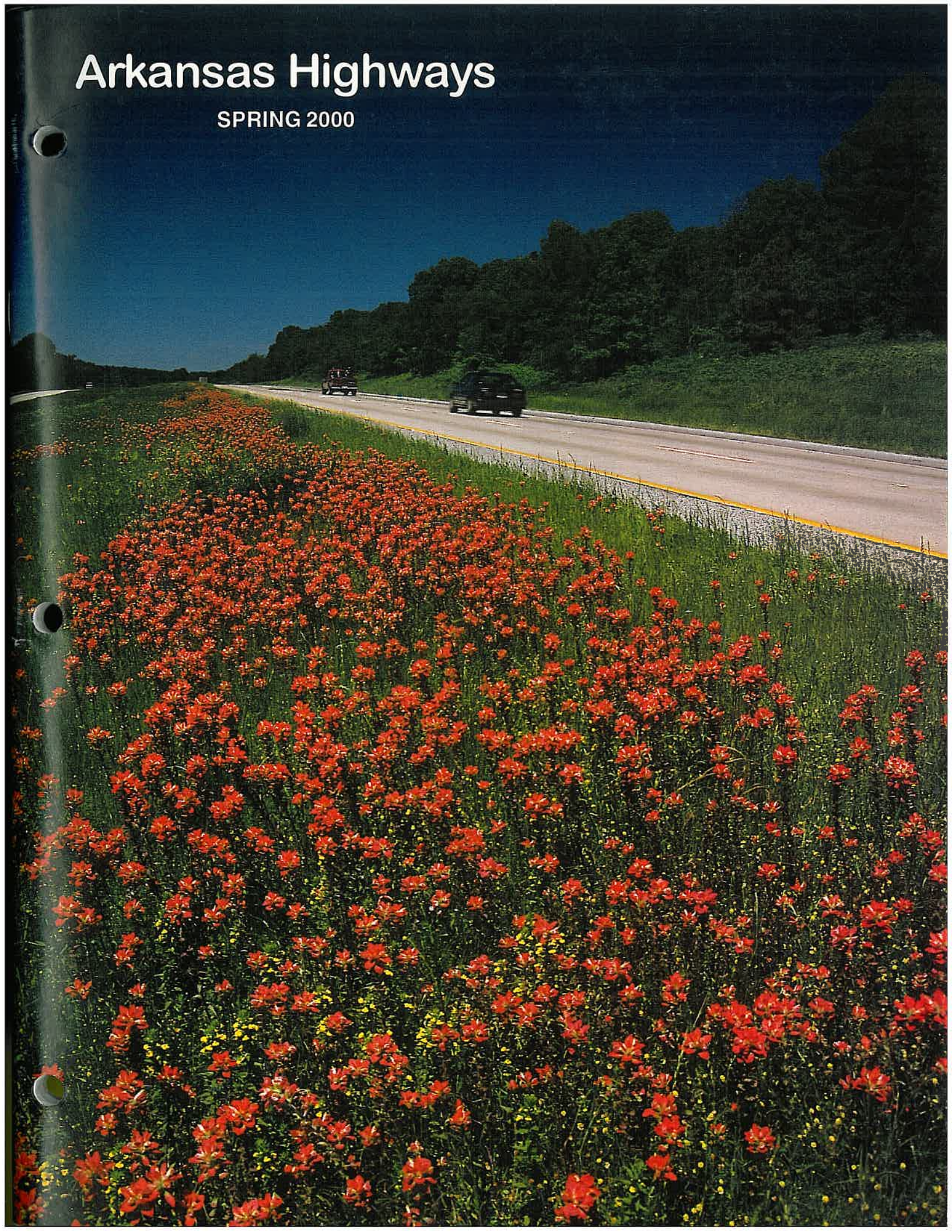


Arkansas Highways

SPRING 2000



Director's Message

I believe the Commission and the AHTD are making great strides towards meeting the present and future transportation needs of Arkansans. The issuing of bonds to accelerate Interstate improvements was a big step toward addressing some of our most critical needs.



The initiative shown by the Commission in exploring innovative financing options has been unprecedented, and the decision to undertake the Interstate Rehabilitation Program is an indication of their confidence in you, the people who comprise the Department, to meet the challenge of implementing and completing the program.

In addition to the work that will take place on our Interstates over the next five years, many of you will continue to be involved in other important projects, such as the work on widening many of our state highways and bridges, constructing bypasses, and providing technical and financial assistance to cities and counties. The work you do on projects and services such as these have a direct impact on safety, economic development, tourism and the overall perception of our State.

Another example of the scope of the Department's responsibilities was the response to the severe snowstorm on January 27, 2000. Our staff and road crews are to be commended for leading the effort to provide safe routes and information for motorists traveling our highways and byways.

Over the course of this year and decade, our Department will continue the very important work of developing our State's transportation system. Although we have made significant progress in addressing highway issues, there is still much work to be done.

DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS

SPRING 2000

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION



HERBY BRANSCUM, JR.
CHAIRMAN



JOHN "M" LIPTON
VICE CHAIRMAN



J.W. "BUDDY" BENAFIELD
MEMBER



PRISSY HICKERSON
MEMBER



JONATHAN BARNETT
MEMBER

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COVER PHOTO: Interstate 40 in Johnson County. Photo by John Jackson.
BACK COVER PHOTO: State Highway 38 in Prairie County. Photo by John Jackson.

Historic Day for Arkansas' Interstates

First bond sale since 1951 for highway improvements held in March

History was made in March as the Arkansas State Highway Commission issued bonds to be used for highway improvements.

March 7 was the date the Commission chose to competitively sell bonds for Interstate improvements. This was the first time in approximately 50 years that bonds were sold to finance highway improvements in Arkansas.

Governor Mike Huckabee joined the Commission and Department staff as bids began arriving via the Internet shortly before 10:00 a.m. Five of the bids were received electronically, while only one was delivered the old-fashioned way – by hand.

At the stroke of 10:00 a.m., Pat Born, the Commission's financial advisor, and bond counsel Paul Benham, III "opened" the bids. The bids

received over the Internet were displayed on the projection screen, while the lone paper bid was opened and read aloud. The firm of Salomon Smith Barney submitted the best bid of the six.

Their bid reflected a true interest rate of 5.2083% for the \$175 million in bonds. Salomon Smith Barney also had the largest number of firms with representatives in Arkansas included in their syndicate.

Later in the day, the Commission received bids from prospective firms for a guaranteed investment contract to invest the proceeds from the bond sale. Trinity Funding Corporation of New York City submitted the best bid, offering to pay 6.7775% interest on the fund balances. Commission Chairman Herb Branscum, Jr. expressed the



Pat Born, of Evensen Dodge, Inc., the Commission's Financial Advisor, congratulates the Commission and Director. "Arkansas was the class act of the day in the bond market," he told the group.



Governor Mike Huckabee congratulates the Commission on a very successful bond sale.

Commission's pleasure with the day's events. "We received a lower than expected rate on the interest we will pay on the bonds, plus a higher than expected rate on the interest we will earn. I don't know how it could have gone any better," Branscum commented.

In comparing the Arkansas sale with other similar sales taking place around the country on March 7, Born said the Arkansas sale was "the class act of the day. You received better rates than were expected, plus the bonds sold at a premium," meaning the bonds actually sold for more than their face value. "Competitive bidding served you well," Born added.

The premium Born referred to means the bonds actually sold for more than their \$175 million face value. Salomon Smith Barney paid \$178.1 million for the bonds, therefore, the Commission will receive approximately \$3.1 million in additional funds that it doesn't have to pay back or on which it doesn't have to pay interest. "That shows that these bonds were highly sought in the marketplace," Born explained.

Branscum and Born both complimented AHTD Director Dan Flowers and the work performed by staff leading up to the bond sale.



Pat Born compliments the Commission and Director for their work on a successful bond sale.



Assistant Chief Engineer for Planning Steve Teague, Fiscal Services Administrative Officer Mike Boyd, Programs and Contracts Division Head Frank Vozel and Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson

"Congratulations to you and your staff," Born told the Commission and Flowers. "You all did a terrific job."

"Mr. Flowers, you and the staff were great," Branscum said. "The Commission has been very pleased with the whole process. It just couldn't have gone any better."

One of the reasons given for the successful sale was the bond rating. Director Flowers, staff members, and representatives from the Department of Finance and Administration made presentations to Moody's Investors Service and Standard and Poor's in February. The presentations proved successful as Moody's upgraded the state's rating to Aa2 while Standard and Poor's maintained their original strong AA rating.

"This was a historic day for Arkansas," Flowers said. "It was a great day for the Commission, but it is the citizens who will see the benefits with the improvements we will be making to the Interstates."

The March 7 bond sale was the culmination of many months of hard work by the Commission and staff to put together a financial team and make all the necessary preparations.

The entire process started when the Commission began exploring innovative financing options in the mid-1990's after the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approved the use of Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicles, or GARVEE bonds. These bonds allow states to pledge future federal highway funding to retire bond debt.

Armed with information from the FHWA, the Commission pressed forward in 1998 by seeking an Attorney General's opinion on the use of GARVEE bonds in Arkansas. Shortly thereafter, the Governor's Citizens Council on Highways and Transportation endorsed use of GARVEE bonds.

With the support of the Commission and the Governor, the General Assembly adopted legislation to put the question of issuing GARVEE bonds to a vote of the people. On June 15, 1999, the voters overwhelmingly approved the proposal by a nearly 4 to 1 margin to allow the Commission to issue up to \$575 million in GARVEE bonds to help finance an Interstate Rehabilitation Program. The program is planned to improve approximately 375 miles of Arkansas Interstates, with all the work being completed in approximately five years.

The voter approval put the issue back in the hands of the Highway Commission. They immediately began the process to sell the bonds as soon as possible. The Friday, Eldredge & Clark law firm of Little Rock was retained as bond counsel, and Evensen Dodge, Inc., of Minneapolis, Minnesota, was selected as the Commission's financial advisor. In December, the Commission voted to make the initial sale of bonds by competitive bid rather than negotiated sale, and selected March 7 as the date for the first sale.

"Now it's time to begin the work that is expected," Flowers said. "We're certainly off to a good start, but we've got to make the program a success. I'm confident we will make the most of this opportunity."

Selling the GARVEE bonds will help the Commission fund approximately \$952 million in Interstate rehabilitation work. "When it's all said and done, it's a bigger and better program than anyone ever thought or talked about," commented Commissioner Jonathan Barnett. "This is a billion-

dollar program. The people will see nearly a billion dollars worth of construction on our Interstates in the next five years."

Other Commissioners also seemed pleased with the day's events and the overall program. "I think this Commission has always done a good job of using the money that we have available," commented Vice Chairman John "M" Lipton. "The hard part has been performing the work at a pace acceptable to the public. This program will really get the work done quicker."

"Today was a win-win situation for the Commission," noted Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield. "For the bids on both items to come in better than expected gets our program off to a good start."

Commissioner Mary P. "Prissy" Hickerson agreed, saying "It was a very exciting day and it makes us feel good about the decisions we have made. The future of this program looks very promising at this point."

Twelve projects are scheduled for calendar year 2000. The first construction contracts will be awarded in the Commission's May bid letting. Additional first-year work will go to bid in June.

Future bond sales in 2001 and 2002 will help finance the remainder of the work.



AHTD Director Dan Flowers fields questions about the bond sale from David Lieb of the Associated Press.



AHTD Chief Legal Counsel Robert Wilson with Commission Bond Counsel Paul Benham of the Friday, Eldridge and Clark law firm



Commission Vice Chairman John Lipton discusses the bond bids with Commission Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr.



Chief Fiscal Officer Larry Dickerson and Chief of Administration and Public Affairs Jane Wilson

INTERSTATE REHABILITATION PROGRAM SUMMARY

- The sale of up to \$575 million in GARVEE bonds was authorized under Act 1027 of 1999. The bonds will be general obligations of the State, backed by the full faith and credit of the State.
- A special election on the bond question was held June 15, 1999. The measure passed by a nearly 4 to 1 margin (109,282 to 28,232).
- Three bond issues are planned: \$175 million, \$185 million, and \$215 million. The bonds will have 12-year maturities.
- Sale of the first bonds (\$175 million) was held March 7, 2000. The sale was by competitive bid.
- The construction program will improve approximately 375 miles (about 60%) of Arkansas' 636-mile Interstate system.
- The construction program will total approximately \$952 million – approximately \$889 million for rehabilitation statewide and approximately \$63 million for widening sections of I-30 and I-40 in the Little Rock area.
- All work is scheduled to be underway in three years and completed in five years.
- The bonds will be repaid using federal Interstate Maintenance funds, the required state matching amounts, and the proceeds from the 4-cent per gallon increase in the state diesel tax (Act 1028 of 1999).



Highway Commissioners John "M" Lipton, Herby Branscum, Jr., and Jonathan Barnett review the bond bids.



Pat Born, center, reviews the bond bids with Highway Commissioners Prissy Hickerson and J.W. "Buddy" Benafield.

"The Commission has been very pleased with the whole process. I don't know how it could have gone any better."

Herby Branscum, Jr., Commission Chairman

"This was a historic day for Arkansas. It's the citizens who will see the benefits with the improvements we will be making to the Interstates."

Dan Flowers, Director



Jane Wilson, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs; Larry Dickerson, Chief Fiscal Officer; Ralph Hall, Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations; Steve Teague, Assistant Chief Engineer for Planning; and Carol Griffec, an independent journalist, watch the bid opening.



AHTD Chief Fiscal Officer Larry Dickerson, Bond Counsel Jim Butts, and Fiscal Advisory Pat Born watch as hard copy bids are received via fax machine.

AHTD Participates In “Wildflowers Forever” Program



Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations Ralph Hall speaks at the “Wildflowers Forever” press conference.

In an effort to beautify and enhance selected “gateways” to the Little Rock area, the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department has teamed up with several other interested organizations in the “Wildflowers Forever” project. The program is an initiative to plant wildflowers along highway rights of way leading into the metropolitan area.

A ceremony was held December 2, 1999, at the I-430/Colonel Glenn Road Interchange in Little Rock to kick off “Wildflowers Forever.” Representatives from the AHTD, the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission and Deltic Timber Corporation, were on hand with Arkansas First Lady Janet Huckabee to plant the first seeds.

The \$20,000 project began with a \$10,000 roadside wildflower beautification grant to the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission from the Natural and Cultural Resources Council of the Department of Arkansas Heritage. Deltic Timber added a \$5,000 private contribution, and the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Foundation contributed the \$5,000 balance. The AHTD volunteered to plant the seeds and maintain the wildflower areas at no cost as part of its highway roadside maintenance program.

Aside from the I-430/Colonel Glenn Road Interchange, the following interchange areas will be seeded with wildflowers under the “Wildflowers Forever” program: I-30/I-40 Interchange (north terminal), I-30/I-440/I-530 Interchange (south terminal), I-430/I-630 Interchange, I-30/University Avenue Interchange, I-430/Highway 10 Interchange, U.S. Highway 67/167 Interchange (McCain Blvd.), I-440 Little Rock Airport Interchange (Bankhead Dr.), and the I-40/Burns Park median areas.

A mixture of annual and perennial wildflowers will be used in the plantings. The annuals will help beautify the areas over the next 2-3 years while the perennials are becoming established. Species to be used include tickseed coreopsis, ox-eyed daisy, lanceleaf coreopsis, showy primrose, Mexican hat, blackeyed Susan, purple coneflower, yellow cosmos, Texas paintbrush, poppy, Indian blanket, bachelor button, gay feather, and lemon mint.



Arkansas' First Lady Janet Huckabee gets a little tractor instruction from Eric Sanders, AHTD Maintenance Aide II in the Environmental Division.



New AHP Officers Complete Training Course

The largest class of new recruits ever hired by the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department for the Arkansas Highway Police Division took the oath of office January 14, 2000. Twenty-five new officers took part in a graduation ceremony marking the end of 21 weeks of intensive law enforcement training.

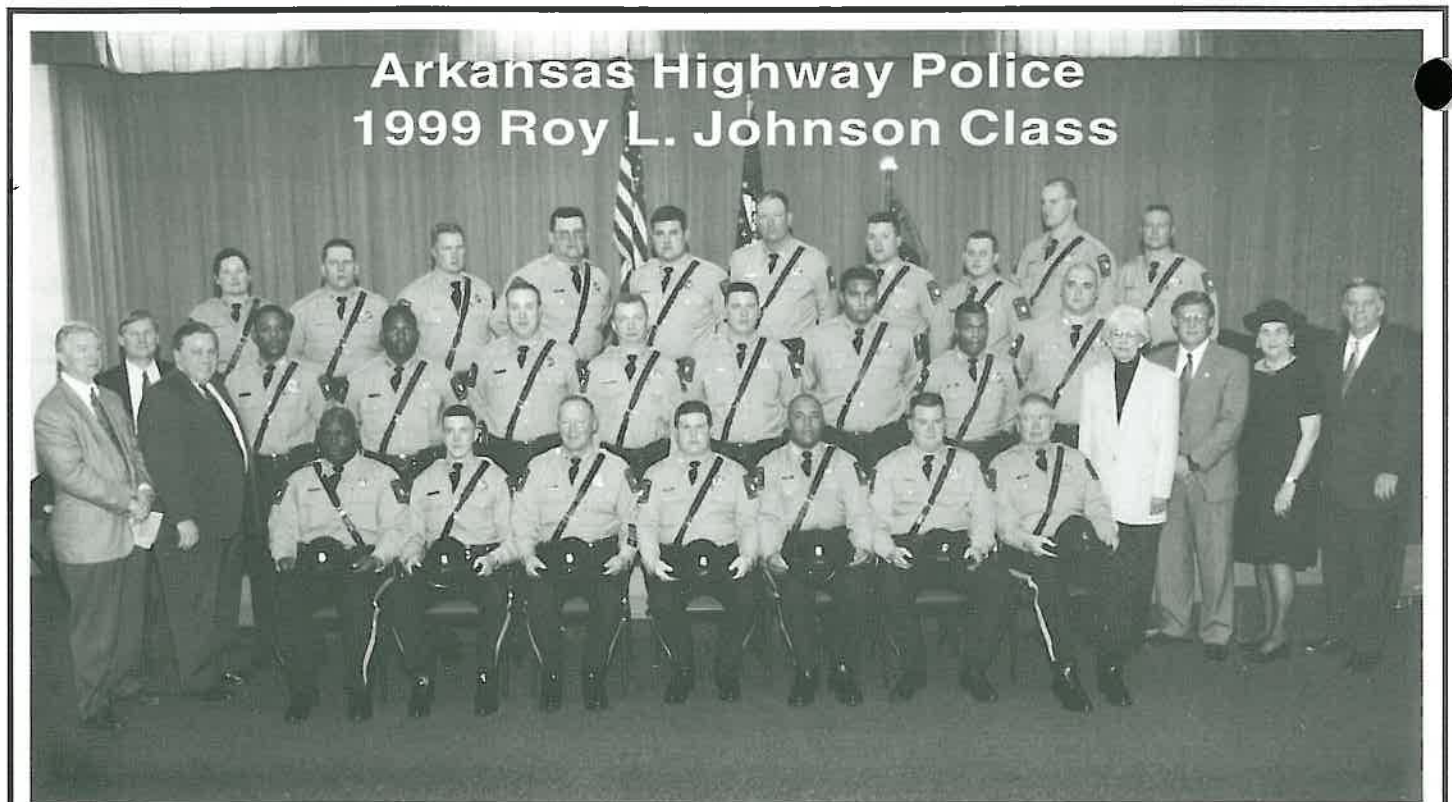
The ceremony took place in the Militia Hall Auditorium at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock. Commission Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr., AHTD Director Dan Flowers and Highway Police Chief Ron Burks spoke at the event.

"I commend each of you for what you have

accomplished to this point," Flowers told those in attendance. "The work of our Highway Police officers is very important and will become even more so as we begin the massive Interstate Rehabilitation Program. Our Highway Police Division will play a major role in that safety effort," Flowers commented.

Aside from being the largest class in history, this class of new officers is also unique because they were the first to complete the Department's newly implemented in-house training program.

The training course created by the AHP staff far exceeds minimum standards required for all



Arkansas Highway Police
1999 Roy L. Johnson Class

Standing, left: Highway Commissioners John Lipton, Jonathan Barnett, and Herby Branscum, Jr. Standing, right: Jane Wilson, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs; Ron Burks, AHP Chief; Mrs. Roy L. (Louise) Johnson; and Dan Flowers, AHTD Director of Highways and Transportation. Members of the graduating class are, seated left to right: Benjamin Bennett, Jeffrey Bickerstaff, Dickie Branch, Ronald Burnett, Felix Carr, Jason Daggs and Thomas Falls. Second row: Robert Garrett, Sammie Hart, Brian Hornsby, David Hughes, Paul Keith, Charles Knight, Eric McNeely and Larry Mitchell. Third row: Elizabeth Moore, Clyde Murphy, Travis Nelson, William Oliphant, Shad Overman, Robert Sellers, Thomas Simpson, Fred Standridge, Gregory Toland and Todd Thurman.

Law enforcement officers and includes the specialized training needed to be a Highway Police officer. Recruits received 518 hours of classroom instruction combined with weeks of field training in both mobile units and weigh stations.

During training, the recruits were divided into four groups, or squads. Each squad was assigned current Highway Police officers who assisted in the training. Also, the entire class had to pass tests, or "obstacles," as a whole or they would re-encounter the obstacle. This promoted unity among class members as they worked together to complete the course.

Prior to graduation, the recruit class named itself "The Chief Roy L. Johnson Class" in honor of longtime AHP Chief Roy Johnson who passed away in 1999. Chief Johnson's widow and daughter attended the graduation ceremony.

"Chief Johnson left behind the legacy of an outstanding career in law enforcement," Branscum noted. "Honoring him in this way is a good gesture on your part. I know his family is pleased to know that his contribution to the Highway Police is being recognized in this way."

Branscum concluded the ceremony by wishing the new officers good luck. "I am confident you will wear your badges with honor and present a positive image for the Department and the State of Arkansas. I wish each of you a long and meaningful career with the AHTD," he said.



Commission Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr.



AHTD Director Dan Flowers



Patrol Officer Tom Simpson was the spokesperson for the Chief Roy L. Johnson graduating class.



AHP Chief Ron Burks, center, with Commissioners Jonathan Barnett, left, and John Lipton, right

Cpl. Billy Smith Receives AHP Life Saving Award

What started out as a routine check of an apparent abandoned vehicle turned into a life and death situation for Arkansas Highway Police Corporal Billy Smith of Blevins.

Smith stopped on Interstate 30 on New Year's Eve 2000 to check what he thought might be an abandoned vehicle near Prescott. Inside was 50-year-old William B. Cate of Tyler, Texas, slumped over in the seat of his 1988 Chevrolet van. "I thought that he may have had a little too much New Year's celebration, but there was no alcohol smell and I noticed a bottle of medication in his van," Smith explained.

After several attempts to wake Cate, Smith knew this was not an intoxicated person who had passed out along the highway. Smith immediately notified emergency personnel in Hope of the medical problem. "His immediate actions probably saved this man's life. It really shows his commitment to his job and attention to detail," Highway Police Chief Ron Burks said.

Medical personnel from Medical Park Hospital in Hope told Smith that Cate had suffered a stroke

while driving from Memphis to his home in Tyler. "I talked with Mr. Cate's son and he told me that he had never had any problems with his heart before this happened," Smith explained.

Smith joins four other AHP officers that have received this prestigious award: Corporal Doyle Crouch in 1988, Patrolman First Class Charles Tripp in 1991, former Patrolman Lynn Chaffin in 1992 and Patrolman First Class James Thomas in 1997. Smith's name will be added to a plaque at AHP headquarters, and he will receive a pin signifying the award to be worn on his uniform and a certificate stating his achievement.



Cpl. Billy Smith

AHTD Equipment Auction Nets Over \$820,000 for Used Items

About 600 registered bidders did their best to pick up good deals during the Department's annual public equipment auction held on November 2, 1999 at the Central Shops.

Almost 500 lots of equipment were auctioned off to the highest bidder. Outdated sedans, pickups, dump trucks, sweepers, tractors, trailers and obsolete parts were just a few of the bits and pieces of AHTD machinery that were sold to the highest bidders in the annual event.

The auction brought in a net profit of over \$820,000. (That was down from almost \$920,000

from a year ago – but up from \$627,000 from the auction two years ago.)

The quality of used equipment auctioned each year brings in large crowds of people looking to pick up a good, used piece of equipment, according to Doug Nielsen, Equipment and Procurement Division Head.

"We are getting repeat customers who know that we maintain our equipment and they know that some of these pieces may still have a useful life in another capacity," Nielsen said.

Final Stage Bypass Dedicated at Hope

A crowd of nearly 100 people was on hand Thursday, November 4, 1999 for a ceremony to officially dedicate the final stage of the Bill Clinton Bypass in Hope.

Highway Commissioner Prissy Hickerson of Texarkana, AHTD Director Dan Flowers and Hope Mayor Dennis Ramsey addressed the crowd braving high winds to attend the dedication ceremony.

The approximately one mile long bypass provides an east-west artery for the City of Hope relieving much of the congestion along Highway 67. The bypass also connects two interchange areas along Interstate 30 and opens a new area of the community for possible future development. Hickerson predicted the bypass "is going to have a tremendous impact on the City of Hope."

L.J. Earnest Construction Company of Bossier City, Louisiana and AHTD District Engineer William Tyler and staff were complimented for completing the \$2.4 million project ahead of schedule. "This is our business. We like to see projects completed, and we like to open them to traffic so you can all enjoy what you have been paying for in motor fuel taxes," Flowers said.



Left to right: Dennis Ramsey, Hope Mayor; William Tyler, AHTD District 3 Engineer; Prissy Hickerson, Highway Commissioner; and Dan Flowers, AHTD Director cut the ribbon to officially open the final segment of the Hope Bypass.



Prissy Hickerson



Traffic flows on the new bypass

DEDICATIONS

New Bridge Over Cache River Dedicated

Commission Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr., Director Dan Flowers, and a small gathering of local officials and citizens were on hand February 17, 2000 for the dedication ceremony of the new bridge over the Cache River on County Road 30 near Algoa in Jackson County.

The new bridge, located four miles south of Amagon, replaces an outdated wooden facility built over the Cache River many years ago. Rock Creek Construction, Inc. of North Little Rock was the contractor for the \$710,000 project.

"We're always pleased to see progress being made whether it's a state highway or a county road," Branscum said. "This new bridge will be a major benefit to the citizens of this area," he added.



State and local officials dedicate the new bridge over the Cache River.

Walnut Ridge/Hoxie Bypass Dedicated

A gathering of state and local officials met Tuesday, October 12, 1999 in Lawrence County for the official dedication of the northern section of the Walnut Ridge/Hoxie Bypass.

Once completed and combined with State Highway 34, the route is expected to provide much improved access into Walnut Ridge from the north.

The construction contract for the two-mile section of the bypass was awarded in 1997 at a cost of \$4.2 million to Delta Asphalt of Arkansas, according to AHTD Director Dan Flowers.

After the dedication ceremony, several officials gathered at Allison Farms and spoke to the crowd during a luncheon. Highway Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield summarized the potential impact of the project by stating, "The future looks bright for the Walnut Ridge and Hoxie area. U.S. highways serve Walnut Ridge and Hoxie from all directions like spokes on a wheel. This provides an excellent framework for future growth."



Highway Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield hands AHTD Director Dan Flowers a souvenir ribbon cutting from the dedication ceremony.

Stretch of U.S. Highway 65 Linking Harrison to Missouri Dedicated

A crowd of approximately 40 citizens was on hand Friday, December 10, 1999 near Harrison for a ribbon-cutting ceremony of the newly opened stretch of U.S. Highway 65 between Burlington (Boone County) and the Missouri state line.

The project, which began in July 1996, included constructing approximately eight miles of divided four-lane highway and a 185-foot tall bridge crossing Cricket Creek near the Missouri state line. The new stretch of highway is expected to carry an average daily traffic count of approximately 8,300 vehicles.



The new section of U.S. Highway 65 looking north toward Missouri

Four contractors worked on the \$38 million project over a three-year period. Many long-time residents of the area stated they anticipate the new highway to increase safety and make Harrison a more attractive place to live.

Highway Commissioner Jonathan Barnett commented, "Former Commissioner Bobby Hopper started this project several years ago, but I'm pleased to be here at the end. I look forward to eventually continuing the widening south from Burlington to Bear Creek Spring."



Jonathan Barnett

U.S. Highway 167 Widened from El Dorado to Junction City

State Representative Mark Smith, Highway Commission Vice Chairman John "M" Lipton and a host of representatives from Louisiana were in attendance on Tuesday, December 21, 1999 for the dedication of U.S. Highway 167 from El Dorado to Junction City as a four-lane highway. The crowd that gathered at the Arkansas Tourist Information Center, located south of El Dorado, heard from officials that this project could be a catalyst for other projects in the area.

The various speakers lauded the widening of this section of U.S. Highway 167 as the initial step toward connecting Little Rock and New Orleans with a continuous four-lane highway.

Construction on this segment of Highway 167 began in 1994, and was completed at a total cost of \$22.4 million. Jet Asphalt & Rock Company of El Dorado and T.L. James Construction of Ruston, Louisiana served as contractors for the project.



Highway Commission Vice Chairman John "M" Lipton, center with scissors, cuts the ribbon to officially open the new highway.

Dedication Ceremony Held for Widening of U.S. Highway 49 near Jonesboro

A large gathering of local, state, and Highway and Transportation Department officials was on hand Tuesday, September 7, 1999 near the Greene-Craighead County line for the dedication of the widening of a section of U.S. Highway 49 north of Jonesboro.

This project is part of the overall plan to widen all of Highway 49 between Jonesboro and Paragould to four and five lanes. Delta Asphalt of Arkansas completed construction of the 3.5-mile section of five-lane highway extending north

of Brookland to Arkansas Highway 69 at a cost of \$4.1 million.

The widening from Highway 69 to Paragould is already complete, while work continues on the Jonesboro to Brookland section. Highway Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield told the crowd that linking Jonesboro and Paragould with a four-lane road makes good sense. "Northeast Arkansas continues to grow. Jonesboro and Paragould are two of the leaders in that movement. This new highway should help further those efforts."

Highway 167 Groundbreaking Ceremony Takes Place in Batesville

Highway Commission Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr., Highway and Transportation Department Director Dan Flowers, and a host of area officials gathered near the Batesville Regional Airport on Tuesday, November 23, 1999 for the ground-breaking ceremony of the widening of U.S. Highway 167. The project was undertaken as part of the overall plan to widen Highway 167 between Bald Knob and Batesville to four lanes.

White River Materials of Batesville was awarded the \$6.6 million contract for the 3.25-mile section

upgrade from Ramsey Hill to Southside. The work on this section of roadway should be completed by mid-2001.

The widening of Highway 167 from Bald Knob to Pleasant Plains is already complete, while contracts to continue work on the other segments of highway are forthcoming.

According to Commissioner Branscum, the project is closing in on the final stages. "With this project now underway, we only have two projects remaining to complete the four-laning of Highway 167 between Batesville and Bald Knob," Branscum said.



Highway Commission Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr., far right, turns the first shovel of dirt for the Highway 167 widening project.

Groundbreaking Ceremony Held for U.S. Highway 63 at Jonesboro

Highway Commission Members J.W. "Buddy" Benafield of Hickory Plains and Jonathan Barnett of Siloam Springs, along with a host of state and local officials, met Tuesday, January 18, 2000 just north of Jonesboro for the groundbreaking ceremony of the widening of U.S. Highway 63 to five lanes.

This portion of the project, which began on February 3, 1999, consists of the widening of the existing roadway from two lanes to five lanes from Jonesboro to Bono. The project is the first of four phases to widen the entire highway to four lanes from Jonesboro to Walnut Ridge.

The construction contract for the two-mile stretch of highway was awarded to Atlas Asphalt of Jonesboro at a cost of \$4.6 million. "This is a very heavily traveled highway and the widening will ease much of the congestion in the area," said Benafield.



State and local dignitaries "turn dirt" for the U.S. Highway 63 widening project.

Cash Road Widened in Camden

Highway Commission Vice Chairman John "M" Lipton, Director Dan Flowers, Camden Mayor Chris

Claybaker and a crowd of over 125 citizens were on hand September 6, 1999 at the Garden Oaks Shopping Center in Camden for the dedication of the Cash Road widening project.

The project included the widening of the existing roadway from two lanes to three lanes, construction of curbs and gutters, and resurfacing from U.S. Highway 278 to U.S. Highway 79.

Though not a state highway, Lipton pointed out the significance of Cash Road to the city. "Camden is growing, and this improvement will greatly help the north-south flow of traffic in the heart of the city."

Milan Construction Company of El Dorado was the contractor for the \$1.3 million project.



Commission Vice Chairman John Lipton, with scissors, cuts the ribbon to officially open the newly widened Cash Road in Camden.

I-540 Becomes State's Sixth Scenic Byway

After years of construction and months of debate, the Highway Commission named Interstate 540 as the state's sixth Scenic Byway at its November 17, 1999 meeting.

The Commission action, led by Commissioner Jonathan Barnett of Siloam Springs, makes the route from Rudy Road (Highway 282) just north of Alma to the

Fayetteville bypass a Scenic Byway. The Mountainburg interchange was segmented out of the designation in anticipation of future development that might be aided by off-premise billboards. Off-premise signs are otherwise not allowed on Scenic Byways.

The League of Women Voters of Washington County, the Sierra Club, the Ozark Society, Friends of Fayetteville, and the Fayetteville Garden Club formed a partnership organization known as the I-540 Scenic Partners to pursue the designation. These groups stepped forward after the Highway Commission withdrew its sponsorship status to avoid any potential conflict of interest.

Numerous public hearings were held prior to the designation to allow citizens the opportunity to voice their opinions on the proposal. Opposition was expressed from property owners along the route who viewed the advertising restrictions as a personal property rights issue. But the overwhelming majority (88%) of comments received supported the byway designation.

Barnett also suggested the formation of a Scenic Byway Loop to promote the area.

Old Highway 71, which runs parallel to I-540, had previously been named a state Scenic Byway. "Having two byways so close to one another creates a unique situation and helps emphasize the natural beauty of the Ozark region," Barnett said. He suggested the "Ozark Scenic Loop" or a similar name to help promote the concept.



Highway Commissioner Jonathan Barnett, left, and District 4 Engineer Harold Beaver discuss the Scenic Byway designation with local citizens at Fort Smith.



Commissioner Barnett, second from left, at the Mountainburg meeting

● Highway 167 Widening Project Brings Out Small Crowd to Public Hearing in Batesville

The continued widening of U.S. Highway 167 south of Batesville was the subject of a public hearing held Tuesday, December 14, 1999, at the Southside Middle School.

The hearing was the second public meeting of the year concerning improvements to the highway. It offered citizens the opportunity to express their views on the proposed widening of the highway to four travel lanes with a center turn lane along a one-mile stretch in the community of Southside. The southern portion of the project will feature four travel lanes with a painted median. The approximate length of the project is 3.5 miles.



Jim Gaither, left, AHTD Right of Way Division Head, and other Department personnel review the Highway 167 plans with a Batesville citizen.

● A small crowd of about 20 persons were on hand to view the proposed design. The project is located between County Road 6 and Highway 14S at Southside. The current daily traffic count for the highway is 7,900. That number is expected to grow to 13,075 vehicles by the year 2020.

Baseline Road Project Provides for Railroad Overpass

A project to construct a railroad overpass on Baseline Road (State Highway 338) brought out a crowd of about 60 people to a public hearing in Southwest Little Rock on September 28, 1999 at the Southwest Recreation Center.

Two alternatives for building the overpass were given to those attending the hearing. The first alternative proposed moving Baseline Road to the north while maintaining traffic on the existing route as construction of the overpass is underway.

Building the bridge on new location will allow for traffic to be maintained in four lanes throughout the project, except for a very short period when tie-ins are being made at each end of the project. This alternative was by far the most desired by those attending the hearing.

The selected design will be five lanes on each

end of the project with a four-lane overpass design. Mann Road will be also be relocated as a result of this project. Mann will be parallel to Baseline Road and about 500 feet to the south between Baseline and Eagle Drive. The cost of the project is expected to be about \$2.4 million.

Approximately 45 trains use the Union Pacific tracks during a 24-hour period. This is expected to grow to 60 trains per day in the next 10 years. In 1999, 19,300 vehicles used Baseline Road with that number growing to 28,100 vehicles in the year 2019. The proposed overpass will eliminate the vehicle-train conflicts, reduce delays for motorists, improve safety for both the highway and rail traffic and provide a valuable emergency vehicle route for Southwest Little Rock.

Highway 60 Project Discussed in Conway

A plan to widen Highway 60 in Conway from two lanes to four lanes with a curbed median was the topic of a public hearing held Tuesday, February 8, 2000, at the Harlan Park Baptist Church in Conway. A large crowd of about 125 persons were on hand to view the proposed design.

The estimated \$12-million project will help alleviate traffic congestion along the heavily traveled road. The project should take about two and one-half years to complete.

Approximately four miles of Highway 60 (Dave Ward Drive) will be widened between Tucker Creek and the Union Pacific Railroad Overpass. Although the project will include a curbed median, there will be numerous median breaks that will allow motorists to turn left into existing and future properties.

As a principal arterial, the proposed design for the highway is intended to balance the need for long distance travel and reasonable access to abutting properties, while at the same time maintaining the vehicle capacity of the roadway.



John Mathis, Roadway Design Senior Design Engineer, along with Frank Russenberger, District 8 Engineer, explains the project to local citizens.

Pope County Residents Review Highway 7 Project

Pope County residents reviewed plans for the proposed widening of Highway 7 between Russellville and Dover at a public hearing held Tuesday, November 9, 1999, at Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Russellville. About 70 people attended the open-forum meeting to view the proposed project.

Widening the existing highway from two to five lanes will cost approximately \$14 million. State Highway 7 is designated as an Arkansas Scenic Byway and is a popular route for travelers, particularly in the fall months. During this period, the number of recreational vehicles and tour buses traveling the route increases dramatically. The average daily traffic count near I-40 is presently 20,800 vehicles. That number is expected to increase to 34,300 over the next 20 years. Further north along the project the traffic count drops to 8,500 vehicles per day, but is expected to increase to about 12,700 by 2019.



District 8 Engineer Frank Russenberger, left, with Russellville residents

The 6.6-mile project is expected to take about three years to complete once construction begins. The improvements include widening the roadway to four travel lanes with a center turn lane.

AHTD Personnel Changes

Steve Peeples

Staff Construction Engineer

Steve Peeples assumed the position of Staff Construction Engineer on February 10, 2000, after serving three years as Resident Engineer in North Little Rock. Peeples has been with the Department since 1981.



Steve Peeples

A 1974 graduate of Sylvan Hills High School, he earned bachelor's degrees in general science from Harding University and civil engineering from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

Peeples is a resident of Cabot and has one child Aaron.

Crystal Cole

Section Head Training & Safety

Effective March 9, 2000, Crystal Cole, Training Specialist, was promoted to Section Head of Training and Safety.



Crystal Cole

Cole has a bachelor's degree in human resources management and is pursuing a master's degree in public administration from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

She began her career at the

Department in 1990 as a seasonal employee. In 1993, upon graduation from college she was hired as a General Clerk in the Training and Safety Section. In 1995 she became an Administrative Aide V to the Chief of Administration and Public Affairs.

In 1996 Cole promoted to Administrative Assistant II in the Training and Safety Section to assume training responsibilities. Her title changed to Training Specialist in June 1999.

Cole is a member of the American Society for Public Administration, the Society for Human Resources Management, and the Arkansas Human Resources Association.

Dawn Richards

Section Head Materials Chemistry Lab

Dawn Richards was promoted to Section Head of the Chemistry Laboratory on December 30, 1999. She has worked as a Chemist since joining the Department in 1991. Prior to joining the AHTD, Richards worked 12 years for J.R. Simplot, a fertilizer production company in Pocatello, Idaho.



Dawn Richards

A native of Preston, Idaho, Richards graduated from Preston High School and later earned a bachelor's degree in biochemistry

from Idaho State University in Pocatello, Idaho.

Richards and her husband Don have two children, son Parker, and daughter Madison.

Victor Turner

Administrative Assistant II Public Affairs Office

Victor T. Turner joined the Public Affairs Office as an Administrative Assistant II on February 28, 2000.



Victor Turner

Turner comes to the Department with over 10 years experience in both state and local government.

He began his career in local government in 1989 as an Urban Planner with the Southeast Arkansas Regional Planning Commission in Pine Bluff and worked in state government for the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism and the Arkansas Department of Economic Development before joining the City of Little Rock in 1998.

In 1988 Turner earned a bachelor's degree in public administration from the University of Central Arkansas and in 1991 earned a master's degree in public administration from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Turner and his wife Monitia have two children, daughter Sydney and son Jared.

Letters to the Department



TO: Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

I would like to express my appreciation for one of your highway workers, Mr. Glenn Rackley, Senior Mechanic in District 8 at Russellville.

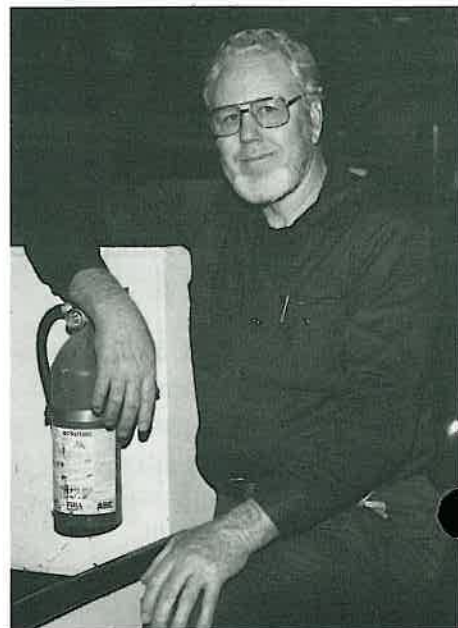
On October 18, I was traveling on Interstate 40 from Jasper to Alma accompanied by my 15-year-old daughter. We were hauling nine large 60-gallon trash containers in the bed of my three-quarter ton pickup, while towing a 16-foot flatbed trailer. We had traveled approximately 80 miles with the containers strapped securely in the bed of the truck. In between Blackwell and Atkins, traveling at a rate of 70 m.p.h., the wind caught one of the containers lifting it from the truckbed onto the interstate. The rest of the containers followed. While the traffic behind me frantically dodged the containers, only one got run over and luckily, there was no damage to any vehicles or injuries to any persons.

Mr. Rackley was traveling to Russellville and saw what happened. He quickly returned to the scene and helped me. With his help, a dangerous situation was quickly averted. Together we picked up the containers, reloaded the truck, and my daughter and I were on our way again.

Again, let me say thank you to Mr. Rackley, and to you Mr. Flowers, for employing such conscientious employees who would go out of their way to help a motorist in distress.

If I can be of service to you or your department, please give me a call.

Randy Laverty
Arkansas State Representative
District 23
Jasper, Arkansas



Glenn Rackley
District 8 Senior Mechanic

TO: Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

Please accept my thanks for attending the public meeting in Hot Springs Village. I know what a big demand there is for your time and I appreciate you making the special effort to visit with my constituents and myself. Your presence certainly contributed to the success of our meeting.

Again, thank you so much for attending. Please let me know if I can assist you in any way.

Roger Smith
Arkansas State Representative
District 32
Hot Springs Village, Arkansas

TO: Joe Barnett
District 10 Engineer

On Friday, September 3, 1999, I pulled into the Corning Rest Area to eat lunch. After I parked, Mr. Jerry Reeves of your staff came to me to report my rear tire was flat (I was unaware of the problem). He then helped install my spare tire on the rear wheel and advised me where I might get the flat repaired. I wish to commend him for his aid which was (and is) greatly appreciated.

John A. Paulson
Hot Springs Village, Arkansas



Jerry Reeves
District 10 Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator

TO: Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

I contacted you approximately one year ago this past September regarding the railroad overpass that was on Highway 10 approximately one mile west of Waveland in Yell County. Several items of concern were expressed regarding the safety of the public.

I have had the pleasure of traveling to Booneville and noticed that the railroad overpass is no longer in existence. I believe it has been in the process of being removed for some time.

Thank you so much for listening. Thank you so much for caring. Your attention and actions on this project are greatly appreciated, not only by me, but by other concerned citizens in the area. I believe that State Representative Jeff Gillespie was in contact with you also. Thanks again for a job well done.

Boyce Page
Belleville City Council



Roy L. Johnson
Former Highway Police Chief

TO: Chief Ron Burks
Arkansas Highway Police Division

My daughter, Janie Long, and I wish to express our appreciation to you, the officers and employees of the Arkansas Highway Police. The kind acts of support after the death of my husband, retired Chief Roy L. Johnson, were comforting to our family members. Roy thought so much of the Department and your assistance meant a great deal to our family.

I especially wish to mention the members of the Honor Guard. The ceremonial folding and presentation of the flag and other honors they performed were wonderful. All those who attended the service were impressed. The officers represented the Department well and all should be proud of them.

Our thanks to all Department personnel for all that was done for Roy and our family.

Louise Johnson
Little Rock, Arkansas

TO: Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

The mailman brought this delightful certificate which declares that I am a Goodwill Ambassador for the AHTD. This is a very nice and thoughtful gesture on your part and that of the Department's administration.

When people retire they are usually quick to state how glad they are to be gone from the routine of work and the daily problems of doing the job. Of course I felt a certain amount of that, but as you probably know, for twenty plus years, with the possible exception of Channel 11's Chuck Dovish, I had what had to be the best job in the entire state. The years I spent with the Department were a continual learning experience, not to mention the fastest twentysome odd years of my life. It really does whiz by when you're having fun.

Thank you so much for the thoughtful certificate. I only hope some of my colleagues have a few fond remembrances of me to compensate for the literally thousands of enjoyable memories I have of the time working with you.

Burney McClurkan
Senior Environmental Scientist (Emeritus)
Little Rock, Arkansas

TO: Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

I'm writing to commend the job performance of Rodney Mazander, Chemist II in your Materials Division Chemistry Lab. Rodney performs tests on diesel fuel samples that your Highway Police officers Cash and Green, and DFA Field Investigators pull for the presence of red dye (tax-free diesel burned in highway vehicles). Rodney recently testified at an administrative hearing pertaining to a chemical test he performed for the presence of red dye in a diesel fuel sample. As a result of his excellent testimony and thorough analysis of the fuel sample, we were successful in sustaining the penalty for burning tax-free diesel in a highway vehicle.

Since the purchase and installation of the spectrophotometer in the AHTD Chemistry Lab on September 16, 1998, and the technical support Rodney has provided as a chemist, DFA has been able to improve the turnaround time in the issuance of assessments for dyed fuel violations.

The dyed diesel penalties and enforcement efforts would be fruitless without the support of personnel such as Rodney Mazander. I hope Rodney will be able to continue to support our enforcement efforts thereby increasing fuel receipts for the AHTD.

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Ed Hicks, Administrator
Office of Excise Tax Administration
Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration



Rodney Mazander
Materials Division Chemist II

TO: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department

With so many of the rest stops in the state being closed, we were pleased to have seen the nice facility on Highway 49 just west of the bridge crossing the Mississippi River. A lovely lady, who was very helpful, welcomed us.

Being on the road for any length of time can be tiring, but having a place to stop and rest may help the impatient driver from using poor judgment.

Mrs. R.J. Borgschulte

TO: Ray Woodruff
District 1 Engineer

On behalf of the citizens of Marvell we would like to thank you for the turn lanes you provided on Highway 49. The feedback from this has been really great.
Thanks again for your assistance in the matter.

Clark Hall, Mayor
City of Marvell, Arkansas

TO: Bashar Qedan
Van Buren Resident Engineer

Thank you so much for participating in the Annual Regional Career Fair hosted by Fort Smith Public Schools and Westark College. We appreciate you volunteering your time on Veteran's Day to educate area high school students in their career field interests.

An important goal of the career fair was to provide positive experiences with professionals to give the students some direction as they make decisions regarding education and careers. The information that you provided these students may prove to be invaluable as they continue to consider their options and interests in choosing a rewarding career.

If we can be of any help to you in the future, please do not hesitate to call us. Your willingness to serve as a career fair speaker indicates your support of high school students as they pursue their career goals.

Marcia Dye
Career Education Specialist
Fort Smith Public Schools



Bashar Qedan
District 4 Resident Engineer



Gary Grimes
District 7 Resident Engineer

TO: Gary Grimes
Arkadelphia/Camden Resident Engineer

Thank you so much for your excellent presentation to all five of my classes on November 16, 1999. Your experience in presenting to eighth graders certainly is demonstrated by your ability to keep their attention and the questions you generate. Students are engaged in learning when you use the bridge model to explain the design of a bridge. They have made comments to me that they would like for you to come back! I will definitely call you again next semester.

Thank you again for your willingness to spend a day with us teaching about your profession.

Sharon Clark
Career Orientation Teacher
Goza Junior High School
Arkadelphia, Arkansas

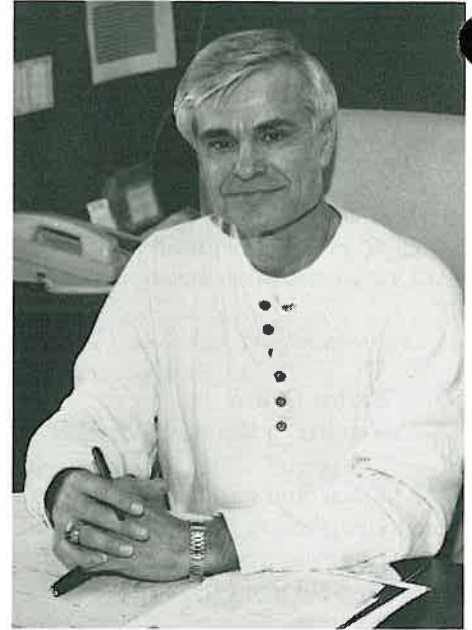
TO: Harold Beaver
District 4 Engineer

I am writing to express my appreciation for the October U.S. Highway 412 field trip in the Beaver Lake area provided for University of Arkansas engineering students led by Mr. Leon Brewer, Resident Engineer.

Mr. Brewer and the two recent graduates working for him covered a wide range of the aspects involved in building a new road, from public meeting issues to cooperating with a utility to hang a water line on a new bridge. The field trip was time well spent.

The many field trips conducted in your district in recent years have helped enhance the students' engineering education. Thank you for your district's support.

J.L. Gattis, Ph.D., P.E.
Associate Professor
University of Arkansas College of Engineering



Leon Brewer
District 4 Resident Engineer

TO: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department

In early November, on our way to Branson, Missouri, we stopped at the Texarkana Tourist Information Center, with a bus load of travelers. We would like to take this time to say what a wonderful job your employees are doing that care for the restrooms at this facility. In both gender facilities comments were made on how clean they were.

Shirley and Mickey Burwell
Burwell Group Travel
Lake Jackson, Texas



Jim Smith
District 1 Resident Engineer

TO: Jim Smith
West Memphis Resident Engineer

On behalf of our students, staff, and administration I would like to thank you for taking the time to be a part of our Career Day at Turrell High School. According to student evaluations, presenter evaluations, and other indicators and observations, the program was a success.

Our main objective for Career Day is to expose our students to jobs and career fields of which they have little or no knowledge. In doing this we hope to give them a wider variety of choices and information for making decisions concerning their future plans. Many student comments noted that new information was gained and all student written comments were positive.

Without the assistance of people such as yourself and state agencies like the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department who are concerned for their communities, programs such as these could never take place. We appreciate your interest in and your contribution to our students.

Jackie Vaughn, Counselor
Turrell High School
Turrell, Arkansas

TO: Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

I want to commend your department on the implementation of the new highway mowing policies and the designated wildflower areas. I realize that some people have complained that the roadsides are weedy but the benefits of restricted mowing are impressive. There must be a substantial amount of money that is saved in time and labor from not mowing an area as well as the aesthetic beauty of blooming drifts of wildflowers instead of blowing drifts of trash.

Thank you to the person(s) responsible for the designation of the Highway 27 wildflower area north of Mt. Ida in Montgomery County. This stretch of highway is a good example of successional bloom with wildflowers. It usually has something in bloom most of the year starting with bird's foot violets and johnny jumpups in the spring; through coreopsis, phlox, purple coneflower, pale purple coneflower, yellow coneflower (yes! all three echinaceas in the stretch), gauras, rudbeckias, ironweed, compass plant, lobelias, butterflyweeds in the summer; to asters, goldenrod, thoroughwort, blue sage, and others in the fall. I could name many other flowers, although there are many more I have not yet identified. I think it would be interesting to have a species inventory undertaken of this wildflower area as it is very diverse. This might prove to be an interesting project for a university botany/taxonomy class or a high school botany class.

Again, I thank you and wish you the best with this new endeavor to educate the people of Arkansas, to beautify our roadways and to make our state a truly beautiful Natural State.

Rae McKimm
Sime, Arkansas

TO: Dan Flowers
Director of Highways and Transportation

Thank you for your support of the Tyson Foods' 1999 Great Arkansas Cleanup on Saturday, September 11. We had a record number of volunteers participating this year in the 30th anniversary of the Great Arkansas Cleanup. Thousands braved the overcast skies and sprinkles over much of the state to get out and clean up miles of roadways, parks, shorelines and illegal dumps across Arkansas. Our state is a more beautiful place because of you and the participation of the Highway Department.

As our state spokesman, Coach Houston Nutt says, "It takes teamwork to tackle the litter problem in our beautiful state." He joins me in thanking you for joining the "CLEAN TEAM" and helping us "tackle litter."

We made great strides this year in improving the overall organization of this annual event. We had some successes, we had some failures and we took a lot of notes. All in all, we succeeded in raising the awareness about our litter and illegal dumping problems and ultimately helped improve the quality of life for all of us.

Please extend our gratitude to those who worked with you at the Highway Department. We greatly appreciate their support of the Cleanup. I enjoyed working with you and look forward to future events designed to "Keep Arkansas Beautiful."

Thank you for everything. We could not have done it without you!

Mary Story, State Coordinator
Tyson Foods 1999 Great Arkansas Cleanup

Robert Phelps, Director
Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission



Members of the Holmen Tree Farm Adopt A Highway group cleaning up their adopted section of Highway 167 in Sharp County which they have maintained since 1994. Over 300 AHTD Adopt A Highway groups took part in the Great Arkansas Cleanup.

TO: Chief Ron Burks
Arkansas Highway Police

We would like to thank Pfc. Tim Choate and Pfc. Matt Hooper for their road assistance a couple of weeks ago. The last thing you want to happen when you are hauling furniture is have a blowout, especially in 100 degree weather and on an interstate with trucks flying by. But, with the help of Officers Choate and Hooper, we were able to get back on the road within minutes.

Their good nature and willingness to help made the rest of our trip enjoyable. Please thank them again for Bob and me.

Bob and Kay Hendsky
Coldspring, Texas



Pfc. Tim Choate and Pfc. Matt Hooper



C.R. Baine
Construction Aide I, Paragould Residency

TO: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department

My name is Ruby Weber and I had a flat on Highway 139 near Mounds and one of your men was nice enough to stop and fix it.

I wanted you to know how grateful I was. His name was C.R. Baine. It's comforting to know there are still nice people out there.

Ruby Weber

TO: Frank Russenberger
District 8 Engineer

On behalf of the Dardanelle City Council and the citizens of our area, we wish to express our appreciation to the Arkansas Highway Department for replacing the Smiley Bayou Bridge on Highway 27. This new, wider bridge will provide a much safer flow of traffic in this area.

Also, the completion of the traffic signal at the intersection of Highways 7 and 22 is a valuable asset to the traffic flow in that area. This signal has eliminated the backup of traffic that we have experienced for some time.

These highway improvements made in Dardanelle have greatly improved the traffic flow on our streets and highways and have made our city a much safer area in which to drive. Please express our appreciation to all employees who worked on these construction projects.

Carolyn McGee
Mayor, City of Dardanelle

TO: Chief Ron Burks
Arkansas Highway Police

Most of the time people (myself included) want to complain about bad things that happen to them or about things that don't go their way, but when they have a good experience, they tend to blow it off and let it go unnoticed. I had one of those good experiences and I don't intend to let it go unnoticed.

Early in the morning on Friday, January 21, 2000, I was southbound on U.S. Highway 65 near Grady, Arkansas, when out of the bright sunlight appeared your Officer David Harris, who proceeded to turn on his lights, flip a u-turn, and pull me over. All I can say is that it was a pleasurable experience. I received a written warning for my speed. My truck, log book, and all my paperwork was inspected and was found to have no violations. The thing I found, out of all of this, was the great person I found in Officer Harris. His personality was great. You are fortunate to have him out there representing your agency. He is an asset to the Arkansas Highway Police.

Robert A. Collini



Pfc. David Harris

TO: Chief Ron Burks
Arkansas Highway Police



Cpl. Alice Murphy

Earlier this week, Cpl. Alice Murphy had the occasion to detain one of our units at the southbound scales on Interstate 540, just south of Highway 412 in Springdale, and discovered a most serious violation involving our driver. Under difficult circumstances she performed her job with professionalism, accuracy and integrity. And in doing so she provided an invaluable service to the State of Arkansas, general driving public, and to our company as well. Fortunately, the actions of this one driver are not indicative of our safety program operation.

Far too often the services performed by Cpl. Murphy, and the others around the nation, are viewed as harassment and of not being beneficial in general. Quite the contrary. She clearly prevented a dangerous situation from continuing. West Tennessee Express, Inc. appreciates the efforts your officers are doing in the field. While it is usually a "thankless" job, Cpl. Murphy did us a tremendous service this week and her work is well appreciated.

Please take note of this incident and express our sincere appreciation to Cpl. Murphy for a job well done.

Damon Fielder, General Manager
West Tennessee Express, Inc.
Jackson, Tennessee

TO: To Whom It May Concern

May I take a moment to commend the Highway Maintenance Department. The mowing of the roadside and the ditches look great. I think I have never seen them look so good after a mowing.

The Jackson County Cleanup (sponsored by the Lemonade Committee) was in the Tupelo-Weldon area on Saturday, October 23. The Department picked up the bags on the highway early the same morning that I notified them.

We often complain about things, so lets give praise when a job is well done.

Kathleen Hunter
Tupelo, Arkansas

The First SNOW of 00

Record Winter Storm Blankets State in January

It doesn't snow often in Arkansas. But when it does, it presents unique challenges for AHTD maintenance crews. The snowstorm that hit Arkansas January 27 and 28 wasn't unexpected, but the snowfall totals it left behind were some of the largest in many, many years.

The storm didn't spare any part of the state. All 75 counties reported at least three inches of snow with Drew County in Southeast Arkansas reporting some areas with 18 inches on the ground.

The hardest hit area was South Arkansas where totals exceeding one foot were common. AHTD crews and other emergency personnel faced many tough situations, but the scene on Interstate 30 between Malvern and Hope was perhaps the most difficult. Hundreds of vehicles and motorists were stranded along that section of mainly rural highway. The heavy snowfall coupled with stalled and abandoned vehicles made snow removal efforts very difficult.

Department crews began working 12-on and 12-off hourly shifts on Wednesday night, January 26, in anticipation of the storm. Some counties in south-central Arkansas were not able to conclude their around-the-clock efforts until Friday, February 4.

"This was by far the largest storm we have seen in at least 12 years," commented AHTD Director Dan Flowers. "I'm very proud of the way our employees responded under some very demanding conditions."

The work of AHTD crews did not go unnoticed by the public and local officials. Many letters commending the work of our crews were received, and several have been reprinted on the next few pages of *Arkansas Highways*.

AVERAGE SNOWFALL TOTALS FOR JANUARY 27-28, 2000

Average snowfall amounts for each county as reprinted from the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, January 31, 2000. Local amounts may have been higher or lower.

COUNTY	INCHES	Cross	4-5	Lawrence	3-6	Polk	8-12
Arkansas	4-6	Dallas	14	Lee	6	Pope	6
Ashley	10	Desha	11	Lincoln	11-12	Prairie	5-10
Baxter	4-6	Drew	12-18	Little River	12	Pulaski	6-8
Benton	5-6	Faulkner	6-8	Logan	8	Randolph	5
Boone	5	Franklin	6	Lonoke	8-10	St. Francis	2-5
Bradley	10	Fulton	5	Madison	6	Saline	8
Calhoun	12	Garland	8-10	Marion	4	Scott	10
Carroll	3	Grant	7-8	Miller	8	Searcy	4-5
Chicot	12	Greene	3-4	Mississippi	4-5	Sebastian	7-8
Clark	15	Hempstead	13	Monroe	8	Sevier	12-15
Clay	3-5	Hot Spring	8-10	Montgomery	12-14	Sharp	6
Cleburne	6-8	Howard	13-16	Nevada	13-16	Stone	5
Cleveland	12-14	Independence	6-9	Newton	6-8	Union	6-10
Columbia	8-9	Izard	5	Ouachita	12	Van Buren	5-8
Conway	6	Jackson	4-6	Perry	6	Washington	5-6
Craighead	4	Jefferson	8-11	Phillips	7	White	6-7
Crawford	7-11	Johnson	6-8	Pike	10-12	Woodruff	6-8
Crittenden	3-5	Lafayette	3-6	Poinsett	3-4	Yell	6-7

Department's Website Was Big Hit During Winter Snowstorm

The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department's World Wide Website (<http://www.ahtd.state.ar.us>) was a popular Internet site during the January snowstorm. It received numerous hits from persons concerned about road conditions. The site contains an interactive color-coded road map of Arkansas' Interstate system and major secondary highways depicting the condition of the roadways.

Also available on the AHTD home page are press releases, most frequently asked questions, facts, administration and organization information, road closures, and construction contract information. Information is given on how to obtain highway maps, permits, and other essential information. The site also contains links to other state and federal agencies. Below are a couple of electronic mails received concerning the AHTD Website.

*Received Saturday, January 29, 2000 2:34 p.m.
from Cherylx*

We are in Tulsa, trying to get back to Arkansas this weekend, and we found your website. We want to commend you for your excellent coverage and the info you give on each interstate and highway. Not only did you give info on I-40, but we live in Sheridan, and you showed the condition of Highway 167 between Sheridan and Little Rock. You also gave the temperature, so we knew whether or not to expect further melting or refreezing on the highways.

We think your site is excellent! Thank you for this service.

*Received Sunday, January 30, 2000 1:23 p.m.
from Richard Owlett*

I like the interactive map! I would have made a slightly different choice of trade-offs for the jpg version - about double the linear dimension (cost of increased storage and transmission time). Missouri's seems to load fast enough so transmission time shouldn't be too much of a problem.

There is one problem with both your text and graphic presentation. There seems to be no obvious distinction between a "clear" and an "unreported" road condition.

All in all a good job. I expect to make frequent use of it as work requires me to drive from Springfield to Little Rock - with occasional side trips to Mountain Home.

Electronic Mail forwarded from the Governor's Office
Governor Huckabee:

I would like to take time to compliment the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department on their quick and continued response to last week's storm. Until today, I have not been on the highways without seeing one or more state vehicles working to clear our highways. They deserve some kind of public recognition for "Effort and Result." Just getting paid is not enough recognition for these men and women that we so much take for granted.

Tom Bush
White Hall, Arkansas

Governor Huckabee:

I know you probably hear all the bad stuff about our roads, but this time it's good! Would you please pass along to the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department crews that I personally feel they did a super job on getting the roads in South Arkansas clear and dry after the last snowstorm. I travel about 500-600 miles a week in South Arkansas for Tri-State Outdoor Media. I had to go to Baxter Springs, Kansas and was a bit leery as to what the road conditions might be. I was pleasantly surprised. Smooth sailing all the way. Keep up the good work!

Rick Finch
Southeast Arkansas

Dan Flowers,
Director of Highways and Transportation

This letter is to in some way commend those who worked on January 27-28 during the snowstorm, especially the Highway Department, the Police, and the National Guard.

I drive a truck for Orgill in Memphis and run a regular route from Memphis to Hope, Arkansas and back, five days a week. On January 27, I became stranded on eastbound Interstate 30 between mile markers 53 and 54. Traffic did not move in either direction for 24 hours.

During this time I observed snowplows working, police and paramedics rescuing a person in need of insulin, police cars passing by every few hours, National Guardsmen helping to get cars going and moving them to the side of the road and transporting those people to shelters. I saw all of this on the small portion of the interstate that I sat on. When traffic started moving at 1:30 p.m. on January 28, I began to see the enormous task they had accomplished.

I stayed with my truck the entire time and don't know of all the things the citizens and the communities did. I do know the people I saw did a good job and should be proud. I say thank you!

Jerry Hawthorne
Fulton, Arkansas

William Tyler, District 3 Engineer
Hope, Arkansas

This letter is to let you know how much I, as a citizen of Little River County, appreciate the Highway Department in Ashdown. I know there were a lot of problems with the snowstorm and it was not easy for any of the departments that have to maintain the highways.

During the worst part of the storm, on Thursday and Friday, I did not venture out of my house. However, on Saturday, we had to go to the hospital to check on a relative. It was difficult getting from our street to the main highway, which for us is Highway 32. Once we reached Highway 32, the road was in good shape and



On January 27-28, 2000, every county in Arkansas received at least three inches of snow and 25 counties received ten or more inches.

much to our surprise the trip to the hospital and grocery store was easy. The roads were in good shape. Again, on Sunday, Highways 32 and 71 were in great shape.

The next part is what prompted me to write this letter. On Monday I had to go to work in Texarkana and had to travel Highway 71. The highway was completely dry all the way to the Red River and the bridge over the river was not bad at all. However, once I crossed the state line into Texas, the roads became increasingly worse. But the time I had traveled one mile into Texas, only one lane was safe to drive on and it was very icy and still had a lot of snow and ice on it. There was an accident involving an 18-wheeler and several cars. Today, February 1, when I went to work, Highway 71 from the Texas state line into Texarkana had been graded and all the ice was gone; at least two to three days after the highway in Little River County was clear.

All of this was said just to say how much I appreciate the hard work and efforts of the employees of Little River County. I know there were a lot of unhappy people because they could not travel as easily as they wanted to, but it was much better in Little River County and Ashdown, Arkansas than it was in Texarkana, Texas. If you have a news bulletin and wish to print this, it is all right with me!

Paula Daniels



Malvern Daily News
Letter to the Editor

At a meeting of Rural Letter Carriers in Hot Spring County, the subject of delivering mail in the recent winter snowstorm was a main topic.

There was so much snow that travel was extremely dangerous. We observed 12-15 inches of snow. Most cars and trucks with normal street tires were sidelined until the roads were cleared.

Rural Mail Carriers felt credit and thanks should be given to the people who work for the road departments. Their work through the days, nights and weekend kept emergency vehicles moving.

The Hot Spring County Road Department and the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department should be commended for their tireless efforts. They have displayed exemplary dedication to their community. The people who have to live and work on our local roads appreciate the work you have done.

Glen Shuffield
Rural Letter Carriers
Hot Spring County

Bobby Bailey, Area Maintenance Supervisor
DeQueen, Arkansas and
Alvin Vaughn, Area Maintenance Supervisor
Nashville, Arkansas

I wanted to send my personal thanks for all the hard work that you and your crews did during our recent bout with bad weather. Your crews worked hard to ensure our area residents' safety and I, for one, really appreciate it.

Our communities were hit hard with the snowstorm and your crews went to work. Working against the weather, the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department did everything that they could do to make our roads safe for travel. Through your efforts, many people were able to continue working.

I want you to know that I am forwarding a copy of this letter to Mr. William Tyler, District 3 Engineer. I want him to know what a good job that you and your maintenance crews have done.

Again, thank you for all the hard work.

Larry R. Teague
State Representative, District 19

Harold Beaver, District 4 Engineer
Fort Smith, Arkansas

I would like to express our appreciation for the hard work of the Highway Department employees from Ozark. During the recent snowstorm, they were very quick to start on the clearing of Highway 23. Although the snow went on into Thursday night and early Friday morning, by Friday afternoon, the highway was completely clear.

Even with the mountains, Highway 23 was the easiest road to travel in this area. This was very helpful to our staff and students who rely on this for access to the center.

Please let the Ozark office know how much we appreciate their efforts.

Jesse James, III, Center Director
Cass Job Corps Center

William Tyler, District 3 Engineer
Hope, Arkansas

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the men and women of District 3 for a job well done.

In the wake of the recent snow and ice storm, both the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department and the Arkansas State Police were called into action. Upon personal observation, as well as reports from around our troop area, the performance of the A.H.T.D. was nothing less than excellent.

To all who cared to observe, the A.H.T.D. stood shoulder to shoulder with law enforcement, united in spirit and mission. For this I am most grateful and would ask that you convey to each of your employees a sincere thank you from the Arkansas State Police.

It is with hope this great state never again suffers a snow and ice storm of this nature. However, in times of distress, it is a genuine comfort to know that the A.H.T.D. is there, ready and able to face adversity of any kind.

Ron Stovall, Captain
Commander,
Arkansas State Police Troop G

Leonard Hall, District 6 Engineer
Little Rock, Arkansas

As you are well aware, on January 27, 2000, our highways in Troop A became impassable at times due to the accumulation of snow and ice from a winter storm that passed through our entire state.

Arkansas State Police Cpl. Leroy Sitton brought to my attention that two of your employees went above and beyond their normal duties to assist the troopers on Interstate 40 around the Morgan area. These two men, Larry Patterson and John Phillips, are part of the sanding crew who worked in this area and who operated in a most effective and efficient manner under these adverse conditions. Both of the men displayed a strong personal commitment to successfully achieving positive results.

Please express our appreciation to these dedicated employees and if we can assist you in any way, don't hesitate to call on us.

John E. Chambers, Captain
Commander,
Arkansas State Police Troop A

Dan Flowers,
Director of Highways and Transportation

On behalf of Arkansas State Police Troop L in Springdale, I want to thank your employees in Benton and Madison counties for removing the snow from the roadways in a timely manner during the last winter storm.

I have heard nothing but praise from the troopers. They have asked that their "thank you" be passed on to those who deserve the praise. If we can ever be of assistance to you, please call.

Winford Phillips, Captain
Commander,
Arkansas State Police Troop L



IN MEMORY

ACTIVE EMPLOYEES

Marty D. Seale
District 7
died October 23, 1999

London H. Sabb
Right of Way
died January 15, 2000

RETIREES

Jack G. Kerr
District 6
died February 8, 1999

William T. Brannon
District 6
died February 19, 1999

Benjamin F. Loe, Jr.
District 7
died June 30, 1999

James A. Cheatham
District 1
died July 22, 1999

Charles A. Ward
District 10
died July 24, 1999

Charles E. Wells
District 1
died July 31, 1999

Roy W. McClain
District 7
died August 8, 1999

Francis M. Parker, Jr.
District 9
died August 13, 1999

Betsy Morrison
Planning
died August 19, 1999

George W. Billings
District 9
died August 31, 1999

William Oliver
District 6
died September 13, 1999

Haskell E. Sitton
Highway Police
died September 13, 1999

Omar B. Booth
District 9
died September 22, 1999

Henry Burgess
District 8
died October 29, 1999

J.T. Sisk
District 9
died November 5, 1999

Hugh H. Vance
District 1
died November 10, 1999

Warren G. Glenn
District 10
died November 11, 1999

William T. Jeter, Sr.
District 6
died November 13, 1999

John J. Alls
District 1
died December 16, 1999

Eulas R. Ervin
District 10
died December 18, 1999

Cleodus H. Minor
District 3
died December 23, 1999

Bernam H. Shields
District 8
died December 26, 1999

Glen E. Stewart
District 4
died December 27, 1999

Joe L. Mott
District 8
died January 1, 2000

Dallas E. Corley
District 4
died January 2, 2000

Larkin D. Adair
District 4
died January 4, 2000

Aubrey L. Harcrow
District 7
died January 7, 2000

Delbert M. Pearl
Equipment & Procurement
died January 11, 2000

Jacob N. Hice
District 8
died January 12, 2000

Bobby L. Holliman
District 7
died January 12, 2000

Melanie P. Owen
District 2
died January 17, 2000

Around the Department

BRIDGE



Bonnie Wesson, center, Office Administrative Assistant V, retired November 10 with 30+ years service. She is shown with Veral Pinkerton, retired Division Head; Dale Loe, Assistant Chief Engineer for Design; and Ed Fain, Bridge Division Head.

The Bridge Division welcomes Linda Bryant as the new Office Administrative Assistant V. She has been with AHTD for 10 years and transferred from Facilities Management.

Also welcome to Steven Peyton, Civil Engineer, who began working January 10 after graduating from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville with a degree in civil engineering.

Congratulations to our service award recipients: Chuck Sherwood, Senior Bridge Design Engineer, 30 years; Carolyn Bobo, Structures Inventory Technician, 25 years; and Mike Tackett, Structural Detailer, 25 years.



John Ballard, Bridge Design Engineer, and his wife Kimberly announce the birth of their daughter, Lauren Katherine, born November 14.



Andrew Cochran Stanley, born January 14, 2000, is the first grandson of J.P. Sumner, Structural Detailing Specialist.



DeAnna Thresher, daughter of Lori Thresher, Bridge Structures Technician, was elected sophomore homecoming maid at Cutter Morning Star High School.



Lyle Thresher, son of Lori Thresher, Bridge Structures Technician, was a member of the 4th grade peewee league football team at Cutter Morning Star.



The Bridge Division Christmas luncheon was enjoyed by employees, family members and retirees.

CONSTRUCTION

The Construction Division welcomes Jim Doster, who transferred from District 6, as Construction Office Technician and David Craig, who transferred from the Reproduction Section, as Estimates Technician. Also new to our office is Dawn Johnson, who is a Senior COE student from McClellan High School.



State Construction Engineer Allan Holmes, left, receives a 35-year service pin from Ralph Hall, Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations.



State Construction Engineer Allan Holmes, left, presents a 25-year service pin to Karen Turner, Estimates Supervisor.



Tina Horton, left, receives a 15-year service pin and certificate from Ron Price, left, Contract Estimates Section Head.

HIGHWAY POLICE



Sgt. Tom Hale, left, Hope Assistant Station Supervisor, receives a retirement plaque from Captain Gary East. Sgt. Hale retired in October with 21+ years service.



Larry Payne, left, Advanced Estimates Technician, receives a 20-year service certificate from Ron Price, Contract Estimates Section Head.



Allan Holmes, center, State Construction Engineer, presents a 5-year service certificate to Angela Jordan, left, Estimates Technician and David Craig, right, Estimates Technician.



Chief Ron Burks, left, presents a 20-year service certificate to Colleen Vines, AHP Division Bookkeeper.



Allan Holmes, center, State Construction Engineer, presents a 25-year service pin to Ron Price, left, Contract Estimates Section Head, and a 20-year service certificate to Jim Doster, right, Construction Office Technician.

EQUIPMENT & PROCUREMENT

On October 20, 1999, this Division recognized Patsy Downing, Administrative Aide I, for 45 years of service with the Department. She says she plans to stay around to break the existing record for the longest active service and we are behind her all the way.

This Division also welcomes Melissa Rowland, Storeroom Assistant II. She transferred from District 6 in December.



Chief Ron Burks, left, presents a 15-year service certificate to Mike Neal, Data Entry Operator.



Chief Ron Burks, left, presents a 10-year service certificate to LaDonna Nelson, Motor Carrier Safety Specialist I.



Chief Ron Burks, left, presents a 10-year service certificate to Linda Hargrove, Motor Carrier Safety Specialist II.



Chief Ron Burks, left, presents a 10-year service certificate to Page McPherson, Motor Carrier Safety Specialist II.



Terry Nanney, AHP Permits Section Head, presents a 20-year service certificate and pin to Joe Wheat, Permit Technician.



Cpl. Gary Revels, left, receives a 25-year service certificate from Captain Gary East. Cpl. Revels is a patrol officer in Sevier County.



Pfc. Ned Ward, left, receives a 15-year service certificate from Captain Gary East. Pfc. Ward is assigned to the Hope Weigh Station.



Pfc. J.B. Ketchum, left, receives a 15-year service certificate from 1Lt. Jan Weinberg. Pfc. Ketchum is a patrol officer in Lonoke County.



First Lt. Jan Weinberg, left, congratulates Cpl. David Smith, right, for ten years of service with the Department.



Pfc. Steve Atchley, left, receives a 10-year service certificate from Captain Gary East. Pfc. Atchley is assigned to the Hope Weigh Station.



Pfc. Steve Woods, left, receives a 10-year service certificate from Captain Gary East. Pfc. Woods is assigned to the Hope Weigh Station.



Breeon Madison Neal, age 20 months, is the granddaughter of Mike Neal, AHP Data Entry Operator.



Madison Faith Holloway, born November 1, 1999, and Allison Lee Holloway are the daughters of 2Lt. Glen and Regina Holloway. Lt. Holloway is the Station Supervisor at the Alma Weigh Station.

HUMAN RESOURCES



Melba Shepard, left, Human Resources Division Head, is shown with her daughter, Karla Johnson, on her last day of work. Melba retired in December with 29+ years service.



Melba Shepard, left, Division Head, presents a 15-year service certificate to James Moore, External EEO Coordinator.



Melba Shepard, left, Division Head, presents a 5-year service certificate to Wes Wimberly, Training & Safety Section Head.



Wes Wimberly, left, Training & Safety Section Head, presents a 10-year service certificate to John Cia, Safety Inspection Officer.



Roger Turner, Grounds Maintenance Crew Leader, presents a 10-year service certificate to Donna Martin, Landscape Technician.

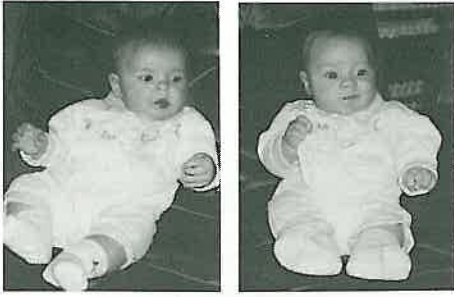


Walter Caton, left, Buildings Management Crew Leader, presents a 5-year service certificate to Sherry Kling, Skill Trades Trainee.



Walter Caton, left, Buildings Management Crew Leader, presents a 5-year service certificate to Jack Wilder, Boiler Operator.

MATERIALS



Shown above are the grandsons of Earl Raines, District 2 Materials Supervisor. On the left is Jeremy Gibson, born August 6, and on the right is Brady Rowland, born August 30.

PLANNING AND RESEARCH



AHTD Director Dan Flowers, left, congratulates Paul Elcan, Transportation Management Analyst II, on his retirement from the Department after 40 years service. A retirement reception was hosted by the Mapping & Graphics Section.



Florence Routh, center, Planning Contract Specialist, retired January 18 with 38 years service. She is shown with her sons Dean and Ronnie and grandson Christopher.



Keith Merritt, left, Staff Planning Engineer, presents a 15-year service certificate to Odean Garner, Data Collection Supervisor.

The Mapping and Graphics Section welcomes Sharon Baker and Tom Noor, who joined the Department in November as Cartographers. Both are graduates of the University of Central Arkansas.

PROGRAMS AND CONTRACTS



Dwayne Stokes, Reproduction Operator in the Reproduction Section, received a 20-year service certificate and pin in November.

RIGHT OF WAY



Jean Scarlett, center, Closing Agent, retired November 11 with 20+ years service. Shown with her is her husband Sid and her granddaughter.



Right of Way Service Awards (L-R): Jim Mahan, Administrative Assistant II, 10 years; Mike Hiley, Negotiator, 25 years; Gary Bulloch, Relocation Coordinator, 25 years; Charles Smothers, Negotiator, 30 years; Tim Robertson, Abstractor, 20 years; Joel Clark, Administrative Aide III, 20 years



Right of Way Service Awards (L-R): Will Holt, Engineering Section Head, 25 years; July Wilson, Senior Utilities Coordinator, 20 years; Gary Anderson, Plans Designer III, 25 years



Cassie Lee Eskew, 12-year-old daughter of Jane Wiles, Right of Way Plans Designer I, was chosen Most Photogenic at the Cabotfest Pageant and at the Junior Miss Christmas Pageant.



Frankie, age 3, and Steven Bray, born September 30, are the children of Patty and Frank Bray. Patty is a Right of Way Utility Coordinator II and Frank is Senior Advanced Design Engineer for Roadway Design.

ROADWAY DESIGN



Phillip McConnell, left, Division Head, presents a 10-year service certificate to Claire Rita Rockwell, Office Administrative Assistant III.



Andy Chase is a new Drafter in Roadway Design. He is attending ITT and will graduate this summer with an associate degree in applied science.



Garrett James Williams, born December 1, 1999, is the first child of Jennifer Williams, Advanced Design Engineer, and her husband Vernon.



Eric Rockwell, son of Rod and Claire Rita Rockwell, Office Administrative Assistant III, was named as an All-Conference football player. He is a senior at Central Arkansas Christian and was selected to participate in the All-Star Down Under Bowl to be held in Australia this summer.



Julia Wilson and Jonathan Clements were married May 1, 1999 at the First Baptist Church in Sheridan. Jonathan is a Civil Engineer I in Hydraulics.

Congratulations to Chuck Martin, Senior Design Engineer, and his wife Andrea on the birth of their daughter Hannah Faith, born January 19, 2000.

SURVEYS



George West, left, Staff Senior Land Surveyor, presents a 15-year service certificate and pin to Jimmy Bryant, Surveys Aide III.



Sam Johnson, left, Staff Surveys Engineer, presents a 10-year service certificate and pin to Lennie Petroff, Surveys Aide III.



Receiving 20-year service awards are Billy Ficker, Cross County Crew Leader, and Charlie Tittle, St. Francis County Rest Area Attendant.



Larry Hall, Lee County Multi-Axle Truck Driver, receives a 20-year service award.



Receiving a 15-year service award is Kenny Balch, Cross County Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator.



Receiving 15-year service awards are Ricky Oxner, Lee County Maintenance Aide II; Charlie Williams, St. Francis County Rest Area Attendant; and Lanny Utley, District Maintenance Crew Motor Patrol Operator/Finish.

DISTRICT ONE



Roger Cheney, left, Sealing Job Superintendent, retired in November with 30+ year service. He is shown with Nedra Sisson, Office Manager.



Ten year service awards were received by Joel Davis, District Bridge Inspector; Floyd Eskridge, Cross County Maintenance Aide II; Jim Anderson, St. Francis County Maintenance Aide II.



Larry Fleming, District Senior Mechanic, receives a 10-year service award.



Retiree Ollis Fields was the winner of the \$100 door prize donated by Commissioner J.W. "Buddy" Benafield at our Christmas luncheon.



Patricia Miles, Crittenden County Single Axle Truck Driver, receives a 5-year service award.



Linnie Calvert, Office Administrative Assistant V, receives a 5-year service award.

DISTRICT TWO



Paul Griffith, center, Grant County Area Maintenance Supervisor, retired in January with over 41 years of service. He is shown with two of his former supervisors, Ralph Hall, left, Assistant Chief Engineer for Operations, and Dan Flowers, right, AHTD Director.



Rick Wilson, left, Bridge Inspector, receives a 25-year service award from Ernie Westfall, District Maintenance Engineer.



Larry Alexander, left, Desha County Maintenance Aide II, receives a 20-year service certificate and pin from Harlan Colbert, Area Maintenance Supervisor.



Ray Baker, left, Grant County Area Headquarters Attendant, receives a 15-year service award from Paul Griffith, Area Maintenance Supv.



Harlan Colbert, left, Desha County Area Maintenance Supv., receives a 15-year service certificate from Ernie Westfall, Maint. Engineer.



Jeff Hart, left, Shop Supervisor, presents a 10-year service award to Martin Geissler, Guard.



Kelly Slater, left, Sealing Job Supt., presents a 10-year service award to Willie Patrick, Distributor/Roller Operator.



Debra Pruitt, left, Jefferson County Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents a 10-year service certificate and pin to David Alverson, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish.



Ernie Westfall, left, District Maintenance Engineer, presents a 10-year service award to Jeff Hart, Shop Supervisor.



Kelly Slater, left, Sealing Job Superintendent, presents a 5-year service certificate to David Lester, Paver Operator for the sealing crew.



Kelly Slater, left, Sealing Job Superintendent, presents a 5-year service certificate to Wayne Haynes, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator.



LaShawn Rose, left, Desha County Maintenance Aide I, receives a 5-year service certificate from Harlan Colbert, Area Maintenance Supervisor.



Jackqualin Sterrett, left, Desha County Maintenance Aide I, receives a 5-year service certificate and pin from Harlan Colbert, Area Maintenance Supervisor.



Louis Sykes, left, Jefferson County Maintenance Aide I, receives a 5-year service certificate from Debra Pruitt, Area Maintenance Supervisor.



Receiving service awards from the Pine Bluff Residency are left to right: Mike Davis, Construction Aide II, 10 years; Joe Watkins, Inspector, 40 years; and Ted Carr, Assistant Resident Engineer, 35 years.



Harlan Colbert, right, Desha County Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents Edward Kirkham, left, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, a 3rd place certificate for the Tractor Mower event of the 1999 semi-final competition of the Equipment Operators Roaddeo.



Shown above is the District 2 Administrative Office crew during their Adopt A Highway pickup. This group cleans up two miles of Highway 65 in Pine Bluff.



Stancio Arnez Battles, born October 31, 1999, is the grandchild of Stanley Tripp, Multi-Axle Truck Driver for the District sealing crew.



Brandon Fisher Alexander, born July 16, 1999, is the grandson of Bettye Carter-Johnson, District Permit Officer.



John Herrington, District Bridge Job Superintendent, with his granddaughters Katy and Summer Chavis

Members of the McGehee Resident Engineer's office, through the Desha County office of the Arkansas Department of Human Services, sponsored families through the "Christmas for Kids" program.



Gary Fletcher, Sr. Construction Inspector; Jaenna Arnold, Construction Helper II; Thale Keisling, Resident Engineer with Joey Ferguson.



Curtis Lagrone, Construction Aide III; Charles Smith, Construction Aide II; and Keith Wells, Construction Materials Inspector with the Smith children

DISTRICT THREE



Patti Clowers, left, Senior Inspector, receives a 20-year service certificate from Kenny Bennett, Texarkana Resident Engineer.



Karen Clayton, left, Office Technician, receives a 20-year service certificate from Kenny Bennett, Texarkana Resident Engineer.



Charlie Rogers, left, Construction Aide III, receives a 10-year service certificate from Kenny Bennett, Texarkana Resident Engineer.

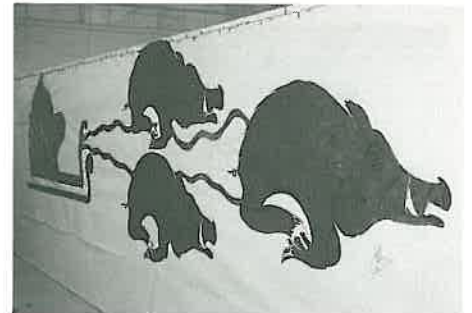
DISTRICT FOUR



Terry Robinson, Motor Patrol Operator for the Springdale Area Headquarters, retired November 10, 1999 with 34 years of service. Shown below is the 1974 John Deere tractor that he has operated for the last 26 years.



O.D. Smith, District Welder, retired in August with 30 years of service.



Jeb Baldwin, District 4 Bridge Inspector Helper, drew "Soo and her two ees! Sleigh Pullers" for the District 4 Awards and Christmas luncheon.



Recognized at the Christmas luncheon was the 1999 Equipment Operators' Roadeo State Champions. Front row, left to right: George Lee, Brandon Jones, Joe Showl, Fred Ridenhour, Margaret Byers, Lionel Elder, Mike Schmalz. Back row: Dan Flowers, AHTD Director; Jonathan Barnett, Commissioner; Jane Wilson, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs; Harold Beaver, District Engineer.



District 4 Safety Awards

Front row (left to right): Mark Williams, Bridge Job Supt.; Bashar Qedan, Resident Engineer; Raymond Lea, Bridge Inspector; Leon Brewer, Resident Engineer; Larry Thornburg, Area Maintenance Supv.; Steve Neff, Sign Crew Supv.; Lee Dewey, Storeroom Supv. Back row: Dan Flowers, Director; Buddy Turner, Bridge Inspector; Jonathan Barnett, Commissioner; Jane Wilson, Chief of Administration and Public Affairs; David Richards, Area Maintenance Supv.; James Copeland, Crew Leader



Jim Carter, left, Area Maintenance Supv., presents a 20-year service award to James Copeland, Crew Leader for Sebastian I.



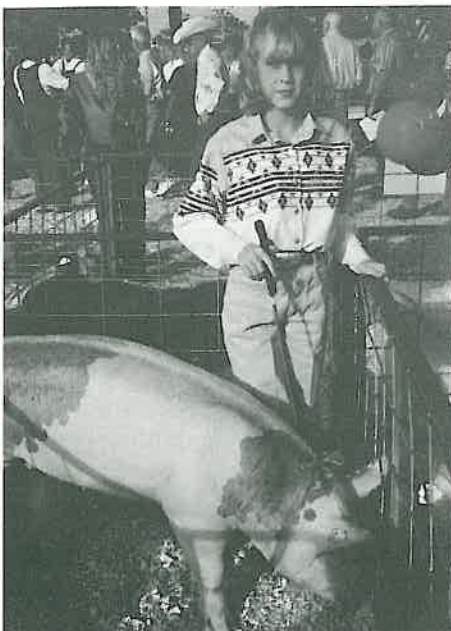
Sharon Sumpter, District Fuel Clerk, receives a 15-year certificate of service.



George Lee, left, Equipment Maintenance Supv., presents a 15-year service certificate to Robert Kolb, Senior Body Repairer and Painter.



Left to right: Jim Graham, Maintenance Aide II; Vivian Taff, Area Headquarters Attendant; Carrie Hudgens, Maintenance Aide I; and Bill Hutchens, Crew Leader. These members of the Scott County Maintenance crew participated in the "Great Arkansas Cleanup" Saturday, September 11.



Christa Ridenhour, daughter of Fred Ridenhour, Single Axle Truck Driver for the Waldron crew, and her hog "Kool Beans" placed first in her class at the Junior Livestock Auction at the Arkansas-Oklahoma State Fair in Fort Smith.

DISTRICT FIVE



Danny Garwood, Area Maintenance Supervisor, shown with his wife Betty, retired in August with 40+ years of service.



Joe T. "Corky" Smith, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish, retired December 29, 1999 with 30+ years service.



District 5 Service Awards

Paul Matthews, District Permit Officer, 25 years; Harold Carr, Area Maintenance Supervisor, 25 years; Norma McKinney, Office Administrative Assistant V, 30 years; and Gary West, Senior Inspector, 30 years



District 5 Service Awards

JoAnn McWilliams, Single Axle Truck Driver, 5 years; Ronald Harrison, Construction Aide II, 15 years; Ronnie Martin, Construction Aide III, 15 years; and Tommy Satterwhite, Sign Crew Supervisor, 15 years



District 5 Service Awards

Wanda Aldrich, Single Axle Truck Driver, 5 years; Bobby Cothrine, Janitor, 10 years; Raymond Ratton, Maintenance Aide II, 10 years; John Bridgeman, Distributor/Roller Operator, 10 years



20-Year Service Awards

Elbert Layne, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator; Bruce Smith, Resident Office Technician; Danny Watson, Storeroom Assistant II; Thomas Fife, Crew Leader; Jimmie Getson, Maintenance Aide II



15-Year Service Awards

Merbert "Bub" Milon, Jr., Storeroom Assistant I; Gary Lockett, Single Axle Truck Driver; James Walker, Senior Mechanic

DISTRICT SIX



Angela Johnson was recently promoted to Office Administrative Assistant V. She has held the positions of Personnel Clerk, District Bookkeeper and District Receptionist.



Stacey Powell was promoted to District Bookkeeper. She has held the positions of District Receptionist, Field Clerk II, and District Fuel Clerk. She and her daughter Bailey reside in Bryant.



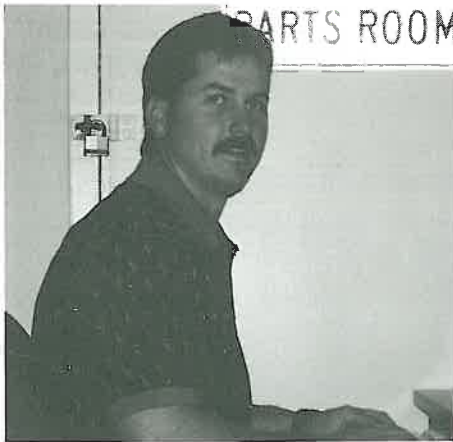
Brandi McCallister was promoted to District Receptionist. She has worked as a seasonal employee in District 6 since 1997 while attending the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She and her husband Glynn reside in Benton.



Madison Dodd is the 8-month-old granddaughter of Jimmy Finley, Social Hill Rest Area Attendant. Madison won New Star Discoveries Most Beautiful Baby, Diamond Jewel Queen, and was second runner-up in the Hot Spring County Baby Miss Fair Queen pageant.



Pvt. Joshua A. Peterson, son of Kay Smith, Union County Maintenance Aide I, graduated from bootcamp at Fort Knox, Kentucky on September 23, 1999. He graduated from AIT training at Aberdeen, Maryland on January 25, 2000. He is now stationed in North Carolina.



Randy Ray was promoted to Storeroom Supervisor. He transferred from the Equipment and Procurement Division. Randy and his wife Terry have one son Zack and one daughter Ashley.



We welcome Therese Yarnold as the new Storeroom Assistant I. She worked for several years in the Storeroom at the District 1 Headquarters. She is a graduate of Henderson State University.

DISTRICT SEVEN



Phil Griffis, Ouachita County Area Maintenance Supervisor, retired September 2, 1999 with 30 years service.

DISTRICT EIGHT



District 8 Service Awards
Left to right: James Rankin, Single Axle Truck Driver, 10 years; Alvin Warren, Crew Leader, 15 years; Gary Dorrrough, Mechanic, 15 years



Receiving 20-year service awards are David Mayberry, Bridge Job Superintendent, and James Chronister, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish, for the District maintenance crew.



Receiving service pins are Jimmy Hill, Area Headquarters Attendant, 30 years, and William Shipp, Maintenance Aide II, 25 years.

DISTRICT NINE



Frank Rose, left, Assistant District Maintenance Superintendent, is presented a 25-year service pin by Ralph Fulton, District Engineer.



Greg Harding, left, Resident Engineer, presents a 25-year service pin to Brian Schwartz, Inspector for the Yellville Residency.



Kenneth Booth, left, Station Attendant II, receives a 20-year service award from Joe Davidson, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor.



Joe Davidson, left, Equipment Maintenance Supervisor, presents a 20-year service award to Clint Taylor, Welder.



Gene Daniels, left, Single Axle Truck Driver, receives a 20-year service award from Bud Young, Jr., Newton County Area Maintenance Supervisor.



Bud Young, Jr., Newton County Area Maintenance Supervisor, presents a 15-year service award to Ricky Sattler, Crew Leader.



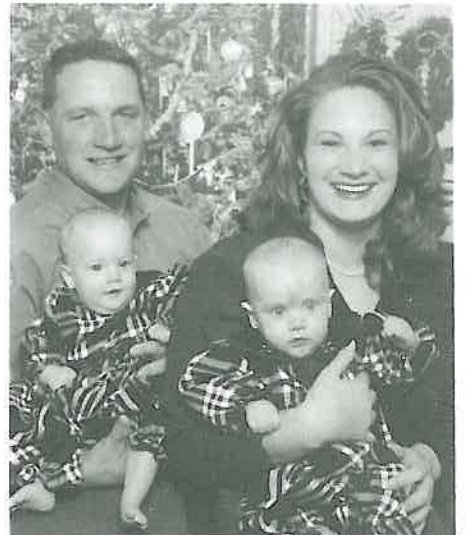
Butch Martin, Resident Engineer, presents a 10-year service award to Kendall Shelton, Construction Aide II at the Harrison Residency.



Scott Graham, left, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, and Tommy Dixon, right, Bridge Repairer I, receive 5-year service pins from Gene Taylor, center, District Job Superintendent.



Ricky Kilburn, left, Maintenance Aide II, receives a 5-year service award from Bud Young, Jr., Newton County Area Maintenance Supervisor.



Savannah and Kaitlinn Hale, born July 19, 1999, are the twin daughters of Ashley and Julie Hale. Ashley is a Pilot/Deck Hand at the Peel Ferry.



Doyle Root, Madison County Maintenance Aide II, is the grandfather of Jesse Newton Roy Root, born October 29, 1999.



Receiving service awards are (left to right): Steve Leath, Office Manager, 15 years; Linda Harris, Maintenance Aide I, 5 years; Mary Maupin, Rest Area Attendant, 5 years; Frank Humble, Maintenance Aide II, 10 years; Paul Carr, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, 5 years; Gerald Ellis, Senior Mechanic, 5 years; Willis Mitchell, Area Headquarters Attendant, 15 years; Elvis Richmond, Construction Aide I, 10 years

DISTRICT TEN



20-Year Service Awards
Statin Shockley, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish, and Pat Hay, Construction Aide II



15-Year Service Awards
Jerry Morrow, Maintenance Aide II; W.C. Inman, Motor Patrol Operator/Finish; Joe Hudson, Single Axle Truck Driver



10-Year Service Awards
James Miller, Maintenance Aide I; Gilberta Darter, Area Headquarters Attendant; Ricky Hale, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator



5-Year Service Awards
Debbie Myrick, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, and Shalane Swafford, Dozer Operator



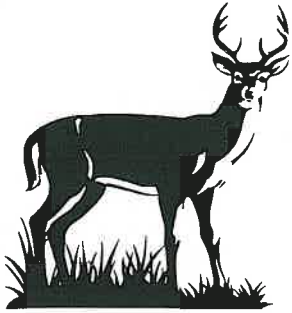
Congratulations to Shalane Swafford, Dozer Operator for the District maintenance crew, on winning a Blue Ribbon and an Overall Blue Ribbon at the Green County Fair for her pencil drawings.



Darsha Tipton was promoted to District Personnel Clerk. She was serving as District Receptionist.



Fred E. Williams, Craighead County Maintenance Aide II, is shown with his grandson, Mason E. Jones.



AHTD Outdoors



Sam Stewart, son of Bryan Stewart, Data Processing Manager, and Honey Chumley of Judsonia with Sam's first deer, a six-pointer taken in Cleveland County.



David Waters, Crew Leader for the District 6 Saline County maintenance crew, and his son Cody with an 8-point buck taken by David.



Scott Hatfield, Motor Patrol Operator for the District 3 Hempstead County maintenance crew, with two bass he caught on Bois D'Arc Lake.



Dusty Phillips, son of District 9 Bookkeeper Tammy Phillips, with a 7-point buck taken this last deer season. Dusty is a sophomore at Valley Springs High School.



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