

*Arkansas
Highways*
WINTER 1995

Director's Message

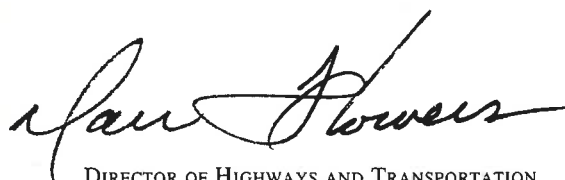
New Challenges for 1996

Once again, our Department ends another productive year. As we look toward next year, we anticipate the possibility of new challenges.

On January 9, 1996, the citizens of Arkansas will be faced with a major decision regarding the future of our state. An election will be held to decide the outcome of the Highway Bond and Local Road Improvement Program, which was proposed by Governor Tucker and supported by the Highway Commission. Enabling legislation was passed by the 80th General Assembly to provide for the proposal to go to the people for a vote. Now the voters will have the final say to decide if we will construct and improve many miles of four-lane and super two-lane highways within a nine-year period. In addition, the cities and counties will receive revenue to address local needs throughout the state.

AHTD employees are well aware of the importance of the proposed program and the significant impact it can have on our agency as well as our state. If passed, it will create challenges for our employees as we will be required to plan and construct highways at a quicker pace. Each of you is encouraged to study and understand the impact of this program as it relates to the Department and the state.

As we end 1995, the Commission and I want to express our thanks to each of you for a job well done, and wish you and your families the best for the holiday season.



DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION



ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS

WINTER 1995

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION



L.W. "BILL" CLARK
CHAIRMAN



BOBBY HOPPER
VICE CHAIRMAN



HERBY BRANSCUM, JR.
MEMBER



JOHN "M" LIPTON
MEMBER



J.W. "BUDDY" BENAFIELD
MEMBER

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

EDITOR
Randy Ort

COMPOSITION & LAYOUT
Carolyn Johnson

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
David Mabury

PHOTOGRAPHER
John Jackson



ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS
IS PRINTED ON
RECYCLED PAPER WITH SOYBEAN INK

Arkansas Highways

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

VOLUME 41 • NUMBER 4 • WINTER 1995

CONTENTS

FEATURES

Interstate 69 Feasibility Study	2
Roadcheck '95	3
AHTD Equipment Auction	4
Dedications:	
Highway 270 Bypass - Hot Springs	6
Highway 49 Bridge - Paragould	6
Highway 167 - Cave City	7
Public Hearings:	
Highway 69 - Melbourne	8
Highway 70 - DeValls Bluff	8
Highway Worker Killed in Mowing Accident	9
1995 Equipment Operators' <u>Rodeo</u>	10
Adopt A Highway Groups Participate in "Great Arkansas Cleanup"	16
AHTD Sponsors Booth at Arkansas State Fair	16

OTHER ARTICLES

Director's Message	Inside Front Cover
Letters	17
In Memory	21
Around the Department	22

COVER PHOTO: State Highway 5 in Saline County
BACK COVER PHOTO: State Highway 65 in Searcy County
Photographs by John Jackson

Feasibility Study Determines Interstate 69 Likely for Southeast Arkansas

Armed with a favorable feasibility study, supporters of proposed Interstate 69 met in Memphis September 25 to discuss options for moving the project forward.

The 15-month feasibility study was conducted by Wilbur Smith and Associates and focused on whether the benefits would outweigh the costs of the project. "It has been calculated that for every dollar you invest in it, you get \$1.39 back," said Joseph Guyton, a consultant who worked on the study. That's just what proponents wanted to hear.

Highway Commissioner John "M" Lipton of Warren called the

feasibility study a "victory" for Southeast Arkansas. "I'm very up-



AHTD Director Dan Flowers

beat about the results," Lipton commented.

The next step will be to begin more detailed environmental and location studies. According to AHTD Director and I-69 Steering Committee Chairman Dan Flowers, more federal dollars will be needed to begin that phase. "We received \$800,000 to conduct the feasibility study," Flowers noted. "The next studies will cost approximately \$30 million.

"We will go after every source of funding we know of," Flowers continued. "We have requested funding from Congress, but we don't know how that will be received with all the budget activities going on up there. Having a positive feasibility study really improves our position."

Interstate 69 would stretch from Indianapolis to Houston by way of Memphis and Shreveport. The entire 1,000-mile route is expected to cost approximately \$5.5 billion. The portion through east and south Arkansas is estimated to cost about one billion dollars.

An exact location for the freeway cannot be determined until environmental and location studies are complete. This study identifies a 20 to 50-mile wide corridor as the "most likely to be feasible." That corridor has the route entering Arkansas somewhere between Memphis, Tenn. and Rosedale, Miss. and exiting the state south of the Magnolia/El Dorado area.



U.S. Representative Blanche Lincoln, center, visits with Highway Commissioners L.W. "Bill" Clark, John "M" Lipton and J.W. "Buddy" Benafield, seated, at the recent I-69 meeting in Memphis.



Roadcheck '95: Putting Safety First

Arkansas joined the other 49 states as well as all Canadian provinces this summer in conducting Roadcheck '95, a coordinated truck and bus inspection effort spearheaded by the Federal Highway Administration and the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance.

Arkansas Highway Police officers were stationed at the east-bound inspection site on I-30 just west of Benton for this year's Roadcheck. Officers followed normal roadside inspection procedures for the 3-day event, which was designed to call attention to the

safety efforts of the Highway Police and other law enforcement agencies nationwide. "The goal is to make the highways safer by removing potential causes of accidents," said Randy Reed, Chief of the Highway Police.

During this year's Roadcheck, 341 vehicles were inspected with a total of 315 violations detected. This year's activities also emphasized the enforcement of laws and regulations related to human factors such as driver's licenses, driver qualifications, driver fatigue and other similar aspects. Conse-

quently, a total of 16 drivers were taken out of service during this year's Roadcheck as opposed to only 2 in 1994.

Trucks and buses with serious safety violations were removed from service and not allowed to continue until repaired. Only 16 vehicles were taken out of service this year compared to 42 a year ago.

"We hope that means that the word is getting out that safety violations will not be tolerated," Reed said. "We'll see if the trend continues."

Tugboat, Other Items Net \$322,472 at Department Auction

Little Joe looked a bit forlorn, lying in a corner of the equipment yard, listing to one side. The wear and tear of a long career with the Department was evident. After nearly 30 years of service, it was time to retire Little Joe — the orange tugboat on the Peel ferry.

Little Joe was one of more than 300 items sold at the AHTD Equipment Auction, conducted October 24, at the Equipment and Procurement Annex. Some 300 bidders and hundreds more bystanders attended. After expenses, the Department netted about \$322,472.64, according to Al Sacco, Division Head of Equipment and Procurement.

Chuck Drees of Equipment and Procurement unloaded and arranged all the equipment, trucks, and odds and ends at the auction, including Little Joe. "We brought the tug in on a lowboy, hooked chains to it, and eased it off there,"



Little Joe now waits for a trip to Belize

Drees said. "It wasn't much trouble."

Marion County bought Little Joe in 1968 to push the Lady Marion barge across Bull Shoals Lake. Little Joe and Lady Marion became state employees the following year, when the AHTD assumed responsibility for the Peel

ferry. Until 1980 Little Joe was the sole tug at Peel, according to ferry Supervisor C.G. "Curley" Johnson. That year a more powerful tug arrived and the older boat went into semi-retirement, used only as a backup.

"We run about 20 round trips a day, and that tug ran every day for 12 years," said Johnson. "You do the math." In other words: at least 87,600 round trips. With an average two-mile round trip, that's 175,200 miles.

Attendees at the auction were curious about Little Joe, peering through the hatch at the massive diesel engine, peering into the spartan cabin with its throttle and gauges. Few were prepared to bid.

"Oh, I don't know," said one man when asked if he would bid. "I could put it in the front yard. That'd really thrill the neighbors."



Finally the auctioneer's truck pulled to a halt in front of Little Joe and the crowd gathered 'round.

"Gonna sell this tugboat, item number 182, got a Detroit 471 in there," the auctioneer bellowed. "Who'll give me a hundred?" In a half minute the bids hit \$2,000, then \$2,500. "Twenty-five hundred, twenty-five hundred, who'll give me twenty-six hundred?" the auctioneer chanted. "Twenty-six,

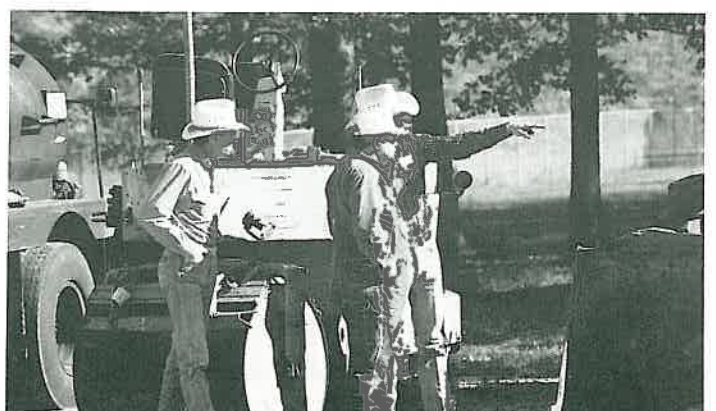
twenty-eight hundred, twenty-eight, give me twenty-nine...Any more? Twenty-nine, twenty-nine — sold for twenty-nine hundred."

The auctioneer paused and added, "You do know that's not a ski boat, don't you?"

Little Joe appears to be heading a long way from the cool waters of Bull Shoals. New owner Harold Agee of Paragould plans to lug the tug to Belize, a small Cen-

tral American nation on the Gulf of Mexico. He may even float it there — down the Arkansas and Mississippi rivers and across the Gulf.

Curley Johnson, who once rode the ferries of Belize on a church mission trip, said Little Joe will give the Belizeans their money's worth. "I worked on it for years," he said. "It always did the job."



Section of U.S. Highway 270 Opened To Traffic

A crowd of about 50 people, including all five members of the Arkansas Highway Commission, braved unseasonably warm temperatures September 11 to celebrate the opening of the third phase of the East-West Arterial in Hot Springs.

The new 3.9-mile section, linking Highway 7 South with Highway 270 East, was completed at a cost of nearly \$16.5 million. The entire 10-mile arterial will now become U.S. Highway 270 while the old Highway 270 will be known as Highway 270B.

"Many of you were present with me in June 1992 when we dedicated the first section of the arterial from Highway 270 West to Highway 70 West," Highway Commission Chairman L. W. "Bill" Clark told the crowd. "We got together again in February 1993 to open the section from Highway 70 West to Highway 7 South.



Highway Commission Chairman L.W. "Bill" Clark, left with scissors, with Hot Springs and Garland County officials, cut the ribbon officially opening the new 4-mile section of the Highway 270 East-West Arterial in Hot Springs.

Today's opening completes the arterial as it was originally envisioned, although we now plan to continue the expressway northward to Highway 70 East and eventually to Highway 7 North."

"We've noticed a real relief from congestion already," said Hot

Springs Mayor Helen Selig. "This is one of the most important projects ever to come to Hot Springs." The expressway also allows continuous four-lane access from the county's industrial park on the west side of Hot Springs to Interstate 30 at Malvern.

Highway 49 Bridge Dedicated at Paragould

Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield and AHTD Director Dan Flowers joined officials from Greene and Craighead counties September 6 for a ribbon cutting on a new bridge, part of a widening project on U.S. Highway 49 between Jonesboro and Paragould. The ceremonies took place on the new Village Creek bridge south of Paragould.

Benafield and Flowers updated the audience of about 50 on the



Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield and Director Dan Flowers (center) cut the ribbon officially opening the new bridge on Highway 49.

Progress of the widening project. Work on the Village Creek bridge is complete except for approaches to the west side and removal of a detour bridge. J.W. Githens Co. of Poplar Bluff, Mo., began work on the 5.2-mile, \$8.7 million widening project in September 1993. Completion is expected in 1996.

After the morning ceremony, Benafield and Flowers attended a special joint meeting of several Paragould area civic clubs. At the meeting, Randy Philhours of the

Greene County Courthouse Restoration Committee thanked the Commission for enhancement funding of the courthouse restoration. One grant helped finance a replica of the original clock tower and perform complete exterior renovations. A second grant will go toward interior restoration.

Benafield then briefed the audience on the proposed 1995 Highway Bond and Local Road Improvement Program. He described the upcoming bond election as "one

of the most important votes we'll cast in a long time."

"With the bond program we can build new Highway 67 to the state line much more quickly," said Benafield. "And we can build a four-lane Highway 412 from Oklahoma to the Missouri bootheel. This would place Paragould directly on a major east-west four-lane route and a short distance from a major north-south route."

U.S. Highway 167 Dedicated at Cave City

Commissioner Herby Branscum, Jr., gave the dedicatory address October 20, at a ribbon-cutting for the new three-lane U.S. Highway 167 through Cave City in southern Sharp County.

U.S. Representative Blanche Lambert Lincoln also spoke to the crowd of 50, along with State Representative Larry Goodwin, Sharp County Judge Frank Arnold, and Cave City Mayor Bill Bob Pinkston.

Branscum gave the audience an overview of future plans for Highway 167. "As you may know, we awarded another contract earlier this month for a portion of the widening project south of Batesville," Branscum said. "The new job will bring the work right up to the south side of Pleasant Plains. And we will move as quickly as we can to complete it all the way to Batesville."

Branscum also noted that the 1995 Highway Bond and Local

Road Improvement Program "calls for the widening of Highway 167 to four lanes, not just to Batesville, but all the way to Ash Flat. There it will tie in to a four-lane Highway 412 that stretches from Oklahoma to the Missouri bootheel."

The ceremony formally opened a newly widened two-mile section

of Highway 167 through Cave City. The \$2.14 million contract was awarded in August 1991 to Howard Construction Co. of Sedalia, Missouri. The project includes six-foot-wide concrete sidewalks along both sides of the highway to accommodate students and other pedestrians.



U.S. Representative Blanche Lincoln, along with Commissioners J.W. "Buddy" Benafield and Herby Branscum, Jr., cut the ribbon to officially open Highway 167.

Highway 69 Public Hearing Held in Melbourne

Residents of Melbourne in Izard County appreciate recent improvements to State Highway 69 from Batesville north toward their community. Judging from responses at a public hearing September 12 they're eager to see the same wider lanes, safer curves, and improved shoulders in their area.

Some 33 area residents learned about the proposed projects from 12 AHTD employees who attended the hearing, held at Melbourne Elementary School. Items of concern were the proposed location and design of two projects: a 2.2-mile project relocating Highway 69 on the southeast approach to Melbourne near the Sage community, and a 4.1-mile project to widen the highway to three lanes from the east side of Melbourne to the courthouse square.

The project at Sage consists of two 12-foot lanes with eight-foot

paved shoulders. The project through Melbourne consists of two 13-foot travel lanes and a 12-foot center turn lane, with curb and gutter. Neither project involves residential or business relocations, although some parking will be lost in front of Melbourne businesses.

After learning about the projects and addressing their concerns about access and right of way acquisition, the response from most attendees was positive.

"I wish construction would start tomorrow," wrote one resident.



Jim Fooks, left, AHTD Right of Way Acquisition Section Head, reviews plans with local residents.

DeValls Bluff Residents Welcome Widening To Highway 70

Not every public hearing features hors d'oeuvres, but civic-minded residents of DeValls Bluff laid out a refreshment table at the public hearing held September 19, at the city's Community Center to discuss the proposed new bridge on Highway 70 at the White River.

The city's Hospitality Committee members were among 57

area residents who attended along with 20 AHTD employees. Broad interest in both the bridge and the navigable waterway it crosses was evidenced by other agency representatives: four from the Memphis District Corps of Engineers, two from the Federal Highway Administration, one from the Coast Guard, and one from the Arkansas

Waterways Commission.

The preferred alternative for the bridge project calls for a new bridge approximately 1,400 feet north of the existing bridge. Total length of the project, including the new bridge and its approaches, is 1.25 miles.

Nearly all of those attending were eager for a new bridge. While

The 70-year-old existing bridge is of historical interest, it has been closed for repairs three times in the last 25 years (1972, 1988, and 1992) with a total closure duration of three years. Each closure means long detours for commuters, farmers, school buses, emergency vehicles, and mail carriers.

In addition, Highway 70 is the only alternate route for Interstate 40 traffic when the interstate is closed for an emergency. Residents shook their heads when they recalled occasional interstate detours, with some 23,000 vehicles a day crossing the aging bridge.

Those attending seemed impressed by plans for the project, which minimizes impacts on wetlands and involves only one relocation. "The bridge replacement is

much-needed," according to one typical written comment. "I be-

lieve we need to get started as soon as possible."



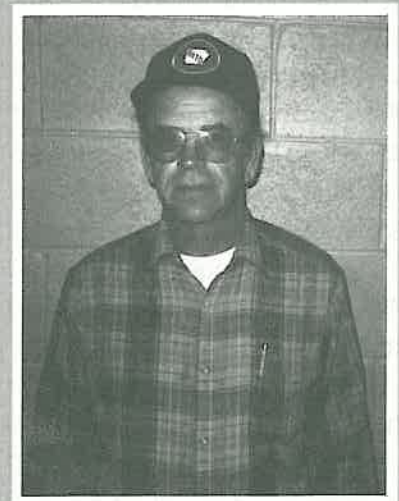
John Isom, center, AHTD Senior Environmental Scientist, discusses proposed project with local residents.

AHTD Employee Killed in Mowing Accident

Clarence Ray Farmer, Single Axle Truck Driver for the Newton County maintenance crew of District 9, was killed Monday, October 9, while operating a tractor/mower.

With the seatbelt in use, the tractor/mower rolled down an embankment coming to rest in the Little Buffalo River off State Highway 74. Mr. Farmer was transported by ambulance to the Boone County Hospital and was then airlifted to St. John's Hospital in Springfield, Missouri, where he died while in intensive care.

Farmer, 54, began his employment with the Highway and Transportation Department on October 3, 1991, as a General Laborer. He is survived by his wife; one son; one daughter; two grandchildren, his mother and one sister.



ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT OPERATORS' ROADEO

Competition Fierce As Female Claims First State Title

The weather may have been cool and damp September 20, but it didn't dampen the fire in competitors' eyes at the 1995 Equipment Operators' Roadeo, held at the Central Shops.

Nearly 70 AHTD equipment operators from across the state competed in the Tractor/Lowboy, Tandem Axle Dump Truck, Single Axle Dump Truck, Tractor/Mower, Backhoe, and Motor Patrol events. Some 21 judges kept tabs on their performance.

Most contestants suffered no lack of self-confidence. "I've been around equipment like this since I was big enough to walk," said Willie Leming of District 4, the defending champion in the Tractor/Lowboy event. A bystander asked him about the most difficult aspect of piloting the big rig through an obstacle course. "None of it's difficult to me," he said with a grin. "For other people, maybe."

Margaret Byers of District 4, a Single Axle Dump Truck competitor, was back for her third Roadeo. She had turned in a solid performance in her event and could hardly wait for results to be announced. "All the guys on my crew



Highway Commission Chairman L.W. "Bill" Clark, left, and AHTD Director Dan Flowers presented certificates to all of the Statewide Roadeo winners.

think I'll come in third place today," Byers said, "but I think I'm gonna surprise them."

And surprise them she did — Byers earned first place in Single Axle Dump Truck, becoming the first woman to win a statewide Roadeo event.

There were tense moments for even the most confident competitors. The crowd swelled at the Backhoe area to watch two-time champion Kenny Riley of District 9 defend his title. He coaxed the big machine into picking up one

golf ball after another from a sand-box and depositing the balls into a nearby coffee can. But a sudden miscue caused the big shovel to bury a ball in the sand. An "ooh" went up from the spectators. Two or three deft swipes later, Riley dug out the ball and plopped it into the target.

"There's some good hands here," Riley said as he watched other competitors take their turns at the backhoe. "This might be my last year. I'm not going to get cocky." Riley needn't have wor-



1995 TEAM CHAMPIONS - DISTRICT 9

(L-R) Ralph Fulton, District 9 Engineer; L.W. "Bill" Clark, Highway Commission Chairman; Christy Dye, Single Axle Truck Dr.; Bobby Kelley, Single Axle Truck Dr.; Terry Eidson, Single Axle Truck Dr.; Joey Fierro, Single Axle Truck Dr.; Tommy Jackson, Shop Supervisor; Kenny Riley, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator; Dan Flowers, AHTD Director

ried. At the awards ceremony, he added another first-place plaque to his growing collection.

Another Rodeo veteran, William "Hickie" Hickman of District 7, demonstrated the seemingly effortless skill that comes from years of experience. In the Motor Patrol competition, Hickman maneuvered past rows of tennis balls on raised tees, using delicate flicks of his blade to sweep off the balls without upsetting the tees.

Hickman ran a motor patrol for 19 years before becoming a crew leader last year. "I miss it," he said of the motor patrol. "I still get to do it every once in awhile." Hickman brought a cheerleader

with him: wife Janet Hickman. Mrs. Hickman videotaped his performance along with those of his District 7 co-workers. "I took the day off to be here," she said. "This is a lot of fun. It's good for the employees."

Prizewinners weren't the only ones having fun. First-time Rodeo competitor Christy Dye of District 9 may not have carried off a trophy in the Single-Axle Dump Truck event but she enjoyed it nonetheless. "I'm just thrilled to be here," she said. "When I won at the District Rodeo I was surprised, I was shocked." She is already a winner to her son and daughter back home. "My little girl was sick, but she got

up and hugged me and said, 'I hope you win, Mommy.'"

At the awards ceremony, Highway Commission Chairman L.W. "Bill" Clark outlined the benefits of competing in the Rodeo. "This brings you together where you can witness the skills of others around the state," Clark said. "And that is important. You *are* the Highway Department. How well you perform is how the public views the Department."

AHTD Director Dan Flowers praised the competitive spirit of the participants. "More than 1,200 people have competed in the last five years of the Rodeo," said

Flowers. "The competition gets more intense every year, and we look forward to many more years of the Roado."

Frank Smith of District 1, who competed in the Backhoe event, wants more company at next year's

District and statewide Roados. "We need more people in the Districts to get involved in this thing," he said. "If you are good at what you do, you should try to compete. You even get a chance to get in the

magazine." Smith will not have to convince Margaret Byers to return. "I'm tickled to death," she said. "I can't wait to come back next year."

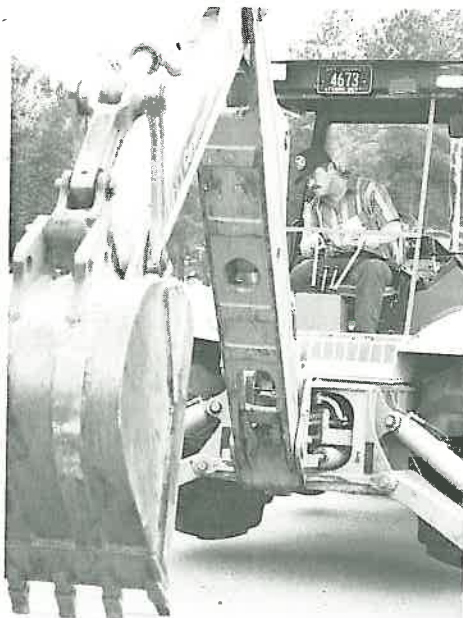
1995 STATE CHAMPIONS

(L-R) L.W. "Bill" Clark, Commission Chairman; Harold Mullins, Jr., District 1, Tractor Truck/Lowboy; Earnest Rose, District 1, Tractor/Mower; Brad Fultz, District 10, Tandem Axle Dump Truck; Kenny Riley, District 9, Backhoe; Margaret Byers, District 4, Single Axle Dump Truck; William "Hickie" Hickman, District 7, Motor Patrol; Dan Flowers, AHTD Director



1995 AHTD EQUIPMENT OPERATORS' ROADEO





1995 AHTD Equipment Operator



TRACTOR TRUCK/LOWBOY

(L-R): Commission Chairman L.W. "Bill" Clark; 3rd Place: Willie Leming - District 4; 2nd Place: Steve Lang - District 4; 1st Place: Harold Mullins, Jr. - District 1; AHTD Director Dan-Flowers



TANDEM AXI

(L-R): Commissioner Clark; 3rd Place: Stanley Rogers - District 3; 1st Place:



TRACTOR /MOWER

(L-R): Commissioner Clark; 1st Place: Earnest Rose - District 1; 2nd Place: David Orr - District 6; 3rd Place: Clarence Edwards - District 2; Director Flowers



(L-R): Commissioner Clark; 3rd Place: Langston - District 8; 1st Place: K

ors' Statewide Rodeo Winners



E DUMP TRUCK
 Rodney Sutherland - District 5; 2nd Place:
 Brad Fultz - District 10; Director Flowers



SINGLE AXLE DUMP TRUCK
 (L-R): Commissioner Clark; 3rd Place: Rick Carmack - District 10; 2nd Place: Don Norris
 - Central Office/Maintenance; 1st Place: Margaret Byers - District 4; Director Flowers



CKHOE
 Junior Fox - District 2; 2nd Place: Dennis
 any Riley - District 9; Director Flowers



MOTOR PATROL
 (L-R): Commissioner Clark; 3rd Place: Kenny Riley - District 9; 2nd Place: Sterling
 White - District 10; 1st Place: William "Hickie" Hickman - District 7; Director Flowers

Adopt A Highway Groups Participate In "GREAT ARKANSAS CLEANUP"

From Texarkana to Piggott, and from Rogers to Lake Village, an estimated 10,000 Adopt A Highway volunteers joined thousands of other Arkansans September 9 in the 17th Annual Great Arkansas Cleanup to help make our state shine.

The event was sponsored by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Keep Arkansas Beautiful

Commission, and KSSN Radio of Little Rock. Governor Jim Guy Tucker served as Honorary Chairman of this year's event and issued a proclamation promoting the cause.

This marked the third year that Adopt A Highway groups were encouraged to take part in the cleanup. Adopt A Highway volunteers made up nearly half of all

participants in this year's cleanup.

Highway Commission Chairman L. W. "Bill" Clark also serves on the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission. "It's only natural to invite the Adopt A Highway groups participate in the Great Arkansas Cleanup," Clark said. "By working together, we can really make a difference in the appearance of our state."

Department Hosts Booth at Arkansas State Fair

"Party 'Til the Cows Come Home" -- that was the theme of the 1995 Arkansas State Fair. And when the thousands of fair-goers were finished partying, they could find their way home with a free map from the AHTD booth at the Hall of Industry.

For the seventh year in a row, AHTD employees greeted the pub-

lic and handed out scores of tourist maps, safety brochures, litter bags and Adopt A Highway brochures. In addition fair-goers could examine 20 large photographs of construction along new Highway 540 from Alma to Mountainburg. Nearly 30 Department employees helped staff the booth during the week-long fair.

"The booth was a big success again, thanks to the volunteers who staffed it," said Assistant Public Affairs Officer Randy Ort, who coordinated the booth. "Our volunteers not only handed out a lot of maps and valuable information, they also gave the public a positive view of the AHTD. A smile and a conversation go a long way."



(Left): "Buckle Bear," along with "Vince and Larry," were a huge success with all the children at the Department's booth at this year's Arkansas State Fair. (Right): AHP Ptl. Eddie Tanner, Public Affairs Office Administrative Aide V Crystal Clark, Highway Police Office Administrative Assistant V Marcia Zeno, "Larry" Melissa Marshall, "Buckle Bear" Davin Webb, "Vince" Stacey Radtke

Letters of "Thanks"

TO: Arkansas Highway Department

We thank you so much for the 5.4 miles of Highway 153 from the junction of Highway 1 north through Crockett's Bluff. We have needed it for many years - and now we have it. Thanks so very much. No more bumps!

Also the white lines are greatly appreciated along the edge of the new surface.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!
The Crockett's Bluff Community and the whole Bullock Family
Daniel Boone, Eleanor, Stevan, Peggy, Terry Dan, Joan and Scott

TO: Dan Flowers
AHTD Director

I am writing to express our sincere appreciation for your department's participation in "Safety Is Our Driving Force 1995."

Your enthusiastic contribution to this effort resulted in a tremendously successful activity with over 7500 people attending. These public information exhibits on transportation safety generated a wide range of positive comments from the public. These comments reflected their interest and concerns on various highway issues. As a result of our cooperative efforts, attendees gained an enhanced awareness of how we all can safely use our highways.

Due to the expressed interest of persons attending these exhibits, we are planning future activities of this nature. We hope you will continue to join us in this unique effort to reach out and educate the traveling public and promote highway safety.

Once again, thank you for helping the Office of Motor Carriers, Region 6, make this a worthwhile experience for everyone.

Sincerely,
David B. Martin
Regional Director
Office of Motor Carriers
U.S. Dept. of Transportation
Federal Highway Admin.
Fort Worth, Texas

Editor's Note:
Participating were Sgt. Neal Duke, Cpl. Steve Harlow and Ptl. Officers Elaine Fitzpatrick and Jerry Perry from the Highway Police Division.



Ptl. Elaine Fitzpatrick and Ashley Counce, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Counce of Marion

TO: William Tyler
District 3 Engineer

I am impressed and very appreciative. Thank you for checking out Highway 4 between the U.S. 371 and Highway 355 junction. I am delighted to learn you plan to correct the problem.

It seems it is a "politically correct" attitude these days to question or degrade the quality of our public employees. I know from personal knowledge Alvin Vaughn, Area Maintenance Superintendent for Howard County, is a good public servant. He always seems very concerned and interested when approached. It is clear to me you take your job very seriously and get on with what needs doing.

Thanks again,
Larry R. Teague
Teague & Teague Insurance

TO: Bentonville Tourist Information Center
U.S. Highway 71 North, Bella Vista

Last week we had the occasion to journey to the Bentonville, Arkansas area in our motor home and we could not find a RV park to spend the night. To our delight we noticed a sign that invited us to stay the night in the Bentonville Tourist Information Center parking lot. Needless to say, we were extremely pleased to turn around and pull in for the night as we were getting very weary at this late hour.

The next morning the staff was very kind and offered a very hospitable service to my family and me.

This letter is to simply say thank you for this unusual service and may I add, please don't change this in the future. We have already told several friends about this nice gesture.

Sincerely,
Clarence L. Roberson
Sports Writer/Photographer
National Trap & Field Magazine
Enid, Oklahoma

To: Lyndal Waits
District 5 Engineer

Since the late 1970's we have stopped at the rest area south of Batesville. After Tommy Harper started taking care of it, we have always found it very clean, neat and it always smells so fresh and the grounds are so well kept.

Just wanted you to know he is appreciated.

Sincerely,
Gertrude Holmes

Editor's Note: Tommy Harper is the Rest Area Attendant at the Salado Park in District 5.



Jennifer Teinert with her Arkansas display

TO: Melba Shepard
AHTD Personnel Officer

Last school year, while a fifth grade student at Redeemer Lutheran School, I wrote to you requesting any available information on Arkansas for my social studies state report. This note is just to say thank you for sending material to help me with that report. I made an A+ on the project. We displayed them at our May parent-teacher-league meeting.

Thank you again for your help with my school assignment.

Jennifer Teinert
Austin, Texas

TO: Jim Briley
District 2 Engineer

On behalf of the City of Lake Village, I would like to express our appreciation for the overlay of State Highway 144 along Lake Chicot. The overlay of the highway is an added improvement to our city and couldn't have come at a better time.

Again, thank you for the improvement to our city.

Sincerely,
Jo Ann H. Bush
Mayor, City of Lake Village

TO: Roger Almond
AHTD Deputy Director and Chief Engineer

My rural carrier, Royce Helms, Jr. and I want to express our appreciation for the fine work your maintenance crew did on the approach to Mr. Wallis' mailbox.

The maintenance crew did an excellent job on the approach and Mr. Helms should not have any problem serving that box in a safe manner. It should eliminate any threat of an accident while the carrier is stopped at the mailbox.

Again, we thank you and the maintenance crew for the excellent work. If we can be of help, please let us know.

Sincerely,
Eugene D. Schafer, Postmaster
Smithville, Arkansas

TO: William Tyler
District 3 Engineer

Words cannot express our heartfelt thanks to you and the Arkansas Highway Department for the installation of the turn lane on Highway 71 South and Redcut Road in Fouke. It is very reassuring that the AHTD cares for the safety of the citizens of Fouke and all those who travel Highway 71. It will be very beneficial to the buses that have to turn on Redcut en route to Fouke Schools.

Again thank you for all your help in this very worthwhile project. If there is anything that the City of Fouke can do for you, please call at any time.

Sincerely,
Cecil E. Smith
Mayor, City of Fouke

TO: Chief Randy Reed
Arkansas Highway Police

I am writing you this note concerning one of your officers, B. Thomas, known as "Bucky." He stopped me the other day for a minor traffic violation, but that's not the purpose of this letter. The actual reason is to let you know what an outstanding officer and young man you have in Bucky Thomas.

I once owned a company named Laser Aim and dealt with police officers all over the world. I can truly say that Officer Thomas is one of the friendliest and most courteous officers I have ever encountered. In my opinion he should be on the fast track for both leadership and promotion.

Sincerely yours,
J.R. Alexander
Scott, Arkansas

TO: Bill Harrod
Maintenance Division Senior Traffic Investigator

The members and friends of the Brightwater Memorial United Methodist Church wish to thank you for your swift and concise handling of our situation at the entrance to our church on Highway 62 north.

Your concern and follow-through was outstanding. I can assure you that all of the people who come to our church have been advised of your part in the handling of this matter. I also believe that the safety of the people that use this section of Highway 62 has been greatly enhanced.

Sincerely yours,
Otto H. Sell
Administrative Council Chairperson
Brightwater Memorial United Methodist Church
Rogers, Arkansas

TO: William Tyler
District 3 Engineer

Like the western philosopher Will Rogers, a lot of what I have learned comes from the newspapers. And the newspapers just the last year have had some very commendable things to say about the activities of the Hope District of the Arkansas Highway Department — the multi-year contract to repair I-30 from Texarkana north; the extension of Highway 71 from the Louisiana state line north as a possible first step at Interstate 49 finally becoming an “interstate” highway — the list of million plus dollar projects is impressive.

But, in the minds of many of us in Hope, these projects pale when we see the 'August phenomena' occur. It has been exciting to see your crews at work as they have painted sign poles, cleaned gutters, swept streets and in general made our community more attractive for the guests we have for the Watermelon Festival.

The Chamber of Commerce does an outstanding job of trying to stimulate local industry to sponsor 'team effort' in a number of contests for the festival, but the team effort your men and women have shown in making Hope more attractive at this time of year is truly exemplary of the team efforts this community needs to demonstrate to show our pride in where we live.

Please offer our community thanks to your employees; they are appreciated more than we let you know.

Sincerely,
Dr. Don W. Freel
Hope, Arkansas

IN MEMORY

EMPLOYEES

Clarence Ray Farmer
Single Axle Truck Driver
District 9
died October 9, 1995

Junus Phillips
District 5
died August 3, 1995

John R. Lewallen
District 5
died September 21, 1995

Vancil C. Nast
District 5
died August 28, 1995

McEwen L. Darr
District 10
died September 23, 1995

RETIREEES

Leslie B. Gregory
District 9
died August 1, 1995

Leslie Sanders
District 4
died September 5, 1995

William E. Hayes
Right of Way
died October 2, 1995

Howard H. Henley
District 2
died August 2, 1995

John T. Pendergrass
Chief Engineer
died September 6, 1995

Melvin Wylie
District 3
died October 9, 1995

William E. Farra
District 5
died September 13, 1995

Dan A. Terpening
District 9
died October 9, 1995

Henry T. Purvis
District 6
died September 17, 1995

Wilda B. Ratliff
Computer Services
died October 12, 1995

Around the Department

COMPUTER SERVICES



Service awards: (L-R front row): James Windom, Programmer I, 5 years; Yvonne Reeves, Data Base Librarian, 15 years; Carlotta Vaughan, Computer Technical Coordinator, 20 years; Bill Durham, Staff Automation Engineer, 30 years; Assistant Division Head Mike Shaw. (Back row): Gary Wilmoth, Senior Programmer Analyst, 35 years; Jo Young, Graphics Control Technician, 25 years; Lori Thresher, Computer Operator, 5 years; Brad Terry, Software Analyst II, 5 years.

CONSTRUCTION



State Construction Engineer Allan Holmes presents Jim Trost, Staff Construction Engineer, a 30-year service pin on August 1.



Shown are Lauren and Josh Holland, children of Final Estimates Squad Leader Chuck and Kathy Holland. Josh was born August 24.



Mikala Elizabeth Sebren, daughter of Staff Construction Engineer Mike and P&R Office Adm. Assistant V Becky Sebren, was born July 31.



Phillip Austin Birch, stepson of Kennie Birch

The Construction office extends its sympathy to Kennie Birch, Office Adm. Assistant III, whose stepson was killed in an automobile accident September 27; to Ann Harrell, Estimates Technician, whose mother passed away August 14 and to Tommy Littleton, Staff Construction Engineer, on the loss of his father-in-law.

HIGHWAY POLICE



Jill East, daughter of Captain and Mrs. Gary East, was elected cheerleader at College Hill Junior High in Texarkana.

HUMAN RESOURCES



Satish "Steve" Patel was recently hired as a new Mail Clerk in the Mail and Supply Section.



Human Resources Division employees recently picked up trash along their adopted section of State Highway 338.

Valera and Jay McDaniel welcomed their first child, Turner Glen, into the world on Month Day. Valera is Personnel Specialist.

INTERNAL AUDIT



Chief Auditor Bill McDorman presents Vicki Hayden, Senior External Auditor, a 15-year service certificate and pin.

Ann Helm, Senior External Auditor, was presented a 10-year service certificate and pin on October 9.

MAINTENANCE



Harold Cox, left, Heavy Bridge Maintenance Supervisor, receives a 15-year service certificate from David Lambert, Heavy Bridge Maintenance Engineer. Harold suffered a heart attack in June and is now going through rehabilitation. We wish him the best.



Ben Winkler, Jr., left, Heavy Bridge Maintenance Supervisor, receives a 15-year service certificate from David Lambert, Heavy Bridge Maintenance Engineer.



Leroy Harviston, left, Bridge Repairer II, receives a 10-year service certificate and pin from Keith Briggs, Heavy Bridge Maintenance Superintendent.



Paul Baty, left, Crew Leader, receives a 10-year service certificate and pin from Garland Land, Heavy Bridge Maintenance Staff Engineer.



Patrick Wayne England, son of Sign Crew Supervisor Wayne and JoAnn England, was born April 23.



Amber Renee Theiss, granddaughter of Roger Turner, Facilities Management Crew Leader, was born August 21.



Peggy Sue Bryant, daughter of Linda Bryant, Facilities Management Office Adm. Assistant III, is a member of the Bryant Lady Hornets volleyball team. She is the "setter" for the team.

MATERIALS

Materials Area Engineer Charles and Corrine Means enjoyed their annual week in Hawaii followed by a week's stay in the San Francisco area visiting with grandchildren.

Chemist II Dawn Richards and family spent two weeks in Idaho visiting family and helping with the potato harvest.

Geotechnical/Soils Section Head Terrell Watts spent a week in Indiana fishing and visiting with family.

Materials Technician IV Harold Banks repeated last year's performance in the Fort Roots Volunteers' championship golf tournament by finishing second place. He finished third in the Center's Classic held at Chenal Country Club and as part of the Classic festivities, matched three-point baskets with former Arkansas Razorback Mervin Delph shooting five for five.

PLANNING AND RESEARCH

Office Administrative Assistant III Laura Hinze received a 20-year service award and Robert Fuhler, Cartographer II in Mapping and Graphics, recently completed five years service.

Research welcomes Terry Esper as an engineering intern. He is a senior at Philander Smith College majoring in mathematics.



Sean Doolin, son of Statistician Steve and Sandra Doolin, recently completed U.S. Army basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He is stationed at Fort Knox, Kentucky and will go to Germany early next year.



Mikala Elizabeth Sebren, daughter of Office Adm. Assistant V Becky and Staff Construction Engineer Mike Sebren, was born July 31.



Statistical Analyst Jackie Greer, center, vacationed in Frankfurt, Germany in August.

PROGRAMS AND CONTRACTS

On September 28, the Pavement Management function of Programs and Contracts was transferred to Planning and Research and the Reproduction Section of P&R was added to P&C. A pizza party was held to say goodbye to Bill Staggs, Mark Frazier and Terry Vittitow and we welcome everyone in Reproduction.



Devon Christopher Bryles is the first grandson of Adm. Assistant III Jerry and Pat Dixon. He was born April 4.



John and Laura Carter enjoyed a Hawaiian vacation in August and visited Disney World, the Kennedy Space Center and Daytona Beach in June. Laura is an Advanced P&C Specialist.



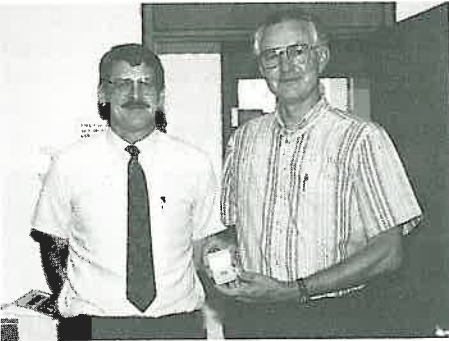
Gwendolyn Shante' Carter, daughter of Advanced P&C Specialist Laura Carter, is shown with the "Fox" at Disney World.

RIGHT OF WAY



Ron Johnston, shown with wife Linda, Engineering Section Head, retired September 29 with 30+ years service.

SURVEYS



Bob Mize, right, Staff Survey Engineer, receives a 30-year service pin from Kit Carson, Division Head.



Surveys Division Head Kit Carson, left, presents Michael White, Staff Survey Engineer, a 20-year service certificate and pin.



John Wayne Wilson, Survey Party Chief, with a 20-year service certificate and pin he received in July.

DISTRICT ONE

The statewide Equipment Operators' Rodeo, held September 20 at the Central Shop in Little Rock, netted District One two first-place winners. Earnest Rose, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator for Phillips County, won first place in the Tractor/Mower event and Harold Mullins, Asphalt Tank Truck Driver for the districtwide sealing crew, placed first in the Tractor/Lowboy event.

Edward Jeffrey, son of Bookkeeper Vella and Charles Jeffrey, has left for basic training with the U.S. Navy in Great Lakes, Illinois. Edward was a summer employee for the district.

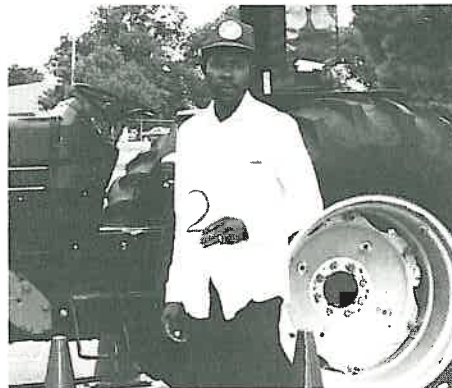


Miranda McGeorge, first granddaughter of Permit Officer Bettye Carter, was born September 24 to Christi and Clay McGeorge of Russellville.

DISTRICT TWO



Junior Fox, Crew Leader at Stuttgart, placed third in the Backhoe event of the statewide Equipment Operators' Rodeo.



Clarence Edwards, Distributor/Roller Operator in Jefferson County, placed third in the Tractor/Mower event of the statewide Equipment Operators' Rodeo.

Johnna and Mike Fuller announce the birth of their first child, Britney Michelle, on September 30. Johnna is a Construction Aide III for the McGehee Residency.

Barney Herring, Area Maintenance Supervisor for Desha County, retired with 24+ years service.

DISTRICT THREE

The Hope Residency welcomes John Watkins as new Resident Engineer. He transferred from Wynne.

Dennis Clark, Construction Aide III for the Hope Residency, was married September 17 to Sherrie Woodard.

District Engineer William and Darlene Tyler announce the birth of their first grandchild, Lana Katherine, born August 16 to Julie and Roger Moren.



Brittany Nicole Gammage, granddaughter of Single Axle Truck Driver Debbie Pate, was born July 1 to Angela and Steve Gammage.

Amy Formby, granddaughter of Office Adm. Assistant V Helen and Kenneth Kidd, was selected Homecoming Queen for Spring Hill High School.

Stock Clerk Gail Ratcliff's children entered their Simmental X in the Nevada County Fair and the Southwest Arkansas District Fair in Hope. They received three first; two second; and two third-place finishes in the Nevada County Fair and a 3rd, 4th, 5th and 7th place finish in the District Fair. They are now competing at the State Fair.

DISTRICT FOUR



Office Manager Ray Jett was recently promoted to Area Maintenance Supervisor for Scott County.



Lisa Lee is the new District Receptionist for the District Four office.



Summer interns for the Mountainburg Residency were Cory Walton-Macaulay, Mike Tarin, Mark Maurer, Vimal Sinnathamby and Kip Agarne.



New Civil Engineer I at the Mountainburg Residency is Tommy Long.



Kenneth Tucker, left, Senior Mechanic, receives a 10-year service certificate from Shop Supervisor Aubrey Bowen.

DISTRICT FIVE



30-Year Service Awards: Edward Kickey, District Bridge Inspector; Tommy Jones, Senior Inspector; Randy Satterwhite, District Maintenance Superintendent



District 5 Service Awards: Ronnie Friddle, Single Axle Truck Driver, 5 years; Larry Deaton, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 5 years; Bobby Pearson, Construction Aide II, 10 years; Angela Cantu, Construction Aide I, 10 years; Joe Gilbert, Motor Patrol Operator, 15 years



District Engineer Lyndal Waits, left, and Stone County Area Maintenance Supervisor Roy Dean Putts. Roy Dean retired in September with 31 years service.

DISTRICT SIX

Leslie Taggart is the new District Receptionist. She is from Little Rock but has spent the last three years with husband, Jeff, stationed in Germany. They have one daughter, Lacy, age two.



Kate, daughter of John and Billie Phillips, played T-ball for a bank in England. Her team won first place in the city league. John is a Distributor Operator for the District sealing crew.



Zachary is the son of Advanced Construction Field Engineer Tony and Rhonda Evans. Daughter Sarah Elizabeth, shown below, was born March 8. Tony was recently promoted to Assistant Resident Engineer at the Camden Residency.



DISTRICT SEVEN



Corey Austin Vance is the grandson of Bridge Inspector Chuck and Jackie Vance of Camden. Corey and brother Jeremy, age 2, live in Paragould.



Ira Steed, son of Rick and Mary Steed, is shown in the family's 1925 Model T. Rick is a Multi-Axle Truck Driver for the District bridge crew.

DISTRICT EIGHT



April Long, age 13, daughter of Senior Mechanic Gary Long and Carol Burt, was crowned 1995 Perry County Fair Teen Princess. She is an eighth grader at Perryville where she is a cheerleader and a member of the basketball team.

DISTRICT NINE



Roy Brasel, District Sealing Job Superintendent, retired in June with 33+ years service.



Floyd Wyatt, Vegetation Controller, receives a 10-year service certificate from Kit Core, Area Maintenance Supervisor for Carroll County.



Five-Year Service Awards: Don Arrington, Single Axle Truck Driver; Fred Williams, Motor Patrol Operator; Dennis Caldwell, Distributor Operator; Sandra Faulkner, Motor Patrol Operator; Danny West, Single Axle Truck Driver



Ten-Year Service Awards: James McHalfey, Vegetation Controller; Morrisie Phillips, Crew Leader; Tim Myrick, Bridge Inspector Helper; Margie Cates, Vegetation Controller



Service Awards: Ted Miller, Distributor Operator, 20 years; Charles Evans, Senior Mechanic, 15 years



Otto Morton, left, Dragline Operator for the District bridge crew, receives a retirement card from Jay Kingston, Bridge Job Superintendent. Otto completed 30+ years service.

District Ten recently said goodbye to two Assistant Resident Engineers. Steve Glover, Assistant RE for the Osceola Residency was promoted to Resident Engineer at Clarksville in District Eight and Bruce Street, Assistant RE at Jonesboro, became Resident Engineer for District One at Wynne.



Kelby Lynn Taylor, granddaughter of Senior Mechanic John and Dorothy Allison, was born September 14 to Lance and Brandy Taylor.

Leonard and Pat Norton announce the birth of their granddaughter, Hannah Elisabeth, to Greg and Kim Webb. Leonard is a Senior Inspector for the Jonesboro Residency and Pat is the District Receptionist.



Debbie Myrick, Single Axle Truck Driver for Greene County maintenance crew, shows off a portrait of her fifth-generation family. Pictured are granddaughter Kalie Poyner, grandmother Gladys Btler, mother Louise Morrow, daughter Tammie Poyner and Debbie.



Season's Greetings

from the

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

L.W. "Bill" Clark, Chairman

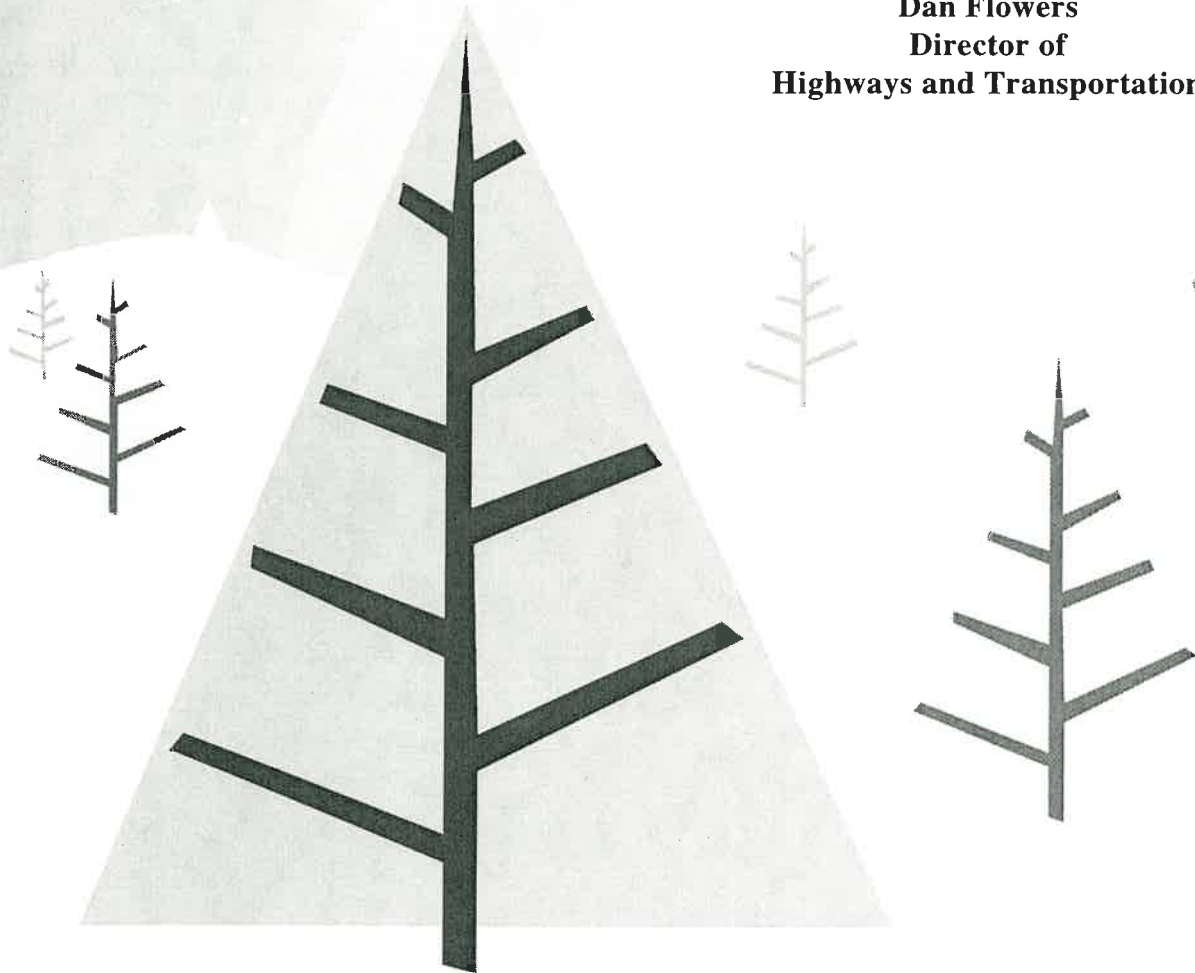
Bobby Hopper, Vice Chairman

Herby Branscum, Jr.

John "M" Lipton

J.W. "Buddy" Benafield

Dan Flowers
Director of
Highways and Transportation





**ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY
& TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT**

**POST OFFICE BOX 2261
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72203-2261
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED**

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

