

Arkansas Highways

FALL 1999

Director's Message

It's hard to imagine that this is the last issue of *Arkansas Highways* for this century. So many things have happened and so many changes have taken place in the 87-year history of the Highway Commission.

In late 1992, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Highway Commission and the 40th anniversary of the Mack-Blackwell Amendment, the Department published a historical review of the Commission and the Department. That book documented the first 80 years of the Commission and compared the 40 years prior to the passage of the Mack-Blackwell Amendment with the 40 years after.

From 1913 until 1952, there were nine legislative acts that made changes to the Commission. The number of members on the Commission changed four times, the length of the terms changed four times, and the area represented by each Commissioner changed seven times.

Even though the Mack-Blackwell Amendment brought continuity and consistency to the Commission, the last 47 years have not been without change. And, arguably, the decade of the 1990's has seen some of the biggest changes.

The year 1991 brought a new federal highway bill and new state highway improvement program. This program was funded by federal funds, a 5-cent per gallon increase in the gasoline tax and a 2-cent increase in the diesel tax.


The 1995 legislative session produced legislation that provided the citizens of Arkansas an opportunity they had not had in 30 years – the prospect of selling bonds to finance highway improvements. In January 1996, that proposal was soundly defeated at the polls.

Barely three years later, in 1999, the people once again faced the question of using bonds for highway construction. This time, by a nearly four-to-one margin, the measure passed to use bond financing for a major interstate rehabilitation program.

In summary, the events of the 1990's have produced a springboard for us to begin the new millennium. Our most critical Interstate highway needs will be addressed with bond proceeds backed by federal funds and diesel tax increases. Work on non-Interstate routes will continue with federal funds and other motor fuel tax proceeds.

We'll begin the year 2000 by updating our history book to close out the 1990's. From that point forward, we have the opportunity to make great strides on our highway system. By the time the end of the next decade comes around, I'm hopeful that we can say the first decade in the 21st century was the most successful decade in the history of the Department.

Thank you all for your dedicated service to the Department. I look forward to moving into the next century and to facing the challenges that lie ahead.



DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION



ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS

FALL 1999

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION



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CHAIRMAN



JOHN "M" LIPTON
VICE
CHAIRMAN



J.W. "BUDDY"
BENFIELD
MEMBER



PRISSY
HICKERSON
MEMBER



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BARNETT
MEMBER

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CONTENTS

FEATURES

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| An Interview With Commissioner Jonathan Barnett | 2 |
| AASHTO Spring Meeting Held in Little Rock | 9 |
| Commission Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr. "Roasted" For A Good Cause | 12 |
| Commissioners Join Legislators On Proposed I-49 Bus Tour | 15 |
| 1999 Equipment Operators' <u>ROADEO</u> Finals | 16 |
| Public Hearings | 18 |
| Dedications | 20 |
| 1999 High School and College Graduates | 22 |
| Boys State Group Tours Department | 56 |
| Wildflower Program in Arkansas | Inside Back Cover |



AASHTO Meeting Page 9



Branscum "Roasted" Page 12



Roadeo Page 16

OTHER ARTICLES

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Director's Message | Inside Front Cover |
| Letters | 28 |
| In Memory | 39 |
| Around the Department | 40 |

COVER PHOTO: State Highway 5 in Saline County. Photo by John Jackson.
BACK COVER PHOTO: State Highway 82 bridge over the Red River at the
Miller/Lafayette County line. Photo by John Jackson.



Comments From Commissioner Jonathan Barnett



Jonathan Barnett, 44, of Siloam Springs, was appointed to a ten-year term on the Arkansas State Highway Commission by Governor Mike Huckabee on January 9, 1999. He was sworn in January 15, 1999 and his term will expire in January 2009. He replaces Bobby Hopper of Springdale whose term on the Commission expired.

A graduate of John Brown University, Barnett is a licensed general contractor, owns Barnett Construction of Siloam Springs and is past president of the Siloam Springs Homebuilders Association. He served on Governor Huckabee's Citizens Council on Highways and Transportation and is a board member of Students in Free Enterprise at John Brown University. He and his wife Christy have three children: Sarah, Joe and Lacey.

The following interview took place on August 19, 1999 with AHTD Public Affairs Officer Randy Ort.

Ort: *What were your feelings when Governor Huckabee asked you to serve on the Highway Commission?*

Barnett: Well, I was very honored and felt privileged that the Governor would ask me to serve. I'm excited about the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the transportation system in Arkansas.

Ort: *You are serving on the heels of Bobby Hopper who served under unique circumstances. Mr. Hopper served longer on the Highway Commission than anyone else in history. Will the fact that he served 16 years on the Highway Commission have any effect on the way you view things or the way people might view you?*

Barnett: Bobby's hard work produced a lot of positive results for this state's highway system and he's going to be remembered as a very effective highway commissioner.

I think Bobby was probably able to accomplish more for the people in this state because he had six extra years on the Highway Commission. Bobby obviously did a lot for his districts and will always be recognized for his efforts on the I-540 project and for the ongoing 412 project.

Of course, when you mention Bobby Hopper's name, you almost have to mention John Paul Hammerschmidt's name at the same time. John Paul and his efforts while he was Congressman, and the amount of money he got appropriated for both of those projects, I-540 & 412, is unprecedented in Arkansas.

Ort: *You mentioned that you felt very honored when Governor Huckabee asked you to serve on the Commission. What is it about the job of being a Highway Commissioner that made the appointment appealing to you?*

Barnett: As you know Randy, I have been a general contractor since I was about 22 years of age. I've been involved in lots of construction projects, both commercial and residential. I'm very familiar with construction techniques and this gives me a real advantage when communicating with civil and structural engineers and when reviewing bid documents and construction documents.



Obviously the Highway Department specializes in roads, and I have been around that type of construction a lot. I feel like I already have a fairly broad knowledge base when it comes to road construction. I understand the process, all the way down to soil tests, to the compaction tests, to the strength of concrete, what asphalt does, advantages of concrete over asphalt, and the advantages of asphalt over concrete.

I think I have found this appointment appealing in part because it allows me to participate in an area of construction that I find very interesting and I feel like the knowledge I bring to the position will be a real asset.

Ort: *You've seen it from both sides, haven't you?*

Barnett: Yes, I really have. I have empathy for those who bid. I've been there. I've sat in many bid openings waiting to have my bid read, I've had to bond jobs, and do everything they're doing. It's a very competitive process. Usually there's a tremendous amount of time and effort that goes into preparing a bid. You put your best foot forward but you don't always get the job. But I am very familiar with the process itself, which is helpful.



“I really want to be effective in helping create a better road system in our state.”

Jonathan Barnett

Ort: *Since your appointment, you’ve been very active talking to people. As you know, Arkansans are quick to share their opinions, especially when it comes to highways. What are you hearing from the people you’ve visited with on highway needs?*

Barnett: I’m going to address the active part first. I’ve traveled quite a bit since my appointment for the simple reason that I felt I had a learning curve. Going to different meetings and listening to the citizens throughout my districts and throughout the state seems like the best way to get on board and up to speed. I want to know what’s going on. I want to be an effective commissioner and therefore I need to be informed.

As you well know, there’s a lot more needs than we have resources. There are a lot of people we obviously can help, but sometimes you have to educate the people asking the questions to be sure that their question is properly defined to try to accommodate them.

The number one question that we’re asked – and I think sometimes people say it jokingly – is “I have a pothole on my road. Can you have it fixed?” That’s the number one line that I hear. It doesn’t matter if it’s a state road, a county road or the driveway to their house. It’s a good way to start a conversation about roads.

It would be nice if we had more resources. Just like anything else in life, we have the law of supply and demand and the people are only willing to pay so much in fuel taxes and rightfully so. I’m the same way. But we have limitations at the Highway Department and I’ve seen that very clearly as a Highway Commissioner. There are a lot of things we want to do, but we can’t do because the resources just aren’t there. It’s disappointing because you would like to meet all the needs. Actually, more so than not, we have to say no to people because we just don’t have the ability to accommodate them.

Ort: *You’ve listened to what the people have to say, but you probably also have some ideas of things that you would like to get accomplished. What will be some of your priorities while on the Commission?*

Barnett: My two top priorities are the I-49 project from Fort Smith south to Texarkana, and completing Highway 412 across the northern part of the state. I’d really like to see these two things happen in my tenure. That may be asking for the impossible, but that’s what I’m aiming for.

There are many other projects that are very important, such as the Springdale Bypass and the Bella Vista Bypass. I also see the success of the bond program as a high priority. We need to gain favor with the citizens of Arkansas, the traveling public and the trucking firms, and the bond program is an excellent opportunity to do that.

Ort: *We are going to be issuing bonds for the first time in a very long time. How do you feel about that? Are there other areas of innovative financing that the Commission might need to look into?*

Barnett: Right now the innovative financing is the GARVEE Bond Program.

It's quite challenging going into this since the Highway Department hasn't had any bond issues in over 50 years. There have been instances in the past where the citizens weren't satisfied with previous bond issues. It's real important that we do this thing correctly, win favor with the citizens of Arkansas and do this above reproach and with lots of integrity. We need to treat people fairly and spend the citizen's money wisely. Hopefully, the end result will be that we will have a great resurfaced, rebuilt Interstate system in the State of Arkansas. When it's all said and done the citizens of Arkansas will say it was money well spent.

Ort: *You'll be here for the entire bond program, won't you?*

Barnett: Yes, and then I have to live with it after the fact. It's going to be a great learning experience. Again, hopefully, on the backside we want a project that the citizens will be happy with. Hopefully they will place confidence in the Highway Department and the Highway Commission and we can move forward with new projects that involve creating financing such as this one.

Ort: *We've already talked a little about how you've been getting around and traveling this year trying to learn things. You've already figured out that being a Highway Commissioner can be very time-consuming. Has being on the Commission affected your business or personal activities much?*

Barnett: It has Randy. I would probably be less than truthful if I said that it has not.

I worked hard to prepare and get my business and personal life in order because I felt like this opportunity would come. I've always been a hard worker. Being in the construction business is not a 40-hour a week job. To be successful at it, you've got to work long hours. You can never walk away from a construction project until it is finished. Unfortunately along with new responsibilities, we don't have any more hours in our day.

Ort: *Being a Commissioner is pretty time-consuming for a part-time job, isn't it?*

Barnett: Being on the Commission has taken as much time and more than I thought it would. Sometimes I have to do quite a juggling act to meet the various demands on my time. I would like to think that I'm getting better at this as I become more familiar with the responsibilities and duties of a Highway Commissioner.

In many ways it would be less difficult if I was retired from my profession, but I think it's beneficial that we have a mix of folks serving on the Commission. The present Commission is comprised of people of different ages from different walks of life with different educational and vocational backgrounds. The diversity is good and the varied talents of our individual members are a great asset to our decision-making.

*"I've been pleasantly surprised...
at the integrity level and the professionalism
of Highway Department employees."*

Jonathan Barnett



Ort: *Not only have you been around and talked to citizens, you've also had a chance to meet quite a few Department employees. What is your impression of the duties they are responsible for and the way they carry them out?*

Barnett: When you're an outsider looking in at state government, you think of mistrust or think that the bureaucrats are not very productive and that the taxpayers money is being wasted. You may hear a story in the news media about something negative, and it's very easy to latch on to that and say, "Yes, that's typical of governmental bureaucratic employees," and so forth. But one thing that has been a very pleasant surprise for me is the professionalism of our staff and the integrity level of our employees. I honestly didn't feel like it would be on the same level as the private sector. But I've been pleasantly surprised that - and I can only speak for the Highway Department and not any other state agency - the integrity level and the professionalism is above and beyond what I could have ever anticipated or expected. I've been very pleased with the staff. They are very knowledgeable, very courteous, polite, and hard-working. Those are characteristics that you hope you find in the private sector. I'm finding those characteristics true at the Highway Department and I'm very pleased. I've been especially pleased with the engineering personnel at both the District and state levels.

I also feel real good about the other Highway Commissioners and our Director, Dan Flowers. There is a genuine spirit of non-partisanship among us and they've all been very helpful and trusting. I appreciate the way they have taken me under their wing and given me information to help educate me and answer my questions. I have found all of them to be extremely fair and accepting of me. I'm very grateful to them for that.

Ort: *You briefly mentioned other state agencies and other functions of state government. Your term started during the legislative session. Was that a learning experience for you?*

Barnett: It was very enlightening. I would like to mention the relationship and the positive experience that I had working with the legislature during the session. I was very pleased with the working relationship between the Highway Commission and the Legislature. The legislators tried to be very fair and had an open ear. They wanted to do what they could to provide meaningful highway legislation and build good roads in Arkansas. I just felt that working with the legislature, working with the Governor's office and his staff, was a very positive experience. I couldn't have asked for it to have been any better.

Ort: *Are there any other points you would like to make or any comments you would like to add?*

Barnett: I think everyone in their walk of life needs to give back to their communities, their counties, and their state in order to build a better society. Being a Commissioner is one way I can serve my state. I'm grateful for the opportunity and looking forward to the work that lies ahead.

Anytime an individual chooses to be in public service there are sacrifices to be made and adversities to overcome, but for me it's worth it! I really want to be effective in helping create a better road system in our state.

AHTD Hosts AASHTO Spring Meeting in Little Rock



Part of the responsibility of being President of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) is hosting the organization's Spring Meeting. As the 1999 AASHTO President, AHTD Director Dan Flowers had that honor this year.

Over 100 people attended the meeting April 15-19. Representatives from most of the fifty states along with federal transportation officials and other industry representatives called Little Rock's Embassy Suites Hotel home that week.

Aside from the guests, nearly 50 AHTD staff members were involved in conducting the event.

"Having hosted SASHTO less than two years prior to this meeting really helped," commented Flowers. "This was very similar to SASHTO, just on a smaller scale." Nearly 1,200 guests converged on Little Rock in September 1997 for the annual SASHTO meeting.

Flowers presided over the conference which consisted primarily of committee meetings and presentations.

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater addressed the AASHTO Board of Directors Sunday, April 18 on the importance of forming partnerships to achieve desired results in today's society.



Dan Flowers, AASHTO President and AHTD Director, opens the Spring Meeting held at the Embassy Suites



Rodney E. Slater, U.S. Secretary of Transportation and former Arkansas State Highway Commissioner, was the guest speaker at the Board of Directors meeting.



John Horsley, AASHTO Executive Director

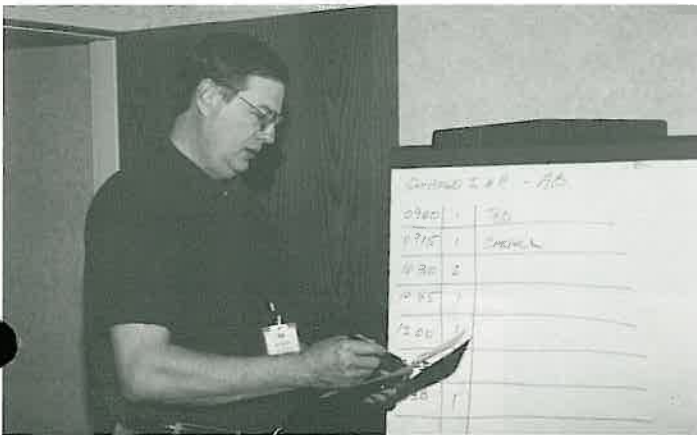
“We’ve got to work together as partners to maximize our resources,” Slater said. “Individually, the task is too daunting. But by working together and pooling our resources we can build bridges, not just from one

place to another, but from today to tomorrow. And that has to be our ultimate goal in today’s global economy,” Slater said.

“Congratulations to all the AHTD employees who worked

so hard to make this meeting a success,” Flowers said. “The employees made the Department and the entire state look good in hosting this event. I couldn’t have been more pleased.”





AHTD employees who served as committee members, hosts and workers for the AASHTO Spring Meeting included:

General Chair:
Jane Wilson

Committee Members:
Scott Bennett, Chairman
Lynn Caple
Crystal Cole
Kay Crutchfield
Jim Gilbert
Melba Shepard
Bryan Stewart
Wes Wimberly

On-Site Workers:
Toni Barnes
James Braden
Laura Debro-Carter

Marie Claunch
Kera Crowder
Brad Fryar
Dana McClellan
Valera McDaniel
James Moore
Dorothy Rhodes
Robyn Smith
Velma Smith
Danya Steele
Brenda Walden
Jim Willis
Marcia Zeno

Transportation Workers:
Guy Ashenberger

Ross Batson
John Bodiak
John Cia
Rick Cranford
Steve Doolin
Ted English
Ray Gruver
Ken Jordan
Brenda Kirkpatrick
Carroll Lathan
Don McMillian
Dan Morgan
Mickey Newcomb
Knighten Starnes
Steve Weston

Thanks also to John Jackson for photography, Carolyn Johnson, Lydell Harris and Ruth Foggo for graphics and printing, and John Abercrombie and Paul Dowdy for computer and office equipment setup.

Branscum Honored by University of Central Arkansas

How do you honor a man who has devoted a major portion of his life to public service, one who has succeeded in life both professionally and personally?

You roast him. That's right — roast him. You line up some of his "best" friends to criticize and poke fun at the guest of honor.

Such was the case September 9, 1999, when Highway Commission Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr. was honored by the University of Central Arkansas (UCA) at Conway. Branscum was the subject of much good-natured ribbing, with all proceeds going to the Herby Branscum Scholarship Fund at the University.

About 400 friends and acquaintances enjoyed dinner and listened as selected "roasters" took turns telling stories about



Billie Jo and Herby Branscum, Jr.

Branscum. The event was held in the Student Center Ballroom on the UCA campus.

Longtime Branscum friend Dave Naylor served as emcee and started the stories. Naylor, who is currently the Professor of

Curriculum and Instruction at UCA, was a college classmate of Branscum's. "I was best man at Herby and Billie Jo's wedding," Naylor told the audience. "Billie Jo, I'm sorry," he quipped.

Naylor was followed on the



Herby Branscum, Jr., left, with his son James and grandson Holden



Herby's daughter Beth and his son Chris, with U.S. Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater

The "ROASTERS" of Herby Branscum, Jr.

program by Bob McCormack of the Conway Chamber of Commerce. "That slow drawl could lead you into a false sense of security," McCormack said of Branscum's manner of speaking.

Conway Mayor Tab Townsell spoke of his family's roots in Branscum's home in Perry County. "Herby was the only lawyer in Perry County for many years," Townsell said. "Unfortunately, several members of my family got to know Herby very well."

State Representative Tom Courtway of Conway said he had a difficult time coming up with a humorous story about Branscum. "Then I remembered," Courtway said. "Heck, Herby, we're both lawyers. It doesn't matter what we say. I'll just lie."

Highway Commissioner Prissy Hickerson spoke on behalf of the Commission and also introduced a video by Governor Mike Huckabee. "The Governor really wanted to be here tonight, but he had a family commitment to tend to - it's all-you-can-eat night at Taco Bell," Hickerson joked.

In his videotaped remarks, Governor Huckabee praised Branscum's work on the Highway Commission, but also managed to get in some jabs on Branscum. "Herby, congratulations on this very special night," the Governor said. "You're surrounded by people that love you. Why, I don't know, but they do."

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater, who served with Branscum on the Highway



U.S. Secretary of Transportation
Rodney E. Slater



Master of Ceremonies
Dave Naylor



Highway Commissioner
Prissy Hickerson



State Representative
Tom Courtway



Conway Area Chamber of Commerce
Bob McCormack



Conway Mayor
Tab Townsell

Commission, read a letter from President Bill Clinton praising Branscum for his service to the citizens of Arkansas. Slater also praised Branscum, citing his level-headedness and laid-back demeanor. "But whether he was referring to Onia or Timbo or Little Rock or Marianna, Herby always had the state's best interest at heart," Slater said. "And that's

what makes him such a good Highway Commissioner."

At the end of the evening, Branscum took the podium in his own defense. After responding to the roasters' remarks and offering a few jabs of his own, Branscum thanked those in the audience for attending. "No student should be deprived of the opportunity of furthering their educa-

tion because of financial reasons," Branscum said. "If we can provide some student, whether they're from Perry County or Stone County or somewhere else, the opportunity to attend the University of Central Arkansas, then this evening and this harassment was well worth it. I thank all of you for helping."



Herby Branscum, Jr., standing, with members of his Perryville First Baptist Church Sunday school class



Herby Branscum, Jr., fourth from the right, with members and former members of the Arkansas State Highway Commission



Commissioners Join Lawmakers on Tour of Proposed Interstate 49 Route

Three members of the Arkansas Highway Commission and the AHTD Director joined forces with U.S. Representatives Asa Hutchinson of Fort Smith and Jay Dickey of Pine Bluff to tour the route of proposed Interstate 49 on July 7, 1999.

Commission Vice Chairman John "M" Lipton of Warren, Commissioners J.W. "Buddy" Benafield of Hickory Plains and Jonathan Barnett of Siloam Springs, along with Director Dan Flowers, teamed up with the two Congressmen on a bus tour along the western border of the state in support of the proposed project.

The 170-mile trip followed U.S. Highway 71 from Fort Smith to Texarkana. The highway parallels the proposed route



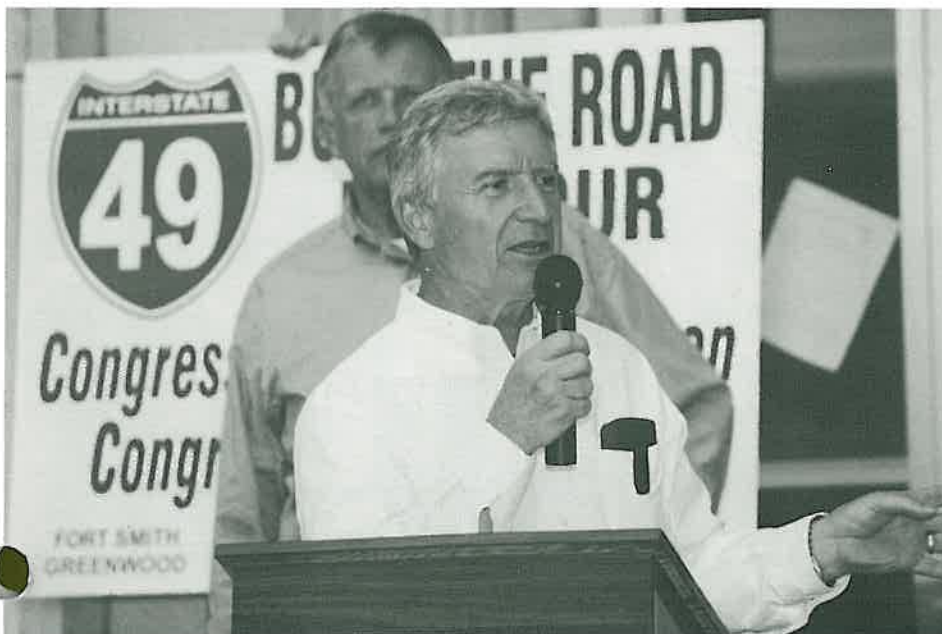
Left to right: AHTD Director Dan Flowers, U.S. Congressman Asa Hutchinson, Highway Commissioners John Lipton, Buddy Benafield, Jonathan Barnett, and U.S. Congressman Jay Dickey

of Interstate 49, which would run from Kansas City, Missouri to Shreveport, Louisiana. Comple-

tion of the Arkansas portion of the interstate project is estimated to cost \$1.8 billion.

Large crowds greeted the tour at stops in Barling, Greenwood, Mansfield, Waldron, Mena, DeQueen, Ashdown and Texarkana. The tour gave western Arkansans the chance to lobby the Commissioners and Congressional delegates on the importance of the highway to their part of the state.

At this point, environmental studies and corridor determinations have been completed from Interstate 40 south through Fort Chaffee to Mena.



Highway Commission Vice Chairman John "M" Lipton addresses the crowd.

1999 Equipment Operators' Rodeo District Four Claims Team Title

Just like in years past, things heated up in the Ninth Annual AHTD Equipment Operators' Rodeo final competition held recently at the Central Shops. Competitors demonstrated their talents in a game of skill with nerves of steel.

The implementation of the commercial driver's license law has created a heightened appreciation of driving proficiency among the Department's employees.

Since 1990, the Department has been training employees to ensure passage of the CDL examination. Sixty-four job classifica-

tions and approximately 2,200 employees are required to acquire a CDL. This program has been one of the largest training curriculums undertaken at the Department.

The Training and Safety Section was responsible for the organization and implementation of the Rodeo's activities. This year 426 employees competed in the six events. Starting in 1991 with just 136 contestants, the competition continues to be one of the most popular events at the Department.

The Rodeo competition takes

place in three phases, beginning with each crew selecting up to four representatives competing in different events. The semi-finals are then held at the District Headquarters and Central Shop Complex with the winners moving on to the finals in Little Rock. All winners from the preceding year's finals are also invited to participate.

Competition categories include: tractor truck/lowboy, tandem axle dump truck, single axle dump truck, tractor/mower, backhoe and motor patrol.



Chief Engineer Bob Walters (left) with District 4 team winners (left to right): George Lee, Joe Showl, Brandon Jones, District Engineer Harold Beaver, Fred Ridenhour, Lionel Elder, Mike Schmalz, Margaret Byers

1999 STATEWIDE ROADEO WINNERS



TRACTOR/MOWER

L-R: Chief Engineer Bob Walters; David Grice, District 7, 3rd place; Ashley Hale, District 9, 3rd place; Randy Rector, District 5, 2nd place; Fred Ridenhour, District 4, 1st place



TRACTOR/LOWBOY

L-R: Chief Engineer Bob Walters; Tommy Jackson, District 9, 3rd place; Harold Mullins, District 1, 2nd place; Mike Schmalz, District 4, 1st place



SINGLE AXLE DUMP TRUCK

L-R: Chief Engineer Bob Walters; Terry Trotter, District 3, 3rd place; Kenny Howard, District 8, 2nd place; Jerry Smith, District 7, 1st place



TANDEM AXLE DUMP TRUCK

L-R: Chief Engineer Bob Walters; Larry Wilson, District 8, 3rd place; Lionel Elder, District 4, 2nd place; Mike Purtzer, District 3, 1st place



MOTOR PATROL

L-R: Chief Engineer Bob Walters; Joey McClanahan, District 1, 3rd place; Kenny Riley, District 9, 2nd place; William Hickman, District 7, 1st place



BACKHOE

L-R: Chief Engineer Bob Walters; Brandon Jones, District 4, 3rd place; Kenny Riley, District 9, 2nd place; David Morton, District 3, 1st place

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Scenic Byway Status Proposed for I-540

A public hearing to gather comments on a proposal to make Interstate 540 a Scenic Byway between Rudy Road and Fayetteville in northwest Arkansas was held April 27, 1999 in West Fork. Approximately 70 people attended the open forum hearing.

A break in the Scenic Byway route was proposed at the Mountainburg interchange. The proposal drew some criticism from property rights activists at the meeting, but the overwhelming majority of comments received during the 10-day comment period after the hearing were in favor of adding the Scenic Byway status to the new interstate.

Amenities along the corridor include three state parks and numerous sites on the National Register of Historic Places. There is also a proposal for a scenic overlook on I-540 at a site to be determined.

If the route is designated as an Arkansas Scenic Byway, special byway signs will be erected at interchanges and a byway symbol will be added to the state highway map.

U.S. Highway 167 South of Batesville

The need for a widened U.S. Highway 167 south of Batesville was the subject of a public hearing

held Tuesday, March 2, 1999, at the Southside Middle School.

The hearing gave citizens the opportunity to express their views on the proposed widening of the highway to four travel lanes with a 12-foot center turn lane. Curbs and gutters along the roadway are also a part of the proposed design. The approximate length of the project is three miles.

About 75 people were on hand to view the proposed design. The project is located between Highway 14S and Highway 25 north of Southside. The current daily traffic count for the highway is 13,300. That number is expected to grow to 23,100 vehicles by the year 2019.

Highway 253 at Fort Smith

A small crowd of approximately 30 people attended a public hearing on the proposed widening of Highway 253 in Fort Smith on Tuesday, March 30, 1999 at Cook Elementary School.

The proposed project generally consists of widening the existing roadway to four 12-foot travel lanes with a center turn lane. The project extends from Highway 45 to the north a distance of approximately one mile. The existing right-of-way consists of two 11-foot travel lanes with four-foot shoulders. Eight-foot shoulders will be constructed on the new roadway. A pair of box culverts

will also be constructed at two unnamed tributaries of Cedar Creek.

Concerns voiced at the hearing surrounded the amount of right-of-way that would be purchased to accommodate the widened road.

Mabelvale Pike in Little Rock

A joint effort between the City of Little Rock, Pulaski County and the Department to widen a section of Mabelvale Pike from Asher Avenue to Gum Springs Road was the subject of a public hearing held March 16, 1999 in Little Rock.

The 1.35-mile section of Mabelvale Pike will be widened to four lanes. The street has been designated a minor arterial in the Little Rock Master Street Plan. Improvements to the existing Mabelvale Pike are needed to address the issues of better access to Southwest Little Rock and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, vehicular and pedestrian safety, traffic congestion and development of recreational resources.

Mabelvale Pike connects Central Little Rock to Southwest Little Rock and provides an important alternate north-south route to University Avenue. At the present the daily traffic count is 14,000 vehicles. That number is expected to increase to 15,500 in 20 years.

Highway 65 near Grady

Almost 40 people were on hand Tuesday, March 9 during a public hearing on a proposal to widen a 6.6-mile section of Highway 65 near Grady. The proposed project will widen the highway to four lanes from its present configuration of two lanes.

An additional two lanes will be added alongside the present highway. The two lanes will be divided by a 60-foot grass median. The final cross-section will consist of two 12-foot travel lanes in each direction with eight-foot outside shoulders and six-foot inside shoulders. Box culverts will also be constructed at Wagon Bayou and a tributary to Jack's Bayou.

In the next 20 years, the traffic counts are expected to almost double from 6,750 vehicles to 11,050 vehicles per day. Median crossings will be provided at selected public roads and turn-arounds at approximately half-mile intervals.

I-30 Additional Lanes at Benton

Adding an additional travel lane to Interstate 30 between Little Rock and Benton brought out a large crowd at a public hearing to discuss the proposed project. The

Department held the open forum public hearing on Tuesday, August 3, 1999, at the Spring Creek Baptist Church in Benton.

The proposed project begins at Benton and continues to the northeast for approximately 17 miles. Proposed improvements generally include widening the Interstate to six lanes between Benton and Geyer Springs Road in Little Rock.

Almost 100 people offered their comments and observations during the three-hour hearing. The overwhelming majority of those people who left written comments were in favor of the widening project.

Highway 77 at Marion

Improving safety along a section of Highway 77 in the City of Marion was the topic of a public hearing held on Thursday, July 22, 1999, at the First Baptist Church in Marion. The hearing offered area citizens the opportunity to express their views on the proposed widening.

Approximately 50 people were on hand for the hearing. Most comments centered on the amount of right-of-way that would be required for the 1.68-mile project.

The project begins at Interstate 40 and continues to the north approximately 1.7 miles. Proposed improvements generally consist of widening the roadway

to three lanes between Interstate 40 and Highway 191, and to five lanes from Highway 191 to the north.

Proposed Bypass at Newark

A proposed bypass of Newark and relocation of Highway 69 in Magness was the subject of a public hearing held Tuesday, March 23 at the Newark Elementary School Cafeteria.

Citizens were given the opportunity to express their views regarding the proposed reconstruction and relocation of a 2.75-mile section of Highway 69 in Independence County.

The proposed project generally consists of building a bypass of Newark between Highway 122 and Magness. The project also includes improving traffic safety in the town of Magness through the elimination of curves that now exist on the east side of town. The new roadway will have two 12-foot travel lanes with eight-foot shoulders.

Four alternatives were offered as possible locations for the new highway bypass. After the bypass project is completed, it is estimated that 75 percent of the truck traffic will be diverted to the new roadway.

DEDICATIONS

Pine Bluff Bypass Opens To Traffic; Receives Interstate 530 Designation



Monday, August 2, 1999, was a day Pine Bluff and southeast Arkansas had looked forward to for a long time for two reasons. First, Pine Bluff got its long-awaited bypass, and second, southeast Arkansas got its first interstate highway.

With the opening of the Pine Bluff Bypass, Pine Bluff got more than just a much-needed new highway across the city, according to John Lipton, Vice Chairman of the Arkansas Highway Commission. Pine Bluff is now located on the state's newest interstate highway:

With the completion of construction, the bypass and existing U.S. Highway 65 from Pine Bluff to Little Rock became Interstate 530.

"While we call it a bypass, this new road is really much more than that," Lipton told guests at a dedication ceremony on the bypass. "Pine Bluff now lies directly on the interstate system, which is the backbone of our nation's surface transportation network. Direct access is now available to both coasts and to thousands of points in between via an interstate highway."

Work on the 11.6-mile bypass began in 1988. A total of 13 contracts were awarded to com-



Federal, state and local dignitaries cut the ribbon officially opening the Pine Bluff Bypass.

plete the construction at a cost of about \$100 million.

Sections from Highway 65 in northwest Pine Bluff to Highway 15 South were previously opened to traffic as construction was completed. The dedication marked the first day for the entire length to be open to traffic.

A brief ceremony was held on an overpass at the intersection of the new bypass and existing Highway 65 in southeast Pine Bluff. Joining Lipton on the program were AHTD Director Dan Flowers, Congressman Jay Dickey, State Senators Jean Edwards and Jay Bradford, State Representative Brenda Gullett, and various local officials.

"Let's all enjoy this day," Lipton said. "Congratulations and thanks to the Highway Department staff and contractors who planned, designed and constructed this magnificent facility. And many thanks to the citizens of Pine Bluff and Southeast Arkansas who waited patiently for this day to come. I hope you feel like I do, that it was well worth the wait."

Flowers introduced all five members of the Highway Commission at the ceremony and recognized other Department personnel who were on hand. He then reminded the crowd that he was born in Pine Bluff, so the day was special for him as an official native of Pine Bluff.

Huntsville Bypass Opened August 3, 1999

The U.S. Highway 412 Bypass of Huntsville in Madison County opened Tuesday, August 3, 1999. The four-mile bypass, which detours traffic to the north of downtown Huntsville, intersects existing Highway 412 at the town's eastern and western borders. Work began on the bypass in 1995 with the total cost of the project being approximately \$13.5 million.

Highway Commissioner Jonathan Barnett of Siloam Springs joined State Senator Jon Fitch of Hindsville and State Representative Mike Hathorn of Huntsville at a brief opening ceremony on the new highway.



(L-R): AHTD District 9 Engineer Ralph Fulton, Representative Mike Hathorn, Senator Jon Fitch, Jackie Brashears, Huntsville Chamber of Commerce, Highway Commissioner Jonathan Barnett

Second Link of U.S. Highway 49 Opened in September

Another four-lane link in U.S. Highway 49 between Jonesboro and Paragould was officially opened September 7, 1999.

Highway Commissioners Herby Branscum, Jr. and J.W. "Buddy" Benafield, along with AHTD Director Dan Flowers, joined dignitaries from Greene and Craighead Counties to cut a ribbon signifying the opening.

The ceremony marked the completion of a 3.5-mile stretch of Highway 49 from Highway 69 in Greene County to just south of Goobertown in Craighead County. A similar section from Paragould to Highway 69 was previously completed, and the final section from Jonesboro to Goobertown is currently under construction.

Benafield noted that the remainder of the construction would be complete by late 2000 or early 2001.

State Highway 77 In West Memphis Receives Left-turn Lane

The addition of a dedicated left-turn lane should have a major impact on traffic flow on one of West Memphis' busiest thoroughfares, according to Highway Commissioner Buddy Benafield. Benafield, along with fellow Commissioner Prissy Hickerson, attended a ribbon cutting ceremony August 31, 1999 to commemorate the opening of a newly widened section of Missouri Street (State Highway 77) in West Memphis.

The ceremony, which took place at 4:30 p.m. on a weekday afternoon, was very brief, but the volume of traffic on the roadway highlighted the need for the widened roadway. Construction began on the 1.4-mile project in the spring of 1998. Total cost of the widening project was \$3.8 million.

Improvements to Highway 36 Completed in Searcy

All five members of the Arkansas State Highway Commission were on hand for the dedication of the improvements completed on Highway 36 in Searcy April 22, 1999. Known locally as the Beebe-Capps Expressway, the highway has become a major artery across Searcy.

The project includes a new interchange on Highway 67. Part of the work west of the new interchange involved upgrading existing facilities, while part was constructed on new location.

The April event coincided with the completion of the third and final contract for the project. The three contracts for the project involved approximately 4.8 miles of roadway improvements at a cost of slightly over \$10 million.

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department congratulates the 1999 high school and college graduates who are children of employees or student employees.



Keith Alexander
Jonesboro High School
Lynn Alexander - District 10



Tiffany Allwhite
Wynne High School
Chester Allwhite - District 1



Julie Renee Atchley
Hope High School
Pfc. Steve Atchley - Highway Police



Jennifer Noel Autrey
Stephens High School
Allan Autrey - District 7



Julia Bachelor
Paragould High School
Carl Bachelor - District 10



Bethany Ball
Parkview High School
David Ball - Bridge



Andy Barton
Bryant High School
Jim Barton - Construction



Sarah Beaver
Southwest Missouri State University
Harold Beaver - District 4



Jimmy Bloomfield
Arkadelphia High School
Larry Bloomfield - District 7



Heather Marie Bonds
Mills High School
Karen Bonds - Programs & Contracts



Jessica Buchanan
Dover High School
Kenneth Buchanan - District 8



Matthew Caple
Bryant High School
Tammy Caple - Computer Services



Janelle Carpenter
Southwest High School - Washburn, MO
Jack Carpenter - District 9



Laura Beth Carpenter
Camden Fairview High School
Dennis Carpenter - District 7



Leah Carson
Parkview Arts/Science Magnet
D. Kit Carson - Surveys



Kacey Leigh Churchwell
Springdale High School
Mike Churchwell - District 9



Brittany Lynn Clauch
Bryant High School
Lt. Paul Clauch - Highway Police



Joshua Dodson
Valley Springs High School
Rick Dodson - District 9



Briane N. Dunn
Hampton High School
Cpl. Robert Dunn - Highway Police



Jill East
Arkansas High School
Captain Gary East - Highway Police



Vanessa Irene Ezell
Searcy High School
Leon Ezell - District 5



Angie Fite
Arkansas State University
Shirley Henry - Legal



Eric Fuselier
North Little Rock High School
Carl Fuselier - Bridge



Victor Gillespie
Little Rock McClellan High School
COE Student - Construction



Jessica Graham
Waldron High School
Jim Graham - District 4



Lajeana Green
Harmony Grove High School
Deborah & Charles Purifoy - District 7



Amanda Gunn
U of A Medical Sciences
Linda Gunn - Roadway Design



Sarah Hardison
North Little Rock High School
Terry Hardison - Planning & Research

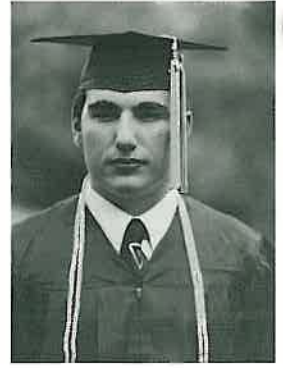




Joseph Aaron Hargrove
Sylvan Hills High School
Linda Hargrove - Highway Police



Brandon Harper
Sheridan High School
Belinda Bulloch - District 7



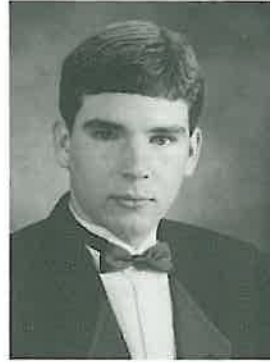
Dusty Harrell
Beebe High School
Tom Harrell - Planning & Research



Niki Lynn Heffington
Benton High School
Jerry Heffington - Programs & Contracts



Jason Henry
Arkansas State University
Shirley Henry - Legal



Kent Joey Hipp
West Side High School
Joey Hipp - District 5



Carrie Lee Holliman
Dover High School
Kenneth Jones & Loretta Holliman - D-8



John David Horn
Danville High School
Dennis Horn - District 8



David Hunter
Stephens High School
Marvin Hunter - District 7



Jennifer Jones
Wynne High School
Steve Jones - District 1



Jennifer Buchanan Krentz
Arkansas Tech University
Kenneth Buchanan - District 8



Hank Lady
Walnut Ridge High School
Harold Lady - District 10



Laura Lady
Arkansas State University
Harold Lady - District 10



Jason Lance
Mena High School
Charles Lance - District 4



Russell Leggett
Batesville High School
Jim Leggett - District 5



Casey Lewis
Central Arkansas Christian Academy
Randy & Linda Lewis - Right of Way



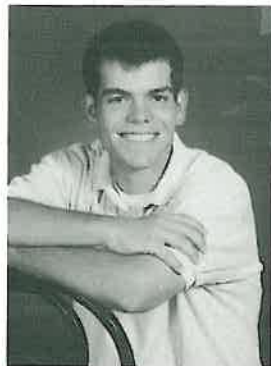
Jeffrey Maze
Springdale High School
Teresa Maze - District 4



David McNeely
Conway High School West
Harold McNeely - Computer Services



Jimina Miles
McClellan High School
COE Student - Human Resources



Todd Montgomery
Forrest City High School
Mark Montgomery - District 1



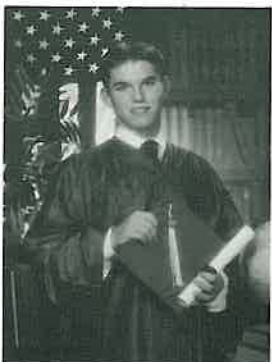
Jeremy Morgan
Bay High School
James Morgan - District 10



Bryant D. Murphy
Magnolia High School
Brenda Harris - District 7



Michael Nanney
J.A. Fair High School
Terry Nanney - Highway Police/Permits



Jeffrey Allen Owenby
Arkansas High School
Jim Owenby - District 3



Marian R. Owens
North Little Rock West High School
Everlena Owens - Programs & Contracts



Leslie Ann Patterson
Cabot High School
Ann Patterson - District 6



Josh Peterson
Smackover High School
Kay Johnston - District 7



Alton Phillips
McClellan High School
Allen Phillips - Construction



Kimberly Wilkerson Powers
College of the Ozarks
Gerald Wilkerson - District 9



Robin Rainey
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Rick Rainey - Roadway Design



Ashley Renee Ransom
Sylvan Hills High School
Rick Ransom - District 6



Josh Ratcliff
Prescott High School
Gail Ratcliff - District 3



Lisa Richardson
Bryant High School
Bill Richardson - Environmental



Felicia JaMelle Rippold
Parkview Arts/Science Magnet
Melvie & Floyd Rippold
Fiscal Services & Right of Way





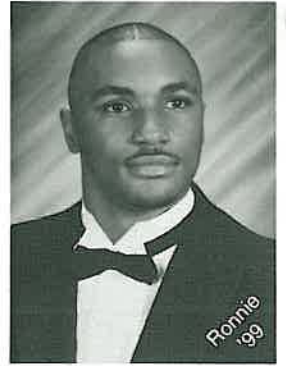
Andre'a Kathryn Roberts
Mena High School
Gene Roberts - District 4



Chancey Gene Rucker
Bentonville High School
Betty Weston - District 9



Summer Sanders
Jonesboro High School
Vernon Sanders - District 10



Ronnie Scott
Parkview Arts/Science Magnet
Gail Scott - Programs & Contracts



Joseph Andrew Simpson
Newport High School
Rickey Simpson - District 1



Richard Aaron Simpson
Newport High School
Rickey Simpson - District 1



Cannon Rene' Skilleen
Harrisburg High School
Kenny Smith - District 1



Brienne Elizabeth Smith
West Memphis High School
Jim Smith - District 1



Steven Scott Smith
Hamburg High School
Cpl. Sammy Smith - Highway Police



Payton Stegall
Newport High School
Perry Stegall - District 5



Kimberly Y. Stewart
Parkview Arts/Science Magnet
Garren Stewart - Programs & Contracts



Sarah B. Still
Hope High School
Sharon Still - District 3



Bobby Lee Stone
Hatfield High School
Rita Stone - District 4



Isaac Street
Wynne High School
Bruce Street - District 1



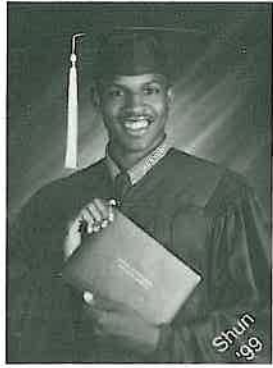
Jeremy Labannon Taylor
Emmet High School
Jerroll Taylor, Sr. - District 3



Camie Lynn Thompson
Bauxite High School
James Thompson - District 6



Shana Lynn Turner
Pine Bluff High School
Lois Turner - District 2



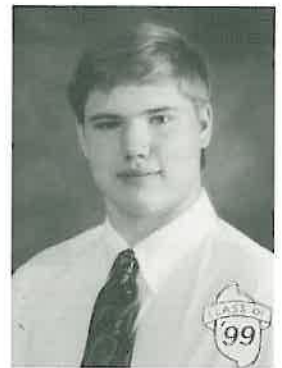
Shaun Leonard Turner
Pine Bluff High School
Lois Turner - District 2



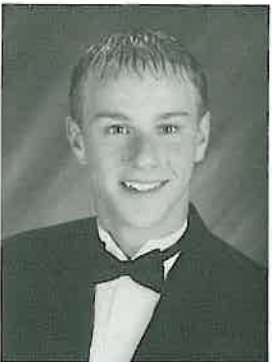
Shawn David Venable
Hot Springs Lakeside High School
Jeff Venable - District 6



Jill Waldrip
Rhodes College
Jon Waldrip - Programs & Contracts



Amos Luke Widner
Bergman High School
Mark Widner - District 9



Terry G. Wilkins
Carlisle High School
Larry Wilkins - District 6



Cliff Willkite
Rogers High School
Sgt. Howard Besett - Highway Police



Shelby D. Williams
Wynne High School
Lisa Cleveland - District 1



Ravyx L. Wilson
University of Memphis
Robert Wilson - Legal



Joshua A. Wise
Springdale High School
Bobbie Wise - District 9



Neil Wood
Yellville-Summit High School
Merl Wood - District 9



Debra Wynne
McCray High School
Debra Johnson - District 1



Letters to the Department



TO: Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

I want to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for the exemplary job your department has done in managing the Alcohol Safety Education Program the past ten years and for the fine work of one of your division heads, Mr. Frank Vozel of the Programs and Contracts Division.

As I understand, you inherited the program in its infancy and under Frank's leadership have turned it into a thriving, full-fledged community-based education program recognized for its top-notch leadership and efficient services.

Prior to taking my position as Director of the Health Department, George Harper, Interim Director, gave Joe M. Hill, Director of the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, permission to engage in discussions with Frank to actively explore the feasibility of transferring the Alcohol Safety Education Program to the Health Department during the biennial session.

Joe reported that he and Frank met for months preparing an acceptable transfer bill that would meet our approval as well as legislative approval. Throughout the session, I was briefed on the progress of the bill as it moved through the Senate and House. When it finally became an official Act, I was pleased with the work of these two public servants.

In recognition of a job well done, I want to acknowledge Frank's cooperative spirit and professionalism in helping Joe make this historical joint venture come to fruition. Not one iota of opposition was raised in the session from legislators, consumers or service providers. Frank not only provided Joe with critical information, but stood by his side each time he had to appear before House and Senate subcommittees. He also involved your legal staff in reviews of the bill and accepted their comments and advice when appropriate.

This is a true model of cooperation among state agencies working together to provide better services to its citizens by voluntarily consolidating compatible services under the auspices of one agency. We will be ever grateful for your spirit of cooperation and unselfishness.

I wish your department well in all of its endeavors, and if I can be of assistance, please don't hesitate to call upon me.

Dr. Fay Boozman, Director
Arkansas Department of Health

TO: Connis Ingram
Baxter County Area Maintenance Supervisor

During the snowy weekend of March 13-14, my wife and I were in Little Rock trying to get back to Baxter County early Sunday morning. We had heard that the roads were bad and I knew that I needed to get back as soon as possible.

I decided to go up through Batesville and through Independence, Stone, and Izard counties to return home. Conditions weren't too bad until we got to Batesville where it was snowing heavily and by the time we got to Cushman, just outside of Batesville I found it necessary to put my vehicle in four-wheel drive. We drove in four-wheel all the way on State Highway 69 where we turned at Brockwell and found conditions very treacherous. All the way through, there were vehicles off the road everywhere with 18-wheelers stuck on hills, etc. As we continued, I became very concerned thinking of the many hills we would encounter as we got closer to Baxter County.



Frank Vozel
Programs & Contracts Division Head

To make a long story short, by the time we got to Calico Rock I was, to say the least, frustrated and concerned as we had only seen one state highway vehicle and that was back in Independence County. As we approached Baxter County after having driven all this way under very trying conditions, we hit the Mocassin Creek Bridge and from there all the way home, I took my vehicle out of four-wheel as the roads were clear.

This letter is to say thank you. As a citizen and taxpayer of Baxter County, I am grateful for the excellent job you and your crew did on our roads. As someone who deals with these types of situations, I know what it takes to clear the roads and I want to commend you and your crew for the fine job they did. As I said, all the way from Batesville to the Baxter County line it was very, very bad, but just as soon as we crossed the Mocassin Creek Bridge I could tell that you and your crew had been out working very diligently and very hard. It was such a relief to finally be able to relax and drive on into town.

Again, I commend you and thank you for a job well done.

Joe Bodenhamer
Baxter County Judge

TO: Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

On behalf of the United Way of Pulaski County, thank you for your support. The commitment from organizations such as yours is truly what makes Central Arkansas a great place to live.

At our campaign celebration, we were able to announce a project campaign total of \$5.5 million. This represents a six-percent increase over last year, and the allocation volunteers have already started meeting to plan how to distribute the money to best meet the needs in our community.

Another piece of good news is that we were able to meet Regions Bank's challenge. Regions Bank had agreed to match every new individual leadership gift of \$1,000 or more, dollar for dollar, up to \$250,000. There were over 230 new leadership givers that allowed us to access the whole grant.

Because of your commitment and the leadership of Ms. Crystal Cole, who was your employee campaign coordinator, we achieved the first significant campaign growth in quite some time.

Once again, thank you for your commitment to our community through the United Way.

John R. Nazzaro
President, United Way of Pulaski County



Crystal Cole
Human Resources Division Training Specialist

TO: Arkansas Highway Department

My husband and I took an extended trip through the Midwest this past winter driving through Little Rock on February 3. We took I-40 from Memphis to I-30 heading to Dallas. About noon, on a very busy highway in Little Rock, we experienced a blowout and had to pull off the highway between two very busy interstates. We were really afraid to get out of the car to change the tire because of the fast moving traffic.

Your highway department came to our rescue: an orange work truck with three men in orange vests pulled in behind us. The men placed orange cones along the road to warn other motorists. They then proceeded to change our tire. They were truly heaven sent; very willing, efficient and cheerful.

My husband wanted to pay them but they refused to accept anything. I can't tell you how grateful we were to these men and how much we thank your department. It was more than Southern hospitality – it was a lifesaver for us.

Charles and Bernice Thompson
West Chester, Pennsylvania

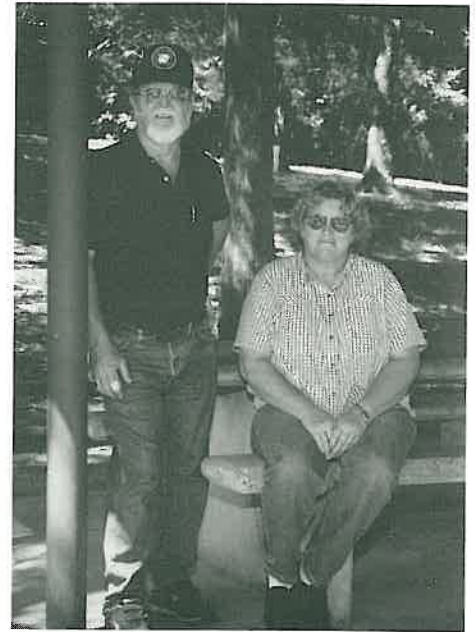
TO: Joe Barnett
District 10 Engineer
Paragould, Arkansas

Just a thank you for the return of my checkbook and cash. There is no way I can express my appreciation for this good deed. We stop at this particular rest area quite often and will continue to do so, but I will be more cautious in the future.

I am grateful our highway department keeps these areas so neat and clean and also for the good upkeep of our highways we use in our daily travels.

Again I say thanks to Larry Hicks and Donna Moore, Rest Area Attendants at the Highway 63 Imboden Rest Area, for the return of my checkbook.

Sincerely,
Athern Gray



Larry Hicks and Donna Moore
District 10 Rest Area Attendants



Bobby Helms
Clark County Single Axle Truck Driver

TO: Coy Campbell
District 7 Engineer
Camden, Arkansas

Thank you so very much for allowing Bobby Helms the time to rescue us when we were stranded along Highway 51 with our truck and RV. He was so concerned and helpful. What a nice man! Thanks to him we were back on the road again the next morning and made it safely to our destination only one day late.

Kay and John Hutchins
Frisco, Texas

TO: Chief Ron Burks
Arkansas Highway Police

This letter is being written in regards to the wonderful and kind service that was rendered to us on May 26, 1999 by one of your officers – Mr. George Myles.

We (four women and seven children) were stranded along the side of Highway 65 South, five to eight miles from Lake Village, when your officer approached us. The kindness shown to us during our wait was tremendous. We have never felt so comfortable and protected. At this point, we would like to commend Officer Myles and hope that you will also.

If at all possible, please allow this letter to be public knowledge so that it can be known that officers are there to “serve and protect.” It is a service such as this that make us proud of the ones who are upholding this motto.

Lisa Pendarvis and family
Monticello, Arkansas



Lt. George Myles
Arkansas Highway Police

TO: Chief Ron Burks
Arkansas Highway Police

I want you to be aware of a kindness bestowed upon me and three other ladies last week by Officer Mark Willis.

The Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau had a group of potential clients in town to show them Little Rock and the surrounding area. We were on our way to Hot Springs for an afternoon of thermal bathing and massages when I had a flat on Interstate 30. Officer Willis came to our rescue and changed the tire.

I know that his effort was above and beyond the call of duty. His kindness and willingness to help certainly impressed our visitors from out of state.

I have written him a thank you note, but wanted you to know of his kindness.

Barbara Martin
Convention Sales Representative



Pfc. Mark Willis
Arkansas Highway Police



Mike Johnston, Maintenance Job Supt.
and Duane Hale, Hydraulic Excavator Opr.

TO: Frank Russenberger
District 8 Engineer
Russellville, Arkansas

I lost my wallet approximately three weeks ago and Mike Johnston and Duane Hale returned it to me. It was returned with everything intact. There wasn't any money, checks or credit cards missing. They would not accept any payment for returning it to me. I live in Little Rock and they would not even accept gas money.

I sincerely appreciate their honesty and the effort made to return the wallet to me. I wish there were more people in the world with this integrity and genuine good heartedness.

Dr. Kymberly Devitt
Little Rock, Arkansas

TO: Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

On Wednesday, July 28, I was traveling Interstate 40 near Little Rock. I had been to the Sheriff's Association Meeting in Eureka Springs and was on my way back to Arkansas County. I had a tire go flat and pulled off the road to change the tire. By the time I got my jack out and started to change the tire, a state highway truck pulled up. Two of your employees got out and asked if they could help. Not only did they help, they did most of the work. The temperature was about 100 degrees and I was very appreciative of their help. The employee's names were Pat Pasteka and Kerri Stephens.

I just wanted to let you know that they could have just as easily drove on by, but they didn't, and I really appreciated their help.

John McCord
Arkansas County Sheriff



Pat Pasteka and Kerri Stephens
District 6 Maintenance Aides I

TO: William Tyler
District 3 Engineer
Hope, Arkansas

A word of praise for District 3 employees B.R. Martin, Permit Officer, and Jim Rhodes, Assistant Maintenance Superintendent, who helped the Thomas family and myself when we were stranded on Interstate 30 about eight miles from the Arkansas/Texas state line with a transmission problem on July 15.

Just the kind of help neighboring Tennessee folks would expect from Arkansas people. Please express our appreciation to them from me and place a copy of this note in their personnel files. As a retired Tennessee state employee I know that this small note of recognition can be important! Their good deed and helpful attitude helped keep the day on track.

Roy Ashley
Smyrna, Tennessee



Sylvester Jennings
Crittenden County Crew Leader

TO: Ray Woodruff
District 1 Engineer
Wynne, Arkansas

On June 8, my husband and I were returning to Texas from a trip up north. We were traveling south on Interstate 55 about 20 miles north of West Memphis when a tire blew out on our vehicle. After quite a struggle as I am 72 years old, I was able to bring the car to a stop near the edge of the road, but not completely out of traffic. One of your employees, Sylvester Jennings, stopped almost immediately to help us.

First, he used his flashing lights and truck to help move our car to a safer location on the shoulder. Then he emptied our trunk, got out the spare tire, changed the tire, and even drove back up the highway to retrieve our hubcap. Then he gave us directions to a store where we could buy a new tire and used his lights and truck to escort us back into the flow of traffic.

Mr. Jennings was a perfect gentleman. He treated us like we were his own parents. My husband and I both had recent knee replacement surgeries, so there is no way we could have changed that tire. Mr. Jennings was our angel. Please see that he is duly recognized for his selfless efforts.

Mr. & Mrs. Burke Hazelrigg
Jacksonville, Texas

TO: Leroy Swink
Searcy Resident Engineer

Saturday morning, May 22, I was in a major hurry to get to Conway for a meeting. I had a blowout shortly after I got on the four-lane in Bald Knob. I was in a definite panic when this very nice young man appeared and offered to change my tire. Greg Hellmann was a gift from God. He not only changed my tire, but as I could not find the handle to my jack, he changed it with a struggle. He was so very polite and friendly that I decided to write to you and commend you for hiring such a pleasant young man and him on his manner and efforts.

It is not often in today's "me" society that I meet a stranger who is willing to put himself out for another stranger. I could have called AAA and been delayed for



Jim Rhodes and B.R. Martin



Greg Hellman
Construction Aide III

Probably an hour or more. But thanks to Greg, I was only twenty minutes late and several dollars to the good. Please extend my sincere gratitude to him. What could have been a disaster turned into a heart-warming experience.

Penny Stanley
Augusta, Arkansas

TO: Arkansas Highway Police
Little Rock, Arkansas

This is to inform you of the exemplary performance of one of your men. On Wednesday afternoon, July 14, I had a blowout on Interstate 55 North near the weigh station. Officer Bobby Cordle came by shortly after and offered to change the tire. I certainly did not expect that. He was extremely polite, friendly and made what could have been a bad situation into "no big deal."

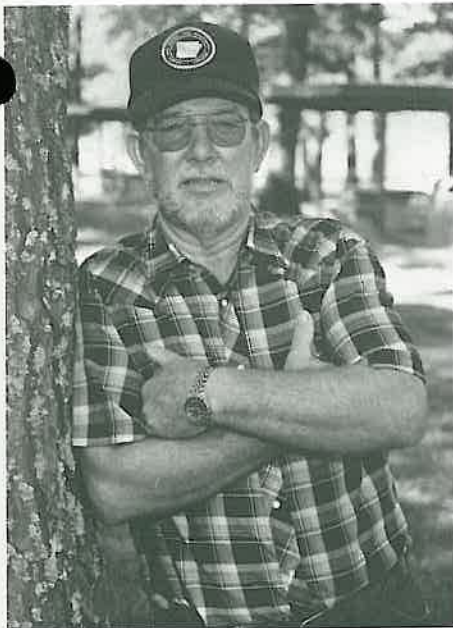
He followed me to a reputable service station where the people were also very courteous and fair. This was my first experience with a road hazard and because of Officer Cordle it was not unpleasant – just a matter of taking more time.

Please thank him again for me.

Roselee Lurk
Ste. Genevieve, Missouri



Cpl. Bobby Cordle
Arkansas Highway Police



Clarkes Davis
Rest Area Attendant

TO: William Tyler
District 3 Engineer
Hope, Arkansas

On Sunday, June 27, my wife and I were traveling from Hot Springs back to the Dallas area and decided to use Highway 70 instead of the interstate. Some miles west of Hot Springs we stopped at a rest area. This rest area was the finest highway rest area we have ever encountered. The facilities were spotless. The grounds were manicured and we had the pleasure of visiting with a gentleman who obviously was the caretaker.

We visited with Clarkes Davis, the Glenwood Rest Area Attendant, quite some time and discussed our mutual interest in purple martins which were plentiful in the four houses that were maintained at the rest area. This gentleman obviously took great pride in his work at this facility and I sincerely hope the State of Arkansas is rewarding him for it.

Charles and Marilyn Merkel
Plano, Texas

TO: Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

On behalf of ALLTEL Arena and the Arena Board, I would like to personally thank you and your department for agreeing to erect the signs indicated in your letter dated March 22, 1999. It means a great deal to have the support of the Arkansas State Highway Commission in implementing our traffic control/parking plan.

John McDonald, Assistant General Manager
ALLTEL Arena

TO: J.W. "Buddy" Benafield
Arkansas State Highway Commission

I very much appreciate your congratulations on my recent promotion to Area Headquarters Attendant. Your kind words made the occasion all the more meaningful to me.

Thank you for taking the time out to be so thoughtful.

Margie J. Gaither
Jonesboro, Arkansas

TO: Leonard Hall
District 6 Engineer
Little Rock, Arkansas

The members of the Science Club at J.A. Fair High School want to extend our thanks to Mr. Emanuel Banks for taking his time to come and speak to us.

Mr. Banks explained the requirements for a career in civil engineering. He also described the role of engineers with the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department.

Your organization should be proud of Mr. Banks' professionalism and generosity.

Martha K. Rains
J.A. Fair High School
Little Rock, Arkansas



Emanuel Banks
District 6 Resident Engineer

TO: John Sharum
Van Buren Resident Engineer

Thank you so much for the field trip and talk you gave for the Van Buren Algebra Summer Enrichment Program. Both the students and teachers gained so much from it. I appreciate the handouts you developed to help the students see how the math they are learning, and will learn in the next year, has value in the real world. Please thank your crew for demonstrating the surveying equipment.

Majorie Reading
Van Buren School District

TO: John Lipton, Vice Chairman
Arkansas State Highway Commission

Your outstanding job on the new blacktop and bridge on Highway 7 coming into the City of Smackover is outstanding. Smackover applauds the support your department has shown us by improving a main artery of our community's roadway.

Your personal visits to our community have shown us your genuine interest in Smackover. Our community is in the beginning stages of becoming an Arkansas Community of Excellence (ACE). In working with the Arkansas Department of Economic Development, our city has a real opportunity to achieve this status with the support of individuals like you, and your staff, to make Smackover an even more appealing place to live and work.

Thanks to your improvement to Highway 7B, the trafficking of goods to and from our industrial park is made much easier and safer. This improvement will help to attract more industry to our industrial park.

Mr. Lipton, the Smackover Chamber of Commerce thanks you!

Gae Thornton, Manager
Smackover Chamber of Commerce

TO: James Owens
Miller County Area Maintenance Supervisor

I, as Mayor of Fouke, would like to thank you for what you have done for our little city. The highway shoulders that you repaired look very good and that is what I asked for. I am sure the City Council is very thankful for the excellent job also. I hope that the people that have been complaining about the rough shoulders are as appreciative as we are. Again, let me say thank you for all your help.

Cecil E. Smith
Mayor, City of Fouke

TO: William Tyler
District 3 Engineer
Hope, Arkansas

On behalf of Pike County, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the work the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department did on our courthouse parking area.

The drainage of the parking area in front of the Courthouse was a severe problem that was affecting the parking spaces around the Courthouse as well as the appearance of the surroundings.

Pike County is grateful to the AHTD for your support and consideration in correcting this problem that occurred when renovations were made for ADA compliance.

Don Baker
Pike County Judge

TO: Phillip Moore
Environmental Division

On behalf of the Baxter County Master Gardeners, I want to thank you, Donna Gardner and Dan Kelly, for everything you and your offices have done to enable us to plant the wildflower project on the new Highway 62 bypass. We especially thank Donna for her beyond the call of duty assistance. She is certainly an asset in your efforts to conserve and restore wildflowers and native plants along Arkansas highways. The site looks good with many healthy young plants that should bloom this year. Again, thank you for your cooperation and encouragement regarding our wildflower project.

Joyce Doty
Baxter County Master Gardeners



Phillip Moore
Environmental Division

TO: Marion Butler
Environmental Division Head

I want to send a special note of thanks in response to the excellent job Phillip Moore has done on the Brushy Lake Mitigation Bank Site. The interest he has shown in establishing the banking instrument and monitoring the plant communities is indeed commendable. The dedication and professionalism which Phillip Moore displays reflects his pride in his job and enhances the image of AHTD.

Judy DeLoach
Project Manager, Regulator Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

TO: Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

Thank you for allowing the red wildflowers to bloom in the medians of the highways. I think they are beautiful.

Barbara Oline
Little Rock, Arkansas

TO: Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

You are to be commended for the improvement of the wildflower planting along Interstate 40. I travel west to Alma and north to Fayetteville often and the flowers this spring have been beautiful. I hope this is just a sign of things to come and that there will be even more flowers. The pink flowers this spring were beautiful.

Thanks for cutting back on the extensive mowing and for the proliferation of the wildflowers. Please expand the program.

Jo Wilson
Little Rock, Arkansas

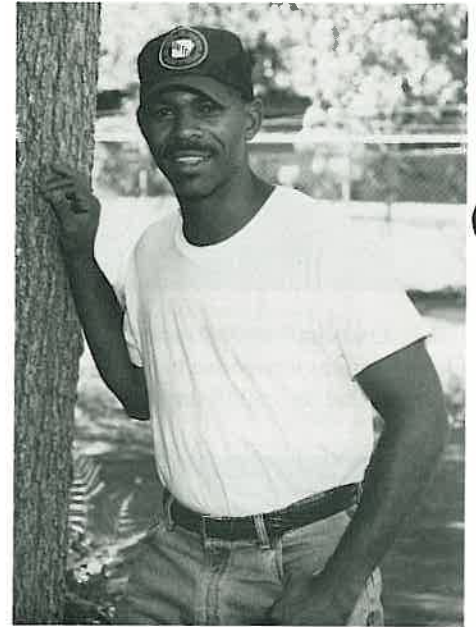
TO: Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Eric Sanders, Maintenance Aide II with the Environmental Division, for providing his help and expertise in the tree planting held April 21, 1999, as part of FHWA's Earth Day activities with Pulaski Heights Junior High School. Your department supplied the tree, a "Grancy Greybeard" from the AHTD greenhouse, and Mr. Sanders assisted the students in planting the tree and provided information on care and maintenance of the tree. He also gave assistance to the school by lending a professional hand with other trees on the campus.

Mr. Sanders, an alumnus of Pulaski Heights Jr. High, was very helpful and knowledgeable with the tree planting and the students and teachers were very appreciative of his efforts. Again, thanks to Mr. Sanders and your department.

FHWA and AHTD were truly partners in this "Partners in Education" endeavor with Pulaski Heights Jr. High.

Kenneth A. Perret
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration



Eric Sanders
Environmental Division

TO: Chief Ron Burks
Arkansas Highway Police

The recent visit of President William Jefferson Clinton to the City of Hope, Arkansas, bestowed on our city a great honor and also presented another challenge to our law enforcement community to show the entire world that we all stand together in a strong and unified effort to a commitment of excellence. The professional demeanor and dedication of each and every law enforcement officer involved in the presidential security for the day of the President's visit will never be matched and truly sets a profound example for every other law enforcement officer and agency to follow.

The day of the visit presented a myriad of problems that all of us together had to overcome, from the extremely inclement weather, to all the logistics involved in the respective points of security, such as the airport, the birthplace home, as well as the entire motorcade routes that encompassed numerous traffic control points. Riding in the motorcade and observing each law enforcement officer standing in the pouring down rain stopping all the traffic, my thoughts took me back to when I decided to devote my life to the profession. All of those officers - federal, state, county, municipal and volunteer - reaffirmed my total commitment to those works both you and I have heard throughout our professions "to protect and serve."

In closing, on behalf of myself and the entire staff of the City of Hope Police Department I want to extend a big heartfelt thank you to yourself and all of your law enforcement officers who demonstrated what teamwork is all about. In all of my years of law enforcement I have never seen a more close knit family in law enforcement than there is here in southwest Arkansas and across this great state.

William M. Brinkworth
Chief of Police
City of Hope, Arkansas

TO: Ralph Fulton
District 9 Engineer
Harrison, Arkansas

I would like to express my appreciation and that of the citizens of Diamond City for the cleanup of Highway 7 in our city. I would also commend your crews for their courteous and pleasant demeanor.

Mayor Tommy Donoho
Diamond City, Arkansas

TO: Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

I am writing to commend some of your fine personnel here in Benton County.

We own the Garden City Nursery which has 1400 feet of Highway 71B frontage. We regularly mow and weed-eat the ditches on this property. The ditches had become so clogged with silt and debris that mowing became impossible.

On Tuesday morning I called your Resident Engineer here who contacted Louis Carter, Jr., the Area Maintenance Supervisor. His crew came today and superbly cleaned all the ditches. While talking to Mr. Carter I asked if we could concrete the bottom of this ditch and make our mowing easier and further cleaning unnecessary.

He said I would need the proper permit but that Glenda Goats, District 9 Permit Officer, was in his office and would come by for an inspection. They were there at 10 a.m. today and my permit is forthcoming.

I know how important it is to find and keep good people like the ones mentioned above.

Bob Bogle
Bentonville, Arkansas

TO: Ralph Fulton
District 9 Engineer
Harrison, Arkansas

Just a note of thanks for the work performed recently at the Locust Street railroad crossing in Rogers. After consulting with you concerning the remaining work on the approaches to the crossing, I was pleasantly surprised that crews were on the job within 24 hours and completed the work within two days. Nice job!

Maurice Kolman of my staff tells me of the wonderful relationship we have with AHTD and I have seen your responsiveness firsthand. The crossing is now a source of pride for our community and I have you, the AHTD, and the Arkansas-Missouri Railroad to thank.

Again, my sincere thanks and appreciation for your effort. Keep up the good work!

Mayor Steve Womack
City of Rogers, Arkansas

Letters of Appreciation

AASHTO '99 Spring Meeting



April 15-20, 1999
Embassy Suites
Little Rock, Arkansas

TO: Jane Wilson
Chief of Administration and Public Affairs

I am writing to commend you and your staff on your wonderful work at the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Spring Meeting.

As my own staff and other meeting attendees have told me, all of you performed in an exemplary and enthusiastic manner. We cannot thank you enough for helping to make the meeting a worthwhile event.

Whenever AASHTO sponsors a meeting like the recent one in Little Rock, our ultimate success depends on the support we receive from the host state. Not only did you and your staff meet the meeting's challenges, you went the extra mile to accomplish them. No chore was too mundane, nor any task too daunting, for each member of your staff to always perform with skill and a smile.

Please convey our appreciation to your staff.

John Horsley
AASHTO Executive Director



John Horsley
AASHTO Executive Director

TO: Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

It is a pleasure for me to be able to write this letter congratulating you and your staff on an excellent AASHTO Spring Meeting. I can say in all honesty that I have never worked with a crew of more helpful, thoughtful, courteous people in my life. One of the best parts of my job is getting to work with so many different people. One of the worst parts of my job is getting to work with the great committees only once.

Please extend my personal thanks and congratulations to Jane Wilson and the rest of her outstanding committee chairs. They deserve all the credit and the thanks.

Arkansas DOT should be proud to have such outstanding workers.

Hannah R. Whitney
AASHTO Assistant Executive Director

IN MEMORY

ACTIVE EMPLOYEES

Luther Lawson
District 1
died February 17, 1999

John W. Robbins
District 6
died May 7, 1999

Joseph A. Hutto
District 1
died May 11, 1999

RETIREES

James C. Hufley
District 9
died January 28, 1999

Gilbert E. Pitts
Maintenance Division
died January 29, 1999

Emmett E. McCall
District 6
died February 12, 1999

Albert P. Rowe
District 7
died February 15, 1999

Mildred A. Stacy
District 1
died February 23, 1999

Hugh E. Wherry
District 1
died February 23, 1999

Kenneth R. Newcomb
Buildings & Grounds
died February 23, 1999

John P. Hart
District 3
died February 26, 1999

William A. Heron
District 5
died March 2, 1999

Marvin H. Hart
Materials Division
died March 5, 1999

Van V. Southworth
District 6
died March 5, 1999

Ronald R. Poppleton
District 10
died March 8, 1999

Ray R. Wren
District 8
died March 9, 1999

William C. Booth
District 7
died March 12, 1999

Burl B. Bridges
District 8
died March 12, 1999

Leroy C. Ruble
District 8
died March 12, 1999

J.E. Herrington
District 6
died March 20, 1999

Wright N. Horton
District 9
died March 23, 1999

B.C. Lewis
Planning Division
died March 25, 1999

Alvin L. Biggers
District 9
died March 26, 1999

Roy J. Chambers
District 1
died March 29, 1999

Robert D. Jackson
District 9
died March 31, 1999

James A. Upshaw
District 10
died April 1, 1999

James M. Renfro
District 7
died April 4, 1999

William M. Rowland
District 7
died April 4, 1999

Lee Roy Baker
District 6
died April 10, 1999

Kenneth R. Tolleson
District 3
died April 15, 1999

Joe H. Smith
District 8
died April 16, 1999

Odis M. Seaton
District 4
died April 20, 1999

Pleas R. Winkle
District 5
died April 24, 1999

Jacob M. Schmidt
District 5
died April 28, 1999

Howard S. Madsen
Highway Police
died April 30, 1999

Hilda C. Fisher
District 10
died April 30, 1999

Roy L. Gortemiller
District 4
died May 1, 1999

John R. Haney
District 8
died May 7, 1999

Claudie L. Ruple
District 6
died May 9, 1999

Jerry L. Bradshaw
District 7
died May 17, 1999

D.M. Greene
Materials and Tests Division
died May 19, 1999

Donald M. Taylor
District 6
died May 30, 1999

Arvis C. Clark
District 9
died June 7, 1999

Edger R. Raymond
District 1
died June 12, 1999

V.J. Butler, Jr.
District 5
died July 5, 1999

Don E. Finkbeiner
Planning Division
died July 6, 1999

Roy L. Johnson
Highway Police
died July 15, 1999

Around the Department

COMPUTER SERVICES



Evan Bell, son of Barbara Smith, Data Processing Manager, was married May 15, 1999 in Hot Springs to Karen Hearn.

CONSTRUCTION



Ralph Blackwell, Staff Construction Engineer, received a 30-year service award in February.



Carolyn Burleson, Estimates Checker in the Contract Estimates Section, retired June 21, 1999 with 21+ years of service.



Doyle Carson, Construction Office Technician, retired July 7 with 37+ years of service.

HIGHWAY POLICE

The Arkansas Highway Police Division sponsored its fifth annual golf tournament to benefit Arkansas Special Olympics on June 15 at Harbor Oaks Golf Course in Pine Bluff.

This year, Chief Ron Burks presented Special Olympics with a check for \$15,000. Over the past five years, the Highway Police has raised \$45,000 for Arkansas Special Olympics.

This division believes that Arkansas Special Olympics is a very worthwhile and deserving organization and hopes that this tournament continues to grow,

enabling "special athletes" to participate in and experience the spirit of athletic competition.



Chief Ron Burks, on behalf of Highway Police, presents a \$15,000 check to the Arkansas Special Olympics.



AHP District 3 Captain Charles Barnard, left, presents Cpl. Tim Culver a plaque from the Fraternal Order of Eagles, recognizing Cpl. Culver as their "Officer of the Year."



AHP District 3 Captain Charles Barnard, left, presents Sgt. Buford Humphries an appreciation plaque for his 26+ years of service. Sgt. Humphries retired July 15.



Pfc. Carroll Newton, left, patrol officer stationed at Hampton, receives a 15-year service award from Lt. Donya Thompson, Assistant District 4 Commander.



Cpl. Frank Young, left, patrol officer stationed at Fordyce, receives a 15-year service award from Sgt. James Boyce, AHP District 4 Patrol Supervisor.



Bobby Hayes, left, Permit Technician, receives a 10-year service award from Permits Section Head Terry Nanney.



Alec B. Downing, born January 6, 1999, is the grandson of Jess Downing, Permit Technician.



Lt. Jerry Booker, left, Station Supervisor at the I-30/Hempstead County Weigh Station, presents Pfc. Joe Haynie a 10-year service award.



Jacob Brennen East, born February 12, 1999, and Jason Baylor East, born October 2, 1997, are the grandchildren of Captain Gary East of Texarkana.



Breon Madison Neal, age 1, is the granddaughter of Mike Neal, Highway Police Data Entry Operator.



Ricky La Renz Nelson, age 2, is the son of LaDonna Nelson, Motor Carrier Safety Specialist I.



Austin, age 17 months, and Hunter, age 3, are the children of Pfc. Nancy Harmon of Texarkana.

HUMAN RESOURCES



Colton Caple, born October 26, 1998, is the son of Training Coordinator Lynn Caple.

INTERNAL AUDIT



Chief Auditor Bill McDorman, left, presents a 25-year service pin to Senior Internal Auditor Doyle Hughes.

LEGAL



Chief Legal Counsel Robert L. Wilson, left, presents a 15-year service award to Staff Attorney Maria Schenetzke.



Chief Legal Counsel Robert Wilson, left, presents a 10-year service award to Joanne Moren, Administrative Aide V.



Chief Legal Counsel Robert Wilson, left, presents a 10-year service award to Kimberly Jewell, Legal Aide.

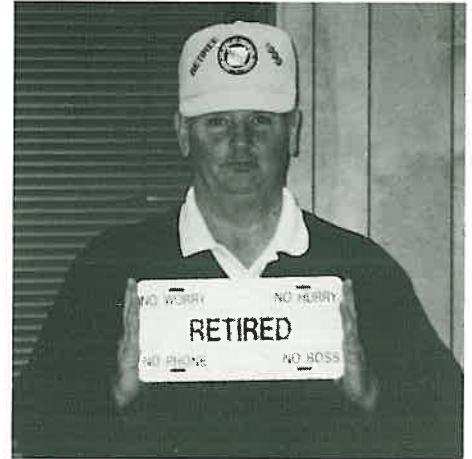


Chief Legal Counsel Robert Wilson, left, presents a 5-year service award to Benjamin Bennett, Legal Aide.



Chief Legal Counsel Robert Wilson, left, presents Quality Initiative awards to Staff Attorney Calvin Gibson.

MAINTENANCE



Herman Smith, Pavement Profiler Job Superintendent, retired February 26, 1999 with 22+ years service.



Gale Davis, left, Senior Accountant, receives a 20-year service award from Staff Traffic Engineer Tony Sullivan.



Garland Land, left, Heavy Bridge Maintenance Engineer, presents a 5-year service award to Al Hemmerich, Bridge Repairer II.



Garland Land, left, Heavy Bridge Maintenance Engineer, presents a 10-year service award to William Wood, Bridge Repairer II.



Danny Keene, left, Facilities Management Section Head, presents a 20-year service award to Tom Cecil, Facilities Management Specialist.



Doug Huckaba, right, Communications Section Head, presents a 10-year service award to Tim Leet, Telecommunications Operator.



Danny Keene, left, Facilities Management Section Head, presents a 15-year service award to Ron Eckhardt, Electrician.



Doug Huckaba, right, Communications Section Head, presents a 30-year service award to Dual Schales, Communications Specialist.

PLANNING AND RESEARCH



Larry Johnson, left, Finance and Economics Section Head, presents a 15-year service award to Mimi Nation, Administrative Assistant I.



Danny Keene, left, Facilities Management Section Head, presents a 15-year service award to Richard Strasburg, Inspector.



Doug Huckaba, right, Communications Section Head, presents a 15-year service award to C.E. Onyette, Communications Specialist.



Danny Keene, left, Facilities Management Section Head, presents a 5-year service award to Charlie Flowers, Agronomist.



Doug Huckaba, right, Communications Section Head, presents a 10-year service award to Kevin Purifoy, Communications Specialist.



Robert Cagle, left, receives a 20-year service award and David Williams receives a 15-year service award. Both are Data Collection Technicians in Technical Services.



Karen Dickerson, left, Data Collection Technician, receives a 15-year service award from Dan Morgan, Administrative Officer II.



Patsy Long, Administrative Aide I in the Reproduction Section, retired July 8 with 10 years service.

RIGHT OF WAY



Haley Lynette Garner is the granddaughter of Shirley Butler, Relocation Office Administrative Assistant III. In the photo at left Haley is shown at her dance recital at Joel's House of Dance and in the photo at right is Haley as Grant County Young Little Miss and Miss Photogenic.

PROGRAMS AND CONTRACTS



Tammy Goshien, center, receives a 15-year service award from Division Head Frank Vozel, left, and Assistant Division Head Scott Bennett, right.



Jerry Heffington, Reproduction Technician in the Reproduction Section, received a 30-year service award in April.



Hunter Leigh Bulloch, born June 3, 1999, is the daughter of Relocation Coordinator Gary Bulloch and District 7 Area Headquarters Attendant Belinda Bulloch.



Kathy Hamilton, left, P&C Specialist, and Vonda Shell, right, Administrative Assistant I, both received a 20-year service certificate from Roy Douglas, Program Administration Coordinator.



Gail and Billy Blanks, Gwendolyn, John and Laura Carter, on a eight-day tour of Isreal. Laura is an Advanced Programs & Contracts Specialist.



Erin MacKenzie Arendt, born April 2, 1999, is the grandchild of Danny Arendt, Relocation Section Head.



Dale Hodges, Right of Way Plans Designer I in the Engineering Section, holds his new son, Ryan Jess, born July 7, 1999.

ROADWAY DESIGN



Roadway Design Service Awards
Left to right: Phil McConnell, Division Head, 30 years; Rick Rainey, Senior Design Technician, 25 years; Steve Heye, Construction Estimates Engineer, 20 years; Brooks Booher, Staff Hydraulic Engineer, 15 years. Not pictured is Claire Rita Rockwell, Office Administrative Assistant III, 10 years.



Annette Stanton, Administrative Assistant I, retired June 29 with 22+ years service.



Lea Anne Kelley and Trinity Smith, Civil Engineering Technician, were married June 19 at Fellowship Baptist Church in Batesville.



Kate, age 3, and Sarah Coffman, born January 5, 1999, are the daughters of Julie Coffman, Senior Hydraulic Technician.



George West, left, Staff Senior Land Surveyor, receives a lifetime membership from David Reinold, 1998-99 President of the Association of Professional Surveyors.



Bill Bryant, right, Surveys Crew Chief, receives a 20-year service award from George West, Staff Senior Land Surveyor.



George West, Jr., son of George West, Staff Senior Land Surveyor, was married April 24, 1999 to Mary Floyd at the Park Hill Baptist Church.

Congratulations to Rene' Carson, wife of Division Head Kit Carson. She was honored in Washington D.C., June 6-10, by the National Science Foundation as the recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching. Rene' is a science teacher for the Little Rock School District.

DISTRICT ONE



Ricky Ivy, Crittenden County Maintenance Aide II, receives a 5-year service award.



Houston Caldwell, Phillips County Single Axle Truck Driver, receives a 15-year service award.



Amon Belcher, Districtwide Bridge Repairer II, receives a 20-year service award.



Roger Johnson, Districtwide Bridge Inspector Helper, receives a 5-year service award.



Receiving 10-year service awards are left to right: Bruce Street, Wynne Resident Engineer; Ramon Hansberry, St. Francis County Crew Leader and Luther Davis, District Shop Senior Mechanic.



Jerry Mitchell, Districtwide Bridge Repairer II, receives a 15-year service award.



Receiving 20-year service awards are Alan Davis, District Assistant Storeroom Supervisor, and Coleman Nesbitt, Crittenden County Street Sweeper Operator.

DISTRICT TWO



Jim Briley, left, District Engineer, presents a 25-year service award to Ernie Westfall, District Maintenance Engineer.



Thomas Smith, left, District Guard, receives a 25-year service award from Jeff Hart, Shop Supervisor.



Ben Novak, left, Inspector, receives a 20-year service award from Pine Bluff Resident Engineer Michael Benson.



Jesse Pridgeon, left, Construction Aide II, receives a 20-year service award from Pine Bluff Resident Engineer Michael Benson.



Michael Benson, left, Pine Bluff Resident Engineer, presents a 5-year service award to Mary Calloway, Construction Aide II.



Edward Pridgeon, Jefferson County Area Maintenance Supervisor, retired in May with 30+ years service.



DISTRICT TWO FIRST PLACE ROADEO WINNERS

(L-R): Red Taylor, Tractor/Lowboy; Susan Mathis, Tandem Axle Dump Truck; Teddy Walton, Single Axle Dump Truck; John Moorehead, Tractor/Mower; Kirk Chidester, Backhoe and Lamar Reynolds, Motor Patrol



DISTRICT 2 QIP TEAM FOR SUITABLE EQUIPMENT AND PROCEDURES FOR POTHOLE PATCHING

(L-R): Jesse Jasper, Sealing crew; Terry Mullins, Arkansas County; Kelly Slater, Sealing crew; Robert Thompson, District Maintenance crew; Clarence Edwards, Jefferson County and John Turley, Grant County



Billy Cater, Crew Leader for the District sealing crew, left the Department in May.



David Bushey, Advanced Construction Field Engineer for the Pine Bluff Residency, was recently promoted to Assistant Resident Engineer at Wynne in District 1.



NEW AREA MAINTENANCE SUPERVISORS
(L-R): Debra Pruitt, Jefferson County; Harlon Colbert, Desha County and Ezra McFadden, Chicot County.



Brian Rowe, son Cory, and wife Christi, at his going-away party. Brian, Construction Field Engineer II at the Pine Bluff Residency, transferred to the Resident Engineer Office in Jonesboro.



The photo at left is Carlee Suzanne Cox, born May 6, 1999. She is the granddaughter of A.G. Bulloch, Area Headquarters Attendant at DeWitt.

DISTRICT THREE



James Draper, Distributor/Roller Operator for Howard County, receives a 15-year service award from Ronnie Garner, District Maintenance Supt.



James Owens, Miller County Area Maintenance Supervisor, receives a 15-year service award from Ronnie Garner, District Maintenance Supt.



Lonnie Hazel, Miller County Crew Leader, receives a 15-year service award from Ronnie Garner, District Maintenance Supt.



Audrie Caldwell, Rest Area Attendant for Little River County, receives a 20-year service award from Ronnie Garner, District Maintenance Supt.



Tycarri Rogers, son of Stanley Rogers, Hydraulic Excavator Operator/Finish, has been named a United States national award winner in advanced English.



William and Karissa Cheatham were married June 19. William is a Civil Engineer I at the Texarkana Resident Engineer's Office.



Alexis Breanne Lewis, born May 21, 1999, is the daughter of Josh Lewis, Construction Aide I in the Texarkana Residency.

DISTRICT FOUR



Ralph Hall, left, Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations, presents a 30-year service award to District 4 Engineer Harold Beaver.



Harold Beaver, left, District Engineer, presents a 30-year service award to Gene Holloway, Washington County Area Maintenance Supt.



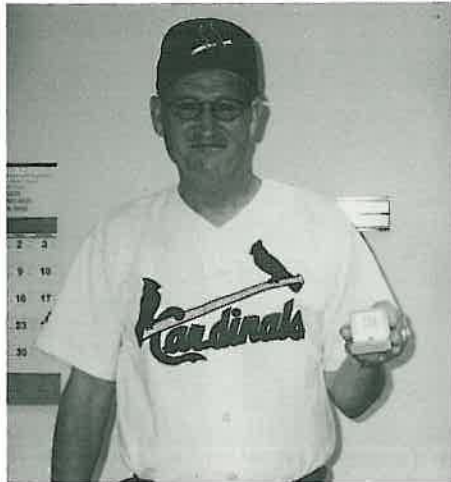
J.C. Parrish, left, Crew Leader for the District sealing crew, receives a 25-year service award from David Becker, District Maintenance Supt.



Albert Wyers, III, Construction Aide II at the Van Buren Residency, receives a 25-year service award.



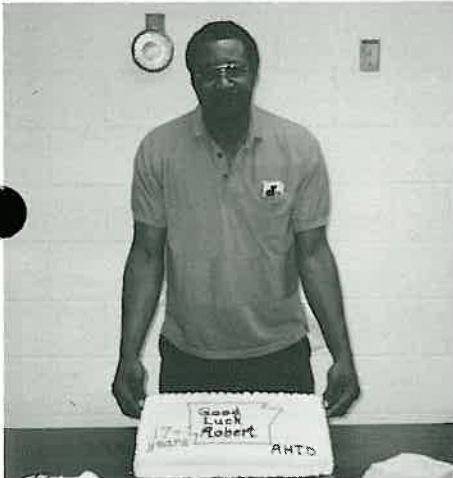
Aubrey Bowen, Shop Supervisor, retired in April with 20 years service.



Steve Balch, Construction Aide I for the Van Buren Residency, receives a 25-year service award.



Alan Walter, Mountainburg Assistant Resident Engineer, is shown with his wife Marybeth. Alan has transferred to District 8 as the Assistant Resident Engineer at Russellville.



Robert Marsh, Station Attendant, retired May 11 with 17 years service.



Gene Roberts, left, Polk County Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents a 5-year service award to Dan Yates, Motor Patrol Operator.



George Lee, left, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor, presents a 5-year service award to Leroy Oliver, Mechanic.



J.D. Priddy, right, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, retired June 3 with 30+ years of service.



Rita Stone, left, Area Headquarters Attendant, receives a 15-year service award from Gene Roberts, Polk County Area Maintenance Supervisor.



Nan Williams, District 4 Personnel Clerk

DISTRICT SIX



Quinn Whitelow, White County Maintenance Aide I, is shown with his children Natasha Nichole, age 10, and Johnathan Quinn, age 5. Johnathan was selected Tiny Mr. Holiday of Lights, Best Dressed and Most Photogenic during the Searcy Holiday of Lights pageant. Natasha was crowned Fall Festival Queen during the Fall Festival pageant at Heber Springs. He also received Best Dressed, Best Casual Wear and Most Photogenic.



David Lovell, left, General Laborer, receives a 20-year service pin from Harold Grimsley, West Pulaski County Area Maintenance Supervisor.



Doug Thompson, left, Single Axle Truck Driver, receives a 30-year service award from Ralph Burge, Saline County Area Maintenance Supervisor. Doug also retired from the Department in June.

DISTRICT SEVEN



Ricky Neal, left, Cleveland County Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents a 20-year service award to Roy Harris, Rest Area Attendant.



JoAnn Richmond, White County Single Axle Truck Driver, is shown with her 4-month old daughter, Karolina Christiane.



Joe Lucas, Senior Inspector for the Jim Pound Residency, shows off his trophies for 8-ball pool. His team recently won the Northwest Division of Arkansas 8-ball tournament. His team has won three consecutive tournaments and the national tournament held in Las Vegas.



Travis Stith, Distributor/Roller Operator for the District Maintenance crew, left the Department to serve with the National Guard in Saudi Arabia.



Camry Ann White, born December 17, 1998, is the great-niece of Sylvia Hight, Columbia County Area Headquarters Attendant.

DISTRICT FIVE



DISTRICT 5 SERVICE AWARDS

(Left to right): Shane Russell, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 5 years; Russell Hightower, Maintenance Aide II, 15 years; William Beach, Crew Leader, 20 years; Robert Poole, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish, 20 years; Danny Howell, Welder, 20 years



DISTRICT 5 SERVICE AWARDS

(Left to right): Timothy Hurtt, Distributor/Roller Operator, 10 years; Odell Moody, Maintenance Aide II, 15 years; Marty Morgan, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 20 years; Phillip Huett, Crew Leader, 25 years



DISTRICT 5 SAFETY AWARDS

Accepting safety awards on behalf of their crews are, left to right: Dicky Drake, Sealing Job Superintendent, 2 years; Ernie Martin, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor, 2 years; Rickie Sharp, Independence County Area Maintenance Supervisor, 3 years; Danny Garwood, IZARD County Area Maintenance Supervisor, 3 years; Chris Johnson, District Maintenance Crew Leader, 5 years; Paul Hoggard, Bridge Job Superintendent, 1 year; Fred Heyde, District Bridge Inspector, 7 years; Ed Dickey, District Bridge Inspector, 10 years; Lyndal Waits, District Engineer, 13 years



AHTD Director Dan Flowers, right, presents Leroy Swink, Searcy Resident Engineer, with a parting gift at his retirement reception. Leroy retired July 30 with 41+ years service.



Randy Satterwhite, left, is shown with Carl Anderson, Independence County Area Maintenance Supervisor. Carl retired June 8 with 29+ years service.



Receiving 25-year service awards in May are Ronald Sheetrum, Guard, and Willis Morehead, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish.



John E. Howland is the grandson of Marvin Hunter, Columbia County Maintenance Aide II.



Teresa Kay Johnston, Union County Maintenance Aide I, was married July 3 to Robert Paul Smith.



30 YEAR SERVICE AWARDS
Gary Don Jordan, Pope County Single Axle Truck Driver and Robert L. Evans, Yell County Motor Patrol Operator/Finish



Jacquie Hickman is a graduate of Harmony Grove Kindergarten. She is the daughter of Ouachita County Crew Leader William Hickman.



Lonnie Teague, Hydraulic Operator/Finish for the District Maintenance crew, and his wife Wanda, recently vacationed in the Gulf of Mexico.



20 YEAR SERVICE AWARDS
James Standridge, Districtwide Maintenance Paver Operator and Ronnie Henderson, Faulkner County Single Axle Truck Driver



Pvt. Jason T. Phillips, son of Jody Johnson, Ouachita County Maintenance Aide II, graduated from boot camp at Fort Benning, Georgia.



Cheryl Davis, Field Clerk II for the Arkadelphia Resident Engineer Office, enjoyed a summer vacation at Greers Ferry Lake and, while she was gone, this baby deer wandered into the office and made himself at home in her space.



10 YEAR SERVICE AWARDS
Tim McCool, Districtwide Bridge Repairer I and Dennis Horn, Yell County Motor Patrol Operator



DISTRICT EIGHT 25-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

(Left to right): Frank Russenberger, District Engineer; Mike Johnston, Maintenance Job Superintendent; William Tramel, Yell County Maintenance Aide I; James Rye, Districtwide Sealing crew Distributor/Roller Operator; Edwin Parker, Perry County Motor Patrol Operator/Finish



Members of the Van Buren County maintenance crew recently fished a watershed lake in Van Buren County and caught over 100 pounds of fish. Left to right are Donald Berry, Single Axle Truck Driver; Mike Howard, Maintenance Aide I and Carroll Sigler, Crew Leader.



DISTRICT EIGHT SERVICE AWARDS

(Left to right): Michael Howard, Van Buren County Maintenance Aide I, 10 years; Rick Holbrook, Perry County Maintenance Aide I, 15 years; Clinton Littlejohn, Electrical, Plumbing & Mechanical Repairer, 15 years; Barry Clark, Faulkner County Crew Leader, 15 years

DISTRICT NINE



Cecil Robinson, left, Garfield Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, retired in March with 25+ years service. Junior Carter, right, Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents Cecil with a gift on behalf of the Garfield maintenance crew.



Jessica Buchanan, daughter of District Fuel Clerk Kenneth Buchanan, was a member of the Dover Lady Pirates basketball team. They won the AAA State basketball tournament in Pine Bluff. Jessica, a senior, was named to the All State tournament team.



Joseph Knight and Angela Hodges were married May 22 at the Precious Moments Chapel in Carthage, Missouri. Joe is a Civil Engineering Technician at the Russellville Residency.



Kenneth Oxford, left, Marion County Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents a 20-year service award to Mike Nowlin, Multi-Axle Truck Driver.



Kenneth Oxford, left, Marion County Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents a 5-year service award to Roseanna Blansett, Single Axle Truck Driver.



Hunter Casto, son of Stacy Casto, Searcy County Maintenance Aide II, just finished his first year of T-Ball.



Chase Scott, born October 22, 1998, is the grandson of Ronnie Stone, Districtwide Sign crew Maintenance Aide II.



Nathan Young and Tiffany Fairchild were married June 26. Nathan is an Engineering Intern at the Bentonville Residency.



Jennifer Carpenter is the daughter of Jack Carpenter, Garfield Single Axle Truck Driver.



Nick and Zach Phillips are the 1-year old grandsons of retired Newton County Area Maintenance Supervisor Bill Phillips.



Kaci Landers, Melissa Nichols, and Tina Landers played fast-pitch softball for the Arkansas 16 and Under State Champion Fayetteville Magic. Melissa is the daughter of Darrell Nichols, and Tina and Kaci are the daughters of Mona Landers. Both are Single Axle Truck Drivers for the Garland maintenance crew.



Riley Wayne Walden, born March 13, 1999, is the son of Kevin Walden, Madison County Single Axle Truck Driver.



Stevi Ray Weston, age 11, and Lillian Elizabeth Weston, age 6 weeks, are the grandchildren of Betty Weston, Garfield Area Headquarters Attendant.



Ethan Jack Ware, born June 13, 1999, is the nephew of JaNell Ware, District Receptionist.

DISTRICT TEN

District Ten would like to recognize its 1999 high school graduates. They are Jeremy Morgan, Keith Alexander, Julia Bachelor and Summer Sanders.

Jeremy is the son of James, Craighead County Area Headquarters Attendant, and Teresa Morgan. He is a graduate of Bay High School and plans to attend Delta Technical Institute at Marked Tree.

Keith is the son of Lynn, Craighead County Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, and Darlene Alexander. He is a graduate of Jonesboro High School and received the President's Scholarship to attend Arkansas State University.

Julia is the daughter of District Maintenance Engineer Carl and Phyllis Bachelor. She is a graduate of Paragould High School and will attend the University of Arkansas.

Summer, a graduate of Jonesboro High School, is the daughter of Jonesboro Residency Senior Materials Inspector Vernon and Susan Sanders.



Kane German, center, Stockroom Supervisor, retired in May with 31+ years service. She is shown with her son, Matt Troxel, left, and her husband, Ken German, right.



DISTRICT 10 SERVICE AWARDS

(L-R): Evelyn Watson, Maintenance Aide I, 10 years; Brenda Clark, Resident Office Technician, 25 years; Cindy Masterson, Street Sweeper Operator, 5 years; Harold McElduff, Construction Aide III, 20 years; Greg Bailey, Motor Patrol Operator, 5 years; Carl Imler, Crew Leader, 20 years; Loretta Pollard, Motor Patrol Operator, 10 years; Bernice Mekan, Single Axle Truck Driver, 5 years; Andrea Pitcher, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 5 years; Clara Hill, Roller Operator, 5 years



5-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

(L-R): Lisa Wilson, Area Headquarters Attendant; James Nunnery, Multi-Axle Truck Driver; Todd Clifford, Crane Operator; Alan Brand, Distributor/Roller Operator; Ethel Thompson, Single Axle Truck Driver; Stephanie Ward, Construction Aide I



10-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

(L-R): Jimmie Cone, Guard; Craig Rosten, Senior Mechanic; James Travis, Motor Patrol Operator



15-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

(L-R): Randy Still, Advanced Field Construction Engineer; Joe Riley, Maintenance Aide II and Brad Benson, Maintenance Aide II



Bryan and Kimberly Gray were married March 26, 1999. Kimberly is the daughter of Lorraine Winstead, Parts Runner.



Lexie Hendrix, born January 13, 1999, is the granddaughter of District Construction Engineer Bob Faulkner.



Anna Jane and Laken Rose, born January 8, 1999, and Austin, center, are the children of Bob Reddell, Construction Field Engineer for the Jonesboro Residency.



Madison Jane Pierce, born May 29, 1999, is the daughter of David Pierce, Advanced Construction Field Engineer for the Jonesboro Residency.

1999 Boys State Group Meets With Chief Engineer and Tours Department



On June 4, 1999 several members of Boys State met with Chief Engineer Bob Walters and were given a tour of the Department's Central Office Complex. Attending were (seated, left to right): Landon Wallace, Brian Carter, Phillip Foster, Nathaniel Hunter, Joshua Henley. Back row: AHTD Chief Engineer Bob Walters; Nick Curton, Tom Devine, Jason Cassady, Darren Young, Brandon Brock, Dylan Burton, Zach Bean, Ryan Aclin, Andy Ladd, Darrick Crumpler.

AHTD Wildflower Program Creates Roadside Beauty

Many motorists have noticed something different about Arkansas' highways this year. But it wasn't the concrete or the asphalt. It wasn't signs or new stripes on the roads. The difference wasn't even the road itself. The difference was the emergence of beautiful wildflowers along the roadsides.

The AHTD's Wildflower Program was in full bloom this year. With another year of reduced herbicide use and other practices designed to promote wildflower growth, Arkansas roadsides should be even more spectacular next year.

But the beauty didn't come without some misunderstanding. To enhance the growth of wildflowers, the AHTD has changed some of its mowing practices. Some motorists initially took offense, thinking the lack of



Johnson County Area Maintenance Supervisor Kevin White is shown standing next to the state's first "Native Wildflower Area" sign along Interstate 40 west of Clarksville.

mowing was creating a less attractive roadside. Explaining that the new mowing cycle actually promotes the more attractive wildflowers appeased most callers.

The Department's Wildflower Program has three parts: the Wildflower Route Program, which preserves existing wildflower populations on identified routes; Operation Wildflower, which establishes new wildflower populations; and the Wildflower Sign Program, which creates public awareness by using signs to identify areas where wildflower populations have been sponsored by local clubs or groups.

The Department has created an informative brochure about the Wildflower Program. To obtain more information, contact the AHTD Environmental Division, P.O. Box 2261, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203 or by telephone at 501-569-2281.



The GFWCA Warren Women's Club sponsored the Department's first "Wildflower Area" sign.



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