

Though years may come  
And years may go,  
And every sort  
Of wind may blow,  
With "Merry Christmas"  
In the heart,  
The joys of Christmas  
Ne'er depart.

"ARKANSAS  
HIGHWAYS"

DECEMBER '57

# ARKANSAS HIGHWAYS

A Monthly Magazine for Employees of the  
Arkansas State Highway Commission

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STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

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Christmas is not only a season but a seasoning. It is a time when we pause to anoint our fellowmen with the accumulated goodwill of the year.

People of every Christian Nation throughout the world pause in tribute to the Prince of Peace to say to their friends and neighbors, in their own way, 'Merry Christmas!'

In Brazil they say *Boas Festas!* in Denmark, *Glædelig Jul!* in France, *Joyeux Noel!* in Sweden, *God Ju!* in Italy, *Buono Natale!*

And in English, from the Personnel Division...Mr. Turner, Jim Zinn, the magazine staff, and all the others, we say:

## MERRY CHRISTMAS!



## FIND REAL JOY IN GIVING

by Dr. Norman Vincent Peale

A prison of stone and iron bars sometimes almost can destroy a man - but the prisons we create for ourselves are even worse.

As Charles Dickens wrote: "We forge the chains we wear in life."

We cannot find real life for our souls until we love ourselves in service and love for our fellow men."

If you really want to be free from yourself and have the time of your life all your life, try the joy of giving.

It is easier to prove this at this time of year than at any other.

Go out and watch people doing their Christmas shopping. See them in the streets and shops.

Attend to your own gift purchases. Doesn't a strange and exciting change come over you and all the people you meet?

Somehow, everyone seems gayer and happier. A sense of joyous expectancy fills the air.

The gifts we buy and send to those we love at Christmas are material things. It's fine to be able to afford to give and very pleasant to get presents from others.

But to find real joy in giving, especially at Christmas and all the year round too, there's something beside the material things you will need to give your loved ones and friends.

And that is the gift of life itself. You and I were given life to share, not to hoard.

Lonely people know that you cannot gain happiness by retiring from human fellowship; you will find only misery and a sense of self-pity.

You can only be happy with yourself by giving yourself away to others, by becoming genuinely outgoing.

A good way to start becoming that sort of person is to do something for someone else, not because it will increase your income or your social standing, but for the pure joy of doing it.

This is as old as Christmas. But don't write it off because it's old. It must be good to have lasted so long.

Start this Christmas season right. Find real joy this year by giving yourself away.

You'll get back more real love and happiness than you ever had before.

# HIGHWAY SAFETY

Editor's note: The following is the required paper delivered by Mr. Eldridge at the Congressional Committee hearing on Highway Safety, which was held at the Capitol on October 8.

Highway Safety is a broad term - possibly too broad to be used with full significance by those of us, who by the nature of our positions, are directly associated with any one of the many fields of activity which must share the major responsibilities for its realization. Perhaps, too many of us, whose primary interests are in a specialized field, tend to lose sight of the broad implications of the term by permitting the part our respective interest contributes to Highway Safety to obscure or over-shadow many of the vital and possibly equally important interests. Any of the fields covered in the age-old slogan, The Three E's of Traffic Safety - Engineering, Education, and Enforcement endless opportunities and challenges for many of our nations best minds. Since this slogan was first used to point up the basic elements contributing to Highway Safety, the almost "exploding" use of the automobile and the resulting demand placed on our inadequate roads have pushed other somewhat intangible elements into focus, which under the broad meaning of Highway Safety must be fully realized and kept under constant consideration as to the impact on our special field.

The responsibilities of a Highway Department, in addition to providing a network of roads, inescapably encompass

certain inherent operational aspects makes it necessary for us to broaden our functions beyond the scope of basic engineering to cover these elements of operation within the limits of practical considerations. Conceivably these inherent operational responsibilities could use a large portion of our highway organization to a good advantage through improved Highway Safety. Yet to realize the ultimate goal of the optimum in Highway Safety we must maintain a balance between our efforts to construct adequate facilities with maximum built-in engineering safety and, in the interim, obtain the highest possible degree of efficiency and safety from our existing facilities.

As an administrator of Highway affairs in this state, I can feel no pride in reviewing the statistical records which reflect the tragedies of unsafe Highway operation as measured in terms of lives lost, disabilities, human suffering and property damage. The distress is tempered however, by the knowledge of our record of achievements.

Within the limitations of our financial and physical capabilities we pursue two parallel routes in our attempts to realize improved Highway Safety and Operation. First, in the construction of new facilities and in the reconstruction of old roads we are using the highest and latest design standards feasible to incorporate every known safety feature. Second, and probably our most important contribution to Highway Safety, we are accelerating our efforts to realize the optimum in safety and efficiency from our existing facilities.

Many of the roads in use today were built two and three decades ago when design standards and uniformity in construction were of minor importance. It is only a natural consequence that operating 1957 model automobiles on 1930 model roads today poses many and varied problems. From the engineering standpoint it has been and still is a physical impossibility to completely reconcile these widely divergent extremes. Yet we are making every effort to determine the engineering deficiencies, defects in the roadways or drivers habits which may be responsible for accidents, and to make feasible changes which will improve operating conditions. Channelization of intersections, improvement of sight distance, widening of bridges, building climbing lanes, regaining control of access, improving grade-lines, and widening of roadways and shoulders are some of the engineering accomplishments which are in evidence today. Improvements in effective use of traffic control devices such as: signing, signals, and pavement markings, are borne out by accident records over comparative periods. Numerous instances of almost remarkable and gratifying results have been realized from studies by traffic engineers of the geometric deficiencies at high accident and hazardous locations, school crossings and plant entrances, and consideration of speeds, parking practices and locally erected unwarranted traffic control devices. To our work with this last group of examples most of which are localized problems, we point with considerable pride based on our successes. Here we work with local jurisdictions to their ultimate satisfaction, secure the cooper-

ation of state and local enforcement officials, and through the processes further the educational aspects of Highway Safety all of which brings us face to face with the fact "Highway Safety is everybody's business."

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#### SOME REMINDERS.....

At the end of the calendar year the Accounting Division mails out the W-2 Forms carrying the total amount of salary paid to each Department employee who has been on the payroll during the year. This form is used in filing your returns with the Internal Revenue Service.

So that you will be certain of receiving your W-2 form, it is important that any employee who has changed his address during the year to check with his supervisor and have a 125 form made out showing the new change. This is the correct procedure for address changes. A copy of the 125 is to be sent to Personnel.

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The title of "Truck Driver" as defined in the salary and code specifications, set up by the 1957 Legislature, reads as follows: "In order to classify as a truck driver, 2-ton capacity or less, an employee must drive a truck 60 percent of the time and shall at other times, perform other work as directed. This classification shall require physical fitness, reliability, ability to read and write, a thorough knowledge of traffic rules and regulations and possession of an Arkansas driver's license. It is the duty of the supervisors or District heads to see that the title of employees correspond with the above.

# The Party Line

## DISTRICT 3

Division 7

Sula Burnham

Camden

Director Herbert Eldridge was the guest of W. E. Hicks at the Lion's Club luncheon November 13, at Hotel Camden. Mr. Eldridge gave a very interesting and complimentary speech on "Highways" and highly praised the Camden Planning Commission on their long range planning program. Mrs. Eldridge accompanied him to Camden and was guest of Mrs. A. G. Rives.

Approximately 35 employees took some time off to enjoy the first week of deer season. Hunting wasn't too successful... only one reported bagging a Buck. Congratulations to G. E. Turner for getting his deer the first hour of the hunt! Our weather has been very favorable for duck hunting.

David Lee, Jr. attended the Arkansas-Rice game at Houston. David brought his father and mother home after spending several months in Houston with another son K. C.

W. E. Hicks and Fred Herring went up to Chicago in November to attend the AASHO. Congratulations to Blossom Hicks who celebrated her birthday November 22. Mr. Hicks left his present for her before he made his trip since he couldn't be here for the happy occasion.

We are talking Christmas and getting real excited! Hope this is the best one ever...So Merry Christmas to all.

Mary Lindsey was transferred to the Resident Engineer's office November 15. We miss you Mary, and hope you are happy in your new office.

Several have been stricken with flu, but we're glad they are all able to be back at work. None had severe cases.

## DISTRICT 4

Division 8

Russellville

A small epidemic of flu, minor injuries, and deer season has caused the Maintenance crews to work short-handed. We hope the sick are cured quickly, the wounded healed thoroughly, and the deer hunters the best of luck.

Sherman Moore, a mechanic in the Division Shop, proudly passed the cigars last week. He and his wife are the proud parents of a baby boy. Anthony Carter is his name and he makes three boys for the Moore family. Congratulations.

Everyone concerned is happy to have the Legislative Auditors with us at this time.

In the early centuries of our era, the Nativity was celebrated on varying dates such as January 6, February 2, March 25, April 19, May 20 and November 17, depending on what group of people were celebrating. Finally Julius I, the Pope of Rome, had an investigation made into the matter of Jesus' birth. In 350 A. D. he set December 25 as the most probable time.

## MEET MR. HAYES.....

From the demeanor of C. Don Hayes, the distinguished looking Director of Equipment and Procurement at Jacksonville, most people would get the impression that he is a rather serious minded person, and the assumption would not be wrong...where his job is concerned.

Mr. Hayes was born February 16, 1900, in Scotland, Arkansas, Union County, the first son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel S. Hayes. Three other children were born to this union. His father, who is no longer living, was a millwright. His mother and two sisters, Mrs. Oscar Rossing and Mrs. Henry Wilhelm, reside in Little Rock. A brother, Colonel Rex Hayes, was prominent in the Civil Air Patrol and a well known flier before his death last year.

C. Don's early years were spent in Union County and he attended the public schools at Norphlet and El Dorado before moving to Little Rock, where he graduated from the Old Scott Street High School in 1918.

In November of that same year his career in the field of mechanics began. He was employed as an airplane mechanic with the U. S. Government at the Little Rock Air Intermediate Depot. This lasted until May, 1924 when he became associated with the Arkansas Highway Department as a mechanic in the Equipment Division. Two years later he was made Shop Foreman and from there on, it was up the ladder for him. He served as Shop Superintendent, Equipment Inspector, and Equipment Supervisor before becoming Director.

In May, 1953, when the units of Equipment and Procurement were consolidated

under one head, Procurement for equipment was moved to Jacksonville, leaving Procurement for administrative, maintenance, and other supplies, in the Little Rock building. This department is more familiarly known as Purchasing, with Jim Meredith in charge.

Miss Edith Lucile Robinson, a young Lonoke girl who had graduated from Lonoke High, caught the eye of Mr. Hayes and he succumbed to her charms and vice versa. This past September 19 they celebrated thirty-two years of married bliss.

The Hayes, who reside at 3800 Capitol Avenue, each have hobbies. Mrs. Hayes is an ardent bridge and canasta player and Don is enthusiastic about all sports. He is a firm believer in fishing and hunting, two activities in which he indulges himself at every opportunity.

His organizational affiliations are many. He is a member of Pulaski Heights Methodist Church; Magnolia Masonic Lodge; Little Rock Consistory, Union Chapter; Royal Order of Jesters; Scimitar Shrine; Bendemeer Grotto, North Little Rock Elks Lodge 1004; United Commercial Travelers; Little Rock Knife and Fork Club, and Goosefoot Lake Hunting Club.

Though he is serious where his job is concerned, he has a humorous side also. He likes to tease by telling a "big tale" with a poker face, which leaves the listener guessing. His employees have found him to be fair and square and he displays a great deal of understanding. He also holds tenaciously to what he believes is right. They summed him up best when they stated that he is a great gentleman. One who commands the respect of all his associates.

# THE GREAT RIVER ROAD

by Guy W. Cobb

In September, 1955, the Mississippi River Parkway Planning Commission met in Kenora, Canada; and the Great River Road became an International Route.

At that annual convention it was decided to extend the northern terminus of the proposed Parkway two hundred miles further northward. Instead of beginning near the source of the Mississippi in Lake Itasca, Minnesota, the road will start at some point on the Trans-Canada Highway between Kenora and Winnipeg; and the Provinces of Ontario and Manitoba have joined the ten American states which border the Mississippi River to promote a Parkway Route from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico.

Where practical an entirely new location will be selected upon which to construct the Parkway, but it is obvious that some sections of existing highways will be designated as the route of the Great River Road.

A single route will leave the Trans-Canada Highway and pass southward around the Lake of the Woods to Lake Itasca. From here it will follow the newly constructed Parkway roads along the river to St. Paul, Minnesota. Below the mouth of St. Croix, the States of Wisconsin, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi lie east of the Mississippi River while it is bordered on the west by Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, and Louisiana. Therefore, the Commission decided to consider the Mid-continent Drain as a liquid mall separating ribbons of

the Parkway running southward from the Falls of St. Anthony to the Gulf.

Wherever it is possible to build the true Parkway Route, it will be a delight to a traveler who loves beauty and who will take time to enjoy it. The wide right-of-way will be maintained in its primitive state. No advertising signs or commercial establishments will desecrate the enchanting vistas, and heavy trucks will not be allowed to travel the smooth roadway surface. Some semi-parkway roads along the route have been constructed, and they are extremely popular. The route through Canada will pass beside sparkling lakes which are alive with northern pike, and the road follows the Mississippi between Lake Itasca and the Falls of St. Anthony, where the river is narrow and as swift as a mountain stream.

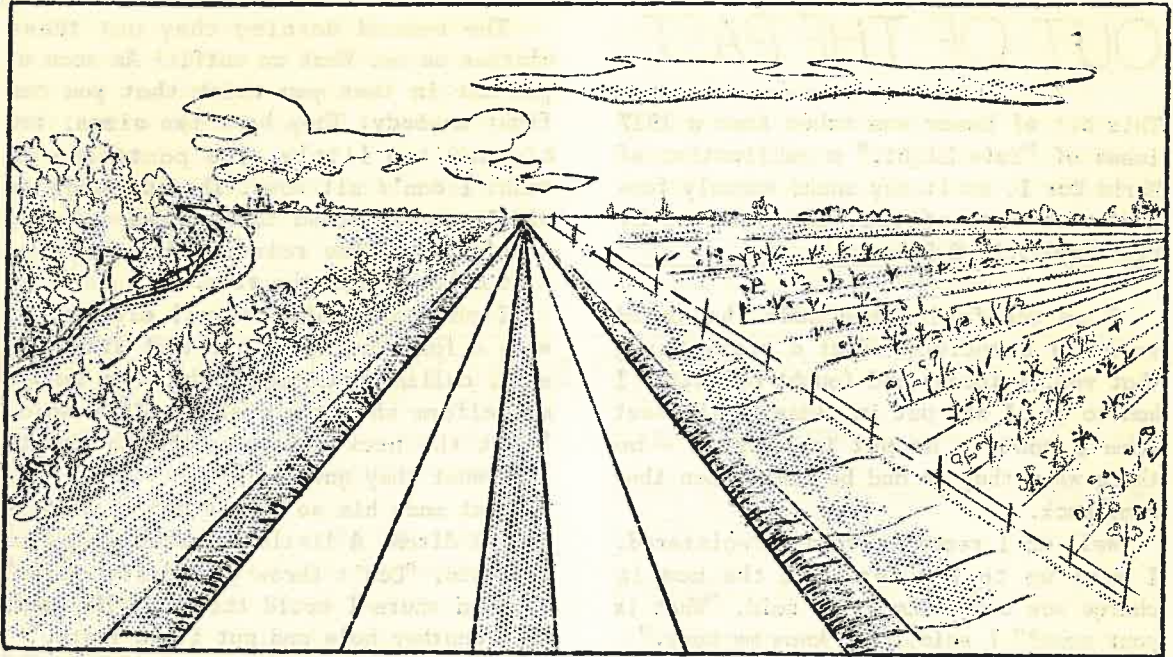
Between St. Paul and Alton, Illinois, the routes on either side of the river will sometimes ride on high banks or cliffs overlooking blue lakes, which are confined by concrete locks through which a constant stream of river boats churns the placid water.

These craft stream past La Cross and Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, the cities of Dubuque, Davenport, and Keokuk, Iowa, and the birthplace of Mark Twain and Tom Sawyer in Hannibal, Missouri.

South of St. Louis on the edge of the Ozark escarpment lie the ancient towns of St. Genevieve and Cape Girardeau; across the Illinois side the broad Ohio joins the Mississippi and forms the peninsula of Cairo; and to the south of Cairo lies a long-buried city at Wickcliffe, Kentucky.

One may see the beginnings of the Sunk Lands at New Madrid, Missouri, and they





are very evident in mysterious Reelfoot Lake across in Tennessee.

Below the Missouri-Arkansas line is the biggest cotton patch in the world. There the white cotton shines against the black earth, safe from tawny floods because of the high green levee which protects a valley more fertile than that of the Nile. In the place of cotton-chopper cabins, the traveler will see modern homes and stately mansions; and from the cities of Blytheville, Osceola, and Wilson the smoke of industry rises toward the sky.

Across the Mississippi from Memphis, the cotton capital atop the Chickasaw Bluffs, the Arkansas Parkway turns westward to Marianna and follows Crowley's Ridge through Bear Creek Park to the river port of Helena, which sits on the

terminal moraine at the point where Hernando de Sota crossed the Father of Waters on his way to the Fountain of Youth in Hot Springs. The temporary route crosses the White River Game Refuge at St. Charles and the Arkansas River at Arkansas Post - the site of the first white settlement west of the Mississippi, then hastens on past beautiful Lake Chicot to the lower end of Grand Lake where Spanish moss hangs from the live oaks, and there just south of the thirty-third parallel of latitude is the land of the Creoles and sugar cane.

South of Vicksburg and Natchez on the Mississippi side one hears music and laughter from New Orleans; and the Parkway ends at Venice, Louisiana, above the head of the passes where the once clear water from Lake Itasca enters the salty Gulf of Mexico.

# OUT OF THE PAST

This bit of humor was taken from a 1917 issue of "Tale Light," a publication of World War I, so it may sound vaguely familiar to some of you. Contributed by Bill Headrick, S & A.

I am the fellow who made the world safe for democracy. What a crazy thing that was. I fought and fought but still I had to go. I was put in class A. the next time I want to be put in class B - be there when they go and be there when they come back.

Well do I remember when I registered. I went up to the desk and the man in charge was our milkman. He said, "What is your name?" I said, "You know my name."

"What's your name?" he barked. So I said, "August Childs."

He said, "Are you an alien?" I said, "No, I feel fine."

He asked where I was born and I said, "Pittsburg."

Then he asked me where I first saw the light of day, and I told him when we moved to Philadelphia.

He asked me how old I was and I told him twenty-three the first of September. He said, "The first of September you will be in France, and that will be the last of August."

The day I arrived in camp, I guess they didn't think I would live long. The first fellow I saw wrote on my card, "Flying Corps." I went a little further and a fellow said, "Look what the wind blew in." I said, "Wind nothing, the draft caused this."

The second morning they put these clothes on me. What an outfit! As soon as you are in them you think that you can fight anybody. They have two sizes, too big and too little. The pants are so tight I can't sit down. The shoes are so big I turned around three times and they didn't move. The raincoat they gave me - it only strains the rain.

I passed an officer all dressed up with a fancy belt and all that stuff. He said, calling after me, "Didn't you notice my uniform when you passed me?" I said, "What the heck are you kicking about, look what they gave me!"

That made him so mad he put me to digging a ditch. A little later he passed me and said, "Don't throw your dirt up here." I asked where I could throw it. He said, "Dig another hole and put it in there."

We sailed for France three days later. Marching down the pier, I had bad luck. My sergeant stuttered, it took him so long to say "Halt" that twenty-seven of us marched overboard. They pulled us out and lined us up again. The captain came by and hollered, "Fall in." I said, "I've been in, sir." I was on the boat twelve days - seasick twelve days. Nothing going down and everything coming up. I was over the railing all the time. In the middle of one of my very best leans, the captain rushed up and said, "What company are you in?" I said, "I'm all by myself." He asked me if the brigadier was up yet, I said, "If I swallowed it, it's up."

Talk about dumb people, I said to one of the fellows, "I guess we have dropped anchor." He replied that he knew it was lost, that it had been hanging overboard ever since we left New York.

Well, we landed in France. We were immediately sent to the trenches. The cannons started to roar and the shells started to fly. I began to shake with patriotism.

I tried to hide behind a tree, but there weren't enough trees for the officers. The captain came around and said, "Five o'clock and we go over the top." I asked for a furlough. He said, "Haven't

you any red blood? I said, "Yes, but I don't want to look at it."

At five o'clock we went over the top. Ten thousand Germans came at us. The way they looked at me you would have thought I started the war. The captain shouted, "Fire at will!" I didn't know any of their names. I guess the fellow behind me thought I was Will, because he fired his gun and shot me in the confusion.

## ENGINEERS VOCABULARY

**IT IS IN PROCESS** - So wrapped in red tape that the situation is almost hopeless.

**WE WILL LOOK INTO IT** - By the time the wheel makes a full turn, we assume you will have forgotten about it.

**A PROGRAM** - Any assignment that can't be completed by one telephone call.

**EXPEDITE** - To confound confusion with promotion.

**CHANNELS** - The guy who has a desk between two expeditors.

**CONSULTANT (or expert)** - Any ordinary guy more than 50 miles away from home. (Must have briefcase)

**TO ACTIVATE** - To make carbons and add more names to the memo.

**TO IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM** - Hire more people and expand the office.

**TO NEGOTIATE** - To seek a meeting of minds without a knocking together of heads.

**UNDER CONSIDERATION** - Never heard of it.

**UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION** - We are looking in the files for it.

**A MEETING** - A mass mulling by master-minds.

**A CONFERENCE** - A place where conversation is substituted for the dreariness of labor and the loneliness of thought.

**RELIABLE SOURCE** - The guy you just met.

**INFORMED SOURCE** - The guy who told the guy you just met.

**UNIMPEACHABLE SOURCE** - The guy who started the rumor originally.

**RE-ORIENTATION** - Getting used to working again.

**A CLARIFICATION** - To fill in the background with so many details that the foreground goes underground.

**WE ARE MAKING A SURVEY** - We need more time to think of an answer.

**NOTE AND INITIAL** - Let's spread the responsibility for this.--Clay Pipe News.

## CHRISTMAS IN CHILE

To find out how the natives south of the border in the country of Chile celebrate Christmas was a simple matter. All that was necessary was a walk across the hall to Statistics and Analyses and ask Juan Herrera, the best authority we know.

Juan is the young civil engineer who is spending a sabbatical in the United States on a training program which is sponsored by the International Cooperation Administration of Washington, D. C., and the Bureau of Public Roads.

Born in the little city of Parral, about two hundred miles south of Santiago, he attended the public schools there and Barros Arana National High School in Santiago. The students of the high school, which number around 1500, live at the school while they are attending. Upon graduation, he entered the University of Chile in Santiago where he attended for seven years, which is customary in Chile. Six years are spent in study and the seventh is used in preparing a thesis. He received a degree in civil engineering.

He has a high position in Chile. He is chief of the road planning, surveys and maps section of the Ministry of Public Works, is an assistant professor of highway and airport engineering at the University, and has his own business as consulting engineer in Santiago.

Juan tells us that Christmas as well as New Years is celebrated only a little differently than ours in the States. The main observance is the family feast which is held usually around midnight of Christmas Eve. The family meets at the home of the highest representative of the family,

usually the grandfather. There a large Christmas tree, generally of pine, has been adorned with flowers, brightly colored lights, garlands, and many other decorations. The family gifts with the exception of the childrens' toys are also placed on the tree, and a lighted candle for each member of the family. If a member of the family has died during the year, an unlighted candle is placed for him as a special memorial.

About 11:00 P. M., one of the family disguised as Santa Claus, arrives, making a lot of noise with horn and bells. The children surround him, but he makes them promise beforehand that they will be good children all year. He then hands them their toys. The family stands around the tree and sing beautiful Christmas songs, extinguish their candles and then go to the dining room where the feast is awaiting them. The meal consists of roast turkey, salads, Christmas bread with nuts and fruit, and a huge, round cake. The Christmas drink, cola de mono, (monkey cola) is similiar to our egg nog. It is specially prepared with milk, eggs, coffee and brandy. The family get to bed around 3 o'clock on Christmas morning.

Juan only has two more months with our Department and then he will go on for stays at two other State Highway Departments, before returning to Chile. His wife, Zuny, and their young son, Rainer, age 4, will arrive from Chile and join Senor Herrera at New Orleans in December. Everyone will miss Juan when his stay in our Department is ended. We hope he can someday return to our country and we wish him the best of luck and continued success in his career.

## KEEP CHRISTMAS SAFE

Christmas is the happiest of all holidays. Supposed to be anyway, but it can turn out to be a nightmare. So let's discuss some of the ways we can avoid the needless tragedies which occur more frequently during the holiday season. Let's think of the meaning of accidents and mishaps for us and our families and it will lead to one of the most outstanding facts...we can avoid them, usually.

It stands to reason that at this busy time of the year our emotions are thrown off balance by the stepped-up pace of our every-day living and the promise of happy times ahead. Our schedules call for more work and activity so it is a natural consequence that we become careless in our normally careful habits and we are not as alert to the hazards that can befall us or our loved ones.

A guy was once asked why he kept hitting himself on the head with a hammer, and his reply, "because it feels so good when I stop." Pretty silly, isn't it? It is just as silly to keep sticking your neck out till you get hurt, and getting hurt is a price you do not have to pay.

If the lives of some of our loved ones were endangered and they needed our help, we would instinctively and willingly help them even if we were facing pain or danger ourselves, because there would be good reason for it. And we would be paying a price for something good that is worth buying. But the price of an injury from some senseless home, work or automobile accident doesn't buy anything but suffering and heartache to you, your family, and possibly another family as well.

So it seems that we should try doubly hard to do everything we can to prevent accidents, not only during the holidays, but all year round. Think about some of the innocuous looking objects around the house which can be so deadly...a pair of roller skates or other objects, left lying half concealed for someone to trip over...the beautifully decorated Christmas tree which can, if not properly cared for, turn your home into an inferno, destroy lives perhaps. And when you think that time is the all-important issue of the day, especially if you are in an automobile, stop and ask yourself if all the rush is worth the chances you are taking. None of us are immune to accidents no matter how carefully we think we drive. We would all profit by remembering the following about Father Time, "In time take time while time doth last, for time is no time when time is past."

And if your work has an element of danger to it, remember that you not only have to practice work safety, but you have to have safe working conditions. The one is as important as the other. One out of every six work accidents are due to falls and about 3,000 workers are killed on the job every year because of them. Think of the thousands of workers killed on his job for other reasons. Your biggest contribution is in being a safe worker.

Miles of words have been written on accidents and safety precautions but there hasn't been enough perhaps. Maybe one of these days we will stop taking the attitude that it was "meant to be." Maybe one of these days we will wake up to the fact that most of the accidents can be avoided.

# ELECTRONIC CONTROL OF MOTOR VEHICLES

by Y. W. Welchel  
Statistics and Analyses

In this age when we read and hear of almost phenomenal and fantastic developments in scientific progress we are no longer amazed and taken aback by talk of future scientific possibilities. Everyday now we learn of new developments in science which a few short years ago were termed fantastic.

Today sputniks, satellites, space ships, guided missiles and travel to the moon are subjects discussed by the "man on the street" in passing the time of day.

Technological achievements such as man made satellites circling the earth at almost unbelievable speeds while sending back such information as the pulse rate, blood pressure, and breathing rate of a live animal should make us more receptive to the future possibilities of mere electronic control of motor vehicles.

On October 10, two employees of the Traffic Section of S & A, Billy Cooper and this writer were in Lincoln, Nebraska to witness a demonstration of experimental electronic motor vehicle control. This demonstration had been developed and arranged by the Nebraska Department of Roads in cooperation with RCA (Radio Corporation of America).

These two agencies had teamed together in an experiment which had been successful. RCA had supplied the technological know-how and the electronic equipment. The Nebraska Department of Roads had built a section of concrete highway which had the built-in equipment necessary to

activate the electronic devices. The purpose of the demonstration was to report on the progress to date of the successful experiments and the results of years of research which would lead to eventual full electronic control of motor vehicles on specially equipped sections of roads.

Why, we may ask, is electronic control desirable or even considered? Engineering improvements are making our roads and highways safer. Automobile advancements have greatly reduced the probability of mechanical failure. Yet, far less progress is being made to overcome the most important of all causes of accidents - human failures and errors. Recent research, such as that being conducted by Cornell University Medical College, points up the necessity for advancements in automobile and roadway design to eliminate as much dependence on driver judgment as possible.

To the approximately 100 persons attending the demonstration and hearing the accompanying lectures and explanations, it was evident that sufficient progress has been made to advance "Electronic Control of Motor Vehicles" from the realm of possibility into the realm of feasibility.

Although space will not permit here, even if I had the technical knowledge to explain it, to present a detailed explanation of the scientific principles involved, I will attempt to describe briefly, what was demonstrated and explained on the Lincoln trip.

The Nebraska Department of Roads, while building the road section, had placed 6'x20' rectangular loops of ordinary electrical conductive wire (no. 14 gauge) in the concrete at less than car length intervals. Electronic detectors and switches were wired into each loop circuit. Electrical impulse caused by motor vehicles passing over the road section were picked up by the electronic detectors and used to activate (1) traffic signals (2) warning lights on the roadway shoulder, and (3) special equipment on an automobile.

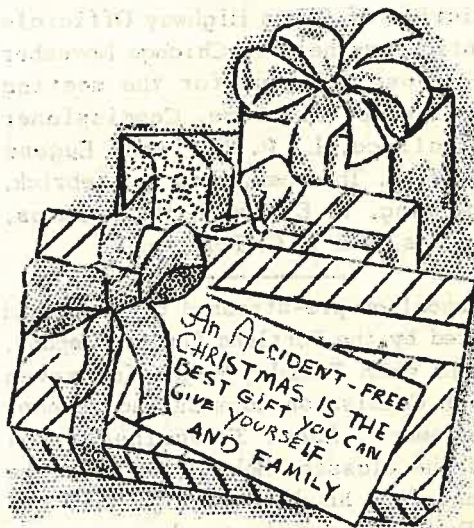
Traffic signals activated by the equipment demonstrated the feasibility of using the system to furnish electrical impulses provided by a motor vehicle passing over the wires to activate any device requiring detectors such as traffic counters and warning devices. Simplicity of installation, low initial cost, and no maintenance costs were listed as making the system practical even for these limited purposes.

A more advanced use of activating lights along the shoulders ahead or behind moving vehicles would be to inform other approaching drivers of the presence, direction of travel, and location in areas where horizontal and vertical curves or atmospheric conditions restrict sight distance. This is a already considered a practical and feasible application of the equipment since it requires no special equipment on vehicles using the road.

The ultimate application which would require that vehicles using it have special equipment on the vehicle itself is actual control of steering, speed, and

braking. This would be accomplished by use of a straight wire buried in the concrete in the center of the traffic lane. Special equipment mounted on each end of the bumper would receive and transmit electronic impulses which would be used to operate the steering mechanism by maintaining an equal distance from each of the devices to the messenger wire. Similar impulses would control speeds and operate the braking mechanisms. Drivers of vehicles using such automatic control may at any time take over full control of their vehicle and leave the controlled traffic lane.

It is granted that additional research and experiments will be necessary before highways can be built on which to operate electronically controlled automobiles and trucks. However, the current rate of scientific advancements indicates that it is now possible and will become feasible in the foreseeable future.



# AROUND THE BUILDING

Our Director, Mr. Eldridge, was among the guests who attended the ceremonies for the dedication and official opening of Highway 84 at DeRoche, which were held November 8. The affair was planned by the Malvern Chamber of Commerce and a joint committee of citizens from DeRoche. Mr. Eldridge and Commissioner Cecil Lynch, were honored guests, and each spoke to the crowd. The dedicatory address was by former governor, Homer Adkins. Others attending were: H. R. Lucus, Fred Herring, E. E. Mashburn, R. B. Winfrey, and Juan Herrera, from Chile. About 100 attended.

Mr. Eldridge attended the Camden Lion Club's luncheon and meeting November 13, and was guest speaker at the Arkansas Motor Hotel Association meeting at the LaFayette Hotel November 3.

The annual convention of the American Association of State Highway Officials convention was held in Chicago November 18-22. Those going up for the meeting were: Director Eldridge, Commissioner Glenn Wallace, L. P. Carlson, Eugene Nelson, W. R. Thrasher, Fred T. Leebrick, Fred Herring, V. E. Scott, H. R. Lucus, W. E. Hicks, and J. C. Perkins.

A school on pre-stressed concrete and sponsored by the Portland Cement Company, was held each Tuesday night for seven weeks in Commission Room during October and November. About 30 engineers attended the classes. Bob Kuhlman, of the Portland firm handled arrangements and Henry Dougherty was the teacher.

The Arkansas Highway Department Employee's Dinner will be held in the ballroom of Hotel Marion on December 3. The dinner will be given for the Commissioners, District Engineers, District Construction Engineers, District Maintenance Supervisors, and other Department heads and employees. A cocktail party will precede the dinner at 6:30. Bill Moore will be Toastmaster. More details will be given in the next issue.

Christmas is the one time of the year when a man's wife believes in giving him all the credit she can get.

## CHARLIE HOLDERBAUM

The Highway Department is saddened by the passing of Mr. Charlie Holderbaum, State Maintenance Supervisor in the Little Rock Office.

Mr. Holderbaum first began work for the Department in 1922, and since his employment he had served as Field Engineer, Assistant District Engineer, Assistant Maintenance Engineer, and Assistant State Maintenance Supervisor.

Mr. Holderbaum, who was 82, had only recently received his 25-year Service Pin and Certificate of Merit.

He will be greatly missed by the personnel in the Department and our sincere sympathies are extended to his family. His immediate survivors are his widow, one son, Charles Holderbaum, Jr., from Fort Worth, and three grandchildren.



## RECIPE FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Take the crisp cold of a December night, add two generous parts of snow, stir in air so clear it tinkles. Into a generous heart, mix the wonders of a little girl, the sparkle of a young boy's glance, the love of parents, and set gently before the chimney side. Add the lightest touch of a reindeer's hooves, a sprig of holly, a scent of fir. Set the mixture to rise in the warmth of a dream of good will to men. It will be almost ready to serve when it bubbles with warmth and good feeling. Bedeck with the light of a star set in the East, garnish with shining balls of gold, silver and red. Serve to the tune of an ancient carol in the middle of the family table. This recipe is sufficient for all the men and women you will ever meet.

## CHRIST'S DAY

by Mrs. Pat Denson

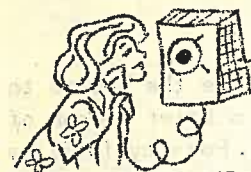
"Twill be the night before Christmas  
The first thing we know  
I hope the roof tops and tree limbs  
Are covered with snow  
And the Christ-like feeling around me  
will flow.  
Pray God in His Heaven that this at least  
We will worship His coming,  
Instead of the feast  
Of frivolous frolic and spending galore  
That leaves the spirit heartsick and sore.  
For an old fashioned Christ's Day I'm  
seeking again  
Merry Christmas, God Bless You,  
Good Will to all men.

And numerous indeed are the hearts to which Christmas brings a brief season of happiness and enjoyment. How many families whose members have been dispersed and scattered far and wide, in the restless struggle of life, are then reunited, and meet once again in that happy state of companionship and mutual good-will, which is a source of such pure and unalloyed delight, and one so incompatible with the cares and sorrows of the world, that the religious belief of the most civilized nations, and the rude traditions of the roughest savages alike, number it among the first days of a future state of existence, provided for the blest and happy! How many old recollections and how many dormant sympathies, Christmas time awakens! --Charles Dickens

Kindness is like snow: It makes beautiful everything it covers.

The evergreen tree has always, for thousands of years, been the traditional decoration for winter celebrations, whether it be the pre-Christmas Saturnalia or the Christmas holiday of our own era. In the seventeenth century, the Germans put up a tree and decorated it with colored paper, fruits, candy and the like. Sometimes trees were set up in the church as well as at home. The idea spread through other northern European countries and reached England in the 1800s. The first tree in our country is said to be one put up by a German professor at Harvard in 1832 in his Cambridge home.

--Pageant



*The party line*



### STATISTICS AND ANALYSES

Headrick and Hume - Reporters

Welcome to Renhart Nelson, who is a new member of our mapping section. We are glad to have you with us and we hope that you will find your work very interesting and that you will enjoy your new job. Mary Ann Brummett is the new cartographer in the mapping department. She majored in art at Hendrix College and was formerly employed as an interior decorator for a Little Rock firm. Glad to have you, Mary.

The Lee Gibbons family enjoyed a nice vacation in Miami, Florida, visiting his sister and family, Mr. and Mrs. Cal Porterfield. The Porterfields have lived in Miami for two years.

Pete Powell reports that two of our hunters, Harold Dunn and Hank Mercer, enjoyed a typical squirrel hunt on Cache River. After an all day hunt they bagged two squirrels and were thoroughly drenched by a cold, driving rainstorm. After they were soaked good, they made their way to their boat for the five-mile run in the rain. They both feel fortunate that their motor didn't conk out and that neither of them had an attack of pneumonia.

Our boss, Mr. Fred J. Herring, is attending the meeting of the National Association of State Highway Officials in Chicago, Illinois.

### LEGAL DIVISION

We are indeed happy to welcome Martha Hudgens back to our Highway Department family. Martha is no stranger to us as she has worked with us on previous occasions in several departments. She is now with us permanently in our Legal Division.

William A. Stewart, Attorney, has assumed the handling of Workmen's Compensation Claims and Claims filed against the Highway Department before the State Claims Commission.

Helen Hackett has returned from her trip to Daytona Beach, Florida with stops at St. Augustine, Silver Springs, New Orleans and others. She said she really enjoyed a drive along the ocean at Daytona Beach. She was delighted with the glass bottom boat excursion at Silver Springs, and with the night boat cruise at New Orleans, and the French Quarters there.

Attorneys Dowell Anders, Ed Boyett, Bill Demmer, and W. D. Kelley have been extremely busy in the preparation and trying of condemnation suits.

Our Legal Division is now finally located in its new headquarters in the Old Forestry Building. The building has been refurbished throughout and presents a pleasing atmosphere. We welcome all Highway Department Personnel to visit us.

# The Party Line

## MATERIALS AND TESTS

Julia M. Steel - Reporter

Charles Roach's son and George Allen's son had their tonsils removed since our last report. Both doing nicely.

Henry Dreher, Hays Medlock, Regal Cotton and James Earnhart took part of their vacation during the first week of deer season. Clifford Raborn reports that he killed his first deer November 18, and was very excited. Several of our employees have had good luck fishing recently.

We are glad to have Robert Donham back with us. Bob was off for a month due to illness. Grady Putnam reports that his father in Mena is ill at this time.

Congratulations to John Storey. He was married in June to Miss Jo Harris of Mountain View. She will join him in Charleston where he is working December 15.

Two former employees visited us recently. Billie Whittington of Alaska, and Maureen Rodgers of El Dorado. Come back.

T. B. and Hazel Rowe visited his mother in Missouri and helped her celebrate her birthday of 79 years.

Joe D. Magness and R. R. Rosin are attending the Photogrammetry School in Fort Worth. Given by Bureau of Public Roads.

Henry Dreher was in the November class at the Arkansas Consistory.

## ROADWAY DESIGN

John Hicks - Reporter

T. G. Orton returned recently from a trip to Washington, D. C., New York City, and points east. The trip was sponsored by Region 6, Bureau of Public Roads for the purpose of reviewing the toll roads and parkways of the area. Washington-Baltimore Parkway, New York Parkway, and Garden State Parkway were among those covered. Among the cities visited Travis said that the old city of Concord was the most interesting. T. O. reports that the tour was both enjoyable and instructive.

Mr. Fry, Pat Huddleston, Bob Narrell, and Frank Hutchison attended the Asphalt Institute held in the Colonial Room of the Marion Hotel on November 13.

Glenn (Ace) Trammel spent three weeks in October and November attending the school on aerial photography which was sponsored by the Bureau of Public Roads.

A majority of our personnel have been absent the past month with colds and the flu. At this writing Bud Smith and Fred Pulliam are at home entertaining colds.



## IBM DIVISION

LaVerne Henderson - Reporter

Erma and Robert Jetton are happy to have their son, Lane, who is with the Air Force in Florida, home on a 29-day leave, and also Erma's brother, O. T. Morgan, from Birmingham, Alabama.

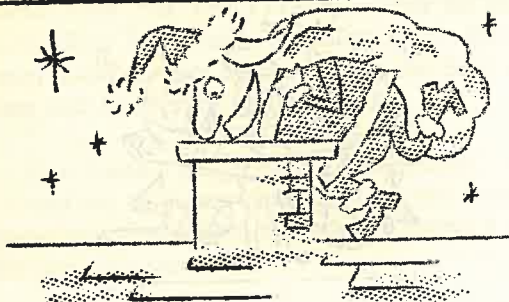
We are sorry that Mr. Spillman, Vault Custodian, had the flu, but he is back at work now and hope he continues to feel better.

Velma "Penny" Pennington was hostess to her brother Joe, from Flint, Michigan for a few days recently.

Art Johnson's mother and father-in-law Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Gehrung, of Chicago, were guests in the Johnson home for a week recently.

Gladys Plunkett's daughter, Sue, from the University of Arkansas, spent the Thanksgiving holidays with her.

Roy Shelby and his family spent a nice week end in Dallas recently visiting with his mother and father.



## PERSONNEL DIVISION

Hazel Norman - Reporter

The topics of our conversations up here on the fourth floor in our office are plans for Christmas, flu shots, and sputniks. Some of the Christmas plans are incomplete however. Guess most of us will let the holidays take care of themselves.

We have two college students in our department who are working part time. They are Hayward Gray, who attends Little Rock University, and Gilbert Bisher, who is a med student at the University of Arkansas Medical School. They have been serving as watchmen.

Sibble Cox plans to take her vacation around Christmas, but no trips. Just getting ready for the big day.

Frank Lewis, our watchman on the week ends, spent a week deer hunting in Bradley County between New Edinburg and Banks in November. There were 10 men in the party and between them there were 6 deer killed. One of the six had 10 points. Mr. Lewis said they would have bagged more but they were rained out. Your reporter will let you know how they taste in the next issue.

When we questioned Billie Ruth Moore about her activities during the holidays she replied: "I'm going to a whole bunch of parties and dances." We know Billie will enjoy the time off from her studies at Little Rock University.

## The party line

Mr. Tanner took a week's vacation in November and enjoyed it. He and wife, Dorothy saw the Arkansas-Ole Miss game in Memphis and drove down to England for a day or so, but other than that, he worked around the house. He has on order a brand new 1958 Bel Air Chevrolet but won't get delivery until around December 15. We're all anxiously awaiting to see it.

Hazel McKim and Roda Bintliff took their vacations in November but we didn't hear of any trips.

### ACCOUNTING DIVISION

Leslie and Bivens - Reporters

We have enjoyed working with Jean Lanier from Personnel, who has been doing some special work on Retirement.

Many members of Accounting have made big plans for the Christmas holidays. Lee Wagner and family plan to spend them in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, visiting with relatives and friends.

Aleene Boysen's guest for the holidays will be Mrs. Lee Lindsey and Miss Tiny Turner from Portland.

Olen Randle and husband are going to Fort Smith the week end following the big day to visit with their son and family.

Irene and Jim Hawkins and their two sons will spend Christmas with their relatives in Morrilton.

Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Hamilton, accompanied by their son, David Cole and his family from Morrilton, plan to spend the holidays visiting with relatives and friends in Wynne.

Howard Johnson's brother and his wife from Guatemala will spend Christmas in Pine Bluff.

Margaret Allen's son and family from Houston, Texas, drove up to spend the Thanksgiving holidays with Margaret and John.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Schamer spent the Thanksgiving holidays with their daughter Margaret, in Houston, Texas.

A potluck luncheon was held in our office October 29, to celebrate Johnny Beavers birthday. We had fish and a big birthday cake with 21 candles. We hope you have many, many more, Johnny.

Margaret and Porter Crisco plan to spend Christmas with relatives in Benton.

Lola Buck will spend a week during Christmas in Missouri visiting with her daughter and family. And Virginia and Ed Jones are going to Locksburg to spend Christmas with their families.



## BRIDGE DESIGN

Virginia Tackett - Reporter

Congratulations to all those in our office who have or will celebrate birthdays and wedding anniversaries in the last quarter of the calendar. James Matthews and Harold Bastian had birthdays in October; in November, Mike Mattox, John Hall, Sally Beckel, Keith Curtis, and yours truly had birthdays and John Hall and your reporter also celebrated their wedding anniversaries the same month. December brings birthdays for Walker Haigh, Collie Carlson and Glen Buchanan, and Harold and Hazel Bastian celebrate their wedding anniversary on December 22.

Official trips in November keep the office in a fever of entrances and exits. Bob Mattox left the first week in the month to go to Fort Worth to the Photogrammetry School sponsored by the Bureau of Public Roads. The week end of his second week there was cheered by seeing Reid and Sally Beckel who were in Dallas for the Arkansas-SMU game. They said Bob had been working hard and was glad to have only one week to go.

Harold Bastian, along with T. G. Orton of Roadway Design made a grand tour of eastern states, on an inspection trip over the various freeways. It was a very demanding week, but according to the participants, a very rewarding one. L. P. Carlson, Bridge Design Engineer, combined business with pleasure at the annual AASD convention. Mrs. Carlson accompanied

him to Chicago, and they visited old friends and scenes of their early married days in that part of the country. Mr. Carlson was honored for over 25 years of Highway work with the award of a 25-year pin.

The whole department, without dissent, agrees that the best Christmas is a Christmas at home and all plan to try to have that kind. We are working on plans for an office celebration with coffee and Christmas treats before the carol singing.

## EQUIPMENT AND PROCUREMENT

Mary M. Hill - Reporter

Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Fleming were recent visitors in Houston and Galveston, Texas, Oklahoma City, and Tulsa, Oklahoma and report a very pleasant vacation.

Other Texas visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Head and sons, David and Jonathan. They visited in Arlington where they were guests of Mr. Head's sister and family, Mrs. James Hampton. They were accompanied by Mr. Head's mother, Mrs. Hugh Champlain.

Our boss, Mr. Hayes, and Mr. Winfrey, spent the week end of November 16 in Kentucky Dam Village State Park, which is about 22 miles east of Paducah, on a pheasant hunt. They were the guests of Mr. Porter Little of Texarkana, Texas. The park is state operated and Mr. Hayes reported that it was very interesting. They were also lucky indeed as they got their limit of pheasants (4 each).

# The Party Line

Kay Bannell and husband, Joel, plan to spend the Christmas holidays in Wichita, Kansas, visiting with their families.

Doc Burns is enjoying an extended visit with his daughter, Marion Fay Nicolo and her two children from Boston, Massachusetts.

We are happy to report that Red Shaw, who has been ill with bronchial pneumonia, and J. W. Berryman, who had a very severe case of flu, are both back on the job.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernie Cox will have as guests Thanksgiving, Mrs. Cox's sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Tyler of Fort Worth, Texas, and her mother, Mrs. Alice Carter, and brother W. D. Carter from Aurora, Illinois.

Martha Pearle will have as guests over the holidays her brother and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin F. Pettey. Mr. Pettey has been stationed in Germany with the U. S. Army for the past three years and has married since he has been in Germany. He and Mrs. Pettey have an 18-month-old son. Martha is looking forward to meeting the new members of her family for the first time.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Kirchoff will spend Christmas in Paragould with Henry's mother, Mrs. J. B. Kirchoff.

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Yancey and son, Tommy will spend the Christmas holidays in Prescott and Hope, Arkansas.

M. L. Price is sporting a brand new blue and white Ford Fairlane sedan. We know he is proud of it. Congratulations.

Employees who vacationed in November were C. W. Lacey, Bruce Hardcastle, J. H. Roberson, and W. K. Heard. No trips reported, however.

Congratulations to Asa L. Duncan who received his 20-year Service Pin and Certificate of Merit on October 21.

## DISTRICT 2

Division 2      Ouida Grimes      Pine Bluff

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Jackson spent two days in October with his mother, Mrs. E. V. Jackson in Norman, Arkansas, to be on hand for the Jackson family reunion. Four generations of Jacksons attended.

Congratulations Selma Chavis on being a grandmother for the first time. Her son, Van Dyke Chavis, Jr., and wife, Myrtle Ann, are the proud parents of an 8 pound boy, Van Dyke, III.

James Pierce, wife, Laura, and their daughters, Lanell and Rose Lynn have moved into their new home at Number 10 School Street, Fair Grounds Addition.

Ot Tinsley went duck hunting and got his limit. (He didn't say what his limit was.) And annual leave slips really have come in since deer season opened. About 45 employees took off to try their luck, which we hope is good.

*The party line*

Division 2, con't.

A good many of our employees and their families have had the flu, and some still have it. Hope all are up and about soon. Edgar Carpenter has been off sick for some time and we wish him a very speedy recovery and return to work.

W. H. Cook saw Spudnik, but Russell Gaddy heard the dog bark. (Come now, boys.)

A belated Happy Birthday to Charles Emrick, who celebrated his birthday on November 3. He says he is 35.

#### DISTRICT 1

Headquarters Kathryn Booher Jonesboro

We are all ready to trade cars for good boats, up here. Does anyone have a good offer? Rain and more rain is the daily bill of fare and you never saw so much water in all your life.

J. C. Perkins attended the AASHO convention in Chicago the middle of November and had a very pleasant trip. L. A. McCain visited Dallas and Fort Worth the latter part of October, inspecting and viewing Interstate projects in those areas. He reported the trip to be very interesting and beneficial as well as enjoyable.

**CHRISTMAS PLANS:** Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Nunnally and daughter, Anne, plan to spend Christmas day with Mr. Nunnally's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Nunnally in Strong, Arkansas. Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Perkins will spend the holidays with re-

latives and friends at their home in Harrison...Mr. and Mrs. L. A. McCain and son expect to spend an enjoyable holiday season at their home in Jonesboro. No trip planned as yet. Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Cobb and son plan to stay in this vicinity for the holidays.

This Christmas will be a happy occasion for your reporter, as I will have my husband back home with me. He will be discharged from Uncle Sam's army just before Christmas, and we will spend the holidays with relatives and friends.

"Merry Christmas and a Most Happy and Prosperous New Year to Everyone" from District 1, Jonesboro.

This bit of philosophy might come in handy for some who are "abed with flu": If you get sick, don't worry, only two things can happen: you'll either get well or you won't. If you do, you don't need to worry; and if you don't only two things can happen - either you'll die or you won't. If you don't, you'll have no cause to worry, and if you do, only two things can take place: either you'll go to Heaven or you won't. If you do, you don't need to worry...and if you don't you won't have time to worry because you will be so busy shaking hands with old friends.

--Cabot Star Herald

Santa enters through a hole in the chimney and leaves through a hole in your pocket.



*The partyline*

DISTRICT 3

Division 3 Olive Jackson Hope

Our office was very glad to have a visit from Ed Orsini and G. W. Stanford from the Little Rock office. recently. We hope they come back soon.

Sybil and Schley Carter have returned from Kansas City, Missouri, where they made the acquaintance of their grandson, Theodore Eugene Lemser, who arrived October 11. Mr. and Mrs. Ted Lemser are the proud parents.

Among those who have been on deer hunts recently are: Lester Purtle, Sam Huckabee, Howell Baker, Raymond Carlton, Eldredge Lee, Horace Ellen, and F. B. Lee. Howell and Horace were the lucky ones, each having bagged a deer.

Oren White and Miss Agnes Ward of Prescott, were married Thursday, October 10 in the home of Mr. White's brother, Elder Howard White in Gurdon who officiated at the ceremony. We wish them much luck and happiness.

Clovis and Nettie Tittle and son, James Gilbert, visited another son, Charles Ray, who is a student at College Station, Texas on October 12. While there they saw the Homecoming game between Texas A. & M. and Baylor at Bryan, Texas.

Congratulations to Elmer and Georgia Clark, who are the proud parents of a daughter, born October 20.

Margie Clark will come in from Harding College to spend the holidays with mom and dad, Ardell and Nellie Clark. Another daughter, Sue, and hubby, Arlen Bolls, of San Antonio, will also be here.

Ted Maryman attended the Consistory in Little Rock November 11 and 12.

Your reporter will be spending the holidays with sister, Mrs. Hugh Petty and Mr. Petty in Marianna.

From all of us to all of you out there we wish a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!

A DAY OF GIFTS

The custom of exchanging presents on a certain day in the year is very much older than Christmas and means very much less. It has prevailed in almost all ages of the world and among many different nations.

It is a fine thing, or a foolish thing, as the case may be; an encouragement of friendliness, or a tribute to fashion; an expression of good nature, or a bid for labour; an outgoing of generosity, or a disguise of greed; a cheerful old custom, or a futile old farce; according to the spirit which animates it and the form which it takes.

But when this ancient and variously interpreted tradition of a day of gifts was transferred to the Christmas season, it was brought into vital contact with an idea which must transform it, and with an example in the life of Jesus. The idea is unselfishness for the happiness of others.

# The Party Line

District 5, con't.

Ray Crouse, District 5 construction employee, and family will spend the Christmas holidays in Kansas City with Mrs. Crouse's parents and other relatives.

We in District 5, Division 9, and District 5 Construction, wish to extend Holiday Greetings to all our many friends and acquaintances in AHD with the hope they will all have a very MERRY CHRISTMAS.

DISTRICT 2

Division 6 Edith Green Reporter

Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Sanders of Conway, who celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary Sunday, November 3 with a family reunion and dinner. Among the more than 50 guests were four children, 10 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Other friends dropped in during the afternoon for cake and coffee. Mr. and Mrs. Sanders are the parents of Mr. John H. Sanders, Division 6 Maintenance Superintendent and grandparents of Bill Hoggard, Field Auditor for the Russellville District. The couple can truly be classified as natives, as they have lived in Faulkner County all their lives. Congratulations, again, and may they celebrate many more.

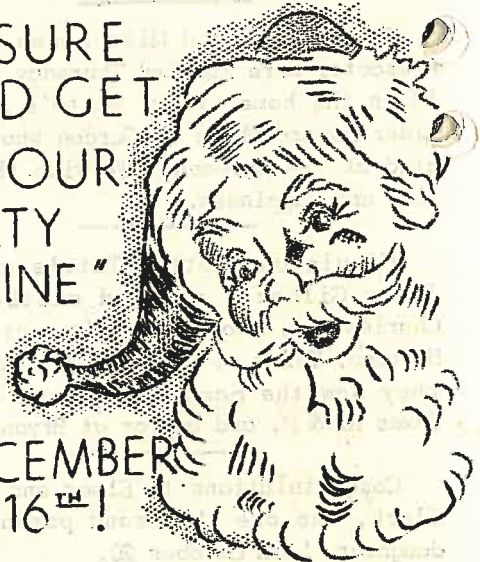
Among our deer hunters, George Ingle was lucky, and J. W. Gilbert got an ear(?) but lost the honor to someone else. Woody Hardin came back with a goat-(tee) and mustache. (a dilly).

George Ingle and Ocean Diffee went fishing recently and had extra good, but questionable luck. The fish brought back showed no signs of fish hook, and/or club marks. At this time they were cleaning out the lakes around Hot Springs and plenty could have been picked up from the bank. (??)

We extend our deepest sympathies to the following employees and their families: Les Baker and Van Baker with the Bridge Crew, whose Mother passed away November 12; Charlie Perry of Hazen, whose father passed away October 24; Richard Booth, also of Hazen, who lost his father October 25.

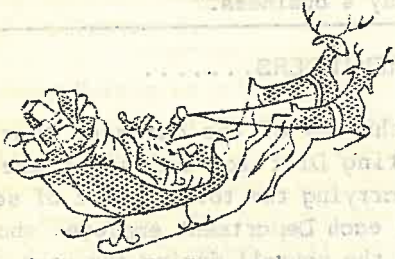
We will all miss Mr. Charlie Holderbaum very much and extend our sympathies to his family.

BE SURE  
AND GET  
YOUR  
"PARTY  
LINE"  
IN  
BY  
DECEMBER  
16<sup>TH</sup>!



# SANTA COMES TO TOWN

by John Hicks



The smell of cedar in the air, trees twinkling with colored lights, a candle in a window, a bunch of glossy red holly berries or mistletoe with its waxy white berries shout, "It's Christmas."

The picture flashing on most minds at the magic word Christmas is that a jolly lovable little man, with white whiskers and twinkling blue eyes named Santa Claus, has come to represent the very spirit of Christmas, personifying the true spirit of unselfish giving. Somehow we never completely lose faith in this jolly messenger of Christmas Cheer, who makes glad the hearts of children on Christmas morning.

Santa's one secret is his age but it is known that the snows of many winters have been tracked by his sleigh. Old folk tales report that he was known in the days of ancient Rome. History records his appearance in Germany in 1604.

We would not have recognized the youthful Saint Nicholas, patron saint of the German youth, as the jolly old elf we call Santa Claus, On Christmas Eve,

dressed in priestly robes, he rode from door to door on a little white donkey filling the good childrens' wooden shoes with sweetmeats. Woe to the naughty child for in his shoe would be a bundle of switches as a warning to change his mischievous ways.

From the shores of the Zuyder Zee come folk tales of this same Saint Nicholas lovingly called Good Saint Nick. No longer is he clothed in priestly robes but has adapted the garb of the jolly Dutch burgher more in keeping with our own Santa. Christmas Eve finds him puffing on a long-stemmed church warden pipe as he fills little Dutch shoes with Christmas cheer. The Christ-like quality of good Saint Nick won for him the name Kris Kringle, meaning "The Christ Child" among the good Dutch burghers.

Saint Nick came with the Dutch patrols to New Amsterdam in the days of Peter Stuyveson. It was here that he became the jolly old Santa Claus who drops down our chimneys with his heavy pack the night before Christmas. English speaking children hearing the Dutch children say Saint Nicholas repeated it running their words together which became Santa Claus.

Today Santa is in all countries, even replacing old Father Christmas in England. Weather conditions in the new world forced him to exchange his little white donkey for a sleigh and reindeer. His long-stemmed pipe has lost most of its stem, but the sparkle in his blue eyes is as bright and the chuckle just as merry as the good St. Nick on Zuyder Zee.

May this jolly old gentlemen drop down your chimney with a bag full of Merry, Merry Christmas for all.

*The party line*

DISTRICT 5  
Headquarters Shirley Morton Harrison

DISTRICT 1  
Division 10 Jo Willie Dickey

The Springdale Area Headquarters won first prize in the Division of Well Planned Yards by the Sonora Community Home Demonstration Club recently. Congratulations to Henry Coe who is the Assistant Maintenance Superintendent.

Jeff Davis is the new Area Foreman in Searcy County, with his headquarters in Marshall, Arkansas. Jeff replaces K. C. Leslie, who passed away on October 1.

Ralph H. Wyatt, Resident Engineer in District 5, received his 15-year Service Pin and Certificate of Merit in November. Congratulations Ralph, and we hope you enjoy many more years of service with AHD.

During the deer season in November, Pete Sims killed a nice 4-point buck. Pete was checking gravel on Highway 14 between Omaha and Lead Hill when he saw the deer nearby and took advantage of the situation, after which he continued with his gravel checking.

C. M. Matthews and family are the proud owners of a beautiful new Oldsmobile, which we are certain they are enjoying very much.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. "Slim" Porter are planning to spend the Christmas holidays in Dallas with two of their sons and families and a daughter and family will join them from Baytown, Texas.

We were very happy to have Mr. Leebrick and Mr. Stanford from the Little Rock office as visitors and hope they will come again.

Mr. and Mrs. Jess Rush and daughter, Donna, took a well earned vacation this month visiting his brother in Rockford, Illinois and their daughter, Mrs. Donald Sharp and family in Anderson, Indiana.

Asa Duncan spent a few days with us inspecting equipment. It's always a pleasure to have him.

We are looking forward to a great feast as Jim Long and Granger McDaniel are taking their vacations deer hunting. Bill Pillow and Keland Fletcher are also vacationing but did not give us any deer tails on trips.

Dorothy Lovelace, daughter of F. F. Lovelace, mechanic in our Division, will be married to Bill Green on the television program, "Bride and Groom" in New York on November 19. Congratulations to the happy couple.

Let no pleasure tempt thee, no profit allure thee, no ambition corrupt thee, to do anything which thou knowest to be evil; so shalt thou always live jollily; for a good conscience is a continual Christmas.

Benjamin Franklin

## The party line

Our entire department was rather surprised, not to mention nonplussed when we received a card from Joe Howard from guess where? Alcatraz! Turned out o.k. though, as he and his wife were on vacation in those parts, Joe has returned to his duties as area foreman so we are breathing normally once more.

The announcement of group insurance in the magazine was read with much enthusiasm and we are anxiously awaiting further details on it.

Thought for the month:

"Kindness is something that even the dumb can understand."



The song, "Silent Night," echoed out of the small village of Obendorf in the Tyrolean Alps of Austria. The twenty-five year old rector of the village church, Joseph Mohr, was alone the Christmas eve of 1818 when he heard a loud pounding on the door. He opened the door and a woman pushed past him gasping, "Come, a child is born, and the young father and mother want you to bless their home." Then the woman collapsed from exhaustion.

The rector started out on a tedious journey up the mountain side to a small cabin, miles distant. After many hours of climbing he reached his destination and saw within the cabin a repetition of the Nativity scene. The young mother lay on a bed of boughs, and her newborn son lay in a rough hewn cradle made by the Alpine mountaineer father. The rector blessed the home and left the cabin to make a re-

turn journey to the village. His heart filled with song because of the uplifting impressive scene; and his ears filled with the rapturous tune which enveloped him. Keeping his feet in rhythm he made his way down the mountain side. That Christmas night the rector stayed up writing the manuscript for his inspired song.

The next morning, Joseph Mohr visited the village organist and choirmaster, Franz Gruber. He asked the choirmaster to pick out the melody of the song on an old guitar because the organ was broken. A few hours later Franz Gruber ran to the rectory with the tune and words he had sounded out. On December 25, 1818, the villagers of Obendorf gathered in the rectory to hear for the first time the song, "Silent Night," sung by Joseph Mohr in a baritone voice and Franz Gruber in a loud bass. It was a song of peace.



# JEST FOR FUN

by Jimmy Zinn



Said the visitor in the country hotel:  
"Boy, dash up to room 65 and see if my raincoat is hanging behind the door. Hurry, because I've a train to catch."

In a few minutes the boy returned.  
"Yes, sir," he said. "It's there like you said."

The housewife exclaimed to the itinerant at the back door, "Do you enjoy walking around the countryside begging for food?"

"No ma'am," he said. "I often wish I had a car."

A man was being interviewed by a reporter on his 100th birthday. He answered all the questions put to him quite promptly until the reporter asked him to what he attributed the fact that he'd reached such a milestone.

There was a rather long pause and then the old man drawled, "Well, I guess the main reason I got to be 100 years old was that I was born in 1857."

ROSE: "My husband has no idea what I go through when he snores."

Laura: "Mine never misses his small change either."

A pedestrian is a guy who knows there are still several gallons of gas in the tank when the gauge shows empty.

Girl Friends: "So your millionaire's check bounced?"

Chorous Girl: "Yeah, and it was marked - Insufficient fun!"

"I hear you've been to a school for stuttering. Did it cure you?"

"Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers."

"Why that's wonderful."

"Yes, but it's h-hard to work into an ordinary c-c-conversation."

A grocer was standing in front of his store when he saw a driverless car rolling slowly down the street. He ran to the car, jumped in and pulled on the emergency brake with a jerk. As he got out, a little proud, a man walked up.

"Well," said the grocer to the car owner, "I stopped it!"

"Yeah, I know," said the owner, "I was pushing it."

"Doctor, is kleptomania catching?"

"No, Hoskins, it's taking."

A government crop inspector visited backwoods farm and started asking questions.

"Do you people around here have trouble with insects getting in your corn?"

"We sure do," replied the farmer, "But we jes' fishes 'em out and drinks it anyhow."

Did 'ya hear the one about the 70-year old Colonel who called the regimental officers together to announce the birth of an 8-pound boy. He finished with the words: "And Gentlemen, I thank you."

Modern children who run away from home may be looking for their parents.



HOLIDAY



GREETINGS

The members of the Commission of the Arkansas State Highway Department, the Director of Highways, and Chief Engineer, extends Best Wishes to all Department employees, for a very JOYOUS and MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

*H. V. Crain*      *Glenn Wallace*  
*C. Lynch*      *H. W. Darrin*  
*Raymond L. Orr*

*Herbert Redridge*      *Ward Godman*



