

ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS

WINTER 1986

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

LACK OF FEDERAL FUNDS DELAYS HIGHWAY WORK

When the 99th Congress adjourned in October it had not taken action on a new Federal Aid Highway Act. The funding bill would have appropriated federal highway funds to the individual states for the current fiscal year. As a result, the State Highway Commission cancelled the November bid letting.

Until Congress acts on a new bill, the Highway and Transportation Department has only a limited amount of federal funds available. These funds are restricted to the Interstate System and the Bridge Replacement Program. The Commission plans to award a limited number of contracts in January which will utilize most of the remain federal funds. After that, we will have to wait for Congress to pass a new Act before we can continue with any additional federal aid projects. Of course, we plan to continue getting plans ready for approval so that when the funds are available, we will be able to schedule a bid letting.

Both the Senate and the House came up with separate versions of a highway bill, but major differences in the bills were not ironed out before Congress adjourned. It is our hope that, when Congress convenes next year, these differences can be quickly resolved. There are many highway improvement projects in Arkansas that are being tied up.

Among them is the replacement of the remaining ferries on the highway system. A provision to allow bridge replacement funds to be used to replace the ferries was included in both versions of the bill. Included in the House bill was special funding for use on the Highway 71 relocation project in northwest Arkansas, and additional funding for improvements for Highway 63 in Jonesboro. The Senate bill did not include these provisions.

We would also like to see greater equity in the distribution of federal highway funds. Arkansas receives only about 71 cents back for each dollar paid into the Highway Trust Fund. Only five other states receive a lower return.

Looking back over the past year it is clear that we are continuing to work diligently to improve the highway system for the citizens of Arkansas. The Rural Road Program is moving along slightly ahead of schedule. This work could not have been accomplished had it not been for the dedication and hard work of our employees. The Highway Commissioners and I want to express our thanks to you for this dedication and wish you and your families the very best for this holiday season.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Henry Gray". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Henry Gray
Director of Highways and Transportation

ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS



ARKANSAS STATE
HIGHWAY COMMISSION

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Chief Engineer

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FRONT COVER PHOTO: Highway 270 north of Malvern in Hot Spring County. Photograph by John Jackson.

BACK COVER PHOTO: Highway 70 west of Benton in Saline County. Photograph by John Jackson.

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An Interview With Patsy Thomasson



Patsy Thomasson's ten-year term on the Arkansas Highway Commission will expire in January 1987. She was appointed January 28, 1977 by former Governor David Pryor. At the time of her appointment she was Associate Administrator at Doctor's Hospital in Little Rock. She is currently Executive Vice President of Phoenix, Inc. of Little Rock. In a recent interview with Assistant Public Affairs Officer Bill Stanton, she reflected on the progress and accomplishments of the Highway and Transportation Department during her years on the Commission.

STANTON: I can't believe it's been ten years. . .

THOMASSON: Well, it's sure hard for me to believe, Bill. It's the first time in my life that I ever committed to do anything for ten years when I agreed to serve on the Highway Commission. When you went to school, that was just something you have to go do. But having never been married or anything like that - a ten-year commitment on the Highway Commission was the longest I've ever committed to do anything.

STANTON: What do you consider to be some of the major accomplishments that have occurred over those years?

THOMASSON: Well, of course, the biggest thing that I think the Highway Commission has done in the last few years has got to be the Rural Road Program. To me, it's the backbone of our system and the backbone of everything we're doing at the Highway Department. I think that the work that we did two years prior to the Legislature passing the Rural Road Program was so important - and for a variety of reasons. One is that everybody got involved. All of the districts were involved and almost everybody in the Department was involved - in some form or fashion - and then everybody in the State kind of got involved. We talked to civic clubs in small towns and big towns, we talked to all kinds of groups about it. We had all those fish fries all over the State. I just think that the Rural Road Program is the single most important accomplishment that the Commission did during my tenure.

STANTON:

If that has to be the highlight, what do you consider to be some of the disappointments?

THOMASSON:

There were so many projects that we would get started - and yet not ever really see giant steps taken on them. It's the most disappointing thing of all when Charlie Venable (Assistant Chief Engineer - Planning) brings in that list of jobs and there may be anywhere from 20 to 40 jobs on that list - and it gets right down to the bottom line - maybe we could do four or five - and then we could only do small parts of those four or five jobs. The people on Highway 82 in Southeast Arkansas deserve to have that job done for them. The people in Hot Springs that wanted a four-lane highway between Malvern and Hot Springs certainly deserved to have that job done quicker. And I could name primary highways all over the State of Arkansas that need to have substantial repairs and reconstruction done on them - and we are simply not in a position financially to be able to do it as quickly and as rapidly as we'd like to. Another thing that's disappointing is when we have public hearings at the commission meetings - and people from some small rural area who have lived on a gravel road for 20 or 25 years come in and sincerely believe they need to have a paved highway. And not anybody on the commission disagrees with them, but you have to sit there and tell them that - no, there aren't any funds in which to do that.

"...the Rural Road Program is the single most important accomplishment that the Commission did during my tenure."

STANTON:

Usually, those people come into Little Rock and see the work on the Interstate System and they have a hard time understanding why you can't pave their road.

THOMASSON:

I think that's exactly right, Bill. I think that's a point well made. People who live on a rural road come to Little Rock and they can see the construction going on on the Interstate and they can't understand why their eight or ten miles of rural roads couldn't be paved. Why can we do this in Little Rock and we can't do that in the rural area. I'm from Little Rock but I was born in rural Arkansas. It was hard for me because those people couldn't understand - it's hard for them to understand that we get special categories of funds from the Federal Government. And I can remember when I was first appointed to the Highway Commission there were 39 different sources of Federal funds and you could only use this money for this particular thing. You couldn't break it out and use it for anything else - and the Federal government has simply said - we don't care about your gravel roads, we don't care about your secondary roads, we don't care about rural Arkansas, what we want to do is finish the interstate and maintain the primary system and help with the bridges - and essentially that's all they want to help with. But to explain that to the people from rural Arkansas, with all this construction going on in Little Rock, it's just simply hard for them to understand - and it was hard for me to understand at first - and it took a lot of time and energy and willingness to study it to really understand.



STANTON:

Funding, as you mentioned, has always been a problem and probably always will - but during the time that you've been on the Highway Commission, there was an increase in the registration fees, a gas tax increase, the Highway Use Equalization tax, and then the Rural Road Program. Do you think we've got all we're going to get for highways - or are there other programs that will come along and help out?

THOMASSON:

We can never say that's all we're going to get for highways. We have our Rural Road Program - and that's important. At the same time, we recently met with the industrial developers of the State of Arkansas. Those people who are interested in the economic development of Arkansas believe the real secret of getting companies to come to Arkansas to locate plants is to have a four-lane highway. And I know that many times when I'm working with a community or when a community calls me and says that we have a chance to get this industry - can you help us with this road or can you help with that road. They want a four-lane highway. It's always to do with a four-lane highway. I don't think that getting a program put together to build four-lane highways in Arkansas is a short-term project. I think that Commissioner Dalton Farmer might see that become a reality the last two years he's on the Commission. It's going to take a real cross section of the people of Arkansas. It's going to take the Arkansas Industrial Development group - it's going to take the AIDC - it's going to take a massive educational program - just like we did for the Rural Road Program - or similar to what we did with the Rural Road Program - to make sure that economic development begins to happen in Arkansas. Bill Cooper (Chief Engineer) one time said we built roads when the demand was there and we're not planning for the future. Somebody took that out of context and said you mean the Highway Department doesn't plan for the future. You know, we plan for the future - and we can tell you where the four-lane highways need to be - in all likelihood based on the current traffic volumes - projected traffic volumes and economic development - and all those kinds of things. But, at the same time, there's just simply not the money to do it with. If we all work together - and I mean everybody - if we could get everybody to work together then we could make an industrial development road program become a reality. In the General Assembly we should think about it in those terms because there's still a lot of highway user taxes that I know go into the general revenue. The sales tax on new cars and trucks are highway user taxes. You don't buy a car and let it sit up on blocks - you drive on our highways. Those taxes on new cars and trucks ought to come to the Highway Department to build better roads with. Now saying that alone makes everybody who depends on general revenues come out of their skin because they don't want us to rob general revenues - but I think we'll just have to - and maybe that means they'll just get into some sales tax to offset what will come out to build more roads with. That's why I say it can't be a short-term project.



STANTON:

Do you think that's the right approach? Industrial developers want four-lane highways so they're going to try to get a program started for them - somebody wants another type of program done - they try to get one going for them. Is earmarking a program for rural roads, four-lane highways, or what have you, the way to get it done?

THOMASSON:

Well, I kind of think it is. I've come around from where I was when I first went on the Highway Commission. I wasn't too excited about drawing maps and drawing highways on maps and getting the Commission tied to it. But it certainly helped with the Rural Road Program. The same thing would happen with industrial development. We have to develop a map showing which roads would become four-lane highways. I think it does a lot of things. For one - it's a strong indication to the people on what we're going to do with the money. Generally, I believe taxpayers do not mind paying increases in taxes if they know where the money is going to be spent. At the same time, if a program is sellable, if it's structured where it's sellable and structured to where the people know where the money is going to be spent - I think we could sell them. Elderly persons who have paid taxes all their life, and have worked and had a good productive life, may not be interested in paying more taxes. If you sell that person on the idea it's going to serve their daughter or their grandchild in staying in Arkansas in a good job, then that's sellable to them. They understand that kind of thing. They're not excited about their grandchildren going off to Dallas or going off east, or Chicago or some place, they really had rather they would stay right here at home. And all of us think - at least I think - that the quality of life here is so much better than it is in a big city. You have to be very imaginative in the way you sell an economic development program, but it can be done.

"You have to be very imaginative...but it can be done."

STANTON:

A Management Audit Study was recently completed that has been a controversial issue ever since the day it came out. Do you think that even with all of the controversy surrounding it that there still is some good in it?

THOMASSON:

There are things there we can make improvements in. Certainly, the Management Audit Study Commission has been controversial - we took exceptions - and there's been controversy about whether there's been deals made or whether there weren't deals made - and to my knowledge there wasn't any deal made about getting the 4 cents/2 cents tax passed (Rural Road Program). The people that were appointed (to the MARS Committee), there were so many of them who had conflicts of interest. And I don't want to just talk about the contractors on that. George Kell, who is a former Chairman of the Highway Commission, certainly had a conflict. At the same time I think he was put there to off-set the people that were on the other side. There were industry people on there that we've been fighting for years and we knew what they would be after. Henry (Gray) and I went out and met with the Management Audit Committee the first time and they gave us an audience of five minutes or less and they told us they might go over other agencies but they didn't anticipate they would really even have time to do that. And it was only after we created a lot of stir and a lot of discussion that they went on to all the agencies that they were mandated to do by law. Even then, they concentrated more on the Highway Department than they did on any other agency. I am convinced that this kind of audit was meant to point out the negatives and not point out any of the positives. But I do think there are things that we can use to make the Highway Department grow into a more efficient operation. They asked us in our interview the kind of things that we'd like to see them look at. One of the things I always said to look at is our computer systems. I wanted them to look and determine whether or not it might be feasible for us to lease some of our equipment rather than own it outright. Yet neither of those issues were really looked into by the Audit. The other concern that we had, and the problem that all of us really wanted them to look at was whether or not we were collecting all the motor fuel tax that we ought to be able to collect. There's a real conflict about whether those have all been collected - not just in Arkansas, but across the country. It's an important issue because if we're losing as much money as we think we could be losing then that might represent \$20 to \$25 million a year to put on highways because there are people who bring their fuel in (to Arkansas) that's not been taxed. It's not fair for one guy to be taxed and somebody else get by without paying taxes. Everybody ought to pay the same. I'm sorry that the report is not more positive in nature.

STANTON: *When you came onto the Highway Commission – did you have any preconceived notion of what the Commission and the Highway Department was all about?*

THOMASSON: I guess that of all the people that have ever served, I came in with my mind in a blank state with regard to the Highway Commission. I'd be dishonest if I didn't say I didn't even know any of the Commissioners that were on it. I knew who Henry Gray (Director) was, but that was about the extent of my knowledge of the Highway Department. At the time that I was appointed I knew absolutely nothing about the Highway Department, how it worked. I didn't know -- I just didn't know anything. My first trip, after I was appointed, was with Charlie Venable. He called me and said we'd drive down to South Arkansas and look at things - and I was going to make a speech at McGehee. He said, what time do you want to leave? And I said, I want to get a lot done - let's leave at seven in the morning. Well, at ten he let me stop and go to the bathroom - and at noon we made the speech - and after lunch we toured this new plant at McGehee - and we got back to Little Rock about seven o'clock that night. Well, I learned a lot that day - learned about laying asphalt and pouring concrete and ditch paving and curbs and gutters - and all kinds of things. We were driving all the time and we were talking all the time. Charlie really gave me a great education in that beginning day. If you wanted to learn, you could learn so much about the Department real, real rapidly - and then in Commission meetings, in the beginning, I just tried to sit as quietly as I possibly could and absorb what was going on and how it worked. I have enjoyed every minute of it.

STANTON: *You were the second woman ever appointed. The only one to serve a full term - and the only one to serve as Chairman of the Commission. With all the attention that was focused on that in the beginning, and occasionally throughout your term, has that proved to be a disadvantage or do you see that as an advantage?*

THOMASSON: No - I'm real prejudiced about that. I just think it's always an advantage of being the only one of anything - I mean if you're the only woman in the crowd, I certainly think that's an advantage. If you're the only one that has some notoriety I just don't see that as a disadvantage at all. There have been times when I've felt a little concerned about being the only woman but most of the time I've felt real good about it. I have not felt that my peers on the Commission have been unfair to me at all. But generally speaking, they're all very, very fair and I can't say that I haven't enjoyed serving with all of them. I have learned from all of them.



"...if you're the only woman in the crowd, I certainly think that's an advantage."

STANTON:

You have another distinction too, the fact that you were the youngest at the time - you were 29 years old when you were appointed to the Highway Commission.

THOMASSON:

I thought that age might be a factor because I was only 29 years old. That really didn't turn out to be a problem at all. In fact, being young, in my opinion, turned out to be an advantage because I had a lot of energy and I could do lots of things and always made lots of speeches - and as you say, when I was first appointed, because I was different, I got to make a lot more speeches than I might not have under other circumstances.

"...serving on the Highway Commission is probably the highlight of my life."

STANTON:

You brought up a point about the number of speeches you were asked to give in the beginning and how that really has carried on. That, and trying to make all dedications, ground breakings, or whatever they try to get the Highway Commission there for, plus during that time you have your own profession to run. How have you been able to fit all of that in and still get it to come out right?

THOMASSON:

Well, sometimes it doesn't. It's like eating biscuits and molasses - it doesn't always come out the same. Sometimes you have a flow of molasses left over and you don't have enough biscuit left over. I don't ever have quite enough time to do all the things in a day that I would like to do. When you have, and you take on added responsibilities, you ought to try to do them all if you can and I've missed some dedications in that ten-year time frame. I hate missing any of that and I just always have tried to fit it all together. I guess that the one thing that's suffered in the last ten years is my own personal life. I spend so much time doing my own work and then doing the Highway Commission work, that I haven't spent a lot of time in developing friends outside of the Department and friends outside of my work.

STANTON:

What affect has that had on your personal life?

THOMASSON:

My family has been very patient with me over the last few years in terms of knowing they couldn't make as many demands on my time as they would under normal circumstances. My mom is a lot better than the others because I'd go home every time I could and participate when something was going on. My two brothers are pretty independent and they prefer me to do whatever I want to do. The real area that has been sacrificed is development of friendship. You just can't work eight or ten or twelve or fourteen hours a day and then still go out and if somebody calls me for a school night date - I just don't go. I just can't get up the next morning if I go out, so I do think that my social life has suffered - but I wouldn't change it for the world. I've enjoyed it and I just don't let it bother me. We'll see what happens the next ten years.

STANTON:

Knowing what you know now, would you do it again?

THOMASSON:

Oh, yes. Oh, yes. Every time I've done something I've thought, "well maybe this is the best thing I have ever done". I thought when I went to work for Wilbur Mills in Washington, right out of college, that was the greatest thing I had ever done. I had more fun, I learned more, it was just a great time in my life. When I got appointed to the Highway Commission I think that's probably the greatest thing that has ever happened to me. It's just been a very broadening experience and it has taught me a lot about different kinds of people that I probably would never have been exposed to. I think contractors are the greatest risk takers in the country today. Contractors and farmers - I put them in the same category. I have a lot of respect for both groups because they are risk takers. When they do the job, they don't know what's going to happen to the price of oil, they don't know what's going to happen to the weather. There are just so many variables for them to have to deal with on an ongoing basis. I like them a lot because they both take those kinds of risks and I appreciate people who are willing to take the risk. I think serving on the Highway Commission is probably the highlight of my life. True, I will be 39 when I go off, but it's been really, really good for me. I wouldn't change it.

STANTON: *The Mack-Blackwell Amendment, which set up the way the Department is organized and operates, has been around for about 34 years now. Occasionally someone wants to change it or wants to abolish it. What is your perception of the Mack-Blackwell Amendment and how it works and should there be changes in it?*

THOMASSON: I can remember the day that we had the press conference at the Capitol, the day that Governor Pryor announced my appointment, and all of these people sitting in there asked "do you think there ought to be ten commissioners or do you think they ought to stay with five?" I didn't know there was five so how could I know if there ought to be ten or not. The Mack-Blackwell Amendment works really well. I don't know of anything that I'd change about it. The fact that we are appointed for ten years is really and truly important because it gives you an ability to learn what's happening and it gives the Commission and the Department continuity for planning that other agencies just simply don't have. It gives that ability to have projects spread out all over the state and that business of parochialism in one area doesn't happen with the Department like it is. The five Commissioners - I see that as a perfect number, based on the size of our State and what happens in our State. Texas has three commissioners, and in terms of interpersonal relations, there gets to be too much of two against one when you have three people. Our five work well together, has all the time that I've been on the Highway Commission. The size is perfect for decision making. I like the fact that the Director works for the Commission rather than somebody else. We control what he does and what he says and he takes the policy that we make and implements it throughout the Department. I think that's the difference. The fact that we are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, makes it work right as far as control from the legislative branch. The Commission has always been responsive to the General Assembly and the people of Arkansas as best we could within the money we have had to spend. There is just nothing that I would want to change about the Mack-Blackwell Amendment.

STANTON: *The transportation of hazardous materials is becoming quite an issue. Do you think the problem is being handled properly?*

THOMASSON: The problem is not being handled at all. It bothers me a lot that some people have the attitude that nothing needs to be done. I think the public deserves to know what happens. The spill that we had on I-40 in the construction zone is a plain example of how people were not given the right information on a timely basis so they could avoid being damaged by the PCBs. I have a lawyer friend who told me that a young woman hired him to represent her. She came through the hazardous site where the spill had occurred and called the State Police and asked them what had been spilled there and they told her that she shouldn't be concerned about it. She said "I got it on my car". They said wash off your car. She tried to wash it off her car and she got down on her hands and knees to do that and finally got all of that stuff off. Then she finds out later that day it was PCB and she started to cry. She's really concerned about that. I would be too if I were in her place. I'm concerned that people don't know what is being carried through the State. The Highway Department is a perfect place for permits to be issued because we already have a permit section in place. We are the only agency in State Government that has the equipment necessary to control hazardous spills. The Highway Department doesn't need any more responsibility than what we already have - we've got plenty to do - but somebody's got to take this responsibility for hazardous materials. We've all got to be strong on this issue and tell people to work with us to make sure we can control hazardous materials and the routes they take. That truck should not have been going through that construction site between seven and nine o'clock in the morning. That's not the smart thing to do. Just like we don't have mobile homes traveling through construction sites between seven o'clock and nine o'clock. Hazardous materials are the same kind of situation. If there were permits being issued to control the situation, we could just eliminate some of those problems. We can't ever eliminate accidents, nobody's here to say they can eliminate accidents, but we can reduce the exposure on accidents and that's what we're trying to do.

STANTON: *The Highway employee has seen a lot of improvements made in salaries and benefits over the years. Do you believe the employees can look forward to better things for them in the years ahead?*

THOMASSON: I would certainly hope so. We're getting pretty overcrowded in the Central Office right now and I'm concerned about that. The area headquarters around the State all have nice buildings. I think they have a very good work atmosphere for our employees out there. We think the

Central Office is getting some problems but not anything that we can't overcome. I am a little concerned about the attitude that state government should stop giving raises. I don't think people ought to be asked to work and not be rewarded for their willingness to do their job and for the tenure they develop. I certainly believe people who work in the same job to produce more and become more proficient, should be rewarded for that. I don't want us to ever get in a position where we say you have to work at that salary for ever and ever. There's nothing there to motivate them and I think we'll begin to have a higher rate of turnover in the Department. The Highway Department retirees are just amazing to me. That's the greatest group around. There are something like over 600 members of the Arkansas Highway Department Retirees Association and there are only about 1400 total retirees. Almost half of those who are retired are members of this organization. They get together and they have a good time. That's good for them and it shows me how much of a family the Highway Department really is. It makes me feel real proud.

STANTON:

When your term ends, are you planning to remain active in transportation matters and keep up with what's going on?

THOMASSON:

I would hope I could always be involved in transportation matters. Not only do I think it's good for economic development, I think that good transportation systems really contribute to the quality of our lives. I live in Western Little Rock and I come in on Cantrell Road every day to work and I usually leave at seven or eight o'clock, sometime during that period of time. Yesterday morning I had to go to the Highway Department and I was going out I-630 west. Well, the inbound lanes of 630 at 25 minutes of eight were packed, three-wide as far as I could see. And I think, "what did we do with all this traffic before we had I-630?" Why didn't we build four lanes on 630 instead of three-lanes? Then that afternoon I was coming back downtown at 4:30 p.m. I had to go to North Little Rock and get off at the Broadway exit. Well, I-30 was stacked up all the way to 630 and I think, "where are all these people going?" We've not built nearly enough highways to take care of the amount of traffic we have. There are some things we can do to stagger work hours so people are not all going to work at eight o'clock and getting off at 4:30 in the afternoon. They do that in bigger cities now and that's part of transportation planning for a major metropolitan area like Little Rock. We need to think about our public transportation system. We can't continue to have one person driving around in those cars. It's not so much just for saving fuel, it's saving space on the highways because if we wanted to go in and add another lane, we couldn't add another lane to I-30, there's no space out there in which to do that. So we have to look at other things. I have a sincere interest in transportation and always will take some kind of an active role in it. I know it's been our habit in the past to give a Commissioner Emeritus certificate to the Commission Chairman and I want to take that seriously and do anything I can to help the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department.

**"...good transportation systems
really contribute
to the quality of our lives."**





Highway 270 looking west near Jones Mill

Malvern to Hot Springs Highway 270 Four-lane Dedicated

Malvern and Hot Springs residents had plenty of reason to celebrate October 15 when they gathered at a point mid-way between the two cities to dedicate the recently completed Highway 270 widening project.

The widening of Highway 270 to four lanes from Malvern to Hot Springs, a distance of 16.4 miles, had long been the number one priority project of the two cities. Speaker after speaker at the dedication ceremony pointed out the significance of having a four-lane highway connecting the cities.

Malvern Mayor Bill Scrimshire said the highway will aid greatly in bringing jobs back to the area, and State Senator Bud Canada of Hot Springs said he was reared on the highway and knew every foot of it. He called it "Arkansas' future".

The first contract, let in April 1975, covered a 4.5-mile section from Highway 70 in Hot Springs, east. Four additional contracts over a ten-year period were awarded to complete the project to Interstate 30 at Malvern. The total cost, including right-of-way and utility adjustments, was \$24.1 million.



Rep. Jack McCoy addresses the crowd as Reps. Ted Mullenix, John Parkerson, Sen. Bud Canada, and Rep. Bill Randall, look on.



Commission Chairman Patsy Thomasson



Miss Arkansas, Julie Russell, is joined by a host of dignitaries as she cuts the ribbon to officially open the highway.

State Representative Bill Randall of Hot Springs told the audience that he remembered the discussions that took place over ten years ago between the members of the Highway Commission and legislators from the area. "It was a time when highway funds were extremely critical. I want to commend the Commission for keeping its word and getting the job done," he said.

Randall's remarks were echoed by Representative John Parkerson of Hot Springs. "This highway represents the fact that the Highway Commission recognizes the needs of this area and will continue to work with us even harder than they have in the past," he said. Representative Ted Mullenix of Percy said it was a great day for Garland and Hot Spring counties. "This is going to be a great artery for the increased tourist traffic visiting Hot Springs National Park," he said.

Representative Jack McCoy of Malvern also extended thanks to the Highway Commission and other officials who had worked for the highway improvement. He added another group to the list. "I believe we should thank the taxpayers who are paying for this highway," McCoy said. He also took exception with the recently released Management Audit Review Study Commission report that was critical of some of

the Highway Commission's operations. "It was totally unfair and totally untrue. Ladies and gentlemen, before you leave here today you owe it to yourselves to go by and personally thank each Commissioner and the Director for the job they are doing for us to put us in a position to compete," he said.

Highway Commission Chairman Patsy Thomason, who was appointed to the Commission shortly after the first phase of work began on the new highway, said she had had many conversations with officials from the area over the years urging the Commission to continue work on the project. "I don't believe I've ever had a conversation with legislators from this area that didn't include the statement that Hot Springs National Park was one of the top parks in the country and it didn't even have a four-lane highway connected to the Interstate. Well, now you have that four lane highway," she said.

"This highway will serve to open this area to increased industrial and tourist development. These are hard times for industry in Arkansas. This highway won't cure all the ills, but it should aid greatly in attracting new industry and provide better access to the National Park," she added.



Highway 270 looking east with the Reynolds Cable Plant in the background



Miss Arkansas, Julie Russell, joins dignitaries in the groundbreaking ceremony

Groundbreaking Ceremony Kicks Off Highway 71 Projects

It may have been cold and wet, but the inclement weather did not dampen the spirits of the nearly 400 people who gathered under umbrellas at Alma October 22 to witness the beginning of the long-awaited Highway 71 Relocation project.

A new four-lane highway through the mountains in Northwest Arkansas moved a step closer to reality when Congressional leaders, the Governor, members of the State Legislature and Highway Commissioners joined local residents at a groundbreaking ceremony on the site of the future interchange to be built on I-40 at Alma.

Although bids for the work are not scheduled to be opened until January 1987, officials wanted to show their support and express their enthusiasm for the project by holding a ceremony before the actual awarding of a contract.

In addition, the Highway Commission plans to open bids early next year for the construction of two

additional lanes on Highway 71 between Fort Smith and Greenwood. The ceremony was also held to celebrate the announcement that that project is soon to begin.

The Chambers of Commerce of Alma, Van Buren, Fort Smith and Greenwood jointly sponsored the ceremony in a show of unity for the work that is planned in northwest Arkansas.

"It is no secret that this project has been a special concern of mine for over a decade," U.S. Representative John Paul Hammerschmidt told the audience. "The House Public Works and Transportation Committee, of which I am a senior member, has responded favorably many times to requests for special treatment for Highway 71. This is a great day," he added.

The Highway 71 Relocation project from Alma to Fayetteville is one of two projects in Arkansas that has been approved as a future designated Interstate

highway. The other project is Highway 65 from Little Rock to Pine Bluff.

The designation means that Federal Interstate 4-R funds can be used to construct the highways. The matching ratio is 95% Federal and 5% State funds. Representative Hammerschmidt has been successful several times in the House to establish special funding for the Highway 71 Relocation project in addition to the 4-R funds; however, the measures have not been approved by the full Congress.

In his address to the crowd, U.S. Senator Dale Bumpers referred to attempts to obtain additional funding. "The highway bill, unhappily, died in the waning hours of the Senate. There was money in the House side that Representative Hammerschmidt had gotten in and a change in the formula on the Senate side that I had gotten in. That bill must come back early in the next session because the Interstate Cost Estimate is in it, which is necessary to build Interstate highways," Bumpers said.

"It is the highest priority with me. I promise the people of this area that I will work as devotedly as I can to make sure that you get enough Federal funds to finish this project," he added.

Governor Bill Clinton praised the efforts of the local residents and thanked Highway Commissioner Bobby Hopper of Springdale for his work in getting the project moving.

"When I appointed Bobby Hopper to the Highway Commission, I asked him to do one thing — get this Highway 71 project done, and get it done in a hurry. I also asked Ron Harrod of Prescott and Dalton Farmer of Jonesboro, when I appointed them to the Commission, to represent their areas, but to also recognize that this project had to be the first priority big project because the people of our State need for this to be done," Clinton said.

Once the new four-lane, divided highway is built, it will be designated Interstate Highway 540. The 43-mile project will cost an estimated \$200 million to construct.

The six-mile widening project from Fort Smith to Greenwood will utilize Federal Aid Primary funds and State matching funds. That project cannot be let to contract until a new Federal Aid Highway Act is approved by Congress.



U.S. Senator Dale Bumpers (center) with AHTD Public Affairs Officer Bill Looney (holding umbrella) and former Highway Commissioner Ross Pendergraft.



Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt addresses the crowd at Alma as Bill Looney holds an umbrella.



Governor Bill Clinton at the groundbreaking ceremony.

Highway 67 Bridge at Pocahontas Dedicated



Photograph courtesy Pocahontas Star Herald.

The old and new Highway 67 bridge structures. The Highway 67/62 intersection is in the upper left of the photograph.

Randolph County residents gathered at the west end of the new Highway 67 Black River Bridge in Pocahontas September 24 to celebrate the completion of the long-awaited \$2.6 million dollar project.

The new two-lane, 1,253-foot long structure was built adjacent to the existing two-lane bridge to provide a four-lane entrance into the Pocahontas business district. In addition to the new bridge, approximately 0.623 mile of roadway approaches and a 324-foot relief bridge, were built. The Highway 67/62 intersection was redesigned and new traffic signals were also installed.

Speaking at the dedication, Highway Commission Chairman Patsy Thomasson stated, "A picture is worth a thousand words. Think back on how it was. We no longer have to endure the four o'clock traffic jam!"

At a luncheon earlier in the day, Thomasson complimented Pocahontas and Randolph County on their unanimity. She stated that it was the feeling of togetherness, county working with city, that strongly influenced the Highway Commission in making its decision to build the bridge. She also noted that she had personally experienced the daily

traffic jams when factory workers were trying to cross the old two-lane bridge at shift change times.

"This is the result of the Rural Road Program. You must keep working on the projects you need. It is easy to see how the bridge has opened commerce in Pocahontas and you must maintain your endeavors in order to continue good economic development," she said.

Prior to her remarks, Thomasson and Highway Commissioner Dalton Farmer of Jonesboro, were presented keys to the city by Major J.J. Wooldridge. Wooldridge and County Judge Jim Andrews also presented a plaque of appreciation to State Senator Nick Wilson of Pocahontas for "his persistent support in obtaining the bridge."

After the ceremony, a Pocahontas fire truck driven by Chief Jerry Matheny led a procession across the new bridge. Riding as a passenger in the fire truck was C.H. Brooks, of Cherokee Bay, a former sheriff and county judge of Randolph County. Brooks was also a passenger in the first vehicle to cross the old span of the Highway 67 Bridge that was dedicated on November 27, 1934.



Mayor J.J. Wooldridge, right, presents keys to the city to Commissioners Thomasson and Farmer.



County Judge Jim Andrews, left, and Mayor J.J. Wooldridge, right, present plaque to State Senator Nick Wilson.



Commission Chairman Patsy Thomasson, center, is joined by fellow Commissioners and other dignitaries, as she cuts the ribbon to officially dedicate the new Highway 67 Bridge.

Additional Parking Available at Capitol

It may be just a parking lot, but when an additional 225 parking spaces open up across the street from the State Capitol its a reason to celebrate.

With State Rep. Lacy Landers of Benton wielding the large scissors, the new parking lot was officially opened October 21. Landers, a member of the Legislative Facilities Committee's subcommittee on parking, was joined by committee member State Senator Clarence Bell of Parkin and Rep. Bill Foster of England, the subcommittee chairman, at a brief ceremony.

The State Highway Commission awarded a \$48,000 contract to St. Francis Material Co., of Little Rock, to construct the parking lot. AHTD and State Forestry Commission employees designed the lot and the landscaping. Rep. Foster said the lot will be "an asset to the city of Little Rock and the State Capitol."



Rep. Lacy Landers, left, prepares to cut the ribbon as AHTD District Engineer Roger Almond, Senator Clarence Bell, Rep. Bill Foster and AHTD Director Henry Gray, look on.



Cotter Bridge Designated As National Landmark

The Highway 62 White River Bridge at Cotter has been designated as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Civil Engineers. A ceremony to mark the occasion was held at the Cotter City Park October 18.

In order to qualify as a National Landmark, an engineering structure must have national historical significance and be at least 50 years old. The White River Concrete Arch Bridge, completed in 1930, was uniquely designed with structural steel reinforcement and constructed by cableway. The bridge was instrumental in opening up a new region of the Arkansas Ozarks, which has become a major recreation and retirement area.

U.S. Representative John Paul Hammerschmidt and Highway and Transportation Department Director Henry Gray spoke at the dedication ceremony. Gray told the audience that the Cotter Bridge has served the area well for over 56 years. "In a few years a new bridge and highway will pass through Cotter. Work is now underway on the \$7.6 million White River Bridge and 3 miles of new highway. That new highway and bridge will also have a dynamic effect on this area. Much like the one over 50 years ago when this bridge was dedicated," Gray said.

Gray also reminded the audience that had it not been for Baxter County Judge R.M. Ruthven, the bridge would not have been built as soon as it was. A law permitting the Highway Commission to build nine toll bridges was passed and Judge Ruthven got Cotter added to the list. A feasibility study of the sites was made and all were approved, except for Cotter because of the low traffic count.

Judge Ruthven was present when the Highway Commission met to consider the separate reports. During that meeting the report on Cotter disappeared and the Highway Commission thought it was an oversight and approved the Cotter Bridge along with the others.

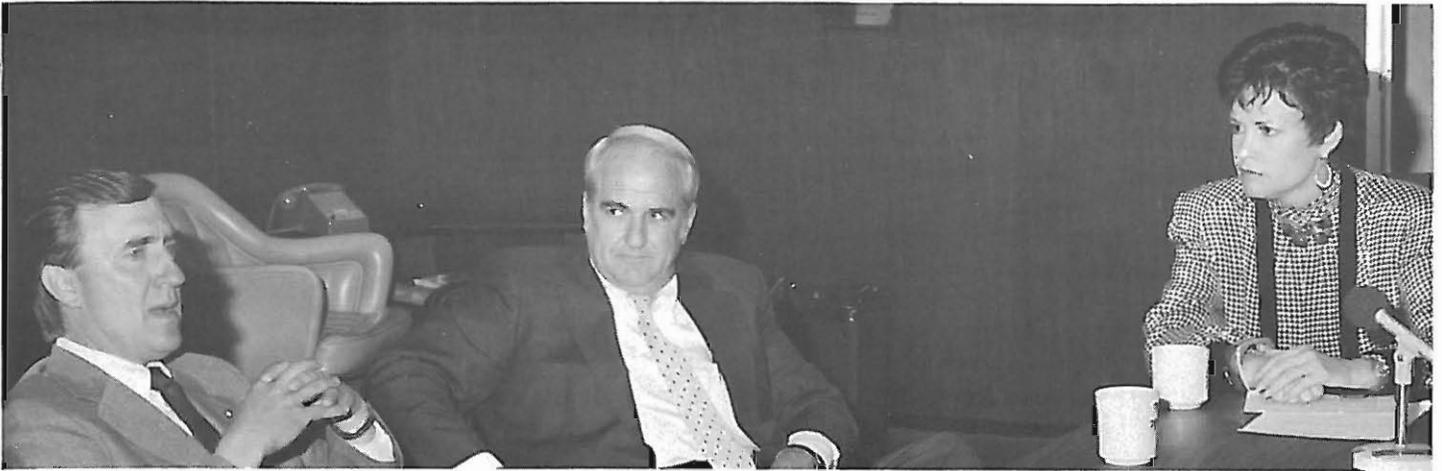
It was not until 20 years later that Judge Ruthven's secret was made known. It seems the judge had seen the report before the Highway Commission had a chance to review it. The judge picked it up and took it home with him, where he kept it for 20 years before he mailed it back to the Highway Commission.



Henry Gray, left, and ASCE President Robert Bay, right, unveil the plaque as ASCE President-Elect Daniel Barge, Jr. and U.S. Representative John Paul Hammerschmidt, look on.



Baxter and Marion County residents gather at the Cotter City Park to take part in the dedication of the Cotter Bridge.



IDA Chairman Ron Russell, left, discusses the need for more four-lane highways, as Clyde Reese, and Commission Chairman Patsy Thomasson look on.

Industrial Developers Request A Four Lane Highway System

Unless four-lane highways are constructed to the major areas of Arkansas, industrial development cannot reach its potential. That's the concern expressed recently by the Industrial Developers of Arkansas at a meeting with the State Highway Commission.

The Industrial Developers of Arkansas (IDA) is made up of over 300 industrial and business leaders in Arkansas. The group asked for the meeting with the Highway Commission because "we thought it was important to discuss, and we want to work with the Commission to develop priorities for industrial access," according to Clyde Reese, of Conway, Executive Secretary of IDA.

The Highway Commission has carried out an aggressive Industrial Access Road program for several years which IDA said has contributed greatly to the industrial development of Arkansas. However, the group said it was willing to work with the Commission on a program to place more four-lane highways throughout the State to improve the access from the Interstate System to the smaller cities and towns.

"A four-lane highway system is the basic infrastructure that has to be in place before industrial development can begin to grow," said Ron Russell of Batesville. "This is an investment that is going to pay off in increased economic development and growth for Arkansas," he added.

Russell told the Commission that the recently enacted Rural Road Program was already reaping benefits. "It is a good thing, but we need more four-lane roads to the major areas," he said.

Commission Chairman Patsy Thomasson told the group that it took over two years and holding meetings throughout the State to gather support for

the Rural Road Program. "Your group should take the lead in educating the people on the importance of industrial development and the benefits to be realized from it with four-lane highways," she said.

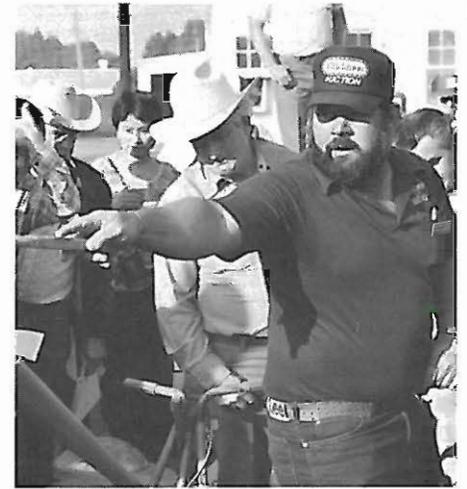
"We have approximately 5,500 miles of Primary Highways in Arkansas and about \$25 million to spend on them," Commissioner Raymond Pritchett said. "That does not go very far. A new program designated for this work would be the way to do it," he added.

"Passing lanes and climbing lanes is a way to provide relief in the interim," Highway Commissioner Ron Harrod said. "We have done this on several highways in the State, such as Highway 70 from I-30 to Hot Springs and on Highway 65 north of Harrison to the Missouri line," he added.

The importance of improved industrial access was also stressed by Sharon Noble, Mayor of Glenwood. "The 200 small towns in Arkansas, under 2,500 in population, are in need of improvements. They are desparate for industrial access because people are leaving those towns for other areas for employment opportunities," she said.

The Industrial Developers of Arkansas representatives and the Arkansas Highway Commission members agreed that if the four-lane highways are to be built in Arkansas, that Arkansans are going to have to pay for them. "The federal government is concentrating on the Interstate System and the Primary highways," Harrod said. "If we want to accomplish this goal, then State funding will have to be increased to pay for it," he added.

Going... Going... Gone!



Ron Sabbatina, Ringman for Blackmon Auction, takes bids from the crowd.

When the Highway and Transportation Department has a “garage sale” the bargain hunters turn out in force. That was the case October 21 when over one thousand persons were on hand to bid on surplus and obsolete items offered for sale at the Jacksonville Central Shops.

There were the usual items; scrap iron, used tires, frontend loaders, mowers, sedans, station wagons, and pickup trucks. And even a few unusual items, such as; two flag poles, a dishwasher and a sink. In all 835 items were auctioned off. Proceeds from the sale amounted to \$597,924.

“The number of items was the largest we have ever had at an auction,” said Maurice Head, Equipment and Procurement Division Head. “The dollar amount did not break a record because we did not have very many large pieces of equipment. Most of

the items were small,” he added.

The most popular selling items are tractor mowers, pickup trucks, dump trucks and sedans. Equipment dealers, contractors and used car dealers make up the majority of people bidding on items. However, the general public is invited and many persons attended hoping to pick up a good deal on a second-hand car or truck.

“Public auctions move the equipment quicker and this method has proven to provide a greater dollar return for the AHTD,” Head said.

The large number of items is the the result of a massive house-cleaning at the Central Shops. Following the auction, the employees at the facility began moving to the new shops which were recently built adjacent to the Sign Shop on Sibley Hole Road near the Central Office Building in Little Rock.



The large crowd of interested buyers looks over the items for sale.

Pankey Residents Express Concern for Highway 10 Widening

The Department's proposal to widen Highway 10 from Highway 300 to Rodney Parham Road in western Little Rock was presented to Pankey community resident September 15. The proposal generally calls for the highway to be widened to four lanes from Highway 300 to near Katillus Road and five lanes from Katillus Road to Rodney Parham Road, a distance of 6.2 miles.

A public hearing on the project was held earlier in the year; however, the Pankey Improvement Association requested another meeting so residents of the predominately black community could express their views regarding certain aspects of the project. Several requested slight changes in alignment to move the highway farther away from the front of some residences. There were also concerns expressed regarding safety for children getting on and off school buses and the possible disruption of the neighborhood.

Department officials explained that the project was necessary to accommodate the increase in traffic volume expected over the next few years.



Pankey resident Marvin Owens expresses concern about the Highway 10 widening project.

Public Hearing Held for Highway 71 Improvements at Mena



Roadway Design Engineer Bob Walters explains the Highway 71 widening project to Mena residents.

Approximately 50 people gathered at the Mena Middle School October 14 to express support for the Department's plan to widen Highway 71 both north and south of Mena.

The project would widen the highway along the existing alignment at two locations. The section on the north end would be approximately 0.7 mile in length and the south section would be 1.7 miles in length. Approximately two miles of Highway 71 through Mena was widened to five lanes several years ago and this additional work would be an extension of that project.

Since the project would be constructed along the existing alignment, very little additional right-of-way would be required, according to Roadway Design Engineer Bob Walters.

All of those speaking at the hearing expressed support for the project, saying it was badly needed to handle the increased traffic through town. State Representative Ode Maddox asked for traffic signals at the Highway 71/8/375 intersection and several other speakers asked that channelization at the intersection be considered as a part of the project.

Planning Study Uses Unique Approach

One of the many items transportation planners need to develop a long range transportation plan is an origin and destination survey of vehicular trips entering the study area on the freeway system. This information is usually obtained by actually having the motorist stop at a selected location and answer a brief questionnaire regarding the purpose and destination of his trip.

However, when you are updating the transportation plan for an urban area, such as the Little Rock/North Little Rock area, it is not practical to stop each vehicle on the freeways. So, the department's Statewide Planning Section decided to take another approach called a "lights-on" survey.

"A lights-on survey is not something new, however, it has not been conducted on the scale that was used in Pulaski County," said Eric Phillips, Section Head of Statewide Planning.

"We were trying to determine travel patterns of through traffic on the freeway system," Phillips said. "For example, we wanted to know what percentage of vehicles entering the metropolitan area at a certain location actually were passing through and what routes they were using," he said.

Five survey locations along the freeways entering the Little Rock area were selected. A different location was used each day for five days. A large sign informing motorists to turn their headlights on for 40 minutes was installed at the inbound survey location, mechanical traffic counters were used to record each

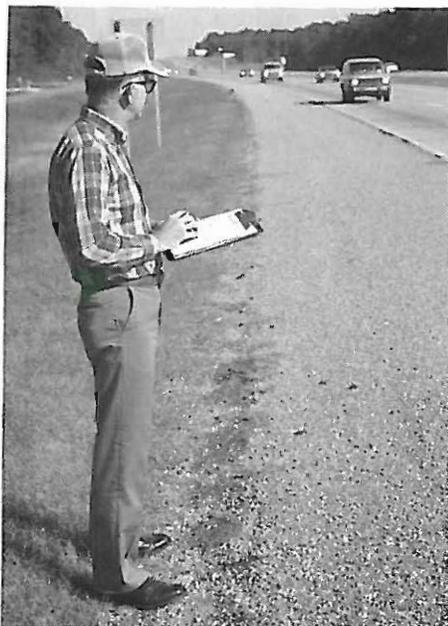
vehicle and personnel from the Technical Services Section manually counted each vehicle that had its headlights on as it existed the metropolitan area. A Highway Police unit was also present with its emergency lights flashing to gain the motorists attention as they entered the survey area.

"We were extremely pleased with the cooperation of the motorists. About 70% of the drivers turned their headlights on," Phillips said. "We decided to use the 40-minute time period to insure adequate travel time completely through the study area," he added.

Results of the survey show that approximately 13% of the vehicles passed through without stopping. The route between I-40 east of North Little Rock and I-30 southwest of Little Rock was the most heavily traveled, with 23% of the vehicles passing through. Of the vehicles using that route, 55% took the I-440 eastern bypass to I-30 and the remainder took I-30 through the downtown area.

The survey results will be used to update the computer model used by the department to predict future traffic volumes and determine where existing highways need to be expanded or where new highways need to be built.

When the transportation plans for other metropolitan areas in the state, such as Fort Smith and West Memphis, need to be updated, a "lights-on" approach may also be used, according to Phillips.



Denver Duncan, of Technical Services, counts vehicles with headlights on as they pass through one of the exit check points.



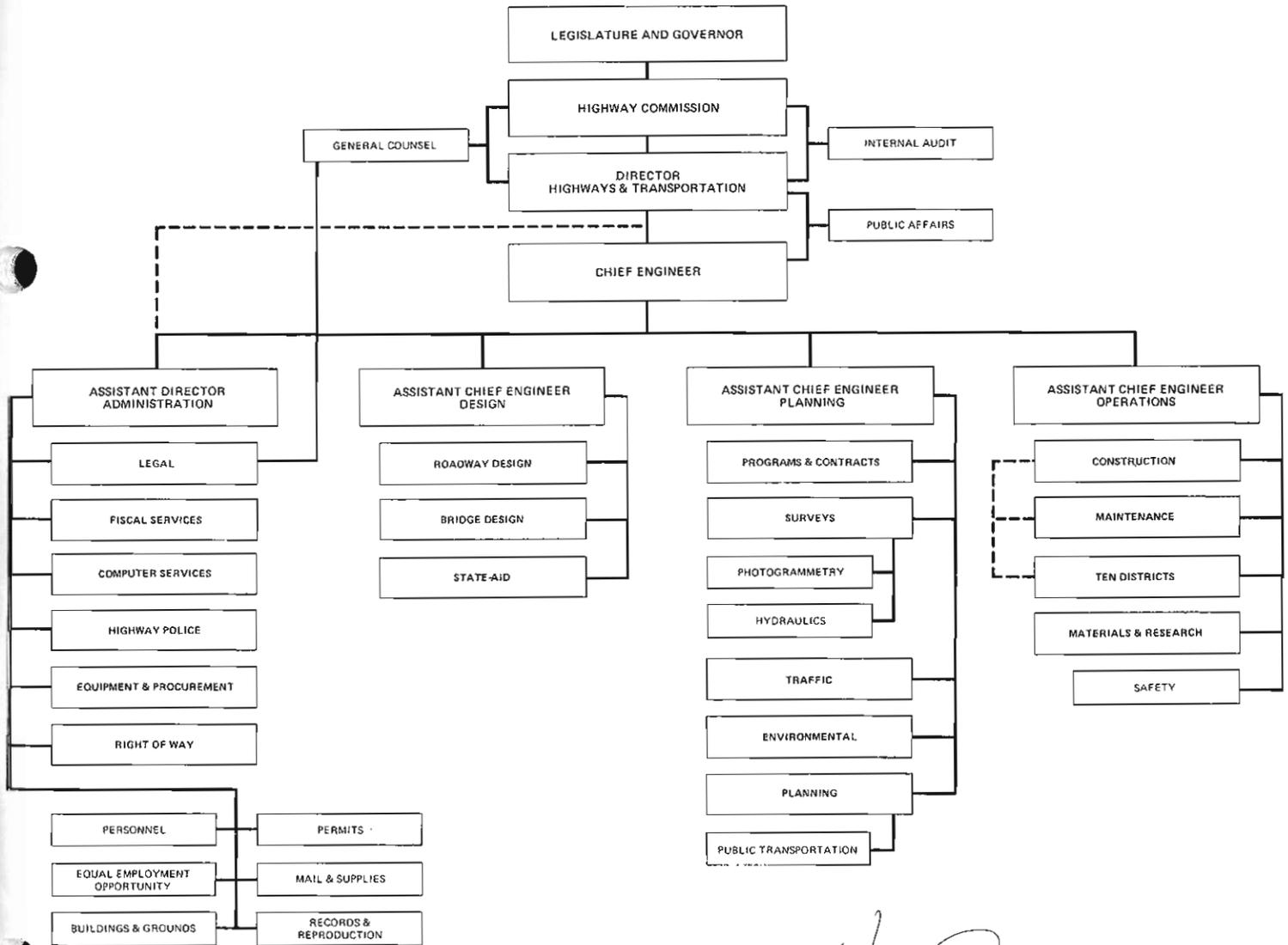
Department employees direct motorists attention to the sign as they enter a checkpoint area.

AHTD Organization Change Announced

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department has been reorganized into four main branches. The change was announced following the resignation of Al Johnson, Assistant Chief Engineer for Planning and Development. Johnson resigned effective November 4, 1986 to enter private practice.

As part of a continuing effort to reduce costs, the responsibilities of the Planning and Development branch were assigned to other branches. The Program Management branch has also been changed to the Planning branch and has assumed responsibility for the Planning and Environmental Divisions, as well as the Public Transportation Unit. The Materials and Research Division and the Safety Section were transferred to the Operations branch.

ORGANIZATION CHART ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT



Henry Gray 11/28/86
 DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION DATE

AHTD Letters

October 13, 1986

Mr. Bill Looney
AHTD Public Affairs Officer
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Looney:

Nothing could be finer than the front cover of the Arkansas Highways Fall Magazine! Featured stories on pages 2 and 13 were very much appreciated.

The Tourist Information Center people love their jobs because we have a good product to sell. We also appreciate the cooperation we have with the Highway Department. You guys are always there when we need you.

Thanks again for the fall magazine publicity, plus all the help during our Sesquicentennial Celebration.

Sincerely,
Gay Rush, Director
Ark. Tourist Information Centers

October 6, 1986

Mr. Joe Barnett
AHTD District 10 Engineer
Paragould, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Barnett:

In the past, I have been critical of the Highway Department and probably will be again in the future if I see waste and inefficiency. But, that is not the reason I am writing this letter.

Recently, Highway 63 North from Jonesboro, beginning at Berry's Truck Stop and ending north of my factory, Jimco Lamp Company in Bono, was resurfaced with asphalt, white chat on the shoulders and yellow striping in the center.

I want to congratulate the Highway Department, the supervisors as well as all the people involved as this was the smoothest, most efficient, well-coordinated, resurfacing job that I have ever seen. Believe me, I checked on this job every day as I had to pass over it twice a day.

Congratulations on a job extremely well done -- keep up the good work.

Best personal regards,
Jimmy Doyle Hunt, President
Jimco Lamp Company
Jonesboro, Arkansas

August 22, 1986

Jim Briley
AHTD District 2 Engineer
Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Dear Jim:

On behalf of the Greater Pine Bluff Chamber of Commerce, we want to say thanks for your support of the Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Clean and Beautiful Commission.

With your help and that of your department, headway is being made in our battle against the litter problem. We hope that you will keep up the good work.

Best Wishes,
Phyllis Thomas
Frank Lightfoot
Pine Bluff
Chamber of Commerce

August 28, 1986

AHTD District 1
Wynne, Arkansas

Dear Sirs:

Sunday morning, August 24, my daughter, Billie Jo Farthing, left here with a friend. This lady was moving back to Bakersfield, California after having been employed in east Tennessee for about six years. They spent the night in West Memphis, Arkansas. They stopped at a store to get ice and soft drinks for the cooler. Billie Jo laid her billford on the car top and forgot it, when she thought about it again, it was gone.

I received a phone call from Billie about 10:00 on Monday morning saying she had lost her billford containing driver's license, credit cards, social security card and money. She said she would call me back later in the day.

About one hour later I received another phone call. This time it was William Langley of West Memphis. He had found the billford and he was worried about Billie being without it. I thanked him and told him she would call me back later in the day and I would tell her the good news. I would also get instructions on where to send it and I would call him back at his home after he got home from work.

I want you to know how much my family and I appreciate the concern for people, and the devotion to doing his job to the best of his ability of William Langley. I consider him a valued friend whom I have never met.

Sincerely yours,
William Farthing
Kingsport, Tennessee

Editor's Note: William Langley is a Single Axle Truck Driver with the Crittenden County Maintenance Crew in District 1.

August 21, 1986

Mr. G.C. Anderson
AHTD
Heber Springs, Ark.

Dear Mr. Anderson:

On behalf of the Greers Ferry Area Chamber of Commerce, we wish to say "Thank You" for having the roadsides mowed prior to each of the holidays this summer.

The mowing was certainly appreciated and was recognized by both the permanent residents and the 700,000 visitors, who made several complimentary remarks to the

various merchants. In addition to the mowing, the city made arrangements to have the debris pickup up every other week. We definitely want to continue this endeavor next year.

My personal gratitude for your concern goes beyond this letter. I'm pleased that we have concerned individuals who will work toward the improvement of our area. You spell that kind of spirit: P-R-I-D-E.

The best to you always.

Warm regards,
Robert C. Vierregger, President
Greers Ferry
Area Chamber of Commerce

September 25, 1986

Arkansas Highway & Transportation Dept.
Little Rock, Arkansas

Gentlemen:

I would like to express my thanks to one of your employees who works on Route 30.

We were traveling on Route 30 and ran out of gas. We ran across him at the rest stop near the 94-mile marker and he supplied us with enough gas to get to a station.

His truck number was 5059 and he was plump and about 40-45 years old.

If you know his name, please extend our appreciation for his help. This happened on 9-6-86. This man was most pleasant and helpful. A definite asset to the AHTD.

Regards,
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Blulim
Dallas, Texas

Editor's Note: This employee was identified as being Jimmy Finley, Rest Area Attendant at Social Hill in Malvern on I-30.

August 27, 1986

Public Relations Dept.
AHTD
Little Rock, Arkansas

Gentlemen:

Recently, on July 30th, when we were traveling through your state, about 1½ miles before reaching Palestine, on Route 40, on our way to Houston, we had a tire blow completely apart. We are sure the extreme heat was, at least partially the cause. (When we reached Brinkley later it was 110 degrees).

There we were, my husband and I, senior citizens, and our granddaughter. Not knowing anything else to do, we started unloading our luggage to get at our spare tire. I was really concerned if my husband could stand to work in that heat.

Suddenly, I looked up and there was a pickup truck with 3 young men who immediately got out and went to work. They changed our tire (the spare was one of those small "doughnut" wheels) and assured us we would find help in Palestine.

We thanked them as best we could - they refused my husband's offer of money.

I am sorry, but we did not get the name on the doors of the pickup, but we did see that the license plate read "Transportation Department". Hopefully you can identify these young men and thank them for us. There were 3, one was a blond, stocky man; another white man, a little taller with dark hair and one young black man.

They were all perfect gentlemen and Heaven sent - and I mean it.

This incident will remain a bright spot in our travel memories, rather than the frightening one it started out to be. These young men should be commended.

Thank you,
Mr. & Mrs. James Harris
Solon, Ohio

August 21, 1986

Mr. Eugene Woodfield
AHTD District 2
Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Woodfield:

I have been informed that on Thursday, August 14, 1986, that while two of my staff members were in attendance at "T.H.E. Course", that their state vehicle had a flat tire.

I am also informed that your staff courteously and willingly repaired the tire so that they could return home.

Please accept my personal "Thank you" for this action. This is an excellent example of how State agencies can cooperate and establish good working relationships.

If we can ever be of service to you, please let us know.

Sincerely,
Russ Burbank, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Ark. Dept. of Human Services

August 20, 1986

AHTD District 9
Harrison, Arkansas

To Whom It May Concern:

On Monday, August 18, 1986, approximately 2:36 p.m., I was dispatched to a personal injury accident on State Highway 94, north of Rogers. On arrival, I noted one lane of traffic was completely blocked, and the other lane was partially blocked by responding emergency vehicles. I also noted there were three men directing traffic. The men remained at the scene directing traffic until the investigation was complete, approximately 3:25 p.m. Two of those men were employees of the AHTD, Carl McCutcheon, and David Dodson. Their willingness to assist and their professionalism allowed me to proceed immediately with the investigation. You should be proud to have such a fine caliber of persons working for your Department, as they are truly an asset to AHTD. Please relay my gratitude to them.

Sincerely,
Cpl. Carol J. Clark
Rogers Police Department
Rogers, Arkansas

September 29, 1986

August 16, 1986

AHTD District 9 Engineer
Harrison, Arkansas

Mr. John Livingston
AHTD District 7
Camden, Arkansas

Dear Sir:

Dear Mr. Livingston:

It has taken us much too long to tell you, but nevertheless, we want you to know how much we appreciate the work the Highway crew did last summer on Arkansas 268-Locust Road in northwest Marion county.

I wish very much to commend one of your employees, Mr. Billy Harber of Amity, who was most helpful last weekend to my wife and sister who had become stranded on the road out of gas. They had had considerable trouble flagging down someone to help and Mr. Harber was on the opposite side of the freeway and saw them and promptly came to their rescue.

We are grateful every time we travel the road -- and that is every time we go anyplace, since, because of the lake, there is really only one way to go by land.

After accessing the problem, he drove several miles to Arkadelphia, bringing enough fuel for them to proceed on to a filling station. He refused any kind of compensation for his efforts and both the women were most appreciative of his efforts.

The men working on the job were very helpful, patient and courteous and we truly appreciated their kind attitude when we necessarily interrupted their work. They were great! If there is any way to let them know, we'd appreciate it. In fact, we almost miss seeing them this year -- except, of course, we are enjoying the new road so much.

I feel he should be commended for his courtesy and dedication. He certainly must be one of your valued employees.

Again, many thanks for your great public service and the manner in which it is carried out.

Yours very truly,
Dr. Louis R. McFarland
Hot Springs, Arkansas

Sincerely,
Charles and Beryl Sherman
Possom Trot Road
Yellville, Arkansas

August 15, 1986

August 15, 1986

"Arkansas Highways" Editor
Public Affairs Office
Little Rock, Arkansas

AHTD District 4 Engineer
Ft. Smith, Arkansas

Dear Sir:

Gentlemen:

This letter is to publicly commend your Area Foreman in District 1, Mr. Bobby Weatherford.

On August 5th, my wife and I were passing through Arkansas on our way to visit our daughter in Minnesota. We blew a radiator hose and pulled into the roadside park near Waldron, Ark.

Not only is Bobby a great help to us in every way, 365 days a year, but was of tremendous help to us during our Sesquicentennial Celebration on July 29, which was a simultaneous celebration of the Tourist Information Centers all over the state.

Your Mr. M.L. Black was working there and he drove to town and got us a new hose and helped put it on and filled it with water. I tried to pay him for his trouble but he would not accept any money. He said that was part of his job to help people like us. So we would like you to know what a good Christian man you have working for you. Please thank him again for us.

It is our understanding that all the Celebrations went very well but we feel none of them could have had any more support from their Highway Department than we did at the Helena TIC. Bobby and his crew went far beyond the call of duty to assist us in every way possible.

So, we just wanted to publicly say - Many thanks Bobby!

Mr. & Mrs. B.F. Braswell
Longview, Texas

With deep appreciation,
Kitty Crawford and
Edwene Suddath
Helena Tourist Info. Center
Dept. of Parks & Tourism

AHTD Service Awards

SEPTEMBER 1986

35 Years
Ornel Lee Fields District 9
Jewell D. Kuykendall District 4

30 Years
Donald Lee Potter Hydraulics
Jimmy Duke Wynn District 7

25 Years

Fred D. Boutwell District 5
Olen Brooks Jr. District 4
Alvin C. Cunningham District 6
Orville G. Elumbaugh District 5
Don E. Finkbeiner Planning
Joe Dale Fulmer District 3
Albert Cleo Jackson District 2

Gary D. Williams District 2

20 Years

Cletus N. Cravens District 8
William T. Garner Right of Way
Dairl D. Hyde District 10
Herman F. Pierce District 4
Richard E. Siegler Roadway Design

Amos O. Zimmer District 4

15 Years

Farrell R. Adams Surveys
James E. Alexander District 7
David H. Becker District 4
Alan D. Carmack District 3
Thomas W. Crawford District 1
Joe R. Davidson District 9
Calvin J. Douglas District 10
Wilburn F. Dycus District 6
Dennis R. Farmer Surveys
Elmo L. Fennel Materials & Research
Jerry L. Hunsucker District 4
Ronnie F. Risley District 9
Eileen D. Taylor District 6
Ray Wren District 8

10 Years

James A. Campbell District 9
Arland Y. Carlton Jr. District 9
Billy T. Carter District 2
Reggie Cobb Materials & Research
Danny Dennie District 6
Albert C. Dismuke District 3
Wanda Jo Earnheart District 5
Earl L. Ezell District 5
James W. Goff District 4
Joey A. Hipp District 5
Leigh H. Johnson District 6
Donald Kingston District 10
AJ Kisner District 6
Eugene C. Martin District 9
Gary Martin Fiscal Services
Reba M. Pettus Computer Services
James L. Ramsey Jr. District 1
Alfred B. Stanfield District 7
Annette B. Stanton Final Estimates
Earnest Wells District 10

5 Years

Marilyn Jo Bates District 2
Russell D. Bramlett District 8
Merle A. Campbell District 5
Reggie L. Chitwood Highway Police
Tommy R. Fife District 7
Luther J. Hudson District 4
Laura Moore Planning
John H. McGilton District 2
Raymond L. Nelson District 9
Bruce H. Pepper District 7

OCTOBER 1986

30 Years

Joe Roger Fowler District 9
Vernon J. McMahan District 6

25 Years

Johnnie B. Havener District 8
Melvin S. House District 9
James L. Pounders District 10

20 Years

Jimmy F. Austin District 8
Clifford C. Brewer District 3
Al Dunn Records & Reproduction
Robert L. Hamaker District 7
James L. Reeves District 2
Benny Robbins Asst. Chief Engineer - Design

15 Years

Edward Cummings Jr. District 9
Charlie Enlow District 7
Calvin R. Lassiter Traffic
Jessie Meabon Planning
Milton D. Patton District 4
Johnny Sprayberry District 7

10 Years

Odis M. Barker Equip. & Proc.
Romosha D. Bridges District 6
James C. Carter District 4
Glenn R. Creamer District 9
Joe M. Davis, Jr. Highway Police
James R. Douglas Programs & Contracts
Oretta L. Fleming Final Estimates
Arthur L. Huggins District 2
David E. Jackson District 6
James R. Leggett District 5
Timothy J. Mangrum District 10
Charles E. O'Neal District 6
Gerald Teague District 9
Brenda K. Walden Planning
Billie C. Ward District 9
Bernard Washington District 6

5 Years

Michael C. Almeda Highway Police
Jerry W. Booker Highway Police
Alma D. Cantrell District 9
Clifford Cline District 3
Hershal Clover District 3
Janet Davis District 8

Warren C. Kuhn District 6
Brady E. Lewis District 3
Benny O. Malone District 8
Bert Porterfield Traffic
Janis M. Selby Highway Police
Shelby S. Sledge Highway Police
Billy W. Smith Highway Police
Robert C. Walker District 2
Robert H. Hall District 8
Gerald G. White Highway Police
Priscilla Winkler Computer Services

NOVEMBER 1986

30 Years

Berlin E. Hill District 5
Veral Pinkerton Bridge Division
Jerry L. Stacks Materials & Research
Neil P. Thompson Roadway Design

25 Years

William M. Johnston District 4

20 Years

Donna Barbee Highway User Tax Unit
Leon B. Holland Surveys
Doye D. King Surveys
Dequince Lewis District 2
Johnnie Marley District 4
James E. Reynolds Materials & Research

15 Years

Herman Belk Roadside Development
James L. Brown Surveys
Lucehia Harrell Final Estimates
Francis M. Jones District 4
Thomas E. Simmons District 2
Conway A. White District 6

10 Years

L. Junior Durrrough District 10
John H. Howell Construction
Franklin L. House District 6
Hershel W. Nelson District 10
Jack C. Ray District 6
Maxine Shaff Equip. & Proc.
Kathy D. Upchurch Planning

5 Years

James W. George District 6
Lola E. Latta Environmental
Allen L. Pruitt District 8
Lloyd R. Stone Heavy Bridge
Doris E. Tracy Asst. Chief Engineer-PM

AHTD Retirements

AUGUST 1986

Dallas E. Corley District 4
Ellis Stewart District 9
Junior L. Barnes Equipment & Procurement
William E. Oliver District 6
John T. Hardwick District 3

SEPTEMBER 1986

John R. Bradley District 7
Felix P. Duran District 10
Grover C. Carney Highway Police
James A. Moore District 7
Lewis F. Shafer Highway Police
John L. Fry District 10

Orin S. Rose District 9 (Peel Ferry)

OCTOBER 1986

John Alls District 1
Walter E. White Planning
Rex L. Hall District 10
William D. Gober Highway Police

Around the Department

BRIDGE DIVISION

The Bridge Division would like to welcome Damon Burney to our office. He is a graduate of Louisiana Tech with a Master's degree in Civil Engineering. He is originally from Shreveport and he and his wife, Karen, now live in Sherwood. His interests are golf and fishing

and he would like to start canoeing. Mike Coogan and Charlie Hart will be glad to break in a flat water guy on moving water.

David Ball and his daughter, Bethany, age 5, were recently featured on Channel 7 weekend report with Kelly Minton. They were starting to hike up Pinnacle Mountain when Kelly and her photographer approached them

to accompany them on a nature trip up the mountain. Bethany and David were eager to make their film debut so off they started. There were interesting trees and plants along the way including poison ivy. A chipmunk pecked out at Bethany from his hiding place in a tree. It was a beautiful day and viewing the sights of nature will be forever recorded on

tape for Bethany to remind her of her TV debut on Pinnacle Mountain.

Debbie Gross and Betsy Kimmel are in an aerobics class three evenings a week. They are seriously allotting time to stay in shape and feel great. Tom Cruise is their aerobics instructor, they say. Debbie is also taking tap dancing at UALR this semester. We see her practicing so we know this is true.

J.P. Sumner's daughter, Kelly, was recently elected to the homecoming court at Hall High. She is an 11th grader and is on the Student Council and cross country track team. Her younger sister, Susan, is in the 6th grade at Wakefield Elementary and can't wait to get in high school and get a car to drive too.

Jim Beatty, his wife, Karen, and daughters, Kathryn and Jessica, have moved into a new home at Conway.

Stewart Linz and his wife, Rhonda, have bought a new home in the Salem area of Saline County. Their daughter, Tiffany, is six months old now and really growing.

Carl Fuselier and his wife, Karen, have a four month old son, Blake Garrett. He weighs 15 pounds now and will soon be playing with older brother, Eric, age 5. Karen recently had a bad experience when a tire blew out on a bridge on the Interstate. She wasn't injured but the car was a total loss. Now they have a new Chevrolet.

Bonnie Wesson's daughter, Sonya, was married to Kevin Hardy of Little Rock on September 21. They took a trip to Hot Springs and Lake DeGray and are now living in Jonesboro where Kevin is an assistant grocery manager for Skaggs Alpha Beta.



Sonya Hardy

CENTRAL SHOP

Boy have things been hopping at the Central Shop! Once again we are approaching "Sale Time" and have we been busy. Also this year we will be moving into our new facility next to the Sign Shop on Sibley Hole Road, so we're cleaning out our closets and packing up.

Jack Barnes retired in August with 29 years of service. We had cake and punch in his honor and he received some very nice fishing equipment to keep him busy when he finishes his "honey-dos". Jack was an excellent employee and is greatly missed.

Dan Kelly was recently promoted to Service Station Attendant/Supervisor and is doing a great job for us.

Two of our employees received their 10 year service awards, they were: Chuck Winkler and Norman Post. Congratulations guys!



Chuck Winkler and Norman Post

Guy Ashenberger and his wife, Diane, have a new son, Phillip "PJ" born April 23, 1986. He and big sister, Cindy, are quite a pair.

CONSTRUCTION

Calvin and Marilyn Peevy with son, David, took a vacation driving through the New England states and Nova Scotia, Canada, enjoying the scenery and delicious seafood. While in Canada they went fishing and David is so proud of the largemouth bass he caught. He is pictured with two weighing 5 and 7 pounds. They also stopped to see Niagara Falls.



David Peevy

Disneyworld and Epcot Center at Orlando, Florida was the destination of Tina Adams and family. The boys, Travis and Michael, are already making plans to go again next year because they had so much fun.

Annette Stanton and daughter, Gayla Hodges and family went to Nashville, Tennessee and were in the audience as Nashville Now was being aired. She said it was very interesting to see how a program was produced for TV. They also stopped in Gattlinburg and Dollywood at Pigeon Forge, Tenn.

Enjoying a week in Hawaii were Stanley and Penny Garver. Along with the many sights they also went to the island of Kauai and to the Arizona Monument at Pearl Harbor and of course Stan found time to play some golf. He brought home some fresh pineapple which was enjoyed by the entire Division.

Bobby Joe and Judy Parker had as a guest, Nohior Kaji from Kibi, Japan. He is a 45-year old English teacher on tour in the US to observe our teaching methods. The goup visited many schools in various states, but Arkansas was the only state in which they stayed in private homes. He was very impressed with Arkansas and they exchanged lots of souvenirs.

We all send our best wishes to John Howell who is in the McClellan VA hospital. Hurry and get well because we miss you.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Eight years and 2000 fish later, John Harris has completed his dissertation entitled "Taxonomy and Biology of Subgenus *Erimystax*" (minnows). Congratulations to John upon earning his Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

To add to the excitement, John and Wendy moved into a new house in Pleasant Forest. It gives them a lot more room, and the backyard looks like a park.



John Harris

Mike Harris completed three years of night school to obtain an Associate Degree of Electronic Technology at Southern Technical College in Little Rock. The faculty selected Mike as Outstanding Student of the Graduating Class, finishing with a 4.0 grade average.



Mike Harris

Brenda Guest has completed her studies at Capital City Junior College. During her enrollment there Brenda was on the Honor Roll three times and the Dean's List four times. She was named Outstanding Student in Business Office Machines and was awarded Perfect Attendance Certificates for each quarter, maintaining a 3.85 grade average. Brenda will receive an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Business Data Processing and a Diploma in Senior Accounting at the graduation ceremony in January 1987.

These students have worked extremely hard while carrying out their various workloads and family routines. We are proud of each of them

and their achievements. Congratulations to John, Mike, and Brenda.



Brenda Guest



Paige James

We welcome Paige James as our new Clerk Typist. Recently married, Paige is a native of Little Rock who now lives in Benton. She is a graduate of Mills High School and was previously employed by Butler Paper Company. Paige enjoys going to the lake, boating, and skiing.

Jim Gaither and family took a 10-day trip to Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. They visited historic sights, Independence Hall at Philadelphia and the monuments and museums at Washington.

Bill Richardson went to New Orleans where he attended the National Wetland Symposium: Mitigation of Impact and Losses.

Susan Bradley completed 10 years of service with the Department. Marion Butler, Division Head, presented her with her 10-year pin and certificate.



Susan Bradley and Marion Butler

HIGHWAY POLICE

Congratulations to Chuck Lomerson III, who killed his first deer during the November '85 deer season at his grandfather's deer camp in Grapevine, Arkansas. Chuck is 12 years old and the son of Chuck Lomerson, Jr., Patrol Unit 575 stationed in Brinkley.



Debbie and Chuck Lomerson

MAINTENANCE

In the last issue of the magazine, there was a comment about John Hall doing the hula dance while he was in Hawaii. Well, here's the proof. Pictured is John and Jim Selby actually doing the hula dance. At least they were "attempting" to do the hula dance. They sure look like they were having fun.



John Hall and Jim Selby dancing the Hula.

On August 5 this office had cake and punch for Bob Fulton, our Agronomist, who works in the Roadside Development section. Bob received his 20 year service pin from Jim Francis. Congratulations Bob!



Bob Fulton and Jim Francis

We would like to say "Welcome" to our new employee, Danny Keene. Danny is a graduate from the U of A in Fayetteville with a Mechanical Engineering degree. He is working in the Roadside Development section as a Civil Engineer I. Danny came to work for us in July and we are very glad to have him with us.

Tammy and Ben Winkler have sent us a picture of their two children. Shanda Nichole is 2½ years old and Guy Benjamin, III is 6 months old. They sure are cute kids. Ben is a Finish Carpenter for one of our Heavy Bridge crews.



Shanda and Guy Winkler

MATERIALS & RESEARCH

Congratulations to Chuck Sitton of Research who on September 13 married Jonelle Scott. They spent a week in Florida for their honeymoon. We wish them much happiness.



Jonelle Scott Sitton

We welcome four new employees to M&R. Paul Simms, from Planning Division, was promoted to Research Engineer; Rick Sneed transferred from Right of Way; Leanne Minery came to us from the Hot Springs RE office; and Nancy Troillett, who has worked in Research the past two summers, transferred from the U of A at Fayetteville to UALR and now is a permanent part-time employee.

Elmo Fennel received his 15 year service pin in September and Reggie Cobb received her 10 year service pin in August. Coffee and donuts were served on September 17 in honor of Neil Roach who received his 35 year service pin, and

a reception for Howard Bledsoe was held in the M&R conference room on September 26 in recognition of 13 years of service and his retirement. A watch was presented to him by Division Head Ralph Hall.

Jim Marten's wife bought a new Nissan Maxima. Terry Hardison and his father played in a father-son golf tournament at Burns Park on August 2 and Terry made a hole-in-one.

Greg and Penny Harding are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Daniel Gregory, born June 11, weighing 5 pounds and 15 ounces.



Daniel Gregory Harding

PERMITS

We welcome two new employees to our section. Greg Godfrey transferred from Highway Police in June and Nancy Holobaugh came to us from the Lehi Weigh Station in West Memphis during July.



Nancy Holobaugh

Congratulations to Joe Wheat and wife, Pat, who welcomed their 12th grandbaby. Kyle Nicholas Dover was born on September 28 to Pat's son, Bill Dover and wife, Robin, of San Francisco, California. Kyle weighed 10 pounds and 2 ounces.

PLANNING DIVISION

Hilda Harris, of Technical Services, and husband, David, are proud of their new wheels. They acquired a 1985 Olds Cutlass Supreme in August.

Polly Cloud, of Technical Services, and her husband, Robert, enjoyed a trip to Las Vegas in August. It was Polly's first time to fly.

Kathy Upchurch has a new place in the Planning Division. She recently transferred from Statewide Planning to Technical Services. We are glad to have her.

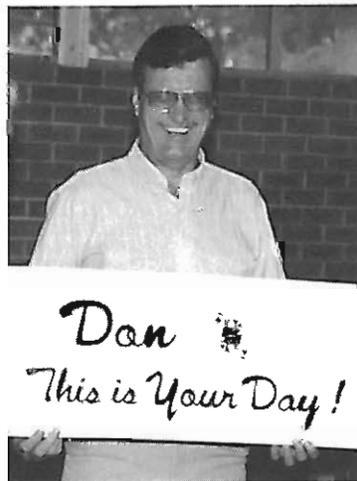
Trish Parsons and husband, Nick, enjoyed a nice Florida vacation in August.

Steve Mitchell, of Statewide Planning, was recently elected to a two-year term as Treasurer of the Arkansas Chapter of the American Planning Association. Congratulations Steve!

Statewide Planning would like to welcome Virginia Hamman to our section. She is from Jonesboro and graduated from Vanderbilt with a BECE. She is single and enjoys water sports and reading. Welcome Virginia!

Statewide Planning said goodbye to Paul Simms recently. Paul accepted a position in M&R and we all wish him lots of luck.

The Planning Division congratulates Don Finkbeiner for completing 25 years of service with the Department. Don's development of the scribing process in the Mapping & Graphics Section has proven to be a valuable asset to the production of high quality mapping by the Department.



Don Finkbeiner

Stella Christman spent sometime in Washington, D.C. this past summer. She and her son, Lee, visited Jackie Weir, a former employee of the Mapping & Graphics Section. Both enjoyed the visit with Jackie.

PROGRAMMING & SCHEDULING

Congratulations to Roy Douglas for 10 years of service with the Department. Tom Harrell presented Roy with a pin and certificate and the office provided a cake. We wish Roy many more happy years of service.



Roy Douglas and Tom Harrell

Congratulations to Laura DeBro-Carter and her husband, John, on the birth of their beautiful daughter, Gwendolyn Shante' Carter. She arrived April 9 and since then John has brought her to see us a couple of times. We have enjoyed holding her and all the ladies signed on a babysitters. Laura is having fun buying her pretty dresses.



Gwendolyn Shante' Carter

Also, an early congratulations to Verna Higgins and her husband, Randy. They are expecting their first child this spring.

Tom Harrell's son, Dusty, and Lorie Merrick's son, Tim, both started kindergarten this year. Both of the boys love it and are having a lot of new experiences.



Tim Merrick

Becky and Mike Sebren took an enjoyable two-week vacation this year to travel up the west coast. Some of the highlights were Universal Studios, Monterey Peninsula, San Francisco, the World's Fair in Vancouver, Canada and Victoria, Canada.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The staff of PTU has spent a rather boring summer. With the exception of family members being sick, in the hospital, or something, therefore all staff answer 'no activity' to each of the writers questions. Sheila Baugh was elected President of the Arkansas Gerontological Society, an organization in which she has been active since 1972. She is also planning to be married in the Fall to Larry Meyer. Best wishes, Sheila!

Mary Wilson's husband, Charles, underwent heart surgery in September and is recovering nicely.

Since the summer was so hot, many people who were eagerly planning camping and fishing trips, cancelled them and decided to work. However, with the cool weather of fall coming on and the opening of squirrel season, things can now get back to normal once again.

REPRODUCTION

On September 16 the Reproduction Section helped Al Dunn celebrate his 62nd birthday with a delicious potluck. Many balloons and flowers decorated his desk.



Al Dunn

We welcome our new employee in Map Sales. Deborah Dyer and husband, Van, and 2 sons, Jeff, 19, and Pat, 15 live at Bryant. Deb's hobbies are reading and athletic events. We're so happy to have her with us.

Robert and Annette Cagle have moved to their new home in Meadowcliff and we know they are proud of it.

Congratulations to Pete Escarre's granddaughter, Kortnee Bright as she was chosen 1st runner up in Nevada County's "Tiny Miss" Contest. Pete and Betty sure have some beautiful grandchildren.

Al Hubert says "thanks" to everyone for their thoughts and prayers for his son during his recuperation. Shawn continues to improve and hopes to go home from the Arkansas Rehabilitation Institute in 4 to 6 weeks.

Congratulations to Caceia Coleman on the arrival of her bouncing baby daughter, Jennifer Laymonta Missouri, on September 23, weighing 7 pounds and 8 ounces. Caceia was honored with refreshments and presented a baby gift before her last day at work.

We are happy to have two COE students working with us this year. Kelly Edgin attends McClellan High School. She loves spending time with friends but also likes quiet times alone. She plans to later attend VoTech School and become a Business Computer Operator. Evrn Isby attends J.A. Fair High School. Her hobbies are track and modeling. She plans to attend the University of Arkansas and major in business.

Bud and Pat Latson spent a most enjoyable vacation in Washington, D.C. and Colonial Williamsburg area.

This smiling young man is 3-year old Nathan Nalley, son of Credonna Nalley. He keeps his mother hopping.



Nathan Nalley

RIGHT OF WAY

We have a new grandmother in our midst. You will recognize her by the smile on her face and the picture in her hand. Shirley Butler, Secretary in the Relocation Section became a grandmother when her daughter gave birth to a son on June 24. His name is Ricky Lee Cotton and he weighed 5 pounds and 10 ounces. His parents are Ricky and Vickie Cotton. Congratulations to the new grandmother and the new parents.



Ricky Lee Cotton

Speaking of grandparents, Fred Williams recently went to Manassas, Virginia to see his granddaughter Sarah. He and Nina did spend a little bit of their time there visiting with their son, Steve and daughter-in-law Pam, but most of it was spent playing with Sarah.

We would like to welcome a new employee, Shirley Shelton, to the Right of Way Division. Shirley will be working as an Abstractor in the Administrative Section.

STATE AID

Johnnie Oldham, the 13-year old grandson of our Retired Staff Photographer Johnnie Gray, and son of this Division's Secretary Barbara, on August 25 had this picture that he had

taken published in the Ark. Democrat. Johnnie has been taking pictures and has had several classes in photography. One class was taken at the Arkansas Arts Center and he has been to classes sponsored by the Arkansas Association of Amateur Photographers, of which he is now a member.

This moving van caught fire on I-40 when fluid leaked from the van causing a fire with estimated damages of \$60,000. Firefighters brought the blaze under control in about 25 minutes. One westbound lane of I-40 was blocked for 2½ hours two miles east of Forrest City. Johnnie had taken notes of the accident and his mother took him to the Democrat to see if they could use the picture. They did and gave Johnnie a credit line, a few extra prints and a roll of film. This has really been encouraging to a young amateur photographer following in the footsteps of his Grandfather. Johnnie has also been elected to serve as Annual Staff Photographer at Little Rock Christian School where he is in the 8th grade.



RADIO SECTION

The Radio Section has four new Telecommunications Operators. They are: Valerie Pitts, Jesse Koenigsberg, Ralph Brown, and Davin Webb.

Valerie is a 1984 graduate of Hall High School and attended Capital City Jr. College to achieve her Senior Accounting Degree. Also, she has had 11 months of training at the Little Rock Police Department as a cadet.

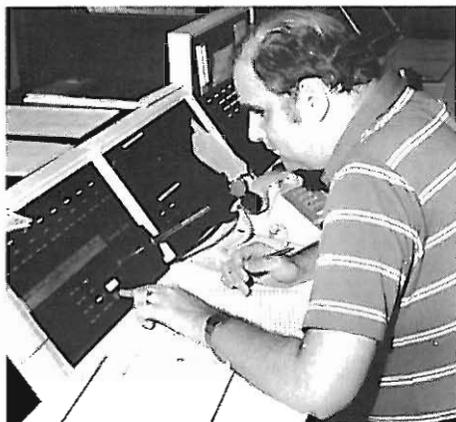
She enjoys traveling to California and other states where her relatives live.



Valerie Pitts

Jesse Michael Koenigsberg was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1951. He and his wife moved to Little Rock in 1979. Jesse enjoys sports of all kinds and travel. His educational

background includes a BBA in General Business from Eastern Michigan University; a diploma in Data Processing from Pulaski Vo-Tech; and he is currently attending UALR studying Computer Science. Jesse works the night shift -- some of you will recognize his voice.

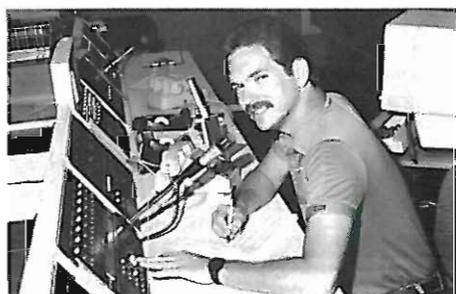


Jesse Koenigsberg

Ralph Brown was born in San Jose, California in 1958 and moved to Benton in 1965 and made that home. He is a single parent who raises his 8-year old son, Eric. (Girls - he is available).

He graduated from Benton High School and has recently received an Associate Degree in Computer Programming.

His hobbies include fishing, camping, boating, and other outdoor activities with his son.



Ralph Brown

Davin Mark Webb was born in Little Rock. After graduating from high school he joined the National Guard for 2½ years. Davin's son, 18-month old Brandon, is the "apple" of his eye. For hobbies, he enjoys drag racing and going to car shows. (Girls - he's also available).

We welcome each of you to the AHTD.



Davin Webb

SURVEYS DIVISION

The Surveys Division welcomes Dan Robb to our staff. Dan is a Civil Engineer graduate of the U of A in Fayetteville. He is married and has one daughter. Welcome Dan!



Dan Robb

The men who took CPR under the supervision of Mike Shaw and Judy Drake would like to thank them for a great job. It was much appreciated.

We would like to congratulate Gerald Kirksey, Survey Party Chief, for 30 years of service and to Rick Farmer, Survey Specialist, for 15 years of service. The end is near, boys! Congratulations.

Jim Trost's daughter, Jennifer, and her softball team, Lil' Breakers, came in first place in their league at Little Oaks Ball Park in Mabelvale; fourth place in the state tournament played at Fort Smith; third place in the regional tournament played in Columbus, Missouri and then placed 13th in the Nationals played in Marietta, Georgia. That's some pretty impressive ball playing girls! Congratulations to you all.

The Surveys Division expresses their sympathy to the family of Steve Clay, who was a Senior Survey Aide for six years. Steve was killed in a motorcycle accident.

That's about all for the Surveys Division, but I'm sure we will have some tall tales to tell about deer season in the next issue.

PHOTOGRAMMETRY

Congratulations to Farrell Adams and Ferrel Magby who received service awards recently. Farrell Adams for 15 years and Ferrel Magby for 10 years. We had cake and dip and chips to celebrate the occasion.



Farrell Adams

Ferrel Magby

Randy Boyd is very excited. He has received another royalty check for the computer program he wrote and sold to a computer magazine. This check was better than the last one - it was for \$430. Congratulations Randy, we are proud of you.

DISTRICT ONE

On August 28 the District One Chapter of the Retirees Association held their first fish fry at Village Creek State Park. Approximately 65 retirees, spouses and guests turned out for the food and fellowship. We heard that Ralph Vickers had a big hand in the cooking and that his wife, Jerry, made those fabulous hush-puppies (she makes the best anywhere)! Nine representatives from the Retirees Association from Little Rock attended and our Maintenance Superintendent Calvin George also attended. Our photographer didn't realize he had only one exposure left in his camera, but we thought we'd send in this picture anyway and see if you can guess who was there.



Guess who was at the retirees fish fry?

Later the same day, another fish fry was held at the St. Francis Maintenance Headquarters for Lewis Shafer who retired at age 65 with 20 years of service. Lewis did a fine job as Rest Area Attendant at Forrest City Area Foreman Roy Morris presented Lewis with an inscribed plaque from his fellow crew members.



Roy Morris and Lewis Shafer

We would like to announce the arrival of Derek Ross Glover born August 3. Derek is the son of proud parents Stan and Cara Glover, and the first grandchild of Bob and Joyce Glover. Daddy Stan is a Construction Field Engineer in the West Memphis Residency and Granddad Bob is the District Materials Supervisor in District Ten. Maybe Derek will be a third generation employee of the AHTD.

The beautiful sesquicentennial quilt pictured commemorating the 150th birthday of Arkansas was designed and handmade by Mrs. Beulah Evans of Walnut Ridge. Mrs. Evans, wife of O.R. 'Curly' Evans, retiree from the West Memphis Residency has designed and made many other quilts. One that is especially elegant is a framed quilted map of the United States which hangs in the class

room of her daughter, Janet Harris, who is an 8th grade teacher in Pocahontas.



Sesquicentennial Quilt

Assistant District Engineer Gene Belknap, and his wife, Darlene, are happy to announce the birth of their first grandchild, Tory Deann Wells. Tory was born August 13 to Toby and Lorri Wells of Brinkley. As most good grandmothers, Darlene was glad to provide us with a picture of Tory. Being the first grandchild on both sides of the family, we know she'll get plenty of tender loving care.



Tory Deann Wells

John Alls, who did a fine job as lead person on the Crittenden County Maintenance Crew, retired in September with 19 years of service. We wish John a long and happy retirement.

Some people hunt and fish for their hobbies, other jog, etc., but Catherine Drennon enters contests. I might add that for her it is a considerably more profitable hobby than the others mentioned. Catherine is the wife of Verlon Drennon, Assistant Resident Engineer at the West Helena Residency, and is a very lucky person. Two years ago she won a new Ford F150 pickup complete with camping gear. In September, she won the 'Coke, Arkansas and You Summer Sweepstakes' grand prize which was valued at over \$25,000. The grand prize was a Chevrolet 4-wheel drive pickup and a 16-foot Monarch Fiero ski boat. Since 1981 she has won over \$40,000 in prizes. The Drennons plan to move to Hot Springs next year after Verlon retires. Catherine will

probably spend her time persuing her contests and Verlon should take ski lessons and put the prize boat to good use. Good luck to you both.



Catherine and Verlon Drennon and her 'loot'

A proud daddy, our parts runner, Bubba Ragen, was glad to provide us with a picture of his little girl. Brooke Lynn was born to Bubba and his wife, Tanya, on July 25 and suckers with "It's a girl!" were provided by daddy to everyone at the District One Headquarters.



Brooke Lynn Ragan

Jim Smith has been promoted to Resident Engineer in West Memphis replacing Rick Owens who left to go into business for himself. We wish Jim good luck in his new job. We also welcome Ron Stallings to West Memphis as Construction Field Engineer.

DISTRICT TWO



Dan Flowers and Jim Briley

We were very proud of our District Engineer Jim Briley when he received his 25 year service award from Dan Flowers, Assistant Chief Engineer-Operations, at a presentation honoring service award recipients from District Two. Also receiving 25 year awards were Scarler Lyons, and O.Z. McGehee. Twenty year awards were presented to J.I. Fletcher, James C. Smith, R.R. Steele and Kenneth Turner. Receiving 15 year awards were Charles Ellingburg, Barney Herring, and Thomas Rotton. O.A. McGehee, Jr. and D.J. Vaughn received their 10 year awards. Five year awards were presented to Tommie L. Boyd, C.M. Hicks, Robert C. Wal-

ker, Marilyn Jo Bates and John McGilton.

Congratulations to all these fine people for their many years of service to the Department.

Congratulations to Joe Watkins of the Pine Bluff Residency, on his recent marriage.

Shown in the picture is Tammy Sue Herrington, daughter of John and Elizabeth Herrington. John is Foreman of the District Bridge Crew. She sure is cute!



Tammy Sue Herrington

We know that Bill and Juanita Herrington are proud of their first grandchild. Ola Nicole Herrington is the daughter of James and Margaret Herrington. Grand Dad Bill is a finish carpenter in the District Maintenance crew.



Ola Nicole Herrington

Nicole Herrington

Our District CPR Instructors attended a recertification class on the new standards recently in Little Rock. Attending the class were Kelly Slater, Earl Raines and Bettye Carter. Jim Allbritton, a Instructor Trainee, was an instructor in the classes.

The Crew of the Month for July was Drew County and Area Foreman R.L. Brantley and for the month of August was Cleveland County with Area Foreman Ricky Neal. This is something to be proud of. Nice going Drew County, it had been a while.



July Crew of the Month
Jim Briley and R.L. Brantley



**August Crew of the Month
Jim Briley and Ricky Neal**

We would like to welcome our new employee Cindy Hall as District Receptionist. She is a native of Pine Bluff, graduated from Chapel Academy and attended Pines Vo-Tech. Her hobbies include reading and crafts. She would like to attend college and study Business Management. She is single.



Cindy Hall



Barney Herring

Shown in the picture is Barney Herring, the new Area Foreman in Desha County. Barney formerly worked in the District Sealing Crew and has relocated in McGehee. He reports he really likes it there and enjoys his new job. He's a nice fellow to work with.

Ask Area Foreman James Wolfe, from Jefferson County, about his new Corvette. He kinda likes it!

DISTRICT THREE

Congratulations to the following on their years of service with the department. Paul Auld, E.L. Carrell, Brady Lewis, Clifford Cline, and Hershel Clover for 5 years; A.C. Dismuke, John Ardwin, L.C. Carmack, John C. Gray, Steve Morrow, Roy F. Wilson, Carlos Womack and Mike Giles for 10 years; K.E. Cowart, Herbert Ogden and David Carmack for 15 years; Gary Roberts and Clifford Brewer for 20

years; Dale Fulmer for 25 years and C.O. Adams and R.J. Holder for 30 years.

Co-workers enjoyed refreshments in honor of Phil Koelzer, Construction Project Supervisor, who recently completed 30 years of service with AHTD. His pin was presented by Resident Engineer Ken Harris. Congratulations Phil!



F.J. Koelzer and Ken Harris



George Derrick and James Mansfield

George Derrick, Miller County Area Foreman, was presented certificates by James Mansfield, AHTD Safety Officer, for administering CPR to Annie Bell Sumpter, Rest Area Attendant, when she suffered a heart attack at the rest area. The doctor said that the CPR saved her life. It is good to know that we have people around that are trained in CPR.

Julie Tyler and Roger Moren were united in marriage on August 10 at the Garrett Memorial Baptist Church in Hope. Julie is the daughter of District Three Engineer William Tyler.

DISTRICT FOUR

Service awards this month include Amos Zimmer, Scott County Foreman, 20 years; David Becker, Sebastian II Foreman, 15 years; and M.D. Patton, Senior Mechanic, 15 years.

Buck Johnston, Inspector in Jack Coleman's Office, is very proud of his new grandson, Timothy Randall, born August 6 weighing 7 pounds and 6 ounces. His proud parents are Jeanine and Terry Johnston.

Cindy Shone, District Caretaker, has transferred to Skilled Trades Trainee. Good luck Cindy, but we will miss your green thumb in the flower beds.

Kit Core, District 4 Permit Officer, trans-

ferred to District 3 as the Little River Area Foreman. As a going away present the office staff presented Kit with a cake and money tree. We wish Kit and his family the best of luck in this new endeavor. He will be greatly missed in District 4.



Amos Zimmer and Allan Holmes



David Becker and Allan Holmes



M.D. Patton and B.G. Lee



Timothy Randall Johnston



Cindy Shone



Kit Core

We want to welcome our two new COE students, Melissa Lundsford and Missy Sewell. Melissa is a sophomore secretarial science major and Missy is an accounting major and also a sophomore. Both are students at Westark. We're glad to have these girls with us.

Three CPR recertification classes were held recently at the District Headquarters. Those attending were Steve Reeves, Sam Turner, David Edwards, Jerry Stukey, Randall Barnett, Tom McCormick, Billie Craig, James Graham, Ray Jett, W.O. Craig, Jack McLaughlin, Karen Reinschmidt, Marvin Risley, C.J. Tabler and L.W. Lyda. Instructors were Pat Graham, Jerry Mantooth and Mark Williams.

Mark Williams, Area Foreman at Greenwood, coached the First Baptist, Lavaca, Women's softball team. This being their first year they did very well. They finished 2nd in the area league and 2nd in the State Church League. Congratulations team!



First Baptist, Lavaca, Women's Softball Team

DISTRICT FIVE

We would like to congratulate the following employees on their years of service with the Department: Keith Richardson, Fred Boutwell and Orville Elembaugh, 25 years; W.E. Hughes, 20 years; James Hoggard, 15 years; Tommy Caudel, Steve Hampton, Donnie Schmidt, Jimmy Ray Smith, Joey Hipp, Jo Earnheart, Earl Ezelle and J.R. Leggett, 10 years; and Merle Campbell, 5 years.



Keith Richardson

Cute little Leslie Marie Smith has a pleasant look on her face. She was born September 5 weighing 8 pounds and 8 ounces. She is the daughter of Pat (Bo) and Karen Smith. Pat is a Construction Helper in the Rice Residency.



Leslie Marie Smith

We extend our sympathy to the families of Charles McClusky, Equipment Supervisor, upon the death of his father and to Gene Lee, Searcy Crew Leader, upon the death of his brother.

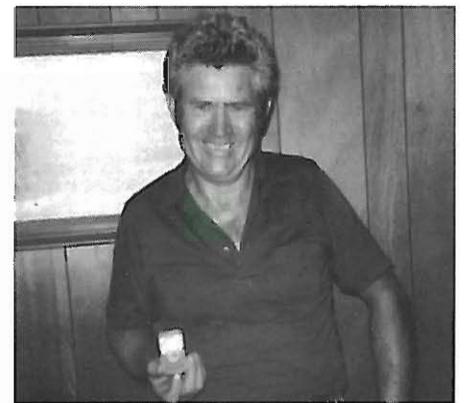
Several employees in our office took vacations this summer. Brenda Pearson went to Las Vegas. (She said she went without any money and came back without any, but had lots of fun anyway). Paul Matthews and family went to Opryland in July. Danny Watson and family vacationed in Branson and Silver Dollar City. Randy Satterwhite and his family followed their son and brother throughout the state to his different golf tournaments. Kay Taylor and

family went to Dogpatch and Branson. Danny Fleetwood thinks he may never get to take another vacation. Norma and Harold McKinney went to Gatlinburg, Smoky Mountains and Rock City. Marilyn and James Coffman have been to Hot Springs a couple of times.

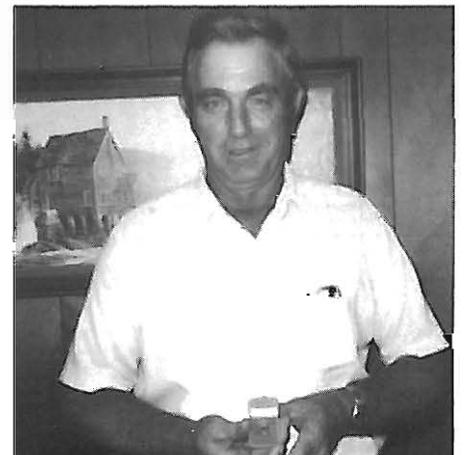
Wedding vows were exchanged between James Richardson and Laurie Taylor on September 13 in a beautiful ceremony at the First Baptist Church in Desha. James is the son of Keith and Judy Richardson. Keith is the Office Technician in the Hulon Rice Residency. The new couple is residing at Atkins where James is employed as a supervisor for Con-Agra Corp., Banquet Division.



Mr. & Mrs. James Richardson



Orville Elumbaugh



Fred Boutwell



Jim Chaney and Jo Earnheart

DISTRICT SIX

Shanna Kuhn, 8 year old daughter of Warren (Pete) Kuhn, Service Station Attendant, was among 2500 competitors at the 1986 American Taekwondo Association Grand Nationals in Little Rock on June 7. Shanna took first place national honors in Form competition and third place in Free Sparring in her Mini Pee-Wee Girls Division.

Shanna has also competed at tournaments in Pine Bluff, Monticello and Springfield, Mo. She won first place in Form at each of these tournaments, also two firsts and one third in Free Sparring.

She is a student at Benton ATA Center and presently holds the rank of Second Grade Red Belt.



Shanna Kuhn

This little cutie is Ashley Laney Works, daughter of Julia Morrison, who works at the Dixon Road Maintenance Office in Pulaski County. Ashley was born July 27 weighing 7 pounds and 3 ounces. Congratulations Julia.

This big fellow is Jesse Tyler Delling, grandson of Barbara Mize of our Little Rock RE office. Jesse was born May 20 to Debbie and Michael Delling. Barbara isn't very proud of her very first grandchild, but she has already worn out one set of pictures and is starting on another set.



Ashley Laney Works



Jesse Tyler Delling

We have a new employee in our office. Tracy Swicegood began working September 24 in the survey party. Tracy is single and lives in Jacksonville and enjoys skiing, fishing and motorcycling. We're glad to have you aboard Tracy!

Congratulations to Henry Ward for his 20 years of service with the Department. We feel very honored to have Henry in our office.

DISTRICT EIGHT

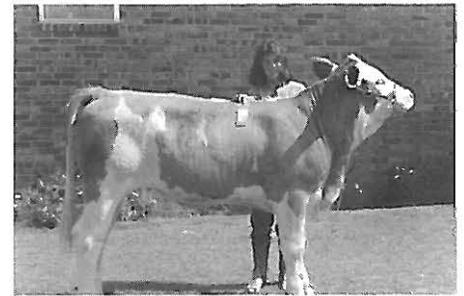
Congratulations to our service award recipients. They are Thomas Kinslow, 30 years; J.B. Havener, 25 years; Don Wilkinson, Jimmy Austin, and Cletus Cravens, 20 years; Ray Wren, 15 years; Russell Bramlett, Robert Wall, Benny Malone, and Gail Davis, 5 years.

Assistant Storeroom Supervisor Kenneth Buchanan is proud of his children's accomplishments at the recent Pope County Fair in Russellville. Josh, age 6, had the Grand Champion finishing first in his class of Senior Registered Fitted Heifers. Jennifer, age 10, finished first in her class of Junior Registered Fitted Heifers. They are each pictured with their Simmental heifer. They also showed market hogs and 4H pullets. Their little sister Jessica, age 5, also showed 4H pullets. They all belong to the Sequoyah 4H Club.

Laura Baskin, age 8, had lots of fun playing softball this summer. She was pitcher for the River Valley Sporting Goods team. Laura is the daughter of Johnson County Area Foreman Bo Baskin.



Josh Buchanan



Jennifer Buchanan



Laura Baskin

Congratulations to Al and Lynda Hunt on the birth of their daughter, Alissa Lyn on August 26 weighing 6 pounds and 13 ounces. She has a big sister, Vicki, who is 13, and a brother, Cory, age 9.



Alissa Lyn Hunt

Pat King, office technician in C.W. McMillian's Residency, has a lot to be proud of in her daughter, Tanya. Not only is she a very beautiful young lady but very talented. She won first place on most of her paintings she entered at the County Fair. She hopes to continue with her education, after high school, in the field of art.

Our sincere sympathy to Larry Rainwater and his family on the loss of his mother. May the memories surpass the grief.

It looks as if vacations are not always what the doctor ordered for some people. Clara Huie, our field clerk, returned with a sinus infection, after a two week vacation in Hawaii visiting her son Danny. Also our Resident Engineer, Bud McMillian, had a nice vacation with his family in Florida but was a little under the weather on his return to work.

Well, hunting season is upon us and so we will be deluged with many a tall tale. Dennis James, one of our inspectors, reported he killed a 10-pt. buck with what else - a bow and arrow. on the first day of the season...no pictures, just facts. Oh well, until next quarter, maybe the pictures.

DISTRICT NINE

On September 4, Ellis "Smiley" Stewart was given a Retirement Party and was presented an engraved watch from his co-workers. Smiley was a Dozer Operator with the District-Wide Maintenance Crew. He retired August 15 with 35 years of service. Good luck Smiley, and we hope you have a long and happy retirement!



Ellis 'Smiley' Stewart

Omel Fields received his 35 year pin from Resident Engineer Butch Martin. He began his career with the Department in April 1951 as a Laborer and is presently serving as a Senior Construction Party Chief at the Harrison Resident Engineer's Office. Congratulations Omel!



Butch Martin and Omel Fields

Several service awards were presented at the District Supervisors Meeting held on October 2. They were: Jack Dickey, 20 years; Tom Carter, Ed Cummings, Joe Davidson, Ronnie Risley, and Jay Sasser, 15 years. Thanks guys and congratulations.

Diane Tomilson, District Receptionist, just happened to have a picture of her precious bundle of joy, Donnie Joe. Donnie was 4 months old October 6 and is his mom and dad's pride and joy. Now you see why!



Donnie Joe Tomlinson

We have three beauties to show off who all competed in "Our Diamond Miss" preliminary pageant held at the Holiday Inn in Harrison. Jenna Pederson, 1 year old daughter of Doug and Janell Pederson, was crowned "World of Babies Overall Winner" and "Overall Photogenic", ages 0-24 months. Jenna was also crowned "Tiny Baby Rainbow Portfolio" at the "Miss Rainbow Pageant" at Hot Springs on September 13. Doug is a Finish Carpenter with our District Bridge Crew. Jenna has two brothers, Jason and T.J. and is the granddaughter of Ethel Pederson and Jay and Nelda Sasser and great-granddaughter of Manda Harris, all of Harrison and Neva Sasser of Yellville.



Jenna Pederson

Leslie Wright, 6, was entered in "Petite Miss" Division, age 4-6. She was crowned "Photogenic" Winner and "Glamour Girl" in her age division. She was also honored by receiving the highest overall scores in talent and modeling of all ages 2-18 years. Leslie's awards include crowns, banners, trophy and a diamond necklace. Her parents are Jim and Kaye Wright of Harrison and she had two brothers, Scott and Jamey. She is the granddaughter of Jay and Nelda Sasser and Cecil Wright. Her great-grandmothers are Manda Harris of Harrison and Neva Sasser of Yellville.



Leslie Wright



Laura Morton

Laura Morton, daughter of Carolyn Morton and Rob Morton, both of Harrison, entered the "Teen Miss" age group 13-15 years. She was awarded crowns, banners, trophies and won the titles of "Most Photogenic", "Glamour Girl", "Modeling Queen" and "Talent Queen". Laura has one sister, Cheryl. She is the granddaughter of Jay and Nelda Sasser and Shirley Morton and great granddaughter of Manda Harris and Edith Wagley of Harrison and Neva Sasser of Yellville.

All three of these lovely ladies will represent Harrison next summer in the state pageant. Jay Sasser, grandfather of all three, is Inspector with the Harrison Resident Engineer's office.

Sarah Taylor, 8 year old daughter of Gene and Susie Taylor, rode in Three and Four Wheel Rodeos this summer and won 22 trophies and 11 ribbons. She won two over-all classes in her division at Green Forest and Ozark, Mo. Gene is Crew Leader in our District Bridge Crew. Good going Sarah!



Sarah Taylor



D-9 Service Awards: Risley, Davidson, Carter, Cummings, Dickey and Sasser.

DISTRICT TEN

Life is so fragile and often the balance lies in the hands of one individual who can, having the knowledge and training, tilt the scales. On May 5, Bob Faulkner, Assistant District Engineer, attempted to save the life of an individual who had suffered a heart attack. Unfortunately, life had escaped and Bob's efforts were fruitless. But, Bob will never lie awake at night wondering if he did the right thing. He knows that by using his CPR training he did everything humanly possible to sustain life. Bob was presented two awards for his efforts, one from our own AHTD, and another presented by Mr. Ed Baker of the Department of Labor. We are honored to be associated with such a fine person and are proud of this efforts. It gives you a good feeling to know that there are still people who care about others.



Alta and Bob Faulkner, and Dan Flowers

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank those responsible for making the CPR Training available to Department employees. It takes caring, civic-minded individuals to foresee the need for such a public service.

From potholes to politics. Well almost. Guy Spears of the Osceola RE office retired on September 4 with 32 years of service to the Department. Guy has also entered the political arena in his bid for Mayor of Lepanto. He was presented with a watch from fellow employees who gathered in Osceola for a farewell dinner. Best wished for a happy retirement and good luck at the polls.

We also parted with three other friends since the last article. Felix Duran retired from the Mississippi II Maintenance Crew. Felix was presented with a gift certificate from fellow crew

members. Best wishes for a long, happy retirement Felix!

John Frye retired from the Randolph County Maintenance Crew. John was presented with a rod and reel from fellow crew members. John will be missed by the crew and they look forward to his visits from time to time. Best wishes John.



Frank Shepherd and Guy Spears



Bill Montgomery and Felix Duran



John Frye and R.C. Blackwell

Poor Charlene! These are the only words to describe her predicament since husband, Rex, retired in August. Rex, who was our Assistant Maintenance Superintendent, had 28 years of service with the Department, and now plans to spend his time toddling around in the new van he bought. Congratulations Rex on your retirement and we wish you many happy years. (Rex do you know that since you've been gone, I haven't been in trouble once. Well almost!)



Rex and Charlene Hall

Service certificates were presented to Tim Mangrum, Leonard Rutherford, and Calvin Douglas, 10 years; Dairl Hyle, Gene Davenport, and Jessie Reeves, 20 years and also A.M. "Dub" Tedder was presented his 15 year certificate by Resident Engineer R.J. Blackwell.



Charles Hesselbein and Dairl Hyde



Hesselbein and Gene Davenport



Hesselbein and Jessie Reeves



A.M. 'Dub' Tedder and R.J. Blackwell

Happy Holidays





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