

Arkansas

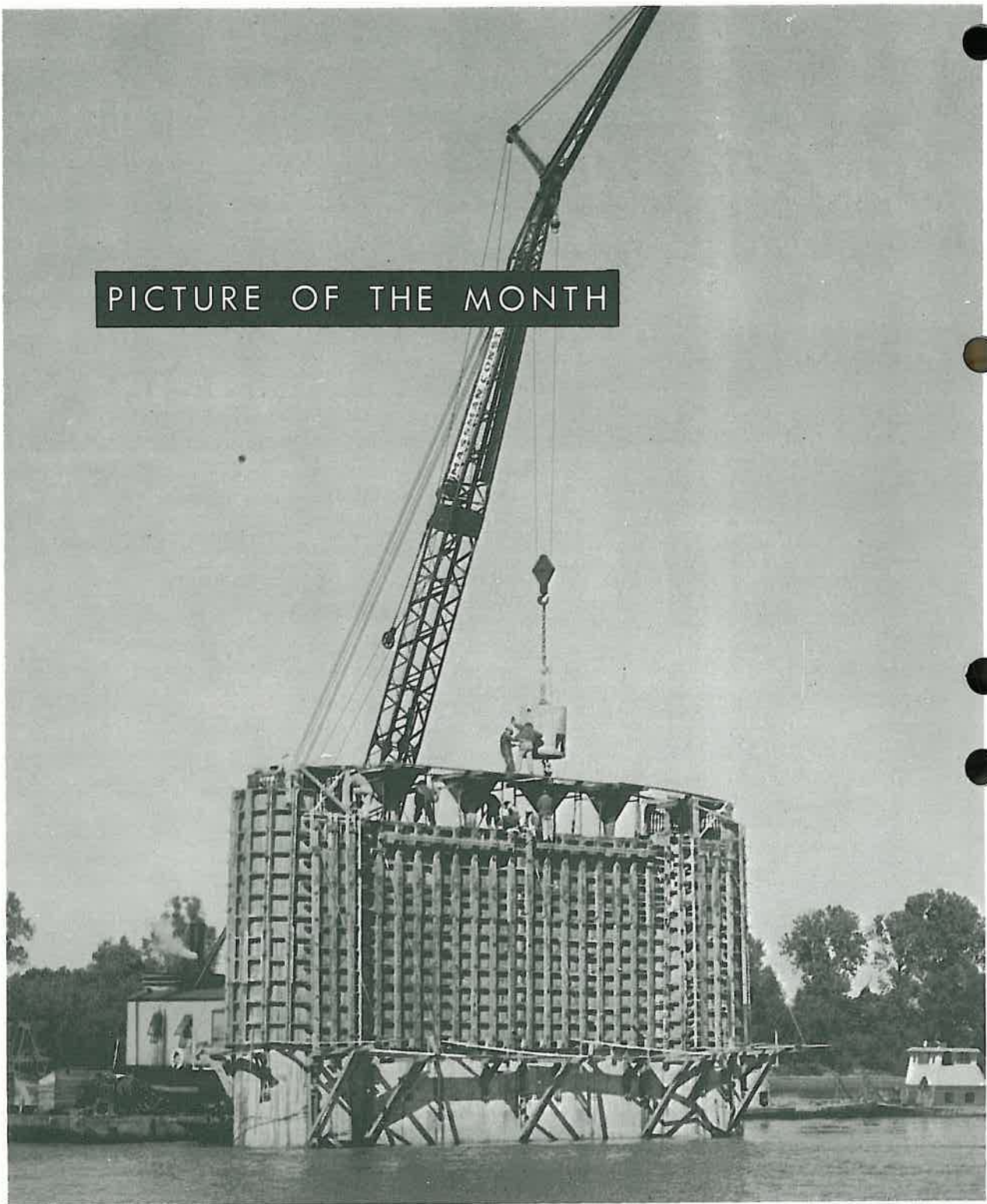
December 1958

HIGHWAY

magazine



PICTURE OF THE MONTH





Arkansas Highways

DECEMBER 1958

Vol VI

No. 1

Issued monthly for and by the employees of the Arkansas State Highway Commission as a medium of departmental news and other information.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

- Glenn F. Wallace

VICE CHAIRMAN

-Harry W. Parkin

Members

James H. Crain
Raymond F. Orr
Lawrence Blackwell

DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS

- Herbert Eldridge

CHIEF ENGINEER

Ward Goodman



Cover Picture: Our cover picture, which was a time exposure taken at night by Johnnie Gray, shows the beautifully decorated tree just inside the lobby of the Little Rock building.

Picture of the Month (opposite page): Workmen busy on the first pier, still in its incipient stage, of the Third Bridge, which will span the Arkansas River at Little Rock and North Little Rock.

Prepared and edited in the Personnel Division.

Martha L. Adams - editor
Billie R. Hatcher - vari-typist
Johnnie Gray - photographer

Better than the observance of Christmas Day is the idea of keeping Christmas.

Are you willing, for example, to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you?

To ignore what the world owes you, and think what you owe the world?

To put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground?

To see that your fellowmen are just as real as you are, to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy?

To own that probably the only good reason for your existence is not what you are going to get out of life, but what you are going to give to life?

To close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness?

Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and desires of little children?

To remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old?

To stop asking how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough?

To trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you?

Are you willing to do these things even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world - stronger than death - and that the blessed Life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas. And if you can keep it for a day, why not always? But you can never keep it alone.

Henry Van Dyke



CHRISTMAS LEGENDS

by John C. Hicks
Roadway Design

The sweet, tangy fragrance of cedar hovers like incense over miniature evergreen forests on every spare street corner. Among the everyday evergreens lined with military precision, stand trees changed by the touch of a fairy wand into woodland Cinderellas. A proud queen, tall and stately in robes of gleaming silver, is surrounded by her maids, gowned in glistening white and wedding-cake pink.

Evergreen wreaths, bright with the rich, soft, brown of pine cones, cover a rude hut, almost hidden among the trees. Great clusters of mistletoe, heavy with waxy, white berries, drip from its eaves.

Street corner forests, displaying the greenery symbolic of Christmas, are the first harbingers of the joyous yuletide season.

For more than twelve centuries, evergreen trees festooned with twinkling lights, laden with glittering ornaments, holly wreaths in candle-lighted windows, mistletoe, waxy white berries, gleaming above a doorway, and the scarlet poinsettias, have sent forth a message of peace and good will to the world.

In season or out, cedar, mistletoe and holly bring memories of Christmas. None of these symbols were chosen for beauty alone, but each is truly symbolic of the Christ Child. Each had its beginning in legend.

Pagans of Northern Europe believed certain evergreens were sacred. During a religious festival held in December they decorated their sacred trees with gilded nuts and apples in imitation of stars.

Historians tell us the tree, as a symbol of Christ originated in ancient Germany. In 718, Pope Gregory II commissioned Winifred, a young priest, to go into Germany and spread the teachings of Jesus among the pagan tribes. Here the young priest found a strange religion. They worshipped a god, who made his home in the sacred Oak of Geismar. Winifred was accepted by the pagan priest

and invited to their winter festival which fell on Christmas Eve.

Arriving at the sacred Oak he found the worshippers about to sacrifice their baby Prince Asulf to the god Thor. When the sacrificial knife was raised to end the life of little Prince Asulf, Winifred sprang forward and stayed the hand of the executioner. Grasping an axe, he felled the "blood oak." As it toppled to the ground a young fir tree miraculously appeared in its place. Declaring it to be the tree of life or the Christ Child, he told the people of his birth and teachings. Pleased at his display of courage they listened and accepted Christianity.

The Druids, ancient Celtic priests, who worshipped in a grove of sacred Oak, believe that mistletoe which grew in the sacred Oak was a symbol of good fortune. Sprigs cut from the tree with a golden blade were used as "luck bringing" charms. This practice was probably the origin of our kissing under the mistletoe.

An old Viking tale attributes magical power to mistletoe. It was with an arrow of mistletoe that Balder, son of the goddess Frigga, was slain.

Many superstitions surround this magic plant. For each kiss exchanged under the mistletoe, a berry is plucked. When the berries are gone its magic is gone. It has no magic unless it is shot from the tree with a shotgun. Mistletoe, according to an Ozark hill superstition, found on the north side of a white oak will cure epilepsy.

Holly or the holy tree and the poinsettia were not original symbols of Christmas, but have been borrowed from Easter. Before Jesus was crucified the holly had smooth, round leaves; and thorns covered its branches! The crown of thorns was formed from a holly branch. The next day its thorns changed to bright red berries, representing drops of Jesus' blood, and each leaf was tipped with a thorn.

The poinsettia on the slopes of Golgotha bore beautiful snow white blossoms before the crucifixion. Growing in profusion at the foot of the cross, they were stained with the blood of Christ. Even until this day stain remains; and the snow white blossoms no longer clothe the slopes of Golgotha.

Highway Dinner Held

Provide an opportunity for Highway Department employees to congregate in one place and fun will be had by all.

This was evident on November 24 when a cocktail hour, dinner and dancing was enjoyed by employees and members of the Commission at Riverdale Country Club.

The purpose was twofold - a Christmas gala for the employees and an appreciation party for Raymond Orr, who will terminate six years devoted service as Highway Commissioner in January.

The cocktail hour began at 6:30. At 7:30 dinner was served buffet style. Fred Tanner, personnel director, welcomed the guests and introduced Bill Hays, personnel statistician, who gave the invocation.

Frank Caple, of the Jacksonville group, acted not only as master of ceremonies, but like a magician, quipping and performing tricks of magic. Members of the Commission, including Glenn F. Wallace, chairman; H. W. Parkin, vice-chairman, Lawrence Blackwell and Mr. Orr, were introduced and our Director, Herbert Eldridge, regaled and "sermonized" his audience for a short time before presenting Mr. Orr a Certificate in appreciation of his devotion to the Mack-Blackwell Amendment during his tenure in office. Each Commissioner expressed his thoughts and Ward Goodman, chief engineer, concluded the talks with the remark that he would not make a speech as it was officially "Raymond Orr Night."

Mr. Orr reviewed his experiences over the past six years as Highway Commissioner and praised Mr. Eldridge for the fine job he has done in directing the Commission since its non-political inception.

Mr. Orr's termination as Commissioner was the only cloud on an otherwise festive occasion. He has served diligently, often at the expense of his own private enterprise, and it was aptly expressed by Mr. Wallace that we only hope his successor is as good a commissioner as was Mr. Orr.

When departmental personnel changes were mentioned the name of J. T. Pendergrass, assistant chief engineer, was inadvertently omitted. It was purely an oversight but we take this means to make amends.

Among the guests were the Fred Herrings and E. E. Mashburn, Srs., both men retired Department heads. It was noted that neither joined in tripping the light fantastic which followed the dinner hour - not because of their age but because they are by now "used to being retired."

As was said in the beginning, everyone had fun.

We were swamped with news for this issue (we're not complaining) so in order to get it in, we devoted most of the space for it and the articles scheduled, "Highways 1965", "Controlled Access" and others, shall be in the January edition. We did receive news from Divisions 7 and 3 too late but it too shall be used.

Your response to the new magazine more than compensates for the last minute "battle of nerves" the magazine staff may endure in order to meet our deadline with the printer. We're still neophytes on the new method but we're learning. And remember that if we don't use your pictures in a current issue they will be used, so send them and your news to us by the deadline date.

From all of us in Personnel to all of you out there, a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and a MOST PROSPEROUS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!



JAN 12

NEWS DEADLINE



AROUND THE BUILDING

Our Director, *Herbert Eldridge* was guest speaker November 21, at the Rosedale Optimist Club monthly meeting and dinner. He and Mrs. Eldridge were among those who attended the AASHO convention in San Francisco December 1-5. Other speaking engagements are the Batesville Kiwanis Club's noon meeting December 19; the ASCE meeting; and the Pine Bluff Kiwanis Club December 31.

Johnnie Gray, Department photographer, went to Dallas, Texas the week of December 12-19, for the purpose of equipping his new Highway Department film with the sound tract. We understand the new film is a good one and the Department heads will have an opportunity to find out at a sneak preview which Johnnie will show in the Commission Room December 28. The film is titled "Progress In Our State".



Director Eldridge is shown presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to Commissioner Raymond F. Orr at the Highway Department dinner November 24 at Riverdale Country Club. (Other pictures on the dinner are on pages 9 and 10.

The executive staffs of Engineers Joint Council and the Engineering Manpower Commission expressed their appreciation to the Highway Department for its continued operation in the activities of the Council by presenting to the Department a certificate. The certificate was issued "in recognition of effective participation during 1958 in studies of engineering manpower and related employment conditions, thus furthering the objectives of the Engineers Joint Council and of the Engineering Profession." The certificate was presented by the Joint Council, and signed by Enoch Needles, president.



At the Commission Meeting November 25, three employees received their Service Pins and Certificates of Merit for having 25 or more service with the Department.

Those receiving the awards by the Commission were: Robert V. Melton, distributor driver in Division 1, with 25 years; J. R. Henderson, engineer of Statistics and Analyses with 30 years; and Eldridge P. Douglass, resident engineer in Construction, with 25 years. Mr. Douglass received his awards a week before he retired at the age of 70, in keeping with Minute Order 2082.

Through The Grapevine

STATISTICS AND ANALYSES

Mary Ann Crow

A Social Activities Committee was appointed recently in our division with a member representing each section. *Buddy Lewter* was elected chairman by the group which is made up of *E. W. Smith, Mary Ann Crow, Jim Carvell, Cecil Rider, and Margarine Turner.* These six will plan and make arrangements for all S.&A. social functions and will also be responsible for sending flowers, memorials, and get-well and sympathy cards to division members and their households.

The *Bill Smiths* drove to Fayetteville for the Homecoming Game between Arkansas and SMU on the week end of November 15. Also making the trip were your reporter and husband, *Lewis*, who stayed in Clarksville over the week end and drove up for the game from there.

A Christmas Eve Party and Open House will be held in our offices and will be complete with Christmas music and lots of refreshments. All who aren't taking leave that day are looking forward to the party.

An excellent Christmas meal and a good time were enjoyed by the women in the office when they held their annual Christmas Luncheon December 19, at the Embers. The table was centered with a festive arrangement of holly and red balls in a milk glass vase and flanked by tall red candles in matching holders. Each place was marked with a card and a gift for which names had been drawn.

During the Thanksgiving holiday week end *Ruth Cantley* went to Dallas for a family gathering at the home of her son *Russell*, and also went to a Cotton Bowl game while there ... *Jim Carvell* was in Nashville, Tennessee over the Thanksgiving holiday and saw Vanderbilt-Tennessee game there.

Jane and *Carl Huff* were both injured in a car accident on Thanksgiving day as they were returning from a trip to Fayetteville. Both were hospitalized at Arkansas Baptist Hospital with *Carl* suffering a broken jaw

and chin, and *Janie* a hip injury which required surgery. *Carl* has been dismissed from the hospital and *Janie* is hoping to be at home for Christmas. We all certainly hope that also... *Bill Trickett* was ill during the last two weeks in November, and was hospitalized for four days. We're glad that he's back with us.

Mr. Henderson, our division head, went to the AASHO convention in San Francisco.

ROADWAY PLANS

Lee, Hicks and Potter

Howard and *Judy Webb* are enjoying their new roles as parents, since November 30, when *Toney Howard Webb* made his appearance...a fine 7 pound, 14 ounce bundle of pride and joy. Congratulations to Mama and Papa.

We now have an auxiliary policeman (Arkansas Civil Defense) in the Roadway Design Division. *John E. Dunn* signed his written oath on September 1, 1958, and reports that he directed traffic at War Memorial Stadium. Has anyone noticed traffic tie-ups after the games?

Hunting is in full swing...*Joe Hicks* reported going to *Harris Brake* and bringing back two ducks...*Charles Toland* went to *Lonoke* and forgot to bring the ducks back with him (?) ... *Glenn Trammel* gave the squirrels a try without any luck. Maybe December will produce better results.

There has been a slight oversight in reporting new personnel. *Charles R. Logan* reported to the Highway Department on September 15. He is a graduate from *Finlay Engineering College* in *Kansas City, Missouri*, and has a Bachelor's Degree in Science. Glad to have him with us.

Betty Hutchison, wife of *Frank Hutchison*, is recuperating from a recent operation at *St. Vincent's Infirmary*. Get well soon, *Betty!*

Ralph H. Rogers, (no relation to U. S. Attorney General *Bill Rogers*) who is in *Orton's* squad, received his 20-year Service Pin and Certificate of Merit recently. *Ralph*

Through The Grapevine

ROADWAY DESIGN (cont.)

is obliged to behave since there are four girls checking on him - wife, *Roena*, and daughters, *Pam*, *Debra*, and *Terry*.

Christmas briefs: *Travis Orton* will duck hunt, as will *Frank Lemon* and *Jim Breazeal*. Jim and his family will also visit in Bastrop, Louisiana.

Pat Thompson and family will visit in *Pryor* and other points of Oklahoma...*Sidney Lee* and wife, *Lillian*, expect visits from daughter and son-in-law who live in Fayetteville; and from *Jim Lee*, Longview, Texas.

The *Travis Ortons* expect their son, *Buddy*, and family of Fayetteville home for the holidays. Their son *Donnie* will remain on duty at Subic Bay, Phillipines, with the Navy.

Bud and *Ruth Smith* will entertain relatives from Jonesboro over the holidays.

John and *Peggy Hicks* entertained their son-in-law and daughter, *Mr.* and *Mrs. Harold Jones*, *Peggy's* parents, *Mr.* and *Mrs. J. A. Bratton*, and *Mr.* and *Mrs. Jerome Richardson* of Leslie, at a Thanksgiving dinner.

COUNTY ROADS

Zelda M. Riggs

Max Hall and daughter *Helen Anne*, had as guests over the Thanksgiving holidays his daughter, *Jo* and son-in-law, *Ernest Avea*, and children from Fort Worth, Texas.

Donald L. Legate has joined our County Roads Division, as Junior Draftsman. *Donald* lives in North Little Rock. Welcome, Don.

This reporter and husband, *Richard*, shall have a family reunion at Christmas time. All the children, grandchildren, brother, *H. E. Hudgins* and wife, Popular Bluff, Missouri; nephew, *Holder E. Hudgins, jr.*, and family of Kansas City, Kansas, and sister, *Mrs. Ella B. Hurst* of Fayetteville; and cousin *Mary Hudgins* of Hot Springs. All guests are children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren of *Mother Allen*, this reporter's mother.

RIGHT-OF-WAY

Nancy Conrad

Rose Bivens and *Bill Bradley*, both of the Right-of-Way Division, were married on November 26, at Rose's home town of Roland. The couple were honored with a party, which was a complete surprise to Rose, November 21, by the personnel in the office. The table was decorated with white tablecloth and a centerpiece of autumn colored mums. Refreshments of cup cakes decorated with silver wedding bells and pink ribbons, with coffee and after dinner mints and party mix were served. The couple received an electric blanket with dual controls, from the office force. Everyone enjoyed it and we all wish Rose and Bill much happiness and good luck in the years ahead.

We, of Right-of-Way, are having a turnover of sorts in our personnel...*Retha Griffin* is our new payroll clerk, replacing Rose... *Carolyn Wilkerson* is transferring to the Legal Section and replacing her is *Tommy A. Parish*, as steno...and yours truly is taking *Carolyn's* place as reporter.

W. R. Thrasher, general counsel in R. of W., was in San Francisco attending the AASHO meeting. While he was there he spoke on "Utility Laison in Arkansas."

During the Thanksgiving holidays several Right-of-Way employees were guests elsewhere. They were: *Dwight Little*, who was in Cape Girardeau, Missouri; *Bill Hoggard*, Kansas City, Missouri; *Woody Laird* went to Natchez, Mississippi the week end before... *Les Evitts* visited in Fort Smith to visit his parents, and was accompanied by "Ruby." (Everyone should know that Ruby is his dog.) He attended the performance of "Amahl and the Night Visitors" while there, which was given by the NBC Opera Company. (Did Ruby go to the opera, Les?) *Fay Wallace* and wife spent their usual week end on their farm at Perry.

We are sorry that *A. W. Hardy's* wife fractured her ankle, and all hope that she is

Through The Grapevine

feeling much better. *Clyde Connelly* required medical attention when he had to have a bone removed from his throat on November 28, the day after Thanksgiving.

Virginia "Hungry" Cannon was married November 1, to *Gilbert Lewis*. We all wish Gilbert and "Hungry" much happiness.

George Foster and *Zack Mashburn* played hosts Thanksgiving week end, to their children.

Nathan Garrett brought home a 7-point Virginia Whitetail buck from Blue Mountain recently...that's what we call luck! *Gip Robertson* hunted duck and quail over Thanksgiving and said that he had only fair luck. Incidentally, he goes hunting every week end but it isn't always publicized.

Bob Evans of our division and *Pete Powell* of S.&A., and a friend (your reporter's father) had quite a little excursion on Lake Conway November 26. The way we hear it, if Pete hadn't "chickened-out" they would have caught more fish, Huh, Pete? And speaking of fish - have you seen the albino catfish at the Game and Fish Commission?

The eleven-year-old daughter of *Ed Orsini*, *Merrily Ann*, who is in the sixth grade, was having difficulty with her teacher...as some kids will do. Being disturbed, she confronted her mother with her problem. Her mother gave her this bit of advice. "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em." *Merrily Ann* apparently thought this over very carefully, for in a couple of months she again presented her problem in this way, "Mother, remember what you said about "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em?" - Well, my teacher joined me."

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYBODY!

ACCOUNTING DIVISION

Margaret Wallace

Welcome to *Jimmy Stringer* our new mail room clerk. Jimmy is replacing *Harold Young*, who was fortunate in receiving a four-year scholarship to the College of the Ozarks.

Virginia Jones vacationed for a week recently and visited her mother at Locksburg;

her brother at Dallas, and her grandmother at Fort Worth. She plans to spend Christmas at Locksburg.

We are sorry to hear about *Mrs. Joe Schamer* falling in her yard, resulting in a broken ankle.

Thanksgiving comings and goings were: *Allene Boysen* visited *Mrs. Lee Lindsey* at Portland; *Irene Hawkins'* son *Jim*, came home from Searcy; *Lola Buck's* guests were her daughter and family from St. Charles, Missouri and son and family from Forrest City. *Helen (Cookie) McCook* visited her mother and sister at St. Louis, and also took a side trip to Marthasville, Missouri, to take in the fifty-fifth wedding anniversary of her brother-in-law's parents.

Christmas Plans: *Peggy Eldred* is going to her home in Memphis for two weeks... *Olin (Randy) Randle* plans to visit with her son and family in Fayetteville, then on to Batesville to visit with relatives over New Years...*Irene Hawkins* will be showing off her new station wagon at a family get-together in Morrilton...*Jim Watts* plans to spend Christmas with his bride-to-be, *Carolyn Martin* and her family...*John Allen 3rd*, and his family from Houston, Texas, will spend the holidays with parents *John* and *Margaret Allen*...*J.T. (Johnny) Beavers* and family will go up to Missouri to visit with brothers and sisters, and your reporter will entertain visitors from Tulsa, Oklahoma.

PERSONNEL DIVISION

Sue Barnes

Verna and *Ivan Daes*, and their son *Ricky*, drove up to Illinois for the Thanksgiving holidays, to visit *Verna's* sister and family. They drove up in *Verna's* good-looking 1959 red Pontiac convertible. They had fun and enjoyed the six inches of snow.

Billie Ruth and "*Bubba*" *Hatcher*, enjoyed Thanksgiving dinner with both their families at *Bubba's* parents home.

(Continued page 11)





Through The Grapevine

PERSONNEL (cont.)

We were sorry to learn that *Grace Zinn*, (Jimmy's better half) twisted her ankle, causing a bad sprain. She was hospitalized for a few days, and we hope she will be up and around by Christmas. (If we know Grace, she will, probably.)

Stork News: "*Little Al*" *Thompson* is happy over her coming motherhood, as well as all of us in Personnel. Al will be with us until March.

Sarah and *Walter Neel* had unexpected guests recently. Their daughter and family, *Sergeant* and *Mrs. William E. Azpeitia*, *Nancy, Winn*, and *Rene*, from *Arlington, California* stopped for a couple of days en route to *Camden, New Jersey* where they will catch a plane for *Madrid, Spain* which will be their home for three years. *Sergeant Azpeitia* is with the Air Force. *Sarah* certainly hated to see them go.

None of the office force plan to go out of town for the holidays and except for family gatherings, some parties, ect., guess most of us will observe Christmas quietly. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to Everybody!

MATERIALS AND TESTS

Julia Halliburton

Our Department acquired a new employee as well as a new bridegroom November 10. *Jake Evans Clements*, who is the newcomer, and *Miss Carolyn Reid* of *Osceola* were married November 8. Very Glad to have you *Jake*, and congratulations on your marriage.

George Allen's son is recuperating from a tonsillectomy...*Ed Rauch*, who has been off from work since April, due to illness, started back to work December 1, and we are very glad to have him back with us.

Maureen Rodgers, former employee of M&T, visited us recently. *Maureen* now lives in *El Dorado*.

Jerry Stacks has been called to the army for his stint. We shall miss *Jerry*, but Uncle

Sam usually has his way.

H. W. Schneider is in Baptist hospital as is *Thornton Rowe's* wife, *Hazel*. Hope they return to excellent health soon.

Our boss, *E. L. Wales*, is in *San Francisco* at this writing, to attend AASHO convention.

PURCHASING

Jon Shaw

Martha and *Jim Meredith* recently enjoyed a nice trip to *New Orleans*. Since they stayed at the *Hotel Monteleone*, needless to say, the *French Quarter* was thoroughly toured.

We are pleased to report that *Hilda Shirley's* parents and brother of *Humphrey*, are much improved from injuries received in an accident near *Stuttgart* last month.

A catered Japanese dinner was a new and delightful experience for the employees of the *Procurement Office* at the home of your reporter and husband, *Jim*, on the evening of *November 22*. The dinner was prepared and served in oriental style, including sitting on the floor without shoes, and eating from low tables, with chop sticks. This new catering service is operated by *Sergeant* and *Mrs. Charles Schuman* of the *Air Base*. *Mrs. Schuman (Tomi)* is Japanese and served the dinner in full oriental dress. Everyone would like to have a "repeat" on this, as a most enjoyable time was had by all. Those attending were *Martha* and *Jim Meredith*, *Willene Gray*, *Sue* and *John Plegge*, *Hilda Shirley* and *Alfred Harris*, and *Harry* and *Clair Tyson*.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

Jean Lanier

Dorothy Switzer's sister and brother-in-law, the *Reverend* and *Mrs. Tim Larkin* and daughters, were here from *Purdy, Missouri* visiting the *Switzers* over *Thanksgiving*.

Marie Rossing, *Mr. Bohlinger's* secretary, was entertained with a birthday luncheon by

Through The Grapevine

Administrative Offices (cont.)

the "front offices" November 21, at Brownings Restaurant. Guests included *Pat Denson, Jean Lanier, Joyce Spencer, Ferol Jones, Helen Lane,* and *Director Eldridge*. She was also presented with a gift of jewelry.

If you see a two-tone blue Dodge Royal parked among the other automobiles in the parking area, it's probably the proud possession of *V. E. Scott*, administrative assistant. It's very handsome.

We extend our deepest sympathies to *Mr. Bohlinger*, legal administrative assistant, whose mother, *Mrs. Bessie Peay Bohlinger*, passed away November 7 in a Little Rock hospital at the age of 95.

BRIDGE DESIGN

Virginia Tackett

L. P. and Martha Carlson took a few days vacation visiting relatives in California the week before the AASHO convention in San Francisco, at which meeting *Mr. Carlson* was a Highway Department representative. They divided the week between Palm Springs, Newport Beach, and Torrance, and visited the famous Knott Berry Farm. In addition to the scheduled parties and tours in connection with the social end of the convention, the Carlsons were particularly fortunate in that *Alice Joe*, who lived in San Francisco several years, had asked a friend to call them. He invited them on a tour of the most exciting night spots in the city, and he seemed to know everybody in Frisco. It was a most enjoyable evening. Now that they are back in Little Rock and rested up, they are looking forward to Christmas when *Catherine and Larry* will be home for the holidays.

The *B. Vinsons* are planning to spend Christmas in New Orleans and the *Harold Bastians* will go to Kansas City. As there is no place gayer and more festive than a big city at Christmastime, we expect both couples to have a wonderful time.

Most of the staff who have a day of annual leave left will have a nice long holiday week end. Bridge Design is not planning a formal Christmas party this year, but the morning coffee break on Wednesday, Christmas Eve, will probably find a fruit cake on the table and a good group around it wishing each other - and all of you - A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS.

DATA PROCESSING CENTER

Frances Jones

Erma Jetton had a bad accident up at their cottage on Lake Conway. The stove exploded and she has first degree burns on her face and second degree burns on her arms and hands. Glad to report that she is feeling better and hopes to be back with us by Christmas.

James Willard and *Grover Smith* are going to IBM School to learn the operation of the 604 electronic calculator which Data Processing Center is going to have in February. The 604 will calculate 100 cards per minute.

LaVerne Henderson and *Virginia Tisdale Finley* stopped in for coffee one afternoon - enjoyed seeing them both. *Rita Hardcastle* brought her baby girl by to show her off and she is a very sweet baby.

Your reporter spent a couple of days in Memphis shopping - for Santa Claus.

Our division's Christmas get-together will be held at the Surf and Sirloin for a Christmas dinner.

WE ALL IN DATA PROCESSING CENTER
WISH EVERYONE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR!

EQUIPMENT AND PROCUREMENT

Mary M. Hill

Kavanaugh Heard was among the deer hunters on Monday, November 10, and reports that he bagged a 150 pound buck soon after he began hunting about two miles from his

Through The Grapevine

Equipment and Procurement (cont.)

home in Roland. We are all waiting for that invitation to eat venison, Kavanaugh. We also wish to congratulate the Heards on their thirty-third wedding anniversary on November 28. May they have many more of them.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernie Cox and family plan to spend Christmas with Bernie's mother, *Mrs. Dewey Cox* at Dyess, Arkansas.

Kay and Joel Bonnell had as guests Thanksgiving week end, Joel's parents, *Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Bonnell* from Wichita, Kansas.

The *M. L. Prices* were visitors in Vicksburg, Mississippi, the week end of November 29. They also visited Natchez while on this trip and reported a most pleasant time.

Martha Pearle and family will have as guests over the holidays her brothers, *Edwin F. Pettey* and family, from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and *Joe Pettey* from Kansas City, Missouri.

Asa Duncan and *J. E. Hardcastle* were vacationers the latter part of November, but we received no report on their activities, if any.

C. Don Hayes, director of E.&P. presented a 10-year Service Pin and Award to *O. E. Wagner* of Central Shops, and a 5-year Pin and Award to *Kay Bonnell*, Procurement Office, on December 1. Congratulations!

Martha Pearle, switchboard operator in Equipment and Procurement, sent us the following short item, which shows a wonderfully humane spirit on the part of all involved, and especially here at Christmastime:

A very sad, cute, and hungry little pooch found a warm home when it strayed into the halls of this office. Counting its ribs was an easy job until the good-hearted men who work here pitched in together, bought a sack of dog food for it, and also divided their lunches with it.

Now this is about the happiest and most grateful little mutt in this town with a good warm place to stay day and night, and if it

still has ribs, we can't count them.

No, there won't be more later on. IT'S A BOY!

Faralene Harden

Our deepest sympathies to *Mr. and Mrs. Parker Harden* on the loss of their infant daughter, *Faralene Harden*, who passed away on the day of her arrival, November 14. Heaven surely needed another Angel.

F. C. Barron

Our sympathies to *James S. Alexander* in the loss of his father, *F. C. Barron*, who passed away in a Memphis hospital recently.

DIVISION 2

Ouida Grimes

We are all looking forward to Christmas, and our annual Christmas party. *Mr. Lucas* and his personnel have invited us to the District Office for the party this year and *C. R. Gaddy* is working up a surprise program for us.

Several of our men killed deer during the season. They were: *Roth Rabb*, *Keith Wilson* (son of *W. K.*) *James E. Goins*, *Joe Hays*, *Leroy Lunsford*, *R. B. Waller*, *W. J. Ryals*, and *Robert Jaeboe*.

Violet Tatum and I enjoyed our trip to the Little Rock office on November 18, when we met and visited all the nice people in Accounting, IBM, and Personnel. We learned a lot and will try to do better work in the future. We think this trip is what we have needed to do for a long time.

We certainly offer our congratulations on the new magazine. All of our employees like it very much. (Thanks, *Ouida*. - Ed.)

The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other.

Through The Grapevine

DISTRICT 1 HEADQUARTERS

Kathryn Booher

Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Hurley attended the AASHO Convention in San Francisco, December 1-5. They were accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Bill Moore of Little Rock. We are sure they had a most enjoyable and interesting trip, however, they have not returned as of this writing.

E. P. Douglass, resident engineer at Paragould, retired as of November 30. We hated to have him leave us, but we hope he will now get a much deserved rest, and we wish him happiness and contentment in his retirement years.

Bob Benz is a new resident engineer in District 1, however he is not new to the Highway Department, having several years of previous service. Mr. Benz is working in the West Memphis area with offices at Turrell. We are pleased to have him with the Department. He replaced H. C. Martin, who was transferred to Paragould to fill the spot vacated by Mr. Douglass.

Mrs. G. E. Nunnally, wife of our maintenance supervisor, is at her home now after having been recently hospitalized.

It seems that most of us in the office are planning a quiet Christmas this year. No long trips are planned, however, the G. E. Nunnallys and daughter, Anne, will spend a few days with his parents and other relatives at Strong, and Camden, Arkansas.

"MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR" to everyone from all of us in District 1.

DIVISION 3

Olive Jackson

On November 17, our office had the pleasure of a visit from our Director, Herbert Eldridge. He was enroute to Alanta, Texas to attend the dedication of the new District Highway Department building there. We hope he shall pay us another visit sometime.

Johnnie Gray, Highway Department photographer, was here November 21, to take pictures of our Parts Room which was recently redecorated and underwent extensive re-arranging. Johnnie was accompanied by Art W. Johnson, IBM supervisor.

Edna Lewallen had as her guests for a recent week end, her daughter, Mrs. Bob Stephens and little son, Russell Edward, of Dallas. This was "Rusty's" first visit with his grandmother.

We are sorry to report that William Cobb has been sick with blood poisoning and it was necessary for him to be in the Ashdown Hospital for several days. We wish him a speedy recovery. Ernest Pender, area foreman in Little River County, is much improved after having suffered a stroke November 15, and has been dismissed from the hospital to convalesce at his home.

Some of the lucky deer hunters in this division who bagged a deer were: Schley Carter, Alton Self, Brooks Lee, and W. T. Tallant.

Louise Plyler, daughter of Alfred Plyler, who recently completed her nurse's training at Little Rock has been appointed as Head Nurse at the new hospital at Murfreesboro. Congratulations!

Thanks to Ted Maryman, who contributed the birds, all the girls in the office enjoyed a delicious duck dinner recently. Just any ole' time, Ted...

Mrs. Lula McCorkle

Mrs. Lula McCorkle, mother of Floyd McCorkle, passed away October 30. Mrs. McCorkle was a resident of Hempstead County for many years. Our deepest sympathies to Floyd and his family.

A - "The Big Highway Program sure is expensive!"

B - "Was there anything cheap about the 38,700 deaths and 2,525,000 injuries in the 1957 road toll - one single year's bill?"

Through The Grapevine

DISTRICT 5

Shirley Morton

Service Pins and Certificates of Merit were recently received by the following employees in District 5 and Division 9: *James B. Caviness*, *Billy Joe Woods*, and *Glen Stewart*, 5 years; and *William Ray Montgomery*, 15 years. Congratulations, fellows.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Cook spent an enjoyable vacation with relatives in New Orleans and while there attended the wedding of their niece...*Ray Crouse* motored to Kansas City, Missouri for several days vacation with relatives and to bring home his wife and son who were visiting...Several employees in our district are enjoying vacations hunting deer and quail, fishing and just loafin'.

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Matthews and *Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Cook* attended the twentieth annual banquet of the Arkansas Chapter of the Arkansas General Contractors in Little Rock on December 10.

Christmas Plans: The *James E. Lowder* family will spend a week during the holidays with friends and relatives...*Jim Caviness* and his family plan to visit Jim's sister down in Pine Bluff.

We certainly enjoyed the November issue of the magazine and all agreed that it was very nice.

BEST WISHES FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL HIGHWAY EMPLOYEES FROM DISTRICT 5!

DIVISION 5

A. L. Moser

Conversation was rife with deer-hunting stories in our division last month. Those who went outnumbered those who made the kill however. *Coy Frazier* bagged a 6-point deer. *Ulis Franks*, 10 points; *C. E. Pectol*, 11-points; and *Carl Hames*, 10 points. Those who didn't fare so well were *Jetter James*, *Brooks Barnes*, *Lawson Johnson*, *Cap Peel*,

Ernest Cuzzort, *J. W. Davidson*, *Ralph Rollins*. *C. L. Bradberry*, *Billie Anderson*, *O. R. Ward*, *Billie Weaver*, *Bud Shreve*, *U. E. Tomlinson*, *Murel Stewart*, *Herman Hinsley*, *Epps Price*, *Arlis Green*, *Henry Anderson*, and *L. C. Smith*...better luck next half of the season.

Visitors in our office in November were *Maintenance Engineer R. B. Winfrey*, and *Buddy Lewter*, engineering aide in Statistics and Analyses.

Sick List: *T. O. Masner*, brother of *Lorene Pickens*, is much improved after having had major surgery last month in a West Memphis hospital. *Steve West*, patrol operator in Cleburne County, suffered a heart attack recently and is confined to his home. We all wish him a speedy and complete recovery soon. *Sally McMillan* had minor surgery in November but has returned to work, and *Billy G. Anderson*, son of *B. D. Anderson*, is in St. Vincent's Infirmary in Little Rock with a compound fracture. He is doing nicely at this time.

Vacationers in the division recently were the *D. T. Neighbors* family, who went to California on a 10-day trip; *Mrs. Ruby Masner*, fuel clerk, and her hubby, vacationed in Texas and New Mexico, in their new 19 Pontiac; and the *Forrest Hales* also went out to California on a 10-day visit.

Mrs. Clyde Nast, wife of *Clyde Nast*, mechanic, caught a 12-1/2 pound jack salmon below Lock and Dam No. 1 during a November fishing trip.

Congratulations to *Bernard Bice*, Division 5 maintenance superintendent, who has recently moved into his new home; and to *Coy Frazier*, who received his 15-year Service Pin and Certificate of Merit in November.

George Kirkdoffer and wife spent their vacation in West Memphis, Pine Bluff and Conway visiting relatives. Your reporter and wife visited their son and family, *Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Moser* in Little Rock over the Thanksgiving holidays. As of this

Through The Grapevine

writing, *Charles Yates* is on vacation.

John Homesley, equipment superintendent, entered the Veteran's Hospital on December 5 for a check-up. Hurry Back, John.

R. M. (Buck) Newsom from Materials and Tests in Little Rock, was a visitor this month.

Hunters recently were: *Bernard Bice*, Division 5 maintenance superintendent, *C. L. Bradberry*, and *Virgil Taylor*, who were bird hunting; and *C. E. Pectol* and *Coy Frazier* who were deer hunting.

Our sincere sympathies to *Kenneth Carpenter*, whose father, *Joe Carpenter* of Newark passed away in November. Also to *Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Taylor* on the loss of her father, *Lee Collom*, who passed away on December 10.

Oscar D. Syfert Sr.

Our heartfelt sympathies to *Oscar D. Syfert, Jr.*, who was called to Effingham, Illinois because of the sudden death of his father, *Oscar D. Syfert, Sr.*

DIVISION 6

Edith Greene

Our lucky deer hunters so far this season are *M. G. Kemp*, *Jim Shell*, *R. J. Johnson*, *J. W. Gilbert*, *Ross Roberts* and *J. E. Boyett*. *Boyett* loaded his deer in the trunk of his car and on the way to have it tagged the buck revived and rammed his horns through the back seat of the car and after much excitement and tying his feet together, was carried on to the game warden. He was given a second shot before the warden would agree to tag him. *Woody Hardin* landed his usual yearly goat-tee (that's all) and *George Ingle* lost his coat tail. (?-Ed.)

While on vacation, *John S. Allen* and family motored to Yuma, Arizona and Los Angeles, California to visit his two sons. He said the trip was wonderful and educational, but he still likes Arkansas best.

Marie Watson and your reporter, on our visit to the Central Office, found the procedure in processing payrolls very interesting and educational. We also enjoyed meeting our co-workers and wish to thank them for their courtesy shown us during their busy hours.

Charles Allbright's column "Our Town" which appears in the Arkansas Gazette, had an item about one of the men in Division 6 recently, and it proved that a friend in need is a "Friend Indeed" which is the way the story was titled.

Charles Woodward was working one afternoon at his job 17 miles out on Highway 10 checking trucks coming in and out with gravel when he noticed an odd physical sensation. It wasn't too alarming at first but it was enough to concern him, particularly when the last truck pulled away and the chest pain hit him with such force that he staggered and was almost knocked down. The next truck wasn't due for 20 minutes so he reeled to the roadside and flagged a motorist who sped him to the hospital. The race was close. The hospital attendants told Mr. Woodward's family later that when he arrived they couldn't find any blood pressure. If he had been delayed even minutes later it would have been too late.

Mr. Woodward is now recovering nicely, thanks to the motorist in the blue sedan who, had he been less discerning, may never have realized the probable consequences.

DIVISION 9

Edris Hulse

We had our first snow of the season on Thanksgiving night when we received six inches of the white fluff. We're glad that we didn't have any traffic tie-ups, which was due to the speedy work of the various Department crews. So congratulations men, for a job well done.

Recent visitors in our office were *Mr. Stanford*, *Ed Orsini*, *Asa Duncan*, *Ronald Keene*, *Lee Wagner*, *Fred Tanner* and *Bill*

Through The Grapevine

Division 9 (cont.)

Hayes. We always enjoy the visits with Little Rock personnel.

Ertie Lawrence and crew, with the assistance of *John Burlsworth* and *Tom Phillips* are making steady progress on the new Area Headquarters Building at Berryville. *Ward Kendall*, area foreman, is quite anxious to move into the new building.

Most of those who took vacation time recently spent it in the deer woods or doing other outdoor activity. We didn't get any reports of anyone bagging a deer, but *Hillman Watkins* and *R. A. Milum* reported getting their limit of quail every day they were out recently. *Curtis* and *Claudette Gardner* spent their vacation in Chicago visiting Curt's parents, and also drove down to Little Rock to see "South Pacific." They said they thoroughly enjoyed themselves on both occasions.

Minnie Shinn and husband *Jack*, spent the Thanksgiving holidays at Fort Knox, Kentucky visiting with her sister and brother-in-law, *Lt. Colonel* and *Mrs. John McCurdy*. Heavy snow kept them from much sight seeing, but they had a wonderful time nevertheless. The *Jeff Davises* spent Thanksgiving in Kansas City with their son, and as usual, according to *Jeff*, whenever he takes off something always happens. Snow, and heavy at that, this time, but his crew carried on and did a good job.

The *Garland Deeters* made a trip to Los Angeles, California on his vacation, and *Garland* says, "never again." He was involved in an accident in Oklahoma City when the second vehicle ran a red light and struck his automobile...no injuries fortunately. *Garland* just doesn't like the "big city" driving.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. "Slim" Porter had two of their sons, *Lawrence* and *Dick*, Dallas, Texas, as Thanksgiving visitors...The *C. G. Williamses* spent Thanksgiving in Little Rock with their son and daughter. *Mr.*

Williams, our job superintendent, is really proud of his grandchildren and with good reason - they are cute kids.

We are happy to welcome back *Gladys Shaddox*, Springdale payroll clerk, who was off due to a recent illness..."*Slim*" *Porter* was absent for three weeks for surgery and convalescence, and we sure missed him. *J. C. Perkins, Sr.*, retired district engineer from Paragould, is in the hospital here, which is their home. Get well soon, *Mr. Perkins*

The *Joe Burlsons* are the happy parents of a little son. Congratulations!

Our genius *Paul Byrom* and his helper, *Dwight Cantrell*, have done it again. They've designed and built a couple of cabs and have installed them on front end loaders. The operators really appreciate this improvement which keeps out the cold winter air - and rain, and they can now operate in these conditions and stay warm and snug, as they have heaters also. (Certainly an accomplishment and the men are to be congratulated.-Ed.)

Welcome to *Arlis Eddings*, who is our new mechanic, and we hope he will be happy with us.

Curtis Gardner and *Marvin McElroy* recently went on a tree-trimming spree which has improved the appearance of our building and grounds, and *Mr. Pillow* keeps the shrubbery trimmed and neat at all times.

Dick Hinchman came up with a cracked rib recently. As he tells it, he heard "The Star Spangled Banner" on the car radio and tried to stand up - come on, *Dick*, wha' happen? *Slim Porter* borrowed *John Burlsworth's* tape measure the other day and noticed the markings were pretty well worn off the first five or six inches. He accused *John* of measuring fish with it, which *John* quickly admitted...but he measured them "between the eyes."

Our deepest sympathies are extended to *Shirley Morton*, District 5 stenographer, whose brother, *Buddy Wagley*, passed away recently. Also to *Garland Deeter* in the loss of his mother; and to *Walter Kirk*, whose sister recently passed away.



THIS'LL KILL 'YA by Jimmy Zinn

A Hollywood producer wanted to give his mother a Christmas present which would outdo the auto from his brother and the mink coat from his sister.

He heard of an amazing Mynah bird which could talk several languages and even sing two operas. He paid \$25,000 for it, certain that it would please his mother.

The day after Christmas, he called up and asked, "What did you think of my present, Mother?"

"Delicious," she said.

"Say, what have you got a piece of string tied around your finger for?" one man asked another.

"Oh, that, my wife put it there so I wouldn't forget to mail a letter."

"Well, did you mail it?"

His companion shook his head sadly. "No, she forgot to give it to me."

The children had all been photographed and the teacher was trying to persuade them each to buy a copy of the group picture. "Just think how nice it will be to look at it when you are all grown up and say "There's Rose; she's married," or "That's Billy, he's a sailor." A small voice at the back of the room piped up, "And there's teacher; she's dead."

"Sir, I can't stay in class today."

"Why not?"

"I don't feel well."

"Where don't you feel well?"

"In class."

Then there's the touching story of the young man who said to his girl friend, "I bet that you wouldn't marry me."

The sequence to the above is that she not only called his bet but raised him five.

You will live longer if you don't drink, smoke, gamble or stay out late. Anyway, it will seem a lot longer.

"Shall I boil the missionary?" asked the cannibal cook.

"Boil him?" cried the chief. "Are you crazy? That's a friar!"

When they unexpectedly discovered oil on the farmer's land, he joyously turned to his wife. "Maw," he shouted, "the first thing I'm goin' to do is get you some decent clothes."

"You'll do no such thing," his wife replied. "All my life I've worn decent clothes, and now I'm goin' to dress like the other women."

One man, who travels all over the country a great deal, does it all by train.

"Flying is against my religion," he explains. "I'm a devout coward."

She: "Love-making is just the same as in ancient times."

He: "How do you know?"

She: "I have been reading about a Greek maiden who sat and listened to a lyre all night."

First father: "What is your son going to be when he gets through college?"

Second father: "An old man."

A touring Texan stopped at a Florida roadside market and upon seeing a watermelon, asked, "What's the price of this cantelope?"

The clerk looked at him and then at his license plate, and witheringly replied: "Take your finger off that olive."

