

***Arkansas***  
***Highways*** Spring 1981

## BRANYAN ELECTED CHAIRMAN



James A. Branyan, a Camden businessman, was elected Chairman of the Arkansas State Highway Commission, at its February 5 meeting in Little Rock.

Branyan, who was appointed by former Governor Dale Bumpers in 1973 to serve a ten year term, has been Vice Chairman of the Commission since March 1977. He replaces George Kell of Newport as Chairman. Kell's term on the Commission expired in January.

The new Chairman is a graduate of Henderson College in Arkadelphia. After spending eight years with a department store, he went into business for himself in 1960 and is the owner of four ready-to-wear stores and a jewelry store. In addition, he owns an interest in a feed company and serves as its president.

Mr. Branyan has served as President of the Camden Jaycees, Vice President of the Arkansas Jaycees, and was National Director. Other past activities include offices in the Lion's Club, United Fund Drive and "Bumpers for Governor" Coordinator for Ouachita County. He was also President of the Arkansas State Quartet Singers for nine years.

Branyan, and his wife, the former Shirley Minor of Rison, have two daughters.

Commissioner David Solomon of Helena was elected to serve as Vice Chairman of the Highway Commission.

Solomon was appointed to the Commission in January 1975 by former Governor David Pryor. He is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri and received his law degree from Harvard University.



# Arkansas Highways

Volume 27 – Number 1  
Spring 1981  
January – February – March

## Contents



### ARKANSAS HIGHWAY COMMISSION

James A. Branyan, Chairman  
David Solomon, Vice Chairman  
Patsy L. Thomasson, Member  
Festus H. Martin, Jr., Member  
Raymond Pritchett, Member



Henry Gray  
Director of Highways and Transportation

B.K. Cooper  
Chief Engineer

A Message from the Director . . . . . Page 2  
George Kell – Commissioner Emeritus . . . . . Page 3  
Raymond Pritchett Appointed as Highway Commissioner . . . . . Page 4  
61% of State Bridges Deficient in Arkansas . . . . . Page 6  
Marijuana Confiscated at Highway Police Weigh Station . . . . . Page 8  
Study Grant Received for Little Rock Transit Facility . . . . . Page 9  
Mississippi River Parkway Commission Committees Meet . . . . . Page 10  
AHTD Equipment Auction Held . . . . . Page 10  
Dedications:  
    First Section of East Belt Freeway Opened to Traffic . . . . . Page 11  
    Ceremony Opens Relocated Highway 62 . . . . . Page 13  
    State Highway 18 Widened at Blytheville . . . . . Page 14  
    St. Francis River Bridge Dedicated . . . . . Page 14  
EEO Highlights - Roosevelt Morton . . . . . Page 16  
Letters . . . . . Page 17  
Service Awards - Retirements . . . . . Page 18  
Around the Department . . . . . Page 19  
B.K. Cooper Named Charter Member . . . . . Page 32

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 Editor, Public Affairs Office, Post Office Box 2261, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72203. ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS is freely distributed to the public at their request and to all Highway and Transportation Department employees.

EDITOR . . . . . Bill Stanton  
COMPOSITION & LAYOUT . . . . . Carolyn Graham  
PHOTOGRAPHERS . . . . . Johnnie Gray  
David Hunter

FRONT COVER – A late evening scenic view from the Interstate 430 bridge across the Arkansas River west to Pinnacle Mountain State Park. Photograph by David Hunter.

BACK COVER – Ox-eye daisies growing wild along Interstate 30 in the vicinity of Brinkley, Arkansas in Monroe County. Photograph by David Hunter.

# A Message from the Director

In times past, as we entered a new year, we could always look back with pride in our accomplishments and have high expectations for the year ahead.

This year things are a bit different. We can take pride in our progress during 1980, however, the outlook for the future is bleak. Never before have so many things combined, as they have recently, to form such a dismal picture for Arkansas highways in the years ahead.

Federal fund impoundments during the last fiscal year resulted in a loss of \$40 million. The expiration of Federal Revenue Sharing funds on September 30, 1980 meant a loss of another \$22 million for state highways.

On the state level, things don't appear any better. Several bills were introduced in the Arkansas General Assembly this year that provided for a reduction in vehicle registration fees and title transfer fees. The Highway and Transportation Department appeared before the House and Senate to point out the drastic effects these measures would have on the highway program. However, two bills, which reduced revenues by about \$11.5 million, eventually passed and were signed into law by the Governor.

The loss of these funds means some serious decisions must be made by state, county and city administrators. This money could have been used to match Federal-Aid in the amount of approximately \$48 million, yielding a construction program of \$60 million to improve the state's highways, roads and streets. Or the money could have been used to maintain approximately 3,000 miles of state highways. While other uses for the money are certainly available, these two are the most demanding.

This loss comes at a time when the state is already experiencing an estimated \$8 million decline in revenues from the motor fuels tax because of less consumption.

Another item of great concern that went before a legislative committee was the Department's proposed pay plan for all Highway and Transportation Department employees.

The plan received considerable attention and review by the Legislators. However, after numerous meetings and hearings, the committee decided to adopt a salary schedule proposed by the Administration instead.

The new schedule provides for increases averaging about 10 percent and a step 10 was added. However, no employee is eligible for step 10 until July 1, 1982. The Department's budget also calls for upgrades in several positions.

The Legislators agreed that this was basically a "band-aid" approach to handle the many inequities that exist in the current state pay plan. However, a resolution was approved calling for a complete study of the state

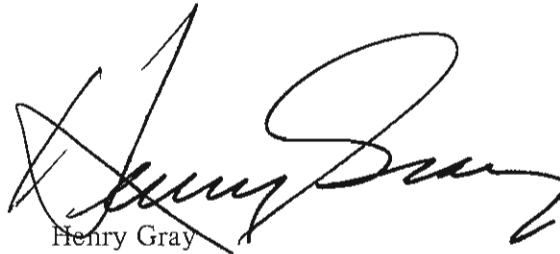


Henry Gray  
Director of Highways and Transportation

pay plan and the formation of a new plan. Many of the aspects of the plan proposed by the Highway and Transportation Department will probably be used as the framework to develop a new state pay plan.

As I mentioned earlier, these are very uncertain times for our highway program. Arkansas is not alone in facing the problems of insufficient highway revenues. Virtually every state in the nation is experiencing the same thing. Efforts are being made nationwide to solve the problems associated with the current method of highway financing.

The task is a difficult one. However, I am confident that our highway administrators, working with our local, state and national leaders, will overcome many of the setbacks and move forward toward the betterment of the highway and transportation network that is so vital to the continued growth of our state and national economy.



Henry Gray  
Director of Highways and Transportation



**GEORGE KELL  
COMMISSIONER EMERITUS**

The ten-year term of Highway Commissioner George Kell of Swifton expired in January. Kell, who was appointed by former Governor Dale Bumpers, received many honors and awards from appreciative groups and organizations during his term. As a parting gesture of gratitude, the Highway Commission approved the following Minute Order, February 5, bestowing upon Kell the title of Commissioner Emeritus.

WHEREAS, ten short years have passed since January 22, 1971, and with their passing will cause to expire on January 22, 1981, your term as Member and Chairman of the Arkansas Highway Commission, we the undersigned, your friends and fellow commissioners, those who will miss your comradeship, sound counsel, and words of encouragement, wish for your future the best of everything. We wish to recognize you for your tireless efforts and acclaim your devotion to the service of this Commission. Your personal contributions over the past decade have promoted progress and economic growth in this Great State through sound planning and the application of business principles in the planning, construction, and maintenance of our system of Interstate, Primary, and Secondary Highways, and

WHEREAS, because of the imminent loss of the aforementioned knowledge and service to this Commission, these members, acting in their best interests, do herewith, through this instrument, serve formal notice that you are hereby directed and expected to continue to serve this Commission and the State of Arkansas.

NOW, THEREFORE, with this plaque of appreciation from the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, for your past efforts, and with this token of our love and high esteem do hereby bestow upon you, ad infinitum, the title of Commissioner Emeritus.

# Raymond A. Pritchett

## Appointed Highway Commissioner



Raymond A. Pritchett

Raymond A. Pritchett, 39, of Maumelle, a certified public accountant, has been appointed by Governor Frank White to a ten-year term on the Arkansas State Highway Commission.

Pritchett replaced George Kell of Newport, whose term expired in January, on the five-member Commission.

The Lepanto native is a graduate of Hendrix College at Conway, a former president of the Arkansas Jaycees and former executive vice president and treasurer for Jess Odom Enterprises. For the past few years, he has been in the public accounting business on his own at Maumelle.

In 1972, he was assistant campaign manager for the late U.S. Senator John L. McClellan, and held the same position in 1974 for former U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright. Last year, he was treasurer for President Ronald Reagan's campaign in Arkansas.

Pritchett and his wife, the former Sharon Kay Pearson, have two sons; Raymond III, age five, and Johnathon Daniel, age three.

The new commissioner attended his first commission meeting February 5. At that time he told members of the news media that he was alarmed to learn of the Department's financial situation. He said the whole method of highway financing should be re-evaluated.

When questioned by reporters attending the meeting, Pritchett mentioned the possibilities of a variable tax on gasoline, which would fluctuate as the price of gasoline fluctuates, and an "entry fee" on new vehicles registered in the state.

Pritchett spent much of the day meeting members of the Department's staff and going over facts and figures pertaining to the operation of the State Highway System. He told reporters he was



Raymond A. Pritchett, left, receives his oath of office from Secretary of State Paul Riviere, right, in a ceremony held January 16th at the State Capitol.

Raymond Pritchett, third from the right, at his first Commission meeting. Others seated at the table are, from left to right, Commission Chairman James Branyan, Pritchett, and Commissioners F.H. Martin, Jr. and Patsy Thomasson.



surprised at the volume of information he had received. He said he had already received "three wheel barrow loads" in the mail.

As a new commissioner with very little previous knowledge about the Department, Pritchett said it would take a while to absorb the information he had been given. However, he said it was apparent from what he had seen that the Department is doing an adequate job in utilizing the funds it has.

Commissioner F.H. Martin, Jr., left, and Commissioner Pritchett at February 5th Commission meeting.



Commissioner Pritchett left, is briefed on Department operations by Charles Venable, Assistant Chief Engineer - Program Management, center, and Brooks Nichols, Assistant Chief Engineer - Design.



# 61% of State Bridges are Deficient

A study conducted for the Arkansas Good Roads Transportation Council has found that 61 percent of the highway bridges in Arkansas are inadequate for today's traffic and should be improved or replaced.

The Road Information Program (TRIP), a Washington based, non-profit group that conducted the study, recommended that \$261 million a year be spent in the next 15 years to improve or replace 9,700 of the 16,000 bridges in the state.

A TRIP spokesman said the determination that bridges needed to be replaced was based on engineering findings that they can't handle the maximum weights now driving over them or that they are functionally obsolete because of their narrow width, low clearances or sharp roadway approach angles.

The study did not make any recommendations on how the funds could be obtained to carry out the improvements.

Dr. Silas Snow, President of the Arkansas Good Roads Transportation Council said it was not their

place to propose where the money might come from, but the problem needed to be presented.

Any discussion of bridge safety invokes memories of news accounts reporting the collapse of bridges. It was the collapse in 1967 of the Silver Bridge over the Ohio River at Point Pleasant, West Virginia, with 46 fatalities, that provided the impetus for the Federal Bridge Replacement Program, now in its eighth year of providing aid to states for bridge replacement and renewal.

According to TRIP, not many collapse, but an annual average of 150 spans throughout the nation do crack, buckle or sag from partial structural failure. Usually this occurs under extreme-stress circumstances, such as overloading, high winds, heavy icing or flooding.

Constant surveillance is required to guard against structural failure. Eventually, unless greater emphasis is placed on bridge replacement, it will be necessary to post many more substandard structures for reduced maximum vehicle weight limits unless bridges are re-

paired on a timely basis.

On older bridges some of the structural strength has been lost through decades of heavy use. However, since vehicle size, weight and speed, and traffic volume have increased to a far greater degree than was anticipated when these bridges were built in the 1920's and 1930's, continued unrestricted use of these bridges will not be possible.

Outmoded bridges not only increase vehicle operating costs, but also are more expensive to maintain than structures that meet modern design and engineering standards.

The problem of deteriorated bridges is not unique to Arkansas. More than 181,000 of the nation's 600,000 bridges are deficient or obsolete, according to federal engineering standards.

TRIP has conducted similar surveys in 35 states. The replacement rates of bridges suggested by these studies was between 11 and 75 percent, making Arkansas among the worst surveyed.

Nearly all of these substandard bridges are among 400,000 built



U.S. 67 Red River Bridge near Fulton being demolished after one of the main piers sank several feet. This bridge was constructed in 1929. The new bridge to be constructed will cost \$3.5 million.



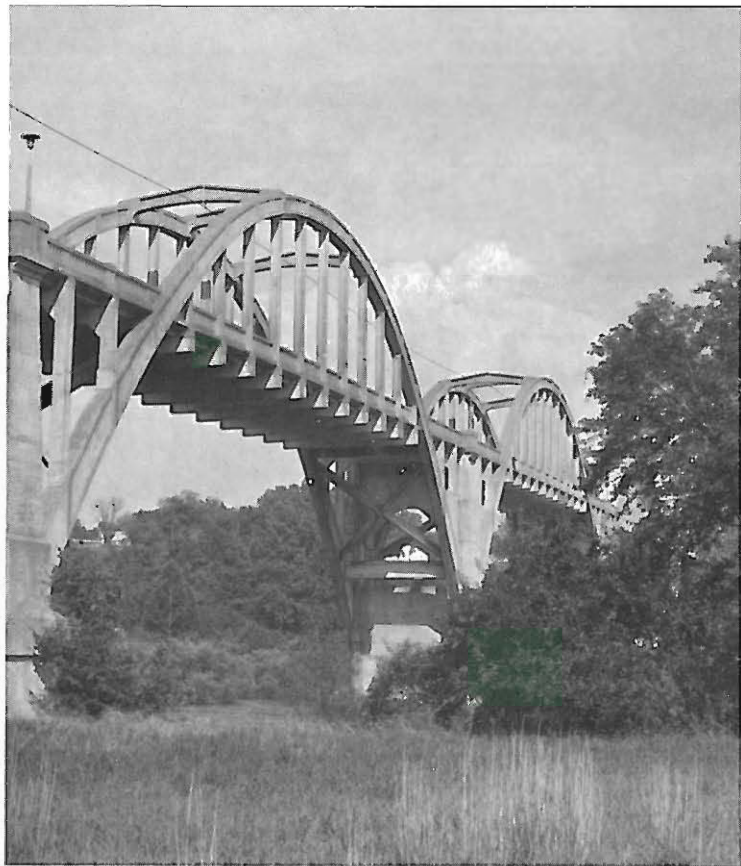
prior to 1935. With heavier vehicles and increased traffic year after year, these outdated bridges are wearing out far faster than they are being rehabilitated.

The federally estimated cost of rebuilding the nation's 181,100 deficient and obsolete bridges is \$38.9 billion.

In 1970, Congress established a special federal-aid program to provide up to three-fourths of the funds needed to help meet state bridge renewal needs. The initial funds from the Special Bridge Replacement Program became available in late 1972.

The Surface Transportation Act of 1978 extended and expanded the Special Bridge Replacement Program to what is now known as the Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program. At that time, \$4.2 billion was appropriated for 1979 through 1982 for bridge replacement or rehabilitation.

For fiscal year 1979, \$900 million was apportioned for bridge renewal, while the 1980 apportionment was \$1.1 billion. But even this falls short of what is necessary to catch up on bridge renewal.



Highway 62 bridge over the White River and Missouri Pacific Railroad at Cotter in Marion County. This bridge was constructed in 1930.



Narrow bridge over McCoy Creek on Highway 7 near Dover in Pope County. This bridge was constructed in the early 1930's.

One lane, low water crossing on the Buffalo River on Highway 74 at Ponca in Newton County. This crossing was constructed in 1935.



# Marijuana Confiscated at Highway Police Weigh Station



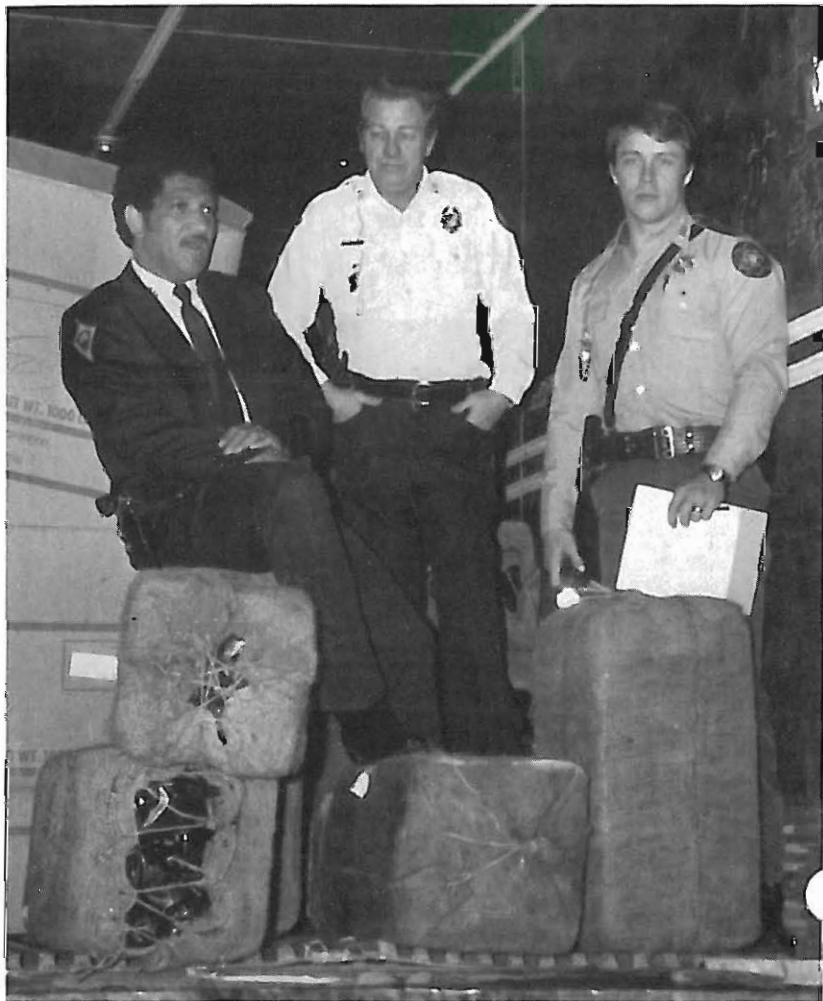
Patrolman Charlie Caldwell  
Arkansas Highway Police

Arkansas Highway Police Patrolman Charlie Caldwell of Murfreesboro was responsible for the seizure of a tractor-trailer rig carrying an estimated \$18 million worth of marijuana. The truck was seized at the Hope Weigh Station on Interstate 30 at 3:15 a.m., January 19.

Caldwell, who was working alone at the station, became suspicious of the vehicle when it pulled on the scales and a routine check revealed that the bill of lading was not in order.

Caldwell ordered the driver to pull the truck off the scales and park it. In the meantime, he notified the Arkansas State Police and asked them to send an officer from the Arkansas Transportation Commission to the scene. When Richard Birtcher of the ATC arrived a few minutes later, he and Caldwell asked the truck driver to open the trailer so the cargo could be inspected. The driver refused and jumped out of the truck and fled into the woods. Another man, who was a passenger

(From left to right): George Hamilton and Richard Birtcher, Arkansas Transportation Commission and Patrolman Charlie Caldwell with confiscated marijuana. Photograph by Gene Allen, Hope Star.

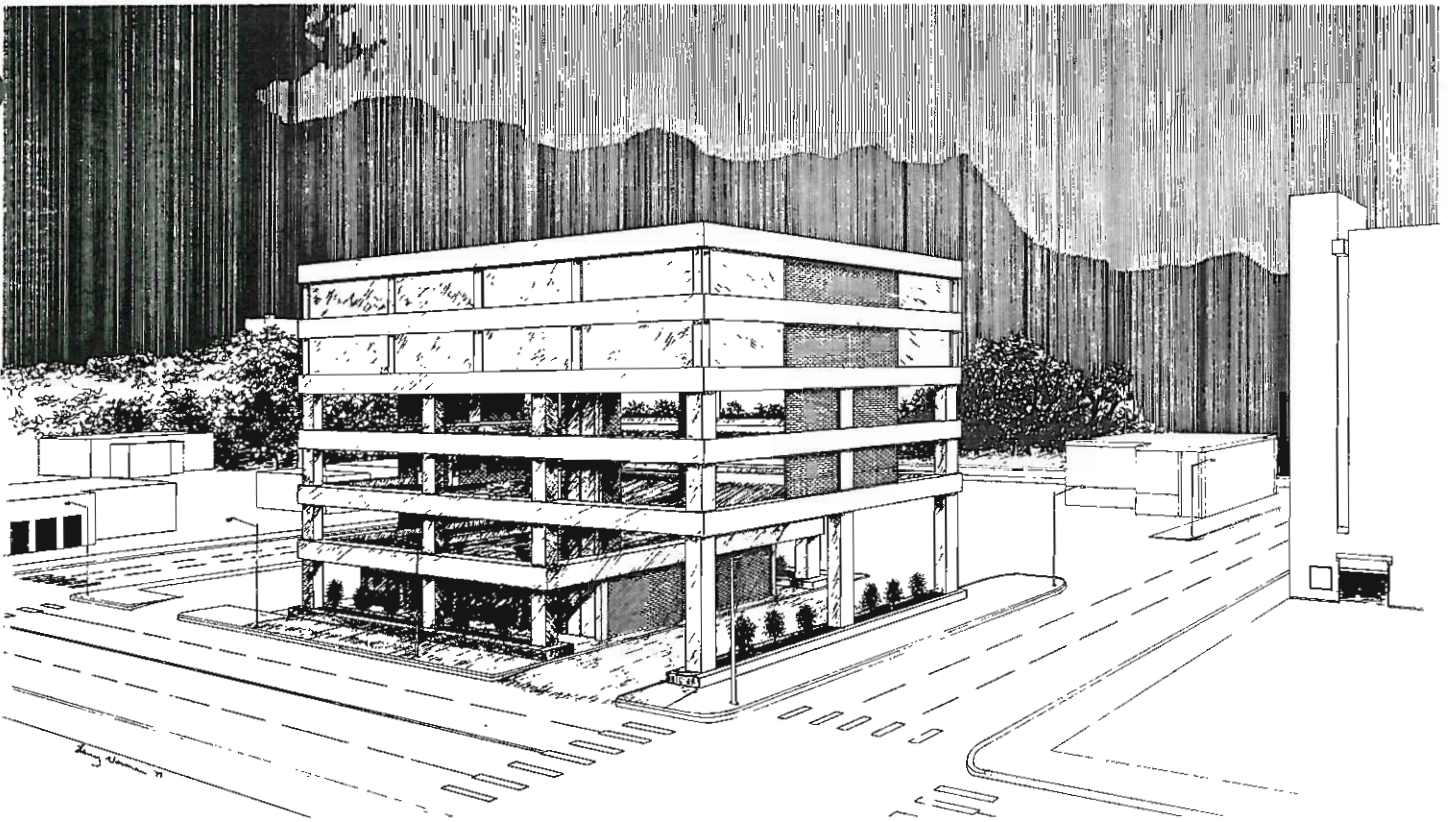


in the truck, was arrested and held at the weigh station until other law enforcement officers arrived. The driver was arrested by State Police a few hours later as he was checking into a Hope motel.

When Caldwell and Birtcher, who is a former Highway Policeman, opened the trailer they discovered 264 bales of marijuana stacked inside. The weight of the illegal cargo was 23,700 pounds.

Hempstead County officials charged the truck driver and his partner with possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver. The men were also charged by the Highway and Transportation Department with numerous violations for improper paperwork connected with the truck's cargo and other violations of the transportation laws.

The marijuana seizure is just one of several incidents of illegal cargo arrests Caldwell has made during his six years as an AHTD employee. Just the night before, he confiscated a tanker-truck load of bootleg diesel fuel from Mexico. The tanker was still parked at the weigh station when the marijuana was found.



## Study Grant Received for Downtown Transit Facility

A study to determine the feasibility of constructing a multi-modal transit center in downtown Little Rock is being conducted by Metroplan, a council of area governments in Pulaski and Saline counties.

The study is funded by a grant from the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA). Matching funds are being provided by the Highway and Transportation Department, Metroplan, Metrocentre Improvement District No. 1, Fifty for the Future (representing commercial concerns), Arkansas Industrial Development Commission and other local governments from sources other than transit revenues.

The study will also determine the scope of services, location and preliminary design for a center that would serve as the primary urban terminal and transfer point for all

modes of public transportation, including Central Arkansas Transit, intra-city bus lines, taxi cabs, air and rail service and vehicles operated by social services agencies.

The study will analyze traffic volumes, parking needs and the economic impact of constructing such a transit facility. Receiving funds for a planning study of a centrally located transit transfer facility is a major step toward creating a total coordinated transportation system for central Arkansas.

At present, public transportation in the Little Rock metropolitan area is fragmented, in that each carrier operates independently. A totally integrated system of public transportation for all users in the Little Rock area is non-existent. Effective, efficient transportation service is an integral and essential

element in the vitality, commerce and quality of a city. Downtown Little Rock is in a stage of revitalization and growth. If growth and progress are to continue in the metropolitan area, and the use of public transportation is ever to take on vital significance, a coordinated multi-modal transportation system must be available.

The facility, a six-story building, would be located near Ninth and Main Streets in Little Rock. A space would be provided for retail shops on the ground floor. The next three floors would provide parking and the top two floors would be an office complex for possible use by transit companies.

As a result of construction of this transit facility, increased ridership and system coverage can be expected.

# Parkway Committees Discuss Progress



(Left to right): Vic Jude, Minnesota, Pilot, National Mississippi River Parkway Commission; Gip Robertson, Arkansas, Technical Committee member; Bob Mattox, AHTD Liaison; Charles Millham, Iowa, Co-Chairman Technical Committee; Tom Mracek, Illinois, Co-Chairman Technical Committee.

The Mississippi River Parkway Commission Technical Committee met January 27-29, 1981 at the Ramada Inn, in North Little Rock. The National MRPC Executive Committee and the Arkansas MRPC also met at the same location on January 28. Eight of ten member states and one Canadian Province were represented.

The objective at this meeting was to review findings and make recommendations to the National MRPC. Primary items on the agenda were the Great River Road Progress Report (1936-1981) being prepared by the National Secretary's office and guidelines for maintaining scenic quality, standardized signing, bike-ways and in general the progress and problems of each of the states.

The purpose of the MRPC, it's ten members states and two Canadian provinces, is to promote the 2500-mile long Great River Road.

## Equipment Auction

When the Highway and Transportation Department holds a garage sale, everybody comes. Or so it seemed November 20, 1980, at the Jacksonville Central Shops. About 2000 prospective buyers showed up for the Department's annual auction of used equipment, road machinery, trucks, cars and other miscellaneous items.

The only way to describe the sale is to say it was a success. The day started with 726 items sitting idle in the yard and it ended with every piece being sold. The proceeds from the sale amounted to \$701,881.

There was something for everyone: Pickup trucks; carry-alls; station wagons; automobiles; dump trucks; tractors; mowers; and even two complete bridges.

The Department held the first public auction in 1975 and each year it's popularity has increased.

The public auctions have proven to be a quicker and more efficient way to move used equipment. This method also provides a greater dollar return for the Department, according to Maurice Head, Chief of Equipment and procurement.

## Draws Big Crowd



# DEDICATIONS

## First Section of East Belt Freeway Completed

The first five-mile section of the \$152.8 million East Belt Freeway (Interstate 440) in Little Rock was formally dedicated Thursday, December 18, 1980. Former Arkansas Congressman Wilbur D. Mills, who was instrumental in obtaining funds for the new freeway, told a crowd of approximately 250 gathered on the westbound lanes near the airport Road interchange that the East Belt Freeway should be dedicated to "the fiber of the people of Arkansas."

Mills, who was serving as Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee in 1974, was able to amend a bill that qualified Arkansas

for 90% Federal Urban High Density funds to build the East Belt Freeway.

The new section from the Interstate 30 and Highway 65/167 interchange to the south side of the Arkansas River, provides direct access from Interstate 30 to the Little Rock River Port and the Little Rock Airport, a rapidly expanding industrial area and rail transit facilities.

Interchanges have been constructed at the junction of the East Belt Freeway with Highway 365 (Confederate Boulevard), Airport Road, Lindsey Road and Fourche Dam Pike.

The College Station area, which is served by the newly completed

segment of the East Belt, is a mixture of industrial parks, commercial concerns and transport services, interspersed with residential neighborhoods.

The North Little Rock segment from Interstate 40 to the Arkansas River will be completed in the spring of this year. With the completion of the Arkansas River Bridge, the entire 10 mile East Belt Freeway is anticipated to open in late 1982, and serve an estimated 54,000 vehicles per day.

"It is true that this highway will be used by many, many people on a daily basis. They will remember, I'm sure, the sacrifices that

South terminal interchange looking west



have been made by people of this generation to make it an accomplishment. It is a sacrifice to pay taxes, there's no question about that. It makes no difference whether 90% comes from Washington and 10% from the State. . . It's the same people who are paying the bill," Mills said.

The former Congressman told the audience that the people of Arkansas deserved the new freeway.

"We wanted you to enjoy a return of moneys that had been collected from you by the Federal Government for a very laudable purpose, namely, a highway. . . There is nothing in my opinion that is so evidently good, so noticable as as highway system, and it is my hope that we will not allow our system to degrade. These highways are wonderful assets. I know the people of Arkansas are going to remember with a great deal of pride how these things have come about. This is what you've done, and to you we dedicate this new leg of our highway system," Mills said.

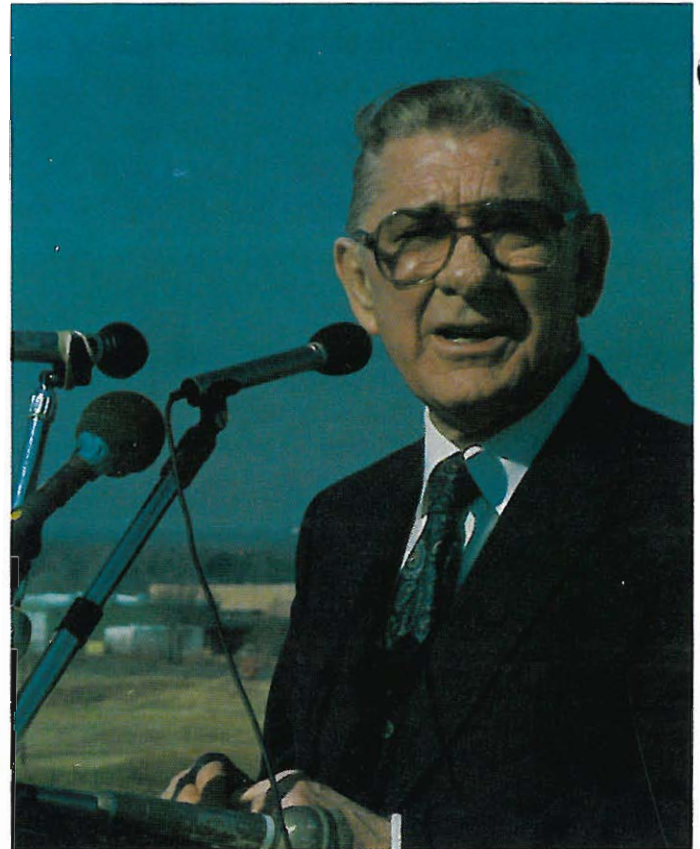
The new route will help reduce bottlenecks at peak traffic hours and result in an estimated gas savings of 1.5 million gallons in 1983.

Highway Commission Chairman George Kell took notice of the fact that the East Belt Freeway serves to tie the various modes of transportation together.

"From this spot where we are standing we can see the skyline of Little Rock, the airport, rail facilities, adjacent highways, the industrial park and not too far away, the unique Little Rock river port," Kell said.

Only three projects in the Nation were approved for the special funding category and the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department was able to get construction started in record time compared to other projects of this magnitude.

The first contract for construction was awarded in June, 1976. Since then, a total of 24 projects have been let to contract to 18 individual contractors.



Former Congressman Wilbur D. Mills as he gives the dedicatory address for the East Belt Freeway.

Commission Chairman George Kell, Former Congressman Wilbur D. Mills, Commissioner Patsy Thomasson and Highway and Transportation Department Director Henry Gray cut the ribbon officially opening the first segment of the East Belt Freeway.



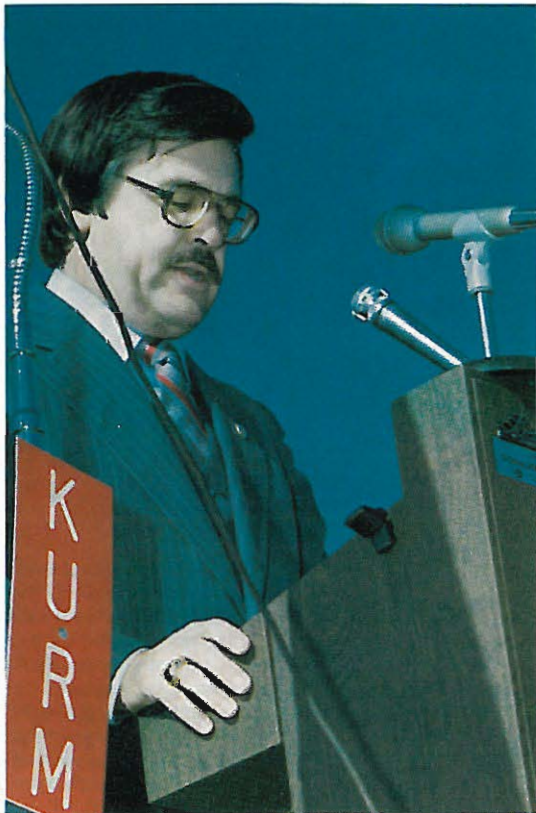
# Ceremony Opens Relocated Highway 62

Nearly 200 persons gathered under sunny skies at Rogers, January 7, to officially dedicate the U.S. Highway 62 relocation project.

The Arkansas Highway Commission awarded a \$2.4 million contract to McClinton-Anchor Company of Fayetteville in July, 1979 to construct the 2.2 mile, four-lane route.

The new highway begins at the intersection of Highway 62 and 71 and extends north and east on new location providing a more efficient route for thru traffic on Highway 62. The new highway will also serve to ease congestion in the Rogers business district.

Commissioner Patsy Thomasson holds the ribbon as former Commission Chairman George Kell prepares to cut off a souvenir following the ceremony.



Rogers' Mayor Jack Cole, in his welcome address, expressed pleasure at the completion of the new highway and thanked those who worked for over eight years to get the project moving.

As part of the dedication ceremony, Jerry Martin, Board Chairman of the Rogers Chamber of Commerce, presented a plaque in memory of the late State Representative Ivan Rose to his son, Gary Rose. The Chamber of Commerce dedicated the new stretch of highway to the former legislator, who was instrumental in initiating the project.

State Representative Dick Barclay of Rogers, in his dedicatory address, recalled that in 1972, while he was a member of the Rogers City Council, the project was launched amid some doubts and controversy, but the project was now a reality. He also spoke of the heat wave last summer that cut drastically into the state's resources, and referred to inflation as the "silent and vicious foe."

Following the ceremony a luncheon was held in honor of retiring Highway Commission Chairman George Kell.

State Representative Dick Barclay of Rogers, delivers the main address at the dedication of U.S. 62 at Rogers.

# State Highway 18 Widened at Blytheville

The freezing temperatures, sleet and rain didn't dampen the spirits of the participants at the formal dedication of newly widened State Highway 18 (Main Street) at Blytheville, January 6.

The Arkansas Highway Commission awarded a \$988,981 contract to S.J. Cohen Co., of Blytheville in November, 1979 to widen the existing two-lane highway to five lanes. The project begins at the Walnut-Ash Couplet and extends east 1.08 miles to Interstate 55.

High density residential and commercial areas are served by the improved route. It is projected that the facility will serve a traffic volume of 30,450 vehicles per day in the future.

The weather caused a shortened version of the activities planned at the dedication site, and, after the ribbon was cut to officially open the highway, the celebration moved to the Officers Club at Blytheville Air

Force Base for speeches and a luncheon in honor of retiring Highway Commission Chairman George Kell.

Taking part in the dedication activities were Blytheville Mayor Tommy Little, State Representative Walter Day of Blytheville, State Senator John Bearden of Leachville

and Highway Commissioner David Solomon of Helena.

Solomon told the audience that the Highway Commission needed the support and cooperation of all the citizens of Arkansas in order to continue to maintain and improve the State Highway System.



(Left to right): Chamber of Commerce President Homer Thompson, Mayor Tommy Little, Commissioners David Solomon, George Kell, Patsy Thomasson, F.H. Martin and James Branyan.



# St. Francis River Bridge Dedicated

State and local officials join in cutting the ribbon to officially open the new St. Francis River Bridge. (Left to right): Clay County Judge Rue C. Mack; State Senator Tom Watson; Former Highway Commission Chairman George Kell; Missouri District Construction Engineer Kenneth Fry; State Representative Jim Holland; Commissioner Patsy Thomasson; Rector Mayor Bill Vanlandingham; Commission Chairman James Branyan and District Engineer Norman Pumphrey.



The new St. Francis River Bridge connecting Arkansas and Missouri on State Highway 90 near Rector was formally dedicated February 12.

Former Highway Commission Chairman George Kell of Swifton told those in attendance that the project is an example of good coordination between the two states, local governments and the Federal government.

Kell also praised State Representative Jim Holland and State Senator Tom Watson for their help and cooperation.

"Without their help, projects like this would not be possible," Kell said.

Arkansas and Missouri entered into an agreement in 1969 to con-

duct the necessary studies, surveys and design work for a new river crossing. The two states agreed to fund the construction of the bridge itself on a 50-50 basis, while the necessary road work in each state would be funded by the respective state.

On July 27, 1979, the Missouri Highway Commission awarded a \$3.8 million contract to Penzel Con-

struction Co. of Jackson, Missouri. Arkansas' share of the total cost came to \$1.8 million.

The old structure was built in 1929 and was in such a deteriorated state that the load limit had been reduced to 10 tons. The new bridge is 44 feet wide and 1,656 feet long. Federal Bridge Replacement funds were utilized on an 80/20 matching basis.

Hulen Reddick of Rector prepares to lead others over the new St. Francis River Bridge. Reddick, the owner of a lime and asphalt company, had been sending his trucks over a 50 mile route between Kennett, Mo. and Rector because of the 10-ton load limit on the old bridge. With the new structure now open, the trip is only about 15 miles.



The new concrete and steel bridge joining Arkansas and Missouri is a welcomed sight to motorists who used to travel the old wooden deck structure over the St. Francis River.

# EEO HIGHLIGHTS

## Roosevelt Morton joins EEO staff

Although he is new to the Department, Roosevelt Morton, Jr., 37, External EEO Coordinator, says he doesn't feel like a stranger.

"As a new employee, you always have a certain amount of apprehension, but I was amazed at the kind of greeting I received. I had problems adjusting at first because other people knew who I was, but I didn't know them," he said.

Morton joined the Equal Employment Opportunity staff November 17, 1980 and immediately began the task of reading up on the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other regulations dealing with the subject of discrimination.

The Bauxite (Saline County) native was already versed on the subject. For the past seven years Morton has worked on special projects for the Greater Little Rock Urban League. Among his projects was a crime prevention program and a school suspension prevention dropout program.

As External EEO Coordinator, Morton assists, monitors and advises contractors doing business with the



Morton checks notices posted on a bulletin board at a contractor's field office.

Morton, (right) talks to an equipment operator at a contractor's job site.



Department on the various laws and regulations pertaining to Affirmative Action. He also makes presentations at pre-construction conferences and conducts compliance reviews at the contractor's job sites.

Morton shares the External EEO duties with Henry Droughter, who has been a Department employee for nine years.

"This job is challenging. There is always something new you can get out of it," Morton said. He also believes there is a definite need for the type of activity he is involved in.

"I was surprised at how aware the contractors are of implementing an Affirmative Action program. They all seem to have a very positive approach. However, the contractors need someone to assist them. You need to keep up with what is going on and all of the changes that affect discrimination of all types; race, religion, sex, national origin and the handicapped," he said.

# LETTERS

December 5, 1980

Mr. Dan Flowers  
District 6 Engineer  
Arkansas Highway & Transportation Dept.  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Dan:

Thanks for your help in repairing our driveways around the Capitol. Everytime we need assistance, you come to our aid. We appreciate it.

Best wishes for the Holiday Season.

Sincerely,  
Paul Riviere  
Secretary of State

\*\*\*\*\*

January 9, 1981

Mr. Jim Chaney  
District 5 Engineer  
Batesville, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Chaney:

We would like to take just a little time to express our appreciation for the help of Mr. John Odom and Mr. Gene Steward, and their employees, during the snow and ice and for their assistance in helping work traffic at accident scenes. This help rendered in these times is greatly appreciated by all the Troopers in White County.

We would like for you to pass on to Mr. Odom and Mr. Steward, our thanks for all the help rendered in the past and we are looking forward to helping the Arkansas Highway Department in any way we can.

Sincerely,  
Arkansas State Police  
Searcy, Arkansas  
Trooper J.G. Conder  
Trooper L. Davis  
Trooper G. Pankey  
Trooper L. Mitchell  
Trooper L. Gentry

\*\*\*\*\*

November 4, 1980

Arkansas Highway & Transportation Dept.  
District 2  
Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Dear Sirs:

Today we traveled U.S. 65 through Arkansas and stopped at the rest area near McGehee, Arkansas. I must say in all our travel and we travel 25 to 30 states a year, this rest area is the cleanest one we have ever been in. The restrooms were spotless. We also had the chance to chat with Mr. Davis, - we found him very kind and friendly.

With regards,  
Erike McCollum  
Lake Palo Pinto, Texas

Editor's Note: This was the Dermott rest area in Chicot County.

November 29, 1980

Arkansas Highway & Transportation Dept.  
Division of Planning & Research  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Sirs:

I've recently visited your fine state and found it a tourist's delight in many ways. I especially enjoyed the trip because of your outstanding highway map (the city maps were most helpful!)

Let me add that we've now travelled in all continental 48 states. I rely heavily on maps, particularly "good" state-issued maps. Yours is one of the very best -- state issued or privately issued by oil companies or map companies. I would be rightly proud to be associated with such a map as yours.

The composition and detailed information is probably the best shown of any map I've seen. The manner in which you indicate a "scenic highway" is superb (beats throwing dotted lines of various colors on top of an already filled-with-color map).

Thank you for letting us share our thoughts with you.

Sincerely,  
Robert Aronoff  
South Pasadena, California

\*\*\*\*\*

November 21, 1980

Arkansas Highway Department  
District 2  
Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Dear Sirs:

I want to compliment whoever is responsible for the care of the rest stop facility at the Dermott intersections of Highway 65 and 165. I have stopped there a number of times since it opened and always it is unbelievably spotless and clean. For a public facility that is quite an accomplishment. I and other travelers appreciate having the rest stop available and so very clean.

Thank you,  
Mrs. M. P. Rainwater  
Hot Springs, Arkansas

\*\*\*\*\*

January 14, 1981

Mr. Dan Flowers  
District 6 Engineer  
Little Rock, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Flowers:

We want to thank the Arkansas Highway Department and you personally for the beautiful rest stop parks. For indeed they are parks and so restful to the eye. And yes, too, they are always clean and we travelers appreciate these things so much.

The state of Arkansas has provided more of these rest stops than any other state and has located most of them with trees and a scenic view. So please pass along our thoughts to everyone who has had a part in providing these stops for the traveling public.

Yours very truly,  
M.L. Hughes  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Mr. L.J. Bishop  
Area Foreman - District 2  
Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Bishop:

Today I stopped at your highway rest park on the way from Little Rock, Arkansas to Vicksburg, Mississippi. I wish to compliment you on the beautifully clean and well kept facility and the courtesy and helpfulness of the attendant there, Mr. C.D. Davis. I have never seen a better kept rest stop or a better attendant. Thank you for the use of your rest park and the very fine sincerity of your attendant in charge of it.

Sincerely yours,  
Irving J. Hedwood  
Ottawa, Iowa

Editor's Note: This is the Dermott rest area in Chicot County.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Service Awards

### DECEMBER, 1980

#### 25 Years

Billy K. Cooper . . . . . Chief Engineer  
Lewis A. Gore . . . . . District 3  
Bonnie G. Hill . . . . . Fiscal Services  
William F. Hulan . . . . . District 3  
W.P. Cummings . . . . . District 5

#### 20 Years

Jerry F. Conway . . . . . Computer Services  
Henry C. Eggleston . . . . . District 8  
Lawrence H. Fletcher . . . . . Maintenance  
Stanley R. Fulbright . . . . . District 5  
Bobby G. Hubbard . . . . . District 5  
Denvil P. Sparks . . . . . District 3  
Clifford E. Thornsberry . . . . . District 4  
Don D. Wilkinson . . . . . District 4

#### 15 Years

Fred B. McCain . . . . . District 8  
Floyd W. Petty . . . . . District 3  
RB Chester Runions . . . . . Radio  
Charles T. Webb . . . . . Henderson Ferry

#### 10 Years

Jack A. Biffle . . . . . District 8  
Maude H. Harris . . . . . Planning & Research  
Kenneth R. Newcomb . . . . . Buildings & Grounds  
Jurl E. Payton . . . . . District 8  
John R. Roy, Sr. . . . . District 8  
Johnny L. Vaughn . . . . . District 8

#### 5 Years

Thomas J. Dickerson . . . . . Buildings & Grounds  
Joe M. England . . . . . District 3  
Glen E. Macumber . . . . . District 9  
Brenda G. Mayton . . . . . Fiscal Services  
Leonard B. McCoy . . . . . District 7  
Miles E. Pangle . . . . . Highway Police  
Gaylor B. Russell . . . . . Highway Police  
Mack G. Sides . . . . . District 6

### JANUARY, 1981

#### 35 Years

Lucille B. Dishongh . . . . . Construction

#### 25 Years

Shelby Hudson, Jr. . . . . District 1  
Frank Novak . . . . . District 2

#### 20 Years

Morgan Y. Bryant . . . . . District 1  
Von Zack Sturdevant . . . . . District 8

#### 15 Years

Susie D. Boyett . . . . . Traffic  
Charles R. Breeding . . . . . Highway Police  
Ronald N. Brown . . . . . State Aid  
Richard W. Henriksen . . . . . Traffic  
J.A. Leopard . . . . . District 2  
Ila Fay Sullivan . . . . . Computer Services  
Shirley F. Wright . . . . . District 9

#### 10 Years

Angela V. Blackwell . . . . . Permits  
Donald W. Donaldson . . . . . Construction  
Lewis T. Jones . . . . . District 1  
Charles B. Ludwig . . . . . District 10  
Nancy Mchan . . . . . District 10  
James F. Marshall . . . . . Planning & Research  
Donald R. Lynn . . . . . District 7  
Walter H. McClain . . . . . District 2  
Elbert D. Spakes . . . . . District 2  
Rex A. Spurlock . . . . . Traffic

### FEBRUARY, 1981

#### 25 Years

Kenneth Ray Ellis . . . . . District 8  
Wallace O. Holland . . . . . District 1  
James D. Pierce . . . . . District 2  
George T. Tabler . . . . . District 4

#### 20 Years

James D. Barnett . . . . . Traffic  
Raymond W. Major . . . . . Bridge Design

#### 15 Years

Bobby G. Davidson . . . . . District 7  
Pete A. Escarre, Jr. . . . . Reproduction  
Robert H. Gossett . . . . . Materials  
Robert H. Green, Jr. . . . . Roadway Design  
Jimmy W. Smith . . . . . District 1  
Allen C. Venable . . . . . District 6

#### 10 Years

Mondell Aynes . . . . . District 4  
Barton K. Benson . . . . . District 4  
Johnie J. Bradshaw . . . . . District 7  
Jack D. Drewry . . . . . District 9

Oll T. McGuire . . . . . District 8  
Stephen B. Teague . . . . . Prog. & Scheduling  
Ray E. Wadley . . . . . District 5, Point Ferry

#### 5 Years

Kenneth H. Davis . . . . . District 7  
Mary R. Green . . . . . Computer Services  
Gregory R. Howerton . . . . . District 9  
Raymond D. King . . . . . District 9  
Richard A. Pierce . . . . . Equip. & Proc.  
Joseph H. Steele, Jr. . . . . Fiscal Services

## Retirees

### October, 1980

Claude Roberson . . . . . Public Trans.  
Hoyce L. Hodnett . . . . . District 4  
Carl Allen . . . . . District 9  
Ralph C. Montgomery . . . . . District 5

### November, 1980

William H. Lewis . . . . . District 6  
Nathan D. Mefford . . . . . District 4  
Dan A. Terpening . . . . . District 9  
Homer O. Story . . . . . District 1

### December, 1980

Jim B. Mabry . . . . . District 6  
Clyde C. Miles . . . . . District 7  
A.C. Lilcrease . . . . . District 2  
Glenn A. Hamilton . . . . . Bldg. & Gr.

### January, 1981

Marion D. Bates . . . . . District 2  
Shannon M. Cotton . . . . . District 8  
Glenn B. Head . . . . . District 9  
Woodrow W. Powell . . . . . Equip. & Proc.  
Robert L. Evans . . . . . District 6  
Troy Dearing . . . . . District 1  
August H. Griffin . . . . . Highway Police

**did you know**

Transportation in the U.S. consumes a quarter of the total energy used. More than half the petroleum consumed in this nation is used for transportation. Despite the limited supply of petroleum, 86% of commuting workers do so by auto and the average commuter's car carries only 1.4 people. The commuting worker might be the place to start conservation of petroleum resources.

# Around the Department

## ANNUAL AWARDS PRESENTATION

The Annual Awards Presentation Ceremony for the Central Office employees was held in the Department's Auditorium on Friday, December 19, 1980. Patsy Thomasson, Highway Commissioner and Henry Gray, Director, presented service certificates to twenty-two employees who represented more than 600 years of service to the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department.



**35 YEARS:**  
(Left to right) Lydia K. Brasel, Planning and Research; Commissioner Patsy Thomasson; Bert Rownd, State Maintenance Engineer



**30 YEARS:**  
(Left to right) Commissioner Thomasson, James M. Koehler, W.P. Looney, Derwood C. Ashcraft, Bob Mattox and Marlin Powell.



**25 YEARS:**  
(Left to right) Art Johnson, Don Brown, Nathan Garrett, James Small, Patsy Roling, Lee Wagner, Russell Owen, James E. Matthews, James H. Day, Joe Magness and B.K. Cooper with Commissioner Patsy Thomasson.

## ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE

Chief Roy Johnson is shown presenting C. Eugene Williams his Captain's bars and badges for his promotion effective December 11, 1980, as Captain and District Supervisor of the AHP's District 3 in Northwest Arkansas. Captain Williams was employed by the AHP as a Weight Officer at the Springdale Weigh Station. He was later assigned to a roving unit and for the last several years served as Lieutenant in charge of that unit.



Captain and Mrs. Williams live at Bentonville and have two sons, David and Mark.

## BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Congratulations to Tommy Dickerson (5 years) and Kenneth Newcomb (10 years) who received their Certificates of Service from Gene Cagle in December.



Kenneth Newcomb and Tommy Dickerson

## COMPUTER SERVICES

In December, Jerry Conway completed 20 years of service with the Department. Dale Carter, Chief of Computer Services, presented him with a 20 year pin and certificate of service. Cookies and punch were served in honor of the occasion. Congratulations, Jerry!



Dale Carter and Jerry Conway

Computer Services had their Christmas Luncheon on December 23. Shown in the picture is some of the delicious food that was served.



## CONSTRUCTION

The Construction Division held a reception January 22, 1981, honoring Lucille Dishongh for 35 years of service with the Department. John Tallant, Construction Engineer, presented her with a Certificate of Service and a diamond medallion. Governor Frank White also sent Luci a Certificate of Merit Award. Refreshments were served to hundreds of friends from the

Highway Department and contractors who joined us in offering congratulations.



John Tallant and Lucille Dishongh

Bobby Joe Parker, Freeway Engineer, attended a seminar on Construction Contracts in Nashville, Tennessee, January 13-16.

We welcome Marty Oliver as our new file clerk. Her husband George, works for Alcoa and with their four children make their home in Traskwood. They are members of the Benton Motorcycle Club and VFW.

Clara and Jerry Huie moved in their new home in Conway and Clara's son, Danny paid them a surprise visit from Kwajalein Island.

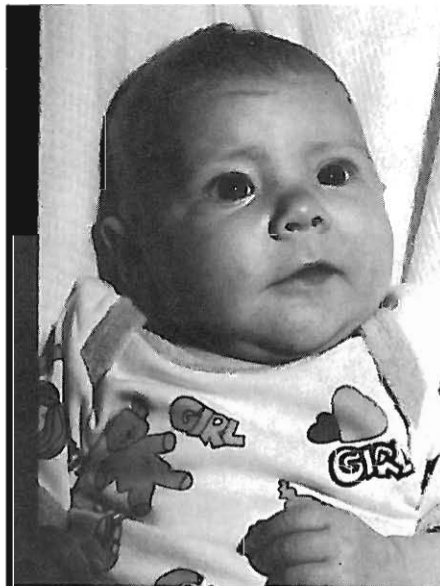
All the girls in Construction took Ron Cofer to lunch on his birthday and he said he could truthfully say he had been out with a "10".

## EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT

Congratulations to Karen Watts, who is getting married to Jerry Rankin on April 8 at the First United Methodist Church in Benton. We wish them both the best of luck.

We would like to welcome Kay Smith to our Division. She was formerly employed by First Federal Savings.

Harry Willcockson has a new granddaughter, Jammie Lenn. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Willcockson. Jimmy is a former Highway Department employee.



Jammie Lenn Willcockson

Patsy Downing spent a pleasant Christmas in Tennessee with her family, then headed north to Iowa to visit with Eulin's relatives. Patsy says it was a very enjoyable trip.

We wish Robert Cox all the luck in his new job in Planning and Research and we miss him very much. Raymond Shields transferred from Buildings and Grounds to fill the Motor Pool Supervisor position. We are glad to have him in our office.

Sandy Richardson had a Thanksgiving and early Christmas vacation in South America when she visited the Arkansas Travelers baseball captain, Fred Tisdale. Fred is living in South America while playing winter ball. Sandy had a great time, but is ready for Fred to return to good ole Arkansas.

## INTERNAL AUDIT

By Shirley Wesson

Our office lost two good employees when Randy Rauton left on January 21 to move to Hawaii and Jerry Hillman left on January 28 to attend Naval Officer Candidate School.

They will both be missed, but we wish them the very best of luck in their future plans.

## MAINTENANCE DIVISION

By Debbie Simpson

Congratulations go out to Milton Sullivan in Roadside Development. He has been with the Department for 5 years. Also, O.F. Neeley of Heavy Bridge Maintenance received his 30 year award from John Hall, Bridge Maintenance Engineer, and Lawrence Fletcher and Don Brown celebrated 20 and 25 year service awards with cake and coffee.



John Hall and O.F. Neeley



Lawrence Fletcher



**Don Brown**

We have quite a few proud parents and grandparents in our midst this time. David Ford in Heavy Bridge Maintenance is the proud papa of a 7 pound, 14 ounce boy, David Scott. David entered this world on November 18, 1980 as "Little Bunky".



**David Scott Ford**



**Lindsey Nichole Holeman**

Jim Tucker in our Maintenance Office comes next – his daughter Marcia gave birth to a tiny, tiny little girl, Lindsey Nichole. She weighed 4 pounds, 1½ ounces and was 16 inches long. Nichole was born December 19, 1980. She has already been to see us and you've never seen such a beautiful doll.

Last but not least in the line of proud grandfathers is Bert Rownd, State Maintenance Engineer. His son Ed and wife, Bonita, gave him a baby boy, William Eric. Eric weighed



**William Eric Rownd and Bert Rownd**

7 pounds, 4½ ounces and was born on January 25, 1981.

Congratulations to everyone and their families.

For all those who remember Jimmie Farnam Snow from the Maintenance Office, we have a piece of good news. Jimmie and her husband, Tom, are the proud parents of a baby boy, James Wasson Tobias Snow. That's an awful long name for such a small baby, but, he did weigh 9 pounds, 4¾ ounces and was 22" long – so he's not that small. Toby was born January 21, 1981. Congratulations, Jimmie.

### PERMITS

Congratulations to Terry and Caron Nanney on the birth of their second child. Michael Hoyt was born December 7, 1980 and weighed 7 pounds and 3 ounces.



**Michael Hoyt Nanney**



**Buddy Dumas and Angela Blackwell**

Angela Blackwell was recently presented her 10 year Service Award by Permit Supervisor, Buddy Dumas. Congratulations Angela.

### PHOTOGRAMMETRY

Margaret Hudson has recently achieved membership in that elite group known as grandparents. Margaret's daughter, Lorie Merrick, gave birth on January 29 to Timothy Coston Merrick. Margaret says becoming a grandmother was harder on her than becoming a mother. Everyone should be prepared to see pictures of the little one pretty soon.

We had our annual Christmas luncheon on December 23, and, as usual, it was super! We had barbecue beef and pork ribs from Sims Barbecue. Everyone enjoyed them very much as is evident by Margaret Hudson in the picture. Roger Taylor and his wife, Dollene, came by to eat and enjoy the holiday season with us.



**Margaret Hudson**



**Sue Walls, Mike Schiff, Roger Taylor and Carrah Sandage at Christmas Luncheon.**

We have our share of deer hunters, but I'm afraid they didn't get their share of deer. Roy Walden got two deer, but Richard, Mike, and Doobie came home empty handed.

Photogrammetry has its own weight-watchers club. Several of the men are dieting and are really getting slim and trim. They are really working hard at it. They are also exercising and running along with their diet. Good luck men – you will need it before you are through.

Randy Boyd is recording puppet shows for schools and churches and is also producing puppet programs for "Mary and her Mupp-ettes", which is a puppet show for children's birthday

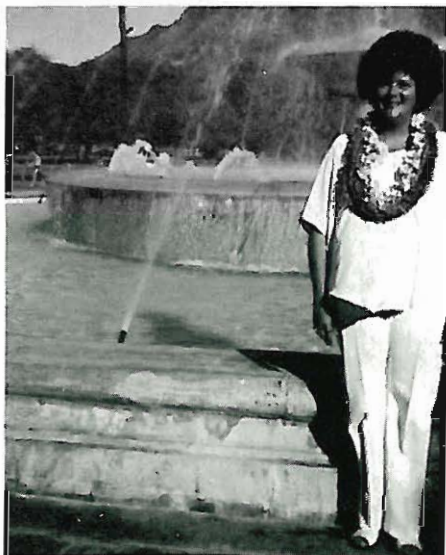
parties. If anyone is interested in having a puppet show for their child, they can contact Randy in Photogrammetry.

## PLANNING & RESEARCH

For the week of January 5-9, 1981, we were minus one secretary. Libby Lakin was trying her hand (or should I say another part of her body) at snow skiing. She and her husband, Michael, stayed the week with relatives in Aspen, Colorado. They spent most of their time in Denver seeing hockey and basketball games. I think its a hopeless cause now trying to convince her that there are also 49 other states.

Buddy and June Lewter celebrated their 35th Wedding Anniversary on January 30. This deserves a big CONGRATULATIONS! Especially to June. You've come a long way baby!

Jean Walz, of Statewide Planning, spent approximately 2 "Fantasy Island" weeks in Hawaii this past November. This was her third trip to Honolulu and on her fourth trip she wants to buy a one-way plane ticket! There are three interstate highways on the island of Oahu - H-1, H-2 and H-3. After "the guys" in her section saw the postcard she mailed to them, its a wonder some of them haven't left for Hawaii yet!



Jean Walz

## REPRODUCTION



Greg Godfrey



Larry Foreman

I'm happy to report that the deer hunters from our Section brought back pictures as proof that they have actually been going deer hunting each year. Six of our men went hunting this year. Larry Foreman and Greg Godfrey, Dick's son, had the luck as shown in the picture. Ava Harding also went to deer camp with her husband, David, and a group. She didn't kill a deer but had fun camping and visiting with the other women in the camp.

Tommy Daniel has been entering some running races. He entered the 10.4 mile Mall to Mall race on January 18 sponsored by United Cerebral Palsy and Little Rock Roadrunners Club. He plans to enter a 13.1 mile race sponsored by Anheuser-Busch to be held in Little Rock on October 3. At the moment he is playing basketball to keep in shape for running.

We welcome Bonnie Hodge back after being on sick leave. We have certainly missed her.

Patsy Latson, Section Secretary, recently received her 10 year service certificate and pin. Congratulations, Pat! Her daughter, Tareesa, who is attending Christ for the Nations Institute in Dallas, Texas, was home for 3 weeks during the Christmas holidays. Her visit was certainly enjoyed by her family.

Ava and David Harding took a 3000 mile trip during the Christmas holidays. They drove to Norman, Oklahoma and visited with daughter and son-in-law, Donna and Bob Williams, and grandson, T.J. They then drove to Sheridan, Wyoming to visit with daughter and son-in-law,



John Allen Sketoe

Susan and Ron Spielman. Mother Nature cooperated and gave them beautiful weather. Seeing the children and the grandchild was certainly worth all the miles of driving. It's a shame T.J. lives so far away - now he can't be spoiled by his Grandparents.

Dick Godfrey had his 4 children and 5 grandchildren all home at Christmas. I know they all had a good time together.

We are including a picture of Al Dunn's pride and joy, his grandson, John Allen Sketoe. Isn't he handsome! He was 5 years old in December. John Allen is the son of Phyllis and John Sketoe. John is an Area Foreman in Faulkner County.

## RIGHT OF WAY

By Linda Lewis

Congratulations to Gary Anderson and his wife Cindy. They are the proud parents of a baby girl, Kimberly Ann. She was born January 16, 1981 and weighed 7 pounds and 7½ ounces. Gary and Cindy have one other child, Jennifer Michelle, who is four years old.



Kimberly Ann Anderson

Randy Reed, who works as a Right of Way Technician, killed a spike and a 6 point buck during this deer season in Grant County. He was using an 8mm Mauser that he sporterized himself.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Jackie Stephenson for the loss of his father, Mr. Harold G. Stephenson, who passed away December 29, 1980 at the age of 59.

Wayne Willis of the Administrative Section killed a 7 point buck and a spike this deer season while hunting in Nevada County. Both deer were killed with a Remington 30.06.

Butch Garner of the Utilities Section got a nice 9 point buck during the November deer hunt.



Butch Garner and 9 point buck



## ROADWAY DESIGN

It is said that all good things must come to an end – one good thing has ended for Roadway Design. That is our association with Robert Thomas. Robert retired from the Department after working almost 27 years. A party was held in January in Rob's honor. Best of luck to you Rob, and we will miss you!



Robert Thomas

Goodbyes were also said to three other employees as they left for other careers; David Simpson, Corps of Engineers; Sam Harrison, AP&L; and Donald Brooks, VA. We wish these guys the best of luck on their new jobs.

We welcome several new employees to our midst. Martin Cruce, formerly with Garver and Garver, is now one of our engineers in the Freeway Design Section. Tammy Caple, Keith Barnett and Galen Monroe are new drafters. Tammy comes to us from Technical Services. Keith Barnett is the son of Bob Barnett of Photogrammetry.

Mark Bradley has returned to Roadway to handle the Department's Pavement Management Program, now a Roadway Design responsibility.

## TRAFFIC

We would like to welcome two new employees to the Traffic Division. John Garver and Renita Hamilton. John began working in the Sign Shop on November 3, 1980. He recently



Joshua Burdess



Amy Marie Croy

married Tammy Wilson on February 6, in Grace Fellowship Church in Benton. Congratulations John and Tammy.

Renita has been with the Traffic Safety Section since November when she transferred from Mail and Supplies. She is the mother of Kim and Niki Flonnoy, ages 7 and 4.

Sue Boyette received her 15 year pin and service certificate on Friday, January 16. Cake and coffee were served for the occasion.

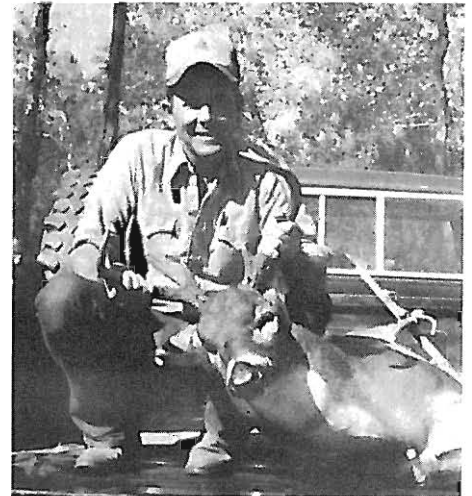
Pictured are Joshua Burdess and Amy Marie Croy. Joshua is 2 years old and is the son of Diane Burdess who works in our Sign Shop.

Amy is 3½ years old and is the daughter of Tammy Crow who also works in our shop.

## DISTRICT ONE

We received a nice write-up of Wilbur Luker's Autumn wedding and a newspaper picture and regret that we didn't receive a glossy print so that we could share it with you. Wilbur and Jan Maria Dennis were married at the Second Baptist Church in Forrest City in a beautiful service during the Thanksgiving weekend and are now at home in Colt.

The one with the smile is Freddie Everhart who got his first deer and an 8 point at that. Freddie is in the West Helena residency and had to share his glory with Robert Skinner who also got a deer but didn't send us a picture. Good for both of you!



Freddie Everhart



(Left to right) Mrs. K. Hess, granddaughter, P. Huey, daughter, Mrs. & Mrs. W.O. Holland, B. Mulhollen



(Left to right) B. Mulhollen, H.E. Crossen, Zip Davis, J.A. Quinn, M.J. Jordan, G. Jones, J. McElduff

Recent service awards recipients honored were M.J. Jordan, 30 years; L.G. Jones, 25 years; J.E. "Zip" Davis, J.E. Belknap and Janet McElduff, 20 years and H.E. Crossen and J.A. Quinn, 15 years. These good folks, along with Homer Story from Monroe County and Troy Dearing from Wynne, who have recently retired with 17 years of service each, enjoyed cake and punch and some good words from their supervisors at the District Headquarters.



Bill Mulhollen, Troy Dearing and Homer Story

W.O. Holland, Job Superintendent, was honored on January 30 with a fish fry hosted by many of his co-workers. W.O. retired in early February with 25 years of service to the Department. His crew and other co-workers presented him with a watch and a knife and he will be missed by all of us.

We welcome Jasper L. Riley from Engineering Office No. 13 into the District office. Jasper is taking the job bridge crew supervisor, vacated by W.O.'s retirement, and we are glad to have him with us.

We've lost our good friend Ralph Hall to the North Little Rock residency, and will surely miss him. His residency has been consolidated with Ray Woodruff's and will serve as a sub-office.

## DISTRICT TWO

By Bettye Carter

We welcome Earl Raines as the new District Material Supervisor for District Two. Employed in Construction for 10 years located in Texarkana, El Dorado, Little Rock and recently as the Assistant Resident Engineer in Pine Bluff to Van Bratton. Earl and his wife, Pamela, are the parents of four daughters. He has a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Arkansas and is a Registered Professional Engineer. We'll enjoy working with Earl in his new position.

We were saddened by the death of Victor Brown, Jr. on December 13, 1980. Victor was employed as signman for the District since 1965. He had suffered from a lung disease for several years. We express our sympathy to his wife, Gracie and family.

A former area foreman in Jefferson County, A.B. Jones, died recently. Mr. Jones began working with the Department in 1958 and was promoted to area foreman in 1962. We express our sympathy to his wife and daughter.

We are proud to announce the marriage of Dale Johns and Janette Stiles on January 3, 1981. They were married at 6:00 p.m. at the Taylor Missionary Baptist Church in Malvern. Both attended Ouachita Vo-Tech School in Malvern. Dale is a mechanic in the District Shop and is the son of Bill Johns, area foreman

in Jefferson County. Good luck to two real fine people from all of us.



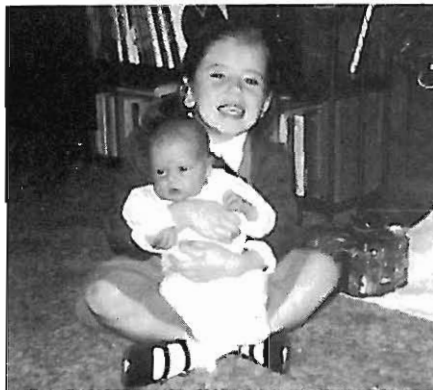
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Johns

Another new marriage in our District was on November 28, 1980 when John Samuel Denton, Jr., construction inspector in Monticello, married Donna Kay Gross. Sammy and Donna live in Ft. Hill and she is employed at Bonnie's Beauty Boutique in Monticello.



Mr. & Mrs. John Denton

Shown in the picture are the granddaughters of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Waller. Rhonda Lynn is 5 years old and Tawana Anne was born on December 6, 1980. The parents are Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Waller. Richard is the area foreman in Desha County. Congratulations to the parents and grandparents.



Rhonda Lynn and Tawana Anne Waller

Linda Morris, resident office technician in the Construction office in Monticello, spent the Christmas holidays in Illinois. She said it was 16 degrees below zero. That is cold!

Pictured here is her grandfather, Harvey Baker, Sr., who celebrated his 97th birthday.



Harvey Baker, Sr.

Service awards were acknowledged recently to the following employees for 5 years of service: E.D. Spakes, Walter H. McClain, and Troy Adams. J.A. Leopard received his certificate for 15 years of service.

Two of our area foremen attended the State Maintenance Seminar held at the Central Office in Little Rock. Attending were L.J. Bishop of Chicot County and Rick Neal of Cleveland County.



L.J. Bishop and Sam Smith



Rick Neal

Shannie Crain, station attendant at the District Headquarters, bagged a beautiful deer during the December hunt. That was some deer Shannie. It's too bad the picture was too dark to see.

## DISTRICT THREE

By Vinie Holt

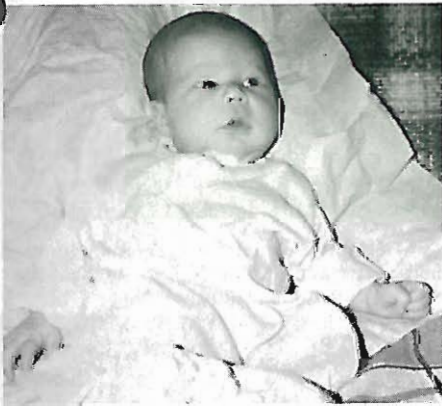
Congratulations to the following on their years of service to the Department: Joe England, 5 years; Floyd Petty, 15 years; Denvil Sparks, 20 years and Russell Winton, 25 years.

We have some proud granddads that would like to show off their granddaughters. Jessica Janelle Williams is the daughter of Kenneth and Kelly Williams and is the granddaughter of Don Cearley, carpenter in the District Bridge Crew.



Jessica Janelle Williams

Shanna Hutchison is the daughter of Thomas and Sandra Hutchison and is the granddaughter of Arthur Gore, area foreman in Sevier County. Shanna was born January 9, 1981.



Shanna Hutchison

We would like to welcome a new employee to the Texarkana Residency. Her name is Gloria Candelaria. She was employed in November as field clerk in the Texarkana office to replace Debra Eaton who resigned. We hope she will enjoy working with us.

Our congratulations to Wayne and Carolyn Dull on the birth of their son Jeremy Wayne. Jeremy was born November 17, 1980 and weighed 8½ pounds. Jeremy joins two sisters, Jennifer and Sonya. Their father, Wayne, is a senior inspector in the Nashville Residency.

On Thursday evening, December 18, we had our annual District Christmas Dinner at the District Headquarters. Approximately 250 employees and members of their families were in attendance. Along with the dinner, we had a short program which consisted of introductions by Jerry Whitehurst and welcome by Charles Mitchell. Group singing of Christmas Carols was

led by Sheron Whitehurst. Vinie Holt and Joey Waddle sang a selection of Christmas songs which included a solo by each and a duet. Joey accompanied them on his guitar. As the poem "T'was the Night Before Christmas" was recited by Charles Mauk - Santa Claus flew in to greet and treat the children. Jim Karnowski again did a superb job as Santa. This year he brought along two little green elves to help him. It was a very enjoyable evening.



Christmas at District 3

## DISTRICT FOUR

On the evening of December 12 we had our Annual Christmas Party and Awards Banquet. It was potluck and was enjoyed by a large group of employees, retirees and their families including our guests Commissioner & Mrs. F.H. Martin and family, Mr. & Mrs. Hurley Perkins and Mr. & Mrs. Johnnie Gray. The food was good and it was nice to visit with the families of those you work with and to see the retirees again. Our special music was presented by Mike and Faye Speck of Fort Smith. Commissioner Martin made the award presentations and Santa dropped by to visit with the children.



Christmas at District 4

Service awards presented in District Four were: Bob James, Assistant to Resident Engineer Jack Coleman, 30 years; Don Wilkinson, inspector in Jack Coleman's Residency, 20 years. Ten year certificates were presented to C.C. Gilbert, George Lee, and B.G. Passmore. Richard Ingram received his certificate of service for 5 years.



Mr. & Mrs. Bob James and Commissioner Martin



C.C. Gilbert, James Seay, and George Lee



B.G. Passmore



Carl Sanders and Don Wilkinson

A.E. Lewis of Greenwood and D.H. Becker of Fort Smith were both recently promoted to area foremen in Sebastian County. They attended the Management Seminar in Little Rock in October.



A.E. Lewis



D.H. Becker

These two darlings are Amanda Joann, 2 months old and Christian Gail, 22 months old. They are the daughters of Larry and Barbara Thornbury. Larry is an equipment operator in the Springdale crew.



Amanda Joann and Christian Gail Thornbury

Nathan D. Mefford retired after 25 years with the Department. Nathan was Lead person at Lincoln (Washington County Crew) at the time of his retirement.



N.D. Mefford and "gift"

H.L. (Bud) Hodnett retired from the Department in October, 1980. We all hated to see Bud leave. He had 35 years with the Department and was liked by everyone. Some of the Maintenance personnel from Little Rock plus Maintenance Superintendent from District 9, Larry H., Bud's wife, Bea, and other members of his family joined us for coffee as we wished Bud a "Happy Retirement".



Bud Hodnett and Allan Holmes

New faces around the office consist of a new receptionist, Carole Crowley. She joined our office in October and we are glad to have her with us. Wayne Goodson transferred from Jack Coleman's office to the position of Assistant District Maintenance Superintendent, which was vacated when Don Turner was promoted to District Maintenance Superintendent. Don Griffin from Jack Coleman's office has been promoted to the position of District Materials Supervisor.

### Springdale Residency

We would like to congratulate the following men on their service to the Highway Department. Pins and certificates were presented to Lloyd Burgess, 15 years, and George Tucker, 10 years.

Ralph and Teresa Maze are the proud parents of a baby boy, Jeffery Nathaniel, born December 8, 1980. He weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces. Teresa is an inspector for this office and Ralph is an Operator II in the Springdale crew.



Jeffery Nathaniel Maze

Barton K. Benson, Sr., engineering aide VI, passed the E.I.T. examination in November, 1980 and will graduate from the University of Arkansas in May, 1981.

We welcome the following new employees to our ranks. They are: Donnie Holland, Rocky Lineberger, Mark Pangle, Steve Pennington, Jeff Redden and Jim Wilson.

Mr. and Mrs. Barton K. Benson, Sr., are the proud grandparents of a baby boy, Barton K. Benson, III, born August 19, 1980. Ken is sharing a picture of three generations.



Barton K. Benson Sr., Jr. and III

### DISTRICT FIVE

By Marilyn Coffman

On January 5, 1981, the Annual Service Awards Ceremony was held at the District Headquarters in Batesville. Highway Commissioner George Kell made the presentations. Twenty-five year awards were presented to Floyd Lancaster, Assistant Resident Engineer; Charles McClusky, District Equipment Supervisor; and Alfred Courtney, Finish Carpenter. Our retiree, W.F. Benniston, front-end loader operator, with the Bald Knob White County crew, was also honored.

It is always a treat to have such dedicated employees to praise. We do regret the difficulty our district photographer, Randy Sattewhite, has in snapping the pictures of the event. Several cameras, new film and a glowing face were unsuccessful on each try. Remarks such as, "employee will have 30 years by the time he gets a picture," from on-lookers were a handicap. New bulbs were rushed to the scene, but alas Randy ran out of film. Better luck next time.

After the presentation everyone expressed their appreciation to Mr. Kell for his dedicated service to the Commission.



Commissioner Kell and Charles McClusky

Other employees receiving awards for the month of December were: Stanley Fulbright, welder, 20 years; and Bobby Hubbard, Jackson County Area Foreman, 20 years. Congratulations to all of the employees on their fine work.

Grandpa Ernie Martin, shop foreman, has a new picture of his new granddaughter, Britney Haven Wilson. Jerry and Jequita Wilson are the proud parents. Britney was born on January 18, 1981 and weighed 6 pounds, 7 ounces.

Shown in the picture is our only successful deer hunter. Rodney Sutherland of the Fulton

County Crew killed this 8 point on November 8. Nice going Rodney.



**Rodney Sutherland**

On December 23, 1980, the Bald Knob crew had a pot luck lunch with fried chicken and all the trimmings. Special guests were R.D. Bogard, Faite Denniston, Myrt Hoffman, Jewel McDaniel, Joe Olinger and Shelby Wools, all retirees from the Bald Knob crew. Other guests included E.P. Nixon, Sr., Michael Brinkley and Misty Brinkley. I understand everyone had a real good time and exchanged several big stories.

This picture missed the news last time. Lee Watson, area foreman of Fulton County, was presented his 20 year service award in October by Assistant District Engineer Cliff Martin. Congratulations Lee!



**Cliff Martin and Lee Watson**

## DISTRICT SIX

By Al

All of us wish Robert L. Evans the very best in the future years upon his retirement from the Department on December 31, 1980. May there be good health and happiness to you and your family.

William J. Nichols recently exchanged marriage vows on November 1, 1980 with Ramona Jean Johnson, daughter of Raymond and Onia of Ferndale. Congratulations.

A tidbit from the past - the Benton Courier of May 25, 1925. "It is expected that the last pouring of concrete will be made on the Little Rock and Hot Springs highway Friday. Delays in the receipt of cement and dirt in the gravel delayed matters Wednesday and Thursday. The road will be ready for travel by June 25, and this event will be awaited with much interest by the people of the two large cities served as well as by the folks out in the country."

On December 19, 1980, District Six held its annual Christmas Party. Turkey, ham and a variety of dishes plus desserts were served. Our visiting dignitaries included Commissioner Patsy Thomasson, Highway Director Henry Gray,

Assistant Director Gip Robertson, Assistant Chief Engineer Al Johnson, State Maintenance Engineer Bert Rownd and State Construction Engineer John Tallant. Hurley Perkins, District 8 Engineer and former Assistant District Engineer at District 6 also dropped by for the party. Several door prizes were given to lucky employees and service awards were presented to Thomas A. Stone, Jr., John B. Baggett, Jr. and Edgar Vernon Ellis for 25 years of service. M.E. Rodgers received a special 27 year Thank You Award upon his retirement. Alvin Gosnell received his 30 year service award plus a Thank You Award upon his retirement. Our appreciation to all who worked so hard to make this Christmas Party a success.



**Henry Gray, Dan Flowers and Patsy Thomasson at the District 6 Christmas Party.**

Larry and Diana Thompson proudly announce the arrival of Carrie Lynn born October 13, 1980. Larry works in the Saline County crew.



**Viola Ann and Carrie Lynn Thompson**

## Leonard Hall Residency

Jim B. Mabry, senior inspector on the East Belt Freeway, retired on December 1, 1980. He is a native of Chula, Arkansas and began his career with the Department in May, 1951. The office gave him a retirement party and presented him with a beautiful watch. His wife, Ina, and daughter, Cathy, along with all of his co-workers attended the party. Jim will be missed, but we wish him the very best and hope he will drop by to visit occasionally.

Congratulations to Rick and Debbie Ransom on the birth of their daughter, Ashley

Renee Ransom. Ashley was born November 19, 1980 and weighed 7 pounds, 6½ ounces.



**Ashley Renee Ransom**

## Bob Cornish Residency

Our men were lucky this year during the deer season. Ronnie Southerland killed two, a 3 point and a 9 point, Kenneth Perry killed a 6 point and Don Donaldson killed an 8 point. Gerald Teague didn't do as well this year as he did last year. He killed an 11 point last year but still walked away with a 3 point this year. Joe Parker also got a small deer. Then there was Randy Atkinson who showed off and killed a 3 point and a spike. Joe Floyd, one of our retired employees, came by and reported his kill - a doe. I'm glad to see Joe finally found out that when you go deer hunting you're suppose to look for the deer. He thought you were suppose to party and eat!

Bobby Cornish killed a little time deer hunting, but made up for it in duck hunting. Better luck next time on the deer.

John Bland comes by to see us every Thursday. He is sure missed around this office.

We have inherited Ronnie Hedges back in our office and we're glad to have him back.

Ed Randall, inspector, finally tied the knot Saturday, November 22, at Shiloh Baptist Church to Jo Ann Jordan of North Little Rock. Jo Ann is employed at North Little Rock Memorial Hospital. They recently moved into their new home in England Acres. Congratulations to both of you.

We have some proud parents in this office who would like to show off their children.

This little doll is Amber Deann Atkinson, daughter of Randy and Rosemary Atkinson. She was born April 2, 1980 and is 2 months old in this picture. Randy is an inspector in our office.



**Amber Deann Atkinson**



Sha Garrison

This lovely little lady is Sha Garrison. She is in kindergarten at Abundant Life School. Sha is the daughter of Billy and Donna Garrison. Donna is the office technician in our office.

Anyone that knows David Mayo could tell who this little man belongs to. He is Joseph Raymond Mayo, age 2, and the little lady is his sister Lauren Emily, born August 29, 1980. The proud parents are David and Lannece Mayo. David is a Civil Engineer in this office.



Joseph Raymond Mayo



Lauren Emily Mayo

Well Bob Cornish finally tied the knot. He and Kay Jones, of Personnel in the Central Office, were married December 11, 1980. Congratulations to both of you and may you have many years of happiness together.

Larry Rollins, Inspector, received his 15 year service award. Hang in there Larry, it won't be any time 'til you are receiving your 25 year award.

Russell Owen received his 25 year service award. He and his wife Franchelle attended the Annual Awards Presentation, held at the Central Office Complex. Russell was presented his award by Commissioner Patsy Thomasson. Russell said he was very disappointed because he only got a hand shake and Bert Rownd got a kiss from Patsy. Well Russell, you should have spoke up. Congratulations.

We have some new employees in our office. They are Civil Engineers Don Donaldson, Walter McMillian and Jerry Morrow; Senior Inspectors Ronnie Hedges, Jim Rives and Henry Ward; Inspectors Carl Boerner and Sandra Phillips. We are glad to have these employees aboard and thanks to Leonard Hall and John Watkins for their employees.

Gerald Teague, Civil Engineer, has recently purchased a home on the lake at Mayflower. Gerald has been employed with AHTD almost five years and we are very fortunate to have him in our office. Congratulations on your new home.

John Bland and his wife spent Christmas in Virginia with their children and grandchildren. John really liked the Atlanta airport.

Bill Harrison, inspector in our office, is real proud of his son William Arthur. Would you believe he is only 17 months old and already driving!



William Arthur Harrison

## DISTRICT SEVEN

By Althea Campbell

Deer hunting has been a great topic of conversation in District Seven. Employees claiming deer last season included: Coy Campbell, District Engineer, and his sons Mark and Scott. Scott also got one on November 1 with a bow and arrow. James Jones, Sign Foreman; John L. Livingston, District Maintenance Superintendent; Alan Cheatham, Engineering Aide V, got lucky and bagged a 7 point and an 8 point; Jimmy Wynn, Senior Inspector killed an 8 point. Donald Brandon, Calhoun County Area Foreman, Gene McMahan, Inspector; Tommy Yocam, husband of Vicky (storeroom clerk) and Tim Kirkpatrick, son of Charlotte, our District Receptionist, all got lucky and killed at least one deer this past season.



John Livingston



Wayne and Donald Brandon



Tim Kirkpatrick



Roger Williams

Doris and O.A. Loe (welder) are proud to announce the birth of 2 new grandchildren. Lawrence Oather Wayne Loe was born to their son, Larry and his wife, on December 29, 1980. Robin Marie was born on December 30, 1980 to daughter Debra and her husband.

John Harvey and a friend took a very interesting trip to the West Coast - touring and seeing sights in California, Oregon and Washington. They took the trip during the month of January and reported a long and interesting 6500 miles.

Calvin Shaw, an inspector for A.W. Hardy, suffered a stroke on December 29. At this time he is in the Magnolia Hospital. He expects to

be moved to the Veteran's Hospital at Shreveport soon. We all miss Cal and wish for him a very speedy recovery.

Larry Beard, office manager for Gordon Hite, underwent lung surgery. We understand that he is improving and we will be happy to have him back at work.

Kim Myers, daughter of Joyce and Bob Myers, Camden Resident Engineer, was recently a member of the Homecoming Royalty at Fordyce Jr. High School.



Kim Myers and her father, Bob Myers

This charming young fellow is Joshua Adam Williams, son of Grayson and Roger Williams. Roger is a motor patrol operator in District 7.



Joshua Adams Williams

Jennifer Sue and Cathy Covey are the children of Raymond Covey, an inspector for Gordon Hite in El Dorado.



Jennifer Sue Covey



Cathy Covey

Ardi Lyn Hughes and Travis Griffis, son of Frances and George Griffis, were married in a simple ceremony January 30, 1980, by Rev. Harold Harper. Ardi Lyn is the daughter of Mrs. Viola Gardner and the late Raymond Cranford of Stephens. Pretty five year old Amy Hughes is the new granddaughter. George Griffis is a job superintendent in District 7.



Ardi Lynn Griffis and Amy Hughes

The spouses of our employees are "special people". While talking with some of them at a recent gathering, we made the decision to choose a few at a time and let them tell of their many and varied interests. A person whom many outsiders see as a housewife sometimes has many talents. Such a person is Wilma Hamaker. Wilma is the wife of Bradley County area foreman Robert Hamaker.



Wilma is treasurer and bookkeeper for the Banks Baptist Church, hospitality hostess, printer and publisher for the Banks Baptist Cir-

culated Church and Community Bulletin. She serves as president of the Home Extension Club and is an active member of the Parent-Teachers Organization. Although Wilma and Robert have no children, she is a Home Room Mother in the grade school system and enjoys being with children. In October she walked 10 miles in the Harvest Gleaner Hour Walk-a-Thon. She keeps busy baking and decorating cakes for friends and neighbors. Her varied hobbies are crocheting, needlepoint, gardening, games, reading, collecting recipes, poems, sports and corresponding. Wilma says, "There is never enough time; I believe the highlight in my week is the Wednesday morning Bible Study, this makes the other days richer for me."



June Livingston

June Livingston, the wife of District Maintenance Superintendent John Livingston, leads a very interesting life. June says homemaking is her biggest pleasure as she loves cooking, cleaning and hard work. She says, "John enjoys my cooking so I really have fun with recipes; his favorite being yeast rolls and pies. I am forever dreaming up occasions to have big gatherings in our home, entertaining is a joy. In fact, "people" is probably my favorite hobby."

Each week June visits in the four nursing homes located in Camden. The elderly look forward to seeing, receiving help, and sharing moments with someone who cares. "The time I spend is very rewarding."

"During the months of November and December we are busy with preparations and the actual deer hunting. John and I have a great time together. We have hunted and fished together for 26 years and still enjoy it very much. We love the woods and often take long walks, and picnicking is fun. We built a cypress cabin a couple of years ago and I painted 19 gallons of stain, so perhaps I could be called a carpenter's helper."

## DISTRICT EIGHT

By Nancy Kennedy

The District 8 Annual Employee-Family Christmas Party was held on Saturday, December 13. The party was a tremendous success with employees, their families, retirees and special guests enjoying good food and fellowship. The program consisted of awards presentations and drawings for door prizes.

Special guests at the event were Highway Commissioner George Kell, District 6 Engineer Dan and Sara Flowers, District 4 Engineer Allan and Marla Holmes, District 6 Maintenance Superintendent Charles and Betty Hesselbein, Public Affairs Officer Bill and Charlene Looney, Johnny and Eylene Gray, Jane and Dub Looney and Al Dunn.

Commissioner Kell spoke briefly and presented a service award to Netha Brown for 25 years of service to the Department. An Ambassador of Good Will certificate was presented to Joe Duvall, who retired last February, 1980 after 29 years of service. Safety Awards were presented by Duane Sowell to Remond Jones, James McFerran and Bill McAlister.

Of course, a Christmas Party would not be complete without Santa Claus. And sure enough Santa arrived just in time for all the children to go home with visions of sugar plums dancing in their heads.



Christmas at District 8

Congratulations to the deer slayers. Floyd Denney killed this 10 point buck October 25 while muzzle load hunting on Chickalah Mountain in Yell County. Another muzzle loader was James Moudy who killed an 11 point buck on the first day of the season on Spring Mountain in Yell County.



James Moudy



Floyd Denney

Receiving their Service Awards at a recent Supervisor's Meeting were Henry C. "Buck" Eggleston, 20 years; Fred McCain, 15 years; and Jack Biffle, Jurld Payton, John Roy, Sr., and Johnny Vaughn for 10 years.



McCain, Biffle, Roy, Eggleston, Payton and District Engineer Hurley Perkins.

This cute little fellow is Wendell Howell Robinson, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Howell Robinson, Sr. He was born August 19. Big Wendell is a senior mechanic at our District Shop.



Wendell H. Robinson, Jr.

## DISTRICT NINE

By Shirley Morton

We would like to congratulate all our new parents in District 9. Mr. and Mrs. James McEntire, girl; Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Drewry, girl; and Mr. and Mrs. Ricky Dodson, boy. Also, congratulations to our grandparents, J.L. Owens' son, Lionell and wife, Lila, announce the arrival of their second son; Richard Williams became a grandpa when son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Williams became the proud parents of a baby boy; and Omel Fields became grandpa for the first time when his daughter and son-in-law, Chris and Joe Foley, announced the arrival of a son, Chris-

topher Joseph, on October 22. Wade Foley, retiree, became a great grandpa. Needless to say, all parents and grandparents are very proud of the new additions to their families.



Christopher Joseph Foley

We were happy to welcome Willis Cantrell back to work after having surgery at a Little Rock Hospital.

Our get well wishes are sent to retirees, Mr. and Mrs. Wade Foley and Mrs. Raymond Holland. We hope you are well soon.

Shari Campbell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Campbell (retired) is a sophomore at the School of the Ozarks. She was selected Homecoming Queen for 1980. She was chosen from a field of 43 candidates. Shari is a business major and was sponsored in the pageant by Kelce Dorm. A Queen's dance was given in her honor.

Denise Selby, daughter of District Engineer and Mrs. Jim Selby, presented her Junior Piano Recital at the First Presbyterian Church in Harrison on October 10 and in the Recital Hall of Silas D. Snow Fine Arts Center at Conway on October 23. Her program included compositions by Scarlatti, Beethoven, Chopin and Debussy.

Debra Watkins, daughter of retiree Hillman and Reba Watkins, presented her Senior Piano Recital in November in the Mabee Fine Arts Center Recital Hall at Ouachita Baptist University. She is a student of George Keck and is a member of Sigma Alpha Iota.

We had many deer hunters throughout the district during the long deer seasons. Frank Atchison was lucky again this year and brought a picture of the one he bagged in North Boone County.



Frank Atchison



District Engineer Jim Selby presented service awards to Hugh Bell, 25 years; Gary Godfrey, 35 years; and Leon Hodges and Bill Hudson, 15 years.

J.B. Parker and Bill Harbison, Area Foremen, completed a Management Seminar at Little Rock in October and were presented their certificates at a recent supervisor's meeting.

Get well wishes are sent to Gene Taylor and Jim McLaughlin. We hope you both return to work soon. Gene was injured in an accident in Benton County and Jim suffered a heart attack.

Gary L. Godfrey, Resident Engineer at Harrison, retired January 7 with over 35 years of service to the Department. The residency employees hosted a party at the Coachman and presented him with appropriate retirement gifts. We wish Gary many happy and healthful retirement years.

James C. House transferred from District 6 to Resident Engineer at Harrison. We were happy to welcome James and his family to District 9.

Lionell Owens, son of J.L. and Elaine Owens, passed the Bar Examination and was inducted into the Air Force. Captain Owens is stationed at Keesler Air Force Base at Biloxi, Mississippi. He is an attorney for the Air Force and attended a military law school for seven weeks in Montgomery, Alabama and then traveled to Washington, D.C. for further training before he returned to Keesler. Lionell, Lila and two sons live on the base.

The Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Cabot was the setting for the Saturday, January 3 wedding of Mary Denise Selby and Mickey Daniel Raper. The happy bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Selby. The candlelight ceremony was officiated by Rev. James Calhoun. The couple pledged their vows before a tiered pyramid of 26 candles and arrangements of

pink and white gladiolas. The pews were decorated with votive candles and huckleberry accented with burgundy ribbon. Denise wore a formal gown of organza with a victorian style neckline trimmed with chantilly and venise lace. Her bouquet was burgundy and mauve pom-pom carnations, burgundy rosebuds, stephanotis and baby's breath centered around an orchid. Members of the UCA Chamber Singers sang during the ceremony. The couple was honored with a reception in the church's fellowship hall. Janet McKnight served her sister as Matron of Honor and her two daughters, Melisa and Sandy were flower girls. Jason Selby, nephew to the bride served as ringbearer. Ken and Jerry Selby, brothers of the bride, seated the guests. After the honeymoon, Mickey and Denise are at home in Conway where both are majoring in music at the University of Central Arkansas.

The shop and office employees at the district headquarters enjoyed a mexican dinner prepared and served by our lady janitor, Debbie Carlson. No one can cook mexican like Debbie! It was really delicious and everyone ate too much. This was really a treat to all of us and we are looking forward to the next dinner - in April or May, Debbie? Ole!

Our annual Christmas Party was held on Saturday evening, December 20. Several hundred employees and their families enjoyed the dinner, musical entertainment, and the speech and service award presentations made by Commissioner F.H. Martin, Jr. Commissioner Martin was accompanied by his wife, Myrna, his children and his mother, Bernice. Santa Claus paid his annual visit and distributed toys and fruit to the children. We were pleased to have Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Pangle and Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Gray from Little Rock with us on this evening of fun.

## DISTRICT TEN

By Isabelle Psalmonds

As you can tell from the reports from the Resident Engineers' offices, there have been some changes made in the District. Sonny Lofland, Resident Engineer at Walnut Ridge, was transferred to Russellville where he is District Materials Supervisor and the Walnut Ridge Resident Engineer's Office was closed effective November 27, 1980. This meant that several changes were made in the location of personnel.

On November 19, 1980, the folks at the Walnut Ridge Residency had a fish fry. Norman Pumphrey, District 10 Engineer; Jim Gee, Assistant Construction Engineer and Frank Russenberger, Resident Engineer at Paragould were guests. Everyone had a good time, but were a little sad as they said their goodbyes to Sonny.

Betty Jarrett, field clerk at Walnut Ridge and Janis Toombs, Resident Engineer office technician at Paragould, decided to stay home and take care of their families. Since going home, Janis has had a beautiful baby boy. Congratulations, Janis! We hope these ladies enjoy being at home for awhile.

Bob Glover, Assistant Resident Engineer at Osceola, has been promoted to District Materials Supervisor in District 10. Congratulations, Bob!

On September 21, 1980, Rex Pierce, inspector, became the proud grandfather of a beautiful baby girl named Amanda Renee Herring. She weighed 7 pounds and 4 ounces at birth and is Rex's first grandchild.



Amanda Renee Herring

Jesse Doughty, shop foreman, has been on sick leave for sometime after having surgery. Hurry up and recoup Jesse and get back to work.

Letha Tritch, daughter of James Tritch, Job Superintendent, will be graduating from Life High School this spring. She attended Girl's State and is an honor student.

During a recent coffee break, Bob Faulkner, Assistant District Engineer, presented 25 year certificates to A.J. Blaylock, Assistant to Resident Engineer at Jonesboro; Warren Glenn, Sr. Inspector at Paragould; and C.F. "Jack" Jones, Materials Inspector Technician at Paragould. Congratulations to these men!



Blaylock, Glenn, Jones



H. Bell, V.O. Selby, J.W. Whitney, W. Harrison and G. Godfrey



Christmas at District 9

## Jonesboro Residency

By Sherry Bridges

We would like to say "Hello" to several new people in the Jonesboro Residency this winter. Linda Hampton and Bobby Wade were transferred to our office in November from the Walnut Ridge office. Linda is an engineering aide I and resides here in Jonesboro with her husband, Ray, who is employed by Coca Cola Bottling. They have two children. Bobby is an inspector and resides in the Sedgwick community with his wife, Brenda, and Jason, their 1½ year old son.

Also, in January, Spencer Bruce and Rex Pierce, inspectors and engineering aides IIIs Bennie Hayes, Keith Smith and Dub Tedder were transferred to the Jonesboro office from Paragould. Keith and Dub live in the Paragould area and bring with them the much needed assistance of 12 years of joint experience. Spencer, Bennie and Rex all reside in the Hoxie area and 10 years of combined experience will definitely be an asset this office will try to catalyze.

Welcome home again Jerry Burton! Jerry, who is an asphalt plant inspector, was also transferred back to the Jonesboro office in January. (We feel this is more of a homecoming for Jerry since he was assigned to this office when it reopened in August, 1979). We're glad to have you back!

Unfortunately, "Hello" has an opposite. We said "Goodbye" to Mike Riley, Al Sharp and Sam Turner during the month of January. Mike was transferred to the Osceola office, Al was transferred to the Craighead County Maintenance Crew, and Sam resigned to return to college where he plans to obtain a civil

engineering degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. We will miss all three, but wish them the best of luck in their new positions.

Oh, how the hunting tales did grow this winter! The most convincing stories came from our Assistant Resident Engineer, Brent Watkins, who got a nine pointer in the Sitka area, and Leonard Norton who swears that the "doe" he got during bow season did not have spots. Congratulations to both of you - on your deer and your stories!



Brent Watkins

## Paragould Residency

By Shelia Pillow

We would like to congratulate B.B. Loffland on his new job as District Materials Supervisor in District 8. We wish him the best of luck in his new job.

The Paragould Residency and the Walnut Ridge Residency were recently combined to form one office. We would like to welcome all the Walnut Ridge employees to Paragould. We look forward to working with them and getting to know them better.

Harold Lady, Assistant Resident Engineer, and his wife, Susan, recently were blessed with a new addition to their family. Harold Lloyd Lady, IV, weighed 8 pounds and 5 ounces and was 20 inches long. He was born on December 30, 1980. Congratulations to Harold and Susan!

Catfish and all the trimmings was our Christmas feast this year when we met in the break-room of the District 10 Headquarters for a Christmas get-together. Billy Biggs did a fine job of cooking for all of us even though I think it turned into a bigger job than he had planned on. Thanks Billy, by the way when is the next fish fry?

## Osceola Residency

By Linda Kirk

Ron Blankenship, Construction instrument-man; and Les Barrett and Larry Pillow, inspectors, have transferred from the Paragould office to Osceola and Mike Riley, senior engineering helper, has transferred from the Jonesboro office to Osceola. We welcome them and are looking forward to working with them. We hope they will enjoy the new area.

(NOTE) Linda Kirk is the new field clerk in the Osceola Residency. She and her family live at Etowah. Her husband is manager of the Keiser Supply Store in Keiser. They have two children, a boy 17 and a girl 15. Linda had 8 years of secretarial experience with Sears before coming to the Department. We welcome Linda and look forward to working with her. (Isabelle)

# Cooper Named Charter Member

Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department Chief Engineer Billy K. Cooper has been inducted as a charter member into the Arkansas Academy of Civil Engineering.

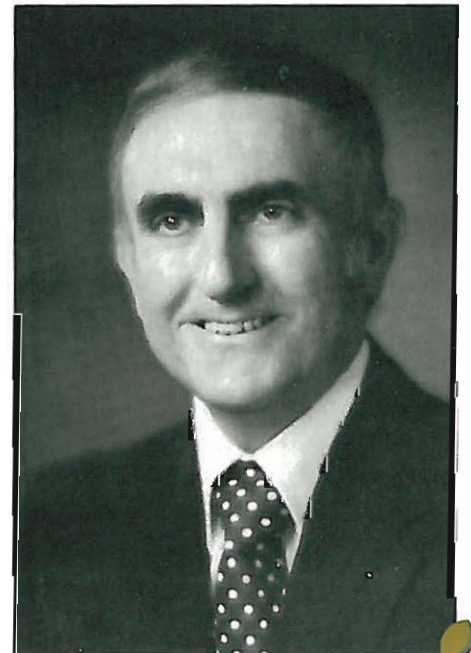
The Academy, which was recently established by the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Arkansas, serves to:

1. Strengthen the dedication of students to civil engineering through personal and professional example.
2. Recognize graduates of the Civil Engineering Department who bring honor to civil engineering as practitioners and as citizens.
3. Provide advice, guidance and counsel at the call of the department chairman, faculty, or students.
4. Encourage personal, corporate, foundation, and government gifts and grants of money, equipment and facilities to the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas for the benefit of the Civil Engineering Department.

Members of the academy are selected from eminent civil engineers and eminent graduates of the Civil Engineering curricula of the University of Arkansas who have graduated at least twenty years prior to their selection to membership.

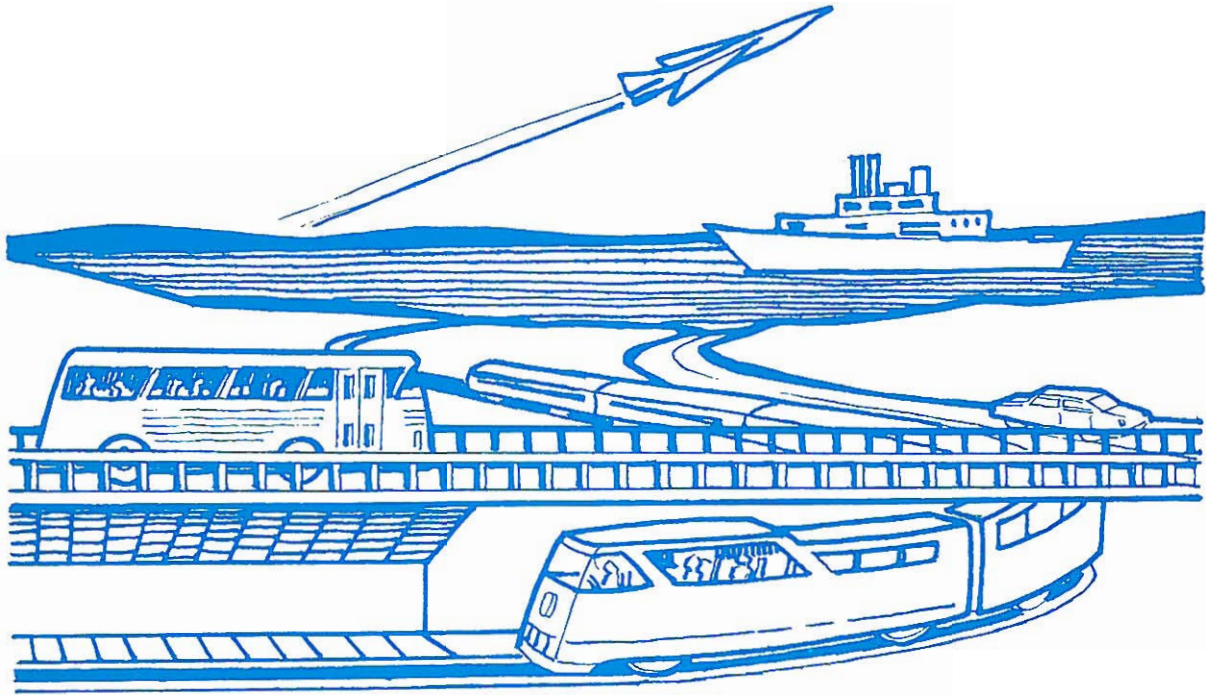
Cooper is a 1955 graduate of the Department of Engineering and received a Masters in Civil Engineering from Purdue University in 1957.

He has been employed by the Highway and Transportation Department since his graduation. During his twenty-five years with the Department, Cooper has served as Traffic Analysis Engineer, State Traffic Engineer, Assistant Planning and Research Engineer and Engineer of Roadway Design. He became Chief Engineer in 1970.



# LAND · AIR · WATER TRANSPORTATION

**WE NEED THEM ALL**



**NATIONAL  
TRANSPORTATION WEEK  
IN ARKANSAS  
May 10-16, 1981**



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

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

