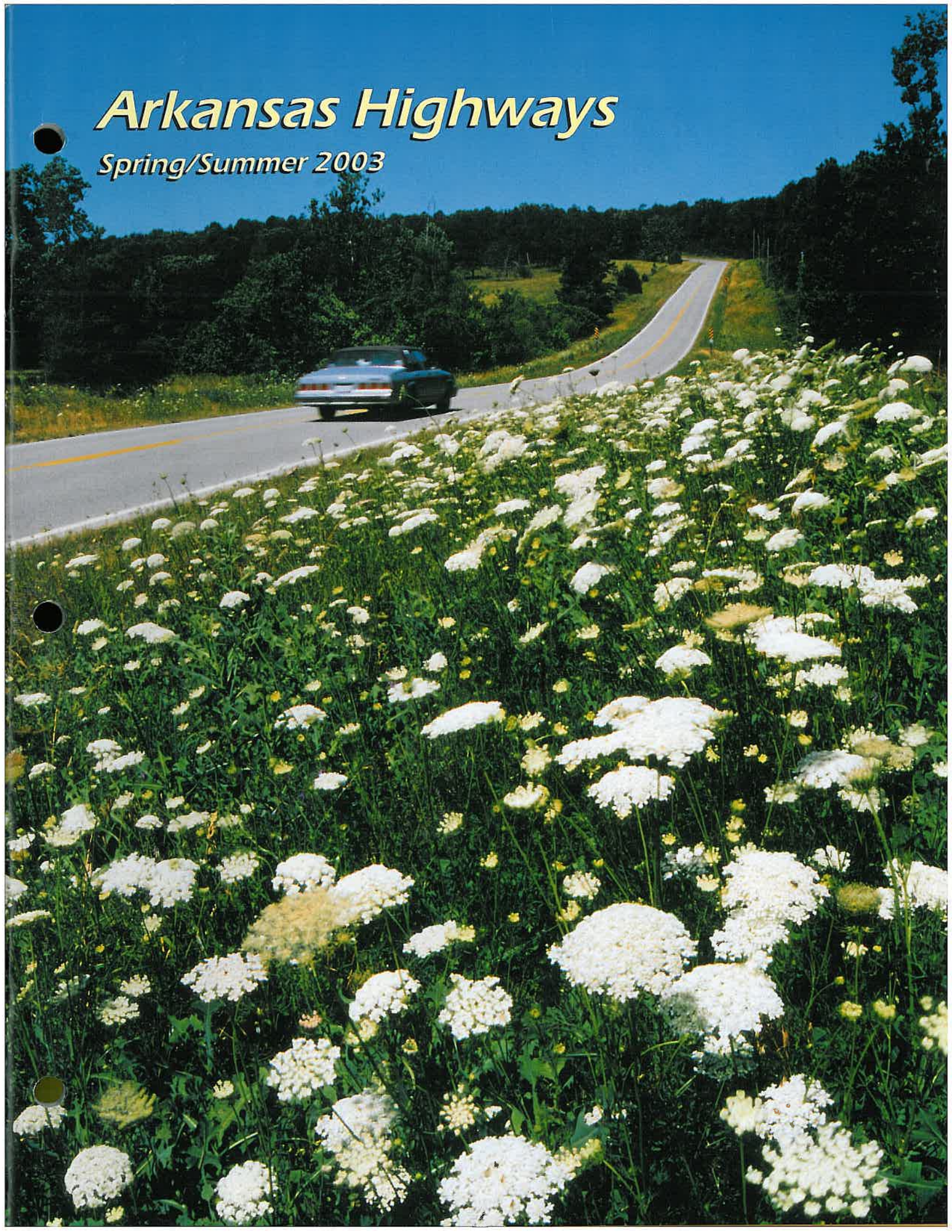


Arkansas Highways

Spring/Summer 2003



Director's Message



The Interstate Rehabilitation Program (IRP) has made great progress in providing Arkansas with some of the safest, most convenient Interstate highways anywhere. In just three years' time, we've let to contract over 350 miles of construction, with a peak of 220 miles underway at one time in June 2002. Throughout this challenging time, we've asked all

involved to "Think Ahead" toward the final result and the widespread positive outlook has been rewarding.

The tremendous accomplishments that are being achieved with this program are directly related to the dedication and professionalism of Department staff and so many partners in the process. From the engineers and planners preparing the projects, to the clerical and financial minds tracking the details, to the frontline technicians and contractors keeping the work moving to the people keeping the community informed, the workload for everyone involved has increased. We commend the many individuals and organizations who have made the IRP such a success.


DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Arkansas Highways

SPRING/SUMMER 2003

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION



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VICE CHAIRMAN



PRISSY HICKERSON
VICE CHAIR



JONATHAN BARNETT
MEMBER



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MEMBER



R. MADISON MURPHY
MEMBER

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Arkansas Highways

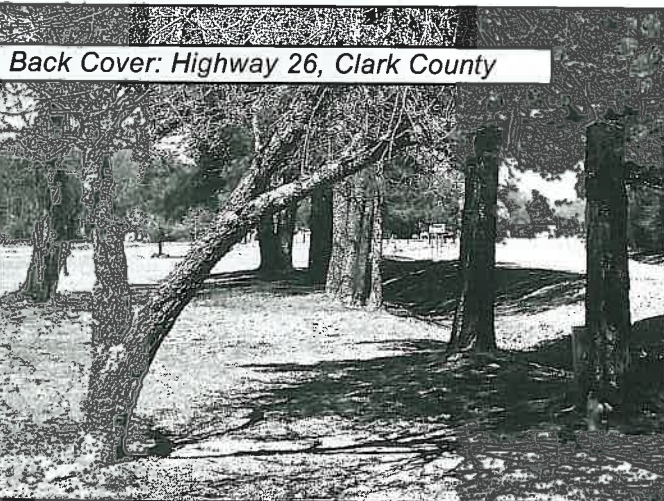
Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department
Spring/Summer 2003

Issue Highlights

- 2 A Tribute to Former Director Henry Gray
- 6 An Interview with New Commissioner R. Madison Murphy
- 11 AHTD Presents Gift to Mack-Blackwell Rural Transportation Center
- 12 North Belt Freeway Opens to Traffic
- 13 Interstate 30 Frontage Roads Convert to One Way
- 14 Toll Legislation Passes
- 15 AHTD Officials Meet With Congressional Delegates
- 16 Highway Officials Speak at AAPA Conference
- 17 Interstate 40 Designated Veterans Memorial Highway

Regular Features

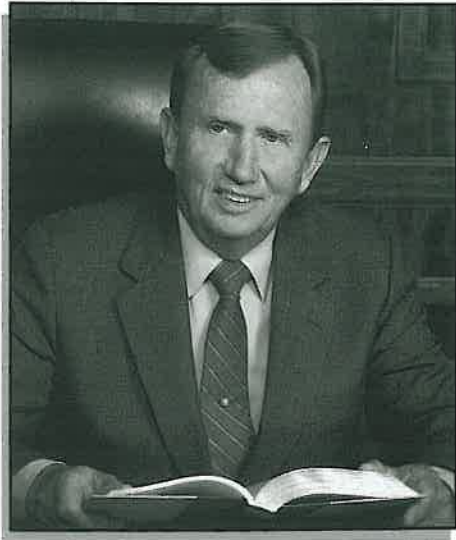
- 3 Letters
- 18 Public Hearings
- 19 Around the Department



Front Cover: Highway 157, Independence County



Spring 2003 Issue of Arkansas Highways is Dedicated to the Memory of *Henry Gray*



Henry C. Gray passed away Thursday, March 20, 2003. He served the Highway Department for 25 years and was Director of Highways from 1973 until his retirement in 1987. He was 79 years old.

A native of North Little Rock, Gray attended Little Rock Junior

College and Louisiana State University before graduating from the University of Wyoming with a Bachelor of Science degree in wildlife conservation.

Gray joined AHTD in 1962 as Head of the Right of Way Division after serving ten years with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

Before being named AHTD Director, Gray served as Assistant to the Chief Engineer, Assistant Director for Administration and Realty, and Assistant Director.

Gray served on numerous committees of AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) and SASHTO (Southeastern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials).

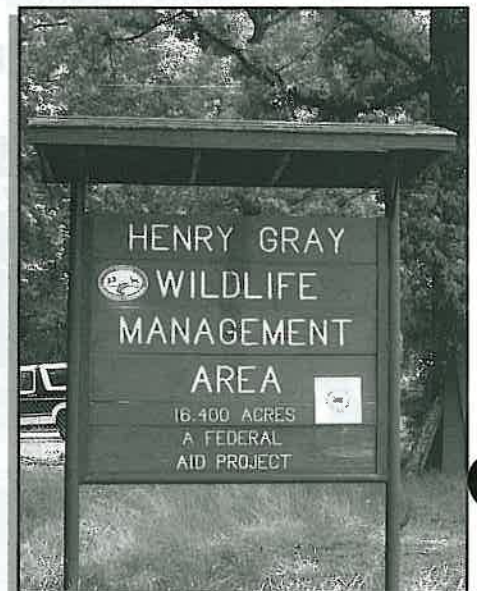
At the AASHTO 68th annual meeting, Gray was elected President for 1983. One of his first official duties was to attend the White House ceremony in which President Ronald Reagan signed the Surface Transportation Assistance Act into law on January 6, 1983.

An avid sportsman, Gray enjoyed hunting and fishing. After retirement, he served as the Executive Director of the Arkansas Game & Fish Foundation and was inducted into the Arkansas Wildlife Hall of Fame.

In 1984, the Hurricane Lake Wildlife Management Area was named in his honor because he was instrumental in the land acquisition and development of the area.

"Throughout his career, Mr. Gray worked tirelessly to improve the image of the Department and to develop programs to enhance employee productivity and morale. He was instrumental in the passage of legislation to fund many highway improvements in Arkansas. He was also an avid sportsman and truly dedicated to improving the state's wildlife and fisheries resources."

Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation



Letters to the Department

To: Mr. Dan Flowers, Director

On behalf of the Fordyce School District and its Board of Directors, I wanted to let you know how appreciative we are for the new left turn lane in front of the Wal-Mart Store on the Highway 79 Bypass. This is a primary entrance to our school that is used by parents, students and visiting schools, i.e. athletic teams. This new turn lane should make a left turn into our campus a much safer maneuver.

Again, we are very thankful for your consideration for the safety of the people in our community and our school. Please let us know if there is any way that we can be of assistance to you.

*Ron Hayes, Superintendent
Fordyce Public Schools*

To: Dan Flowers, Director

My husband and I live in Conway. We recently were on our way home from Mississippi when our truck started making a loud noise and the check engine light came on. We were near the Forrest City Rest Area so we pulled in to call a garage or tow truck to come help us, but there was no phone book. I asked the gentleman who worked at the rest area, Charlie Williams, if he knew of a place I could call for help. He offered to see if he could see what was wrong and if he could help. It was past time for him to go home, but he took time out from his family to help us. He could have given us directions but he was afraid we would have more trouble with our truck on the way to the garage so he led the way in case we could

not make it. I don't know what we would have done if Mr. Williams had not been there. I asked if I could pay him for his time. He said we owed him nothing and that he was glad he was there and could help.

I could never repay Mr. Williams but maybe if I see someone that is in trouble I can pass his kindness along.

I want you to know what a wonderful gentleman you have in your employment. He is an asset to our wonderful state and I will always be in his debt. I thank God he had not left work on time that day. Thank you for having people working for our state that are so dedicated.

*Harry and Sandra Bickerton
Conway, AR*

To: Dan Flowers, Director

I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal appreciation to Ralph Burge and his crew in Saline County for their outstanding work during the February ice storm. Because of their quick responses, working long hours and coordinating with me on places that needed attention, the whole situation went smoothly.

I have worked with Ralph on several occasions, many involved ice and snow covered roadways. On each occasion, he has come through for me and made my job a lot less stressful.

I ask that Ralph and his crew be commended for their dedication to the citizens of Arkansas and for their continued support and assistance to the Arkansas State Police.

*Sgt. Ron Casey
Arkansas State Police
Saline County*

To: Ray Woodruff, District 1

While traveling back through your state from a trip to California, I had the opportunity to meet a pair of gentlemen that stopped to offer assistance when I had blown a fuse on my car. I was traveling on Interstate 40 eastbound just before the bridge into Tennessee.

My headlights went out! I pulled over to the side of the road to find out what the problem was. Within about five minutes, Don Fowler and Gary Morton of the Arkansas Motorist Assistance Patrol offered to help.

They offered flashlights, fuses and whatever was needed to help get me back on my way home again.

Both were very professional, courteous and helpful.

I do thank you, Don and Gary, for your help that early evening as I finished my trip home to North Carolina.

*Ralph Button
Franklinton, NC*

To: Mr. Dan Flowers, Director

Thank you for being a part of the East Mud Creek Multi-Use Trail Grand opening ceremonies and making it a most successful trail event.

Thank you for your support of trails and greenways in the City of Fayetteville and we look forward to working with you on future community projects.

*Steve H. Hatfield
Fayetteville Parks
and Recreation*

Letters to the Department (Cont.)

To: Highway Commission Chair

My daughter lives in Greenwood, Arkansas, and I live in Searcy. I travel each week to visit her. I wanted you to know that the Interstate 40 work is going great! The part that is finished is nice and smooth. It is a joy to travel on.

I know there is still construction but that is a small price to pay for the nice road the public will be able to ride on going to various places when it is finished. Keep up the good work!

*Sidney Jackson
Searcy, AR*

To: Commissioner
Jonathan Barnett

On behalf of all the citizens of Northwest Arkansas, and all of the out-of-state travelers who use Highway 62 East past Avoca, I want to publicly thank you for your prompt and generous assistance with the restructuring of the Highway 62/Highway 72 intersection. The work completed by AHTD makes this intersection much safer and more convenient to use. Your help in getting this completed is much appreciated.

In addition, the resurfacing of the section from the north boundary of Avoca to the Pea Ridge Military Park makes this section much more pleasurable to travel. Those of us who live along that stretch are the biggest benefactors, but every traveler must appreciate it also.

Your contribution from the Highway Commission made this possible and it is my desire that others will also write to thank you for your efforts.

*Leo E. Lynch
Pea Ridge, AR*

To: Mr. Dan Flowers, Director

I wanted to send you a note of appreciation for the help my daughter received recently when she was in Arkansas. Amber had made a trip alone to Tennessee. On the way back, her car overheated and died just as she got into Arkansas. She called me, not knowing what to do. She only had about \$30 and was six hours from home. All we could do was go get her. She was afraid they would have to sit in the car on the side of the highway until we could get there, but as it turned out, the Motorist Assistance Patrol came to her rescue, put her and the baby in a motel for the night and saved my having to drive all night to get her.

Amber said she met some of the nicest people she has ever seen anywhere, and I am grateful for each one of them. Thank you for being there. I hope this assistance program will continue as a permanent, vital part of the Transportation Department.

*Mona Chandler
Carthage, TX*

To: William Tyler
District Engineer

I have been meaning for weeks to write and let you know how very much I appreciate the highway repair on Main Street.

We, at The Judy Murphy Company, for years had to endure a very rough approach into our parking lot on South Main Street. Now it is such a joy to enter over a very, very smooth asphalt entry.

Thanks so much for your efforts on this project. It was much needed.

*Judy E. Murphy
Hope, AR*

To: Chief Ron Burks

I just want to express my appreciation to the Highway Police and especially to Corporal Jay Thompson for the excellent job they did on the one-way conversion of the frontage roads on Interstate 30. Due to the efforts of your officers, the project went smoothly, with minimal interruptions to the traveling public. Most importantly, our contractors were able to perform their work in a much safer environment.

Corporal Thompson has worked very well with our office to coordinate all of the work on the freeway system and is to be commended for the extra effort that he expended on the one-way conversion. His coordination efforts with the Arkansas State Police, City of Little Rock, City of Bryant and the City of Benton Police Departments helped make the conversion effort function as well as it did.

Please convey our appreciation to your staff for the outstanding job they performed.

*Resident Engineer, No. 66
PBS&J
Mabelvale, AR*

To: Mr. Dan Flowers, Director

Thank you so much for copies of the photos made at the ACCE board meeting and our Commission luncheon in Conway.

I really appreciate you taking the time to attend both events. We were especially pleased that four of the Commissioners could join us in Conway.

*Nancy Elphingstone
Conway Aread
Chamber of Commerce*

The item below was received by Arkansas Highway Police in Marion Arkansas. It is a letter from Highway Patrol Officer Danny Williford who was on active duty in Iraq at the time. He wrote the letter on a piece of cardboard from a box and mailed it as a postcard to his fellow officers. The text reads as follows:

Hi Everybody,

We are presently 100 yds from Iraq at Camp Coyote in Kuwait. It is very hot here and it has been exciting a couple of times also. We saw our 1st D.O.A. today, a 19 y. o. army truck driver who rolled his truck. Tell Sgt. Huey, Joe Driver, Lt. Moore and the gang hi. You all be safe & I hope to be home about 90 days after we win this war, I hope. There are about 6 police officers here, also. Take care. PFC Danny Williford; oh yeah save me a unit!

HMC Danny Williford USN
CSSG-15 HSB ECHO
UIC 42387
FPO AR 96426-2387



ARKANSAS Highway Police
Marion Station
Mile Marker 9, I-55 SB
MARION, ARKANSAS

Hi Everybody,

We are presently 100 yds from Iraq at Camp Coyote in Kuwait. It is very hot here and it has been exciting a couple of times also. We saw our 1st D.O.A. today, a 19 y. o. army truck driver who rolled his truck. Tell Sgt. Huey, Joe Driver, Lt. Moore and the gang hi. You all be safe & I hope to be home about 90 days after we win this war, I hope. There are about 6 police officers here, also. Take care. PFC Danny Williford; oh yeah save me a unit!



An Interview With Commissioner R. Madison Murphy

R. Madison Murphy was appointed to a ten-year term on the Arkansas State Highway Commission by Governor Mike Huckabee on December 17, 2002. He was sworn in as Commissioner on January 14, 2003, and will serve until January 2013. A native of El Dorado, Murphy is a member of the Board of Murphy Oil, Deltic Timber Corporation and Bancorp South, Inc. He is also President of the Murphy Foundation. In a recent interview with Public Affairs Officer Randy Ort, Murphy discusses his first few months as a Highway Commissioner.

RO: Explain to us what feelings you had when the governor first approached you about this position on the Highway Commission?

MM: I was, as Governor Huckabee described, 'a reluctant appointee.' Being on the Highway Commission was not something that had occurred to me and was not something that I had aspired to do. It took an awful lot of thought and consideration as to, 1) What did I think I could bring to the table, if anything; and 2) Did I have a sufficient amount of time to be able to do the best job that I could? I was hesitant and reluctant and there were a lot of people that were very persuasive, including the Governor.

RO: What did you find appealing about the job?

MM: When you distill everything down to what are the determinants of how one succeeds economically as a state, both individually and collectively, it's



infrastructure, education, and taxation. Those are the drivers when businesses decide, 'do I want to locate here, do I want to remain here, what are my costs, what are my transportations costs, what are the quality of life issues, what are the relative costs and taxes,' and other things. So when companies are looking at where they select for locations, transportation infrastructure has become number one. More specifically, they are looking at 4-lane or other suitable access to Interstate-quality highways. So I felt like this was a position where I could do some good for the state of Arkansas. The Department obviously is the backbone of the infrastructure system in the state, and we certainly have a long way to go economically in Arkansas. We have done a good job of addressing our transportation and infrastructure needs, but we still have some hurdles in front of us.

RO: You obviously see highways as an economic development tool. What are some things the Highway Commission can do to enhance that for our state?

MM: Well, I think we need to look at what is a sensible, complete grid of 4-lane highways, including good 2-lane access to 4-lane or Interstate-quality highways – what makes a complete grid or highway system where you can move goods and people from one end of the state to the other efficiently. Arkansas has come a long way in doing that, but we are not there yet. With the Interstate system, we have a very good start, but there are clearly some additional needs in this state for highway infrastructure. The problem is money. But I'm not telling you anything you don't know. We've got the needs study that was done showing \$12 billion in upcoming needs. That's pretty serious walking-around money.

RO: You're involved in varying business interests. How can some of that experience help you as a Commissioner?

MM: One of the things, and it is going to take a little time, is to try

to understand how the Department functions. This is not a private business, which is what I'm clearly most familiar with. This is a large department, the 3rd largest in state government. The funding is complex, the budgeting issues are complex.

I have some familiarity with public accounting, governmental accounting. I am someone who thinks that we need to look at how we spend our money – what is the cost-benefit analysis? It's tough, though, when you get into public policy and public spending, because it isn't a business and it can't be bottom-line driven. You are not in the business to enhance shareholder wealth, which is what most public companies' primary goal ought to be. And so there is a difference.

I would hope that I could bring some business experience to the table – maybe a little different view of the way we do a couple of things. But I'm certainly not going to try

to be arrogant enough to say that I am going to be able to bring any great insight or radical change to things. That is not my goal or intention. I would like to be as helpful as I can be given my background and the experiences that I've had. But I've got a lot to learn here before I am able to be a contributor to the success of this department, the people in it, and the state we serve.

RO: You have some background and experience in looking at the state's fiscal responsibilities from when the Murphy Commission did their report and their analysis. Is there anything from that experience that you're able to bring forward?

MM: Well maybe so. A lot of things have changed since that report. But I do think that we need, as a state, to look very hard at how we do our budgeting and why we do it the way we do it. I think that agencies should have incentives to spend the money well and wisely. But when you have so many different accounting systems in various parts of state government, it is hard for anybody to get a grip on how one department is spending its money on, let's say, general administrative expenses, relative to another department. Where are they spending the money, why are they spending the money? We found that a lot of departments had enormous amounts of data, but very little information – we were data rich and information poor.

And then there is a 'use it or lose it' mentality out there about budgets. If you have a budget and don't spend it, then the next year your base line is cut, so your



Murphy was reluctant at first, but was persuaded by Governor Huckabee and others to serve as a Highway Commissioner.



incentive is to spend your entire budget. I don't think the state is very well served by that mentality because, say you get up to a point in time, and let's say you have spent 80% of your budget. The thinking becomes, "Oh my goodness, I've got to go spend the other 20% or next year I am going to be penalized." I think we ought to have incentives to save the money or be allowed to carry it over.

But again, that is very different from the Highway Department because of the motor fuel taxes that fund this agency. We

are really user driven, user funded. There are some similarities, but it's quite different from most of state government.

RO: The Commission has issued GARVEE bonds as an innovative type of financing. Does anything else come to mind as far as new financing approaches we might want to look at?

MM: I don't think I have any specifics on new approaches or examples of them. But I do think that we need to be looking in the same vein that the department looked at

the GARVEE bonds. I think the Commission and the Department have done a good job with innovative financing with the GARVEE bonds. There are a lot of innovative techniques out there, some good and will fit the bill and some that probably just aren't going to be applicable to our situation.

I think that we need to be taking a good hard look because we have a great number of needs and a limited number of dollars to meet them. I don't think there is a "one size fits all" answer. If there was, this would be real easy. Certainly bond financing is a great way to do it if you have the guaranteed revenue stream. The design/build concept is something that is a little different from what we've been doing and maybe we should take a look at that. I know there are companies out there at the moment that are engaged in road building with a different slant on things, where they will build a highway and are responsible for the maintenance for 20-25 years. It's a different approach to the bid process.

I am not suggesting for a moment that we change things. I've had some modest experience with financing having been a Chief Financial Officer of a public company, and again, that is real different from state government. But I think the way things are operating is not bad. You advertise for bids and take the low bid meeting specifications. It's a tried and true process, and it serves the taxpayers well because you get the most bang for your buck. But I think if you're always looking and always turning rocks over, you will find ways to stretch the dollars. And getting more done for less, that is the essence of productivity.

RO: You mentioned the needs study that was done, and the fact that we've got \$12 billion in needs identified, but only about \$4 billion in revenue to address those needs. You have mentioned economic development as a possible priority of yours – what are some other priorities that you see out there?

MM: Well, I have to caveat this entire conversation with saying that usually I have the opportunity to talk about things I at least know something about. And so I find myself in somewhat of a unique position, and I have to go back to your first question of why I was so hesitant about accepting this position. It's not something I knew very much about. I have got a long way to go to get on a learning curve before I think I could answer that with a high degree of definitiveness. But, I will tell you my opinion.

I live in El Dorado, south Arkansas, so I'll use that area as an example. El Dorado is an area that is losing population. We have a hard time because we do not have four-lane access to an Interstate-quality highway. And we have lost out on site selection processes because of that. Of course, El Dorado is certainly not unique in Arkansas in that respect.

I think that we need to look at what really are the priorities of this state. Clearly the Interstate Rehabilitation Program was a major priority because our Interstates had deteriorated and they needed a major overhaul. That is why the bond financing was a great way to go. Interstate 540 from Alma to Fayetteville was also a great deal. Not only was it needed for travel and

commerce, that was a safety issue as well.

If you look at a map of the state you'll say "OK, where do we have good 4-lane infrastructure?" Well, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to look at this state to see where they are or where they aren't. There isn't anything wrong with a good two-lane highway, but you need major arteries. Clearly, I am going to be a proponent of taking a look at (U. S. Highway) 167. It's the highest traffic volume border crossing in south Arkansas bar none. That's a fact. We four-laned between El Dorado and Louisiana, the border.

"I think that we need to be taking a good hard look because we have a great number of needs and a limited number of dollars to meet them."

What is that, 15 miles? Louisiana hasn't, but they do have a plan, so at least that will give south Arkansas – the El Dorado, Camden and Magnolia areas – four-lane access to I-20. But El Dorado has got to have 4-lane access to Little Rock. It doesn't exist and I think it needs to.

(U. S. Highway) 412 across the top of the state needs to be a priority corridor as well. Finishing (U. S. Highway) 65 South, probably (U. S. Highway) 65 out of Conway going north. Finishing (U. S. Highway) 67 on up to Walnut Ridge and serving the Jonesboro area. Obviously,

Highway 71, which will become Interstate 49, needs to take place. And then southeast Arkansas, in the process. I don't think that's hard for people to understand. I just think it's natural that there will always be a lot of competition for dollars since people are generally competitive in spirit. But I don't think we need to begrudge our neighboring counties or regions or other parts of the state in fighting for highway dollars.

RO: How has being on the Commission impacted your personal or professional life?

MM: Well, one of the reasons I was hesitant in the beginning was the time factor. I wasn't really out looking for something else to do.

This legislative session was probably a great session from my prospective. This was a session where there weren't a lot of huge issues relative to the Department. And I was enormously grateful for that, being fresh on the Commission. I felt like it was a blessing not to have a politically charged or contentious session relative to highway issues.

So I guess I was fortunate in that respect – that it hasn't been that time consuming up to this point.

RO: You feel like you're still in a learning curve?

MM: Well, the reality is that a new Commissioner gets to tread water for awhile, which is probably not a bad thing. You gain some familiarity and knowledge and get to form your opinions, hopefully based on some experience, as opposed to just opinion. You all (the AHTD staff) manage people's time well, and the information you provide is good and

concise. There is a lot more information that I would like to get my teeth into, but I will ask for it when I feel like I need to get it.

So yes, it takes up some time and it ought to take some time. The reluctance I had was because if you commit to something, you need to be able and willing to spend the amount of time that it takes, and sometimes this is going to take a lot of time. When it does, you need to be able to have the flexibility to drop what you are doing in your personal business life or otherwise and deal with it.

RO: Have you been approached by many individuals or groups about issues they wanted to bring to your attention?

MM: No, not a great amount.

RO: What have you learned so far in your time on the Commission?

MM: I've learned that people expect me to have answers to technical questions. But you know what I tell people when they ask me a technical question? I say, "Look, I am not a highway engineer today, I wasn't one a year ago, and I won't be one in ten years." We have good, professional people running this Department and, at least in my view, technical questions are not the job of a Commissioner. I am not qualified to make engineering decisions.

So what is the job of a Commissioner? Well, it is to try to help bring some strategic oversight and strategic planning and help the Department in a lot of those areas. It is to make decisions about where and how we spend the money that the state has to spend based on the best professional advice the Department can give and the best technical and professional management advice. In a way, it's not unlike serving on a board of directors of a public entity.

But when people say, "Oh, Highway Commission, I need for you to fix this or tell me the technical answers to that," well, you know frankly, I am not qualified. And I won't be because I don't have time to go to engineering school. I wish I had gone to engineering school. I wish I had a bunch of degrees – Engineering would be one of them. But I only have one.

I've also learned a little about our funding, or should I say, lack of it. We need additional federal funding in the worst way. I am not familiar with the highway needs of other states. I am only becoming familiar with ours. We need some additional federal funding to help us get to a point where we can really and genuinely have a good system statewide. I'm not trying to say that we haven't gotten our fair share. We need a better network to link up interstate commerce and other things.

Also in regards to funding, I would like to see the exemption removed from ethanol. I am not going to voice my public opinion about whether I think ethanol is a good fuel or a bad fuel, but I think to exempt a portion of motor fuel for public policy aspirations is bad public policy. And I think the exemption on ethanol ought to go. Take for example, we have the exemption, and if certain percent of motor fuel is going to be mandated to contain "x" percent of ethanol, well guess what? You just took whatever percent that is right out of the highway trust fund. I just really think its bad public policy because it potentially strips out funding that is desperately needed for transportation infrastructure in this county. If you want to subsidize it, do it. But for heaven's sake, don't do it through motor fuel taxation.

Also, I am sort of big on incentive-based pay. I think that companies who perform well should have the



ability to sort of 'knock it over the fence.' I am a big proponent of incentive pay. How that applies to the Department right now, I don't have a specific idea. But I do know you have used incentive clauses successfully in contracts in the past.

RO: Have you had the chance to meet many department employees yet?

MM: No, unfortunately I have not had the opportunity to meet a lot of employees. I have shaken fewer hands than I would like and I had less of an opportunity to actually get to visit with people than I would have liked at this point.

But I do remember that, even back in the Murphy Commission days, we were certainly impressed with the professionalism of the Department and the nature of the professional management that the Department has. That is certainly true and it has been my experience thus far that the Department has a lot of highly capable people who are dedicated to what they are doing, and I am proud of the association. I would like to hold up my end of the bargain, but I would say the jury is still out on that one. We'll wait and see.

Mack-Blackwell Rural Transportation Center Receives Scholarship Presentation

AHTD officials attended a Transportation Symposium in Fayetteville this April, and took the opportunity to present a check to the Mack-Blackwell Rural Transportation Center. Commissioner Johnathan Barnett and Director Dan Flowers presented the \$15,000 gift to Dr. Melissa Tooley, director of the Center, on behalf of the Southeastern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (SASHTO).

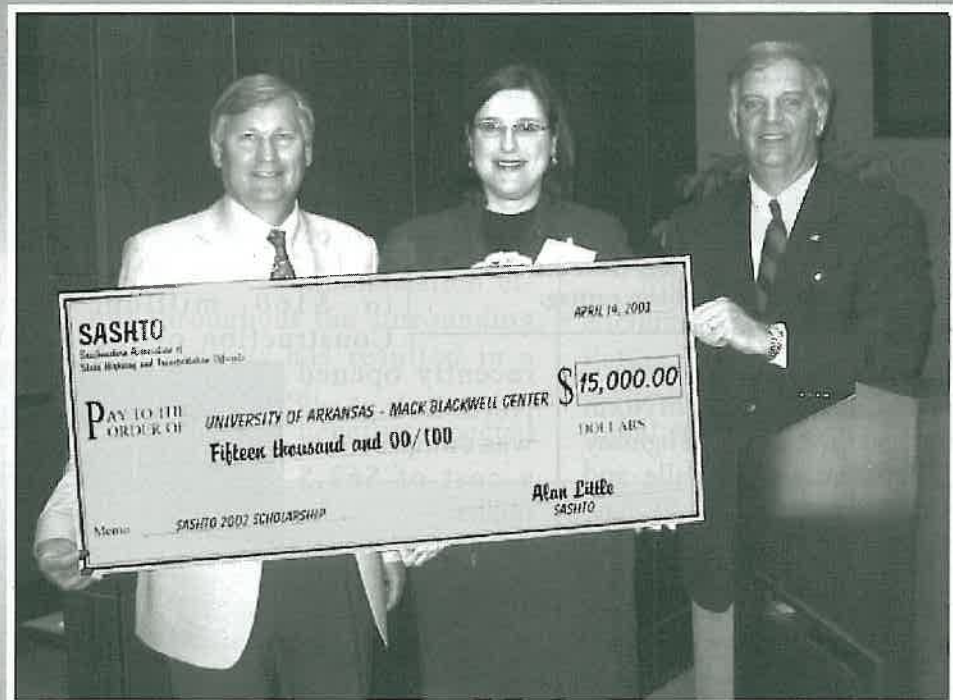
Commissioner Barnett, who participated in a panel session focusing on transportation issues, reviewed the budget needs of the Department over the next ten years. According to Barnett, the total cost for identified roadway needs and other improvements is estimated to be over \$12 billion over the next ten years. At the same time, annual income to the Department available to address those needs is estimated to be only approximately \$4 billion. That leaves a shortage of approximately \$8 billion over the next ten years.

Barnett stated the Commission and the Department appreciate the Fiscal Year 2003 Appropriations recently approved by Congress. The national funding level of \$32 billion is equal to the Fiscal Year 2002 funding. This amount represents approximately \$400 million for Arkansas.

Participating with Barnett on the panel were Melissa Tooley, Mack-Blackwell Rural Transportation Center; Scott Vanlaningham, Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport; and John McClarty, Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission.

Attendees at the Symposium also heard from Homeland Security Undersecretary Asa Hutchinson, who discussed the new Department of Homeland Security with a focus on border and transportation security. Participants also heard from Thomas Petri, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Highways, Transit and Pipelines.

The Symposium was hosted by the Mack-Blackwell Rural Transportation Center.



Dr. Melissa Tooley (center), director of the Mack-Blackwell Rural Transportation Center, receives a check from Commissioner Jonathan Barnett (left) and AHTD Director Dan Flowers.

North Belt Freeway Section Opens To Traffic

Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee joined Highway Commissioners, AHTD staff, local officials and others for an official ribbon cutting ceremony on January 30, 2003, to open the first section of State Highway 440, currently designated North Belt Freeway.



The eventual end result of the North Belt Freeway will be a northern loop around greater Little Rock. The East Belt, I-440 was opened in 1987, connecting the I-30/I-530 interchange east around the airport, over the Arkansas River and to Interstate 40.



Governor Huckabee welcomes those attending the Highway 440 ribbon cutting.

The next phase of the North Belt will connect this newly opened section with the I-40/I-430 interchange west of North Little Rock. Environmental and location studies continue for the next segment. The 13-mile project is estimated to cost from \$155 to \$160 million. Construction of the



Director Dan Flowers (center), Governor Huckabee and Commission Chair J.W. "Buddy" Benafield welcome dignitaries.

Jacksonville and North Little Rock. More than 100,000 vehicles travel Interstate 40 between Highway 67/167 and Interstate 30 and continue across the Arkansas River.

Although this new roadway serves as an extension of Interstate 440, the section cannot carry the

The first phase extends from the I-40/440 interchange, just east of North Little Rock, northward to U.S. Highway 67/167 between Jacksonville and Sherwood. The five-mile, six-lane divided roadway also includes an interchange at Highway 161. The ceremony was conducted at the Highway 161 overpass.

recently opened North Belt phase was completed at a cost of \$63.5 million.

The first contract was let in May of 1993 for the clearing, grading and structures.

The final contract was awarded in May of 2000 for the base and surface work.

Traffic studies reveal that between 60,000 and 80,000 vehicles travel daily on Highway 67/167 between



Vehicles travel the North Belt for the first time.

Interstate designation because it does not meet Federal-numbering criteria at the present time. When the final location of the North Belt is established, completed sections may officially carry the Interstate designation.



Commissioner Carl Rosenbaum addresses the crowd.

Conversion Of Interstate 30 Frontage Roads To One-Way A Big Success

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department's Interstate Rehabilitation Program has typically featured reconstruction of main lanes, addition of new lanes and construction of new overpasses across the state.

As the program progressed along Interstate 30 into Saline and Pulaski Counties, an additional improvement was included in the plans for the area. It included the conversion of Interstate 30 front-

Electronic roadside signs and Highway Advisory Radio counted down the days until conversion.

At 9:00 a.m. on October 8, the conversion began. Two processions, one at Sevier Street in Benton and one at Doyle Springs Road in Little Rock, began the task of positioning 2,300 orange barrels and uncovering thousands of new signs. A parade of workers and vehicles with flashing lights moved swiftly along the frontage roads with plans to meet in the middle.

Now, months later, the conversion has been a success.

According to AHTD Director Dan Flowers, "Careful planning and preparation, as well as a thorough communication ef-

fort throughout the surrounding communities has resulted in a smooth transition."

Long-term benefits expected



from the conversion include fewer accidents and a smoother flow of traffic. The conversion has also been a benefit during the rehabilitation process.

"Multiple work zones and a high level of construction activity are underway as we widen Interstate 30 to six lanes" adds Flowers. "The one way frontage roads are reducing confusion and enhancing the traffic flow through the area."

Motorists with questions are encouraged to contact the AHTD Public Affairs Office or the Department website to receive additional details.



age roads to one-way between Benton and Little Rock.

As preparations for conversion began, hundreds of *One-Way*, *Wrong Way* and *Do Not Enter* signs were posted along the frontage roads to indicate proper navigation. Signs were also posted across from all driveways to remind motorists that only right turns were allowed onto the frontage roads. New striping was also laid down.

The Department launched a communications plan to keep motorists informed about the details and timing of the conversion. Project details and maps were made available on the Department website and at local businesses located along the frontage roads.



New Toll Road Legislation Enacted

Legislation approved by the 84th General Assembly may bring Arkansas one-step closer to having its first toll road.

Act 296 was signed by Governor Huckabee on March 4 and makes it possible for Arkansas to build toll roads in cooperation with bordering states.

"This gives the Highway Commission some opportunities in toll road construction that we haven't had in the past," said Governor Huckabee. "It means more options, more innovations,

more ways to create a better traffic flow for the people."

The new tolling legislation combines and amends three previous toll road laws. It also abolishes the state Turnpike

"This gives the Highway Commission some opportunities in toll road construction that we haven't had in the past."

- Gov. Mike Huckabee

Authority, which had the same members as the Highway Commission. Toll roads and highways will all be administered by the Highway Commission. The bill also will allow the

Commission to set, revise and collect tolls on turnpike projects.

Act 296 allows the state more flexibility in its financing options. The Highway Commission will be allowed to combine toll revenues and revenue from fuel taxes and other sources. The new tolling concept may be used on any route.

Though much debated and extensively studied, Arkansas has yet to open any toll roads within the state borders. One possibility is a new 19-mile bypass at Bella Vista in northwest Arkansas. AHTD is working with the Missouri DOT and a consultant is conducting Investment Grade Toll Road Feasibility Study. This new bypass would connect with an Interstate-quality highway being constructed at Pineville, Missouri.

The toll road legislation was sponsored by Senator Dave Bisbee of Rogers and Johnnie Bolin, State Representative.



Governor Mike Huckabee signs Act 296 on March 4 at the State Capitol. Observing the Governor are (L to R) Senator David Bisbee, Highway Commissioners Prissy Hickerson and Carl Rosenbaum, Director Dan Flowers, and Commissioners Buddy Benafield and Johnathan Barnett.

Commission Meets With Congressional Delegation



Chairman Buddy Benafield leads a discussion.

The Department took the opportunity to present an overview of where Arkansas' biggest transportation needs lie.

Participants agreed that maintaining and upgrading our highway system

roads that are needed around Arkansas.

The Department makes every effort to meet as many transportation demands as possible. Without proper funding, it is impossible to satisfy all of the project needs seen as priorities.

February 17, 2003, may have been a holiday for most of the state, but President's Day was a very busy workday for Highway Officials and Congressional members from Arkansas. They were able to spend time together at Senator Blanche Lincoln's

is important because of the direct effect it has on the state's economic development.

AHTD Director, Dan Flowers, presented Arkansas' Highway Transportation priorities to the group and Arkansas Highway Commission Chairman J.W. "Buddy" Benafield made remarks recapping state highway improvement needs.

The group also held a discussion about the 2004 Fiscal Year Appropriations and TEA-21 Reauthorization.

The topic of highway funding was a major part of the day's agenda. Options such as toll roads were discussed, because the funding is not available to build all



Congressman Vic Snyder with Congressmen Mike Ross (left) and John Boozman (right)

With coordination of the Arkansas State Highway Commission, our United States Senators and Representatives, Arkansas is guaranteed to meet more of our local and regional transportation goals each year.



Commissioners Prissy Hickerson and Madison Murphy in discussion

office in Little Rock to discuss the future of transportation in the state and to outline priorities.



Commissioners Carl Rosenbaum (left) and Jonathan Barnett (right) with Congressman John Boozman.

Highway Officials Address Asphalt Pavement Association



Guests at the Arkansas Asphalt Pavement Association annual convention in Hot Springs.

The Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department and the Arkansas Asphalt Pavement Association have a successful history, a great present and a promising future.

That was the message that AHTD Director Dan Flowers gave as he addressed the Arkansas Asphalt Pavement Association at their annual luncheon held March 6 at the Arlington Hotel in Hot Springs.

Flowers commended the Association for the many successful projects that have

been completed with AHTD and congratulated the group for its dedication, hard work and technical expertise.

Flowers also noted the changing demands on our highways, citing that from 1980 to 2000, highway travel has increased by 80 percent,

the number of drivers has increased by 30 percent and the number of registered vehicles has surpassed 200 million.

Chairman Benafield spoke to the group at the evening banquet. He highlighted the findings of the Department's "2003 Needs Study."

He also addressed funding issues the Commission will face over the next ten years.

"We continue to pursue innovative financing techniques similar to those used with the bonds funding the Interstate Rehabilitation

Program," Benafield stated.



Commission Chair J.W. "Buddy" Benafield (left) and Director Dan Flowers address the association.

Interstate 40 Designated Veterans Memorial Highway

The Arkansas Highway Commission, Highway and Transportation Department officials, the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs and members of the Arkansas Veteran's Coalition joined forces on May 23 to proclaim I-40 as the new Veterans Memorial Highway.

"The weekend before Memorial Day was an appropriate setting as signs along I-40 were unveiled to commemorate the contribution of our armed forces," said AHTD Director Dan Flowers. "An April Highway Commission Minute Order authorized the installation of the new signs along the Interstate System in Arkansas."

Green signs indicating the Veterans Memorial Highway are now found at six locations along I-40 – from Oklahoma to Tennessee. Blue signs recognizing the Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and Defense Highways have also been installed at rest areas and tourist information centers along our Interstates.

The Eisenhower Interstate System is recognized across the country to honor the vision of President Eisenhower in initiating the Interstate System and to mark the contributions of thousands of employees in federal and state transportation departments, as well as all the armed forces.



Present at the unveiling were (l. to r.) Jim Pat Mill, Arkansas Veterans Commission; Gene Cagle, AHTD Retiree; Gary Honeycutt, Arkansas Veterans Commission; Dan Flowers, AHTD Director; Nick Bacon, Director of Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs; Carl Rosenbaum, Arkansas Highway Commissioner; Claude Carpenter, Arkansas Veterans Coalition and Buck Cowley, Arkansas Veterans Commission.

Public Hearings

HIGHWAY 412 WIDENING – PARAGOULD – NOVEMBER 21, 2002

Plans to widen U. S. Highway 412 to five lanes west of Paragould were presented to the public at a hearing held Thursday, November 21, 2002, at Crowley's Ridge College in Paragould. More than 100 people attended the meeting.

The proposed widening project would begin at the Highway 141/Highway 412 intersection just west of Paragould and extend approximately 6.5 miles eastward on Highway 412 over Crowley's Ridge. The new roadway would connect with the existing five-lane section of Highway 412 in Paragould.

AHTD designers had their hands full in laying out a roadway to negotiate the hilly terrain while considering the many homes and businesses along the route. Several residents expressed concern over lost yards and trees and driveway modifications. One resident pointed out their family's pet cemetery which would be very near the widened roadway.

Most in attendance were supportive of the planned modifications. Many indicated they had been waiting a long time for these improvements and were looking forward to their completion.

HWY. 118 INTERCHANGE ON HWY. 63 AT TYRONZA – FEBRUARY 11, 2003

About 90 citizens were on hand February 11, 2003, as the AHTD held a public hearing to show plans for a proposed interchange at Tyronza. The meeting was held in the Tyronza Elementary School Cafeteria from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

The interchange will be located at the intersection of Highway 118 and U. S. Highway 63 at Tyronza. The Tyronza interchange is one of five projects scheduled to upgrade U. S. Highway 63 to Interstate standards between I-55 and Payneway. Once these projects are completed, Highway 63 will be re-designated as I-555 from Jonesboro to I-55.

The Highway 63/Highway 118 intersection is currently an at-grade intersection with stop signs on

Highway 118 to control traffic flow. Plans call for the construction of an overpass and entrance and exit ramps to connect Highway 118 with Highway 63. The estimated \$9 million project will also include the construction of frontage roads to maintain access to nearby homes and businesses.

While public safety will be greatly enhanced with the interchange, the public expressed much concern about the changes in traffic patterns that would occur. AHTD officials agreed to look at the comments received at the meeting and study possible modifications to address those comments and concerns.

I-69 AND GREAT RIVER BRIDGE SUBJECT OF TWO PUBLIC HEARINGS

Proposed I-69 and the Great River Bridge have been on parallel planning tracks for years, but are now close to merging into one proposed river crossing. Two hearings were held in McGehee late last year to discuss plans for the new bridge to cross the Mississippi River and the accompanying new roadway that will connect Highway 65 in Arkansas with Highway 1 in Mississippi.

A location public hearing for the projects was held September 24, 2002, in the Great Room of the McGehee Municipal Building to discuss alternative approach locations for the new bridge, which will cross the Mississippi River approximately four miles north of Arkansas City. Based on comments received at the hearing and other information compiled by the Department's consultant, the decision was made to have the new highway intersect Highway 65 just north of McGehee. The new roadway will proceed east before crossing the Mississippi River north of Arkansas City, then connecting with Highway 1 near Benoit, Mississippi. The new road will be a four-lane divided, fully controlled access facility built to Interstate standards.

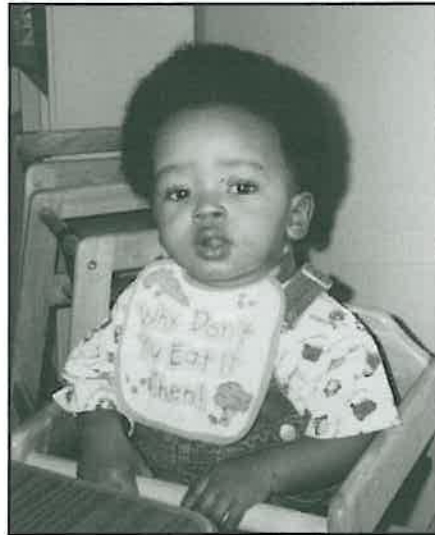
On December 11, 2002, a design public hearing was held in the McGehee Municipal Building to give more detailed information about the road and bridge. A total of approximately 200 people attended the meetings. Though the public is anxious for the new highway and bridge to be built, only limited funding is available for the project at this time. Consequently, no construction schedules have been established. But most people at the meetings expressed optimism that the projects were closer to becoming a reality.

Around the Department

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE



Christy Richmond, age 3½, daughter of JoAnn Richmond, AHP Permits, with Tiffany, 4th place winner of the Halter competition at the White County Fair.



Joseph Lamson, son of Destiny and Jimmy Lamson, AHP.



Ricky Larenz Nelson, age 5, with newest family member Landon Ryan Nelson. They are sons of LaDonna Nelson, Motor Carrier Safety Spec. 1 and husband Ricky.



Sergeant Jacky Simmons (left) receives his 25-year certificate from Captain Gary East.



Sergeant Johnny Vickers (left) receives his 20-year certificate from Captain Gary East. Vickers is Patrol Supervisor for Patrol Unit 479 in Hempstead County.



Captain Gary East, District 4 Commander (left), presents a 15-year certificate to Sgt. Nancy Harmon, AHP Hope Station.



Christie Marie Isbell, age 17, daughter of Pfc. Joy Bean.



Patrol Officer First Class Rick Anders (left) receives his 15-year certificate from District Four Captain Gary East. Pfc. Anders is assigned to AHP Patrol Unit 481 in Bradley County.



Cpl. Randy Peek (left) receives his 15-year certificate from District 4 Commander Captain Gary East.



Pfc. 1 Cl. Thomas Walker (left) receives his 15 year certificate from Captain Gary East.



Sergeant Pete Lopez, with family, accepts an award from an FBI representative for an arrest in a bank robbery.



Captain Gary East (left), presents a 15-year certificate to Cpl. Mickey Helms, Ashdown Station.



Captain Gary East (left) presents a 15-year certificate to 2nd Lt. Jerrell Biggers, Ashdown Station Supervisor.



Connor Blake Hilton, son of Melissa Hilton and Derick Hilton, Permit Technician.



Cpl. Rick Evans (left) receives a 15-year certificate from Capt. Glen Holloway.



Capt. Gary East presents a 10-year certificate to Cpl. Richard Branch (left), Patrol Unit 478.

BRIDGE

Best wishes to Wayne Major and L.D. Finister on their retirement in June; Ed Fain, who retired in August and Mike Coogan, who retired in February.

Congratulations to Phil Brand on his promotion to Division Head, Carl Fuselier on his promotion to Assistant Division Head and Stewart Linz on his promotion to Staff Bridge Design Engineer. Also, congratulations to Jeff Covay on his promotion to Senior Bridge Design Engineer and to Bryan Freeling, Advanced Bridge Design.

Service awards received in Bridge Division were Phil Brand, Division Head, and Ross Wylie, Senior Bridge Design Engineer, for 30-years; Jim Tribo, Staff Bridge Design Engineer, for 20-years; Rick Ellis, Senior Bridge Design Engineer, for 10-years; and Bryan Freeling, Advanced Bridge Design Engineer, for 5-years.

Jessie Jones, Civil Engineer, left the Bridge Division to work on her Master of Science in Civil Engineering at the U of A. She was accepted to receive a scholarship through the Department's Transportation Research Assistantship Program and will be involved with precast concrete channel beam research.

Dallas Stevens, Bridge Design Engineer, came on board from Mississippi State University. He had worked at the Mississippi Department of Transportation for three years before coming to join our group.



Laura Elizabeth Hill, daughter of Mike Hill, Sr. Bridge Design Engineer, and wife Cindy.



Steven Thomas, Bridge Design Engineer, and Trisha Dawson were married July 13, 2002.

COMMISSION OFFICE



Zac Williams, son of Lindy Williams, Commission Office, and her husband Tony.

ENVIRONMENTAL

The Environmental Division wishes to welcome these new employees:

Jodi Whitlow joined the division in October 2002. She is a graduate of Henderson State University with a B.S. in Biology. Bart Dudley joined the division after working for the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Our latest addition is Andrea Lattin, formerly the receptionist for District 9 in Harrison.

The Historic Bridge Management System has recently received two awards. The first is a special recognition "Globe Award" honoring U.S. Construction Industry Excellence in Environmental Protection and Mitigation from the American Road & Transportation Builders Association. The second is the "GeoSpatial Innovations for Transportation Award" from Intergraph Corporation.



Paul Malbrough, son of Lynn Malbrough, Senior Environmental Scientist, will graduate from Catholic High School in Little Rock in Spring 2003.

FISCAL SERVICES



Andrew McCleese, son of Kim McCleese, Accountant II.

HUMAN RESOURCES



Ron Easterling (right), Skill Trades Trainee, receives his 15-year certificate from Crystal Cole, Human Resources Officer.



Cassidy Caple, daughter of Lynn Caple, Training and Safety.



John Barnett (right), Crew Leader, receives a 15-year certificate from Crystal Cole, Human Resources Officer.

LEGAL



Bruce Hurlbut presents a 15-year certificate to Dawn Townsend.



Director Dan Flowers (top, right) presents Robert Wilson, Chief Legal Counsel, with a 25-year pin. Robert's wife Hazel (bottom, right) and daughter Regina.



Legal is happy to have Seasonal Employee Collin Montgomery on board.

MAINTENANCE



Dual Schales (center), with coworkers in Maintenance/Communications at his retirement party.



Becky Hunt, Administrative Aide III, Communications Section, and husband Kevin.



Bill Ritchie (left), Heavy Bridge Maintenance Supv., receives his 25-year certificate from Glenn Cheatham, Staff Heavy Bridge Maintenance Engineer.



Don Potter (left), Bridge Repairer II, receives his 20-year certificate from Glenn Cheatham, Staff Heavy Bridge Maint. Engineer.



Donald Parker (right), Crew Leader, receives his 15-year certificate from Garland Land (left), Heavy Bridge Maintenance Engineer.



Megan Blair Ritchie, daughter of Bill Ritchie, Heavy Bridge Maintenance, and her husband Jared.



Billy W. Reed (left), Bridge Repairer II, receives his 5-year certificate from Bill Ritchie, Heavy Bridge Maintenance Supv.



Becky Hunt (left), Administrative Aide III, receives her 5-year certificate from Doug Huckaba, Section Head, Communications.



Nathan Edwards (left), Bridge Repairer II, receives his 10-year certificate from Garland Land.

MATERIALS



Semi-Annual District Materials Supervisor's Mtg (Nov. 2002) (l-r) Earl Raines, D2; Gary Neely, D5; Mitchell Archer, D9; George Montgomery, D7; Steve Pennington, D8; Jerry Burton, D10; Steve Hampton, D6; Rod Cole, D3; Damon Launius, D1; Don Griffin, D4.



Samuel Edward Johnson, son of Laura Johnson, Chemist I.

PLANNING & RESEARCH

We would like to congratulate our employees who are expecting children this year! Nathan Young, Transportation Engineer in Statewide Planning, and his wife Tiffany, are expecting a daughter in April. Brandi McCallister, Planning Contract Specialist in Statewide Planning, and her husband Glynn are expecting their first child in July.

Planning and Research has had two employees deployed recently to undisclosed locations. They are Kimberly Sanders, Transportation Planner and Reginald Smith, Electronics Technician. Our thoughts are with them and the many others serving our country.



(l. to r.) Reba Pettus, Jackie Greer and Marilyn Boyles, of the Technical Services Section, took a cruise to the Bahamas. They enjoyed stops at Freeport and Nassau, and have another trip planned.



Jackie Greer (left), Transportation Management Analyst I, 30 years and Edward T. Flanagan (right), Administrative Officer II, 25 years, receive their service pins from Scott Bennett, Planning and Research Engineer.



Tom Harrell (left), retired Planning and Research Engineer, presents a 25-year service pin to Mickey Newcomb, FTA Grants Officer.



Scott Bennett (left), Planning & Research Engineer, presents Ruth Foggo, Research Assistant, with her 25-year service pin.



A. Keith Merritt, Staff Planning Engineer for Technical Services, and wife Teresa.



Edward T. Flanagan (left), Administrative Officer II, receives his 25-year certificate from Chairman J.W. "Buddy" Benafield.



Alan Meadors (left), Assistant Division Head, presents Robert Williams, Cartographer III, his 30-year service pin.

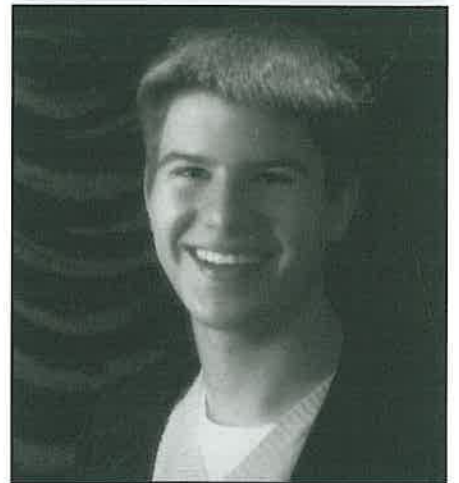
PROGRAMS & CONTRACTS



Kinsey Kaye Merrick, granddaughter of Lorie Tudor, Assistant Division Head.



Jacob Hamilton, son of Katherine Hamilton, Programs and Contracts Specialist, married Lindsey Landreth. The ceremony was held in Hot Springs at Arlington Park.



Jamie Douglas, son of Roy Douglas, Program Administration, attended Arkansas Governor's School last summer. Since his interest is Political Science, he thoroughly enjoyed the experience and the opportunity to "argue" with someone other than his parents! This past fall he achieved the highest rank in scouting, Eagle Scout. Roy and Marian are proud of his accomplishments.



Dwayne Stokes, Reproduction Operator, is the "Jimmy Higgins Beer Can Collector of the Year" for 2002.



(top) Jerry Foreman with his grandson Kodi Beggs and Jessa Bryant, daughter of Patti Bryant in Environmental. Alyssa Beggs has a look of wonder as she tries to figure out why Santa has Papa's voice.

RIGHT-OF-WAY



Wayne Willis, retired AHTD Right of Way, and Larry Freeman, Reproduction Technician, with seven and eight point deer.



Justin Arendt, 11 months old, and Erin Arendt, 3 years old. Grandchildren of Danny Arendt, Relocation Section Head.



Ricky Lee Cotton, Grandson of Shirley Butler, Relocation.



Section Heads Ralph Williams of Utilities; Bob Colford of Appraisal; Will Holt of Engineering; Danny Arendt of Relocation; and Perry Johnston, Assistant Division Head.



Acquisition Negotiators Louise Mills, Mike Hiley, Dean Farris, Sherry Pratt, Connie Stayton, David Nelson and Trish Lynn. Acquisition welcomes new employees Connie & David.



(l. to r.) David Harmon, Darrell Hatchett, Floyd Rippond, Debbie Holmes, each with 25 yrs; Jim Gaither, 30 yrs; Randy Cobb, 15 yrs; Susan Maddox, 10 yrs; James Braden, 15 yrs; Neil Palmer and Randy Lewis, 25 yrs each.

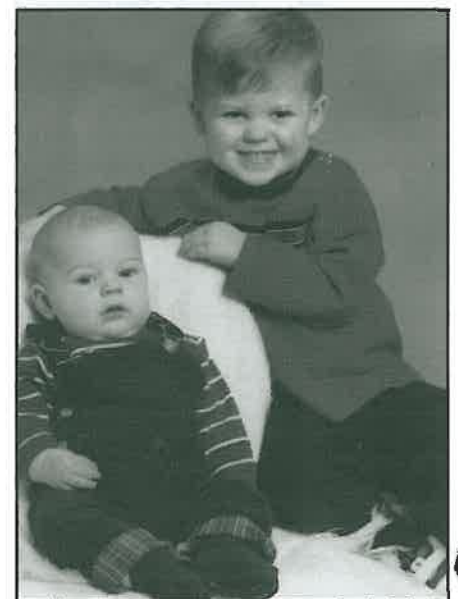


Haley Garner, Granddaughter of Shirley Butler, Relocation.



Hunter Leigh Bulloch, daughter of Gary Bulloch, Relocation Coordinator.

ROADWAY DESIGN



Nathan Williams (left), born September 15, 2002, with brother Garrett, age 3. They are the children of Jennifer Williams, Senior Design Engineer, and her husband Vernon.



James Squires Jr., 35-years; Leo Priest, 30-years; congratulations, Bobby Welch, on retirement after 35-years.



Dalton Duane Smith, first child of Trinity Smith, Design Engineer, and his wife Lea Anne.



(l. to r.) Paulette Hutchings, 15-years; Dennald Stroud, 30-years; Julie Coffman, 15-years.



Jonathan Powell, grandson of Leo Priest, Sr. Designer, was 1 of 5 students from Carver Magnet Elementary to receive publication in the children's scholastic magazine *Let's Find Out*. 48 entries nationwide were chosen.



Roadway Design welcomes (l. to r.)Reginald Driver and Mark Edwards, Advanced CADD Technicians, Bryan Signorelli, Civil Engineer and Tommy Hartsell, Civil Engineer I. Welcome also to Amani Rimawi to the Department. Amani is a graduate in Civil Engineering from Northwestern University.



(l. to r.) Rita Haynes, 15-years; Sharon Bowen, 20-years; Trinity Smith, 5-years; Jennifer Williams, 10-years and Cindy Webb, 25-years.



Malachi Chase Anthony Jones and Kaleighla Jade Elisabeth Jones, grandchildren of Lois Rachels.

SURVEYS



George West (left), Staff Senior Land Surveyor, presents Tom Elkins, Surveys Crew Chief, his 10-year certificate.



Lee Gates, Surveys Aide III, presents Dean Wilkerson, Staff Surveys Engineer, his 5-year certificate.



Les Miller, Surveys Technician I.



Sam Johnson, Staff Surveys Engineer, presents Bryan Cody, Surveys Aide III, with his 10-year certificate.



Bennie Horn, Surveys Aide III, with 15-year certificate.



George West (left), Staff Senior Land Surveyor, gives Michael Masingill, Surveys Technician II, a 10 yr certificate.

DISTRICT ONE



Tommy Halbert, Crew Leader, received 20-year service certificate.



W.D. Waggle, Area HQ Attendant, & Chester Allwhite, Permit Officer, received their 20 yr service certificates.



Joey McClanahan, Motor Patrol Opr./Finish, received his 15-year service award.



(l. to r.) Billy Cowan, Distributor Operator; Janet McElroy, Bookkeeper; & Jimmy Pulley, Jr., Crew Leader, received their 10 yr certificates.



Billie Jean Waggle with her father Billy Waggle, Area HQ Attendant, Monroe County.



Nancy Jumper, District Fuel Clerk, with her 20-year service certificate.



(l. to r.) David Bushey, Resident Engineer #13; Marvin McCallister, Multi-Axle Truck Driver; and Jeff Adams, Resident Engineer #14, received their 10-year certificates.



(l. to r.) Ricky Brown, Maintenance Aide II; Otis Fleming, Maintenance Aide II; and J.A. Wallace, Crew Leader, all receive 15-year service certificates.



(l. to r.) Kenny Smith, Maintenance Aide II, Cross County Crew and Mike Trussell, Area HQ Attendant, Crittenden County, received their 15-year service awards.



(l. to r.) Donnie Henson, Assistant Resident Engineer #14 and William Henderson, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish, received their 10-year certificates.



Andrew L. Hall (left), Distributor/Roller Operator and Needra Sisson, Office Manager, received their 5-year certificates.



(l. to r.) Dena Robison, Multi-Axle Truck Driver; Steve Jones, Sr. Mechanic; and Vickie Miller, Area HQ Attendant, received 5-year certificates.



Shelly Yocum, daughter of Richard Yocum, Construction Aide I-RE #13.



(l. to r.) William R. Rice, Senior Inspector, Wynne RE Office #13; Brenda Grubbs, Area HQ Attendant, St. Francis County; and James E. Shinn, Crane Operator, District Maintenance Crew, received their 10-year certificates.



Deldrick Burton, Construction Aide III, Wynne RE Office #13, received his 5-year certificate.



(l. to r.) Brenda Ewans, Single Axle Truck Driver-Monroe County; Chris Crite, Single-Axle Truck Driver - Crittenden County; and Kimberly Wright, Personnel Clerk, all received their 5-year certificates.

DISTRICT TWO



Harold Smith (right), Area Maintenance Supervisor, receives a 35-year certificate from Jr. Fox, Area Maintenance Supervisor.



(l. to r.) Scott Mullis, Maintenance Engineer; James House, District Engineer; Tony Evans, Resident Engineer in Pine Bluff; and Ernie Westfall, Construction Engineer, at a Goodbye Party for Tony, promoted to Maintenance Division in Little Rock.



James Sinks (left), Senior Mechanic in District Shop, receives his 25-year certificate from Jeff Hart, Equipment Supervisor.



A.D. Ford (left), Motor Patrol Operator on Maintenance Crew, and Robert Kendall, Job Superintendent.



T.J. Nance and Rachel Pasley, daughter of Gwen Pasley, Single Axle Truck Driver, on the Grant County Crew, were married on Valentine's Day.



Lane Samuel Adams, grandson of Donald Nugent, Motor Patrol Operator, at Dewitt, and his wife, Janette.



Thale Keisling (left), Resident Engineer, and B.R. "Buddy" Henley, Sr. Insp. (retiree) in McGehee RE Office.



Gerald Butcher (left), Drew County Crew Leader, and Ernie Westfall, District Construction Engineer.



Katlin Michelle Taylor, daughter of Larry and Donna Taylor of Rye, Ar. Donna is Field Clerk II in the Monticello Resident Engineers office.



KaNesha Hutchins, 2002 graduate of Humphrey High School, is the daughter of David Hutchins.



Jr. Fox, Area Maintenance Supervisor, shot a 10 point, 220 lb. deer with a bow and arrow.



Kirk Howard, Maintenance Aide I in Jefferson County, with Joshua Wade Howard. Joshua is the son of Kirk and wife Jaclyn.



2002 Safety Awards: (1. to r., 1st row) Rick Wilson, Bridge Inspector; James Ashcraft, Sign Crew; Tim Kelly, Resident Engineer #24; Jeff Hart, Shop; Chad Adams, R.E. #23; and Todd Tooke, RE #21. (2nd row) James House, District 2 Engineer; Steve Teague, Assistant to the Director for Program Management; John Lipton, former Commission chair; and Dir. Dan Flowers.

DISTRICT THREE



Don Donaldson (left), District Engineer, presents Donald Embry, Hydraulic Excavator Operator-Finish in the District Maintenance Crew, with his 45-year certificate.



Lindsay Eachers and Harley Tatom were married November 22, 2002. Harley is the son of Kalene Tatom, Backhoe/Frontend Loader Operator in the Lafayette County Maintenance Crew.



Hesterly Jones, Senior Mechanic in the District Shop at Hope, took this buck the first morning of the 2002 modern gun season.



Gary Aldridge (left), Multi-Axle Truck Driver in Lafayette County, is presented with a 10-year certificate from Ronnie Garner.



Katerina Shelton, daughter of James and Linda Shelton. Linda is the Area Headquarters Attendant at the Miller County Area Maintenance Headquarters. Katerina graduated from Texas High in Texarkana. She was Cum Laude with Academic Excellence awards in Journalism, Health and Science. She was also a member of the National Honor Society.



Don Donaldson (left), presents Larry Johnson, District Bridge Job Superintendent, with his 30-year service pin.



Scott Hatfield, Crew Leader in the Hempstead County Maintenance Crew, took this 10-point buck on November 16, 2002.



LCPRL John D. Poindexter, son of Latricia Jones, Maintenance Aide I in the Hempstead County Maintenance Crew, and William Jones, Maintenance Aide II in the Pike County Maintenance Crew. John started a tour of duty in Iraq in February of 2003.



Don Donaldson (left), presents Susan Monroe, District Office Manager, with her 30-year service pin.



Raymond and Marie Caton. Marie is the daughter of the late Thomas McMurray, who was a single axle truck driver in the Miller County Maintenance Crew, and Charlotte McMurray.



Don Donaldson (left), presents LaVerne Arledge, District Storeroom Supervisor, her 30-year service pin.



William Tyler, District Engineer, presents Diane Willmon, District Permit Officer, with a 15-year certificate.



Rochelle Blue, Resident Engineer 32 at Hope, presents Darin Laughard, Senior Inspector, with a 15-year certificate.



Don Donaldson (left), presents James Thompson, Crew Leader in the Miller County Maintenance Crew, with a 15-year certificate.



Kenneth Wilkins (right), Area Headquarters Attendant in Pike County, is presented with a 25-year certificate from Ronnie Garner, District 3 Maintenance Superintendent/Engineer.



Edwin Bradley (left), Backhoe/Front end Loader Operator in Pike County, is presented with a 15-year certificate from Ronnie Garner.



Mike Funderburk (left), Crew Leader for Pike County, is presented a 20-year certificate from Ronnie Garner.



Jason Efird, Resident Engineer 31 in Nashville, presents Eric Shawn Hasley, Senior Materials Inspector, with his 10-year certificate.



Willie Martin (left), Multi Axle Truck Driver in the District Maintenance Crew, is presented a 10-year certificate from Ronnie Garner.



Wayne McCoy, Backhoe/Front end Loader Operator in the District Maintenance Crew, is presented with a 5-year certificate from Ronnie Garner.



Drew Brown (left), Distributor Roller Operator in the Miller County Maintenance Crew, is presented a 10-year certificate from Lonnie Hazel, Miller County Maintenance Supervisor.



Pete Gentry (left), Crew Leader, in Little River County, is presented with a 15-year certificate from Ronnie Garner.



Terry Hosey, Motor Patrol Operator in the Howard County Maintenance Crew, receives his 10-year certificate from Ronnie Garner.

DISTRICT FOUR



Larry Elder (left), Area Maintenance Supervisor for Franklin County, receives a 30-year service pin from Harold Beaver, District Engineer.



Harold Beaver (left) presents Ray Jett, Area Maintenance Supervisor for Logan County, with a 25-year service pin.



Harold Beaver (left), presents Eton "Lonnie" Bearden, Area Maintenance Supervisor for Sebastian 2, his 25-year service pin.



Harold Beaver (left), presents David Richards, Area Maintenance Supervisor for Crawford 1, a 25-year service pin.



Terrell Scroggins (left), Lowboy/Float Truck Driver, gets a 10-yr certificate from Kenneth Tucker, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor.



Michael Moreton is the son of Julie Moreton, Bridge Repairer 1 in the Ozark area.



Mark Williams (left), Bridge Job Superintendent, presents Lewis James with a 15-year certificate.



Ray Jett (right), Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents Herbert Cross, Rest Area Attendant, with a 15-year certificate.



Jeff Jones (left), Construction Project Coordinator for R.E. 42, receives a 15-year certificate from John Sharum, Resident Engineer 42.



Cody Holland (left) Construction Aide I for R.E. 41, receives his 5-year certificate from Dean Nichols.



Larry Thornburg (left), Area Maintenance Supervisor for Washington 2, presents Tim Henretty, Multi Axle Truck Driver for Washington 2 area, his 10-year certificate.



Joe Shipman (left), District Construction Engineer, gets a 25-yr service pin from Harold Beaver.



Dean Nichols (right), Resident Engineer 41 in Waldron, presents John Wilson, Construction Aide II for R.E. 41, a 10-year certificate.



John Ballard (left), Advance Construction Field Engineer for RE 42, receives his 5-year certificate from John Sharum, Resident Engineer 42.



Susan Waits, a graduate of Batesville High School, is the daughter of Lyndal Waits, District Engineer and his wife, Shirley.



Harold Beaver (left), presents a 20-year certificate to Steve Neff, Sign Crew Supervisor.



Jimmy Huffacker, Maintenance Aide II, receives a 15-year certificate from Larry Thornburg, Washington 2 Area Maintenance Supervisor.



(l. to r.) Roy Vannatter, Senior Mechanic; Darrel Munnerlyn, Motor Patrol Operator; and Quinn Whitelaw, Maintenance Aide I receive their 15-year certificates.



Ray Jett, Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents a 10-year certificate to Carrie Hudgens, Maintenance Aide I.



Service awards have been presented to the following in District Five: (l. to r.) Randall Slayden, Lowboy or Float Truck Driver, Crew 05000 - 30 years; Lee Earnheart, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, Crew 05004 - 25 years; Gregory Graishe, Area Maintenance Supervisor, Crew 05691 - 25 years; David Bishop, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 05671 - 25 years; David Spinks, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 05007 - 25 years.



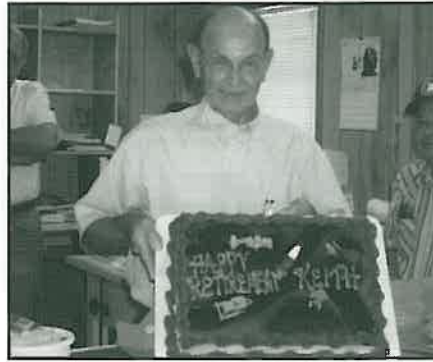
Drew Hoggard, son of Althea and James, Sr. Construction Material Inspector.



Robert Swink, Maintenance Aide II; Deborah Qualls, Fuel Clerk; Carolyn Crafton, Field Clerk II; Jerry Crosby, Inspector; and Donald Collins, Motor Patrol Operator, all receive 15-year service certificates.



Anthony Harwood, a graduate of Newark High School and son of Donald and Lou Harwood. Donald is a Roller Operator.



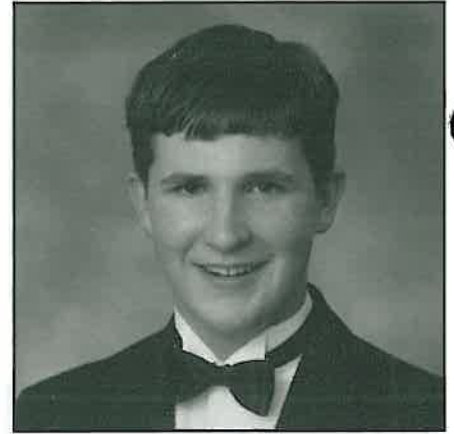
Keith Richardson retired with over 40 years with the Department. Keith has the distinction of having the highest number of service years of all the employees in the District. He worked for Residency 53 as Senior Inspector.



Barbara Munnerlyn with Lyndal Waits, District Engineer, at Munnerlyn's Retirement Party. She retired with 19 plus years of service.



Ransom Allen Jones, son of David and Kari Jones. Ransom is the grandson of Tommy and Shirley Jones. Tom is the Construction Project Coordinator.



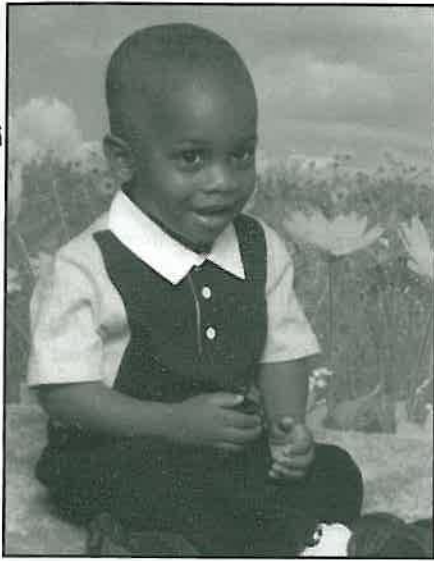
Andy Martin, a graduate of Midland High School, is the son of Ronnie Martin, Construction Aide III, RE 52.



(l. to r.) Eva Luster, Receptionist; Raymond Recker, Motor Patrol Operator; and Brian Stone, Maintenance Aide II received their 5-year certificates.



Ashley Watkins, the granddaughter of Dennis Nixon, White County Area Maintenance Supervisor in Searcy, is a member of the Beebe Blast. Her team won the World Series Class B Tournament in Colorado. They were also selected to receive the Sportsmanship Award. The White County Quorum Court presented the team with a Certificate of Achievement for the championship and a 79-4 record.



Joshua Lee Matthew Cain, son of Bryant, Motor Patrol Operator, White County, and Lesas Cain.



Jentry Maelee Taylor, born in August of 2002, is the daughter of Matt and Randi Taylor and grandmother Kay Taylor, District Five Bookkeeper.



Marley Marie Anderson, born in February of 2002, is the daughter of Bryan and Laura Anderson. Bryan is Area Headquarters Attendant.



Earl Leon Ezell with granddaughter Caitlin. Leon works as Area Headquarters Attendant in Searcy.



Jennifer Nicole Sharp, a graduate of Southside High School, is the daughter of Rickie and Pam Sharp. Rickie is Area Maintenance Supervisor.



(l. to r.) Danny Wilson, Welder; Jamie Kelley, Senior Mechanic; and Willie McCord, Single Axle Truck Driver, received their 10-year certificates.



Angela Michelle Luster, a graduate of Batesville High School, is the daughter of Bill and Eva Luster. Eva is the District Receptionist.



Randy Satterwhite, District Maintenance Superintendent; Dennis Williams, Area Maintenance Supervisor; and Lyndal Waits, District Engineer, at a retirement party for Dennis with 30+ years of service.



Susan Gatewood, Maintenance Aide I; Dwane Thompson, Asphalt Tank Truck Driver; and Marcus Watson, Motor Patrol Operator, received their 10-year certificates.



Anthony Comer, Maintenance Aide II, and Bryant Cain, Motor Patrol Operator, receive 10-year certificates. Steve Hadley, Single Axle Truck Driver, a 5-year certificate; Chris Smith, Station Attendant II, and Dustin Westmoreland 10-year certificate.



(l. to r.) Charles Carrouth, Area Maintenance Supervisor; Brenda Taylor, Personnel Clerk; Jerry Miller, Bridge Job Superintendent; and Jimmy Condrey, Inspector, received their 25-year certificates.



Jackson Harris Yates (top), born in March of 2002, and Kassidy Elaine Yates, born in May of 2002, are the grandchildren of Melvin and Gay Yates. Melvin is District Bridge Inspector.

DISTRICT SIX



Marriage of Ray and Wanda Hart. Ray is a Single Axle Truck Driver in Pulaski 1.



Gary Golden (left), Equipment and Maintenance Supervisor, and Brian Wright (right), District Construction Engineer, present Buddy Tripp, Guard, with his 15-year service certificate.



Brian Wright (left), District Construction Engineer, and Reuben Carter (right), Bridge Job Superintendent, present Carl Sturm, Crew Leader-Bridge Crew, with his 15-year service certificate.



Jerry Zuber (left), Maintenance Job Superintendent, and Brian Wright (left), District Construction Engineer, present Jimmy Nail, Crew Leader with the Maintenance Crew, his 20-year certificate.



David Jackson (left), District Bridge Inspector, present Shane Byrd, District Bridge Inspector Helper, with his 10-year service certificate.



Sammie Holton (left), Area Maintenance Supervisor, and Brian Wright (right), District Construction Engineer, present Eric Paulus, Crew Leader in Garland County, his 20-year service certificate.



Sydney Brianne Hazelslip (left) and Whitney Elizabeth Hazelslip. Granddaughters of Larry Hazelslip, Multi-Axle Truck Driver-Sealing Crew.



Carl Erwin (left), Area Maintenance Supervisor-Hot Spring County, and Brian Wright (right), District Construction Engineer, present Steve Lane, Maintenance Aide II-Hot Spring County, with his 15-year service certificate.



Terry Wallace (left), Crew Leader Pulaski 2, receives his 15-year service certificate from Brian Wright, District Construction Engineer.



Taylor, 4 yrs. old, and Jenna, 8 months old. Granddaughters of Ray Hart, Single Axle Truck Driver, and wife Wanda.



Sammie Holton (left), Garland County Area Maintenance Supervisor, and Rex Spurlock (right), District Maintenance Engineer, present Ronnie Veazey, Maintenance Aide II, with his 20-year service certificate.

DISTRICT SEVEN



Gary Golden (left), Equipment Maintenance Engineer, and Rex Spurlock (right), District Maintenance Engineer, present David Wilson with his 15-year service certificate.



Dennis Johnson (left), Pulaski I Area Maintenance Supervisor, and Rex Spurlock (right), District Maintenance Engineer, present Grace Hall, Pulaski I, with her 15-year service certificate.



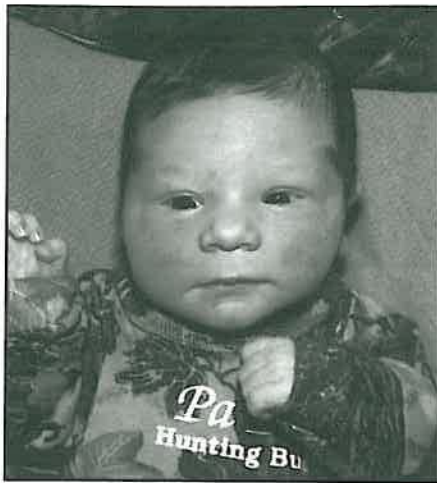
Larry Gorbet (left), Lonoke County Area Maintenance Supervisor, and Rex Spurlock (right), District Maintenance Engineer, present Janet Bogle, Lonoke County Crew Leader, with her 15-year service certificate.



Jerry Zuber (left), Maintenance Job Superintendant, and Rex Spurlock (right), District Maintenance Engineer, present James McClendon, Hyd. Operator Excavator, with his 15-year service certificate.



Frederick Doles (left), Pulaski II Area Maintenance Supervisor, and Rex Spurlock (right), District Maintenance Engineer, present Shirley Hammett, Area Headquarters, with her 10-year service certificate.



Hunter Barksdale, grandson of Freddie Hall, North Little Rock Motor Patrol Operator-Finish, and Grace Hall.



Reuben Carter (left), Bridge Job Superintendant, and Rex Spurlock (right), District Maintenance Engineer, present Kenneth Barbian, Bridge Crew, with his 5-year service certificate.



Jerry Stovall (left), Pulaski III Area Maintenance Supervisor, and Rex Spurlock (right), District Maintenance Engineer, present Rusty Bornmeier, Backhoe/Frontend Loader Operator, with his 5-year service certificate.



Roy Johnson (left), Storeroom Supervisor, and Rex Spurlock (right), District Maintenance Engineer, present Therese Yarnold, Storeroom Assistant II, with her 5-year service certificate.



Teresa, daughter of Pat Burns, Multi-Axle Truck Driver-District Sealing Crew. Teresa won 1st place in State Orientation and 2nd place with a solo instrument.



Mark Allen Cain, son of Jeremy Cain, Single Axle Truck Driver, Clark County.



Wendy Linn Cox, daughter of Clifford Cox, Motor Patrol Operator-Finish, Clark County.



Jenine Riley, daughter of James Riley, Single Axle Truck Driver, Clark County.



Jim Colton Skinner, son of James Skinner, Single Axle Truck Driver, Columbia County Crew.



Katelynn Alizeah Stinnett with granddad Randy Stinnett, Crew Leader, District Sealing Crew.



(l. to r.) Duel A. Fendley, Duel B. Fendley, Duel I. Fendley and proud granddad, Duel L. Fendley, Motor Patrol Operator - Rough, Clark County Crew.

DISTRICT EIGHT



B.J. McAlister presents 15-year service certificates to Ronnie Molloy, Bridge Repairer II, Bridge Crew; Darrin Phillips, Crew Leader, Johnson County; and Richard Helton, Maintenance Aide II, Sign Crew.



B.J. McAlister (right), District Maintenance Engineer, presents Gordon W. Parham, Maintenance Aide II - Conway County, with a 10-year service certificate.



26 Year Safety Certificate Resident Engineer Office 82 (l. to r., seated) Dist. Construction Engineer, Tommy Littleton; Asst. RE, Marcus Rainwater; Const. Aide II, David Wyers; RE Bill Fine; Civil Engineer I, Carolina Castellanos; Field Clerk I, Angie Reeder; Resident Office Tech, Gary Dorrough. Standing-Sr. Inspector, Gary Hawkins; Sr. Inspector Troy Brown; Inspector, Billy Sampley; Commissioner Prissy Hickerson and Director Dan Flowers.



Ryan Joseph Knight, son of Joe and Angela Knight. Joe is a Construction Field Engineer I at RE Office 86 in Russellville.



Andrew May (left), Maintenance Aide II, and John Gaunt (right), Multi-Axle Truck Driver, receive 15-year service certificates from B.J. McAlister.



10 Year Safety Certificate District Stockroom : (l. to r.) seated-Storeroom Asst. I, Lisa Lewis; Storeroom Asst., Tony Derrick; Standing-District Maintenance Engineer, B.J. McAlister; Commissioner Prissy Hickerson; Director Dan Flowers.



9 Year Safety Certificate-District Bridge Inspector Crew (l. to r.) seated - District Bridge Inspector, George O. Martin, Jr. and District Bridge Inspector, Woody Wood. Standing-District Maintenance Engineer, B.J. McAlister; Commissioner Prissy Hickerson and Director Dan Flowers.



6 Year Safety Certificate - District Sign Crew (1. to r.) seated-Sign Crew Supervisor, Bruce Bartlett; Single Axle Truck Driver, Buck Snider; Sign Erector, Charles Farrow. Standing-District Maintenance Engineer, B.J. McAlister; Commissioner Prissy Hickerson and Director Dan Flowers.



3 Year Safety Certificate - District Sealing Crew. (1. to r. seated)- Multi-Axle Truck Driver, John Gault; Multi-Axle Truck Driver, B.J. Reynolds; Backhoe/Frontend Loader Operator, Richard Keaster; Sealing Job Superintendent, Stan Storment; Roller Operator, Debbie Anderson; Roller operator, David Pruitt; Multi-Axle Truck Driver, Tommy Bridges. Standing-District Maintenance Engineer, B.J. McAlister; Distributor Operator, S.T. Houghton; Asphalt Tank Truck Driver, Paul Charton; Multi-Axle Truck Driver, Larry Lay; Distributor Operator, Joe Villalobos; Commissioner Prissy Hickerson and Director Dan Flowers.



Paige Tankersley is the granddaughter of Randy Tankersley, District Eight Maintenance Crew, Roller Operator.



3 Year Safety Certificate - District Bridge Crew (1. to r. seated) Bridge Repairer II, Ronnie Molloy; District Bridge Crew Support, David Mayberry; Crew Leader, Kenneth Jones; Bridge Repairer I, Jimmy Daniel; Bridge Repairer I, D.G. Condley. Standing-District Maintenance Engineer, B.J. McAlister; Commissioner Prissy Hickerson and Director Dan Flowers.

DISTRICT NINE



Gary Doving (left), Maintenance Aide II, received his 25-year certificate from Kit Core, Carroll County Area Maintenance Supervisor.



Dylan Eli Wilson (left) and Tyler Patrick are the great grandsons of Edie Korcheck, District Office Admn. Asst.



The Marion County Crew hosted a retirement party for Kenneth Oxford (seated), Area Maintenance Supervisor. Kenneth retired with 33+ years of service and received a gold watch from his crew.



Ralph Fulton (left), District 9 Engineer, was presented a plaque by Ron Sligar on behalf of Chief Lairamore, at 188 Fighter Wing at Fort Smith. The presentation was in appreciation for showing support by allowing Ron time off for active duty in Qatar. Ron is Crew Leader in the Gentry Crew in Benton County.



Dakota James Trammell, grandson of Glenda Goats, Permit Officer, and the late Gary Roberts, Materials Division.



Greg Harding, Resident Engineer at Yellville, presenting Jim Martin, Const. Aide II, with his 30 year certificate. Jim retired in June, 2002.



Clinton Taylor, District Welder, was honored by the District Shop Crew when he retired. We hope he is enjoying his retirement.



Kit Core, Area Maintenance Supervisor in Carroll County, with Bess Petrick, a regular participant and volunteer at the Boone County Sr. Activity Center in Harrison. Kit participated in *Ride the Ozarks*, a fundraising event sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging Foundation.



Gerald Teague brought this 15-point buck home in the first early muzzle loading season. Gerald is District 9 Maintenance Engineer.



Donnie Tomlinson, a junior at Bergman High School, with a 6-point buck. Donnie is the son of Diane Tomlinson, Resident Office Tech, at the Harrison R.E. Office.



Greg Harding (left), Yellville Resident Engineer, presenting Randy Jefferson, Construction Aide II, his 10-year certificate.



Lydia Eugenia Fay Mallett was born September 24, 2002. She is the granddaughter of J.N. and Judy Mallett. J.N. is the District Sign Crew Supervisor.



Melissa and Matthew Weaver, married in August of 2002. Melissa is Civil Engineer intern at the Harrison Resident Engineer Office.



Bobby Kelley (left), Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, receives his 15-year certificate from Kit Core, Carroll County Area Maintenance Supervisor.



Sandy Massengale (left) Rest Area Attendant, is presented her 15-year certificate and pin by Mike Brasel, Boone County Area Maintenance Supervisor.



Carroll Lawrence (left), Multi-Axle Truck Driver, receives his 10-year certificate from Kit Core.



James Branstetter with an Elk he killed in Colorado. James is Maintenance Aide I with the Garfield Crew in Benton County.



Melvin House, District 9 Materials Supervisor, retired with 40+ years of service.



Debra Meyer (left), District Office Manager, presents Tammy Phillips, District Bookkeeper, her 10-year certificate.



JaNell Ware (left), District Fuel Clerk, receives her 10-year certificate and pin from Debra Meyer, District Office Manager.



Macy Emma Ware and her big brother Ethan are the niece and nephew of JaNell Ware, Fuel Clerk at District 9.



Shelly Lawson and Gannon Roberts, married in September of 2002. Gannon is the son of Glenda Goats, Permit Officer, and the late Gary Roberts, Materials Division.



Betty Weston, Area Headquarters Attendant at Garfield, retired this past year. She was presented a watch by the late Jr. Carter, who was Area Maintenance Supervisor at the time, and her fellow crew members.



Mike Brasel (left), Boone County Area Maintenance Supervisor, presented Gary Hopkins, Maintenance Aide II, with his 5-year certificate.



Kit Core (right) presents Jeff Miles, Single-Axle Truck Driver, with his 5-year certificate.

DISTRICT TEN



During a Red Cross Blood Drive, the Clay County Crew had the highest percentage of participation with 54%. They won the "Big Heart Award."



Receiving service certificates from District Engineer Joe Barnett were: (right to left) Mathew LaRue, 5-years, Multi-Axle Truck Driver; W.C. Tobar, Jr., 10-years, Maintenance Aide I; Johnny Gardner, 10-years, Bridge Repairer I; Chuck Loop, 15-years, Inspector; Linda Faulkenberry, 15-years, Office Administrative Assistant V; Pat Norton, 20 years, Fuel Clerk.



Congratulations to Bob Faulkner, District Construction Engineer, who retired on March 28th, with 37 years of service. His wife Alta and granddaughter Lexie helped celebrate.



Walter McMillan, past RE Paragould, currently District Construction Engineer, was honored with a going away/promotion reception. Walter is shown with his wife Vicki, daughter Jessica and son John Martin.



Dairl Hyde, Maintenance Job Superintendent, retired with 35 years of service in June. Shown with his family during his retirement party are (l. to r.) Bart, Brenda, Dairl and Brad.



Congratulations to Lisa and Barry Hendrix on the arrival of their daughter, Sallie Margaret. Sallie Margaret had a sister Lexie and grandparents Bob and Alta Faulkner, anxiously awaiting her arrival. Bob was the Construction Engineer for District 10.



Congratulations to Dick Hays (right) on his retirement in May of 2002. Dick was honored with donuts and several gifts from his co-workers. Walter McMillan (left), District Construction Engineer, presented Dick with his gifts.



A 10-year certificate was presented to Barry Letson, Sign Erector.



5-year certificates were presented in June from Joe Barnett, District Engineer, to (l. to r.) Jade Price, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator; Kathy Chesser, Distributor Roller Operator and Tonya Laws, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator.



Congratulations to Grayson and Alicia Simpson on the arrival of their daughter, Alayna Grace Simpson.



District Maintenance Engineer, Alan Walter, presented Lou Varvil, Janitor for District Ten, with a 15-year certificate.



Recent promotions are (l. to r.) Stephanie Ward, promoted to Fuel Clerk; Regina Landrum, promoted to Personnel Clerk; and Darsha Tipton, promoted to Bookkeeper. Congratulations!!



Nash James Toney and his sister Natalie. They are the children of Jim and Holly Toney. Jim is an Advanced Construction Field Engineer for the Osceola R.E. Office.



District Ten wished good luck to JoAnn Carlile, Bookkeeper, who retired in October with 35 years of service.



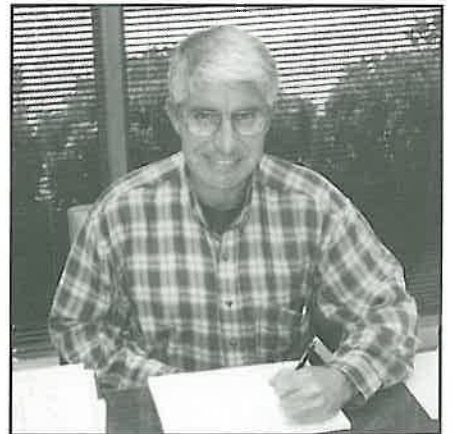
Jade Price, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator for Randolph County, shown with his November kill of a 10-point deer weighing 200 pounds. Pictured with Jade are Katelyn and Jacob Price.



Those receiving 10-year certificates in September by Alan Walter, District Maintenance Engineer, were: David Pierce, Assistant Resident Engineer in the Jonesboro R.E. office; Lorraine Winstead, Parts Runner for the shop; and Rex Vines, Resident Engineer in the Osceola R. E. office.



Good luck to Pat Norton (left), Personnel Clerk. Pat recently left the Department and was honored with a dinner. Pat is pictured with her husband, Leonard Norton, Sr. Inspector for the Jonesboro R. E. office.



Congratulations to Randy Clark, Construction Project Coordinator for the Paragould Resident Engineer's Office, who transferred to the position of District Ten Bridge Inspector.

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