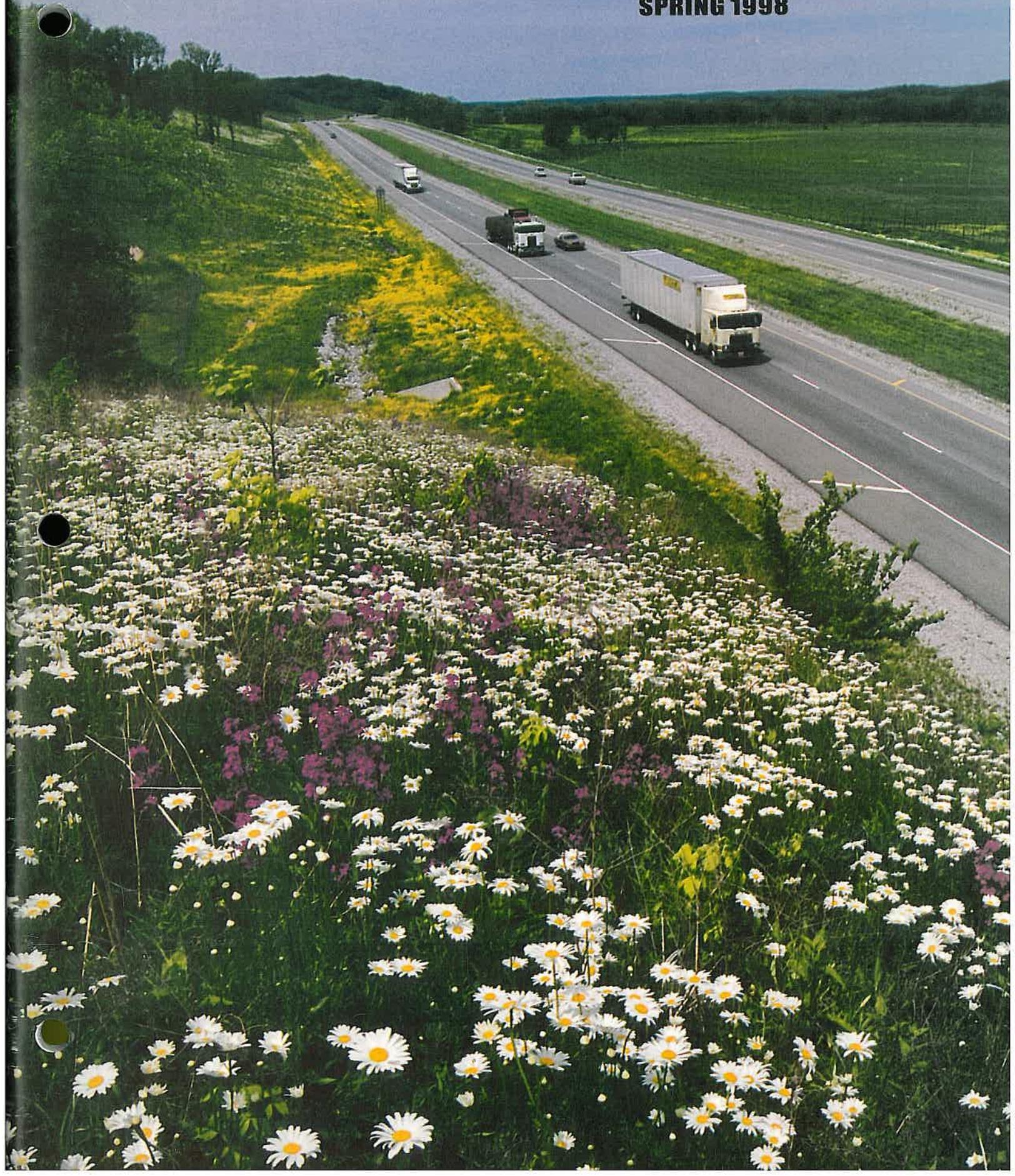


Arkansas Highways

SPRING 1998



Director's Message

Commission Hosts Regional Meetings

Gathering opinions from citizens is an important part of developing plans for a highway improvement program. Therefore, the Arkansas State Highway Commission held a series of 16 regional meetings across the state in January, February and March. (See article on page 4.)



The public consensus from these meetings has been that we need to increase revenues to pay for road improvements. However, there are differing opinions regarding our highway system and how to finance it. The Commission and Department staff will thoroughly review the comments received at the hearings in developing a plan for future highway activities.

The Commission's regional meetings served another purpose as well. In addition to the members of the Commission hearing what the people want and are willing to pay for, many state senators and representatives were in attendance and heard what their constituents had to say on the matter. Other groups represented at each meeting included the Arkansas Good Roads and Transportation Council, Chambers of Commerce, and industry representatives. Many city mayors and county judges also attended the meetings to publicly urge the continuation of the traditional 70-15-15 split of road-user revenues.

Grass roots involvement is a valuable tool in determining what the public wants in its highway system and acceptable methods of funding. Sixteen meetings in a three-month period of time was an ambitious undertaking, but the information obtained will prove invaluable in future planning efforts.


DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS

SPRING 1998

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION



BOBBY HOPPER
CHAIRMAN



HERBY BRANSCUM, JR.
VICE CHAIRMAN



JOHN "M" LIPTON
MEMBER



J.W. "BUDDY"
BENAFIELD
MEMBER



PRISSY
HICKERSON
MEMBER

ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS is published quarterly by and for employees of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department as a medium of departmental news and other information. Correspondence and material should be directed to ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs, P.O. Box 2261, Room 1004, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261. ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS is distributed free to the public upon request and to all Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department employees.

EDITOR
Randy Ort

COMPOSITION & LAYOUT
Carolyn Johnson

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
Keith Stephens

PHOTOGRAPHER
John Jackson



ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS
IS PRINTED ON
RECYCLED PAPER WITH SOYBEAN INK

ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS

Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department
P. O. Box 2261 • Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261

VOLUME 44 • NUMBER 1 • SPRING 1998

CONTENTS

FEATURES

Commission Names Tunnel For Chairman Bobby Hopper	2
Highway Commission Holds Series of Regional Public Meetings	4
Ron Burks Selected as A.H.P. Chief	10
State Highway 15 Bridge Dedicated at Pine Bluff	10
Arkansas Superpave Symposium	12
IFTA Audit Workshop Held in Little Rock.....	13
Public Hearings:	
El Dorado - Highway 15.....	14
Mena - Highway 88	14
Pine Bluff - Highway 425.....	15
Mountainburg - Highway 71	16
Benton - Highway 229 Bridges.....	16
Kami Tice: Miss Arkansas USA.....	17
Annual Service Recognitions	24
Christmas Around the Districts	32
AHTD Outdoors	52

OTHER ARTICLES

Director's Message	Inside Front Cover
Letters	18
In Memory	23
Around the Department.....	42

COVER PHOTO: U.S. Highway 412 in Washington County
BACK COVER PHOTO: State Highway 35 in Grant County
Photographs by John Jackson

Highway Commission Honors Chairman With Naming of Tunnel

Highway Commission Chairman Bobby Hopper holds a unique place in Arkansas history. Hopper has served more years on the Highway Commission than any other person since the Commission was created in 1913.

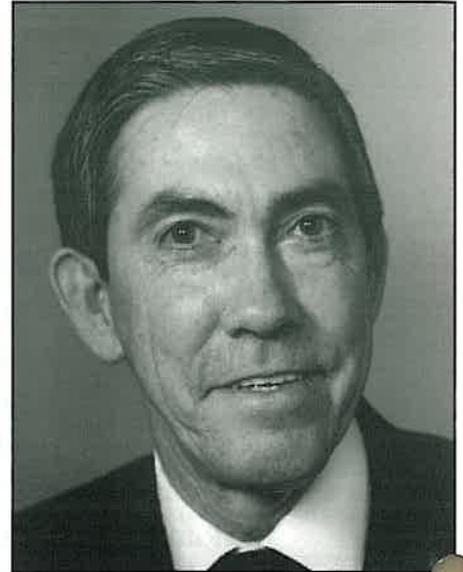
So how do you recognize someone with that kind of record? How do you find something that shares that uniqueness?

Well, on February 5, the Highway Commission came up with an answer. When the other four Commissioners signed their names to Minute Order Number 98-041, the tunnel under construction on Highway 71 near Winslow officially became known as the Bobby Hopper Tunnel.

The twin tunnels are a unique feature in highway construction

in the state and are part of the Highway 71 Relocation Project between Alma and Fayetteville. "Bobby has been a strong advocate for the improvement of the Highway 71 Corridor in western Arkansas and the Commission believed this to be a fitting way to honor his dedicated work for the State of Arkansas," said AHTD Director Dan Flowers.

Hopper was first appointed to the Highway Commission in January 1983 by Governor Bill Clinton to fill the unexpired term of F. H. Martin of Fayetteville who resigned for health reasons. In January 1989, Hopper was re-appointed by Governor Clinton to serve a full ten-year term. When his present term expires in January 1999, he will have served 16 continuous years on



Bobby Hopper

the Commission.

"I'm very honored that this was done," Hopper commented after the Minute Order was signed. "The Highway 71 Relocation Project has been such a

Left to right are the south and north portals of the Hopper Tunnel.



...ge undertaking for the Department, and the tunnel is the crown jewel. I really can't express my gratitude."

Signs and plaques showing the name of the facility will be installed at each end of the tunnel upon its completion. The

tunnel is expected to be complete later this summer with the entire route opening to traffic by January 1999.

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

MINUTE ORDER

Page 1 of 1 Pages

County: Statewide
 Category: Commission Policy

WHEREAS, Bobby Hopper has served on the Arkansas Highway Commission since January 1983; and

WHEREAS, when Commissioner Hopper's current term expires in January 1999, he will have served a total of 16 years, the longest service of any highway commissioner in history; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Hopper has been a strong supporter of improvements to the state's highway system; and

WHEREAS, a major project in which Commissioner Hopper has been a strong advocate is the improvement of the Highway 71 Corridor from Interstate 40 near Alma to the Missouri Line; and

WHEREAS, a feature of the Highway 71 improvement that is unique to the state is the construction of a twin tunnel system near Winslow.

NOW THEREFORE, considering the unique and unprecedented long service of Bobby Hopper to the Arkansas Highway Commission and the uniqueness of the Highway 71 Tunnel construction to the State Highway System, the Commission hereby honors Commission Chairman Bobby Hopper by officially naming the Highway 71 Twin Tunnel System as the Bobby Hopper Tunnel and orders the Director to install an appropriate plaque and sign on each end of the Tunnel.

Approved:

_____ Chairman
Herby Branson
 _____ Vice-Chairman
[Signature]
 _____ Member
[Signature]
 _____ Member
[Signature]
 _____ Member
[Signature]

Approved: _____
Paul Stowers
 Director
 Minute No. 98-041
 Date Passed February 5, 1998

Highway Commission Holds Series of Public Meetings

Knowing that any future state highway funding program will need to be supported by the general public, the Highway Commission took their message directly to the people in a series of regional public meetings held around the state in January, February, and March.

A total of 16 meetings were held over the three-month period. Approximately 2,000 people attended the meetings. Many offered comments or suggestions on needed projects and how to increase revenues for highway construction.

The purpose of the meetings was to inform the public of the condition of our existing facilities and to outline the needs the Commission has identified.



Meetings were held at the locations indicated on the above map.



Left to right: Commission members Prissy Hickerson, Buddy Benafield, John Lipton, Herby Branscum, and Bobby Hopper listen as a citizen speaks at the Harrison meeting.



Left photo: Citizens attending the meetings showed great interest in highway improvements. Right photo: Director Dan Flowers began each meeting by making a presentation on the state's highway needs.



Public comment was then solicited to establish what the people would or would not support in the way of a highway program.

The Commission previously reported that the state has about \$7 billion in highway needs over the next ten years, yet only anticipates receiving about \$3 billion from current federal and state revenue sources to address those needs. "The Commission believed it was important for the general public to understand the current situation," said Highway Commission Chairman Bobby Hopper of Springdale. "It is important that the public understands that current funding for highway improvements is not, and has not been for some time, providing the revenues necessary to keep pace with our growing highway needs.

"The citizens of Arkansas are interested in good highways and

many of them have specific projects in mind they would like to see completed," Hopper continued. "The Commission appreciates that interest and wanted to hear from the public which projects they believe are important and which services the Department can provide to improve transportation in Arkan-

sas. We also wanted to hear what the public believes is the most appropriate method of funding highway improvements. We believe the information gathered at these meetings will be very beneficial in helping us formulate a proposed plan of action for future highway improvements."



The key to the regional meetings was public involvement. Commissioners Branscum, Benafield and Lipton listen to the concerns of a local citizen at the Dumas meeting.

The Public Speaks and The Commission Listens!



T.C. Picket asks about the possibility of toll roads at the Dumas meeting held in early January.

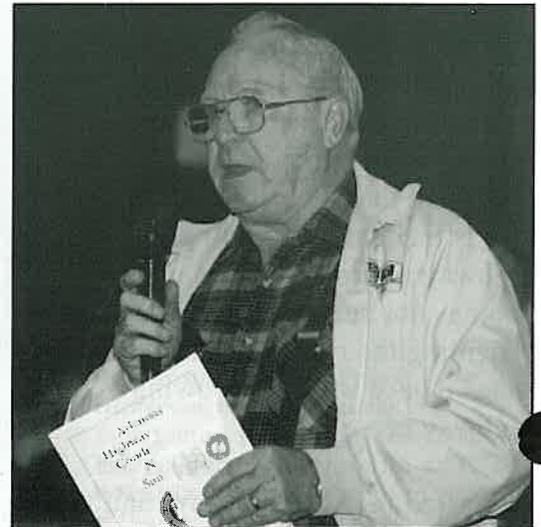


State Representative Barbara Horn of Foreman talks with Commissioner Prissy Hickerson and Deputy Director and Chief Engineer Roger Almond at Texarkana.

Commissioner John Lipton, left, talks with Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reporter Noel Oman at the meeting held in Pine Bluff.



A local citizen asks a question at the meeting held in Russellville.





AHTD Director Dan Flowers talks with Harrison residents.



Citizen participation and input is a vital part of the meetings.



An area resident addresses the Commission at the Jonesboro meeting.



Over 200 persons attended the meeting held at the Monticello Junior High School Auditorium in mid-February.



A severe thunderstorm knocked out power just prior to the El Dorado meeting on February 10. The meeting went on as scheduled by candlelight.



State Representative Jim Lancaster of Sheridan and Commissioner Bobby Hopper at the Pine Bluff meeting.



Commissioner Prissy Hickerson listens to area residents at the Hot Springs meeting in early March.



Floyd Stell talks with Commission Vice Chairman Herby Branscum about county roads.



Mayor of Gilmore Christine Brownlee provides a small town perspective of transportation issues at the West Memphis meeting.



Crossett resident Jack Reynolds at the meeting in Monticello.



Commissioners Bobby Hopper, center, and Buddy Benafield, right, listen to the concerns of a Russellville resident.



Candles provided the lighting as Director Dan Flowers addresses the El Dorado meeting during a thunderstorm which caused a power failure.



Commissioner John Lipton, right, listens to Melvin Schexnayder of Dumas.



Commissioner Prissy Hickerson, right, listens to the concerns of an area resident at the first meeting held in Jonesboro on January 6.



Transportation issues are a big concern in Garland County as noted by the turnout to the meeting held in early March at the Hot Springs High School Auditorium.



Chairman Bobby Hopper with FHWA Division Administrator Ken Perrett at the Texarkana meeting.



Elbert Caldwell, a truck driver from Hot Springs, expresses his viewpoint.



East Arkansas residents study one of the many displays used at the meetings.

Highway Commission Selects NLR Captain As Highway Police Chief

The Arkansas State Highway Commission on February 5, 1998 named Ronald Dean Burks as Chief of the Arkansas Highway Police Division effective March 2, 1998.

As Chief of the Highway Police, Burks will oversee approximately 180 officers with statewide jurisdiction. The primary responsibility of the Highway Police is the enforcement of commercial vehicle laws and regulations.

Burks, 23-year veteran of the North Little Rock Police Department (NLRPD), has extensive experience in law enforcement, including overall management and supervision of the Patrol Division. He was responsible for the develop-

ment of divisional departmental policies, budgeting and department-wide fleet purchases. He has served in the Patrol Division, Narcotics Unit, Computer Analysis Unit and Professional Standards Unit of the NLRPD.

He has attended the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Criminal Justice Institute, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy and numerous management and leadership schools. As a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, he recently served on a committee which developed a training curriculum for the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration. His combina-



AHP Chief Ron Burks

tion of education and experience provide the necessary foundation to lead a progressive law enforcement agency.

Burks and his wife Brenda have two children; a son, Matt, 19 and a daughter, Whitney, 15. They reside in Sherwood.

Pine Bluff Area to Benefit from New Bridge and Highway

Want to cross the Arkansas River in southeast Arkansas? Prior to December 17, you had two choices – a very rural stretch of U.S. Highway 165 just northeast of Dumas, or a very busy stretch of U.S. Highway 79 leading into the heart of Pine Bluff.

On December 17, 1997, a new highway and bridge crossing the Arkansas River opened linking U.S. Highway 65 in

southeast Pine Bluff with U.S. Highway 79 near Altheimer. The new route is designated State Highway 15.

Even though the new bridge is in the Pine Bluff metropolitan area, it will greatly improve travel for all of southeast Arkansas. The existing U.S. Highway 79 crossing is in a heavily congested portion of the city near the campus of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. The new

route bypasses most of the congested areas of the city and will provide improved access to the southern bypass currently under construction as well as U.S. Highways 65 and 425 heading south.

A crowd of dignitaries was on hand for the opening ceremony. U.S. Senator Dale Bumpers, Congressman Jay Dickey, Highway Commissioner John "M" Lipton, AHTD Direc-

or Dan Flowers, and Jefferson County Judge Jack Jones all offered comments at the opening. Jefferson County emergency vehicles were the first to cross the structure after the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Commissioner Lipton used the occasion to illustrate the expense that is incurred when needed projects are delayed. "This project was first envisioned in the early sixties," Lipton told the gathering. "At that time, it was estimated to cost around \$6 million. Now, here today, we are dedicating a \$40 million facility. We simply cannot afford to put off needed improvements."

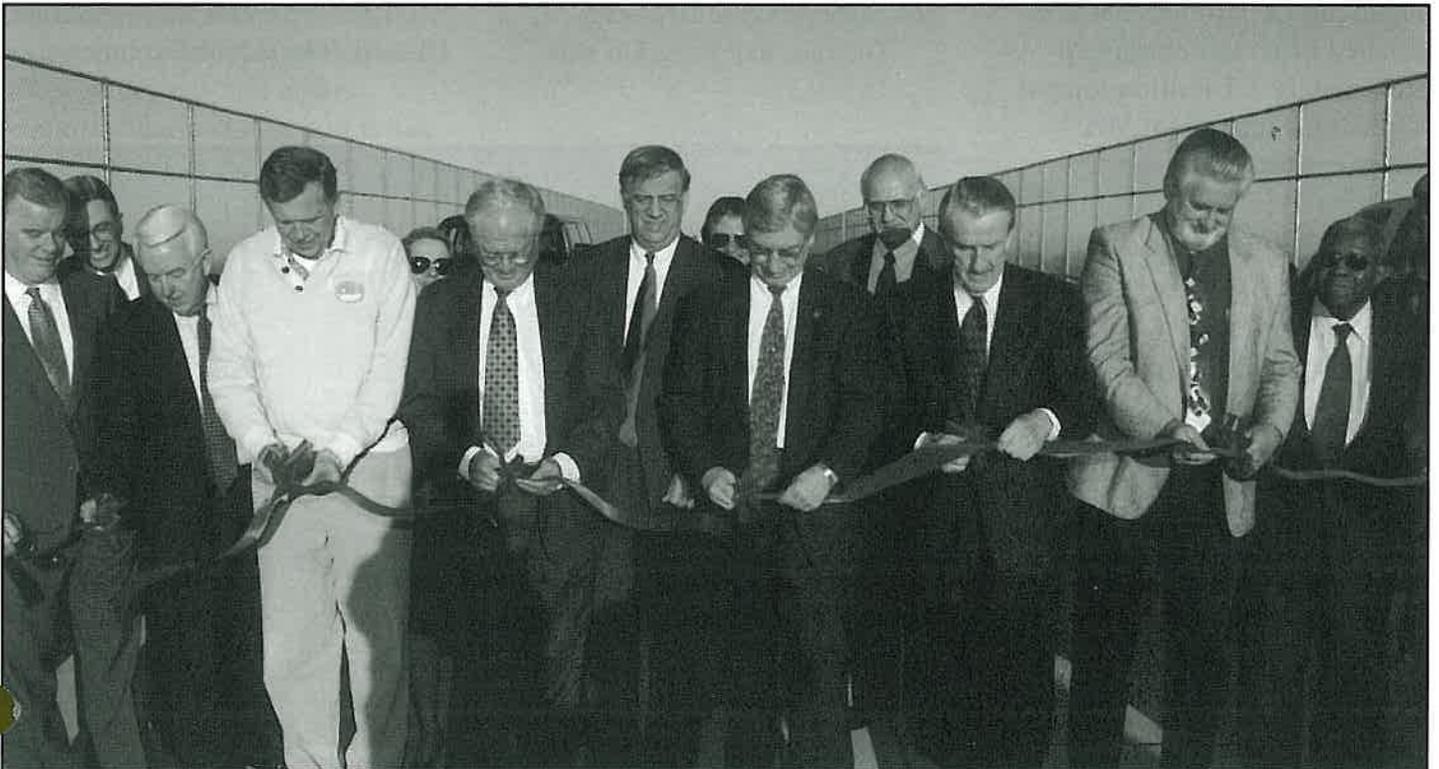
While the roadway itself was built on new location, the bridge structure was built across the top of Lock and Dam No. 4, known

locally as the Emmett Sanders Lock and Dam. In 1963, the Highway Commission paid \$64,500 toward the construction of the Lock and Dam to build it in such a way that it could carry a highway in the future.

Construction of the bridge project began in 1992. A total of six contracts were awarded for the completion of the facility. "This project was a long time coming, but it will be well worth the wait," Lipton noted.



U.S. Senator Dale Bumpers, left, and Highway Commissioner John Lipton were the featured speakers at the dedication ceremony.



State and Federal dignitaries cut the ribbon officially opening the new bridge on State Highway 15.

Arkansas Superpave Symposium

Superior Performing Asphalt Pavement

A one-day symposium sponsored by the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department brought together over 350 representatives from the construction industry who deal with the Superpave mix on Arkansas' roadways.

The Department, in cooperation with the Arkansas Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America and the Federal Highway Administration, held the symposium to discuss the various perspectives on current and completed Superpave projects in Arkansas.

Over the past two-and-a-half years, the Department has constructed or let to contract approximately 1.7 million tons of Asphalt Concrete Hot Mix Superpave Base, Binder and Surface Courses. The term Superpave is derived from *Superior Performing Asphalt Pavement*. This type mix was developed as part of the Strategic Highway Research Program that was completed in 1993.

The Superpave mix design procedure more realistically predicts hot mix pavement performance in the field. Superpave projects have enabled both the contractors and the Department to gain experience and understanding with the Superpave mixes in the areas of

materials, design and construction.

The symposium was presented from AHTD, AGC, FHWA and Aggregate Industry perspectives. Representatives from materials suppliers, contractors, engineering consultants, equipment suppliers, and universities as well as federal, state, county and city governments discussed the various experiences with Superpave mixes in Arkansas. The overriding point made during the symposium was that Superpave is a type of mix that will improve the overall quality of asphalt concrete hot mix pavements in Arkansas.

The one-day program was

divided into four sessions with 22 speakers participating.

Ralph Hall, AHTD Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations, opened the program by outlining the Department's use of Superpave mixes and telling those in attendance that full implementation for Superpave began with the February 1998 letting. Other Department personnel making presentations included, Jim Gee, Materials Engineer; Jerry Westerman, Assistant Materials Engineer; Don Donaldson, District 3 Construction Engineer; Bill Wall, Highway Materials Design Section Head; and Steve Peeples, District 6 Resident Engineer.



Left to right are Superpave panelists Don Donaldson, Jerry Westerman, Steve Peeples, Bill Wall, Jim Gee and Kevin Hall.

IFTA Audit Workshop Held in Little Rock

The tenth annual International Fuel Tax Association (IFTA) Audit Workshop was held January 11-13 at Arkansas' Excelsior Hotel. Hosted by the Audit Staff of the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department, the workshop was attended by 235 people representing industry and governments from the 48 contiguous states and 9 Canadian provinces.

Sponsored by the IFTA Audit Committee, the purpose of the workshop was to ensure uniformity in IFTA audit procedures, provide education concerning IFTA policies and provide a forum for peers to discuss audit issues. It is the goal of IFTA auditors to achieve compliance with the taxpayers.

In order to reach this goal, auditors must learn how to conduct a record and system review in accordance with the IFTA guidelines and make recommendations that will assist taxpayers in achieving the desired compliance. The audit workshop provides this learning experience.

The International Fuel Tax Agreement employs the base jurisdiction concept to make fuel use taxation simpler and more uniform both for member jurisdictions and for the interjurisdictional motor carrier industry. IFTA began in 1983 with Arizona, Iowa and Washington as charter members. The Association has grown over the years, and in 1995 the Federal Government mandated that all 48 contiguous states join this or a

similar base state agreement by 1996. As of January 1998, all 48 states and 11 Canadian provinces have joined IFTA.

This year's agenda included general session topics and breakout sessions. Breakout topics included: combined IFTA and IRP Audits; error rates and sampling; taxpayer communications and the evaluation of internal controls; auditing beyond the surface; and a new member breakout.

Thom Rabaglia, chairperson of the Audit Committee, welcomed attendees and led the self-introductions which included a summary of what was new in each representative's area of

IFTA auditing. General Session topics included a discussion of a recently conducted jurisdiction Audit Survey; a subcommittee report on Audit Selection and Stratification; a discussion of a Vehicle Tracking ballot; and an overview of IFTA's Program Compliance Review.

Day 2 was spent in concurrent breakout sessions. The final day of the workshop included an overview of the breakout sessions; a discussion on fraud; and a presentation detailing how ballots and consensus board interpretations are processed. The workshop ended with a question and answer period led by the Audit Committee.



AHTD Senior Auditor Cindy Harris, center, with delegates to the IFTA conference held at the Excelsior Hotel in Little Rock.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Highway 15 Improvement in El Dorado Sparks Local Interest

The proposed improvement of Highway 15 between Industrial Road and Highway 129 brought out a local crowd from the El Dorado area. A public hearing was held on November 18 at the South Arkansas Community College East Campus to allow concerned citizens the opportunity to view the proposed modifications and ask questions.

About 45 interested people were on hand as representatives from the Department explained the proposed project. Design of the project calls for four 12-foot travel lanes with eight-foot paved shoulders from Industrial Road to the western outskirts of Old Union, and four 12-foot travel lanes with curb and gutter in the Old Union urban section.



John Mathis, center, Senior Design Engineer, talks with area residents about the proposed improvements to Highway 15.

Approximately 49 acres of additional right-of-way will be required for the project.

Most of the citizens on hand for the meeting voiced concern

over the proposed right-of-way and asked questions about their specific properties and the effect of the highway.

State Highway 88 Receives Scenic Byway Designation

The Arkansas Highway Commission has officially recognized State Highway 88 as a Scenic Byway. The recognition came after a public hearing on the proposed designation held December 16 in Mena.

The Scenic Byway designation for the route means higher visibility on the Department's

State Highway Map. The route is 17.55 miles in length beginning at Highway 71 in Mena and extending west to the Oklahoma state line. The entire length of the byway is located within Polk County. It is also known as the Talimena Scenic Drive with 16.35 miles passing through the Ouachita National Forest. That

portion of the highway is also a National Forest Scenic Byway.

Beginning at an elevation of 1,150 feet above sea level, this route rises quickly to the top of Rich Mountain at approximately 2,680 feet. The route weaves from the north side of the mountain ridge to the south side providing excellent views of

similar ridges to the north and south.

The Arkansas Highway Commission's criteria for scenic

byway designation requires that a route contain abundant scenic, cultural and historical qualities that would be of interest to travelers. Highway 88 has that and more. From its intersection with Highway 71, this route heads north past the Polk County Courthouse, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, toward Rich Mountain. Immediately west of Mena, the traveler enters land managed by the Ouachita National Forest. The National Forest Service manages seven scenic overlooks along the route, two with interpretive signing.



AHTD Environmental Section Head Larry Long and Mena Mayor Henry Sunderman with citizens at the Highway 88 public hearing.

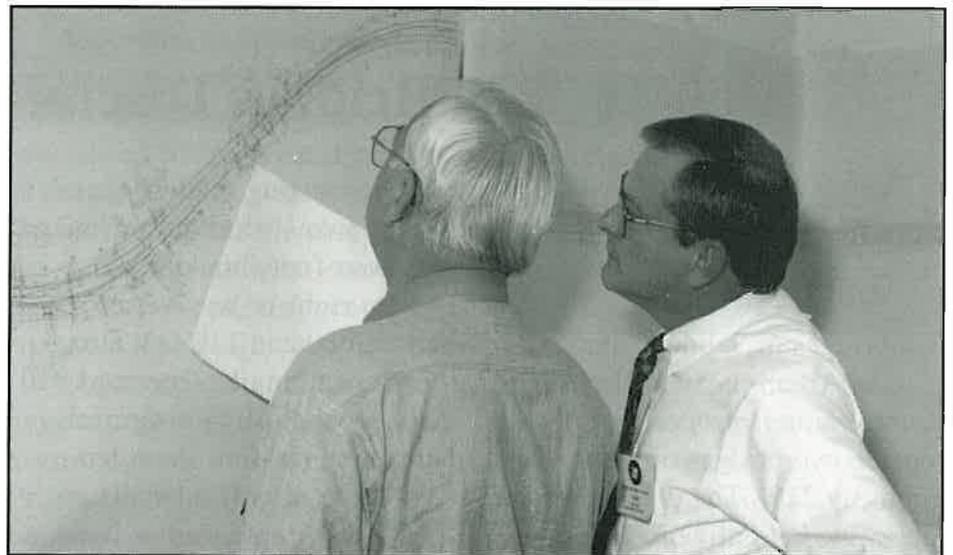
Highway 425 Widening is Topic of Public Hearing Held in Pine Bluff

Approximately 25 people were on hand to review the proposed widening of Highway 425 near Pine Bluff at a public hearing held November 25 at the Jefferson County Area Maintenance Headquarters. Most of the comments received surrounded the replacement of concrete culverts under driveways along the proposed route.

The Arkansas Highway Commission is planning a project to improve a section of Highway 425 from Highway 65 to the south for approximately four miles. The proposed project generally consists of a four-lane divided highway from the community of Ladd north for 3.1 miles. The roadway would then

transition into a five-lane section for approximately one mile before it intersects U.S. Highway 65 east of Pine Bluff. Other

concerns voiced at the meeting included the moving of existing water lines and customer service meters off the right-of-way.



AHTD Right of Way Section Head Jim Fooks, right, reviews plans on Highway 425 with a Pine Bluff resident.

Beauty of Northwest Arkansas on Display Along Highway 71

The Ozarks are one of Arkansas' most prized natural resources. One of the best vantage point to see the Ozarks in all their glory is along U.S. Highway 71 in Northwest Arkansas.

Local businessmen banded together to capitalize on the beauty of the state's mountainous area by promoting the highway as a Scenic Byway. The business owners formed the Scenic 71 Partner's Association to promote the highway before the opening of the Arkansas Highway 540 four-lane roadway is opened in early 1999.

During a public hearing held December 2 at Mountainburg High School, several local citizens asked questions about the highway and restrictions of a Scenic Byway. Most questions surrounded the use of billboards along the highway. Larry Long

of the Department's Environmental Division told the crowd that existing billboards would be allowed to stay in place, but new billboards erected away from the businesses they advertise would not be allowed.

Letters supporting the designation of the 42-mile portion

north from Highway 282 to the Highway 71 Bypass in Fayetteville were received from Representatives Ed Thicksten and Sue Madison, Washington County Judge Charles Johnson and Mountainburg Mayor Helen Morris.



AHTD Environmental Section Head Larry Long, right, with citizens at the Highway 71 public hearing.

Highway 229 Bridges Discussed at Benton

A small crowd of interested citizens was on hand for a public hearing held Tuesday, December 9, 1997 in Benton concerning two bridges in Saline County.

The Arkansas State Highway Commission is proposing to replace two bridges on State Highway 229. The two bridges are located at Saline River and Salt Creek. Total length of the project is 1.1 miles.

The existing roadway consists of two 10-foot travel lanes with four-foot shoulders. Present right-of-way varies between 80 and 110 feet along the project length. The road will be improved to 11-foot travel lanes with six-foot shoulders.

Although only a small contingent of people was on hand, a large number of written comments were received concerning

the project. Concerns centered on the closing of the bridge over the Saline River (known locally as Ed Dobson Bridge) while the new bridge is constructed. The proposed project would remove the existing bridge and replace it at the same location. The bridge would be closed for approximately 1½ years while construction is underway.

Citizen's concerns were

ocused on losing the highway as an alternative to Interstate 30 over the Saline River.

Preliminary plans showing location and design features of the contemplated work and copies of the environmental assessment were available for public inspection at the meeting as well as the District Engineer's office in Little Rock.



AHTD representatives John Baber, center, of Environmental, and Roadway Design Division Head Phil McConnell talk with a Benton resident.

Kami Tice: Miss Arkansas USA

"A little girl's dream come true" is how Kami Mikhael Tice of Huntsville describes winning the title of Miss Arkansas USA.

Kami, the daughter of Senior Inspector Barry Tice of the District Nine Bentonville Resident Engineer's Office and his wife Karen, won the coveted crown and title at the state event held October 10-11, 1997 in West Memphis.

The 21-year-old beauty competed in the 1998 Miss USA pageant in Shreveport in March. In addition to cash, prizes and product endorsements, the winner of the national pageant

competes in the Miss Universe Pageant.

According to Kami's mother, the University of Arkansas student is looking forward to the year ahead with a great deal of excitement. "She's excited about the opportunity to travel around the state and getting to know more of the wonderful people in Arkansas," she said.

The competition at the pageant consisted of swimsuit, evening gown and interview. Prizes for winning the state pageant included clothing, gift certificates, cash, airfare to the Miss USA pageant, wardrobe



allowance, state crown, state banner and official portrait among other items.

Presently, Kami is an honor student at the University and member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority.



Letters to the Department

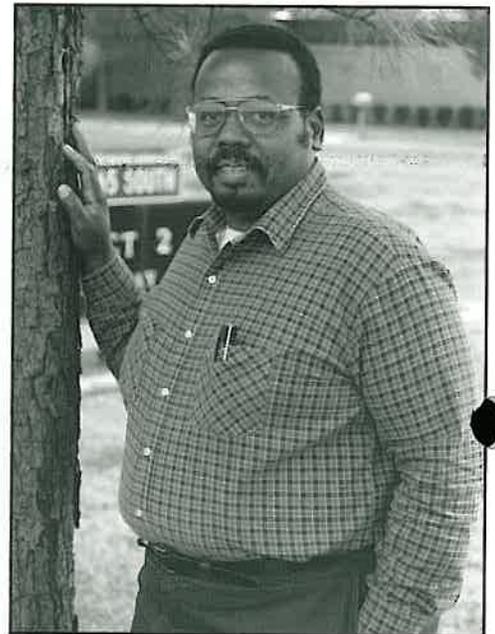
To: Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

My daughter, Kimberley, was driving to work November 5, 1997; the day we had such violent thunderstorms. She was driving from Stuttgart to Pine Bluff about 8:20 a.m. when her car hydroplaned and she ended up on the side of the highway stuck in the mud. Luckily she nor anyone else was hurt. This was on the stretch of road between Humphrey and Wabaseka where repair is being done on the highway.

I would like to thank one of your employees for stopping and helping Kimberley but I do not know his name other than Joseph. He stopped to make sure she was not hurt, then made arrangements with a nearby farmer to pull her car out of the mud. He stayed with her until help came and assisted in making sure her car was drivable.

I thought you would know who works in that particular area and would pass my "thank you" along to him. I wanted you to know that one of your employees went out of his way to help my daughter.

Sincerely,
Judy M. Lammers
Stuttgart, Arkansas



Joseph Valliant, Jr.
Construction Aide II, Pine Bluff Residency

To: Jim Briley
District 2 Engineer, Pine Bluff

My many, many thanks on behalf of Leadership Pine Bluff for visiting with us about the transportation system in and around Jefferson County. The class enjoyed being challenged to find revenue sources for highway funding. You are a great teacher and we all learned many things from you last week.

I appreciate your time and thoughtfulness in being a part of the Leadership Program.

Sincerely,
Joy Blankenship
The Greater Pine Bluff Chamber of Commerce

To: Jane Wilson
Chief of Administration and Public Affairs

The reason I am writing this letter is to thank you and all the people involved with the catastrophic leave program.

In March 1997 I was diagnosed with breast cancer. This was very devastating to me and my family. Not only was I worried about my health, but also worried about keeping my job. I knew that I wouldn't have enough leave time to get me through my treatments, and I knew I couldn't do without a paycheck. I decided to try to work as much as I could.

In April I started chemotherapy treatments and, needless to say, they made me very sick. I tried to continue to work, but after a while I just could not continue to work and take chemotherapy and radiation too. On the advice of my supervisor, B.J. McAlister, I applied for catastrophic leave. I received much assistance from Carol Ward who made the process uncomplicated for me, due to my condition, I needed no more complications. In no time at all I was approved and could go home and concentrate on getting well. I finished my treatments September 16 and one week later returned to work. And as of this day I am still cancer free and taking one day at a time. During this time it was a relief to know I didn't have to worry about my job or how to pay my bills.

This letter is to let you know how much I appreciate the catastrophic leave program and all those people who work to keep it going. I hope I do not have to use it again, but if I do I hope that it is still available for me or anyone else who needs it.

Yours truly,
Loretta J. Holliman
Field Clerk II, District 8 Russellville Resident Engineer's Office

To: AHTD Public Affairs Office
Little Rock

On behalf of the Local Arrangements Committee I would like to express my appreciation for your support of education in Arkansas through your donation of Arkansas highway maps to be used in our hospitality booth and for table decorations at the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) Conference recently held in Little Rock. Having a number of items for conference participants to come and take home from our "Country Store Motif" was a big hit with this year's attendees. They loved the southern hospitality.

As you know, this conference encompassed many facets of education and was attended by 2,500 participants. A conference of this magnitude would not be possible were it not for people like yourself who are willing to give of their time, expertise, and resources. Again, many thanks for your willingness to be a part of the continued effort to improve education for all children.

Sincerely,
Carolyn P. Shry, Co-Chair Sponsor
NAGC Local Arrangements Committee



B.J. McAlister, Resident Engineer and
Carol Ward, Human Resources
Office Administrative Assistant V

To: AHTD Family

Heidi and I would like to express our deepest appreciation for all of the flowers, phone calls, personal notes and letters, and especially all of the prayers that were offered on behalf of our son, Noah. Throughout Noah's illness and ultimate death, we were constantly touched by the kindness shown to our family by so many here at the Department. It is truly a privilege to work for an agency that employes such top quality people. Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered.

John and Heidi Bettis
Programs and Contracts Engineer I
Planning and Research Division

To: Arkansas Highway Police

I had a flat tire on the interstate by the weigh station between Alma and Van Buren last week. I pulled in by the weigh station and was feeling totally helpless because I have never changed a flat (I am going to learn). An officer by the name of Glenn Holloway came out and immediately started changing the tire for me. It was just starting to rain and he had the best attitude about everything! I really appreciate him and the way he seemed so happy to be helping someone. You guys do a great job and have a great officer in Glenn Holloway.

Thank you,
Marilyn Hendrix



2nd Lieutenant Glenn Holloway

To: Scott Mullis and Crew
McGehee Resident Engineer

Thanks for sponsoring a family during our annual Christmas for Foster Children and Need Families Program. Our program would not have been successful without your help.

All donations received by the Desha County Department of Human Services are distributed to needy families and foster children in Desha County. Because of your kindness during this holiday season many families were able to have a happy Christmas.

Thanks again for your donations.

Lerone Thomas
County Administrator II
Arkansas Department of Human Services
Desha County

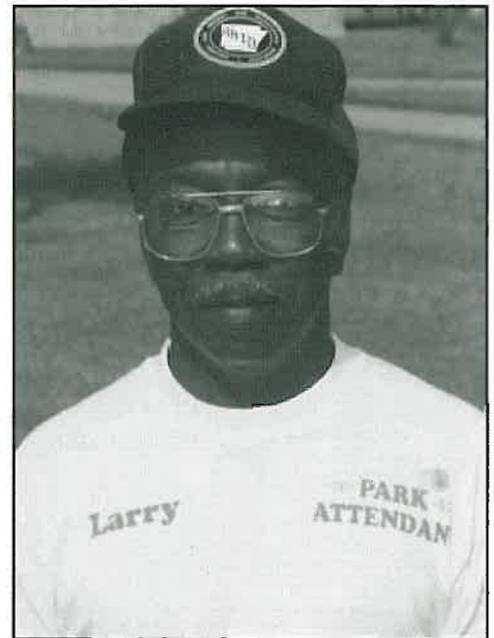
To: Jim Briley
District 2 Engineer at Pine Bluff

I would like to commend your employee, whose name is Larry Johnson, for his great help with an accident I suffered at the rest stop at Dermott on February 12, 1997. I am so long in writing because I have only lately learned of his name.

I was walking around the building when I stumbled and fell on the sidewalk. My nose was cracked and bleeding, both of my eyes were blackened and I was skinned in several places. Mr. Johnson saw my distress, came over and helped me up, called my husband, who was sitting in our car and had not seen me fall, ran to get some paper towels, and directed us to the McGehee Clinic where we were helped.

Both of us were very grateful for his alertness and help when it was needed.

Mary Ruth Joynton
Hot Springs Village, Arkansas



Larry Johnson, Rest Area Attendant

To: Dan Flowers, Director
Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department

Thank you for the Department's response to community concerns about the intersecting speed limits on Highway 71 north of Bentonville. The changes made by the Department should make a significant improvement in the safety of this heavily traveled area.

We appreciate your Department's prompt and thorough review of our request on this matter.

John E. Brown
State Senator, District 34
Siloam Springs, Arkansas

To: Highway Department Supervisor
District 9 at Harrison

Last Friday my wife and I left Ponca for Springfield, Missouri to see my parents. We left at 10:00 a.m. and went back over the mountainous Highway 43 to Harrison that we had just traveled the night before over snowy roads at 8:00 p.m.

The sun was shining and the forest was pretty. Rounding a curve our Jeep went out of control and after about 7 or 8 seconds of "thrill" we ended up in a farmer's pasture headed backwards. Three or four seconds later a Highway Department truck passed by and I am sure they wondered what we were doing. They turned around and came back to help.

To make a 45 minute story short, Jack Dodson, Gene Daniels and Randy Keef saved the day. They helped get us out of the ditch, helped my wife who had a previous broken toe down a hill, and repaired our Jeep. I tried to give them \$20.00 to buy all of them a good lunch but they would not accept my offer. Please let them know how much we appreciated them. Our Jeep made it to Harrison and after a \$67.00 service job made it all the way to Springfield and back to Fairfield Bay.

Fred Herman
Fairfield Bay Tennis Center



Randy Keef, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator; Jack Dodson, Maintenance Aide II; and Gene Daniels, Single Axle Truck Driver. All work for the Newton County maintenance crew.



Don McMillen
Public Transportation Specialist

TO: Jim Gilbert
AHTD Public Transportation Administrator

I wanted to thank you again for the van you released to us. I know that you have more requests than you can fill and we were certainly fortunate to get this particular van. As you said, we couldn't beat the price! We are so delighted that we have a new vehicle, especially one we can stand up in.

I can assure you that we will put this vehicle to good use. Thank you again for the support you have always shown this program. We couldn't survive without vehicles from your department. Please extend a special thank you to Don McMillen. He is always helpful and a delight to work with.

Please feel free to visit with us any time that you are in West Memphis.

Cindy Cloyd, Director

Steudlein Learning Center
West Memphis, Arkansas

To: Steve Peeples
North Little Rock Resident Engineer

On January 15 while traveling on Interstate 40 near the Hazen exit, I had the opportunity to meet Brad Fryar. I can honestly say that I haven't met such an outstanding individual in quite some time.

Brad flagged me down to advise me that the boat and trailer that I had been pulling had come loose from the hitch and had departed the interstate about a half mile behind us. You might ask yourself how that could happen without my knowing. To tell you the truth, I'm not sure either. However, I am convinced I would have noticed by the time I reached the dock.

Mr. Fryar was indispensable in helping me recover the boat and trailer from the ditch in which it had become embedded. Brad then assisted me in changing a tire on the trailer and helped get me back on the road.

I am truly thankful that Brad was there. He is definitely a credit to himself and the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department.

Steve, I believe you should be proud to lead such an individual. I certainly am proud to know that my tax dollars support and employ men like Brad. Again, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude for Mr. Fryar's assistance. Thanks!

Patrick A. Powell
U.S. Air Force C130 Instructor/Evaluator Pilot
Cabot, Arkansas



Brad Fryar, Assistant Resident Engineer

IN MEMORY

ACTIVE

Millard Hunter, III
District 6
died May 7, 1997

Earl C. Brooks
District 6
died January 14, 1998

RETIREEES

Ed A. Jones - District 5
died August 11, 1997

B. Steele Baker - District 10
died September 15, 1997

Ron Cofer - Roadway Design
died September 16, 1997

James Wm. Robertson - District 7
died September 27, 1997

Mamie Fanning - Reproduction
died September 27, 1997

William T. Newman - District 5
died September 28, 1997

John T. Fancher - District 9
died October 1, 1997

Jesse H. Permenter - District 10
died October 8, 1997

Bill Pate - District 6
died October 11, 1997

Vern Boyd, Jr. - District 3
died October 13, 1997

James Elmer Hurst - District 1
died November 13, 1997

Billy Lee Johns - District 2
died November 18, 1997

Adam Harrison - District 2
died November 28, 1997

Alvin Newton - District 7
died November 3, 1997

Charles H. Fullerton - District 9
died December 10, 1997

John W. Davidson - District 8
died December 14, 1997

William H. Kniss - District 2
died December 16, 1997

Kirby W. Johnson - District 5
died December 18, 1997

Ralph E. Toward - District 7
died December 19, 1997

Marlon Ray McEuen - Surveys
died December 24, 1997

James B. Gibbens - District 5
died December 25, 1997

James H. Cantrell - District 7
died January 1, 1998

Lonnie Tilley - District 9
died January 1, 1998

Garland Spencer - District 1
died January 5, 1998

Johnnie M. Gray - Public Affairs
died January 9, 1998

Uva Harris - District 9
died January 11, 1998

Emily Pearl Rogers - District 4
died January 12, 1998

Millard Hunter, Jr. - District 6
died January 13, 1998

Melvin C. Fleming - District 1
died January 14, 1998

Milton Hughes - District 5
died January 24, 1998

Kenneth Wright - District 3
died January 25, 1998

Service Recognitions



25-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

(L-R) Front row: Mike Shaw, Computer Services; Leonard Hall, District 6; Frank Knowles, Human Resources; Jacqueline Greer, Planning & Research; Dennald Stroud, Roadway Design; Kit Carson, Surveys; Carl Lindstrom, Surveys. Back row: Mike Eden, Fiscal Services; Phil Brand, Bridge; Wayne Casteel, Materials; Jerry Dixon, Planning & Research; Robert Walters, ACE/Design; Bob Tyler, Right of Way; Dennis Jarrett, Equipment & Procurement; Robert Williams, Planning & Research; Ralph Hall, ACE/Operations; Larry Long, Environmental; Jim Gaither, Right of Way; Mike Selig, Programs & Contracts; Don Griffin, Materials



SERVICE AWARDS

(L-R) Front row: Neal Magee, Surveys, 35 years; Florence Routh, Planning & Research, 35 years; Barbara Crowwell, State Aid, 35 years; George Green, Jr., Materials, 30 years. Back row: Joe Black, Jr., AHP, 25 years; Norman Cobb, Materials, 35 years; Nelson Farmer, AHP, 30 years

CENTRAL OFFICE

The 1997 Central Office Service Award and Retirement presentation ceremony was held December 4 in the Central Office Auditorium. Commission Chairman Bobby Hopper along with other members of the Highway Commission and Director Dan Flowers made the presentations. Pictured are the 1997 recipients.



1997 RETIREMENTS

(L-R): Gene Cagle, Human Resources, 33+ years; John Sage, Bridge, 36+ years

DISTRICT ONE

The District One Awards Presentation/Christmas luncheon was held December 12 with approximately 125 employees, guests and relatives attending. Special guests included Highway Commissioner Buddy Benafield, Director Dan Flowers, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson, Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations Ralph Hall and Human Resources Division Head Melba Shepard. Safety awards were presented and the door prizes were won by Joel Davis, District Bridge Inspector and Joe Hooper, Bridge Repairer II. A special thanks to each employee who helped in so many ways to put this event together.



District One Service Awards and Retirees

Seated left to right: George McDaniel, Crew Leader, 30 years; Lynda Baker, retired Office Manager, 30+ years; Walter Laird, retired Lead Person, 19 years; Arthur Cole, Construction Project Supervisor, 35 years; Ron Ellis, District Bridge Inspector, 25 years. Back row: District Engineer Ray Woodruff; Herman Stephens, retired Dozer Operator/Finish, 12 years; Wayne Flower, Senior Inspector, 25 years; Commissioner Buddy Benafield; Director Dan Flowers



**1-Year Safety Award
District Shop**



**2-Year Safety Award
Cross County Maintenance Crew**



**2-Year Safety Award
District Sealing Crew**



**3-Year Safety Award
Jimmy Bryant accepting for Lee County**



**4-Year Safety Award
Wayne Fowler accepting for
Wynne Residency**



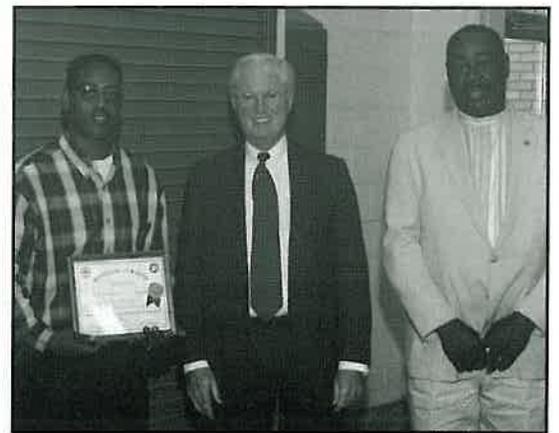
**4-Year Safety Award
Joe Sartini and Arthur Cole accepting for
West Memphis Residency**



**5-Year Safety Award
Ron Ellis
District Bridge Crew**



**5-Year Safety Award
Joel Davis and Roger Johnson
District Bridge Crew**



**7-Year Safety Award
Eddie Bryant, Commissioner Benafield, and George
McDaniel accepting for the Monroe County**



11-Year Safety Award
Dan Flowers, left, Commissioner Benafield, right, with the District Sign Crew



12-Year Safety Award
Bobby Weatherford, center, accepts for the Phillips County Maintenance Crew with Dan Flowers, left, and Commissioner Benafield, right.



20-Year Safety Award
Dan Flowers, left, Tom Bloesch, center, Assistant Resident Engineer, accepting for the West Helena Residency, Commissioner Benafield, right.

DISTRICT TWO

District Two's annual awards presentation was held December 11, 1997. Special guests included Highway Commissioner John Lipton, Director Dan Flowers, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson and Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations Ralph Hall.

District Two Service Awards and Retirements

L-R Front row: Alton Thomas, Motor Patrol Operator, 25 years; Roy Johnson, retired Senior Inspector, 39 years; Bettye Carter-Johnson, Permit Officer, 25 years; A.G. Bullock, Area Headquarters Attendant, 25 years; Harold Smith, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish, 30 years; Waymon Graham, Backhoe Operator, 35 years. Back row: Commissioner Lipton; Burl Robertson, retired District Equipment Maintenance Supervisor, 27 years; District Engineer Jim Briley; Director Dan Flowers; Max Bagwell, retired District Construction Engineer, 37 years; Sammy Horton, Motor Patrol Operator, 25 years



DISTRICT THREE

District Three's Christmas Dinner/Awards Ceremony was December 12. Special guests included Commissioner Prissy Hickerson and her husband Randy; Director Dan Flowers and his wife Sara; and Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson.



1-Year Safety Awards
Robert Kendall, District Maintenance Crew; D.W. Miles, Drew County Maintenance Crew; Clinton Bohannon, Arkansas County Maintenance Crew; Jimmy Johnson, Ashley County Maintenance Crew



Sam Denton, Const. Project Coordinator, with a 3 year safety award for the Monticello Residency.



Charles Ghormley, left, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor, receives a 30-year service certificate from Commissioner Prissy Hickerson.



2-Year Safety Award
Lincoln County Maintenance Crew



3-Year Safety Award
District Bridge Crew



Susan Monroe, left, District Office Manager, receives a 25-year service certificate from Commissioner Prissy Hickerson.



2-Year Safety Award
Desha County Maintenance Crew



5-Year Safety Award
Grant County Maintenance Crew



2-Year Safety Award
Pine Bluff Residency



5-Year Safety Award
Rick Wilson, left, accepts on behalf of the District Bridge Inspection Crew from Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations Ralph Hall.



Laverne Arledge, left, Storeroom Supervisor, receives a 25-year service certificate from Commissioner Prissy Hickerson.



2-Year Safety Award
Chicot County Maintenance Crew



Bill Callicott, left, Nevada County Area Maintenance Supervisor, receives a 25-year service certificate from Commissioner Prissy Hickerson.



John Parks, left, Parts Runner, receives a 25-year service certificate from Commissioner Prissy Hickerson.



District Four 25-Year Service Awards
Seated L-R: Randall Barnett, Inspector; Bill Campbell, Area Maintenance Supervisor; Larry Elder, Area Maintenance Supervisor; Jerry Clemence, Crew Leader. Standing: Commissioner Bobby Hopper; Director Dan Flowers and District Engineer Harold Beaver



Danny Foster, left, Maintenance Aide II, receives a 25-year service certificate from Commissioner Prissy Hickerson.

DISTRICT FOUR



Receiving retirement certificates at the District Four Awards luncheon were Jim Harrison, Crew Leader and Jack Coleman, Resident Engineer. Standing are Commissioner Bobby Hopper, Director Dan Flowers and District Engineer Harold Beaver.



District Four Safety Awards
Seated L-R: Ray Jett, Scott County Maintenance Crew; Randall Barnett, Waldron Residency; Jim Carter Sebastian I Maintenance Crew; Mark Williams, District Bridge Crew; Debbie Caster, District Office. Standing: Director Dan Flowers, Commissioner Bobby Hopper, David Richards, Alma Maintenance Crew; Buddy Turner, Bridge Inspector; Raymond Lea, Bridge Inspector; District Engineer Harold Beaver; Jack Coleman, Van Buren Residency



Larry Johnson, left, Bridge Job Superintendent, receives a 25-year service certificate from Commissioner Prissy Hickerson.



Director Dan Flowers, left, and District Engineer Harold Beaver, right, present Jerry Montgomery, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish, his retirement certificate for 26+ years service.

DISTRICT FIVE



District 5 Service Awards and Retirees
L-R Front Row: Ernest Martin, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor, 30 years; Nal McCandlis, retiree, 27 years; Samuel Davis, retiree, 32 years; A.L. Coles, retiree, 34+ years; William Coles, retiree, 34 years; Jimmy Henley, Single Axle Truck Driver, 30 years; Lonnie Dickey, Sharp County Area Maintenance Supervisor, 25 years. Back row: Director Dan Flowers, Randy Tomlinson, Construction Aide II, 25 years; Lee Earnheart, Spreader Operator, 25 years; David Neighbours, Senior Construction Materials Inspector, 25 years; District Engineer Lyndal Waits; Commissioner Herby Branscum, Jr.



District Five Service Awards
 Jeremy Fore, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 5 years; David Balentine, Single Axle Truck Driver, 5 years; Darrel Munnerlyn, Single Axle Truck Driver, 10 years; Tony Watson, Single Axle Truck Driver, 5 years; Quinn Whitelow, Maintenance Aide I, 10 years and Dwane Thompson, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 5 years



District 5 Service Awards
 David Bishop, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 20 years; R.L. Vannatter, Senior Mechanic, 15 years; Barbara Munnerlyn, District Receptionist, 15 years



District 5 Safety Awards
 Greg Graishe, Stone County Maintenance Crew, 1 year; Jim Leggett, Batesville Residency, 4 years; Tommy Satterwhite, Sign Crew, 1 year; Lonnie Dickey, Sharp County Maintenance Crew, 4 years; Ernest Martin, District Shop Crew, 1 year; Paul Hoggard, Bridge Crew, 5 years; Dickey Drake, Sealing Crew, 1 year; Fred Heyde, Bridge Crew, 6 years; Steve Hampton, District Maintenance Crew, 2 years; Hulon Rice, Batesville Residency, 6 years; Danny Garwood, Izard County Maintenance Crew, 2 years; Edward Dickey, District Bridge Crew, 9 years; Carl Anderson, Independence County Maintenance Crew, 2 years; Lyndal Waits, District Office, 12 years

DISTRICT SIX



District 6 Service Awards
 David Lambert, District Construction Engineer, 25 years; Barbara Mize, Field Clerk II, 30 years; Don Stovall, Assistant Maintenance Superintendent, 40 years; Waylon Chambers, Construction Project Coordinator, 30 years; Frederick Doles, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 25 years



District 6 Service Awards
 L-R: Steve Brown, Maintenance Aide II, 20 years; Jeff Venable, Assistant Resident Engineer, 15 years; Ralph Burge, Area Maintenance Supv., 20 years; Jim Pound, Resident Engineer, 20 years; Dennis Robertson, Construction Aide II, 20 years

DISTRICT SEVEN

District Seven's annual service award presentation was held February 1998 with Commissioner John Lipton making the presentations.



District 7 Service Awards
 (L-R) Edward Carter, retired Motor Patrol Operator/Finish, 34+ years; E.M. Erwin, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 25 years; Billy Gilbert, retired Vegetation Controller, 30 years; Robert Watson, Single Axle Truck Driver, 25 years; Claude Parton, District Construction Engineer, 35 years; Commissioner John Lipton and District Engineer Coy Campbell



District Seven Safety Awards
 Receiving safety awards for their respective crews are (L-R) front row: Bobby Reddin, Dallas County, 2 years; Joel Todd, District Maintenance, 1 year; Johnnie Risher, Columbia County, 2 years; Chuck Vance, District Bridge, 7 years. Middle row: James Ellis, District Sealing, 1 year; Alan Hearnberger, Bradley County, 1 year; Phil Griffiths, Ouachita County, 1 year; Gordon Hite, El Dorado Residency, 9 years; Commissioner John Lipton; Coy Campbell, District Office, 7 years. Back row: Safety Inspection Officer Carroll Lathan; Gary Grimes, Camden/Arkadelphia Residency, 5 years; Glen Howell, Distrip Shop, 1 year; Vance Hunneycutt, District Sign, 1 year.

DISTRICT EIGHT



District 8 Service Awards and Retirees
 L-R Front row: B.J. Reynolds, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 25 years; Bob Boyd, retiree, 30 years; Larry Williams, Maintenance Aide II, 25 years; Jackie Allen, Roller Operator, 25 years; Ferrell Cato, retiree, 39 years; George Martin, District Bridge Inspector, 35 years. Back row: Commissioner Herby Branscum, Jr., Frank Gray, Lowboy Truck Driver, 25 years; Robert Murdock, Sealing Job Superintendent, 30 years; Joe Sorrells, Senior Inspector, 30 years; Alvin Shipp, retiree, 30 years; Kenneth Brown, Jr., retiree, 34 years; Director Dan Flowers and District Engineer Frank Russenberger.



Safety Award
Perry County Maintenance Crew



Safety Award
District Bridge Crew



Safety Award
District Maintenance Crew



Safety Award
Russellville Residency



Safety Award
Sign Crew



George O. Martin, Jr., center, District Bridge Inspector, accept a safety award from Commissioner Branscum and Director Flowers



Bill Fine, center, Resident Engineer, accepts a safety award on behalf of the Clarksville Residency.

DISTRICT NINE



30-Year Service Awards
L-R: Commissioner Bobby Hopper, Nelson McCutcheon, Construction Aide III; Jim McIntosh, Area Headquarters Attendant; Jack Pharis, Crew Leader; Jane Wilson, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs; Director Dan Flowers and District Engineer Ralph Fulton



25-Year Service Awards
L-R: Gerald Wilkerson, Senior Mechanic; Curley Johnson, Ferry Boat Supervisor; Randy Clark, Area Maintenance Supv.; Jim Martin, Construction Aide II; J.N. Mallett, Sign Crew Supv.



District 9 Retirees
L-R: Nelson McCutcheon, 30+ years; Joe Evans, 10 years; Wayne Bell, 33+ years; Jim McIntosh, 30+ years

DISTRICT TEN

The District Ten Service Award presentation was held December 12. Special guests included Highway Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield, Director Dan Flowers; Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson and Human Resources Division Head Melba Shepard.



District 10 Service Awards and Retirees
L-R front row: Jimmy Williams, retired Vegetation Controller, 17 years; Fred David, retired Distributor/Roller Opr., 18 years; June German, Stockroom Supv., 30 years; David Washam, Lead Person, 25 years; Jerry Cook, retired Clay County AMS, 30 years; Brent Watkins, Jonesboro RE, 25 years. Back row: District Engineer Joe Barnett, Commissioner Benafield, Lonnie Dale Tribble, retired Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 12 years; Glen Easton, Guard, 25 years; Dale Mason, retired Const. Aide II, 27+ years; Richard Stuart, Const. Project Supv., 35 years and Director Dan Flowers



**1-Year Safety Award
District Bridge Crew #10001**



**1-Year Safety Award
Paragould Residency**



**3-Year Safety Award
Randolph County Maintenance Crew**



**1-Year Safety Award
District Bridge Crew #10008**



**1-Year Safety Award
Osceola Residency**



**6-Year Safety Award
District Bridge Inspection Crew #10010**



**1-Year Safety Award
District Bridge Crew #10009**



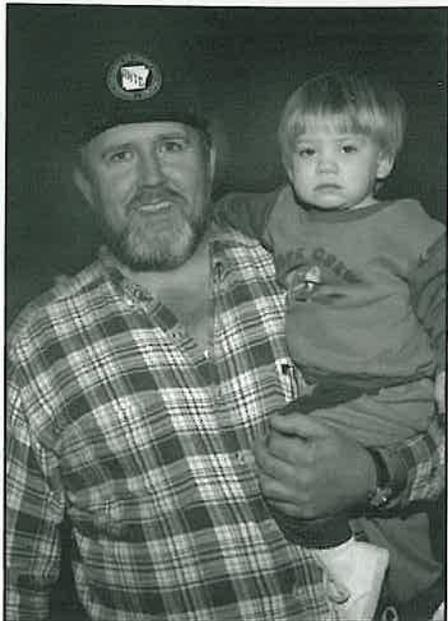
**3-Year Safety Award
Mississippi I County Maintenance Crew**



**6-Year Safety Award
Greene County Maintenance Crew**



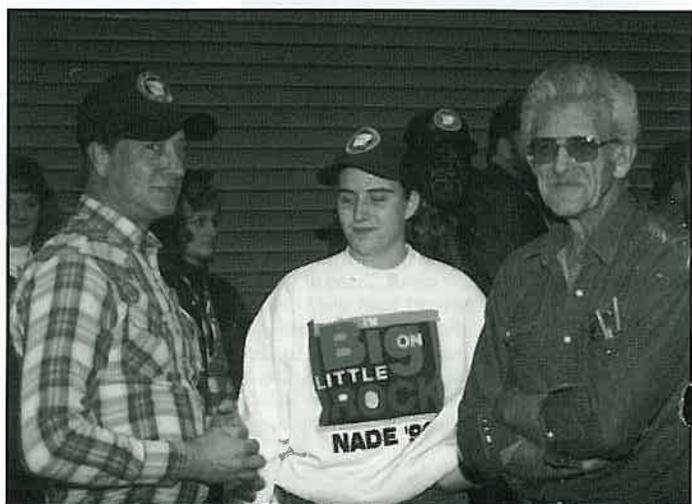
**1-Year Safety Award
Clay County Maintenance Crew**



district



Armed Forces Day
at the Little Rock Convention Center





district **2**





district **3**





district **4**





district 



district



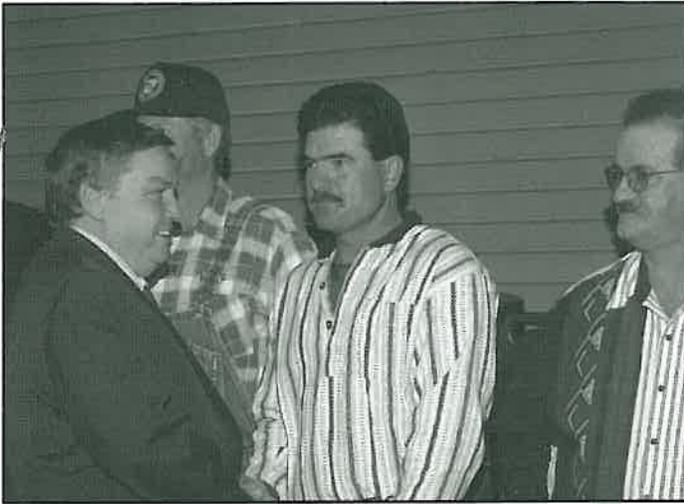
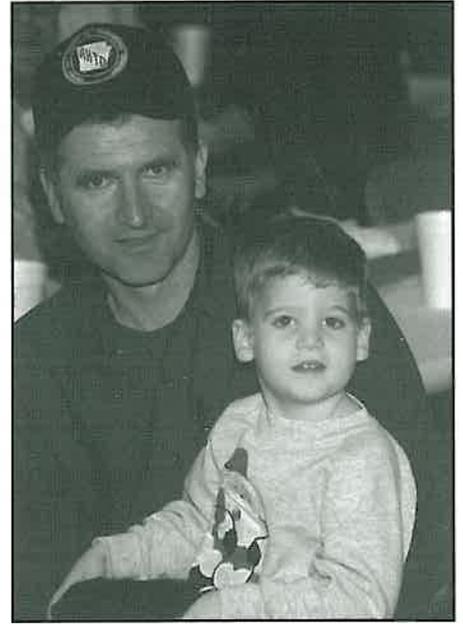


district 



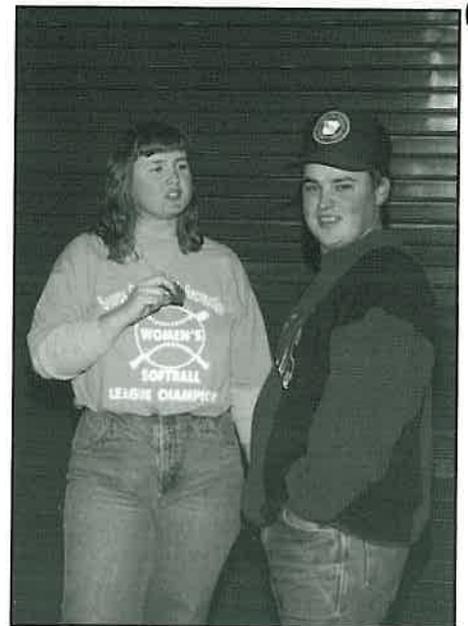


district **S**





district 





district



Around the Department

CONSTRUCTION

Welcome to Joe Trantham as our newest Staff Construction Engineer. He was the Resident Engineer at the West Helena Residency in District One and transferred to this office in December.

In January, Jim Trost, Staff Construction Engineer, was promoted to District Two Construction Engineer in Pine Bluff.

Also congratulations to Rebecca Rinchuso, Office Administrative Assistant III, who was promoted to Office Administrative Assistant V in the Computer Services Division.

EQUIPMENT AND PROCUREMENT

Terry McCallister, Finish Carpenter, and Guy Ashenberger, Buyer, received 20-year service certificates in December.

•Harry Willcockson, Equipment Specialist, retired January 6 with 28 years of service.

Rickey Grissom was promoted to Shop Crew Leader and Mark Holloman to Buyer.

Patsy Downing, Admin. Aide I, lost her father in December due to an illness.

Brandi Lea Barker, daughter of Equipment Specialist Odis Barker, was married January 3 to Burton Dennis Pate at the Sharon Missionary Baptist Church in Benton.

HIGHWAY POLICE



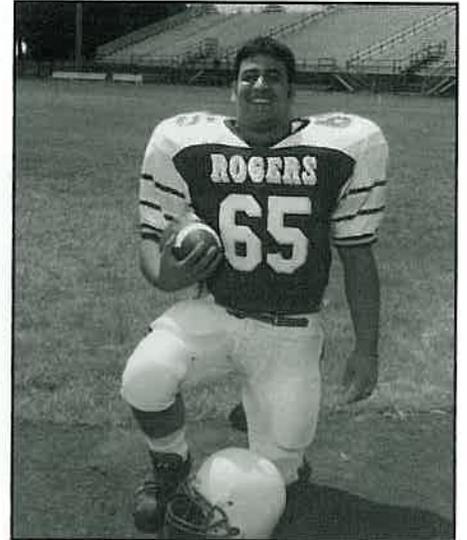
Blake Aaron Meador, born August 20, is the grandchild of Cpl. T.D. and Soni Meador of Mena.



Ty Alexander and Haley Nicole are the children of Pfc. Brian and Nikki Garrett of Texarkana. Ty was born June 6, 1997.



Jason Baylor East, born October 3, is the grandson of Capt. Gary and Linda East of Texarkana.



Montana Kai Weiner, son of Ptl. Jerry Weiner, is a football captain at Rogers High School. He was selected Homecoming King and a member of the All-State football team. He was also invited to play in the International All Stars "Down Under Bowl" in Australia in June 1998.



Jessie Nicole Ward is the 17 year old daughter of Pfc. Ned and Karen Ward of Prescott. She was recently chosen as the Nevada County Fair Queen; the Southwest District Fair Queen and as a regional finalist.

HUMAN RESOURCES



Vicki Sumler is the newest Mail Clerk.



Michael McClellan, son of Admin. Aide I Dana McClellan, was selected to the Super Sophomore team. He attends Bryant High School.



Casey Turner, 16 year old son of Roger Turner, Crew Leader, is a middle linebacker for the Sheridan Yellowjackets.

LEGAL



Angie Tolbert and Chad Fite were married January 2 at the Chapel of the Angels in Eureka Springs. Chad is the son of Legal Aide Shirley and William Henry.



Maria Schenetzke, Staff Attorney, recently toured Italy and France with stops in Rome, Siena, Florence, Nice and Monte Carlo.

MAINTENANCE



Senior Traffic Investigator Danny Moore retired October 4 from the U.S. Army Reserves after 29 years. He is shown at his retirement ceremony being presented the U.S. Army Legion of Merit Medal from Col. Michael Beasley, Commander of the 350th Civil Affairs Command in Pensacola, Florida. Danny is Command Sergeant Major of the 431st Civil Affairs Company.

MATERIALS



1997 Materials Division Employees



1997 Materials Service Awards

(L-R): Norman Cobb, 35 years; Ray Gruver, 20 years; Shawn Hasley, 5 years; Mark Greenwood, 10 years; Frank Cross, 35 years; George Montgomery, 25 years; Jodie Owens, 20 years; Steve Faulkner, 10 years; Don Griffin, 25 years; George Green, 30 years; Wayne Casteel, 25 years; Charley Dachs, 25 years; Rodney Mazander, 5 years; Gary Brown, 15 years; Jack Gart, 20 years



Jennifer Mitchell, left, stepdaughter of Cathy Mitchell, Administrative Aide III, and Brittany Haley, her niece, placed 1st and 2nd respectively in the Class C district softball. Jennifer plays in Benton and Brittany in Pine Bluff.

PLANNING AND RESEARCH



Ruth Foggo, Research Assistant, and Earl Kirkpatrick, Technology Transfer Manager, were recently recognized for their years of service to the Department. Ruth, who recently transferred to the T² office, for 20 years and Earl for 35 years.



Tom Harrell, left, Division Head, presents Robert L. Williams, Cartographer III, with a 25 year service award.



Matthew Joseph Evans is the son of Mark and Donna Evans. Mark is a Civil Engineer II in Technical Services.

Reba Pettus transferred from Bridge to Technical Services as a Trans. Management Analyst I. She will be assisting in the Highway Performance Monitoring System. Sheila Neighbors, Office Admin. Assistant III, transferred from Finance and Economic to Administration.

PROGRAMS AND CONTRACTS

Tammy Goshien was promoted to Office Admin. Assistant V and Debra Smith transferred from Bridge to the Program Administration Section as a Programming Analyst.

Welcome back to John Bettis. He was a Transportation Research Assistant in the Transportation Research Assistance Program at the University of Arkansas. While in Fayetteville he earned a master's degree in Civil Engineering and also passed the professional engineer's exam.



Catherine M. Bonds, daughter of Catherine Bonds, Accident Coding Clerk in Traffic Safety, was recently chosen Miss Blue Revue for ETA SIGMA ZETA. She is a student at Elite Modeling School and is president of the Northeast High School FBLA.

RIGHT OF WAY



Floyd Rippond, Jr., left, Plans Designer II, receives a 20 year service award from Will Holt, Engineering Section Head.



Patricia Fletcher is a COE student from Bryant High School working in the Engineering Section.



Ralph Williams, Senior Utilities Coordinator, is shown with his granddaughter, Lauren Michelle Cox, born December 9, 1997.



Vickie Garner, daughter of Shirley Butler, was 2nd runner-up in the Mrs. Arkansas International Pageant. She also received the physical fitness award. Shirley is an Office Administrative Assistant III for the Relocation Section.

Haley Garner, age 8, daughter of Vicki Garner and granddaughter of Shirley Butler, competed in the Our Diamond Miss Pageant on January 25 and was chosen Division Queen and most photogenic.

ROADWAY DESIGN

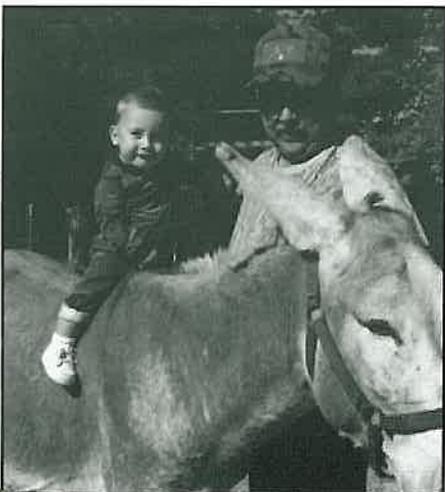


Kevin Toblesky is a new Civil Engineering Technician in Roadway Design. He is a 1997 graduate of the University of Arkansas and comes with five summers of experience as a summer intern in the Yellville Residency.



Service Awards

L-R sitting: Bobby Welch, Staff Design Engineer, 30 years; Dennald Stroud, Senior Designer, 25 years; Debi Tackett, Traffic Investigator, 20 years. Standing: Lois Rachels, Senior Design Technician, 5 years; Jennifer Williams, Design Engineer, 5 years; Paulette Hutchings, Office Administrative Assistant III, 10 years



Frank Bray, III, on his first mule ride with Wayne Willis of Right of Way. Frankie is the son of Frank Bray of Roadway Design and Patricia Bray of Right of Way.

STATE AID



Brianna, Bryan, and Bradley Oldham are the grandchildren of Office Administrative Assistant V Barbara Croswell and the great-grandchildren of the late Johnnie Gray, retired AHTD photographer.



Brianna Paige Oldham, granddaughter of Barbara Croswell, was an "angel" in the cast of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" performed at the Jerry Van Dyke Theater in Benton. The cast also included Phillip Ammons, State Aid Section Head.



Brianna Oldham, granddaughter of Barbara Croswell and Lenzie Oliver, granddaughter of Marty Bevins, State Aid Technician, dressed as Christmas presents, performed with other students of Ed's School of Dance for the patients of Rose Care Nursing Home #2 in Benton.

SURVEYS



Steven Bradley, left, Surveys Technician II, receives a 20 year service certificate from Staff Surveys Engineer Sam Johnson.

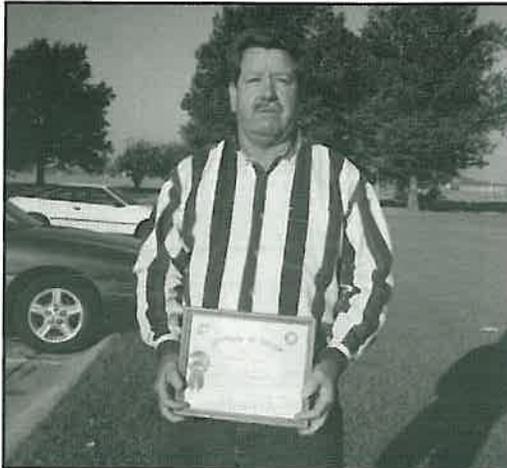


Sam Johnson, left, Staff Surveys Engineer, presents Danny Simmons, Surveys Crew Chief, a 15-year service certificate.

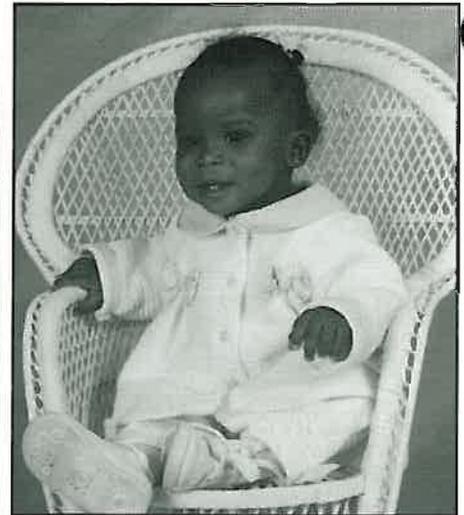
DISTRICT ONE



Carl Lindstrom, left, presents a 10-year service certificate to Darrell Gray, Surveys Tech. II.



Frank Gregory, Woodruff County Area Maintenance Supervisor, receives a 20-year service award.



Miracle Eugena Sharda' Morris is the daughter of Brenda Morris, Construction Helper I in the West Memphis Residency.



Kit Carson, Division Head, presents Tom Elkins, Surveys Tech. II, a 5-year service certificate.



10-Year Service Awards
James Wallace, Maintenance Aide II; Otis Fleming, Maintenance Aide II; Ricky Brown, Maintenance Aide II



Sam Johnson, left, Staff Surveys Engr., presents Timmy Jones, Surveys Aide II, a 5-year service certificate.

DISTRICT TWO



Raymond Ferguson, Welder in the District Two Shop, retired October 8 with 17+ years service.



5-Year Service Awards
James Shinn, Crane Operator/Finish; Marvin McCallister, Bridge Repairer I; Jeff Adams, Construction Field Engineer II; Rex Vines, Construction Field Engineer II



George West, left, Staff Senior Land Surveyor, presents Michael Masingill, Surveys Technician II, a 5-year service certificate.



Ernie Westfall, left, District Two Maintenance Engineer, with Bob Burns, Arkansas County at Stuttgart Area Maintenance Supervisor. Bob retired in December.

DISTRICT THREE



Michael Benson, left, Resident Engineer, receives a 10-year service award from District Engineer Jim Briley.



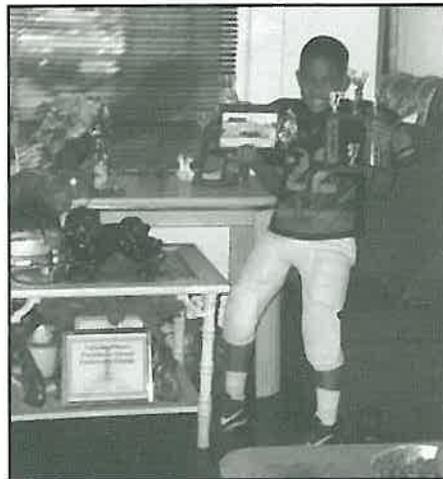
Becky Winn is the new Field Clerk II for the Pine Bluff Residency.



Hillery and Matt Tyler were married November 1 at the Presbyterian Church in Old Washington. Matt is the son of District Engineer William and Darlene Tyler.



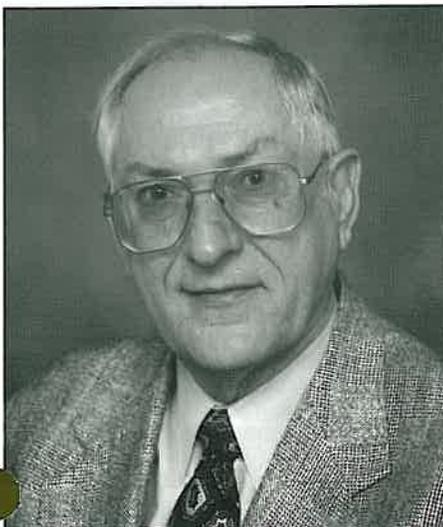
Robert Kendall, District Maintenance Crew Job Superintendent, presents a 10-year service award to Kenneth Edwards, Dozer Operator/Finish.



Jesse Ray Pridgeon, Jr., son of Jesse Pridgeon, Construction Aide II in the Pine Bluff Residency, shows off his trophies won playing peewee football.



Rita and Mike Giles were married October 11 at Faith Baptist Church. Mike is an Inspector for the Texarkana Residency.



Jim Trost is the new District Two Construction Engineer.

Bill Johns, retired Jefferson County Area Maintenance Supervisor and District Maintenance Crew Job Superintendent, died November 18, 1997. His son, Dale Johns, is the Equipment Maintenance Supervisor for District 10.



Hunter, age 4, and Jordan Blake, born April 8, are the sons of Josh and Tina Lewis. Josh is a Construction Aide I for the Texarkana Residency.



Kyra Ann Ashcraft, born November 5, is the daughter of David and Rennie Ashcraft. David was a seasonal employee for the District Bridge crew and Joy Ashcraft, District 3 Receptionist, is the grandmother.

DISTRICT FOUR



Pat Gilbert, Ozark Area Headquarters Attendant; Rita Stone, Mena Area Headquarters Attendant; Margaret Byers, Bridge Repairer I and Nan Williams, Personnel Clerk; went to Eureka Springs during the Veteran's Day holiday. They traveled up Highway 23 and enjoyed the fall foliage.



Amanda Taff, daughter of Eugene and Vivian (Dooley) Taff, is a senior at Waldron High School and was chosen 1997 Football Homecoming Queen. Dooley is the Waldron Area Headquarters Attendant.

DISTRICT SIX



Jerry Stovall, left, North Pulaski Area Maintenance Supervisor, helps Louis Simmons, Maintenance Aide II, celebrate his retirement with 10 years service.



Devyn Brianna Noblett, born May 16, is the granddaughter of Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Don and Joyce Stovall.



Samantha JoAnn was born November 23 to Bart and Melissa Boswell. Bart is a civil engineering technician in the NLR Residency. Samantha is also the first grandchild to Jack Wilder of Human Resources.

DISTRICT SEVEN



James Modica and Shirlyn Bush were married November 15. Shirlyn is a General Laborer for the Ouachita County Maintenance Crew.



Nicholas Cunningham, son of Shirley Modica, General Laborer, played for Parish Law and their team finished the season undefeated.



Jonathan Cunningham, son of Shirley Modica, General Laborer, played for the Camden Bulldogs and their team finished the season undefeated.



Tia Peterson, daughter of Kay Johnston, Single Axle Truck Driver for the Union County Maintenance Crew, graduated from Smackover High School in May 1997.



Cody Michael Peterson, grandson of Kay Johnston, Single Axle Truck Driver for the Union County Maintenance Crew, was born May 1, 1997.



Cleveland County Area Headquarters Attendant Bill and Vicki Turner are the grandparents of Brittany Nicole White, age 2.



Cleveland County Area Headquarters Attendant Bill and Vicki Turner are the grandparents of William Chase Acock, born August 12, 1997.



Dalton "Ty" Hudson, son of Don Hudson, Bridge Repairer I, was named 2nd runner-up Toddler in the 1997 Buck Fever Pageant.

DISTRICT NINE



Gary E. Doving, Maintenance Aide I for the Carroll County Maintenance Crew, receives a 20-year service award.



Joe Davidson, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor, presents a 20-year service award to Joe Nichols, Guard.



Christy Dye, Maintenance Aide I, receives a 5-year service award from Yellville Area Maintenance Supervisor Kenneth Oxford.



Chester Lawrence, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, receives a 5-year service award.



Retirees in attendance at the Searcy County Christmas party were seated: Sid Mathis, Jim Campbell, Huell Pack, Fred Freeman. Standing: Wright Horton, Ezra Horton, Glen Griffin, Boyce Bohannon and Dolphus Milam.



Celebrating Christmas with their grandparents, Ted and Betty Wilson, were back row: Chancey and Joshua Rucker; front row: Heather Weston, Vincent and Sirena Melchor and Stevi Weston. Betty is the Garfield Area Headquarters Attendant.



Stephanie Core, with escort Ben Larimore, was chosen 1997 Football Homecoming Queen at Berryville High School. She is the daughter of Carroll County Area Maintenance Supervisor Kit Core.



Shane, Nicholas and Randall are the sons of Teresa Harvey, General Laborer in the Benton County Garfield Maintenance Crew. Also shown is her niece Holly.



Kaylea Jo Villines, age 3, riding "Buckshot" with her grandfather, Willard Villines, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish in the District Sealing Crew.



Kenneth Booth, Station Attendant II, and the Alpena Fire Department's entry in the Christmas parade.

DISTRICT TEN



Dale Mason, left, Construction Aide II, with Burl Hudson, Resident Engineer for the Osceola Residency. Dale retired with 27+ years service.



Nancy Mahan, District Bookkeeper, retired with 26+ years service. She was presented a money tree from her co-workers.



JoAnn Carlile is the new District Bookkeeper.



Pat Norton is the new District Fuel Clerk.



Josh Smith, son of Keith and Gina Smith, was chosen Mr. Greene County Tech 97/98. Keith is a District Bridge Inspector.



Stephanie and Leslie Ward were married September 6. Stephanie is a Construction Helper II in the Paragould Residency.



Sarah Morgan Hickson, born October 10, is the granddaughter of Jerry and June Brown. Jerry is a Station Attendant II.

Retiree Bilbrey Steele Baker died September 15, 1997 at the age of 96. He was as an Asphalt Raker for Lawrence County for over 22 years.

FIGHT DIRTY.



TM

AHTD Outdoors



AHP Cpl. Ross Martin killed this 10-point buck December 9 while hunting on Big Island.



Jerry Vest, District One Construction Aide II, with a 42-pound king salmon he caught on the Columbia River in Washington state.



Johnny O'Neal
District Seven Multi-Axle Truck Driver



Dwayne Pritchard, District Ten Maint. Aide II for Mississippi County, with a 10-point buck.



Keeton Hudson, son of Don Hudson,
District Seven Bridge Repairer I



Wade Holdcraft, District Seven Maintenance Aide II for Ouachita County



Doug Scharbor, District Seven Welder



Wade Holdcraft, District Seven Maintenance Aide II for Ouachita County



Randy Stinnett, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish; Erwin Bridges, Crew Leader; and Harvey Barkhimer, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator/Finish, all of District Seven, with 1,000 pounds of fish they caught in the Gulf of Mexico.



C.J. McMahan, grandson of District Seven Office Administrative Assistant V Louise and Gene McMahan



Frank Coffel, District Ten Motor Patrol Operator/Finish, with a 9-point buck.



Wade Holdcraft, center, Maintenance Aide II and Johnny O'Neal, right, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, on a wild hog hunt. Both work in District Seven



Frank Bray, Roadway Design Senior Design Engineer, after a successful morning's hunt.



David Waters, District Two Welder, and his son Cody, with their 8-point buck.



**ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY
& TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT**
POST OFFICE BOX 2261
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72203-2261
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

**BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Little Rock, AR 72203
Permit No. 2556**

