

Arkansas Highways

WINTER 1997

Director's Message

It's hard for me to remember a busier year than we've had in 1997.

We began the year by saying goodbye to a 10-year member of the Commission, L. W. "Bill" Clark. We then immediately welcomed our newest Commission member, Mary P. "Prissy" Hickerson of Texarkana. An interview with Commissioner Hickerson is included in this issue of *Arkansas Highways*. We look forward to working with Mrs. Hickerson during her term on the Commission.

The Legislative Session occupied much attention during the first few months of the year. Though no major highway funding bills were enacted, several were proposed and debated. Despite the lack of any progressive highway funding legislation, it was a very busy session for the Commission and the staff as numerous bills affecting the Department and our employees were tracked.

The height of the summer tourist season brought an extremely unusual occurrence. A crane on a barge struck the U. S. Highway 49 Mississippi River bridge at Helena in mid-July causing the closure of the bridge. AHTD crews responded in unprecedented fashion and worked round-the-clock to open the bridge in less than three weeks. Original estimates had the bridge being closed at least six weeks.

September brought the 56th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (SASHTO) to Little Rock. Approximately 1,200 delegates, guests, vendors, and workers attended the festivities. Many AHTD employees prepared for over a year to ensure the success of the meeting. Those efforts did not go unnoticed as evidenced by the letters from SASHTO participants found in this magazine.

This year also brought an end to ISTEA, our federal highway funding legislation. It expired September 30 with no replacement bill in sight. However, Congress did pass a temporary six-month highway funding bill in mid-November that enables states to continue their highway programs until March 1998, though some like Arkansas will be limited.

The Department staff studied rest area security and did further analysis on speed limits in 1997. The *1997 Arkansas Highway Profile, Condition and Needs* report was published in the early fall. This report outlines our highway needs from current, historical, and projected perspectives.

All in all, it was an unusually busy year for the Department. We faced the expected and the unexpected, and we did so in our usual professional manner. Congratulations to all on a job well done.

Thanks to each and every one of you for your efforts in 1997.


DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION



ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS

WINTER 1997

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION



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CHAIRMAN



HERBY BRANSCUM, JR.
VICE CHAIRMAN



JOHN "M" LIPTON
MEMBER



J.W. "BUDDY" BENAFIELD
MEMBER



PRISSY HICKERSON
MEMBER

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COVER PHOTO: State Highway 5 in Baxter County
BACK COVER PHOTO: State Highway 265 near Pea Ridge in Benton County
Photographs by John Jackson

An Interview With Commissioner Prissy Hickerson

Mary P. "Prissy" Hickerson, of Texarkana, was appointed to a ten-year term on the State Highway Commission by Governor Mike Huckabee December 23, 1996. Her term began in January 1997 and will expire in January 2007.

Hickerson is the business manager for her husband's dental practice and is very involved in community service. She is presently on the Board of Directors of Temple Memorial Treatment Center, a post she has held since 1986.

She is a 1983 graduate of Leadership Texarkana and a past member of the Leadership Texarkana Advisory Board, a past director of the Volunteer Center Board and a former member of the St. Michael Hospital Friends of the Foundation. She is a former officer of the Texarkana Regional Arts and Humanities Council Board. She has also been a member of Women for the Arts since 1984 and served on its Board of Directors for two years.

In addition to community involvement, Hickerson has been active in Arkansas politics, working in the Governor's 1992, 1993 and 1994 campaigns. She has also served as Secretary of the Arkansas Republican Party since 1995.

She and her husband of 28 years, Randy, have one son, Chris and daughter-in-law Stephanie. The Hickersons are members of Beech Street First Baptist Church in Texarkana.

The following interview was conducted on October 14, 1997 with Public Affairs Officer Randy Ort.



RO: When Governor Huckabee asked you to serve on the Highway Commission, what were your first thoughts?

PH: The first thing I said was, "Yeah, right!" Then I laughed. The Governor said, "No seriously, this is what I want you to do." My second comment to him was, "People are gonna think you've lost your mind." We talked about it a little bit and I went home and talked to my husband, Randy, and of course he was real supportive. I guess the bottom line is that I've always trusted the Governor's judgment. I've known him for a long time, have a lot of faith in him, and if he thought I was capable of doing this, then I thought I would give it a go. It is a real honor to be on the Highway Commission. It's a big responsibility and a little bit overwhelming.

RO: Did you have any idea prior to the Governor asking that this was being considered?

PH: Randy, I did not. I honestly did not. I think it was a very well kept secret. I knew some of the people he was considering and they were very fine, capable people. I knew he had some hard choices. It was totally out of the blue for me.

RO: What is it about being a Highway Commissioner that was appealing to you?

PH: Well, after I got over my fright and decided that maybe I could do this, it just seemed to me that it is a great privilege to be able to be involved in some small way with all of the current and future projects that are going on in the state of Arkansas. These are exciting times for transportation in Arkansas and I really look forward to the next ten years.

RO: How will your past experiences, whether they were professional or personal, help you on the Highway Commission?

PH: I don't have any experience in transportation; I think most people know that by now. But in every job I've ever done, whether it's been in business or in the volunteer sector where I was very involved in a lot of different areas, or in campaigning, I've always dealt with the public. That teaches you a lot. Just working and dealing with people everyday gives you a lot of people skills. People skills are one of the most important things and a vital part of a Commissioner's job. I love people and love working with people and I like problem solving. I think that will help me a lot.

*"We've got the best folks in the world
working at the Highway Department.
They are just incredible."*

Prissy Hickerson
Commissioner

Commissioner Hickerson with
AHTD Public Affairs Officer Randy Ort



RO: You've been very active since your appointment speaking to groups and talking to the public. What are you hearing from the people regarding highway needs? What are their perceptions?

PH: I've been to several counties now. I'm trying to make every county in my two districts before the end of the year. I don't know if I'll accomplish that goal or not. Everyone sees the need for improvements in highways. I don't think there's any question that the public wants to have good roads. Obviously they do. It affects and touches every aspect of their lives. One thing that I've noticed is that they are most importantly interested in their area, which I understand. That's where they live and work. They think that the projects in their area are the only projects and the most important projects and should be considered first. I've learned that there are no unimportant projects and no small or minor projects. But as a Commissioner we see the needs statewide and we see a much larger picture. It can be quite disturbing, I can assure you.

RO: Are there any particular projects that you are hearing about from the people?

PH: Of course I-69 is always a hot button issue, and finishing Highway 71. You hear about those a lot. Mainly the needs that I hear from people in their areas and counties are things like they need overpasses, bypasses, and new roads for industrial purposes to help their city grow. Those are the type things that I see and hear about. They all are concerned about our Interstates and the shape our Interstates are in. They express the need for passing lanes and widening, things like that.

*"Funding... It's going to have to be something the people want.
With everyone working together, we can find something the people will support."*

Prissy Hickerson
Commissioner



O: You serve as the advocate for Districts 3 and 6 on the Commission - that's Southwest and Central Arkansas. You have virtually all of I-30 with one small exception - Clark County. You have the whole metropolitan area of Little Rock and North Little Rock and Pulaski County. You have Texarkana, which is where you are from, and you have Hot Springs. Are you learning a lot about these other areas?

PH: Yes, I am learning a whole lot about these areas. I am learning there are great needs out there. They are just different. Pulaski County and the needs here in Little Rock are different from the needs in Hot Springs. And the needs in Texarkana are different from both of those areas. But they are still there and they are very important.

RO: You've been on the Commission for several months now and you've heard what the public wants. You've heard the Highway Department's perspective, the things we've been looking at for years and some of our projects that are in the works. Have you had time to consider what some of your priorities might be for your ten-year term?

PH: I guess just better and safer highways in Arkansas in a broad sense. Of course, like everyone else, I would like to see I-69 become a reality, Highway 71 to be finished and Highway 412. There are a lot of projects around the state that I am interested in, overpasses, bypasses, all those things. Hopefully some of those will either be finished or begun before I leave.

Most importantly to me, I would like to see a progressive revenue stream. I would like to see us be able to handle the needs that are out there - to be able to fund things in a timely fashion. The most frustrating thing for me is to talk to community leaders or go into a community and see how desperately they need an overpass, a bypass, a new road or widening, and sometimes its just as simple as a traffic light. To know that we are going to tell them yes, we see the need for this and yes, we think it should be done, but, no, we don't have the money right now, we can't fund it. To me that's the most important because those projects are the life blood of those communities. They are absolutely essential to the economic growth and well being of our towns and cities.

RO: You mentioned producing some type of revenue stream with some natural growth. Arkansas is and traditionally always has been a "pay as you go" state. What are your thoughts? Do you think we might need to consider doing something different for highway finance?

PH: We've primarily been a "pay as you go" state because that's what the people want. Ultimately they are the ones that are going to fund it. If you look at the history of highway funding in Arkansas, that's what you're going to find. That's what the people have traditionally wanted and the way they've wanted to pay for highways. There are some other methods of funding out there. I don't have the answers to that right now, but that's what I've heard and been hit with since coming on the Commission in January. "We don't have enough money. We've got to find another way to fund." I don't know what the answer is.

For one thing, it's going to have to be something the people support. The Commission will be taking a look at alternative methods. Others are looking too... Good Roads, the Governor's Transportation Council. It's important that all entities work together. With everyone working together we can find something the people will support.

RO: Since your appointment you've visited District offices and have had the opportunity to meet many AHTD employees. What has been your impression of the Department's staff so far?

PH: The first word that comes to mind is "quality." We've got the best folks in the world working at the Highway Department. They are just incredible. I see a level of competence that is unsurpassed in any other agency in the state. Everyone seems to enjoy what they are doing and they do it well. The nice thing for me about the SASHTO Conference was to be able to meet so many of the employees and be able to visit with the employees that I had not had a chance to meet. Everyone just pulled together and did a great job at the conference. I had a good time and there was a great sense of enthusiasm. We have great people from Director Flowers and the administration on down. I've been really amazed at the quality of people that we have working at the Highway Department. And it shows in the quality of their work.

RO: As you have found out, being a Highway Commissioner can be rather time consuming. How has your appointment to the Commission affected your business or your personal activities?

PH: My husband, Randy, is a dentist and I'm the office manager...I just don't go into the office much anymore. Fortunately I have a home office with my computer and everything set up there, so I work there when I'm in Texarkana.

I guess I have the most understanding, supportive husband in the world. Randy has always been great about supporting anything I do. It's been rougher on me than it has on him. I get a little homesick after I've been gone for two or three days. We don't have any children at home and that helps because I don't have to rush home to the kids. I do miss being with him all week every week, but we've adjusted. You know, the last thing he asks me before he leaves when I'm going to be out of town is, "Is there anything I can do for you while you're gone?" I just think that's wonderful. He's been really great about it. The other thing I think we've adjusted to is that we're really used to not having any children at home and being able to just pick up and go. Being gone on the weekends is something we just can't do anymore because we have to look at my schedule. So that's been an adjustment.

RO: Is there anything else you'd like to add?

PH: There's something I'd like to add...the other Commissioners have been a great help to me. They've been wonderful to share all their knowledge and expertise in all areas. I've learned to have a great deal of respect for them. And as for former Commissioner Bill Clark...I always tell people that I have some big shoes to fill. I hope people don't go tell him that I said he has big feet. He did a lot for transportation in the state of Arkansas and I know I have a hard act to follow. I'll just have to do the best I can.

You know, William Tyler and I were talking the other day and William said he thought the Arkansas Highway Department was the best in the nation. I have to agree with that. Of course I might be a little biased but from what I've seen it's well run. I've been really impressed with what the Commission has been able to accomplish with the limited amount of funding that it has.



1997: THE YEAR OF SASHTO IN ARKANSAS

After 12 years, it was again Arkansas' turn to host the annual meeting of the Southeastern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, more commonly known as SASHTO. All 12 SASHTO member states rotate hosting the event. Arkansas last hosted meetings in 1985 and 1973, both in Hot Springs.

Little Rock was the site selected to host SASHTO '97. The Statehouse Convention Center and Arkansas' Excelsior Hotel on the banks of the Arkan-

sas River served as "convention central" for the meeting. Nearly 1,200 delegates, guests, vendors and workers made downtown Little Rock their home for the week of September 12-16.

More than a year of preparation went into hosting the meeting, but those efforts were well rewarded. The meeting went off without any major glitches, a testimony to the many AHTD employees who worked hard to make it a success. Jane Wilson, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs, served as



U.S. Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater (left) and U.S. Senator Dale Bumpers (right) were the guest speakers at the opening session.

SASHTO '97 Chairperson.

Green shirts and khaki pants abounded as AHTD/SASHTO workers welcomed guests from other states and made last-minute arrangements. "I've never experienced hospitality of this magnitude," commented James Codell, Secretary of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. "We certainly have something to shoot for when we host SASHTO in Kentucky in 1998."

The annual SASHTO Golf Tournament kicked off the meeting on Saturday, September 13. Approximately 30 four-person teams competed at the Burns Park Golf Club in North Little Rock. The official state team from Kentucky won the event and will carry the trophy



Dan Flowers, center, AHTD Director and President of SASHTO '97, presided over the opening session. Left to right: Rodney Slater, U.S. Secretary of Transportation and former Arkansas Highway Commissioner; Bobby Hopper, Arkansas Highway Commission Chairman; Flowers; Darrell Rensink, AASHTO President; Frank Francois, AASHTO Executive Director

back to Kentucky for next year's tournament.

Guest tours of area attractions were held each day of the meeting. The highlight of the weekend was the Delegate and Guest Reception held in Riverfront Park Sunday evening. Catfish and barbecue were served to the nearly 800 who attended. Entertainment was provided by the popular band Trout Fishing in America. The reception served as the perfect setting for the delegates to get acquainted with each other.

Monday morning's Opening Session was highlighted by remarks from Arkansas' senior Senator, the Honorable Dale Bumpers, and Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater. They set the tone for the day's Technical Sessions and other business meetings.

Tuesday began with more Technical Sessions in the morning followed by the Technology Fair in the afternoon. The Technology Fair featured booths and displays from approximately 90 vendors.

The meeting closed with the Family Night Dinner Tuesday evening. Popular singer/songwriter Michael Martin Murphy provided entertainment that brought the crowd to its feet on more than one occasion. It was a very fitting way to bring the convention to an end.

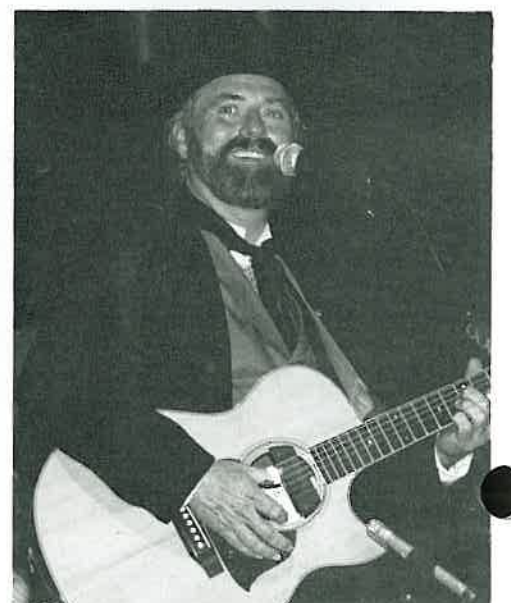
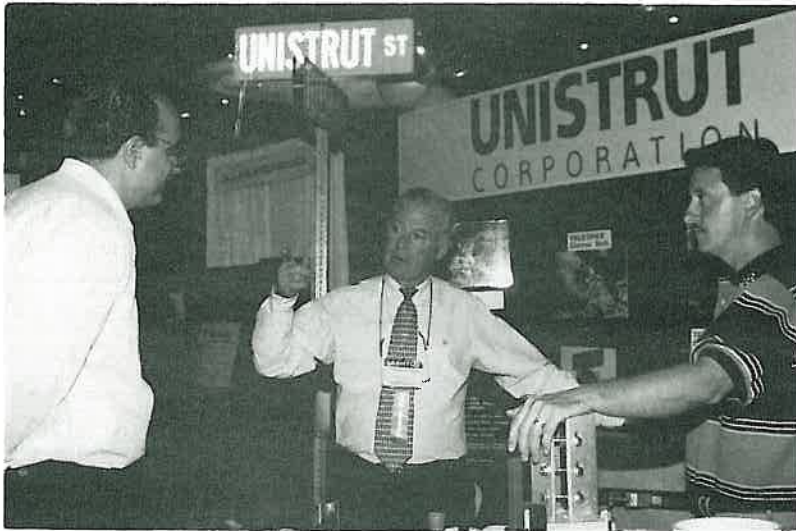
"There's no way to ad-

equately express the fantastic job Department employees did in preparing for and hosting this meeting," said Director Dan Flowers. The following pages give an indication of how the meeting was perceived from the delegate's or guest's point of view. By all accounts, the meeting was deemed a success.



SASHTO delegates and guests enjoyed a catfish and barbecue dinner on the banks of the Arkansas River Sunday night at the Delegate and Guest Reception.







Letters about SASHTO '97

To: Bobby Hopper, Chairman
Arkansas State Highway Commission

Your Commissioners in Arkansas know how to make visitors comfortable, happy and welcome. Having been part of seven SASHTO annual meetings, I can testify to the Arkansas SASHTO being the best. I question your employee pay scale. I have never seen that many state employees smile for that many days.

The lunch at Commissioner Benafield's office shall forever provide me with happy memories. When I associate with board members like you, it is apparent that solutions to transportation problems and plans for future improvements are in good hands.

Thanks again,
W.P. "Billy" Langdale, Sr., Commissioner
State Transportation Board of Georgia

To: Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

SASHTO '97 can't be described any other way except "outstanding." That's how I described my visit to Little Rock. I heard others mention the words "great," "well organized," and "truly one of the best." No matter how one describes it, you all did a tremendous job.

I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your gracious hospitality and to ask that you convey to all those involved my personal thanks for their time and efforts.

We hated to leave. Again, thanks.

David R. Gehr, Commissioner
Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Transportation



Commissioners and Boards Luncheon at Benafield's office.



David Gehr, Virginia Department of Transportation

To: Dan Flowers

Just a note to thank you for the tremendous hospitality shown us in Little Rock at SASHTO. The arrangements were perfect. The people who had the job of interacting with us were all so very courteous and helpful. It made our trip very pleasant.

I know a lot of effort goes into successful programs, but I don't know all of those who worked so hard. So, suffice it to say to you, "Thanks for a job well done."

Perry A. Hand, P.E. & P.L.S.
Senior Vice President
David Volkert & Associates, Inc.
Mobile, Alabama



Perry Hand, right, David Volkert & Associates, Inc.

To: Dan Flowers

I would like to congratulate you and your staff on a most successful SASHTO conference. From beginning to end, it was the most effective and successful event that I have ever attended.

I heard complimentary remarks throughout the week from many people, including other state representatives. Bar none, all of the AHTD staff was as courteous and helpful as you could ever want. I know many hours of planning went into this endeavor and it certainly showed. AHTD makes Arkansas proud, and we at Lion Oil feel honored to be associated with both. Louisiana Chief Engineer Rodney Dillon's wife commented at the closing banquet that the Marlsgate Plantation Tour and Luncheon were the finest she had ever had the pleasure of attending. Personally, I have never played in a four-man scramble in four hours and I could go on and on...

Again, you and your staff are to be commended for a job well done and if we can ever be of service in any way, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Park Estes
Asphalt Sales Representative
Lion Oil Company
El Dorado, Arkansas

To: Dan Flowers

This is to express my sincere gratitude for a wonderful time spent in your city during the recent SASHTO meeting. Never have I felt more welcomed. Your people are to be commended for the splendid job. From the moment of arrival at the airport until my return flight, I felt "at home." It was my first trip to Arkansas but believe me, it will not be my last.

Again, my sincere thanks to you and your staff.

Frances A. McNeal
Manager, Governmental Approvals
Product Marketing
Master Builders Technologies
Cleveland, Ohio

To: Dan Flowers

The job that you and your staff did in hosting SASHTO was outstanding. It was the best AASHTO meeting that I have ever attended.

The kind of results that you all produced don't happen by accident. The fingerprints of hard work, dedication, loyalty, pride in your home state, and professionalism were evident everywhere that I turned. Please convey my appreciation to your staff for making our visit so enjoyable.

Ed Wueste, Regional Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
Fort Worth, Texas



Ed Wueste, FHWA Regional Administrator

To: Dan Flowers

I want to take this opportunity to compliment you and your staff on the excellent job of hosting the SASHTO convention. Your staff was most courteous and helpful and all activities were coordinated well. I and all of the Tennessee delegation enjoyed the hospitality you provided while we were in Little Rock. There may have been some glitches for you along the way, but they sure didn't show.

Again, thanks for an excellent meeting and for making the stay in Little Rock most enjoyable.

J. Bruce Saltsman, Sr., Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Transportation



Elaine and Bruce Saltsman, Tennessee DOT

To: Dan Flowers

Little Rock was great! Jeanne and I thoroughly enjoyed our meeting and being with you and Sara, and we hope to see you both again soon.

Thanks very much for your hospitality and we look forward to seeing the wonderful people of Arkansas in Lexington at SASHTO '98.

James C. Codell, III
Secretary
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet



The delegation from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet



Bonnie and Bob Crafton

To: Dan Flowers

The SASHTO meeting was outstanding in every aspect. You and your staff are to be commended for a "job well done."

Bob Crafton
Crafton, Tull & Associates
Rogers, Arkansas

To: Dan Flowers

You and the entire staff of the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department involved with SASHTO '97 are to be highly commended for an excellent job well done.

Courteous, efficient, always smiling are just a few adjectives that can be used to describe everyone wearing "the green."

Your expertise in public speaking and ability to keep everything moving with ease was quite evident.

Glenn Calloway
Regional Office Manager
Michael Baker, Jr., Inc.
Jackson, Mississippi

To: Dan Flowers

You and your staff did Arkansas proud. SASHTO '97 was a wonderful experience for me personally and I enjoyed meeting the people of your staff that I did not already know.

Thank you for letting the Cashion Company participate in such a great event.

Knight Cashion
The Cashion Company
Little Rock, Arkansas

To: Dan Flowers

SASHTO '97 was fantastic! Both the food and the entertainment at the Family Night Dinner were the best that I have ever seen. You and all the Department workers did a super good job and I commend you.

Thanks for allowing me and Banner to be a part of SASHTO. We certainly enjoyed all the activities and we had the opportunity to renew old friendships and to establish new ones from the southeastern states.

I certainly enjoyed working with the Department staff in developing the internal signs and banners. I want to commend David Craig; he was the person who kept us on the right course and on schedule. He is an exemplary employee of the Department. Of course, everyone else with the Department cooperated fully in their usual manner.

I also enjoyed working with our good friend, Knight Cashion. He is a true friend of the Department and the Industry.

I heard many, many good and positive comments about SASHTO '97 from our visitors across the Southeast and across the nation. Again, my congratulations on an excellent job. I send my best regards to you and to the Department.



Marilyn and Calvin Peevy

Calvin Peevy, P.E.
Banner Sign & Barricade, Inc.
Little Rock, Arkansas

To: Roger Almond
Deputy Director and Chief Engineer

This is to express a note of appreciation for the excellent SASHTO conference hosted by Arkansas. The many smiling Arkansas highway employees not only created a pleasant atmosphere but their enthusiasm and genuine desire to help in every imaginable way made everyone feel they were special. The long hours served and many requests of them never created anything but a pleasant "may I help you" attitude.

As always, I especially enjoyed the Chief Engineer's breakfast and meeting and hearing from other states. The technical sessions I attended included some excellent speakers whose topics raised some interesting thoughts on the direction states are moving in the changing methods and programs to address highway transportation needs.

Thanks for your time and leadership in making this a most pleasant experience.

Roddy Dillon
Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development

To: Jane Wilson
Chief of Administration and Public Affairs

While the recently concluded successful SASHTO conference is still fresh in my mind, I wanted to personally commend you for your role as event coordinator. The 1997 SASHTO meeting was, without a doubt, the best organized and most professional meeting I have attended in many years. The attention given to the smallest of details and the friendliness exhibited by all of the members of the Arkansas Highway Department throughout the conference impressed me immeasurably.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Salt Lake, November 13-18.

Lee Guetschow
3M Company
Austin, Texas

To: Jane Wilson

Once again we have had the distinct pleasure of hosting your group at Arkansas' Excelsior Hotel. Friends like you are the very foundation of our success! I can assure you that each time you return, your group will be treated "first class" by our dedicated staff.

Please accept our sincere thanks for allowing us to serve your group. We hope that in the future we will continue to have the opportunity to do so.

Linus Raines
General Manager
Arkansas' Excelsior Hotel

To: Jane Wilson

It has been an honor to host the Southeastern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials at Arkansas' Excelsior Hotel. Our entire staff is committed to providing a genuine quality of excellence to our guests. I sincerely hope you enjoyed your stay at the Excelsior as much as we enjoyed having you with us.

We are very enthusiastic about continuing a successful working relationship with you. We would consider it an honor and a privilege to have SASHTO with us again.

Please remember, "Something important happens everyday at the Excelsior" with you as our client.

Denice Hijab
Convention Services Manager
Arkansas' Excelsior Hotel

To: Robert Walters
Assistant Chief Engineer for Design

Thank you so much for the wonderful support you and your staff gave Ruth Ann and me in our unscheduled departure from SASHTO. Due to efforts of many, we were able to board an early flight out and Ruth Ann was able to spend a few hours with her father before he passed away.

I especially thank John Cia who drove us to the airport. He took care of us, our luggage, and left his phone number should we have needed him for some unforeseen circumstance.

Again, thank you for your outstanding hospitality and help in a very stressful situation.

Don R. Morton, P.E.
North Carolina Department of Transportation

To: Valera McDaniel
SASHTO Hospitality Committee

Thank you for the camera. Thank you also for being the most hospitable group of people I have ever met. You did yourself and all of Arkansas proud. Of all the SASHTO meetings I have attended, the SASHTO '97 in Little Rock was the very best.

W. Hibbett Neel, P.E.
President
Neel-Shaffer, Inc.
Jackson, Mississippi



El Dorado Chamber of Commerce and Highway 15 Task Force Receive Arkansas Community Development Award

The Parkers Chapel Highway 15 Improvement Project was prompted by the death of three high school students in 1995. Out of this tragedy came a positive outcome. The group was recently honored for their efforts in improving safety on the South Arkansas highway. In recognition of the group's labors, the citizen's group was honored by the Arkansas Community Development Awards Program for Community Projects. The honor was bestowed on the group at the ACDAP's annual awards program held October 30.

The award points out the efforts of the AHTD and the speed in which the project was finished. Task force members first met with Department officials in November 1995. By September 1996, the project had been completed and included turning lanes at a plant entrance and school intersection, a new and smoother road surface, as well as cleared rights-of-way that improved visibility.

Through the extensive cooperation of residents, businesses and property owners, as well as

the Department, this project was completed more quickly than a normal project of this nature.

In a resolution presented to the group at the November 5 Commission Meeting, the Arkansas Highway Commission recognized the task force and the community for their efforts. "They brought forth a need in a positive and cooperative fashion which helped lead to the timely improvements," said Commissioner John Lipton. "They set a good example for others to follow."



Left to right: District 7 Engineer Coy Campbell; Commissioners J.W. "Buddy" Benafield, Prissy Hickerson and Bobby Hopper; Deputy Director and Chief Engineer Roger Almond; Wayne Mays, El Dorado Chamber of Commerce Chairman-elect; Director Dan Flowers; Commissioners John Lipton and Herby Branscum; Victor Nipper, Great Lakes Chemical Company; Nancy Murphy and Robert Love, Highway 15 Task Force; Jan Stinson, Parkers Chapel School

Bidders Look for Deals at AHTD Auction

Looking for a good deal, approximately 300 bidders scanned used equipment at the AHTD's annual surplus equipment auction on Oct. 23 at the Central Shops. Over 400 pieces of equipment were auctioned off to the highest bidder. Outdated surveying equipment, mowers, tractors, trucks, cars and trailers were just a few of the items that went to people from all over Arkansas and surrounding states.

The auction brought in a net profit of \$627,575. That was up from almost \$450,000 a year ago. What began as a gorgeous fall day, ended with light rain that didn't seem to bother those in attendance.

"Blackmon Auction always does a great job," Al Sacco, Equipment and Procurement Division Head, explained. "They have such a good rapport with the bidders and they always seem to get the most for the equipment," Sacco added.

Buddy Northcutt of All States Farm Equipment was one of the many used equipment dealers on hand for the auction. Northcutt, who purchased one of the trucks, said he felt like the Department took good care of its equipment. "I just hope I got a good deal," he said.

Bob Wilcox of Little Rock said he was looking for a good second car for his family. "It looks like some of these cars are still in good shape. I hope I can get one for a reasonable price."



Prospective buyers check out a bulldozer up for sale.



Over 300 prospective bidders came to the Department's equipment auction.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Crowley's Ridge Scenic Byway One Step Closer to Reality

Gaining scenic byway designation for 17 existing routes through Northeast Arkansas was the focus of a public hearing in Wynne on October 28.

The eight-county Crowley's Ridge Byway Commission, headed by Dr. Ruth Hawkins of Arkansas State University and Cross County Judge LeRoy

Dangeau, requested the scenic byway designation. About 40 people were on hand to voice their support for the designation.

The byway will encompass portions of existing routes through eight counties and will include 198 miles. The byway designations were made possible under the 1991 federal Inter-

modal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA). The Department received unanimous approval from the Arkansas Scenic Resources Preservation Coordinating Committee concerning the designation.

The Crowley's Ridge Byway Commis-



AHTD Public Affairs Officer Randy Ort conducted the public hearing.

sion will also be seeking federal byway status. The state designation is the first step in recognizing the roads on the national level. Judge Dangeau noted that Crowley's Ridge was one of the most unusual land formations in the country. "I am now convinced this is a deserving recognition for this route on Crowley's Ridge," he said.



Tom Harrell, Division Head of Planning and Research, and Steve Teague, Assistant Chief Engineer for Planning, sign up at the hearing.

Forrest City Area Residents View Plans for Bypass

In an effort to alleviate congestion in Forrest City, the Arkansas Highway Commission is proposing to build a bypass for State Highway 1 west of the city.

The proposed project begins south of Forrest City, passes west of the new Federal Correc-

tional Institution, across Interstate 40 and then continues in a northerly direction before rejoining existing State Highway 1 near Caldwell. The length of the project will be 8 to 11 miles, depending on the route selected.

Several citizens, business

owners and city officials were on hand for the three-hour hearing. The greater number of those attending the meeting were in favor of the proposed bypass. Some citizens did voice some concern over the route's final selection. The main concern was displacement of

residential homes and local businesses.

If the project is built, full interchanges will be constructed

at Interstate 40 and on the southern side of U.S. Highway 70. Selected intersecting public roads will have access to the highway.

Access points for each abutting property ownership will be based upon the amount of property frontage on the highway.

Citizens View Proposed Paving of County Roads

Approximately 60 people were on hand for a public hearing at Devil's Den State Park to learn more about the proposed improvements of County Road 30 in Crawford County and County Road 61 in Washington County.

The proposed project involves improving the existing roadway to consist of two 10-foot paved travel lanes with two-foot shoulders. The roadway crosses private land holdings as well as an U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service property, although the entire project falls within the boundaries of the Boston Mountain Ranger District of the Ozark National Forest.

The Arkansas State Highway Commission, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, is planning the project to improve a section of roadway between Lee Creek (north end of State Highway 220) and State Highway 170 at Devil's Den State Park. The existing roadway is designated as County Road 30 in Crawford County and County Road 61 in Washington County.

County Roads 30 and 61 are functionally classified as rural minor arterials and are inad-

equated for current and future traffic. The travel lanes are very narrow and in several areas the terrain is mountainous and the roadway contains sharp curves. The proposed improvements will improve the horizontal and vertical alignment of the roads and raise the operating speed on the facility.

The current average daily traffic count on the route is approximately 315 vehicles per day with a projected average daily traffic count of 525 vehicles per day by the year 2017. Trucks account for 3% of the traffic on the route. The proposed improvements will adequately provide for the 20-year forecast traffic on this corridor.

Upon completion of the project, County Roads 30 and 61 will be designated State Highway 220. It will also be a state scenic highway. The conversion will

provide a more efficient route as well as a continuous state scenic highway from Interstate 40 to Devil's Den State Park. A continuous State Highway 220 will improve the efficiency of the highway network in northern Crawford and southern Washington Counties.

The overwhelming majority of those people who attended the meeting were in favor of the proposed improvements.



Area residents review proposed plans at Devil's Den State Park.

AHTD Retiree's Association Hosts Annual Meeting

Longtime friends greeted each other over lunch at the 15th annual meeting of the AHTD Retiree's Association. About 200 members attended the event at the Burns Park Hospitality House in North Little Rock.

The Department was represented by Director Dan Flowers, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson, Insurance Representative Diann Gwatney, and Chief Fiscal Officer Larry Dickerson.

Flowers briefed the retirees on changes and innovations taking place at the Department. A video was presented which provided an outstanding look at the Department and some of its activities, particularly relating to construction of the Highway 71 tunnel near Winslow.



1998 AHTD Retiree's Association Officers
(L-R) Max Koehler, Senior Vice President; Calvin Peevy, President; Max Bagwell, Vice President; Sibyl Maddox, Secretary-Treasurer

"There are many things going on at the Department," Flowers told the group. "The job we have to do has not changed since many of you were there, but the

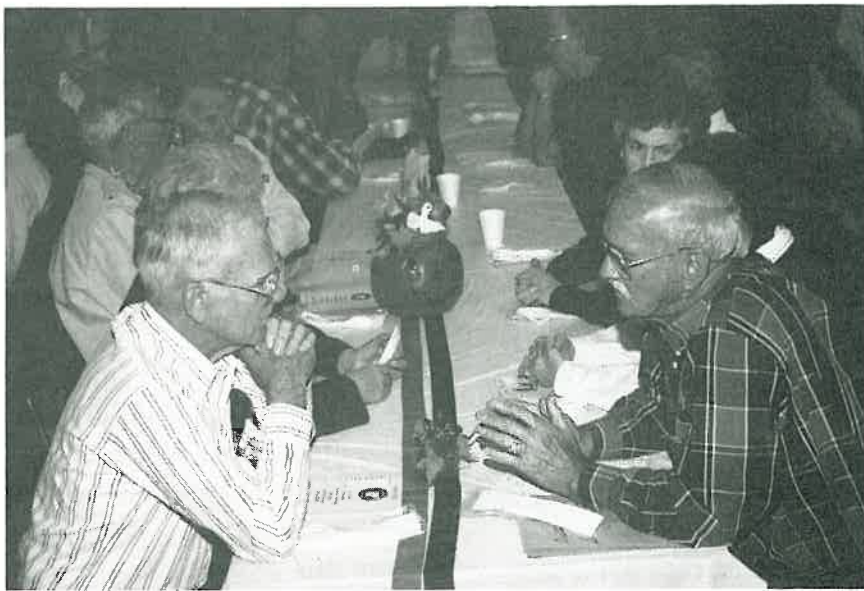
way we perform it has changed. Because of the hard work, leadership, and experience that all of you provided, we are in a better position to perform our jobs."



1998 Association President Calvin Peevy presents Charles Broadway a plaque of appreciation for serving as Association President for 1996 and 1997.



AHTD Director Dan Flowers visits with retirees at the meeting.



SAVED by the BELT



It was 30 seconds that Earl Green will long remember. The Desha County Area Maintenance Supervisor owes his life to a thin piece of fabric.

Green was involved in an accident that could have left his wife without a husband and three-year-old daughter without a father.

Traveling north on Highway 65 in his AHTD pickup truck, Green was forced off the road when a car traveling southbound pulled out in front of him. "I had to take to the shoulder to miss the car. I was told the truck flipped over several times," Green explained. Seeing the damage and crushed roof, it's difficult to see how anyone could walk away from such a violent accident. "I didn't get a good look at the car. They never did catch the person that pulled out in front of me."

"Through the blessings of God and my seat belt, I'm still alive," he said. Green said he

Desha County Area Maintenance Supervisor Owes Life To His Seatbelt

preaches to others at the McGehee headquarters about wearing seat belts. "I'm always telling the crew that safety is a team effort," he added.

Although the airbag in the truck did not inflate, the seat belt kept him secured while the truck rolled. "They wanted to call an ambulance for me, but I told them I was okay," he said. Minor cuts and bruises are all Green had to show for his ordeal. "The seat belt held me very tightly. I remember my head hitting the ceiling, but that's



Desha County Area Maintenance Supervisor Earl Green and the Department truck which he was driving

about all I can remember," Green said. "Just use common sense; wearing a seat belt can save your life. I'm living proof of that."

Volunteer Employees Make State Fair Booth A Success

The AHTD sponsored a booth at the Arkansas State Fair again this year. Numerous AHTD employees volunteered to work in the booth which was located in the Hall of Industry on the State Fairgrounds. Nearly 13,000 state highway maps, about 8,000 car litter bags and thousands of brochures were given away at the booth. Visitors asked questions, offered comments, or just enjoyed the photos on the booth's display. Thanks to all the employees who helped make the booth a success again this year.



Shirley Wesson of Internal Audit greets visitors at the AHTD booth at the Arkansas State Fair.



Letters to the Department

To: Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

May I express my deepest thanks to you for the many suggestions and the hard work you have given to the safety and improvement of Highway 65. I am deeply thankful to the Arkansas Highway Commission for their many hours of surveys, analysis and thorough work.

We have seen significant differences in the attitude of the way our citizens drive. The Arkansas Highway Police and the County Sheriff's Department have made a tremendous impact that is supported by our citizens. We want these efforts continued as much as they can be offered. However, the improvements we have seen must be appreciated and must have support by our local people.

If you have further suggestions, please keep us informed. Our Task Force Committee will meet only when we see specific needs. Again, thank you, as we try to save and protect many lives in our community.

Sincerely,
Bob Dailey, Pastor, Pickles Gap Baptist Church
Conway, Arkansas

To: John Lipton
Highway Commissioner

This is to express my appreciation for your assistance in the resurfacing of Arkansas State Highway 355 (Jackson Street). We have had many fine comments on the efficient job that was done. Traveling on Jackson Street is now very pleasant.

Thank you on behalf of the city council and the citizens of Magnolia for the overlay on Highway 355.

If I can ever be of assistance to you, please feel free to contact me.

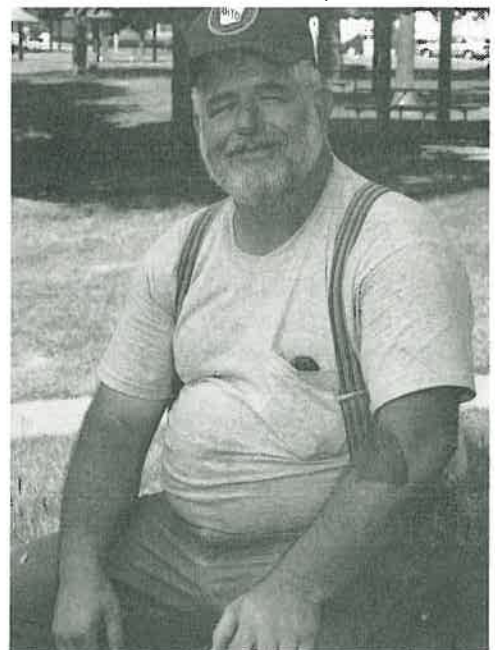
Sincerely,
Jean Lane, Mayor, City of Magnolia

To: Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

On Thursday, May 24, we were traveling to Magnolia for a meeting when our state vehicle ran out of gas near the Social Hill area. We were transported to the Social Hill Rest Area, where Mr. Jimmy Finley, who works for the Highway Department, took us back to the vehicle and gave us enough gas to help us on our way. We feel he went beyond the call of duty and we want you to know about him.

This letter is to commend him for his assistance.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Haas and Caroline Brown
Arkansas Arts Council



Jimmy Finley, Rest Area Attendant

To: Phil Chandler
Project Engineer
Parsons-Brinckerhof Const. Co.
Winslow, Arkansas

On behalf of the Westark students who you led on a tour of the "Tunnel of the Ozarks" now under construction, I would like to extend our great appreciation. The tunnel project is of unusual proportion and undertaking for our area. I thought the students gained good experience in being there to see the operation firsthand. Not only the building of the tunnel, but the ecological restoration associated with it impressed the class.

Thank you again for your hospitality and for sharing your expertise with the Westark students. It is people like yourself taking time from your own busy schedule to offer valuable education experience for young people who make a positive difference in our society.

Sincerely,
Billy D. Higgins, Instructor of History and Geography
Westark Community College in Fort Smith, Arkansas

Editor's Note: Phil Chandler is the Resident Engineer/Construction Manager engaged by the Department through Parsons-Brinckerhof Construction Co. to manage the tunnel contractor's work.

To: Lyndal Waits
District 5 Engineer

We go from Benton to Batesville each week. We have done this for five or six years. We would like you to know that the rest stop between Bald Knob and Batesville is and has been absolutely the cleanliest and best kept of any we have ever seen.

We have stopped at many, many stops from Maine to California. If there is such a thing as a merit raise, the man who maintains this area certainly deserves one. We appreciate him very much.

Austin Fikes and Dorsey Chastain
Benton, Arkansas

Editor's Note: Tommy Harper is the Rest Area Attendant for the Independence County maintenance crew.

To: Ralph Fulton
District 9 Engineer

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks for all the work that the Highway Department has done on the section of Highway 16 between Brashears and the Washington County line. Since the time that the grooves were put into the pavement, not one life has been lost on that section of road. (You may remember that eight fatalities have occurred between June 1994 and November 1995.)

I thank you for your courtesy in listening to my concern over that problem; for taking steps to see if it was a valid concern; for doing what could be done immediately to make the pavement have more traction, improve the signs, and repaint the lines; and for following through with your commitment to widen and improve the entire section of roadway.

You may, at times, feel that people do not appreciate all the hard work and headaches which your job entails; however, there are those in southern Madison County who are very grateful for your efforts. I for one am glad to have public servants who listen and follow through with what is needed.

Sincerely,
Terri Johnston



Tommy Harper, Rest Area Attendant

To: All It May Concern

I am writing to express my appreciation for the way the Arkansas Highway Police made my husband's funeral so memorable. I know he would be proud of all the men.

Retired AHP Captain Glenn Sullivan passed away on May 19, 1997 at the age of 67. He was a long-time resident of Walnut Ridge. After 35 years of service to the Highway Police, Captain Sullivan retired September 4, 1991 as the District Commander of AHP District 2.

Again thank you so much and we will never forget you.

Ann Sullivan and family
Walnut Ridge, Arkansas

To: Chief Randy Reed
Arkansas Highway Police

On Thursday, July 17, 1997, assistance was requested from the Union County Sheriff's Department to the Arkansas Highway Police. The request was to help in a search for an elderly man and his vehicle. The man's house had apparently been burglarized and attempted to be set on fire.

Cpl. Richard Branch accepted the request for help and began a search of the area at 10:00 p.m. On Friday, July 18, Cpl. Branch was requested for further assistance. After a short time, Cpl. Branch radioed investigators and advised that he had located the missing vehicle. The vehicle was located a short distance from the victim's residence in a wooded area. After investigators arrived, the body of the victim was discovered in the trunk compartment of the hidden vehicle. Without Cpl. Branch's assistance, it could have been days before the vehicle might have been located.

Cpl. Branch used his sense of instinct to check out an area that had been previously overlooked by other officers. He also preserved the crime scene until investigators could arrive.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Cpl. Branch for a job well done. He always stands ready to assist our agency at any time when needed. I commend Cpl. Branch and the Arkansas Highway Police for their dedication to law enforcement in the State of Arkansas.

If I can ever be of assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Huey Havard
Union County Sheriff

TO: Captain Don Hastings
Arkansas Highway Police

On April 20, my husband and I had car problems in Lake Village. While walking to find help, I flagged down Cpl. Sandra Bailey and asked her if she would give me a ride to a phone. Needless to say, she did and stayed with us until the help we called arrived. I commend Cpl. Bailey for all her help. If all Highway Police are like her, then we have the "best in the business." We appreciate Cpl. Bailey and ask that you recognize her as one of the nicest and best.

Sincerely,
Thurston and Peggy Hazel
Plainview, Arkansas

To: Lawrence Fletcher
District 8, Russellville

I know most of the letters you receive are in the form of complaints, but this letter is of a different nature. I wanted to express, for the City and its people, appreciation for the reflectors now in place on U.S. Highway 65 through Greenbrier. They not only create a safer highway but are pleasing to the eye, and for that, we thank you.

Melton Cotton, Mayor
City of Greenbrier

To: Thomas Kinslow
District 8, Russellville

I just wanted you to know that some of your employees were a great deal of help to me. About a month ago on a Friday evening a flood rain washed some debris across a neighbor's drain cover causing the flood to come across our new funeral home site in Atkins. It washed six 20-foot tiles over a drain by Highway 105 and practically stopped traffic. Danny Duvall and another gentleman waded out into the water, retrieved the tiles and brought them to high ground. This may have been on or off duty, but we greatly appreciated their help.

I never got a chance to thank them. I hope you will do that for me.

Jim Lemley
Lemley Funeral Service
Atkins, Arkansas

To: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department

Our car broke down near your office, 10324 Interstate 30, and a fine young man named Tom Greenway stopped and gave us many favors. He surely went more than a mile - he went twenty miles to help us. I'm sure he is a good employee and I hope you will be as kind to him as he was to us. Many thanks for his services.

Wade and Onieda Tull
Crossett, Arkansas

To: Lyndal Waits
District 5, Batesville

It is a pleasure to see the road improvements near the Mountain View Public Schools. I believe the community and the school will be better served because of the changes.

On behalf of the school district, I thank you for your attention to our needs and your efforts to see the project completed.

Daniel Thomas, Superintendent
Mountain View, Arkansas

To: Kit Core
Carroll County Area Maintenance Supervisor

Thanks a whole bunch for the mowing job. Please tell Jimmy and his crew thanks too. I really appreciate it. It is much safer pulling out now. You know, I have a 16-year-old daughter and she needs all the help with safety she can get.

Patty Maupin

To: Arkansas Highway Police

I just wanted to say thank you for returning Ted Clark's wallet. He couldn't remember where he had lost it and was already in Virginia when he realized it was missing. Receiving it in the the mail was a great relief.

Lisa Clark
Columbus, Indiana

To: Ralph Fulton
District 9, Harrison

I recently communicated some concerns I had regarding the intersection of Highway 71 and Benton County Road 40. I made several calls and expressed how I felt and each time I called I was made to feel like someone really cared about how a resident of the area felt. I was asked questions regarding how I felt things could be improved. Yesterday when I checked my mail, I found a letter from you describing in detail the action that the State is taking to improve public safety at this intersection. I wanted to take the time to write this morning and thank you for listening to my suggestions, and also for taking the appropriate steps in making this intersection a safer situation.

Don Schmutz
Bentonville, Arkansas

To: William Tyler
District 3, Hope

I would like to express my appreciation for the beautiful reflectors that were placed on Highway 71 south of Texarkana. They make night driving so much easier and safer. I'm sure they will be a "life saver" on foggy and rainy nights. I certainly feel much safer driving now. Thanks to all who were responsible.

Nola Harrison

To: Harold Beaver
District 4, Fort Smith

I received your letter of August 7 regarding the moving of the signs on Highway 88 and County Road 67. They have indeed been moved and the brush trimmed. It made such a difference. I didn't want to fail to thank you. Thanks for responding so promptly - it's appreciated.

Don Hennings
Cherry Hill, Arkansas

To: Joe Barnett
District 10, Paragould

Recently, as we were returning to Illinois to visit our children, we experienced transmission failure. Luckily, we were able to pull into the Osceola rest stop north. A very obliging young lady named Lenora came to our assistance. She made sure a wrecker was called for us and kept a helpful eye on us until our help arrived.

In the days of "hustle and bustle" and "it's not my responsibility," it is nice to meet someone who is willing to go the extra mile. We believe you should know what she did and how much we appreciate her actions.

Carlos Woodward
Hot Springs, Arkansas

Editor's Note: This employee is Lenora Wilson, Rest Area Attendant.

To: Ralph Fulton
District 9, Harrison

A while back I wrote you in regard to a culvert that was a hazard and included two pictures of the place. Some time passed and I lost your address before the work was done.

One day I passed there and you had done the work I requested and also extended the other end of the culvert: a great job for anyone using Highway 59, especially in poor driving conditions.

Thanks for considering my request and the great response. Thanks also to your men in Gentry.

Jack Phillips
Gravette, Arkansas

To: Jane Wilson
Chief of Administration and Public Affairs

I am writing to commend an employee of the AHTD whom it was my good fortune to meet last Friday, June 12, on I-40 between the Alma and Ozark exits. His name is Rodney Mazander and he is one of the true Southern gentlemen left in the world. After experiencing car troubles which left me stranded in 100 degree heat, and having sat in that car for 45 minutes without one offer of help, I was extremely grateful when Mr. Mazander pulled over to see if I needed help.

His approach was respectful and friendly, and he looked at my car and gave advice that I needed. He then took me to the nearest truck stop and took the time to help me find a wrecker for my car. Knowing that I could be stranded for a long time, he was concerned about my well-being, offered me money for food if I needed it. Then, knowing that I was a long way from home and that I was very anxious, he offered to come back and get me and take me home if I had found no one who could do this by the time Mr. Mazander got off work. I was stunned by this modern Good Samaritan! You do not find people of Mr. Mazander's goodness, kindness, and thoughtfulness driving down the freeway when you are in trouble.

Because his kindnesses were so greatly appreciated by me and my family, and because a man of his character should be recognized, I wanted to share my encounter with Mr. Mazander with you. The AHTD had a roadside angel working for them last Friday. It made my week!

Thank you for allowing me to share this positive experience with you.

Lorna Speck
Cabot, Arkansas

To: William Tyler
District 3, Hope

I am writing to say thank you for the work recently done on Highway 71 south of Texarkana. My husband is a paramedic and is on the volunteer fire department here in Doddridge. I can't tell you how many wrecks he has had to assist in on this part of Highway 71 to the Louisiana state line.

I hope the new reflectors will help in cutting down on the amount of wrecks. Again, my sincere thanks.

Rebecca Ramsey

To: Weldon Garrison, Area Maintenance Supervisor

On a recent visit to the Red River Tourist Information Center, I was very impressed with the appearance of the center's grounds and I wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate Ms. Audrie Caldwell for all her hard work in making this center look so inviting to visitors.

I have always received positive remarks from Carolyn Eppinette on Ms. Caldwell's work performance and I wanted you to know it does not go unnoticed. Please place a copy of this letter in Audrie's performance file because we appreciate her efforts more than she will ever know.

Charles McLemore, Director
Research/Information Services
Arkansas Dept. of Parks and Tourism

To: William Tyler
District 3, Hope

I just had to write to tell you how very much we appreciate the reflectors you put in the center of Highway 71 south of Texarkana. Tonight we drove home from church and it was wonderful. We could see the center so good and the curves showed up so good. When we would be here in Texarkana and had to drive home after dark, we dreaded it, especially in rainy weather. The highway lines were so hard for me to see. It was really dangerous. Putting the reflectors on the highway will probably save lives. Thanks again.

Mrs. James Magee
Doddridge, Arkansas

To: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department

We live on Highway 1 at Colt and for the last few years they have worked on this road. Last week, I have never seen traffic as bad as it was, but your man, Jerry Vest, has worked so hard and has been so courteous to all of the businesses and homeowners. He has tried to tell us when we have to have our drives out and tries to get it fixed as soon as possible. There have been times when we have seen him use a shovel and help with the dirt, gravel and asphalt. Mike's Family Food, First National Bank of Eastern Arkansas, Junior and Clara Coleman and many more would like you to know about Jerry.

Junior Coleman
Colt, Arkansas

To: Joe Barnett
District 10, Paragould

All too often we do not take the time to say thank you when someone is doing an excellent job, so I am going to "brag" on two of your employees, especially our park attendant, Sammie Parrish.

Hardly a day goes by that we don't receive compliments how well the park is kept and how clean the TIC facility is. It is no accident that we receive these compliments. It is because of the pride and hard work of Sammie Parrish and Gladys Hollis.

I know of several times that Sammie has gone the extra mile to assist a stranded tourist. The latest being on September 29 when a couple from North Carolina traveling to Tulsa, Oklahoma to be with a family member who was hospitalized experienced car trouble. First, the transmission on their car went out. They spent most of their money having it repaired, so they spent the night at the park, in the car. Monday morning, bad luck struck again when they started the car, the ignition caught fire. To make a long story short, Sammie was able to do some work on the car and get them started on their way again. They left the Corning TIC happy to be on the road again and grateful that they had met Sammie Parrish.

Thanks again for all the hard work keeping the park and facilities clean and attractive for our visitors.

Phyllis Burrow, Manager
Corning Tourist Information Center

To: Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

When the bridge over the Mississippi River at Helena was recently damaged by an overheight barge crane, the structure was closed to all highway traffic. The closure not only made a hardship on business, farming and people needing to get to work, but it put the Department in a real bind to make repairs as soon as possible. Through the cooperation of many people, including the Heavy Bridge Maintenance Section, the Bridge Division, District 1 crews, AFCO Steel fabricators and those furnishing a temporary bridge crossing for pedestrians, made it possible to complete repairs in a record time.

These people are to be commended for their work, with special commendation going to the Heavy Bridge Maintenance Section for their loyalty and devotion to duty and for a job well done.

Although I am retired, I still feel a close relationship to the Department and I am extremely proud of all of you.

John E. Hall
Retired AHTD State Maintenance Engineer

To: Harold Beaver
District 4, Fort Smith

On behalf of the Senate Interim Committee on Public Transportation, Aging and Legislative Affairs and the House Interim Committee on Public Transportation, we would like to thank you for providing the escorted tour to Bunyard Tunnel Friday, September 12. It was a unique opportunity to see this structure in the construction phase. The members, guests and staff will long remember this informative and very special tour.

We realize that you had to rearrange your work schedule to accommodate this request. Please know that all involved truly appreciate everything you and your crews did to make this trip possible.

Thank you once again. Please express our gratitude to your colleagues.

Senator Jon Fitch, Senate Chairman
Rep. Ben McGee, House Chairman

To: Gene Roberts, Polk County Area Maintenance Supervisor

Thanks so much for the work your department did on Highway 4 by the school gymnasium in Cove. It looks much better. I think it will be a lot safer too. I appreciate the quick response.

Carolyn Mason, Mayor
Cove, Arkansas

To: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department

I would like to thank you for your response to our efforts in making a safe bus stop for our Prescott Elementary students who live on Highway 24 east of Camden. I understand from parents in that area that the problem they had been faced with for two years is much better because of your response to their concerns.

We are grateful to you for your help in eliminating the unsafe conditions for our children who ride the bus from this route. If we can ever be of service to you, please let us know. Thanks again for your help.

Janet Gordon, Assistant Principal
Prescott Elementary School

IN MEMORY

RETIREES

Lon Maxwell - Highway Police
died July 19, 1996

Wilbern L. Wince - District 10
died April 15, 1997

Homer O. Story - District 1
died April 28, 1997

Helen W. McCook - Equipment
died April 29, 1997

Sibble L. Holleman - Personnel
died May 1, 1997

Ruben Hurst - District 9
died May 4, 1997

James E. Sherrill - District 5
died May 5, 1997

Loy C. Cross - District 7
died May 6, 1997

John W. Baldrige - District 10
died May 17, 1997

Chester M. Jones - District 10
died May 19, 1997

Billy J. Reams - District 5
died May 20, 1997

James W. Thomas - District 3
died May 20, 1997

Arthur Pilgreen - District 3
died May 23, 1997

Premo Pegenelli - District 2
died May 27, 1997

Arthur Emmerling - Right of Way
died May 28, 1997

Billy A. Turpin - District 3
died May 31, 1997

Milton Nicks - District 1
died June 1, 1997

James E. Hardcastle - Equipment
died June 15, 1997

Mosie McKinney - District 8
died June 19, 1997

Seth B. Clark - District 8
died June 22, 1997

John M. Hollis - District 2
died July 2, 1997

Arthur L. Huntly - District 9
died July 3, 1997

William S. Carter - District 3
died July 3, 1997

John W. Glass - District 3
died July 8, 1997

Garlon C. Tidwell - District 2
died July 10, 1997

Regina Laidler - Legal
died July 16, 1997

Henry G. Bearden - Highway Police
died July 19, 1997

Ed A. Jones - District 5
died August 1, 1997

Jack Renfroe - District 9
died August 4, 1997

Dewey S. Crow - Surveys
died August 6, 1997

Jerry D. Greitens - District 10
died August 8, 1997

Nancy K. Strozier - District 4
died August 11, 1997

Marion D. Bates - District 2
died August 14, 1997

Lavan McDaniel - District 5
died August 18, 1997

Dan Smith - District 6
died August 21, 1997

Harlan L. Roose - District 4
died August 21, 1997

Frain McGial - District 2
died August 23, 1997

William C. Flowers - District 8
died August 27, 1997

E. Reid Beckel - Roadway Design
died August 31, 1997

Lerene Pickens - District 5
died September 2, 1997

Around the Department

BRIDGE

John Sage, Staff Bridge Design Engineer, retired on June 30 with 37 years service. His co-workers and other retirees wished him well at a fish fry at Maumelle Park.

Michael Coogan, Senior Bridge Design Engineer, was promoted to Staff Bridge Design Engineer in July. Michael began with the Department in 1973.

John Ballard, Civil Engineer I, joined our staff in June. He taught junior high science in Dallas and Fort Smith before receiving an engineering degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. He and his wife Kimberly live in Maumelle.

Joshua Davis, Bridge Design Engineer, recently resigned to accept a one-year assignment teaching English in China and John Measels, Civil Engineer I, has resigned to accept employment with an engineering firm in Maumelle.

Michael Hill, Bridge Design Engineer, and Cindy Murrey were married June 21 at Zion Lutheran Church in Benton. They now reside in Hot Springs.

CONSTRUCTION



Rebecca (Becca) Rinchuso is the Contract Estimates Section Office Administrative Assistant III. She transferred from the Pine Bluff Resident Engineers Office.



Allan Holmes, center, State Construction Engineer, presents a 10-year service award to Phyllis Barnett-Cook, right, Estimates Technician and a 5-year service award to Barry Young, right, Estimates Supervisor.



Arpana Patel, left, a senior at J.A. Fair High School, and Tylena Owens, a sophomore at UALR, are the Construction office seasonal employees.

EQUIPMENT AND PROCUREMENT

Receiving service awards in April were Annette Swift, Office Administrative Assistant I for 15 years and Ricky Grisson, Senior Mechanic for 10 years.

Dewayne Combs, Buyer, retired in August with 37 years service. He was presented a Sears gift certificate by his co-workers.

Ann Johnson, Buyer, retired with 25 years service. A reception was held for Ann in May. She and her husband have moved to their new home in Colorado.

Keith Caddy, Senior Mechanic, transferred to the District 9 Headquarters Shop in September.

Two new employees in Equipment and Procurement are Lyle Sperry, Service Station Attendant and Charles Krontz, Mechanic, who transferred from District 6.

HIGHWAY POLICE



Kerry Acord, daughter of Cpl. Jim and Carol Acord, is a 1997 graduate of Ozark High School.



Tyler Clayton Ross Batson was born June 6 to Cpl. Ross and Lisa Batson.



Caleb Chaffin is the one-year-old son of Pfc. Lynn and Lana Chaffin.



Terry Nanney, left, Permits Section Head, presents a 5-year service award to Henry Lewis, Permit Technician.

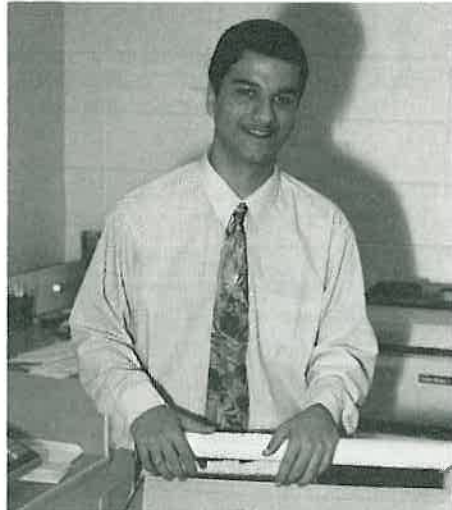
HUMAN RESOURCES



Barbara Cox, Personnel Clerk, transferred from Programs & Contracts.



Ken Jordan, Safety Inspection Officer in the Training & Safety Section, transferred from Highway Police.



Jack Koba has been employed since August 1996. He worked in Mail & Supply with the COE Program and was promoted to Mail Clerk in June.



Becky Smith is the new Central Office Receptionist in the Personnel Section. She began work in August and has a degree in journalism from the University of Memphis.



Samantha Nutt, Personnel Auditing Clerk, and Daniel Bart were married April 26 at Temple Baptist Church in Little Rock.

LEGAL



Service awards: (L-R) Laverne Thompson, Office Administrative Assistant V, 20 years; Robert L. Wilson, Chief Counsel, 20 years; Calvin Gibson, Staff Attorney, 5 years; Dawn Nease, Legal Aide, 10 years



Regina Whitaker Laidler, recently retired Staff Attorney, died July 16. She worked for the Legal Division 24 years as the Department's Title Attorney.

MAINTENANCE



Tony Sullivan, left, Staff Traffic Engineer, presents a 35-year service award to Charles Latture, Traffic Services Specialist.



Tony Sullivan, left, Staff Traffic Engineer, presents a 20-year service award to Tony Jones, Signing Superintendent.



Tony Sullivan, left, Staff Traffic Engineer, presents a 15-year service award to Mike Brown, Traffic Designer.



Garland Land, left, Heavy Bridge Maintenance Engineer, presents a 10-year service award to Don Parker, Crew Leader.



Garland Land, left, Heavy Bridge Maintenance Engineer, presents a 20-year service award to Karl Bentz, Statewide Bridge Inspector.



Garland Land, left, Heavy Bridge Maintenance Engineer, presents a 15-year service award to Dan Potter, Bridge Repairer II.



Tony Sullivan, left, Staff Traffic Engineer, presents a 5-year service award to Tommy Duncan, Striping Machine Driver.



Garland Land, left, Heavy Bridge Maintenance Engineer, presents a 20-year service award to Bill Ritchie, Heavy Bridge Supervisor.



Allan Loring, left, Sign Shop Supervisor, presents a 10-year service award to Gene Morrison, Sign Maker II.



Mandy Winkler, daughter of Ron Winkler, Electrician for Facilities Management, is a 1997 graduate of North Little Rock High School.



Whitney Jean White, daughter of Rick Rawls, Senior Design Technician for Facilities Management, is a 1997 graduate of Conway High School.

PLANNING AND RESEARCH

The Planning and Research Division's new employees are: Karen McDaniels, Advanced Research Assistant and Gary Bennett, Civil Engineer I in Research; Karen Dickerson, Highway Data Collector and Kennie Birch, Transportation Management Technician I in Technical Services.

Seasonal employees this year are: Nikki Sullivan, freshman at UALR; Shamarra Garmon and Janna Phillips, seniors at Mills High School; Erin Busbea and Alicia Parks, seniors at McClellan High School.



Kim Huston, Transportation Engineer; Richard Mills, Research Study Engineer; and Elizabeth Mayfield, Planning Engineer, recently passed the Professional Engineer exam.



Laura Edwards and Richard Harris were married June 14 at North Main Baptist Church in Sheridan. Laura was a seasonal employee for the last four years and Richard is the son of David and Hilda Harris. Hilda is a Highway Performance and Need Analyst II in Technical Services.



Merritt "Erin" Mahaffey is the first grandchild of Keith Merritt, Technical Services Section Head. She was born July 24.



Benjamin James, born April 16, and William Ryan, age 5, are the sons of Margaret and Jim LeClair. Margaret is a Civil Engineering Technician in Research.

PROGRAMS AND CONTRACTS



Millie Houston, left, Administrative Officer I, retired May 27. She is pictured with (left to right) Frank Vozel, Division Head; David Mayo, Project Development Section Head and Hub Holland, retired Programs & Contracts Division Head. Also attending Millie's retirement reception were her husband Pat, son Ben with wife Gretta and their son Cody, age 5, and son Patrick with fiancé Kyran.



Frank Vozel, left, Division Head, presents a 20-year service award to David Mayo, Staff Project Development Engineer.

Receiving a 5-year service award was Steve Morgan, Programs and Contracts Engineer in the Project Development Section.

Sharon Bowen was recently promoted to Administrative Assistant I and Mitzi Dunn to Office Administrative Assistant III in the Project Development Section.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Lyndsey Taylor, daughter of LynAnne and David Taylor, is a 1997 graduate of Southwest Christian Academy. She began first grade in September. LynAnne is the Administrative Aide IV in the Public Affairs Office.



James Braden, left, Relocation Coordinator, receives a 10-year service award from Danny Arendt, Relocation Section Head.



Lori Johns and Randall E. Cobb, Realty Appraiser III in the Appraisal Section, were married September 6 at Pulaski Heights Methodist Church. They honeymooned in Jamaica and now live in Maumelle.

ROADWAY DESIGN

Recent promotions include Phillip Rye, Design Engineer; Jim Squires, Senior Designer and Rick Henriksen, Senior Traffic Investigator.

Ron Cofer, retired Administrative Officer II, died in September.



Roadway Design welcomes three new engineers to its staff. They are: David Pearce, Civil Engineer I in Traffic Engineering; Amy King, Civil Engineer I in Freeway Design and Tammy Jernigan, Civil Engineer I in Urban Design. David and Amy are 1997 graduates of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and Tammy is a 1997 graduate of Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia.

RIGHT OF WAY



Jim Gaither, left, Division Head, presents a 20-year service award to David Harmon, Right of way Engineering Specialist.



Will Holt, right, Engineering Section Head, presents a 10-year service award to Leonard Speed, Right of Way Plans Designer.



Haley Lynnette Garner, age 7, was crowned Miss LaPetite 1997. She is the granddaughter of Shirley Butler, Office Administrative Assistant III in the Relocation Section.



Charles Wilson, Hydraulic Engineer, retired September 30 with 10 years service.



Nathan Joseph Woods was born December 26, 1996. He is the son of Senior Roadway Design Engineer Mark and Margaret Woods.



Katelyn Sue Coffman is the daughter of Tony and Julie Coffman. Julie is a Senior Hydraulics Technician in the Hydraulics Section.

DISTRICT ONE



Willie Jones, left, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, receives a 20-year service award from District Engineer Ray Woodruff.



District Engineer Ray Woodruff, left, presents a 15-year service award to Tommy Halbert, Crew Leader.



Willie Jones, left, Construction Aide II, receives a 10-year service award from District Engineer Ray Woodruff.



Receiving 5-year service awards are (left to right) Donnie Henson, Construction Field Engineer II; Daniel Norman, Motor Patrol Operator and William Henderson, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish.



Lynda Baker, District Office Manager, retired June 27 with 30 years service.



Needra Sisson
District Office Manager



Kimberly Wright
District Receptionist



Linnie Calvert
Personnel Clerk



Jan McElroy
District Bookkeeper



Lisa Cleveland, Field Clerk in the Wynne Residency, was named United States National Collegiate Award winner in Information Systems Management through East Arkansas Community College where she attends. This is quite an accomplishment for a working mother of five boys.



Lisa Luster, is the daughter of Resident Office Technician Juanita and Barron Fitts. She is attending Crowley's Ridge Vocational Technical School to earn a degree as a LPN.



Eric Fitts, son of Resident Office Technician Juanita Fitts and husband Barron, is a 1997 graduate of Wynne High School.



Austin Drew Benson, born June 19, is the son of Chris and Amy Benson. Freddie Andrews, Cross County Area Maintenance Supervisor, is his grandfather.



Freddie Andrews, Cross County Area Maintenance Supervisor, is shown with grandchildren Ryan and Ivy Andrews.



Emma Grace Henson, daughter of Donnie and Margaret Henson, was born September 30, 1996. Donnie is a Construction Field Engineer II for the West Memphis Residency.

DISTRICT TWO



Harold Smith, center, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish, receives a 30-year service award from Bob Burns, left, Area Maintenance Supervisor and Ernie Westfall, right, District Maintenance Engineer.



Alton Thomas, center, Motor Patrol Operator, receives a 25-year service award from Earl Green, left, Area Maintenance Supervisor and Ernie Westfall, District Maintenance Engineer.



A.G. Bullock, center, Area Headquarters Attendant, receives a 25-year service award from Gary West, left, Crew Leader and Ernie Westfall, District Maintenance Engineer.



Bob Burns, left, Area Maintenance Supervisor for Arkansas County at Stuttgart, receives a 20-year service award from Ernie Westfall, District Maintenance Engineer.



Debra Pruitt, center, Crew Leader, receives a 20-year service award from Edward Pridgeon, left, Area Maintenance Supervisor and Ernie Westfall, District Maintenance Engineer.



Steve Jones, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish for the Drew County maintenance crew, receives a 10-year service award.



Johnny Winfield, Lead Person for the Chicot County maintenance crew, receives a 10-year service award.



David Bushey, left, Advanced Construction Field Engineer, receives a 5-year service award from Resident Engineer Michael Benson.



Melanie Owen, District Bookkeeper, retired in April with 17 years service.



Left to right are Jim Briley, District Engineer; John Cia, Safety Inspection Officer; Ernie Westfall, District Maintenance Engineer and Tommy Simmons, Assistant Maintenance Superintendent.



Pictured are Rebecca Rinchuso, Field Clerk and Michael Benson, Resident Engineer at a going away party for Rebecca. She transferred to the Construction Division in Little Rock.



Bill Fine, left, Resident Engineer and Ted Carr, Assistant Resident Engineer at a going away party for Bill. He transferred to District 8 in Russellville.



William Hubbell, left, Guard, retired in June with 16 years service. He is shown with Jeff Hart, Crew Leader for the District Shop.



Gary Fletcher, Senior Inspector for the McGehee Residency, is shown in front of the landscaping at the intersection south of Lake Village.



Willie Patrick, Jr. is the son of Willie Patrick, Distributor Operator for the District Sealing crew.



Mike Kendall, shown upon his horse "Star," is a member of the Jefferson County Saddle Club and 4-H Riding Club. He is the son of Robert Kendall, Maintenance Job Superintendent.



District 3 Service Awards: Don Embry, Hydraulic Excavator Operator/Finish, 40 years; LaVerne Arledge, Stockroom Supervisor, 25 years; and Larry Johnson, Bridge Job Superintendent, 25 years



Corey Beake Rowe was born September 17. He is the son of Brian and Kristy Rowe. Brian is a Civil Engineer I for the Pine Bluff Residency.



TJ Brown, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, and her dog Bo, recently won second place in the obedience category at a dog show during the 21st Annual Watermelon Festival.

DISTRICT THREE



Vinie Holt, Storeroom Supervisor, at a farewell party at the District Headquarters in June. Vinie left the Department with 28 years service.

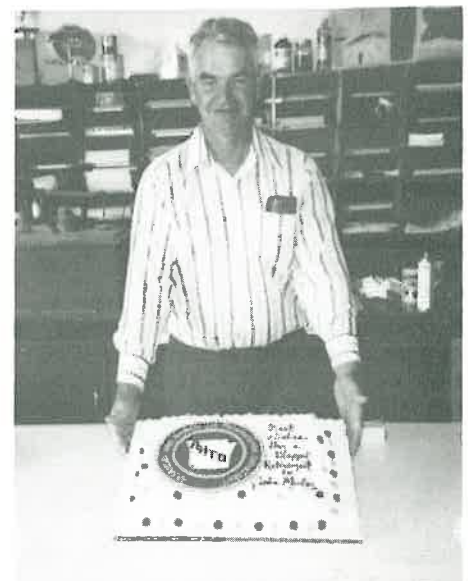


Brandy Reed and Joey Tomboli were married June 28. Brandy is the daughter of Ben and Martha Novak. Ben is an Inspector for the Pine Bluff Residency.



William Tyler, left, District Engineer, presents Danny Foster, Maintenance Aide II, a 25-year service award.

DISTRICT FOUR



John Marley, Senior Inspector in the Van Buren Residency, retired with 30 years service.



Hershel Henry (with cake), Polk County Area Maintenance Supervisor, is surrounded by all the District 4 supervisors to help him celebrate his retirement with 31 years service.



Bill Campbell, left, Logan County Area Maintenance Supervisor, receives a 25-year service award from District Engineer Harold Beaver.



Joe Shipman, left, District Construction Engineer, receives a 20-year service award from District Engineer Harold Beaver.



Ralph Goodson, left, Sealing Job Superintendent, presents John Carr, Finish Carpenter, a 20-year service award.



Charles Ross, left, Bridge Repairer II, receives a 20-year service award from David Becker, District Maintenance Superintendent.



Don Ulrich, left, Hydraulic Excavator, receives a 20-year service award from Gus Young, Sealing Job Superintendent.



Bashar Qedan, left, Van Buren Resident Engineer, presents Larry Steinsiek, Construction Helper II, a 15-year service award.



Harold Beaver, left, District Engineer, presents a 10-year service award to Bashar Qedan, Van Buren Resident Engineer.



Devin Bradley and Dilan Charles were born September 1 to Brad and Cassie Powell. Brad is the Distributor/Roller Operator at Waldron.



James Dustin Williams, born June 4, is the grandson of Nan and Terry Williams. Nan is the District Personnel Clerk.



Mack Rose, center, is shown with his grandchildren on his birthday. Left to right are Ryan, Ross, Kristin, Lane B., Chance and Lane P. Mack is a Construction Project Coordinator for the Waldron Residency.



Cheri Bell Bochler, born May 16, is the granddaughter of Charles and Linda Lance. Charles is a Construction Project Coordinator for the Waldron Residency.



Austin Lane is the grandson of Kim and Nancy McDowell. Kim is the District Assistant Maintenance Superintendent.



Madeline Brook Rose, born April 17, is the grandchild of Jeff and DaLanna Rose. Jeff is the Rest Area Attendant at Waldron.

DISTRICT FIVE



Mattie Lorene Couch, born August 26, is the grandchild of Harold and Elaine Beaver. Harold is the District 4 Engineer.



Cody Allan Mahar, born June 4, is the grandchild of Dean and Debbie Nichols. Dean is the Waldron Resident Engineer.



Sign Crew Supervisor A.L. "Shorty" Coles, shown with wife Shelba, retired May 14 with 37 years service.



Neal McCandlis, right, Fulton County Area Maintenance Supervisor, retired in June with 30 years service. He is shown with District Engineer Lyndal Waits.



District 5 Service Awards: David Spinks, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 20 years; Gregory Graeme, Stone County Area Maintenance Supervisor, 20 years; Randall Slayden, Lowboy or Float Truck Driver, 25 years; David Neighbours, Senior Construction Materials Inspector, 25 years



Samuel Davis, center, Hydraulic Excavator Operator/Finish, retired with 32+ years service. He is shown with Steve Hampton, left, Maintenance Job Superintendent and Chris Johnson, right, Crew Leader.



District 5 Service Awards: Ernest Martin, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor, 30 years; Jimmy Henley, Single Axle Truck Driver, 30 years; Danny Fleetwood, Storeroom Supervisor, 20 years; Sanford Goodwin, Electrical, Plumbing & Mechanical Repairer, 10 years; James Merriman, Jr., Single Axle Truck Driver, 5 years



District Engineer Lyndal Waits, center, presents service awards to Jonathan Brown, left, Single Axle Truck Driver, 5 years; and Donald Collins, right, Motor Patrol Operator, 10 years.



District 5 Service Awards: Carolyn Crafton, Field Clerk II, 10 years; Robert Swink, Vegetation Controller, 10 years; Deborah Qualls, Fuel Clerk, 10 years; Jerry Crosby, Construction Aide I, 10 years; David Smith, Street Sweeper Operator, 5 years; Anthony Comer, Single Axle Truck Driver, 5 years; Dustin Westmoreland, Roller Operator, 5 years; Bryant Cain, Single Axle Truck Driver, 5 years



A new racing syndicate is born in Batesville, home of NASCAR's Mark Martin. The members are (front row) Danny Fleetwood, Paul Matthews, Bobby Cochrine, Danny Wilson, Don McSpadden, Mike Pankey, Tom Inman, Lyndal Waits and Danny Watson. Back row: Wimp Reed, Dennis St. John, Dale Smith (driver), and Bryan Anderson. Members not pictured are Paul Hoggard, Jamie Kelley and James Branscum. The car is actually going to be run in a local demolition derby.



Peighton Taylor is the granddaughter of John and Brenda Taylor. Brenda is the District Personnel Clerk.



Alexis Lawellin is the granddaughter of Randy and Yvonne Satterwhite. Randy is the District Maintenance Superintendent.

DISTRICT SIX



20-Year Service Awards: (L-R front row) Tommy Thomas, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator; Roy Zuber, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish; Larry Breshears, Advanced Construction Field Engineer; Don Pipkin, Senior Inspector; Ray Cox, Construction Aide II; James Weston, Paver Operator. (Back row) Jerry Zuber, Maintenance Job Superintendent; Ed Randall, Construction Aide II; Dennis Johnson, Crew Leader; Eldon Luker, District Sealing Job Superintendent; David Walker, Resident Engineer



Service Awards: Roy Erwin, Maintenance Aide I, 25 years; Kenneth Perry, Senior Inspector, 35 years; Jack McMahan, Senior Inspector, 40 years



15-Year Service Awards: Eric Paulus, Crew Leader; Jimmy Nail, Crew Leader; Roberto Velazquez, Multi-Axle Truck Driver; Ronnie Veazey, Maintenance Aide II



Denver A. Hardman, Construction Aide II with the North Little Rock Residency, retired May 7.



The Malvern Moose Lodge #2365 at one of their cleanups through the Adopt A Highway Program. Members are Bill Smith, Charlie Bohannon, Randy Casto, Houston McJunkins, Wendall Dawton, Doug Milam, Jim Cole, Don Davie and Ray Williams.



Morgan Dickerson is a 1997 graduate of England High School. She will be attending ASU at Beebe. She is the daughter of John and Billie Phillips. John is a Distributor Operator for the District sealing crew.



Kate Phillips played third base during the summer T-ball program. She is the daughter of John and Billie Phillips of England. John is a Distributor Operator for the District sealing crew.



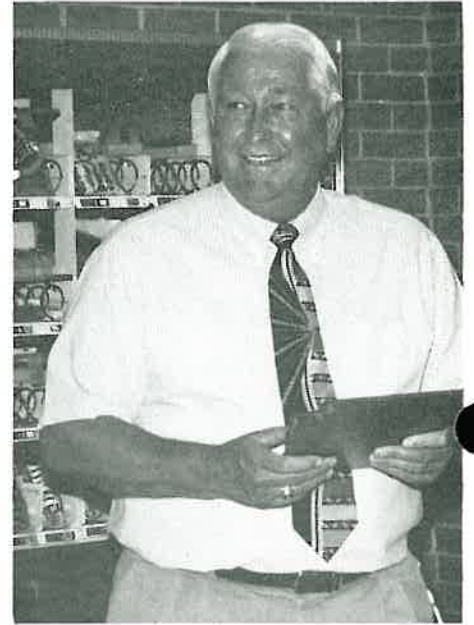
John Wayne Hughes, age 12 and the son of Ray Hughes, Jr., Maintenance Aide II, won Grand Champion at the Clark County Fair with this 1040-pound market steer.



William Chase, born August 12, is the first grandson of Bill Turner, Cleveland County Area Headquarters Attendant.

DISTRICT EIGHT

Lawrence Fletcher, District Engineer, retired in June with 36+ years service. District 8 employees held a fish fry and presented him with a plaque for his 16 years at Russellville. There was also a retirement reception held for him and attended by Highway Commissioner Herby Branscum, Jr. and many of Mr. Fletcher's present and former co-workers.



Lawrence Fletcher



Ayrtton Josef Bishop was born June 30 to Joseph and Carolyn Bishop. Joey is the Office Technician for Jim Pound's Resident Engineers Office.



Zander Marshall, born July 10, is the first grandchild of Phil Griffis, Ouachita County Area Maintenance Supervisor.



District Engineers at Lawrence Fletcher's retirement reception: Coy Campbell, Ralph Fulton, Fletcher, Harold Beaver, William Tyler, Lyndal Waits

DISTRICT SEVEN



Bob Myers, left, Resident Engineer, presents a 25-year service award to K. David Womack, Inspector for the Camden Residency.

Congratulations to Richard Welcher, a second summer engineering intern for the Clarksville Residency. He is a junior civil engineering major at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and was awarded the \$1,500 Kirk Davis Scholarship by the Associated General Contractors of America, Inc., Arkansas Chapter.



Service Awards and Retirements: (L-R) Alvin Shipp, 30 years, retired Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator; Bobby Boyd, 30 years, retired Crew Leader; Jackie Allen, Roller Operator, 25 years; Bobby Reynolds, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 25 years



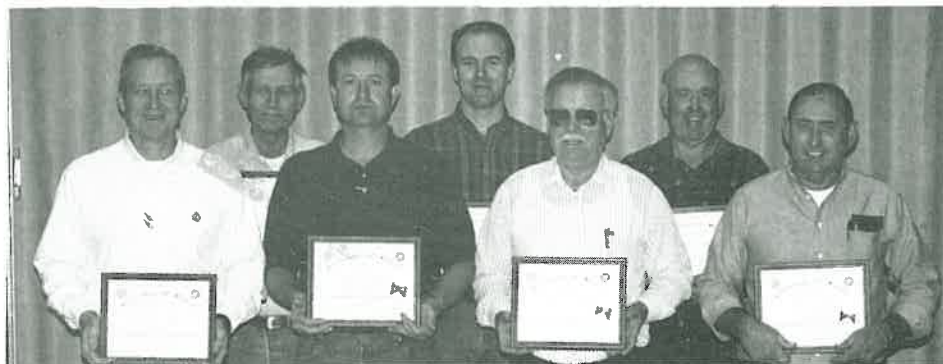
Service Awards: (L-R) Darrin Phillips, Motor Patrol Operator, 10 years; Frank Gray, Lowboy/Float Truck Driver, 25 years; Stanley Storment, Crew Leader, 20 years; Tommy Littleton, District Construction Engineer, 20 years; George Martin, District Bridge Inspector, 35 years



20-Year Service Awards: (L-R) Victor Harris, Area Headquarters Attendant; David Myers, Paint & Body Repairer; Bruce Bartlett, Lead Person; Kevin White, Johnson County Area Maintenance Supervisor; Albert Horn, Distributor/Roller Operator; Robert Stithem, Vegetation Controller



Service Awards: (L-R) Garry Yarbrough, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 10 years; Larry Martin, Lead Person, 15 years; Andrew May, Single Axle Truck Driver, 10 years; David Wyers, Lead Person, 15 years; John Gault, Single Axle Truck Driver, 10 years



Safety Awards: (L-R) B.J. McAlister, Resident Engineer; Francis Jones, District sign crew; Tim Henry, Resident Engineer; Steve Sheets, District Stockroom; Tom Kinslow, District Office; Smitty Bonds, Van Buren County crew; Kenneth Crow, Yell County crew

DISTRICT NINE



Kenneth Oxford, left, Marion County Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents a 20-year service award to Don Baker, Crew Leader.



Ricky Dodson, left, Crew Leader, receives a 20-year service award from Ronnie Faught, Sealing Job Superintendent.



Sandy Massengale, left, Rest Area Attendant, receives a 10-year service award from Steve Cornett, Boone County Area Maintenance Supervisor.



Butch Martin, left, Resident Engineer, presents a 10-year service award to Chris Seritt, Construction Aide II at Harrison.



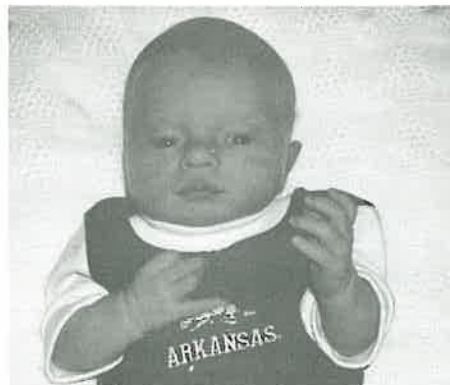
E.A. "Tom" Carson, Senior Mechanic, retired June 30 with 30 years service.



Nelson McCutcheon, Construction Aide III in the Harrison Residency, retired August 11 with 30 years service.



Willard Villines and his mule Fox Fire participated in the festivities at the chuck wagon races in Clinton. Willard is a Motor Patrol Operator/Finish for the District sealing crew.



Grant Brian Dodson, born September 4, is the son of David and Donna Dodson. David is a Maintenance Aide II for the District sign crew.



Glenda Goats, Permit Officer, is shown with her grandchild, Kennedy Leandra Ginn, born July 14.



J.T. Richardson, retired Boone County Area Maintenance Supervisor, is shown with his grandson, Michael Wade Patterson, born June 14.



Andrew Don Smith, born June 4, is the grandson of Jerry and Barbara Smith. Jerry is Crew Leader for the District maintenance crew.



Shelby Paige Rose Parker, born June 3, is the granddaughter of Frank and Sammie Rose. Frank is the District Assistant Maintenance Superintendent.

DISTRICT TEN



Service Awards: (Front Row L-R) Patricia Pickett, Motor Patrol Operator, 5 years; Jerry Phillips, Clay County Area Maintenance Supervisor, 20 years; Michael Farrell, Bridge Repairer II, 20 years; Keith Smith, District Bridge Inspector, 20 years; Charles Harvill, Hydraulic Excavator Operator/Finish, 20 years. (Back row): Brad Porter, Construction Aide III, 20 years; James Morgan, Area Headquarters Attendant, 20 years; Bryon Hanson, Single Axle Truck Driver, 20 years; Bobby Brooks, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 10 years



Service Awards: (L-R) Charles Ellison, Construction Materials Inspector, 20 years; Lou Varvil, Janitor, 10 years; Stanley Wright, Lead Person, 20 years; Dub Cole, Lowboy/Float Truck Driver, 20 years; Barry Letson, Distributor/Roller Operator, 5 years; Jerry Easley, Crew Leader, 20 years; Linda Faulkenberry, Office Administrative Assistant V, 10 years



Service Awards: (Front row L-R) Jeff Pillow, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 20 years; Lorraine Winstead, Parts Runner, 5 years; Dorothy Hancock, Field Clerk II, 15 years. (Back row): Randy Clark, Construction Project Supervisor, 20 years; Larry Pillow, Inspector, 20 years; J.P. Neal, Lead Person, 10 years



W.O. Vance, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, retired in August with 30 years service.



Billy Biggs, Senior Construction Materials Inspector, retired in June with 27 years of service.



Colin Wade Luke is the son of Shannon and Tammy Luke. Shannon is an Advanced Construction Field Engineer in the Paragould Residency.



Bucky Beasley, son of Buck Beasley, Maintenance Crew Leader, played on the East All Star team.



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