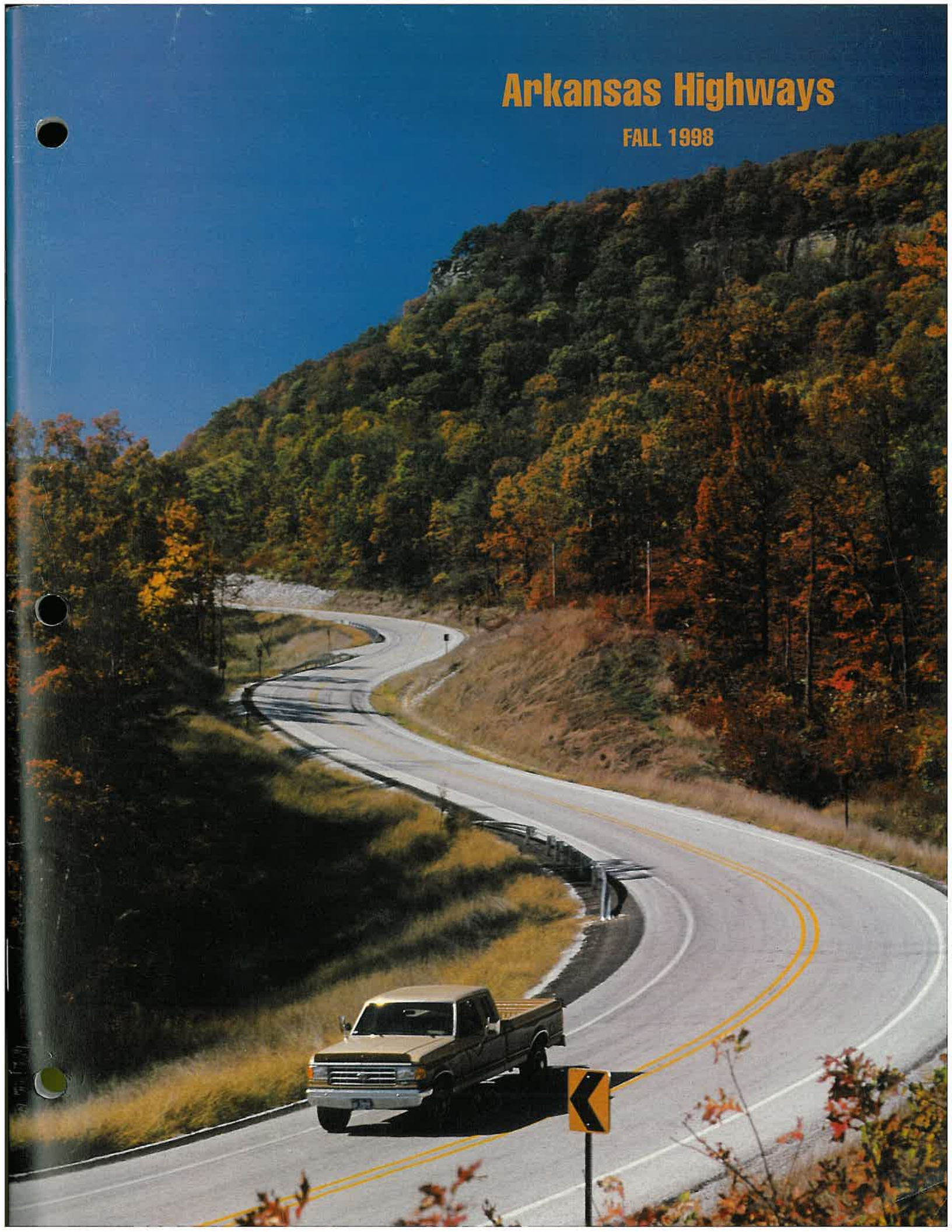


Arkansas Highways

FALL 1998



Director's Message

Doing More With Less

We've all heard the words – "We have to do more with less." Nowhere do you hear this more than in state government.

But doing more with less hasn't been the case in all areas of state government. A March 3, 1997 article in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* shows that employment levels in state government in Arkansas **increased** 30 percent in the ten-year period from 1987 through 1996. By going back nearly twenty years to 1968, the increase is even more dramatic. Employment levels in Arkansas' state government **grew** by more than 110 percent during that time.

I'm pleased to say that the AHTD has been a leader against these increases. As of August of this year, we had **200 fewer employees** (about a 5 percent decrease) than we had in 1987, and **62 fewer employees** (about a 2 percent decrease) than in 1967. Currently we have the lowest number of regular employees that we have had since 1965.

We have been able to accomplish this in spite of the fact that we inherited another state agency in 1989. The duties and responsibilities of the former Transportation Safety Agency were transferred to the AHTD along with 66 employees. These employees were spread throughout several Divisions in the Department.

This "tightening of the belt" has not come without hard work. Technology has helped, but the decreases could not have come about if the workforce – our employees – had not responded well and been able to handle the work.

Thanks to your hard work and dedication, we have been able to set the example of "doing more with less." This effort has not gone unnoticed. The members of the Highway Commission and I appreciate the hard work you have put forth and the successes you have earned. The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department continues to lead the way in making the most of what we have available.



DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION



ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS

FALL 1998

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION



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CHAIRMAN



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VICE CHAIRMAN



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MEMBER



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MEMBER

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ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS

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COVER PHOTO: State Highway 374 in Newton County. Photo by John Jackson.

BACK COVER PHOTO: U.S. Highway 412 over Lake Norfolk in Baxter County. Photo by John Jackson.

Transportation Summit Wraps Up Series of Regional Meetings



Members of the Arkansas Highway Commission at the opening session

More than 100 business, industry and government leaders gathered at the invitation of the Highway Commission July 7 to discuss the future of road improvements in our state. The 1998 Arkansas Transportation Summit took place at the Embassy Suites in Little Rock.

The meeting was designed to be a follow-up to the 16 regional public meetings held by the Commission during the first three months of the year. Summit participants were considered to be trans-

portation stakeholders in Arkansas, decision-makers who might have an impact on any future transportation programs.

Following welcoming remarks and an explanation of the day's events from AHTD Director Dan Flowers, the participants were divided into six focus groups. AHTD staff members Steve Teague, Tom Harrell, Scott Bennett, Frank Vozel, Virginia Porta, and Randy Ort served as focus group leaders. Each group met for two hours in the morning and one and one-half hours in the afternoon. The questions for each group to address were:

- *What level of needs do we address?*
- *How long a program do we develop?*
- *What sources of revenue do we use?*

Lively discussion took place in each group. Many views were expressed, ranging from local concerns such as individual access roads to projects with statewide impacts. As had been the case in the regional meetings, there was little, if any, doubt about the need for additional highway improvements. What types of work to focus on and how to pay for those jobs were the main topics of discussion.

At the conclusion of the focus group discussions, all the participants gathered to hear summary reports of the findings of each group. Each focus group leader presented a summary of the discussions that took place in their group.

The focus groups reached a consensus that additional funding is needed to meet the needs of the highway system. Most groups recommended an additional \$400-500 million annually be generated for highway improvements. This additional funding should be shared with the cities and counties in the traditional 70/15/15 split and should focus on a well-balanced program that includes completion of the projects in the 1991 Highway Improvement Program (HIP). Maintenance, safety and economic development were also stressed.

Most groups agreed that any program developed should be a relatively short-term program (4 to 6 years)

and should be accompanied by a long-range plan. All groups agreed that a program and a plan, no matter what length, should be updated periodically to respond to changing needs. Also, the program should list specific projects and time frames for construction.

Although groups did not recommend a specific program, there was general consensus on certain sources of revenue that should be targeted to obtain additional funding. All groups agreed that a combination of revenue sources must be considered and should include the following:

- A motor fuel tax increase at least to the national average
- Additional fees assessed on heavy trucks
(weight distance tax or higher registration fees)
- Tolls considered where possible;
- Bonds considered to accelerate specific projects such as interstate reconstruction and widening, widening of other highways, or the construction of high-priority corridors

It was agreed that any source of revenue used should allow the funding generated to be responsive to inflation. The groups recommended that an avenue be explored that would allow periodic increases in motor fuel taxes, possibly to maintain equality with the national average. Also, it was recommended that the Department implement a public education campaign to explain what progress has been made on the Highway Improvement Program and how those commitments are being fulfilled, as well as inform the public why additional funding is needed and what effect a new program would have.

Although not a consensus among all six groups, some groups encouraged the consideration of the following revenue sources:

- Increasing the general sales tax and dedicating the additional revenue to highways
- Transferring to highways the existing sales tax on new and used motor vehicles and related parts and services
- Use of surplus revenue from state general fund



AHTD Director Dan Flowers welcomes the participants to the Transportation Summit.



U.S. Congressman Vic Snyder



U.S. Congressman Jay Dickey



U.S. Congressman Marion Berry

Based on the information gathered at the regional meetings and the 1998 Transportation Summit, it is evident that the citizens and the leadership of agencies and organizations with an interest in transportation in Arkansas agree that there is a need for more transportation improvements. There is a consensus that the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department needs additional revenues to complete these improvements at an accelerated rate, and that certain sources of revenue should be targeted to generate these funds. This process has provided valuable input and will be used as the foundation for developing future transportation programs.



Don Melton of the Governor's Office and Ernie Faucett of the Arkansas Good Roads/Transportation Council



Bob Crafton of Crafton, Tull and Associates and Ralph Fulton, District 9 Engineer



Jim McKenzie of Metroplan



Senator Jon Fitch, Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee and Ann Cash of the Highway 65 Four-Lane Association



Ann Hines of the Arkansas Oil Marketers Association



Lane Kidd of the Arkansas Motor Carriers Association and Mary Seymore of the Bradley County Industrial Development Commission



Jim Wooten of the Arkansas Good Roads/Transportation Council and Tommy Fish of Associated General Contractors/Arkansas Chapter



Former Highway Commissioner Ron Harrod, Robert Evans of the Arkansas Farm Bureau and Highway Commissioner John Lipton



State Representatives
George French and Mike Davis



Highway Commission Chairman Bobby Hopper, AHTD Director Dan Flowers
and Commissioner Prissy Hickerson



Lee Pittman of the
State Chamber of Commerce



State Representative Wilma Walker



Rodney Larsen of the Central Arkansas Planning and Development
District and Roy Bearden, Craighead County Judge



David Morris of the County Judges Association and
Lloyd Lindsey of the Governor's Highway and Transportation Council



Dallas Wood and Claude Kennedy of the Governor's
Highway and Transportation Council and Tim Leathers of the
Department of Finance and Administration

Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department 1998 Equipment Operators' Roadeo

The temperature wasn't the only thing heating up during the AHTD 1998 Equipment Operators' Roadeo held June 18 at Equipment and Procurement's Central Shops. Contestants warmed up their skills in friendly competition for the annual event.

The Human Resources Division's Training and Safety Section and the Equipment and Procurement Division were re-

sponsible for the organization and implementation of the day's activities.

The Roadeo competition takes place in three phases beginning with each crew selecting up to four representatives competing in the various events. Semifinals are then held at the District Headquarters with first-place winners gaining the right to move on to the finals in Little Rock.

This year, 439 employees competed in the semifinals. Beginning in 1991 with just 136 contestants, the competition has grown steadily each year.

Competition categories include: tractor truck/lowboy, tandem axle dump truck, single axle dump truck, tractor/mower, backhoe and motor patrol. All semifinal first-place winners and defending champions are invited to the state finals.

DISTRICT 3 - 1998 TEAM CHAMPION



Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations Ralph Hall, left, and Assistant Chief Engineer for Design Bob Walters, right, with District 3 team members, left to right: James Bruce, Ramon Rodriguez, Wesley Fritts, District Engineer William Tyler, Kenneth Adams, David Morton, Roy Neiman

TRACTOR/LOWBOY EVENT



L-R: Ralph Hall, Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations; Mike Schmalz, District 4, 3rd place; Johnny Carte, District 4, 2nd place; Harold Mullins, Jr., District 1, 1st place; Bob Walters, Assistant Chief Engineer for Design

TRACTOR/MOWER EVENT



L-R: Ralph Hall, Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations; Ashley Hale, District 9, 3rd place; Brenda Gause, District 10, 2nd place; Dustin Davis, District 6, 1st place; Bob Walters, Assistant Chief Engineer for Design

SINGLE AXLE DUMP TRUCK EVENT



L-R: Ralph Hall, Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations; Wesley Fritts, District 3, 3rd place; Kenny Howard, District 8, 2nd place; Margaret Byers, District 4, 1st place; Bob Walters, Assistant Chief Engineer for Design

MULTI-AXLE DUMP TRUCK EVENT



L-R: Ralph Hall, Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations; Lionel Elder, District 4, 3rd place; Jeremy Fore, District 5, 2nd place; Kenneth Adams, District 3, 1st place; Bob Walters, Assistant Chief Engineer for Design

BACKHOE EVENT



L-R: Ralph Hall, Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations; David Morton, District 3, 3rd place; Ray Howell, District 7, 2nd place; Kenny Riley, District 9, 1st place; Bob Walters, Assistant Chief Engineer for Design

MOTOR PATROL EVENT



L-R: Ralph Hall, Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations; Joey McClanahan, District 1, 3rd place; Jerry Crawford, District 10, 2nd place; William Hickman, District 7, 1st place; Bob Walters, Assistant Chief Engineer for Design



Commissioners John Lipton, Bobby Hopper and Buddy Benafield were on hand for the event.



District 3 Engineer William Tyler accepts the 1998 Team Champion trophy from Commissioner Hopper.



Director Dan Flowers announces the winners of the competitions



Competitors listen to the rules in the opening session.



Family members enjoy a fun-filled day of exciting competition.



The Tandem Axle Dump Truck competition involves precise driving techniques.



Judges take precise measurements for the Stop Line event of the truck driving competitions.



John Moorehead of District 2 navigates the serpentine tractor/mower course as the judges keep watch.



The Tractor/Lowboy competition requires maneuvering a course lined with tennis balls.



Toby Ward of District 8 takes his turn during the Backhoe competition.



Branda Gause of District 10 competing in the Tractor/Mower event



Joe Pittman of District 6 competing in the Backhoe event



Carl Eford of District 6 competing in the Tractor/Lowboy event



Assistant Chief Engineer for Design Bob Walters, Commissioner Bobby Hopper, and District 10 Engineer Joe Barnett serve lunch to the Rodeo participants.

Thirty-nine Students Participate In AHTD's 1998 Engineering Intern Orientation

In an effort to promote the transportation industry as a career, the AHTD's Engineering Intern Orientation Program was held July 30-31. This year, 38 aspiring civil engineers and one career development program (CDP) student worked alongside their professional counterparts to gain practical experience during the summer break from college and high school.

This is the seventh year for the intern program that was developed in 1991 as part of the Program for Recruitment and Retention of Civil Engineering Professionals. Since then 31 interns from the program have become regular AHTD employees.

The 1998 session was moderated by Chief Engineer Bob Walters and allowed interns and staff engineers to exchange ideas, questions and comments on the roles engineers play in the Department.

This is the third year that CDP students have been involved in the intern program. These students are 18 years or older who have maintained contact with the Department since junior high school when Department engineers spoke to their career orientation classes about the transportation industry.

Speakers on the first day included Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson, Assis-



Valera McDaniel of Human Resources and Scott Bennett of Planning and Research conduct mock employment interviews to show the interns what not to do when seeking employment.



1998 AHTD ENGINEERING INTERN ORIENTATION CLASS

Left to right; Row 1: Michael Klamm, Jayson Lang, Damon Johnson, Shawna Bowen, Lucas Griggs, Susan Wimberly, Erica Michael, Bruce Wells. Row 2: Steve Schiebel, Natoya Hill, Camille Dykes, Cathy Atkinson, Trinity Smith, Mery Turner, Marc Maurer. Row 3: Dennis Birge, Thomas Drye, Casey Daniel, Keith Goff, Nathan Young, Walt Manis, Jason Bruce, Alan Pugh. Row 4: Jakob Wimer, Dwayne Cale, William Johnson, Zac Lacy, Andy Brown, Kyle Salyer, Jonathan Foster, Pete Nierengarter. Row 5: Robert Moore, Bill Linton, Todd Mueller, Bryan Gregory, Jason Dupree, Joe Knight, John Coleman, Brian Teague

stant Chief Engineer for Planning Steve Teague, Assistant Chief Engineer for Design Dale Loe and Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations Ralph Hall. They discussed their respective branches and how each meshes in the overall operation of the Department.

John Bettis, an engineer in Programs and Contracts Engineer, organized a guided tour of the Department which included Planning and Research, Materials, Surveys, Bridge, Construction, Roadway Design, Programs and Contracts and Computer Services Divisions.

The second day of the program was opened by Valera McDaniel, Human Resources Personnel Specialist, and Scott Bennett, Planning and Research Assistant Division Head, conducting mock interviews. This session was designed to show how to avoid pitfalls when seeking employment. Department engineers Phillip Rye, Elizabeth Mayfield and Gary Bennett acted as interviewees.

Panel discussions with staff representatives from the Administrative, Planning, Design and Operations branches of the Department were also conducted. This allowed participants to learn more details about each branch and interact in smaller groups.

The program concluded with a presentation by Valera McDaniel which focused on career planning and a slide show featuring the interns. Based on evaluations completed and returned by the interns, the program is informative and helps students better prepare to enter the transportation industry.



AHTD Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson, left, and AHTD engineers Jennifer Williams and Elizabeth Mayfield converse with intern Erica Michael.



Engineering interns learn about computerized mapping from Cartographer Supervisor Larry Newman and Robert Williams, Cartographer III.



Staff Bridge Design Engineer Phil Brand reviews bridge plans with engineering interns during the tour of the Department.

“Are You Buckled, Sober and Safe?”

Do those words look familiar yet? If a new safe driving campaign catches on with the motoring public, those six words will become commonplace.

The new campaign, “Arkansas Drive for Life – Buckled, Sober and Safe,” was unveiled Wednesday, July 1 at a press conference in front of the Central Office Complex.

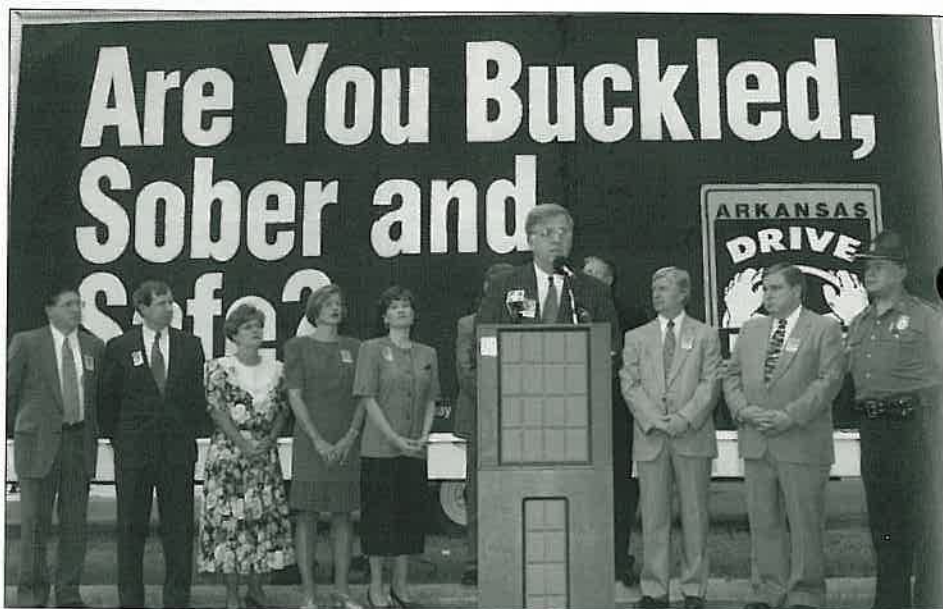
The campaign is sponsored by AHTD in cooperation with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Director Dan Flowers announced the effort along with Col. John Bailey, Director of the Arkansas State Police and Georgia Chakiris, Regional Administrator for NHTSA.

“The most effective thing motorists can do to increase safety is to buckle their seat belt,” Flowers commented. “It is estimated that one-half of the people killed last year in car crashes would still be here today if they had buckled up.” Regarding drinking and driving, Flowers noted that although only five percent

of all crashes in Arkansas involve alcohol, 37 percent of fatalities occurred in alcohol-related crashes.

The campaign includes intensified law enforcement and public education efforts to get motorists to buckle up, drive sober and drive safely. Billboards, brochures and public service announcements highlighting the “Buckled, Sober and Safe” theme will be used to get the

message out. One video public service announcement created for the campaign has received national recognition for excellence in television advertising. The spot, entitled “Happy Trails,” shows seat belts being buckled to the tune of the old Roy Rogers song, “Happy Trails To You.”



AHTD Director Dan Flowers announces the *Buckled, Sober and Safe* campaign at a news conference July 1 outside the Central Office Complex.



Vince, a crash dummy, hands out lapel stickers and key chains to attendees at the news conference.



State Police Director Col. John Bailey, left, and AHTD Director Dan Flowers place a bumper sticker on a patrol car.

Highway Police Participates In National Fleet Safety Survey

Checking brakes, lights and other safety equipment were just a few of the items the Arkansas Highway Police inspected during the National Fleet Safety Survey coordinated by the Federal Highway Administration's Office of Motor Carriers.

The Highway Police played an integral part of this nationwide enforcement event. The survey was held June 1-5 during International Highway Safety Week. Numerous state law enforcement agencies conducted safety inspections of

commercial motor vehicles and drivers at specific locations during the week.

Drivers were not only checked on safety of equipment, but also compliance with maximum hours of driving time limits, proof of medical examinations, use of seat belts and other required documents.

Highway Police officers inspected 403 trucks and drivers during this enforcement event. There were 570 violations of motor carrier safety regulations detected.

As a result of the inspections, 75 trucks and 14 drivers were placed in "out of service" status. Of the trucks taken out of service, 28 percent were transporting hazardous materials.

When a truck is placed in "out of service" status, repairs must be made before the truck may proceed. These drivers must be in compliance with the required hours of rest and have proper documentation before they can continue their trips.

Highway Police Donates \$15,000 To Arkansas Special Olympics

Through the efforts of Arkansas Highway Police personnel, donations totaling \$30,000 have been raised to support Arkansas Special Olympics over the past four years. The most recent donation came as a result of the Division's annual golf tournament.

Highway Police Chief Ronnie Burks presented a check in the amount of \$15,000 to Special Olympics June 9. Highway Police personnel use their off-duty time working on two charitable events each year. In addition to the golf tournament, the Division holds an annual fishing tournament.

"The monies raised through these projects were made possible by the officers and civilian employees who willingly gave of their personal time, along with the support of our corporate sponsors, to help the Arkansas Special Olympics," Burks said. "It is truly a case of people helping other people," he added.



AHP Chief Ron Burks, left, presents a \$15,000 check to the Arkansas Special Olympics.

Retirement Reception Held for Roger Almond

How do you end a career that has spanned 30 years and culminated in the second highest position at the Department? You have a reception and invite family, friends and co-workers, that's how.

That's exactly what happened on Thursday, June 23. More than 300

friends, colleagues and fellow employees, both past and present, filled the AHTD Auditorium to bid farewell to Roger Almond, Deputy Director and Chief Engineer.

Almond, flanked by his wife, children and grandchildren, reminisced about his years at the Depart-



Roger Almond



AHTD Director Dan Flowers presents Mr. Almond a caricature drawing.



Roger Almond, center, holds granddaughter Kristin Carol Almond. To his right is wife Jean holding granddaughter Kaylin Ella Mitchell; in front is grandson Blake Mitchell, and to Almond's left is daughter Rachel Mitchell and her husband Chuck.

ment and talked about his immediate future plans. "My plans are to teach my grandson how to water ski this summer," Almond quipped. "Beyond that, I don't have any plans."

Those offering comments at the event included Commissioners Bobby Hopper and Buddy Benafield, AHTD Director Dan Flowers, State Representative Steve Faris, Metroplan Executive Director Jim McKenzie, FHWA Division Administrator Ken Perret, and Associated General Contractors Highway Committee Chairman Bill Johnston. Almond was presented with numerous gifts, including a digital camera and associated equipment for his home computer.

"You can't help but have mixed emotions at a time like this," Almond said. "My time at the Department has been great, but it's time to do some other things I've wanted to do in my life."

PROMOTIONS

Dale Loe Assumes Assistant Chief Engineer for Design Position

Dale Loe, Division Head of the Bridge Division, was promoted to Assistant Chief Engineer for Design effective July 2, 1998, replacing Bob Walters, who was promoted to Chief Engineer.

Loe began his career with the Department in 1956 as a Summer Engineering Intern. Upon completion of the orientation program in 1960, he was assigned to the

Bridge Division as an Engineering Technician. His entire career has been spent in the Bridge Division. He has served as Designer, Senior Designer and Section Head of Design. He assumed the duties of Division Head in 1993.

The Prescott native is a graduate civil engineer from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and is a registered professional engineer.

Loe and his wife Donna reside in Little Rock. They have one daughter, Julie Duncan, who lives in Texas.

Ed Fain Named Division Head

Ed Fain, Staff Bridge Design Engineer, was promoted to Division Head of the Bridge Division effective July 2, 1998.

In 1968, he earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Ouachita Baptist University and received



Dale Loe
Assistant Chief Engineer
for Design

his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in 1971. He is a charter member of the AASHTO Bridge Design System Task Force and is a registered professional engineer.

He began his career at the Department as an Engineering Intern and was hired in regular status in the Bridge Division in 1971 as a Civil Engineer. He remained in that Division for nearly 20 years, serving as Senior Design Engineer, Staff Structures Engineer, and Staff Bridge Design Engineer. In 1990, he transferred to the Programs and Contracts Division as Staff Program Management Administrator and transferred back to the Bridge Division in 1993 as Staff Bridge Design Engineer.

He and his wife Vicki have two daughters, Kristin and Kimberly.

Thale Keisling To Head McGehee Residency

Thale Keisling, Assistant Resident Engineer at Russellville, assumed the duties of Resident Engineer at the McGehee Residency in District Two effective July 2, 1998.

He is a 1991 graduate of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and is a registered professional engineer. After completion of the AHTD engineering orientation program in 1991, he began regular status as a Civil Engineer I for the District 4 Springdale Residency. He has served as Construction Field Engineer I and II and Advanced Construction Field Engineer for the Springdale Residency. In July 1996, he was promoted to Assistant Resident Engineer at the District 8 Russellville Residency.



Thale Keisling
McGehee Resident Engineer



Ed Fain
Bridge Division Head

Loop 245 Extension Opens in Texarkana

North-south travel in Texarkana became a little easier Thursday, August 20, when a three-mile section of Loop 245 opened to traffic.

More than 100 people were on hand for the official dedication ceremony at 11:00 a.m. The group gathered atop the Highway 82 overpass. That is the point where the old road ends and the newly completed portion takes over leading to Highway 71.

The opening of the section from Highway 82 to Highway 71 completes a four-lane connection from I-30 to Highway 71. This will provide a direct four-lane route for through traffic which should alleviate traffic congestion in other parts of Texarkana.

Several local, state and national officials took part in the dedication



Highway Commissioner Prissy Hickerson, center, prepares to cut the ribbon officially opening Loop 245. Left to right are AHTD Director Dan Flowers, Highway Commissioners John Lipton and Buddy Benafield, U.S. Congressman Jay Dickey, Hickerson, name name, name name and name name

ceremony. Among them were Texarkana Mayor Danny Gray, State Representative Dennis Young, and U.S. Congressman Jay Dickey. Highway Commissioner Prissy Hickerson, a Texarkana resident, gave the keynote address to open the roadway.

"With so many transportation challenges facing our state, it's refreshing to celebrate the completion of a much-needed project," Hickerson told the crowd. "As a resident of Texarkana, I appreciate the work that has been done and the positive impact this roadway will have on Texarkana."

Hickerson and others also alluded to future plans for the area. "Days like this are exciting because, not only can we look back and celebrate what has been accomplished, we can also look forward to the next phase of work – a continuation of this highway to meet with the State

of Texas at the state line. This will provide a complete loop around southern Texarkana," Hickerson noted.

The AHTD has spent about \$36 million making improvements to Loop 245 over the past several years. It is expected to cost approximately another \$20 million to continue the roadway to the Texas state line.

Several speakers, including Congressman Dickey, referred to planned improvements along the Highway 71 corridor in western Arkansas, commonly referred to as I-49. Loop 245 is being considered as a possible location for the potential Interstate. "I want us to keep in mind that this is not the end, but the beginning," Dickey said. "The competition for Interstate dollars is incredible. We've got to keep our team together and support each other. We can accomplish so much."



Highway Commissioner Prissy Hickerson of Texarkana presents the keynote address.

Public Hearings

State Highway 107 in Sherwood

The proposed widening of Highway 107 in Sherwood brought a sizable crowd to the Sylvan Hills United Methodist Church August 11. Over 40 people viewed displays of the proposed project.

The public hearing was held for the purpose of permitting interested citizens, agencies and organizations the opportunity to express their views regarding the proposed widening of a 0.85-mile section of Highway 107 to five lanes.

The stretch of Highway 107 to be improved extends from Maryland Avenue to School Drive in Sherwood and includes widening the existing roadway to four 11-foot travel lanes with a 12-foot center turn lane. The existing roadway consists of two 12-foot travel lanes with three-foot shoulders. The route is projected to carry over 15,200 ve-



AHTD staff members review plan drawings with citizens of Sherwood.

hicles per day by the year 2018 – up from 11,600 at the present.

Most citizens on hand for the open forum public hearing were satisfied with the plans for the project. One resident relocatee and

two businesses will be relocated as a result of the widening project.

Bids on the approximately \$2.5 million project could be opened early next year.

West Huntsville Avenue in Springdale

Several local residents and business owners along West Huntsville Avenue in Springdale viewed displays of the proposed widening at a public hearing on August 18 at the Wesley United Methodist Church in Springdale.

The project, being built in conjunction with the city, calls for about one mile of the street to be widened to four lanes with left turn lanes at selected intersections. The project extends from Campbell Drive to Highway 71B in Springdale.

The existing roadway consists of two 11-foot travel lanes with six-foot shoulders. The new road will be widened to include two 13-foot outside lanes with 12-foot inside lanes in the four-lane section and four 11-foot travel lanes with a 12-foot left turn lane at the selected intersections of West End Avenue, North Pleasant Street and Highway 71B. Intersections along the route will have handicap access ramps leading from the sidewalks to crosswalks on West Huntsville Avenue.

Projected costs for the project are approximately \$2.5 million. The project should take approximately two years to complete. Traffic counts on the project are expected to rise to almost 14,000 vehicles per day near Campbell Drive and 17,000 on the east end of the project at Highway 71B. The proposed improvements are needed due to the existing two-lane facility's inability to safely and efficiently accommodate existing and future transportation needs.

Smitty Bonds Named To Arkansas Officials' Association Hall of Fame

Athletic officiating has been a large part of Boyd "Smitty" Bonds' life. His 24 years of devotion were recently rewarded when he was named to the Arkansas Officials' Association Hall of Fame.

Bonds, who is the District 8 Van Buren County Area Maintenance Supervisor, has been with the Department since June 1966. His officiating career followed in 1967 and ended with the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) finals between University of Central Arkansas and Hendrix College in 1991.

His career has included 16 state high school tournaments, four all-

star games and five state overall basketball championships. Bonds spent 16 years calling games in the Arkansas-Oklahoma Junior College League and worked seven tournaments during that period.

His officiating resume didn't stop at the junior college level. He has officiated 14 years' worth of both men's and women's games in the Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference. He is the only official in Arkansas to call both men's and women's finals in the same year.

Bonds and his wife Ruth live at Bee Branch; they have two sons, Nicky and Scotty, and two grandchildren.



Smitty Bonds, Van Buren County Area Maintenance Supervisor, shown with his Arkansas Officials' Association Hall of Fame inductee plaque.

David Lumbert Appointed To State Geological Board

David Lumbert, Engineering Research Technician in the Planning and Research Division, has been appointed to the State Board of Registration for Professional Geologists by Governor Mike Huckabee. He will serve a five-year term which expires in 2003.

Lumbert, a Fort Smith native, has been a registered professional geologist since 1988. He has a degree in geology from Arkansas Tech

University in Russellville. Prior to his employment with the Department, he worked for the Arkansas Geological Commission and the Arkansas Economic Development Commission.

Lumbert began his career with the AHTD in 1986. Along with numerous other projects, Lumbert has performed extensive work on the Highway 71 Relocation Project between Alma and Fayetteville.



David Lumbert



Letters on the Transportation Summit

TO: Mr. Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

I appreciate the invitation to attend the Arkansas Transportation Summit on Tuesday.

As you know, transportation issues within the state are of great importance to me. It has been a pleasure working with you and the Commissioners as we are committed to the future of economic development. I will continue to call on you and I ask you to do the same of me.

It is always great to see you. I look forward to many more accomplishments.

Marion Berry
U.S. Representative, Arkansas First District

TO: Mr. Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

I'm a little late with this, but I thought your "Highway Summit" was well done.

I was in Virginia Porta's group, and we had a good group. She did an outstanding job with a bunch that frequently rambled off the subject.

I think the additional funding depends on the Governor and how he deals with the anti-tax mood of the people.

I know you and the Commissioners are doing all you can to raise the level of understanding of highways needs and what it takes to meet them.

Jim Lancaster
Arkansas Representative
District 48



Virginia Porta
P&R Transportation Planning Engineer

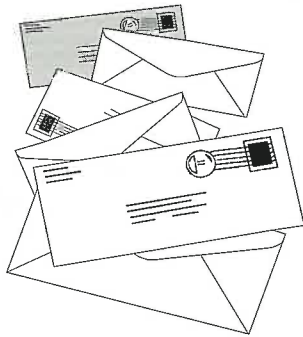
TO: Mr. Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

My congratulations to you and the staff of the AHTD for the excellent program and information that was presented today! I don't think it could have been improved and it exposed many of us to the constraining policies, funds and politics of a highway program.

While I had hoped to hear more discussion of intermodal freight movement, the highway issues are overwhelming in comparison. When we get our waterways program together, I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss the interface with you.

Thanks for the invitation to be a part of this conference. Best wishes!

Paul N. Revis, Executive Director
Arkansas Waterways Commission



Letters to the Department

TO: Mr. Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

Congratulations! I was pleased to select the Crowley's Ridge Parkway as one of the National Scenic Byways designated recently under the National Scenic Byways Program.

This year, we had many outstanding qualities that exemplify the regional characteristics of our Nation. They give American motorists and international tourists the opportunity to view a treasure trove of scenic, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, and natural sites. At the same time, each of the designated routes has the potential to serve as an economic engine for the communities through which they pass.

Although the designated National Scenic Byways include a wide range of characteristics, they have one thing in common: the grass roots support of dedicated individuals and groups who truly believe in the scenic byway. That is the key to success. These designations are a tribute not just to the byways and the qualities they possess, but to the hundreds of people, mostly volunteers, around the country who have dedicated themselves to developing the community organizations and multi-level partnerships that make a scenic byway successful.

The late Charles Kuralt spoke of the "joy of the trip," of finding "something wonderful just around the next bend." He could have been speaking of the roads I had the honor to designate as National Scenic Byways, which only add to the splendor of our previously designated winners. Each, in its unique way, offers "something wonderful" that explains why we answer the call of the open road. Whether they inspire, inform, or move us, these roads reflect the very best of America -- what it was, what it is, and what it means.

I look forward to working with you to maintain this valuable legacy for generations to come.

Rodney E. Slater
U.S. Secretary of Transportation

TO: Commissioner Herby Branscum
Arkansas Highway Commission

On behalf of the city of Conway, I would like to say thank you for your assistance related to the recent improvements on U.S. Highway 64 between Highway 65B and Washington Avenue. With the new overlay and striping of this road section to five lanes, it is certain that these improvements will prove to be very beneficial to better traffic movement in our community.

Thank you again for your efforts in this matter.

David G. Kinley
Mayor of Conway

TO: Mr. Dan Flowers
AHTD Director

Our sincere thanks are extended to you and members of the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department for the extraordinary service rendered in the speedy repair of the DeValls Bluff highway bridge.

Your supervision of this technically difficult job combined with the skill and knowledge of the contractor shortened the repair time by some four weeks. The opening of this bridge means economical movement of grains and fertilizers in this important agricultural valley.

Again, thanks and congratulations for a job well done.

Paul N. Revis, Executive Director
Arkansas Waterways Commission

TO: Mr. Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

While returning from a trip to Jonesboro recently, I noticed a State Highway Patrol Officer on the side of the road helping an elderly couple. I am sure that when Officer Robert Adams stopped to assist, he was unaware that the gentleman had a severe case of Parkinson's disease and was unable to loosen the lugbolts and change the flat. The couple is retired and were on their way to Georgia from Branson, Missouri.

These are the types of photographs that need to be published in newspapers and placed on television news rather than all the negatives that we are subjected to on a daily basis. I know that all of your officers would provide the same service as Officer Adams and I wish that there was a way that they could be recognized with the adequate appreciation for their services publicly stated. Please use this letter as a small token of my appreciation for the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department.

Brooks Jackson, AIA, CSI
Brooks Jackson Architects of Little Rock



Pfc. Robert Adams as he changes the flat of an elderly couple in July.

TO: Mr. Roger Almond
Deputy Director and Chief Engineer

I spoke with you a few weeks back concerning a turning lane onto West Cedar Hill Road from Highway 65 at the south end of the new highway being constructed north of Greenbrier. My concern along with others about West Cedar Hill Road was that the northbound traffic would not be able to recognize a vehicle turning left until it was right at the junction.

Mr. Almond, I want to thank you on behalf of the people living along West Cedar Hill and other persons using this road. We now have a turning lane at this location and your attention to this situation is very much appreciated. Your willingness to follow up on my phone call concerning this matter reconfirms that the State does listen to what some may consider small concerns.

If I can ever be of any assistance to you just let me know.

Wayne Coats
Coats Appraisal Service, Inc. of Conway

TO: Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department

Thank you for the beautiful highways and freeways. It was really nice this spring to go to work and come home every day looking at gorgeous wildflowers on the sides of the highway and in the median.

Thanks again,
Drivers

TO: Ray Woodruff
District 1 Engineer at Wynne

I just wanted to write you a letter of appreciation for all the nice things the Highway Department does for us. Also, thank you for authorizing the flowers that Bobby and Danny planted personally.

Our park is absolutely beautiful and I am enclosing some pictures to show you how pretty it looks. It has really brought raving comments from our visitors and lot and lots of pictures have been taken in front of the beautiful flowers and crape myrtle.

All the folks in District 1 are always extremely nice to us and we do appreciate it very much.

I am convinced we have the best Area Maintenance Supervisor in the state and the best District. Thanks again Ray for all your help and please come to see us when you can.

Edwene Suddath, Manager
Helena-West Helena Tourist Information Center



Bobby Weatherford, Area Maintenance Supervisor, and Danny Thomas, Rest Area Attendant

TO: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department

I would like to express my appreciation to the guys who mowed our roadsides on Highway 364 east of Vanndale. You did a great job. Thank you for caring about your work. You are appreciated. Keep up the good work.

Lena Smith of Wynne

TO: Mr. Jim Briley
District 2 Engineer at Pine Bluff

The Dumas Public School District wishes to once again express its appreciation to you and your staff for the outstanding job done to the area in front of the Dumas Junior High School on South College Street.

The work greatly improved the appearance of our campus and created a much safer environment for the loading and unloading of our students.

The installation of culverts from the corner of Bowles Street to the end of our junior high gym area, the removal and replacement of the old sidewalks, and the landscaping work done between the sidewalk and the street, in addition to the adding of curbs, made a world of difference in the appearance of the entire area.

With everyone working together – state, city, and school district – we feel we have provided a much safer environment for our students.

Robert Milner, Assistant Superintendent
Dumas Public Schools

TO: Mr. Roger Almond
Deputy Director and Chief Engineer

We are writing this letter to let you know how appreciative we are of you and your staff for the superb job you have done in helping us through the sale of our home and relocation process. Since June 1997 we have had telephone conversations with several different people at the Highway Department. These calls were in regard to the purchase of our property by the state for the construction of the southern portion of Interstate 49. On many occasions we tried to obtain general information on dates and procedures. During these calls we were always met with a very positive and patient attitude. Even when there was not always a clear answer, your office was very diligent in obtaining the information and keeping us informed.

Mr. James Gaither was always more than helpful to us and pointed us in the right direction regarding with whom to speak when we had questions. He was very helpful in passing along the information that was available to him.

Mr. Jim Fooks was always prepared to give us updates on relocation schedules. He also advised us what we should expect when the appraiser and relocation coordinator met with us. He was very friendly and considerate and returned our phone calls in a very prompt manner.

Mr. Gary Bulloch came to our home and explained the process of appraisal and relocation with us. He was very informative, polite, and extremely nice. He has since checked on our progress on building our new home and is certainly a pleasant person to deal with. Mr. Billy Taylor did an appraisal of our property. He was very thorough

and informative. Ms. Trish Lynn spoke with us at our home on two occasions. She was well prepared in clarifying the financial details to us. Ms. Lynn and Mr. Bulloch guided us through the negotiations and relocation process. Your closing agent, Ms. Marie Claunch, met with us at Commercial National Bank to sign all the necessary paperwork and settle the financial details. She was very accommodating and pleasant. We know that your office made a special effort to speed up our closing so that we could start working on our new home. Your staff's professionalism and expertise made us feel very confident that we were treated fairly throughout these dealings. They were all very amiable and more than willing to do what was necessary to make things progress smoothly.

So as not to exclude yourself from this letter of appreciation, Mr. Almond, we would like to thank you for your time and the consideration you have shown to us during this trying time. As we have learned, there are many ups and downs during a process such as this. You were always very encouraging and supportive and we appreciate your generous spirit.

Although losing one's home is very stressful under any conditions, the kindness and professionalism of you and your staff made this transition much more bearable. Everyone in your Department has gone out of his or her way to make this process as painless as possible. Over the years we have heard negative remarks regarding the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department and its treatment of some property owners. We can say in all honesty, that all of our conversations and negotiations with your office have been very positive. In light of our experience we feel compelled to write this letter expressing our appreciation and commending you and your staff members for a job well done.

Jerry and Melinda Brown of Texarkana, Arkansas

TO: Mr. Lyndal Waits
District 5 Engineer at Batesville

The citizens of Greers Ferry take pride in and will go to great lengths to keep our city streets and roadways clean and safe, especially the time around the summer holiday season when tourism is at its peak.

The Mayor of Greers Ferry and I would like to express our appreciation for an exceptional job done by the road crew during the week prior to the Memorial Day weekend.

I understand that all too often a job well done goes unnoticed. The road crew assigned to this area did an outstanding job and showed great professionalism while performing their task at hand.

Again, your efforts are greatly appreciated for a job well done! Please relay our thanks to the Cleburne County maintenance crew and their supervisor Harold Carr.

Jack Phillips, Chief of Police
Greers Ferry, Arkansas



Seated left to right: Marie Claunch, Closing Agent; Jim Gaither, Right of Way Division Head; Trish Lynn, Negotiator. Standing left to right: Jim Fooks, Acquisition Section Head; Billy Taylor, Abstractor; Gary Bulloch, Relocation Coordinator

TO: Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

It seems that El Dorado came at you from two directions on Friday. I was seeking information about right of way acquisitions on the five-lane portion of the Highway 15 project in order to respond quickly to a prospect; and Ron Robinson needed assistance with an issue regarding Highway 82 and the 82 Bypass area pending construction of a new service facility.

In comparing notes on Saturday, Ron bragged on the Department's quick and helpful response to his issue, and I did the same to him. We realize that we could not have been the only communities with issues to bring to your attention and agreed that your staff members should not go unrecognized for responding as if ours was the most important community in the state.

David Harmon in Little Rock and Sam Bradshaw in Camden worked with Ron; and Coy Campbell in Camden and Phil McConnell in Little Rock took care of what I needed. All four were patient, thorough and timely in their assistance.

And it's not that this is unusual. Whenever I call upon your staff, particularly Coy and Roger Almond, they demonstrate a high degree of professionalism and willingness to work with us. But it's all too seldom that we recognize their efforts.

Please extend our appreciation to your staff members, and never hesitate to let us know if there is anything we can do for you.

Sherrell Johnson, President and CEO
El Dorado Industrial Development Corporation

TO: Ralph Fulton
District 9 Engineer at Harrison

Not only do I complain, but I also give words of praise when I really like the job people do, and I "really" like the job your workers did mowing the grass in front of our mailbox on Highway 412. It looks fantastic and I appreciate it so very much. I know it's really hot and I appreciate the effort the workers put forth in this heat.

Hope Wells of Alpena, Arkansas

TO: Mr. Ralph Fulton
District 9 Engineer at Harrison

The purpose of this letter is to express appreciation for the quick and effective responses I have always received from the Arkansas Highway Department in Berryville. In particular, I have always had the pleasure of making my requests to Kit Core and have found him to be both friendly and helpful.

Just recently I asked Mr. Core if he could use his crew to reposition several mailboxes on Highways 21 South and 412. These boxes represented accidents just waiting to happen since most were situated as to leave the



Kit Core, Carroll County
Area Maintenance Supervisor

rural mail carrier sitting on the highway on hills and curves to make deliveries. As soon as I provided a list of addresses in need of attention, Mr. Core and his crew went right to work making them safer to serve.

Please understand that this is an entirely unsolicited letter of appreciation. It seems only fair to let someone know when there is a "thank you" to spread around.

James D. Ross, Officer-in-Charge
United States Postal Service at Berryville

TO: Bud Young, Jr.
District 9 Newton County Area Maintenance Supervisor

I would like to personally thank you all for your help in cleaning our streets for Spring Fever Days. You all did a fantastic job.

If I can help you in any way, please contact me.

Shannon Willis, Mayor of Jasper

TO: Mr. Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

I wish to convey my appreciation for the roadside assistance provided by two of your Department's employees, Ms. Josephine Davis and Ms. Alma Dandridge. Yesterday, these ladies cheerfully and graciously changed my tire after a blowout on Interstate 630. I could not have done it without them and, due to their assistance, I was able to return to a full day of government business without delay.

Their act of kindness exemplifies the type of public relations that should be encouraged by the state and should be commended by the Department.

Pat Crossley, Pulaski County Attorney
Pulaski County Courthouse



Alma Dandridge, Maintenance Aide II for the West Pulaski County maintenance crew. Josephine Davis, seasonal employee, photo unavailable.

TO: The men who mowed the ditches east of Enola School on State Highway 310 (Faulkner County maintenance crew.) Thanks for a great job.

I have lived in the first house past the school for 54 years. Your work is the best ever!

Mrs. Brady

TO: Mr. Jim Gilbert
Public Transportation Administrator

We at the Lee County Cooperative Clinic would like to express special appreciation to you and your staff for helping us with the new 1998 Ford van acquired through grant funds.

Mr. Donnie McMillen has been especially good as a contact person. He is always cordial and courteous.

John A. Eason, Executive Director
Lee County Cooperative Clinic at Marianna



Donnie McMillen
Transportation Specialist

TO: Mr. Jim Smith
West Memphis Resident Engineer

My husband George and I live on Mound City Road. The widening and resurfacing work that has been going on for months seems to be coming to an end. I know it has to have been frustrating when the rain set in not long after they started.



Eddie Ferguson, Inspector and
Jim Smith, West Memphis Resident Engineer

The purpose of this letter is for me to let you know that, through it all, your men were nothing but courteous as they worked. We residents along the road never stopped jumping in our cars at will to leave and return, even at the beginning when they had to use barriers and men to direct traffic.

The wider road with the new surface is worth the minor inconveniences. Mr. Eddie Ferguson, who I assume is the foreman, was very visible up and down the road. We can all see our tax dollars at work!

Suzanne Murphree of Marion, Arkansas

TO: Billy J. McAlister
Russellville Resident Engineer

I just wanted to congratulate you, the Highway Department, and Mobley Contractors, Inc. for the manner in which you handled the job of replacing the drainage structure under South Arkansas Avenue between Main Street and Second Street.

I own property on both sides of the street and I was very pleased with the cooperation I received. I especially appreciate the fact that people from your Department came and explained to us exactly what was going on.

Ike Allen Laws, Jr.
Laws & Murdock, Attorneys at Law

TO: Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

On Thursday, July 2, Pathway Campgrounds were on their way to Hot Springs when one of the buses broke down on the interstate. I was on that bus. Of all the people passing by, no one stopped to help us except for two of your employees. They gave us their water and also went back to fill it up for us.

They stayed with us until we got another bus. We were out there for about one and one-half to two hours. There were 45 kids and 5 staff members on this bus. Of all of those kids, only about five of them got sick and passed out. If your men had not supplied us with water, more than that would have passed out. We thank them dearly within our hearts and God will reward them someday. We thank you again and again.

Melinda Jumper of Forrest City, Arkansas



Mike Allman, Sr. Inspector, and Donnie Parish, Construction Aide II, of the Hot Springs Resident Engineer's Office

TO: Mr. Harold Beaver

District 4 Engineer at Fort Smith



Chip Johnson, Advanced Construction Field Engineer for the Mountainburg Resident Engineer's Office

A group of A.G. Edwards employees had the privilege to tour the new tunnel and highway construction yesterday.

We were certainly impressed by the magnitude of the project and admire the Highway Department's role in overseeing this endeavor.

Perhaps equally impressive, to investment brokers as we are, is the information concerning quality control and cost efficiency. We expected our guide, Chip Johnson, to be knowledgeable regarding construction methods, environmental concerns, etc. We were most impressed, however, about his awareness of costs, timetables, projected usage, emergency contingencies, etc. It was obvious that Chip was up to speed and concerned about every aspect of this project.

We thank you for the courtesy of a very informative tour. It is reassuring to see our tax dollars being put to good use and to see the Highway Department bringing on bright, personable young engineers who obviously are motivated to do the best possible job.

Signed by seven members of
A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. of Fort Smith, Arkansas

TO: Arkansas Highway Department at Mountain Home

On behalf of the Twin Lakes Golf Association, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for responding to our drainage problem on Highway 178 along the south side of the golf course. The people I talked to in the office and those who did the work were very courteous and responded very quickly to correct the problem. You are appreciated.

Ken Parker, Chairman, Greens and Grounds

TO: Arkansas Highway Department

This is a thank you to one of your employees that helped us a great deal. Last month, on our way to a wedding in northern Illinois, I found that the air conditioning was not working on our camper van. I pulled into the welcome center on Highway 67 North.

I had just about got the hood up when Sammy Parrish stopped his work and came over to help. We soon found a wire chewed through. With his trusty pocketknife and a piece of wire, Sam spliced around the break and we had coolness for our entire 1300-mile trip.

When we got home our neighbor told us that some pesky chipmunks had disabled several cars. Our thanks again to Sam – a friend in need for sure.

June and Al King
Mountain Home, Arkansas



Sam Parrish, Rest Area Attendant for the Clay County maintenance crew

TO: Mr. William Tyler
District 3 Engineer at Hope

Thank you for having the median and right of way freshly mowed for the Fourth of July Independence Day celebration held at the Four States Fair Grounds located off Loop 245 and Interstate 30.

The signs your Department placed on Interstate 30 to warn motorists of the congested traffic area at Loop 245 and I-30 worked. There were no traffic accidents reported on state roads near the fireworks display this year. Thanks!

If the Texarkana Police Department can be of service to you, please contact me.

Sgt. Richard Ates
Texarkana Police Department

TO: Arkansas State Highway Commission

The Human Resources Division employees would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the nice raise.

Signed by employees of the Human Resources Division

TO: Mr. Bobby Bailey
DeQueen Area Maintenance Supervisor

Thank you so much for fixing the drive at the Horatio Post Office.

Reita Lofland of Horatio, Arkansas

TO: Mr. Kit Carson
Surveys Division Head

I want to advise you of how impressed we were with the behavior of your employees, Steve Bradley and A.J. Cunningham, yesterday, July 13.

My friend and I had a blowout and as a result the tire was badly mangled. Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Bradley saw that we were experiencing problems and came to our aid. Both gentlemen made sure that we were able to locate a suitable replacement. In addition to this chivalrous act, they also put the new tire on before leaving.

These acts occurred after the conclusion of their workday. Needless to say, we were quite impressed and grateful for their numerous acts of kindness. You are very fortunate to have such fine individuals as Mr. Bradley and Mr. Cunningham working for your agency. Please give them our warmest regards.



Steve Bradley and A.J. Cunningham
Surveys Technicians

Evelyn Webb and Addie Farr of Russellville, Arkansas

TO: Mr. William Tyler
District 3 Engineer at Hope

Just a "special" thank you to you and your employees for the excellent job on the ditch in front of our property on Highway 371.

We appreciate that you care! It appears that it should drain with the next rain.
Thank you so much.

Pat and Jim Severns of Prescott, Arkansas

TO: Public Affairs Office

Thank you so much for the information you sent me. It's fantastic and it seems I almost got it the next day.

Debi Gimbel of Deer Park, Texas

TO: Mr. Joe Barnett
District 10 Engineer at Paragould

Just a note of thanks for the super job your employees did on my driveway. A wreck had made my narrow driveway even narrower. I called Mr. Jackie Rainwater for help. He referred the matter to Mr. Harold Lady. My driveway was soon fixed. My sons, Larry and Roger, want to say thank you too.

Thanks again for a job well done.

Louetta Steele of Black Rock, Arkansas

TO: Ralph Fulton
 District 9 Engineer at Harrison

It was so thoughtful of your mowing personnel to mow Highway 103 South (Carroll County) up to the fence line. It looks very nice and again thank you.

Russell and Bobbie Molder

TO: William Tyler
 District 3 Engineer at Hope

Thank you for your help in making North Main Street in Nashville a safer place to drive. The noise level of the traffic is so much improved; all of the older folks are grateful.

Please call on me if the TV station can help in any way to get out information on your work.

Glen Power, General Manager
 KJEP Television in Nashville, Arkansas

IN MEMORY

ACTIVE

John T. Jones
 District 2
 July 31

James E. Steelman - District 7
 died May 12

Earl H. Rackley - District 4
 died May 15

Morris L. Smith - Planning &
 Research
 died June 19

Elzie R. Edwards - District 8
 died June 22

RETIREEES

Joseph A. Leopard - District 2
 died April 23

Thomas N. Benson - District 7
 died May 17

Delbert H. Pierce - District 1
 died June 26

James L. Dickey - District 9
 died April 25

John M. Black - Highway Police
 died May 18

Henry H. Armstrong - District 1
 died July 5

Hermit H. Vestal - District 3
 died May 4

Charles L. Ball - District 1
 died May 24

Orin S. Rose - District 9
 died July 7

Felix H. Doyel
 Highway Police
 died May 10

Francis M. Waymack
 Highway Police
 died May 28

Floyd W. Petty - District 3
 died July 16

Clarence J. Harper
 Highway Police
 died May 11

Joseph L. James - District 6
 died June 12

R.C. Turney - Materials
 died July 17

Around the Department

BRIDGE

Congratulations to Dale Loe, Division Head, on his promotion to Assistant Chief Engineer for Design. Mr. Loe has been on the Bridge Division's staff for 38 years, serving as Division Head for the past five years. This Division honored Mr. Loe with a luncheon July 2. Retirees attending were Veral Pinkerton, former Division Head; Alice Dong and Harry Dinsmore, former Senior Bridge Design Engineers; and Jim Matthews, former Section Head.

Ed Fain, Staff Bridge Design Engineer, was named Division Head replacing Mr. Loe on July 2 and on June 29, Ed and his wife Vicki became grandparents to Zachary Luke Norton, born to Kevin and Kim Norton.

Bryan Freeling, Civil Engineering Technician, and his wife Tina welcomed daughter Elizabeth Louise (Lizzy) on June 12. They also have a son, Dalton, age 3.

We welcome Mark Simecek, Civil Engineering Technician. He holds a bachelor's degree in engineering management with a civil engineering preference from the University of Missouri-Rolla and received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in June 1998.

COMPUTER SERVICES



Kay Cornish, Computer User Coordinator, retired May 25 with 30+ years service. She is shown with her husband Bobby.



Toby and Patty Specht with son Chase who won first place in the 12-24 month category of the 1998 Baby Brickfest contest in Malvern. Chase is the grandson of Mary Green, Data Control Clerk.



David Phillips, Applications Analyst/Programmer II, is shown with his children, Stephanie Renee and Ryan Alan, born July 5.

CONSTRUCTION

The Contract Estimates Section welcomes Patricia Bending, Office Administrative Assistant III. She transferred to Construction from the Right of Way Division in April.



Jim Barton, left, Staff Construction Engineer, receives a 20-year service certificate from State Construction Engineer Allan Holmes in May.



Mike Sebren, left, Staff Construction Engineer, receives a 20-year service certificate from State Construction Engineer Allan Holmes in May.



State Construction Engineer Allan Holmes, left, presents a 20-year service certificate to Carolyn Burleson, Estimates Technician, in April.



David Henning, left, Civil Engineer IV, receives a 10-year service certificate from State Construction Engineer Allan Holmes.



Amy Fincher and Michael Adams, son of Tim McLain, Adv. Estimates Technician, and Farrell Adams, Photogrammetry Section Head, were married May 9 at the First Baptist Church in Benton.



Katelyn Thompson, seven-year-old granddaughter of Reta McCoy, Estimates Supervisor, attends Pine Grove Elementary School in Valdosta, Georgia and was judged best in the State of Georgia among first graders in a handwriting contest. She will now compete for the title of National Grade Level Handwriting Champion and Grand National Handwriting Champion.

EQUIPMENT AND PROCUREMENT

We welcome two new employees to this Division. They are Benny Bowers and David Fulmer, Station Attendants. Benny transferred from the Maintenance Division.

HIGHWAY POLICE

Highway Police is saddened by the loss of two retirees, Lt. Clarence Harper and Lt. Felix Doyel.

Lt. Harper died May 11 at the age of 73. He was the Assistant District 1 Commander at the time of his retirement in August 1987.

Lt. Doyel died May 10 at the age of 77. He was the supervisor of the Alma Weigh Station at the time of his retirement in May 1983.



Keily Deni Meador, granddaughter of Cpl. T.D. and Soni Meador, was born January 3.



Jessie Ward, 18-year-old daughter of Pfc. Ned and Karen Ward, was chosen Miss University of Arkansas Community College at Hope, which allowed her to participate in the Miss Arkansas Pageant.

INTERNAL AUDIT

This office congratulates Bill McDorman, Chief Auditor, and Johnnie Parks, Assistant Chief Auditor, on achieving 25 years of service with the Department.



Bill McDorman, left, Chief Auditor, presents a 25-year service pin to Johnnie Parks, Assistant Chief Auditor.



Joshua Boice worked as a seasonal employee in this office for the summer. He is a junior at Ouachita Baptist University majoring in accounting with a minor in graphic design.



Mark Wesson, son of Shirley McElroy, Office Administrative Assistant IV, completed the sixth grade at Carver Magnet and will be a seventh grader at Horace Mann this fall.

Josh Harris, son of Cindy Harris, Senior External Auditor, will be attending the Gymnasium (a college prep school) in Quakenbruck, Germany for the 98-99 school term. He will be staying with a host family in Germany and plans to attend Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri in the fall of 1999.

MAINTENANCE

The Heavy Bridge Section welcomes two new employees. Mike Hollowell, Bridge Painter I, transferred from the Human Resources Ground Maintenance Section and is working on the bridge paint crew and Darrell Pleasant is a new employee working on a bridge maintenance crew.



Allan Loring, left, Sign Shop Supervisor, receives a 20-year service certificate from Tony Sullivan, Staff Maintenance Engineer.



Ron Johnson, left, Sign Layout Supervisor, receives a 20-year service certificate from Allan Loring, Sign Shop Supervisor.



Allan Loring, left, Sign Shop Supervisor, presents a 10-year service certificate to Lee Greene, Sign Maker II.



Gabrielle Greene, daughter of Gale, Senior Accountant, and Randy Davis, was married to Cornelius Fennessee at the First Pentecostal Church in North Little Rock July 18.



Christian Jameson Marchese, born February 26, is the son of James Marchese, Telecommunications Operator and his wife Erin. He is the grandson of Robert Green of Roadway Design.



Nicholas Huckaba, son of Communications Section Head Douglas and Sue Huckaba, graduated from Sheridan High School in May.

MATERIALS



Jerl Burks, Testing Equipment Specialist, retired July 14 with 35+ years service.



The Materials Division's summer employees included: (l-r) Nathaniel Fells, Jr., Amber Autumn Bunn, and Natoya Hill. Nat graduated from J.A. Fair High School and is planning to attend the University of Memphis for a degree in biology. Amber is from Benton and plans to attend the Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Oklahoma majoring in religion and psychology. Natoya graduated from Sylvan Hills High School and will be attending the University of Arkansas at Little Rock majoring in computer engineering.



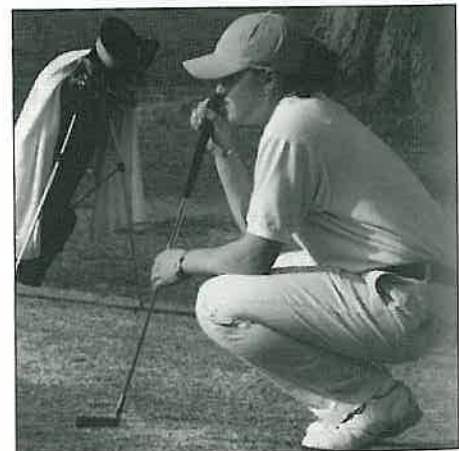
Retiree R.C. Turner died July 17.

PLANNING AND RESEARCH

Laura Hinze, Office Administrative Assistant III, retired after 22+ years service and Margaret LeClair, Civil Engineering Technician resigned in May.



Elizabeth Mayfield, Planning Engineer in State-wide Planning, and Charlie Hart, Bridge Management Engineer for the Bridge Division, were married July 25 in Eureka Springs.



Sarah Hardison, daughter of Terry Hardison, Engineering Research Technician, won the Arkansas Junior Girls State Golf Championship in July. She qualified for the USGA Junior Girls Championship to be played in Ardmore, PA and the Independent Insurance Classic in Edmund, OK.

PROGRAMS AND CONTRACTS

This Division welcomes Shelley Miller, Programs and Contracts Technician I, who transferred from Planning and Research, and Dwayne Stokes, Reproduction Operator, who transferred from Environmental.

Lauren Mayo, daughter of David, State Project Development Engineer, and Lannece Mayo, was the 1998 Valedictorian for Hall High School. She is enrolled at Mississippi State University.



Julie Mitchell, daughter of Donald Mitchell, Plans Designer I, is a member of the Tomboy's Girls 12 and Under Slow Pitch Softball team in Conway. They finished fifth in the state tournament; third in the regionals in Mississippi and will play in the nationals in Ohio.



Ronnie Smith, Advanced Hydraulic Design Engineer, and Mark Lyons, Senior Traffic Engineer, were recently recognized for their years of service with the Department. Ronnie has 15 years and Mark has 10 years.



Debra Sain, Reproduction Technician, celebrated 25 years of service in April.



Tiffany Nicole Garner is the niece of Lisa Duncan, Administrative Aide III in the Administrative Section.



Blaine Ashton Booher, born April 7, is the daughter of Brooks, Staff Hydraulic Engineer, and Susan Booher. Grandfather June Booher is a Roadway Designer.



Brandon Scott Garner is the nephew of Lisa Duncan, Administrative Aide III in the Administrative Section.



Edward Reynolds, Design Technician, his wife Cherrie and sons Thomas and Stephen welcomed Zachary Daniel on May 27.

RIGHT OF WAY



Right of Way Service Awards
 Front row; left to right: Louise Mills, Negotiator, 10 years; Carcena Hall, Realty Appraiser I, 15 years; Linda Lewis, Office Administrative Assistant III, 25 years; Floyd Rippond, Plans Designer II, 20 years. Back row: Danny Arendt, Relocation Section Head, 25 years; Joseph Qualls, Senior Utilities Coordinator, 25 years; Jimmy Sanson, Reviewing Appraiser, 25 years

ROADWAY DESIGN

Congratulations to the following who were recently promoted: Tammy Jernigan, Design Engineer; David Pearce, Traffic Engineer; and Amy King, Civil Engineer II.

Jennifer Williams, Design Engineer, recently became a registered professional engineer after passing the PE exam in July.



Karis Marie Martin, born June 17, is the daughter of Chuck, Senior Design Engineer, and Andrea Martin.

STATE AID



Barbara Croswell, Office Administrative Assistant V, is shown with her granddaughter Brianna Oldham.

SURVEYS



David Allen, left, Surveys Technician II, receives a 5-year service certificate from George West, Staff Senior Land Surveyor.

Kevin Pendergrass, Surveys Aide II, and his partner won first place in the 11th Annual Bass Cat Invitational bass tournament held in May on Lake Norfolk. The team caught a total of 26.9 pounds of bass during the two-day tournament. Among the prizes awarded to the team were a 1998 Bass Cat Jaguar bass boat with matching trailer and gold and diamond championship rings.



10-Year Service Awards
John McMickle, Resident Engineer; Lee Hamilton, Jr., Spreader Operator; Michael Gahr, Motor Patrol Operator, and Lester Frazier, Senior Mechanic

DISTRICT ONE

District One has two winners in the Statewide Equipment Operators' Rodeo. Harold Mullins won first place in the Tractor/Mower competition and Joey McClanahan won third place in the Motor Patrol competition.



5-Year Service Awards
Brenda Morris, Construction Helper I, and Johnny Light, Motor Patrol Operator



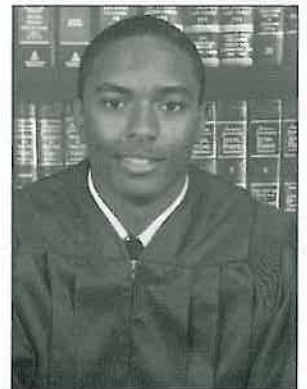
20-Year Service Awards
Mark Montgomery, Inspector, and Jim Smith, Resident Engineer



Jennifer Weaver, daughter of Area Maintenance Supv. Ray Weaver, graduated from Southeast College with a degree in computer aided drafting.



15-Year Service Awards
Taylor McDaniel, Maintenance Aide II, and Claude Willis, Senior Mechanic



Derrick Davis, grandson of Houston Caldwell, Single Axle Truck Driver, graduated from Barton High School.



Benton and Clinton, Jr. are the sons of Store-room Assistant Teresa Humes and her husband Clinton.

DISTRICT TWO



James Ralph Davidson, Resident Office Technician at the Pine Bluff Residency, retired with 37 years service. He has worked in the Pine Bluff RE office since 1967.

Our congratulations to Scott Mullis on his promotion to District 2 Construction Engineer and to Thale Keisling on his promotion to Resident Engineer at McGehee.



Michael Benton, left, Resident Engineer, presents James Hope, Inspector, a 20-year service certificate.



D.W. "Doc" Miles, left, Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents a 20-year service certificate to R.E. Conway, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator.



H.L. Pippin, Ashley County Single Axle Truck Driver, with his 20-year service certificate



John Breitenstein is the new District Caretaker.



Brittany Nichole Bawcom is the first grandchild of Mike Thompson, Resident Engineer.



Claire Elizabeth Keisling, born April 6, is the daughter of Thale Keisling, Resident Engineer.



Meredith Nicole Thompson, born November 13, 1997, is the granddaughter of Johnny Linneman, Bridge Repairer II.



Cali Cheyenne Hart, born November 1, 1997, is the granddaughter of Ginger Haire, Janitor.

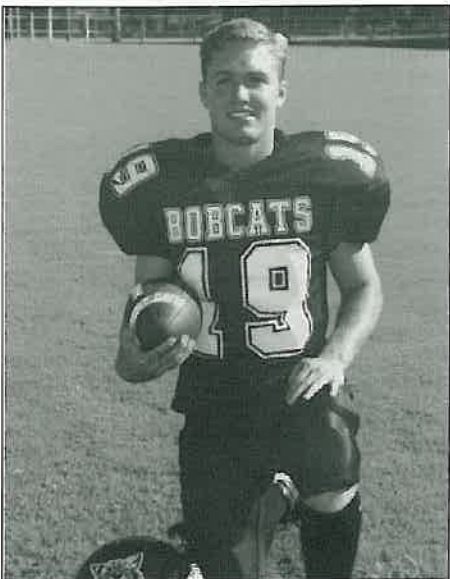
DISTRICT THREE



William Tyler, left, District Engineer, presents a 30-year service pin to Doyle Powell, Sealing Job Supt.



William Tyler, District Engineer, presents a 15-year service certificate to B.R. Martin, Permit Officer.



Courtney Cole, son of Rod Cole, Construction Materials Inspector, was selected AP high school football player of the week; All-Conference; All-State; and to play on the Arkansas High School All-Star team. In baseball, he was selected All-Conference and to play on the Arkansas High School All-Star team. He is a member of the National Honor Society; Who's Who; and All-American Scholars. He received the James H. Jones Award as Hope High School's outstanding senior athlete and received a football scholarship from Henderson State University and also plans to play baseball for the Reddies.

DISTRICT FOUR



District Permit Officer Mike Pickens with his 10-year service certificate



Bashar Qedan, Resident Engineer, presents a 15-year service certificate to Gene Edgmon, Construction Materials Inspector.



Bashar Qedan, Resident Engineer, presents a 5-year service certificate to Ken Wilson, Assistant Resident Engineer.



Secretaries Day Out: Pam Bruce, Receptionist; Nan Williams, Personnel Clerk; Mary Bryant, Office Administrative Assistant V; and Shirley Millikin, Bookkeeper with District Engineer Harold Beaver



Petit Ford, Sign Erector, and Shannon Roxy were recently married.

DISTRICT FIVE



District 5 Service Awards
L-R: Brian Thorn, Single Axle Truck Driver, 5 years; Walt Chestnut, Inspector, 15 years; L.D. Crow, Senior Mechanic, 10 years; Byron Price, Construction Aide I, 10 years; Russell Moore, Inspector, 10 years



District 5 Service Awards
L-R: Don McSpadden, Senior Mechanic, 20 years; Winfred Reed, Shop Supervisor, 25 years; Tim Bradley, Bridge Repairer, 20 years; Tom Inman, Area Headquarters Attendant, 25 years



Ryne Glover is the two-year-old son of Searcy Resident Engineer Stan and Cara Glover.



Colby Sutton, Colt Corbel, Megan Corbel, Travis Crow, and Kenzi Sutton are the grandchildren of Senior Mechanic L.D. Crow.

DISTRICT SIX

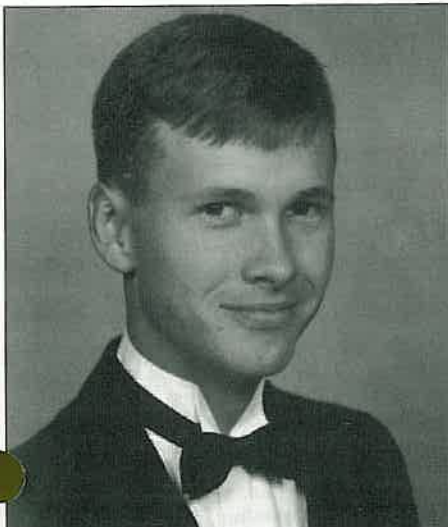


Jessica Davis Arellanes, born October 17, 1997, is the daughter of Michael Arellanes, Single Axle Truck Driver for the District sign crew.



Jason Edward Erick, son of Edward Erick, Construction Aide I at Hot Springs, is a 1998 graduate of Malvern High School.

DISTRICT SEVEN



Brent Smith, son of Senior Inspector James "Don" and Carolyn Smith, is a 1998 honor graduate of Huttig High School.



Jason Phillips, son of Union County Area Headquarters Attendant Jody Johnson, is a 1998 graduate of Smackover High School.

DISTRICT EIGHT



District Engineer Frank Russenberger presents a 30-year service pin to Floyd Cates, Spreader Operator in the Districtwide sealing crew.



District Engineer Frank Russenberger presents a 25-year service pin to R.H. Williams, Yell County Crew Leader.



Mike Hottinger, Construction Materials Inspector, receives a 25-year service pin from District Engineer Frank Russenberger.



District Engineer Frank Russenberger presents a 25-year service pin to Nancy Kennedy, Office Administrative Assistant V.



District Engineer Frank Russenberger presents a 25-year service pin to Danny Bradford, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator for Faulkner County.



District Engineer Frank Russenberger presents a 20-year service certificate to Kenneth Jones, Bridge Repairer II.



District Engineer Frank Russenberger presents a 15-year service certificate to Gary Long, Senior Mechanic.



District Engineer Frank Russenberger presents a 15-year service certificate to Dennis Langston, Motor Patrol Operator for Perry County.



Zachary and Nicholas Phillips, born May 28, are the twin grandsons of retired Newton County Area Maintenance Supervisor Bill and Mardel Phillips.



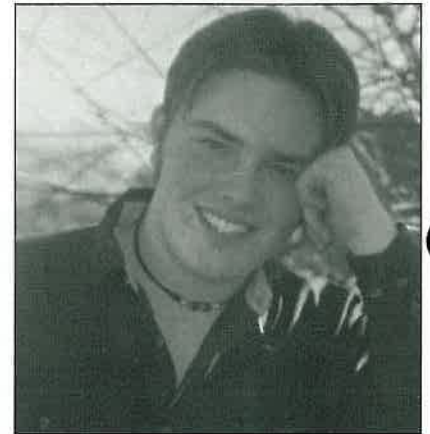
Nancy Harris graduated from North Arkansas Community College in May. She is the sister of Rosie Blansett, Single Axle Truck Driver for Yellville, and the daughter of retiree John Harris, Peel Ferry Boat Supervisor.



Christerville Elizabeth Neighbours, born May 9, is the daughter of Rebekah and Art Neighbours of Conway. Bekah is a Field Clerk I for the Conway Residency.



Erin Kay Roberts participated in the Harrison Jr. Princess Pageant in April. She is the daughter of Storeroom Assistant I Billy Joe and Dena Roberts and the granddaughter of retired Newton County Crew Leader Donald Lively.



Mike Perrin, son of Doug Perrin, Materials Inspector for the Bentonville Residency, is a 1998 graduate of Bentonville High School. He will attend Northwest Arkansas Community College.

DISTRICT NINE



District 9 Safety Awards

Front row; l-r: Steve Cornett, Boone County, 1 year; Tim Fields, District maintenance crew, 1 year; Butch Martin, Harrison Residency, 5 years; Bud Young, Jr., Newton County, 3 years; Gary Fancher, Madison County, 1 year; Ralph Fulton, District Office, 1 year. Back row: Gene Taylor, District bridge crew, 1 year; Butch Fancher, District bridge inspection crew, 5 years; Jack Brisco, Bentonville Residency, 2 years; Kenneth Oxford, Marion County, 2 years; Connis Ingram, Baxter County, 2 years



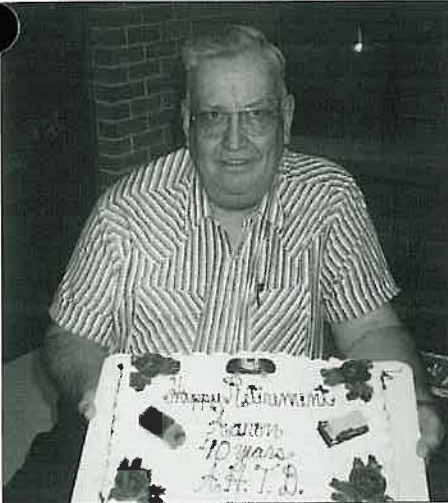
Preston Konemann, age 5, participated in the "Sunshine Gang" at his church. He won the small trophy for his participation in the club and the large trophy for his memorization of the most (164) Bible verses for boys in the club. He is the grandson of Edie, Office Administrative Assistant V, and Gerry Korcheck.

DISTRICT TEN



District 10 Service Awards

Front row; l-r: Mike Riley, Sr. Inspector, 20 years; Karen Tosh, Field Clerk II, 20 years; Rex Pierce, Crew Leader, 20 years; Grady Davis, Maintenance Aide I, 20 years. Back row: Bob Reddell, Construction Field Engineer I, 5 years; Gene Groves, Motor Patrol Operator, 5 years; Brad Smithee, Assistant Resident Engineer, 1 year; David Hicklin, Bridge Repairer II, 1 year; Glenda Gramling, Inspector, 20 years; Walter McMillan, Resident Engineer, 20 years; and Walt Hamm, Randolph County Area Maintenance Supervisor, 20 years



Aaron Pannell, Mississippi County Area Maintenance Supervisor, retired with 40 years service with the Department.



Walter McMillan, left, Paragould Resident Engineer, is shown with Dorothy Hancock, Field Clerk II, at her farewell reception.



Brad Herren graduated from Greene County Tech High School in May. He is the son of Dennis and Paula Herren. Dennis is a Crew Leader for the District sealing crew.



**BUCKLED, SOBER
AND SAFE**

**Remember!
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and AHTD Policy
To Buckle Your Seatbelt!**



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