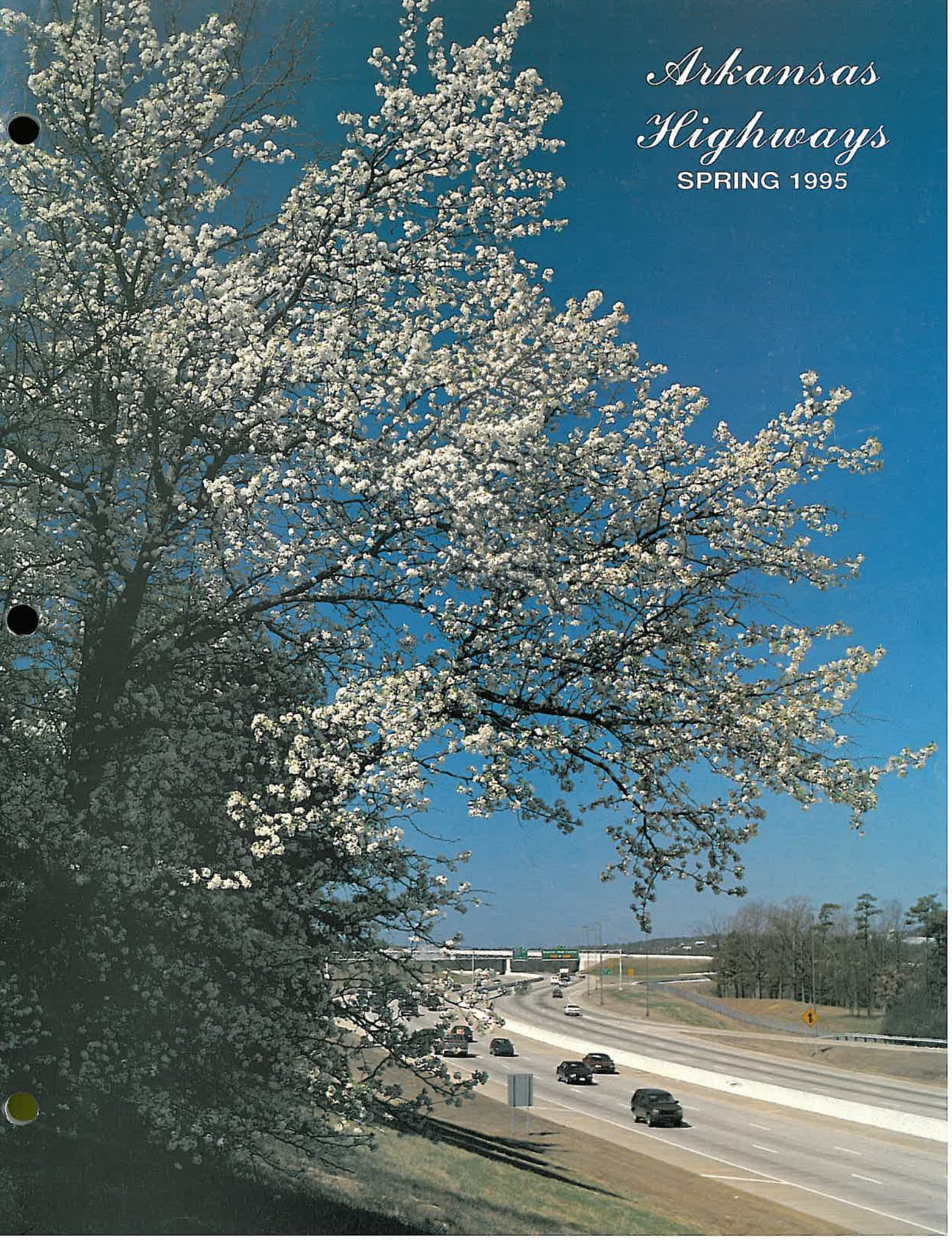


*Arkansas
Highways*
SPRING 1995



Director's Message

The public demand for more highway projects is a continuing challenge to work harder and smarter.

To meet those challenges, the AHTD is reaching out to its public and private partners. Recently, the Department jointly sponsored five National Quality Initiative (NQI) conferences. Other conference sponsors were: the Federal Highway Administration, Associated General Contractors and the University of Arkansas Mack-Blackwell National Rural Transportation Study Center.



The NQI meetings, held at five locations around the state, attracted 1,100 registered participants from the sponsoring organizations and representatives of city and county governments. The goal: to build understanding, cooperation and trust. The result: better highways for our customers.

In addition to the NQI Conference, the Department also participated in a partnering workshop in December 1994. Others attending were: FHWA, contractors and subcontractors for a major grading and structures project on new Highway 71. The participants ironed out goals, expectations, plans and procedures.

The years ahead will be challenging. But we do not have to meet those challenges alone. We have our partners — dozens of organizations, hundreds of people — working together to improve Arkansas' transportation system.


DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS

SPRING 1995

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION



L.W. "BEL" CLARK
CHAIRMAN



BOBBY HOPPER
VICE CHAIRMAN



HERB BRANSCUM, JR.
MEMBER



JOHN "M" LIPTON
MEMBER



J.W. "BUDDY" BENAFIELD
MEMBER

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COVER PHOTO: Interstate 630 in Pulaski County.
BACK COVER: State Highway 25 in Lawrence County.
Photographs by John Jackson

Benafield Reappointed to Commission

J.W. "Buddy" Benafield of Newport was reappointed January 16 to the Arkansas State Highway Commission by Governor Jim Guy Tucker. Benafield's term will expire in January 2005.

Benafield was first appointed to the Commission June 29, 1993, to fill the unexpired term of Rodney E. Slater of Jonesboro, who resigned to accept the position of U.S. Federal Highway Administrator. Benafield is only the second Commissioner ever reappointed under the Mack-Blackwell Amendment, which established the modern Highway Commission in 1952.



Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield (left) as he is sworn in by Arkansas Supreme Court Chief Justice Jack Holt.

"I am honored that the Governor has chosen me to serve a full 10-year term... I look forward to continuing this work."

Benafield



Commission Chairman L.W. "Bill" Clark (center) and AHTD Director Dan Flowers (behind Clark) as Benafield prepares to take his oath of office from Judge Holt.

"I am honored that the Governor has chosen me to serve a full 10-year term on the Commission," said Benafield. "I have learned a great deal in my first year and a half and look forward to continuing this work."

Benafield, a native of Coy in Lonoke County, owns land in Prairie, Jackson and Lonoke counties, where he farms rice, wheat, soybeans, milo and cotton. He previously owned automobile and farm implement dealerships in Arkansas and Lonoke counties.

He served as Mayor of England from 1967 to 1976, bringing the first public housing project and the first community hospital to the area. Benafield later served on the Little Rock Board of Directors and as Mayor of Little Rock in 1983 and 1984. He is a former secretary of the Arkansas Democratic Party, a former president of Metroplan, a former board member of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, and a past chairman of the Arkansas Racing Commission.

Commissioner John "M" Lipton Receives UAM Alumni Honor



Highway Commissioner John "M" Lipton of Warren received the University of Arkansas at Monticello's 1994 Alumni Award for Achievement and Merit in October. He graduated from UAM in 1959 with a degree in general business.

Lipton was first elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives in 1969 and served in the legislature for 24 years. He received the Outstanding Legislator Award in 1990 and served as Speaker of the House from 1991 to 1993. While in the legislature, he served as chairman of the Joint Auditing Committee.

In 1992 Lipton was named Bradley County Citizen of the Year. He is also a member of the Arkansas Municipal League and was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the National Advisory Council on Vocational and Technical Education. Lipton was appointed by Governor Jim Guy Tucker to a 10-year term on the State Highway Commission in 1993.

Department Hosts First-Term Legislators

Nearly 40 first-term Senators and Representatives are at the Capitol this legislative session, one of the largest "freshman classes" in memory. With highway issues on the front burner this session, a working knowledge of transportation issues is vital. That's why the AHTD hosted a First-Term Legislators' Program December 13 at the Central Office Auditorium.

Legislators mingled with the Commissioners and Department staff, enjoyed lunch, and took part in discussions of all the basic is-

ssues: planning, design, construction, maintenance, financing and the structure of the Highway Commission and Department.

"It was beneficial for everyone involved," said AHTD Director Dan Flowers. "We met the new legislators and learned about their concerns, and they learned more about the Department and how we do our work."

Among those making comments to the group were Commission Chairman L.W. "Bill" Clark; Commission Vice Chairman

Bobby Hopper; Commissioners Herby Branscum, Jr., John "M" Lipton, and J.W. "Buddy" Benafield.

Department staff included Flowers; Roger Almond, Deputy Director and Chief Engineer; Jane Wilson, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs; Steve Teague, Assistant Chief Engineer for Planning; Bob Walters, Assistant Chief Engineer for Design and Ralph Hall, Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations.



Representative Jim Lancaster (left) of Sheridan, converses with Commission Chairman L.W. "Bill" Clark on a highway matter.



Director of Highways Dan Flowers (left) visits with newly-elected Representative Tom Courtway of Conway.



Deputy Director and Chief Engineer Roger Almond presents an overview of the state highway system.



Senator Peggy Jeffries of Fort Smith, and Representatives Randy Lavery of Jasper and Sue Madison of Fayetteville

*Newly-elected Legislators
Enjoy Learning
“About Highways”*



Representative Joe Harris, Jr. (left) of Wilson and Chief Legal Counsel Robert Wilson



Senator Fay Boozman, III of Rogers



Commission Vice Chairman Bobby Hopper with Representative Sue Madison of Fayetteville



Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield (right) with Representatives Richard Simmons of Rector and Joe Harris, Jr. of Wilson



Representative Percy Malone of Arkadelphia and Commissioner Herby Branscum, Jr.



Senator Peggy Jeffries of Fort Smith and AHTD Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson



Representatives Doug Kidd of Benton and Richard Simmons of Rector with AHTD Director Dan Flowers and Commissioner John "M" Lipton

NQI Meetings Promote Partnering

A series of National Quality Initiative (NQI) meetings held recently around the state drew 700 AHTD participants and 400 others from the Federal Highway Administration, Associated General Contractors, the University of Arkansas' Mack-Blackwell National Rural Transportation Study Center, and city and county officials.

Meetings were held in February and March at Camden, Pine Bluff, Conway, Fayetteville and Jonesboro. This is the first year for the conference, hosted by the Department, FHWA, AGC, and the Mack-Blackwell Center.

One of the key concepts of NQI is partnering. Partnering is a commitment by two or more groups to improve the quality of the work they do — in this case, the public and private organizations which

contribute to the construction and maintenance of the state's highways.

The NQI meetings "have created a lot of interest in partnering as a means to work more smoothly together on projects," said AHTD Director Dan Flowers. "We're already seeing clear benefits."

Participants at the day-long conferences learned about all aspects of quality from a variety of speakers. Among them:

- Ralph Hall, AHTD Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations, gave a progress report on standard specifications;
- Bill Richardson and Carl Kraehmer with FHWA spoke on the National Quality Initiative, a nationwide effort to

improve performance in every area of government;

- Jim Gee, Materials Division Head, gave an overview of the Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP);
- Dr. Walter LeFevre, Director of the Mack-Blackwell Center, and UA Engineering faculty Dr. Robert Elliott and Dr. Kevin Hall explained the role of the Center in promoting quality research;
- Jim Gee and AGC members Ruben Liner and Guy Washburn of APAC-Arkansas/McClinton-Anchor Division spoke on Quality Control/Quality Assurance.



(L-R) Allan Holmes, AHTD State Construction Engineer; Ralph Hall, AHTD Assistant Chief Engineer/Operations, and Lawrence Fletcher, District Eight Engineer



District Eight Maintenance Superintendent Thomas Kinslow and Jack Ray, Faulkner County Area Maintenance Supervisor



Ralph Hall
AHTD Assistant Chief Engineer
for Operations



Dr. Kevin Hall
U of A Mack-Blackwell
Rural Transportation Center



Tom Raines
Federal Highway Administration



**Valera McDaniel, AHTD Quality Management Coordinator and
Carl Bachelor, Staff Maintenance Engineer**



**Bashar Qedan, Assistant Resident Engineer and
James Sanders of the Planning and Research Division**



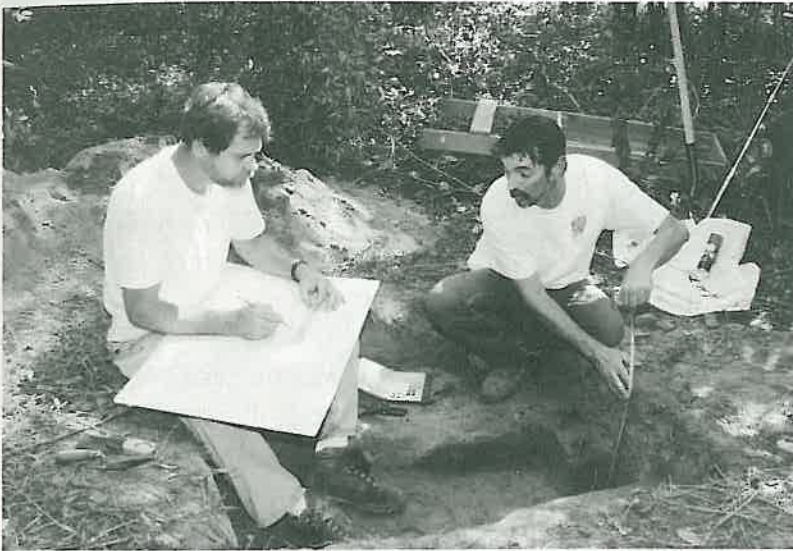
Guy Washburn
APAC-Arkansas, McClinton-Anchor Division



Gary Grimes
District Seven Resident Engineer



Don Weaver
Weaver-Balley Contractors, Inc.



Environmental Division Archeologists **John Miller** and **David Williamson** investigate a historic Indian site prior to the construction of a new interchange.

AHTD EMPLOYEE ACTIVITIES

Activities at the Department are diversified and require different types of expertise. Shown are just a few activities of AHTD employees.



Jenna Snyder, Civil Engineering Technician for Roadway Design, holds a survey rod during a field investigation to determine actual stream bed elevation near a proposed bridge site.



Gerald Stachurski, Highway Data Collector for the Programs and Contracts Division, operates the information-gathering equipment located inside the Automatic Road Analyzer (ARAN) vehicle.



Corky Chamberlain, Construction Aide III for District Six, surveys along a new section of Highway 270 in Hot Springs.



Mark Lyons, Senior Traffic Engineer for Roadway Design, calibrates a main signal box on State Highway 49 in the city of Helena.



Mark Greenwood, Materials Technician III for the Materials Division, drills for sample cores on the Highway 16 bridge at Heber Springs.



Margaret Jackson, Civil Engineering Technician for Planning and Research, examines sample cores.

Highway Commission Names Randy Reed New Highway Police Chief

Randy G. Reed was named November 22 as Chief of the Arkansas Highway Police. Reed's first day on the job was December 19.

The Arkansas State Highway Commission selected Reed after a nationwide search process that began when former Chief John R. Bailey resigned last spring to accept the post of Director of the Arkansas State Police.

"I've had a lot of help from the people at the Highway Police to make the transition a smooth one," said Reed. "All the officers and support staff have gone out of their way to help me get my feet on the ground and learn about the organization." He applied for the position because "the Highway Police has an excellent reputation in the law enforcement community."



Randy Reed, left, accepts the Chief's badge from AHTD Director Dan Flowers.

Reed, a twenty-one year veteran of the Little Rock Police Department (LRPD), has extensive experience in law enforcement, including four years as Assistant

Chief of Police at the LRPD. He was responsible for administration, budgeting, and operations of the Patrol and Training Divisions. Prior to serving as Assistant Chief, Reed served in the Patrol and Detective Divisions of the LRPD.

He has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice administration from Park College in Parkville, Missouri, and a master's degree in operations management from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. He has received specialized training in many areas of law enforcement and is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Reed and his wife Terrie have a son, Charles, and daughter, Bethany.



Captain George Coffman, left, swears in Reed as Arkansas Highway Police Chief.



Wes Wimberly
Training and Safety Section Head

Some 1,989 AHTD employees who hold commercial driver's licenses (CDLs), ferry boat crew members and airplane pilots are subject to a new drug and alcohol testing program began in January 1995.

Under the program, at least 50 percent of those 1,989 employees will be tested randomly for drug

and alcohol abuse every year. The program is mandated under the Federal Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991.

All affected employees and their supervisors attended training sessions in January and February. Trainers Wes Wimberly and Calvin Gibson discussed the requirements of the act and how tests will be conducted at the Department.

Participants also learned more about drug and alcohol abuse and its devastating effect on job performance and personal life. Wimberly is the Section Head of Training and Safety and also serves as the coordinator for the drug testing program. Gibson is a Staff At-

torney who assisted in drafting the policy.

With training completed, random testing can begin. An outside contractor will conduct spot breathalyzer tests and collect samples for drug testing. The random tests are in addition to routine pre-employment and post-accident tests.

As well as employees who fall under the mandated regulations, the Highway Police Division has elected to test all officers.



Over 50 meetings have been conducted acquainting AHTD employees with the new drug/alcohol testing policy.



Calvin Gibson, Staff Attorney

"Fifteen-ninety, fifteen-ninety, sixteen hundred, sixteen ten, now twenty, sixteen-thirty, who'll give me thirty, thirty, thirty...."

AHTD AUCTION: A SUCCESSFUL EVENT

A rain-soaked crowd followed the auctioneer's truck down long rows of white pickup trucks, cars and other equipment. It was the annual AHTD Auction, held November 9 at the Equipment and Procurement Annex. "The sale was a complete success," said Al Sacco, Equipment and Procurement Division Head. "We had quite a few folks there and good prices. Revenue was right in the ballpark of what we expected."

After expenses, the Department netted \$359,252 from sales at the auction, according to Mike Dudoich, Office Manager of the Equipment and Procurement Division. Items included backhoes, mowing equipment, half-ton pickups, heavier trucks and asphalt kettles. Surveying equipment was auctioned off inside to protect the instruments from rain.



Blackmon Auctions conducted the AHTD equipment sale.

The auctions have been conducted annually for years, usually in autumn. Customers include dealers, city and county governments, and individuals looking for bargains.

Employees of Blackmon Auctions conducted the sale from a black pickup truck outfitted with an extra-tall camper shell. Loudspeakers car-

ried the auctioneer's chant to the bidders strolling alongside the truck. Spotters in the crowd yelled like beagles when a bidder upped the ante.

The auctioneer interrupted the spiel at one point to chide a used-car dealer with his head buried under the hood of a pickup: "Now, Will, it's got a radiator! Eight-fifty, eight-fifty, eight-fifty...."

A man from Warm Springs relaxed in the cab of a 1989 Dodge pickup, newly purchased by his brother. "It came a little high," he griped. "But it's in good condition, runs good."

A Calico Rock resident came to bid on a three-quarter-ton pickup and a Case loader. He didn't get the loader but the truck was his. "This is my first time out here, so I came in early to look things over," he said. "Y'all got a good maintenance program. I like these trucks."



Prospective buyers check out a tractor at the auction.



Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) being pumped into an AHTD vehicle.

AHTD Vehicles “Cooking” With Natural Gas

The new gas pumps near the District Six service station look just like the pumps at your corner convenience store. The pickup truck parked at the pumps looks just like all the other pickups around the Department. Still, there's something odd about this scene. Maybe it's the big contraption of pipes, regulators and canisters to which each pump is hooked. Or maybe it's the nozzle on the pump's hose — it looks like the quick-connect on an air compressor. Or it could be the fact that the station attendant is poking the nozzle into a connector under the truck's hood. That's not unleaded he's pumping. It's compressed natural gas (CNG).

The passengers in the unique vehicle are Assistant District Six Engineer Frank Russenberger and Equipment and Procurement Assistant Division Head Doug Nielsen. They are members of the Total Quality Management team whose recommendations resulted in the Department purchasing two natural gas fueling stations and fuel conversion kits for 14 vehicles. The truck and two sedans already are converted to run on CNG.

The team and its work are the results of federal legislation requiring

states to convert at least 75 percent of their fleets to an alternative fuel, such as ethanol, electricity, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) or CNG, by the year 2000. After much research, the team recommended converting 14 vehicles to CNG and 12 vehicles to LPG (two Department vehicles already run on LPG) and evaluating the results over a one-year period.

CNG offers a number of benefits, according to Russenberger. “On certain pollutants it will burn cleaner than gasoline,” he said. “We also hope to see a decrease in maintenance costs since it causes less wear on certain engine parts. On cost, it's a tossup between CNG and gasoline, but CNG may show us a savings.” CNG is slightly cheaper and much less flammable.

For a CNG-powered vehicle to travel any distance between refueling, you have to crowd a lot of natural gas molecules into a special canister. The crowding process is called compression.

The two fueling stations are supplied by an ordinary underground gas line that feeds them gas at five pounds per square inch. After a filtering process, a compressor at each station

forces the gas molecules together more and more tightly. By the time the station attendant fills 'er up, the gas has been compressed to 3,000 pounds per square inch.

All that heavy compression is only necessary for onboard fuel storage. CNG is decompressed to only a few ounces per square inch when it is fed to the engine, where it behaves very much like gasoline. A tiny computer is added to the vehicle's electronics to tweak the timing and fuel-air mix for ideal CNG burn. If the CNG runs out, it's no problem — the computer switches automatically to gasoline. The engine makes the change without even a hiccup.

Is CNG the wave of the future? More than 35,000 CNG-powered vehicles are driving U.S. highways, most of them in fleets owned by natural gas companies. It is the alternative fuel of choice at United Parcel Service, the U.S. Postal Service, and the California and Texas Departments of Transportation. Depending on pilot project results, it may be the choice of the AHTD as well.

Twelve AHP Officers Receive Drug Certification

Nine Arkansas Highway Police officers were recognized January 13 at the State Capitol for their completion of a Drug Recognition Expert Program sponsored by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Certificate recipients were Sergeant Reggie Chitwood; Corporals Larry Gorbet, Harry Snowden, and Donya Thompson; Patrol Officers First Class Dan McArthur and J.B. Ketchum; and Patrol Officers Eddie Tanner, Ted English and Lynn Chaffin.

They join three other Highway Police officers who have earned certification in the program: Corporals Ross Batson, Ken Jordan and Randy Peek. All three have



Row 1 (L-R) Captain George Coffman, Ptl. Eddie Tanner, Sgt. Reggie Chitwood, Cpl. Donya Thompson, Pfc. Dan McArthur, Chief Randy Reed. Row 2: Sgt. J.P. Johnson of Pulaski County Sheriff's Dept., Cpl. Harry Snowden, Ptl. Lynn Chaffin. Row 3: Cpl. Randy Peek, Cpl. Ken Jordan, Cpl. Larry Gorbet, Ptl. Ted English, Pfc. J.B. Ketchum. Not pictured: Cpl. Ross Batson.

received additional training as instructors. The majority of DRE

graduates in Arkansas are Highway Police officers.

AHP Division Receives Award



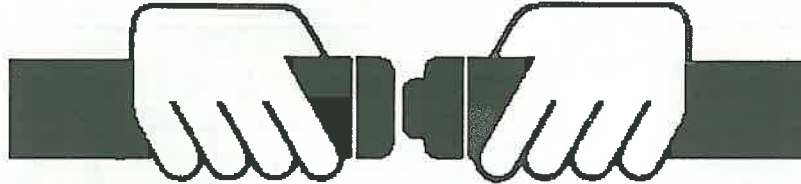
Mike Selig, Section Head of Traffic Safety, presents Arkansas Highway Police Chief Randy Reed with award for 100% officer training in DWI detection

The Arkansas Highway Police was recently recognized by the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department's Traffic Safety Section in conjunction with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Criminal Justice Institute for outstanding support and 100 percent training of officers in Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) detection and the Standardized Field Sobriety testing program for 1994.

The Department's Highway Police Division consists of over 200 certified law enforcement officers.

**AHTD TRACTOR PLOWED BY 18-WHEEL TRUCK,
BUT DISTRICT TWO EMPLOYEE MAURICE JONES WAS...**

SAVED BY THE BELT



District Two Distributor/Roller Operator Maurice Jones doesn't mind working hard every day with the rest of the Arkansas 1 maintenance crew in Stuttgart. He's just glad he can work.

One afternoon last summer, Jones was driving a Case 895 tractor along Highway 79 near Stuttgart when an 18-wheeler struck him broadside. The collision slid the tractor down the road, bent the cowl and caused other damage. Jones could have been

knocked out of his seat and run over by his own tractor — but he was wearing a seat belt.

"If I hadn't had my seat belt on, I could have been knocked under the tractor," said Jones. "The belt saved me from a serious injury."

After a month off to recuperate, Jones is back on the job with the crew. So is the rugged Case tractor he was riding. Both are in good repair.



Maurice Jones

Jones was hired in May 1989 as a General Laborer. He also served as a Single Axle Truck Driver before moving to his current job. "I look forward to more years on the job thanks to my seat belt," he said.



The Case tractor which Maurice Jones was operating when it was struck.

Wilson Selected To Chair National AASHTO Subcommittee

Jane Wilson, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs for the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, has been appointed to a two-year term as Chair of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Administrative Subcommittee on Personnel and Human Resources. The announcement was in February by AASHTO President Wayne Shackelford of Georgia.

The national subcommittee is responsible for the oversight of

human resource activities involving the member transportation departments. Those activities include: administrative practices, management techniques, technical training programs, personnel development, health and safety, and affirmative action programs. In addition, the Subcommittee reviews all human resource issues of concern to the member transportation departments.

Wilson began her career with the Department in 1981 and has served as Personnel Officer and



Jane Wilson
Chief of Administration and Public Affairs

Division Head of Human Resources.

AHTD Engineer Named “Graduate Student of the Year”

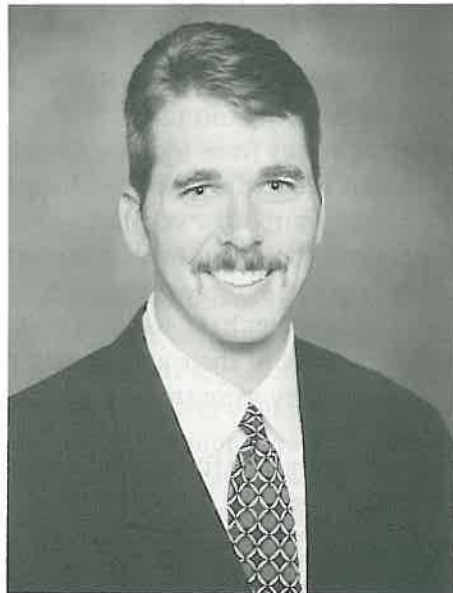
Scott Bennett, a Transportation Engineer in the Planning and Research Division, was named in December as Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year at the Mack-Blackwell National Rural Transportation Study Center. The Center, housed in the Civil Engineering Department at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, funds and conducts research on rural transportation.

Bennett was selected from 40 graduate students studying transportation in business and engineering disciplines. “It could have been given to any one of those students,” said Bennett of his award. “I was pleasantly surprised.”

“The award goes to the student who has contributed most to transportation engineering as a graduate student,” said Dr. Walter LeFevre, Director of the Mack-Blackwell Center.

Bennett was chosen for the award upon after he defended his master’s thesis, an analysis of the congestion management system set up by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act

(ISTEA) of 1991 and a comparison of Arkansas’ congestion management before and after ISTEA. He subsequently received his Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering with an emphasis in transportation.



Scott Bennett

He began his graduate studies after he was chosen in July 1993 as the first participant in the Transportation Research Assistantship Program established by the Department. While pursuing his degree, Bennett also worked to recruit engineering graduates, directed the Northwest Arkansas Regional Transportation Study, and helped coordinate major transportation improvement projects in the area with government agencies at all levels.

Bennett has returned to the Central Office and recently received a promotion to Section Head in the Technical Services Section of the Planning and Research Division. He will continue working on projects he started as a graduate student.

Bennett worked as a summer employee with the Department from 1985 to 1988, and has been a full-time employee since August 1989. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from UA in 1989. Bennett is a Registered Professional Engineer.

Letters of "Thanks"



Stacye Roam and Joyce Phillips, AHTD Employee Assistance Program Coordinator

To: AHTD Director Dan Flowers

Dear Sir:

Just wanted to let you know how thankful I am that the Highway Department has an Employee Assistance Program.

I've had two miscarriages this year (1994), my stepbrother committed suicide, and I have recently gained some unwanted weight.

Joyce Phillips has been a blessing in my life. I know when I am down, all I have to do is call.

Sincerely,
Stacye Roam

To: Arkansas Highway Police

Dear Sirs:

I would like to commend your Department for the two officers that live in our county (Prairie). My brother and I, and our employees, really appreciate what they did for us on November 9, 1994.

We are farmers and one of our employees had two blowouts at the same time on a large truck hauling soybeans to the Wheatley Dryer. He was unable to pull off the highway because there is no room on the side of the road. A large portion of the truck was on the highway and we needed help soon to avoid an accident. To make matters worse it started raining. We notified the Prairie County Sheriff's Department and they said it was out of their jurisdiction and they would notify Monroe County and the State Police. It was a hazardous situation, as other vehicles could hardly get by our truck. Also house trailers travel that road a lot and seem to always be going too fast.

An officer or unit did not come to flag traffic for us from Monroe County or ASP, but two of your units from the Highway Police, one from Brinkley and one from West Memphis, just happened to come by; one got in front and the other behind our truck and turned their lights on to warn other vehicles. Then two other officers, Smith and Hickman, heard about the situation and came immediately and stayed out in the pouring rain, flagging traffic and helping any way they could. They helped us until the tire truck arrived and brought two new tires and put them on for us.

This says a lot to us about your officers. They did not have to do all that they did. My brother and I want to thank these officers for their kindness. They really went out of their way to help us at the scene. They were not grumbling or did not act mad because they were getting wet. They were smiling and eager to help with our problem even though they got soaking wet.

We want to commend your Department for having two fine young men as officers. We feel they went far beyond their line of duty to help us. It seems now days that no one, some officers included, want to help anyone do anything and we feel that these two officers are a good example for people. We are proud to have them in our county.

Sincerely,
Curtis Gurley of Biscoe, Arkansas



Pfc. David Smith and Ptl. Ricky Hickman

To: AHTD Director Dan Flowers

Dear Sir:

I am writing this letter in deep appreciation for the Catastrophic Leave Bank. In the last three years I have had heart bypass surgery and two total hip replacements, and if it was not for the Catastrophic Leave, I don't know what I would have done.

I am back to work and doing fine. I would like to say thanks to all the people who donated leave time, and may God bless each one.

Thank You,
 N. Pauline McCollum
 Construction Aide II
 Alma Residency



N. Pauline McCollum, Alma Residency



Hellen Kennedy,
 District Two Storeroom Supervisor

To: Hellen Kennedy

District 2 Storeroom Supervisor at Pine Bluff

This is to express my appreciation for your efforts in the support of the Motorboat Operator's Training Course held at the Pine Bluff Resident Office on October 18-19, and 25-26, 1994. Your efforts, above and beyond the call of duty, to help ensure the success of the training, drew favorable comments from many of the participants. The willing manner with which you provided in loaning this office several traffic cones for the training courses reflect well on you and the Arkansas State Highway Department.

Thank you for your efforts toward the successful completion of the training courses. Without you, the training courses would not have been as well received.

Sincerely,
 Kenneth E. Buck, P.E.
 Resident Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

To: AHTD Director Dan Flowers

I would like to take this time to express our deep gratitude to you and your staff for your rapid response to my request. The signage which was placed at the intersection of Highway 264 east of Cowface Road is very obvious and should absolutely make it a safer route to travel. I am certain that you and your department, like ourselves, do not hear "thank you" often enough; however, I do not want our appreciation to be absent.

The safety of our patrons, their friends, their property or passersby is of the utmost importance to us, not to mention the savings in dollars, time, and effort. You all have promoted a safer place for all to live, and the savings will be shared by several fire departments, their personnel, and the people we serve. The job was topnotch and a good application of our highway funds. Please share this letter with all deserving of our thanks...we appreciate each one of them!

With deepest regards,
 Gerald R. Dever, RN
 Hickory Creek Volunteer Fire Dept., Lowell, Arkansas



Lt. Sue Sehon and Glen McCoy

To: AHTD Director Dan Flowers

On July 20, 1994, my wife and I were traveling west on vacation when our car stalled on the Red River bridge north of Texarkana. I was unable to get it started and walked to your weigh station a short distance north of the bridge.

There we met Lt. Sue Sehon and Mr. Glen McCoy. After explaining our predicament, Mr. McCoy went back to the car with us, found the problem and succeeded in helping us get started on our way again.

The courtesy and helpfulness of these two saved us several hours of delay and inconvenience.

We would like to commend them to you and congratulate you on having two such courteous and helpful employees on the road meeting the traveling public.

Sincerely,

J.C. and Persis Crawford of Monroe, Louisiana

To: Lyndal Waits

District Five Engineer at Batesville

We appreciate very much the availability and fast response of AHTD employees directed by Mr. Danny Garwood in preventing diesel from flowing into a creek that would have carried it to the White River.

AHTD employees built a retaining dam of sand about 200 feet from the creek. This prevented the diesel from flowing into the stream.

We would like to commend these employees for their interest in safeguarding the environment of our county.

Best Regards,

Paul Weaver, Izard County Judge
and

Don Davidson, OES Coordinator



Danny Garwood, District Five
Izard County Area Maintenance Supervisor



Cpl. Donya Thompson and Charles Knight

To: Cpl. Donya Thompson
Arkansas Highway Police

Thank you so much for your assistance with students last Saturday afternoon when the bus they were riding experienced mechanical difficulties.

My sponsor informed me of the professionalism you displayed in helping get my students back home. I want to thank you for all of your help in the matter.

Sincerely,

Charles D. Knight, Superintendent
Watson Chapel Schools
Pine Bluff, Arkansas

To: Jim Briley

District Two Engineer at Pine Bluff

On behalf of the Star City Area Chamber of Commerce, I thank you for the sign you placed at Highway 425 for the Industrial Park. We sincerely appreciate your contribution, time and consideration. We appreciate your department and the hard work you have done in our area and look forward to future growth and expansions that help our economic development so much.

Please let me know if we may be of assistance to you in the future.

Sincerely,

Judy Story, President

Star City Area Chamber of Commerce



Judy Story

To: AHTD Director Dan Flowers

I am writing to thank you for your prompt action of repair on Highway 98 east of Emerson. I can't express enough how much more confident I feel when meeting larger vehicles. I am still looking forward to shoulders being added to Highway 98 west.

Thank you again for answering my request for repairs and then for promptly repairing 98 east.

Sincerely,

Margie P. Green, van driver for College City Nutrition Center
Emerson, Arkansas

To: Jim Briley

District Two Engineer at Pine Bluff

My many thanks to you for being with the Leadership Pine Bluff Class Tuesday. They loved your visit with them about the highway development in your district and the explanation of I-69.

Thank you for the good job you are doing for our "highway" concerns and for being with us. I appreciate you.

Sincerely,

Joy Blankenship



Ptl. Mark Willis

To: Arkansas Highway Police

Dear Sirs:

Words can't express my appreciation to Arkansas Highway Policeman Mark Willis for his assistance in changing a tire that blew out on my car at Interstate 30 at Alexander.

I'm so thankful for him and appreciate his help and thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Millie Rowland



Wayne Hamilton
District One Senior Mechanic

To: AHTD Director Dan Flowers

I am writing in reference to Mr. Wayne Hamilton (District 1) of Wynne, Arkansas.

On Tuesday, November 22 my sister and I were on our way to Memphis for a doctor's appointment when my van had a blowout on the interstate. Mr. Hamilton came to our rescue and had us back on the road in no time at all. It was so comforting to have such a nice person take out time from his busy schedule to help us. His service was appreciated.

Sincerely,
Stacie Sparks

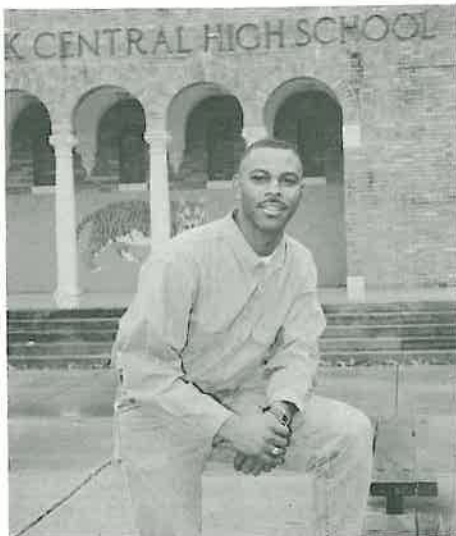
To: Cpl. Randy Peek
Arkansas Highway Police

We want to thank you again for your kind assistance to us as we were stranded on Interstate 40 at Kerr Road on Sunday, August 21. We will always remember you with thanksgiving.

Sincerely,
Mr. & Mrs. C.F. Sweatt
Leeds, Alabama



Cpl. Randy Peek



Eric Sanders
Environmental Lead Person

To: AHTD Director Dan Flowers

On Saturday, October 22, 1994, Central High School's PTSA sponsored a clean-up of the campus and the planting of pansies and daffodil bulbs. Volunteers from the PTSA, other parents, faculty and staff of the school joined in for a full day of work on the Central High campus.

Among the volunteers was Mr. Eric Sanders, from your Environmental Division, who has no connection to the school at all, and who was volunteering his time and energies simply out of a desire to help. He had overheard a conversation of another one of your employees about this upcoming event and decided to join in.

We want you to know how much we appreciated Eric's time and involvement with us at Central that day, and obvious interest in his community.

Sincerely,
Leslie Lipke
President, PTSA
Little Rock Central High School

To: Larry Long
Environmental Division

On October 20, 1994, I had cause to meet Mr. Jeff Ingram on Interstate 30 just west of Forrest City. My car had malfunctioned and I was walking back to Forrest City when Jeff recognized my situation and assisted me.

I would request you "thank" him, again, for me and I would ask you to recognize him within your area as an example of not only people helping people, but in addition, what he did for me brings life to the spirit of public service.

Cordially yours,
Fred Carlson
Tecumseh Products Co.
Tupelo, Mississippi



Jeff Ingram
Environmental Beautification Coordinator I

To: Harold Beaver
District Four Engineer at Fort Smith

On behalf of the City of Mena, I would like to express our appreciation for the recent improvements to Highway 980 at the Mena Municipal Airport. The hot-mix overlay on Highway 980 from Highway 8 east to the newly constructed extension at the airport will prove to be beneficial to everyone. As I am sure you know, our airport is continually growing and therefore the need for better roadways in that area has increased over the years.

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you for the cooperation and support of the Arkansas Highway Department during the eight years that I served as the Mayor of Mena.

Sincerely,
Jerry S. Montgomery, Mayor

To: Bob Burns
Arkansas County Maintenance Supervisor
Stuttgart, Arkansas

I want to thank you and your crew for working on our ditch. That was a wonderful surprise last week when I came home and found you had been there.

You don't know how much I appreciate the work you did. Please tell those who helped on the project that I appreciate all of their efforts. Thank you so very much.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Hines
Stuttgart, Arkansas



District Two Arkansas County Maintenance Crew
Row 1: (L-R) Bob Burns, Junior Fox, Tommy Cotten, Don Buell, Debbie Simpson, and Ron Rabeneck. Row 2: Harold Smith, Ben Smith, Troy Adams, Leo Sledge, Janet Eifling and Maurice Jones.

To: J.B. Ketchum

Arkansas Highway Police

I, Emory Bray, Jr., would like to take this time to thank you and the other officer who pulled me out of the truck cab that accident on November 9, 1994 at the Lonoke exit on Interstate 40. I wish to sincerely thank you both for being there to help and also for taking the time to answer the inquiries from Cal-Ark Trucking Company to verify the circumstances of the accident.

I am truly glad that no one was hurt during the accident and intend to never try solo flying with any big trucks again! I used to think it was a joke about being in the wrong place at the wrong time, but I am now a true believer.

I and my family would like to wish both officers and their families the best for 1995 and thanks for doing a great job.

Thanks Again,
Emory Bray, Jr.
Mesquite, Texas



Cpl. Randy Peek and Pfc. James B. Ketchum

IN MEMORY

Employees



Ken Benson
Specifications Engineer
Construction Division 23+ years
died December 12, 1994

Joyce Patterson
District Secretary
District Two
died November 6, 1994

Retirees

J.D. Hanson
Highway Police, died October 24

Audra V. Horton
District 9, died November 2

Marvin L. Beckett
Planning & Research, died November 4

Olin C. Randle
Accounting, died November 4

Ernest W. Bartel
Construction, died November 7

Quinton Morgan
District 10, died November 14

Lee G. Cox
District 2, died December 1

Howard C. Young
District 3, died December 8

Ernest Blackburn
District 1, died December 10

Elbert E. Evans
District 9, died December 22

Charles H. Pope
District 7, died December 24

George L. Fray
Chief Engineer's Office,
died December 26

Elliott S. Rodgers
District 1, died January 7

Gene Davenport
District 10, died January 11

Eddie Adkison
District 10, died January 17

Granvel Townsend
District 7, died January 25

Allen W. Clayton
District 2, died January 29

Clarence Knight
District 6, died January 30

Matthew W. Skelton
Central Warehouse, died January 31

AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

1994 Central Office Service Awards and Retirements

The 1994 Central Office Service Award and Retirement Presentation Ceremony was held December 8 in the Central Office Auditorium. Commission Chairman L.W. "Bill" Clark along with all other members of the Commission and AHTD Director Dan Flowers made the presentations. Pictured are the 1994 recipients.



1994 RETIREMENTS

(L-R) Bob Kessinger, Carolyn Stringer, Ann May, Jim Reynolds and Calvin Peevy



35- YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

(L-R) Dale Loe, Paul Elcan and Bill Mulhollen



30-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

(L-R) Charles Barnard, Bill Harrod, Larry Johnson, Charles Rain, Richard Butler, Allan Holmes and James Brown



25-YEAR SERVICE AWARDS

Row 1: (L-R) Gary French, Jerry Stussy, Guy Sims, Phil McConnell, Phyllis Womack, Garland Land, David Hunter, Bill Wall and Ronnie Ellis. Row 2: (L-R) Jim Fooks, Harry Willcockson, Charles Smothers, Chuck Sherwood, Jimmy Clark and Harold Beaver

COMPUTER SERVICES



Computer Services service awards: Row 1 (L-R): Sylvia Doster, System Support Technician, 15 years; Carolyn Bobo, Data Control Clerk, 20 years; Lesa Frymark, Senior Programmer/Analyst, Scott King, Programmer I, 5 years and Assistant Division Head Mike Shaw. Row 2 (L-R): Jay Wilson, Programmer Analyst I, Larry Busbea, Programmer Analyst I, David Bickell, Application System Analyst I, 5 years



Robert E. Lee, Jr., Applications System Analyst, retired from the Arkansas National Guard after 20 years. A Vietnam veteran, Robert was a Cobra helicopter mechanic with Company C-1-114 AUN.

EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT

A retirement reception was held for Bill Patterson, Finish Carpenter, July 27. Lunch was served at the Central Shop and Bill was presented a deer treestand from his coworkers.

A service award dinner was held at Steak & Ale Restaurant on September 17 honoring Patsy Downing, Administrative Aide I, 40 years, Phyllis Womack, Buyer and Harry Willcockson, Equipment Specialist, 25 years.

Larry Golden, Senior Mechanic, has transferred from District Six to the Central Shop.

Our Christmas luncheon was held on December 16. We enjoyed visiting with coworkers and retirees at this catered event.

FISCAL SERVICES



Brad and Trey Hesselbein are the children of Fiscal Services Voucher Typist Teresa and husband Scotty, Sign Layout Supervisor in Maintenance. Trey was born September 20 and Brad is 2 years old.

HIGHWAY POLICE



Phyllis Ann and Richard Davidson, Jr. were married November 19. Phyllis is an Administrative Aide I for Highway Police and Richard is employed at St. Vincent Hospital.

HUMAN RESOURCES



Calin Renae Thrasher is the daughter of Mar and Shan Thrasher and was born June 5. Shan is a seasonal employee in the Insurance Section.

LEGAL



Ashley Nease is a freshman at Benton High School where she is a member of the drill team and the academic honor roll. She is the daughter of Dawn and Steve Nease. Dawn is a Legal Secretary.



Breanna Marie Jewell is the daughter of Legal Secretary Kim and Tony Jewell of Benton. She was born April 14.



Brooke Allison is the daughter of Legal Secretary Evelyn and Eugene Allison of Cabot. Brooke has an older sister Brittany.

MAINTENANCE



Traffic Clerk Marlene Hogan, center, and granddaughter Casey, are shown at her retirement reception November 18. Also pictured are Tony Sullivan, left, Staff Maintenance Engineer and Jim Barnett, right, State Maintenance Engineer.



Gale Davis, Senior Accountant, receives a 15-year service certificate and pin from Staff Maintenance Engineer Tony Sullivan.



David Mayberry, Heavy Bridge Maintenance Supervisor, receives a 15-year service certificate from David Lambert, Heavy Bridge Maintenance Engineer.



Jeff Bell, left, Telecommunications Supervisor for Little Rock Central, receives a 10-year service award and pin from Doug Huckaba, Communications Section Head.



Gordon Foddrill, left, Communication Maintenance Specialist from Bismarck, receives a 15-year service award from Doug Huckaba, Communications Section Head.



Pat O'Bannon, left, Communication Maintenance Specialist at the Central Office, receives a 10-year service certificate and pin from Doug Huckaba, Communications Section Head.



Kevin Hardaway, right, Sign Erector, receives a 5-year service certificate from Tony Jones, Signing Superintendent.



Rebecca Elleen Leet is the daughter of Telecommunication Operator Tim Leet and his wife Mary. Rebecca was born December 13.



Jacob Ryan Mathis was born December 11 and is the son of Stacy and Patti Mathis. Stacy is a Single Axle Truck Driver with the Facilities Management Section.



Spencer Loyce Sullivan was born December 9. He is the son of Tony and Phyllis Sullivan. Tony is a Staff Maintenance Engineer for Traffic Services.



Debra and Michael Zompakos, far right, were married December 10. Debra is the daughter of Herman and Mary Smith, left. Herman is Pavement Profile Job Superintendent.

MATERIALS



Krystal Banks is the daughter of Materials Technician IV Harold and Rhonda Banks. She was chosen 1994 Homecoming Queen for J.A. Fair High School in Little Rock. She is a senior, cheerleader co-captain and maintains a 3.2 grade average.

PLANNING & RESEARCH



Paul Elcan, left, Planning Analyst, receives a 35-year service pin from Jim Head, Technical Services Section Head.



Marion Williams, Highway Data Collection Supervisor, receives a 20-year service certificate and pin from Jim Head, Technical Services Section Head.



Steve Doolin, Statistician, receives a 15-year service certificate from Technical Services Section Head Jim Head.



Odean Garner, right, Highway Data Collector, receives a 10-year service certificate from Technical Services Section Head Jim Head.



Jim Head, right, Technical Services Section Head, and his wife Lou Ann, at Jim's retirement reception on December 1. Jim retired with 32 years service.



Melanie Elcan, daughter of Paul Elcan, Planning Analyst for Technical Services, was married September 17 to Marshall Lloyd.

PROGRAMS & CONTRACTS



Bobbie White, left, Accident Coding Clerk II receives a 10-year service certificate from Traffic Safety Section Head Mike Selig.



Julius Miller, left, Programmer Analyst, receives a 5-year service certificate from Traffic Safety Section Head Mike Selig.



Traffic Safety Section Head Mike Selig, left, presents a 5-year service certificate to Karen Bonds, System Coordination Analyst.

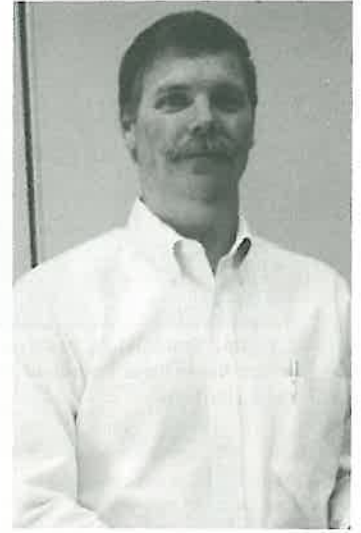
RIGHT OF WAY



Right of Way service awards: (L-R) Gary Anderson, Advanced Right of Way Plans Designer, 20 years; London Sabb, Right of Way Plans Designer, 20 years; Charles Smothers, Negotiator, 25 years; Will Holt, Property Manager, 20 years; Mike Hilley, Negotiator, 20 years



Jean Scarlett, Closing Agent, receives a 15-year service certificate.



Donald Mitchell, Advanced CADD Technician, receives a 15-year service certificate.

ROADWAY DESIGN

Congratulations to Frank Bray, Advanced Design Engineer and Patty Woolsey, Advanced CADD Technician, who were married November 12 in Las Vegas.



Victoria Elizabeth Childress is the granddaughter of Division Secretary Shirley Bridges. She was born December 12 to Angela and Tim Childress.



Dustin Scott Welch is the first grandson of Bobby Welch, Staff Design Engineer. Dustin was born November 9.



Jonathan Merritt is the son of Staff Design Engineer Keith Merritt. In addition to playing piano, keyboard and being the church organist, he was given special permission, at age 12, to begin school band on the bassoon after placing in the top 7% on a national music exam. Jonathan attends Lake Hamilton School in Hot Springs.



Bethany, left, and Mitch, right, are the children of Mike and Cindy Webb. Bethany is 18 months old and for Christmas, Mitch received an autographed baseball from Brooks Robinson. Cindy is an Administrative Aide I in Roadway Design and Mike is Assessments Section Head in Environmental.



STATE AID



Brianna Paige Oldham, left, is the granddaughter of Barbara Crowwell, Division Secretary. Brianna recently competed in the Gingerbread Beauty Pageant.



James McLeod, left, State Aid Designer, receives a 20-year service certificate from Bob Walters, Assistant Chief Engineer for Design.

SURVEYS



Sue Walls, Division Section Secretary, retired May 17 with 30+ years service. A reception was held May 12 and she was presented a gift certificate from her coworkers.



Bob Barnett, left, Photogrammetry Lab Supervisor, and his wife Lea at a reception held December 30. Bob retired January 4 with 20 years service. He was presented a gift certificate from his coworkers.



Patty Anthony, Surveys Office Technician, receives a 15-year service certificate and pin from Kit Carson, Division Head.



Miles D. Patton, Survey Party Chief, receives a 20-year service certificate.



Les Cupp, Survey Party Chief, receives a 20-year service certificate.



Surveys Division service awards: (L-R) Don Brykala, Survey Party Chief, 20 years; Wayne Wheeler, Senior Surveys Aide, 5 years; Delbert Lambert, Senior Surveys Aide, 10 years



Dallas Payne, Jr. is the son of Patty Anthony, Surveys Office Technician. He graduated from basic training November 10 from the Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Illinois. He is stationed on the USS Curtis Wilbur in San Diego, California.

DISTRICT ONE

District One's Christmas/Awards Presentation luncheon was held December 15. Special guests included Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield and Jane Wilson, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs. Commissioner Benafield and District Engineer Ray Woodruff made the service and retirement certificate presentations.



Roger Cheney, center, Sealing Job Superintendent, receives a 25-year service certificate from District Engineer Ray Woodruff, left, and Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield, right.



J.W. "Dub" Davis, center, Backhoe/ Front End Loader Operator, receives 35-year service and retirement certificates from District Engineer Ray Woodruff and Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield. Davis retired in August.



Walter Mays, center, Crew Leader, receives 30-year service and retirement certificates from District Engineer Ray Woodruff and Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield. Mays retired in June.



Herbert Watlington, center, retired Motor Patrol Operator, with District Engineer Ray Woodruff and Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield.



Homer Shirley, center, receives a retirement certificate from District Engineer Ray Woodruff and Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield.



Thomas Jones, center, retired Asphalt Tank Truck Driver, with District Engineer Ray Woodruff and Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield.



Roy Morris, left, Maintenance Job Superintendent, presents J.R. Proctor, retired Lead Person, with a retirement gift from his coworkers.



Gene Dunn, left, Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents Bobby Alford, retired Crew Leader, with a retirement gift from his coworkers.



District One 15 Year Service Awards: (L-R) Larry Hall, Lead Person; Charlie Tittle, Rest Area Attendant; Billy Ficker, Crew Leader; and Ricky Hudson, Resident Office Technician



District One 5-Year Service Awards: (LR) Daniel Drew, Rest Area Attendant; Jim Anderson, Single Axle Truck Driver; Floyd Eskridge, Lead Person; Joel Davis, Bridge Job Superintendent; Walter Davis, Vegetation Controller



Vella Jeffrey, District Bookkeeper, receives a 15-year service certificate.



Kenneth Balch, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, receives a 10-year service certificate.



Larry Fleming, left, Senior Mechanic, and Raymond Ratton, Vegetation Controller, receive 5-year service certificates.

New employees at District One are Linnie Calvert, District Receptionist, and Gene Dunn, Area Maintenance Supervisor for Crittenden County at West Memphis. Gene transferred from District Ten. Congratulations to Jan McElroy who was promoted to Personnel Clerk and Vella Jeffrey who was promoted to District Bookkeeper.

We would also like to congratulate our District Engineer Ray Woodruff who completed 20 years service in November.



District One 10-Year Service Awards: (L-R) Ricky Utley, Motor Patrol Operator; Mike McConnell, Senior Mechanic; Ricky Oxner, Lead Person; Jimmy Ruffin, Single Axle Truck Driver; Herman Stephens, Dozer Operator



District Two retirements: (L-R) Commission Chairman L.W. "Bill" Clark, Leon Crouch, Area Headquarters Attendant, 30 years; Theodore Bradford, Single Axle Truck Driver, 15 years; Jim Allbritton, District Maintenance Superintendent, 33 years, District Two Engineer Jim Briley

DISTRICT TWO

On December 16, District Two held its Christmas/Awards Presentation luncheon at the District Headquarters. Special guest was Commission Chairman L.W. "Bill" Clark who presented service and retirement certificates.



James A. Allbritton, District Maintenance Superintendent, retired in October with 33 years service.



Joe Watkins, center, Senior Inspector, receives a 35-year service certificate from Commission Chairman L.W. "Bill" Clark and District Engineer Jim Briley.



District Two 30-year service awards: (L-R) Commission Chairman L.W. "Bill" Clark; Carl Freeman, Crew Leader; Ted Carr, Assistant Resident Engineer and District Engineer Jim Briley



District Two 25-year service awards: (L-R) Bill Herrington, Finish Carpenter; James Steele, Single Axle Truck Driver; Millard Carver, Vegetation Controller; and Wayne Andrews, Area Headquarters Attendant



District Two 5-year service awards: (L-R) Jeff Hart, Senior Mechanic; Barry Pascal, Station Attendant; and Martin Gelsler, District Caretaker



Melanie Owen, District Bookkeeper, left, receives a 15-year service certificate from District Office Manager Joey Waddle.



DeWitt Maintenance Crew service awards: (L-R) Larry Fuches, Single Axle Truck Driver, 10 years; Theodore Bradford, Single Axle Truck Driver, 15 years; T.D. Mullins, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 15 years; and P.J. Bledsoe, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 15 years



District Two safety awards: Row 1: (L-R) Joey Waddle, District Office Manager; Bill Plunkett, Lincoln County; Clinton Bohanon, Arkansas County-DeWitt; Paul Griffith, Grant County. Row 2: Kelly Slater, Sealing Crew; Bobby Burns, Arkansas County-Stuttgart; Rick Wilson, District Bridge Crew; Jimmy Johnson, Ashley County; Jim Briley, District Engineer



Ernie Westfall is the new District Maintenance Superintendent replacing Jim Allbritton who retired.



Bill Fine is the new Resident Engineer for the Pine Bluff Residency. He replaced Ernie Westfall.



Patricia Slater is the new District Secretary. She transferred from Planning and Research in the Central Office.



Kerri Lawson is the daughter of Danny Lawson, Multi-Axle Truck Driver. She was a member of the Homecoming Court at Drew Central School in Monticello.



Sydney Alniecia Reed is the daughter of Tangela Reed, General Laborer, Jefferson County maintenance crew. Sydney was born October 11.



Paris Montrel Mock is the son of Shirley Hammett, Area Headquarters Attendant, Jefferson County maintenance crew. He was born November 27.



Cheryl Trantham is the granddaughter of Desha County Area Maintenance Supervisor Barney and Mary Herring.



Brandon Dale Womack, son of Ricky and Linda Womack, was born October 31. Ricky is Crew Leader for the District bridge crew.



Ryan Hunter Quarles is the grandson of Jimmy Doss, District Electrical, Plumbing and Mechanical Repairer. Ryan was born November 7.

DISTRICT THREE

The District Three Christmas/Awards Dinner was held December 15 at the District Headquarters. Special guests included Commissioner and Mrs. John "M" Lipton of Warren. Entertainment was provided by 12-year old Rachel Dougan of Prescott and The Cathedral Ringers, of which, Susan Monroe, District Office Manager, and Sharon Still, District Fuel Clerk, are members. Commissioner Lipton presented 25-year service awards to Thomas McMurray, Vinie Holt, and Wendall Murray. Santa Claus was played by Mike Giles, Inspector at the Texarkana Residency.

The District welcomes Joy Ashcraft as the new District Receptionist. Joy began working for the Highway Department in October. Congratulations to Jason Efird, Administrative Assistant III at the Hope Residency, and his wife, Teresa, on the birth of a daughter, Kaylie Brooke, January 8.



Thomas McMurray, Deck Hand for the Spring Bank Ferry, accepts a 25-year service certificate from Commissioner John Lipton.



Vinie Holt, Storeroom Supervisor, receives a 25-year service certificate from Commissioner John Lipton.



Wendall Murray, Asphalt Tank Truck Driver, District sealing crew, receives a 25-year service certificate from Commissioner John Lipton.



Rachel Dougan, age 12, provided the musical entertainment at the Christmas dinner.



Mike Giles, Inspector at the Texarkana Residency, played Santa Claus.



Darin Laughard, Inspector, Hope Residency, with son Jordan, who was born October 17 and is surrounded by trophies won for stereo competition.



Tyler Edward, son of Eddie and Kaye Loyed, was born September 23. Eddie is a Motor Patrol Operator for the Texarkana maintenance crew.



Joshua David, age 4, and Derrick Dewayne, age 2 weeks, are the sons of Tresa Goodwin, Single Axle Truck Driver, Pike County maintenance crew.

DISTRICT FOUR



District Four 25-year service awards: Row 1: (L-R) Tom McCormick, Area Maintenance Supervisor; O.D. Smith, Welder; T.D. Trotter, Parts Runner; Leon Brewer, Resident Engineer. Row 2: Commissioner Bobby Hopper; J.D. Priddy, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator; K.J. McDowell, Assistant Maintenance Superintendent; Harold Beaver, District Engineer



Leon Brewer, left, Resident Engineer, receives a 25-year service pin from District Engineer Harold Beaver.



Gary West, Construction Aide II, receives a 20-year service certificate.



Gerald Stockton, left, Office Technician, receives a 20-year service certificate from Resident Engineer Leon Brewer.



David Becker, District Maintenance Superintendent, presents Sharon Sumpter, Guard, a 10-year service certificate.



District Four safety awards: Row 1: (L-R) Jerry Clemence, sign crew; Debbie Caster, storeroom; Buddy Turner, bridge inspector; H.L. Henry, Polk County. Row 2: District Engineer Harold Beaver; Jim Carter, Sebastian I; Mark Williams, bridge crew; L.G. Young, Logan County; Raymond Lea, bridge inspector; Wes Wimberly, Training and Safety Section Head



District Engineer Harold Beaver, right, presents Connie Meyer, left, Washington I Area Headquarters Attendant, a "LifeGiver" certificate from United Blood Services. Connie donated over 5 gallons of blood through AHTD blood drives.



Aubrey Bowen, Shop Supervisor, models a t-shirt he received for donating in two consecutive blood drives.



Employees of the Alma Residency



David Williams, son of Terry and District Personnel Clerk Nan Williams, received the American FFA degree, the highest award achievable in the National FFA organization. David is a paramedic student at Westark Community College.



Ewsn Randall Boley is the son of Senior Construction Aide Sharon and Denny Sikma. He is an electrical engineer in the U.S. Navy stationed at San Diego, California.



Lisa Dennis Sikma is also the son of Sharon and Denny Sikma. He is a lithographer/journalist with the U.S. Navy stationed at Norfolk, Virginia.



Sharon Sikma, Senior Construction Aide, top left, is one of five generations. Pictured is her grandmother Hester Canerday, mother Jo Barton, daughter Veronica and granddaughter Justine.

DISTRICT FIVE

District Five's Christmas/Awards Presentation Luncheon was held December 16 at the District Headquarters.



Jim Chaney, left, retired District Engineer, accepts a retirement certificate from new District Engineer Lyndal Waits.



District Five service awards: (L-R) 25 years: Norma McKinney, District Secretary; Carl Anderson, Independence County AMS; Neal McCandlis, Fulton County AMS; Bradley Sneed, Motor Patrol Operator; Hershel Henry, Roller Operator; James Branscum, Senior Mechanic. 30 years: Roy Pitts, Stone County AMS; Samuel Davis, Hydraulic Excavator Operator. 35 years: Danny Garwood, Izard County AMS. 25 years: Gary West, Senior Construction Inspector



District Five service awards: (L-R) Pat Brezler, Senior Mechanic, 20 years; T.J. Fife, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 15 years; Gerald Cupler, Distributor/Roller Operator, 15 years; Billy Walker, Vegetation Controller, 20 years



District Five service awards: (L-R) Johnny Goodman, Distributor/Roller Operator, 10 years; J.L. Bridgeman, Single Axle Truck Driver, 5 years; Ronnie Martin, Construction Aide III, James Walker, Area Headquarters Attendant, Gary Lockett, Vegetation Controller, Melbert Milon, Parts Runner, 10 years; Bobby Cothrine, Janitor, 5 years



District Five safety awards: (L-R) Kirby Johnson, maintenance crew; Leroy Swink, Searcy Residency; Paul Hoggard, District bridge crew; Marilyn Coffman, District Office, 8 years; Winfred Reed, District Shop; Danny Garwood, Izard County maintenance crew; Ed Dickey, District bridge crew, 2 years; Hulon Rice, Batesville Residency, 2 years. Not pictured: Fred Heyde, District bridge crew, 2 years

DISTRICT SIX



District Six 30-Year service awards: (L-R) Arvin Shuffield, Construction Project Supervisor; Charles Tully, District Bridge Inspector



District Six 25-Year service awards: (L-R) Mike Hammond, Construction Project Supervisor; Doug Thompson, Single Axle Truck Driver; Freddie Hall, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish



District Six 20-Year service awards: (L-R) Morris Nutt, Crew Leader; Reuben Carter, Bridge Job Superintendent; Frank Russenberger, Assistant District Engineer; Denver Hardman, Construction Aide II. Not pictured: Fred Evans, Single Axle Truck Driver



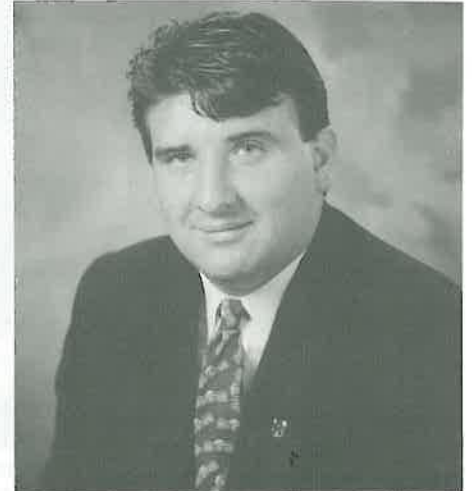
District Six 15-Year service awards: (L-R) Mary Voyles, Construction Aide III; Melissa Rowland, Assistant Storeroom Supervisor; Rick Ransom, Senior Inspector; Dwayne Stokes, Rest Area Attendant; Thomas Collins, Vegetation Controller



Jesse T. James, right, Carpenter, receives a 10-year service certificate from Maintenance Job Superintendent Billy Biggs.



Robert Arguello, Construction Field Engineer II at the Hot Springs Residency, receives a 5-year service certificate.



Shane Broadway, son of retired Maintenance Job Superintendent Charles and Bertha Broadway, graduated from Arkansas State University with a bachelor's degree in political science. He also received the R.E. Lee Wilson Citizenship Award.



Emily Lee Anne, daughter of Construction Field Engineer II Jim and Lis Cramer, was born June 21.



Brayden Thomas, son of Construction Materials Inspector Tom and Tracy Fisher, was born December 8.



Jason Erick is the son of Construction Aide I Edward and Marla Erick. He was selected for the National Leadership and Service Award and was recognized as an All-American Scholar. He is a 9th-grade student at Malvern Jr. High.



Jordan and Jesse Delling are the grandchildren of Barbara Mize, Field Clerk at Jim Pound's Little Rock Residency.

DISTRICT SEVEN

The District Seven Service/Safety Awards Presentation was January 12 at the District Headquarters. Special guests included Commissioner John "M" Lipton, Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations Ralph Hall and Safety Officer Carroll Lathan.



Brittany Nicole is the first grandchild of Bill and Vicky Turner. Bill is the Cleveland County Area Headquarters Attendant.



District Seven service awards: (L-R) John Beasley, Resident Office Technician; Percy Walker, Senior Inspector; Phil Griffiths, Crew Leader; Coy Campbell, District Engineer; Commissioner John Lipton; Thomas Lindsay, Maintenance Job Superintendent; Kenneth Bussell, Bridge Job Superintendent; George Lindsey, Construction Aide II; Jerry Bethea, Construction Aide II; Charles Binns, Senior Inspector; Stan Smith, District Bridge Inspector; Chuck Vance, District Bridge Inspector; Jimmy Parker, Area Headquarters Attendant



District Seven safety awards: (L-R) Alan Hearnberger, Bradley County; Bobby Reddin, Dallas County; Ricky Neal, Cleveland County; Coy Campbell, District Office; Commissioner John Lipton; Thomas Lindsey, District maintenance; James Ellis, sealing crew; Vance Huneycutt, sign crew; Kenneth Bussell, bridge crew; Gary Grimes, Camden Residency; Stan Smith, District Bridge Inspector; Billy Karber, Clark County; Chuck Vance, District Bridge Inspector; Johnnie Risher, Columbia County; Phil Benson, Calhoun County

DISTRICT EIGHT

The District Eight Christmas Open House/Awards Presentation was December 16. Special guest was Commissioner Herby Branscum, Jr. who presented the service and retirement recognitions. Receiving 25-year service certificates were Glen Chavers, Gary Jordan, Robert Evans, Jimmy Hill, Donald Hill, Ronald Paul Jones and Gary Scroggins. Receiving retirement certificates were Glen Chavers, Cletus Cravens, John Martin, Jr., Von Z. Sturdevant and Joe Shuffield.



District Eight service awards and retirements: Row 1: (L-R) Jimmy Hill, Glen Chavers, Von Z. Sturdevant, Robert Evans, Gary Don Jordan. Row 2: Cletus Cravens, Gary Scroggins, Ronnie Paul Jones, J.L. Martin, Donnie Hill, Joe Shuffield



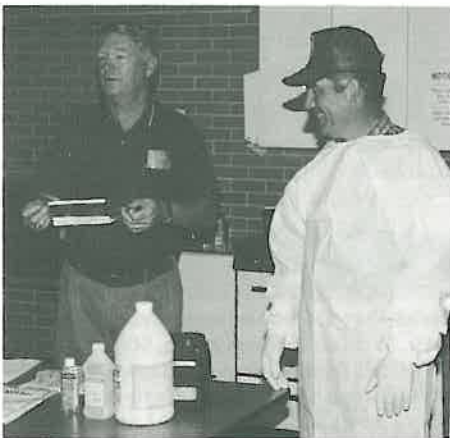
(L-R) District Engineer Lawrence Fletcher and Commissioner Herby Branscum, Jr., visit with District Maintenance Superintendent Tom Kinslow and Area Maintenance Supervisor Smitty Bonds at the District Eight Awards Presentation.



District Eight service awards and retirements: (L-R) Glen Chavers, Rest Area Attendant, 25 years and retirement; Edwin Parker, Motor Patrol Operator, 20 years; Robert Evans, Motor Patrol Operator, 25 years; David Keeling, Guard, 10 years; Floyd Denney, Asphalt Tank Truck Driver, 15 years



District Eight service awards: (L-R) Newt Roberson, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 10 years; Gary Dorrrough, Senior Mechanic, 10 years; Phillip Stroud, Rest Area Attendant, 15 years; Kenneth Buchanan, Fuel Clerk, 20 years; William Shipp, Lead Person, 20 years; Robert Turner, Area Headquarters Attendant, 15 years; Alvin Warren, Motor Patrol Operator, 10 years; James Chronister, Motor Patrol Operator, 15 years; Havis Rackley, Rest Area Attendant, 20 years; Jerry Biffle, Motor Patrol Operator, 15 years



Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Thomas Dally enlists the help of Maintenance Job Superintendent Truett Leavell, Jr. in demonstrating the correct methods of handling bloodborne pathogens.



Kathelyn Elizabeth is the daughter of Stock Clerk Tony and Sherry Derrick. She was born May 30.



Evan David is the son of Van Buren County Lead Person David and Renee Hogue. He was born December 29.

DISTRICT NINE

The District Nine Christmas Open House/Awards Luncheon was held December 9. Special guests included Commission Vice Chairman Bobby Hopper and Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations Ralph Hall.

A special thanks to J.T. Richardson, Boone County Area Maintenance Supervisor and Larry Richards, District Body Repairer and Painter, for the excellent job of preparing the chili.



District Nine 30-year service awards: (L-R) Bill Phillips, Newton County Area Maintenance Supervisor and Frank Rose, Assistant Maintenance Superintendent



J.T. Richardson, Boone County Area Maintenance Supervisor, receives a 35-year service certificate from Commission Vice Chairman Bobby Hopper, ACE/Operations Ralph Hall and District Engineer Ralph Fulton.



District Nine 25-year service awards: (L-R) David Dodson, Lead Person; Connis Ingram, Baxter County Area Maintenance Supervisor; Jackle Cunningham, Single Axle Truck Driver; Donnie Walker, Ferry Boat Pilot; Lynn Rand, Lead Person



District Nine 20-year service awards: Row 1: (L-R) B.J. Rea, Vegetation Controller; James McEntire, Senior Construction Materials Inspector; Jimmy Glisson, Lead Person; Russell Overall, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator; Marvin Carlton, Bridge Repairer II; Louis Carter, Jr., Benton County Area Maintenance Supervisor; Kit Core, Carroll County Area Maintenance Supervisor; Kenneth Whitney, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish. Row 2: (L-R) Ralph Hall, Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations; Ralph Fulton, District Engineer; Donald Lee, Bridge Repairer II; Loris Horton, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator; Everett Burr, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator; Dale Cox, Crew Leader; Howard Farmer, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish; Eldon Watson, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator; Larry Wheeler, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish; Commission Vice Chairman Bobby Hopper.



District Nine 15-year service awards: Row 1 (L-R) Clint Taylor, Welder; Kenneth Booth, Station Attendant Supervisor; Cecil Jordan, Area Headquarters Attendant; Greg Harding, Assistant Resident Engineer; Leslie Hall, Vegetation Controller. Row 2: (L-R) Loyd Hopper, Single Axle Truck Driver; Mike Nowlin, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator; Robert Massengale, Bridge Repairer II; Doyle Root, Lead Person



Brian Schwartz, Inspector, receives a 20-year service certificate and pin.



Caitlin Cheyenne Speak, granddaughter of Sealing Crew Leader Ronnie and Shella Faught, was born August 11.



Skyler Brynn Ames, granddaughter of Vegetation Controller Gary and Ernestine Younger, was born November 12.



Captain Roger Minge, left, of the Arkansas National Guard, presents Jim Barton, Yellville Resident Engineer, with an "Employer Support Award."



Singing carols and original compositions at the Christmas Luncheon are Rick Widner, Storeroom Supervisor; Melvin Raney, Assistant Storeroom Supervisor; Willard Villines, Spreader Operator; Mike Thomas, Single Axle Truck Driver; Charles Gibson, retiree; Tommy Jackson, District Shop Supervisor. Jim Barton, Resident Engineer, accompanied the group on harmonica and guitar.

DISTRICT TEN

The District Ten Christmas/Service Awards Presentation was December 15. Special guests included Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson, Right of Way Division Head Bob Parker and Staff Construction Engineer Tommy Littleton.

Commissioner Benafield and District Engineer Joe Barnett presented retirement, service and safety certificates.

Receiving retirement certificates were Jerry Richmond, 25 years; Van Woolsey, 19 years; Jerry Barnes, 33 years; Sherman Johnson, 20 years; Raymond Hoelscher, 29 years and Gaylen Williams, 4 years.



Bill Montgomery, center, Mississippi County Area Maintenance Supervisor, receives a 35-year service certificate from District Engineer Joe Barnett and Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield.



District Ten 25-year service awards: (L-R) Charles Les Barrett, Senior Inspector; Earl Bragg, Inspector; Dale Mason, Senior Construction Aide; Sterling White, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish; Carl White, Lead Person; Harold Blackwell, Crew Leader; John Porter, District Permit Officer; Burrell Rogers, Multi-Axle Truck Driver. Not pictured: Darrell Thacker, Construction Project Supervisor



District Ten service awards: (L-R) Pat Hay, Construction Aide, 15 years; Roland Eaton, Roller Operator, 15 years; Statin Shockley, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish, 15 years; Dennis Herrin, Lowboy Float Truck Driver, 20 years



District Ten 10-year service awards: Row 1: (L-R) Steve Glover, Assistant Resident Engineer; W.C. Inman, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish; Lonnie Tribble, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator; Joseph Hudson, Single Axle Truck Driver. Row 2: (L-R) Jerry Morrow, Lead Person; Ronnie Hinkle, Dozer Operator; Elbert Hawkins, Distributor/Roller Operator



District Ten 5-year service awards: (L-R) James Miller, Distributor/Roller Operator; Gilbertta Darter, Area Headquarters Attendant; Carlton Sampley, Multi-Axle Truck Driver



District Ten safety awards: Row 1 (L-R) Harold Lady, Lawrence County; Walter McMillan, Paragould Residency; Jeff Pillow, Greene County; Dick Hays and Kevin Smith, Bridge Inspectors. Row 2: (L-R) Dale Johns, District Shop; Brent Watkins, Jonesboro Residency, 2 years; Joe Foresythe, Bridge Inspector



Nicholas Ryan is the son of Senior Inspector Larry and Susie Pillow. He was born May 9.

AHTD OUTDOORS



Randy Lewis, Right of Way Realty Appraiser/Negotiator



Tom Lynn, Right of Way Realty Appraiser



London Sabb, Right of Way Plans Designer, with a Corsican Ram



Randy Reed, Right of Way Plans Designer, with a Mouflon Ram



Casey Turner, son of L.G. Turner, District Four Bridge Inspector



**Don Glover, District Four
General Laborer in Washington County**



**Jason McDowell, son of District Four
Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Kim McDowell**



Don Glover, District Four General Laborer in Washington County



**Buddy Turner, left, District Four Bridge Inspector
and son Dusty**



**Clinton Isaacs, District Four Crawford County
Crew Leader with a black bear**



**Justin Allman, son of Mike Allman,
District Six Senior Inspector at the Hot Springs Residency**



**Keeton Hudson, age 7, son of Don Hudson, District Seven
Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator in Bradley County**



**Mike Wolfe, District Seven Motor Patrol Operator in Bradley County,
with a 7-point buck**



**Mike Wolfe, District Seven Motor Patrol Operator
in Bradley County, with his second 7-point buck**



**Jessica, left, and cousin Nicole, with a deer killed by Jessica's mother,
Tonia Parks, District Eight Single Axle Truck Driver in Pope County**



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