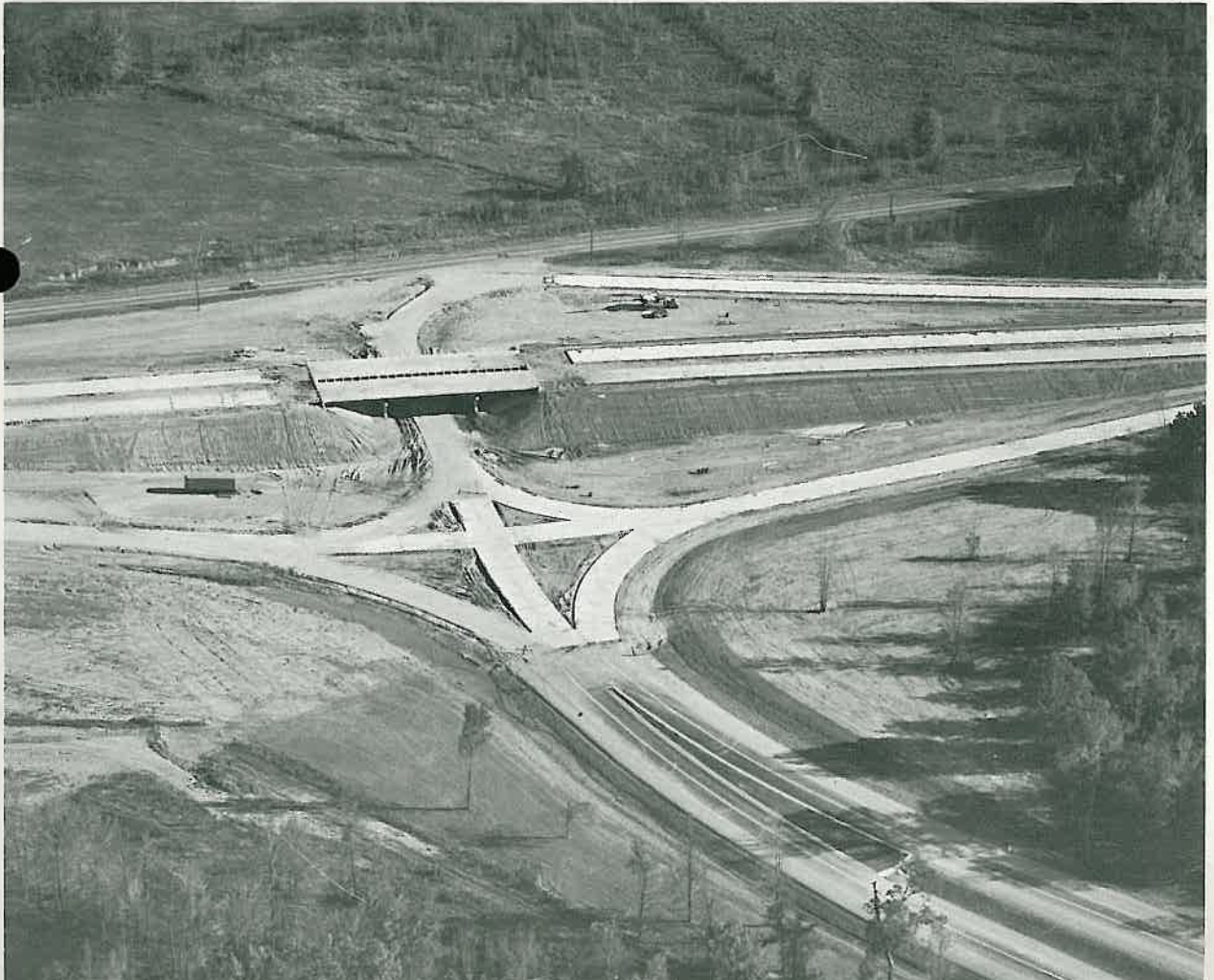


Jan., 1959

Arkansas

HIGHWAY

magazine





PICTURE OF THE MONTH

Arkansas Highways

JANUARY 1959

No. III Vol. VI

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

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

- Glenn F. Wallace

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Lawrence Blackwell

James H. Crain

ACTING DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS

- R. B. Winfrey

CHIEF ENGINEER

- Ward Goodman



PICTURE OF THE MONTH: Mablevale interchange on Highway 67-70 between Little Rock and Benton.

COVER PICTURE: The interchange and connection of the Air Base road and new U. S. 67, located north of Jacksonville.



Prepared and edited in the Personnel Division.

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



Acting Director R. B. Winfrey

Highways 1965

(Part II)

by John W. Gibbons

The current "good roads movement" got its big push on July 11, 1954, when President Eisenhower called attention in dramatic terms to our critical highway deficiencies. He pointed out that we needed to modernize our roads in the interest of serving and expanding economy, to promote safety, and to meet the transportation requirements of the national defense.

Since that date, while Congress has been deliberating the issue, a nationwide highway education effort was launched. Looking ahead to 1965, it seems reasonable to suppose that as the spotlight shifts from Washington to state capitals and to community action, this educational effort will have to be stepped up.

The automobile dealers and others with know-how in positions of civic leadership in their communities have a definite responsibility in seeing to it that appropriate good roads groups do expand their activities along this line, so that more and more citizens understand better the fundamental issues posed by the highway problem.

As this happens, people will begin to appreciate many things about roads which today are realized only by the engineers and a few specialists. They will learn, for instance, that all highways fall into one of three basic categories, so far as transportation service is concerned.

(1) Heavy-volume major arteries of travel, exemplified by the Interstate routes; (2) local roads and streets which provide access for the individual vehicle to homes, farms, shops, schools, and other day-to-day destinations; and (3) a limited mileage of "in-between" thoroughfares, urban and rural, which serve both purposes.

It will be helpful to highway transportation for people to understand these three fundamental types of roads, because they provide the structure on which proper highway classification must be based. Proper classification, in turn, is essential to sound road planning, finance and administration.

As this balanced view of our highway requirements gains wider acceptance in the next decade, we can be sure that legislators will join a trend, already happily noticeable, of supporting balanced highway programs which determine needs by factual measurement and which do not permit any vital segment of the road system urban or rural, to lag seriously behind another.

It is not too much to expect in 10 years, either, that as legislators apportion highway funds on that basis, administrative decisions will reflect more and more the same kind of thinking. Priorities on road improvements, local and state, will be scheduled in accordance with urgency and relative need.

Of all the changes in public thinking about roads which can be anticipated by 1965, by far the most significant will be the concept which holds that we can no longer afford, as a nation, to starve our highways so that they fall behind the demands of automotive transportation.

We ought to be keenly aware of the fact that we have paid a very heavy price for that kind of mistake. Most of the vast new construction program we need today will merely eliminate the backlog of deficiencies accumulated over a quarter of a century. Much of the cost, especially for right-of-way, is due to delay in improvements.

We have proved that our course in the past is the expensive way to equip ourselves with the roadways the American economy must have. Perhaps by 1965 we will have reached the point where, as a matter of sound fiscal policy, legislators everywhere will insist upon dedicating enough funds to roads and streets to maintain them at reasonable levels of safety and efficiency.

A lot of serious problems must be met, both as to personnel and materials, to get a big construction program rolling. There is every reason to believe, however, that by 1965 most of them will have been solved successfully.



AROUND THE BUILDING

of a bow and arrow factory at Pine Bluff, to make a sound and color film of the hunt. Johnnie will be gone 10 days.

Two more graduate engineers in the department have successfully passed their examinations as qualified registered professional engineers. They are listed on the Arkansas Register as: *Curtis H. Mahla*, 1552, and *Roy R. Rosin*, 1535. Curt works in Bridge Design, and Roy works in Materials and Tests. Congratulations to you both.

Veron E. Scott, administrative assistant and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Retirement System, recently acquired another title - that of bridegroom. "Scotty" and Mrs. Dorothy Vestal Gannaway were married January 9, at 6:30 P. M. in the chapel of the Pulaski Heights Presbyterian Church with Dr. T. B. Hay officiating. After a wedding trip to Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, and New Orleans, the couple will be at home at 208 Vernon. Congratulations to "Scotty" and we wish them much happiness.

Raymond F. Orr, whose term as commissioner expired January 14, gave a dinner January 8, at the Albert Pike Hotel for the commissioners, *Mr. Eldridge*, and all department heads. There were no speeches scheduled but Mr. Eldridge did give a short impromptu speech to those present.

Johnnie Gray, staff photographer for AHD, will be taking a postman's holiday on his vacation, and what a vacation! It rather sounds like a Lowell Thomas adventure. He left January 16, by plane for Phoenix, Arizona where he will meet Ben Pearson, famous archer, and Dr. Jim Smith of Little Rock. From there they will fly deep into Mexico for a jaguar hunt with bow and arrow in the Sierra Madra mountains. Johnnie has been commissioned by Mr. Pearson, owner



Pictured at left holding the design for the huge Mississippi River Bridge near Helena, the contracts of which were awarded in November, are front row, from left: Ward Goodman, Glenn F. Wallace, Director Eldridge, and J. B. Lambert, Helena businessman. Back row, Lawrence Blackwell, James Bush and Walter Morris, Helena businessmen; Raymond F. Orr, and Harry Parkin. Not shown is Commissioner Jim Crain.

INTERSTATE SIGN MATERIALS

by *Billy Kay Cooper*
Statistics and Analyses

During the past few months most of our time has been spent on the planning, location and designing of the Interstate Highway System. Now we have reached the stage in most of the States over the nation where many sections of these highways have been constructed and other sections are rapidly nearing completion. Since the ribbon has been cut on many sections to open these highways to traffic, most of us here today are presently concerned with the operation of these facilities which leads to the subject of signing and the selection of sign materials.

Recently, the Manual for Signing the Interstate System was officially adopted and distributed to the States to serve as our Bible for the signing of these mammoth facilities. It is now our job to select the materials for these signs which will represent our roads. Since the average motorist does not fully appreciate the engineering genius involved in such major construction items as subgrades and drainage tiles, we will be selecting the most visible and constant impression that he will get out of our highways. Therefore our task of selecting sign materials to represent our highways is very important since we are going to demand the best of signs to guide motorists on the most elaborate highway facilities known to man.

In an effort to compile the present thinking and plans of other States in regard to background materials and posts for signs on the Interstate System. I recently sent a questionnaire to each state of SASHO. Ten of the twelve member states returned completed questionnaires. However, two of the ten states stated that they had not even reached the thinking stage at the present time. Therefore, information is available from only eight states. A tabulation of the results of the eight states reporting is as follows.

	SIGN BACKING	
Material	Ground Signs	Overhead Signs
Aluminum - Interlocking increment sheets	2*	2*
Aluminum - Both Extrusions and sheets	2	1
Aluminum - Extrusions and sheets also steel sheets	1	-
Aluminum - Extrusions and sheets also steel sheets, plywood	-	1
Undecided	3	4
	SIGN FACE	
Reflectorized	6	7
Reflectorized and illuminated	-	1
Opaque	2	-
	POSTS	
Aluminum I and H beams	3	1
Aluminum tapered	2	-
Aluminum and steel shapes	2	-
Steel shapes	1	-
Aluminum and Monotube Steel	-	2
Aluminum box truss	-	1
Undecided	-	4

*Note: Numbers indicate number of states planning to use each type of material or number undecided.

What do the results of these tabulations mean? Have definite trends been established toward the use of a certain material? Are the majority of states still undecided? In an attempt to answer these questions let us examine the tabulations more thoroughly.

Although most states indicate a preference for aluminum material for sign backing, a majority are still undecided as to whether they will use sheets, increment sheets or extrusions. The States selecting aluminum give overall economy as their primary reason.

In regard to the sign face a definite trend has been established toward reflectorized

backgrounds for both ground and overhead signs. Also, it is logical to assume that this trend will continue nationwide since the shape, color and legend of these signs must have 24-hour uniformity

Post materials for overhead signs have not been decided upon by most states. However, a majority of the states reported that they plan to use aluminum for ground signs. The size and shape of these posts will, of course, depend upon the type and size of sign they support.

From the foregoing conclusions it is apparent that many of us still have decisions to make in regard to the type of sign material that we plan to use in our individual states. Therefore, the following summary represents the advantages and possible disadvantages of different sign materials which may prove useful to us in making these decisions.

FABRICATED ALUMINUM SHEET

Advantages

1. Increment sheet has many of the advantages of aluminum- flat sheeting plus easy mounting of large panels side by side facilitated by spot-welding clips on the back.
2. Provides a fine appearing smooth surface with a minimum of lines.
3. Can be readily stripped for rehabilitation.

Disadvantages

1. Reflective sheet must be vacuum applied. Can not be roller applied.
2. Emergency rehabilitation presents inventory problems.

ALUMINUM EXTRUSIONS

Advantages

1. Easiest of all large sign backings to mount in the field.
2. Strength and rigidity often permit mounting with no backing framework.
3. No rust problem and no painting required.
4. 12" extrusion designed for easy use with reflective sheeting squeeze roller applicator.
5. Light weight and easy to handle.
6. Can be stripped and reused.

Disadvantages

1. Appearance - horizontal lines at points where panels meet.
2. Initial cost.
3. Long tanks required for metal cleaning.
4. Salvage
5. Necessary to stock various lengths for emergency rehabilitation.

HIGH DENSITY PLYWOOD

Advantages

1. Requires no painting.
2. Economical
3. Rigid - requires a minimum of framework backing.
4. Versatile.
5. Vandal and shock resistant.
6. Ease of mounting.
7. Salvage.

Disadvantages

1. Stripping and re-use.
2. Damaged corners or sections generally must be replaced.
3. Ultimate durability not equivalent to some metals.

ZINC COATED STEEL

Advantages

1. Often more nominal initial cost than aluminum.
2. Offers strength and rigidity.

Disadvantages

1. Must be coated before reflective sheeting applied.
2. May rust eventually.

The selection of sign material in the various states will depend upon many factors. I am sure that these factors will vary from state to state. However, we must all have one final objective in mind when we select the materials and signs to represent our highways. That final objective should be to provide the most effective up-to-date signing system that is possible. Also, we should keep in mind that after these signs are erected we will have to maintain them forever.

The motoring public will get their final and lasting impression of our highways from what they see. Therefore, we must select signs for our highways that will give the superior visibility, desired legibility, uniform appearance, and professional performance that motorists will demand.

(Note: The article above was cut considerably due to its length. The paper, in its entirety, was presented at the SASHO meeting last fall in Birmingham.-Ed.)

Children are natural mimics. They act like their parents in spite of every effort to teach them good manners.



Herbert Eldridge

The stature of a man whom we will always hold in highest regard, was measured recently when Mr. Eldridge called Highway Department employees together. That stature was not measured in terms of height nor weight but in terms of dedication to principles and his character - he was not found wanting.

In a brief, but poignant talk, he decried the petty jealousies and despicable deeds that are being perpetrated within the organization; exhorted cooperation and coordination within the Department; explained that no employee is indispensable; avowed the intention of the Commission, as evidenced by the appointment of R. B. Winfrey as Acting Director, to continue the operation of the Department under the principles of the Mack-Blackwell Amendment and placed the fulfillment of this accomplishment directly in the hands of the employees.

Due to the limited time and space, we are unable to print the full text but it will be printed in next month's edition.

Mr. Eldridge, who submitted his resignation to the Highway Commission on January 5, after serving as Director of Highways for almost six years, will remain with the Department until March 1.

WINFREY NAMED ACTING DIRECTOR

State Maintenance Engineer R. B. "Dick" Winfrey, was appointed Acting Director of the Department to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Herbert Eldridge on January 5. He assumed the responsibilities and duties January 15.

Mr. Winfrey was born in Jackson County, Arkansas; was graduated from high school at Fayetteville, and the University of Arkansas with a degree in civil engineering. He came to the Department in 1926 and served in various capacities until 1947 when he resigned to become State Maintenance Engineer for the Oklahoma Highway Department.

In July, 1957, he returned to Arkansas State Highway Department as Engineer of Maintenance.

Mr. Winfrey is considered a very fine engineer with advanced and modern concepts in all phases of highway engineering, and is held in high regard by his colleagues, not only in the Highway Department but in other engineering circles.

We think the Highway Commission made a wise choice in their selection and it is hoped that all employees will give Mr. Winfrey their fullest cooperation during his tenure as director.

Gerald Sisk, assistant engineer in the Maintenance Division, will act as Maintenance Engineer during Mr. Winfrey's tenure in office.

Taylor Appointed To Commission

Governor Faubus appointed Arnil Taylor of Clarksville to the Highway Commission to succeed Raymond F. Orr whose term expired on January 14.

Mr. Taylor, an insurance broker, is a former representative and state senator, and also was legislative secretary for former Governor Ben Laney.

Mr. Taylor's appointment will be the fourth by Mr. Faubus to the five-member commission. His appointment is subject to confirmation by the State Senate.

LETTERS...

It is always gratifying to receive letters of praise about our highways, so on behalf of Arkansas State Highway Department, we acknowledge and thank Mr. Reps who sent the following to Ward Goodman, chief engineer:

Dear Sir:
 During my 16 years tenure as managing director, Springfield Chamber of Commerce, I wrote you often concerning your Highway 7...particularly that portion of it running south from Harrison to Hot Springs National Park. Perhaps you will recall some of the correspondence.

Well, this note is not one of criticism or suggestion...IT IS ONE OF COMPLIMENTS! On Tuesday, December 9, with my friend, we drove from Hot Springs to Springfield by way of Harrison. The hard-surfaced road, every foot of the way, is something about which to brag...the roadway was in superb condition and I want to express my genuine thanks, and appreciation of the good work of your Department.

Sincerely,
 Louis W. Reps

...And the following is part of a personal letter received from friends in St. Louis.

"Incidentally, you remember how Paul raved about the highways in Arkansas after we crossed the state line? Since he is an old "dyed in the wool" yankee, he had to be shown, but he still speaks of Little Rock and Arkansas in glowing terms. We have some friends who are originally from Connecticut, and they had never been to Arkansas until they took a trip to Hot Springs, (at my suggestion). They came back thoroughly impressed with the highways and the state. They said the highway from Little Rock to Hot Springs was new. I didn't know that, since it's been years since we've been in that direction, but then I suppose there have been a lot of changes in Arkansas that I haven't seen.

Marie Eckert
 1550 Salerno Drive
 St. Louis, Mo.



It's a shoot-out between Tex and Snakey on the main street of Pinto Falls. As the townspeople watch, they know that while Snakey is the fastest gun around, they hope that maybe Tex is a shade faster and can set their town free. Tex and Snakey walk slowly toward each other - hand poised at their belts - when suddenly Snakey draws his gun. Tex is killed because he forgot to put his guns back on after taking them off when he called on Miss Dolly at the schoolhouse.

...Cecil and his beautiful wife, Hope are hunting gorillas in the African jungle when suddenly a huge gorilla jumps down from a tree and grabs Hope and carries her off into the jungle. Cecil is beside himself and immediately organizes a party of natives to search for his wife. It's not that he's in love with her for in reality he was planning to lose her on this trip so he could marry her sister, who inherited the family fortune, but that she's got his return ticket home to England in her pants pocket.

...A tribe of Indians are circling a wagon train on a Wyoming plain and the shooting is getting hot and heavy. Suddenly a signal is given by the Indian Chief and all the Indians throw away their blank cartridges and put real bullets in their guns. Then they wipe out the pioneers on the wagon train, kill the camera crew, the technicians, the director, and the producer and head for the hills to celebrate a vow they made at Central Casting in Hollywood three years ago.--Ben Cassell

God made woman beautiful so man would love her, and he made her foolish so she'd love him.

This and That

When Christmas Eve finally arrived, it was only natural that, with the holiday spirit prevailing, people were in no mood to work much...and what's more, they didn't. It's the one day of the year when most other state departments are off and Highway employees report for work, that the work schedule is relaxed somewhat...

The annual Christmas program and carol-singing was held in the Commission Room on Christmas Eve. As usual there was a large turn-out for the event.

Those taking part on the program were: Nancy Conrad, Right of Way, who sang a solo; Ferol Jones, Chief Engineer's Office, and Linda Colbert, Right of Way, duet; Virginia Tackett, Bridge Design, reading; and Charlene McClain, Construction, who played selections on her marimba, to the delight of those present.

Jim Meredith, who was program chairman, was accompanist on the organ, and Frank Caple led the group singing. Bill Hays gave the invocation.



Pictured above and at right are some of the employees who took part in the festivities on Christmas Eve in the Statistics and Analyses Division.



Apparently a "John Plegge Fan Club" has been formed as we got a request from the girls in Right Of Way to print his picture. So here he is girls. As for the 300 extra copies of the magazine, (evidently for club members), that's doubtful, but we'll let them have as many as we can spare.





Through The Grapevine

STATISTICS AND ANALYSES

Mary Ann Crow

We have two new draftsmen in our division. *Joe Lovell*, a native of Paris, Arkansas, was recently discharged from the army where he worked as a draftsman. Joe is married to the former *Karin Boeck* of Stuttgart, Germany, and has a baby girl, *Sharon Kay*. *Melvin C. Ollis* came to us from Tulsa, Oklahoma. He is formerly of Brinkley and married to *Joyce Rock* of Brinkley. We welcome both Joe and Melvin to AHD.

Charles Douglass Lewter arrived in this world at 6 P. M. on January 4, at Arkansas Baptist Hospital, weighing 8 pounds, 6 ounces. He and mother *June Lewter* are getting along splendidly but father, *Buddy Lewter*, who has had a severe virus infection, isn't doing as well. As of this writing *Buddy* is still being practically quarantined from wife and son.

Also among the ill in our office recently were *Carl Bratcher*, who is in Missouri Pacific Hospital; *Ramona Gibbons*, wife of *Lee Gibbons*, and who was also hospitalized; and *Pat Howell*.

Marlin Powell and family spent two weeks in Montgomery, Alabama, during the holidays visiting relatives and seeing the Blue-Gray game. *Bea Davis* went to Dyersburg, Tennessee to spend the holidays with her niece and family. Your reporter and husband took several trips during the month of December. - to Crossett, Monticello, and Warren to visit Crow relatives, and in Clarksville where we attended parties and served in the Kolb-Callaway wedding.

Bill Moore, who is active in so many things we couldn't begin to name them all, appeared on "Citizen's Courtroom" January 11, as moderator for the program. This is Bill's second appearance on the show which is sponsored by the Arkansas Bar Association

and which each week discusses some phase of law and court proceedings. Not long ago Bill appeared on "Little Rock Today" but we only heard about it recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Asa McCord attended the Cotton Bowl game in Dallas, Texas, on New Year's Day.

Edward Herbert Ritchie, of our division, died of a heart attack while taking a traffic count on Highway 82, west of Lewisville, on December 22. Mr. Ritchie, who had worked for AHD for almost 10 years, was planning to retire on April 15.

Our sincere sympathies are extended to his wife, and son *Ralph Edward Ritchie*, who are among his survivors. Mr. Ritchie resided

MATERIALS AND TESTS

Julia Mae Halliburton

Don Weston Tucker has been transferred from District 5, to Materials and Tests. Don worked in the Hardy area. Glad to have you, Don.

Congratulations to *L. G. Willcockson* on receiving his 20-year Service Pin and Certificate of Merit, and to *Bobby Hughes* who received his 5 year award.

Mrs. G. W. Roark received a fractured arm when she fell at her home January 3. She was hospitalized for several days but has returned to her home. We hope she has a speedy recovery. *John Storey's* mother is seriously ill at this time in St. Vincent's Hospital. Mrs. Storey's home is Mountain View.

Best wishes to the following who celebrated birthdays recently: *Thornton Rowe*, *R. C. Turney*, and *Ed Rauch*.

Most of the employees in our department enjoyed pleasant holidays. *Russell Newsom* went to Austin, Texas to visit his parents.

Sign along a Florida highway: "Keep Florida green. Bring money."

Through The Grapevine

PERSONNEL DIVISION

Sue Barnes

Al Thompson, our little mother-to-be, and husband, *James*, spent the holidays in the home of her parents in Mount Ida. Her sister and family, *Mr. and Mrs. James Edgcomb* were also there from Oklahoma.

Sarah and Walter Neel spent the weekend of December 20, in Memphis with their son and family, *Mr. and Mrs. Walter Neel, Jr.* The week end following, they drove down to Greenville, Mississippi and visited in the home of *Dr. and Mrs. M. Z. Neel.*

Jackie Wallace enjoyed a very nice trip to New Orleans for the New Year's holiday, and attended the Sugar Bowl game.

Verna and Ivan Daes had as guests recently in their home, her sister and family, *Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hoferkamp, Billy and Bradley*, from Louisville, Kentucky.

Billie Ruth's husband, "*Bubba*" had a ganglionectomy (we just had to use that word - it's the removal of a cyst, if you're wondering) on his hand January 1, at St. Vincent's, where he remained five days. He's recovered now, but it was a painful ordeal.

We are happy to have *Betty Lou Ray*, who joined our Personnel staff January 16. Betty, who hails from Mt. Vernon, Arkansas, now resides in Little Rock.

ACCOUNTING

Margaret Wallace

Welcome to *Claire Burch* who is replacing *Pat Johnston* as our file clerk. Pat is awaiting the stork in April. Our division presented Pat with a gift during a luncheon given in her honor on January 13. We shall miss Pat but we all wish her the best in her new coming role.

Ed Orsini, long an employee in Accounting, has transferred back to us after having worked in the Right of Way Division. Welcome home, Ed.

Jimmy Watts has recently had a fatal bite from the "love bug" and has fallen hard. We may be hearing wedding bells around February 20. Congratulations, Jim.

Our division and members of Data Processing Center enjoyed a luncheon at Riverdale Country Club during the holidays and everyone had a splendid time at *Fred Leebrock's* Open House party also during the holidays.

Peggy Eldred finally took her vacation to tour around a bit. She visited her home in Memphis and then she and three of her friends spent four wonderful days in New Orleans... *Lola Buck* attended the wedding of her nephew, *Jim Callaway* at Clarksville, recently.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Graham from Memphis were guests of *Irene Hawkins* and family.

Johnny and Molly Beavers have had recently as guests, John's sister and husband who is also Molly's brother. They reside in California.

While asking for holiday "poop" this is what *Aleene Boysen* replied: "I did nothing but wash dishes, cook, wash dishes, and think thoughts that couldn't be printed."

DATA PROCESSING CENTER

Frances Jones

Penny Pennington spent a delightful week end in Hot Springs with friends from Houston, Texas, on December 20.

At home for the holidays was *Erma Jetton's* son, *Lane*, who is in the Air Force in Florida, and also *Gladys Plunkett's* daughter, *Sue*, from the University of Arkansas.

Your reporter had as her guest for a few days, nephew *Harper Cooper* of Pine Bluff, who also visited friends while here. Harper attends the University of Arkansas.

Egotists are the most clever folks they ever met.

Through The Grapevine

PURCHASING

Jon Shaw

The Equipment and Procurement Division held their annual Christmas party at Tia Wanna Supper Club on the night of December 20. Cocktails, dining and dancing were the highlights of the evening, and the table was beautifully decorated. Employees and guests attending the affair were *Edith and C. Don Hayes, Martha and Jim Meredith, Sylvia and Frank Caple, Sue and John Plegge, Amileta and Montgomery Wade, Jon and Jim Shaw, Asa Duncan, Willene Gray, Bob Landfair, Hilda Shirley* and her guest *Alfred Harris*.

The Merediths were presented a Certificate of Merit by the City Beautiful Commission for outstanding contribution to the holiday beauty of outdoor decorations. The display was a grouping of choir boys and angels with recorded music. *Jim and Conley* made the figures and were very pleased to have been judged third place in the Park Hill area. The Merediths had another pleasant event when they celebrated their fifteenth wedding anniversary on New Year's Eve.

We welcome *Velma Morehart* of Mablevale, who joined Purchasing on January 2.

Willene Gray's son *Roger*, left January 12 to begin basic training at Lackland Air Force Base at San Antonio, Texas.

Hilda Shirley spent the holidays with her family at *Humphrey, Arkansas*.

REPRODUCTION

Hess Gordon

Since it has been so long since we have submitted any news it might be well to brief readers of our very fine magazine on who we are - and how. We are seven. *Henry Vopel*, our supervisor, came to us in March, to succeed *Newt Carter*, who retired.

Mamie Fanning, who is a veteran of some seven years, goes right on with photostat and a lot of other work...*Lucille Huffstutler* and

Rachel Simmons, ozalid operators, do a very fine job and all operators assist one another when illness, vacations or rush times arise.

Pat Roling, who is in her fifth year as multilith and xerography operator, recently moved with husband *Leroy*, and six-month-old son, *Roy*, to a new home in North Little Rock.

Jim Humphrey, who hails from Mineral Springs, came to us in May, straight from a hitch with Uncle Sam in Germany. He was married on Thanksgiving Day to *Nancy Jackson*. *Jim* is also multilith and xerox operator.

And there's me - *Hess Gordon*. The only thing of moment that has happened to me is that my two sons graduate this month. The older one gets his degree from the College of Business Administration at the University of Arkansas. The younger receives his degree as Bachelor of Music Education from Henderson State Teacher's College.

We are helping *Mrs. Fanning* to celebrate her birthday anniversary on January 27.

(Thanks so much *Hess*, for the news and it has been a long time. I'm sure the readers around the state will be interested in reading about your department and what a fine job you're doing. -Ed.)

ROADWAY DESIGN

Potter and Hicks

Bud and Ruth Smith spent the holidays with relatives in *Jonesboro*.

John and Peggy Hicks are celebrating the arrival of their first grandchild, *Philip Eugene*, born to *James and Lavada Hicks*, December 28 in *Oklahoma City*.

The squad spent a quiet Christmas, most of them remaining at home - hence no news; but as the condemned man remarked, "No noose is good news."

Charles Toland finally lucked upon ducks after four trips and a few dollars. He bagged his limit at *Bayou Meto*. No other reports... *Charles* has also been engaged in helping

Through The Grapevine

ROADWAY DESIGN (con't.)

American Camping Society blaze a hiking trail in the Ozark Mountains, which is known as the Double-O Trail. The trail, when finished, will be 300 miles - originating at Blakely Dam and terminating in Branson, Missouri. The trail is a government project and opened to the public.

There was little activity reporting during the holidays. *Joe* and *Leota Hicks* motored up to Paragould for the week end, and brought *Leota's* mother back with them. *Howard* and *Judy Webb* went to Memphis for a three-day visit with his brother. *Chuck Logan* and wife *Darlene*, had her mother as visitor. This was the *Logan's* first Christmas away from Kansas City where they lived before coming to the department.

BRIDGE DESIGN

Virginia Tackett

The biggest event in the Bridge Design Division this past month was the wedding of long-time bachelor *Curt Mahla*. *Curt* and his bride, the former *Lucille Furnatter*, were married in St. Patrick's Church in North Little Rock, with *Frank* and *Helen Battisto* as their attendants. They left immediately after the wedding for San Antonio, Texas and a visit with *Curt's* mother, *Mrs. Jack Mahla*, and the rest of the family.

Although most of us are in a hurry to get away at 5 o'clock these evenings, we're never too rushed to pause for a minute and watch *Ben Hogan* and *Lem Tull* embark and depart in *Lem's* recently purchased red MG. They're both big men and it's a feat of engineering worth waiting around to see.

Duck hunters and quail hunters are having fairly good luck this season. *Mr. Carlson* reports he has enough ducks stacked away in his deep freeze for our annual duck and coon dinner which is in the mill, and *Billy Joe-Price* who is a quail hunter, has been very successful up around Conway lately.

His plans for next year are even more ambitious as he has bought a three-month-old setter which he will train next season.

Bill Wilson and his brother, *W. R.*, were both home for the holidays with parents, *Bill* and *Ruby Wilson* - *Bill Jr.* from his work at the John Hopkins Physical Lab in Silver Springs, Maryland, and *W. R.* from Northwestern University. Although they didn't get any hunting in during their stay, *Bill Sr.* had already had a good quail season in Mississippi and is looking forward to a little more before the season ends.

Carolyn and *Hardy Winburn* and young *Hardy*, who is two, are in the big middle of moving into their new home at 5201 Hawthorne. Although they find it quite an operation, no amount of work can keep it from being a most exciting occasion.

At the December meeting of the ASCE at Granoff's, *Reid Beckel*, designer in our division, was elected secretary-treasurer of the engineering group. *Reid* has been a member of the organization and worked with them since his undergraduate days at the University of Arkansas.



Gazette Photo-Gene Prescott
Officers of the ASCE are: John W. Courter, president; Reid Beckel, secretary-treasurer; Margaret Peterson, vice-president.

Through The Grapevine

EQUIPMENT AND PROCUREMENT

Mary M. Hill

We all enjoyed a very nice Christmas party on our coffee break on Christmas Eve... *Frank Caple* acted as Santa and we exchanged gifts and had refreshments. The Procurement Office employees had "potluck" luncheon at noon and exchanged gifts.

Bob Landfair spent the week end after Christmas in Greenwood, Mississippi, where he acted as best man in the wedding of a friend.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kirchoff enjoyed the holidays in Paragould visiting his mother, *Mrs. J. B. Kirchoff*. Also while there *Mr. Kirchoff* had a treat in spending some time with "Mother" *Moore*, a very dear friend of his who had just celebrated her 100th birthday anniversary.

Pvt. Jerry Price, who is stationed at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, spent the holidays in Jacksonville with his parents, *Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Price*.

Bonnie and Bob Hill had as their guests over the holidays Bob's sister and family, *Mr. and Mrs. Dell Eaton* and daughter, *Mary Dell*, of Englewood, Colorado.

Lonnie Reed, mechanic in the Heavy Equipment Shop, has resigned to attend Little Rock University. *Lonnie* will take a course in radio, television, and electronics. We wish him the best of luck.

W. Kavanaugh Heard, Central Shop employee, has been ill in Baptist Hospital but is now recovering at home. We miss him and hope he will soon be back with us.

We extend our deepest sympathies to *J. E. Hardcastle*, whose brother, *J. C. Hardcastle*, was killed in an automobile accident on Highway 167 on December 27.

COUNTY ROADS

Zelda Riggs

Max Hall and daughter, *Helen Ann*,

spent the holidays with the *Ernest Aveas* and children in Fort Worth. They were accompanied by the parents of *Ernest*.

Congratulations to *Al Wilson* who is the proud possessor of a new Plymouth.

Mrs. John "Pat" Allen of Houston, Texas, was a recent guest of her parents, *Mary and Jack Teasdale*.

Miss Lillian Carter of Dallas, Texas, and her mother, *Mrs. Otis Carter* of Alexandria, Louisiana, were guests of this reporter and husband, *Richard*, and daughter, *Eunice M. Johnson*, the latter part of December.

RIGHT OF WAY

Nancy Conrad

The New Year has brought several changes to our division. We welcome *Wilbur D. Luton* as our division accountant, stepping into *Ed Orsini's* shoes who transferred to Accounting. *Mr. Luton* was formerly an accountant for the Esso Standard Oil Company. He is a member of the Elks and the Shrines. Being a big hunter and fisherman, he and *Gip Robertson* have a common bond. We know we will enjoy working for *Mr. Luton*. We are sorry *Mr. Orsini* left, having done a terrific job however, we wish him luck and happiness on his new job.

Christmas brought fun and frolicking to each and every one of us. We had a party on Christmas Eve which, I believe, was carried over the 26th - at which time the employees of R. of W. presented two very necessary gifts for the fisherman, to *Mr. Thrasher* - a minnow bucket and a life jacket.

We regret seeing *Emma Jo Fulton* of Appraisals leave us. However, she has decided to further her education and is planning to enter Arkansas Tech at Russell-

Through The Grapevine

Right of Way (con't.)

ville. She will enter the spring semester and will major in English, planning to teach in high school.

Fay Wallace is feeling better and is back at his desk after being ill with pneumonia, we're happy to report.

We welcome another newcomer - *J. C. Merrit, Jr.* to the Appraisal Section. *J. C.* is from Greenbriar, where he taught vocational agriculture in the Greenbriar High School. He has a degree from the University of Arkansas and has been also employed as assistant supervisor of the Farmer's Home Association, and in the real estate business for some time.

On a hunting expedition, January 11, *Gip Robertson* injured his eye on sagegrass, of all things. We do hope he has the patch off his eye soon and will be able to hunt again next week end, as usual.

DIVISION 2

Ouida Grimes

Our Christmas party each year gets bigger and better...It was held in the District Office and we had about 50 persons attending. Everyone enjoyed the coffee and cake, etc., and there was much picture-taking, including moving pictures. We were glad to have our good friend and former employee, *Inez Royston, Mrs. R. C. Warren, Junior Goins,* and his family with us.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Morgan's son, Elmer, Jr., left December 22, for Germany. He is the *Morgan's* last son to go into the army. We enjoyed having another son, *Charles,* at our party.

Willie J. Ryals and family were in Houston, Texas over the holidays, with their daughter, *Willie Mae Blanton* and her family.

We send our best Get Well wishes to *Joe Tice* who has been off about two months.

Highway curves, unlike those of women, get more dangerous after you pass 65.



Part of the Division and District 2 group at the holiday gathering in the District Office are: *Elmer Morgan, John S. Harris, Charles Morgan, Charles Bland,* and *Woodrow Wilson.*

DIVISION 3

Olive Jackson

Waldo Wylie and *Miss Hazel Holland* of Ashdown were married November 8 in the First Methodist Church of Nashville. We wish them much happiness.

Ardell and *Nellie Clark* had their daughter *Sue* and husband, *Jack Bolls,* and little granddaughter, *Linda Denise* of Little Rock, and *Margie Clark,* a sophomore at Harding College, Searcy, as guests recently.

Barham and *Nellie Cox* are the proud parents of an 8 pound son, *Paul Blevins,* who arrived November 18, at Prescott.

Edna Lewallen spent the holidays in Dallas visiting that new grandson, *Russell Edward,* and daughter *Carolyn* and *Bob Stephens.*

Shorty Carlton, the driver of our asphalt tank distributor, had a narrow escape in December when a truck pulled onto the highway just in front of the distributor, causing it to turn over... *S. A. Flowers* had an accident at which time his right hand was

Through The Grapevine

DISTRICT 5

Shirley Morton

caught in a drag line, resulting in the loss of three fingers.

Corporal Thomas Walker Beck, brother of *W. C. Beck*, who has been stationed in Germany the past year, now has arrived in the states and has reported to Fort Chaffee where he will be discharged from the service.

Georgie Ruth and *Elmer Clark* have returned from a visit in Pexico, Missouri where they visited Georgia's uncle. They were accompanied on the trip by her parents, *Earl* and *Wilma Thompson*.

Clovis G. Tittle and wife, *Nettie Lee*, are in Temple, Texas, where *Nettie Lee* is going through the Scott-White Clinic.

Edward Bonds visited his sister, *Mrs. W. D. Merchant* and *Mr. Merchant* in Fort Scott, Kansas recently.

Congratulations to *Robert Aaron Skinner* who received his 5-year Service Pin and Certificate of Merit in December.

We extend our deepest sympathies to *William Cobb*, whose mother, *Mrs. Dan Cobb* of Ashdown, passed away January 6 in Texarkana.

DIVISION 5

A. L. Moser

Our Director, *Herbert Eldridge*, visited Division 5 Shop on December 19. He was speaker at the Kiwanis Luncheon that day... other visitors recently were: *R. B. Winfrey* and *Don Hayes*; *J. T. Shaw*, heavy truck transportation foreman; *Luther Bearden* of Right-of-Way; and *Ernest Branscum*, former employee of Division 5, who now lives in Phoenix, Arizona.

Service Pins and Certificates were recently received by the following: *Bert Mathis*, 15 years; *R. L. Simmons*, 10 years; and *W. H. Milburn*, 5 years.

John Homesley, equipment superintendent of Division 5, has retired because of ill health. He is a patient in the Veteran's Hospital, Little Rock. His address is Floor 5, North, 300 Roosevelt, if anyone wants to send cards.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Thompson of White Sands, New Mexico, spent the holidays with their parents, *Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Thompson*, and *Mr. and Mrs. Bill Kibbe*. Harold is a former employee of our division, and is now stationed at White Sands.



Edna Lewallan's grandson, Russell Stephens.

Through The Grapevine

Division 5 (cont.)

Mr. and Mrs. Billy Weaver are the proud parents of a baby girl who made her appearance on Christmas morning, which was indeed a wonderful present. *George Kirkdoffer* is also beaming with pride because of a new grandson - the first one.

Mrs. O. D. Syfert, wife of *O. D. Syfert*, yard man in District Headquarters, believes in protecting her chickens. She heard the chickens squawking and on looking out her window, saw a big bobcat in the yard...she grabbed her rifle and went in pursuit with the results being: one shot - one dead bobcat.

Legislative Auditors *George Muse, Jr., Harry A. Pickens, and Patrick Haynie*, spent the first week in January with us.

Our division had their holiday dinner December 24. The employees (70 of them) certainly enjoyed the baked ham with all the trimmings. *Bernard Bice*, division maintenance superintendent, was *M. C. and C. L. Bradberry* gave the invocation.

Our sincere sympathies are extended to *Mr. and Mrs. Homer Moser* in the loss of *Mrs. Moser's father, Walter Cole*, who passed away December 26; and to *Mr. and Mrs. Thurlo Owens* in the loss of *Mrs. Owens' mother, Mrs. Vanderpool*, who passed away in December; and to *Duane Egnar*, whose father, *Wm. H. Egnar*, passed away January 2.

DIVISION 7

Sula Burnham

Everyone in our division had a very nice Christmas and hope all the employees in the Department had the same...We exchanged gifts and had a delicious Christmas dinner. Thanks to *Margaret Ann's mother* for those delicious karo nut pies.

Jack Davis is the proud papa of a 7 pound boy. Congratulations to the happy parents.

Welcome to *Arlene Davis*, who is our new

stock clerk. *Arlene* replaced "Smitty" and we all hope she is happy on her new job.

Frank Mulligan underwent surgery at *Warner Brown Hospital* in *El Dorado*, where he remained for three weeks. But with *Frank's* determination and stamina he is back in the swing again.

Congratulations on the new magazine. We are very proud to work for *Mr. Hicks*, who was the Man of the Month in the November issue.

DIVISION 9

Edris Husley

Below zero temperature has kept everyone pretty much on their toes in our division. All crews had sawdust and salt ready to move and were well prepared for the worst, but happily didn't have to venture out.

Everyone reports a thoroughly enjoyable holiday season. "Slim" Porter, division equipment supervisor and wife went to *Houston, Texas* with their children...also took in the *Southwest Conference Pre-Season Basketball Tournament*...*Minnie Shinn*, division fuel clerk and hubby *Jack*, had *Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Boos*, (*Minnie's* parents) of *Des Moines, Iowa*, and *Lt. Colonel and Mrs. John McCurdy* as visitors. (We really enjoyed the *Danish Kringles* baked by *Mrs. Boos*)...*Forrest Williams* and *Bill Hawkins* had vacation during the Christmas week and enjoyed just staying at home. *Paul Byrom* had his daughter, *Paula*, of *Arkansas Tech*, at home during the holidays.

Jeff Davis, area foreman, and *Mrs. Davis* had a nice party for the *Searcy County* crew and their wives. Everyone enjoyed the good fellowship and delicious refreshments. The local high school band serenaded them with Christmas music.

We're all happy that *J. C. Perkins, Sr.* arrived home from *St. Vincent's hospital* and hope he continues to feel better.

Through The Grapevine

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Holland are preparing to move into their new home and we know they will have much enjoyment in it.

R. B. Winfrey and Harry Wright were visitors in our division December 26. Also had Mr. Winfrey and Don Hayes December 30.

Curtis Gardner, with the help of Voyt Jackson, Tom Phillips, Otto Pillow, John Sullivan and Marvin McElroy, are enlarging the Long Shed and getting it ready for Ertie Lawrence's crew to pour a concrete floor - a big improvement and more storage space.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Bell became parents for the first time when little Martha Jane Bell made her arrival on December 18. Congratulations.

Paul Bayless, Baxter County mower operator, suffered a severe heart attack December 13. We all hope that Paul recovers completely soon, and will be able to return to work.

John Burlsworth has a new fish story. He doesn't exhibit much exuberance though... John lost his best reel and rod when the handle broke just behind the reel. The sad part was that Santa didn't find out about it before visiting the Burlsworth house...

C. G. Williams is still in the beagle hound business and we hear that Mrs. Williams doesn't even know that the car has a front seat.

DIVISION 10

Essie Porter

Mitchell's Lodge on Highway 25 West was the place for the largest party held during the holidays. About fifty of the fellows had a festive gathering including Jess Rush, Division 10 superintendent; E. E. Hurley, District 1 engineer, and G. E. Nunnally, maintenance supervisor. Sorry this was a stag affair as we of the fairer sex in the division hear the food was plenty good - there was lots of fun - and some very nice compli-

ments expressed by Mr. Hurley on the good work done in the division by all the employees.

Jess Rush and little daughter Donna, were visitors in our office last month, bringing along trays of cakes and candies for a holiday treat. Thanks Gladys, -we really enjoyed them.

Govie Lou Light has joined our office force as clerk-steno. Welcome, Govie Lou. We are happy to have your help.

Jim Long, fuel clerk, and wife Lorene, spent New Years with relatives at Huntsville.

Bud Hodnett returned to work on December 30, after several weeks absence due to a hunting accident which resulted in a badly injured foot. Nice to have you around again Bud.

Wallace Jones and two of his assistants from the Legislative Audit were with us two weeks during December.

Along South Carolina highways you will see signs that read, for example, "Speed Limit, 55, Minimum 40." The maxima and minima vary with the type of road and general driving conditions but all roads have an enforced minimum speed as well as a top limit. The South Carolina legislature enacted the law several years ago as a step toward more orderly and efficient operation of a safe, convenient and economic highway system, based on the thought that "the slow driver must learn to keep pace with modern-day traffic. He must either join the normal flow of traffic and learn to share the road with his fellow motorists or he must take the consequences - a traffic ticket."

More and more students of highway safety are joining them in their thinking. It approaches a golden mean by eliminating the self-centered "mopes" who crawl at the lower extreme as well as the stupid and reckless "dopes" who "fly low" in the higher extreme.



THIS'LL KILL 'YA

by Jimmy Zinn

Revenge on Shock Theatre -- A fugitive scientist from a horror picture dreamed up a serum that brought inanimate objects to life. He tried it out on the statue of a great general. Sure enough, the statue gave a quiver and the general, creaking a bit in the joints, climbed down from the pedestal. "I have given you life," the scientist exulted. "Now tell me, what is the first thing you're going to do with it?" "That's easy," rasped the general, ripping a gun from his holster. "I'm going to shoot about two million pigeons!"

A Texas lad rushed home from kindergarten and demanded that his mother buy him a set of pistols, holsters and gun belt.

"Why, whatever for, dear?" his mother asked. "You surely don't need them for school?"

"Yes I do. Teacher said that tomorrow she was going to teach us to draw."

"Why did you have to buy such an expensive coat?" her husband demanded.

"Well," confessed the wife, "I guess Satan tempted me."

"Then why didn't you say, 'Get thee behind me, Satan?'" "I did, but he looked over my shoulder and said, 'Fits you real good in the back too.'"

The guest at the dinner party, arriving late, found a seat reserved for him near the head of the table, where a goose was being carved.

"Oh," he exclaimed, "so I'm to sit by the goose."

Then, observing the lady on his left, he made haste to amend an awkward phrase. "I mean," he said, "the roasted one, of course."

Heard that there is a new TV program. The title as now proposed is "The Wife's Other John." It is understood that the story is about a girl who insisted upon having two bathrooms.

Archie, the office boy, was fired and charged with the theft of \$500 in postage stamps. A crusading young lawyer successfully defended Archie because he was sure of his innocence. So sure that he decided to sue Archie's former employer for false arrest, defamation of character, mental cruelty, ect.

"It will cost about \$500 to file the suit," he told Archie, "and I'm broke. Do you think you could raise \$500?"

"Not in cash," explained Archie, "but I can give it to you in postage stamps."

A sharp rap on the door startled the two lovers. "Quick, it's my husband," exclaimed the frightened woman. "Jump out the window!" "But baby, we're on the thirteenth floor," the not so gay blade gasped.

"Jump," cried the woman, "this is no time to be superstitious."

A quick-thinking employee came up with a new one when his foreman demanded. "How come you're sleeping on the job?"

"Goshamighty," replied the employee, "can't a man close his eyes for a moment of silent prayer?"

Tommy's mother was telling about the good times she had when she was a little girl... riding her pony, sliding down haystacks and wading the creek on grandfather's farm.

"Mother," sighed little Tommy, "I wish that I had met you earlier."