

# ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS

Vol. III  
No. 2



February  
1955

# ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS

A Monthly Magazine for Employees of the  
Arkansas State Highway Commission

VOL. III

February 1955

NO. 2

## STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

Cecil S. Lynch, Chairman

Miss Willie A. Lawson  
Glenn F. Wallace

Raymond F. Orr  
James H. Crain

Herbert Eldridge, Director  
W. Ward Goodman, Acting Chief Engineer

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Of the Commission.....	3
Dirt Exposed in High (and Low) Places.....J. T. Pendergrass	6
Informative Conferences Underway.....	8
Materialization of a Dream.....	10
Something to Crow About.....	10
Special Announcements.....	11
Contract Awards.....	12
Crossword Puzzle.....	13
Around the Building.....	13-21
All in Fun.....Jimmy Zinn	22
Party Line Parade.....	
Your Opportunities in 1955.....Hazel S. Erdmann	

# OF THE COMMISSION

## Meet James H. Crain

your new Commissioner. We use the term "new" lightly, however, as this is the third time that Mr. Crain has served on our Highway Commission. He was appointed in 1941 to serve for 2 years, and again in 1949 at which time he served a 4-year term. So you see, Highway Department affairs are certainly not foreign to our new Commissioner, and we are glad to have him on the team with us.

Mr. Crain has said that he considers the Department's nonpolitical status one of the most beneficial innovations of our times. "I shall give my full time and cooperation to all interests of the Highway Department," he asseverated.

Mr. Crain, better known to friends as "Jim," is a planter of no mean ability. He lives at Wilson but has widely diverse plantation interests all over Arkansas. He managed the Lee Wilson Company properties for a number of years but has since gone into wide-scale farming in his own right. He owns and operates extensive rice fields, raises cotton, soybeans, and many other farm products.

He is a sincere and friendly person possessing that wonderful quality of making everyone around him feel "at home." His qualifications are high and his business acumen unquestionable. It is a pleasure to welcome Mr. Crain as a member of our Highway Commission. We look forward to working with him in attaining our mutual goal: giving the people of Arkansas a system of highways unsurpassed by any other state in the nation.

## Commissioner Cecil S. Lynch

will be the new chairman of our Highway Commission for the coming 2 years succeeding Raymond F. Orr who will serve as vice chairman. The Commission made the selection by unanimous vote, February 2, at their regular meeting, after Mr. Orr advocated the idea that "new officers be elected each 2 years in order for the incoming Commissioner to have a voice in choosing the chairmanship." Glenn F. Wallace made both nominations which were seconded by James H. Crain.

Mr. Orr relinquished the chair to Mr. Lynch immediately after the election which took place at noon. Our new chairman assumed his duties and displayed his capabilities by very efficiently presiding at the hearings that afternoon.

"I shall do my best to carry on the able leadership that has been furnished by Mr. Orr these past 2 years." Mr. Lynch expressed to the group congratulating him upon his election. "And I shall continue to tell the Highway story on every occasion."

We offer Mr. Lynch our congratulations and add our conviction that he and the entire Commission may rest assured that they will have the full cooperation of all employees at all times.

We acknowledge with appreciation the excellent management of Mr. Orr. Also his unselfishness in suggesting a 2-year change in chairmanship, which he summarized: "I feel it will be a good and healthy thing for the Commission, the Department, and the people of Arkansas."

# The Soils Snooper Reports

## DIRT EXPOSED IN HIGH (AND LOW) PLACES

by J. T. Pendergrass, Assistant Engineer  
Material and Tests Division

Soil like people is found everywhere, and like people it occurs in three kinds: good, bad, and indifferent.

As dirt, it is the delight of farmers and gardeners. The good ones, as usual, carry their own loads plus some of those of their weaker neighbors. The indifferent kind just sort of coast along without too much outside aid, and the bad ones need bolstering up by help from the strong. Of all items considered in the design, construction, and maintenance of highways in Arkansas, as elsewhere, nothing has a more critical effect than the native soils encountered on the project.

Subbase, base, and total pavement thickness are determined by application of the soil classification resulting from: (1) the sampling by materials engineers of the soils throughout planned projects, and (2) the laboratory test of those samples.

### Soil Characteristics

The character of a soil is determined by its origin. Shale tends to break down to form a clayey soil. A sandstone breaks down to form a sandy soil, and so on for the various types.

In Arkansas there are five major soil provinces: (1) the limestone valleys and uplands in the northern part of the

state; (2) mountain plateau (sandstone, shale, and chert) in the rest of the hill section; (3) south coastal plain; (4) glacial and loessial deposits of Crowley's Ridge; and, (5) river flood plains. This system of classification as to origin, which is used by the United States Bureau of Soils, would be impractical for highway uses. However, soil maps prepared by that agency have proved most useful in conducting preliminary studies and locating material deposits.

### Evaluating Subgrade

From the standpoint of maximum soils utilization, roads should be located only across areas of good soils. However, because good, bad, and indifferent soils occur indiscriminately so as to form a crazy-quilt pattern; such an idealistic approach is impractical if not impossible. Since roads exist to serve traffic they must of necessity run between points of traffic origin and destination in as direct a course as physical conditions, such as mountains and major stream crossings, will permit.

Highway engineers are thus faced with the problem of evaluating the subgrade support value of all the native soils along the route and providing, by application of good design practices for measures necessary to beef up

(strengthen) the areas of poor soils. This is done by application of layers of granular subbase (selected material) or additional base course thickness.

## Classification of Soils

The American Association of State Highway Official's system of soil classification is employed by the Arkansas Highway Department. Under this system soils are divided into seven main groups, according to their physical characteristics. These groups are numbered A-1 through A-7 inclusive. Classification of soils may be made under this system from the results of the least number of simple routine tests performed by practically all highway departments. Other useful identifications and strength tests, as well as textural designations, are employed to furnish supplemental information as required.

In general, the soils falling within the first three groups (the granular materials) are considered as excellent for their use as highway subgrade. Soils falling within the last four groups (the silt-clay materials) generally are classed from good to fair and poor, the value of the soil decreasing as the group numbers increase.

## Group Index Formula

Subgrouping is used as required to further subdivide the groups and a group index is assigned for relative evaluation of soils within a subgroup. The range of the group index values is

1 to 20 with increasing values indicating the combined effect of increasing liquid limits and plasticity and decreasing percentages of coarse material. Under average conditions of good drainage and thorough compaction, the value of a soil as subgrade may be assumed to vary inversely as its group index.

As an example of the application of the group index formula in design of a road across a ridge and stream valley in eastern Arkansas might well be as follows: The soils at the subgrade level in the ridge section being classified as belonging to group A-4 and having a low group index (8 or less) should provide adequate subgrade support without the use of a granular subbase and using only normal base course thickness. However, the soils across the alluvial stream valley are classified as belonging to group A-7 with a high group index (say, 20). This is a very poor soil with very low subgrade supporting value and would require approximately a 12-inch layer of good granular subbase (selected) material in addition to the normal base course, or additional base course.

## Design Functions

Application of the classification and group index in evaluating subgrade supporting power and in estimating subbase, base, and total pavement thickness is a design function requiring the highest type of engineering experience and skill. Correct evaluation of test data on subgrades and local materials results in more nearly correct design than is possible without such evaluation.

# INFORMATIVE CONFERENCES UNDERWAY

## ● Maintenance Leads Program Series for Supervisors ●

Three 2-day study and work conferences for the maintenance supervisors were held in the Central Office Building in Little Rock January 31-February 1, February 8-9, and February 15-16. These informative sessions for "key people" in the Maintenance Division were the first of a series of just such conferences as will be held all through the year to inform the Highway Department personnel of the various functions being performed by other Divisions and their inter-relationship and the division of responsibility each with the other.

A. G. Rives, State Maintenance Engineer, who designed this particular series of meetings was in charge of the planned program which consisted of pertinent discussions by various Division Heads followed by question-and-answer periods. Several motion pictures were shown depicting actual on-the-job work being done by maintenance men, accident prevention, and construction and bridge work.

Mr. Rives gave a concise definition of maintenance with its component parts, describing the necessary versatility of a good maintenance man and the many responsibilities he must assume in order to cope with the diverse problems arising in his daily work. Various types of maintenance problems were discussed, with audience participation, to aid in attaining uniformity and bring about a better understanding of the benefits to be derived from comparative cooperation of successful methods.

The program included talks by Herbert Eldridge, Director of Highways; W. Ward Goodman, Chief Engineer; Dennison Yates, Personnel Director; J. Russell Henderson, Director of Accounting, V. E. Scott, Administrative Assistant; E. F. Nelson, Engineer of Right-of-Way; C. Don Hayes, Director of Equipment and Procurement; Otha Hewitt, Center Signs and Stripes Section Supervisor; and W. N. Gentry, of the Southwest Bell Telephone Company, who gave a most enlightening talk on "Safety" and the improved accomplishments attained through individual alertness to accident prevention. The conference was concluded with a conducted tour of the Jacksonville Shops.

Many of the talks given during this conference will be revised into article form and presented to you through the pages of this magazine. However, we believe you will enjoy reading a few excerpts we jotted down while the speakers were busily engaged in expressing their thoughts. From just these few "teasers" you will readily understand the enthusiasm of the men attending the meetings and why the consensus of opinion was that of a very profitable 2 days.

"You are as important in your job as any of we Commissioners are in ours. We make the policies and lay out the plans but these things can only be as good as the manner in which you carry them out."

--Glenn F. Wallace

"You are our front line. You are the ones having contact with local people and who can, by example, make or break

the Department. By your efforts and knowledge of all phases of highway construction and maintenance, we can work together with understanding and as a team in our endeavor to perform an even greater and more efficient traffic service to the people of our state."

--Herbert Eldridge

"The mere fact that you are in our Little Rock office represents to me a 'new deal' in highway operation. To my knowledge it has only been on rare occasions that our field men were invited into Little Rock for discussions and enlightenment pertaining to the work of the Highway Department. I hope that if nothing else is accomplished that you do learn while here that we are a UNITED Highway Department; not a group of people working along different lines."

--Ward Goodman

"Prepare proper forms properly for a better job and a clearer understanding, thereby creating a time-savings and more efficient performance."--J. R. Henderson

"Democracy cannot survive without faith and confidence in man. Neither can a man ever learn to handle other men successfully until he believes in them. The very fact that a supervisor tries to stand only on his authority is a very good indication that he is not ready to assume the responsibility of leadership."

--Dennison Yates

"Don't worry about requisitioning too many signs as long as you are putting them on our highways."

--Otha Hewitt

"The affairs of the Retirement System are administered by a Board of Trustees that is composed of the State Treasurer,

Director of Finance, Highway Department Chief Engineer and two employee members who are elected by the members of the System. All funds accruing to the System are held in a special Trust Fund. Aside from the fact that the general fund is a trust, each member's account is carried as an individual trust."

--V. E. Scott

"The highway right-of-way can well be considered the 'State's Front Yard' by reason of the fact that people traveling through Arkansas, as well as our own people, receive most of their impression of the state by what they see on and adjacent to the Highway Department's right-of-way. Our right-of-way can have a very bad effect or a very appealing effect on the people who visit our state, depending upon its condition."--Eugene Nelson

These excerpts will give you at least a general idea of the genuine approval and wholehearted cooperation manifested by all who participated in the meeting.

Next in this series will be two 2-day work conferences designed and conducted by E. E. Mashburn, State Construction Engineer, for supervisory personnel in the Construction and Surveys Divisions. C. K. Brown, State Engineer of Surveys, will assist in the program arrangement. For some time now, Mr. Mashburn has been working on a program and lining up speakers for the sessions which are scheduled for March 3-4 and March 10-11. Resident Engineers and their assistants and Survey Chiefs and their assistants can anticipate a most informative and beneficial conference, which has been especially designed to aid them in their particular fields of endeavor.

# MATERIALIZATION OF A DREAM

The realization of a dream, carried almost half a century, began to take form for citizens of Helena and surrounding communities February 10 when the construction of a toll bridge across the Mississippi River was declared "wholly feasible" by engineers making the studies. The traffic and construction experts employed by the State Highway Departments of Arkansas and Mississippi presented their reports to the highway officials of both states and over 600 dinner guests of the Helena-West Helena Chamber of Commerce.

The total cost of the project was estimated at \$11 million. Of this amount Arkansas and Mississippi will put up \$3 million of state money and the rest of the cost would be financed by floating bonds. The actual construction cost of the bridge itself was estimated at \$9,945,000 and the other costs include interest during construction, bond discount, and reserve for debt service.

Extensive studies were made to determine the most favorable location for the crossing and anticipated traffic volume. Three locations were taken into consideration: Helena, Montezuma, and Friars Point sites. The conclusion of these studies revealed the most favorable crossing to be that immediately below the City of Helena.

It was found that constructing a suitable crossing structure at the Helena location would cost materially less than a comparable crossing at the other sites. The river channel is more stable at that point and the presence of tertiary shales upon which bridge piers might be founded are there at attainable depths. Also favoring this site is its proximity to the principal traffic generating

source in the vicinity, and the lesser expense involved in providing approaches.

The projected Mississippi River crossing can be operated and maintained at a provisional profit of \$553,900 during its first year of operation according to estimated cost and anticipated earnings. This amount would increase to \$944,650 in 15 years, remaining constant thereafter.

The bridge would tie in with State Highways 20 and 44, at the south city limits of Helena, which eventually connect with U. S. 79 to Pine Bluff and southeast Arkansas and U.S. 70 to Little Rock and points west. It would enter Mississippi by way of a 6-mile route to U.S. 61 serving Clarksdale and southern points and to the north via Memphis.

The Helena bridge IS feasible. That's the starting point. However, it will be quite a while before the first vehicle rolls across it. The next step toward fulfillment of this magnificent "dream" will be the selection of an engineering firm by the Highway Departments to map out the plans and design the bridge.

Director Eldridge has estimated that it will be the early part of 1956 before the engineers complete the preliminary work. Then comes the invitations to bid for the construction contract, floating of the bond issue by the Highway Commissions, and on with the construction.



# SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT

And that's strictly straight! How proud we CAN be of the tremendous improvement we have made in eliminating preventable accidents. According to the records at the Workmen's Compensation Bureau, there were 90 fewer cases of on-the-job accidental injuries during the fiscal year 1953-54 than there were for 1952-53. That IS something to crow about!

AHD Employees Accident Cases	
1952-53	246
1953-54	156

Workmen's Compensation Payments to Employees	
1952-53	\$40,935.93
1953-54	33,011.73

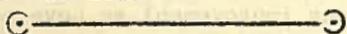
The savings in money? Oh, the record shows a total of \$7,924.20, but this amount is only a small percentage of the actual savings, in dollars and cents, when you consider the number of man hours saved. **MAN HOURS!** the most expensive item in production.

Then, there is the suffering which is much too high a price for any individual to have to pay for one thoughtless, careless moment. We have no statistics on pain, but we all know its meaning and want to avoid it!

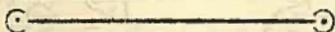
Our accidental-injury record speaks loudly of improvement. It CAN be much better, however, as careless acts still bring about many preventable accidents. Let's think SAFETY so we can crow even louder than ever!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

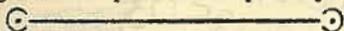
The Highway Commission will convene March 9 to handle its regular business, award project contracts, and hear the requests of 12 delegations from various parts of the state.



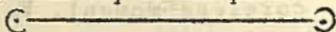
Our apologies to Olive Jackson, of the District 3 office in Hope, who has a continuous service record of almost 22 years with the Department. Through error Olive's name was omitted from the list of employees with longevity service in an article in January's magazine. We are proud of her record and make haste to correct the omission.



W. B. Cape, service station attendant at headquarters, also informed us in no uncertain terms that he has been with the Highway Department since 1927. He has worked as carpenter and with the Signs and Stripes Section as well as serving in his present capacity.



**FLASH!** Specifications have been set on our Service Pins and invitations to bid have been sent out as well as public advertisement to bidders. The sealed bids for the manufacture of the Service Pins will be opened on March 3. The manufacturing jeweler receiving the contract will be announced in next month's magazine together with the approximate date of delivery of the pins.



There are a few departmental offices absent from our magazine. We miss you. Won't you join our Party Line Parade?

# CONTRACT AWARDS

We are glad to comply with requests that we print the contract commitments which are awarded at the letting each month. In order to conserve space, we are giving only the barest description of the job, and all mileage is approximation. These contracts were awarded the lowest bidders at the February 2 letting.

Lonoke County. Highway 13 between Carlisle and Humnoke, 2.660 miles of grading and 8 precast slab bridges to BucTon Construction Company, Hazen.

Calhoun and Bradley Counties. Highway 4, Harrell-Warren Road, 10.530 miles of grading and asphalt surfacing to Paul Hooper, Camden.

Yell County. Highway 27, Danville-Chickalah Road, 10.710 miles of grading, 1 R.C. and structural steel overpass, 4 R.C. slab bridges and 2 multi-span culverts to Forsgren Brothers, Ft. Smith.

Madison County. Highway 23, St. Paul-Witter Road, 10.548 miles of grading and double bituminous surface, 2 multi-span culverts and 2 R.C. bridges, to Northwest Arkansas Asphalt, Sulphur Springs.

Carroll County. Highway 68, Osage-Alpena Road, 0.529 miles of grading and 1 R.C. bridge to Southeast Construction Company, Inc., Pine Bluff.

Union and Ouachita Counties. County road, 0.383 miles of grading and 1 R.C. slab bridge over Smackover Creek to Michey's Inc., Warren. Subject to the concurrence of both counties.

All of the above contract awards are subject to the concurrence of the Bureau of Public Roads.

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

## ACROSS

1. Admittance
7. Low wall
17. Let fall
18. Sadness
19. Enliven
20. Lasso
21. Voyage
22. Scarlet
23. Heavy weight
24. End prayer
25. Linemen
26. Compartment
29. Of Normandy
31. Born
32. Scotch river
33. Polish
35. Horse color
36. Linger
38. Resort
41. Fuel
43. Movie award
46. Stove
49. One there

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18						19							20			
21						22				23			24			
25					26	27				28	29		30			
31				32					33	34		35				
36			37			38	39	40		41	42		43		44	45
			46			47			48		49		50			51
52	53	54				55				56					57	
58					59				60				61			
62			63			64	65		66				67	68	69	70
		71				72	73		74			75	76			77
78	79					80		81		82	83				84	
85					86		87		88			89	90			
91					92			93				94				
95					96							97				

- |                        |                   |                    |                  |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 51. Final              | 81. Expedition    | 4. Discord Goddess | 30. Poke around  | 65. The (Sp)      |
| 52. Brave G. I.        | 84. Bed board     | 5. Signal          | 32. Coloring     | 68. Spread abroad |
| 55. Twisted            | 85. Harsh sound   | 6. Of Stockholm    | 34. Combat       | 69. Artful dodger |
| 57. On the ocean       | 86. Sinbad's bird | 7. Native rubber   | 37. Greek letter | 70. Appraisers    |
| 58. Rosary bead        | 88. Carp          | 8. Once more       | 39. Undecided    | 72. Thong         |
| 59. Cattle             | 89. Ten years     | 9. Jockey          | 40. Dexterity    | 74. Trite         |
| 60. Inflated bag       | 91. Sheltered     | 10. Exist          | 42. Shield       | 76. Assisted      |
| 62. Fracas             | 92. Fawn          | 11. Butter helping | 44. Copy         | 78. Persia        |
| 64. Fish               | 94. Beetle        | 12. British school | 45. Creek        | 79. Masculine     |
| 66. Obtain             | 95. Headland      | 13. Male voice     | 47. High card    | 80. Beverage      |
| 67. Snake              | 96. Released      | 14. Stage plays    | 48. Weep         | 82. Kismet        |
| 71. Woe is me!         | 97. Cafes         | 15. Love stories   | 50. Fuss         | 83. Ripened       |
| 73. Light stroke       | DOWN              | 16. Ajar           | 52. Bad actor    | 84. Peruse        |
| 75. Auricle            | 1. Upward journey | 17. Writes         | 53. Night before | 87. Mongrel       |
| 77. Uncle Tom's friend | 2. Eye part       | 27. Put back       | 54. Bacheliers   | 90. Whitney       |
| 78. Brings in          | 3. More unrefined | 28. Floor cover    | 56. Tatter       | 93. Behold        |
|                        |                   |                    | 57. As well as   |                   |
|                        |                   |                    | 59. Flees to wed |                   |
|                        |                   |                    | 61. Paddle       |                   |

# AROUND THE BUILDING

Renovating, redecorating, and general face-lifting is the mode of the moment around the building. The magazine's neighbors, and definitely on the list of our favorite people to know, have moved into the old Highway Building up on the hill...we're speaking of the Right-of-Way Division and County Roads Division. Time came when the overflow was too much even for the spacious fourth floor hall to accommodate anything other than standing room and even then it was a case of "you move so I can pass." Despite the inconvenience of being away from the main building and the pertinent records necessary to their work, the personnel of both Divisions are finding it very soothing to have elbow room.

A great deal of credit is due Luther Squires, maintenance supervisor, and his assistant, Velmer Jenkins, and their crews, who have been working night and day on the redecorating, moving, and rearrangement of office layouts. It must have taken real courage to tackle the old building...just trying to decide "where to begin?" Dennison Yates, our personnel director, has been right in there pitching, too. It took a lot of planning, imagination, and ingenuity as well as pure ole unadulterated hard work to make the magical change that has been wrought. When you visit the offices of Right-of-Way and County Roads you may think, "This setup is really all right...but it doesn't look all that good!" However, we still proclaim, "You should have seen it -- when!"

Our popular public speaker, Director Eldridge, addressed the Student Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville February 23. On the following day, he was the principal speaker at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon at Clarksville. L. P. Carlson, Engineer of Bridge Design, accompanied Mr. Eldridge on this 2-day trip.

\* \* \* \*

Ed Adkins, motor pool assistant, who has been suffering from a heart ailment for some time, has been seriously ill since January 27. He is in the Veteran's Hospital in Little Rock and no visitors are allowed to see him at this time and the hospital has requested that no phone calls be made for at least another month.

\* \* \* \*

Ward Goodman and George Fry were the able commentators on the film "Highways of Arkansas" shown to the Little Rock branch of the ASCE at a meeting held in Granoff's Restaurant February 16.

\* \* \* \*

Carl Hosack, Motor Pool superintendent, and his handball partner, Vernon Felix, played in the invitational tournament at Dallas, February 11-13, and won three out of four sets to lose out to the national champions. Carl and his partner defeated this same team for the state championship trophy in Little Rock last year. The state championship tournament will be coming up again March 6 and Carl and Vernon are preparing to defend their title. Good luck, fellows.

# Party Line Parade

## HEADQUARTERS

### ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

Betty Lane - Reporter

This reporter was indeed surprised but happy on her birthday, December 19, when she walked in the office and found several gifts on her desk from friends. Then, when the girls in Mr. Scott's office came in at noon a-singing "Happy Birthday" with a lovely poinsettia..... weeeell, guess I'll keep on havin' em!

\* \* \* \*

Congratulations to Jerry Jones, Ferol's son, who received his Life Rank in the Boy Scouts. Good work, Jerry.

\* \* \* \*

We are happy to report that Pat Denson, who has been ill with the flu, is back on the job with us again.

### REPRODUCTION ROOM

Lucille Huffstutlar - Reporter

All four of us enjoy our work very much. Even though the work gets pretty heavy sometimes, we wouldn't change with any one. Since we can reproduce most any thing in the printing line, we come in contact with a lot of people both inside and outside of the Highway Department. Believe me there are no dull moments in here. We like it that way. Did you know that we turn out thousands of sheets of prints each week? We feel we have a very responsible job and are proud of it. We strive to please, you know—the customer is always right. Our aim is to give the best service we can and be a credit to the Highway Department.

## JUST FOR FUN-----by Jimmy Zinn, Accounting Division

On the first day at school, the teacher explained that if any pupil had to go to the rest room he should hold up two fingers. One little fellow, plainly puzzled, plaintively asked, "Just how is that going to help?"

-----  
DEFINITION. Cooling system: A girl's father who sits down stairs till all hours.

-----  
A north side gal I know was puzzling us all by passing out cigars, until she showed us her engagement ring and said, "It's a boy -- 5-foot 11-inches, weighing 185 pounds.

"Good morning doctor, I just thought I'd drop in and tell you how much I've benefited from your treatments." "But you are no patient of mine." "How well I know it; but my uncle Charlie was and I am his principal heir."

-----  
Hoolied! "Yes, your Honor, I saw the whole affair. I had 16 beers the night of that murder in the bar -- and never left the table all night."

-----  
If it be true, as some agree  
That cigarettes, rich food and worry  
are slow death -- that's okay with me  
I'm really not in a hurry!--Pat Pattillo

# Party Line Parade

## MATERIALS AND TESTS

Frances Irma Roller - Reporter

Jean and Joe Irwin recently moved to 320 North Summit Street, Little Rock. We hope they will be very happy at their new address.

\* \* \* \*

Albert Guthrie spent his vacation visiting with his mother who lives in Mansfield.

\* \* \* \*

Julia Mae and Frances enjoyed helping Birdie Wright celebrate her recent birthday at Island X. The celebration was enjoyed by all.

\* \* \* \*

We received a letter from Lt. Lois Putman, sister of Grady, who is stationed in Stuttgart, Germany. Lois reports she is having a wonderful time and is planning a trip to Switzerland. She sends greetings to all her friends.

\* \* \* \*

We are happy to report that Thornton Rowe is back on the job with us after a recent illness.

\* \* \* \*

Congratulations to Bill Wano and the former Jeanne Walden of Newport who are now Mr. and Mrs. The big event took place December 1 at Stillwater, Oklahoma.

\* \* \* \*

We are glad to report Ray Orrell's grandmother, Louisa Henson of Hot Springs, who has been ill with double-pneumonia, is still improving. Mrs. Henson is 95 years of age.

We are happy to spread the welcome mat to Carl F. Clark who recently transferred to our Division from Plans and Surveys.

\* \* \* \*

Our belated birthday greetings to R. C. Turney who celebrated his birthday last month, but we failed to mention it. Please excuse R. C. We also extend our best wishes to the following who are celebrating birthdays this month: C. H. Tullos, George Allen, A. T. Beard, and Henry Dreher.

\* \* \* \*

We offer our deep and sincere sympathies to Mr. and Mrs. Billie Woods and family in the loss of Mrs Woods' father, Frank Carter, and Billie's aunt, Rosa Griffin, who both passed away recently.

\* \* \* \*

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to Hays Medlock and his family in the loss of his uncle, William Guinn.



**BE ORDERLY**  
for better work  
fewer accidents

# Party Line Parade

## ACCOUNTING

Jimmy Zinn - Reporter

We read with high interest the account of David C. Hamilton, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Hamilton. He has gained splendid notices by his association with the Equitable Securities Corporation at New York. He was a member of a group of young men who called President Eisenhower to endorse his program. And since the E.S.C. takes a wide interest in world trade, the group was advised to try arousing public enthusiasm for a more liberal foreign trade policy. Davis is a graduate of Little Rock schools, Tulame, and Harvard Universities. He acquired his masters' degree at Harvard.

\* \* \* \*

Hear ye! hear ye! The Accounting Division stakes a claim to have the proudest great-granddaddy in the Highway Department. Come one, come all. On February 3, Jerry Vaughn Conaster, Jr. let it be known to his mother and father he has joined the family group. Mrs. Jerry Vaughn Conaster, Sr. is the granddaughter of Gus Powell.

\* \* \* \*

Also, we lay claim to the newest mother. Ida Jane Uekman promises to show off her pride and joy -- an adorable young man named Eddie Charles who arrived February 3 and will be home to callers at 320 West 18th Street, North Little Rock. Your reporter has been carrying matches several days -- just in case. You may call me Smoky.

## STATISTICS AND ANALYSES

John Hume - Reporter

Johnnie Beavers, Jim Yarbrough, and Y. W. Whelchel are fed up with their autumn theme song "Teach Me Tonight" and are no longer burning the midnight oil at their study tables; but Jesse Thomas is sweating out four more college courses for the spring semester.

\* \* \* \*

### BLESSED EVENTS

The stork traffic was heavy in our Division from January 23 to February 5.

\* \* \* \*

The first arrival was John William McDermott, January 23, and another first for him -- he is Fred J. Herring's first grandchild -- weight, 6 pounds 14 ounces.

\* \* \* \*

Next, was Jema Jean Taylor, daughter of Barbara Taylor who used to labor over one of our drafting tables; she was born January 25, weighing 6 pounds 1 ounce.

\* \* \* \*

The third arrival was Ed Johnson's daughter, Dana Lynne, 6 pounds 14 ounces, on January 29. Ed tells us she already says Momma and Daddy quite distinctly.

\* \* \* \*

Last but far from least was "Buck," John William Newman Headrick that is, who made his debut on February 2, at 7 pounds 8 ounces. He is the pride and heir of one Bill Headrick, a budding patriarch.

\* \* \* \*

Oddly enough, in all this trafficking Dr. Stork left the Traffic Section out.

# Party Line Parade

## BRIDGE DESIGN

Norma Monroe - Reporter

A most hearty welcome to L. P. Carlson as our new "boss" who we know will do a very good job in his new undertaking. AND to Ward Goodman go our best wishes in his new undertaking as Chief Engineer. We think the Commission couldn't have picked a more qualified man in every respect for this important job. It was indeed a sad loss to Bridge Design.

\* \* \* \*

We are happy to report Walker C. Haigh has been released from the hospital and is at home recuperating. We all miss him greatly and wish him a speedy recovery so he can be back with us soon.

\* \* \* \*

We are glad to welcome to our office Carl Pendergraft and Richard Flemming. Carl is an "ole timer" with the Highway Department, a former office engineer. Richard had some bad luck last November with a car jack and his left foot was broken, so he came to work with us using a crutch.

\* \* \* \*

We are sorry to report that E. H. Aue is leaving us February 11 to join the Corps of Engineers. We will all miss you, E. H. and wish you every success.

\* \* \* \*

Reporting: Two minor traffic accidents. Bert Rownd -- someone bumped him from behind! Norma Monroe -- she bumped someone!! Not too serious in either case.

A very happy, but belated birthday greetings to Bob Mattox, Doc Bonner, Bill McMahon, Bert Rownd, and Billy Stiles. May you all have many, many more.

## EQUIPMENT AND PROCUREMENT

L. O. "Jack" Brown - Reporter

We are sorry to report that the following are on sick leave this month: O. S. Marrett, Bob Mosby, Mrs. Clyde D. Holmes, W. C. Mize, John Berryman, and O. E. Wagner. We wish them a speedy recovery and hope they will be back soon.

\* \* \* \*

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph McCray are here for a 2-week visit with her parents. Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Pittman of 2921 Arch Street, Little Rock. Ralph is stationed in Norfolk, Virginia, with the Navy.

\* \* \* \*

Francis Schroeder and Kay Bonnell celebrated Sue Fuller's December wedding by giving her a linen shower January 21. There were 11 guests and Sue reported lots of lovely gifts. You'll need to gather all the loot you can, girl.

\* \* \* \*

Sylvia Caple, Frank's wife, is back in her childhood days. She is recovering from the mumps. We send our best get well wishes to you, Sylvia.

\* \* \* \*

There were 192 new vehicles, which included trucks, station wagons, and automobiles, received this month to replace a like number of old ones. Our mobile earth drill was also purchased.

# Party Line Parade

DISTRICT 2 PINE BLUFF  
Inez Royston - Reporter

Charles A., son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Morgan of Pine Bluff, who was attending Monticello A & M College, has enlisted in the Armed Forces. January 31 he was sent to Army Engineers Corps, Jackson, South Carolina. We are wishing Charles the best of success. He was an honor student in high school and this is his first year of college and it took a great deal of determination to decide to enlist at this time. Elmer is area foreman in Jefferson County and has been with the Department a number of years.

\* \* \* \*

Our deep and sincere sympathies to Woodrow K. Wilson and family of Monticello in the loss of Woodrow's mother, Mrs. Alice Wilson of Batesville, on January 5. Mrs. Wilson was 79 years of age and beloved by all who knew her. Funeral services were held at Monticello in the Stephenson Funeral Home January 7.

\* \* \* \*

Several of our employees attended the 2-day conference in Little Rock on January 31 and February 1 and were really enthusiastic about the meeting feeling that much had been gained by this informative meeting. Another group attended a similar meeting February 8-9 and the third group February 15-16.

\* \* \* \*

Russell Gaddy has been complaining about his "home work," however, now that the job is completed, he has invited us

out to see his pretty new floors and spacious modern closets which he and his brother have installed in their home. We think Russell now feels that it was well worth the effort, great though it was.

\* \* \* \*

We are happy to report Mrs. Floyd Walker, wife of our fuel clerk, is home again after undergoing surgery at St. Vincents. Mrs. Walker was in the hospital about 2 weeks, but is making splendid progress in her recovery and her many friends will be glad when she is able to be out again.

\* \* \* \*

Willard P. Johnson, crane operator of Monticello, underwent surgery recently at Drew Memorial Hospital. Willard is making a speedy recovery and hopes to be able to return home February 8. We will all be glad when you are back in circulation again, Willard.

\* \* \* \*

Robert R. Rinehart, who received a serious head injury while operating a motor patrol last September, was back on the job with us again January 1. He has now been made night watchman and replaces Jesse D. Herring who suffered a heart attack recently. We hope you will be happy on your new job, Robert.

We all miss Mr. Herring very much and send him our best "get-well-quick" wishes. He took great interest in our flowers and, with his constant care, the flower beds always looked pretty and we had beautiful blooms all during summer and fall.

# Party Line Parade

## DISTRICT 3 HOPE

Olive Jackson - Reporter

Mr. and Mrs. Hershel Taylor have just returned from an enjoyable visit with their daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Martin of Memphis. We are sorry, however, that Hershel lost his billfold on their return trip.

\* \* \* \*

We are sorry to lose Sam Mickle, an employee in Sevier County, who resigned recently to accept a job in Oregon.

\* \* \* \*

We have received wonderful reports about the 2-day work conferences for maintenance supervisors which are being held in Little Rock. Sid Flowers, Carlisle Crews, and Lester Purtle, AMF, and Ardelle Clark, AMS, were recent attendants at one of the conferences. These men were very enthusiastic about the meeting and tell us they gained much useful knowledge which will aid them in their daily work.

\* \* \* \*

We are sorry to report that Kenneth Stovall, bridge carpenter, had the misfortune of breaking a toe and fracturing a bone in his left foot January 28 while unloading a wheelbarrow from a truck on Highway 19. We wish you a very speedy recovery, Kenneth.

\* \* \* \*

Harvey McCorkle returned from a recent trip to Carnie, Illinois, where he visited his son, Lemual Edward. Harvey reported having had a wonderful trip.

We were sorry to hear that Edgar Andrews, roller operator, has been ill. We wish you a speedy recovery, Edgar, and hope that you will be back on the job with us very soon.

\* \* \* \*

We extend our deepest sympathies to Miles Downs and his family in the loss of his brother, Milton, of DeQueen, who passed away January 4. And to Clovis Tittle and his family in the loss of his brother, Samuel Whipple, who passed away in Birmingham, Alabama, January 10.

## REPORTERS

*Deadline is*  
March 7

IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH AN EARLIER DISTRIBUTION DATE FOR "ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS" MAGAZINE, THE FOLLOWING DEADLINE DATES HAVE BEEN SET FOR ACCEPTANCE OF "PARTY LINE PARADE" NEWS ITEMS. YOUR PERSONAL CO-OPERATION IN SENDING YOUR NEWS IN ON TIME WILL BE A TREMENDOUS HELP AND MOST APPRECIATED.

April 5-----May 5  
June 6-----July 6

# Party Line Parade

DISTRICT 4 FT. SMITH  
Faye Carter - Reporter

Eugene and Virginia Symonds drove a pretty sky-blue Chevrolet back from Detroit, Michigan, last month. They spent 2 weeks in Detroit visiting with friends and relatives.

\* \* \* \*

We are sorry to report that Ray Trentham has been ill with the mumps. We hope you have a speedy recovery, Ray, and are back on the job with us soon with a thinner face.

\* \* \* \*

We sure did miss Harvie Johnson while he was off a week with the flu. Everyone was wondering why it was so quiet, well, he is back now and there isn't a dull moment. That must have been some week for Mrs. Johnson trying to subdue his boaring spirit long enough to make him stay in bed and take his medicine. Glad to have you back, Harvie.

\* \* \* \*

That ole "flu bug" got a grip on our boss-man, Homer Hill, too, and he had to remain at home a few days. Its so good to have him back that we wouldn't even mind if he "popped the whip" every now and then.

\* \* \* \*

Our prayers are for Jack Dunn's Mother who just had an operation and is in the hospital at Ft. Smith. Jack is with the bridge crew, and has been one of our Highway family since '52. We send her our very best wishes.

DISTRICT 7 CAMDEN  
Sula Burnham - Reporter

Wedding bells chimed for Mildred Silcox, our former payroll clerk, and John Russ, who were married at the First Baptist Church January 21, at 7:30 p.m. A small reception was held in the home of the bride following the ceremony. The new Mr. and Mrs. are making their home in Columbus, Ohio. We offer our best wishes for a happy marriage to them.

\* \* \* \*

We are proud of Jewell Prince and his crew, who are erecting multi-plate arch culverts on Highway 8 from Dalark to Princeton, AND of E. W. Sweatman and his crew, who are constructing treated timber bridges with concrete floors on Highway 7 from Sparkman to Dalark.

\* \* \* \*

We are glad to spread the welcome mat to Jeane Hecker, who replaced Mildred as payroll clerk. We hope you will be happy with us, Jeane.

\* \* \* \*

We offer our heartfelt sympathies to W. R. Whisenhunt in the loss of his wife, Mrs. Whisenhunt's death came as a result of burns suffered when her clothing caught fire as she walked passed an open heater. Mr. Sweatman and the bridge crew attended the funeral at Mena

\*\*\*

IT'S TERRIBLY EASY TO SHAKE A MAN'S FAITH IN HIMSELF. TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT TO BREAK A MAN'S SPIRIT IS THE DEVIL'S WORK.  
DISTRICT 8'S QUOTES --G. B. SHAW

# Party Line Parade

DISTRICT 8            RUSSELLVILLE  
Margaret Hamm - Reporter

Flora Jean Harding became the bride of Virgil Mason December 8 at Centerville. The couple are making their home in Russellville where Virgil is a member of our maintenance crew. Our best wishes to Flora Jean and Virgil for a very bright and happy future together.

\* \* \* \*

We offer our belated "Birthday Greetings" to Stural Cowan who celebrated his birthday February 2. May you have many, many more, Stural.

\* \* \* \*

We are sorry to report that Tom Fiser was sick recently and confined to his bed for a week. Tom said he sure had a wonderful nurse -- his 2-year-old grandson -- whom he simply adores.

\* \* \* \*

Frank Ussery of Perry County is an avid Tech basketball fan. He loves to watch the AIC champs and was really disappointed when he was turned away from the Teachers and Tech game here recently. No seats or even standing room was available, but that hasn't discouraged Frank from coming some distance to see the games.

\* \* \* \*

Bruce McConnell of Yell County is another Tech fan and he has a good reason to be. His son, David Bruce, is a sophomore at Tech, second year letterman in football, and a member of the Tech T Club. He also plays a lot of

baseball which he will be looking forward to this spring. Not only is David (better known as Bruce) capable of making good in sports but he also makes good grades and is very popular among his buddies.

\* \* \* \*

We hear it's a fact that George Rye attended a hen party with his wife and got in on all the eats and gossip and had a wonderful time surrounded by all those women.

\* \* \* \*

We are all very proud of our new trucks that we have received here in District 8 recently.

\* \* \* \*

We are happy to report that Bill Payne, who injured his hand while changing a tire, is improving. Our best wishes for a quick recovery, Bill.

DISTRICT 9            HARRISON  
Shirley Morton - Reporter

We are so happy to have Louise Day back on the job after undergoing surgery in a Fayetteville hospital recently. Louise was absent several days but she reports she is feeling fine now and is glad to be back.

\* \* \* \*

Bertha Wagley went to Fayetteville January 29 to attend the mid-term Baccalaureate service and Commencement exercise at the University. We are all proud of Bertha's niece who received a B.A. Degree with high honors.

# Party Line Parade

The fellows in our District who attended the first 2 of the work conference series being held in Little Rock report very favorably on the profit they derived from these meetings. Others from our District will attend the third of these 2-day conferences on February 15.

\* \* \* \*

We were happy to have G. W. Stanford in our District recently and hope he can visit us again soon.

\* \* \* \*

J. R. Tucker is getting ready to wind-up his classes in First Aid. Dr. Tucker should have plenty of able assistants now. We understand Alton Farley at Springdale has also completed his classes and is ready for any emergency. Carry on, Dr. Farley.

\* \* \* \*

We are all proud of the new trucks that we have received recently. Mr. Cook is also happy over his new Ford Sedan and is acting like "Flash Gordon" because it really "takes off."

## DISTRICT 10 PARAGOULD

Tennie Proctor - Reporter

I take up my pencil and paper and begin my duties as your new reporter. Fellows I need all the help I can get, so please send your news in to the District office.

\* \* \* \*

We are sorry to report that J. P. Snell's mother is ill and we wish her a very speedy recovery.

We were happy to have Bill Baugh from the Maintenance Division and G. E. Nunnally from District 1 for a visit recently. We were also glad to have G. W. Stanford and Ed Orsini who are frequent visitors. We extend a hearty welcome to all Department employees to stop by for a visit with us when they are up our way.

\* \* \* \*

We are very sorry to lose Carolyn Gwin who is moving to Memphis to join her husband, Airman Apprentice J. E. Gwin, who is in AT school at the Naval Air Station, Millington, Tennessee. We take this opportunity to wish you all the luck in the world, and that we are going to miss you around here, Carolyn.

\* \* \* \*

We are happy to announce that Bill Pillow likes both fast and slow music, just so long as it's Accordion music.

\* \* \* \*

Jess Rush, Nelson Ladd, Paul Bridger, and Neil May attended the 2-day work conference at Little Rock January 31 and February 1. They had a very nice time and felt that much was accomplished by this meeting.

\* \* \* \*

Our new bookkeeper, Wandalene Fitzgerald, motored to Nashville, Tennessee recently to visit a girl friend she met while in England. We welcome Wandalene to our office force.

\* \* \* \*

J. C. Perkins was at his home in Harrison for a week end recently.

from the Editor---

## YOUR OPPORTUNITIES IN 1955

There are great opportunities in 1955 for those of you who are ready or who are willing to prepare yourselves for the opportunities which will be available to you. How many times in the past has opportunity knocked on your door? and you didn't even hear the knock because you were too busy recounting how everyone else always got the "breaks."

Keep your eyes open and your ears keen for the break that will come to you only if you are prepared and waiting for it, the break that will go to someone else unless you free your mind of resentment, intolerance, jealousy, criticism, and alibis; and fill your mind with thoughts of CONFIDENCE, FAITH, and the DESIRE to do a good job, regardless of what the task may be. No one ever gets "something for nothing!" When we think we are, that is when we pay the highest price. Develop within yourself that magnificent art of doing the very best you can with what you have, right where you are. DO IT NOW! When you have learned to do this, you will have learned how to better the condition; but what is more, you will then know how to improve the entire situation, not only for yourself but for those around you.

There has been a vast improvement in our organization since the Mack-Blackwell Amendment was made into law, removing the Highway Department from politics. Through the aid of this Amendment the Highway Commission and officials have been able to promulgate policies and rules benefiting every individual employee, the Highway Department as a whole, and all of the people of Arkansas. An employee of our Department stands or falls on his own merit today, regardless of former affiliations. When an employee does a good job and is loyal to our organization, that organization which is always on the lookout for his best interests, then he is the employee the Department wants and needs, the employee who can rest secure in his job and plan for the future, making a career of his work in the Highway field.

Now, as never before, there are unlimited possibilities for advancement in our Highway organization. The Department is looking for leaders, looking for young men who are willing to work and train for those openings up the ladder of success which are becoming more numerous as we continue our progress of accomplishments. We have achieved great results

these past two years, yes, but we CAN and WILL go on to even greater achievements as each of us strives to do a better job, accepts and assumes our responsibilities, and willingly shares the responsibilities of others in a spirit of cooperation and teamwork.

Do not allow discouragement even a tiny spot in your mind. Ignore the doubters who would hinder your progress, bolstering their own weaknesses by keeping you at their level. Negative thoughts bring negative results. BELIEVE in yourself and know that you are capable of doing a fine job. Have CONFIDENCE in yourself, confidence in the good work you are doing, confidence in your supervisors and fellow workers, confidence in your organization, and confidence in your Commission and Highway officials who have given YOU their complete confidence. Continue the good you are doing by giving the best you have. Don't be impatient! Often you are succeeding much better than you realize. Be ever alert to the opportunity of giving extra service. Remember that the good seeds you have sown cannot be seen while they germinate, but the harvest will come in abundance as time unfolds the tomorrows for our use; and you will be able to see clearly how very far you have progressed.

Your opportunities in 1955 and future years will be many.....do not let them slip from your grasp. Many promotions will be available. These places will be filled by SOMEONE. If YOU are not ready don't bemoan the fact that someone who WAS ready received the promotion. And you are NOT ready if you spend your days resenting this, that, or the other thing. You should be too busy striving to do a really good job to have any time to waste on petty irritations and resentment. How can you have time to criticize what the other fellow is doing if you are going about your own duties and giving them all you have, and still finding time to lend a helping hand to that same fellow worker if he should need it?

Don't expect to better your position simply because of what you know. It isn't what you know that counts -- it's what you DO with what you know. All the knowledge in the world stored up in your brain is of little or no use to anyone unless you USE that knowledge: in your daily work when possible, or by releasing it to those who would profit by it. Every time you help a fellow worker to reach a higher rung in the ladder you automatically boost yourself up another notch.

Make the most of your opportunities and ride on the highway of success with our Department. When we all pull together as one team, each giving our best to our job, there is no difficulty to great to overcome, and no end to the accomplishments we can achieve. BE READY! Welcome your Opportunities of 1955 with pride and confidence. --HSE

# *Safety First*



*Carelessness  
Brings Disaster*

DON'T LEARN SAFETY  
BY ACCIDENT—!