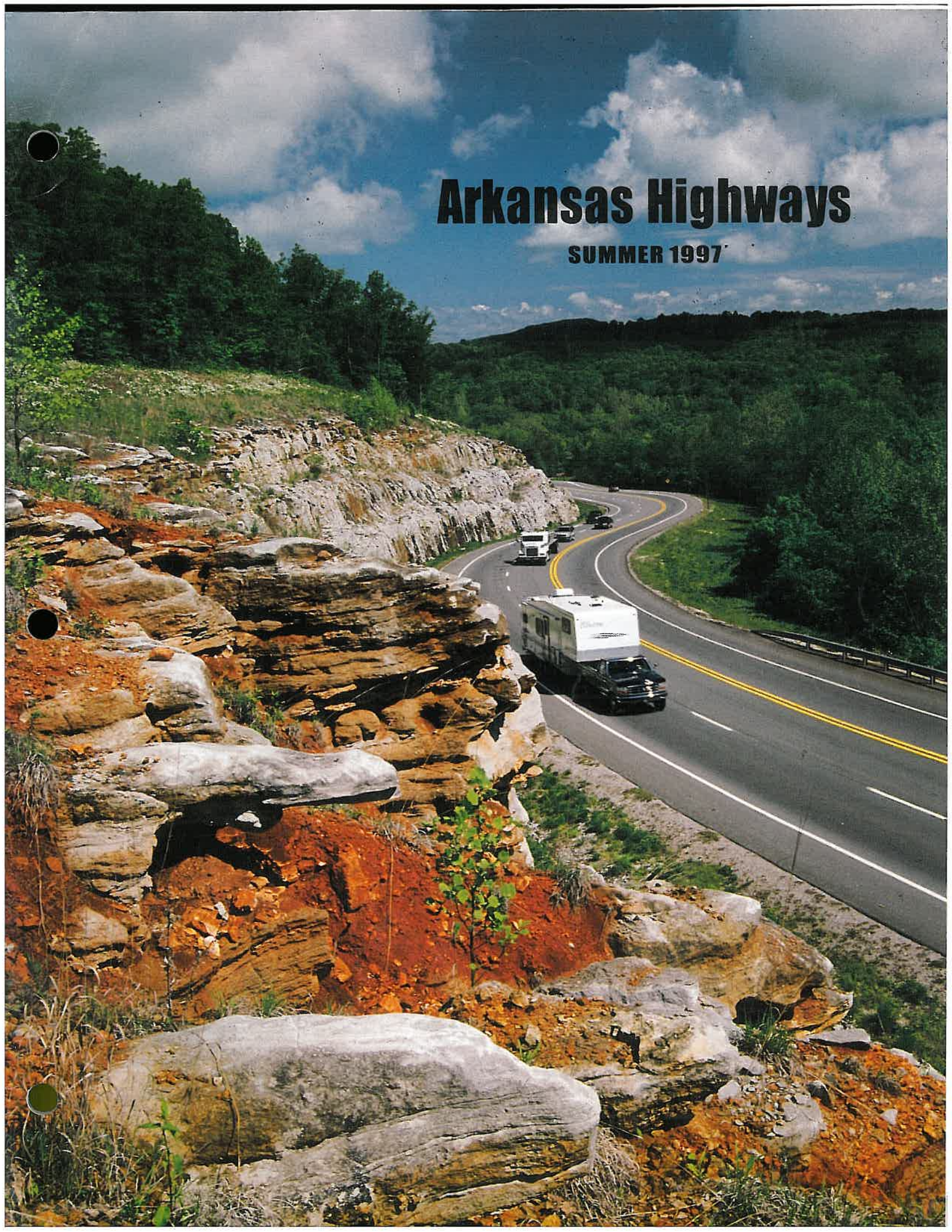


Arkansas Highways

SUMMER 1997



Director's Message

SASHTO '97 IN ARKANSAS

Once every twelve years, the Department hosts the annual meeting of the Southeastern Association of State Highway and Transportation officials, more commonly known as SASHTO.

This year's meeting will be held September 12-16 in Little Rock. In 1973 and 1985, the last two times Arkansas hosted this event, Hot Springs served as the host city. This year, Little Rock's Excelsior Hotel on the banks of the Arkansas River will be convention headquarters.

Hosting a meeting of this magnitude takes a total team effort. Thirteen committees involving dozens of employees have been working since last fall preparing for the event. Many more of you will be involved during the week of the meeting.

Though the meeting itself lasts but a few short days, months of hard work precede it. I'm proud of the work that has taken place so far. It confirms my belief that those five days in September will be a credit to our Department.

No job is too small in putting on a meeting like this. Every person involved will play an important role. Even those who will not physically be at the convention will play a part, some by doing behind-the-scenes work away from the convention site, others by making sure that everyday Department functions are attended to.

The SASHTO meeting will be a reflection of our Department. I know that we are capable of hosting a successful convention and that delegates will leave with positive memories of our Department, our city, and our state.



Paul Flowers
DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS

SUMMER 1997

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION



BOBBY HOPPER
CHAIRMAN



HERBY BRANSCUM, JR.
VICE CHAIRMAN



JOHN "M" LIPTON
MEMBER



J.W. "BUDDY" BENAFIELD
MEMBER



PRISSY HICKERSON
MEMBER

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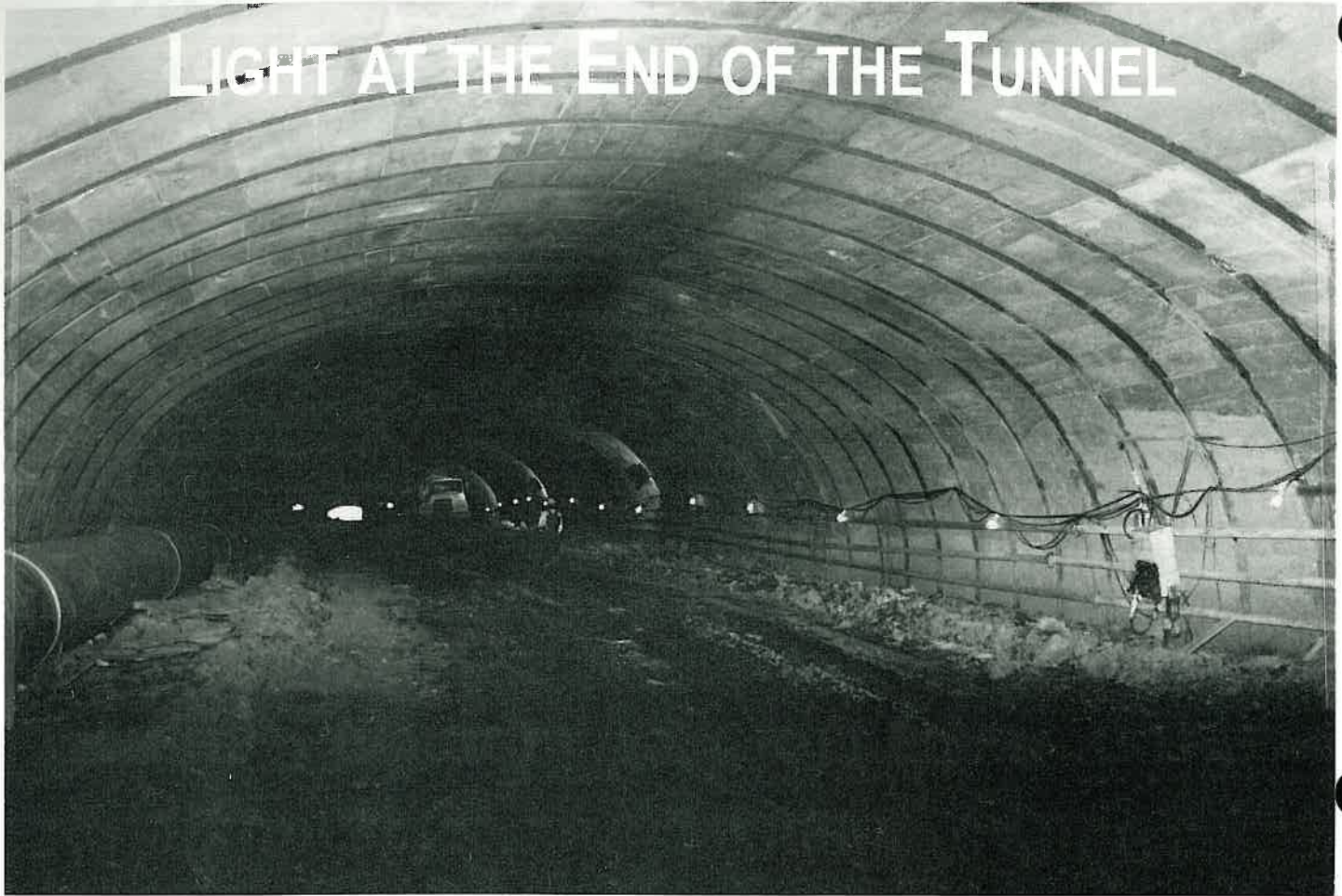
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COVER PHOTO: Beaver Bridge on Highway 187 over the White River in Carroll County.

BACK COVER PHOTO: Highway 65 in Searcy County.

Photographs by John Jackson



North and South Portals of Arkansas' First Tunnel Connected on Arkansas 540

A significant milestone has been reached in constructing Arkansas' first highway tunnel. Contractors for the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department working on Arkansas 540 between Mountainburg and Fayetteville have connected the north and south portals in the Bunyard Tunnel. The final few feet of the southbound tunnel were blasted through on March 11 and the northbound tunnel on the following day.

Crews have been working continuously from each end of the side-by-side tunnels since August 15, 1996.

The first phase of the excavation of the upper 18 feet has been completed and the contractor is now lowering the floors another 11 feet to complete the excavation in the tunnel. The floors of the tunnels are approximately 220 feet below the surface of Bunyard Road. Approximately 124,250 cubic yards of material will have

been excavated when the tunnels are complete. Supporting the structure's ceiling will be 15,700 cubic yards of concrete.

The method used for tunneling into the hillside was blasting. Between 100 and 150 holes were drilled in the walls by a special high speed drill. The holes were then filled with dynamite and a shaped charge blasted away approximately eight feet of the tunnel wall. Large loaders then removed the debris and placed it

near the tunnel portals to be used in building the approaches.

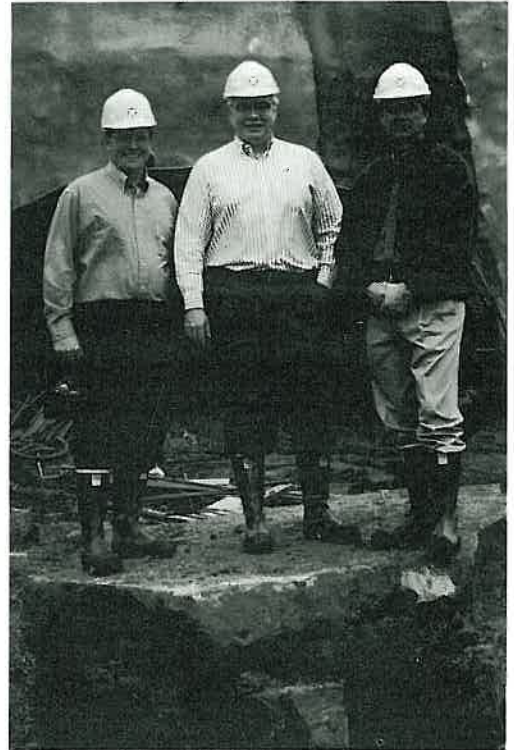
The twin tunnels are major projects of Arkansas 540, which is scheduled to open in early 1999. The completed interstate-quality highway between Alma and Fayetteville is expected to cost approximately \$425 million.

According to Resident Engineer Phil Chandler, the significance of the project is that it represents the "riskiest part of this business." "We all breathed a sigh of relief," Chandler explained when the final support structures were in place.

District 4 Engineer Harold Beaver said the tunnels will be exceptionally safe for motorists. "This should be the safest quarter-mile of road in the whole state. It never rains. It never snows. It's never dark. And the wind is always blowing the same direction," Beaver said.

The contract for the \$37.1 million Bunyard Tunnel Project was awarded to J.F. Shea Co., Inc. of Walnut, California on August 3, 1995. The two tunnels will be 1600 feet long and 47 feet wide.

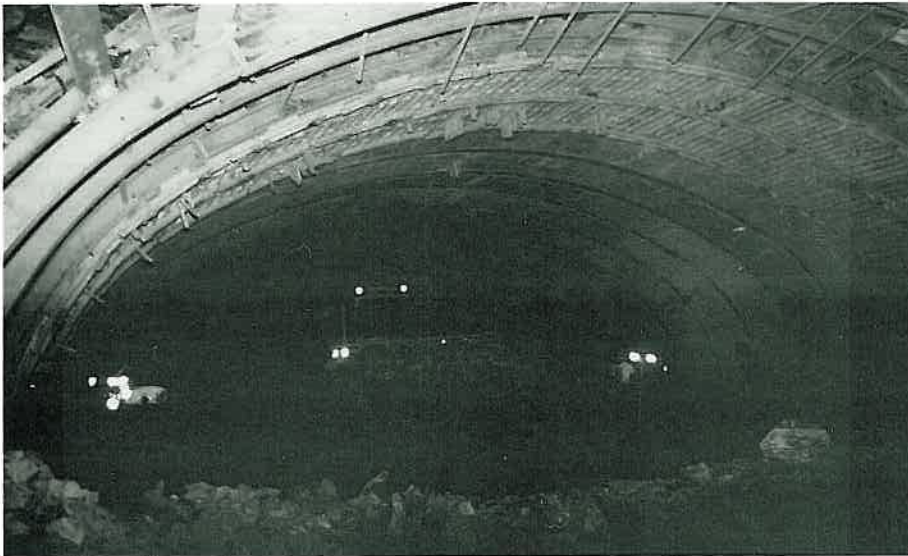
Construction work on the tunnel is expected to be complete by Fall 1998.



AHTD Assistant Chief Engineer for Design Bob Walters, District 4 Engineer Harold Beaver, and Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations Ralph Hall

Bunyard Tunnel Facts

Location	Southwest of Winslow
Cost	\$37.1 million
Contractor	J.F. Shea Co., Inc. of Walnut, CA
Starting Date	August 15, 1996
Expected Completion Date	September 4, 1998
Length of each tunnel	1,600 feet
Height of each tunnel	29 feet
Width of each tunnel	47 feet
Excavated Material Removed	124,250 cubic yards
Lighting	1,289 high pressure sodium lights
Fire Protection	Two 40,000-gallon water tanks
Exhaust	10 reversible fans
Motorist Aid Boxes	14
Video Cameras	10
Cross Passages Between Tunnels	5
Distance Below Bunyard Road	220 feet
Elevation	1,640 feet above sea level
Pavement Thickness	11 inches of concrete over 10 inches of base course



Heavy equipment moves dirt from both ends of the tunnel openings.



Employees of J.F. Shea Co. help place the final support structures.

Arkansas State Highway Commission Opens Final Paving Bid for Arkansas 540 Project

The Arkansas State Highway Commission opened bids April 2 for the final paving project on the much-anticipated Arkansas 540 project between Mountainburg and Fayetteville, according to Arkansas Highway Commission Chairman Bobby Hopper.

The project includes paving a new 10.1-mile section of Arkansas 540 from the Bunyard Tunnel to West Fork. The W.J. Menefee Construction Co. of Sedalia, Missouri was the low bidder on the project. The company's bid was \$17,312,720.01 for the work which is expected to be complete by September 1, 1998.

"With this job, we will have all of the paving projects under contract for this new highway. Upon completion of the project, the Department will have spent over \$384 million on the new road," Hopper said. "We are still on

schedule for an early 1999 opening of the highway," he added.

When completed, this new highway will open Northwest Arkansas even more to the rest of the state, Hopper explained. "With the rapid growth of this area, the highway will give businesses and citizens better access to I-40 and the rest of the country," he said.

The new highway will rise from the Arkansas River Valley over the Boston Mountains to the Springfield Plateau of Northwest Arkansas. The elevation of the highway at the I-40 interchange is 435 feet above sea level and rises to its highest point at the Highway 74 interchange west of Winslow at 1,750 feet above sea level.

Arkansas 540 Facts

Location	Northwest Arkansas
Cost	Approximately \$425 million
Starting Date	January 1987
Expected Completion Date	Early 1999
Length	43 miles
Bridges	63
Culverts	8
Tunnels	2
Tallest Bridge	Hess Creek - 210 feet
Longest Bridge	Frog Bayou- 2,285 feet

Flowers Receives Golden Shovel Award from Arkansas One-Call

AHTD Director Dan Flowers has been recognized for his efforts to promote safety and damage prevention pertaining to underground utilities. Arkansas One-Call, a non-profit corporation created almost 20 years ago to protect vital underground utilities, presented their Golden Shovel Award to Flowers at the Highway Commission meeting on April 2.

"Five years ago, Arkansas One-Call established this award to recognize companies, organizations, or individuals who go above and beyond in the promotion of safety," said Jean Davis of Southwestern Bell Telephone, President of the Board of Directors of Arkansas One-Call. "The first Golden Shovel Award went to Riggs Tractor Company. The second Golden Shovel was presented to State Representative Carolyn Pollan two years ago. On behalf of the Arkansas One-Call members throughout the state, I'm proud to present the third Golden Shovel Award to your Director, Dan Flowers," continued Davis.

Davis commented that in most areas of the country, one-call systems and state DOTs have not been allies. "That has been unfortunate," Davis added, "but under the leadership of Dan Flowers, the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department has built a partnership with the state's utilities. This partnership simply recognizes that we are all serving the same people; people who want good roads as well as reliable utility services. This relationship has become the envy of other one-call systems throughout the country."

Arkansas One-Call currently has 423 members around the state. The membership includes telephone companies, long distance carriers, gas distribution systems, interstate pipelines, electric companies, water and wastewater systems, cable television companies, and others with underground facilities such as the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and the AHTD.



Arkansas Highway Police Present New Look



The Arkansas Highway Police has a new look. The traditional uniform, dark brown trousers with tan shirts and dark brown hats, is being retired. The new uniform consists of dark blue trousers with nickel gray shirts and dark blue hats.

The AHP patch is being changed from a dark brown circle to a larger dark blue rectangle. The new patch is more recognizable and features an outline of the State of Arkansas containing the numbers "1929" in red, the year the Highway Police was formed. In addition, the logo has been changed to a replica of the new AHP badge shown above.

According to Highway Police Chief Randy Reed, the new uniforms not only present a new look, but are of a higher quality than the old ones and cost much less. The old uniform was manufactured from costly materials and each item was custom made. The new uniform is made of modern materials and utilizes stock items where possible.

Another positive aspect of the new uniform is that female officers will be able to purchase uniform items manufactured for women. In the past, female officers purchased the standard uniform, manufactured in men's sizes, and altered them to fit properly.

The uniform changes were made after receiving input from all of the Division's uniformed officers. The new uniform was favored by more than 80 percent of the of-

icers over the old uniform and other models presented.



Officers dressed in new uniforms are 2nd Lt. Glen Holloway in winter attire, Pfc. Elaine Fitzpatrick in utility uniform and Cpl. Ken Jordan in spring uniform. The newly-designed patrol car is shown in the background.

The Division's patrol cars will also get a face lift, reflecting the new color scheme. Two patrol cars have already received the new

striping package and the others will be striped by the end of summer. Chief Reed said, "Some officers are already wearing the new

uniform, which will remain optional until the mandatory change into the winter uniform."

Highway Police Officers Graduate From Instructor Development Course

Nineteen Arkansas Highway Police officers participated in a 50-hour course designed to develop instructor skills in curriculum development and presentation.

The course, approved by the Arkansas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Training (CLEST), was sponsored and conducted by the Arkansas Highway Police. Following successful completion of the course, students are eligible to receive CLEST certification as a Professional Law Enforcement Instructor.

Topics covered during the class include Adult Learning Issues, Psychology of Learning, Legal Issues in Training, CLEST Training Requirements, Course Administration, Teaching Styles, Learning Process, Rewards Training and Special Issues in Technical Training.

In addition to the classroom sessions, each student was required to present a 10-, 15- and 20-minute video presentation on law enforcement-related topics.

In addition to the 19 Highway Police officers, other organizations were invited to fill additional

training slots. As a result, the class included three Pulaski County Sheriff's Deputies, two Little Rock Police Officers, a Maumelle Public Safety Officer, Bryant Police Officer and an officer from the Arkansas Department of Corrections.

Highway Police officers who were instructors during the development course were: Captain George Coffman, Lt. Paul Claunch, Lt. George Franks, Cpl. Ross Batson and Cpl. Ken Jordan.

Graduates of the course from the AHP were: Pfc. Michael Almeda, Cpl. Sandra Bates-

Bailey, Sgt. James Boyce, Pfc. Lynn Chaffin, Pfc. Stanley Griffin, Cpl. Brian Harwood, 2nd Lt. Addison Holloway, Pfc. Dan Kee, Pfc. Daniel Morales, Pfc. Nick Phillips, 2nd Lt. David Quast, Sgt. Robert Scott, Ptl. Lowell Stephens, Pfc. Jack Stepp, Pfc. James Stevens, Pfc. Edwin Tanner, Pfc. James Thomas, Pfc. Jay Thompson and Cpl. Jerry Wylie.

At the graduation, Lt. Franks welcomed and introduced the graduates. AHP Chief Randy Reed presented each graduate with a certificate and Captain Coffman made the closing remarks.



MARCH 1, 1997:

A Day Arkansans Will Long Remember

Tornadoes cut a deadly path through the state and left in its wake 26 dead and thousands homeless.

While the tornado deaths and damage were extensive over the state, Department employees were lucky in some ways. No active employees were killed or seriously injured during the storm's four-hour trek across Arkansas. Although there were no fatalities, the destruction of personal property was widespread among Department personnel and their families. Among those affected by the tornado were 20 current employees and one retiree who either had their homes damaged or destroyed or had a close relative with similar damage.

Department employees were quick to respond with help after the devastating storms. The Human Resources Division coordinated an effort to assist employees with specific needs. Department personnel opened everything from their wallets to their hearts for those involved in the deadly tornado. Clothes, bottled water, \$1,050 in cash (\$660 from District 10), personal hygiene items, towels, cleaning supplies and shoes were only a few of the items donated.

Carlotta Vaughn, Computer Services Technical Coordinator, was one of those people who needed help during this trying time. Vaughn's house was totally destroyed, leaving only a few

walls standing in the tornado's aftermath. "I never dreamed the amount of people who showed up to help," she said. "The response was just tremendous. Friends and people from the Department, the Red Cross, Salvation Army all kept bringing us food and water," she explained.

Vaughn was one of the lucky ones; she had homeowner's insurance on the structure and its contents. "I haven't decided where I'm going to move. I'm not moving back to the same lot. I found a house to rent and I'm going to take my time. I lived on Blueberry Drive for over 18 years," she said.

This is not the first time for Vaughn to go through a devastating natural disaster. In 1978 she

survived a flood that destroyed her mobile home. Through all the catastrophes, she has been able to keep her sense of humor. "People are already asking me where I plan to move so they can make sure they aren't anywhere near me," she laughed. "I'm going to make sure that I have earthquake insurance on my next home," she added with a smile.

Danny Moore, Senior Traffic Investigator in Maintenance, has his stepson Zackery to thank for saving the lives of his family and a friend's child. "My son saved my wife and a 10-month old child she was babysitting. He recognized that a tornado was coming and pushed everyone into the hall and got on top of them," Moore



All that remains of Carlotta Vaughn's home on Blueberry Drive in Southwest Little Rock

said, explaining his stepson's heroics. Zackery was rewarded for his actions by the Liberty Mutual Group with its Life Saving Award during a presentation at Bryant Middle School.

Moore said Department personnel has been especially generous during this trying time. "The moral support has been overwhelming. My co-workers have helped with clothing, food and other emergency necessities. They have been instrumental in getting us through this," he said. "It's good to know that there are people at the Department who care," he added. Moore said he is in the process of rebuilding his home in the same location.

Jesse Koenigsberg, who works nights as a Maintenance Division Telecommunications Operator, was sleeping the afternoon the tornado hit his home. "I heard a noise I couldn't identify. It sounded just like everyone says - a train. The house shook violently for 15 to 30 seconds," he explained. Koenigsberg said he met his wife at the door to his bedroom during the worst of the storm. "She told me, 'We have no roof'."

In an open letter to the Department, published in this issue, Koenigsberg thanks the Commissioners and all of the employees for their help. "My wife and I are not native Arkansans and do not have any family here, so the generosity shown by this agency really filled the void," he wrote in the letter. "Jane Wilson and Randy Reed stopped by and that really meant a lot to me," he said referring to the Chief of Administration



Jesse and Terry Koenigsberg in front of what is left of their home

and Public Affairs and Chief of Highway Police. "Everyone was really helpful. They called and asked how we were doing."

All ten Districts were affected by the tornado, either directly or indirectly, according to Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations Ralph Hall. The Districts worked alongside other government agencies to aid in the disaster cleanup. "In the three cities that requested our help, Campbell Station and

Jacksonport in Jackson County and Arkadelphia in Clark County, the Department spent over \$105,000," Hall said. He explained that the cities will be reimbursed from the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) and the cities will, in turn, pay the Department back for its costs. The Department was able to provide labor and equipment to help with debris removal in the devastated locations.



The remains of Danny Moore's home after the March 1 tornado. Moore plans to rebuild on this site.

AHTD and FHWA Sponsor Bridge Mini-Showcase

The Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department and the Federal Highway Administration sponsored a SHRP Highway Performance Concrete Bridge Mini-Showcase on April 3, at the Department's Central Office Auditorium.

The mini-showcase is part of the FHWA's Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP) implementation program, which includes dissemination of information on High Performance Concrete (HPC) and the showcasing of products developed under the SHRP Concrete and Structures program.

The goal of the mini-showcase was to promote the use of high performance concrete in Arkansas' bridges. National in scope and



Ken Perret
Federal Highway Administration



Jim Gee
AHTD Materials Division

regional in emphasis, the mini-showcase focuses on understanding high performance concrete and

the technical aspects of its use in bridges. The FHWA Mobile Concrete Laboratory was demonstrated to those attending the event.

High performance concrete is engineered to enhance durability and high strength levels while ensuring adequate constructability. The characteristics vary depending on the requirements of the specific member and the location. Components of the HPC mix design are selected and proportioned to attain the specified performance characteristics.

Significant benefits may be realized with the use of HPC in bridges, both initially and long-term. These include more efficient designs, improved performance,



Participants in the AHTD/FHWA mini-showcase learned the technical aspects on the use of high performance concrete on bridges.

faster construction, decreased consumption of resources (longer spans, fewer beams), reduced long-term maintenance, longer service life and lower life-cycle cost.

Presenters included Terry Halkyard, P.E. with FHWA headquarters; Ramon L. Carrasquillo,

Ph.D., P.E. with the University of Texas at Austin; Mary Lou Ralls, P.E. with the Texas Department of Transportation; David Sikes, with the FHWA Mobile Concrete Testing Laboratory as well as AHTD and other FHWA personnel.

Attendees included 38 Highway and Transportation Depart-

ment personnel from the design, construction, maintenance and materials divisions; six FHWA personnel from the Little Rock Division, Region 6 as well as 17 representatives from bridge construction companies, material suppliers and precast prestressed concrete manufacturers.

Highway 71 between Alma and DeQueen Discussed at Five Locations

When you think of a school cafeteria, think of loud crowds, people streaming in and out, some leaving satisfied with what they found inside, others not so happy. That was the scene in several towns in western Arkansas in December, but it wasn't because the cooks were serving the students' favorite dishes. Public hearings to discuss proposed locations for the relocation of Highway 71 between Alma and DeQueen were held the week of December 2, 1996. The crowds were large and vocal.

The consulting engineering firm of Michael Baker and Associates prepared a draft Environmental Impact Statement which identified and studied several alternatives for the route. Three main alternatives were shown at the hearings. The preferred route as shown at the hearings was actually a combination of portions of all three main alternatives.

The selected route is expected to be approximately 125 miles in length. Final route selection is not expected until later in 1997.

The week started in DeQueen at the DeQueen High School on Monday, December 2. Approximately 95 area residents attended the meeting and offered comments.

From DeQueen, the hearings moved north to Mena on Tuesday, December 3 for what was the largest and most controversial of the hearings. Over 250 people attended and many voiced their opinions. The main area of concern was where to locate interchanges to provide adequate access to the town.

On Wednesday, December 4, the Waldron Elementary School Cafeteria played host to the hearing. Nearly 200 residents were on hand with most of the comments in support of the preferred alignment.

Thursday, December 5 found the hearing participants in the Cook Elementary School Cafeteria in Fort Smith. Slightly more than 150 people attended but few had much to say. Most at this hearing just wanted to see construction begin as soon as possible.

The final hearing was held Friday, December 6 in Kibler. About 135 signed in for the hearing but, similar to Fort Smith, not many comments were taken. The preferred alignment seemed to be the choice of those who attended.

Nearly 850 people attended all five hearings. After final selection of a route, the design process will begin which will lead to another round of hearings.

High Accuracy Reference Network Project Enhances Survey Precision at AHTD

In an effort to increase surveying precision in the field, the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department has been involved in a project with the National Geodetic Survey (NGS). The Department and NGS are working to extend the national High Accuracy Reference Network (HARN) into Arkansas using the Global Positioning System (GPS). GPS was originally developed for the military and was used extensively in Operation Desert Storm. The Department has been using the GPS for seven years.



Mike White, Staff Surveys Engineer, attaches a monitor cable to a CORS tower.

The HARN is a set of stations, usually between 25 to 100 kilometers apart, whose positions are known with very high accuracy. The points are established as NGS A Order or B Order precision. The A Order points will not be off more than one millimeter in 10,000,000 millimeters (about 1/16 of an inch in 10 miles). The B Order points will be at 1:1,000,000 precision (about 1/16 inch per mile). The Department established six A Order points and five B Order points at various locations around the state.

Based on a cooperative agreement with the NGS, the AHTD occupied 37 of the 72 points used in the state to establish the Federal Baseline Network portion of the HARN. This required occupying many of the points multiple times over a seven-week period. Many municipalities and private users occupied an additional 35 points around the state. Those points will be part of the state network.

This system is faster and more accurate than previous surveying technology, according to Surveys Division Head Kit Carson. "This will result in a significant reduction in time and inventory," he explained. "We expect to get our investment in the HARN back within the first year using this technology," he added.

Carson noted that jobs will be much easier since survey results will improve by holding fixed the positions of the reference network stations when adjustments are made. It will increase our productivity in establishing control for each project about 50 percent," he said.

Some of the other uses for GPS at the Department include sign, bridge and pavement inventories; environmental data; vehicle tracking; and by the Arkansas Highway Police for recording the locations of accidents. This will be most advantageous as the Department implements the Continuous Operating Reference Stations (CORS). On these points, the GPS antennae will be mounted on permanent towers that are placed over the A Order points that have been established. Using data from these points and the broadcast of atmospheric and satellite position corrections to a roving GPS receiver, point positions in the field can be determined to within a few inches of the true position in a matter of seconds.



White adjusts a portable GPS receiving antenna.

Son of Department Employee Receives Liberty Mutual "Life Saving" Award



Zackery Dickson, left, is presented the Liberty Mutual Life Saving Award by Eric Shuffield, Liberty Mutual Sales Manager for Personal Sales.

erty Mutual Group presented the award to Zackery. Larry W. Pittman, Manager of Personal Market Claims in Irving, Texas, said the award is given to people who do heroic deeds. "Through the normal course of handling claims we heard about what he did and felt his presence of mind at the least prevented injuries or at worst possible death," Pittman said.

Only three or four of the awards are given each year in the region which includes Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Colorado and Louisiana, Pittman explained. "Zack received a \$100 savings bond, a plaque with the event documented and engraved on the award and a letter from the regional vice president of Liberty Mutual congratulating Zackery on his deeds," Pittman said.

On hand for the ceremony from the Department were Jane Wilson, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs; Larry Dickerson, Chief Fiscal Officer and Diann Gwatney, Insurance Representative.

Zack's stepfather was duly impressed with his stepson's deeds. "I was away at Army Reserve drill when the tornado hit. I might have done something different than what he did and it might not have turned out to be right thing to do. He is the reason that they survived," he said.

Zackery Dickson, the stepson of Maintenance Division Senior Traffic Investigator Danny Moore, received a Life Saving Award from the Liberty Mutual Group for his quick actions during the March 1 tornado. Zackery was credited with saving the lives of his mother and a 10-month old child of a family friend by jumping on top of them as the tornado hit.

The 14-year old Bryant Middle School student received the award at a special assembly at his school on April 28. Eric Shuffield, Manager of the Sales Department of the Lib-



Left to right: Danny Moore, Zack Dickson, Cindy Moore and Jane Wilson



Shown left to right are Eric Shuffield, Liberty Mutual Sales Manager of Personal Sales; Cindy and Danny Moore; Zack Dickson; and Liz (holding Haley) and Philip Trantham. Haley was the child Cindy was babysitting.

RETIREE PROFILE:**Former Division Head of Right of Way
Continues His Life “On The Road”**

There are not many people who would enjoy driving over 1,000 miles as part of their vacation, but for retired Right of Way Division Head Glendol Jackson, highways are still a big part of his life.

Jackson retired in 1987 after 30 years of service. He now spends much of his time traveling in a 34-foot motorhome crisscrossing the country with his wife, Geraldine. The veteran right of way professional says he's not interested in going to exotic places outside the U.S. “God's creation is really quite spectacular here in the USA.

Perhaps the most scenic trip was a 9,700-mile, three-month round trip to Alaska, highlighted by 1,523 miles on the Alaska Highway from Dawson Creek, British Columbia through the Yukon Territory to Fairbanks, Alaska. “The Alaskan Highway does not compare with highways in the lower 48 states. It is no longer a wilderness road, but rather a road through the wilderness. Sometimes it is paved, but mostly under construction repairing the winter freeze. It is very dry and dusty, but getting to view the scenery along the way and meeting other campers was a once in a lifetime experience,” he said. “I like to see what other highway departments are doing across the country,” he added.

During that Alaskan land voy-



Glendol Jackson, retired Chief of Right of Way, in front of his 34' motorhome that he and his wife uses to tour the United States.

age, he was able to see things that most people only see on television or in National Geographic. “Watching the salmon spawning was an awesome sight. They were so thick that you could almost walk across the river on them,” Jackson said. “It was kind of tough watching those large fish spawning and then dying in such massive numbers. It just seemed like such a waste,” he added.

During the winter season Jackson likes to ‘fly’ south for the winter. Brownsville, Texas is his destination of choice. “The fresh fruit is so good. You just can't get fresh fruit around here like you can in south Texas,” he said. “The warm weather and the friends that travel

with us make for a great winter vacation,” Jackson says. His favorite Texas story involves the time the schools were closed when the temperature dropped to 32 degrees. “The kids just weren't equipped for that cold weather. They don't have any heat in the schools either,” he said.

Jackson doesn't plan on slowing down from his frequent trips anytime soon. “I love to be on the go and meet other people,” he said. Working at the Department allowed Jackson to meet people as well, something he said drew him to his career. “I really like being around people. This is a people-oriented business and the Department was a super group of people to work with,” he added.



GRADUATION

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department congratulates the 1997 high school and college graduates who are children of employees or student employees.



Kim Arendt
North Little Rock High School
Danny Arendt - Right of Way



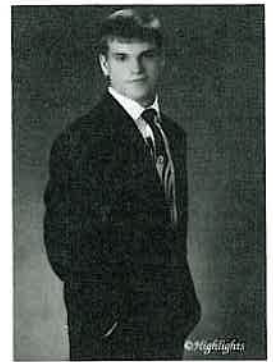
Tracy Bartlett
Hector High School
Bruce Bartlett - District 8



Billy Wayne Barrett
Yellville-Summit High School
Darvin Barrett - District 9



Kimberly Braden
North Little Rock High School
James Braden - Right of Way



Jason Brewer
Springdale High School
Leon Brewer - District 4



Mark Brewer
University of Arkansas
Leon Brewer - District 4



Mark Alan Clements
Central Ark. Christian High School
Charles Clements - Roadway Design



Harlan Dornell Colbert, Jr.
Drew Central High School
Harlan Colbert - District 2



Katie Core
Berryville High School
Kit Core - District 9



Clayton Eli Counts
Corning High School
Cindy Counts - District 10



Scott Allan Donaldson
Hope High School
Don Donaldson - District 3



Jessica Eckhart
Blevins High School
Jeff Eckhart - District 3



Tabetha Roberts
Stuttgart High School
Janet Eifling - District 2



Darriel Ezell
Searcy High School
Leon Ezell - District 5



Steven Dewayne Faught
Valley Springs High School
Ronnie Faught - District 9



Tracy Ficht
Kingston High School
Fred Ficht - District 9



Ameila Flanagan
University of Arkansas at Little Rock
Ed Flanagan - Planning & Research



Sonya Gates
Warren High School
Lenda Gates - District 7



Shane Graishe
Louisiana Tech University
Greg Graishe - District 5



Kevin Grinstead
Cabot High School
Leonard Grinstead - Fiscal Services



Josh Guess
Camden Fairview High School
Tony Herrington - District 7



Jacob Hamilton
Sheridan High School
Katherine Hamilton - Progs. & Confs.



Susan Sumner Hathcote
Henderson State University
J.P. Sumner - Bridge



Andrea M. Heffington
Benton High School
William Heffington - Progs. & Confs.



Angie Hollis
Corning High School
Gladys Hollis - District 10



Kelly Ingram
Camden Fairview High School
Nina Ingram - District 7



Reginald Breone Jackson
Riverview High School
Patty Jackson - District 5



Matt Johnson
Prescott High School
Larry Johnson - District 3



Dedra Jordan
Sylvan Hills High School
Ann Jordan - Progs. & Confs.



Shannon Diane Jones
Bryant High School
Barbara Cox - Progs. & Confs.



Amanda Kauffman
Ouachita High School
Jim Kauffman, Plan. & Res.



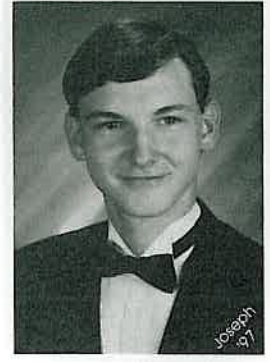
Emily Suzanne Lewers
Greenbrier High School
Larry Lewers - Computer Ser.



Brad Long
Univ. of Ark. at Little Rock
Brenda Walden - Construction



Allen Martenies
Bradford High School
Debra Martenies - District 5



Joseph Mayo
Little Rock Hall High School
David Mayo - Progs. & Conts.



Scott McCorkle
Bryant High School
Mike & Tammy Schiffl - P&R/Surveys



Brandy Jo Mills
Hamburg High School
Marilyn Bates - District 2



Elizabeth Moore
Univ. of Ark. at Fayetteville
Beverly Moore - Environmental



Jacquie Moore
Little Rock Central High School
Beverly Moore - Environmental



Bobby Jo Moren
J.A. Fair High School
Joanne Moren - Legal



Creshun Anjal Myles
Lakeside High School
George Myles - Highway Police



Karen Lynn Neal
Kingsland High School
Ricky Neal - District 7



Kelly Neal
EMT School
Ricky Neal - District 7



Amanda Gayle Nutt
Ouachita High School
Morris Nutt - District 6



Chris Price
Arkansas Baptist High School
Ron Price - Construction



Gary Thomas Revels
Lockesburg High School
Gary Revels - Highway Police



Susan Lyn Russenberger
Arkansas Tech University
Frank Russenberger - District 6



Lara Beth Russenberger
Parkview High School
Frank Russenberger - District 6



Bobbie Jo Scott
Van-Cove High School
Peggy Scott - District 4



Khara Smith
Pangburn High School
Gary Smith - District 5



Jessica Elise Squires
Mount St. Mary's Academy
Elise Squires - Fiscal Services



Stephanie Stafford
Bryant High School
Carole Stafford - Fiscal Services



Warren Strickland
McClellan High School
COE Student - Human Resources



Scott Stroud
Central Ark. Christian High School
Dennald Stroud - Roadway Design



Heather Sutherland
Salem High School
Rodney Sutherland - District 5



Susan Turner
Arkansas Tech University
Robert Turner - District 8



Susan Turner
Malvern High School
James & Karen Turner - Const.



Jason Wade
Hoxie High School
Bobby Wade - District 10



Edward Paul Watkins
Nettleton High School
Brent Watkins - District 10



Christal Weaver
Arkansas State University
Jimmy Weaver - District 5



**The following letters were received by the Director
regarding the devastating storms of March 1, 1997.**

To: Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

Thanks to you and your staff for your continued support and dedication. We appreciate all your efforts in this time of need for the people of the State of Arkansas.

Joe Dillard, Director
State Office of Emergency Services

Thank you. It's so nice to be remembered in such a special way.

Bobbie White, Accident Coding Clerk II
Traffic Safety Section, Programs and Contracts

Thank you. With sincere thanks for your thoughtfulness.

Jacquelynne Greer, Statistical Analyst
Planning & Research

Thank you all for your gifts and help for my son in the loss of his home in the tornado. With the help everyone has given, we were able to meet all their needs in just a few days. Thank you again.

Marty Bevans, Design Technician
State Aid

On behalf of my wife and children, I want to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to you, your staff, each member of the Arkansas State Highway Commission and all of my friends and co-workers at the Department for their assistance in the relief and recovery effort that followed the March 1, 1997 tornado that destroyed our home and property. My family and I are very grateful to everyone for their thoughtfulness, generosity and unparalleled concern for the physical and mental welfare of all that were and continued to be affected by the storm.

A feeling of helplessness and anxiety engulfed my family like a thick fog that Saturday evening of March 1. The outpour of gifts from Department employees in the form of food, clothing, money, concern, prayers and physical labor were instrumental in getting me and my family through the very tough days and

nights that followed that tragic afternoon. We also thank the Highway Commission for the catastrophic leave that was provided for the victims of the storm. We will never be able to repay everyone for their unselfish generosity and steadfast support. We truly thank everyone involved and appreciate so much what was done for us and others that suddenly and unexpectedly found themselves in need.

Danny E. Moore, Senior Traffic Investigator
Maintenance

My wife and I would like to thank everyone at the Highway Department for their kindness during our unexpected emergency March 1. As some of you might know, my wife and I are not native Arkansans and do not have any family here, so the generosity shown by this agency really filled the void.

Everyone from the Commissioners and executive officers to the Highway Police including the weigh stations, to all the districts, the radio room and photo lab in the basement and everybody in between, were very helpful.

I owe a special thank you to the Highway Police who helped with all other law enforcement agencies to secure the affected areas and to my fellow operators in the radio room who covered my shifts for me and took and relayed messages for me when I had no other means of communication.

Jesse Koenigsberg, Telecommunications Operator
Communications Section, Maintenance

IN MEMORY

ACTIVE EMPLOYEES

Mary E. Todd
District 4 Field Clerk I
died February 24

Helen J. Kidd
District 3 Office Admin. Asst. V
died March 26

RETIREEES

L.C. Lester - District 10
died January 25, 1997

William G. Fess - District 8
died January 27, 1997

James R. Evans - District 5
died January 29, 1997

H. Hodnett - District 4
died January 31, 1997

Clyde Holmes - Equipment
died February 1, 1997

Amel R. Taylor - District 6
died February 17, 1997

Milton J. Ross - District 6
died March 1, 1997

John L. Sutton - District 9
died March 4, 1997

James Smith - District 6
died March 8, 1997

J.D. Neighbors - District 3
died March 22, 1997

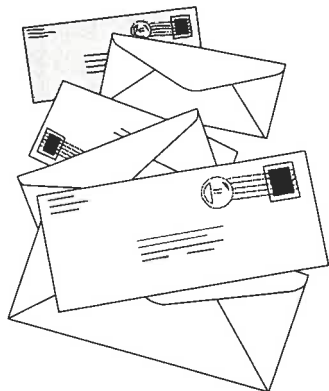
Harold E. Trotter - District 5
died April 2, 1997

Herbert E. Harper - District 4
died April 16, 1997

Charles W. Leker - District 6
died April 19, 1997

Leon Beck - District 8
died April 20, 1997

Daisy S. Conley
Statistics and Analysis
died April 20, 1997



Letters to the Department

To: Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

Now that Governor Huckabee has signed both House Bills 1327 and 1497 into law, I can say that this is the greatest thing that has happened for Department retirees since I have retired – and probably the best ever.

I know that you, the Commissioners, Larry Dickerson and others worked very hard getting the bills passed and signed into law. Thanks for including me and the many other retirees. Many have told me how very much they appreciate you and the many good things that you do for us. The retirees certainly do very much appreciate the pay increases that have been approved for July.

Also thank you, Larry and Diann Gwatney for your continuous work in the insurance program. You were both very helpful with retirees making the transition to the new program. Personally, I like the current program with its options that make it possible for employees and retirees across the state to have options available.

Again, thanks and I send my best regards!

Calvin Peevy, Retired
Asst. Chief Engineer for Operations



Dan Flowers, Director of Highways and Transportation, seated, Larry Dickerson, Chief Fiscal Officer, left, and Diann Gwatney, Insurance Representative, right

To: Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

At this time during the holiday season, I always reflect on those I have dealt with throughout the year. One person who immediately comes to mind is Mr. Joe Barnett, our District Engineer in Paragould. I've had many phone conversations and a few meetings with Mr. Barnett concerning ditch maintenance east of Rector on Highway 90. And I must say, his professionalism was exemplary. He was most courteous in all our dealings, although he was always quick to remind us of "departmental policy and obligations" when we ask for too much!

It is nice to see someone in a state occupation, who normally deals with complaints daily, conduct himself in such an outstanding manner. I have much respect for Mr. Barnett and the job he does. Quality individuals like Mr. Barnett deserve recognition occasionally. He holds what is basically a thankless job and deserves a pat on the back. Mr. Barnett is a very positive reflection on the Highway and Transportation Department.

Sincerely,
Bryan Blackshare, DDS
Rector, Arkansas

To: Joe Barnett
District Ten Engineer

I am a nurse who does in-home 24-hour skilled nursing care. I travel throughout the State of Arkansas and a limited part of the State of Tennessee. Last week on my way home from Memphis, I lost a notebook that I use to carry patient information, directions to patients' home, nurses' notes, time sheets, etc. I was fairly sure that the loss occurred while I was switching company cars on the roadside with another nurse who was traveling to Memphis. I considered the notebook to be forever lost and began the task of replacing paperwork. Among the lost items in the notebook were time sheets ensuring pay for the hours that I had worked that weekend.

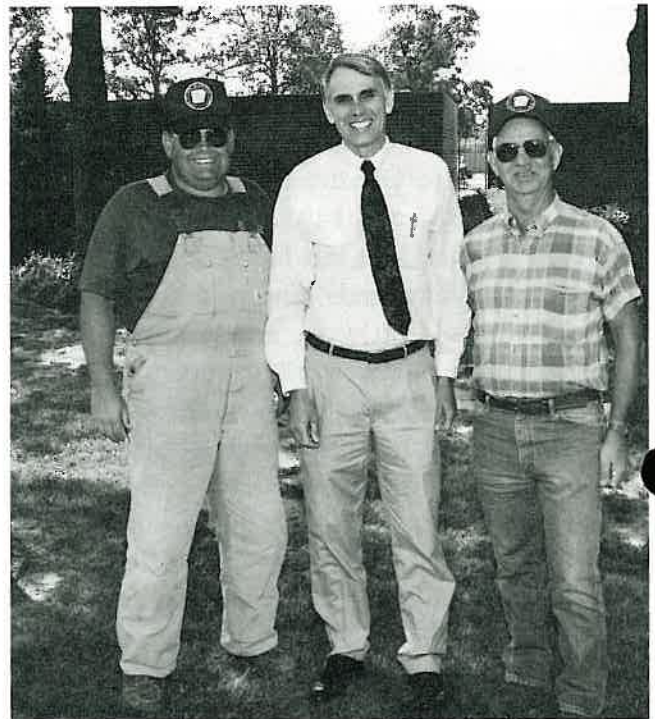
Yesterday, March 10, I received a phone call from one of your employees. He and his partner had found a notebook while performing their jobs. Rather than throwing it out as trash, he investigated the nature of their find and discovered my name tag and phone number inside. Mr. Joe Hudson then telephoned me to inquire about my having lost the notebook. I was delighted to hear that the notebook had been found by two honorable persons who recognized the impact of the loss and cared enough to attempt to return the notebook to its owner.

I cannot thank Joe Hudson and Bub Ervin enough. I want to commend these two AHTD employees who ensured the return of my notebook. You are very fortunate to have them in your employment.

While I am writing, I also want to extend my thanks to the entire AHTD for the road and directional signs that have kept me safe and on the road on many occasions. A lot of my travel is done at night and sometimes it is very difficult to navigate in the dark when it is raining. While I travel in unfamiliar territory, it is comforting to see a sign indicating the nature of the next curve or grade, the next stop light or sign, or the steepness of the next hill or mountain.

Thanks to all of you for making Arkansas' transportation system safer.

Wanda Hampton
Lakeview, Arkansas



Joe Hudson, Single Axle Truck Driver, left;
Joe Barnett, District 10 Engineer; and
Bub Ervin, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator

To: Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

I just wanted to write to you and tell you how much I appreciate receiving your letter with the card enclosed designating me an Ambassador of Good Will for the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department. I am very proud to be a retiree as I enjoyed working with you and the Department very much. Would you please tell the Commission how much I appreciate this privilege and that I feel honored to be an Ambassador. The Department always was and will continue to be a very large and memorable part of my life. Please know that I will always be ready to tell everyone how much I enjoyed being a part of AHTD. I have always thought that I had the advantage of seeing our organization from a high vantage point, to actually see how you and the Commission worked hand-in-glove to make it run. You know that I have always thought that our Department was the best in the whole world.

I really miss everyone at the Department as it was so large a part of my life for so many years, but I am really enjoying retirement, which the Department made possible.

Dan, thank you again. I appreciate it very much. It means a lot to me.

Benny Robbins
Alexander, Arkansas

To: William McDorman
Chief Internal Auditor

In August of last year my company was audited by your department. Being Safety and Insurance Director of our company, I have been involved in numerous audits. In most cases, an audit of any form is an experience one does not necessarily look forward to.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation to Cindy Harris. When Cindy arrived, my records left numerous items to be desired. Rather than expressing her authority, she worked with me for a number of days helping me gather and process material needed for the audit. She made a number of helpful suggestions that I have used to implement my current reporting system.

Cindy is a competent and courteous professional the state can be proud of. Many times a supervisor only hears when an employee makes a mistake or does an insufficient job. I wanted to take these few moments to commend Cindy for a job well done.

Sincerely,
Gary Fielder
Safety and Insurance Director
Klaasmeyer Construction Company, Inc.
Conway, Arkansas



Cindy Harris
Senior External Auditor



Benny Barbaree, Rest Area Attendant

To: Randy Gates
Union County Area Maintenance Supervisor

I am writing to commend Mr. Benny Barbaree, Rest Area Attendant, for his actions on Friday, April 18 at the El Dorado Tourist Information Center.

Mr. Barbaree showed extraordinary compassion, quick-thinking and commitment while administering CPR to one of our employees, Gloria Calhoun, who was experiencing sudden death syndrome. Although his efforts and those of our travel consultants and, later, the ambulance crew were unsuccessful, we deeply appreciate his attempts.

In working with the staff, I have come to learn that Mr. Barbaree is held in high esteem by all employees. They report he frequently goes over and above his duty to help in the operation of this Tourist Information Center. I am grateful that he will continue to be part of the team as these employees close ranks and continue serving the public through this cooperative effort.

Sincerely,
Kay Killgore, Training Officer
Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism

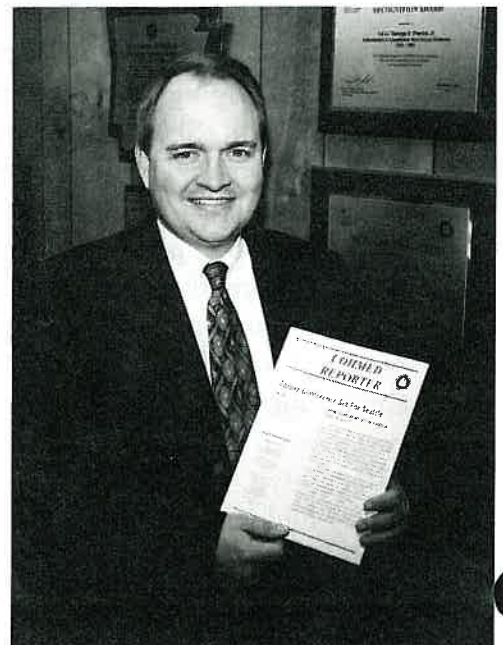
TO: Lt. George Franks
Arkansas Highway Police

As Secretary of Transportation and a fellow Arkansan, it is with great pleasure that I write to commend the work of the Cooperative Hazardous Materials Enforcement Development (COHMED) program. The dedication of all the men and women involved with COHMED has made a great contribution advancing hazardous materials transportation safety.

Over the past 11 years, COHMED has grown from a small community outreach effort to a nationally recognized force in the hazardous materials community. COHMED provides a forum for constructive dialog on such issues as hazardous materials training and regulatory harmonization. It also provides the Department of Transportation with an effective ally in the effort to ensure public safety and secure transportation. I am certain that the Spring '97 Conference in Seattle will be another successful exchange of ideas and innovations.

Again, on behalf of the entire Department of Transportation, please accept my appreciation for COHMED's many accomplishments. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,
Rodney E. Slater
U.S. Secretary of Transportation



Lt. George Franks

To: Ernie Westfall
District 2 Maintenance Engineer

Please accept our sincere thanks for the work your Department performed at the Southeast Arkansas Community Punishment Center. Your support has been overwhelming.

The resurfacing of the deteriorating roads entering and throughout the compound is very much appreciated. Realizing that valuable time, materials and manhours were spent on this project, we could not let the opportunity pass to extend our thanks.

We are aware that time and money are precious commodities in our business and your support of our center has saved in these areas. Our sincere appreciation for the support and work performed by your people in this endeavor cannot be overly expressed. As always, we stand ready to return the favor when necessary.

Sincerely,
Sharon Nicholson, Center Supervisor
Pine Bluff, Arkansas

TO: Arkansas Highway Department
Tyronza, Arkansas

I would like to thank you for your prompt attention to the repair work needed at 210 Main (Highway 118) in Tyronza. The improvement to the street entrance to our new fire station is appreciated. It not only improved the entrance and exit for our emergency vehicles, it improved the appearance of this highway.

Sincerely,
Drexel Gill, Mayor
Tyronza, Arkansas

TO: Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

The Highway Department came down last week and picked up all the trash and you wouldn't believe how much better the road looks. I just wish people would not trash it again.

When we complain about taxes, we need to remember that \$1.9 million could be saved real easy. Thanks so much.

Harold and Pat Bryant
Redfield, Arkansas

TO: Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department

I just want to thank you for the prompt and efficient way you handled my driveway access request. I will now be able to complete my driveway and drive back to my shop without getting stuck.

W.R. Glover
Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Around the Department

BRIDGE



Susan Sumner Hathcote is the daughter of Structural Detailing Specialist J.P. and Frankie Sumner. She is a 1997 graduate of Henderson State University earning a bachelor's degree in psychology. She graduated cum laude and was also on the President's Academic List. Susan will attend graduate school this fall.

COMPUTER SERVICES



Yvonne Reeves, Data Base Librarian in the Data Administration Section retired in March with 16 years service.



Service awards were presented to Judy Akers, Quality Assurance Specialist I, 20 years; Brenda Haley, Quality Assurance Supervisor, 20 years; Jimmy Cavitt, Automation Engineer II, 10 years; Eric Chilton, Programmer Analyst II, 5 years; Robert E. Lee, Applications Systems Analyst I, 20 years.

This Division welcomes former employee Judy (Lawrence) Manes as Lead Section Analyst in the Data Administration Section.

CONSTRUCTION



Barry Young, Final Estimates Squad Leader and Angela Jordan, Estimates Technician, are two new employees in Construction. Barry is from the El Dorado Residency and Angela transferred from Programs and Contracts.



Terry Wildbur, left, Administrative Aide V, receives a 20-year service award from State Construction Engineer Allan Holmes.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Service awards were presented to Bill Richardson, Assistant Division Head and Burney McClurkan, Archaeologist for 20 years and to Phillip Moore, Botanist and David Coble, Archaeologist for 5 years.

Bill Bailey, Beautification Coordinator, and Stacy Miner were married March 22 at the Eastside Baptist Church in Pine Bluff.

Beverly Moore, Office Administrative Assistant III, has two daughters who have graduated. Jacqueline graduated from Central High School and will be attending the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and Elizabeth earned a bachelor's degree in communications from UAF last December.



April Higgins, Environmental Technician, was married to Monty Joe Rosson Saturday, April 26 at Western Hills United Methodist Church.



Maurice Guest is the son of Brenda Guest, Beautification Coordinator. He will attend Arkansas Boy's State at the University of Central Arkansas as a delegate from Hall High School where he is a member of the Conflict Resolution team and the basketball and baseball teams.

HIGHWAY POLICE



Cpl. Mike Bounds, Pfc. Ned Ward and Capt. Gary East present David Watley of the Watersprings Ranch of Texarkana, a home for children in need, a \$3,000 check which was raised from the AHP third annual bass tournament. The tournament held at Lake DeGray April 19-20 had forty participants and was won by Cpl. Bounds and Oris Kemp with a total weight of 22.02 pounds. Second place was Pfc. Ned Ward and Trooper Tim Land, 17.88 pounds; third place was Pfc. Steve Atchley and John Gould, 16.6 pounds; fourth place was Sgt. Benton Fincher and Bill Sharp 15.38 pounds and fifth place Cpl. Gary Revels and A. Steed, 12.45 pounds.



Permit Section Head Terry Nanney, left, presents Darrol Sitz, Permit Technician, a 5-year service award.



Permit Section Head Terry Nanney, left, presents Gary Nation, Permit Technician, a 5-year service award.

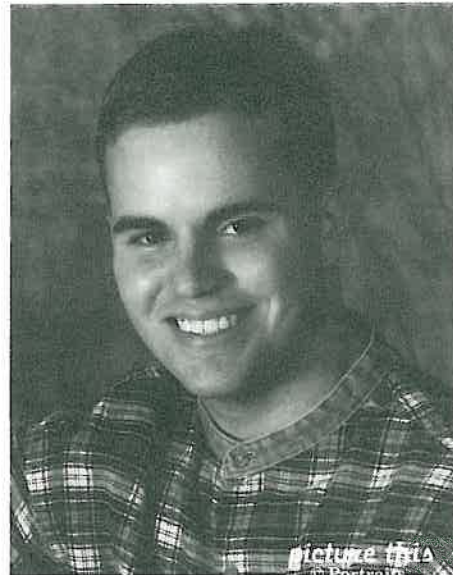
EQUIPMENT AND PROCUREMENT

Receiving 25-year service awards were Ann Johnson, Buyer, and Dennis Jarrett, Assistant Stockroom Supervisor. They were recognized at a dinner on March 8 at Kirby's Grill.

FISCAL SERVICES



Mary Crow, Account Analyst, retired November 29, 1996 with 24 years service. She is shown with an angel presented to her from her coworkers.



Gary Thomas Revels, son of Cpl. Gary and Terri Revels, has accepted an academic scholarship to the University of Central Arkansas at Conway beginning in the fall. A 1997 graduate of Lockesburg High School, he is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Future Business Leaders of America, National Honor Society, Spanish Club and basketball and golf teams.

HUMAN RESOURCES



Carla Mitchell is the new Central Office Receptionist.



The Grounds Maintenance Section received a 5-year safety award. Members are (left to right): Donna Martin, Landscape Technician; Linda Carter, Single Axle Truck Driver; Robert Frazier, Seasonal employee; Brad Marloné, Single Axle Truck Driver and Roger Turner, Crew Leader.



Walter Caton, Buildings Maintenance Crew Leader, presents a 10-year service certificate to Luther Cox, Electrical, Plumbing and Mechanical Repairer.

MAINTENANCE



Danny Keene, left, Facilities Management Section Head, presents a 20-year service certificate to Ron Winkler, Electrician.



Human Resources Division Head Melba Shepard presents a 25-year service pin to Frank Knowles, Records Supervisor.



Human Resources Division Head Melba Shepard presents a 5-year service certificate to Valera McDaniel, Personnel Specialist.



David Mayberry, left, Heavy Bridge Maintenance Supervisor, presents Roy Treadwell, Bridge Repairer II, a 5-year service certificate.



Human Resources Division Head Melba Shepard presents a 15-year service certificate to Diann Gwatney, Insurance Representative.



Human Resources Division Head Melba Shepard presents a 5-year service certificate to Joyce Phillips, Employee Assistance Program Coordinator.



James Wood, Finish Carpenter for Heavy Bridge, receives a 5-year service certificate from Karl Bentz, Statewide Bridge Inspector.



Human Resources Division Head Melba Shepard presents a 15-year service certificate to Janette Thompson, Office Administrative Assistant I.



EEO Section Head Kay Crutchfield presents a 5-year service certificate to Wanda Bynum, Internal EEO Coordinator.

PLANNING AND RESEARCH



Tom Harrell, Division Head, presents a 20-year service certificate to Mickey Newcomb, UMTA Grants Officer.



Tom Harrell, Division Head, presents a 20-year service certificate to Gerald Stachurski, Highway Data Collector.



Tom Harrell, Division Head, presents a 20-year service certificate to Mark Frazier, Planning Analyst.



Elizabeth Mayfield, Planning Engineer, is shown in front of the Tower Bridge in London, England.



Perry William is the one-year old son of Richard and Gabriell Mills. Richard is a Research Study Engineer in Statewide Planning.

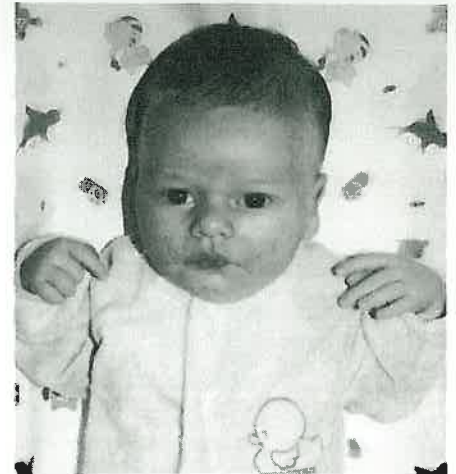


Angela Simms, above, and her sister Janet participated in the Ice Skating Institute's Winter Classic in Colorado Springs February 20-23. Between the two of them, they collected three first-place finishes, two seconds and one third. The Little Rock Skating Team placed third overall in the nation. Angela and Janet are the children of Staff Planning Administrator Paul Simms.

Faith Nichole was born April 6 to Bryan and Tammy Shumate. Tammy is Office Administrative Assistant I in the Technology Transfer Section.

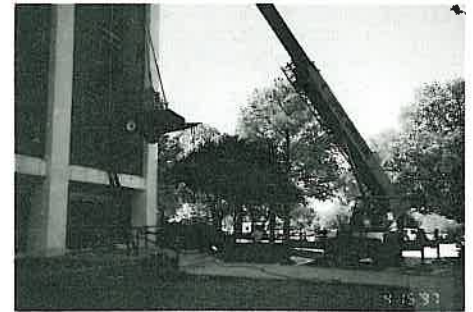
William Ryan was born April 16 to Jim and Margaret LeClair. Margaret is a Civil Engineering Technician in the Research Section.

Matthew Joseph was born April 23 to Mark and Donna Evans. Mark is a Civil Engineer II in Technical Services.



Justin Ellis, son of Norbert and Kathy Gunderman, was born December 30, 1996. Kathy is a Cartographer II in Mapping and Graphics.

PROGRAMS AND CONTRACTS



Reproduction received an engineering copier which was too large for the elevators so it was hoisted through the second floor window.



Jerry McKown, Reproduction Technician, received a 30-year service pin in April.



Ava Harding, Reproduction Technician, is shown with her husband, Dave, District Six Permit Officer, at Ava's retirement reception in April.



Madysen Hellen Hamilton, born March 11, is the granddaughter of Katherine Hamilton, Programs and Contracts Specialist.



Towney and Erin Taylor Barclay are the daughter and granddaughter of Debbie Barclay, Programming Analyst. Erin was born April 10.

RIGHT OF WAY



Darrell Hatchett, left, Relocation Coordinator, receives a 20-year service certificate from Relocation Section Head Danny Arendt.



Will Holt, left, Engineering Section Head, presents a 10-year service certificate to Monte Sowell, Advanced CADD Technician.

ROADWAY DESIGN

Christopher Devin Phillips was born December 2, 1996. He is the son of Staff Traffic Engineer Eric and Olive Phillips.

Chris Miller, Advanced CADD Technician in the Primary Design Section, was recently awarded Outstanding Airman of the Year for 1996. He is a Senior Airman in the 223rd Combat Communications Squadron of the Air National Guard.

In April, Nena DeSousa-Saturno was promoted to Hydraulic Design Engineer in the Hydraulics Section and Steve Morgan, Advanced Traffic Engineer, transferred to Programs and Contracts.

Fifteen-year service awards were presented to James Lee, Advanced Design Engineer and James Gorton, Advanced Traffic Engineer. Receiving a 10-year service award was Margaret Middleton, Senior Design Technician.



April Brown and Phillip Rye were married June 7. Phillip is a Civil Engineer I.

SURVEYS



Sam Johnson, left, Staff Surveys Engineer, presents a 5-year service certificate to Brian Cody, Surveys Aide.

DISTRICT ONE



5-Year Service Awards: Jimmy Pulley, Bridge Repairer II; Janet McElroy, District Bookkeeper; Billy Cowan, Asphalt Tank Truck Driver



10-year Service Awards: Larry Davis and Joseph McClanahan, Motor Patrol Operators



15-Year Service Awards: Chester Allwhite, Permit Officer and William Waggle, Vegetation Controller



20-Year Service Awards: Mitchell Love, Crane Operator and Eddie Bryant, Monroe County Area Maintenance Supervisor

The Red Cross Blood Drive was recently held in District One and netted 66 pints of blood. The Red Cross served pizza dinners to the District bridge crew and the Lee County maintenance crew for having 100 percent participation by crew members.



District bridge crew



Lee County maintenance crew

The District One Equipment Operators' Rodeo was held March 13. Contestants and officials were treated to a fish fry after the competition. A special thanks to David Forrester and Jerry Vickers who did all the cooking.



Motor Patrol
1st: Butch Bryer, 2nd: Mike Gahr; 3rd: Joey McClanahan



Backhoe
1st: Ronald Dunigan, 2nd: Jerry Mitchell; 3rd: Mike Gahr



Tractor/Mower
1st: Troy Tims, 2nd: Coleman Nesbitt; 3rd: Willie Anderson



Tractor/Lowboy
1st: Harold Mullins, 2nd: Terry Lewis; 3rd: Joey McClanahan



Tandem Axle Dump Truck
1st: Ray Duff, 2nd: Stanley Bennett; 3rd: Ernest Rose



Single Axle Dump Truck
1st: Jack Bettes, 2nd: Tony Palmer; 3rd: Larry Fleming



Team Award
Phillips County maintenance crew
Bobby Weatherford, Area Maintenance Supv.



David Forrester cooks fish for the contestants after the District One Rodeo competition.

DISTRICT TWO



Max Bagwell, right, District Construction Engineer, retired in March with 37 years service. Special guests at his reception were his wife Dorothy, Commissioner John Lipton, above, Jefferson County Judge Jack Jones, Pine Bluff Mayor Jerry Taylor, Monticello Mayor Harold West, Star City Mayor Gene Yarbough and Lake Village Mayor Joanne Bush.



Burl Robertson, District Equipment Maintenance Supervisor, retired March 25 with 27 years service.



Roy Johnson, Senior Inspector at the McGehee Residency, retired with 40 years service.

District Two's Equipment Operators' Rodeo was held March 20 at the District Headquarters with a picnic lunch following the competition. Shown below are the first-place winners in each event.



Tractor/Mower
Clarence Edwards



Backhoe
Junior Fox



Tandem Axle Dump Truck
Lamar Reynolds



Motor Patrol
A.D. Ford



Tractor/Lowboy
Melvin Ford



Single Axle Dump Truck
Donald Nugent



April Jones and Chris Penny were married March 8 at Good Faith Methodist Church in Pine Bluff. Chris is the District Station Attendant.



Alvin Vaughn, Howard County Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents a 5-year service award to Terry Hosey, Motor Patrol Operator.



Safety Awards

Charles Ghormley, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor; Randy Dudley, Lafayette County Crew Leader; Ken Harris, Resident Engineer; Emmet Barrett, District Bridge Inspector; Doyle Powell, Sealing Job Superintendent



Jack Coleman, center, Resident Engineer at Van Buren, retired April 4 with 38 years service. He is shown with (left to right): Joe Shipman, District Construction Engineer; Allan Holmes, State Construction Engineer and former District 4 Engineer; Ken Wilson, Van Buren Assistant Resident Engineer; Harold Beaver, District 4 Engineer; Bob Mainer, retired Van Buren Assistant Resident Engineer and Calvin Peevy, retired Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations and former District 4 Engineer.

DISTRICT THREE

The employees of District Three extend their sympathy to the family of Helen J. Kidd, Office Administrative Assistant V, who died March 26 after a lengthy illness. Helen began her career as District Bookkeeper in October 1968.

District Three graduates this year include Scott Donaldson, Matt Johnson and Jessica Eckhart.

Scott is the son of District Construction Engineer Don Donaldson and a 1997 graduate of Hope High School. He has accepted an academic scholarship to Hendrix College in Conway and will receive a Dean's Scholarship to assist with tuition. Scott plans to major in biology.

Matt is the son of Bridge Job Superintendent Larry Johnson and a 1997 graduate of Prescott High School. He has been awarded a Presidential Scholarship to Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. Matt will serve as an intern in U.S. Representative Jay Dickey's Washington office this summer.

Jessica is the daughter of Jeff Eckhart, Inspector for the Hope Resident Engineer's Office. She is a 1997 graduate of Blevins High School and will be attending Henderson State University in Arkadelphia this fall.



Beth Erwin and James R. Lamb were married March 22 at the Bingen United Methodist Church. James is a Single Axle Truck Driver in Howard County.

DISTRICT FOUR

District Four employees were saddened by the death of Mary Evelyn Todd, Field Clerk for the Springdale Resident Engineer's Office on February 24 and also by the death of retiree Herbert Harper who died April 16. Herbert was a Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator for the Sebastian County maintenance crew at Fort Smith.



Kenneth Easom retired April 9 with 28 years service. He was a Crane Operator for the District bridge crew.



The Mountainburg Resident Engineer's Office helped Assistant Resident Engineer Bashar Qedan celebrate his promotion to Van Buren Resident Engineer.

The Ozark maintenance crew held a retirement reception for Crew Leaders Jerry Trotter and Jim Harrison on April 30. Each was presented with a retirement clock by co-workers.



Roger Simpson, left, Roller Operator, receives a 10-year service certificate from Hershel Henry, Polk County Area Maintenance Supervisor.



District Four Safety Awards



Congratulations to Lonnie (Alonza) Releford, Construction Helper at the Van Buren Residency. Lonnie's basketball team went 22-0 to win the Fort Smith Independent Basketball Championship.



Can You Identify This Tree?

District 4 retiree Alvis Pense has this tree growing on his property. If you know what kind of tree this is, please contact the Mountainburg maintenance headquarters at 501-369-9130.

DISTRICT FIVE



Lyndal Waits, right, is shown with Troy Reed, Jackson County Area Maintenance Supervisor who retired March 26 with 18+ years service.



District Engineer Lyndal Waits presents Brenda Taylor, Personnel Clerk a 20-year service certificate.



District 5 Service Awards

Larry Wood, Bridge Repairer II, 20 years; Charles Carrouth, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 20 years; Jerry Willer, Bridge Crew Leader, 20 years; Jimmy Condrey, Inspector, 20 years; Lonnie Dickey, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 25 years; Charles Newberry, Lead Person, 25 years



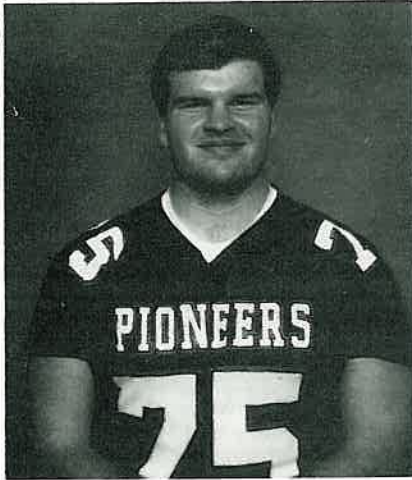
District 5 Service Awards

Jamie Kelly, Senior Mechanic, 5 years; Mike Pankey, District Office Manager, 5 years; Willie McCord, Bridge Repairer, 5 years; Ronnie Miller, Single Axle Truck Driver, 10 years

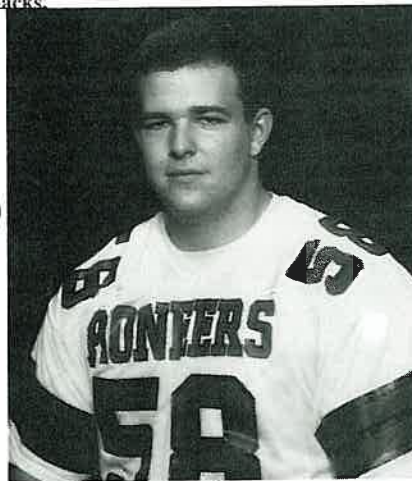


District 5 Service Awards

Nathan Edwards, District Bridge Inspector Helper, 5 years; Randy Tomlinson, Construction Aide II, 25 years



Jason Waits is the son of District Engineer Lyndal Waits. He is a senior at Batesville High School where he plays both offense and defense for the Pioneers football team. He is 6' 2", 260 pounds and was listed in the April issue of *Hawgs Illustrated* as a possible 1998 recruit for the Razorbacks.



Josh Melton is the son of Glen Melton, Single Axle Truck Driver for the District maintenance crew. Josh, 6' 6", 300 pounds, was all district center this year for the Batesville Pioneers and in pre-season was listed as one of the top 20 juniors to watch in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. He was also listed in the April issue of *Hawgs Illustrated* as a possible 1998 recruit for the Razorbacks.



Jeff Richmond and JoAnn McWilliams were married February 14 at the Griffithville Methodist Church. JoAnn is a Single Axle Truck Driver at Searcy.

DISTRICT SIX



Amanda Christine Kauffman, daughter of Jim Kauffman and Morris and Donna Nutt, is a 1997 graduate of Ouachita High School in Donaldson. She has a 4.0 grade average, is a member of the Beta Club, Spanish Club and is copy editor for the yearbook. Morris is Crew Leader for the Malvern maintenance crew.



Lori Cox, daughter of Ray and Lois Cox, was awarded the 1997 Editor's Choice Award for her outstanding poetic contribution by the National Library of Poetry. Lori attends Little Rock Christian Academy. Ray is a Construction Aide II in the Little Rock Residency.

DISTRICT SEVEN



Don Hudson, Bridge Repairer I, is shown with his son, Ty, who was born in the fall of 1996.



Crystal Loomis, daughter of Senior Mechanic Horace and Linda Loomis, was crowned Miss Camden 1997 March 8. She is a senior at Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia pursuing a career in nursing. She represented her school in the 1996 Miss Arkansas Pageant.

Jennifer Zachry, daughter of District Receptionist Cathie Zachry, placed second in the El Dorado Golf Tournament held in April. She is in the ninth grade at Camden Fairview Junior High School.

Josh Guess, son of Senior Materials Inspector Tony and Linda Herrington, is a 1997 graduate of Camden Fairview High School.

Kelly Neal, daughter of Ricky and Pat Neal of Kingsland, recently completed requirements for an associate's

degree in emergency medical technology/paramedics. Ricky is the Cleveland County Area Maintenance Supervisor.

Kelly Ingram, daughter of Nina and Rusty Ingram, is a 1997 graduate of Camden Fairview High School. She was chosen Who's Who Among American High School Students her junior and senior years. She was active in volleyball, basketball and softball. She is a member of the Beta, Drama, and Spanish Clubs, Mu Alpha Theta, Students for Christ and G.I.F.T. Kelly plans to attend the University of Central Arkansas. Nina is the Assistant Storeroom Supervisor for District 7.

DISTRICT EIGHT



District 8 Safety Awards

B.J. McAlister, Resident Engineer; Francis Jones, Sign Crew Supervisor; Tim Henry, Assistant Resident Engineer; Steve Sheets, Storeroom Supervisor; Thomas Kinslow, District Maintenance Supt.; Smitty Bonds, Van Buren County Area Maintenance Supervisor; Kenneth Crow, Yell County Area Maintenance Supervisor

DISTRICT NINE



Ted Journagan, District Maintenance Job Superintendent, retired with 26+ years service. He has now traded his title in for "domestic" maintenance job superintendent.



Curley Johnson, Ferry Boat Supervisor, presents a 25-year service pin to Danny Shrable, Ferry Boat Pilot at the Peel Ferry.



Curley Johnson, Ferry Boat Supervisor, presents a 25-year service pin to Fred Austin, Deck Hand on the Peel Ferry.



Jimmy Snipes, left, Distributor Operator for the District sealing crew, receives a 10-year service certificate from Ronnie Faught, Sealing Job Superintendent.



Mike Thomas, left, Multi-Axle Truck Driver for the District sealing crew, receives a 5-year service certificate from Ronnie Faught, Sealing Job Superintendent.



Butch Martin, Resident Engineer, presents a 5-year service award pin to Judith Foshee, Field Clerk I at the Harrison Resident Engineer's Office.



Harrison Resident Engineer Butch Martin presents a 20-year service pin to Roy Norman, Senior Construction Materials Inspector.



Harrison Resident Engineer Butch Martin presents a 30-year service pin to Nelson McCutcheon, Construction Aide III.



JaNel Ware, Field Clerk I, receives a 5-year service certificate from Yellville Resident Engineer Greg Harding.



Stacy Burge, Construction Field Engineer II, receives a 5-year service certificate from Yellville Resident Engineer Greg Harding.



Jim Martin, Construction Aide III, receives a 25-year service pin from Yellville Resident Engineer Greg Harding.



Hunter Renee Teague was born April 8, 1997. She is the daughter of District Construction Engineer Gerald and Becky Teague.



District 9 golfers enjoyed a golf outing at the Lost Pine Golf Course in Searcy County. They are Joanie Shields, Marvin Sims, Greg Mallett, Tim Fields, Jeff Myatt, Billy Roberts, Jody Turner, Gene Taylor, Everett Burr, Charles Christopher, Steve Halstead, Susie Taylor, Doug Pederson, J.N. Mallett, Bob Massengale and T.J. Pederson.



Tracy Ficht is a 1997 graduate of Kingston High School. She is the daughter of Fred and Jean Ficht. Fred is a Motor Patrol Operator/Finish for the Huntsville maintenance crew.

DISTRICT TEN



District Ten Service Awards

Front row: L.J. Durrrough, Lead Person, 20 years; Carrie Beth Ward, Single Axle Truck Driver, 5 years; Janice Hobbs, Field Clerk II, 5 years; Pat Norton, District Receptionist, 15 years; Greig Lynn, Bridge Repairer I, 5 years. Back row: W.C. Tobar, Vegetation Controller, 5 years; Danny Douglas, Crew Leader, 20 years; Jerry Brown, Station Attendant, 5 years; Johnny Gardner, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish, 5 years; Mickey Kimble, Sr. Mechanic, 15 years



The District Sign Crew won the "Big Heart" award from the American Red Cross for having 100 percent participation in the District Ten Blood Drive. Pictured are Demetra Morton, Greg Bailey, David Pratt, Ben Denton and District Engineer Joe Barnett.



David Pierce, Adv. Construction Field Engineer for the Jonesboro Residency, received a master's degree December 27, 1996 from West Virginia University and his Professional Engineer's license on February 3.



Jerry Cook, left, Clay County Area Maintenance Supervisor, retired April 17 with 30 years service. He is shown with District Engineer Joe Barnett.



Hannah Daniell, born April 8, and Sethare the children of Brad and Bonnie Smithee. Brad is the Assistant Resident Engineer for the Paragould Residency.

Andrew Mark Tarry was born February 12 to Michael and Lisa Tarry. Michael is a Construction Aide II in the Paragould Residency.

Dylan Zachary Clark was born March 30 to Randy and Brenda Clark. Randy is a Construction Project Supervisor and Brenda is the Resident Office Technician in the Paragould Residency.



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