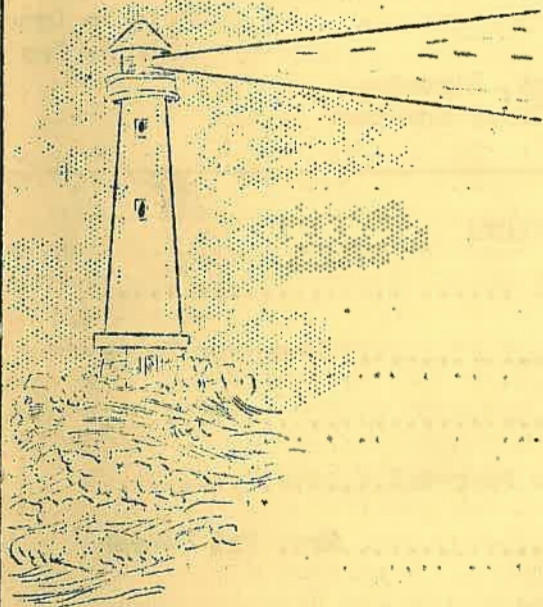


# ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS

Vol. III

No. 1



Let the light of your

FAITH

shine on all you do  
for a happy and  
prosperous year of  
accomplishments

January  
1955

# ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS

A Monthly Magazine for Employees of the  
Arkansas State Highway Commission

VOL. III

January 1955

NO. I

## STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

Raymond F. Orr, Chairman

Miss Willie A. Lawson  
Glenn F. Wallace

Cecil S. Lynch  
Jim H. Crain

Herbert Eldridge, Director  
W. Ward Goodman, Chief Engineer

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# THANK YOU, DAN PORTIS

That time is relative has most assuredly been proved and it is with sincere regret that we arrive at the expiration date of Dan Portis' 2-year term on our Highway Commission. It comes to our mind that those immortal words of Shakespeare: "Parting is such sweet sorrow," can be applicable in many diversified cases.

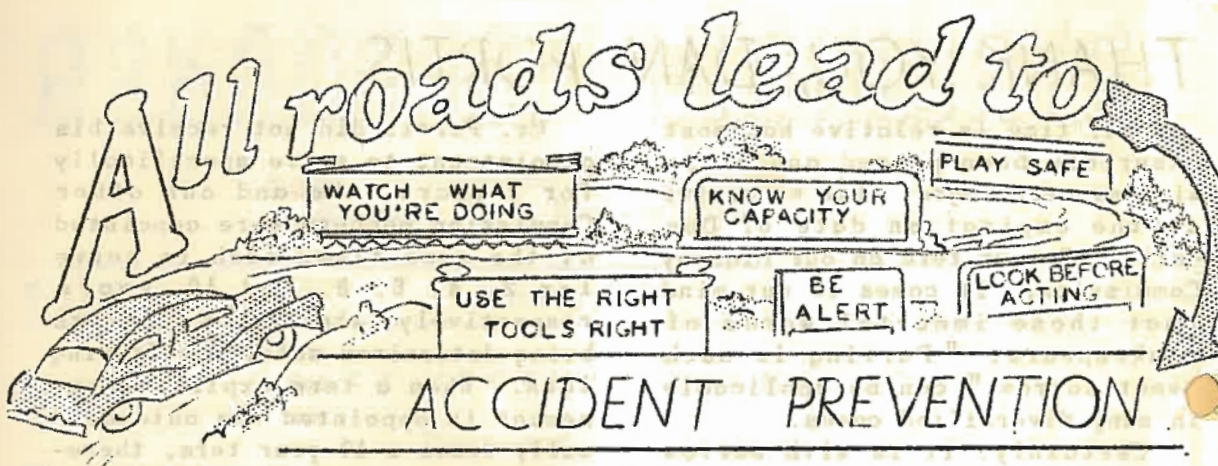
Certainly, it is with sorrow that we lose the services of Mr. Portis on the Commission, but we can look on the sweetness of having known and worked with him the past 2 years in the building of better roads and highways throughout Arkansas. His business acumen, friendliness, and enthusiastic spirit of cooperation have been an asset.

Our Director's expressive words will give you an insight of this friend of ours: "Dan Portis was the type of Highway Commissioner that is intended under the law. His thinking and acting as a Commissioner was on a state-wide basis. He has a genuine zeal to serve his state and his efforts on the Highway Commission have been for the building of an adequate highway system for the state. He has been of great assistance in the formulation of policies that will assure continued progress in accomplishing the Highway objectives."

Mr. Portis did not receive his appointment to serve specifically for 2 years. He and our other Commission members were appointed at the same time, each to serve for 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 years respectively, the number of years being determined solely by drawing lots. When a term expires a new member is appointed who automatically draws a 10-year term, thereby enabling the Highway Commission to operate on a business-experience basis with maximum efficiency. By using this staggered-term plan, there will always be someone on the Highway Commission with first-hand knowledge of the policies, procedures, programing and planning executed over a period of several years; and why certain issues were handled as they were. All of our Commissioners serve without pay and yet they devote a great deal of their time to Highway business.

Just to say "thanks" seems so inadequate for such unselfish giving of oneself. However, we want Mr. Portis to know that we gratefully acknowledge appreciation for his untiring efforts on behalf of the Highway Department and for a good job well done. We join his innumerable friends, in the Department and throughout the state, in voicing from our hearts,

"Thank you, Dan Portis, and the best to you, always."



by Dennison Yates  
Personnel Director

Each and every Highway Department employee has the opportunity of helping the highway officials in their efforts to spend as much of the Highway dollar as is humanly possible under the wheels of traffic. This opportunity is afforded in the prevention of accidents in our work.

The President of the United States, in an address before the National Conference on Industrial Safety in Washington, D. C., said:

"The plain fact is that our nation cannot afford the needless loss of skilled workers if we are to produce for prosperity in this country and for peace abroad. We stand today at the threshold of accomplishment. Our experience in accident prevention has shown us that we can reduce industrial injuries to a fraction of what they now are."

There is no longer any doubt about what can be accomplished when any organization becomes seriously concerned about preventing accidents.

There are other basic aspects of a good accident prevention program. However, one of the most important aspects of any program is safety consciousness on the part of each individual. That is the purpose of this article.

Preventable accidents result in a total economic loss to the whole community. This is not to mention the personal suffering of those injured in preventable accidents, and the loss to the families when the husband and father is killed.

The tremendous losses involved in accidents fall upon the employee, through loss of time and wages; upon the employer, through

labor turnover, friction with employees, legal expenses, and compensation payments: and upon society, through decreased productivity and the necessity of caring for the dependents of the injured.

Everyone loses when an accident occurs. In the case of the Highway Department, money which is spent for compensation payments to injured employees could otherwise be spent for the construction and maintenance of highways.

Prevention of accidents is a responsibility of each and every employee, a responsibility which he cannot evade.

It is not enough for the workman to say that the foreman is not interested in safety. In some instances the foreman may not be as interested in safety as he should be, but that does not relieve the workman of his individual responsibility to work safely.

If for any reason a man feels no concern for the Highway Department in the loss due to accidents, has he thought of the pain he will have to suffer and the economic loss to his family in the event he is injured in an accident?

I can think of no more patriotic New Year's Resolution than for each one of us to resolve to work safely during the New Year of 1955.

## HAPPINESS FORMULA

Submitted by Sea Davis, S & A Division

### FOR THE NEW YEAR, PROMISE YOURSELF.....

To begin each day with a prayer. It will arm your soul.

To not envy. It wastes time and energy.

To have FAITH in people. Cynicism sours the disposition.

To spend some time alone. For the peace of solitude and silence.

To be strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk of health, happiness, and prosperity to every person you meet.

To look on the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, work only for the best, and expect only the best.

To be enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget past mistakes and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and to have a smile ready for every living creature you meet.

To give much of your time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

To think well of yourself and to proclaim this fact to the world : not in loud words but in great deeds.

To live in the FAITH that the world is on your side so long as you are true to the best that is in you. --Exchange

# EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM PLAN MERITS APPROVAL

The Arkansas Legislative Council has approved an appropriation of \$1 million for the Retirement System for each year of the biennium 1955-1957. This appropriation was approved without change as submitted by V. E. Scott, Chairman of the Retirement System Board of Trustees, in the hearings before the ALC in December.

Mr. Scott first proffered a concise and condensed version of the budgetary needs for our Employees Retirement System appropriation, being under the impression that such clearly defined data would fulfill all necessary requirements since the System is self-sustaining and on a sound financial basis. However, in order for the Council to fully comprehend our Retirement System plan, as well as to evaluate its benefits, it requested the following information: 1. Analysis of the Present System. 2. Conversion to Social Security and Detailed Plan of How It Would Be Done. 3. What Would Be the Effect of an Act to Require Compulsory Participation in the Highway Retirement System? 4. What Would Be the Effect of Compulsory Participation Plus Term Insurance? 5. Integrate Social Security with the Present Highway Retirement System.

In compliance with the Council's request, Mr. Scott prepared a detailed written report to eliminate any misconception, presented this report to the ALC members, and gave a verbal presentation of the report so that all questions could be promptly answered. Each informational item requested was thoroughly and impartially covered leaving no room for conjecture. There is under consideration, at this time, the question of whether to make membership in the System mandatory for all employees. A bill has been drawn in accordance with the desires of the Highway Department employees as shown on a tally which has been made. Heretofore, membership has been optional for those employees earning less than \$2,400 per year.

In private organizations where no retirement plan is offered, all employees are required to pay Social Security. When, and only when, an employee reaches the age of 65 and is fully insured he may retire and receive Social Security benefits. In our Highway Department Retirement System plan, a member may retire at the age of 60 with 20 years of creditable service, age 65 with 10 years of service, and with 35 years of service regardless of age.

According to Mr. Scott, "The existing Highway Employees Retirement System plan provides what the actuaries consider one of the best-balanced plans to be had. It offers greater security and a much more adequate income than that encountered generally. For example, a member applies for retirement with 20 years of service and average compensation of \$3,000. In this case his annuity will be \$900 per annum or \$75 per month. Compare this with the average Social Security benefit of only \$38 to \$40 per month, which business and industry generally have for a long time recognized as barely enough to maintain an existence level."

Is there a man (or woman) who has never soliloquized? "I hope I won't have to work all my life. Surely, someday I'll have enough money put aside so that I can retire and take life a little easier." Future financial independence is, or should be, of major concern to every individual. Don't kid yourself that tomorrow never comes. It does, even though we call it today. And too often the tomorrows seem suddenly to become a great many yesterdays; and then the full realization strikes home revealing that the seeds of those plans for a comfortable retirement were never planted but merely admired and contemplated.

This uncertainty need not apply to any employee of the Highway

Department. Under our Employees Retirement System every Department employee, regardless of pay rate or status, has the right of safeguarding his future security by becoming a member of the System with only a 4 percent payroll deduction, which amount is equally matched by the state. Too, those employees who are not members of the System may join and obtain the added advantage of claiming all service prior to July 1, 1949, when the System was first established. The new bill, if enacted, will permit the claiming of all service prior to the date of membership in the System. Provision is also made to retire a member who has not completed the payment of his prior service contribution by deducting the amount due from each monthly check.

"This provision eliminates the possibility of hardship in all cases where a member's prior service contributions have not been completed," Mr. Scott averred. "Provision is also made for disability retirement. Any member with not less than 10 years' creditable service who becomes permanently disabled, either through injury or illness after becoming a member of the System may draw full retirement benefits for life.

"The general fund is a trust," he continued, "and aside from that each member's account is carried as an individual trust for his

exclusive benefit. In all cases where a member leaves the service of the Department or dies, he or his beneficiary will be granted a lump sum refund of all amounts that have been paid by the member. Similarly, if a member who is on retirement dies before he has been paid benefits equal to his contributions, the balance is paid to the beneficiary. A member with as much as 10 years of creditable service who leaves the Department for any reason may leave his contributions in the Retirement System fund and thereafter claim retirement benefits.

The record shows that 1,495 Highway Department employees were actively enrolled in the System as of November 1, 1954, with the added fact that 560 of these employees have claimed their prior service. Of this enrollment, 467 are optional members. These figures are reflective of the employees' recognition of the value of the Retirement System and the many benefits to be derived therefrom.

Should you desire more information regarding the System, write V. E. Scott and all questions will be answered without delay.

## S&A FIELDMEN LEARN EFFECTIVE FIRST AID

Instructor Dennison F. Yates conducted a 20-hour Red Cross First Aid course for the fieldmen of the S & A Division January 3-7. These men travel the entire state system and each man averages 4,000 miles of travel per month. During the course of their daily work they often come upon situations where accurate knowledge of first aid is of vital importance.

This program is a safety engineering feature to prepare our men so that they can capably handle or lend efficient aid in any emergency they encounter. That these men were interested in learning how to apply first aid was evidenced by the enthusiastic manner in which they participated in the study.

Mr. Yates informed us that "particular emphasis was placed on the handling and transportation of injured people. In addition to the usual first aid instructions," he continued, "the men were taught how to use their Highway Department trucks as ambulances."

The 20 fieldmen attending the course were: Asa McCord, James Carnell, Lukie Atkinson, Graham Noble, Mayo White, Archie Wyatt, Herbert Ritchie, Chester Willis, Lee Gibbons, Frank Pratt, Jr., Leo Biggs, Clifton Hudspeth, Mignon Francis, Carl Bratcher, Don Mount, Roy Tucker, Ronald Thompson, Ray Martin, Jackie Harris, and Nathan Bingham, all of whom passed the course with flying colors.



# A MESSAGE FOR YOU ---

TO THE EMPLOYEES OF THE  
ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Johnson and I wish to express our deep and heartfelt gratitude to all of you for the lovely party given us at the office on the afternoon of December 22.

The gifts were extremely nice and in excellent taste and Mr. Mashburn did his usual good job in presenting them. There was a note of emotional sentimentality in his remarks and so much in mine that I couldn't say the things that I had planned.

When you are breaking loose from an organization that you have been with all your adult life and have enjoyed my work and associations with the other employees as much as I, then I'm sure you can forgive me for "fogging up and choking up" a little.

The traveling bag is really needed, as I have practically worn out a new set of luggage during the past two years. The additions to our sterling silver pattern were appreciated, especially by Mrs. Johnson. The double pen desk set with inscription "From the Highway Employees" will be a constant reminder of the wonderful group of people that I've had the privilege and honor of serving with over the many years.

The gifts were nice, but the most valuable and treasured of all are the friendships of you that I carry with me on my new job and without them and the help along the way from so many of you, I would not have attained the recognition to have been offered the new job.

Mrs. Johnson, Alfred Jr., and Edwin will stay in Little Rock until the current school year is completed.

My office is 917 National Press Building, Washington 4, D. C. When in the Nations' Capitol be sure and look me up.

Thanks, Best Wishes and God Bless You,

/s/ A. E. Johnson

# AHD AFFORDS LIFETIME CAREERS

by Mrs. Pat Denson, Administrative Division

The Arkansas State Highway Department has provided a lifetime career for at least 45 people. By January 1, 1955, these persons had accumulated an aggregate of 1,283 years, the personnel records show.

It is coincidental that two men having the same 35-year service record, and the longest continuous service record with the Department also have the same surname. They are N. J. and W. E. Carter. N. J. is reproduction engineer in the Little Rock office and W. E. is assistant construction engineer working out of the Little Rock Construction Division.

James T. Shaw, superintendent of heavy hauling of Jacksonville, and Mrs. Inez Royston of Pine Bluff, are second in length of employment with 31 years. Mrs. Royston has the added distinction of being the only female employee with more than 17 years' service and she has served continuously. Three people have 30-year records and they are Walter E. Hicks, acting district engineer at Camden, who has continuous service; Harvey Norton, crew member of Harrison; and Elmer Ray Casey, parts messenger of Jacksonville.

Little Rock employees with 25 to 29 years' service are: George L. Fry, Fred J. Herring, E. L. Wales,

Forrest E. Bogart, A. E. Johnson, John W. Marshall, Robert E. Smith, Jack E. Teasdale, Harry M. Wright, Harold F. Bastian, J. Russell Henderson, John C. Hicks, Elmer E. Hurley, Ernest E. Mashburn, Lester A. McCain, William H. Moore, Glenn Cotham, John H. Knott, Alva G. Rives, William C. Ross, George W. Stanford, and Gerald E. Williams.

Other Department employees with 25 to 29 years' service are: Elmer Morgan, Edward Young, and Jessie L. Goins, of Pine Bluff; Otey A. Tinsley and Ocean G. Diffie of North Little Rock; William S. Hall of Corning; C. Don Hayes and Sam Richardson of Jacksonville; John F. Danner of Fort Smith; George W. Allen of Newport; Numa M. Mitchell of Monticello; Louis O. Thompson of Wynne; Albert M. Lessenberry of Brinkley; Joe C. Webb of Camden; James L. Owen of Batesville; and Walter F. Turner of Russellville.

Most of the employees with long service records regard the Retirement System as the outstanding development of the "State's Largest Business" during their careers. The System, in their opinion, will mean financial security when they retire and use the highways of Arkansas for pleasure rather than lend a hand to their improvement and construction.

# AROUND THE BUILDING

Have you seen the new map of our Arkansas State Highway System? Leroy Beckett, S & A Division, who has so adroitly laid out these maps for several years, really did a bang-up job this year and we are proud of the maps and of Leroy.

\* \* \* \*

E. L. Wales, Engineer of Materials and Tests Division, attended the Working Committee conference of the AASHO Highway Transport Committee in Chicago January 5-6.

\* \* \* \*

Y. W. Whelchel conducted a work conference with the Traffic fieldmen January 3. These meetings, which are held to compare and iron out various problems encountered in the daily fieldwork, will be held bimonthly in the future instead of quarterly.

\* \* \* \*

TO COIN A PHRASE -- by Jimmy Zinn

He had come to an important crossroad in life. What to DO. As he stopped to think -- a lecture on phrenology crossed his mind, then a quick flash of an old sweetheart -- with no further ado, he KNEW how he would decide:

It was a tossup!

CHOICE:

One tie -- all tie

Eliminate doubt

Heads or tails

Odd man out.

Director Eldridge was the principal speaker at a luncheon in Siloam Springs January 7, where he addressed an assemblage of nearly 90 business and professional men. These men proclaimed their wholehearted approval of our Director, Commission, and Highway Department and declared in no uncertain terms that the visit of the Highway Director had been beneficial to all concerned. Mr. Eldridge was accompanied by A. G. Rives, Forrest Cook, Henry Coe, and Alton Farley.

\* \* \* \*

A. W. Hardy, president of the Mid-South Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, presided at a work conference of that Society, which was held at Greenville, Mississippi, January 7. Objectives for the year were outlined at the meeting and plans formulated for the coming year.

\* \* \* \*

Jack Teasdale has been appointed chairman of the Employees Advisory Committee to serve for the 6-month period January 1 - June 30, with Ferol Jones and Travis Orton as members. Jack tells us that he and his Committee are looking forward to many helpful suggestions from the employees, so let's not disappoint him. Send in your written suggestion TODAY. Our warm appreciation to the outgoing Committee, H. B. Matthews and G. E. Williams.

# Party Line Parade

## HEADQUARTERS

### FEDERAL AID

Jack L. Keilch - Reporter

Lola Buck drove to St. Charles, Missouri, December 23 for a Holiday visit with her daughter and family, the H. K. Stumbergs. She reports a wonderful trip and a happy time while there.

\* \* \* \*

J. R. and Mrs. Henderson and their son, John, attended the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Mrs. Hendersons' mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Almon of Pottsville December 19. We offer our sincere congratulations with the hope they will have many more happily married years together.

\* \* \* \*

Virginia Keating spent the Christmas and New Year Holidays visiting her parents and brother of Provo. Incidentally, has anyone seen the beautiful diamond Miss Keating is wearing?? We will be waiting to hear the details of that all-important date.

\* \* \* \*

We, in Federal Aid, take this opportunity to extend our very best wishes to all Highway Department employees and their families for a new year filled with happiness and prosperity.

### MATERIALS AND TESTS

Julia Mae Halliburton - Reporter

We are sorry to report Jean Irwin, wife of Job Irwin, has been on the sick list for a week or two, but we are glad to hear that she is improving.

\* \* \* \*

Russell M. Newsom spent the Christmas Holidays with his parents at Wynne and the New Year Holiday with his brother who lives in El Dorado.

\* \* \* \*

Toby Putman, wife of our Grady Putman, spent the Christmas Holidays in California visiting her parents whom she had not seen in over 3 years.

\* \* \* \*

We are happy to report that E. L. Wales, who has been ill with a cold, is back on the job with us again.

\* \* \* \*

You should see the red hat Red Willcockson bought to match his new red car. It's a honey! (the car I mean.) Willcockson is one of our eligible bachelors.

\* \* \* \*

Julia Halliburton visited her sister, Mrs. Putt at Hazen on January 9.

# Party Line Parade

## PURCHASING OFFICE

Mildred Sanderson - Reporter

The Tia Wanna Club was the scene of holidays festivities on the night of December 20 when the Procurement and Equipment Offices from Little Rock and Jacksonville had our big Christmas Party. An air of gaiety prevailed the entire evening as the employees with their wives, husbands and dates enjoyed delicious chicken dinners and afterward spent the evening dancing and having a wonderful time. It certainly was a treat to get acquainted with all the nice people who work in the Jacksonville Office. We want to take this opportunity to thank all the wonderful people who helped make our party a success, for without their help we never could have done it. We hope to have another party soon because nearly everyone seems to feel that this sort of event should take place more often.

\* \* \* \*

Another scene of merriment took place December 22 in the Purchasing Office when we had our annual Christmas Party. We drew names for gifts and placed them under our own miniature tree. Jim Meredith acted as Santa Claus. It was fun to watch Bob Landfair open his gift. It was wrapped

into a wonder ball which consists of reams and reams of crepe paper. The person receiving this sort of package has to keep unraveling until almost convinced it is all one big joke. However, Bob fooled us and never gave up until he got down to the gift which was well worth all the work of opening it. As an extra treat we enjoyed a wonderful chocolate cake and coffee.

\* \* \* \*

Now that the New Year is safely in and the Christmas Holidays are over, everyone is trying to get back to normal. You should hear the way the conversation has been going these days. All anyone can talk about is starting a diet after the feasting of the Holidays. What do you bet that this is a case of all talk? For the information of those who really want to lose a few pounds, our boss has a sure-fire plan. If you are interested in obtaining added information, just consult anyone in the Purchasing Office and we will be glad to give you the sure-cure for saying "good-bye" to the excess avoirdupois. If it works, we may all try it.

\* \* \* \*

In behalf of our office force and myself, I want to wish everyone good health, happiness and prosperity in the coming year.

# Party Line Parade

## ACCOUNTING

Jimmy Zinn - Reporter

We truly miss the bright and cheery personality of Ida Jane Uekman. We hope it will be convenient for her to come by and visit with us and by all means bring the little angel who will bless her home before too long.

\* \* \* \*

Maxine Weaver and several members of her family were quite ill with food poisoning just before the Christmas Holidays. We are glad to report all have recovered.

\* \* \* \*

Betsy Gillespie enjoyed a wonderful visit with her folks at Camden during the Holidays.

\* \* \* \*

**HEARD QUOTED!!**

OUR LITTLE PIGS WENT TO DALLAS.

THE RAMBLING WRECK WENT TOO

OUR LITTLE PIGS GOT A BIT OF A SKINNED SNOOT

WHILE THE WRECK WENT OFF WITH THE LOOT.

-- SEZ GUS

\* \* \* \*

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT!!** Aleene Boysen gave us some first-hand data about Hamburg (file this for next Thanksgiving), and we quote: "You simply can't find any better turkeys than are raised in my town. They are so tender, I do declare, all you have to do is dress them, put them in the over -- brown and serve."

Our Chief, David Hamilton and his family, drove over to Wynne for the Holidays. He reports "Big Whoopee" was had by all.

\* \* \* \*

What to do about that growing monster called Traffic. Let our prayers be that Providence inspire and guide those Engineers in whose hands rest the responsibilities of searching out the most practical and proper locations for the third bridge and its connecting trafficways for travel distribution in and through our Capitol City.

## COUNTY PROGRAM

Zelda M. Riggs - Reporter

We are happy to report that W. W. Mitchell has been discharged from the hospital and is at home recuperating. We all hope his shut-in days will soon be over.

\* \* \* \*

Zelda was surprised when her daughter, Gladys "Jackie" Johnson of Oakland, California, arrived by plane to spend the Christmas Holidays. For the first time in 8 years all the children and grandchildren were home. Other guests were mother Allen's son and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Hudgins.

\* \* \* \*

Happy birthday to you, Katherine Jones. Coffee and cake prevailed January 8 in honor of the occasion.

# Party Line Parade

## EQUIPMENT AND PROCUREMENT

L. O. Jack Brown - Reporter

We are happy to welcome Charles G. Brocchus who joined our Equipment office force December 16.

\* \* \* \*

We are glad to report that T. C. Ellis is recovering beautifully after a piece of steel was removed from his eye December 16. Our best wishes for continued improvement, T. C.

\* \* \* \*

We are sorry to lose John Stipe who resigned December 13 to accept the position of Assistant County Agent of St. Francis County at Forrest City with the Agricultural Extension Service. Our best wishes go with you, Jahn.

\* \* \* \*

Your reporter still does it! Yep! I celebrated a birthday on December 16 -- pretty close to Christmas and believe me! only 39.

\* \* \* \*

We were all very glad to have Charlie Stewart back on the job with us December 20. Charlie had been quite ill with pneumonia since December 1. Just take it easy for a little while, fellow.

\* \* \* \*

Robert T. Wilson is back at work after a 2-week (pleasure?) cruise with the Naval Reserve. No fascinating tales to tell us, Bob?

The Little Rock and Jacksonville offices of the Procurement and Equipment Division held a Christmas dinner at the Tia Wanna Supper Club on the night of December 20. There were 22 employees present to partake of excellent fried chicken dinners and dancing. It was a wonderful party and everyone suggested more of these convivial get-togethers.

\* \* \* \*

Myrtle and Cecil Hamrick spent the Holidays visiting their son, Jimmie, who is stationed at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. They had Christmas dinner with him and report that he is doing fine. On the return trip they visited Myrtle's sister who lives in Dallas.

\* \* \* \*

Congratulations and best wishes to Shirley Sue Sumner and Marshall Fuller, who became Mr. and Mrs. on December 23 at 7:30 p.m. when their marriage ceremony was solemnized at the Friendship Baptist Church. Since Marshall has 2 more years to serve with the Navy, Shirley Sue plans to continue her work with us in the Equipment office.

\* \* \* \*

Gregory S. Imbrey is in the Veteran's Hospital at Little Rock after undergoing a major operation January 6. We offer him our best wishes for a rapid recovery with

# Party Line Parade

the hope that his convalescence will be pleasant and that he will be up and about very soon.

\* \* \* \*

We were sorry to hear that W. K. Heard was ill most of the week of December 13 when he was off on leave. He reports, however, that he did get to go deer hunting one day even though he had no luck.

## PERSONNEL DIVISION

Hazel Norman - Reporter

We are happy to spread the welcome mat to Sarah Neel. Sarah was with Fuel and Inventory until December 1, 1954.

\* \* \* \*

Jackie Wallace spent New Year's Day with friends in Dallas and, of course, attended the Bowl Game. She reports having enjoyed her whole trip immensely.

\* \* \* \*

Hess Gordon spent Christmas in Warren with relatives. Her son, Sgt. Clarence Gordon III, motored there from Fort Hood, Texas, where he is stationed, and once again Hess got to see her wonderful little granddaughter, Debbie.

\* \* \* \*

Birdie Wright enjoyed another Christmas dinner in Hot Springs with Kathryn Gardner's relatives. Incidentally, she saw that Hog-Tiger game in Shreveport, too.

Your reporter would like to go on record as stating that a winter vacation is strictly wonderful! I spent 12 days of my leave in Monroe and De Ridder, Louisiana, visiting friends and relatives during the Christmas Holidays.

\* \* \* \*

Callie Walters reports having had a wonderful time during the Holidays, which she spent in San Antonio, Texas, with her daughter.

\* \* \* \*

We offer our deep and sincere sympathies to Rhoda Bintliff in the loss of her father, Rev. L. G. Montgomery, who passed away December 14 at the age of 85; and also to W. Frank Lewis in the loss of his brother, T. T. Lewis, who passed away in his Little Rock home January 4. Many Highway Department employees will remember Rev. Montgomery, who was a Baptist minister and a well-liked former state representative.





# Party Line Parade

## STATISTICS AND ANALYSES

Bill Headrick - Reporter

Our Division gave a Christmas party in Room 402 and all AHD employees were invited. Sandwiches, cookies, cokes, coffee, along with Christmas goodies were served all guests. A large and beautifully decorated Christmas tree was prominently displayed and clusters of mistletoe bedecked the room with its usual lovin' results. The S & A employees surprised Mr. Herring by presenting him with a piece of luggage and Mr. Bartleson was also surprised when he received a fragile gift from Texarkana. Johnny Gray was on hand with his camera and 4 good shots are on file showing the high-lights of another wonderful Christmas party.

\* \* \* \*

We are sorry to report Jane Huff was injured in a traffic accident and is in St. Vincents Hospital. We send our best get-well wishes to Jane and hope she will be back with us soon.

\* \* \* \*

We are very sorry that Johnnie Beavers spent the Holidays on the sick list and missed the office party, as well as a tentative Cotton Bowl trip. He is back with us as of the first work day in 1955 to our pleasure and better functioning.

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Schmeiding attended a family reunion in Hot Springs recently. There were 27 present and they report having had a very enjoyable visit.

\* \* \* \*

Jim Yarbrough's brother, Don, was discharged from the Navy just before Christmas so they spent the Holidays catching up on Jonesboro folklore of the past 4 years.

\* \* \* \*

Lee Gibbons captained a basketball team to an amateur tournament at Leslie during Christmas week and reports that his team went as far as the semifinals.

\* \* \* \*

Gordon Huchingson's twin grandsons, Danny and Bobby, age 4 months, visited and enchanted us last week.

\* \* \* \*

Y. W. Whelchel and Jim Yarbrough are cramming for finals in their graduate course of Highway Engineering under Professor Bissitt of the University of Arkansas. Next semester a course in Public Works Administration is to be offered.

\* \* \* \*

We offer our deep and heartfelt sympathies to Bea Davis in the loss of her sister, Mrs. Violet Sturdivant of Memphis, who passed away December 17 while visiting in the home of her daughter, Mrs. Kaplan at Dyersburg, Tennessee.

# Party Line Parade

## RIGHT-OF-WAY DIVISION

Nancy Sipe - Reporter

On December 21, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene F. Nelson entertained the Right-of-Way Division personnel, and their husbands and wives, in their new home at 816 North Ash. Their house was beautifully decorated for the Christmas season and delightfully appetizing refreshments were served. Mr. Nelson entertained the group with colored slides of the interesting and outstanding highlights of their trip to the AASHO meeting at Seattle, Washington, and through the western states. The slides contained a great many engaging highway and engineering features of each state. We were glad to see the Nelson's three sons, Dickie, Rene Bill, Gene, Jr., and Gene's family, Sue and Gene III, all of whom were home for the Holidays.

\* \* \* \*

We are very happy to know that Jean Rainwater, wife of Bill, is getting along beautifully after an emergency operation December 20. We offer Jean our best wishes for a complete recovery soon.

\* \* \* \*

We are happy to welcome to our office force: Attorneys Richard M. Hart and Thomas M. Hooker; Assistant ROW Agents R. L. Johnston and Luther Bearden.

## DISTRICT I

WYNNE

Mildred Stacy - Reporter

Congratulations to Thomas and Cathryn Rooks, who are the proud parents of a son, Thomas Jeff, born January 1. Cathryn is the daughter of Jeff and Helen Lindley.

\* \* \* \*

Arbie Glover is claiming another dependent, the former Retha Faye Seaton. Retha and Arbie were married January 5. We offer our congratulations and best wishes for a very happy future together.

\* \* \* \*

Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Nunnally and Anne, who was home from Hendrix College, spent the Christmas Holidays with Mr. Nunnally's parents of Strong, Arkansas.

\* \* \* \*

Fellows, how about helping me out. Please send in your news to the District Office

**KEEP**  
*Your*  
**FINGERS**  
in the clear  
**KEEP your fingers!**

# Party Line Parade

DISTRICT 2 PINE BLUFF  
Inez Royston - Reporter

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Guy E. Thomasson of Rison, who are the proud parents of an 8-pound 1-ounce son, born December 5 at the Warren Memorial Hospital. The young fellow has been named Jerry Wayne. Mrs. Thomasson was formerly Lottie May Roberts and Guy is a member of our District wide bridge crew. In addition to Jerry Wayne they also have a 3-year-old daughter, Betty Anne.

\* \* \* \*

We are very proud of C. Russell Gaddy, stock room clerk and ham radio operator, who used his hobby and talent to good civic advantage the morning of December 6. In cooperation with Station WSRPB he participated in the Civil Defense, "Operations Ready," on the Civil Defense Amateur Radio Communications Net.

\* \* \* \*

A number of our men have been going duck hunting, but few have reported bringing home any game. Ducks are scarce this season due to the lack of water.

\* \* \* \*

We extend a hearty welcome to Ouida Grimes who has been away from this office since 1952, while her husband, Bill, was in service and we feel most fortunate in

having her return at this time. Bill was stationed at West Point, Highland Falls, and New York. Ouida is replacing Chlotiel Work who is leaving to join her husband in Texarkana, where he is connected with the Cotton Belt Railroad. We will miss Chlotiel and hope to hear from her often.

\* \* \* \*

Peggy and J. L. (Blondy) Goins saved his annual leave for a winter vacation and he and Peggy motored to Florida, then on to St. Louis for a visit. They report having had a wonderful trip and were back home for Christmas to be with their two wonderful grandsons.

\* \* \* \*

H. R. and Mrs. Lucus spent the Holidays in their home at Mammoth Springs, where they were joined by their daughter and her husband and their two attractive little granddaughters. They reported a most enjoyable reunion.

\* \* \* \*

We offer our deep and sincere sympathies to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kirkland of Portland, in the loss of their 5-year-old daughter who died in a Little Rock Hospital after being stricken with polio.

**REPORTERS - NOTE!**

deadline is  
**FEBRUARY 7**

# Party Line Parade

## DISTRICT 3

HOPE

Olive Jackson - Reporter

We are happy to welcome Leonice Bailey, our new assistant fuel clerk, to our office force. Leonice is married and has two children, a 10-year-old daughter and a 6-year-old son.

\* \* \* \*

Mr. and Mrs. C. K. Skinner spent the Christmas Holidays in Dallas visiting their two sons.

\* \* \* \*

Our boss, W. T. Jeter, and the following girls from the office were dinner guests of Loyd and Lula Haynie at Prescott on December 20: Edna Lewallen, Olive Jackson, and Georgia Whittemore. Everyone reported to have enjoyed the get-together and the food was simply wonderful.

\* \* \* \*

We are happy to report that John W. Graham is back on the job after an illness which lasted most of the month of December

\* \* \* \*

Olive Jackson was happy to have her sister and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Petty, and their daughter, Susie, of Marianna, as guests during the Holidays.

\* \* \* \*

It sure is good to have Georgia Whittemore, our fuel clerk, back at work after a brief illness.

Sgt. Bob Haynie and his wife, Ida Rae, have returned to Paxton, Illinois, where Bob is stationed. They spent the Christmas Holidays visiting with Bob's parents, Loyd and Lula Haynie

## DISTRICT 4

FT. SMITH

Faye Carter - Reporter

We, in District 4, have settled down after those wonderful Holidays we enjoyed recently and are starting the New Year with very high spirits.

\* \* \* \*

Mr. and Mrs. John Danner spent the Christmas Holidays in Little Rock with their son, John Jr., and his family. After that Christmas dinner he felt he would never want another bite to eat, but evidently something went wrong because I notice he has started eating again. He reported to have eaten only a "few dozen" bites too many.

\* \* \* \*

The Seldon Cope family spent Christmas day in Wichita, Kansas. They reported having had a wonderful time, visiting, eating, and being merry.

\* \* \* \*

We are glad to have Oscar Gwyn back on the job after 3 weeks of illness. Oscar underwent an operation and was in the hospital for 10 days.

# Party Line Parade

By-the-way, Mr. Hill isn't wearing that sling for a "rest" only. After District 4's Santa brought him that watch for Christmas, he got so tired holding his arm up to see what time it was, that he decided a sling would be just the thing. Mr. Hill, we hope you enjoy the watch as much as we have enjoyed working for you.

\* \* \* \*

Our best wishes go to Wilburn Cagle, who surely broke a mirror! He had oil on his feet when he stepped up on the motor patrol, causing his feet to slip from under him and incurring a bad fall to the ground. We hope you will soon be feeling okay, Wilburn.

\* \* \* \*

It was wonderful to see Mary and Zeke Pratt who were home on a 30-day leave. After all they haven't celebrated their first anniversary yet so this could be a continuance of their honeymoon. Mary worked for the Department until June 1 when she went to California to join her husband.

\* \* \* \*

We offer our sincere sympathies to Mr. and Mrs. Grady Smithson in the loss of their new baby. Mrs. Smithson has been quite ill and we send her our best wishes for a complete recovery soon. May God in His loving way bring comfort to her heart and mind to sustain her.

DISTRICT 8  
MARGARET HAMM - Reporter  
RUSSELLVILLE

The Monroe Hull's enjoyed having their family at home with them for the Holidays. A/2c Melvern Hull, of Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, was home on leave. Then, their daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Tomlison and their baby daughter, Mildred, of Baltimore, were home on a 2-week vacation. The Tomlison's will make their home in St. Louis February 1.

\* \* \* \*

Quite a few have made resolutions, some to keep and some to break. Floyd Johnson made a lot of resolutions but the first one made he broke -- not to smoke! George Lewis set a new one, "No more Arm and Hammer." Leonard Keeling will improve his mustache for 1955. Some might be interested to know that Reece Batson has been out of cigars since New Year's.

\* \* \* \*

W. A. Smith, Sr., was happy to have his son, Rev. B. D. Smith and his family, of Pocahontas, for a visit during the Holidays.

\* \* \* \*

The Holidays were happy ones for Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Woods because their son, James Merle, and his family were their guests.

\* \* \* \*

Ernest Singleton: engagement party?

# Party Line Parade

DISTRICT 9                      HARRISON  
Shirley Morton - Reporter

We are, at this time, constructing a Marine Railroad on the east side of Norfolk Lake at the Ferry. The job consists of 4 concrete ribbons, 2-foot square with 75 feet between the outside rails. Upon completion of this project, we will be able to dry dock the 100-foot steel barge, which will be put into operation as soon as possible. E. H. Lawrence, bridge foreman, is in charge of the construction.

\* \* \* \*

W. H. "Slim" Porter and his wife enjoyed the New Year Holidays with their children in Dallas. They also attended the Cotton Bowl Game.

\* \* \* \*

Twofold congratulations are in order for Mr. and Mrs. Rex Villines, proud parents of a new baby boy, named Mike, AND Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Widner who are equally as proud of their new daughter. What a shame that Paul Byrom has quit smoking!

\* \* \* \*

J. C. Perkins, Jr. was really a tremendous help to me in gathering news for the January issue of our magazine. I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation.

DISTRICT 10                      PARAGOULD  
Lottie Brown - Reporter

We are delighted to announce that Fannie Mae Cartwright has joined our office force.

\* \* \* \*

The annual Christmas party which consisted of goodies galore and produced and directed by J. C. Perkins was devoured and enjoyed by a hungry personnel crew. Mrs. Perkins was on hand to lend some atmosphere and cheer to the proceedings. Mrs. J. P. Snell of Marked Tree donated a luscious homemade fruit cake which disappeared as fast as snow in July.

\* \* \* \*

Our friends from Pocahontas informed us recently that our own Junior Killingsworth had performed a feat of valor far beyond the call of duty. While gazing through his surveyor's level, Junior's attention was attracted by the screams of a child. Upon investigation he found that the child, while playing on a slide, had gotten his head fastened in such a manner that he was unable to free himself. Junior was quite a hero in the eyes of the child's parents.

\* \* \* \*

Our best wishes for a quick-healing process to Bill Webb who accidentally dropped a welding iron on his leg while on duty.

# REPORT ON S-D DAY—DECEMBER 15, 1954\*

The Nation's First Safe Driving Day

## UNITED STATES DATA

S-D Day—12/15/54

Accidents	—	3,935
Injured	—	966 persons
Killed	—	51 persons

Following Day 12/16/54

Accidents	—	4,907
Injured	—	1,807 persons
Killed	—	60 persons

Average Daily Traffic Deaths—first 10 months: 97.0

## ARKANSAS DATA

S-D Day—12/15/54

Accidents	—	12
Injured	—	5 persons
Killed	—	0

+ + +

Let's all try to reduce the traffic accident, injury, and death rates during 1955. Any of these average persons, at any time, might be you, your wife or husband, your child, or any member of your family.

Stop! Think! and Be Safety-Conscious

\*Data furnished by John R. Hume, Statistics and Analyses Division

REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE UNION - DECEMBER 1954

The President has the honor to

STATE DATA

1954 - 1953

1953 - 1952

1952 - 1951

1951 - 1950

POPULATION DATA

1954 - 1953

1953 - 1952

1952 - 1951

1954 - 1953

AGRICULTURE

1954 - 1953

1953 - 1952

1952 - 1951

1951 - 1950

The Department of Agriculture has the honor to

Report on the State of the Union - December 1954

The President has the honor to