

# Arkansas Highways

SPRING 1991

# Director's Message

Department employees have the responsibility of maintaining Arkansas' 16,255-mile state highway system. This is no small task considering our system is the 16th largest in the country, ranking with the size of California, Michigan, New York and Florida in terms of mileage.

Providing safe roadways for the motoring public is our main objective. We are responsible for planning, designing and constructing facilities that will add to the usefulness of our system. In addition, crews are out on a daily basis to see that potholes are patched, shoulders repaired and cracks sealed.

Construction, maintenance, striping and mowing activities are the functions that the general public sees in the course of a normal days' work. But what about those days that aren't so normal?

For instance, this winter was one of the worst in recent memory in terms of snowfall. Heavy snowfall amounts were recorded in many parts of Arkansas. Approximately six inches fell unexpectedly during the night and into the morning of February 13 in the Central Arkansas area, and even larger amounts were reported elsewhere. Our crews were out immediately clearing the roadways to keep life for Arkansans as close to normal as possible.

The winter of 1996 cost the Department about \$1 million more than an average winter. By all accounts, AHTD personnel did an excellent job of snow removal as evidenced by the response from the public and media.

The Spring season brought more problems for the Department and its employees. On March 1, devastating tornadoes cut a path across our state, leaving a great deal of destruction in its wake. AHTD crews were on the scene immediately to clear debris from affected roadways so that other service vehicles could access the hardest hit areas. Once the roads were clear, our employees helped in other relief efforts at the request of the Office of Emergency Services. AHTD personnel and equipment were utilized extensively throughout the disaster relief effort.

Many Department employees suffered damage or lost their homes in the storms. Their co-workers have been extremely generous with offers of assistance and the Department provided emergency Catastrophic Leave to those employees who needed time to repair or rebuild.

In April, flooding in the eastern and southern areas of our state created problems. At one point on April 3, 33 sections of highway in 13 different counties were closed due to high water. Once again, our forces were active in the recovery effort, making repairs and evaluating the damage as quickly as possible in the hardest hit areas.

From the routine daily work to the relief efforts that take place when disaster strikes, our personnel are among the most available and reliable anywhere.



*Alan Flowers*  
DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

## ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS

SPRING 1997

### ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION



BOBBY HOPPER  
CHAIRMAN



HERBY BRANSCUM, JR.  
VICE CHAIRMAN



JOHN "M" LIPTON  
MEMBER



J.W. "BUDDY" BENAFIELD  
MEMBER



PRISSY HICKERSON  
MEMBER

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EDITOR  
Randy Ort

COMPOSITION & LAYOUT  
Carolyn Johnson

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT  
Keith Stephens

PHOTOGRAPHER  
John Jackson



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# ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS

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**COVER PHOTO:** Highway 167 South in Grant County  
**BACK COVER PHOTO:** Highway 71 in Washington County  
Photographs by John Jackson

## Mary P. "Prissy" Hickerson Appointed To Commission

Mary P. "Prissy" Hickerson of Texarkana was officially sworn in January 21, 1997 to a 10-year term on the Arkansas State Highway Commission. Hickerson received the oath of office from Court of Appeals Judge John S. Stroud, Jr. of Texarkana.

Hickerson was appointed to the Commission by Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee on December 23, 1996. Her tenure on the Commission expires in January 2007.

Hickerson, 45, the business manager for her husband's dental practice, is very involved in community service. She is presently on the Board of Directors of the Temple Memorial Treatment Center, a post she has held since 1986.

She is a 1983 graduate of Leadership Texarkana and a past member of the Leadership Texarkana Advisory Board, a past director of the Volunteer Center Board and a former member of St. Michael Hospital Friends of the Foundation. She is a former officer of the Texarkana Regional Arts and Humanities Council Board. Hickerson has also been a member of Women for the Arts since 1984 and served as its director for two years.

In addition to community involvement, Hickerson has been active in Arkansas politics, working in the Governor's 1992, 1993 and 1994 campaigns. She has also served as Secretary of the Arkansas Republican Party since 1995.

She and her husband of 28 years, Randy, have one son, Chris and are members of the Beech Street First Baptist Church in Texarkana.

Mrs. Hickerson, as a member of the Commission represents the state as a whole, but is an advocate for Highway Districts 3 and 6.



Governor Mike Huckabee appoints Prissy Hickerson to a 10-year term on the Arkansas State Highway Commission December 23, 1996. Standing next to Mrs. Hickerson is her husband Randy.



Mrs. Hickerson, right, takes her oath of office on January 21, 1997, from Judge Stroud, as her husband Randy holds the Bible.



Left to right are AHTD Director Dan Flowers; Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield; Commission Chairman L.W. "Bill" Clark; Prissy Hickerson; Governor Mike Huckabee; and Commissioners John "M" Lipton, Herby Branscum, Jr. and Bobby Hopper.

## Hopper, Branscum Named Chair, Vice Chair of Commission

Bobby Hopper of Springdale has been named Chairman of the five-member Arkansas State Highway Commission. He replaces L.W. "Bill" Clark whose 10-year term expired in January. Herby Branscum, Jr. of Perryville will take Hopper's place as Vice Chairman.

Hopper, a Gassville native, was re-appointed to the Commission by former Governor Bill Clinton in January 1989. He was first appointed to the Commission in 1983 by Clinton to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of F.H. Martin. He previously served as Chairman in 1987 and 1988. His current term on the Commission expires January 1999.

Hopper and his wife Lois have a daughter Regina Blakely and a son Robert. The Hoppers are members of the First United Methodist Church in Springdale.

Branscum was also appointed by former Governor Clinton in 1991. His term will expire in 2001. Branscum replaced former Commissioner Raymond Pritchett. He is a graduate of the University of Central Arkansas in Conway and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Law School. He has practiced law in Perryville and Little Rock since his admission to the Arkansas State Bar in 1967.

He and his wife Billie Jo are members of the Perryville First Baptist Church. They have two sons James and John C. "Chris," and a daughter Elizabeth "Beth."



**Bobby Hopper**  
Chairman



**Herby Branscum, Jr.**  
Vice Chairman

## Newly-Elected State Legislators Briefed on Department Operations

Newly-elected members of the 81st Arkansas General Assembly gathered at the AHTD Central Office Complex January 3 to learn first-hand about the operations of the State's Highway and Transportation Department. Sixteen of the twenty-two new members of the legislature attended the briefing session.

Commission Chairman L. W. "Bill" Clark opened the session by welcoming the legislators and introducing other members of the Highway Commission. He then turned the meeting over to Director Dan Flowers who introduced members of the AHTD staff and presented an overview of Department activities.

"We're very proud of what we've been able to accomplish here at the Department," Flowers told the group. "We have been able to keep employment numbers and administrative costs down despite the fact that our duties and responsibilities have increased in recent years."

Deputy Director and Chief Engineer Roger Almond and Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson also spoke to the legislators about activities in their respective areas. Almond gave a progress report on the 1991 Highway Improvement Program while Wilson gave an overview of the Department's employment history. A discussion led by Director Flowers regarding the condition of the state's highways and how

roads are financed prompted several questions from the legislators. Funding options were presented and each legislator was presented with a notebook containing information that was covered in the briefing. A light lunch was served to the group following the briefing.

After lunch, several of the legislators were taken on a tour of Department facilities with stops made in Planning and Research, Roadway Design and Materials.

"I think this was a very informative meeting for all the new legislators," commented Representative Steve Faris of Malvern.

"I think it's great that the Highway Department does this every session. It's a big help," he added.



Representatives Dianne Hudson of Sherwood and Pat Bond of Jacksonville with AHTD Director Dan Flowers.



Commission Chairman L.W. "Bill" Clark with Representative Rita Hale of Hot Springs.



Commissioner John Lipton, right, confers with Representatives Jerry Allison of Jonesboro and Shane Broadway of Bryant.



Commission Vice Chairman Bobby Hopper visits with Representative Mac McGehee of Fort Smith.



Commissioner John Lipton, newly-appointed Commissioner Prissy Hickerson, Representatives Rita Hale, Jerry Allison and Pat Bond.



Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield, left, and Herby Branscum, Jr. talk with Representative Martha Shoffner of Newport.



Representative Sandra Rodgers of Hope is briefed on the Highway Improvement Program by Director Dan Flowers.



Assistant Chief Engineer for Design Bob Walters, right, explains the CADD system to newly-elected legislators in Roadway Design.

# March 1 Tornado Leaves Path of Destruction Across Arkansas

Saturday, March 1, 1997, is a day that will long be remembered in Arkansas. On that day, a series of tornadoes spawned by one "supercell" thunderstorm cut a diagonal swath from southwest to northeast across our state. In its wake, dozens of lives were lost, hundreds of people were injured, and thousands were left homeless.

Fortunately, no active AHTD employees lost their lives or were seriously injured. However, our deepest

sympathy is extended to Aaron Grainger, District 6 Single Axle Truck Driver whose aunt and uncle, Billy Joe and Shirley Dunn, were killed during the storm and to the family and friends of Milton J. Ross, a retired District 6 Senior Mechanic who lost his life as a result of the devastating storm. A complete listing of affected employees can be found in this article.

Crews from the Department were on the scenes immediately assisting with cleanup activities. Their first priority was to clear obstructed roadways so rescue and medical teams could reach the hardest hit areas. After the roads were cleared, AHTD crews assisted in any way possible. The Department extends its appreciation to all who were involved in those efforts.

The following pages show some of the destruction caused by these storms. In the next issue of "Arkansas Highways", we will visit some AHTD employees who were affected to report on the progress they are making with their rebuilding efforts.



Danny Moore, above and below, Senior Traffic Investigator for Maintenance, stands before what is left of his home in the Sardis community. His wife Cindy and several children were at home when the storm hit.





(Above and at right) Jesse and Terry Koenigsberg survey the damage to their home in the Woodland Ridge subdivision in southwest Little Rock. Jesse is a Telecommunications Operator in the Maintenance Division.



Mark Greenwood, Materials Technician IV, stands beside one of the numerous trees destroyed in southwest Little Rock.



Carlotta Vaughn, Computer Services Technical Coordinator, in front of her home also in the Woodland Ridge Subdivision in southwest Little Rock.



The hardest hit area of the state was the city of Arkadelphia. Over 75 square blocks of the city sustained major damage, six were killed and numerous persons injured.



Damage to a building at the intersection of Highway 65 and Dixon Road.



Highway Department personnel clear Dixon Road of twisted metal from a nearby manufacturing plant.



The destruction along Hilario Springs Road in Little Rock.



Highway Department crews remove debris in Arkadelphia.



An American flag standing in Arkadelphia.



Numerous trees had to be cut up before they could be hauled away.



Highway Department crews worked long hours to restore streets and roads to normal.



The following list includes employees and families of employees who lost their homes or suffered other damage from the severe weather that struck Arkansas March 1.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Ronnie Anderson, AHP, Home Damaged  | Vicki Yarberry, Central Office Cafeteria, Son's Home Destroyed      |
| Carlotta Vaughn, Computers, Home Destroyed  | John Jackson, Public Affairs, Sister-in-law's Home Destroyed        |
| John Fleming, Environmental, Home Destroyed   | Perry Johnston, Right of Way, Home Damaged                          |
| Luther Cox, Human Resources, Brother's Home Destroyed   | Bobbie Kraehmer, Maintenance, Daughter's Home Damaged               |
| Jesse Koenigsberg, Maintenance, Home Destroyed  | Tony Sullivan, Maintenance, Home Damaged                            |
| Danny Moore, Maintenance, Home Destroyed  | Daniel Roten, Maintenance, Home Damaged                             |
| Mark Greenwood, Materials, Home Damaged   | Karen Bonds, Programs & Contracts, Home Damaged                     |
| Jackie Greer, Planning, Home Damaged  | Paul Dorsey, Human Resources, Mother's Home Damaged                 |
| Curtis Greenwood, Programs & Contracts, Parents' Home Damaged   | Tammy Shumate, Planning, Sister's Home Destroyed                    |
| Bobbie White, Programs & Contracts, Home Damaged  | Minnie Beth White, Planning, Parents' Home Damaged                  |
| Richard Butler, Retiree-Roadway Design, Home Damaged  | Florence Routh, Planning, Business Damaged                          |
| Marty Bevans, State Aid, Son's Home Destroyed   | Dave and Ava Harding, District Six & P&C Reproduction, Home Damaged |
| David McFadden, District One, Home Damaged  | Ed Randall, District Six, Home Damaged                              |
| Anthony Nix, District Seven, Home Damaged   | Donna Pasley, District Six, Home Damaged                            |
| Kendall Marshall, District Six, Home Damaged and Parents' Home Destroyed                                | Danny Cornett, Right of Way, Home Damaged                           |
| Gladis Blunt, District 5, Home Damaged  |   |
| Aaron Grainger, District Six, Home Damaged, Sister's Home Destroyed and Aunt and Uncle's Home Destroyed |   |

## Former Highway Commissioner Rodney E. Slater Named Secretary of Transportation

Former Arkansas State Highway Commission member Rodney E. Slater has been named Secretary of Transportation by President Bill Clinton. Slater took the oath of office in a private ceremony February 14, in Washington. A public swearing-in was held February 21.

Slater had been serving as Federal Highway Administrator for the Clinton administration since June 1993. Prior to that, Slater served on the Arkansas State Highway Commission from 1987 to 1993, being named Chairman in 1992.

As Federal Highway Administrator, Slater headed an agency with a \$20 million budget and approximately 3,500 employees. As Secretary of Transportation, he is in charge of 100,000 employees and a \$38 billion budget.

Slater's Senate confirmation was one of the easiest and least controversial in history, despite a rigorous questioning process. He received unanimous support in the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee and was confirmed by the full Senate in a 98-0 vote. "He appeared with the strongest bipartisan support of any nominee I've seen in my time up here," said South Carolina Senator Ernest Hollings, a 30-year Senate veteran.

Throughout his career in public service, Slater has received numerous award and honors, including the Arkansas Transit Association's "Arkansas Public Transportation Advocate Award." The Arkansas Jaycees named Slater one of their "Ten Outstanding Young Arkansans," and *Arkansas Times* magazine honored him as an "Arkansas Hero" for his work to improve the Mississippi River Delta region of Arkansas. Slater is a native of Marianna, Arkansas and a graduate of Eastern Michigan University. He obtained his law degree from the University of Arkansas School of Law in 1980.



Rodney E. Slater

## Perret Named FHWA Administrator for Arkansas

Kenneth A. Perret has been named Arkansas Division Administrator for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). He replaces Bill Richardson, who retired in December after more than 40 years with the FHWA.

A native of Louisiana, Perret earned a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Southwestern Louisiana, pursued graduate studies in Transportation Planning at the University of Texas at Arlington and attended the Highway and Transportation Management Institute.

Perret started his career with the FHWA in 1962. He has served in many different capacities and locations, including Assistant Area Engineer and Utilities Engineer in Texas, Area Engineer in Oklahoma, District Engineer in Louisiana and Arkansas, and Chief of the Project Development and Environmental Programs in the FHWA in Washington, D.C.

"We were sorry to lose someone with the knowledge and experience of Bill Richardson," said AHTD Director Dan Flowers. "But we couldn't be happier than to have Ken Perret coming to Arkansas. He's been here before, he has more than 30 years with the FHWA, and he has a proven record of success."



Kenneth Perret with AHTD Director Dan Flowers

## Great River Bridge Project Discussed in Arkansas and Mississippi

Over 250 people were on hand for a pair of open forum public hearings concerning the Great River Bridge project near Dumas. The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department and the Mississippi Department of Transportation jointly held a public hearing on December 18, 1996, in Cleveland, Mississippi, and on December 19, 1996, at the Dumas Community Center in Dumas, Arkansas.

The hearings were held for the purpose of permitting all interested persons, agencies, and organizations the opportunity to express their views regarding the proposed location of a project to construct a new roadway connecting U. S. Highway 65 near Dumas, Arkansas with Mississippi State Highway 8 near Rosedale, Mississippi. The total project length is approximately 32 miles.

The proposed project would require a new crossing of the Mississippi River between Desha County, Arkansas and Bolivar County, Mississippi. The new bridge is proposed to be a multi-modal facility, potentially housing both rail and highway facilities.

Public sentiment strongly backed the construction of the bridge and the connection between the two

states. Personnel from both states were present during the hearings to explain the proposed project, answer questions, and take oral and written comments about the project. Approximately 800 pages of both written and oral comments were taken at the two meetings.

The consultant on the project, HNTB Corporation, was also a part of the hearing process.



Approximately 800 pages of both written and oral comments were taken from citizens at the two meetings.



Over 250 people attended the hearings regarding the proposed bridge.

## Pleasant Plains Area Residents Review Proposed Highway 167 Bypass Plans

Approximately 50 citizens from the Pleasant Plains area viewed design plans for the proposed Highway 167 Bypass around the city. Residents presented differing views on the proposed road.

Pleasant Plains school officials voiced some concern over the new highway and its location to the school and city park. District 5 Engineer Lyndal Waits said the meeting was a favorable one. "All in all, it was really rather a pleasant meeting," he said. "Some concerns were brought up that we will take a look at and make sure that we're not missing something," Waits explained.

A large, 24-foot design blueprint that detailed the structures, driveways and fences, as well as the proposed bypass was the main item studied by the concerned residents.

The proposed project involves a four-lane bypass about 2.7 miles long that will be built east of the city. It will involve four 12-foot travel lanes with eight-foot shoulders and a six-foot median.

The existing highway through Pleasant Plains consists of two 12-foot lanes with six-foot gravel shoulders and has a 35 mph speed limit. The new bypass will be wider and have a 55 mph speed limit. The wider traffic lanes will improve traffic flow and allow a projected increase in traffic volume a safer roadway.

## Plans for Highway 18 Discussed in Jonesboro

Residents of Jonesboro got the opportunity to see detailed plans on the proposed widening of Southwest Drive (Highway 18) during a public meeting held February 25, 1997 at Jonesboro High School.

The meeting was held to let all interested parties, including property owners along the proposed project, view the design of the proposed five-lane roadway. The present road is a two-lane street with open ditches. The new roadway will include a storm drain with curb and gutters. The total project length is approximately 1.3 miles.

The proposed project would widen the roadway between Highway 63 and Highland Drive. With a tentative summer 1997 letting date, the project should take approximately two years to complete.

The public sentiment voiced at the meeting approved of the widening and the temporary inconveniences that road construction brings. Gene Vance of B.B. Vance and Sons, Inc. said that he supported the project. "We're looking at probably a two-year construction period, and the period of time is very short in comparison to the length of time we'll be reaping the benefits," he said.



Right of Way Division Head Jim Gaither explains to Pleasant Plains area residents a portion of the proposed project.

## Five Department' Employees Receive AASHTO 25-Year Award of Merit

Five AHTD employees received the 25-Year Award of Merit from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).

Receiving the prestigious award at the Central Office Service Award Presentations held in December was Assistant Chief Engineer-Planning Steve Teague, Roadway Design Division Head Phil McConnell, Equipment and Procurement Division Head Al Sacco, Human Resources Division Head Melba Shepard and District 10 Engineer Joe Barnett.

The award is presented to employees of Member Departments (Departments of Highway and Transportation in the 50 states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Association's Affiliated and Associate members) who have attained the grade of Division Head, District Engineer or above and who have accrued 25 years of service.

Shepard is the first female from the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department to receive the award. "An especially meaningful award" is how she describes the AASHTO 25-Year Award of Merit.



Melba Shepard, center, receives a 25-Year AASHTO Award of Merit from Director Dan Flowers, left, and Commission Chairman L.W. "Bill" Clark, right.



Arkansas Highway Police  
Pfc. James "Buckie" Thomas

## AHP Officer James Thomas Receives LRPD Lifesaving Award

Arkansas Highway Police Officer James "Buckie" Thomas was honored by the Little Rock Police Department for heroism. Officer Thomas, along with Little Rock Police Department Officer Marc Jones, were honored with the LRPD's Lifesaving Award. The award is given to officers whose actions save a life.

Thomas and Jones were off duty on October 3, 1996 when they arrived at the scene of a traffic accident on 6th Street in Little Rock. The two-vehicle accident left one of the cars turned on its side and both on fire. As one of the cars began to burn, Officer Thomas pulled two trapped women from one of the vehicles. At the same time, Officer Jones was attempting to put the flames out.

Thomas is a third generation police officer and has been with the Department Highway Police Division since 1991.

**RETIREE PROFILE:**

## Clara Huie Makes Second Career A Profitable One With Mary Kay

Starting a second career after retirement may seem like an oxymoron to most people, but not for Clara Huie of Conway.

Retiring in 1994 as Field Clerk for the Conway Resident Engineer's Office she set her sights on a career with Mary Kay Cosmetics.

Huie began selling Mary Kay part-time while she was working for the Department to make extra money. "I eventually reached the point where I was making enough selling Mary Kay that I could easily afford to retire from the Highway Department," she said.

After 10 years in the cosmetic business, Huie, has built a small empire that includes a training center in a Conway shopping center. "I bring people in here that want to sell Mary Kay and train them and then let them make as much money as they want," she commented.

Setting your own schedule, being your own boss and meeting people are just a few of the benefits that Huie lists as her reasons for selling Mary Kay Cosmetics. "I also get to wear nice clothes," she added. "We can earn bonuses and commissions while obtaining the famous Mary Kay cars for our sales efforts. We can earn trips to exotic places and attend conventions provided by the company," Huie said.

"This job not only teaches you self-esteem, but also self confidence. I was really a shy person before I started doing this," she explained.



Retiree Clara Huie is shown with a few of her awards from Mary Kay. She is also working toward her third car.

The initial investment for Mary Kay Cosmetics can be as little as \$100. "The company is very involved. We are constantly training and updating our sales force. We also teach them how to meet people," Huie said.

As far as retiring a second time, Huie says that she is having too much fun right now to retire. "My future is in the pink," she says referring to the color that is widely associated with Mary Kay products.



Huie, who retired from the Department in 1994, says she is having too much fun to retire a second time.



# Letters to the Department

To: Dan Flowers  
Director of Highways and Transportation

On behalf of everyone at L. W. Clark, Inc. I want to express my sincere appreciation to the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department for the wonderful Certificate of Appreciation you made and framed for us!! It is now "at home" at 1509 Wesley Boulevard hanging in a very special place in our front office. Thank you for thinking of us in such a nice way.

Having all of you in our office for lunch was a real treat for us - please come to see us whenever you are in the area.

Sincerely,  
Glenna S. Dougan, Springdale, Arkansas

To: Dan Flowers  
Director of Highways and Transportation

The City of Hot Springs, Transportation Advisory Commission, including Chairman Bob Hanson and Commissioners Tom Wilkins, Charles Garner, James Dowds, and Kathleen Kempinski, sincerely thank you for your efforts to improve Hot Springs. The many transportation projects accomplished and planned for our area have and will greatly improve the quality of life for our citizens. We are also most appreciative of your continued support and suggestions regarding our transportation related projects.

On behalf of the Commission  
Sincerely,  
Lance Hudnell, Hot Springs, Arkansas

To: Dan Flowers  
Director of Highways and Transportation

I just wanted to say thank you for your help in addressing my street project in Cabot. Without your call, it would not have progressed as quickly.

Your friendship means a great deal to me, and if I can help you in the future, please do not hesitate to call me. Best wishes to you and your family for the holiday season.

Your friend,  
George Haas, Cabot, Arkansas

To: Dan Flowers  
Director of Highways and Transportation

On Monday, October 7, 1996 we were called to a vehicle fire on I-40 in the eastbound lanes near the 126 mile marker in Conway. Upon arrival, we found a large motorhome on fire on the shoulder of the road and all eastbound traffic was stopped due to the Conway Fire Department fighting the fire and the danger of butane possibly exploding. Mark Koone, of your department, arrived with the help of another employee, Larry Martin, and immediately located me to see of what assistance they could be. After the Conway Fire Department extinguished the fire, Mark immediately started helping the wrecker service clean up the fallen debris on the roadway with shovels, helping expedite the clean-up so that traffic could begin moving.

We left that scene and were immediately notified of a semi-tractor trailer rig that had run through a guard rail eastbound at the 125 overpass. Within minutes of arriving at this scene, Mark Koone, again, arrived and again asked of what assistance he and his employee could be.

The wreck scene required that we block off I-40 at the 125 exit ramp and reroute traffic off the interstate on to Highway 65 and back onto the interstate again. Mark helped us reroute the traffic and arranged for a load of sand to be brought to the scene to cover the spilled diesel fuel. He then arranged for temporary barriers to be placed where the guard rails were destroyed. Mark, again, stayed until this scene was cleared and no further assistance was needed.



Mark Koone, Faulkner County Area Maintenance Supervisor  
and Larry Martin, Lead Person

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mark Koone for his help and dedication to his job. I would also like to compliment Mark for the excellent work he does during the inclement weather we have. He is always there for us and is very willing to help in any way he can. We have a very good working relationship with your department here in Faulkner County due to the efforts put forth by Mark and his employees.

Again, thank you for the help your department always gives us and for Mark Koone for his diligence in his work.

If I, or the State Police, can be of any assistance to you or to your department, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,  
Sgt. Jerry G. Gross #541  
Post Supervisor, Faulkner County  
Arkansas State Police

To: Jane Wilson  
Chief of Administration & Public Affairs

I would personally like to take a moment to express my gratitude for the assistance offered by you and your employees in the development and implementation of our first Public Works Equipment Road-e-o and Employee Appreciation Day. All indications show that the Road-e-o was a complete success. I feel that the help and guidance provided by Otis Barker and Lynn Caple went a very long way in making this event all that it was. Please extend my thanks to them. Not only did we have the operators compete, but we also allowed all other employees to observe. This made for some friendly "cheering and leering". This event went a long way in improving moral and has definitely sparked interest in our in-house equipment training program. The training program has helped provide us with much needed operators. A good time was had by all!

Should you ever need assistance from me or my department please allow me to return this favor. Again, thank you very much and have a Merry Christmas and a good New Year.

Sincerely,  
Mark Jacobi, Operations Coordinator  
City of Little Rock Public Works Operations



Otis Barker, Equipment and Procurement  
and Lynn Caple, Human Resources

To: Sandy Massengale  
Harrison, Arkansas

On November 20, 1996, I was returning to Little Rock after being in your area on business. I stopped by the Harrison Tourist Information Center unannounced and found the grounds and restroom facilities to be extremely well maintained and clean.

I was very pleased with the appearance. Also, I know the person who is responsible for the hard work and dedication that it takes to keep this facility looking good and that person is you!

Please accept my sincere thankfulness for the wonderful job you do. And, it goes without saying that Norma, Phyllis, and Kathy feel the same as I.

Charles McLemore, Director  
Research/Tourist Information Centers  
Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism

To: Bobby Hopper, Chairman  
Arkansas State Highway Commission

Greetings from Christian Life Cathedral!

Bobby, I just wanted to send a special thanks to you for getting the left turn lane and signal for us. We appreciate it very, very much.

Trust you are feeling great and you are completely over your illness by now. I pray that you and your family will have a wonderful holiday season.

The executive board members James Baker, Danny Walker, Steve Dixon and myself want to extend a special thank you for all that you have done.

Sincerely,  
Red Dixon, Executive Pastor  
Fayetteville, Arkansas

To: David Richards  
Crawford County Area Maintenance Supervisor  
Fort Smith, Arkansas

Thank you for participating in the FBLA shadowing program. You were instrumental in allowing a student to see first hand how the world of work actually is.

Tim Bishop came back with a positive attitude and a realistic outlook on what employers expect from their employees. Tim told me that he is considering working for the Highway Department when he graduates from school. He had a very good experience.

Fifteen of our FBLA members were able to shadow business people in our area. The entire shadowing program has been extremely successful this year, and I hope that your experience was so good that you will welcome other students in the years to come.

Thank you again for your time and efforts to make our shadowing program a success. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,  
Francine K. Williams, Vocation Business Instructor  
Pleasant View Public Schools, Ozark, Arkansas

To: Mr. Lyndal Waits  
District 5 Engineer

You and your staff and crews in the District 5 office certainly did a fine job of clearing the roads during our most recent ice storm. Each time we have bad winter weather I have good intentions of writing because of all the extra hard work your office does to make the roads safer and easier to travel. However, this time it seems that the work was even more timely than usual, and I particularly wanted to write to say thanks for a job well done.

We appreciated all the work you do, and the assistance you give to the Chamber in many ways. If we can be of help to you, please let me know.

Sincerely,  
Nelson Barnett, Executive Director  
Batesville Area Chamber of Commerce

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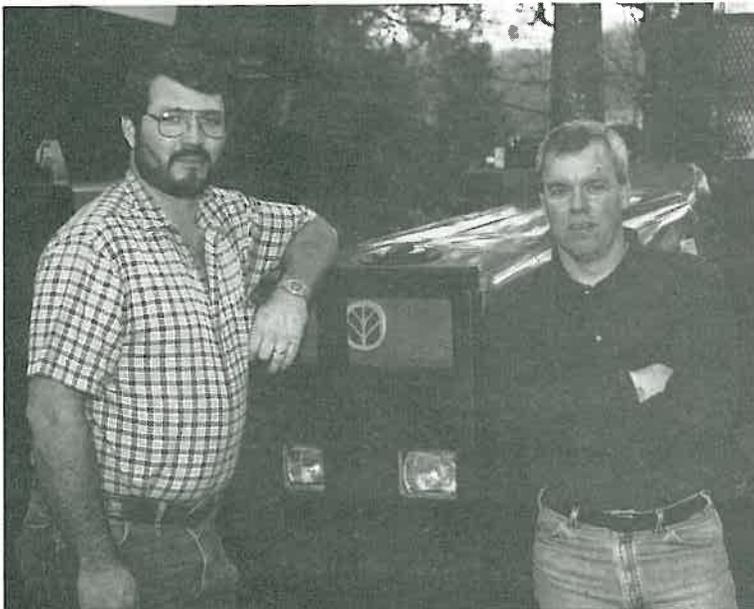
To: Larry Elder  
Franklin County Area Maintenance Supervisor

I am writing this letter in appreciation for the cooperation your district has shown law enforcement in Franklin County. Any time we have called your office about ice and snow conditions on highways, your department responded immediately and in a professional manner while doing an extremely dangerous job making our highways safe.

In the past two years, your department's prompt action when adverse weather conditions arose has prevented an untold number of accidents and fatalities. We appreciate the level of cooperation and assistance you have shown our department and wanted to let you know - it has not gone unnoticed.

With this continued cooperation, we will continue to make Franklin County a safer place to live.

In appreciation,  
Kenneth Ross, Franklin County Sheriff  
Ozark, Arkansas



Ralph Burge, Saline County Area Maintenance Supervisor  
and Neil Ford, Crew Leader

To: Dan Flowers  
Director of Highways and Transportation

Rineco would like to express their sincere appreciation to Ralph Burge and Neil Ford for their assistance in handling the fire that occurred on an end dump truck on Highway 167, December 11, 1996. These men did a spectacular job and Rineco is very grateful for their help.

Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Larry D. Williams, Director  
Rineco  
Environmental, Health and Safety  
Benton, Arkansas

To: Dan Flowers  
Director of Highways and Transportation

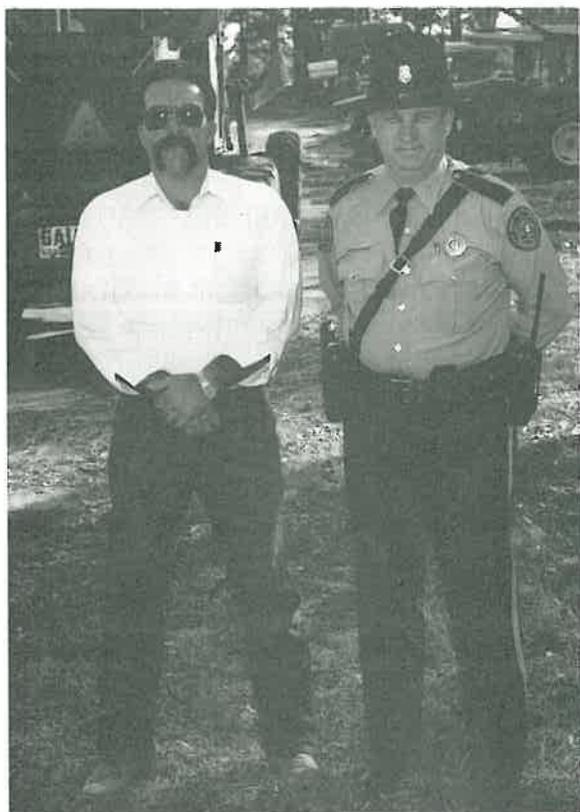
On behalf of the Newport Area Chamber of Commerce, I would like to thank you and express to you how much we appreciate the current improvements to our four-lane highway. I didn't realize just how bad our existing road was until your crews started their work. When new industrial prospects arrive in town, first impressions are difficult to overcome. A freshly paved four-lane road not only adds pride to our city, but could help us to land new industry. We appreciate your interest in our community and please express our gratitude to the Commissioners.

Randy Ramsey, President  
Newport Area Chamber of Commerce

To: Chief Randy Reed  
Arkansas Highway Police

I would like to commend Officer J.B. Ketchum for his assistance to me in my hour of need. On the afternoon of October 17, 1996, my husband and I (both "golden agers") stopped for gas at a station in Lonoke. Since my husband is physically disabled, I pumped the gas and stupidly left my wallet on top of our vehicle.

We entered Interstate 40 east and travelled four or five miles before I realized my wallet was missing. We



Bill Bogle, Lonoke County Area Maintenance Supervisor and Officer J.B. Ketchum

drove to the next exit, turned around, and returned to the station. Since the wallet was not at the pump, nor inside with the cashier, we again entered the interstate and drove slowly for a mile or two when we spotted what appeared to be paper currency on the grassy shoulder. I exited the car and walked, finding a few dollars, pictures of our grandchildren, and a credit card.

At this time Officer Ketchum pulled over in his patrol car. I was very upset and explained my problem. Officer Ketchum's kindly manner had a calming affect on me. He offered his assistance and for a stretch of about one-half mile we found more credit cards, currency, my driver's license, etc.

Officer Ketchum was then joined by Bill Bogle, Lonoke County Area Maintenance Supervisor. They found what was left of my wallet in the median, along with more currency, credit cards and coins (4 quarters, 2 dimes and 2 pennies)!! I think the only missing items are a photo or two and our Medicare ID cards.

Without their assistance, my loss could have been devastating. I had very little cash on hand, but several credit cards and no record with me of their numbers so I could cancel them.

The Arkansas Highway Police Department is fortunate to have personnel such as Officer Ketchum. He was extremely helpful, courteous, and diligent in his duties.

Also, I doubt if my search would have been productive had it not been for the quality of maintenance on the Interstate.

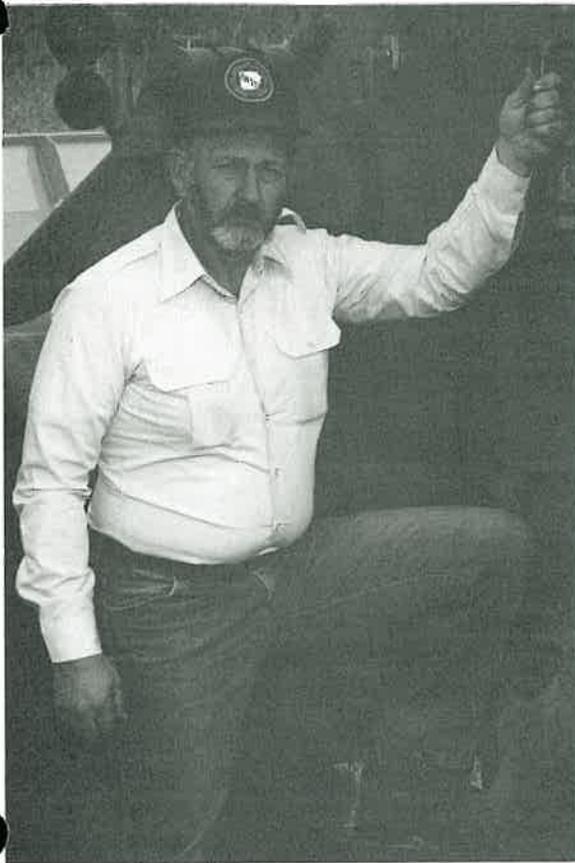
The grass was low (not a foot tall as in some parts of the country) and it was remarkably almost free of litter. Your crews must be doing their jobs! Words cannot express my gratitude.

Florence Decker  
New Port Richey, Florida

To: Lyndal Waits  
Batesville, Arkansas

The Bald Knob Fire Department wants to express their thanks to the employees of the Bald Knob maintenance crew for their help and equipment regarding a chemical spill on October 1, 1996. They are always there when we need them. If there is ever anything the fire department can do to help the highway department, do not hesitate to call.

Danny Holobaugh, Fire Chief  
Bald Knob Fire Department



James Stewart, General Laborer  
Hot Spring County maintenance crew

To: Editor, Malvern Daily Journal  
with copy to  
Carl Erwin, Hot Spring County Area Maint. Supv.

I like to send bouquets while they can be enjoyed, so I would like to commend the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department in your area, its employees at the Malvern Rest Stop on Interstate 30 and James Stewart in particular.

On Saturday, October 5, I was taking a friend to the airport in Little Rock. I had mechanical problems with my vehicle and was barely able to coast into the rest stop. James helped me evaluate the problem, got a phone book so I could check for the number of a friend I know in the Malvern-Arkadelphia area, and even drew a map to the four parts stores in Malvern, after another motorist offered to take me to get the belt that was needed.

I really appreciate the kindness that was shown and his patience with all my questions. All this was done in a prompt and courteous manner and I was able to resume my trip. Thank you for allowing me to send a bouquet.

Sincerely,  
Jean Ingle  
Hope, Arkansas

To: Melba Shepard  
Human Resources Division Head

On behalf of the Board of Directors and as Chairman of this year's Arkansas Quality Award program, I would like to thank you for allowing Valera McDaniel to participate as a member of the 1996 Board of Examiners. Quality is a team concept, and it is a tribute to the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department and you for sharing Valera's leadership and expertise with the participating organizations.

We know that the commitment made by Valera will also enhance your organization. Comments made by some of our examiners included:

- *"I learned from people I worked with and the companies I visited, a very worthwhile program."*
- *"The experience is too valuable not to do; I must do it to keep up with what's happening."*
- *"Overall I have to admit that being an examiner was very likely the best next step I could have taken in my learning about quality."*



Valera McDaniel, Personnel Specialist  
Human Resources Division

- "I acquired a lot of additional knowledge about business that is bound to benefit both my employer and me."
- "The process is amazingly effective, thanks for a very positive experience."

The time commitment from each examiner is great and often times it is done after their workday is finished and on weekends. Please express our sincere appreciation to Valera for a job well done. Without top notch people to perform the assessment and develop the feedback reports, our process would be only mediocre. Valera has helped make it an overwhelming success.

Robert L. Shoptaw  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield

To: Dan Flowers  
Director of Highways and Transportation

We have been experiencing a traffic flow problem at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in an area that will, in the near future, be designated as the Central Receiving Department.

In an effort to find ways to alleviate this problem I called on my old friend, Randy Reed, and not only did he provide assistance personally but also put me in touch with Dan Morgan of your organization. Because of the expert assistance provided to me by Chief Reed and Mr. Morgan I believe we will be able to alleviate the traffic problem and insure that the central receiving area traffic will flow without problems.

Thank you for allowing Chief Reed and Mr. Morgan to assist me with this problem.

Sincerely,  
Jim Handley, Director  
UALR Police Department



AHP Chief Randy Reed and  
Dan Morgan, Planning & Research

## IN MEMORY

**Active Employee:**  
William Simpson  
AHP Sergeant  
died November 13, 1996

**Retirees:**

C.E. Crouse, District 6  
died October 24, 1996

M.M. Dacus, District 8  
died October 20, 1996

L.D. Scott, District 3  
died November 2, 1996

R.L. Swindle, District 10  
died November 4, 1996

A.M. Campbell, District 7  
died November 7, 1996

E.A. Lovell, Jr., District 5  
died November 9, 1996

T.E. Vines, District 5  
died November 27, 1996

O. Lewis, Jr., Planning  
died December 2, 1996

D.P. Jacks, District 7  
died December 4, 1996

F.P. Harden, Equip. & Proc.  
died December 6, 1996

J. Spencer, District 1  
died December 13, 1996

D.L. Bragg, District 1  
died December 16, 1996

J.W. Henry, District 10  
died December 22, 1996

H. Heath, District 4  
died December 31, 1996

T.M. Snelgroes, District 9  
died January 6, 1997

A.M. Young, District 5  
died January 17, 1997

C. Allen, District 9  
died January 19, 1997

A.H. Stewart, District 2  
died February 4, 1997

J.L. Fry, District 10  
died February 8, 1997

L. Brooks, District 2  
died February 13, 1997

H.E. Hooten, Right of Way  
died February 16, 1997

H.G. Miller, District 3  
died February 16, 1997

A.L. Rhoads, District 9  
died February 18, 1997

O.L. Gold, District 5  
died February 20, 1997

# Around the Department



**AHTD 25-Year Service Awards and AASHTO 25-Year Award of Merit**  
 Left to right: Phil McConnell, AASHTO; Shirley Wesson, AHTD; Melba Shepard, AASHTO; Joe Barnett, AHTD and AASHTO; Al Sacco, AHTD and AASHTO



**AHTD 30-Year Service Awards**  
 Left to right: Leroy "Tiger" McLain, Vic Winchell, Doye King, Bill Duncan, Dale Gossien, Rick Henriksen, Kenneth Brazile, Robert Gossett



**AHTD 35- and 40-Year Service Awards**  
 Left to right: Mary Wilson, 35 years; Doyle Carson, 35 years; Jerry Stacks, 40 years; Dewayne Combs, 35 years; Dan Morgan, 35 years; Jim Barnett, 35 years



**AHTD Central Office Retirements**  
 Left to right: Fred Clark, Materials, 36+ years; Bernard Phillips, Planning & Research, 33+ years; Bob Parker, Right of Way, 35+ years; Ronnie Ellis, Highway Police, 26+ years

## BRIDGE

Welcome to John Measels, Civil Engineer I. He is a recent civil engineering graduate from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and also has a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He and his wife Katherine have a 2-year old daughter Mallory.

Congratulations to Lawren Wilcox who was promoted to Advanced Bridge

Design Engineer and to Rick Ellis who was promoted to Advanced Structures Engineer.

## COMPUTER SERVICES

Pictured at right is Mary Green, Data Control Clerk, with her first grandchild, Chase Thomas Spect, born January 3, 1997.





Sue Riggins, Quality Assurance Specialist II, retired in January with 26+ years service.

**CONSTRUCTION**



Allan Holmes, center, State Construction Engineer, presents 20-year service awards to Reta McCoy, left, Final Estimates Squad Leader and Brenda Walden, right, Office Administrative Assistant V.

**HIGHWAY POLICE**



Allison Lee Holloway is the daughter of Sgt. Addison and Regina Holloway. Sgt. Holloway is the Assistant Supervisor at the Alma Weigh Station.



Tim Land of the Arkansas State Police and Ned Ward of the Arkansas Highway Police won the eighth annual Budweiser Big Bass Classic held at Pine Bluff. The two anglers won \$11,000.



Kimberly Martin, 14-year old daughter of Pfc. Roy and Mona Martin, won the Northwest Arkansas District Fair Junior Miss pageant.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**



Ashlee Suzanne Caton is the granddaughter of Walter Caton, Buildings Maintenance Crew Leader.

**LEGAL**



Jamia Tenise and Tamia Denise Bennett are the twin daughters of Ben and LaTanya Bennett. They were born October 5, 1996. Ben is an Office Administrative Assistant III.



Callie Dawn Nease, granddaughter of Dawn Nease, Office Administrative Assistant III, was born April 26, 1996.



Shown above are the grandchildren of Mary Gibson, Office Administrative Assistant III. They are: Samuel Collier, 8; Kirstie Gibson, 4; Seth Collier, 6; Nathaniel Collier, 11; and Heather Collier, 10.



Zoe Alexia Gibson, the newest granddaughter of Mary Gibson, was born April 30, 1996.



Bob Gossett, Materials Technician IV, receives a 30-year service pin from Jim Gee.



Gary Roberts, left, District Lab Technician, receives a 20-year service award from Jim Gee.

## MATERIALS

The Geotechnical Section welcomes two new employees. They are Alexander Garland, Materials Technician I and Ronald Woodward, Geotechnical Aide.

The Materials Division ended the year with service award recognitions. Fourteen employees received service awards totaling 290 years of service.



Reggie Cobb, left, Materials Technician IV, receives a 20-year service award from Jim Gee.



Kim Brazile, District 1 Mat. Supv. receives a 30-year service pin from Jim Gee.



Jon Annable, right, Geotechnical Section Head, receives a 15-year service award from Jim Gee.



Jerry Stacks, left, Materials Technician Supervisor, receives a 40-year service pin from Jim Gee, Division Head.



Melvin House, left, District 9 Materials Supervisor, receives a 35-year service pin from Jim Gee, Division Head.



Bernard Mize, Physical Testing Engineer, receives a 25-year service pin from Jim Gee.



Cathy Mitchell, right, Materials Technician III, receives a 10-year service award from Jim Gee.



Michael Creamer, right, receives a 10-year service award from Jim Gee.



Dawn Richards, right, Chemist II, receives a 5-year service award from Jim Gee.



Fred Clark, center, retired in December with 36 years with the Department. He is shown with his wife Barbara and daughter Melissa and grandson John Clark VanHook.



Sloan Cross, granddaughter of Frank Cross, District 3 Materials Supervisor, won the Little Miss Nevada County pageant.

## PLANNING AND RESEARCH

Congratulations to Bruce Elliott who was promoted to Highway Data Collection Supervisor in Technical Services. Also new to Technical Services are Jim Camp and Cassandra Smith.



Receiving service awards are Fernie Speights, Highway Financial Analyst, 20 years; Laura Moore, Planning Analyst, 15 years; and Kathy Upchurch, Planning Analyst, 20 years. They are shown with Technical Services Section Head Keith Merritt and Division Head Tom Harrell.



Taylor Daye Vittitow, daughter of Terry and Jodi Vittitow, was born October 23, 1996. Terry is a Cartographer I in the Mapping Section. Taylor is also the granddaughter of Sharon Sullivan, Office Administrative Assistant IV in the Human Resources Division.



Brett William Frazier, was born October 17, 1996 and is the son of Mark and Terri Frazier. Mark is a Planning Analyst in Technical Services.



Molly Anna-Marie Evans is the 3-year old daughter of Mark and Donna Evans. Mark is a Civil Engineer I in Technical Services.

## PROGRAMS AND CONTRACTS



Laura DeBro Carter, left, Adv. P&C Specialist, receives the Toastmaster of the Year award from Bart Parks, President of the Early Risers Toastmasters Club.



Shown above are Trey, Alexander and Angela Jordan. Angela is a Diazo Printer Operator in the Reproduction Section.

**RIGHT OF WAY**



Vickie Garner, 35, Mrs. Grant County, will compete in the Mrs. Arkansas Pageant June 21. She is the daughter of Shirley Butler, Relocation Section Office Administrative Assistant III. Vickie was also voted most photogenic.



Jan Eskew and James Wiles were married January 11 in Searcy. Jan is Adv. CADD Technician in the Engineering Section and James works for Axiom Corp. in Conway.

**DISTRICT ONE**

District One's annual service award/Christmas luncheon was held December 17 at the District Headquarters. Special guests included Highway Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield, Director Dan Flowers, Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations Ralph Hall and Equipment and Procurement Division Head Al Sacco. Commissioner Benafield, Director Flowers and District Engineer Ray Woodruff presented service award and retirement certificates.



**District One Service Awards:**

(Front row, left to right): Willie Anderson, Senior Mechanic, 25 years; Billy Morgan, Finish Motor Patrol Operator, 30 years; Jimmy Goad, Sign Crew Supervisor, 30 years; Freddy Everhart, Inspector, 30 years; Robert Skinner, Senior Inspector, 25 years; Commissioner Benafield. Back row: Director Dan Flowers; John Chambers, Construction Project Supervisor, 30 years; Floyd Harrell, Construction Aide #1, 30 years; Jimmy Smith, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor, 30 years; Roy Morris, District Maintenance Job Superintendent, 25 years; Glen Reed, Senior Construction Materials Supervisor, 25 years; Kenneth McMickle, Senior Inspector, 25 years



John Chambers, Construction Project Supervisor for the Wynne Residency retired December 20. His co-workers presented him with a new deer stand and held a fish fry in recognition of his years of service.



Receiving retirement certificates were W.C. Holman and Neil Harrod, both Lead Persons from Monroe County.



District One 5-Year Service Awards: Cecil Coleman, Vegetation Controller, Lee County and Reginald Murdock, Construction Field Engineer II, West Helena Residency



Matthew Swearengin, age 7, won third place in the decorated bicycle contest at the Wynne Christmas parade. He is the son of Crystal Henson, Single Axle Truck Driver in the District maintenance crew.



Highway Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield presents a retirement certificate to Terry Hudson, Area Headquarters Attendant for Crittenden County.



Lennie Calvert is the District Receptionist.



Emma Grace Henson was born September 30, 1996. She is the daughter of West Memphis Residency Construction Field Engineer Donnie and Margaret Henson.



District One 10-Year Service Awards: (Front row, left to right) Will Copeland, Parts Runner, District Headquarters; Brent Ramsey, Inspector, West Memphis Residency. (Back row) Eddie Hamilton, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, District maintenance crew; Wayne Hamilton, Senior Mechanic, District Shop



Byron Aldridge, son of Senior Mechanic Charles and Maxcine Aldridge, completed basic training at Lackland Air Force Base and is now taking technical training for a maintenance apprentice of missiles and space systems.

**DISTRICT TWO**

District Two's annual service and retirement awards presentation was held December 9 at the District Headquarters. Special guest and honoree was Commission Chairman L.W. "Bill" Clark. A special cake and certificate recognizing Mr. Clark for his 10 years of service on the Commission were presented to him.



Commission Chairman L.W. "Bill" Clark



District Engineer Jim Briley, left, receives a 35-year service award from Commissioner L.W. "Bill" Clark.



Edward Pridgeon, left, Jefferson County Area Maintenance Supervisor, receives a 25-year service award from Commissioner Clark.



Tommy Simmons, left, Assistant Maintenance Superintendent, receives a 25-year service award from Commissioner Clark.



Richard Johnson, left, Single Axle Truck Driver for Chicot County receives a 25-year service award from Commissioner Clark.



Mike Thompson, left, Monticello Resident Engineer, receives a 25-year service award from Commissioner Clark.



Charles Ellinbury, left, Multi-Axle Truck Driver for Desha County, receives a 25-year service award from Commissioner Clark.



Junior Fox, left, Crew Leader for Arkansas County at Stuttgart, receives a 25-year service award from Commissioner Clark.



Kenneth Turner, left, Distributor Operator for Arkansas County at DeWitt, receives a 30-year service award and retirement certificate from Commissioner Clark.



Troy Adams, left, Lead Person for Arkansas County at Stuttgart, receives a 30-year retirement certificate from Commissioner Clark.



Bill Cater, left, Crew Leader for the District sealing crew, receives a 20-year service award from Kelly Slater, District Job Superintendent.



Nautica Richardson is the daughter of Maurice Jones, Single Axle Truck Driver for Arkansas County at Stuttgart.



Summer and Katy Chavis are the grandchildren of John Herrington, Job Superintendent for the District bridge crew.



Denice Stitts, Construction Aide I, and Karen Davis, Field Clerk I are shown with two of the under privileged children for whom the McGehee Residency held a Christmas party.

The Pine Bluff Residency welcomes new employee Brian Rowe, Civil Engineer I. He is a native of Paragould and a graduate of Arkansas State University.

We were saddened by the death of retiree Earl Appling, 83, of Pine Bluff. Mr. Appling was the Station Attendant at the District Headquarters.

## DISTRICT FOUR



### District Four Service Awards:

(Front row, left to right) James Dodd, Bobby Bearden, Tommy Riley, David Becker, Hershel Henry. (Back row) Commissioner Bobby Hopper, Mearl Bates, Gus Young, Gary Richmond, Johnnie Marley, District Engineer Harold Beaver, Director Dan Flowers



### District Four Retirements:

(Front row, left to right) Gerald Stockton, Robert Hausam, Cliff Thornsberry, William Craig, Thomas McCormick. (Back row) Commissioner Bobby Hopper, Lyndy Holland, Melvin Heath, Robert Mainer, Sterlin Bramlett, District Engineer Harold Beaver, Director Dan Flowers



Debbie Caster, left, District Office Manager, receives a 15-year service award from District Engineer Harold Beaver.



District Five Service Awards:

(Left to right) Johnny Bonds, Jr., Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 10 years; Carl Burleson, Sign Erector, 10 years; Randy Western, District Caretaker, 10 years; Tony Mesa, Distributor Operator, 10 years; Jim Leggett, Resident Engineer, 20 years



Shown above is the new Mountainburg Area Maintenance Headquarters. The crew includes Clinton Issacs, Area Maintenance Supervisor; Steve White, Crew Leader, as well as Anita Jordan, Stanley Pence, Joe Showl, Robin Tune, C.R. Duck, Gary Hurst, Larry Fraley, Lonnie Henson and Michael Pennington. They will be responsible for maintaining the new Highway 71 as well as the existing route and other connecting roads.



Receiving service awards are Billy Mack IV, Construction Aide II, 10 years and Russell Evans, Construction Helper II, 5 years



Bethany Jade, age 1, is the daughter of Anthony and Beth Dorton. Anthony is a Single Axle Truck Driver in the Bald Knob maintenance crew.

**DISTRICT FIVE**



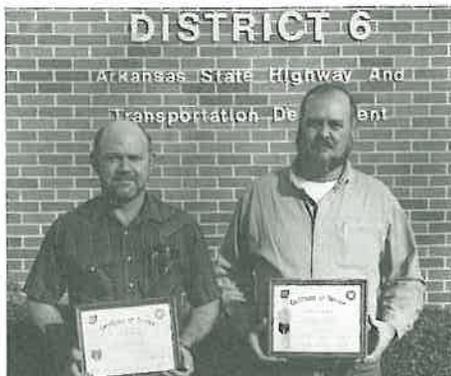
District Five Service Awards and Retirements:

(Front row, left to right) Leslie Shane, 25 years; Keith Richardson, 35 years; Kirby Johnson, retiree, 31 years; Marilyn Coffman, retiree, 34+ years; Gary Smith, 30 years; Steve Anselmi, 25 years. (Back row) District Engineer Lyndal Waits; Jessie Hubbard, 25 years; James Hoggard, 25 years; Dennis Williams, 25 years; Doyle Shrable, 25 years; Raymond Covey, 25 years; Commissioner Herby Branscum, Jr.



Peyton, age 15 months; Morgan, age 1 month; and Preston, age 4, are the children of Mike Pankey, District 5 Office Manager. Not pictured is Lewis, age 16.

DISTRICT SIX



Receiving 25-year service awards are Carl Erwin, Hot Spring County Area Maintenance Supervisor and David Carmack, Montgomery County Area Maintenance Supervisor.



District Six 20-year Service Awards:  
(Left to right) E.J. Webb, District Guard; L.C. Carmack, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish; F.L. House, Lead Person; C.E. O'Neal, Inspector; B.W. Washington, Senior Construction Materials Inspector; C.J. Hill, Jr., District Bridge Inspector; D.E. Jackson, Inspector; R.D. Bridges, Resident Office Technician; D.M. Dennie, Inspector



Receiving 15-year service awards are W.C. Kuhn, Station Attendant; G.H. Golden, Shop Supervisor; L.D. Turner, Lead Person; W.L. Sharp, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish.



Michael Loggins completed an 18-week Border Patrol training course in Glynco, Georgia and is now stationed in El Cajon, California. He is the son of Grace and Freddie Hall of the North Pulaski County maintenance crew.



David Johnson, son of North Pulaski County Crew Leader Dennis Johnson, is pictured with buckles he won in 1996 through the Ozark Teenage Rodeo Association. He won second place year-end buckle; finals buckle for calf roping and was awarded a buckle for being one of the Association's bullfighters. He is also a member of the Arkansas Cowboy's Association and the Arkansas High School Rodeo Association competing in calf roping, team roping, steer wrestling and bull riding.



Jaclyn Brown was the winner of the Tiny Miss Mayflower Pageant. She is the daughter of Steve Brown, Lead Person of the North Pulaski County maintenance crew.



Shelby Christine Fisher was born November 18, 1996. She is the daughter of Tom and Tracy Fisher and has a brother, Brayden. Tom is Construction Materials Inspector for Jim Pound's Little Rock Residency.



Cody Thomas is the three-year old son of Brad Fryar, Adv. Construction Field Engineer for the North Little Rock Residency.



Receiving 20-year service awards in the Hot Springs Residency are Romosha Bridges, Office Technician and David Jackson, Inspector.

**DISTRICT SEVEN**



Shown above is Eric, the first grandson of Ed and JoAnn Randall. Ed is a Senior Construction Aide II for Jim Pound's Little Rock Residency.



Jack McMahan, Senior Inspector, was voted "Employee of the Year for 1996" by his co-workers at the Hot Springs Residency. He also received a 40-year service award.



Brittany Nicole is the granddaught<sup>er</sup> of Bill and Vickie Turner. Bill is the Cleveland County Area Headquarters Attendant.

**DISTRICT EIGHT**



Receiving 10-year service awards in the Hot Springs Residency are Corky Chamberlain, Construction Aide III; Rickey Prince and Doug Smith, Construction Aides II.



Mark Crumpton, Construction Aide II, was voted "Most Improved Employee of the Year for 1996" by his co-workers at the Hot Springs Residency.



Benjamin, born July 10, 1996, is the son of Russellville Assistant Resident Engineer Thale Keisling and his wife Beth.



**District Eight Service and Retirement Awards:**

(Front row, left to right) Tom Crites, retiree, 28 years; Tom Kinslow, District Maintenance Superintendent, 40 years; Bill Henry, retiree, 28 years; Dick Williamson, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 30 years; Tom McGuire, Bridge Supervisor, 25 years; Francis Jones, Sign Crew Leader, 25 years. (Back row) District Engineer Lawrence Fletcher; Kenneth Crow, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 25 years; Chip Young, retiree, 30 years; Jerry Williams, Crew Leader, 25 years; Don Wilkinson, Permit Officer, 30 years; B.S. Bonds, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 30 years; Commissioner Herby Branscum, Jr.



Ryan, age 2, and Libby Ann, born October 2, 1996, are the children of Rick and Alesia Holbrook of Conway. Rick is a Vegetation Controller for the Perry County crew.

## DISTRICT NINE



**District Nine Service Awards**

(Front row, left to right) Diane Tomlinson, Resident Office Technician, 15 years; Alma Cantrell, Fuel Clerk, 15 years; E.C. "Butch" Martin, Resident Engineer, 20 years; Ernie Bates, Distributor/Roller Operator, 20 years; Bill Harbison, Area Maintenance Supervisor, retired-30 years; Gerald Teague, District Construction Engineer, 20 years; Charlie Blevins, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish, 20 years; Joe Davidson, District Equipment Maintenance Supervisor, 25 years; Loy Phillips, Senior Mechanic, 25 years. (Back row) Commissioner Bobby Hopper; Jerry Smith, Crew Leader, 20 years; Ron Staggs, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 20 years; Arland Carlton, Jr., Asphalt Tank Truck Driver, 20 years; Greg Howerton, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 20 years; Lotis Horton, Jr., Senior Inspector, 25 years; Ronnie Faught, Sealing Job Superintendent, 20 years; Lloyd Stone, Deck Hand, 15 years; Mark Grozis, Ferry Boat Pilot, 15 years; Greg Criner, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 20 years; District Engineer Ralph Fulton. Not pictured: Glenn Creamer, Senior Mechanic, 20 years



Debra Meyer, left, District 9 Office Manager, presents a 5-year service award to Tammy Phillips, Personnel Clerk.



Robert Widner, son of District Storeroom Supervisor Rick Widner, is shown with his grand champion Brangus bull at the 1996 Arkansas State Fair.



**District Nine Retirees:**

(Seated left to right) Loyd Hopper, 17+ years; Gaylord Dart, 25+ years; Norman Pittman, 20+ years; Cecil Jordan, 16+ years; Lloyd Burgess, 28+ years. (Back row) Commissioner Bobby Hopper; Benny Milam, 19+ years; Byron Smith, 23+ years; Ted Journagan, 26+ years; Billy Hudson, 30+ years; J.T. Richardson, 37 years; Bill Harbison, 30+ years; District Engineer Ralph Fulton



**District Nine Safety Awards:**

(Front row, left to right) Butch Fancher, District Bridge Inspector, 3 years; Randy Clark, Searcy County, 1 year; Junior Young, Newton County, 1 year; Butch Martin, Resident Engineer, 3 years; J.N. Mallet, District Sign Crew, 2 years; Carroll Johnson, Peel Ferry, 16 years. (Back row) Commissioner Bobby Hopper; Jack Pharis, Carroll County, 1 year; Ronnie Faught, District Sealing Crew, 7 years; Debra Meyer, District Office Manager; 5 years; Ted Journagan, District Maintenance Crew, 5 years; Gene Taylor, District Bridge Crew, 3 years; District Engineer Ralph Fulton. Not pictured: Greg Harding, Resident Engineer, 3 years.



**District Nine Service Awards:**

(Left to right) Mark Jarrett, Senior Mechanic, 5 years; Kenny Martin, Lead Person, 20 years; Bryant Berrell, Construction Materials Inspector, 15 years; Shannon Luke, Adv. Construction Field Engineer, 5 years; Ben Denton, Sign Crew Supervisor, 15 years; Leonard Retherford, Crane Operator/Finish, 20 years; Tony Matthews, Motor Patrol Operator, 10 years; Jerry Reeves, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 5 years; Don Kingston, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 20 years



Tyler Andy, born October 13, 1996, and Zachary Mark Nichols are the grandchildren of Rex Holt, Senior Mechanic.



Lance Perrin was a member of the Bentonville Little League All Star team. Lance played centerfield, firstbase and pitcher. He is the son of Doug Perrin, Construction Aide II at the Bentonville Residency.



Stephanie, left, and Katie Core were finalists for the 1996 Berryville High School homecoming court. They are the daughters of Kit Core, Area Maintenance Supervisor.

**DISTRICT TEN**



**District Ten Service Awards:**

(Seated left to right) Dairl Hyde, Maintenance Job Superintendent, 30 years; Calvin Douglas, Body Repairer and Painter, 25 years; Buford Nelson, Crew Leader, 25 years; Don LeMay, Construction Project Supervisor, 35 years; Nancy Mahan, Bookkeeper, 25 years. (Back row) District Engineer Joe Barnett; Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield; Harold White, Backhoe/ Front End Loader Operator, 25 years; Charles Ludwig, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish, 25 years; Leonard Norton, Senior Inspector, 25 years; Director Dan Flowers



**District Ten Retirees:**

(Seated left to right) Frank Duran, General Laborer; Howard Beaton, Hydraulic Excavator-Finish; Don LeMay, Construction Project Supervisor; William Jackson, Dozer-Operator/Finish. (Back row) District Engineer Joe Barnett; Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield; Verlin Brown, Crew Leader; Buford Nelson, Crew Leader; Director Dan Flowers



Tori Marie, born June 8, 1996, is the daughter of Robbie and Dana Forkum. Dana is a Roller Operator for the District maintenance crew.



John Whitson Henry, Sr., 89, of Jonesboro, passed away December 22, 1996. He worked for the department for 25 years.

## Dusty Roads to Highways

From dusty roads to cobblestone,  
people travelled in groups or alone.

In 1916 John Macadam came up with a plan,  
and the construction of highways began.

With broken stone, he created a pavement,  
that made travel, time very well spent.

Men with cans of cold tar, gathered early each morn,  
and liquid bituminous material was born.

In 1868 a man name Abbott, decided to build a street,  
by heating gravel he made a concrete.

Men on the street with brooms, was what you would see,  
when Abbott invented a seal coat in 1873.

The construction of highways did not come to a halt,  
in 1909 came bitulithic pavement and sheet asphalt.

Special equipment built, was a dream come true,  
for the people on the highway construction crew.

Bigger and better highways are being built still today,  
making it easier and faster for people to make their way.

Credit is due to the man and women known as a crew,  
who, to make travel a pleasure, is the mission they pursue.

*Tina Louise Horton, 11-15-1996  
Construction Office Specialist, Construction Division*

# Christmas Around the Districts







# AHTD OUTDOORS



David Lambert  
Heavy Bridge Maintenance Engineer



Trey Caster, son of Debbie Caster  
District 4 Office Manager



Thale Keisling  
District 8 Assistant Resident Engineer



Terry Gaither  
Surveys Photogrammetry Lab. Supervisor



Scott McCorkle, son of Tammy Schiffl  
Surveys Office Administrative Assistant V



Bob Burns  
District 2 Area Maintenance Supervisor



Walt Hamm  
District 10 Area Maintenance Supv.



Richard Rice  
District 10 Welder



Ann Patterson  
District 6 Resident Office Technician



Wayne Hamilton  
District 1 Senior Mechanic



Don Upshaw  
District 10 Area Maintenance Supervisor



Paul Carr  
District 10 Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator



Dale Tribble  
District 10 Multi-Axle Truck Driver



Rick McKinney, son of  
Norma McKinney, District 5  
Office Admin. Assistant V



Tony Patterson, son of Ann Patterson,  
District 6 Resident Office Technician



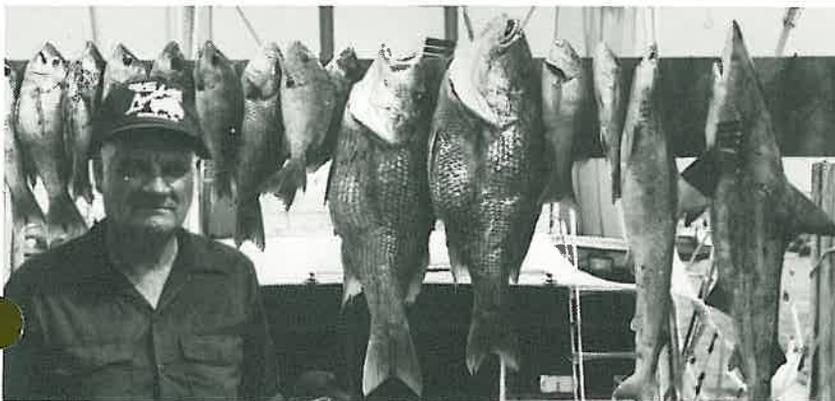
Nick Martin,  
son of Lenny Martin,  
District 10 Lead Person



Brandon Lucas, son of Joe Lucas,  
District 6 Senior Inspector



Chad Launius, son of Dannie Launis,  
District 7 Office Manager



H.N. Robertson, District 8 Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator



Paul Carr, District 10 Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator  
and his nephew Josh



**ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY  
& TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT**

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