

Arkansas Highways

SPRING 1999

Director's Message

SAFETY: OUR #1 PRIORITY

Our Department has always stressed the importance of safety for the motoring public and our own employees. It is one of the main factors to consider when designing and constructing a road. Safety is also the primary reason wearing a seatbelt is Department policy and Arkansas law.

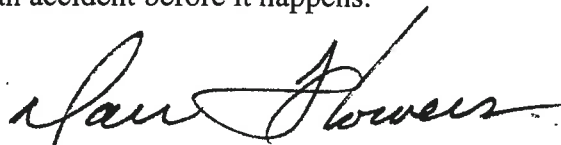
The opening of Interstate 540 between Alma and Fayetteville will significantly improve safety for the motoring public in that region of the state. Old Highway 71 was considered by some to be one the most dangerous highways in the nation because of the amount and type of traffic that was using the steep and twisting roadway. I-540 provides a much safer route for all travelers between Alma and Fayetteville.

Additionally, Highway Police officers play a vital role in promoting safety by monitoring highway work zones and performing safety inspections on commercial vehicles. These officers receive specialized safety training which benefits the motoring public as well as AHTD employees on the job.

Safety in the workplace is something that cannot be emphasized enough. The February issue of the Department's *Centerline* highlighted 105 AHTD crews that received Safety Awards for 1998. I want to congratulate those crews that were recognized for their safety records, and I hope we have twice that number to recognize this year.

Safety on the job is everyone's responsibility. It is a team effort. That is why we recognize crews and not individuals. We have a good safety record at the Department, but there is always room for improvement. I would encourage each of you, collectively and individually, to make safety your top priority this year.

The rules are simple, but the stakes are high regarding workplace safety. If you have a safety-related question on the job this year, please check with your supervisor or call the Training and Safety Office. You might be able to stop an accident before it happens.



DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION



ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS

SPRING 1999

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION



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CHAIRMAN



JOHN "M" LIPTON
VICE
CHAIRMAN



J.W. "BUDDY"
BENFIELD
MEMBER



PRISSY
HICKERSON
MEMBER



JONATHAN
BARNETT
MEMBER

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COVER PHOTO: State Highway 23 in Franklin County. Photo by John Jackson.

BACK COVER PHOTO: The Peel Ferry. Photo by John Jackson.

Jonathan Barnett

Appointed To Highway Commission

Jonathan Barnett of Siloam Springs was appointed to a ten-year term on the Arkansas State Highway Commission by Governor Mike Huckabee on January 9, 1999 replacing Bobby Hopper of Springdale whose term expired. He was officially sworn in January 15, 1999 receiving the oath of office from Court of Appeals Judge Terry Crabtree of Bentonville at a ceremony in the Governor's Conference Room at the Capitol. Barnett's tenure on the Commission expires in January 2009.

Highway Commission Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr., Vice Chairman John "M" Lipton, Commissioner members J.W. "Buddy" Benafield and Mary "Prissy" Hickerson joined Director of Highways Dan Flowers and other Highway and Transportation Department officials at the swearing-in ceremony.

Barnett, 43, is a licensed general contractor and is currently a member of the Governor's Citizens Council on Highways and Transportation. He is a past president of the Siloam Springs Homebuilders Association and is a board member of Students in Free Enterprise at John Brown University in Siloam Springs.

He and his wife, Christy, have three children, Sarah, 18, Joe, 16 and Lacey, 12.



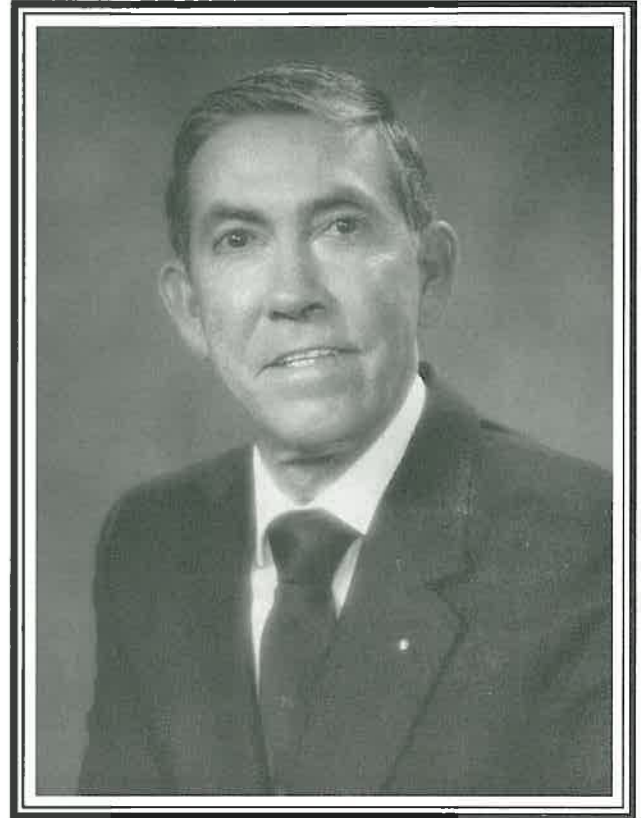
Governor Mike Huckabee congratulates Jonathan Barnett of Siloam Springs on his appointment to the Highway Commission January 9.



Barnett, left, receives the oath of office from Judge Terry Crabtree of Bentonville at a ceremony in the Governor's Conference Room January 15.



Final Comments With Commissioner Bobby Hopper



Bobby Hopper's term on the Arkansas State Highway Commission ended in January 1999. He was appointed in January 1983 by Governor Bill Clinton to fill a vacancy and re-appointed by Governor Clinton in 1989 to a full ten-year term. He has served 16 years on the Commission, longer than any other person. Hopper, a native of Gassville, Arkansas, owned an automobile dealership in Springdale until his retirement in 1980. In a recent interview with Public Affairs Officer Randy Ort, he reflected on the progress and accomplishments of the Highway and Transportation Department during his years on the Commission.

ORT: *You were the first person to be re-appointed to successive terms on the Highway Commission. Were you surprised back in 1989 when Governor Clinton asked you to serve again?*

HOPPER: I was surprised, but very honored to have the opportunity.

ORT: *What was your initial reaction? Did it appeal to you?*

HOPPER: Yes, it was appealing. To serve as a Commissioner, to work with the employees of the Department and for the people of Arkansas for another ten years, that was appealing to me. I was fine with it.

ORT: *You have spent 16 years on the Highway Commission, more than anyone in the past and probably more than anyone ever will. Do you have any regrets? Was that too long for one person?*

HOPPER: I have absolutely no regrets. As far as the length of time, that depends on the person. A person just about has to be retired to do that. I was in a position where I could do it. The only thing that affected me during my 16 years was the health problem, but that would have affected me whether I was on the Commission or not. (Mr. Hopper suffered a near-fatal brain aneurysm in 1996.)

I feel very fortunate to have served with three different Directors, four Chief Engineers, and four Chiefs of (Highway) Police. I liked the variety and the different challenges we faced.

ORT: *What do you consider some of the major accomplishments that occurred during your tenure on the Commission?*

HOPPER: Randy, as you know, I grew up in Baxter County around Gassville. I knew all that area – Baxter County, Marion County, Newton County and I grew up on gravel roads. They were just a way of life. That's why I think the Rural Road Program of 1985 was so important. It was designed to pave all the gravel state highways.

When I originally came on the Commission back in 1983, all we had was matching money. We didn't have money to do small projects. We had about 650 miles of gravel roads. In my final bid letting last January, we awarded the final contract for paving a gravel highway in this state, with the exception of Highway 52 in Ashley County where there are problems that lie outside the Commission's control. I think that program was very important to Arkansas and I was so happy to play a small role in seeing that come about.





ORT: *Mr. Hopper, I think most people would expect you to say the completion of I-540, which began as the Highway 71 Relocation Project, was the most significant accomplishment.*

HOPPER: Of course, the Highway 71 project, or I-540 as it's now known, was a major accomplishment for the entire state. When I first went on the Commission, we had the first contracts underway on Highway 71 from Fayetteville northward. I was real fortunate to be a part of finishing that up to Bella Vista. And when we began looking at the Alma to Fayetteville part, that task just seemed so enormous.

I appreciate the other Commissioners that I served with for putting up with me over the years regarding Highway 71. We all agreed it was important for the state, but it sure took a lot of money. But they went along with committing the necessary resources to see it completed during my tenure. For that I am very grateful.

But then they took it a step farther by naming the tunnel after me. That was so special for me and my family. The road itself was already special because it provides a safer route for the citizens. But to cap it off by honoring me permanently the way they did – Randy, that's just hard for me to put into words. It was the biggest honor I've ever had in my life.

You asked what job was the most important – every job was important to me. I-540 was very important, but so was the Pine Bluff Bypass, so was the Hot Springs Bypass, Highway 65 both north and south, and Highway 412 – I could go on and on. They are all important.

ORT: *Were there some projects that didn't get done that you wish could have been accomplished?*

HOPPER: Oh sure, there are some I'm sorry we didn't get done. I wish we could get the Bella Vista Bypass done, and Highway 62 to Lincoln including the Prairie Grove Bypass. I can't begin to

name them all; we have so many needs to address. We've got over 16,000 miles of highway and we're going to have more. Every time we build a new road, we add more to the system. You're always going to have needs. There's always something that needs to be done.

ORT: *Back in 1983, you were quoted in this magazine about the importance of the Mack-Blackwell amendment and how good it had been for the state of Arkansas. Now, 16 years later, what is your assessment of the Mack-Blackwell amendment?*

HOPPER My commitment to the Mack-Blackwell Amendment is stronger than ever. When I look back, it's the best thing that has ever happened to the state of Arkansas. It has made the AHTD one of the most outstanding highway departments in the country.

And I've got to go back and say this. I've been on the Highway Commission for the last 16 years, and I've served under three Governors. The people took the Highway Department away from the control of the Governor. These Governors have never accepted that fact and probably never will, but it's the best thing that ever happened to the State of Arkansas.

The Mack-Blackwell Amendment brought the continuity, consistency and independence that we needed at the Highway Department. You just cannot have the programming of highways to get votes. That simply will not work for the people. There needs to be a separation between running for office and getting roads.

ORT: *Being a Highway Commissioner can be a very time-consuming job. How did being on the Commission affect your personal life?*

HOPPER: It didn't affect my personal life. I was retired, but I was used to working long days. I put a priority on Commission bid letting days. I put all Commission-oriented business first. I was able to do that because I was retired. I know I got up lots of days and drove lots of miles to go to places and listen



Hopper addresses members of the Commission and Department staff at his last Commission meeting in January 1999.

to people's highway problems. That's just part of the job. I devoted the time that I thought was necessary.

There's probably not a highway in this state I haven't been on at one time or another. I've been in many towns and I've met a lot of people. You really learn what's going on around this state. I was given an opportunity and I hope I made the most of it.

Now I can understand the concerns of the Commissioners that have everyday jobs. I don't see how they do it. There are tons of hours involved in being a Highway Commissioner. And lots of phone calls.

ORT: *The Highway Commission has a good record of "doing more with less." In recent years, employment levels have dropped by about 300 employees at the Department, while employment levels in other areas of state government have grown tremendously. Did you notice any changes in the level of productivity at the Department in light of the reduction in force?*

HOPPER: Randy, I have not. The employees have always gotten everything done that needed to be done. That's why we have such good employees. When we cut back, someone always steps up to help out to get it all done.

I don't see how the employees do all they do. They do such a good job that every few years we get audited. It seems no one can understand how we do such a good job and still cut back. The employees have always stepped up and done it.

I really believe in the employees. I don't think we should cut back too much in that area.

ORT: *The Highway Commission has stressed that funding levels have not kept pace with needs. What, in your opinion, can or should be done to address this problem?*

I've always believed in user fees. I'm a great believer in user fees, but some of that needs to be revamped. I believe in transferring some of the sales taxes that are currently being collected on tires, parts, etc. to the Highway Department. And I believe in turnpikes. Oklahoma has lots of turnpikes and they have been successful with them. I'm not saying the existing interstates need to be tolled. I'm saying we need to consider a turnpike system similar to what Oklahoma has. Three turnpikes pay for all of them over there.

As far as the motor fuel taxes, I don't think trucks should pay the same as cars. Trucks should pay about 70% more than cars. The diesel tax should be higher.

ORT: *You were a popular Commissioner with the employees. You made many acquaintances with Department employees during your tenure. Any final comments for the AHTD employees?*

HOPPER: Let me tell you something. I like people. Anytime you have a big family like the Highway

Department – and that’s what it is, a big old family - we all have to work together. Any job, I don’t care if it’s the guy that’s putting in a light bulb, I don’t care if he’s sweeping the floor or working on a computer, that job is an important job and you have to have that in the family. All the jobs are important to me, and all the people are important. I like them all. I love to talk to the employees. They are our biggest asset.

ORT: *Sounds like you need another 16 years.*

I don’t know about that, but I enjoyed it. It was an honor and pleasure to serve with such good people. I met so many good people and that’s what I’m going to miss. Just being out there with them. And I’ll miss the decision-making. I love to make decisions. I love to be a part of making decisions.

And we made some important decisions. You think highways don’t have anything to do with economic development, just go look. Look how Arkansas has grown. See how much economic development has occurred because of the ‘85 program and the ‘91 program. It’s amazing how the highway system brings in economic development for the whole state. I don’t know why some people can’t see that.

ORT: *Any closing comments?*

HOPPER: Lois and I, we really enjoyed meeting all the people. I’ll continue to stop by. I want to stay in touch. Tell all the employees, if they see me on the street, be sure and stop me and tell me who they are. I’m still the same old Bobby.



Bobby Hopper, far right, with Director Dan Flowers, former Commissioner Raymond Pritchett, Commissioners John "M" Lipton, Buddy Benafield, and Prissy Hickerson, former Commissioners David Solomon, and Ron Harrod, and Commission Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr.

Hopper, far right, receives his Commissioner Emeritus plaque from Commission Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr. Also shown are Mr. Hopper's son, Robert, left, and Mr. Hopper's wife, Lois.



Hopper, center, receives a plaque of appreciation from District 4 Engineer Harold Beaver, left, and Director Dan Flowers, right.



Hopper, left, receives a plaque of appreciation from District 9 Engineer Ralph Fulton.



Finally Complete

Interstate 540 and State's First Tunnel

Opened To Traffic January 8

With many things in life, the anticipation of an occasion often surpasses the actual event. That has never been the case with new highways.

For years, the citizens of Arkansas looked forward with great anticipation to the opening of "the new Highway 71" between Alma and Fayetteville. On January 8, 1999, "new Highway 71" opened to traffic. As high as the anticipation had been, it couldn't match the excitement of the actual opening.

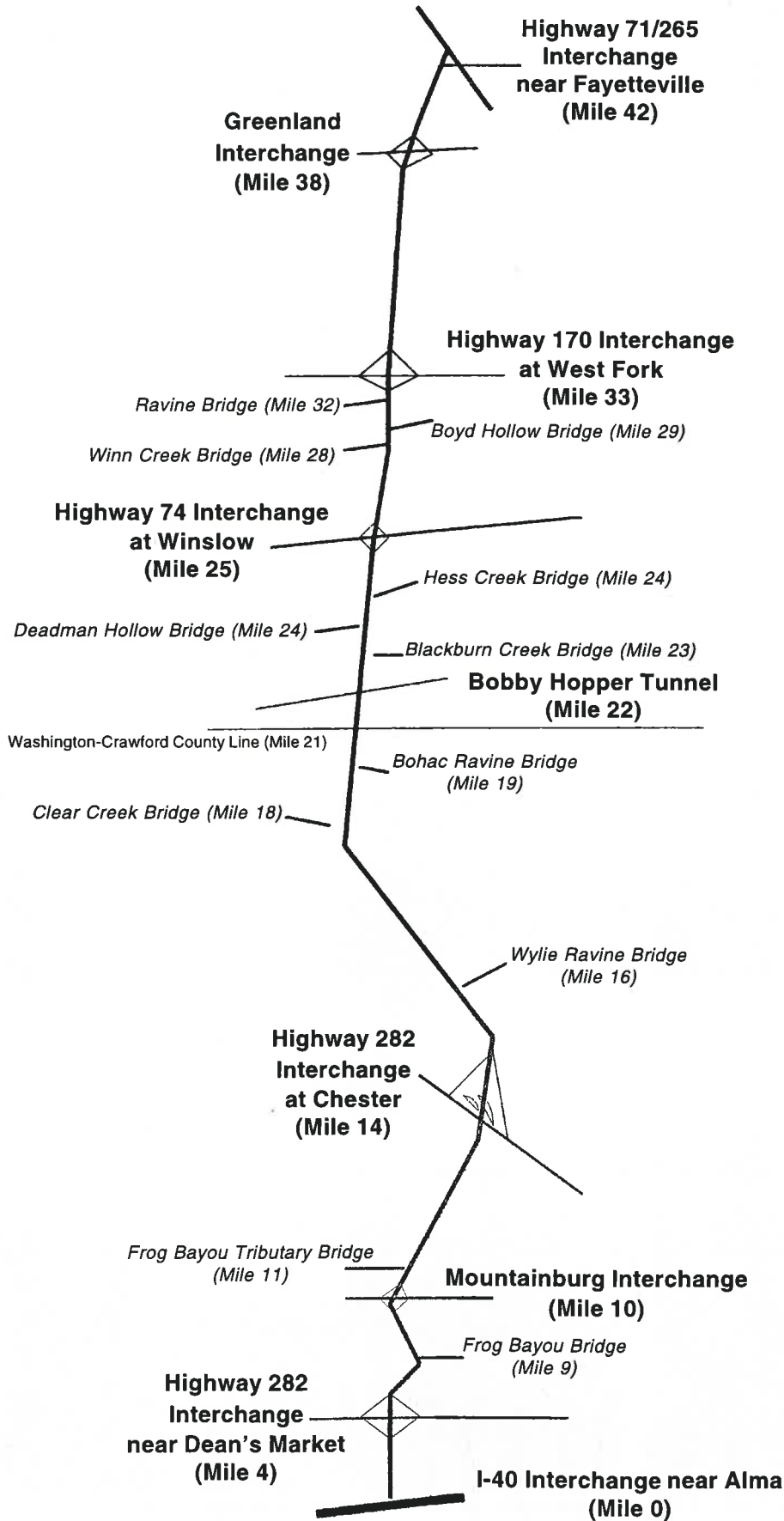
Officially known as Interstate 540, the new route winds for a total of 42 miles over the Boston Mountains to Fayetteville. The highlight of the new roadway is the state's first highway tunnel, the Bobby Hopper Tunnel, just southwest of Winslow.

Dignitaries including U. S. Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater, Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, former Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt, AHTD Direc-



AHTD Director Dan Flowers, at podium, addresses the crowd in attendance (see photo below) at the dedication ceremony for Interstate 540 and the Bobby Hopper Tunnel on January 8.





I-540 Facts

- 42 miles in length
- \$459 million to construct including \$37.1 million tunnel
- 24 contracts
- began construction January 1987
- completed January 1999
- tallest bridges in the state



Miles are estimated from Interstate 40

tor Dan Flowers, and all five members of the Highway Commission gathered just outside the Bobby Hopper Tunnel Friday, January 8, at 10:00 a.m. to officially open the roadway. With more than 500 on-lookers, it was quite possibly the most celebrated road opening in the state's history.

The only thing that didn't cooperate that Friday morning was the weather. But even temperatures in the 30's and light rain didn't dampen the crowd's enthusiasm.

Director Flowers started the ceremony by declaring it a "wonderful and historic day for transportation in Arkansas." He introduced the various dignitaries present and praised the new

road. "With its high bridges and tunnel, this is a unique highway that will save many lives,"

Flowers noted.

Highway Commission Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr. men-



Over 500 persons braved the cold and wet weather to attend the road opening celebration.



Federal, state and local dignitaries cut the ribbon to officially open Interstate 540 and the Bobby Hopper Tunnel.

tioned that literally thousands of individuals were involved in the process to complete the highway. "But we would be remiss if we didn't mention two special people who played major roles in securing much needed federal funding," Branscum said. He lauded the efforts of former Senator Dale Bumpers and former Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt for their efforts. "I think it's safe to assume that without the efforts of Senator Bumpers and Congressman Hammerschmidt, this highway might still be waiting for the necessary funds," he concluded.

Commissioner Bobby Hopper, whose term on the Commission expired the week following the dedication, spoke about the safety the highway would provide for travelers. "That one factor alone makes this highway special," Hopper commented. He also thanked his fellow Commissioners, both past and present, "who listened to me for 16 years about this highway. And I especially want to thank the Commission for naming the tunnel after me. This is the high point of my life and I am humbled by your honor."

Congressman Hammerschmidt spoke of the unified effort between the state and federal governments that was necessary to build the road. "Where else will you find the John Paul Hammerschmidt Highway passing through the Bobby Hopper Tunnel. This is truly a bipartisan project," he



Highway Commissioner Bobby Hopper

"This is the high point of my life and I am humbled by your honor of naming the tunnel after me."

Bobby Hopper

joked. Congress had previously designated the highway in honor of Hammerschmidt and his efforts.

Governor Huckabee praised Hammerschmidt and Hopper for making possible what he referred to as "a wonderful addition to the transportation system in our state." The Governor also touched upon the safety aspect of the new road. "There will be people alive in Arkansas in the future because they won't be traveling a highway that is lined

with signs reminding us how many people aren't alive today," Huckabee said, comparing the new highway to old Highway 71.

"The opening of I-540 is not about moving people from place to place," commented Secretary Slater. "It is about moving from today to tomorrow. I-540 will move Arkansas and the nation forward." Slater, an Arkansas native and former member of the Highway Commission, also praised the current Commissioners, Hammerschmidt, and civic



U.S. Secretary of Transportation
Rodney E. Slater



Former U.S. Congressman
John Paul Hammerschmidt



Governor
Mike Huckabee

leaders from all across northwest Arkansas. "We have all heard about moving mountains," Slater said. "And that is exactly what we have done to move this state forward."

Following the comments, a symbolic ribbon was cut. Hundreds of onlookers took home small pieces of the ribbon as a memento of the occasion. Highway and Transportation Department employees cleared the roadway for normal traffic operations. By noon, the stage area had been dismantled and all other equipment removed.

Commissioner Hopper concluded his remarks with these words: "This road represents progress and is being dedicated to the safety and service of those who will travel on it." Those words are appropriate for any new highway, but they seemed to be particularly fitting for "the new Highway 71."

*"Where else will you find the
John Paul Hammerschmidt Highway passing
through the Bobby Hopper Tunnel.
This is truly a bipartisan project."*

John Paul Hammerschmidt



Inside the Bobby Hopper Tunnel, Commissioner Hopper, center, autographs a piece of ceremonial ribbon as Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater, former Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt and AHTD Director Dan Flowers wait their turn.



Newly-Elected Legislators Attend AHTD Briefing

The Department hosted a briefing session for newly-elected legislators January 5, 1999.

With the advent of term limits, the 100-member House of Representatives was looking at 57 new faces this year. Add one new member in the State Senate where the effect of term limits has not been felt yet and there are a total of 58 new members of the General Assembly.

Director of Highways and Transportation Dan Flowers and all five members of the Highway Commission served as hosts for the event that began with a continental breakfast at 9:30 a.m.

Highway Commission Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr. welcomed the participants and introduced the other Commissioners. Director Flowers then introduced



AHTD Director Dan Flowers, at podium, conducts the briefing for new legislators.

AHTD staff members who were present and began the briefing. "We hope to make you aware of the operations of the Department and answer any questions you may have," Flowers told the group.

A discussion period followed a brief overview of the Department by Flowers. The legislators seemed to appreciate the briefing. "It was good to meet the people I'll be dealing with on highway



Rep. Barbara King of Helena



Rep. Don House of Walnut Ridge



Rep. Sarah Agee of Prairie Grove

matters during the session,” commented Representative Sarah Agee of Prairie Grove. “It’s good to put a face with a name.”

Representative Steve Jones of Marion echoed Ms. Agee’s remarks. “I certainly don’t pretend to understand all the facets of how

the Highway Department functions, but I have a better understanding after this meeting,” Jones said.



Commission Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr. with Representative Danny Ferguson of Forrest City and Representative Don House of Walnut Ridge



Representative Larry Prater of Rudy and Commission Vice Chairman John "M" Lipton



Commissioner Prissy Hickerson and Representative Russ Bennett of Lewisville



Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield and Representative Steve Jones of Marion



Representative Steve Napper of Little Rock and Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson



Senator John Riggs of Little Rock

Peel Ferry Continues Its Appointed Rounds

Like the unending march of time, the last remaining ferry in Arkansas goes about its appointed rounds in relative anonymity.

The Peel Ferry, which was established in 1968, connects Highway 125 across Bull Shoals Lake in North Central Arkansas. Cutting more than 100 miles off the trip around the lake, the ferry is a much-needed necessity for motorists traveling to and from Missouri.

The allure of watching the world go by at about eight mph brings many people to the ferry, according to Ferry Supervisor Carroll "Curley" Johnson.

"People use it for many different reasons and they drive hundreds of miles just to sit and enjoy the ride. We've had people from all over the United States ride the ferry," Johnson said.

On a recent summer day, a retiree from Illinois who was



The Peel Ferry as it crosses Bull Shoals Lake

returning from Missouri with a load of cedar to be used as paneling at his home, a farmer carrying sacks of feed to his farm, and a large camper were just a few of the vehicles that crossed the lake.

The Lady Marion, as the barge is known, and tug St. Charles can

carry six vehicles and weighs 40 tons. It can carry an additional 25 tons of vehicle weight when fully loaded for a total of 65 tons. The barge's ability was tested on a recent ride

when a small tractor-trailer rig rolled onto the deck. After settling to one side, the St. Charles chugged its way across the lake without so much as a moan. "We get grocery trucks, garbage trucks, bulldozer operators, RVs and other large vehicles that use the ferry. They really don't give us any problems except for the fact that we can't get as many vehicles on the ferry since they take up so much space," Johnson added.

Operating from dawn to dusk each day, the ferry makes the 40-minute round trip several times each day, 365 days a year. "We've had days with fog or high winds, but that doesn't usually give us a problem," Johnson said.

Working on the ferry can be repetitiously dull, but the time



Ferry Supervisor Carroll "Curley" Johnson pilots the St. Charles tug.

crossing the lake is spent visiting with passengers. "You meet some interesting people. You get to know quite a few of the locals who use the ferry frequently," Johnson explained. On a recent crossing, the ferry carried a passenger of a different kind. An 18-year-old Cockatoo named Josephine made the trip along with her owner Bob Jackson. "I ride several times a week and I take her with me everywhere I go," Jackson said.

There have been some interesting sights as well. "Just a few weeks ago, we saw a pickup come flying down the ramp. The only problem was that the ferry was on the opposite end of the lake. The guy went flying into the lake in his truck," Pilot Mark Grozis said. The man had to be fished out of the lake before the ferry could return to the northern dock. His truck sank in about 35 feet of water.

Seven AHTD employees, who work alternating days, operate the ferry. Each are long-time employees of the Department and have a wealth of experience. Johnson has

26 years with the Department, Ferry Boat Pilot Donnie Walker has 29 years, Ferry Boat Pilot Danny Shrable has 26 years, Ferry Boat Pilot/Deck Hand Merl Wood has 24 years, Ferry Boat Pilot Mark Grozis has 17 years, Deck Hand Lloyd Stone has 17 years and Deck Hand Ashley Hale has five years.

Experience counts as District 9 Engineer Ralph Fulton can attest. "They're a great bunch. They seem to really enjoy their work and they do a fine job with the public," he said.



Deck Hand Ashley Hale raises the barge ramp.



Vehicles unload from the Lady Marion barge after the 20-minute ride across the lake.



Danny Shrable, Carroll "Curley" Johnson, Don Walker



Merl Wood, Lloyd Stone, Ashley Hale, Mark Grozis

Springhill Drive Interchange Dedicated

A large crowd was on hand Friday, November 13, 1998 for a ceremony to officially dedicate the Springhill Drive Interchange on Interstate 40 in North Little Rock.

AHTD Director Dan Flowers and North Little Rock Mayor Patrick Henry Hays were two of the guest speakers at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The project includes the interchange at Springhill Drive and I-40 along with a flyover bridge from Highway 67 to I-40. The addition of the flyover improves safety for motorists traveling south on Highway 67/167 on to I-40 eastbound.

Before the interchange project was undertaken, access to Springhill Drive was only available from the westbound lanes. The \$16.2 million contract for the



AHTD Director Dan Flowers



North Little Rock Mayor Patrick Hays

project was awarded in April 1996 to The Hardaway Co. of Columbus, Georgia. Construction of the project began in July of 1996.

The interchange was partially paid for by Baptist Health to provide access to the new hospital

being built on Springhill Drive.

"This type of partnering between the state and private business has helped make this project a reality," Flowers said.

Scenic 7 Byway Gathers Public Input

Attaining Scenic Byway designation for 94 miles of Arkansas State Highway 7 in South Arkansas was the focus of a public hearing in Camden on December 15, 1998. The Arkansas Highway Commission approved the state's newest Scenic Byway at its February 17, 1999 meeting.

The route begins at the Louisiana border and continues north through El Dorado, Smackover, and Camden to Arkadelphia. The Scenic 7 Partners Association, headed by Camden Mayor Chris

Claybaker, requested the scenic highway designation.

The road will connect with a previously approved Highway 7 Scenic Byway route between Arkadelphia and Harrison. Approximately 15 people were on hand to voice their support for the designation. There was no opposition to the proposed recognition of the system of roads winding through southern Arkansas. "Everybody I've talked with thought this would be something good for South Arkansas," Claybaker said.

"It's a perfect addition to what we're trying to do for tourism."

Major recreational, cultural and historic amenities are located along the byway. In Ouachita County, the Poison Spring Battle-ground Historical Monument is located 13 miles east of Camden and the Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources is located near Smackover. The byway designations were made possible under the 1991 federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA).



Letters to the Department

TO: Herby Branscum, Jr.
Commission Chairman

At our last meeting, the Board of Directors of the Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport Authority authorized me to express the Authority's sincere appreciation for the support and assistance received from the Commission and Department staff.

The improvements the Department made to Highway 264 have greatly enhanced the main access to the regional airport. Your staff and contractors completed the work right on schedule. It was obvious they all went the extra mile to make sure everything was ready for the opening of the airport. Please relay our appreciation to them.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Commissioner Bobby Hopper for his years of service and his support of the airport project. Our region and the entire state have benefited from his dedication to improving our highway and transportation system.

The Authority looks forward to working with the Commission, Director Flowers and his staff on the construction of the new airport access road.

Again, thank you very much for your support.

Stan Green, Chairman
Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport

TO: Herby Branscum, Jr.
Commission Chairman

This is to inform you and the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department that the Vilonia city government, plus the citizens of Vilonia are very proud of the new turning lane which has recently been completed through the city on Highway 64. This has been a tremendous help with the traffic flow, not only for the residents but also the through traffic.

We want to congratulate the Highway Department and the contractor for the good job they did.

O.D. Sisson
Mayor of Vilonia

TO: Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

The Baptist Health Board of Trustees, in session on November 18, 1998, expresses its gratitude to you and your staff and members of the Arkansas Highway Commission for the support and assistance received to accomplish the highway construction in North Little Rock. As you know, this highway construction was extremely important for our successful utilization of the property at Springhill to construct our new Baptist Memorial Medical Center.

Without your assistance and cooperation, our mission to provide new, state-of-the-art, high-quality health care services to the citizens of North Little Rock, North Pulaski County and surrounding areas could have been delayed indefinitely. When we open our new facility in Fall 1999, patients will find health care services easily accessible, particularly emergency medical needs.

Thank you again for your support of this very important highway construction project.

Russell D. Harrington, Jr.
President, Baptist Health

TO: Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

On December 23 my daughter and I were traveling on the icy Interstate 40 between West Memphis and Little Rock in a white Isuzu Rodeo. Near the Palestine exit the vehicle lost traction and slid completely around and went off the road into a ditch.

Mr. Joel Davis, AHTD truck license number 7105, came along and physically pushed us out of the ditch getting covered with mud in the process. Would you please express our sincere appreciation for rescuing two very scared motorists on a cold and icy day? I know you must be very proud to have him on your team.

Eunice Dickson
Camden, Arkansas



Joel Davis
District 1 Bridge Inspector

TO: Arkansas Highway Department
Heavy Bridge Maintenance

I am writing to offer a commendation on behalf of one of your employees. I should have written this letter some months ago, but I have put it off.

On my way back from Texas, I was pulling a rented cargo trailer behind my automobile along the very rough stretch of Interstate 30 just west of Arkadelphia. The bouncing of the trailer became so violent on that highway that it jarred the clip out of my trailer receiver pin, causing my hitch to slide out of the receiver and the tongue of the trailer to drop down on the pavement, held only by the safety chains. It took a mile to bring it to a stop without damaging anything. There I was without any way to repair my hitch on the side of the highway. I had been stopped less than five minutes when a pickup truck from the Highway Department stopped in front of me and a cheerful David Mayberry from your division stepped out and asked if he could help.

When he saw my plight, he went to his toolbox and pulled out a hitch pin, which was exactly what I needed. Then he produced some heavy wire and fashioned a makeshift retainer. We hitched my trailer back up and everything was fine again.

Mr. Mayberry was especially kind to me and I simply had to let someone in your Department know that he went beyond his duties to help us out. Your rough highways did not particularly impress me, but I was certainly impressed by Mr. Mayberry and the help he offered to us. If there were any way he could be recognized for what he did, I would certainly request that it be done. He was an "angel of mercy" to me on Interstate 30.

Thank you for your time. Please let Mr. Mayberry know that we are still grateful for his help.

Harold Jaco, Jr.
Jackson, Tennessee

TO: Bob Walters
Chief Engineer

This letter is sent to express the City of Clinton's appreciation for the timely and efficient work done by the Highway Department on the new intersection recently completed at Highway 65 and the old Highway 330. Also, the turn-lane additions on Highway 65 in the downtown area.

To see this project come to fruition after so many years is very rewarding. To be able to provide a safer environment for the children is a great satisfaction.

Please accept our thanks to all involved with making this project a realization. And a special thank you to Frank Russenberger for his assistance.

James Beavers
Mayor of Clinton

TO: Mark Koone
Faulkner County Area Maintenance Supervisor

Thank you so very much for your kindness. You went above and beyond your job duty to help me. For that I am truly grateful.

Michelle Horn

Editor's Note: Ms. Horn lost her purse in the median of Interstate 40 in Faulkner County. She was too scared of the busy interstate traffic to go back and look for it. She called the Faulkner County area headquarters and Area Maintenance Supervisor Mark Koone and Crew Leader Barry Clark located the purse and returned it to her.



David Mayberry
Heavy Bridge Maintenance Supervisor



Barry Clark, Crew Leader, and Mark Koone
Faulkner County Area Maintenance Supervisor

IN MEMORY

ACTIVE

Gerald Schwartz
Planning & Research
died November 19, 1998

Clarence Tuggle
District 8
died January 9, 1999

RETIREES

Dorothy Switzer
Director's Office
died January 15, 1998

Louis Bramlett - District 8
died September 11, 1998

Marion Lingo - District 3
died September 17, 1998

Elmo Campbell - District 9
died September 27, 1998

Melvin Brown - District 10
died September 29, 1998

Ray Duffy - District 9
died October 3, 1998

Jesse Brown - Highway Police
died October 17, 1998

Richard Morgan - District 2
died October 23, 1998

Fred Medlock - District 5
died October 25, 1998

Edger McClure - District 5
died October 17, 1998

Eddie Beasley - District 7
died October 28, 1998

Leonard Roberts - District 1
died October 29, 1998

Robert Mattox - Surveys
died October 30, 1998

Jack Dickey - District 9
died November 1, 1998

Leslie Carrington - District 2
died November 3, 1998

Ouida Grimes - District 2
died November 6, 1998

Huston Sage - District 7
died November 22, 1998

Sula Burnham - District 7
died November 24, 1998

George Tucker - District 7
died November 29, 1998

Luther McGowin - Highway Police
died December 2, 1998

Maurice Smith - Director
died December 3, 1998

Hurshel Southerland - District 5
died December 3, 1998

Jeff Davis - District 9
died December 7, 1998

Cecil McCorkle - District 3
died December 14, 1998

Thearon Darter - District 8
died December 21, 1998

Robert Joshlin - District 1
died December 24, 1998

Melvin Phillips - District 2
died December 26, 1998

Luther Trammell - District 9
died December 28, 1998

Charles Beard - District 7
died December 29, 1998

William Terry - District 6
died December 29, 1998

Roy Walls - District 3
died December 31, 1998

John Harris, Jr. - District 2
died January 15, 1999

Roland Thompson - District 1
died January 17, 1999

Warren Ward
Planning & Research
died January 17, 1999

Edgar Clements - District 7
died January 20, 1999

Arlis Faught - District 9
died January 20, 1999

Kenneth Bearden - Surveys
died January 25, 1999

Shelby Hudson, Jr. - District 1
died January 26, 1999

Gerald Sneed - Materials
died January 26, 1999

Service Recognitions

CENTRAL OFFICE

The 1998 Central Office Service Award and Retirement Presentation ceremony was held December 14 in the Central Office Auditorium. Commission Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr. and Director Dan Flowers made the presentations. Pictured are the 1998 recipients.



25-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

(L-R) Front row kneeling: Ralph Williams, Right of Way; Joe Qualls, Right of Way; Johnnie Parks, Internal Audit; Doug Nielsen, Equipment & Procurement; Larry Newman, Planning & Research; Bill McDorman, Internal Audit. Row 2: Orville Wiggins, Materials; Terry Nanney, Highway Police; Terry Hardison, Planning & Research; Kay Fisher, Right of Way; Ed Fain, Bridge; Mike Coogan, Bridge; Danny Arendt, Right of Way; George Brown, Highway Police; Ronnie Anderson, Highway Police; Linda Lewis, Right of Way; Buford Humphries, Highway Police; Louis Bryant, Materials; Commission Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr. and Director Dan Flowers. Row 3: Pat Sullivan, Maintenance; Jimmy Sanson, Right of Way; Jerry Westerman, Materials; James Sanders, Planning & Research; Roy Walden, Programs & Contracts; Miles Patton, Surveys.



30-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

(L-R) Director Dan Flowers; J.P. Sumner, Roadway Design; Danny Moore, Maintenance; Bobby Welch, Roadway Design; Sonny Lofland, Materials; Grover Jones, Jr., Maintenance; Jim Gilbert, Planning & Research; Commission Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr.



35-YEAR SERVICE AWARD

(L-R) Director Dan Flowers with Jim Gee of Materials and Commission Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr.



30-YEAR RETIREMENT CERTIFICATE

(L-R) AHTD Director Dan Flowers with Nelson Farmer of Highway Police and Commission Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr.



40-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

(L-R) Director Dan Flowers; Jake Clements, Materials; Wilbert Chapman, State Aid; and Commission Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr.

Flowers Receives 30-year AHTD Service Award

A surprise reception was held prior to the September 22 Commission meeting to honor Director Dan Flowers for his 30 years of service to the Department.

Commission Chairman Bobby Hopper presented Flowers with his service award certificate and 30-year service pin. "I know I speak for all the Commissioners when I say that we are fortunate to have someone of Dan's expertise and dedication to lead the Highway and Transportation Department," Hopper said. "Congratulations on achieving 30 years of service to the Department, and thank you for the leadership you have provided. We look forward to more of the same from you in the years to come."



Director Dan Flowers and Commissioner Bobby Hopper

Because Flowers was appointed Director at such a young age, he became the first Director

to celebrate 30 years of service while serving as Director.



Dan Flowers, center, holding grandson Will; wife Sara, left; and daughter Lea, right



Mr. Flowers with grandson Will

DISTRICT ONE

The District One Awards Presentation/Christmas luncheon was held December 18 with approximately 125 employees, guests and relatives attending. Special guests included Highway Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield, Director Dan Flowers, and Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson.



District One 40-Year Service Award
Calvin George, center, District Maintenance Superintendent, with Commissioner Buddy Benafield, left, and Director Dan Flowers, right



District One Retirees
Osie Williams and Billy Hamilton



District One 25-Year Service Awards

Front row, left to right: Commissioner Buddy Benafield; John Turner, Distributor/Roller Operator, Phillips County; Ernestine Able, Field Clerk, West Helena Residency; Jimmy Bryant, Lee County Area Maintenance Supervisor; Director Dan Flowers. Back row: Ray Woodruff, District Engineer; Jane Wilson, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs; Charles Sanders, Construction Aide III, West Memphis Residency; Douglas Ragsdale, Construction Aide I, West Helena Residency; J.L. McAlister, Rest Area Attendant, Crittenden County; Edd Cooper, Hydraulic Excavator Operator/Finish, Districtwide Maintenance.



District One 30-Year Service Awards

Left to right: District Engineer Ray Woodruff; Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson; Commissioner Buddy Benafield; Jimmy Turner, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, Phillips County; Ronald Dunigan, Crew Leader, Phillips County; Director Dan Flowers

DISTRICT TWO

The District Two Awards Presentation/Christmas luncheon was held December 17. Special guests included Highway Commissioner John "M" Lipton, Director Dan Flowers, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson, and Human Resources Division Head Melba Shepard.



District Two Service Awards

Left to right: John Herrington, Bridge Job Superintendent, 30 years; James Davidson, retiree; Clinton Bohannon, Arkansas County Area Maintenance Supervisor, 35 years; Melvin Phillips, retiree; Commissioner John Lipton; Paul Griffith, Grant County Area Maintenance Supervisor, 40 years; D.W. Miles, Drew County Area Maintenance Supervisor, 35 years; Director Dan Flowers

DISTRICT THREE

District Three's annual Christmas Awards Presentation was held the evening of December 11, 1998. Special guests included Highway Commissioner Prissy Hickerson and husband Randy.



Don Westbrook, Inspector, receives a retirement certificate for 28+ years service from Commissioner Prissy Hickerson.



Richard Steen, Single Axle Truck Driver, receives a 25-year service award from Commissioner Prissy Hickerson.



Ronnie Garner, District Maintenance Superintendent, receives a 30-year service award from Commissioner Prissy Hickerson.



Ken Harris, left, Resident Engineer, receives a 30-year service award from Commissioner Prissy Hickerson and District Engineer William Tyler.



Larry Myers, Inspector, receives a 30-year service award from Commissioner Prissy Hickerson.



Doyle Powell, Sealing Job Superintendent, receives a 30-year service award from Commissioner Prissy Hickerson.

DISTRICT FOUR

District Four's annual Christmas Awards Presentation was held Friday, December 11, 1998 at the Fort Chaffee Dining Hall. Special guests included Highway Commissioner Bobby and Lois Hopper, Director Dan Flowers, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson, and Human Resources Division Head Melba Shepard.



District Four Retiree
Jimmie Bowerman, center, Motor Patrol Operator, receives a retirement certificate for 29+ years service from Director Dan Flowers, left, and Commissioner Bobby Hopper, right.



District Four Service Awards

L-R Seated: Larry Thornburg, Washington II Area Maintenance Supervisor, 30 years; Gene Holloway, Washington I Area Maintenance Supervisor, 30 years; Don Creech, Assistant Resident Engineer #43, 35 years. Back row: Director Dan Flowers, Commissioner Bobby Hopper, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson, and District Engineer Harold Beaver



District Four Service Awards

L-R Seated: Buddy Turner, Bridge Inspector; Larry Neff, Lincoln County Crew Leader; Bob Ferrari, Senior Mechanic. Back row: Director Dan Flowers, Commissioner Bobby Hopper, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson, and District Engineer Harold Beaver



Randall Barnett, Inspector for Resident Engineer #41 at Waldron, receives a 25-year service award.



Lewis Martin, Senior Construction Materials Inspector, receives a 25-year service award.

DISTRICT FIVE

District Five held its annual Christmas Awards Presentation Wednesday, December 9, 1998. Special guests included Highway Commission Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr., Director Dan Flowers, and Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson.



District Five Service Awards

L-R Seated: S.L. Swink, Resident Engineer, 40 years; Fred Heyde, Bridge Inspector, 30 years; Ron Hedges, Assistant Maintenance Superintendent, 35 years. Back row: District Engineer Lyndal Waits, Commissioner Herby Branscum, Jr., Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson, and Director Dan Flowers



District Five 25-Year Service Awards

L-R Seated: Winfred Reed, Ron Satterwhite, Terry Sipes, Bill Wallace, Thomas Inman. Back row: District Engineer Lyndal Waits, Commissioner Herby Branscum, Jr., Kermit Gay, Mike Lakey, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson, and Director Dan Flowers

DISTRICT SIX

District Six held its annual Christmas Awards Presentation Monday, December 14, 1998. Special guests included Highway Commissioner Prissy Hickerson, Director Dan Flowers, and Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson.



District Six 25-Year Service Awards

L-R Seated: Michael Allman, James Thompson, John Kruse, James Cole, Hosea Hall. Back row: District Engineer Leonard Hall, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson, Commissioner Prissy Hickerson, and Director Dan Flowers



Lamar Coyle, center, Prairie County Area Maintenance Supervisor, receives a 35-year service award from Director Dan Flowers, left, and Commissioner Prissy Hickerson, right.

DISTRICT SEVEN

District Seven held its annual Service Award Presentation Thursday, February 4, 1999 at the District Headquarters. Special guests included Highway Commissioner John "M" Lipton and Director Dan Flowers.



District Seven Service Awards

L-R Front row: Bobby Reddin, Dallas County Area Maintenance Supervisor, 35 years; Buddy Beard, Construction Project Coordinator, 40 years; Robert Myers, Resident Engineer, 35 years; Harris Hearnberger, Senior Inspector, 35 years; William "Hickie" Hickman, Ouachita County Crew Leader, 25 years. Back row: Commissioner John Lipton; William Spears, retiree; Doyle Patterson, retiree; George Richardson, Single Axle Truck Driver, 25 years; Director Dan Flowers; District Engineer Coy Campbell

DISTRICT EIGHT

The District Eight Christmas Open House/Service Award Presentation was held December 8, 1998 at the District Headquarters. Special guests included Highway Commission Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr., Director Dan Flowers and Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson.



Francis Jones, center, Sign Crew Foreman, receives a retirement certificate for 26+ years service from Commission Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr., left, and Director Dan Flowers, right.



District Eight 35-Year Service Awards

L-R: Commission Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr., Senior Inspector James Blalock, Construction Project Coordinator Sam Kizer, Director Dan Flowers



District Eight 30-Year Service Awards

L-R: Commission Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr., Construction Project Coordinator Eddie Deckard, Director Dan Flowers



District Eight 25-Year Service Awards

L-R: Commission Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr., Distributor/Roller Operator Rayburn Gipson, Single Axle Truck Driver Ronnie Putman, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish Mike Norton, Office Administrative Assistant V Nancy Kennedy, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator Lester Mathis, Senior Mechanic Donnie Duvall, Inspector Danny Loyd, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator Danny Bradford, Inspector Bruce Bradke, Senior Inspector Dennis James, Construction Materials Inspector Mike Hottinger, Crew Leader R.H. Williams, Director Dan Flowers

DISTRICT NINE

District Nine held its Christmas Open House/Service Award Presentation Friday, December 4, 1998 at the District Headquarters. Special guests included Highway Commissioner Bobby and Lois Hopper, Director Dan Flowers and Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson.



District Nine Retirees

L-R: Commissioner Bobby Hopper; Joe Nichols, Guard; Kenneth Kinney, Maintenance Aide II at Garfield; Jackie Cunningham, Single Axle Truck Driver for Marion County; Director Dan Flowers



District Nine 30-Year Service Awards

L-R: Commissioner Bobby Hopper; District Engineer Ralph Fulton; Bob Brisco, Lowboy or Float Truck Driver; Gene Taylor, Bridge Job Superintendent; Kenneth Oxford, Marion County Area Maintenance Supervisor; Director Dan Flowers



District Nine 25-Year Service Awards

L-R: Commissioner Bobby Hopper; Rex Holt, Senior Mechanic; Steve Jones, Construction Aide III; District Engineer Ralph Fulton; Robert Pack, Benton County Area Maintenance Supervisor; Johnney Horton, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish; Cecil Robinson, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator; Debra Meyer, District Office Manager; Phil Taylor, Maintenance Aide II; Bud Young, Jr., Newton County Area Maintenance Supervisor; Director Dan Flowers



Don Spencer, right, District 9 Construction Aide II, receives a 25-year service award from Resident Engineer Butch Martin.

DISTRICT TEN

District Ten held its Christmas Open House/Service Award Presentation Friday, December 18, 1998 at the District Headquarters. Special guests included Highway Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield, Director Dan Flowers and Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson.



District Ten Retirees

L-R: District Engineer Joe Barnett, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson, Commissioner Buddy Benafield, Aaron Pannell, Arthur Ball, Glen Easton, Nancy Mahan, Director Dan Flowers, Leonard Nelson, and Frank Coffel



District Ten 40-Year Service Awards

L-R: District Engineer Joe Barnett; Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson; Commissioner Buddy Benafield; Leonard Nelson, Assistant Maintenance Superintendent; Aaron Pannell, Osceola Area Maintenance Supervisor; Director Dan Flowers



District Ten 35-Year Service Award

L-R: Commissioner Buddy Benafield; Dick Hayes, District Bridge Inspector; Director Dan Flowers



District Ten 30-Year Service Awards

L-R: District Engineer Joe Barnett; Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson; Ronnie Blankenship, Sealing Job Superintendent; Commissioner Buddy Benafield; JoAnn Carlile, District Bookkeeper; Jesse Dial, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish; Frank Coffel, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish; Director Dan Flowers



District Ten 25-Year Service Award

Garry Toombs, center, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish, with Commissioner Buddy Benafield, left, and Director Dan Flowers, right

Around the Department

COMPUTER SERVICES



Judy Akers, pictured with husband Joe, retired in November 1998. Judy was a Quality Assurance Specialist I.

EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT



Doug Nielsen, left, Division Head, presents a 20-year service award to Kenneth Parker, Equipment Specialist.



Doug Nielsen, Division Head, presents a 20-year service award to Mike Dudoich, Division Office Manager.



Sue Luce, Equipment and Procurement Office Administrative Assistant I, receives a 10-year service award.

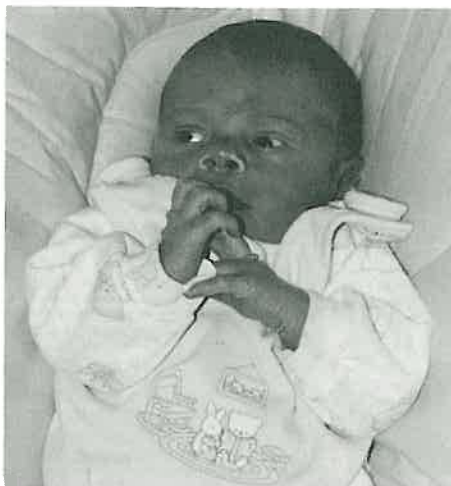


Teri McConnell, Equipment and Procurement Office Administrative Assistant I, receives a 5-year service award.

HIGHWAY POLICE



Kimberly Martin, daughter of Pfc. Roy and Mona Martin, was selected Sophomore Homecoming Queen at Harrison High School.



Hunter Michael Worthington Choate, born November 20, 1998, is the son of Pfc. Tim and Janet Choate of Blevins.



Andrew Dylan Dover, born June 4, 1998, is the son of Jon and Caryn Dover and the grandchild of Joe Wheat, Permit Technician.



Delilah Ann Dover, born December 1, 1998, is the daughter of Jerald and Mary Dover and the grandchild of Joe Wheat, Permit Technician.

LEGAL



Kennedy Nicole, born October 6, 1998, is the first child of Mark Leveritt, Staff Attorney.

MAINTENANCE



James Hastings, left, Carpenter, receives a 20-year service award from Allan Loring, Sign Shop Supervisor.



Garland Land, Jr., left, Heavy Bridge Engineer, presents a 10-year service award to Clifford Roland, Bridge Repairer II.



Tony Sullivan, left, Staff Traffic Engineer, presents a 5-year service award to Belinda Bulloch, Office Administrative Assistant III.



Robyn and Megan Ritchie, daughters of Bill Ritchie, Heavy Bridge Maintenance Supervisor, are both cheerleaders for Ola High School and recently participated in the Citrus Bowl at Orlando, Florida.



Andrew Riley Casto is the grandson of Brian Casto, Materials Geotechnical Specialist.

PLANNING & RESEARCH



Zack Dickson, son of Senior Traffic Investigator Danny and Cindy Moore, was selected Most Valuable Player for the Bryant Junior High School Mustangs.



Myles Colton Neighbors is the son of Office Administrative Assistant III Sheila and Howard Neighbors.



Scotty Hesselbein, Reproduction Technician, received a 20-year service certificate and pin in August 1998.

RIGHT OF WAY



Right of Way Service Awards
L-R: Ralph Williams, Senior Utilities Coordinator, 25 years; Reda Webb, Office Administrative Assistant III, 15 years; Sheryl Fletcher, Office Administrative Assistant V, 15 years

MATERIALS



Sarah Raines, daughter of District Materials Supervisor Earl Raines, was married January 2 to Noah Lee.

PROGRAMS & CONTRACTS



Roy Douglas, left, Program Administration Section Head, presents a 20-year service award to Laura DeBro-Carter, Advanced Programs and Contracts Specialist.



Robin and Bryant Arendt
Bryant is the son of Relocation Section Head Danny and Connie Arendt.



Alexis Reanne is the daughter of Chris and Tiffany Colford and the first grandchild of Appraisal Section Head Bob and Pat Colford.



Ashley Nicole, born October 23, 1998, is the daughter of Claude Klinck, Staff Design Engineer, and his wife Bobbie.



District One 15-Year Service Awards
L-R: Rommie Harris, Monroe County Maintenance Aide II; W.C. Irby, District Headquarters Guard

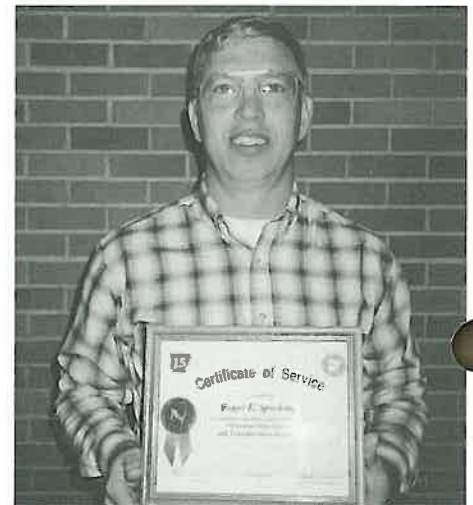


Cassie Lee Eskew, 11-year-old daughter of Plans Designer I Jan Wiles, was first runner-up in the Little Miss Beebe FHA pageant October 24 and second runnerup in the Holiday of Lights pageant November 21.

DISTRICT ONE



District One Retirees
L-R: Dan Marrs, Street Sweeper Operator and James Fourthman, Area Headquarters Attendant, both retired with 20+ years service.



Roger Specking, Bridge Job Superintendent, receives a 15-year service award.

ROADWAY DESIGN



Roadway Design Service Awards
L-R: Scott Fisher, Hydraulic Design Engineer, 5 years; Frank Bray, Sr. Design Engineer, 10 years; Eric Phillips, Staff Traffic Engineer, 25 years



Billy McGuire, Stockroom Supervisor, receives a 20-year service award.



Albert Brady, Lee County Distributor/Roller Operator, receives a 5-year service award.



James Barte', Resident Office Technician, receives a 5-year service award.

DISTRICT TWO



Louise and John Harris, Jr.

Retired District 2 Engineer John Harris, Jr. died January 15, 1999 at the age of 89. Mr. Harris began his career with the Department in 1928 while attending the University of Arkansas. In 1932 he became a full-time employee and was promoted to District 2 Engineer in 1959 holding that position until his retirement on April 2, 1976 with 45 years of service.



Melvin Phillips, retired Chicot County Area Maintenance Supervisor, died December 26, 1998 at the age of 47.



District One 10-Year Service Awards

L-R: Sylvester Williams, Monroe County Motor Patrol Operator; Albert Holloway, Crittenden County General Laborer; David Morgan, Woodruff County Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator; William Johnson, Lee County Motor Patrol Operator/Finish



District One 10-Year Service Awards

L-R: Roy Rolland, Districtwide sealing crew Distributor Operator; Carnel Coleman, Districtwide sealing crew Multi-Axle Truck Driver; Troy Tims, Woodruff County Maintenance Aide I



John Turley, left, Lead Person, receives a 20-year service award from Grant County Area Maintenance Supervisor Paul Griffith.



Jim Briley, left, District 2 Engineer, presents Scott Mullis, District Construction Engineer, a 15-year service award.



Ernie Westfall, left, District Maintenance Engineer, presents Jimmy Johnson, Ashley County Area Maintenance Supervisor, a 15-year service award.



Ben Novack, Inspector for the Pine Bluff Residency, is shown with his grandson, Jake Edward Tomboli, born October 3, 1998.



Caitlyn Alexis Ball is the granddaughter of Lee Strange, Jefferson County Single Axle Truck Driver.



The Jefferson County maintenance crew

DISTRICT THREE



Kenny Fore, left, Crew Leader, receives a 20-year service certificate from Bill Callicott, Area Maintenance Supervisor.



Debbie Stueart, Crew Leader, receives a 20-year service award from Ronnie Garner, District Maintenance Engineer.



Curtis Hill, left, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, receives a 15-year service award from Ronnie Garner, District Maintenance Engineer.



Melvin Wylie, left, Motor Patrol Operator, receives a 10-year service award from Jim Rhodes, Asst. Maintenance Superintendent.



William Turner, left, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, receives a 5-year service award from Ronnie Garner, District Maint. Engineer.



Jarah Shipman, daughter of Nashville Residency Inspector Dave and Brenda Shipman, was named Grand Champion-Junior Division, Bred and Owned, and Open Show; First Place in Brahman Division Showmanship and FFA Division at the 1998 Arkansas State Fair.

Tabitha Tenae Taylor was named Miss Miller County Fair Queen and Miss Southwest Arkansas District Queen in 1998. She is the daughter of Texarkana Residency Senior Inspector Jim and Peggy Owenby.

DISTRICT FOUR



District Engineer Harold Beaver, left, presents a 20-year service award to Dean Nichols, Waldron Resident Engineer.



Aubrey Bowen, left, Shop Supervisor, presents a 15-year service award to Robert Marsh, Station Attendant II.



Aldon Hughes, left, Senior Inspector, receives a 15-year service award from Waldron Resident Engineer Dean Nichols.



Resident Engineer Bashar Qedan, left, presents Ernest Schlaefli, Construction Aide I, a 10-year service award.



Ray Jeff, left, Scott County Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents Jack Yancey, Motor Patrol Operator, a 10-year service award.



Karen Strunk, Field Clerk I, holds her new grandson, Conner James Sutton.

DISTRICT FIVE



Edwin Chaney, left, Distributor/Roller Operator, receives a 20-year service award from District Engineer Lyndal Waits.



Mia McKinney, born August 18, 1998, is the grandchild of Norma McKinney, Office Administrative Assistant V.

DISTRICT SIX



District Six 20-Year Service Awards
L-R Seated: Charles Crain, Patricia Blair, John Robbins, William Nickels, Al Langhorn. Back Row: District Engineer Leonard Hall, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson, Commissioner Prissy Hickerson and Director Dan Flowers



Chloe Camille Thornton, born May 22, 1998, is the daughter of Hot Springs Assistant Resident Engineer Kevin and Cheryl Thornton.

DISTRICT EIGHT



District Eight 10-Year Service Awards
L-R: Dwight Huie, Van Buren County Single Axle Truck Driver; Neil Ford, Conway County Area Maintenance Supervisor

DISTRICT NINE



Kenneth Kinney, Maintenance Aide II, retired from the Garfield Area Headquarters in August 1998.



Joe Davidson, left, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor, presents a 20-year service award to Lawrence Drewry, District Caretaker.



**District Nine Service Awards
Melvin Raney, Storeroom Assistant II, 15 years;
James "Butch" Fancher, District Bridge Inspector, 20 years**



Amanda Eidson, age 8, is the daughter of Terry and Heather Eidson. Terry is a Motor Patrol Operator at Garfield.



Victoria Lane Campbell, born November 3, 1998, is the daughter of Leslie and Warren Campbell and the granddaughter of Sr. Body Repairer and Painter Larry and LaVita Richard.

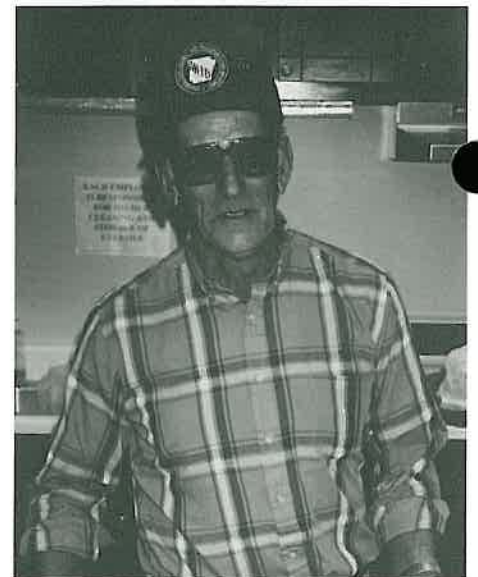


Tanner Young, born September 15, 1998, is the son of Yellville Residency Inspector Tim and Polly Young.

DISTRICT TEN



Leonard Nelson, Assistant Maintenance Supervisor, retired October 21, 1998 after 40+ years of service.



Calvin Douglas, Senior Body Repairer and Painter, retired with 25+ years service.



Darsha Tipton is the new District Receptionist.



**BUCKLED, SOBER
AND SAFE**

**Remember!
It is Arkansas Law
and AHTD Policy
To Buckle Your Seatbelt!**



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& TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT**

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