

# ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS

Vol. IV  
No. 12



December  
1956

# ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS

A Monthly Magazine for Employees of the  
Arkansas State Highway Commission

VOL. IV

December 1956

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## STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

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W. Ward Goodman, Chief Engineer

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Traditional Dishes of Christmas.....	John Hicks	4
Preventable Accident Reports.....		10
Beauty by the Mile.....	Peter Farb	5
Improved Highways.....	W. D. Wright	11
Contrast Awards.....		29
Around the Building.....		16
Jest for Fun.....	Jimmy Zinn	14
A Christmas Gift.....	Myrna Key	12
Bringing up B aby.....	Bill Headrick	15
April Fool in December .....	Mrs. Pat Denson	15
Christmas Dilemma.....	Martha Lee Adams	8
Greetings from Personnel.....		30
Party Line Parade.....		17-28

SEASON'S GREETINGS



From: THE MEMBERS  
OF THE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

Clayton  
Glen  
Raymond  
J. Graham  
Willie A. Lawson  
Tempest Redridge  
Ward

# TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS DISHES

by John Hicks  
Roadway Design

On Christmas Day families will gather around the festive board laden with foods traditional of the American Christmas: turkey with all the trimmings, mince pie, fruit cake and plum pudding. However, the feast is not traditional of America, but of "merrie England", supplemented by Christmas foods borrowed from many lands.

The Christmas fowl, the turkey, is substituted for the English goose or capon. Mince pie, our favorite Christmas pie, originated in England in the fourteenth century. It contained every ingredient a pie could contain. A writer of the period said, "The devil dare not show himself in Cornwall at Christmas time, lest he should be baked into a pie."

In those days the pie was oblong with a tiny figure of the Christ Child placed on top. When the Puritans came into power the mince pie was outlawed. Because of the figure of the Christ Child it was considered idol worship. In 1660 the Puritans lost their power and the pie returned to its rightful place on the Christmas table. The pie was now round and in this form was introduced to New England. The pie owes its origin to the Crusaders, who returned from the Holy Land with rich spices. These, having grown in Jesus' homeland, were used in the pie to commemorate the Nativity.

The English plum pudding, with its flaming brandy, because of the richness of its ingredients, was said to symbolize the gifts of the Wise Men.

We will visit a Polish family who have a very ceremonious Christmas Eve supper.

Straw from the grain is placed in the corners of the dining room with a prayer for a year of plenty. Bits of straw are scattered on the table beneath the cloth to symbolize the manger. As the sun fades away, the youngest child is sent out to await the appearance of the first star, a signal for the beginning of the meal, which begins by breaking a cake of unleavened bread stamped with scenes of the Nativity. Each one at the table breaks the bread to symbolize their unity in Christ.

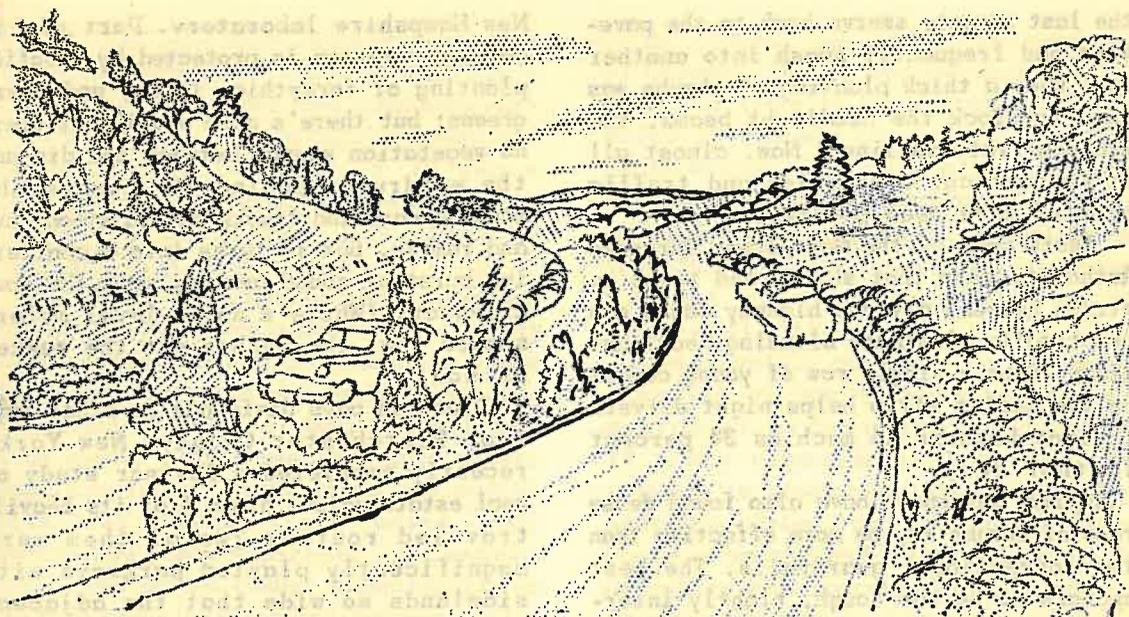
The meal has either 7, 9, or 11 courses, including 3 soups and 3 fish dishes, the leading one a fruit compote containing 12 fruits, which are symbolic of the 12 Disciples.

In Armenia the Christmas feast consists of fried fish, lettuce, and boiled spinach, for they believe that such was Mary's supper the night of Jesus' birth.

The Piece de Resistance of the Italian Christmas dinner is Capitone, a dish of fried eel.

The Scandinavian countries have a traditional dish of a roast suckling pig with an apple in its mouth.

When we gather around the Christmas table, be it plum pudding of England, the Capitone of Italy, or the fruchtbrad of Austria, may it be in a spirit of prayerful thanks to God for the gift of His Son, our Lord.



## BEAUTY BY THE MILE

by Peter Farb

The new Interstate Highway System, provided for in the 29-billion-dollar federal road building program, will change the face of America. When it is completed a 41,000-mile network will link almost every city of over 50,000 population in the United States. This is a mammoth engineering and construction project that will take 13 years to finish.

Along with new techniques in roadbed design will come new methods of roadside planting. For engineers know that how we handle roadsides can largely determine whether a road is safe or dangerous, a pleasure to drive on or a strain, an expense or an economy.

Along the new highways will be planting to prevent erosion, planting for traffic guidance, for screens and snowbreaks. Miniature roadside parks will relieve the fatigue of long trips; no billboards or roadside businesses will be allowed on the right-of-way.

Skillful planting has already proved effective in eliminating headlight glare. Fifteen years ago at one busy traffic circle in Connecticut, accidents were an almost nightly occurrence. Investigation showed that drivers approaching the flat, unplanted rotary often saw only oncoming headlight beams. They would continue right across the rotary, realize the mistake at

the last moment, swerve back to the pavement and frequently smash into another car. When a thick planting of shrubs was used to block the headlight beams, the accident rate declined. Now, almost all of Connecticut's rotaries and traffic circles have been planted.

Tests made by the New Jersey Turnpike Authority show that shrubs and trees on strips between divided highway lanes can practically eliminate blinding headlight glare. Even a single row of young cedars on the median strip helps night drivers to spot hazards as much as 34 percent farther away.

Highway designers have also found dense rows of shrubs may be more effective than the conventional guardrails. The best appears to be the tough, tightly interlaced multiflora rose whose dense tangle of branches acts like a giant rubber sponge, absorbing the shock.

Andrew J. White, director of the Motor Vehicle Research, South Lee, New Hampshire, has repeatedly smashed test cars into thick multiflora hedges. At 30 miles per hour the cars are stopped within little more than their own length; even at 50 miles per hour and over, the cars are brought to a gently stop, with only minor scratches and dents. Several states are now planting these rosebush barricades. They cost much less than cable guardrails and, in addition to crash protection, shut out headlights, stop snowdrift, and keep large animals off the roadway.

Roadside plantings can reduce highway noises...gear whine, exhaust backfires, and the roar of trucks. I watched Andrew White set up an experiment in front of

New Hampshire laboratory. Part of his roadside acreage is protected by a buffer planting of forsythia, lilac, and evergreens; but there's also a driveway where no vegetation stands between the din and the eardrums. Behind the bushes the passing cars and trucks make a steady hum and rumble, but it turns into a shattering burst of sound as they pass the open driveway. (White's noise-level meters showed that the bushes cut the racket in half.)

Planting pays dividends in other ways, too. Westchester County, New York, recently completed a 10-year study of real estate values along 4 of its heavily traveled routes. Two of them were magnificently planted parkways with sidelands so wide that the adjacent houses usually were not visible from the parkway; the others were major arteries where the houses were too close to the road to permit planting. The county found that homes back from the parkways gained in value over comparable residences in the same community; along the unplanted routes, however, there was a definite deterioration.

Taxpayers also reap the benefits of green roadsides, since the plantings, by controlling erosion, usually pay for themselves within a few years in reduced maintenance costs. A few years ago the Pennsylvania Department of Highways estimated that savings on maintenance allowed them to write off the initial expense of plantings in 2 to 4 years.

On some of the big erosion-control projects the savings can be tremendous. Twenty years ago repairs to a few hundred yards of high eroding slope along

the Springfield-Worcester highway in Massachusetts were costing \$10,000 a year. Then terraces and drainageways were built and a vegetative cover was grown to hold the soil. In 10 years the savings on maintenance paid for the work, and since 1947 close to \$100,000 has been saved.

More than three quarters of our states are now devoting roadside acres to safety havens: small parks and turnouts where weary motorists can get relief from long stretches of driving. Many are equipped with shaded picnic benches, pure water, and fireplaces. Texas leads the nation with over 1000 of these "oases," all donated by public-spirited landowners, civic, and garden clubs. Massachusetts is setting its sights on one for every five miles of state highway. Almost 13 million people used Ohio's 274 roadside parks last year, were safer drivers for it.

Almost any existing highway can be improved greatly by plantings. Near the end of World War II the Garden Club of New Jersey decided to turn a 5-mile stretch of state highway into a "living memorial" for men and women of the armed forces, and at the same time to demonstrate that even a kaleidoscope of billboards, filling stations, and motels could be turned into a thing of beauty. The club raised money for 10,000 trees and shrubs. The State Highway Department purchased additional land wherever possible, made the plantings and located roadside businesses behind this buffer. Today this segment of the Blue Star Drive is a semi-parkway that has increased driving comfort and protected property values.

In Illinois two communities just west of Chicago, DeKalb and Sycamore, raised money for trees to be planted on the nine miles of highway connecting them; the State helped by transplanting and maintaining the trees. The idea is catching on with other Illinois communities, and the State Highway Department has made a blanket offer to cooperate on any such projects.

New Hampshire provides one of the best examples of how to make roadsides a source of civic pride and benefit. 13 state organizations have banded together to sponsor the Roadside Improvement Associates, and many local civic, youth, church, and farm groups in New Hampshire have carried out projects in this program.

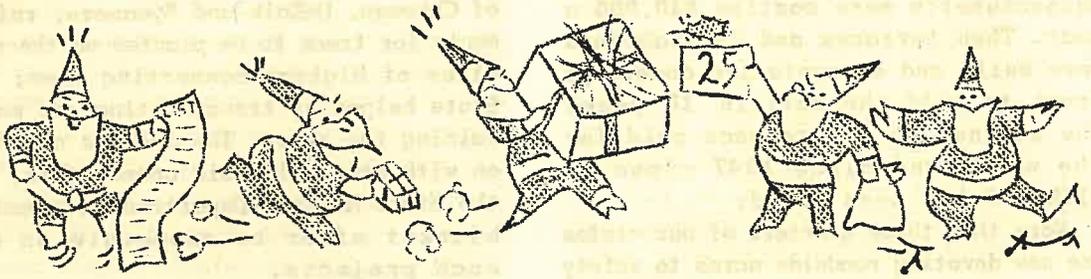
Every city, town, and rural route can help to make our roads safer and more beautiful. Even small roadside plantings made today will grow steadily larger and more lovely, and prove that beauty more than pays its way.

(Condensed from The Rotarian as published in the October issue of Reader's Digest.)

## IT'S ALL UP TO YOU

Submitted by Sarah Neel

You are the one who has to decide  
Whether you'll do it or toss it aside.  
You are the one who makes up your mind,  
Whether you'll lead or linger behind;  
Whether you'll strive for the goal  
that's afar,  
Or be contented to stay where you are.  
Just think it over, it's all up to you.  
Will you take it or leave it?  
What will you do? --- Edgar A. Guest



## Christmas Dilemma

by Martha Lee Adams  
Personnel Division

Have you ever noticed that during the Christmas season our personalities change temporarily? In more ways than one. During the year we may rate among our fellow man as low man on the totem pole in the popularity contest and our dispositions may sometimes be on par with a cobra, but come Christmas we are (most of us) suddenly full of good will. We begin to see a few Christmas ads, or the stores will decorate their floors with Santa Clauses and tinsel and we realize that Christmas is once more upon us. With this realization there may be mixed feelings. Some view the situation with slight dismay, others feign indifference, and still others, downright alarm. Christmas here so soon? It isn't possible. But it's true and with the passing of each day we begin to feel an inner excitement. Other sensations, intangible things that we can't define engulf us. We feel a kindred spirit towards our fellowmen now and pet peeves are for the moment anyway, forgotten. "Joe, old boy, it's Christmas so let's

forget about our little difference we had last March."

Then there are the annual Pre-Christmas resolutions. This year, you say, I'm going to be prepared. Yes sir, I made up my mind that for once I'm going to shop early. Avoid the crowds that way, besides the selections are much better. My gifts will be wrapped and I will have all the week before Christmas to bake cookies and my fruitcake can be soaking in brandy. My house will be spic and span and all the decorations up. Out comes the pen and paper for the gift list. What to get Aunt Mabel? Oh dear, we can't get Uncle Tom another tie. Jim wanted the record player but of course he's changed his mind now, and I had the one I wanted all picked out plus the Nutcracker Suite album. Well of course I wasn't thinking only of myself. I was going to buy him Elvis Presley's record of "Houn' Dog." But Harry, \$3.00 is the amount that we settled on for the office tree, and you can't find anything decent looking for less. Well now, that

may be true, sometimes you can find some pretty good bargains on the dollar table. Christmas clearances. It's high time you helped me decide on your family. It's left up to me every year to shop for them and everyone else. And what do you do? I'm lucky if you even go with me to help battle the crowds or carry packages. You could make out the Christmas card list. No, Jim, you can't have the box of Christmas decorations. I only got them out to see what we had. Leave them alone, Jim! Oh well, I guess there's plenty of time to make out the gift list, I'll finish this tomorrow. So the gift list and the Christmas card list that hasn't even been started, are put aside. Days pass. You do stop in at the local Variety Store and stock up on ribbon, paper and literally thousands of stickers. You take the wrappings home and put them by the list that hasn't been touched again. I simply must finish the list, you say vaguely. Buying the paper gives you a burst of enthusiasm all over again. So you get the list and scan it several times more and put it right back where it was.

The time and scene changes. You and Harry are creeping along Main Street. Clutched in your hand is the LIST, finally finished. There is a parking place... was a parking place. Harry there are two good places across the street. You end up in a parking lot which you should have done to begin with. You push your way into the stores where there are at least five million other shoppers. Harry is wearing an expression of sheer panic which turns into helplessness, as time wears on. He meekly follows you to each department

where he just stands by waiting to take the next bundle. To your constant query, "What do you think about this for so and so," his answer is invariably, "looks all right to me." So you pick out something else and it's still all right with Harry. You trudge wearily to the car parked six blocks away in the lot. Harry is almost completely obscured by the packages by this time. Home at last it's necessary to leave some of the packages in the car for the time being as Jim is there and some of the gifts are his. You begin to act very peculiar in the eyes of your 12-year-old. You get sneaky, trying to catch the moment he won't see you slip out. "Where you going, Mom?" You look real silly. He is thinking, poor Mom, with Christmas and all, maybe she's going off her rocker. Oh why does he not leave the room? If I wanted him to go to the store do you think he would be around? But all's well that ends well, to use the old hackneyed expression. Jim gets interested in an old William S. Hart movie so you get the purchases at last. After awhile Harry and Jim go to bed leaving you with the worries of tomorrow and things to do yet. Better set the alarm for six I guess. Have to bake cookies and make some candy. Guess I'll buy a fruitcake. You can get real good ones now anyway in the grocery stores. The packages have to be wrapped and the house decorated. Better set it for five. Lots of things to do but I can do them I guess even if it is Christmas Eve.

Y'know one thing? Next year will be different. I'm going to shop early and avoid the crowds. Yes sir!!...

# ACCIDENT REPORTS...WE STILL GET 'EM

For the first 3 quarters of 1956 our Congratulations go to Divisions 2 and 5 who had the smallest number of accidents with only 15 each. Second lowest was Divisions 4, 9, and 10 with a score of 16 each.

Little Rock and Jacksonville have the highest praise coming because they had the least number of accidents in the Highway Department. Little Rock was first with a total of only 2 accidents and Jacksonville was second with 8.

We are hoping the last quarter of this year will show a marked decrease in the number of accidents, bringing our total for the year down to a minimum. Remember, the difference between a grin and a groan is SAFETY.



First Quarter 56	Second Quarter 79	Three Quarters 79
Division 1...8	Division 1...7	Division 1...13
Division 2...2	Division 2...11	Division 2...2
Division 3...9	Division 3...7	Division 3...7
Division 4...4	Division 4...9	Division 4...3
Division 5...1	Division 5...4	Division 5...10
Division 6...10	Division 6...3	Division 6...12
Division 7...4	Division 7...10	Division 7...9
Division 8...4	Division 8...9	Division 8...6
Division 9...3	Division 9...6	Division 9...7
Division 10...4	Division 10...7	Division 10...5
Little Rock...1	Little Rock...0	Little Rock...1
Jacksonville..1	Jacksonville..6	Jacksonville..1

District 1.....	44
District 2.....	40
District 3.....	46
District 4.....	35
District 5.....	31

# IMPROVED HIGHWAYS

by W. L. Wright  
Construction Division

Our present Resident Engineer's Office at 3701 Rinehart Road in Pine Bluff became a reality on April 23. We have plenty of convenient parking space and it seems we will have good air conditioning for the months ahead.

Under the supervision of our efficient Resident Engineer, W. A. "Bill" Coker, the highways leading into Pine Bluff are being greatly improved. Since April 20, more than 25 miles of our highways have been widened and resurfaced. We now have under construction more than 18 miles which have been widened and the resurfacing will soon be completed. This makes a total of more than 43 miles of improved highways. The old narrow, worn out highways filled with holes, breaks, patches, and the ever-annoying pavement joints are rapidly becoming obsolete. The new highways with 24-foot roadways and beautiful intersections and turnouts are wonderful in comparison with the old, rough roads that afforded only a cringing 9-foot passing lane.

The 6 concrete bridges on the Little Rock-Pine Bluff Road have been widened. Four of the new bridges have a clear roadway of 40 feet and two have 28 feet compared with the old roadway of 20 feet.

Also under construction are two reinforced concrete bridges on the Little Rock-Pine Bluff Road and one on the Pine Bluff-Stuttgart Road is being remodeled, which upon completion will have a wider roadway and will be much more

efficient for our increasing traffic.

We are proud of our record of not having a single accident during the entire year. Six of our 13 employees are new with the Department.

Of course, we are proud of the accomplishments of others and especially the new bridges and the highway between Prattsville and Malvern.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and wider and smoother highways for the New Year, and the new cars.

## PREVENTABLE ACCIDENTS

Division 1 - Total 2

11/7/56, burned hand on hot joint filler.

11/21/56, injured back.

Division 2 - Total 1

11/1/56, cable hit employee on head.

Division 3 - Total 1

11/14/56, deep cut on top of head.

Division 4 - Total 0

Division 5 - Total 1

11/1/56, auto accident, no injuries.

Division 6 - Total 1

11/5/56, strained muscles in back.

Division 7 - Total 1

11/6/56, auto accident, no injuries.

Division 8 - Total 1

11/2/56, fractured end of index finger.

Division 9 - Total 1

11/20/56, premix flew into right eye.

Division 10 - Total 3

11/5/56, bruise and laceration of foot.

11/16/56, possible rupture.

11/19/56, broken bone of finger.

Little Rock - Total 2

11/9/56, glasses broken by piece of rock.

11/14/56, caught thumb in electric stapler.

Jacksonville - Total 0

# A CHRISTMAS GIFT...



by Myrna Key  
Personnel Division

To me, the words Christmas and home are synonymous, and each year as this season approaches I look forward with anticipation to the afternoon when we will head the Ford for home. Although a certain amount of "Christmas Spirit" is created by the gala decorations, the hurrying shoppers buying last minute gifts, the bearded Santa on the street corner, the Christmas carols and so forth, Christmas is not Christmas at its best until I get home in that big old rambling house with the huge tree in the living room for us to decorate, the cookies and coffee that are always ready in the kitchen, the blue candles to be lit in the upstairs windows, the manger scene to be put together in the breakfast room, the eight noisy grandchildren who always have a "field day" because they know that all restrictions are off and anything

goes at "Mama's" house...all these things I associate with Christmas, but one thing stands out in my memory, an event that I would like to share with you...it has become my own personal Christmas Story.

It was late Christmas Eve of 1949 and all of us sisters had arrived at home except one of the twins and her family, who were living in Fort Myers, Florida at the time. We were all waiting up for them as it is a standing rule that no one goes to bed until we all get there. Somewhere between the twenty-fifth cup of coffee and midnight the conversation shifted to Billy, the neighborhood mystery. His age, birthplace, and last name were unknown, and Billy, being old, uneducated and not having the highest I Q in the world, couldn't remember. He was a lonely fellow...no relatives, no home, no means of support, but very few cares, though he

was an object of pity in the eyes of most of our neighbors. He would drift into the community about once a year and do odd jobs in return for food and a place to spend the night, and then as suddenly and as quietly as he had come, he would vanish. As the course of the evening wore on, we became drowsy, and so someone suggested that we sing Christmas carols to revive us. We were gathered around the piano and were well into the third stanza of "Joy to the World" when there was a knock at the front door. We all rushed to the door, expecting to find the sister. You can imagine our surprise when we found Billy instead, standing on the porch, wearing a light denim jacket and threadbare blue jeans, both of which were soaked from the mixture of rain and sleet that had been falling outside since mid-afternoon. His head was bare; long, thin strands of gray hair were plastered to his forehead. He was cold, shivering and apologetic as we brought him inside. While Daddy got him out of the cold, wet clothes and into some dry ones, and Mother brought a plate of hot food, he told us that he had been out in the weather since "a 'fore dark", trying to find a place to spend the night. We were astounded to learn that families had turned Billy away at all, much less on a night like this. He was thoroughly chilled and a bit feverish. After he had finished eating and had gotten warm, he was given aspirin and hot lemonade and put to bed on a cot in the back room. He turned as he started from the room and as two big tears slid down his wrinkled cheeks, he said, "I sure am much obliged to y'all. I

just wisht I had something to give you for a Christmas gift..."

The long lost sister arrived about an hour after Billy. This gave new life to the group, for this was the first time we had all been together in nearly a year. We sat and "visited" until late Christmas Eve had become early Christmas morning. We had risen to go to our rooms, when we were stopped by Billy's voice from the doorway: "Y'all wait up just a minute. I have been a'laying there, trying to think what a poor old man without even a coin in his pocket could give for a Christmas gift. Y'all have had a nice 'fambly' Christmas Eve; you have everyone home, good things to eat, a warm house, gifts under the tree...all the trimmin's for Christmas, but it come to me there was one thing missing, and if you will let me butt in one more time, I'd like to do a little something for you." I thought to myself that Billy certainly had a knack for the dramatic...and no sooner had I thought it than I was ashamed of myself, for this was Billy's gift to us; reaching for the Bible lying on one of the end tables, he thumbed laboriously through the pages (though we all knew that he could read very little) he found a page that suited him and began "reading", entirely from memory, something he had been taught many years ago as a little boy: "For, lo, there were in the same country..."

There was very little conversation as we went to our rooms, for each of us knew that Billy had put the finishing touch to another happy "fambly" Christmas Eve.

# JEST FOR FUN *by Jimmy Zinn*

## WINDLESS HE

The teacher, instructing the first grade on the months of the year, had come to March.

"What is it," she asked, "that comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb?" A freckled faced youngster's hand shot up as he blurted, "My father."

## RED... SCHOOLHOUSE OR FACE??

"Me slept with Daddy last night," said the small child, excitedly, to the kindergarden teacher.

"I slept with Daddy last night," the teacher corrected.

"Well, then," said the child, "you must have come in after I went to sleep."

## PATTY CAKE

Mother to finicky child at the table, "Eat it dear...just pretend that it's mud pie."

## GET A TRUCK

Little boy watching a milkman's horse: "Mister, I'll bet you don't get home with your wagon."

Milkman: "Why?"

Little boy: "'Cause your horse just lost all of his gasoline."

## CURED?

Joe: "For months I thought I was a fox terrier...then I went to my psychiatrist and he cured me."

Moe: "How are you now?"

Joe: "Fine, feel my nose."

## HORSE PLAY

Dumb: "Do you know how to play Pony Express?"

Dumber: "No, how?"

Dumb: "It's Post Office with a little more horsing around."

## BUSINESS IS BUSINESS

There's one way to obtain a higher net profit—sell more nets.

## NO PINK ELEPHANTS?

A drunk was sitting on a bar stool talking to the bartender. Just then a giraffe walked in, came up to the bar and ordered a drink. He drank, paid, and walked out. The drunk looked at the bartender and said, "Isn't that sort of strange?" The bartender said, "It sure is, he usually comes in before noon."

## HAVE YOUR SANDWICH AND EAT IT TOO

Hungry Customer, at lunch: "One roast beef sandwich."

Waiter: "Will you eat it here or take it with you?"

Customer: "I hope to do both."

## OPEN MIND

Psychiatrist: "Now, are you ever bothered by wicked thoughts?"

Patient: "Well, no. Fact is, I kinda enjoy them."

## ALL QUIET

Suitor: "Honey, would you mind too much if I turn off the light. I freckle so easily."

## HE GAB

One 'lil boy says t'other: "You know what? her neck's dirty."

T'other quote: "Oooh, her does?"

## WISHFUL THINKING?

Ma and Pa Twitchell were sitting in the swing on porch in the light of the June moon. After awhile Pa spoke up, "Ma, it sure is bad about our daughter lying out there in that cemetary."

"Yeah, Pa," said Ma, "Sometimes I wish she was dead."

## BRINGING UP BABY

by Bill Headrick  
S and A Division

Eureka! Eureka! Here it is..the formula that all proud parents have been seeking for ages. Training the pride and joy to become an unspoiled and well-disciplined youngster.

### FIRST TWO MONTHS

Begin early. Let your baby tell you when he or she is hungry. Feed as much as he wants and at any hour. Change diapers and clothing at first sign of dampness. **THIS IS A MUST!**

Your baby should be happy. Never let baby cry! If baby does cry, something is wrong. Here is a check list: First, the bottle; Second, the water bottle; Third, check pants, pins, and everything, but be sure to get the baby comfortable; Fifth, walk the floor or use the old rocker. Babies love 'em. Call doctor if baby cries for more than 5 minutes.

### SECOND MONTH-SECOND YEAR

During this period your child is acquainting himself with the new world and forming habits that will mold his character, so keep him happy. Play with him whenever he wishes, regardless of the hour. Help build a cheerful disposition!

This formula works wonders for a child and parents will enjoy it. (I should know.) My boy still enjoys his 2.00 a.m. romp, and a fresh fried pork chop usually is all he wants before drifting off to sleep about 3:15 a.m. Now that my boy is well trained, I do almost everything he tells me to. My motto is, "NEVER LET BABY CRY! IT MIGHT SPOIL 'EM

## APRIL FOOL IN DECEMBER

by Mrs. Pat Denson  
Publicity

Ambiguity has its virtues as can be proven by Don Kelly, Title Attorney in the Right-of-Way Division.

One afternoon recently Mr. Kelly remarked that he was buying the drinks because it was his birthday. He doled out the money, the drinks were purchased and consumed.

It is customary on such occasions as birthdays for the personnel in the Administrative Division to recognize the "accomplishment" with cake and coffee. Chagrined that a birthday had been overlooked, Mrs. Spencer, secretary to Mr. Eldridge, rushed out the next morning and purchased a cake, napkins, and coffee.

Imagine Mr. Kelly's surprise when the office force walked in singing "Happy Birthday to you yesterday." He stammered, stuttered, turned rosy red then managed to gasp, "I thank you very much but my birthday is in August."

There was more than one red face and stunned silence for several seconds. However, everyone quickly regained their equanimity and hilarity reigned.

Although Mr. Kelly is small in stature the realization that one person could provoke the humor and good fellowship evoked by his joking remark made him "ten feet" high on this particular day.

### Footnote:

(Personnel records will be examined carefully before another birthday is observed in the Administrative Department.)

# AROUND THE BUILDING

There was not the usual quota of activity scheduled on Mr. Eldridge's date calendar this month, presumably because it's so near Christmas, as our Director usually has his share of speech-making dates to be filled. The American Association of State Highway Officials (AASHO) held a conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey November 27-30. Those attending were: Mr. Eldridge, Ward Goodman, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Wales, V. E. Scott, W. R. Thrasher, Kent Brown, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Perkins, Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Lucus, and L. P. Carlson. The American Society of Civil Engineers had a dinner at Granoff's November 13 when they met for their regular monthly meeting.

\* \* \* \*

Mrs. Inez Royston, Office Manager and stenographer in the Division 2 office at Pine Bluff, has retired after 33 years of service with Arkansas State Highway Department. More than 70 members of the Department attended a dinner held in her honor on November 16 in Pine Bluff. In addresses to the group, Mr. Eldridge and Mr. Cecil Lynch praised Mrs. Royston for her long, and untiring service to the Department. A remarkable fact is that out of the 33 years she was employed she only missed 20 days because of sickness. Among others attending the dinner were: Ward Goodman, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Rives, H. R. Lucus, Russell Gaddy, Brewster Shalmy, and Charles Warriner, a former employee of the Department. Mrs. Royston is admired and loved by many and we know that she will be missed by the employees in the Division 2 office.

Mr. Eldridge called a general assembly November 21 in the Commission Room for employees of the Little Rock offices. The purpose of the meeting was to express his appreciation to Highway personnel for the cooperation they have shown and the work that has been done this year. A brief resume was given on plans for 1957 and he said that he expects the Highway Department to set a record for construction in the coming year. The meeting served as a morale builder and was enjoyed by the employees immensely.

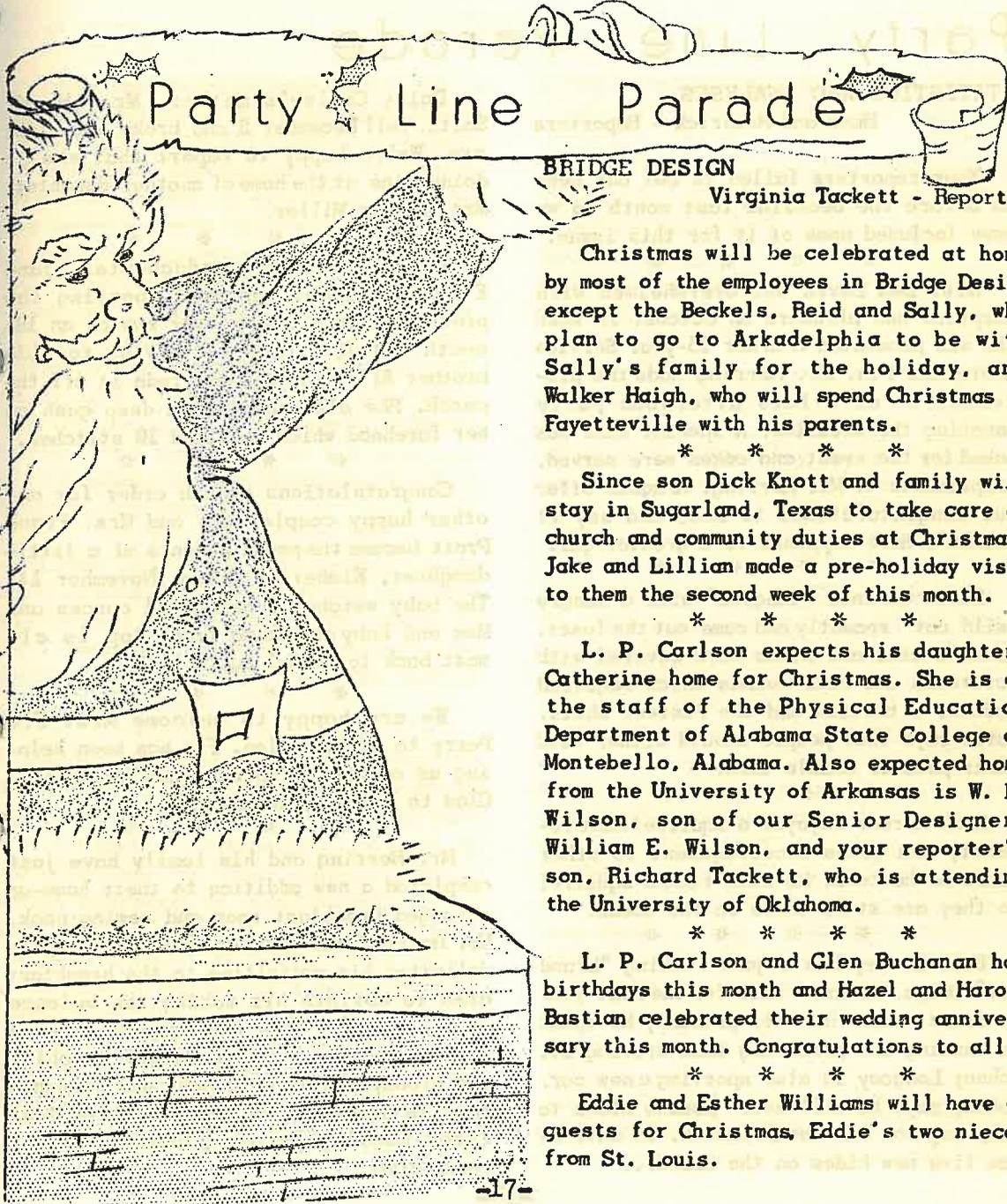
\* \* \* \*

The Personnel Office has taken on the "new look" since it has been rearranged, and all the employees are highly pleased with it. The partitions have been torn down and the desks are now lined up in two rows, "out in the open." Everyone has more room space and those who have seen it have commented on the improvement.

\* \* \* \*

Myrna Key of the Personnel Division, who so capably does the little sketches in the magazine, also gets credit for this issue's cover and the two preceding it, October, and November.

Every Christmas a hope is born, a hope like the shining star which became the finger of God pointing to Bethlehem and the future. This is the hope of Christmas: that though the outlook may seem dark, the only darkness we need fear is the darkness that is within. What if the headlines are bad? "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy."  
(From a sermon by Charles Templeton.)



# Party Line Parade

BRIDGE DESIGN

Virginia Tackett - Reporter

Christmas will be celebrated at home by most of the employees in Bridge Design except the Beckels, Reid and Sally, who plan to go to Arkadelphia to be with Sally's family for the holiday, and Walker Haigh, who will spend Christmas in Fayetteville with his parents.

\* \* \* \*

Since son Dick Knott and family will stay in Sugarland, Texas to take care of church and community duties at Christmas, Jake and Lillian made a pre-holiday visit to them the second week of this month.

\* \* \* \*

L. P. Carlson expects his daughter, Catherine home for Christmas. She is on the staff of the Physical Education Department of Alabama State College at Montebello, Alabama. Also expected home from the University of Arkansas is W. R. Wilson, son of our Senior Designer, William E. Wilson, and your reporter's son, Richard Tackett, who is attending the University of Oklahoma.

\* \* \* \*

L. P. Carlson and Glen Buchanan had birthdays this month and Hazel and Harold Bastian celebrated their wedding anniversary this month. Congratulations to all.

\* \* \* \*

Eddie and Esther Williams will have as guests for Christmas, Eddie's two nieces from St. Louis.

# Party Line Parade

## STATISTICS AND ANALYSES

Hume and Headrick - Reporters

Your reporters failed to get our news in before the deadline last month so we have included some of it for this issue.

\* \* \* \*

Mrs. Bea Davis was overwhelmed with surprise and pleasure on October 19 when she was presented with her 15-year Service Award and Pin. Mr. Herring made the presentation at a late afternoon party honoring the occasion. A special cake was baked for the event and cakes were served, compliments of Mr. Herring. We again offer our congratulations to Bea, and say it couldn't have happened to a greater gal.

\* \* \* \*

Katie Gardner "tangled" with a hungry "wild cat" recently and came out the loser. Katie's arms and hands were covered with scratches and bite wounds which required medical attention and the Pasteur shots. Katie says that people should either feed their pets or muzzle them.

\* \* \* \*

Hank Mercer enjoyed a squirrel hunt recently and gives encouragement to other would-be hunters. He didn't see a squirrel so they are still there in the woods.

\* \* \* \*

Bill Looney has a good-looking "brand new" Dodge. We know that for the next year at least, more time will probably be spent on washing and polishing than driving it. Johnny Longcoy is also sporting a new car. Johnny says he will sell 'possum hides to help pay for his new Plymouth. To date he has five new hides on the board...

Daisy Conley's mother, Mrs. H. M. Smith, fell December 3 and broke her right arm. We're happy to report that she is doing fine at the home of another daughter, Mrs. Arthur Miller.

\* \* \* \*

Daisy's little granddaughter, Jane Ellen Milligan, has been sporting the prettiest black eye you ever saw on an 18-month old girl. She was trying to ride the brother Al's tricycle and rode it off the porch. She also received a deep gash on her forehead which required 10 stitches.

\* \* \* \*

Congratulations are in order for another happy couple. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pratt became the proud parents of a little daughter, Kimberley Ellen, November 14. The baby weighed 6 pounds 11 ounces and Mom and baby are doing fine. Pop is almost back to normal again.

\* \* \* \*

We are happy to welcome Mrs. Flo Perry to our Division. Flo has been helping us out as a typist since October 1. Glad to have you aboard, Flo.

\* \* \* \*

Mr. Herring and his family have just completed a new addition to their home—an enlarged breakfast room and sewing nook. Mr. Herring said that Mrs. Herring promptly delimited his activities to the breakfast area to obviate his taking the balance over as a den. They are now busy adding a fireplace for cheery warmth on chill and gloomy winter mornings, and evenings too, we suspect, for pleasant breakfast rooms usually become pleasant supper rooms also.

# Party Line Parade

John Hume who does some work with the Buckskin District Committee, Boy Scouts of America, wants all Department parents to know that the Quapaw Council has an excellent program of activities under way and urges parents to consider the value of cubbing and scouting. The program is for boys of 8 to 16 years of age and there is a similar program for girls. The Boy Scouts are in great need of interested fathers to help in the activities. Talk to your boy about it! (Among the interested fathers known to your reporters who are active in the work are: Ward Goodman, Russell Henderson and Pete Daggett. Any others?)

\* \* \* \*

Logan Kissire passed around cigars when he became the proud father of a baby boy October 30. The baby, who weighed in at 7 pounds 14 ounces was born in St. Anthony's Hospital, Morrilton. The mother and baby are doing fine.

\* \* \* \*

Marlin and Nancy Powell have adopted a 6-month old baby boy and are they proud! Marlin brought him up recently to show him off and he is something to show. He is good-looking, good disposition and loves everyone. He must be one of the models that breakfast cereals use.

\* \* \* \*

We extend our deep and heartfelt sympathies to Dodson Leonard whose father, J. L. Leonard passed away November 6. Mr. Leonard was a retired Methodist Minister. Dodson's bereavement is made even more great as his mother also passed away last March.

## ACCOUNTING DIVISION

Leslie and Bivins - Reporters

J. R. Henderson spent his vacation as a Counselor for 37 South Arkansas Methodist students on a 10-day trip to New York and Washington, D.C. One of the main points of interest was their visit to the United Nations.

\* \* \* \*

Several of our employees have enjoyed vacations recently. Betsy Morrison had a week's leave during which she visited her mother in Camden; Billy Hoggard spent his two week vacation in California, also visiting relatives; Rose Bivins spent a week's vacation at her home in Roland.

\* \* \* \*

Among those traveling to Fayetteville over the week end with the Little Rock Scimitar Temple for the Shrine Ceremonial were Blanche Smith and Leta Leslie.

\* \* \* \*

Bill Hayes who is on Military leave with the Navy, is stationed at Roosevelt Roads in Puerto Rico. We all enjoyed a letter from him recently.

\* \* \* \*

We're happy to have Bill Schneider with us. He is from Halle, Germany and is a member of the Accounting Division.

\* \* \* \*

D. H. Hamilton who is convalescing at his home after a recent illness would like visitors. His address, 125 Fairview.

\* \* \* \*

We're happy to report that Margaret Allen and Wally Blackstone are both doing fine after surgery.

# Party Line Parade

## ROADWAY PLANS

John Hicks - Reporter

Our Chief Draftsman, G. E. Williams, returned recently from his vacation in Northern Wisconsin. He reported that the weather was cold, but the ice-covered scenery was beautiful. He said he was glad to be back down in the good old Sunny South.

\* \* \* \*

John and Betty Maddox and their son, Keith, visited with Betty's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kay McCain of Jonesboro during the Thanksgiving holidays.

\* \* \* \*

We welcome Marvin Bunch as the latest addition to our personnel. Marvin was with us a few years ago and has decided "there's no place like home."

\* \* \* \*

Bob Norrell, a Registered Engineer, is another newcomer in our midst. Bob passed his examination with flying colors. Glad to have you with us, Bob.

\* \* \* \*

James Hicks of the U. S. Navy, your reporter's son, spent a few days at home recently before shipping out for Port Leoti in French Morocco.

\* \* \* \*

We were visited during the past month by W. D. Cobb of Jonesboro, Wilburn Sneed of Berryville, and Gene Hawkins, former employees of the Plans Division.

\* \* \* \*

Ed Linebarger spent 3 days during the season deer hunting...just hunting...no trophies.

After more than 20 years of service with the Department, with time out to fight in 2 world wars, Ed Linebarger retired December 1. During his years of service Ed has served in every capacity from Rodman to District Superintendent. He has returned to his home at Batesville to decide whether he will raise cattle or spend his time hunting and fishing. We will miss Ed's even temper and ready wit and the funny stories he had to fit every occasion. He has our best wishes in his "Life of Riley."

## EQUIPMENT AND PROCUREMENT

Mary M. Hill - Reporter

C. C. Howell, who was with the Department for 21 years retired November 16. We miss him but we're happy for him and wish him luck in his retirement.

\* \* \* \*

Deer hunters in November from the Jacksonville Shop were James M. Baker, J. W. Berryman and W. K. Heard. However, W. K. was the only lucky one...he returned with an 8-point buck.

\* \* \* \*

Marvin L. Robinson, Adolph Stroble and M. L. Price enjoyed vacations in November but no trips were reported...they all enjoyed just loafing at home.

\* \* \* \*

Service Pins and Certificates of Merit were presented to the following employees by C. Don Hayes: Frank D. Caple, 5 years; W. E. Ripberger, 5 years; James S. Alexander, 5 years, and Frank J. Boyett, 10 years. Congratulations, fellows.

# Party Line Parade

We are happy to have L. E. Harper with us at Jacksonville. He joined our force as Stock Room Superintendent November 1.

\* \* \* \*

Cecil L. Elliott, Equipment Inspector was seriously injured in an automobile accident on the Benton Highway October 23 and was hospitalized for more than 3 weeks. However, we are glad to report that he is rapidly recovering and expects to be back on the job soon.

\* \* \* \*

We extend our deepest sympathy to C. Don Hayes in the loss of his father, Samuel S. Hayes, age 94, who passed away in a Little Rock hospital November 22. Funeral services were conducted by Barton Funeral Home, El Dorado, Arkansas, November 24, with burial in the family cemetery at Norphlet, Arkansas.

\* \* \* \*

James S. Alexander, employee in the Stock Room at Jacksonville, also lost his father, A. S. Alexander, age 78, on November 17. Funeral services were conducted at the Clinton Methodist Church with burial in Elmwood cemetery at Morrilton, Arkansas.

## RIGHT-OF-WAY and LEGAL DIVISIONS

Josephine Jurgerson - Reporter

At the regular meeting of the Little Rock branch of American Society of Civil Engineers held November 14, A. W. Hardy, a past president, introduced the guest speaker, Herbert Eldridge, who made an interesting talk on the new Highway Program and its needs and effects on Arkansas.

We missed Billy Bob, who attended the AASHO meeting at Atlantic City. His trip was almost entirely business with only a "family" dinner one night for the social side. This is Billy Bob's account of his trip: "Since adoption of the new State Highway pact, there was much interest in the matter of the acquisition of Right-of-Way. Meetings upon various legal questions and Right-of-Way matters were held throughout the session. Meetings began at 9:00 a.m. and adjourned at noon, resumed at 2:00 p.m. and lasted until 5:00 p.m.

Many of the problems involved were generally for all the States, but there also were peculiar and special problems for each individual state. The dissemination of ideas was most helpful."

\* \* \* \*

Betty Lane with husband, Cecil, and son, Jimmy, spent a couple of weeks in Florida recently at Fort Lauderdale and Betty is definitely enthusiastic about the state. She said she would advise anyone with any ailment whatsoever to go to Florida. The Florida Chamber of Commerce would love her for that. They went down one coast and came back up the other, getting in a couple of good swims in between. They visited Cecil's brother and sister-in-law, Sammy and Lou, and their two children.

\* \* \* \*

We are happy to welcome back Beverlye Hart to Right-of-Way- Bev and her husband, Jimmy, moved to Utah last spring but couldn't stay away from the gang. It looks natural having her with us.

# Party Line Parade

## PERSONNEL DIVISION

Hazel Norman - Reporter

The crew in our Division seem to be fairly quiet so far, in anticipation of the Christmas holidays but there are several who are taking trips, others are staying at home and some will have out-of-town company.

\* \* \* \*

Myrna and Preston Key drove to Greenwood, Mississippi recently to spend the week end with Myrna's sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Glaze and their children, Janice and Jack.

\* \* \* \*

Jackie Wallace spent the week end of November 24 in Memphis with friends. Guess she felt like getting away from it all after the burglary in her apartment. Somebody decided they liked Jackie's clothes so they came in and helped themselves to some of them.

\* \* \* \*

Jean Redwine will be missed by everyone when she leaves us soon. Jean is expecting the long-legged bird in January so the reason for her leaving is a happy one. Our division gave her a stork shower November 7 and she received many beautiful and useful gifts for the coming attraction. A small gathering was also held November 30 in our office for Jean when Mr. Tanner presented her with her 5-year Pin and Certificate of Merit. Mr. Tanner made an appropriate speech and we enjoyed cake and coffee. We wish Jean and Harry the best of luck always in their new-found happiness and good health to Baby.

We are glad to have Adell Fiedler as one of our co-workers. Adell came to us November 12 from Bridge Design where she was working temporarily. Adell has reason to be proud of her daughter, Sandra. She is president of her senior class at Cabot High School, a member of the Pep Squad, is one of their star basketball players, and was Homecoming Queen at their Homecoming game this fall. Congratulations to Adell for such a talented daughter.

\* \* \* \*

Sarah and Walter Neel will spend the holidays in Memphis with their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Walter B. Neel, Jr., and their children, Merilyn, Sherilyn, and Ricky.

\* \* \* \*

We are sorry to report that several of our men in Personnel have been on the sick list. Velmer Jenkins was ill with the flu for 2 weeks; Floyd Helton fell from a ladder and required hospitalization, and Nebraska Droughter, our mail carrier, had an automobile accident and spent a few days in the Veteran's Hospital. We're glad they are improving.

\* \* \* \*

Martha Adams and son, Jimbo, will be without hubby and daddy, Harry, for at least 8 weeks. Harry flew to Oklahoma City December 1 for an 8-weeks refresher course in Communications. Harry is with the Civil Aeronautics Administration.

\* \* \* \*

Eleanor and Bill Huie drove up to Tuckerman recently for the week end to visit Eleanor's parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. O. Pinkston.

# Party Line Parade

Your reporter and children, and Birdie Wright recently spent the week end in Monroe, Louisiana and had a fine time.

## MATERIALS AND TESTS

Julia Steele - Reporter

Odell Ballard, Materials Inspector, is a patient at the Veteran's Hospital on Roosevelt Road, after having been in an automobile accident in Magnolia, Arkansas November 17, in which his lung was punctured and his leg was broken in four places. He is off the critical list now and would enjoy having visitors.

\* \* \* \*

Another of our Inspectors, Bobby G. Hughes, came to see us and told us that he and his wife have a new daughter, Rebecca. Congratulations to the Hughes.

\* \* \* \*

Welcome to Maureen W. Rodgers, Laboratory Technician, and Jerry L. Stacks, a Materials Inspector, who joined our Division recently. Glad to have you.

\* \* \* \*

Another automobile accident occurred in England November 11 in which T. B. Rowe and some friends were thoroughly shaken but not seriously injured.

\* \* \* \*

We extend our deepest sympathy to Russell Newsom, our Assistant Engineer, in the loss of his mother, Mrs. W. R. Newsom of Wynne, Arkansas, who passed away December 8, and to John Storey, Materials Inspector, in the loss of his sister, Mrs. Reva Killian, who passed away early in December.

## MAINTENANCE DIVISION

Angie Tyre - Reporter

We here in the Maintenance Office are mighty proud of our boss, Mr. A. G. Rives, on receiving his 30-year Service Award and Pin recently. It shines so pretty on his coat lapel! How about trying for the 50-year one. We bet you could do it.

\* \* \* \*

Cecil Byrn's son, Bob, and his family, who have been residing in East St. Louis, Illinois, will be moving back to Little Rock soon, and Cecil hopes it will be permanent. Bob, who is employed with the Westinghouse Corporation, got a transfer. We're happy for you Cecil now that you will have them here with you.

\* \* \* \*

Your reporter's mother-in-law, Mrs. Ben L. Tyre, of Bristol, Virginia, will be coming to visit soon and we're very happy about it. She plans to stay with us about three months.

\* \* \* \*

Well, Christmas is almost upon us and most of us will be staying home for the holidays. We wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Merry New Year.

We've got so many aunt-in-laws  
Who seem to think we're Santa Claus  
That we just can't afford to spend  
No money on a casual friend  
And what did you give us last December?  
Nothing, so far as we remember,  
So all you get is Merry Christmas  
From the Mr. and the Mrs. (Ring Lardner  
sent this to a friend on a postal card.)

# Party Line Parade

## DISTRICT 2

Division 2 Dorothy Tucker Pine Bluff

Mrs. Inez T. Royston, who has retired after 33 years of service with the Department, was honored with a barbecue in the Division Shop building November 16. We were honored to have as guests for the occasion Herbert Eldridge, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Rives and Ward Goodman from Little Rock, and Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Lynch and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Warriner from Pine Bluff.

\* \* \* \*

We extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Royston in the loss of her sister, Mrs. Zoe Thompson Arnold of El Paso, Texas, November 20.

\* \* \* \*

J. L. Goins, Jr. spent his vacation hunting and reported that he had a lot of fun but not much luck.

\* \* \* \*

Ouida Grimes, who has worked for the Department previously, is back with us again. Welcome back, Ouida.

\* \* \* \*

Woodrow Wilson, Job Superintendent, went to Little Rock for a course in First Aid. He reported that he found it very interesting and worth while.

\* \* \* \*

Charles Emrick and O. A. Tinsley had good luck hunting. They each brought back two 20-pound geese. Congratulations.

\* \* \* \*

In behalf of all personnel in Division 2, we wish for everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## DISTRICT 2

Division 6 Edith Green No. Little Rock

Most of our employees in Division 6 reported that they had a most enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday. Family gatherings and the day spent with friends with the traditional dinner seemed to be the thing. A little football too, possibly.

\* \* \* \*

We have been hearing the usual "tall" hunting tales from our deer hunters in our Division. How about backing up those claims with a little evidence, hum?

\* \* \* \*

Congratulations to J. E. McCook, our Assistant Division Maintenance Superintendent, who has a new grandson. The baby, born to his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Reed, made his appearance November 6, and is named Emory Nathan, after his two grandfathers.

\* \* \* \*

Job Superintendents, Foremen and Subs of Division 6 held a business meeting at the North Little Rock office November 20. The Accounting Manual and Maintenance work were discussed. Guests at the meeting were: H. R. Lucus, O. A. Tinsley, G. R. Sisk, J. J. Schamer, J. T. Beavers, C. W. Holderbaum, G. W. Stanford, Ed Orsini, Bill Hoggard, and Leo Causey. We are always glad to have you and come back soon.

\* \* \* \*

We extend our deepest sympathies to the family of Rayburn Chenault, a Patrol Operator in our Maintenance Division, who was killed while deer hunting the first day of his vacation, November 12.

# Party Line Parade

## DISTRICT 3

Division 3 Olive Jackson Hope

Margie Clark, daughter of Ardell and Nellie Clark, reigned as Homecoming Queen when the Prescott Curley Wolves played host to the Gurdon Go-Devils in the final game of the season at Cummins Field in Prescott. Margie was crowned by Captain Buddy Formby in the pre-game festivities.

\* \* \* \*

Congratulations and our Best Wishes to Sam and Flora Doss, who celebrated their forty-fifth wedding anniversary on October 8. May they have many more years of happiness together.

\* \* \* \*

Donald and Dorinda Crews and daughter, Kem, of Marion, spent the Thanksgiving holidays with Donald's parents, Carlisle and Maude Crews of DeQueen. Donald is a teacher and coach at Marion High School.

\* \* \* \*

Robert E. Dillard, John Lincoln Evans, and Edmond Robert Muncey, employees in our Division, recently retired from the Highway Department. We wish for each of them a long and happy retirement.

\* \* \* \*

We are sorry to lose M. A. Noey who was employed in Sevier County, when he resigned recently to accept a position in California. He and his wife, Wanoa, will move soon and we wish them good luck.

\* \* \* \*

Carlisle and Maud Crews will have their daughter and son-in-law, Carlene and F. A. Parker of Augusta, Georgia, for the Christmas holidays.

Leonard "Pappy" Ponder of Murfreesboro, had a narrow escape Sunday, December 2, when his automobile failed to make a curve, overturned, and pinned him underneath. He received chest injuries and lacerations. We hope he will make rapid progress in his recovery.

\* \* \* \*

Ardell and Nellie Clark, daughter, Margie, and son, Bill, a student at Henderson College, attended the Arkansas-Rice game in Fayetteville November 10. While there, they visited daughter, Sue, who is a senior at the University.

\* \* \* \*

Among the lucky deer hunters in this Division recently were: Wilburn Tallant, who killed an 8-point deer, and Hal Baker, and Lester Purtle who killed a 6-pointer.

\* \* \* \*

First Lieutenant Ted Lemser, who has been stationed in Korea, will be joined by his wife, Lydia, in Kansas City, after which they will visit Lydia's parents, Schley and Sybil Carter during the Christmas holidays.

\* \* \* \*

Ted Maryman was in Little Rock on November 5 and 6 attending the Consistory.

\* \* \* \*

Our deepest sympathies are extended to John Gray in the loss of his mother, Mrs. Rosa Gray, who died at her home in Hope, October 28, and J. D. Neighbors, whose father, J. D. Neighbors, Sr., died December 2 at his home in Nashville.

\* \* \* \*

We wish a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all Highway employees.

# Party Line Parade

DISTRICT 3

Division 7

Sula Burnham

Camden

Our congratulations to Maxwell Smith, who celebrated his birthday December 6, and Jimmie Gilbert, who celebrated her birthday December 9. A belated birthday greeting to Blossom Hicks who celebrated her birthday Thanksgiving Day. We hope you all had a Happy Birthday and may you have many, many more.

\* \* \* \*

We are sorry to report that James Morgan has been in Ouachita County Hospital for several weeks. James, hurry back to work...we miss you.

\* \* \* \*

John Best and family will leave for Leominster, Massachusetts December 19 to spend the holidays with Mrs. Best's family, Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse Lortie. We wish for them a safe journey and a very pleasant visit.

\* \* \* \*

The deer hunters reported good luck the first week of the season. All reports were not misrepresented, because the venison we received was the best we had ever eaten. Several are planning to go on the second week of the hunt...we hope they are as thoughtful as some of the first hunters...

\* \* \* \*

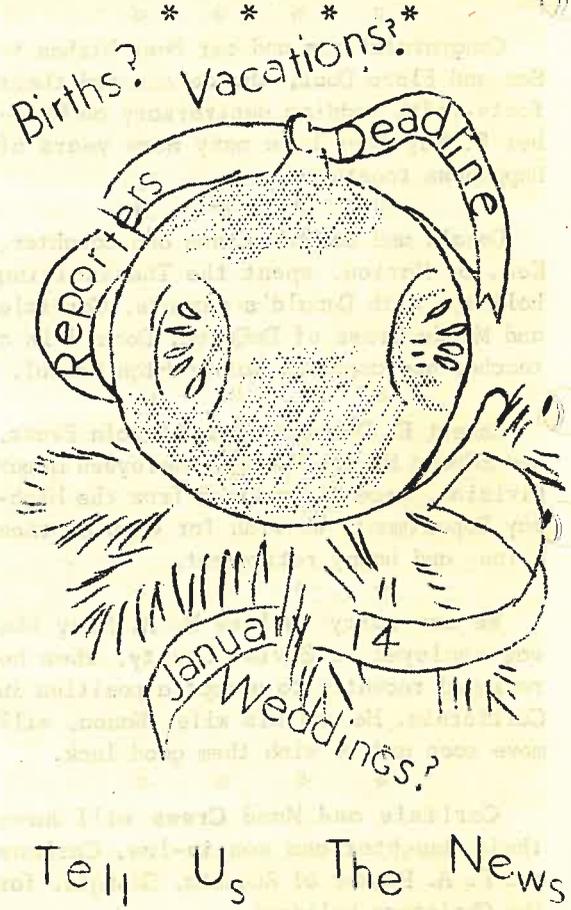
Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Thompson motored to Shreveport, Louisiana November 24 to see the last football game of the season when Arkansas played Louisiana State University. The score didn't please them but otherwise they had a pleasant trip.

Thanks to J. C. "Jelly" Webb and his men for the wonderful barbecue at the County Shops last month. Jelly has made his barbecues an annual event...and they get better each year...keep up the good work, Jelly.

\* \* \* \*

We wish you all a Merry Christmas... and our sincerest wish will not come true unless 1957 brings happiness to you.

\* \* \* \*



# Party Line Parade

DISTRICT 3 OFFICE  
Bobbie Cowan - Camden

Recent visitors in our office were A.G. Rives, Jake Clements, C. H. Holderbaum and G. P. Grantham. We enjoyed having them and hope they will come back soon.

\* \* \* \*

Ed Jeter, who is attending the University of Arkansas, visited with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Jeter, during the Thanksgiving holidays.

\* \* \* \*

We are happy to have Bennie Reddin with us. Bennie is from the Resident Engineer's office in Fordyce and has been helping with some drafting work.

\* \* \* \*

Our thanks go to J. C. Webb, Resident Engineer, and R. N. Reynolds, Contractor, for a wonderful treat recently. We all had a delicious barbecue luncheon on November 7 and everyone seemed to enjoy it immensely.

\* \* \* \*

Mary Jo Webb, daughter of J. C. Webb, became the bride of Ed Hubbard in the Methodist Church at Camden on November 2. After a trip to the Ozarks they will make their home at Prescott. Our best wishes to Mary Jo and Ed.

\* \* \* \*

Your reporter celebrated her third wedding anniversary on November 25. (Congratulations, Bobbie, and may you have many, many, more.)

\* \* \* \*

All of us in District 3 wish each of you a Merry Christmas.

DISTRICT 5  
Division 9 Shirley Morton Harrison

Several of our employees have been deer hunting, and apparently without much luck. At any rate, we didn't have a venison roast for Thanksgiving. Our duck hunter, Hillman Watkins, Henderson Ferry Supervisor, had better luck...he got his limit of ducks in a matter of minutes right at his own back door.

\* \* \* \*

Bertha Wagley enjoyed a few days vacation during the Thanksgiving holidays and reported back on Monday morning full of vim, vigor, and turkey!

\* \* \* \*

Neal Taylor and Willis Cantrell have moved to Harrison from their farms a few miles north of town so that they won't have to get up so early to start to work these cold mornings.

\* \* \* \*

Mr. and Mrs. Ward Kendall spent their vacation in sunny Florida visiting with relatives and reported they had a wonderful trip.

\* \* \* \*

Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Williams spent a week in Little Rock, their former home, visiting relatives and friends. C. G. reserved space in the car for his prize Beagle hounds. However, we understand that Mrs. Williams was permitted to ride part of the way in the front seat.

\* \* \* \*

Congratulations to the E. E. Hurley's who are the proud owners of a beautiful blue and white Ford Fairlane sedan.

# Party Line Parade

Recent visitors in the District Office were: A. G. Rives, Jake Clements, Fred Herring and Norman McLeod. Visitors are always welcome and we hope they will return again.

\* \* \* \*

We are happy to report that after a brief illness, B. L. Ryan, Resident Engineer at Fayetteville, is able to be back at work again. Mrs. Ryan, who has also been ill and a patient at the hospital in Fayetteville, has returned to her home. We hope that during her convalescence she shows rapid improvement.

\* \* \* \*

Going out of town for the Christmas holidays are Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Cook, who will motor to New Orleans, Louisiana; Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Porter will be driving a brand new Ford on their trip to Baytown, Texas for the holidays with their children, and Forrest and Vivian Williams will greet "Old Saint Nick" at Magnolia, Arkansas. John and Betty Crouse and their children will drive to New Mexico to spend the holidays with Betty's parents. Have a pleasant trip, everyone.

\* \* \* \*

J. C., Ruth, and Dickie Perkins are expecting a visit from J. C.'s sister and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Miesse from Kansas City, Missouri during the holidays and also Ruth's brother and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Noel Russell from Duncan, Oklahoma.

\* \* \* \*

We in District 5 and Division 9 wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

## DISTRICT 5

Division 5 Mary Lee McCown Batesville

As the Christmas Season approaches, more and more we notice a marked rise in the spirits of those around us, and the main topic of conversation is "plans for Christmas"...certainly. Division 5 is no exception, and as the day grows closer, the more plans we hear. For instance, several of our employees are making plans to celebrate Christmas out of town. Leaving December 22 are A. L. Jones and his family, who plan to spend the holidays in Michigan with his son.

\* \* \* \*

Also going out of town Christmas is our Division Shop employee, J. B. Isley. J. B. is planning to spend the Christmas holidays in Dallas, Texas with his son and grandchildren.

\* \* \* \*

An event that everyone in the Division looks forward to is the annual Christmas party, which will be held this year in the Division Shop at noon on Friday December 21. Approximately 100 employees take part in this activity each year. Besides the usual refreshments of coffee, cookies, cokes and so forth, we are planning to have ham with all the fancy Christmas trimmings. We are also planning to have a Christmas tree and exchange gifts with our friends.

We in Division 5 extend to each of you a hearty wish for a very Merry Christmas.

# LEGEND HAS IT...

Some European and Eastern countries have very unusual beliefs and traditions concerning Christmas. Here are some of the more unusual ones: Ireland...the gates of Paradise are wide open on Christmas Eve and those who die get in with no questions asked; Greece...all trees bow on Christmas Eve. Thus, a man who tied his donkey to a prostrate palm tree awoke to see the animal dangling from the top limb; England...the Yule log is best if cut at midnight--a piece of the log kept for the following holiday shields the house against fire; Garden of Eden...Mistletoe bore the forbidden fruit; Bethlehem...the well of the three Wise Men is located on the road to Jerusalem where they lost their way. They stopped to drink, saw the star reflected in the water and got back on the track; Switzerland...straw tied around the trunk of a tree on Christmas Eve will make it yield more; Belgium...if a light is accidentally extinguished at the Christmas dinner table, some person present will not live out the year; Germany...all the bells in churches that were destroyed by war will ring on Christmas Eve and those who are pure will hear them; Nazareth...the Virgin Mary was fond of spinach and ate it on the eve of Christ's birth; Scandinavia...the Norse people believe that holly and ivy decorations bring good woodland spirits into the house; Europe...the druids crushed Mistletoe and used the liquor for medicinal purposes.

# CONTRACT AWARDS FOR NOVEMBER

Drew County. No. 4, 8.262 miles of sand and asphalt road mix base and surface course on the Monticello-McGehee Road, to T. F. Scholes of Arkansas Inc., Reading, Pa.

Ouachita County. U. S. 79, 3.869 miles of widening and resurfacing with asphaltic concrete hot mix base and surface courses on the Ouachita River Bridge Road, and in the city of Bearden, to Graves Brothers, Contractors, of Pine Bluff.

Phillips County. No. 44, 23.427 miles grading, minor drainage structures, gravel base, and widening and resurfacing with asphaltic concrete hot mix base and surface courses on the Helena-Elaine Road, to Ben M. Hogan and Company, Little Rock.

Pulaski County. U. S. 70, 7.667 miles of grading, minor drainage structures, crushed stone base course, double bituminous surface treatment (shoulders, main lanes, and front roads,) P. C. concrete pavement 8" U. T. (front roads and cross connections,) P. C. concrete pavement 10" U. T. (main lanes) and extending 3 bridge-length culverts (front roads) on the Benton-Little Rock Road, to Ben M. Hogan and Company of Little Rock.

Van Buren and Cleburne Counties. No. 16, 11.660 miles of crushed stone base and single bituminous surface treatment on the Shirley-Heber Springs Road, to Four Brothers, Inc., of Sweet Home.

# A GREETING FROM PERSONNEL

Good Cheer and Fellowship, is working. The past year has been a period of splendid results. The credit comes from the fine teamwork of the entire personnel of the Arkansas State Highway Department.

The Personnel Division wishes to express its appreciation for the manner in which all the other Divisions in the Department have turned toward the objective of procedure in the full coverage of essential information for our files.

It is the ambition of the Personnel Division to be the center of complete information and we of the Personnel staff will continue to depend on the usual fine cooperative efforts of everyone throughout the days ahead and to help toward that goal.

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND  
A

HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

Fred C. Tanner, Personnel Director  
Jimmy Zinn, Office Manager  
Martha Lee Adams  
Sarah Neel  
Myrna Key  
Eleanor Huie

Hazel Norman  
Jeanie Redwine  
Jackie Wallace  
Birdie Wright  
Adele Fiedler

Important, Everyone! The time has come when your W2 forms must go in the mail. Please forward to Personnel your present address if there has been any change during 1956.

