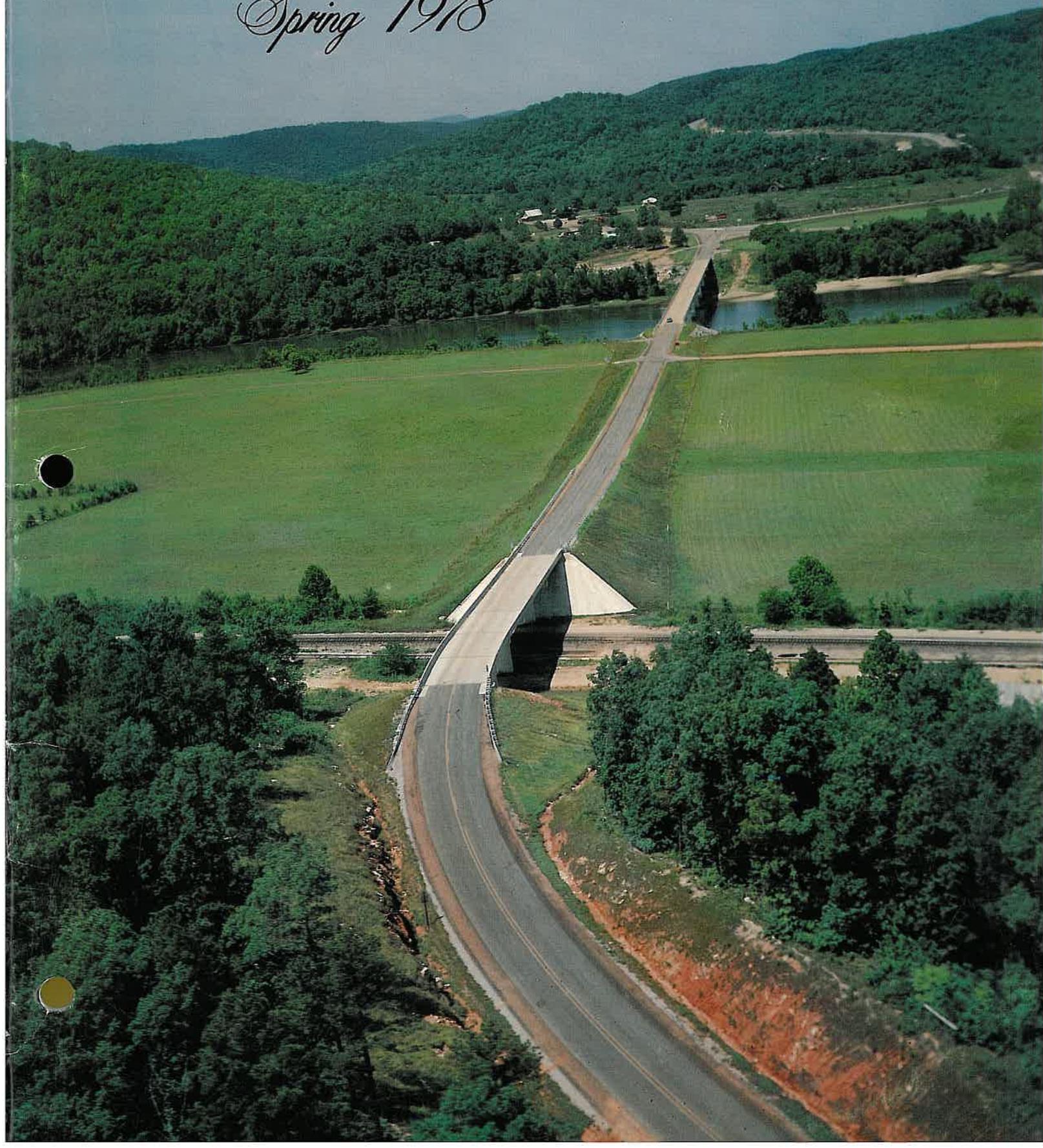


Arkansas Highways
Spring 1978





Director Henry Gray

DIRECTOR'S DESK

Thanks
for a
Job Well Done

This past winter was perhaps the most severe in recent years in terms of the amount of damage done to the State's highways.

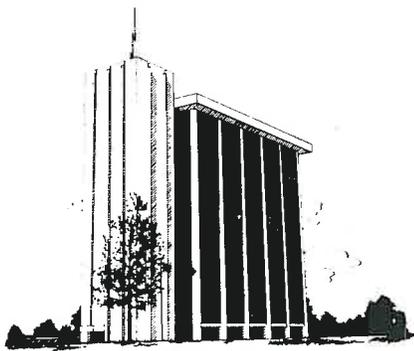
Snow, sleet, freezing rain and below-freezing temperatures were the rule of nearly four weeks in a row. This resulted in millions of dollars worth of damages and several weather-related deaths.

At one time or another during this period practically every inch of Arkansas' 16,000 mile highway system was covered with ice and snow. Driving conditions were hazardous and maintenance forces put in many long, hard hours trying to clear the roadways.

The Highway and Transportation Department has spent more than \$1 Million for snow and ice control. But that figure is only a small amount of the total money that will have to be spent in the months ahead on the State's highways as a result of the damage caused by the freezing temperatures, snow and ice. The overall cost will probably reach \$10 Million in the restoration of the existing pavements and bridge repairs.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the men and women who put in many, many long, hard hours to keep our highways open and as free of ice and snow as possible. The numerous letters of gratitude received from people throughout the State show that your dedication to the job did not go unnoticed. It is this kind of dedication that makes the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department the great agency that it is, and I want you to know the Highway Commission and I appreciate the extra efforts on your part.

Henry Gray



Arkansas Highways

Volume 24 Number 2
Spring 1978
January — February — March

CONTENTS



ARKANSAS HIGHWAY COMMISSION

George Kell, Chairman
James A. Branyan, Vice Chairman
J.C. Patterson, Member
David Solomon, Member
Patsy L. Thomasson, Member



Henry Gray
Director of Highways and Transportation
B.K. Cooper
Deputy Director and Chief Engineer

Division Profile - Environmental	2
Automobile Age in Arkansas - Part V	5
Annual Awards Presentation	9
Interstate 630 Opened to Traffic	10
Resident Engineer's Conference	11
Jonesboro Regional Commission Meeting	12
Watson Chapel Public Hearing	13
Traffic Control Seminar	14
Interdisciplinary Staff Movie	15
UMTA Program	15
AHTD Public Auction	16
EEO Handbook Distributed	16
Southwest Toastmaster Honored	17
AHTD Hosts Visitors	17
Department Personnel and Organization Changes	18
Letters	20
Service Awards and Retirements	23
Around The Department	24
Who Am I?	35
Razorback Sign Presented to Department	36

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EDITOR Bill Stanton
ART UNIT Carolyn Bowden
PHOTOGRAPHERS Johnnie Gray
Louie Greene

FRONT COVER — A view of Highway 9 in Stone County near Mountain View. The bridge over the White River replaced the Sylamore Ferry.
BACK COVER — Highway 5 as it winds south through the Ozark National Forest in Stone County. Photographs by Johnnie Gray.

DIVISION PROFILE

ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

The Environmental Division originated in late 1970 as a Section within the Right-of-Way Division. It was formed by Henry Gray who was at that time Assistant Director, in order to comply with the requirements of The National Environmental Policy Act of 1967. In July, 1977, because of increased Environmental endeavors within the Department, Administrative Order Number 77-6 was issued which expanded the Section to Division status.

The principle objectives of the Division are the preparation of Environmental assessments in order that the Department can continue to receive Federal Highway funds; the Control of Outdoor Advertising and Junkyards as required by the Highway Beautification Act; and the design and maintenance coordination of rest areas and landscaping projects.

The work of the Division is administered by Bryan Davis. A native of New Orleans, he holds a degree in Landscape Architecture from Louisiana State University. Before moving to Arkansas, he worked as a consultant in California. He then returned to Louisiana and transferred to the Department after answering an advertisement at L.S.U. He began working in the Beautification Section of Maintenance Division as a landscape architect. He later became Section Head and then Division Head when the Section obtained Division status. Davis is married and is the father of a five-month old son. An outdoorsman, his hobbies include sailing, canoeing, backpacking, photography and bicycling.

Assistant Division Head, Steve Wilson, is from Batesville and received a degree in Wildlife Ecology from Arkansas Tech. He received a M.S. Degree in Zoology from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and has been employed by the Department since 1972. He and his wife have two children, ages 10 and 4. He is Vice-Chairman of the Interdisciplinary Staff. He is also president of the Ozark Society and past president of the Arkansas Chapter of the Wildlife Society. He enjoys outdoor activities of all kinds, particularly canoeing, camping, backpacking and tennis.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

In essence, The National Environmental Policies Act, or NEPA as it is more commonly known, states



Bryan Davis, Division Head and Steve Wilson, Assistant Division Head review a project for the Environmental Division.

that before a decision to fund a Federal project is made, the decision maker must first review and consider an assessment of the impacts that the project will produce to the natural and human environment. The NEPA Law further directs that such assessments must be produced by a multi-disciplinary team composed of persons who have expertise in such fields as social and natural sciences, engineering and environmental design.

From a small staff of one, the Section grew rapidly and presently employs approximately 20 people including Ecologists, Sociologists, Biologists, Archeologist, Landscape Architects and Technicians skilled in the monitoring of air and noise pollution.

The complexity of an Environmental Assessment depends upon the magnitude of the highway project. For example, a freeway on new location required a detailed Environmental Impact Statement, whereas, uncomplicated paving projects require only cursory analysis. Areas of concern often include the presence of parks and recreation areas, wildlife habitat, endangered species habitat, historical sites, archeological sites, and noise-sensitive locations such as schools, churches and hospitals. Social concerns which must be studied are impacts upon aged persons, impoverished areas and minority neighborhoods. Investigations are conducted as to the beneficial as well as harmful effects of relocation, wage base, employment opportunities and access to

churches, friends and facilities.

In order to obtain information for the studies, Division employees utilize sophisticated air and noise monitoring equipment and perform water quality tests and habitat inspections.



Jim Builteman operates a noise measuring device in a residential section.



Al Collins takes air samples from the Air Pollution Monitor to record for data information.

Social impacts are often determined through interviews with community leaders and affected residents, questionnaires, and the use of a mobile field office which is set up at major project locations. The field office trailer contains plans for the project and affords the opportunity for citizens to sit down in an informal atmosphere to review proposals and express their concerns. This exchange of information has proven very beneficial in alleviating fear and rumors about projects, and has provided valuable information for further location and design refinements.



Marion Butler tours with the Project Information Trailer to assist local citizens in learning about future projects.

BILLBOARDS AND JUNKYARDS

The Arkansas Highway Beautification Act of 1967 specified among other things that billboards on primary and interstate highways must be regulated so that they can be maintained only in commercial or industrial areas. Advertising signs which existed in rural areas before the Act became effective are being appraised and purchased by the Department.

To date, over 6000 illegal, abandoned and unsightly signs have been either cut down or removed by Division employees in cooperation with District personnel. Another 600 signs which do not conform to the law but existed before it became effective, have to be purchased and removed.

To assure that all sign owners comply with the law, the Department maintains a permit system. Signs which do not display a permit decal on the post closest to the highway are illegal and subject to removal by highway crews.

Junkyards on the primary and interstate highways are controlled in a similar manner by the Highway Beautification Law, which requires that they be

located only in zoned commercial areas or in locations where other industrial activity exists. Yards which are not so located must be totally screened from view of the highway.



LaVerne Burton confers with a junkyard owner about procedures for screening the junkyard located on a state highway.

REST AREAS AND LANDSCAPING

There are presently over 100 rest areas, tourist information centers, and roadside parks in Arkansas which have been designed and constructed with Highway Beautification and Interstate Highway funds.



Doug Thacker, Rest Area Maintenance Coordinator and Ken Mulvaney, a landscape architect, inspect the finalization of a tourist information center.

Landscape architects, draftpersons and other personnel within the Environmental Division are responsible for the preparation of plans for new rest areas and when necessary, plans for the renovation of existing facilities. The plans provide for site work which is coordinated with Roadway Design and which includes buildings, lighting, sewage systems and water supply equipment.

Within the Environmental Division is a rest area maintenance. To accomplish this, the coordinator provides training for rest area attendants and information concerning new and efficient maintenance supplies and materials. He also functions as a source for technical information for sewage systems, water supplies, and building repairs.

Since the early days of highway beautification, very little rural highway landscaping has been developed, with most activity being directed to urban areas. The principle focus of activity is presently along Interstate 630 in Little Rock where plans are underway for planting, mini-parks, playgrounds and jogging paths.



Elaine Sullivan is a draftsman in the Environmental Division's office.

CONCLUSION

In the 1930's smoke ordinances were set in Pittsburg, St. Louis and Los Angeles. These cities were certainly early pioneers in environmental protection, and since that time concern over the environment has advanced drastically, unfortunately out of great necessity. In 1970, the first "Earth Day" celebration inaugurated the present-day environmental movement, and despite many setbacks -- the Energy Crisis, recession, and inflation -- environmentalists are once again in the midst of operating full-scale programs of environmental protection.

The Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department may take pride in knowing that the Environmental Division is doing its best to promote environmental protection and to assure that all aspects of highway and transportation-related activities are in compliance with environmental rules and standards.

THE AUTOMOBILE AGE IN ARKANSAS

PART V The State Highway Program Early Years 1923 — 1927

by John Hume

It was the autumn of 1923. In the Nation the post-WW1 industrial boom was gradually gaining momentum after the war's end slump, a momentum which, although gradual, was enormous in its economic and social impact. The motor vehicle, tried in the crucibles of war, was finding daily new acceptance as a most useful adjunct of rail transport -- local, interurban, regional and continental - for local purposes in and about railheads. Its usefulness had become so apparent to the attentive and the foresighted that many - Durant the organizing genius and father of General Motors and Gray the engineering wizard among others - had joined Henry Ford in the production of small low-cost mass-produced automobiles and trucks for the American middle classes, especially the small business enterprises and the planters, farmers, and ranchers who still comprised the bulk of the population. The World War I years had infected the thousands of young American ex-soldiers (9 out of 10 from rural America) with the broader metropolitan horizons glimpsed during their war experience. After demobilization and a year or two back at home during the post-war slump, the recruiting calls of burgeoning industrial manpower needs were irresistible and the rural-to-urban population shift that was to characterize Twentieth Century America (with the brief Great Depression Years relapse in the '30s) began its slow drift. It was a drift which would bring greater socio-economic and technological change to the globe called Earth than had been made in all recorded history.

And in Arkansas there was at last a State Highway System - a network of connected "interstate and intercounty roads"* - a statutorily designated "System of Primary and Secondary Federal Aid Roads",* - an arterial mobile transportation concept!

This system was the product of the arduous efforts and bitter struggles of the adolescent State Highway Division of the Department of State Lands, Highways and Improvements. This group, always undermanned, had been enlarged in 1919, and again in 1921 when the State was divided into five Highway Districts each with an engineer. The mapping program initiated in 1915 was completed early in 1920, providing for the first time a reasonably accurate inventory of the State's 72,000 miles of public roads, on an 8-miles-to-the-inch State map. County

maps were first drawn at a scale of 1-mile-to-the-inch. With these maps the State Highway Engineer and his staff outlined an arterial system of primary and secondary roads to provide adequate interstate, intra-state, and intercounty arterial road service. This system was reviewed by the Commission and interested citizens, then modified in the light of their information or comments. In a tentative preliminary form the system was reviewed and discussed by interested legislators during the 1921 session of the General Assembly. But later in the year, the Federal Aid Road Act of 1921 limited the Federal System of roads to 7% of a State's total public road mileage, no more than three-sevenths of it to be "primary or interstate roads and the balance secondary or intercounty roads."* These limits in Arkansas restricted Federal-Aid roads to this approximate mileage:

5,040 - total Federal-Aid mileage

2,160 - primary mileage

2,880 - secondary mileage

The 1921 Act modified this proportional distribution by permitting an increase in secondary road mileage equivalent to a similar decrease in primary road mileage. After months of study, the great area and rurality of Arkansas indicated that the best interests of the State would be served by reducing eligible primary mileage and increasing secondary, as follows:

4,990 - total Federal-Aid mileage (50 miles reserved for future use)

1,750 - primary mileage

3,240 - secondary mileage

The Federal-Aid roads required a supplementary system of connecting State roads. As finally revised late in December 1922 for submission to the January 1923 regular session of the General Assembly, these approximate mileages totaled:

Federal-Aid Roads

Primary 1,750

Secondary 3,240

Sub-Total. 4,990

State Roads. 1,650

State Highway System - total mileage . . . 6,640

*Terminology of the 'Twenties' — now obsolete.

The regular session quarreled bitterly and failed to act. But the termination of Federal-Aid funding in the summer and their consequently angry constituents brought the recalcitrant legislators into line; and the General Assembly acting in special session in the autumn of 1923, created the following State Highway System serving each County and County Seat:

Primary Federal Aid Roads

Little Rock to Memphis, through Lonoke, Hazen, Brinkley and Forrest City.
Little Rock to Louisiana, through Pine Bluff, McGehee and Lake Village.
Little Rock to Louisiana, through Sheridan, Princeton, Camden and El Dorado.
Little Rock to Texarkana, through Benton, Malvern, Arkadelphia, Prescott and Hope.
Little Rock to Fort Smith, through Conway, Morrilton, Russellville, Clarksville, Ozark and Van Buren.
Little Rock to Missouri, through Cabot, Searcy, Newport, Walnut Ridge, Pocahontas and Corning.
Mesa to Helena, through Clarendon and Marvell.
Benton to Waldron, through Hot Springs and Mt. Ida.
Louisiana to Missouri, through Texarkana, Ashdown, DeQueen, Mena, Waldron, Greenwood, Fort Smith, Van Buren, Fayetteville and Rogers.
Conway to Missouri, through Clinton, Marshall, Harrison and Eureka Springs.
Turrell to Walnut Ridge, through Marked Tree and Jonesboro.
Memphis to Missouri, through Marion, Osceola and Blytheville.

Secondary Federal Aid Roads

Barton to Piggott, through Marianna, Forrest City, Wynne, Harrisburg, Jonesboro and Paragould.
Jonesboro to Barfield, through Lake City, Manila and Blytheville.
Rector to Missouri Line, east.
Walnut Ridge to Missouri Line, through Walcott and Paragould.
Corning to Piggott.
Paragould to Corning.
Newport to Marked Tree, through Harrisburg.
Bald Knob to Marion, through Augusta, Wynne and Earle.
Clarendon to Jelks, through Cotton Plant.
Des Arc to Cotton Plant.
Wheatly to Marianna, through Moro.
Marianna to Chatfield, through Hughes.
Hazen to Higginson, through Des Arc.
Pine Bluff to Lonoke, through Coy.
Little Rock to Stuttgart, through England.
Pine Bluff to Hazen, through Stuttgart.
Stuttgart to Dumas, through DeWitt and Gillette.
Gillette to Helena, through Ferguson.
DeWitt to Marvell, through St. Charles.
Dumas to Watson.
Watson to McGehee.
Texarkana to Luna Landing, through Lewisville, Magnolia, El Dorado, Hamburg and Lake Village.
McGehee to Louisiana Line, through Dermott and Montrose.
Pine Bluff to Hamburg, through Star City and Monticello.
Star City to Warren.
Dermott to Prescott, through Monticello, Warren, Hampton and Camden.
Pine Bluff to Magnolia, through Rison, Fordyce and Camden.
Warren to Rison.
El Dorado to Hot Springs, through Hampton, Fordyce, Princeton and Arkadelphia.
Princeton to Poyen.
Magnolia to Haynesville, Louisiana.
Pine Bluff to Hot Springs, through Sheridan and Malvern.
Hot Springs to Oklahoma Line, through Glenwood, Dierks and DeQueen.
Lewisville to Nashville, through Hope and Washington.
Murfreesboro to Mt. Ida, through Kirby and Womble.
Foreman to Lewis Ferry.
Ashdown to DeQueen, through Ben Lomond.
Arkadelphia to Ben Lomond, through Murfreesboro and Nashville.
Mena west to Oklahoma line.
Russellville to Waldron, through Ola and Plainview.

Perry to Greenwood, through Ola, Danville and Booneville.
Magazine to Altus, through Paris.
Hot Springs to Morrilton, through Whittington and Perryville.
Fayetteville to Oklahoma Line, through Lincoln.
Bentonville to Oklahoma Line, through Gentry and Siloam Springs.
Rogers to Missouri Line, through Rogers and Sulphur Springs.
Russellville to Missouri Line, through Jasper and Harrison.
Morrilton to Calico Rock, through Clinton and Mt. View.
Sylamore to Marshall, through Big Flat.
Marshall to Yellville, through Rush.
Bellefonte to Mountain Home, through Yellville.
Mountain Home to Newberry, through Calico Rock.
Conway to Beebe, through Vilonia.
Searcy to Heber Springs, through Pangburn.
Heber Springs to Conway, through Quitman and Greenbrier.
Heber Springs to Batesville.
Newport to Mammoth Spring, through Batesville, Melbourne and Salem.
Batesville to Mammoth Spring, through Evening Shade and Hardy.
Hardy to Hoxie, through Imboden and Powhatan.
Cave City to Powhatan, through Strawberry.
Pocahontas to Missouri Line, north.
Pocahontas to Imboden.

State Connecting Roads

Piggott to Missouri Line, north.
Marked Tree to Osceola, through Lepanto.
Pocahontas to Mammoth Spring, through Dalton.
Melbourne to Ash Flat.
Bradford to Batesville, through Pleasant Plains.
Newport to Dryden, through Grubbs.
Stuttgart to Roe.
Grady to DeWitt, through Waldstein.
Lonoke to Cabot.
Hamburg to Eudora, through Parkdale.
Dermott to Halley.
Monticello to Tillar.
Hamburg to Louisiana Line, south.
Warren to El Dorado, through Hermitage and Moro Bay.
Heber Springs to El Paso, through Rosebud.
Sheridan to Benton.
Prescott to Waldo.
Lewisville to Louisiana Line, through Walnut Hill.
Little Rock to Thornburg.
Perryville to Conway, through Houston.
Hot Springs to Danville, through Rover and Jessieville.
Mt. Ida to Rover, through Washita.
Womble to Mena.
Wickes to Dierks, through Baker Springs.
Nashville to Dierks.
Mineral Springs to Fulton, through Saratoga.
Ashdown to McNabb.
Foreman to Arkinda.
Waldron to Oklahoma Line, through Bates.
Dardanelle to Fort Smith, through Paris and Charleston.
Van Buren to Gravette, through Evansville, Summers and Siloam Springs.
Bentonville to Missouri Line, through Bella Vista.
Ozark to Huntsville.
Huntsville to Marble.
Clarksville to Harrison, through Boxley.
Boxley to Missouri Line, through Kingston and Berryville.
Dover to Marshall, through Hector.
Clinton to Lurton, through Witt Springs.
Yellville to Omaha, through Lead Hill.
Mountain Home north to Missouri Line.
Mountain Home to Missouri Line, through Henderson.
Henderson to Salem.
Lurton to Winslow.
Jelks to Newport.
Rison to Erin, through Staves.
Prescott to Delight.
Fayetteville to Eureka Springs, through Huntsville.

It is interesting to note that the initial State Highway System was designated by "Control Points" as

listed above. About a quarter of a century later the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways would be designated nationally in this same manner. The "primary system of roads" traversed 50 of the 75 counties and the County Seats of 42. The State Highway System served 95% of both the municipal and the rural population of the State.

Some 1923 fiscal data give perspective to the picture:

Gasoline Tax Revenue - \$1,253,158.20
 (1c first quarter - 3c after)
 1c - State 50% County 50%
 3c - State 30% County 70%

Motor Vehicle Registration
 Fees Revenue - \$1,305,000.77
 (70% County - 30% State)

Number of Motor Vehicles Registered 113,102
 (up 15,000 from 1922)
 Automobiles 102,055
 Trucks 11,047

The automobiles included 65,914 Fords; 4,466 Chevrolets; 3,910 Buicks; 2,696 Studebakers; 4,048 Overlands; 6,735 Dodges; 1,533 Maxwells and 431 Cadillacs among some 143 other marques. In addition there were 72 electric cars (8 marques) and 4 Stanley steamers. Twelve motorcycle marques totaled 232 vehicles. There were 121 truck marques including 8167 Fords, 137 Chevrolets, 462 Dodges, and 324 Internationals. Trailers and semi-trailers numbered 84, maximum capacity 5 tons. Maximum truck tonnage (capacity) was six tons. Truck registration fees were increased 50% for trucks of more than three tons capacity equipped with solid tires.

The new State Highway System was a hodgepodge of disconnected improvements and trails. The mileage ranged among the Counties from 51.90 miles in Cross County to 156.30 miles in Ashley. Phillips County had 73.05 miles of paved mileage, Pulaski 61.65 but 56 counties had no paved mileage. Seven counties had neither "Paved" or "Other Surface" mileage. The condition of the State Highways was as follows one year after creation of the System:

Total Mileage --	6718.55	100%
Paved (19 counties)	443.21	6½%
Other Surface (66 counties)	2117.39	31½%
Improved Graded (66 counties)	1606.20	24%
Under Construction (40 counties)	576.92	8½%
Unimproved:		
Maintained (52 counties)	1132.35	17%
No Work (51 counties)	842.48	12½%

The System had also increased about 80 miles in ex-

tent but this was due to more accurate surveys of the designated roads. No additions had been made to the list. Yet there were insistent pressures to expand the system mileage which the Commission had authority to do but had refused so far because of the paucity of funds and the urgent need to achieve a reasonable status of route condition continuity in the initially designated System.

The legislators were more vulnerable to these pressures and realizing this the Highway Commission studied the road network carefully and prepared the following list of roads considered of sufficient importance to become State Roads when the proper time came and funds were provided for maintenance and improvement.

Bentonville to Elkhorn Tavern.	Melbourne to Evening Shade.
Rogers to Eureka Springs.	Helena to Elaine.
Siloam Springs to Fayetteville.	Barton to Wabash.
Fayetteville to Combs.	Holly Grove to Indian Bay.
Summers to Evansville.	Blackton to Moro.
Harrison to Leadville.	Biscoe to Augusta.
Yellville to Western Grove.	Murfreesboro to Dierks.
Western Grove to Lurton.	Nashville to Lockesburg.
Ozark to Charleston.	Hope to Bowen.
Ozark to Roseville.	Ozan to Prescott.
Fort Smith to Hartford.	Waldo to McNeil.
Charleston to Greenwood.	Magnolia to Louisiana Line
Booneville to Waldron.	El Dorado to Haynesville.
Dardanelle to Danville.	Hope to Camden.
Atkins to Hector.	Arkadelphia to Glenwood
Morrilton to Chimes.	Arkadelphia to Donaldson.
Mena to Black Fork.	Malvern to Glenwood.
Ola to Jesseville.	Malvern to Tulip.
Jesseville to Thornburg.	Saline River to Fordyce.
Board Camp to Mount Ida.	Fordyce to Warren.
Big Fork to Umpire.	Warren to Hamburg.
Sheridan to Leola.	Augusta to Tupelo.
Pine Bluff to Warren.	McCroy to Grubbs.
Star City to Gould.	Tupelo to Cherry Valley.
Monticello to Rison.	Cherry Valley to Parkin.
Eudora to Louisiana Line.	Birdeye to Marked Tree.
Lake Village to Sunnyside.	Parkin to Round Pond.
Pine Bluff to Scott.	Widener to Edmonson.
Alzheimer to DeWitt.	Earle to Turrell.
Jacksonville to El Paso.	Wynne to Cotton Plant.
Holmes Store to Rosebud.	Batesville to Powhatan.
Heber Springs to Mountain View.	Manila to Etowah.
Sylamore to Melbourne.	Leachville to Missouri Line.
Searcy to Pleasant Plains.	Jonesboro to Walnut Ridge.
Cabot to Des Arc.	Batesville to Cash.
Higginson to Judsonia.	Paragould to Pochontas.
Salem to Ash Flat.	Walnut Ridge to Knobel.

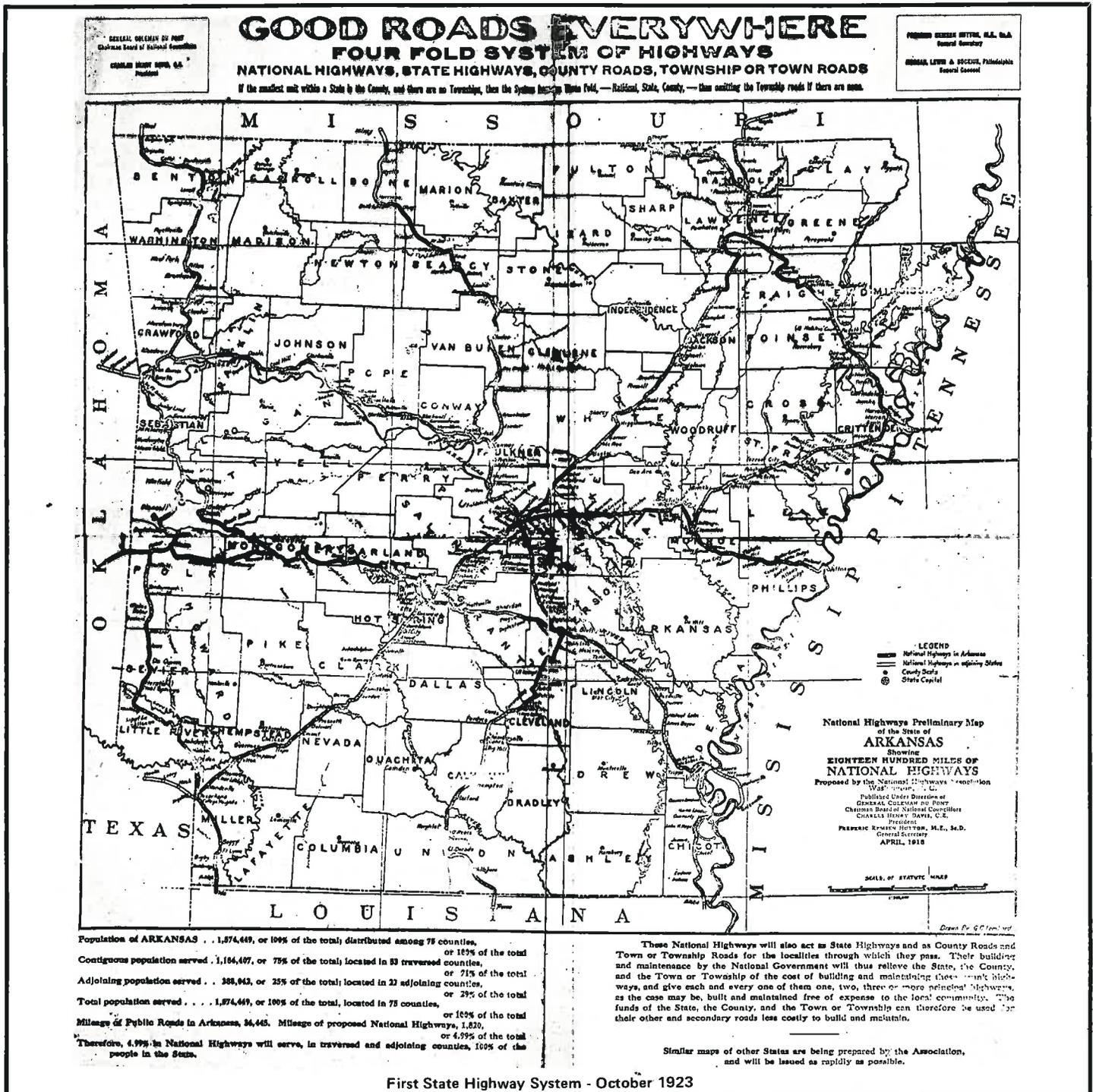
The Legislature did not add these roads under an understanding that the Commission would do so thus expanding the System with greater fiscal and functional intergrity than if the Legislature opened a Pandora's Box of special interest demands by adding any road. Hence, the Commission added some 1600 miles of these listed roads later in 1925 expanding the System to almost 8350 miles. At the close of calendar year 1926 the State Highway System condition summary was as follows:

Total mileage	8345.5	100%
Paved	731.6	9%
Other Surface	3416.3	41%
Improved Graded	2543.6	30½%
Under Construction	346.3	4%
Unimproved	1307.7	15½%

ed roads at this time so saved the costs of signing obsolescence: as road signing got underway. The U.S. Numbered Routes in Arkansas at that time were Roads Nos. 61, 63, 64, 65, 67, 70, 71, 165 and 167. Numbers 70 and 71 had been designated nationally the Robert E. Lee Memorial Highway and the Thomas Jefferson Highway, respectively almost two decades earlier in the Good Roads Era.

State Highways were now numbered from Road No. 1 to No. 167. U.S. Route numbering had been adopted about the same time. Arkansas had not mark-

NEXT: The State Highway Program - Part VI
Fiscal Confusion - Independence Depression





CENTRAL OFFICE SERVICE AWARDS: Left to Right: Henry McCrotty, Chester Siesicki, Bernie Cox, James Garner, R.C. Turney, Frank Hutchinson, Frank Battisto, Harmon Tullos, and Bob Narrell along with Commissioner Patsy Thomasson and Director Henry Gray.

Annual Awards Presentation

The Annual Awards Presentation Ceremony for Central Office employees took place in the Department's Auditorium on Friday, December 16, 1977.

Miss Patsy Thomasson, Highway Commissioner, and Henry Gray, Director, presented service certificates to sixteen employees who represented more than 440 years of service to the Highway and Transportation Department.

Miss Thomasson presented retirement certificates to seven employees who represented 212 years of dedicated employment to the AHTD. They were: Ralph Rogers, 38 years; Robert L. Narrell, 35 years; Julia M. Rowe and Chester J. Siesicki, 32 years; Claudis M. Bryant, Marvin I. Bunch and Charles A. Gehriki, 25 years.



CENTRAL OFFICE SERVICE AWARDS: Left to Right: Buddy Lewter, Dallas Vire, Pete Benetz, Robert Pinson, Mayo White, Grady Putman, Neb Bingham and Howard Stoebner along with Commissioner Patsy Thomasson and Director Henry Gray.



Officials of the Highway and Transportation Department along with city officials cut the ribbon to allow traffic on Interstate 630.

Interstate 630 Opened To Traffic

The opening of a 2.4 mile section of Interstate 630 in west Little Rock on December 22nd, was a welcomed Christmas gift to the motorists who have been using the congested adjacent east-west thoroughfares.

In her dedicatory address, Highway Commissioner Patsy Thomasson of Little Rock, said the completion of that section of highway would not have been possible so soon had it not been for the dedicated work of former Congressman Wilbur Mills. It was Mills who was instrumental in getting the east-west freeway route added to the state's interstate mileage, thus qualifying it for 90% Federal-aid construction assistance. The city of Little Rock named the highway the Wilbur D. Mills Freeway, in honor of the former Congressman.

Only four lanes of the six-lane facility are open to traffic. Work continues on the median barrier, the shoulder and the entrance and exit ramp at Rodney Parham Road, John Barrow Road and the Baptist Medical Center as weather permits. In the interim, traffic using this new section will be able to enter

or exit the highway at Interstate 430 and University Avenue only.

A 2.6 mile section, from University Avenue to Dennison Street, has been opened since 1973. Work on the eastern 2.2 miles from Dennison Street to Interstate 30 was halted by a federal court order pending approval of a new Environmental Impact Statement. The Department is in the process of completing the new statement at this time.

The 2.2 miles that remains incomplete is the only section of interstate highway in Arkansas that remains to be constructed.

The new section opened December 22, is costing \$15.2 million to construct. The entire 7.4 mile facility will carry over 55,000 vehicles per day once it is completed.

A special bicycle lane has been incorporated in the construction of the new section and a bicycle route is being planned for the entire 7.4 miles between Interstate 430 and Interstate 30. Bus transit facilities are also going to be a part of this highway in the near future.

Annual Resident Engineers Conference

The Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department's Annual Resident Engineer's Conference was held March 1-3 at the Central Office Building in Little Rock. There were more than 150 participating engineers and contractors from throughout the State.

Assistant Chief Engineer, Jim Lowder opened the Conference, which allows the Department to discuss with field engineering personnel policies and procedures which have been advanced since the last meeting.

The opening day dealt with the recently completed Construction Management System. Examples were given concerning the utilization of the system, as well as answers to the system's operation.

Other subjects covered included: Environmental and sociological aspects for construction projects, Geotechnical relations to construction freeway projects, Pavement Recycling and a review of the Internal EEO program.

A banquet for Conference participants was held March 2nd. Dr. J.M. Fowler of Little Rock was the after-dinner speaker.



Mr. Jim Lowder, Assistant Chief Engineer, opened the three day conference for the Resident Engineers.



Ralph Blackwell explains the implementation of the Construction Management Program.



Over 150 Resident Engineers from the Department and general contractors attended the three day meet in the Central Office Building Auditorium.



Director Henry Gray and the State Highway Commissioners listen to a concerned citizen as he makes his suggestions for highways in Northeast Arkansas.

Jonesboro Regional Commission Meeting

The Arkansas Highway Commission traveled to Jonesboro February 23rd for the second of four regional meetings being held throughout the state to allow public input that will be considered in planning for future highway projects.

More than 350 persons were on hand for the meeting which concerned itself with the twenty-two counties in Highway Districts 1, 5 and 10. The Commissioners heard suggestions and pleas for transportation improvements from thirty-five citizens of the area during the nearly three hour meeting.

Commission Chairman George Kell told those in attendance that red tape, increased costs and declining revenues were putting the squeeze on future highway construction projects. "To further add to the woes is the fact that under President Jimmy Carter's proposed 1978 Transportation Act, Arkansas stands to lose \$102 million in highway funds," Kell said.

Kell noted that the Department must continue to seek additional revenues for highways. "The State Highway System is more than a way of travel," he said. "It's the way to build a better life for everyone."

More than 50 people from Clay County urged the Commission to consider replacing the bridge on Highway 90 across the St. Francis River on the Missouri-Arkansas state line. One speaker said the bridge's delapidated condition has resulted in at least one industry locating elsewhere.

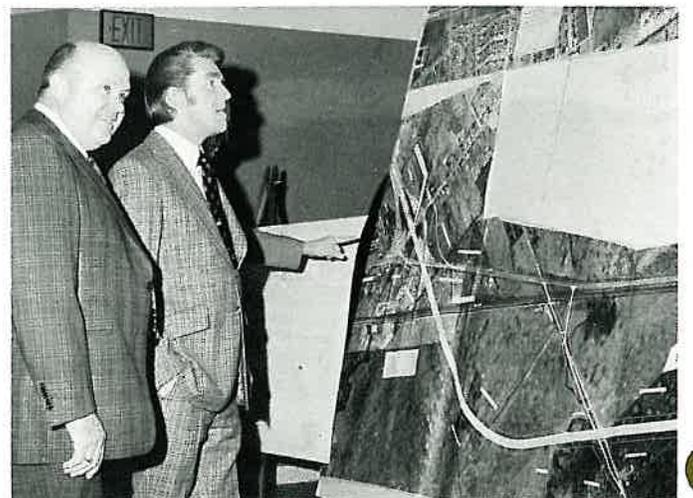
Another Clay County delegation asked for an extension of Highway 34 to serve an area of Southeast Clay County that presently does not have an im-

proved highway.

Some other requests presented at the meeting were:

- Replacing the two-lane bridge over the White River at Newport.
- Improvements for safety in the Walnut Ridge-Hoxie area on Highways 63 and 67.
- A bypass around Pocahontas' business district to accomodate through traffic on Highway 67.
- Continued support of extending Highway 67 four-lanes from Bald Knob north.

The Commission plans to hold two more regional meetings in the future at Hope and Monticello.



Two Northeast Arkansas residents review the Bald Knob-Russell display of Highway 67.

Watson Chapel Site Of Public Hearing

Nearly 100 people attended the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department's Public Hearing on January 31st at Watson Chapel to discuss the proposed widening of Highway 79 from Watson Chapel to Highway 65 in Pine Bluff.

The Department's proposal includes widening the existing two-lane facility to four-lanes between Highway 54 at Watson Chapel to 28th Street in Pine Bluff. The remainder of the highway, from 28th Street to Highway 65 will be widened to five-lanes

with the center lane providing a continuous left turn lane.

In addition to the work on Highway 79, the Department personnel discussed the proposed widening of Highway 65-B at Pine Bluff from two lanes to four lanes.

The Highway 79 project will be funded with 70% Federal funds and 30% State funds. The Highway 65-B project will be 100% State funded.





Tom Taylor and Henry Gray at recent meeting for the AASHTO Public Information Subcommittee.

Gray Heads PI Subcommittee

Henry Gray, Director of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, has been appointed chairman of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials Public Information Subcommittee.

The appointment was made by AASHTO President, Darrel Manning. Mr. Gray replaced Ray Bass of Alabama.

The PI Subcommittee is charged with the responsibility of studying the public relations and public information programs in use by AASHTO member departments and recommends the adoption of methods that appear to be most satisfactory for use in the member departments' operations.

Mr. Gray met recently with Tom Taylor of Texas, Secretary of the subcommittee, to discuss plans for the coming year.

Traffic Control Seminar Held

The Construction Division hosted a seminar on traffic controls through construction zones on February 2nd. Department personnel and private contractors took part in the one day seminar designed to make the participants more aware of ways to improve traffic control measures to provide greater safety for the workers as well as the motorists.

The Federal Highway Administration has reviewed several work sites in Arkansas and reported that they were pleased with the work that was being done on the State and Federal-aid systems.



Department employees attend seminar designed for the improvement of traffic control in construction zones.

One of the recommendations of the Federal Highway Administration was that there needed to be a continuing education program addressing work site safety and usage of traffic control devices. The seminar was a step in that direction.



Mr. John Tallant, Construction Engineer and Mr. B.K. Cooper, Deputy Director, discuss the seminar's proceedings.

ID Staff Makes Movie

The Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department's Interdisciplinary Staff is being featured in a movie which will receive nationwide distribution.

The ID Staff approach provides a thorough evaluation of each highway project from early systems planning through location and design. The Staff is responsible for anticipating areas of social, economic and environmental conflict, seeing that they are resolved and assisting in orderly project development.

Federal Highway Administration Sociologist Eugene Cleckley, who arranged for the FHWA to contract for the movie said "the Interdisciplinary approach used by Arkansas is the best example we've seen in the region or anywhere. We felt it would be valuable

to document this example in a movie that can be shown to other Transportation Departments throughout the country."

Department Interdisciplinary Staff members include, Charles Venable, Assistant Chief Engineer for Planning; Steve Wilson, Environmental Development; Bob Tyler, Environmental Development; Marion Butler, Sociologist; Wilbert Chapman, Planning and Research; Jon Roberson, Economist; and Billie Boyd, Secretary.

Film makers from Dallas and San Diego spent three days in December filming committee meetings, office and field operations and interviews with staff members and Director Henry Gray.

UMTA Program Begins Third Year



The Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department conducted a workshop January 4 in Little Rock to familiarize agencies with the UMTA 16 (b) (2) program and to aid them in the preparation of applications.

Any private non-profit organization providing transportation to elderly and/or handicapped persons is eligible to apply. The State of Arkansas has been allotted \$332,000 by the Urban Mass Transportation Administration to aid in the purchase of vehicles.

The allocation represents 80%, to be matched locally with 20% cash funds. The cash match may come from two or more sources. Thirty-five thousand dollars in state funds will be apportioned later toward the local match of the approved applicants. Operating



expenses are borne by the applying organization.

Final approval of all applications will be made by UMTA officials. All equipment will be purchased through the State Purchasing Division by AHTD. The Department will hold title to all vehicles for 24 months after they are put into operation.

Since the program was initiated in 1974, the Department has helped purchase a total of 59 vehicles and several sets of radio equipment for private non-profit organizations. A number of the vehicles are equipped with hydraulic lifts.

The Department is in the process of purchasing 33 additional vehicles for 28 organizations approved under the Fiscal Year 1976 program.

AHTD Holds Auction

The Department held a public auction in December to dispose of 693 items of used, surplus and obsolete equipment. The auction was held at the Central Shops in Jacksonville and had an excellent response from bidders with over 2000 registering to bid.

It turned out to be a brisk, sunny day and the tempo of the sale was rather brisk with all items auctioned by 6:15 p.m.

Proceeds from the sale were in excess of \$650,000. Items ranged from shop equipment to motor graders.

Representatives from the Internal Audit Staff and from the Legislative Audit Staff were present during the auction and Weight Division personnel directed the crowd and controlled the traffic at the auction.



EEO Distributes Handbook

The Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department's Equal Employment Opportunity Section recently published "The Supervisor's EEO Handbook" to assist our supervisory and managerial personnel in better understanding and complying with the EEO requirements.

Following distribution of this handbook, many supervisors wanted to know why so much data and record-keeping was required.

There is unquestionably a mountain of documentation associated with developing, implementing and monitoring an Affirmative Action Program; however, there appears to be no way of avoiding it.

The EEO Office is required by law to submit a written Affirmative Action Program to the Federal Highway Administration on a yearly basis. Based on this report, FHWA determines whether or not the Department is in compliance with EEO laws. Without the data and records they would be unable to make this determination.

It is also essential for the Department to be able to pinpoint our EEO weaknesses. This is vitally important because of a top priority of our Affirmative Action Program is to eliminate deficiencies that make us vulnerable to being found in noncompliance. We cannot know where these deficiencies are without the data. We need data to show the results of all personnel practices and to indicate the progress we are making toward achieving our EEO goals.

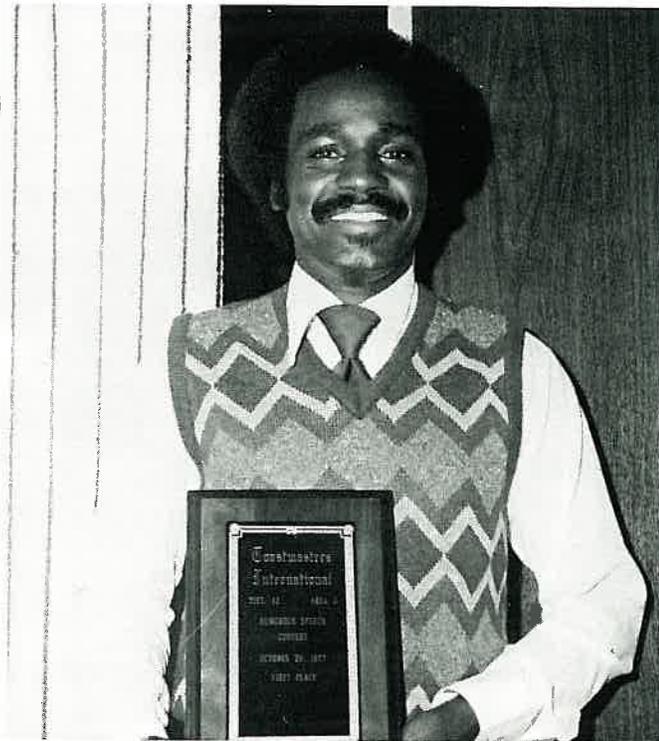
That is why the EEO staff is devoting so much time providing instructions and the necessary forms to assist in maintaining these records.

The EEO office is located in Room 1006 of the Central Office Complex. The office numbers are 569-2296 and 569-2297. They are available and anxious to provide assistance and guidance. As stated in the handbook, "Affirmative Action is complicated, it is time consuming but IT IS MANDATORY for the law of the land."

Toastmaster Receives Honors

Cliff Thomas, design technician in Roadway Design and member of Southwest Toastmasters, recently won first place in the Toastmasters District Humorous Speech Contest held in Memphis in October. Cliff's original and thoroughly entertaining speech was entitled "The First Spade in Space." He will now compete in the Regional Contest which will take place June 9 and 10 in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Southwest Toastmasters is extremely proud of Cliff since this is the highest honor the club has received since it was chartered 2½ years ago.

Toastmasters is an international organization whose prime objective is the personal development of the individual. Training received through the club is a major step in learning the art of communication. Club meetings are held every Friday at noon at the Royal Castle Restaurant at Geyer Springs and Forb-ing Roads. Anyone interested in visiting or joining the club should contact Bill Stanton at 569-2239.



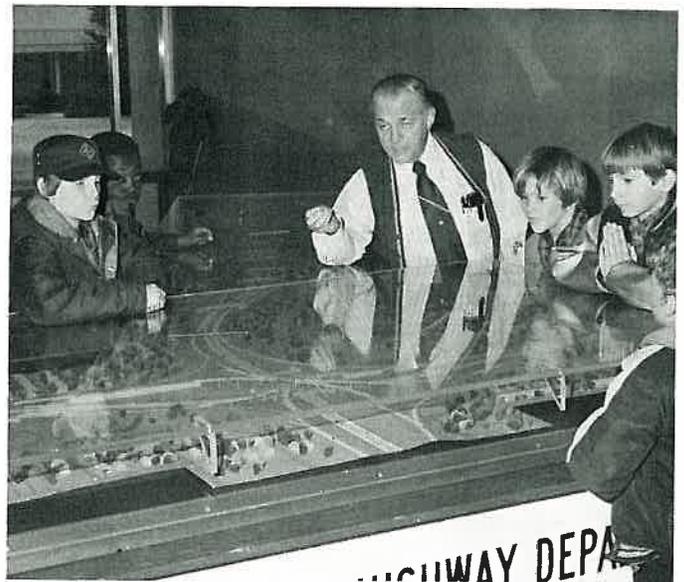
AHTD Hosts Visitors

Thirteen girls from Bryant High School visited the Department's Central Offices on February 6th. The girls are enrolled in secretarial and business courses at Bryant.

The students were given a tour of Computer Services, Roadway Design and the Mapping Section of Planning and Research. While in Computer Services, some of the students were given the opportunity to operate the data entry machines. They also reviewed the plotter at work drawing geometric designs.



Carolyn Stringer, of Computer Services, instructs the Bryant High School girls in the procedures of the data entry machines.



John Hall, of Heavy Bridge, explains the I-630 Interchange display to Cub Scout Pack 27.

Cub Scout Pack Number 27 from Holy Souls Catholic Church in Little Rock was greeted by Bridge Maintenance Engineer John Hall on February 8th. The Scouts are working on Engineering Merit Badges and are interested in bridge design and maintenance.

Following a briefing on the bridges and overpasses proposed for the eastern leg of Interstate 630, the Scouts were shown the Highway Movie.

Department Personnel And Organization Changes



Danny L. Flowers
District 6 Engineer



Hurley H. Perkins
Assistant District 6 Engineer



Charles H. Hesselbein
District 6 Maintenance Supt.



William E. Tyler
Assistant State Maint. Engr.

Mr. Danny L. Flowers of North Little Rock, Assistant District Engineer for District Six at Little Rock, has been promoted to District Engineer, replacing Don Cahoon, who resigned to take a position with a private contractor.

Flowers began his career with the Department in June, 1969 following graduation from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville with a degree in Civil Engineering. He worked as a summer employee for four years with the Department's District Five Headquarters in Batesville while in college. Upon completion of the Engineering Orientation Program, Flowers was assigned to the Planning and Research Division. He worked as an Assistant Resident Engineer at Searcy, Resident Engineer at Rogers, Assistant Construction Engineer, and was promoted to Assistant District Engineer in June, 1977. District Six is comprised of Pulaski, Hot Spring, Grant, Saline, Garland, Lonoke and Prairie counties.

Flowers is a native of Batesville and a graduate of Batesville High School. He is a registered Professional Engineer, and a member of the Little Rock Engineers Club and the North Little Rock Rotary Club. He is married to the former Sara Stobaugh of Hughes and they have three children, Lea, 7; Jennifer, 4 and Matthew, 4 months.

Hurley H. Perkins of North Little Rock has been transferred to District Six as Assistant District Engineer. Perkins has been with the Department 34 years and has worked as Assistant Resident Engineer, Instrumentman, Resident Engineer, Assistant Division Head of the Construction Division and Assistant

Division Head of the Maintenance Division.

Perkins is a Registered Professional Engineer and a member of the Arkansas Chapter of the Society of Professional Engineers and the Arkansas Chapter of Registered Land Surveyors.

He and his wife, the former Wilma Koehler of Little Rock, have two daughters and five grandchildren.

Charles H. Hesselbein, Assistant Maintenance Superintendent at District Ten at Paragould has been promoted to District Maintenance Superintendent at District Six at Little Rock. Hesselbein began working as an inspector for District Eight at Russellville 15 years ago. He was transferred to Paragould as a Job Superintendent in 1966 and was promoted to Assistant Maintenance Superintendent in 1970.

William E. Tyler, District Maintenance Engineer for District Three at Hope has been promoted to Assistant State Maintenance Engineer at the Little Rock Central Headquarters. Tyler began his career 11 years ago as a Junior Instrumentman at District Three and has served as Construction Inspector, Maintenance Supervisor and District Maintenance Engineer. He is a Registered Professional Engineer.

Additional personnel changes within the Department include the promotion of Leon Sneed to assume the responsibilities and duties of the Safety Officer. Mr. Sneed replaces Roland Humble who retired in December, 1977. Sneed began work with the Department in 1959, in Equipment. After performing various jobs in Equipment he was transferred, in 1968, to the Safety Section.

Since the Safety Section will be expanding its efforts into more of the field operations of the Department, it was transferred from the Administration and Realty branch to Mr. Jim Lowder, Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations.

William H. McDorman has been promoted to Chief of Internal Audit. He is replacing E.N. Orsini who recently retired after 26 years with the Department. McDorman began work with the Department in the Internal Audit Section in 1973, after receiving his BS degree in Accounting from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He is also a Certified Public Accountant.

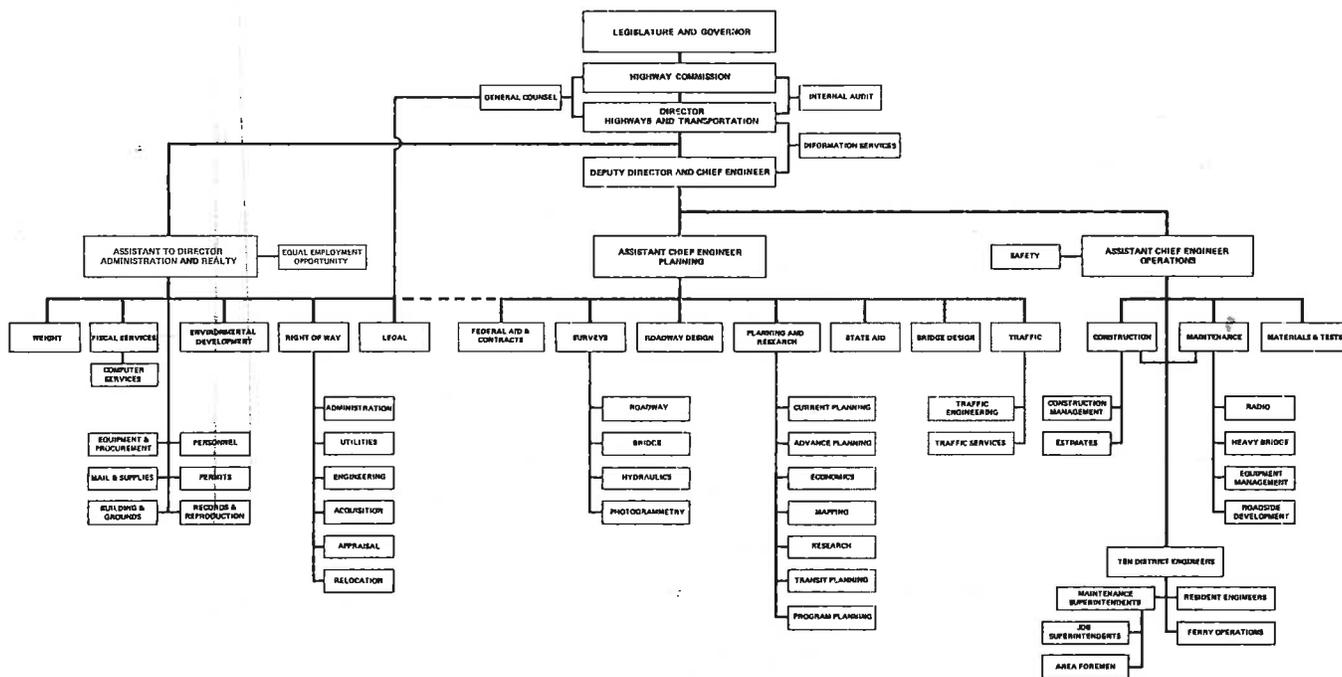
Maurice D. Head has assumed the new duties and responsibilities of Chief of the new Equipment and Procurement Section, and will report to the Assistant to the Director. Certain functions of the Equipment Section, including central warehousing, equip-

ment specification writing, central shop, motor pool, and inventory of all equipment have been merged with the Procurement Section in order to better coordinate procurement and distribution of equipment and supplies, and to also eliminate some of the duplication that now exists within the two sections.

The Equipment Preventive Maintenance Study presently under the Equipment Section in the Maintenance Division and conducted by Doug Nielsen will remain in the Maintenance Division.

Since development and distribution of the "Arkansas Highways" magazine is a public information function, it was transferred from Planning and Research to the Information Services Section. This is in accordance with other changes made within the Department in an effort to try to group various activities by function.

ORGANIZATION CHART
ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT



January 1, 1978
Henry Gray
Director of Highway and Transportation

Letters

December 13, 1977

January 18, 1978

Jim Chaney
District 5 Engineer
Batesville, Arkansas

Dear Jim

I know the snow and ice have posed a problem for you in many ways, as it has for us. However, I would like to commend your Area Foreman Bobby Hubbard for the splendid job he has done in this area.

He and his crew have worked many long hours, both day and night, in an effort to keep not only our primary roads clear, but also many of our secondary roads. His efforts have made our job much easier, and I just wanted you to know that we truly appreciate it very much.

Sincerely,
R.E. Ward, Captain
Commander of Troop B
Arkansas State Police
Newport, Arkansas

February 13, 1978

Mr. Charles W. Frazier
Section Head - Mapping
Planning and Research Division
Arkansas State Highway Department
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

Dear Charles:

Loyd Ryan joins me in expressing our appreciation to you and to Don Finkbeiner for your cooperation, time and patience in explaining the rudiments of your map making techniques to us last week.

We are in the process of acquiring some materials and instruments to make a start, hopefully in the next few weeks.

In the months to come, if we need pointers, I hope you won't mind a request for some additional advice.

Thanks again for your willingness to help us.

Sincerely,
Frank E. Robins III
Log Cabin Democrat
Conway, Arkansas

Arkansas Highway Department
Photogrammetry Section
Little Rock, Arkansas

Enclosed is a check in the amount of eight dollars (\$8.00) for four (4) copies of the following numbered aerial photo the size the AHD man had with him on his job, a bit smaller than an 8x10 photograph.

Photo was in black and white, or gray, and had these numbers on it: No. 000021 Ref 17-10 1:2000 Job 407 Crawford County 12/21/76 76-51.

I appreciate the people who work for the Arkansas Highway Department being so courteous and friendly and helpful; and certainly most prompt in answering inquiries about their work. The gentleman who was kind enough to call long distance to give me helpful information about this matter was very nice in answering any and all questions I had to ask of him.

It's nice to know there is still courteous and promptness left in business, which is hard to find in today's business world.

Thank you, you are to be commended for doing a fine job.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Betty J. Dunn
Chester, Arkansas

January 13, 1978

Mr. Dan Flowers
District 6 Engineer
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Flowers:

We here at the Department of Computer Services want to thank you for the immediate and good job of salting and scraping the Capitol Mall. Since we do operate twenty-four hours a day, the cleaned streets made driving easier for our employees, and for this we are grateful.

Sincerely yours,
Laurinda F. Hensley
Deputy Director
State of Arkansas Department of
Computer Services

January 19, 1978

Mr. Jim Chaney
District 5 Engineer
Batesville, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Chaney:

I wanted to take this opportunity to commend Bobby Hubbard and his staff in Jackson County for the great job they have done clearing the roads during our recent ice and snow storms.

Our school has bus routes that originate in Jonesboro, Augusta, Southside, Bald Knob and Hoxie. On several occasions we made the runs to determine if our buses could run. All of the roads in Jackson County were clear and in almost every instance, when you went into another county the road would be ice covered.

I know that Mr. Hubbard and his crews spent many, many hours on the roads and are to be commended for a job well done.

Sincerely,
Lonnie McNatt, Director
White River Vocational
Technical School

January 12, 1978

Mr. Charles Hesselbein
District 6 Maintenance Superintendent
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Hesselbein:

We want to thank you and your people who worked through the snow and sleet to keep the highways passable. We are especially grateful to the salting crew that worked Shackelford Road where I-630 and I-430 meet just west of Baptist Medical Center. Although the roads remained slushy they were passable, allowing emergency vehicles, patients, family and our staff to reach the hospital.

Please convey our appreciation to those who worked in the extremely cold temperatures to make this possible.

Sincerely,
John Pounders, Director
Public Relations
Baptist Medical Center System

January 24, 1978

Mr. Norman Pumphrey
District 10 Engineer
Paragould, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Pumphrey:

I would like to commend you and your staff for your efforts during our recent snowfalls. The ice and snow would surely have resulted in greater damage to both person and property had it not been for all of you.

Working against adverse weather conditions, with a lack of the proper type of equipment, you were able to maintain some of our mobility that we have come to depend on.

As a public agency, I realize you receive large amounts of criticism and very little praise. The praise all of you deserve for 12 straight days of bad weather without a break should far out-weigh any criticisms you have received.

Thank you,
Chris Snodgrass, Superintendent
Crowley's Ridge State Park

January 19, 1978

Mr. Jim Chaney
District 5 Engineer
Batesville, Arkansas

Dear Jim:

I have just been talking to some members of the Newport Lion and Kiwanis Clubs who were giving particular praise to the way the highway maintenance people, under Bobby Hubbard, have been keeping the highways open and passable.

The men were remarking about the fine job that the Jackson County crews have been doing. They even went so far as to say how much better the Jackson County roads were than the neighboring county roads.

Please pass on to Bobby Hubbard and his men the thanks of the Newport Area Chamber of Commerce and all the traveling public for their good, conscientious work.

Sincerely,
William H. Heard
Executive Vice President
Newport Area
Chamber of Commerce

November 22, 1977

August 29, 1977

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

On Friday, November the 18th, at approximately 11:00 a.m., I went into the State of Arkansas contacting a Joe Julian at the Corning Weight Station, at what time I got traveling information. It may well be mentioned that it was a great pleasure to enter the State of Arkansas and be greeted with such a friendly state employee who's personality was so cheerful. I just feel people, such as Joe Julian, are truly public servants and valuable assets to the State of Arkansas.

Sincerely,
Duane Simon
Fairdealing, Missouri

Editor's Note: Lt. Joe Julian is the Forman of the Corning Weight Station and has been with the Weight Division since November, 1958.

February 16, 1978

Mr. Calvin Peevy
District 4 Engineer
Fort Smith, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Peevy:

During all the bad weather we have had this year at Queen Wilhelmina State Park, the Highway Department, under the supervision of foreman Harrison Heath has done an outstanding job.

Our roads are very steep and dangerous, when it snows they are not passable until the highway crews go over them. The crews are always dispatched quickly and if delayed they notify us to let us know they are on their way. The men are friendly and very cooperative. They also have helped many of my employees when their cars became stuck.

I personally, along with my staff, want to thank you and Mr. Heath for a job well done. If all the departments are as efficient as the one in Mena, then we must have a very good State Highway Department.

Sincerely yours,
M.J. Thomson, Supt.
Queen Wilhelmina State Park

Mr. Jim Chaney
District 5 Engineer
Batesville, Arkansas

Dear Jim,

This is to thank you sincerely for the widening of Harrison Street (Highway 69) Eastward from Sidney Street, and to compliment your crews, not only on the nice work they did, but also on the fine attitude and public relations manner displayed at all times in dealing with property owners along the route.

As I have stated to you many times previously, we consider the Arkansas State Highway Department to be one of our greatest benefactors and accept with grateful thanks all the many nice programs and projects which you have either sponsored or helped us to accomplish.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Yours very truly,
Peyton Golden
Mayor

February 15, 1978

Mr. Curtis Pangle
Arkansas Highway Department
District 9
Harrison, Arkansas

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the citizens, of which are of the largest percentage senior citizens, of Diamond City, I wish to thank you sincerely for the excellent way you have maintained our highways during the severe bad weather conditions our area has encountered the past month of January.

Gratefully yours,
L. Kenneth Wenger
Chamber of Commerce
Diamond City, Arkansas





SERVICE AWARDS

DECEMBER 25 Years

John C. Hughes District 2
Grady E. Putman M&T
Orval H. Stanbrough, Jr. District 5

20 Years

Willie V. Bradshaw District 7
Pierre J. Malardier District 3
Wilson F. Russell District 1

15 Years

Russell L. Brantley District 2
Jack K. Brown District 8
Eddie L. Ennis District 1
Thurman R. Hankins District 8
Earl T. McDaniel District 6
Joe E. Newell District 4
Barbara G. Oldham State Aid
Ansel L. Rice District 10
Anily P. Rogers District 4
John D. Spurling M&T
Marlin R. Stuart District 10

10 Years

Thomas L. Crites District 8
Johnny E. Ensey Traffic
James C. Freeman District 1
William V. Hensley District 6
Doyle Jordan District 9
Robert A. Murdoch District 8
Lynda S. Thomas District 1

Raymond Hickey 5 Years District 6
Ulyes May District 7
Michael F. Shaw Accounting District 6
Sam F. Smith District 6

JANUARY 30 Years

John W. Parker District 9

20 Years

Curtis H. Crow District 3
Eugene C. LeMarr District 9
Bernard C. Lewis P&R
Leroy Ray District 3
Owen E. Taylor District 9

15 Years

Robert R. King District 8
Dwain W. Miles District 2
Jack S. Mitchell District 5
Junus Phillips District 5
Leroy Zachry District 3

10 Years

Otis Butler Traffic
Billy J. Coffee Weight
William M. Cogburn Mail & Supplies
Vernon D. Fielding District 4
Jimmy B. Key District 6
Benjamin F. Loe District 7
Thomas E. Murphy Weight
Larry L. Myers District 3
Joseph L. Utnage District 8
Earl G. White District 3
Emmett O. Woodward P&R
Clifton R. Yates District 4

5 Years

Lloyd J. Adams Weight
Danny E. Arendt ROW
Billie A. Boyd ROW
Arthur M. Duncan District 8
Linward D. Godfrey Records & Repro. District 9
Sherriel R. Jones Traffic
Ronnie L. Putman District 5
Billy B. Rose District 5
Pat J. Sullivan Maintenance

FEBRUARY

25 Years

James R. Godfrey District 9
Eugene Symonds District 4

20 Years

R.C. Brittingham District 10
Troy A. Case District 5
James K. Mathis District 5
Avalee Padgett Equipment
Walker M. Watson ROW

15 Years

Ernest C. Basinger District 5
James J. Blalock District 8
Jeri L. Burks M&T
Joe L. McLaughlin District 4
Wilson E. Miller District 3
L.B. Montgomery District 9
Charles R. Rain, Jr. Traffic
Dayton M. Sloan Traffic
Ben F. Walker District 2

10 Years

Jo Ann Carlile District 10
Gary D. Carte District 4
Ronald H. Dunigan District 1
Charles R. Garner District 9
Maurice G. Hinshaw District 6
William G. Jones Traffic
John T. McCarley District 2
James A. McFerran District 8
Thomas E. Miller District 8
Larry J. Thornburg District 4
Ben I. Watson District 1
Bobby W. Welch Roadway Design
Lee J. Williams District 3

5 Years

Ernestine M. Abel District 1
Phillip E. Chambliss District 7
Michael E. Coogan Bridge Design
Willie F. Gaston District 2
Tommie R. Hocking District 10
Thomas J. Hollis District 7
Ronald W. House District 8
Buford T. Humphries Weight
Hollen Jefferson District 10
William H. McDorman Internal Audit
Janice M. Moore Traffic
Jerry R. Westerman P&R

RETIREMENTS

DECEMBER

Clovis G. Tittle District 3
Jim B. Gates Moro Bay Ferry
Joseph E. Appling District 2
George Billings District 9
Albert Wickersham District 9
John C. Helgen Construction
Cleo Anderson Former employee
Claudis Bryant Traffic



JANUARY

Taylor Howard District 5
John Hughes District 2

FEBRUARY

Willie Bradshaw District 7
Buford Hamilton District 2
Ed N. Orsini Internal Audit
Ralph Davis M&T
Roland Humble Safety
Plymouth Trotter District 4
Harrell Henry Former employee

Around the Department

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE



George Kell and Henry Gray

Director Henry Gray received his 15 year pin and certificate from Highway Commissioner Chairman George Kell in October.

Mr. Gray spent 10 years with the State Game and Fish Commission and was Chief of the Lands Division when he joined the Highway Department as head of the Right-of-Way Division in 1962. He was promoted to Assistant Director in 1967 and was named Director in March, 1973.

ACCOUNTING

By The Staff



Mike Shaw and David Marsh

Mike Shaw, a Cash Forecasting Accountant in the Accounting Division received his five year service award from David Marsh on January 17th. Refreshments were served for the occasion. Congratulations Mike!

CONSTRUCTION

By Gene Ashcraft

John Helgen was forced to take disability retirement in December after 17 years of service to the Highway Department.

John's employment started in the office of Resident Engineer J.C. Perkins, Jr., continued through other residencies, Planning and Research and then into the Construction Office until his retirement. We in the Construction Office will always remember John for his desire to never leave the office until his work was done. We will miss John and wish his recovery to enjoy his quiet life at home.

Sandy Richardson is our latest addition to the Construction Office replacing John Helgen

upon his retirement.

Sandy is married, living in Little Rock with her recently Army discharged husband, Isom. She enjoys sports, often staying up late nights to watch her favorite basketball team, the Razorbacks!

Her education includes graduation from Morrilton High School and training in the Opportunities Industrialization Center in Little Rock.

We welcome Sandy and her quiet mannerisms to the Construction Office.



Sandy Richardson

ENVIRONMENTAL

By The Staff

Bill and Katy Richards are the proud parents of pretty little Sara Kay as of January 11, 1978. She weighed in at 8 pounds, 12 ounces and was 21 inches long. Although Matthew Bryan Davis is almost 7 months old, Bryan and Betty Ruth are still as proud of him as they were the day he was born, August 25, 1977. Congratulations to all our new parents.



Matthew Bryan Davis

On October 29, Gary Bulloch, one of our sign men, married the former Mary Jane Brooks. Ed Short, one of our biologists, recently married the former Melanie York, from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Congratulations to all!

Our annual Christmas Party was held at Bryan's house on December 16. Everyone

had a good time and the food was enough to take anybody off their strictest diet.

The last week of November, Jim Builtman and his band, The Toad Suck Symphony, flew to Cozumel, Mexico to start their seven day cruise. They boarded the Greek ship MTS Jayson and started their cruise that went from Mexico to St. Thomas, Virgin Islands all the way to San Juan, Puerto Rico with many stops in between. They all had a great time.

Steve Wilson and his family had a nice four-day vacation from the snow and ice, in the sand, sun and ninety degree weather of the Grand Cayman Islands. The Cayman Islands are in the British West Indies, 600 miles due south of Miami. Steve and his family had a great time snorkling and swimming in the crystal clear water. Just the mention of ninety degrees make us all wish we could go to the Cayman Islands for vacation.



Cayman Islands

LaVerne Burton has transferred to Environmental from Planning and Research. Her hobbies include antiquing furniture, playing bridge and reading. But her favorite pasttime, of which we hope to take advantage of is gourmet cooking. LaVerne's job in Environmental will be dealing with junkyard control. We are all very happy to have her join us.

We also have a COE student working for us. Her name is Debbie Barrow, a senior at McClellan High School. Her hobbies are horseback riding, swimming, and watching her favorite football team, the Dallas Cowboys. She assists in the renewals of permits and correspondence dealing with signs purchased by the Highway Department. Debbie is a welcomed asset to our office.

INFORMATION SERVICES

By The Staff

Information Services said "farewell" to Vonda Prater on January 13th. Vonda left for Dallas, Texas to begin training as a Flight

Attendant for American Airlines.

Vonda worked five summers for the Department while she was attending the University of Central Arkansas at Conway. Following graduation in May, Vonda returned to Information Services.

As a going away gift, several of her friends had a cake made in the shape of an airplane. We will miss Vonda and wish her the best of luck in her new adventure with the airlines.



Vonda Prater

We would like to welcome Ginger Mitchell to our office. Ginger became an employee of the AHTD on February 9th.



Ginger Mitchell

She initially attended Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas. She joined an International Studies Program sponsored by Chapman College in Orange, California. She and 500 other students from all over the United States traveled by ship around the world. Upon returning she enrolled at the University of Texas where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English.

While living in Austin, Ginger worked for the Secretary of State office in the Corporation Division.

MAINTENANCE

By Debbie Simpson

We would like to welcome William Tyler to our office. William is married and has two children, a girl who was 13 on Valentine's Day and a boy who is 4. We hope that he will be with us for a long time.

Larry Watson and Pat Sullivan had 5 year service anniversaries in December and January. The office celebrated with cake and coffee and we had an outstanding speech from Pat.

We also had service anniversaries in Heavy Bridge Maintenance the first of January. Joe Burchfield, foreman, celebrated 20 years with the Department and Paul Uchtman, a carpenter in Martin Childers' crew, celebrated 25 years. John Hall gave out the pins and certificates and we had more cake and coffee. Mr. Smith (Smitty), former HBM Superintendent, came by to congratulate the two.



From Left to Right: John Hall, Joe Burchfield, Smitty, and Paul Uchtman.

MATERIALS & TESTS

By The Staff

Congratulations to Ralph Davis and John Spurling who received their 15 year service awards in January. Ralph also celebrated a retirement party at the same time. Among the gifts he received was a blond wig from his co-workers. Ralph said it was something that he had always wanted and needed.



Joe Magness and Ralph Davis



John Spurling and Joe Magness

PERMITS

By Angela Blackwell

Mr. and Mrs. V.W. "Buddy" Dumas visited their daughter and her family in Arlington, Texas during the holiday season.

Our section enjoyed a Christmas potluck, complete with smoked ham, a variety of vegetables and an assortment of candies. Our special guests were Mr. Dumas' wife, Katherine, and Sammye Martinez, a former employee in the Permit Section. Mrs. Dumas baked a delicious chocolate cake for us and Sammye brought some homemade candies.

Terry Nanney's mother has been in Memorial Hospital, but is now at home.

Julia Hopkins is home after having surgery at St. Vincent's Hospital. We wish these two a speedy recovery.

Preston Perkiss is sporting a new Chevrolet and enjoying every minute of it. His days of riding in a covered wagon are over, although when monthly payments are due, he wishes he was back in his wagon.

PHOTOGRAMMETRY

By Margaret Hudson

We have two new employees in Photogrammetry, Randy Jones transferred from Bob Cornish's office to our Aerial Photography Section. Randy and his wife, the former Angie Knill, have just recently purchased a new home in North Little Rock.



Lee Christman

Stella Christman, formally Stella Owens, is now working with us in our Cartography Section. Stella is a former employee of the Mapping Section of Planning and Research. Stella now has a little 3 year old son named Lee, who she says is the boss at her house now. Glad to have you back Stella.

Santa Claus left a brand new Pontiac Grand Prix at Bob Barnett's house this Christmas. He must have really been good in 1977. He has already made a weekend trip to Shreveport, La. in it to break it in. He doesn't seem to have any complaints about its performance so he must be pretty satisfied with it. We'll have to find out Bob's secret so maybe next year Santa will think we have been good girls and boys and leave us a Continental or maybe a T-bird.

Larry Sandage's daughter, Chris, was here for the Christmas holidays. She is a 7th grader at Carter Junior High School in Arlington, Texas.

PLANNING & RESEARCH

By The Staff

Doyle M. Hughes recently transferred to the Advance Planning Section from Right-of-Way. He has been with the Department since December 1974 after serving 8 years in the Navy. He has a BSBA degree from Rollins College in Florida and is currently involved in the MBA program at UALR. Doyle and his wife live in Meadowcliff and have two daughters. He is a native of Malvern.

Dorothy Smith enjoyed participating in a recent Urban Transportation Planning System training session in San Francisco in December.

Florence Routh is back at work feeling great after her minor surgery during the December holidays. Her husband and two sons had to do all the Christmas shopping while she was recuperating. They said "next time we'll just write a letter to Santa."

Dale Gossien's son Russell celebrated his entrance to the "Terrible Two's" stage on January 30, 1978 by refusing to dress, undress, bathe, be dried, sit down, stand up, etc. when asked. Dale says this is a most unique experience that has to be lived to be understood. Dale accompanied Bob Tyler of Environmental and officials of the State Department of Pollution Control and Ecology, and Metroplan to an Environmental Protection Agency workshop in Kansas City, Missouri in March on Air Quality Planning.

A new employee, Mike Webb from Jackson, Mississippi, began work November 7, 1977 as a Transportation Planner in the Advance Planning Section. He is a recent graduate of the University of Mississippi with a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning. Mike served four years in the U.S. Air Force and part of this time was spent at the Little Rock Air Force Base. He said he liked Little Rock so well that he just wanted to return here to continue his career. He likes golf and tennis. (This is not official, but rumor has it that he would like to coach an all-girl softball team. Girls - he is unattached!)

Safety message - beware of Doris Griffin. She plays a powerful game of racquet ball. Ask her husband who was taken to the emergency room and received 4 stitches in his lip.

Ed Hoppe has a new addition to his family. His name is Gus and he is a Bassett Hound "puppy" who weighs 33 pounds at 5 months old.

Legena and Luther Keller proudly announce the marriage of their son, Ray, to Suzanne Thomas, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Huey Thomas of North Little Rock. The couple was married on December 31, 1977 in the Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter Day Saints. After a short trip, Ray and Suzanne are making their home in Little Rock, where they are students at UALR. Ray is employed by Bob Cornish's Resident Engineer office and Suzanne is employed by Telephone Answering Service.

Betsy Morrison has been ill, but we hope she will be back soon. In talking to her, she says she misses everyone.

Finance and Economics Section is fortunate to have a new employee. She is Karen Cummings, who has been with the Department for 18 months. We are sure she will make a contribution to our Section.



Jon Robertson

Jon Robertson received his private glider's license last September. We are still waiting to see if Amy Heather Robertson, who is 7 months old, will follow in Daddy's footsteps.



Charles Fraizer

Charles Fraizer, Section Head in Mapping, bagged this beautiful 6-point buck in the November deer hunt at the camp of Bernie Gaiser of District 6. The camp was located in Clark County along the Antoine River.

New car fever has hit in Mapping. Charles Hood purchased a new Cougar, Robert Wilaims bought a new Grand Prix, John Millikin bought a new Monte Carlo and Charles Fraizer has a new Cutlass on order.

Lots of rearranging has gone on in the Mapping Section since the last magazine. The magazine itself was transferred to Information Services. Carolyn Bowden accompanied the magazine and will now be working in Information Services and we were sure sorry to see her leave.

Rail Planning was moved from the conference room into the magazine room so there has been a lot of shuffling going on.

Tommy Littleton of Program Planning has purchased a new home and is now a resident of Saline County.

Ed Johnson spent two weeks in Pensacola, Florida for a National Security Seminar. Dan Morgan was promoted to Senior Master Sergeant E-8 in the Air National Guard in January. And to add to the excitement, Mark Bradley has had his car recalled three times and Charlie Walther's boat sank in Lake Maumelle when the snow and ice caused the awning to fall in on it. We also have two new employees, Becky Nichols from Personnel and Meribeth Adney from Accounting.



Research Bowling Champs

Congratulations to the Research Bowling Team, better known as the "Full House" for coming out on top of the first half of the bowling season. Team members are Ray Gruver, Jerry Rogers, Brenda Long, Steve Teague and Nell Teague.

REPRODUCTION

By The Staff

Congratulations to Dick Godfrey who received his 5 year pin and certificate from Al Dunn in February. Dick is the Supervisor over the 16mm Microfilm section in Records and Reproduction. Coffee and cake was served for the occasion.



Dick Godfrey

RIGHT-OF-WAY

By Shirley Childress

We would like to welcome Cindy Hicks, Tommy Downs, Floyd Rippond and Bill Scroggins to the Engineering Section of Right-of-Way. All four are draftsmen.

Cindy's home town is Calico Rock. She attended Petit Jean Vocation Technical School and was previously employed by Charles Neal Surveys and Investigation.

Tommy is from Mena. He attended UCA and worked for Crow-Burlingame before coming to the Highway Department.

Floyd's home is Little Rock. He played basketball for Parkview High and is now a member of the Right-of-Way basketball team. Floyd also attended UAPB.

Bill Scroggins moved to this area from Cleveland, Arkansas. He was previously employed by Environmental Properties. Bill's hobby is hunting.

Congratulations to David Harmon on his promotion to Right-of-Way Technician in the Engineering Section.

Also congratulations to Billie Boyd of the Administrative Section, Danny Arendt of the Relocation Section and Jim Moody of the Utilities Section upon receipt of their five year service pins and certificates.

Best wishes to Debbie and Gary Holmes who were married December 30 at Calvary Baptist Church in North Little Rock. Debbie is an employee in our Utilities Section and Gary is employed by Timex. They had what you could call a real cool wedding. The gas lines under the church sanctuary had a leak in them and the gas had to be turned off.

ROADWAY DESIGN

By James McLeod

The Roadway Design Division would like to welcome Tom Harrell who is our new engineer. Tom transferred from Planning & Research and he and his wife, Debbie, reside at Floyd, Arkansas and commute some 100 miles a day to work. We all kid Tom about being an "Engineer Outstanding in his Field" because he has his own field which he stands in quite often and herds his cows. But seriously, Tom is a fine engineer and we are pleased to have him.

Bob and Trudy Walters were parents for a second time when their new son, Aaron Robert, made his arrival November 8th, 1977 weighing 8 pounds and 13 ounces. Congratulations to our Section Head.



Aaron Robert Walters

Leo and Cora Priest are also the very proud parents of a daughter, Misty Michelle, born January 19, 1978 weighing 8 pounds and ½ ounce. Leo is still on "Cloud Nine" over the happy occasion.



Misty Michelle Priest

SURVEYS

By The Staff

Congratulations to Frank Battisto, who received his 25 year pin and service certificate from Chief Engineer B.K. Cooper in December.



B.K. Cooper and Frank Battisto

STATE AID

By Shirley Wesson

Chuck Copeland, a senior at Parkview High School works part time in our office. Girls, he is 18 years old and single. He is a member of the VICA or ICT Club which is another name for Inter-Cooperative Training. His instructor for that class is Mr. Forrest Cherry. An engineering class which he is in at Parkview is under the instruction of Mr. Ron Hesselswerdt. We welcome Chuck to our Division.



William Earl Kirkpatrick received his 15 year pin and service certificate in February. Earl is a Section Head in our Division. Earl's wife, Patsy, attended a reception in his honor.

William P. Hogan was presented his 5 year pin and service certificate and Barbara, our Division Secretary received her 15 year service pin. They received a reception of cake and punch.

Barbara Oldham Smith, our Division Secretary, who we lovingly call our "Flower Lady" has written a book on her handcrafted flowers made from Cotton Organdy. "Fantasy Flowers" features instructions for roses, irises, daisies and violets. The special feature of the book is the creation of bridal bouquets. "Fantasy Flowers" is a unique book in that Johnnie Gray, her father, took all the pictures for it, Barbara wrote it, and Randy Reed, a draftsman in our Division did the art work. The book is published and distributed by Foxcraft Publications in Little Rock.



Louie Greene and Barbara Oldham Smith review the first copy of "Fantasy Flowers."

Barbara recently married Jim Smith, a world famous glassblower. Jim has a glass shop at Dogpatch, Arkansas and has recently opened a shop called "A Touch of Glass" on Central Avenue in Hot Springs where he will be demonstrating his glassblowing. Barbara recently appeared in Houston at the "Hobby Industry of America's 41st Trade Show. She demonstrated her flower making in the W.F.R. Ribbon Corp. of New York. Three other appearances are planned for this year in Chicago, Dallas and Atlanta. Good luck to our Flower Lady.



Barbara and Jim Smith

TRAFFIC

By The Staff

Congratulations to Howard Stobener and Henry McCrotty who received their service awards for 30 and 25 years respectively with the Highway Department. Howard and Henry both work for the Sign Shop in North Little Rock.



NOTICE

TO DISTRICT REPORTERS

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the pictures sent in by District 1-9 Reporters were destroyed. We sincerely regret this unfortunate incident occurred. We want to assure you that ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS magazine is making every effort to prevent this recurrence.

Thank you

DISTRICT ONE

By The Staff



District One celebrated their annual Christmas Party on December 8th with a grand evening of good food, fine entertainment and lots of fellowship. Marvin Allen, recently retired on disability, was responsible for bringing in the Mountain Home Square Dancers, and as last year, W.C. Johnson and Thomas & Lomas Rooks furnished the "fiddling." A good time was had by all.



Congratulations to Mildred Stacy, bookkeeper in the District One office who received her service pin and certificate for 30 years of service to the Department.

Others receiving service pins and certificates were Bobbie S. Weight, 25 years; James Spencer, 20 years; and Jim South, 15 years. Congratulations to all of them.

The office "Girls" went to Memphis for an early Christmas celebration of dinner at the Pier. They were Janel McElduff, Linda Thomas, Tippy Wilkins, Lois McCormick, Mona Dallas, Laverne Thompson, Darlene Farmer and Mildred Stacy.

DISTRICT TWO

By Bettye Carter

It's been a winter wonderland here in District Two. Snow, ice and more snow. We want to thank all our dedicated personnel who worked many long hours fighting the elements to keep traffic moving.

District Two held it's annual Christmas Dinner at the District Headquarters with 175 people in attendance. Employees and their families met at noon to enjoy smoked turkey and ham with all the trimmings. Special guests were Highway Commissioner, Patsy Thomasson, Jim Lowder, Johnnie Gray and his wife and retirees including retired District Engineer John S. Harris and Mrs. Harris.

John Hughes, Area Foreman in Desha County, was honored with special recognition on his retirement after 25 years with the Highway Department. The District employees presented a gift of fishing tackle to show their appreciation for years of dedication and loyalty. Mrs. Hughes designed and decorated a cake with the AHTD theme and motif. Miss Thomasson spoke presenting 30 year service awards to Newton J. Suitt, Highway Engineer Assistant I in McGehee, and R.C. Chisom, Motor Patrol Operator in Drew County.

Twenty-five year awards went to Louis C. Parker and Willie G. Peterson, carpenters in the Bridge Crew; Calvin L. Rawls, Equipment Supervisor; Curtis E. Woodfield, District Maintenance Supervisor I; John C. Hughes, Area Foreman in Desha County and Quinton "Pete" Cope, Crew Leader in Jefferson County.

Other recent service awards were presented

to R.L. Brantley, station attendant in Drew County for 15 years of service with the Department.

Ten year service acknowledgement went to Harold Smith, Equipment Operator II Stuttgart and H.H. Henley, Equipment Operator II at Star City.

Five year service awards were presented to George H. Barfield, William Carpenter, Samuel Horton, Allen Bullock and Bettye Carter.

James Sinks and his son Mike, killed a 2-point spike near Kingsland on November 14th at the Saline Siding. James is an Auto Diesel Mechanic and a very cheerful person to work with.

Johnny Yelvington, the Crew Leader in Desha County, killed his limit of squirrels several times this past season, so he said and was verified once by Richard Waller, who didn't find any. During the Thanksgiving hunt, Johnny killed a seven point buck and Charles Ellingburg killed a deer the first season.

Roy Johnson, Highway Engineer Aide IV, killed a six point buck in the November hunt, and a five point buck during the December hunt. Roy seems to be a lucky hunter.

Michael B. Shalmy, son of the District Maintenance Superintendent Brewster Shalmy, was recently promoted to projects manager with the firm of Schenectady Chemicals, Inc. in the electrical division. Living in Scotia, New York with his wife and two daughters, he has been with the company since 1970.

Lester Rabb, Job Superintendent in Drew County, suffered a heart attack before Christmas and is reported to be doing very well. His wife, Ann, says he has been a very good patient. Claudie Lovell also experienced a heart attack recently and will be able to continue working soon. Both Lester and Claudie have been missed and we hope they'll be well soon.

We hear that J.P. Suitt, a retiree from the McGehee Resident Engineer Office is home after being hospitalized in the Lake Village Hospital from a heart attack.

Russell Gaddy, retired bookkeeper in the District Office, died on November 28 after undertaking heart surgery. Mr. Gaddy retired with a heart condition in April, 1973. His brother and two nieces who he raised were his only survivors. We always enjoyed his visits to the District Office and we will miss him very much.



DISTRICT TWO SERVICE AWARDS: Left to Right: Sam Smith, District Engineer; Charlie Earnest, R.C. Chisom, John Hughes, Quinton Cope, Calvin Rawls, Will G. Peterson, C.E. Woodfield and Highway Commissioner for District Two, Patsy Thomasson.

T.G. "Buddy" Orton, Engineer in the Pine Bluff Construction Office, recently underwent surgery in the Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock. Our sincere thoughts and wishes are with Buddy in his speedy recovery.

Returning from a recent trip to Georgia to visit with relatives were Bernard Hart and his wife Jimmie. We missed Bernard walking around with his ten gallon hat. Just call him "LBJ".

Linda Lancey is a new employee with the construction office at Monticello. Born and raised in Illinois, she is the mother of three children, two girls and a boy. Presently she is enrolled in a college accounting course as her hobby. Nice to have you with us Linda.

The employees and their families, in the McGehee Construction office turned a Christmas Party into a house warming for M.D. Bagwell, the Resident Engineer and and his family in their new home. Dinner was potluck with ham, chicken and dressing and all the trimmings. After such a success with this party, a fish fry is planned for summer.

The office staff at the District Headquarters recently had coffee and doughnuts for C.E. "Peanut" Woodfield. District Engineer M.S. Smith presented Mr. Woodfield his 25 year service pin. Mr. Woodfield is the Assistant Maintenance Superintendent for District Two.

DISTRICT FOUR

By The Staff

The District Four Annual Christmas Feast was held at the Creekmore Recreation Center in Fort Smith on December 17, 1977. Special guest included Highway Commissioner J.C. Patterson.

A special tribute was given to employees of the district who received their service awards from Mr. Patterson.



The Christmas menu included foods prepared by the ladies and wives of the District. The return trips for more food indicated the usual fine job done in the preparation.



Santa Claus passed out presents to all the children of District 4.

Santa Claus made a surprise appearance and delighted the children. After all the delicious food was eaten, we settled back and sang our favorite Christmas carols.



District 4 Engineer Calvin Peevy visits with Santa.

Station attendant Ronnie Stubblefield received a trophy as his wife presented him with a baby girl born on December 27, 1977 weighing 7 pounds and 11 ounces.

Service certificates for 15 years of service



DISTRICT FIVE SERVICE AWARDS: Left to Right: Bert Rownd, State Maintenance Engineer; Virgil Taylor, O.H. Stanbrough, Jr., Verlon Roberson, and District Five Engineer, Jim Chaney.



Linda Burton led District 4 employees and their families in singing Christmas carols.

were presented to Troy Ellison, Joe Newell and Emily Rogers. Ten year awards went out to Kenneth Stokes, E.E. Bates, and Darrell Roper. Congratulations to all of these.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Mr. Seay, father of James Seay, District Equipment Supervisor. We send our condolences to James and his family.

Over in Ralph Fulton's Residency, Ron Brixley was presented his five year service certificate. Ralph also reports that the only successful deer hunter in his office was Bob James who bagged an eight pointer weighing 158 pounds.

DISTRICT FIVE

By Marilyn Coffman

On the evening of December 9th, we had a Christmas Party for all District Five employees. There was approximately 337 in attendance, including our guests Mr. & Mrs. Bert Rownd and Mr. & Mrs. Johnnie Gray. Tables were loaded with luscious food and believe me there were plenty of hearty appetites to handle the situation. The program included music by "The Velvet Ridge Boys." Our own employee LaVan McDaniel is one of the members of this group of talented musicians. Mr. Rownd presented 30 year certificates of service to Robert C. Conley and Leo Wright; 25 year awards to Virgil Butler, Jr., David T. Neighbours, Verlon Roberson and O.H. Stanbrough, Jr. A retirement award was presented to Virgil Taylor. We had

a surprise visit from Santa Claus and all the little smiling faces lined up to see him was worth every effort that it took to make the party a success.

Donna Stephens and Keith Egan were recently married in Heber Springs. Donna is the daughter of Area Foreman and Mrs. Virgel Stephens. The couple are now living in College Station, Texas, where the bridegroom is employed by Oceanography International Corp.

Jack S. Mitchell, Equipment Operator I, received his 15 year pin and certificate in January. Jack works for Chester Kin in Stone County. Congratulations Jack.

Also, congratulations to Virgel Stephens, Cleburne County Area Foreman, for completing 20 years of service with the Department.

This reporter is the proud Grandmother of Kristi Parker. She is the daughter of Susan and David Parker of Waldron. I really appreciate the Highway Department keeping the highways clear between Batesville and Waldron during the past snow storms. The mail might not get through, but you can bet Grandma can!

BATESVILLE RESIDENCY

By Brenda Pearson

Congratulations to Jim Leggett, Assistant Resident Engineer, and his wife Mara, on the birth of their daughter Jenny Lynn. Jenny was born on January 20th at White River Medical Center. She weighed 8 pounds and 2 ounces. The Leggett's have one other child, a daughter named Larisa, age 9.

Tom Jones and his wife Shirley have a new baby girl, Kelsey Ann born on January 23rd at the White River Medical Center. She weighed 8 pounds and 4 ounces.

DISTRICT SIX

By Olga Estell

District Six has so many new faces, you might wonder where you are and if you are in the right place. The sign over the door, plainly states "DISTRICT SIX".

Dan Flowers, is the District Six Engineer and Hurley Perkins from Maintenance is his assistant. Charles Hesselbein from Paragould is the new Maintenance Superintendent and George Ingle is his assistant.

Our new office manager is Al Kisner, who comes from Internal Audit. He has been with the Department since September 1976. Al is



DISTRICT SIX SERVICE AWARDS: Left to Right: John Bland, Troy Henderson, Gérard Dumeny, Coy Pruitt, Frank Williams, Ralph Jones and M.E. Rogers with Commissioner Patsy Thomasson.

married and has two daughters and one son.

Fred Doles, Highway Engineer Aide IV, is our present Permit Clerk. Fred was hired into the Department by Jim Gee and worked in Construction for five years under Bobby Cornish. Fred graduated from Horace Mann High School and attended AM&N College in Pine Bluff. His major was Vocational Arts. He is a 32 Degree Mason and belongs to the J.H. Blount Blue Lodge No. 472. Fred is married and has one son, Fred, Jr., who is 6, and twin daughters, Quaner LeShea and Quin Shea, who are 5 years old. We are anxious to visit with the twins and little Fred. Fred is also on the EAC panel at District Six.

Bonita Dobbs is a new addition to the Stock Room. She is married to Cecil and has a son, Charles, who is 12, and a daughter, LaWanda, who is 9. Both attend Mabelvale Junior High School.

Larry Moore, also in the Stock Room and his lovely wife Beverly have two little girls. Shanna, 3 years old and Malanya, who is 1 year old. Larry is a transfer from District Four in Fort Smith and has been with the Department since July 1977.

Before the magazine time rolled around again, Eileen Taylor, who transferred to District Six from P&R, became our new fuel clerk. This position was vacated by Shirley Jackson who moved to Lonoke. Eileen was with District Six originally and took time out to have Jennifer who is now 4 years old. Welcome back home Eileen, back to the starting line.

Angela Johnson has been hired as our newest receptionist.

I have been here three years and I feel like an "oldster". Georgia Russenberger has been here since time began, and I dare not ask her anything!

HOT SPRINGS RESIDENCY

By The Staff

Wedding bells rang from Romosha Harper and Bill G. Bridges at Mt. Tabor Baptist Church on Saturday, January 14th. Vows were exchanged before an arch decorated with daisies and holly, with candelabras holding blue candles and standing bouquets completing the setting. A program of wedding music was presented by Sally Smith, pianist and Teresa Robertson, soloist. After a wedding trip to Tennessee, Mr. and Mrs. Bridges will reside in Hot Springs, where Romosha is employed at this

resident engineer's office and Bill is a wildlife officer with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission assigned to Garland County.

We would like to extend our best wishes to Chuck Tully and Rodney Landers who will be transferred to Larry Polk's Residency in Little Rock and Duffie Gage and Jack Hollingshead, who transferred to Gayle Gunn's Residency in Malvern.

Duffie Gage and his wife Cindy, became parents of a new baby girl in November. Congratulations Duffie and Cindy.

Happy Birthday greetings go to Bill Pierce, Larry Breshears, Billy Karber, Arvin Shuffield, Charles Means and Oliver Rash.

RALPH B. JONES RESIDENCY

R. Christian Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph B. Jones of Little Rock, has entered the Ph.D. program in Plant Ecology at the University of Wisconsin at Madison this fall. He is studying algal community ecology in a small lake near Madison. Chris is a graduate of Hall High School, completed his undergraduate work at Rice University and was awarded his Master of Arts in Aquatic Biology at Vanderbilt University. He has just completed a six month appointment as a research scientist at Battelle Northwest Laboratories in Richland, Washington. While at Battelle, he led a field sampling program in Hopewell, Virginia exploring the distribution of the dangerous pesticide "Kepone" in the historic James River estuary and watershed.

DISTRICT SEVEN

By The Staff

We have had some snow, lots of ice, and too many cold days this winter. Most of us are now ready for Spring.

Mildred Russ, our fuel clerk, spent a delightful vacation with friends and relatives in Bozeman, Montana. Fortunately, this was in the Fall before the bad weather began.

Frankie and Hurley Low have a new grandson, Jessie Heath, born to their daughter, Karen and her husband, Danny Wood, on November 29, 1977. Congratulations to all!

Deer seasons are past but we don't dare forget to list the skilled hunters who bagged one last Fall. (I probably should say the "lucky" hunters are James Jones, George Griffis, Ronnie Belt, Coy Campbell and sons, Mark and Scott each got one, Gene McMahan, Charles Binns, Bobby Dale Reddin, John Livingston, and Alan Cheatham.

Robert Hamaker, Bradley County Area Foreman, didn't need a gun to get his - the deer ran into his car.

Louise McMahan, District Receptionist, also had an experience with two deer who ran into her path, one hitting the side of her car, she slowed down however and both remained intact.

Althea Campbell, District Secretary, and her husband, Elwood, are extremely proud of their daughter-in-law Joan Campbell of Russellville. Joan was chosen to represent Xi Beta Nu, Exemplar chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, as their 1978 Sweetheart and was crowned during a Valentine's dinner dance on February 18th. Joan is the wife of Althea and Elwood's son, Robert, who is a coach at Arkansas Tech in Russellville.

A.W. HARDY RESIDENCY

By Theda Huffman

On November 4th, District Seven lost a good friend and co-worker, Mr. Rueben Fields. Rueben was a familiar face around this construction office and will be greatly missed. We extend our greatest sympathies to his family.

We had just one lucky deer hunter this past season. J.A. Cheatham, Highway Engineer Aide IV, killed two, one 7 point and one 10 point buck.

Mr. G.C. Wise is back home again after having surgery at the Schumpert Medical Center in Shreveport. He is a Highway Engineer Aide IV for our office and we wish him a speedy recovery.

DISTRICT EIGHT

By The Staff

Those receiving service awards in December were Robert A. Murdock, and Thomas L. Crites, 10 years; Thurman R. Hankins and Jack K. Brown, 15 years.

Those receiving service awards in January were Arthus Duncan, 5 years; J.L. Utnage, 10 years; and Rod King, 15 years.

W.C. Dought received his 25 year pin and certificate from Area Foreman James McFerran on December 27th at the Perry County Area Headquarters at Perryville. He was honored by his fellow employees with cake and coffee.

Bobbie Moore, wife of our District Engineer, is a member of the Russellville Junior Auxiliary. One of the Christmas projects was to don different costumes and visit schools and nurseries in the Russellville area distributing candy to the children. Bobbie's costume was a beautiful clown outfit.

December 16 was the date and the District Shop was the setting for our annual District-wide Christmas Party. We were pleased to have as our guests Mr. & Mrs. Hurley Perkins, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Looney and Mr. & Mrs. Johnnie Gray, all from Little Rock. Everyone enjoyed visiting and renewing acquaintances with our retirees and each others families. Of course there was turkey and dressing and all of the trimmings. Santa Claus made a flying trip in from the North Pole to visit with the kiddies and a few grown-ups too, to see if they had been naughty or nice. District Engineer, David Moore, took the opportunity to hand out service awards.



Santa Claus as he drops in on all the children and employees of District Eight.

Recipients were Ellis Dean Ferguson, Sherman Moore, and Charles Brad Thomas. Fuel



Ellis Ferguson
25 Year Service Award



Charles Thomas
30 Year Service Award



Sherman Moore
Retirement Certificate

clerk Brenda Colburn's daughters, Lora and Sheila, sang a couple of real pretty songs, and so did Terry and Evan Chronister of Lamar. Our District Engineer's daughter, Rhonda Moore, along with a friend entertained us with an exciting baton twirling act.



Lora and Sheila Colburn



Terry and Evan Chronister



Rhonda Moore and friend entertain with baton twirling act.



DISTRICT NINE

By Shirley Morton

Our Get Well Wishes are sent to two of our retirees, Pete Sims and B.I. Wade who are in the hospital. We hope they will make a speedy recovery and get back to their homes soon.

Curtis Pangle, Jr., son of our District Engineer, received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Parks and Recreation from Arkansas Tech in December. Congratulations and Good Luck in the future "Beeno".

District Nine was covered with snow and ice for several days - 12 to 14 inches of snow and several inches of ice. Our crews worked around the clock under very hazardous conditions in near zero weather to clear the highways and to keep traffic moving with only minor difficulties. Thanks fellows for the good work - it was appreciated.

A Nuclear Density Gauge Training Course instructed by J.L. Briley, Assistant M&T Engineer, was held in the District on November 17th. Those attending and certified as qualified users of the gauge were V.O. Selby, G.L. Godfrey, C.R. Garner, J.W. Brisco, J.L. Owens, Marion Downs, James Cole, Mitch Blankenship, Lloyd Burgess and Brian Schwartz.

Congratulations to W.R. Shelton, Jr. who received his 15 year service award for efficient and loyal service to the Department in Newton County.

Six 1977 retirees were entertained at a party on November 10th at the District Headquarters. They were Fred Graves, Bill Bailey, Elmo Campbell, Jack Renfroe, Arnold Billings and Ab Wickersham. Fred was ill and unable to attend and was represented by his daughter, Mary. Bill also could not attend the party. Cake, coffee and punch was served to many of their friends who extended good wishes for a happy retirement. We wish them good luck and good health throughout their retired years and hope they will come back to visit us at each opportunity they have.

Equipment Supervisor Bill McMullen and Mrs. McMullen have announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Diane, to Larry Grigg of Green Forest. Diane and Larry will be united in marriage on March 24th at the Harrison Bible Church. They will live at Green Forest and operate a Grade A dairy farm.

Congratulations to our part time office employee, Patricia McCauley, who was wed to Steve Barnard on Friday evening January 27th at the First Methodist Church in Harrison.

The District Nine Christmas Party at Marble Falls Convention Center was enjoyed by over 300 employees, their families and guests, who feasted on ham and many delicious covered dishes. Dr. Bill Baker, President of North Arkansas Community College was guest speaker for the evening festivities and his words were enjoyed and appreciated by all.



Dr. Bill Baker



Gus Smith



Our Commissioner, Mr. J.C. Patterson, presented 25 Year Service Awards to Harley Thomason, E.C. Widner and Vernie Berry. A retirement certificate was presented to Hugh Perryman who retired with 33 years of service to the Henderson Ferries. Gus Smith, a local guitarist, entertained throughout the evening and his music was thoroughly enjoyed. The visit from Santa was another highlight of the evening for the youngsters and grownups too. Many of the children visited with Santa and gave him a hug. Candy was distributed by his helpers, Scott and Tim Hodnett. Thank you again Hugh Bell - you were a perfect Santa and we appreciated your help.



Edwina Jones returned to work at the Bentonville Residency in November after being away for several weeks due to the birth of her son, Matthew. Edwina and David are now the proud parents of two boys, Mervin Clark and little Matthew and one daughter, Amy.

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Tony Hathcoat on the birth of their second son, Justin Van, born on January 22nd. Their eldest, Jason Edwin Clerk, will be three in April.

The District Nine AHTD Olympics (Track Event) will be held in the spring - the exact date is unknown at this time - at the High School track. So far, Jim Selby and Dennis Jarrett are slated for the 100 yard dash and maybe the 440. They are rigidly training for these events. Dennis says he is Number One and Jim says Dennis won't make it off the starting block. Bets are on and we hope to have other entrants - any volunteers? Lets make this a big event.

DISTRICT TEN

By Isabelle Psalmonds

This has been a busy winter. The men have been working day and night for several weeks trying to keep the roads clear of snow and ice. Most people appreciate their efforts. There have, of course, been letters, calls and newspaper articles criticizing the AHTD for its slowness and negligence in clearing the roads, but there have been those who have let us know that they appreciate the efforts made and who have said "Thank You". Regardless of commendation or condemnation by the public, the AHTD em-



ployee continues to do the best job he can with the time and equipment he has available.

On September 1, 1977, the AHTD Area Headquarters building at Osceola which also housed the Resident Engineer's office was partially destroyed by fire.

Mr. Pumphrey, District Engineer, wrote a letter to the Mayor and Fire Chief of Osceola expressing the appreciation of the AHTD for the efficient way in which the fire was extinguished, keeping the building and its contents from being a total loss. The building could be repaired and most of the records were saved - some are a little scorched and all of them smell of smoke, but they are usable.

The Area Headquarters has been repaired and the Resident Engineer and his crew are in a new building which was in the process of being built when the fire occurred.

Melvin Brown, Area Foreman, Lawrence County, and his son-in-law went duck hunting. They killed two big Canadian Geese. One weighed 9 lbs. and the other 11 lbs. and had a wing span of 66". Congratulations!



Garland Gilmore and Melvin Brown

Melvin also visited his mother, Mrs. Josie Brown, who lives at Caraway and helped her celebrate her 89th birthday. Congratulations, Mrs. Brown, and may you have many more happy birthdays.



Mrs. Josie Brown

Charles Hesselbein, who was Assistant Maintenance Superintendent in District Ten was promoted on the 1st of January to Maintenance Superintendent in District 6 and he and his family have moved to Little Rock.

District Ten employees had cake and coffee to celebrate the occasion and gave Charlie a leather jacket as a token of their affection for him.

He and his wife Betty are showing the beautiful cake and Charlie with his new jacket. Charlie was good to have around and we miss him, but we wish for him much success in District 6.



Betty and Charles Hesselbein

As a result of Charlie's move, Rex Hall was promoted to Assistant Maintenance Superintendent. Rex has been with the Department 19 years and has been a Job Superintendent for several years. He lives on a farm near Paragould. Rex is the one who is always bringing in pictures of his beautiful grandchildren. Good luck in your new responsibilities, Rex.

Leonard Nelson, Clay County Area Foreman, was promoted to Job Superintendent. Leonard, his wife Linda, and their son Brad have moved to Paragould. They have one daughter who is married. Welcome to Paragould, Leonard and Linda. We hope you like it and that you enjoy your new job.

J.W. "Jerry" Cook was promoted to Clay County Area Foreman. Congratulations to all of these men.



Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Swindle

Alice Dearin and Darrell Swindle were married on November 19, 1977 in the Ember Glo Party Room. Rev. Chris Cooper performed the ceremony. The bride is the daughter of Watchman, Harold Dearin, and Mrs. Dearin of Stanford and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C.T. Swindle of Paragould.

District Ten employees and their families - some 400+ strong - had a Christmas party in the District Shop and all had a good time. Mr. Mack Harbour and Mr. Larry McFadden of Paragould

furnished entertainment. We had a good meal and good fellowship. Several retirees were present. Mr. Arthur Dodge, age 84, was the eldest retiree and the one who has been retired the longest. He retired 19 years ago but is still quite active. It was good to have him and the others at the party.



Dorothy Hancock gets her share of the food.



District Ten employees and families at Christmas Dinner.



Jennifer Lynn Forbis helps draw names for the door prizes.



Some of the District Ten youngsters anxiously waiting the arrival of Santa Claus.



David Solomon and Norman Pumphrey



David Solomon and Chester Cooper



David Solomon and O.R. Glover



SOUTHWEST TOASTMASTERS ELECT NEW OFFICERS

Recently elected officers of Southwest Little Rock Toastmasters Club are from left to right: Bill Stanton, Administrative Vice President; Jeannie Barrett, Educational Vice President; Bob May, President; Mark Bradley, Secretary-Treasurer; and Melanie Keene, Sergeant-at-Arms. The club meets every Friday at noon. More than two-thirds of the members are Highway and Transportation Department employees.



WHO AM I?

The foot that pattered in primeval slime gave me birth.

Unchanged while the ages pass, I have endured. Time has but served to increase my infinite variety. Earth-born and without a soul, yet I have lived. From the beginning have I been man's enemy.

A dust-colored python am I, stretching my length across hills, awaiting my time to crush endeavor.

I have snared caravans that left bleaching bones in land now desert.

Empires have fallen because of me.

I have turned victories into routs; I have trapped mighty leaders and have crushed enemies.

I am without faith; and those who trust me I deceive.

Today I am fair to look upon; tomorrow a steaming bog.

I add difficulty to distance.

With isolation do I conspire to unjoint the endeavors of man. I tug at the wheels of the gristing cart, that bread may be dear. I hamper those that would feed the race.

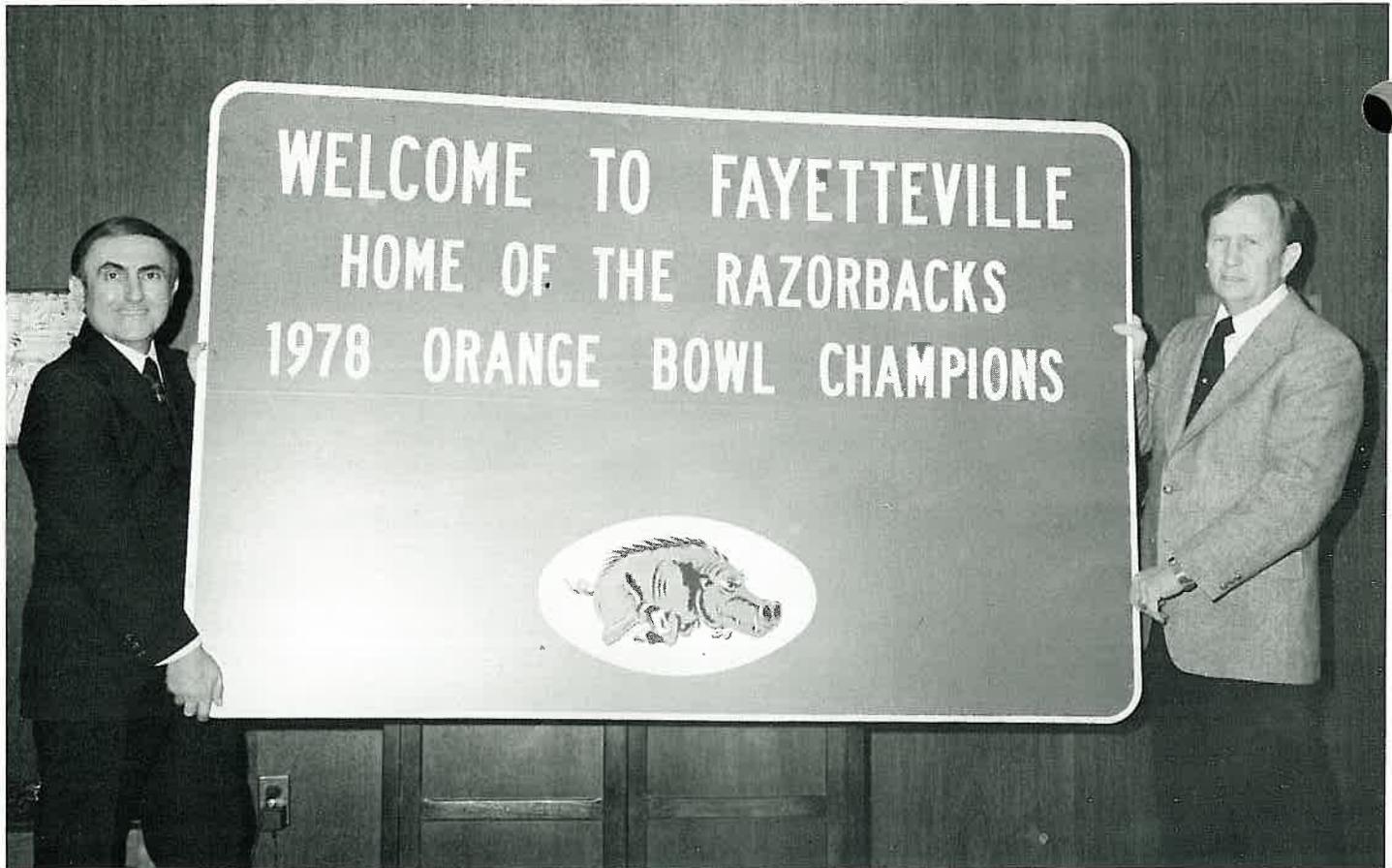
I am an enemy of church and school. I mire the healer on his rounds and delay the coming that little ones may die.

I am a disrupter of the home. I speed the first born to the cities when I am fair to see; and when he would return I face him with my forbidden depths. I minister to bitterness and lay a tax on all the world. There is none who lives who does not pay me tribute.

When man plowed with a crooked stick I was there.

When the ancients covered me with stones I slipped away to other lands. I am the oldest line that lives today. Men count me cheap. I know the price they pay who count me so.

I am the unimproved highway. My name is MUD!



Mr. B.K. Cooper, Deputy Director and Chief Engineer, and Henry Gray, Director of the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department display the Razorback sign presented to the Department.

AHTD Receives Razorback Sign

On February 8th, a large package was delivered to the 10th floor of the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Building to Mr. B.K. Cooper. The following letter was received by Mr. Cooper with the package.

January 30, 1978

Mr. Billy Cooper
Arkansas Department of Transportation
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Billy:

On January 3rd we received a call from the City of Fayetteville. They wanted some new City Limits signs. After we got the description and I saw what the thing would look like, I was sure that Coach Barry Switzer and the Oklahoma team would want one of these signs to hang on their locker room wall. I was advised very quickly that they did not need anymore reminders, therefore, I thought that you might enjoy having this somewhere around the Department.

I'm sure the City of Fayetteville could have obtained this sign from a company in Arkansas however, they must have felt like it had much more meaning if it came from an Oklahoma firm.

Very sincerely yours,
VEPED TRAFFIC CONTROLS, INC.
Bill McCurdy, Secretary-Treasurer



SNOW & ICE

January and February were months plentiful of snow and sleet. Highway and Transportation Department employees worked continuously spreading chemicals and scraping the roadways of the State's highway system to make them possible for traffic.





Arkansas State Highway
& Transportation Department
Post Office Box 2261
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

