



Arkansas Highways

FALL 2001

Director's Message

September 11, 2001, is a day that changed our nation and our lives forever. Tragedies of this nature naturally create a concern among all of us for the safety and security of our citizens.

For some time now, the Department has been in the process of reviewing our current security system and developing plans for improvements. These plans are in various stages of development and have been designed to provide a more secure work environment for our employees.

Currently, the Highway Police Division has significantly increased inspections of hazardous material transports through Arkansas and are maintaining a more vigilant watch of critical transportation structures such as major bridges, tunnels, etc. Highway Police officers are also maintaining security at the Central Office Complex. Other security measures for all Department facilities will be implemented as appropriate.

In spite of our concerns over recent events, there are accomplishments of a more positive nature on which to focus.

For instance, our Interstate Rehabilitation Program is on schedule with 11 projects completed and 23 more under construction. And the program's informational campaign "Pave the Way" has been recognized with the following five national awards: ARTBA Work Zone Safety; ARTBA Pride in Construction; AASHTO Public Affairs Skills Award; the International Association of Business Communicators Bronze Quill Award of Excellence; and the AASHTO President's Award.

We can all take pride in these significant achievements.



DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION



ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS

FALL 2001

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION



JOHN "M" LIPTON
CHAIRMAN



J.W. "BUDDY"
BENFIELD
VICE CHAIRMAN



PRISSY
HICKERSON
MEMBER



JONATHAN
BARNETT
MEMBER



CARL S.
ROSENBAUM
MEMBER

ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS is published biannually by and for employees of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department as a medium of departmental news and other information. Correspondence and material should be directed to ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs, P.O. Box 2261, Room 1004, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261. ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS is distributed free to the public upon request and to all Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department employees.

EDITOR
Randy Ort

COMPOSITION & LAYOUT
Carolyn Johnson

WRITERS
Victor Turner
Glenn Bolick
Farrell Wilson

PHOTOGRAPHER
John Jackson



ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS
IS PRINTED ON
RECYCLED PAPER WITH SOYBEAN INK

ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS

*Biannual publication of the
Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department
P. O. Box 2261 • Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261*

VOLUME 47 • NUMBER 2 • FALL 2001

CONTENTS

FEATURES

An Interview with Commissioner Carl S. Rosenbaum.....	2
AGC Awards Dan Flowers S.I.R. Award.....	8
Materials Testing Facility Dedicated.....	10
Interstate Work Zone Safety Promoted.....	12
Highway Commission Holds Historic Meetings.....	15
Highway Police Graduates 28 New Officers.....	16
IRIS - A New Level of Commercial Vehicle Inspection.....	17
Highway Police Presented National Awards.....	18
Equipment Operators' 2001 <u>Rodeo</u>	19
Dedications:	
Highway 64 Bridge at Augusta.....	21
Ground Broken for Gravette Overpass.....	21
Public Hearings:	
Highway 5 at Mountain Home.....	22
Highway 63B in Jonesboro.....	22
Interstate 530 and Great River Road Scenic Byways.....	22
Highway 63 (Hardy Bypass).....	23
Highway 112 in Fayetteville.....	23
2001 High School and College Graduates.....	24

OTHER ARTICLES

Director's Message.....	Inside Front Cover
Letters.....	28
In Memory.....	35
Around the Department.....	36

COVER PHOTO: U.S. Highway 412 in Benton County. Photo by John Jackson.
BACK COVER PHOTO: State Highway 263 in Stone County. Photo by John Jackson.



An Interview With Commissioner Carl S. Rosenbaum



Carl S. Rosenbaum was appointed to a 10-year term on the Arkansas State Highway Commission by Governor Mike Huckabee on December 14, 2000. He was sworn in as a Commissioner on January 16, 2001 and will serve until January 2011. A native of Little Rock, Rosenbaum is chairman of Safe Foods Corporation in North Little Rock and Arkansas Glass Container Corporation in Jonesboro. In an interview in September with Public Affairs Officer Randy Ort, Rosenbaum reflects on the progress and accomplishments of the Highway and Transportation Department.

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

ROSENBAUM: I was honored that he asked me to become a Commissioner. In 1996 he asked me to consider serving on the Arkansas Department of Economic Development Commission and, frankly, I wanted to serve on the Highway Commission at that time. The Governor convinced me that the Economic Development Commission was the best opportunity to serve the state. It was a great training ground for the Highway Commission because they interconnect the infrastructures. I learned a lot during that time about the need for better highways in our state.

ORT: *What was it about the job of Highway Commissioner that made the appointment appealing to you?*

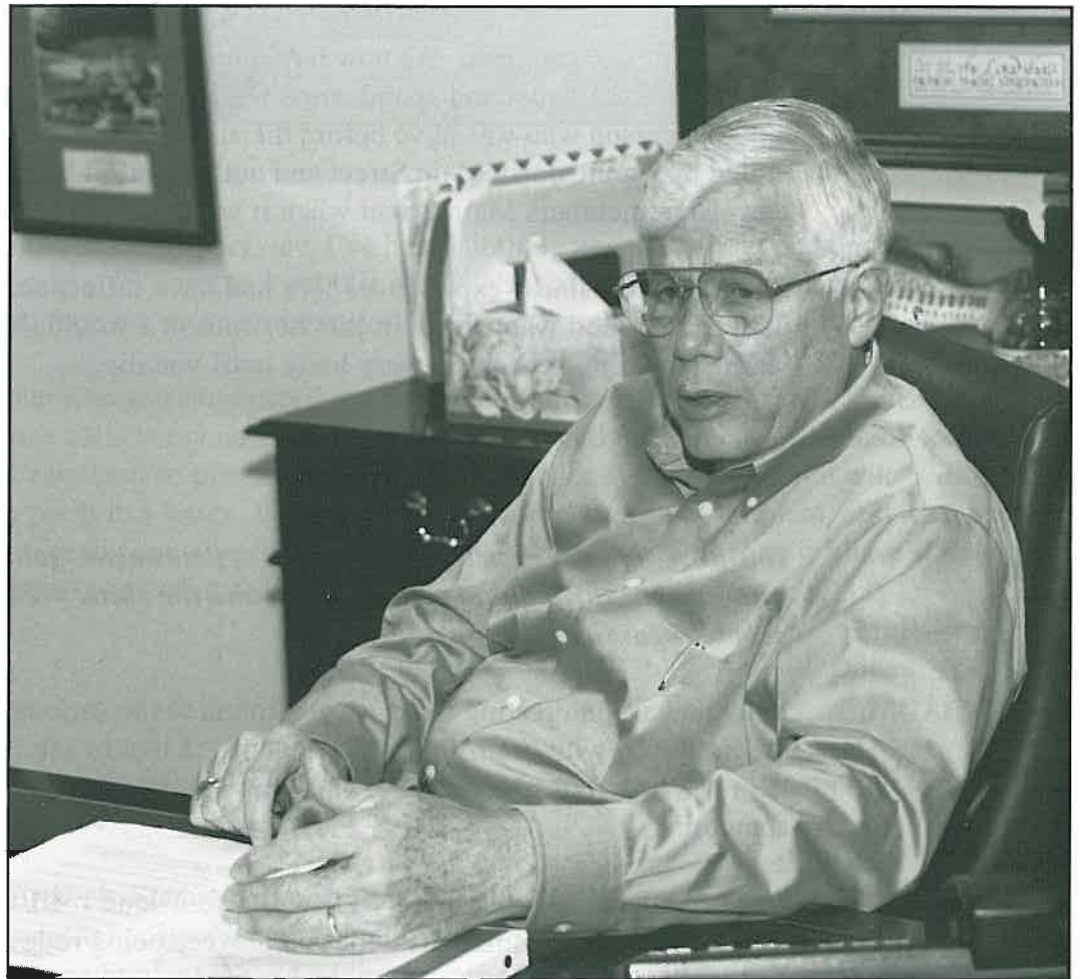
ROSENBAUM: I find that the position of Highway Commissioner is that of service. It's almost like

politics because politicians call you all the time wanting something. But you know what's interesting, when you do what's right, and then you don't have to worry about the politics.

When I was 15 years old my first job was with the Highway Department. My father was a good friend of Sid McMath. So Governor McMath thought it would be a good idea to have a number of junior and high school boys working out on the highways. There were about 10 of us and we worked three summers. The first summer we cut weeds on the Jacksonville Highway to North Little Rock.

The second summer we painted bridges all over Pulaski County. We were on one of the old bridges painting a steel beam on top of the bridge and somehow paint dropped on the cars passing under the bridge. Needless to say, we were not allowed to paint tall bridges the rest of the summer.

The third summer my twin brother and I worked at the District 6 Shop in North Little Rock. All summer we recorded inventory for the Department. To this day I don't like to count nuts, bolts and tires.



Back to your original question of the appointment to the Highway Commission. I'm on a mission with the Highway Department. I feel that the responsibility of the Commissioners, is working together, for one goal. To make sure the highway funds are used to improve and build highways that meet the needs of all Arkansans.

ORT: *You have a wide variety of business interests. How will your experience help you as a member of the Highway Commission?*

ROSENBAUM: I'm glad you asked that. I've sold stocks and bonds, boats, airplanes, commodes, chemicals, glass, heavy equipment, drill bits, steel, dynamite, industrial supplies – just about everything. I'm on nine commissions or boards. Most of them meet once or twice a year, but some of them meet once a month. I'm very involved in the Rotary International and I want to keep that up because it's very special to me. It's given me opportunities to meet people all over the world.

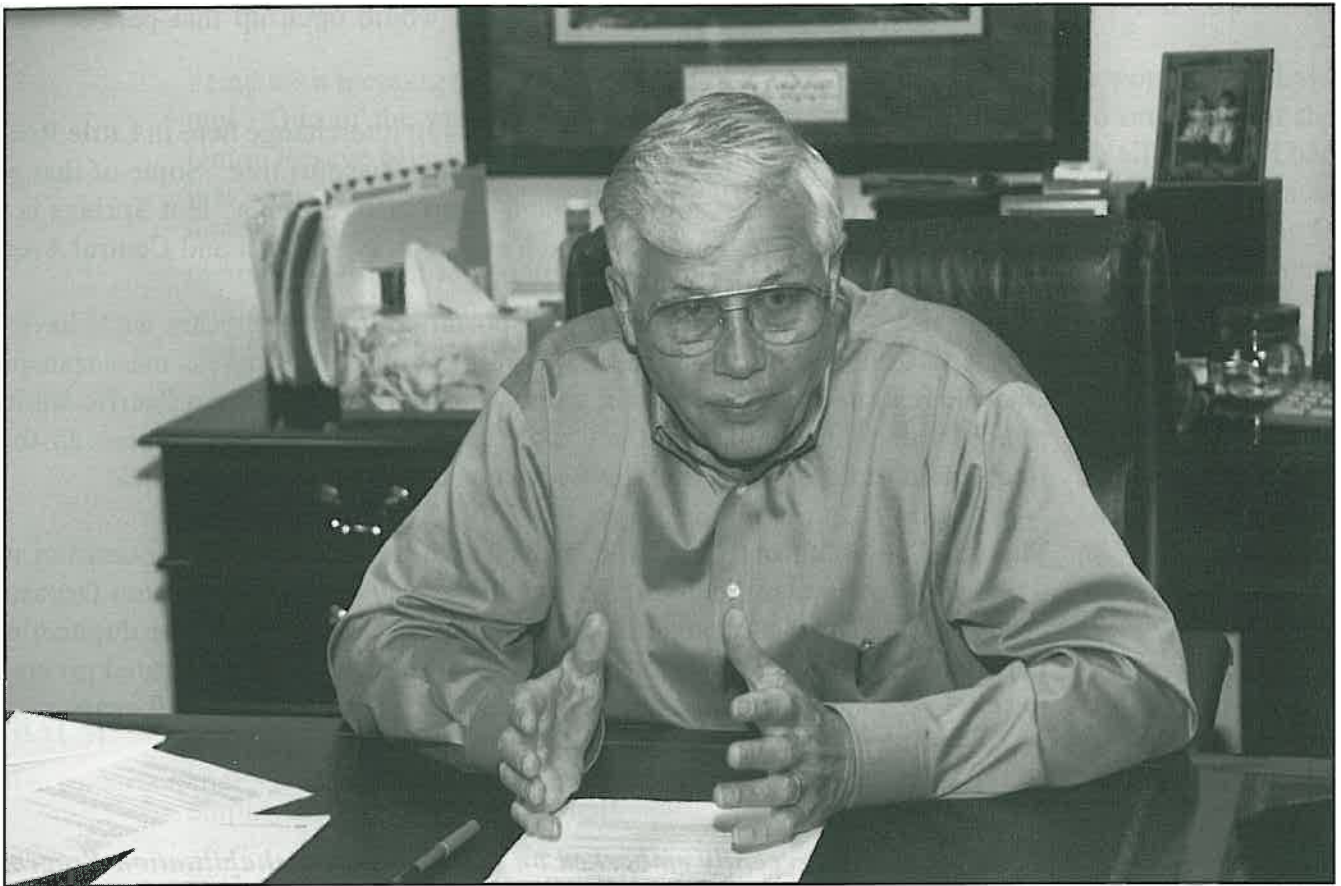
I've learned a lot from people. My father is here today – he's 102 and he's in great health. He was a surgeon for 40 years and retired in 1970. Being a surgeon is very time consuming, therefore, I really didn't get to understand my father's ideals and beliefs until after his retirement. We now have an office for him and he comes in about twice a day, reads the paper and spends time with me in the office. How often do you get to talk to a person who was alive before the automobile? He remembers a streetcar being pulled by a mule down Main Street and out to Central High School when he was a little boy. He remembers Main Street when it was just cobblestone.

So, yes, the business experiences I've had have influenced my thinking. And I really believe that God wanted me in this position or I wouldn't be here. I believe you can learn something new from every body until you die.

ORT: *You have been very active since your appointment, going to meetings and visiting with citizens throughout your districts and the state. What are you hearing from the people regarding highway needs?*

ROSENBAUM: You know it's interesting when we go around to the various groups in Arkansas. People are not timid with their highway problems. I like to ask people up front, how can we help you? It's like your doctor asking what's wrong with you – you are going to tell him something.

Most Arkansans want a road widened, a four-lane road, shoulders on a road, etc. I haven't heard any comments about employees being rude or not responding to a need, and that's unusual. However, I have heard about delays, but that's to be expected. So,



in the nine months of service, I've heard nothing negative about personnel, and the only question is – "When can I get this road?" But after you sit them down and explain the process, they are more understanding.

The other Commissioners tell me they get phone calls every day from citizens. I don't get phone calls every day. But when people do call me and have a need of some kind, I always ask them to put it in a letter. It's amazing at the few people who will take the time to put it in a letter. I believe that when someone has a problem, and it's a problem that they really are sincere about, they will put it in a letter. Then if I have it in writing, we know exactly what they want, and can hopefully meet their need.

ORT:

What are some priorities you would like to see met during your tenure on the Highway Commission?

ROSENBAUM:

The Northbelt Freeway in northern Pulaski County, that's one project I'd like to see built. Another project would be to take Highway 167 and four-lane it from Batesville to the Missouri border. We are adding passing lanes to some of that right now. People go

where they have good roads and four lanes would open up that part of the state to visitors.

We've got to do something about the I-630/I-430 interchange here in Little Rock. Also, I'd like to see Highway 67 go all the way to the Missouri line. Some of that project is already under contract. Another problem area is Hot Springs. Hot Springs is growing and we've got to address problems such as Highway 70 West and Central Avenue.

I didn't use to be in favor of mass transportation, but in 15 years we'll have 750,000 people in Central Arkansas and we are going to have to progress mass transportation. One suggestion is to lease a train with two cars from the Union Pacific Railroad and transport once in the morning and once in the evening for commuters in the Cabot/Beebe area to Little Rock and the Benton/Malvern area to Little Rock.

This may be going out on a limb, but I'd like to see all the transportation modes in Arkansas come under the umbrella of the Highway and Transportation Department. It needs to be oriented and integrated together because then we won't be duplicating needs. I envision highways, water, rail, and air - everything - being integrated giving synergy to state transportation. That's some of what I'd like to see in my 10 years.

ORT:

The Commission recently embarked on the Interstate Rehabilitation Program (IRP) partially financed by bonds. This was the Commission's first use of bonds for highway construction in nearly 50 years. What are your thoughts on debt financing, and what other types of innovative financing might the Commission consider?

ROSENBAUM:

I'm glad you asked that. I think toll roads are inevitable. Toll roads may be in Northwest Arkansas on the Bella Vista Bypass and on the Northbelt Freeway here in Pulaski County. The information we have right now is that they would be the most feasible highways in the state as toll roads.

I think the GARVEE bonds will continue - I'd like to see us roll them over and do some more good work. We need to do something to help fund roads. It is needed, and if we had the money, we would build it. We've got to find money we can spend in the state on projects like Highway 412, I-69, and I-49. But we've got to spread it around to meet the needs of all our citizens.

ORT:

As you have already discovered, being a Highway Commissioner can be very time-consuming. How has the appointment affected your business and personal activities?

ROSENBAUM:

It has rejuvenated my life. I believe you need to be busy. My hobby is people. I found out that God put us in this world to help people. He's given us special gifts and special talents to be used to help others. So as far as being busy, that doesn't bother me. Even

though I don't have the stamina I used to have, I feel rejuvenated.

I find it's a blessing to go to places and talk to people that I otherwise would never have met. One of the greatest things that has happened to me happened one night at the Union Rescue Mission. There were six fellows who had been working all day, and I had just come from a meeting at the Capital Hotel. I came down to the Mission to meet with these fellows for a bible study. It occurred to me that I'd rather be there talking to them than with those people at the Capital Hotel. I told them that I never thought in my wildest dream that I'd rather be with them than with all those dignitaries. I told them that God had sent me to talk to them. Boy, you should have seen their faces.

So being on the Commission has been very exciting for me. Like I said, it's rejuvenated me.

ORT: *You have had the opportunity to meet and visit with many Department employees so far. What has been your impression of the AHTD staff?*

ROSENBAUM: What I've tried to do, and will continue to do, is go through the entire Department to try to meet everybody. I can't say enough good about our employees. I have found the employees to be very competent.

If there's anything negative about the Commission, it's the separation between the Commission and the employees. I try to get to know people because I know if I were an employee, I'd like to know the Commissioners.

You know, without our employees, we wouldn't have the Highway Department. We've got approximately 250 engineers. If we can't give them a good place to work and if we can't pay them well, they are going to go someplace else. In fact, I was told that we have more professional engineers than any organization in the State of Arkansas. In order to keep those people and to keep all our good employees, we have to make sure they have good place to work, a place they are proud of. I want them to be happy about coming to work.

I've also been impressed with the character of the employees. I have not met a single employee that wasn't cordial. Out of over 3000 employees we have, you know something good happens every day they are interacting with the public. I want to commend and encourage these actions.

ORT: *Is there anything else you want to add or discuss?*

ROSENBAUM: It's like I said earlier, I really believe that God wanted me in this position or I wouldn't be here. God prepares us and we have to be available every day. These first nine months have been great, and I look forward to the next nine years.

Dan Flowers Awarded S.I.R. Award by Arkansas Chapter of Associated General Contractors

Over 200 members and guests of the Arkansas Chapter of Associated General Contractors honored Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Director Dan Flowers with the organization's Skill, Integrity, Responsibility (S.I.R.) Award on August 1, 2001. Flowers is the 21st recipient of the prestigious award. It is only given when AGC determines that there is a deserving person who has made outstanding contributions to the industry.

Keynoting the event with a collection of poignant and humorous stories of his life in politics as an Arkansan, former Senator Dale Bumpers recalled his early memories of working with Highway Commissioner



Dan Flowers, second from left, with his family at the AGC reception



AHTD Director Dan Flowers, left, accepts the S.I.R. award from Don Weaver.

J.W. "Buddy" Benafield and his unreserved admiration and respect for Dan Flowers. Bumpers also complimented the AGC on their choice for the S.I.R. Award and stated, "Hard working, dedication, honesty, integrity... those traits have never been questioned. The people of Arkansas, the Highway Commission and the employees of the Department benefit from his consuming concern."

AGC-Arkansas Vice President and Highway Division Chairman Don Weaver pointed out that Director Flowers has proven himself to be a responsible leader and skillful decision maker throughout his 30+ years of service at the

Highway Department. "Dan has always been fair, ... he's always there to listen, ... and, when a problem comes up, he says 'do the right thing,' and that is always the right thing to do," said Weaver. Before presenting the large trophy depicting a man determinedly looking ahead and rolling up his sleeve with engineering plans in hand, Weaver's remarks focused on the positive influence Flowers has had on creating a successful working relationship with contractors for the Highway Department. "When Dan Flowers took over as Director, the relationship between the AGC and Department wasn't all that good. Thanks to the hard work of Dan and people like Tommy Fish, Bill Johnston and David McClinton, we have enjoyed a very good relationship over the last 6 or 7 years," added Weaver.

Director Flowers graciously accepted the award saying, "I haven't done a whole lot that I didn't have a whole lot of help on." First recognizing his wife, Sara, and his mother and children, Flowers then thanked many others who have helped him build a successful career with the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department.

"I also want to recognize the Highway Commission. We have an appointed system of Commissioners here in Arkansas and it's the best system in the country," said Flowers. "And now to the people I spend more time with than I do my family-my fellow employees. We are fortunate that we have very dedicated employees working on

who gave him his first job as a summer employee, to the many friends and mentors such as John Tallant, Billy Cooper, Henry Gray, and Maurice Smith who have inspired his development along the way, Flowers said "We are also very fortunate to have the agency/industry relationship that we have. We have made a lot of progress."

Recalling a story from his early career, Flowers displayed his first hard hat - an aluminum model he explained, had a lot of "wear and tear" from work in the field as a Resident Engineer alongside Joe Barnett, currently the Department's District 10 Engineer. "I wasn't always as cooperative as apparently I am now," added Director Flowers with a smile.

He also recognized others with the AGC who have worked with him over the years. Director Flowers said, "These people are the core of the legacy and the tradition. Many have followed in their footsteps but they were the ones that made things work."

Wrapping up his remarks before a sea of personal handshakes and well-wishes he added, "What we do is important. I'm proud to be a part of it, and proud to be recognized for this award."



Flowers as he reminisces about his first Department hard hat.

behalf of the people of Arkansas."

From his very first influences such as George Cavaness, the District Engineer at Batesville

AHTD Materials Testing Facility Dedicated in June

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) held a dedication ceremony at 10:30 a.m., on Thursday, June 7, 2001, at the newly constructed Materials Building Complex in Little Rock.

The 55,000 square foot state-of-the art laboratory facility, which is utilized for testing highway materials, is considered one of the finest facilities of its kind in the

country, according to Department officials. "We visited many other laboratories around the country prior to designing this facility.

We have incorporated into this building the best of what we found in the other facilities," stated AHTD Director Dan Flowers.

The \$8.4 million complex houses six laboratory sections, administrative offices, a modernized training room with

complete audio and video equipment, and a library/conference room. In addition to the laboratory facilities, the building is also state-of-the art from a mechanical and electrical engineering standpoint. "This facility is a mechanical engineering showcase," said Ralph Hall, Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations. The building is equipped with computer controlled fume and dust



Front view of the administrative office of the Materials testing facility



Commission Chairman John "M" Lipton, center with large scissors, along with Director Dan Flowers, and Commissioners J.W. "Buddy" Benafield, Prissy Hickerson and Jonathan Barnett and members of the Brian Grant family cut the ribbon to formally open the new Materials Building.

collection systems, noise and dust control for each material testing station, specialized moisture and temperature control systems, and computer controlled temperature zone capabilities for each lab section.

Although the Materials Complex is considered second to none by Department standards, the building's cost was below projections. "We were pleased that we were able to get a facility like this built below budget. It is

both a very functional facility and visually appealing as well," added Flowers.

The AHTD Materials Laboratory provides inspections, testing and approval of all materials used in highway construction and maintenance. The laboratory is certified by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), which is a requirement for performing material tests on federal-aid highway projects.

As part of the dedication ceremony, a dogwood tree was planted on the grounds of the facility in memory of Brian Grant, who had a fatal accident during construction of the building. Many members of the Grant family were on hand for the momentous occasion.

Construction began on the building in November 1999 and was completed in February 2001. Cromwell Architects Engineers of Little Rock designed the facility and Flynco, Inc., of Little Rock was the general contractor.



Mike Limbird, Staff Materials Engineer, leads Highway Commission members Jonathan Barnett, Prissy Hickerson, Buddy Benafield and John Lipton, along with members of the media, on an in-depth tour of the different laboratories in the Materials Building.



Reggie Cobb, center, Materials Technician IV, explains tests performed in the Geotechnical/Soils Laboratory.



Rebuilding Arkansas
Interstates

Campaign Continues to Promote Interstate Work Zone Safety

In just six months time, the AHTD's *Pave The Way* public information campaign has a number of successes to look back upon, yet is a safety effort still considered in its early stages. Since its premier on April 4, 2001, the campaign continues to achieve the goal of providing information about the Interstate Rehabilitation Program (IRP) and statewide construction locations for motorists throughout Arkansas as well

as surrounding states. Whether they are at home planning a trip or already traveling, *Pave The Way* provides a broad range of resources such as printed brochures, the ArkansasInterstates.com website, a wallet card, posters at Tourist Information Centers and rest areas, standard and electronic work zone signage and a network of 12' x 24' roadside signs and Highway Advisory Radio (HAR)

broadcasts at eight Interstate locations at state borders and leaving the Little Rock area.

"Right now, it is critical for motorists to think ahead in order to get through this construction period as smoothly as possible," said Dan Flowers, AHTD Director. "Let's focus on a positive vision for the future mobility and prosperity of Arkansans, as well as smart driving strategies for the present."

Evidence of the *Pave The Way*

campaign's success in encouraging motorists to "Think Ahead" includes frequent reports by AHTD staff that Interstate construction zone traffic is moving smoothly due to motorists merging left quickly, a standard work zone configuration established statewide.

Frequent conversations overheard by public officials and citizens of commu-



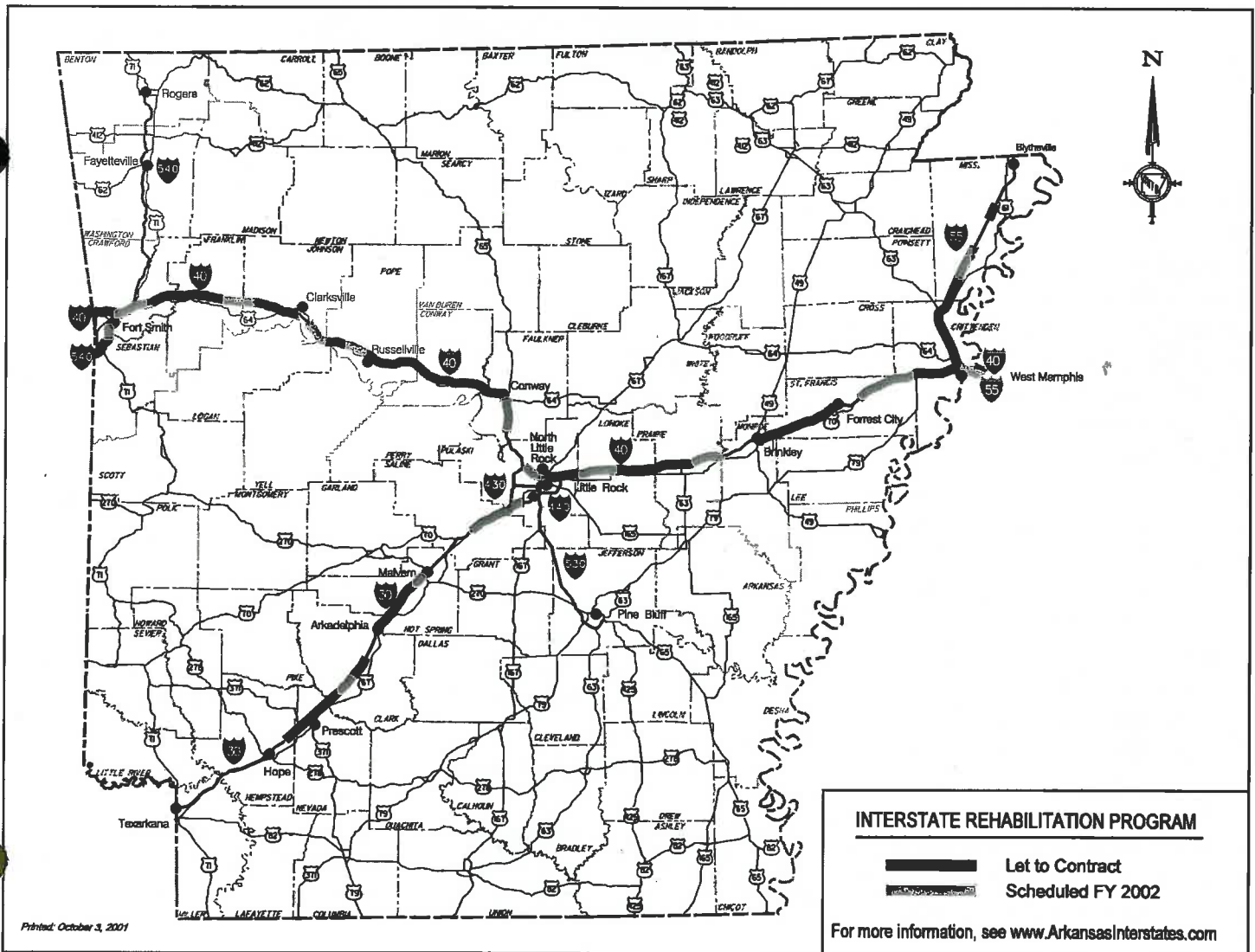
Commission Chairman John Lipton speaks at the media event for the first IRP completed job at Lonoke.

unities surrounding the Interstates offer a positive outlook that the construction program will be worth the inconvenience with safer and smoother Interstates in Arkansas' near future.

The *Pave The Way* campaign has earned national recognition as an exemplary work zone safety program since its inception. Two prestigious honors, the "Pride in Transportation Construction Award" and the "Roadway Work Zone Safety Award" were judged and awarded by the American Road and Transportation Builders Association

Construction Status Interstate Rehabilitation Program as of December 2001:

34 projects let to contract	237 miles	\$523.4 million
• 12 projects let – FY 2000	82 miles	\$163.1 million
• 21 projects let – FY 2001	155 miles	\$360.3 million
• 11 projects completed	79 miles	\$133.8 million
 19 projects programmed for FY 2002 143 miles		
\$415.3 million		
 53 projects total		
380 miles		
\$938.7 million		



(ARTBA) just as the campaign was launched. "With less than one month of results to report since kicking off our *Pave The Way* campaign, we are especially honored that ARTBA sees our program's potential to save lives and prevent collisions right from the start," said Highway Commission Chairman John "M" Lipton. "We hope this national honor will enhance our campaign's visibility in Arkansas as a construction safety effort that really works." More recently, the campaign's "Highway Guy" 30-second radio series was given a first place recognition among all American State Highway and Transportation Departments at the AASHTO National Public Affairs Workshop in August.

The Arkansas Chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) selected *Pave The Way* as its first place winner of the Bronze Quill Award in the Public Affairs Campaign category for creative excellence in a plan representing the full range of a communicator's management skills. And lastly, the campaign received the prestigious 2001 AASHTO President's Transportation Award in Highway Traffic Safety for being an example of the "best of the best" in Highway and Transportation Department communications.

Partnerships with media have proven successful as measurable results reached nearly 2,200 inches of newspaper and magazine stories, untold hours of commercial radio with news and airtime of the "Highway Guy" radio spots



Commissioners Prissy Hickerson and J.W. "Buddy" Benafield spread wildflowers seeds along the shoulders of the newly completed Interstate 40 project at Lonoke.

and almost one hour of TV coverage across the state. Many news, government and business organizations have placed a direct link to ArkansasInterstates.com through their own websites contributing to the site receiving more than 44,000 visitors by mid-August and an average of 323 visits per day. Over 4,000 subscribers have signed up for the AHTD monthly *Interstate Update* email/fax newsletter to date.

Ongoing announcements and progress reports of completed projects and targeted communication efforts for frequent Interstate travelers will represent the second phase of the campaign's development.

A sports-related travel plan was launched in the fall of 2001 and informed fans as well as

coaches about the resources *Pave The Way* provides to get to their games on-time in a safe manner.

Community-based communications are gearing up for major construction areas such as West Memphis and Little Rock as these have extensive projects affecting the most significant numbers of travelers and surrounding communities.

Specific communication strategies are also in development for the Interstates' heaviest users. Resources for general business and industry, as well as the transportation, emergency management and travel/tourism industries will be underway soon to assist in redistribution of *Pave The Way* information to employees or customers whose lifestyles include frequent Interstate travel.

Highway Commission Holds Historic Meetings

The Arkansas Highway Commission continued its efforts to reach out to other transportation stakeholders by holding historic meetings with two important organizations in September.

On September 17-18, 2001, the City of Hope served as the setting for a meeting of the Arkansas Highway Commission and the Arkansas Economic Development Commission. It was the first-ever meeting of the two organizations. The purpose was to discuss their respective roles and functions, and to better understand how the organizations could collaborate and create opportunities to work together on projects.

As part of the two-day agenda, both Commissions met with local officials, plant managers, community college representatives and the host Hempstead County Economic Development Corporation to discuss transportation and economic development issues in their region and the state. On Tuesday, Governor Mike Huckabee addressed a joint meeting of the Commissions at the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope Student Center.

AHTD Director Dan Flowers stated, "The opportunity to join forces with an organization like the Arkansas Economic Development Commission is

certainly a positive venture. It's quite obvious that job creation and transportation are major parts in the engine that drives the State of Arkansas' economy."

One week later, on Tuesday, September 25, the Commission met with the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Trucking Association at the Capital Hotel in Little Rock. Again, it was the first meeting between the two organizations.

The meeting served as an opportunity for the two groups to meet face to face to discuss issues such as highway funding and priorities. While the two are often regarded as adversaries, the meeting provided an opportunity to discuss positive

issues the groups share in common.

"Highways are our responsibility, and highways are your livelihood," said Commission Chairman John Lipton. "It stands to reason that we should work together on important issues."

Both meetings opened important doors that the Commission hopes to keep open. "This year, we've met with our Congressional delegation, the AEDC, and the truckers," Lipton said. "This Commission thinks it's vitally important that we all work together, particularly on funding issues, to ensure that we continue to make much-needed progress on our highways."

Highway Commission Signs Partnership Agreement with Arkansas Asphalt Pavement Association

On Tuesday, August 21, 2001, at the Riverfront Hilton Hotel in North Little Rock, the Arkansas Highway Commission and the Arkansas Asphalt Pavement Association (AAPA) signed a partnership agreement formalizing their relationship in Arkansas' transportation arena.

The partnership agreement between the organizations marked a renewed emphasis by the Highway Commission to develop relationships with organizations that can assist in meeting the transportation needs of Arkansas.

"We certainly feel that the AAPA is an integral part of the success of highway construction in this state. This signing just formalizes a relationship our organizations have been building over the years," commented Dan Flowers, AHTD Director.

Highway Police Graduates 28 New Officers

The Highway Police Division of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department held graduation ceremonies on October 9, 2001, for 28 new officers. The recruits completed an intensive training program spanning several weeks prior to taking the oath. The new officers join 186 other uniformed men and women that make up the AHP.

The ceremony took place at the Baca Auditorium at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock. Commission Chairman John "M" Lipton, Director Dan Flowers, and Highway Police Chief Ron Burks gave remarks at the event.

"I would like to commend our graduates for their dedication in completing their initial training and commitment to make Arkan-

sas highways a safer mode of travel," stated Flowers. "In light of the events of September 11 and the continuing threat of terrorism to our nation, I would like to thank our officers for the often unrecognized work they do on a day-to-day basis to guarantee the public's safety," added Flowers.

Commissioner Lipton noted the Highway Police's long and illustrious history mentioned on the graduation program and encouraged the new officers to carry on the tradition. "The organization you have become a part of is Arkansas' first state law enforcement agency, which was created by the Arkansas Legislature in 1929 by Act 299," he said.

"You are joining what I consider to be one of the finest law

enforcement organizations in the country. The men and women of the Arkansas Highway Police are prepared professionals, able and ready to meet the challenges they face each day," said Lipton.

Lipton concluded his remarks by quoting former New York Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm and encouraging the officers to get involved in their respective communities. 'You have reached the end of an early chapter in your book of life,' quoted Lipton from the words of Chisholm. Lipton continued, "As you enter this profession and represent this Department, be an active participant in your environment. Give the best that is in you and give it at all times," he said.



2001 AHP GRADUATION CLASS

L-R; Row 1: William Crabb, Eric Rhinehouse, Sharon Moosman, Kathy Davis, Clyde Crookham, Brian McEntire, Michael Shamon, Michael Partain. Row 2: Darren Smith, Martin Allen, Timothy Gushing, William Scott, James Ludwig, Louie Smith, Larry Curtis, Ruddy Short. Row 3: Roy Mayo, Robin Samons, Robert Garrett, Danny Williford, Dwayne Hines, Mark Pyburn, Joy Bean, Ricky Smith, Jimmy Turney, Louis Hatchett, Glen Smith, Gregory Massey.



AHP Using I.R.I.S. On Big Trucks

The Arkansas Highway Police (AHP) has taken commercial vehicle inspections to a new level with the Infra Red Inspection System (I.R.I.S.). The I.R.I.S. employs a unique approach to solving the problem of efficient brake inspections of today's heavy commercial vehicles. In early August, the AHP began using the I.R.I.S. system through a short-term lease to test its efficiency.

The I.R.I.S. equipment, which is self-contained in a van, is considered to be the single most effective screening tool available to commercial vehicle inspectors. This equipment is designed to make commercial vehicle inspections easier, faster and more efficient. In fact, manual inspections show that the I.R.I.S. has achieved as high as a 98% rate of diagnostic accuracy.

"So far, we have been very pleased with the operation of the I.R.I.S. Our officers are very excited about its effectiveness and it has allowed them to better perform their jobs during vehicle



AHP Pfc. Jay Thompson monitors the computer of I.R.I.S. from inside the van.

inspections," said AHP Chief Ron Burks.

The system works on the principle that brakes create friction, which creates heat. This heat produces a thermal image that can be seen only by an infrared camera. The presence or absence of heat clearly indicates whether a system is operational or faulty.



The I.R.I.S. camera is mounted on top of the van.

The \$300,000 I.R.I.S. eliminates the necessity for a vehicle to drive onto a platform or set of rollers in order to be tested. The

I.R.I.S. utilizes the infrared technology to scan the vehicle as it rolls past a sensor located atop a van. As the vehicle being inspected rolls past the I.R.I.S. unit, an image is produced on a monitor that can be easily and quickly analyzed by the operator. The I.R.I.S. scans the entire truck at one time and the operator monitors the system on a computer screen for anything that appears unusual. If the operator makes the determination that there may be a problem, the vehicle is pulled over for a more detailed inspection.

In fact, the I.R.I.S. effectiveness came into play during a training exercise for new officers on I-40 near Mayflower in mid-August. The I.R.I.S. detected a number of safety violations on a tractor-trailer, which led to a search of the vehicle. During the search officers discovered approximately two ounces of methamphetamine and \$94,000 cash, which is reported to be the largest seizure of drug-related cash in Faulkner County history.

"One of the best features of the system is it is user-friendly. Our staff can be trained and out on the highways utilizing this sophisticated equipment in a matter of days. This makes the equipment most appealing,"

stated Dan Flowers, AHTD Director.

In addition to scanning the brake system, the I.R.I.S. can at the same time identify worn wheel bearings, underinflated or separating tires, and worn

universal joints or differential units. "The varied uses and mobility of the equipment will certainly assist the Highway Police in making travel safer on Arkansas highways," added Burks.

Arkansas Highway Police Presented National Awards

The 11th annual Commercial Motor Vehicle Drug Interdiction, Intelligence Networking, and Training Conference was held in St. Louis, Missouri, August 27-31, 2001. This national conference is a federal, state, and local government partnership sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC), and the Drug Interdiction Assistance Program (DIAP) of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Each year the conference sponsors select departments and individuals for special awards for drug interdiction efforts. This year, the Arkansas Highway Police (AHP) Division of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department received three awards.

Sgt. Tim Choate, assigned to the Hope Weigh Station, received awards from the DEA and DIAP for making the largest cocaine seizure transported on America's highways during the year 2000. Sgt. Choate confiscated over 2,500 pounds of cocaine and arrested two men transporting the load in a truck. An investigation was conducted pursuant to the



Left to right are Captain George Coffman, Chief Ron Burks and Sgt. Tim Choate.

arrests and it was determined that one of the men was directly connected to a drug trafficking organization in Mexico. Both men were convicted of drug trafficking charges in Federal Court.

Captain George Coffman, Special Services Commander assigned to the AHP Central Office, and R.A. Ruiters of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, were selected to receive awards for their contributions to the professionalism and success of law enforcement programs in their respective countries.

For the second consecutive year, the Arkansas Highway Police received the DIAP award for continued and sustained leadership and success in Highway Drug Interdiction for the year 2000. During that period, AHP officers seized over 5,43 pounds of marijuana and 2,617 pounds of cocaine.

AHP Chief Ron Burks noted that so far for the year 2001, AHP officers have seized over 8,465 pounds of marijuana, 4.4 pounds of cocaine and more than \$94,000 in U.S. currency.

AHTD Equipment Operators' Rodeo

District 8 Wins Team Championship

Jim, Kenny, Larry, Jay, Darrell, Larry and Dennis are the epitome of team players. Never accuse them of not being a part of the AHTD team, but for one day in June these guys were all District 8.

District Engineer Frank Russenberger beams with pride when he talks about the team results for this year's Equipment Operators' Rodeo competition.

"We only had one first place finisher," says Russenberger, "but these guys pulled together to break the record in the team competition category. The key to victory was that each member contributed."

With Larry Wilson's Tandem Axle Dump Truck finish being the only first place among them, the lowest place showing of any of the District 8 participants was Kenny Howard's sixth place in the Single Axle Dump Truck category. But don't feel sorry for him because he won that event last year. Defending champions are automatically in, so that allowed Kenny to double up events this year and he placed second behind Larry in the Tandem.

But guess what? Each District only gets points from one person in each category. So Kenny's second place points didn't even count, but Larry Brazil and Jay Rankin's second place finishes did.

Larry did about as well as one can in the Backhoe category where he placed behind longtime defending state champion Kenny Riley of District 9. Jay Rankin came in



District 8 Engineer Frank Russenberger holds the 2001 Team Champion plaque. Team members left to right: Dennis Langston, Larry Brazil, Russenberger, Jay Rankin, Kenny Howard, Darrell Carter, Larry Wilson, and Jim Standridge.

second in the Single Axle Dump Truck. Third place finishes by Jim Standridge in the Tractor/Lowboy and Darrell Carter in the Tractor/Mower categories, along with a fifth place by Dennis Langston in Motor Patrol added to the record breaking team total of 50 points.

"We didn't just win the team title," grins Russenberger, "we blasted the competition right off the road. It wasn't even close. It's an outstanding accomplishment that all of our team members finished in such high standing considering that the level of competition at the State Finals is the best of the best."

While District 8's 50 points just barely breaks District 4's 1999 record of 49, it was the overwhelming nine-point advantage over the second place team this year

that sets them apart with their first team victory.

"In recent times no team has won so convincingly," states Russenberger. "That's what makes this so special. It just all came together for us this time. I'm just in awe of these guys and have a real appreciation for their skills."

And for all those participants getting tired of Larry Wilson winning the Tandem Axle each year, well the rumors are true. Larry has transferred to the Russellville Resident Engineer Office.

"Larry has been told that he must keep his CDL current for next year," admits Russenberger. "There's no way he gets out of State Finals next year. We need him."

Get the feeling that District 8 is enjoying this?

ROADEO 2001 STATEWIDE WINNERS



TRACTOR/MOWER

L-R: 1st place, Fred Ridenhour, District 4; 2nd place, Clarence Edwards, District 2; 3rd place, Darrell Carter, District 8



TRACTOR/LOWBOY

L-R: 1st place, Mike Schmalz, District 4; 2nd place, Steve Sites, District 2; 3rd place, Jim Standridge, District 8



SINGLE AXLE DUMP TRUCK

L-R: 1st place Jimmy Pulley, District 1; 2nd place, Jay Rankin, District 8; 3rd place, Kim Tippy, District 10



TANDEM AXLE DUMP TRUCK

L-R: 1st place, Larry Wilson, District 8; 2nd place, Kenny Howard, District 8; 3rd place, Stanley Rogers, District 3



MOTOR PATROL

L-R: 1st place, Randall Edgmon, District 9; 2nd place, Joey McClanahan, District 1; 3rd place, Pete Gentry, District 3



BACKHOE

L-R: 1st place, Kenny Riley, District 9; 2nd place, Larry Brazil, District 8; 3rd place, Rick Hale, District 10

Highway 64 Bridge at Augusta Dedicated

Highway Commission Chairman John "M" Lipton, Commissioner Vice Chairman J.W. "Buddy" Benafield and Commissioner Carl S. Rosenbaum, along with Department Director Dan Flowers and Augusta Mayor Thomas Huie, opened the new Highway 64 bridge in style as their limousine led a parade of some 70 vehicles across the White River.

During a ribbon-cutting ceremony, Commissioner Benafield said, "The White



Cars cross the new Augusta Bridge after the dedication. The old steel-structured bridge can be seen in the background.



Commission Vice Chairman J.W. "Buddy" Benafield, center with scissors, along with other Commissioner members, AHTD Director Dan Flowers and August Mayor Thomas Huie, cut the ribbon to officially open the new Augusta Bridge.

River Bridge has always served as a main artery between north-central and eastern Arkansas. The old bridge has served the area well since the 1930's and this new structure will certainly benefit the area well into the future."

Mayor Huie, himself an AHTD retiree, led other local dignitaries during a brief, hot August morning dedication before officially opening the bridge.

The Jensen Construction Company structure was begun in 1999 under a \$17.6 million contract. The old bridge, which was demolished on September 12, 2001, was completed in 1929 for \$614,734.90.

Ground Broken for Gravette Overpass

The Annual Gravette Days had a special attraction this year as Commissioner Jonathan Barnett led a large gathering in breaking ground for the Highway 71 railroad overpass project at Gravette.

Heavy downpours prior to the ceremony, and more on the horizon, did not deter more than 100 people from joining. Ironically, a Kansas City Southern train whistled by as Gravette Mayor Dean Fladager was acknowledging the list of "Gold Shovel" recipients.

Mayor Fladager led the local effort to raise funds to expedite construction. The community secured over \$250,000 through donations, bake sales, raffles and monogrammed bricks.

The project is a joint venture with AHTD and the City to build the overpass. On August 22, 2001, the Highway Commission awarded a contract to Mobley Contractors, Inc., of Morrilton, Arkansas for \$1,098,699.62. The project is expected to be completed later this year.

Highway 5 Widening Project Topic of Mountain Home Public Hearing

A small crowd gathered Thursday, April 26, 2001, at the Redeemer Lutheran Church, in Mountain Home to review plans for the proposed widening of Highway 5 North.

The approximate 0.3-mile stretch of roadway improvements include widening the highway to four lanes with curb and gutter, traffic signal upgrades, and a continuous left turn lane, from Hospital Drive to Highway 62B in Mountain Home. Additional turn lanes will also be added between Highway 201 and Highway 62B.

The project was proposed due to the anticipated traffic growth over a 20-year period. The traffic count is projected to grow from 11,700 vehicles per day to 17,900 vehicles per day by the year 2020. The construction cost for the project is estimated at approximately \$1 million. The contract for the project is projected to be awarded in 2002.

Residents Hear Plans for Highway 63B in Jonesboro

The widening of U.S. Highway 63B in Craighead County from Culberhouse Street to Highway 63 was the subject of a public hearing held on Tuesday, July 17, 2001, at the Huntington Building in Jonesboro.

A crowd of approximately 30 persons gathered to review plans for the proposed roadway and offer written and oral comments. The 3.8 miles of proposed improvements to Highway 63B involves widening the highway and replacing bridges over Lost Creek and Big Creek.

The improvements will consist of widening the highway to four 11-foot travel

lanes with a 12-foot continuous turn lane with curb and gutter design. The total estimated cost of this project is expected to be \$8-10 million.

In 2000, an average daily traffic count of 9,450 vehicles used this segment of roadway. The average daily traffic count for this section of Highway 63B is expected to increase to approximately 14,000 by the year 2020.

Scenic Byway Public Hearing Held in Pine Bluff

Several Pine Bluff residents and local leaders gathered in the Waterfront Facility Building at Pine Bluff Regional Park to offer comments on a proposal to designate a section of Interstate 530 as a scenic byway.

On Thursday, June 28, 2001, Highway and Transportation Department personnel met with approximately 30 area residents to explain the scenic byway program and accept written and oral comments on the proposal. The route covered by this proposal is a section of I-530, from Highway 256 in White Hall to Highway 65 at the eastern edge of Pine Bluff, also known as the Southern bypass.

The local residents and business owners in attendance overwhelmingly supported the measure to designate the bypass around Pine Bluff as a scenic byway. The Bayou Bartholomew Alliance and the Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Clean and Beautiful Commission are serving as the partnering organizations, which is one of the criteria for scenic byway designation.

Arkansas City Hosts Scenic Byway Public Hearing

On Thursday, July 12, 2001, the Desha County Courthouse in Arkansas City was

the setting for a public hearing on the proposed extension of the Great River Road as a scenic byway.

Approximately 20 residents met at the Courthouse to provide written and oral comments on the 53-mile route covered by this proposal, which includes Highway 4 from McGehee east through Arkansas City to Highway 1, and Highway 1 north through Rowher, Kelso, and Watson to Highway 65 at Back Gate.

The Mississippi River Parkway Commission is the partner's organization responsible for promoting the extension and designation of the Great River Road as a scenic byway. Several local citizens and leaders also spoke on the behalf of the project and the benefits the designation would have on tourism for the area.

Nancy Clark, Assistant Tourism Director, Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism commented on the value of the Great River Road to tourism in southeast Arkansas. "This route will offer some new things, the National Register of properties, and the way of life are attractions for many folks not from this area. Tourism isn't the answer to everything, but it is a nice slice of the pie to help economic development in your area," stated Clark.

Highway 63 (Hardy Bypass) Public Hearing Draws Large Crowd

On Thursday, July 19, 2001, approximately 100 citizens literally weathered a thunderstorm as they made it through driving rain to the historic Old Gym in Hardy for a public hearing on the proposed Highway 63 Bypass (Hardy Bypass).

The proposed 1.7-mile bypass includes upgrading a section of Highway 63 to a four-lane highway on new location. The project was proposed to alleviate commercial truck traffic, which accounts for 26 percent of the traffic volume, through the Central Business District. The traffic count is projected to grow from a current volume of

7,800 vehicles per day to 13,400 vehicles per day by the year 2020.

The comments from attendees at the hearing ran the gamut, but overall the community expressed overwhelming support of the project. The bypass is estimated to cost \$8-10 million with a construction period of approximately two years. The contract for the project is scheduled to be awarded in 2002.

Fayetteville Hosts Public Hearing for Highway 112

Leverett Elementary School in Fayetteville was the site of a public hearing to discuss the proposed widening of a half-mile section of Highway 112 (Garland Avenue). Over 50 interested citizens attended the three-hour session on Thursday, March 15, 2001, to view proposed plans and express their comments on the project.

The proposed plans include the widening of Highway 112 to a four-lane road with a turning lane between Wedington and Cleveland Streets in Fayetteville. The project extends from Maple Street to Highway 112S (Wedington Drive). The project was proposed in the area due to a high volume of accidents that have occurred on that section of highway over the last several years. The number of accidents on the road qualified the project for federal assistance which pay cover 80 percent of the estimated \$2 million project with the remaining dollars contributed by the state.

Traffic on the already congested highway is expected to increase to over 18,000 vehicles per day by the year 2020. Area residents expressed concern that the increased traffic on the route will affect the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists traveling along the highway. However, Department representatives emphasized to the attendees that safety features were being put in place, such as sidewalks on both sides of the highway, along with crosswalks and signals for pedestrians.

The location and design plans have been approved and the project is scheduled to be under contract in 2002.

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department congratulates the high school and college graduates of 2001 who are children of employees or student employees.

Little Rock High School
Bob Jones Johnson - District 10



Justin Michael Allman
Bismarck High School
Michael Allman - District 6

Little Rock High School
Bob Jones Johnson - District 10



Cyndi Lynn Ashenberger
Jacksonville High School
Guy Ashengerger - Equip. & Proc.

Little Rock High School
Bob Jones Johnson - District 10



Sarabeth Bailey
DeQueen High School
Bobby Bailey - District 3

Little Rock High School
Bob Jones Johnson - District 10



Sara Brasel
Branson High School, Missouri
Michael Brasel - District 9

Little Rock High School
Bob Jones Johnson - District 10



Matt Burks
Arkansas Tech University
Ron Burks - Highway Police



Kristin Campbell
Benton High School
Kathy Campbell - Human Resources



Brittney Caple
Bryant High School
Tammy Caple - Computer Services



Laura Michelle Casteel
Jonesboro High School
Wayne Casteel - Materials



Charisse Collins
Nashville High School
Denise Tallant - District 3



Sarah Conley
Russellville High School
Roselie Conley - District 8



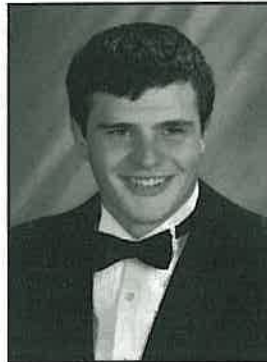
Beverly Butler Davis
U of A Medical Sciences
Kenneth Butler - District 7



Mindy Kay Doving
Green Forest High School
Gary Doving - District 9



Aliska Edgmon
Jasper High School
Randall Edgmon - District 9



David Estes
Fordyce High School
Jimmie Estes - District 7



James Estes III
Fordyce High School
Jimmie Estes - District 7



Askley Fields
Harrison High School
Tim Fields - District 9



Tyler Fleming
Harrison High School
Michael Brasel - District 9



Lakeyskia J. Graves
Spelman College/Atlanta, Georgia
George Graves, Jr. - District 3



Melissa Dianne Golden
Little Rock Central High School
Larry Golden - Equip. & Proc.



Jeffrey Ryan Hall
Arkansas Baptist High School
Karen Colclasure - District 6



Monique Taskane Harris
Arizona Amphitheater High School
Linda Harris - District 10



Stephanie Hester
Paragould High School
Joe Hester - District 10



Suzann Leigh Hipp
West Side High School at Greers Ferry
Joe Hipp - District 5



Russell Anton Hopper
Hampton High School
Rusty Hopper - District 7



Jonathan Horton
U of A School of Law
Johnney Horton - District 9



Travis House
Batesville High School
James House - District 5



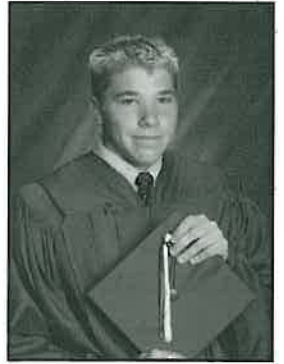
Danielle Ann Howard
Jonesboro High School
Kathy Chesser - District 10



Matt Jackson
Bismarck High School
David Jackson - District 6



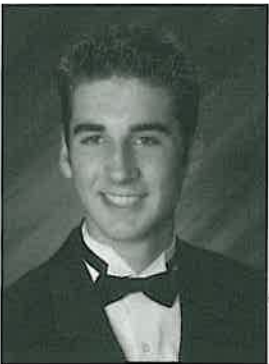
Brad Jett
Waldron High School
Ray Jeff - District 4



Max Johnston
Bryant High School
Perry Johnston - Right of Way



Christina Erin Jones
Jacksonville High School
Liz Jones - Roadway Design

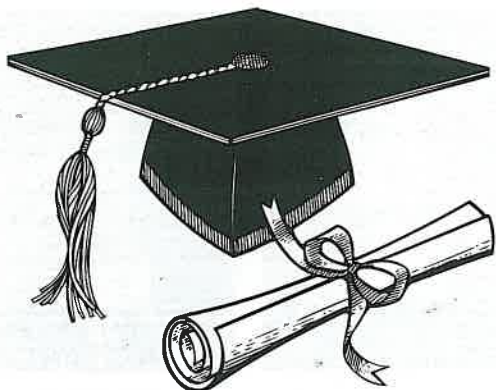


Scott Kennedy
Russellville High School
Nancy Kennedy - District 8



Kevin Robert Koone
Greenbrier High School
Mark Koone - District 8





Kaci Landers
SW R#5 High School/Missouri
Louanne Landers - District 9



Jodi Renee' Loopa
Bismarck High School
Carolyn Thornton - District 7



Angelina Magee
Hackett High School
Edith Magee - District 4



Amy Michelle Martin
U of A at Fayetteville
Roy Martin - Highway Police



Kimberly Brooke Martin
Harrison High School
Roy Martin - Highway Police



Jonathan Keith Merritt
Lake Hamilton High School
Keith Merritt - Planning & Research



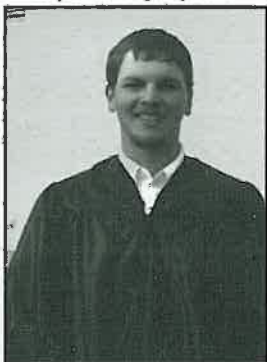
Kimberly Diane Norman
Brinkley High School
P.K. Norman - District 1



Melissa Renee' Parish
Ouachita High School
Donny Parish - District 6



Aaron Peeples
Cabot High School
Steve Peeples - Construction



Alvin Dewayne Pritchard
McCrary High School
Dewayne Pritchard - District 1



Jill Rankin
Benton High School
Karen Rankin - Equip. & Proc.



Ben D. Ratcliff
Prescott High School
Gail Ratcliff - District 3



Megan Ritchie
Ola High School
Bill Ritchie - Maintenance Heavy Bridge



Robyn Ritchie
Ola High School
Bill Ritchie - Maintenance Heavy Bridge



Gannon Wade Roberts
Valley Springs High School
Glenda Goats - District 9



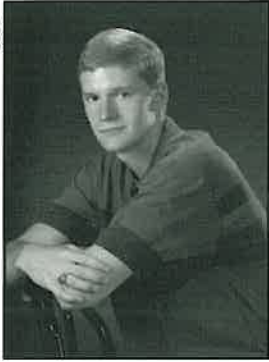
Brandy Marie Robertson
North Pulaski High School
Tim Robertson - Right of Way



Owen Daniel Rowland
Harmony Grove High School
Aline Ledbetter - District 7



Joshua Rucker
Rogers High School
Betty Weston - District 9



Brad J. Scholes
Arkansas State University
Dual Scholes - Maintenance



Aaron Dante' Slater
Mills University Studies
Patricia Slater - Planning & Research



Meredith Renee' Smith
Greene County Tech High School
Keith Smith - District 10



Steven Smith
Benton High School
Ronnie Smith - State Aid



Shelly Stark
DeQueen High School
Charlotte McCarley - District 3



Brent Stegall
Newport High School
Perry Stegall - District 5



Loni Ellen Stukey
Ozark Christian College
Jerry Stuckey - District 4



Natalie Toon
Little Rock Parkview High School
Mark Toon - Surveys



Crystal Trammell
Little Rock McClellan High School
COE Student - Environmental



Brandi Wade
Hoxie High School
Bobby Wade - District 10



Christopher Ward
Bryant High School
Carl Ward - Human Resources



Christy Williams
Lavaca High School
Mark Williams - District 4



Jodi Lynn Wilson
Washington University School of Law
Jim Rhodes - District 3



Ravyx L. Wilson
University of Missouri at Columbia
Robert L. Wilson - Legal



Jennifer Leeann Van Dalsen
Vilonia High School
Carrol Van Dalsen - District 8



Misti Michelle Watts
Robinson High School
Louise Watts - Chief Engineer's Office



Natalie Wilkinson
Russellville High School
Don Wilkinson - District 8



Kari Elizabeth Winkler
North Little Rock West Campus
Ron Winkler - Maintenance



Letters to the Department



TO: Highway Commission Chairman John Lipton

Thank you for helping to make our first LeadAR seminar a success. It was encouraging to have the major issues facing Arkansas discussed by persons such as you that have a firsthand knowledge of the issues and how they are being faced. Thank you for participating in this first session.

Bruce Coleman
Mountainburg, Arkansas

TO: AHTD Director Dan Flowers

Thank you for the speed reduction on Highway 102 in Centerton. Any additional help through our community will be greatly appreciated. Quite a few families here say a big "thank you." You have improved our safety very much.

John E. Meisenbacher, Sr.
Centerton citizen and councilman

TO: AHTD Director Dan Flowers

Our company, Madden Contracting Co., Inc., is the prime contractor on two of your Interstate Rehabilitation Program projects, located on Interstate 30 between Hope and Prescott.

By means of this letter, I want to thank you for the presence and assistance that the Arkansas Highway Police has been to our construction operation and to the safety of the motoring public. Their presence makes for a much safer environment for all concerned. The professionalism and courtesy exhibited by these officers has been excellent.

James D. Madden, President
Madden Contracting Co., Inc.,
Minden, Louisiana

TO: Highway Police Chief Ron Burks

This letter is to inform you of the excellent care that one of your officers, Cpl. Mark Willis, provided to my husband and I on July 4. We were traveling east on Interstate 30 in a 2002 Trailblazer that had a malfunction and we ran out of gas. Officer Willis came to our aid, got us gas, and assisted us to the nearest Chevrolet dealership. He is truly an asset to your police force.

Willis and Geneva Dean
Indianapolis, Indiana



Cpl. Mark Willis

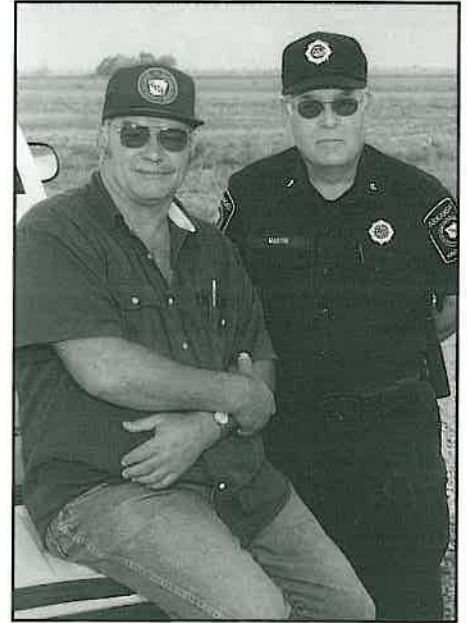
TO: Jim Briley, District 2 Engineer, Pine Bluff

I am writing to compliment some of your employees. Having worked as an administrator for a state agency for over 30 years, I am well aware that state employees and agencies are criticized much more often than they are complimented. My husband and I were faced with a situation that gave us reason to come in contact with Gary Bunting, Lincoln County Area Maintenance Supervisor, and Officer Ross Martin with the Highway Police. Both of these men were prompt, responsive, professional, and took care of our problem quickly, efficiently, and effectively.

The situation involved an 18-wheeler, hauling chicken litter on Highway 54 east of Star City. The truck spilled a large amount of his load for about 200 feet right in front of our house. Needless to say the smell was horrible. I called your Star City shop and ask for help. Within 15 minutes, Mr. Bunting was here with a crew and trucks and had the mess cleaned up very shortly. Officer Martin arrived while the highway crew was here and got as much information as he could to determine the identity of the truck.

I realize the men were doing the jobs they are hired to do, but I wanted to let someone know that they are a credit to your department. We sincerely appreciated their help and especially their promptness.

Abbie Burr
Star City, Arkansas



Gary Bunting, Lincoln County AMS
and AHP Cpl. Ross Martin



Shawn Goodwin and Bo Watkins,
Motorist Assistance Patrol Providers

TO: AHTD Director Dan Flowers

On August 31, I experienced a flat tire westbound on Interstate 40 about one mile from the Prothro Junction exit. While I have had flat tires before, I have never experienced such on the interstate. Almost immediately, AHP Officer James Thomas appeared and contacted Motorist Assistance Patrol Providers Bob Watkins and Shawn Goodwin, who arrived and quickly got me back on my way home. These men did their work, at the beginning of rush hour traffic and in the rain, with professionalism, efficiency, and a smile.

Thank you for have having hard working and exceptional employees as well as a wonderful program for "stranded" motorists.

Susan Wilson
Jacksonville, Arkansas

TO: Highway Police Captain Ronnie Anderson

I wanted to let you know how much I appreciated Pfc. Tommy Earnhart for his assistance on March 30. While driving home from the Legislative Session, I had a flat tire which two people were trying to change. All the while, Pfc. Earnhart made sure that we were safe from oncoming traffic. I am extremely grateful for his help.

Cecile Bledsoe
State Representative
Rogers, Arkansas

TO: Highway Police Cpl. Bobby Cordell

I just wanted you to know how appreciative I am that you stopped to help me change a flat tire on the service road near Marion. I could have never done that by myself. It is really wonderful to know someone is around who will do things like this for people and expect nothing in return.

Sue McBride
Marion, Arkansas



Mark Abbott
District 6 Construction Aide III

TO: Leonard Hall, District 6 Engineer

One day in July, in the middle of the afternoon, my wife and I had to pull over to the curb in front of your Blue Bird Street office. We had just completed a shopping trip and were attempting to enter I-630 and noticed our vehicle temperature gauge registering extremely hot.

Within minutes, one of your engineers, Mark Abbott, came out of the building in the extreme heat and offered his assistance. With cold water from your office and a water jug to replenish lost vehicle fluid, he helped us reach a repair place. This type of attitude and going the extra mile to assist senior citizens in trouble is certainly not found very often. My wife and I appreciate Mark taking out his time, and yours, to help us. His actions say a lot about the type of professionals you have in your organization.

John Niven
Little Rock, Arkansas

TO: AHTD District 1 Motorist Assistance Patrol

On Tuesday, March 12, I had a tire blow out on my pickup on Interstate 40 in West Memphis. I was in a very dangerous position because I could not change the flat where I was and was afraid to try to cross the interstate on a flat tire. I called 911 and they sent the Motorist Assistance Patrol. Lenora Wilson and her partner were very helpful and used the lights on their truck to get me across the interstate and assisted in changing the tire. They were so nice and helpful and had good equipment to do the job.

Charles Smith
Arkadelphia Monument Works

TO: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department

My husband and I were driving along your new Interstate 540. It is a beautiful road with those high bridges. But just before the end of the tunnel, we heard a big bang and realized we had just had a tire blow out. My husband was able to get the car out of traffic and in a safe place and was beginning to take off the spare when Reginald Smith, Maintenance Job Superintendent, and Jerry Ward, Distributor Operator, appeared. They saw two old people with a problem and came and secured the car and changed the flat. We offered them money and to buy their lunch, but they said no. We thanked them, but we wanted to tell you what a good job these men did for two senior citizens in trouble. You can be very proud of them.

Mr. & Mrs. William Burden
Bartlesville, Oklahoma

TO: Ronnie Garner
District 3 Maintenance Superintendent

Since summer is ending, I believe it is a good time to tell you how much we appreciate Audrie Caldwell, Rest Area Attendant at the Red River Rest Area here in Texarkana.

This spring and summer the park and flowers were beautiful. I can't tell you how many tourists have complimented them.

Audrie always keeps the building and park looking its best. We have people come into the office all the time telling us how clean the restrooms are. When she is working around the front of the building, she is always polite to the tourists and will visit with them. Audrie is a dedicated employee and a nice person.

Frances Scarborough, Manager
Red River Tourist Information Center
Texarkana, Arkansas



Audrie Caldwell
District 3 Rest Area Attendant

TO: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department

On behalf of the West Tennessee Detention Facility and the staff here, I want to personally express my appreciation to your department for your assistance on Tuesday, March 6. While transporting an inmate, Officers Nancy McDow and Eric Nogueira were involved in a tire blowout on Interstate 40 and stopped at a rest area in Knoxville, Arkansas.

I was informed that one of the employees called the Arkansas Highway Police for their assistance. As you are aware, this could have been an extremely difficult situation without your assistance because of the security and safety of inmate passenger and the public. I want to sincerely thank you for the efforts your department extended to our officers.

The involvement and participation in assisting with this incident was one of high professionalism and reflected well on the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department. Thanks again and continue your excellent work.

Mike Holm, Jr., Warden
Corrections Corporation of America

TO: AHTD Director Dan Flowers

Thank you for the improvements made to intersection of Highway 89 and Highway 67/167. On behalf of our community, I again thank you for your exceptional understanding of our particular needs and your responsiveness once they became clear to you.

Joseph W. Park, President and CEO
Community Bank, Cabot, Arkansas

TO: Motorist Assistance Patrol Program

On July 15, John Holcombe, Motorist Assistance Patrol Provider, pulled up behind our stranded car and gave quick and efficient service helping us change a flat tire. He then gave me clear instructions on where I could get a replacement tire.

We were most appreciative of his good work and the service that your department offers to travelers like us.

Don Johnson
DeSoto, Texas

TO: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department

I just wanted to express my gratitude to your department for the outstanding service I received. I called the telephone number on your website to purchase copies of your Standard Specifications. The woman that I talked to, Judy Parson, Administrative Officer in the Programs and Contracts Division, was extremely polite and took my order very quickly. She took the necessary mailing information and shipped the order immediately. We received the spec books in the mail in only two days. Enclosed was an invoice that will be paid immediately. I appreciate the outstanding service that she provided.

Mike Longshaw
Ritchie Paving, Inc., Wichita, Kansas



Judy Parson
Programs & Contracts Administrative Officer I



Kim Watkins and Renee Files
Motorist Assistance Patrol Providers

TO: AHTD Public Affairs Office

My family and I would like to personally thank the Motorist Assistance Patrol for their kind and courteous help rendered to us. We were not aware of any program of this nature in our state.

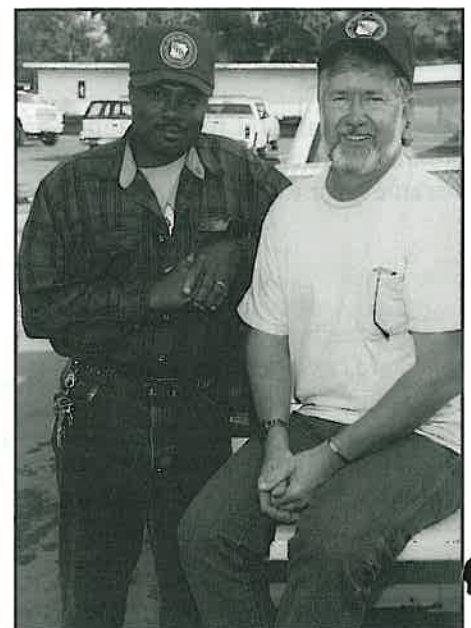
Our car stopped on Interstate 30 eastbound and Renee Files and Kim Watkins, Motorist Assistance Patrol Providers, were here in less than two minutes. They helped us get going again so that we were able to drive the car home. Please let them know how much we appreciate their help and also we thank you for this program and hope that it always continues.

William and Vivian Alexander
Benton, Arkansas

TO: AHTD Director Dan Flowers

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to two of your employees, Leonard Stokes, Maintenance Aide III, and Larry Hazeslip, Multi-Axle Truck Driver. On Thursday, February 15, I ran over some type of car part at the Interstate 30/40 interchange. I immediately had a tire blow out and had to cross three lanes of traffic to get to the shoulder and of course, all this happened during a rainstorm. In only a short time, an AHTD truck pulled up behind me. Stokes and Hazeslip were so very helpful. They changed the flat and had me back on the road in about 15 minutes. They even followed me to the exit to be sure I made it on my spare okay. Please extend my thanks to them again.

Nita Danaher
North Little Rock, Arkansas



Leonard Stokes, D-6 Maint. Aide III
Larry Hazeslip, D-6 Multi-Axle Truck Driver

TO: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department

On July 23, I was on my way to Little Rock on Interstate 40 around Brinkley when I hit a pothole. A few seconds later I found myself fighting to keep my van on the road. I pulled over to the side of the interstate in a construction area and noticed I had a tire blow out. About five minutes later a white state truck pulled up behind me. Mr. Robert, as I only know him, changed my tire and had me back on my way in a matter of minutes.

Thank you again. Mr. Robert is an asset to the great State of Arkansas.

Bonnie Bass
Little Rock, Arkansas

TO: Motorist Assistance Patrol Program

On June 26, I was taking my husband to Memphis to see a doctor about a heart condition. About 15 miles west of West Memphis the transmission went out on my car. My husband is quite ill and all he could do was sit in the car that was getting hotter and hotter.

You can imagine the relief we felt when we saw the Motorist Assistance Patrol truck pull up. Lenora Wilson and a smiling young man (I have lost his card) looked like angels to me, they were so nice and helpful. We asked them to call a tow truck and the person they called was so nice and did a good job repairing our car.

We called our son, who works in Memphis, and he came and picked us up and took us to the doctor's office. Until that day I was unaware of the service provided by these wonderful young people. Thank you for being there when we needed you.

Barbara Hallford
North Little Rock, Arkansas

TO: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department

We want to thank you, Rodney Landers, for stopping to assist us when our church bus had a tire blow out April 26, while traveling near the Friendship Community on Interstate 30.

Frank McClure, Bus Driver
Bayou Meta Baptist Church
Jacksonville, Arkansas

TO: AHTD Director Dan Flowers

Thank you very much for Greg Harding, Resident Engineer at Yellville for District 9. He was gracious enough to take time out of his busy schedule to go with the road foreman and myself to look at a bridge that is being undermined and also advise us on some of our other county roads.

I would also like to express our gratitude to Jake Weston, State Aid Engineer, who came to Yellville and spent a great deal of time talking with me about the state aid options available to us.

The State Highway and Transportation Department has always been most helpful and in turn if there is ever anything we can do for you, please contact our office.



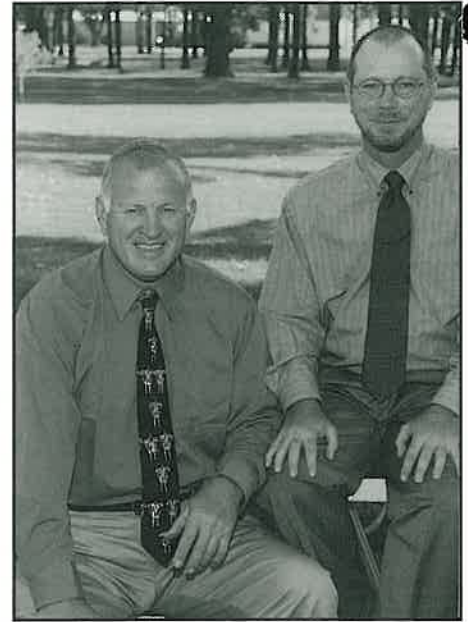
Rodney Landers

W.E. "Bill" Beaumont
Marion County Judge

TO: Marion Butler
Environmental Division Head

I want to thank Phillip Moore and Henry Langston for participating in a live Internet discussion with my environmental issues class. The topic was on wetland mitigation and whether or not it was stringent enough. It is a huge help for me to have experts such as Phillip and Henry as part of course exercises as this. The students also enjoyed talking with them as per their comments in class.

Beth Middleton
Associate Professor
Southern Illinois University at Carbondale



Henry Langston and Phillip Moore
Environmental Scientists II

TO: AHTD Director Dan Flowers

Thank you and your fine crew for doing a truly great job on Highway 71 at the intersection of Jordan Road.

We in Bella Vista, and surely anyone who has to drive through Bella Vista appreciates this. It was done so quickly and with very little inconvenience.

People are thanking ME for this... all I did was ask you! I am sending you thanks from all of us.

Shirley Borhauer
State Representative

TO: AHTD Director Dan Flowers

Thanks so much for the work the Highway Department is doing in Cabot to alleviate some of the traffic congestion along West Main Street. I want to commend Mr. Leonard Hall, District 6 Engineer, for making this a priority in his district. All of your work is greatly appreciated.

If I can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Randy Minton
State Representative

TO: Carl Erwin
Hot Springs County Area Maintenance Supervisor

I want to commend you and your department for an outstanding job on mowing the grass islands on Highway 270 and at the bottom of the viaduct as you come into Malvern.

The appearance of Malvern is important to the citizens, especially when people from out of town come to Brickfest. Thank you for all the work you do in beautifying our city.

Stephen Northcutt, Mayor
City of Malvern, Arkansas

IN MEMORY

ACTIVE EMPLOYEES

Steve A. Newsom
District 10
died January 27, 2001

Robert L. Wilson
District 2
died February 12, 2001

Ernest L. Bates
District 9
died March 12, 2001

Terry A. Pearson
Materials
died March 17, 2001

Jimmy L. Goad
District 1
died March 22, 2001

Timothy J. Freeman
District 8
died March 31, 2001

Thomas E. Gateley
District 2
died June 8, 2001

RETIREES

Orvel H. Thomas
District 4
died January 2, 2001

George A. Keller
District 10
died January 11, 2001

A.C. Kilcrease
District 2
died January 12, 2001

Hallet J. Wilson
District 9
died January 13, 2001

John C. Hughes
District 2
died January 13, 2001

Charlie C. Cox
Equip. & Proc.
died January 14, 2001

Wayne S. Bell
District 9
died January 17, 2001

Fred B. McCain
District 8
died February 10, 2001

Joe B. Wallace
District 9
died February 10, 2001

Margaret Weathers
Construction
died February 13, 2001

Archie E. Smith
District 5
died February 14, 2001

Robert S. Skidmore
District 9
died February 16, 2001

William L. Johnson
District 5
died February 18, 2001

Raymond W. Reynolds
District 5
died February 24, 2001

Harold S. Culdice
District
died February 27, 2001

Roger C. Umholtz/District 4
died February 27, 2001

James Henderson
District 2
died March 1, 2001

F.A. Fowler
District 2
died March 4, 2001

E.C. Basinger
District 5
died March 9, 2001

Walter B. Burrow
District 3
died March 13, 2001

Johnnie O. Cooper
District 8
died March 19, 2001

Larry Nine
District 3
died March 26, 2001

Walter H. Laird
District 1
died April 5, 2001

Dan W. Jordan
District 9
died April 17, 2001

Huston E. Isom
District 9
died April 21, 2001

James M. Williams, Jr.
District 5
died April 21, 2001

Donnie Grigsby
District 4
died May 2, 2001

Daniel A. Morris
District 1
died May 5, 2001

Harlie D. McCutcheon
District 9
died May 7, 2001

Willie Parnell
District 9
died May 25, 2001

Burley L. Oglesby
District 10
died May 27, 2001

Willene R. Dorris
Fiscal Services
died May 28, 2001

Crosby L. Stephens
District 2
died June 9, 2001

V.D. Fielding
District 4
died June 12, 2001

Wallace F. Hubbard
District 8
died June 21, 2001

Herman Sanders
Planning
died June 21, 2001

Lushes C. Brents
District 6
died June 23, 2001

Lloyd W. White
District 10
died July 4, 2001

Lewis D. Crye
District 1
died July 14, 2001

Havis L. Rackley
District 8
died July 17, 2001

Lee J. Williams
District 3
died July 17, 2001

Louie C. Parker
District 2
died July 18, 2001

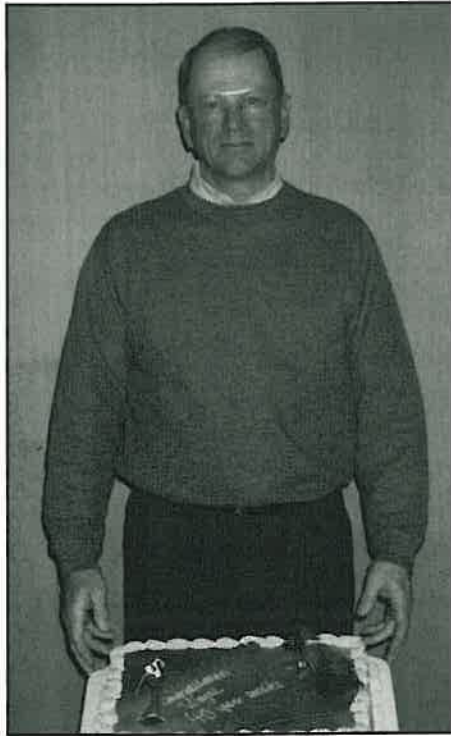
James R. Owen
District 6
died August 6, 2001

Around the Department

BRIDGE

The Bridge Division extends its best wishes to J.P. Sumner, Structural Detailing Specialist, who retired May 10 with 33 years service.

Wayne Major, Structural Detailing Specialist, celebrated 40 years of service with the Department in February and welcomed his new grandson, Jacob Major, on November 17, 2000.



Wayne Major
Structural Detailing Specialist

Charlie Hart, Bridge Management Engineer, completed 20 years of service in April.

We welcome Kyle Yeary, Civil Engineer, who began working May 31 after graduating from Arkansas State University with a degree in civil engineering. Kyle is from Cabot and enjoys fishing and all types of sports.

Dalton Freeling, son of Bryan Freeling, Advanced Bridge Design Engineer, made the 6-year-old All Star T-Ball Team which placed first in tournaments in Sherwood and Oklahoma City.

Ken Holmes, Structural Detailing Specialist, attended the National Scout Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia. Over 40,000 Boys Scouts and leaders attended the 10-day event.



Ken Holmes (third row, left end)
with the Boy Scouts from Arkansas.



Ed Fain, Bridge Division Head, with his newest granddaughter, Rachel Ann Norton, born May 15, 2001.

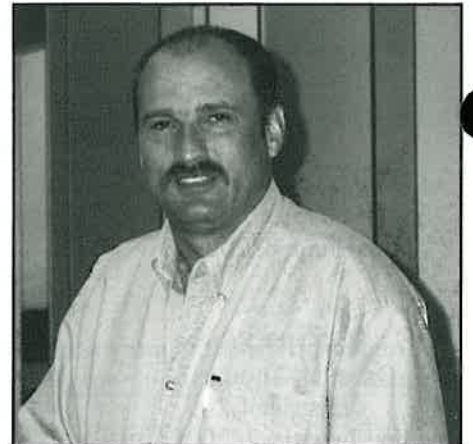


Anthony and Alle Grace, children of Rick Ellis, Senior Bridge Design Engineer, are shown with their new brother, Lucas Briggs, born June 1.



John Bettis, right, Advanced Bridge Design Engineer, and wife Heidi, with their children Weslee and Nathan, and newest family member, Samuel David, born August 7, 2001.

CONSTRUCTION



Michael Benson is the new Staff Construction Engineer. He transferred from the Pine Bluff Resident Engineer's Office in District 2.



Sandra Bivins, Estimates Technician, recently transferred to Construction from Highway Police Permits Section.



Chuck Holland, left, Estimates Supervisor, receives a 20-year service award from State Construction Engineer Allan Holmes.



Barry Young, Estimates Supervisor, and Michelle Howard were married June 30 at Thorncrown Chapel in Eureka Springs.



Aaron Peeples, son of Staff Construction Engineer Steve Peeples

Aaron Peeples, son of Staff Construction Engineer Steve Peeples, quarteredbacked the 2000 Cabot Panthers to the 5A high school football championship. Aaron also led the "Arkansas Razorbacks" to a championship in their division in the "Down Under Bowl" in Australia this past summer and was named "Most Valuable Player." He is also a 2001 graduate of Cabot High School.

Congratulations to David Craig, Estimates Technician, and wife Stacey on the birth of their first child, Summer Ballowe, born August 21, 2001.

ENVIRONMENTAL

The Environmental Division welcomes new employees Linda Pearson, Gail Scott and Mike Bradshaw.

Linda Peason, Environmental Analyst I, joined our staff in July as a Geographic Information Specialist, helping to design and implement GIS capabilities. She received a bachelor's degree in geography and history from the University of Central Arkansas. She resides in Conway with her two children Brandon, 13, and Lindsey, 12.

Gail Scott transferred from the Traffic Safety Section in December 2000 as an Office Administrative Assistant III for the Beautification Section. She resides in Little Rock.

Mike Bradshaw began working in January 2001 in the Special Studies Section. His duties include working in the wetland mitigation areas, coordinating tree plantings, installation of water control structures and monitoring of wild-flower sites. He is a resident of Hot Springs.

Our seasonal employees included Ryan Christensen, Kameron Brewer, Reginal Chandler, Shontay Scruggs, Jimmy Mosby and Crystal Trammell.

Ryan Christensen worked as a wetland mitigation field technician and is a Senior biology major at the University of Central Arkansas.

Kameron Brewer, entered historic

bridge data into the GIS system using global positioning systems and digital photography. He is a sophomore honor student at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville pursuing a degree in industrial engineering. He also plays the snare drum in the Razorback Marching Band.

Reginal Chandler worked this past summer as a wetland mitigation field engineer. He has returned to Morehouse college in Atlanta, Georgia to pursue his bachelor's degree and plans to attend Morehouse School of Medicine.

Shontay Scruggs worked in the Beautification Section as an office administrative assistant. She is a freshman at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro pursuing a psychology degree.

Jimmy Mosby worked in the Beautification Section and plans to receive a degree in political science from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

Crystal Trammell is our continuing education student. She is a recent graduate of McClellan High School. She attends the University of Arkansas at Little Rock pursuing a degree in health professions.

FISCAL SERVICES



Katie Lynne Walthall, born May 20, 2001, is the daughter of Ronda Walthall, Administrative Aide I in Insurance, and husband Scott.

HIGHWAY POLICE



AHP Chief Ron Burks, left, presents a 30-year service pin to District 1 Captain Don Hastings.



2nd Lt. Jerrell Biggers presents a 25-year service pin to Cpl. James Simmons who is assigned to the Ashdown Weigh Station.



Pfc. Robert Adams, left, receives a 20-year service certificate from District 1 Captain Don Hastings.



Pfc. Elizabeth Warren, left, receives her Senior Certificate and a 20-year service certificate from District 4 Captain Gary East. She is assigned to the Hope Weigh Station.



Cpl. Robert Dunn, left, receives a 20-year service certificate from District 4 Captain Gary East. Robert is assigned to Patrol Unit 484 in Calhoun county.



Office Manager Judi Hathcock, left, presents a 15-year service certificate to David Sitton, Administrative Aide II.



Cpl. Sandra Bailey, left, receives a 15-year service certificate from District 1 Captain Don Hastings.



Pfc. Dickie Branch, left, receives a 10-year service certificate from District 4 Captain Gary East.



Cpl. Martin Nunnery, left, receives a 10-year service certificate from 1Lt. Todd Wetzel.



Monica Davis, left, Data Entry Operator, receives a 10-year service certificate from Office Manager Judi Hathcock.



Chief Ron Burks, left, presents a 10-year service certificate to Marcia Zeno, Administrative Assistant III.



District 1 Captain Don Hastings, left, presents a 10-year service certificate to Pfc. Buckie Thomas.



Judi Hathcock, left, Office Manager, presents a 5-year service certificate to Rachael Holliman, Data Entry Operator.

HUMAN RESOURCES



Walter Caton, Buildings Management Crew Leader, receives a 15-year service certificate from Crystal Cole, Human Resources Officer.

INTERNAL AUDIT



Shirley Wesson-McElroy, Office Administrative Assistant IV, receives a 30-year service pin from Bill McDorman, Chief Auditor.



Breon Neal, age 3, is the granddaughter of Michael Neal, Data Entry Operator.



Paul Dorsey, Electrician, Plumbing & Mechanical Repairer for Buildings Management, caught this 78-pound Cobia in July at Ocean Springs, MS. The catch was a group effort with Ron Smith of State Aid and Larry Foreman of Reproduction.

LEGAL



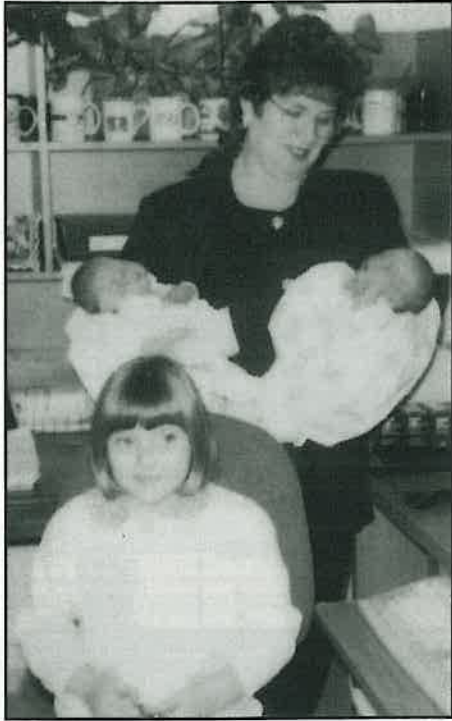
Robert L. Wilson, center, Chief Legal Counsel presented service awards to, left to right: Shirley Henry, Legal Aide, 10 years; Mark Whitmore, Staff Attorney, 10 years; Larry Jackson, Staff Attorney, 5 years; and Bill Wharton, Staff Attorney, 5 years.



Whitney Burks, daughter of Chief Ron Burks, was recently installed as Arkansas' Grand Worth Advisor for the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, a Masonic youth organization.

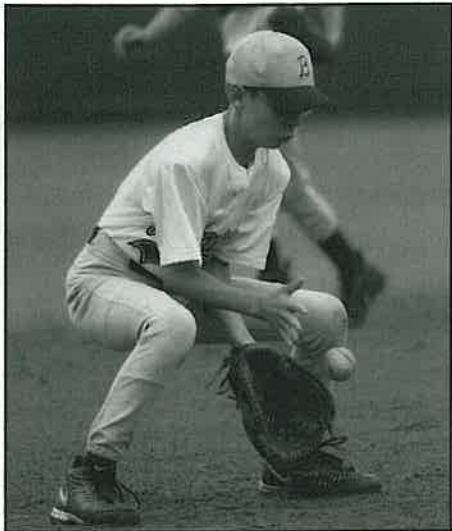


Breanna Jewell, age 7, daughter of Kim Jewell, Office Administrative Assistant V, shows off her trophy for being the First Grade Top Point Earner for the Salem Elementary Accelerated Reader program.



Shirley Henry, Legal Aide, with her twin grandsons born February 4, 2001. Tucker Allen, weighed 7 lbs., 2 ozs. and Hunter Blake Fite, weighed 6 lbs. Shown also is Shirley's granddaughter Shaley.

MAINTENANCE



Tyler Keene, 12-year old son of Facilities Management Section Head Danny Keene, is shown in action at the Little League Southern Regionals held in St. Petersburg, Florida. Tyler's team (Arkansas State Champion-Benton, coached by Danny) was attempting to advance to the Little League World Series.



Richard Newcomb joined the Highway Department as a Communications Maintenance Specialist in June.



Jim Barnett, left, State Maintenance Engineer, presents a 15-year service certificate to Danny Keene, Facilities Management Section Head.



Keith Briggs, left, Heavy Bridge Maintenance Superintendent, receives a 25-year service pin from Garland Land, Heavy Bridge Maintenance Engineer.

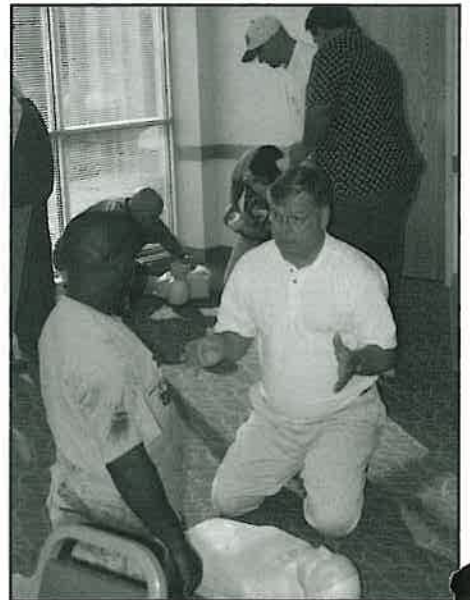


Jesse Koenigsberg, left, Telecommunications Operator, receives a 15-year service certificate from Doug Huckaba, Communications Section Head.



Wayne England, left, Sign Crew Supv., receives a 15-year service certificate from Tony Jones, Signing Supt.

MATERIALS



Materials personnel participated in CPR training in June. The class was instructed by John Cia of the Training and Safety Section.

PLANNING & RESEARCH

Larry Johnson, Section Head of Finance and Economics, retired in July with 37 years with the Department. He began in 1964 as a Statistician.

Upon Mr. Johnson's retirement, the Finance and Economics Section was restructured into the Policy Analysis Section with Virginia Porta as Section Head. She is a registered professional engineer and began with the Department in 1986.

Jim Floyd, Planning Engineer, and Robert Reed, Administrative Aide V, from Statewide Planning will join the existing staff. Additional responsibilities for this section will be activities related to nonattainment air quality status, storm water program development, traffic model development, and needs analysis and reporting.



Dan Morgan, left, Administrative Officer II, receives a 40-year service pin from Tom Harrell, Planning and Research Engineer.



Mary Day Wilson, left, Transportation Planner, receives a 40-year service pin from Tom Harrell, Planning and Research Engineer.



Jim Marshall, left, Administrative Officer II, receives a 30-year service pin from Tom Harrell, Planning and Research Engineer.



Paul Simms, left, Staff Planning Engineer, receives a 25-year service pin and Minnie Beth White, center, Administrative Officer II, receives a 20-year service pin from Tom Harrell, Planning and Research Engineer.



Marilyn Boyles, Transportation Management Analyst I, receives a 20-year service award from Tom Harrell, Planning and Research Engineer.



Thomas Baker, left, Data Collection Technician, receives a 10-year service certificate from Keith Merritt, Staff Planning Engineer.



Cheyenne Joy Dixon, born January 4, 2001, is the granddaughter of Jerry Dixon, Administrative Assistant in Technical Services.

PROGRAMS AND CONTRACTS



Laurence (Larry) Foreman, Reproduction Technician, celebrated 30 years of service with the Department in July.



Laura DeBro-Carter, Advanced Programs and Contracts Specialist, received the "Distinguished Toastmaster Award" from Toastmasters International. She was also elected 2001-2002 Lt. Governor Marketing for District 43 which includes all of Arkansas and parts of Miss. and Tenn.



Dalton Joe Handwork, born June 18, 2001, is the grandson of Mary Sanders, Office Administrative Assistant III.



Nikki Danielle Jackson, granddaughter of Dwayne Stokes, Reproduction Operator, competed in the Teen Miss Lononke Beauty Pageant.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Neeley Elizabeth Bowden, born June 25, 2001, is the granddaughter of Carolyn Johnson, Public Affairs Specialist.

RIGHT OF WAY



Sara Johnston, daughter of Assistant Division Head Perry Johnston, is a member of the Bryant Jr. High School drill team.

ROADWAY DESIGN



Roadway Design Service Awards
L-R: Michael Fugett, Sr. Design Engineer, 15 years; Bob Green, Staff Design Engineer, 35 years; Bill Duncan, Sr. Designer, 35 years



Kevin Palmer and Cathy Funkhouser

Roadway Design welcomes two new employees: Kevin Palmer and Cathy Funkhouser, Civil Engineers.

Kevin is a 2001 graduate of the University of Arkansas with a degree in civil engineering and has worked as a seasonal employee in the Russellville and Mountainburg RE offices.

Cathy is a 2000 graduate of the University of Arkansas with a degree in civil engineering. She worked in the private sector and for one summer at the Bentonville RE office.



Phillip Terry was our summer engineering intern. He is pursuing a bachelor's degree in civil engineering at Louisiana Tech University.



Robin Rainey, daughter of Rick Rainey, Senior Design Technician, was married June 2, 2001 to Scott Gann at the All Souls Church in Scott.

STATE AID



Phillip Ammons, center, Section Head, receives a 10-year service certificate from Division Head Jake Weston. At left is Phillip's wife Kay.

SURVEYS



Sam Johnson, left, Staff Surveys Engineer, presents a 10-year service certificate to Jon Holcomb, Surveys Aide III.



Paul Womack, left, Surveys Technician II, receives a 15-year service certificate from Sam Johnson, Staff Surveys Engineer.



Donald Cheatham, left, Surveys Crew Chief, receives a 25-year service pin from Sam Johnson, Staff Surveys Engineer.



Drew Sanderson, age 10, son of Donnie Sanderson, Surveys Technician II, on opening day of the 2000 deer season.

Congratulations to Natalie Toon, daughter of Mark Toon, Surveys Aide III. She graduated in the top 10 of Little Rock Parkview's 2001 graduates. She is the reigning Miss Maumelle and participated in the Miss Arkansas pageant. She is attending the University of Central Arkansas.

DISTRICT ONE



The West Memphis RE Office's Annual Golf Scramble participants were left to right: Glenn Reed, Sr. Materials Inspector; Bryan McElyea, Construction Helper I; Jeff Davis, Assistant Resident Engineer; Ledean Aughenbaugh, Office Technician; Bryan York and Donnaire Granger, Engineering Interns; Jeff Kaiser, Construction Helper I; D. Henson, AC Field Engineer; and James Barte, Inspector.



Austin Drew Benson, is the three-year old grandson of Freddie Andrews, Cross County Area Maintenance Supervisor.



Ivy Nicole Andrews, is the nine-year old granddaughter of Freddie Andrews, Cross County Area Maintenance Supervisor.



Timothy Ryan Andrews, is the five-year old grandson of Freddie Andrews, Cross County Area Maintenance Supervisor.



Apprecia Louise, born April 26, 2001, is the daughter of Lisa Cleveland, District Receptionist.



Tim Kelly is the new Assistant Resident Engineer at McGehee.



Caley Aughenbaugh, daughter of Ladean Aughenbaugh, West Memphis RE Office Technician, is a pitcher for Jet-Fast Logistics 10 and under softball team. The team placed second in the state tournament.

DISTRICT TWO



Thomas Gately, age 34, District Bridge Crew Leader, died June 8, 2001. He is survived by one daughter and two sons.



Jim Reynolds, center with package, transferred to District 7 as an Inspector. Shown are left to right: Chip Lagrone, James Wolfe, Scott Mullis, Al Fleagle, Tim Kelly, Denise Stitt, Gary Fletcher, Karen Davis, Thale Keisling and Rhonda Bolling.



Sherry Meisner is the new District Receptionist. She is married and has two daughters and two grandchildren.



Ray Duff, center, Sealing Crew Supervisor, holding his 3-month old grandson Colin Ray Rolland. His other grandchildren are Adam Smith, left, Kyle Wheeler, center, and Britney Smith, right.



Michael Benson, Pine Bluff Resident Engineer, recently transferred to the Central Office as Staff Construction Engineer.



Joey Waddle, left, Office Manager, presents a 10-year service certificate to Wanda Phillips, Fuel Clerk.



Ricky Tippit, left, Maintenance Aide I, receives a 15-year service certificate from Jimmy Johnson, Ashley County Area Maintenance Supervisor.



Receiving service awards on the District Sealing crew are left to right: Ray Spears, Crew Leader, 15 years; John Moorehead, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 5 years; James Copeland, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 5 years; and Larry Crow, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 5 years.



Scott Mullis, left, District Construction Engineer, presents a 10-year service certificate to Thale Keisling, McGehee Resident Engineer.



Thale Keisling, left, McGehee Resident Engineer, presents a 5-year service certificate to Tim Kelly, Assistant Resident Engineer.



Women's Appreciation Day
Left to right are Sherry Meisner, Wanda Phillips, Bettye Carter-Johnson, Ginger Haire, Hellen Kennedy, Cindy Plunkett and Felicia Spicer.



Sheila Jo Davis, born May 15, 2001, is the daughter of McGehee RE Office Field Clerk Karen and Jimmy Davis.

DISTRICT THREE



F.J. Koelzer, left, Senior Project Coordinator, receives a 45-year service pin from Jason Efir, Nashville Resident Engineer.



District Engineer William Tyler, left, presents a 25-year service pin to Steve Morrow, Shop Supv.



C.R. Tallman, left, Inspector, receives a 15-year service certificate from Jason Efir, Nashville Resident Engineer.



Suzanne Bullard, left, Field Clerk II, receives a 5-year service certificate from Kenny Bennett, Texarkana Resident Engineer.



Steve Frisbee, left, Advanced Construction Field Engineer, receives a 5-year service certificate from Kenny Bennett, Texarkana Resident Engineer.

DISTRICT FOUR



Bob Ferrari, Senior Mechanic, retired April 9, 2001 with 28 years service.



George Lee, left, presents a 15-year service certificate to W.H. Boswell, Senior Mechanic.



Larry Thornburg, left, Washington County AMS, presents a 15-year service certificate to Terry Emerson, Motor Patrol Opr.



Gus Young, left, Logan County AMS, receives a 30-year service pin from David Becker, District Maintenance Supt.



Mark Williams, left, Bridge Job Supt., receives a 25-year service pin from David Becker, District Maintenance Supt.



Stacy Evans, Resident Office Technician at the Mountainburg RE Office, at her farwell party.



Krissie and Missie Nunley, are the twin granddaughters of Anita Jordan, Mountainburg Area Headquarters Attendant.



Brad Jett, son of Scott County AMS Ray Jett, played football for the Waldron High School Bulldogs. He achieved honorable mention for the District 4 AAA West Conference football team.

DISTRICT FIVE



15-Year Service Awards

L-R: Donald Osmon, Maintenance Aide II; Keith Skelton, Crane Operator, Kenny Bowen, Assistant Resident Engineer; Dennis St. John, Sr. Body Repairer and Painter; Ann McLaughlin, Construction Aide II; Melvin Yates, District Bridge Inspector; Donald Harwood, Roller Operator; Bobby Wilkerson, Bridge Repairer II.



Service Awards

L-R: Gary Smith, Sr. Inspector, 35 years; Dennis Williams, Fulton County AMS, 30 years; Steve Anselmi, Construction Project Coordinator, 30 years; Raymond Covey, Inspector, 30 years



Service Awards

L-R: David Bailey, Motor Patrol Operator, 10 years; Wesley Hall, Single Axle Truck Dr., 5 years; Floyd Haley, Single Axle Truck Dr., 5 years; Kevin Pendergrass, Single Axle Truck Dr., 5 years



Service Awards

L-R: Eret Moxley, Backhoe/Front End Loader Opr., 5 years; Loyal Montgomery, Bridge Repairer I, 10 years; Lewis Rush, Crew Leader, 10 years; Leslie Shane, Senior Mechanic, 30 years



Harold Carr, center, Area Maintenance Supervisor, with District Engineer Lyndal Waits, left, and District Maintenance Supv. Randy Satterwhite, right. Harold retired April 6 with 24+ years.



Clemmie Shaye Taylor is the granddaughter of District Bookkeeper Kay Taylor.



Danny Carlton, center, Crew Leader, is presented a 15-year service certificate by Harold Grimsley, left, West Pulaski County AMS and Brian Wright, District Maintenance Engineer.



Randy Satterwhite, left, District Maintenance Supt., with Dickey Drake, Sealing Job Supt., who retired January 23 with 30+ years.



Ashley Watkins is the granddaughter of Dennis Nixon, Bald Knob Crew Leader. She is a member of Beebe Blast, a 10 and under fastpitch softball team, which won the ASA and the USSSA state championships and attended the Southern Association of America's World Series in Tennessee. Ashley played first base and pitched.



Brian Wright, left, District Maintenance Engineer, and Reuben Carter, right, Bridge Job Supt., present a 15-year service certificate to Bill Kling, Crane Operator.



Jane, left, and Gene Lee, Area Maintenance Supv., at his retirement June 21 with 31+ years.

Kermit Gay, Single Axle Truck Driver at the Bald Knob maintenance headquarters, was married to Helen Brown on May 19, 2001 at Russell, Arkansas.

DISTRICT SIX



Sammie Holton, left, Garland County AMS, and Brian Wright, right, District Maintenance Engineer, present a 15-year service certificate to John Caldwell, Maintenance Aide II.



Louise Taylor, center, Area Headquarters Attendant, receives a 15-year service certificate from Carl Erwin, left, Hot Spring County AMS, and Brian Wright, right, District Maintenance Engineer.



Bill Dunlap, center, Motor Patrol Operator/Finisher, receives a 20-year service certificate from Larry Gorbet, Lonoke County AMS, and Brian Wright, right, District Maint. Engineer.



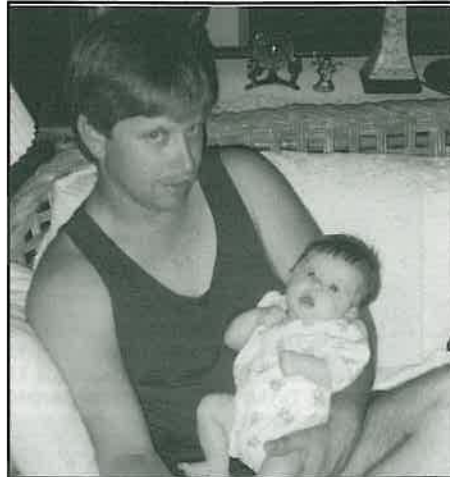
Brian Wright, left, District Maintenance Engineer, presents a 20-year service certificate to Charles Fowler, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish for Prairie County.



Gary Golden, center, District 6 Shop Supervisor, receives a 20-year service certificate from Brian Wright, left, District Maintenance Engineer, and Don Stovall, Assistant Maintenance Engineer.



Kimberly Shackelford, left, and Kasandra Hughes, are the granddaughters of Carl and Nellie Erwin. Carl is the Hot Spring County AMS and Nellie is the West Pulaski County Crew Leader. Kim was crowned Miss Hot Spring County Pre-Teen Fair Queen and Kasandra was second runnerup.



Eric Paulus, Garland County Crew Leader, holds his new daughter, Laianee Lynn Paulus, born April 20, 2001.



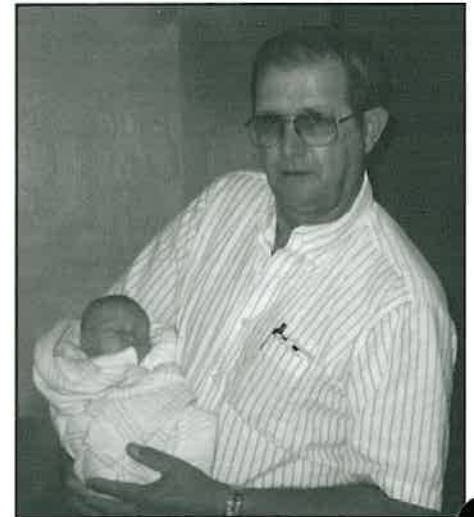
Blaine Patric Loggins, born March 25, 2001, is the grandson of Freddie and Grace Hall. Freddie is a Motor Patrol Operator/Finish and Grace is the Area Headquarters Attendant for the North Little Rock maintenance office.



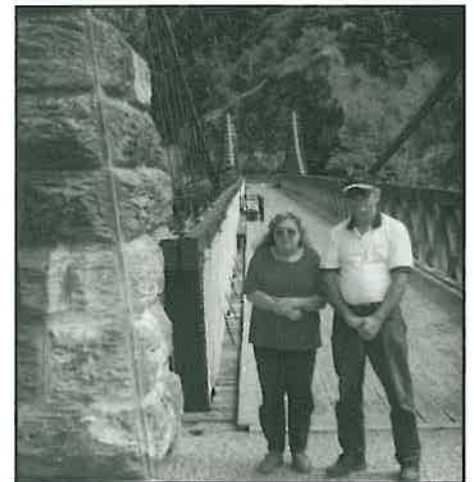
Dalton Ryan Lee Meyer, born June 24, 2000, is the great-grandson of Jim Cole, Rest Area Attendant at the Social Hill Rest Area in Malvern.

DISTRICT SEVEN

Beverly Butler Davis graduated from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences on May 19, 2001. She was one of 16 receiving a bachelor's degree in nuclear medicine. She is the daughter of Kenneth Butler, Electrical, Plumbing and Mechanical Repairer at Camden.



Jimmy Ryan, District Guard, holds his new grandson, Mark Lee Ryan, born July 25, 2001.



Betty Sindle, Personnel Clerk, flew to New Zealand January 25, 2001, to visit with her brother Paul Sinclair and family, whom she had not seen in 22 years. Betty and Paul pose above on this historic Kawarau Bridge.



Allison "Allie" Ledbetter, 7-year old daughter of Aline Ledbetter, Area Headquarters Attendant for Ouachita County, Participated in the Harmony Grove beauty pageant.

DISTRICT EIGHT



Thomas Kinslow, left, District Maintenance Supt. presents a 25-year service award to Jerry Williams, Johnson County Crew Leader.



Thomas Kinslow, left, District Maintenance Supt., presents a 25-year service pin to Tommy Bridges, Multi-Axle Truc Driver for the District Sealing crew.



Thomas Kinslow, left, District Maintenance Supt., presents a 25-year service pin to Danny Duvall, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish for Pope County.



Thomas Kinslow, left, District Maintenance Supt., presents a 25-year service pin to Richard Keaster, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator for the District Sealing crew.



Thomas Kinslow, left, District Maintenance Supt., presents a 25-year service pin to Joe Phillips, Perry County AMS.



15-Year Service Awards
Don Williams, Senior Mechanic, and Dan Leggett, Multi-Axle Truck Driver



10-Year Service Awards
Butch Bartlett, Senior Mechanic; Gary Hensley, Area Headquarters Attendant, and Jack Bocksnick, Welder

DISTRICT NINE



Curly Johnson, Peel Ferry Supervisor, retired with 28 years service.



Ralph Fulton, District Engineer, presents a retirement plaque to Connis Ingram, Baxter County AMS, who retired in December 2000 with 31+ years.



Butch Martin, left, Resident Engineer, presents a 30-year service pin to Lotis Horton, Jr., Senior Inspector at the Harrison RE Office.



Rick Widner, left, Storeroom Supv., presents a 10-year service certificate to Rick Watson, Parts Runner.



Marvin "Corky" Carlton, Bridge Repairer II for the District Bridge crew, retired in March 2001 with 28+ years. He is shown with his retirement gift from his fellow coworkers.



Greg Howerton, left, Crew Leader, receives a 25-year service pin from Kit Core, Carroll County Area Maintenance Supv.



Butch Martin, left, Resident Engineer, presents a 10-year service certificate to Kendall Shelton, Inspector at the Harrison RE Office.



Steve Jones, Construction Aide III for the Yellville Resident Engineer's Office, retired June 28, 2001 with 28+ years service.



Diane Tomlinson, left, Resident Office Technician, receives a 20-year service certificate and pin from Greg Harding, Resident Engineer.



Charles Christopher, Bridge Repairer I for the District Bridge crew, receives a 10-year service award and pin.



Kit Core, left, Carroll County AMS, presents a 15-year service certificate to Floyd Wyatt, Maintenance Aide I.



Kenneth Oxford, left, Marion County AMS, presents a 5-year service certificate to James Bass, Distributor/Roller Operator.



Butch Martin, left, Resident Engineer, presents a 5-year service certificate to Bobby Keeton, Construction Aide II.



Butch Martin, left, Resident Engineer, presents a 5-year service certificate to Janet Smith, Construction Helper II.



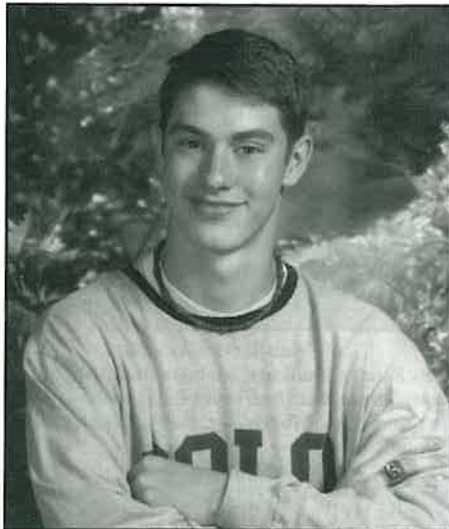
Jason and Christina James with their daughter, Madeline Faith, born June 29, 2001. Jason is an Adv. Construction Field Engineer at the Bentonville RE Office.



Austin Russell Pearsall, born June 5, 2001, is the grandson of Rick Widner, District Storeroom Supv.



Isabela Rose Phillips, born July 9, 2001, is the granddaughter of Bill Phillips, retired Newton County AMS.



Marcus Hopkins, son of Gary Hopkins, Boone County Multi-Axle Truck Driver, won an essay contest sponsored by Carroll Electric. He was one of 1400 youths from 37 states at the 2001 Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, DC.



Butch Martin, Harrison Resident Engineer, was "busted" for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. His bail was set at \$500, but before this Harrison police officer hauled him away, Butch had raised over \$800 for MDA.

DISTRICT TEN



John Allison, left, Shop Supervisor, helps Jerry T. Brown, Service Station Attendant II, with his cake at his retirement on October 5. Jerry had 9+ years with the Department.



Joe Barnett, left, District Engineer, receives a 30-year service pin from Ralph Hall, Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations.



Randy Cooper, Storeroom Supv., receives a 20-year service certificate.



Dwayne Pritchard, Maintenance Aide II, receives a 15-year service certificate.



15-Year Service Awards

L-R: David Prine, Bridge Repairer I; Sammy McDaniel, Bridge Repairer II; Victor Blevins, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish



15-Year Service Awards

L-R: David Haynes, Distributor/Roller Operator and Donna K. Moore, Area Headquarters Attendant



Anthony Williams, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish, receives a 10-year service award.



Vickie K. Branum, Rest Area Attendant, receives a 10-year service certificate.



10-Year Service Awards

L-R: Sandra Faulkner, Maintenance Aide I; Anthony James, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator; and Rick Morris, Sr. Body Repairer and Painter.



5-Year Service Awards

L-R: Lenny Fulco, Distributor Operator; Chester Sanders, Distributor/Roller Operator, and Brian Rowe, Adv. Construction Field Engineer



5-Year Service Awards

L-R: Kim Tippy, Distributor/Roller Operator; Nathaniel Bell, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, and Tammy Croom, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator.



5-Year Service Awards

L-R: Retha Kappelman, Field Clerk I; Larry McKinney, Sr. Mechanic; Robert Losh, Distributor/Roller Operator, and Darrell Campbell, Crane Operator/Finish



Tray Lamb, born June 17, 2001, is the grandson of Brenda Lamb, Single Axle Truck Driver for the Greene County maintenance crew.



Collin Nathaniel Wilson, born May 15, 2001, is the son of Lisa Wilson, Clay County Area Headquarters Attendant.



Delphia Ward, born June 26, 2001, is the daughter of Stephanie Ward, District Receptionist.



Timothy Preston Mooney, born August 8, 2001, is the grandson of Brenda Lamb, Single Axle Truck Driver for the Greene County maintenance crew.



The Clay County maintenance crew won the "Big Heart" award for having the highest percentage of crew members participate in the February blood drive.





**ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY
& TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT**

**POST OFFICE BOX 2261
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72203-2261
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED**

**PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Little Rock, AR 72203
Permit No. 2556**

