joe Barnett
District 10 Engineer
Paragould, Arkansas

On behalf of the citizens of Rector, I want to thank you and your department for the resurfacing work that was completed on Highway 90 in our community this year. It was greatly appreciated by city officials and all the residents of our town.

We are grateful for the outstanding working relationship we have with your department and the way you respond to our questions and concerns.

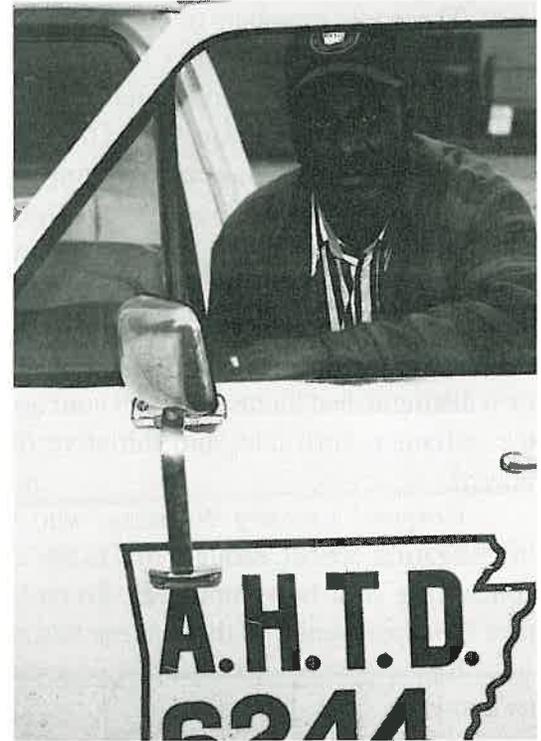
Again, thanks for everything and we look forward to working with you on various projects in the future. Please contact me if we can ever be of any assistance to you.

Ronald E. Kemp, Mayor
City of Rector

Gene Lee
White County Area Maintenance Supervisor
Searcy, Arkansas

On January 18, 1996, at approximately 3:23 p.m., a very serious traffic accident occurred on State Highway 11 near Higginson. The accident involved one vehicle which left the highway and struck a tree. The driver and his two children, ages 6 and 8, were all injured. The two children were injured to the extent that they were transported from the Searcy Hospital to a hospital in Little Rock. When the trooper was notified of the accident, the information given to him was there were people still in the vehicle and that it was on fire.

The trooper arrived within minutes of receiving the call and upon his arrival he found the victims were still in the vehicle, however the fire was out. There were two Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department employees on the scene. During the trooper's investigation, it was determined that those two AHTD employees were just down the road when the accident happened. They immediately went to the accident scene and extinguished a fire that was burning under the hood of the wrecked vehicle.



Phil Metcalf
Construction Aide III, Wynne Residency

These two members of your department are Quinn Whitelow and Eddie Chaney. These men used a fire extinguisher and water from a ditch to put out the fire. The quick action of these two men may have kept a serious accident from becoming even more tragic.

In law enforcement we find all too often, that people are reluctant to get involved. I commend your agency and especially these two men for their actions on January 18. These two gentlemen distinguished themselves and your agency by the gallantry, fortitude, and initiative they displayed.

Corporal Lindsey Williams, who was the investigating officer, brought this to my attention concerning your two employees. So on behalf of Cpl. Williams and the Arkansas State Police, we would like to take this opportunity to thank these two men for going above and beyond the call of duty.

Please convey our appreciation to them and if the State Police can ever be of assistance, please feel free to let us know.

Sincerely,
Dwight Tosh, Captain
Commander of ASP Troop B
Newport, Arkansas



Eddie Chaney, Distributor Operator and Quinn Whitelow, Vegetation Controller



Ptl. David Harris and Cpl. Ross Martin

Arkansas Highway Police
Little Rock, Arkansas

As the owner of this company, I just wanted to say thank you to the officer(s) who stopped my driver for not having his log book with him. I sincerely appreciate the job you are doing and also the courtesy shown to my driver. Your taking him out-of-service was the appropriate action as I never would have wanted my driver to be responsible for an accident due to excessive hours.

All too often we, as the general public, are reticent in not saying thank you to our law enforcement people, and that is the purpose for this letter.

Please share this letter with the issuing officer. Thank you for the difficult job you are doing to keep our highways safe.

Sincerely,
David Feldman, Owner
Moore's Moving and Storage, Inc.
Summit, Mississippi

James Owens
Miller County Area Maintenance Supervisor
Texarkana, Arkansas

Thank you for your helpfulness in getting the right of way work done on my mother's property. Your representatives, Crew Leader Lonnie Hazel and Motor Patrol Operator/Finish Ken Gollinger, not only did a good job, they did it with an attitude of helpfulness.

I hope this action on your part will help to disprove the opinions of so many that "you fellows ride around, but you don't get much done."

Indeed for us you have come through as I requested and we are most appreciative.

Sincerely,
Maurice and DeLores Fain
Doddridge, Arkansas

IN MEMORY

EMPLOYEES

Doris R. Falconer
District 8
Bookkeeper
died October 18, 1996

Glenn Page
District 8
Single Axle Truck Driver
died October 21, 1996

RETIREES

Maurice L. Daniel
District 5
died July 4, 1996

Tom H. Hubbard
District 3
died August 20, 1996

Arlton Parish
District 6
died September 20, 1996

Harry F. Humphries
District 2
died July 22, 1996

Ralph E. Hawkins
Director's Office/Pilot
died September 2, 1996

Joseph E. Appling
District 2
died October 8, 1996

I. V. White
District 2
died August 4, 1996

Edmund N. Orsini
Internal Audit
died September 6, 1996

Ardell M. Clark
District 3
died October 12, 1996

Kenneth W. Steed
District 3
died August 9, 1996

Thomas Raymond Walter
Highway Police
died September 13, 1996

James H. Shirley
District 1
died October 15, 1996

R. M. Harrison
District 3
died August 9, 1996

Morril H. Harriman
Highway Police
died September 17, 1996

Noel Hickey
District 8
died October 22, 1996

H. Garayson Page
District 4
died August 11, 1996

Frank M. Harrison
Bridge
died September 17, 1996

AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

BRIDGE

Bridge Design Engineer Bob Reddell transferred to District 10 in September as Construction Field Engineer I. He and his wife Tanya were pleased about the transfer which enables them to live closer to their parents.

Bob and representatives from Georgia DOT and FHWA participated in the test project GIS. The project tracks locations and destinations. The group went to the Olympics in Atlanta using a digital monitoring system. Bob said the system made it easy to get from one location to another. Traveling an unfamiliar route took only a minimum amount of time using the system.

Congratulations to Jim Tribo, Senior Bridge Design Engineer, and his wife Kay on winning the Bocce tournament at the Italian Festival held in North Little Rock in September.

Congratulations to Lawren Wilcox, Advanced Structures Engineer, who recently passed the professional engineer's exam.

COMPUTER SERVICES

On September 14, Computer Services revived its annual outing with a fish fry held at Big Ditch Duck Hunting Club in Stuttgart. A special thanks to Billy Simpson for the use of the facilities.



Computer Services annual picnic



Kurt Smith, son of Systems Manager Barbara Smith, and Yuka Hosaka were married August 13 in Sitka, Alaska. Kurt was in Juneau, Alaska for a three-month pharmacy internship and is now at the VA Hospital.

CONSTRUCTION

Joey Bishop, Estimates Technician, recently transferred to District 6 as Resident Office Technician for the Little Rock Residency. Larry Payne was recently promoted to Administrative Officer II.

Kelly James is a new COE student for Construction. She is a senior at J.A. Fair High School and participates in the Upward Bound Program at Philander Smith College.

ENVIRONMENTAL

John Isom, Senior Environmental Scientist, attended a Community Impact Assessment Workshop in Washington, D.C. sponsored by the Office of Environmental Planning under the Federal Highway Administration.



Beautification Section new employee is Bill Bailey, Area Beautification Coordinator. A native of Little Rock, Bill resides in Searcy and plans to be married next summer to Stacy Miner.

EQUIPMENT AND PROCUREMENT

Otis Barker, Equipment Specialist, and Chuck Winkler, Senior Body Repairer and Painter, were presented 20-year service awards in October.

HIGHWAY POLICE



Amy Martin is a 1996 graduate of Harrison High School. She is the daughter of Pfc. Roy and Mona Martin.



Hunter Sebastian Harmon was born July 31, 1996. He is the son of Nancy and Ray Harmon. Nancy is a Patrol Officer First Class at the Ashdown weigh station.

HUMAN RESOURCES



Danya Steele, right, Office Administrative Assistant III, receives a 5-year service award from Division Head Melba Shepard.



Joyce Phillips, left, EAP Coordinator, presents Vada McElmurry, Office Administrative Assistant II, with a 5-year service award.



Kay Crutchfield, left, EEO Section Head, presents a 10-year service award to Howard Jackson, DBE Supportive Services Coordinator.



Paul Dorsey, left, Electrical, Plumbing and Mechanical Repairer, receives a 5-year service award from Crew Leader Walter Caton.

MAINTENANCE



Danny Keene, left, Facilities Management Section Head, receives a 10-year service award from Jim Barnett, State Maintenance Engineer.



Calvin Lassiter, left, Striping Crew Supervisor, receives a 25-year service award from Charles Latture, Traffic Services Specialist.



Allen Loring, left, Sign Shop Supervisor, presents Bert Porterfield, Assistant Sign Shop Supervisor, a 15-year service award.



Walter Clay Ingram was born September 11, 1996. He is the grandson of Striping Machine Driver Clyde and Debbie McCollum.

PLANNING AND RESEARCH



Carmath "Barney" Phillips, left, Public Transportation Coordinator, receives a gift certificate from Jim Gilbert, Public Transportation Administrator, upon his retirement June 27 with 33+ years service.



Jerry Don Ward, left, Highway Data Collector for the Technical Services Section, receives a 10-year service award from Dan Morgan, Administrative Officer II.

New employees in Planning and Research are: Knighten Starnes, Jr., Public Transportation; Tiffanie Harrison, McClellan High School COE student, Statewide Planning; Brad Hancock, UALR senior, Statewide Planning; Tony Lanigan, McClellan High School COE student, Technical Services.

Tod and Michelle Sherman announce the birth of their daughter, Julie Alyssa Sherman on September 25. Tod is a Transportation Planner for Statewide Planning.

PROGRAMS AND CONTRACTS



Thomas, Steve and Nicholas Williams are the grandsons of Ava, Reproduction Technician, and David Harding, District 6 Permit Officer.



Brinna Renee' Sheridan is the daughter of Reproduction Diao Printer Operator Shaun and Trena Sheridan.

RIGHT OF WAY



Bobby Joe Parker, right, Division Head, retired in September with 35+ years service. Also pictured is his son Bryan and wife Judy.



Shirley Kingrey, left, Office Administrative Assistant V, retired in June with 30+ years service. Also pictured is her grandson Kolby and husband Cecil.



Vic Winchell, left, Administrative Section Head, receives a 30-year service pin from Division Head Bobby Joe Parker.



Shirley Holmes, left, Senior Abstractor, receives a 10-year service award and Priscilla Winkler, right, Office Administrative Assistant I, receives a 15-year service award from Jim Gaither who was promoted to Division Head in October.



Will Holt, left, Engineering Section Head, presents a 5-year service award to Patrick Holley, Advanced CADD Technician.

ROADWAY DESIGN



Katelyn Sue Murphy is the daughter of Julie and Tony Murphy. She recently placed first in the 0-12 months division at the Sherwoodfest Cutest Kid Contest. Julie is a Senior Hydraulics Technician.

DISTRICT ONE



District Engineer Ray Woodruff presents Stanley Bennett, Sign Erector for the District sign crew, a 5-year service award.



Ten-year service awards were presented to Chris Rains, Civil Engineer I, Wynne Residency; L.C. White, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, District maintenance crew; Johnnie Jones, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, Monroe County maintenance crew.



Twenty-year service awards were presented to Darrel Gaskin, Bridge Job Superintendent; Joe Dewitt, St. Francis County Area Maintenance Supervisor; J.L. Ramsey, Jr., Monroe County Area Headquarters Attendant.



Bruce Hamilton, son of Senior Mechanic Wayne Hamilton, graduated from Air Force basic training and is now attending jet mechanic school.



Benton Porter Humes is the first-born child of Stock Clerk Teresa Humes and her husband. He was born July 13, 1996.

Congratulations to Ernest Rose, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator from Phillips County, and to Harold Mullins, Lead Person for the District sign crew. Ernest captured first place for the third consecutive year in the Tractor/Mower event of the State-wide Equipment Operators' Roaddeo held September 25 in Little Rock. Harold won second place in the Tractor/Lowboy competition.

DISTRICT TWO

Service awards were recently presented to Kenneth Turner, Distributor/Roller Operator at Stuttgart, 30 years; Mike Thompson, Monticello Resident Engineer, 25 years; Billy Cater, Crew Leader, District sealing crew, 20 years; Marilyn Bates, Ashley County Area Headquarters Attendant, 15 years; Johnny Baxter, Crane Operator; Joey Reep, Senior Mechanic; James White, Lincoln County Area Headquarters Attendant; Rickey Tippitt, Ashley County Vegetation Controller; Lamar Reynolds, Lincoln County Motor Patrol Operator; Robert Cardin, Grant County Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 10 years; Charles Smith, Construction Aide I and Chris Hunthrop, Senior Mechanic, 5 years.

District Bookkeeper Melanie Owen and husband Glen were recently featured in the Jefferson Regional Medical Center Care publication as recent cancer care treatment recipients. They are both doing well and we are glad to have Melanie back at work.

Jeff and Laura Hart were recently married and honeymooned on a Caribbean cruise. Jeff is the District Shop Supervisor.

Edward Pridgen, Jefferson County Area Maintenance Supervisor, is recovering from a vehicle accident in July which injured his knee.

Retired District Bookkeeper Ouida Grimes suffered a stroke at her home in Pine Bluff and is recovering at the Rehabilitation Unit of Jefferson Regional Medical Center.



District 2 Engineer Jim Briley, left, receives a 35-year service award from Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations Ralph Hall.



Bob Ray, left, Assistant Storeroom Supervisor, receives a 10-year service award from Hellen Kennedy, Storeroom Supervisor.



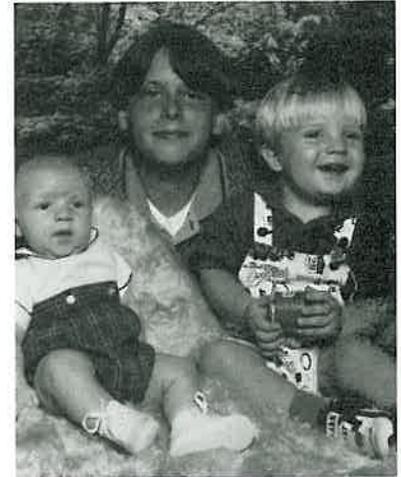
Ray Spears, left, Paver Operator, receives a 10-year service award from Kelly Slater, Sealing Job Superintendent.



Robert Kendall, Maintenance Job Superintendent, presents Lee Huggins, Hydraulic Excavator Operator/Finish, a 20-year service award.



Wynter J. Mack, daughter of Shirley Hammett, Jefferson County Area Headquarters Attendant, was born May 30, 1996.



Chance, age 8 weeks; Michael, age 13, and Cole, age 2, are the sons of Personnel Clerk Lori Thomas.



New employees are: Penny Parker, Parts Runner; Johnny Brown, Skill Trades Trainee and Chris Penny, Station Attendant



Cody Slater is 8 years old and in the third grade at Woodlawn Elementary School. He is the son of Sealing Job Superintendent Kelly and Denise Slater.



Summer employees in the District office were DeAnn Eldredge, Jennifer Parrish and Charity Leslie.



Miranda McGeorge is the daughter of Christi and Clay McGeorge and the granddaughter of District Permit Officer Bettye Carter.

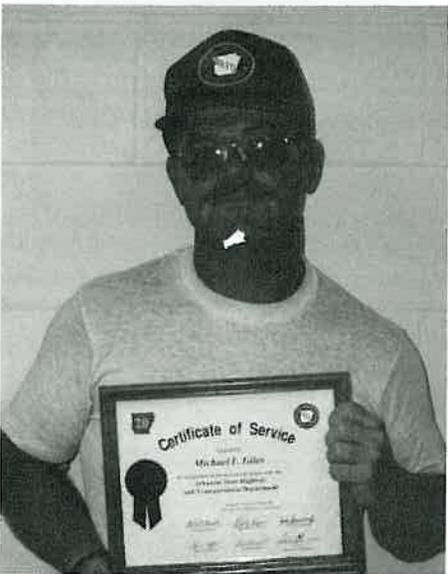


Tim Blue and Rochelle Beall were married September 7. Rochelle is a Civil Engineer I for the Pine Bluff Residency and Tim is a Field Engineer for T.L. James and Co., Inc.

DISTRICT THREE



Gary L. Roberts, Senior Inspector for the Texarkana Residency, retired in June with 30+ years service.



Michael L. Giles, Inspector for the Texarkana Residency, receives a 20-year service award in August.



Weston Ryan Bullard is the son of Texarkana Field Clerk Suzanne Bullard. He was born February 15, 1996.



Cody Martin is the son of District Office Manager Susan Monroe. He recently graduated from UCA with a bachelor's degree in kinesiology and is a certified sports trainer.



Clint Martin, son of District Office Manager Susan Monroe, plays football for the UCA Bears.



Kaylee Fincher, age 2, was chosen Tiny Miss Nevada County at the Nevada County Fair. She is the daughter of Kenny Fincher, Construction Aide I for the Hope Residency.

DISTRICT FOUR



David Becker, left, District Maintenance Superintendent, receives a 25-year service award from District Engineer Harold Beaver.



Kim McDowell, left, Assistant Maintenance Superintendent, presents Merl Bates, Crew Leader, District bridge crew, with a 25-year service pin.



Jim Carter, left, Sebastian County/Greenwood Area Maintenance Supervisor, receives a 20-year service award from District Engineer Harold Beaver.



On October 3 the District Four Resident Engineers meeting was held at the Bunyard Tunnel jobsite. Phil Chander, Resident Engineer for Parsons-Brinkerhoff conducted the tour. Left to right are Leon Brewer, Ken Wilson, Dean Nichols, Joe Shipman, Chip Johnson, Alan Walter, Phil Chandler, John Sharum, Bashar Qedan, Don Creech and Mack Rose.



Stephanie Wood, daughter of District Shop Lowboy Truck Driver William Wood, was born May 22, 1996.



Kelby Lane Huffaker, son of Jim and Misha Huffaker, was born September 22, 1996. Jim is a Vegetation Controller at Lincoln.



Service Awards: Josh Green, Const. Helper II, 5 years; Howard Blankenship, Vegetation Controller, 5 years; Kendall Stroud, Const. Aide II, 10 years; Lance Humphries, Single Axle Truck Driver, 5 years; Scott Qualls, Distributor Operator, 10 years; Merle Campbell, Distributor/Roller Operator, 15 years; Tim Dunlap, Assistant Resident Engineer, 10 years; Stacy Caplener, Const. Aide II, 10 years; Todd Bolin, Bridge Repairer I, 5 years. Not pictured: Levon James, Asphalt Tank Truck Driver, 10 years.

DISTRICT FIVE

The District welcomes Mike Pankey to Batesville as our new Office Manager. He transferred from District One's Resident Engineer office at Wynne.



Service Awards: Tommy Caudel, Joe Hipp, Leon Ezell, Area Headquarters Attendants, 20 years; James Hoggard, Sr. Const. Materials Inspector, 25 years; Steve Hampton, Maint. Job Supt., 20 years; Keith Richardson, Sr. Inspector, 35 years. Not pictured: Donnie Schmidt, Area Headquarters Attendant, 20 years and Jo Earnhart, Personnel Clerk, 20 years.



Courtney Nicole Collins, age 2, is the granddaughter of Erma Collins, White County Crew Leader at Searcy.

DISTRICT SIX

Joey Bishop, Resident Office Technician, is the newest addition to Jim Pound's Little Rock Residency. He transferred from the Contract Estimates Section of Construction.



Bailey Powell is the daughter of Stacy Powell, new District Receptionist. She transferred from the Traffic Safety Section. Stacy and her husband Heath reside in Benton.



Lacy Taggart is the three-year old daughter of Leslie Taggart, District Fuel Clerk.



Shawn Venable, son of Jeff and Debbie Venable, has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. He is a sophomore at Lakeside High School in Hot Springs. Jeff is the Assistant Resident Engineer for Jim Pound's Little Rock Residency.



Sara Beth McKay, Katelynn Marie Loomis and Jessica Loomis are the children of District Bridge Inspector Greg and Karen Loomis of Camden. Katelynn was born July 31.



Felisa and Bryan Fendley were married on July 6, 1996. Bryan is the son of Clark County Vegetation Controller Ted and Joanna Fendley.

DISTRICT SEVEN



Ashlea Rogers won the title of "Little Miss Fordyce on the Cottonbelt" at the 1996 annual festival. She is four years old and the daughter of Civil Engineer Ronny and Candie Rogers.



Airman Basic Leslie Collins, daughter of Clark County Vegetation Controller Tad and Joanna Fendley, graduated from basic training July 19, 1996 at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas.

DISTRICT NINE



Yellville Resident Engineer Greg Harding, left, presents a 10-year service award to Charles Seftar, Construction Aide II.



Yellville Resident Engineer Greg Harding, left, presents a 10-year service award to Darrel Watkins, Construction Materials Inspector.



Yellville Resident Engineer Greg Harding, left, presents a 5-year service award to Rick Billingsley, Construction Aide I.



Cooper Dewayne Gregory was born August 12, 1996 to Kevin and Charita Gregory. Charita is a Construction Aide II at the Bentonville Residency.



Jamie Meyer is the eight-year-old son of Office Manager Debbie and Doyle Meyer. He was adopted by the Meyer family in July 1996 after living with them since August 1994.



Kaylan Paige McEntire was born to David and Kandy McEntire on September 14, 1996. Aaron James Williams was born to Dana and Kimberly Williams on September 6, 1996. Kendall McEntire is looking at her new sister and cousin. These are the grandchildren of James and Margaret McEntire. James is the Senior Construction Materials Inspector at the Bentonville Residency.



Cullen Meyer is the 12-year-old son of Office Manager Debbie and Doyle Meyer.

DISTRICT TEN

Emma Barbee, Rest Area Attendant, with 13+ years of service and Frank Duran, General Laborer with 27+ years of service, were treated to a fish fry by the Osceola maintenance crew on August 29. These employees have retired and their co-workers presented them with plaques displaying their years of service to the Department.



The District sealing crew had a fish fry for the retirement of, left to right: Leonard Retherford, Crane Operator/Finish, 20 years; Larry Shirley, Asphalt Tank Truck Driver, 18 years; and Verlin Brown, Crew Leader, 19 years.



Adam Matthew Denton is the son of District Sign Crew Supervisor Ben and Sheri Denton. Adam's team, Arkansas Methodist Hospital, won the 1996 Paragould Youth Baseball League Championship. Dad Ben was also Adam's team coach.



Happy Holidays

from the
Arkansas Highway Employees
Retirement Board

The title "Seasons Greetings" is written in a large, dark, cursive font. It is surrounded by several stylized snowflake icons of various sizes and orientations. The word "Seasons" is on the top line and "Greetings" is on the bottom line.

Seasons Greetings

from the

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

L.W. "Bill" Clark, Chairman
Bobby Hopper, Vice Chairman
Herby Branscum, Jr., Member
John "M" Lipton, Member
J.W. "Buddy" Benafield, Member

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

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