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**NEW ANTILITTER
CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED**
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Pass out a few 'orchids'

It's a part of a supervisor's job to oversee the work produced by his workers. The quality of the work his group produces and, often, the safety of the crew depend on timely and consistent direction.

It's equally important to identify good work and to reward it. There are a few major awards made annually such as the Greer, Gilchrist and DeBerry Awards which are presented every year at the Short Course. And the department has won more than its share of national awards for outstanding performance.

Those are the Oscars and Emmys of our work and the recipients of these awards should be justifiably proud of them.

But there are other rewards as well. Nothing promotes positive attitudes and good morale better than a timely pat on the back. Good words serve as check points to individuals, reassuring them that they are doing quality work.

If you haven't passed out a few verbal orchids lately, try it. You never know just how much good effect it can have.

Mark Good



Don Clark, manager of departmental relations fields a question from Jim Moss, Amarillo district maintenance engineer, at the selection of the advertising agency for the new antilitter effort.

Advisory panel selects agency for litter push

The firm of GSD&M has been selected as the department's advertising agency for a \$2 million campaign against littering.

The selection came after a day-long session of interviews with four advertising agencies. The four—GSD&M, Neal Spelce Communications, KHZ Advertising Inc., and the JWT Group—were the finalists from more than 30 who applied for the project.

Aiding in the selection was an advisory committee of individuals from throughout Texas, representing groups with vital interests in reducing the litter problem.

Among them were such organizations as the Boy Scouts, the Sierra Club, the American Automobile Association, community beautification organizations and the travel industry.

During the advertising campaign, the advisory committee will be consulted on the effectiveness of the program in the various areas of the state.

GSD&M is a 160-person agency with offices in Dallas, Austin, Houston, San Antonio and Los Angeles. The firm's client roster includes Southwest Airlines, Adolph Coors Company, the Houston Post and Mr. Gatti's Pizza Restaurants. Billings in 1984 topped \$60 million.

The antilitter campaign was ordered earlier this year by the commission as costs of picking up litter along the state's roadsides climbed into the \$20 million-a-year range.

The amount consumed by litter pickup has been rising by 17 to 20 percent annually and the commission decided to invest in a campaign to stem the tide of litter in Texas.

An integral part of the campaign will be research into the amount of litter on the roadsides before and after the campaign to determine its effectiveness. This will largely determine whether the media effort will be continued after the first year.

Members of the advisory committee include Gene Adams, district maintenance engineer, Tyler; Jim Battersby, president, Discover Texas Association; Richard Bentley, regional director, Boy Scouts of America; Byron Brewer, vice-chairman, Sierra Club, Lone Star chapter; Walter Collier, district maintenance engineer, San Antonio; Shelley Crawford, Keep America Beautiful, Inc., Dallas; David Ferguson, executive director, Texas Association of Convention and Visitors

Bureaus; Hunter Garrison, district maintenance engineer, Houston; Paula Gaut, executive coordinator, Corpus Christi/Nueces County Clean Community Systems; Bill Falco, president, Keep Texas Beautiful, Inc.; Robert Chase, Keep America Beautiful, Inc., Houston; Tom Kelley district maintenance engineer, Dallas; Jane Leslie, Keep America Beautiful Inc., Midland; Diane Mills, Keep America Beautiful, Bryan-College Station; Jim Moss, district maintenance engineer, Amarillo; Charles Muery, district public affairs officer, Odessa; Bill Nash, vice-president, field services, Keep America Beautiful, Inc.; Bruce Palmer, general manager, American Automobile Association-Texas; Anice Read, Texas Historical Commission; Chris Semos, Dallas County Commissioner; Mary Ellen Shoop, governor's office of community affairs and executive director, Keep Texas Beautiful, Inc.; Jackie Spier, Keep America Beautiful, El Paso; Craig Steffens, the department's chief landscape architect; and Larry Todd, executive director, Texas Tourist Development Agency. ★

Morton section gets top district award for maintenance units

The Morton Maintenance Section has been named "Section of the Year" in the Lubbock district.

It was one of 10 maintenance sections in the district which had received a Section of the Month award in an on-going competition in the district, which made it eligible for the Section of the Year competition. The judging was made on the basis of production, safety performance, cleanliness, care of equipment and morale. The section received a plaque in token of the award.

Members of the section are Malcolm Fred, supervisor; Tom Newton, assistant supervisor., William Davis, Gerald Dupler, Aron Garrett, Roger Gattis, Lonnie Harrison, Foy Hill, Betsy McCasland, Gerald Patton, Thomas Richardson Jr., Daniel Rozell and Higinio Vasquez Jr., ★

Next month: HOME PORT

The home porting of U.S. Navy ships in Corpus Christi and the Houston-Galveston area will mean more jobs and some hefty navy payrolls for the areas. It also will mean new facilities to be provided by the department for access to the ports. Al Zucha will take a look at this impact in next month's TRANSPORTATION NEWS.

Railroad ROWs to be studied for transit use

A study of the feasibility of utilizing existing urban railroad right-of-way for public transportation corridors in five Texas cities was initiated recently by the department.

The agency signed a consultant contract with Bernard Johnson Engineers of Houston to spearhead the research.

The study will be conducted in Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, San Antonio and Houston.

Research activities will begin this June and proceed approximately 14 months, producing a document that summarizes and lists details of findings in the five municipalities.

Research teams will focus primarily on the potential of transportation corridors along MK&T right-of-way, but will also consider use of Missouri-Pacific right-of-way linking Austin and San Antonio.

Phil Wilson, head of DHT's Transportation Planning Division in Austin, will direct the Railroad Corridor Task Force. Regional task force coordinators and their respective DHT districts are John Blain, Dallas; Bob Hodge, Fort Worth; Roland Gamble, Austin; Richard Lockhart, San Antonio and Omer Poorman, Houston ★

Three states may be sanctioned for speed limit laxity

Federal Highway Administrator Ray Barnhart has recommended that three states be sanctioned for noncompliance with the federal 55 mph speed limit.

The three states involved are Arizona, Maryland and Vermont. Under 1973 federal law, at least 50 percent of the drivers in a state must comply with the 55 mph speed limit, or the state may be penalized by the loss of up to 10 percent of its primary, secondary and urban highway funds; however, the FHWA permits some adjustments to the data.

Until now, no state has as yet lost federal highway funds as a result of noncompliance, even though Congress adopted the penalties in 1978.

While reiterating that as FHWA Administrator he was committed to enforcing the law, Barnhart said that he personally did not approve of the application of that uniform law on all highways due to different conditions of roadways in the different states. He has sought recommendations from the states on alternatives to the current speed limit law.

Currently, Texas is in compliance.

★ Pete Haight



El Paso Sand Products Company crew places moisture barrier.

Moisture barrier going in under I-10 section

In an effort to correct a deteriorating section of Interstate 10, the El Paso District has borrowed a page from successful experimental projects in the San Antonio District.

Moisture entering and leaving the clay soil beneath approximately 2.5 miles of roadway in Hudspeth County has created a condition which results in numerous surface failures. Seeking a solution to the problem, District Engineer Joe Battle took note of successful projects in Bexar County where fabric moisture barriers were emplaced along the edges of troublesome roadways.

Borrowing from the success of the Bexar County efforts, the El Paso District has contracted with El Paso Sand Products to

Jean Sparks wins honors from KTB

Jean Sparks, public affairs officer in the Brownwood district and one of the most faithful contributors to T-News, was selected as one of the outstanding district governors of Keep Texas Beautiful, Inc.

Jean helps coordinate activities of the statewide beautification organization in the district which includes McCulloch, San Saba, Lampasas, Coleman, Brown, Mills, Comanche, Eastland and Stephens Counties. ★

TRANSPORTATION news

Volume 10

Number 10

A newsletter published monthly by the Travel and Information Division of the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation at 11th and Brazos Sts., Austin, Texas 78701-2483.

Manuscripts, photos, news tips invited. Telephone (512) 475-6070, or Tex-An 822-6070.

place 50,098 feet of fabric along Interstate 10 in Hudspeth County. The contractor's crews dig an 8-foot trench with a trenching machine, hang the fabric into the hole by nailing its top onto the edges of the roadway; then refill the hole with pea gravel and haul off the excess clay soil. Crews average about 500 feet of fabric installation each day.

A problem developed in the fabric installation when wet sand, used as a backfill, clung to the fabric and caused it to cave-in. Engineers made a field substitution of pea gravel for the sand and the cave-ins ceased.

In order to prevent surface water from running under the fabric and re-entering the highly plastic soils beneath the roadway, the crews shoot asphaltic emulsion between the nailed fabric top and the pavement edge. The trench is later topped with an 18-inch, cement-stabilized cap which is sloped to match the shoulder.

When the fabric installation is completed, the riding surface will receive a seal coat and level-up work to correct undulations.

El Paso District Design Engineer Sid Surratt said the project will be monitored for five years under a contract with the Texas Transportation Institute. Bob Galloway, TTI researcher, will deploy sensors to compare moisture levels within and outside the vertical barriers. TTI will use a G.M. Profilometer and a Mays Ride Meter to record deflections and swells in the riding surface. In order to establish a control section for comparison with those treated with vertical moisture barriers, the district did not emplant the barriers along a 1,000 foot section in the middle of the Hudspeth County project.

The El Paso District is planning to use the method to stabilize another two-mile section of Interstate 10 in Culberson County. Meanwhile, the San Antonio District is letting a contract for more of the vertical moisture barriers on a six-mile section of Interstate 10 in east Bexar County.

Commenting on the cooperation of the two districts, Byron Blaschke, Deputy Director of Design and Construction, said, "This is an excellent example of technology transfer. It's an area we need to improve on. We need to share information on our successes as well as our failures." ★ Bo McCarver

Health insurance sign-up under way

CHANGES MAKE THIS REGISTRATION PERIOD CRITICAL FOR EMPLOYEES

Each employee should give the selection of a health insurance plan special attention this month, the last annual open enrollment period for the uniform group insurance program.

After September 1, 1985, those who decide to move to HMOs (health maintenance organizations) from the standard insurance plan or from an HMO to the insured plan will be able to do so during an annual period set aside for this purpose. Individuals wishing to add coverage or dependents, or to move from an HMO to the insured (Blue Cross) plan can do so anytime during the year —BUT pre-existing medical conditions won't be fully covered and the employee and others to be insured will have to prove insurability.

That could mean having to have a complete physical—at the employee's expense.

Both the Human Resources Division and the Employees Retirement System, which administers the program, have urged employees to make their decisions carefully this time.

Janet Williams, a spokeswoman for ERS, said those wishing to switch plans after September 1, "will be required to apply to the retirement system and to submit to Blue Cross proof of insurability. Blue Cross must approve your application before your coverage will be effective."

She said there are approximately 95,000 employees and retirees under the Blue Cross plans and about 28,000 who are covered

"You should be aware of the changes, otherwise you could make some costly mistakes."

under the health maintenance organizations eligible to participate in the state employees plan. Whether the employee is covered for health insurance by Blue Cross or by an HMO, the life, accident and disability coverage for all is through Blue Cross.

Recently, Ms Williams reviewed changes in the Blue Cross plan for a group of employees in Austin. ERS has been contacting employees because there have been a lot of changes in the Blue Cross program.

"You should be aware of the changes, otherwise you could make some costly mistakes," she said.

There are differences in premiums, she said, and differences in coverage. The state pays \$87 per employee, \$85 appropriated by the Legislature and \$2 from the retirement system. The state paid about \$90 million last year for employee insurance premiums. This year, the total will reach \$110 million, Ms Williams said.

One of the things that has driven premium rates up during the last several years, she said, is the soaring cost of health care. It has far outpaced the overall inflation rate during the last decade. Health care inflation in 1983, for example was 18 percent, or 12 percentage

points above the overall inflation rate.

Also affecting premiums are the number and dollar amounts of claims filed by state employees. "Actuaries of insurance carriers tell us state employees tend to file many more claims than is typical for a group of our type and size," she said.

She said Blue Cross reported state employees claims average over \$9 million a month. These claims have a critical impact on the premiums because "we are experience-rated," she said.

That means the premiums are set to cover the anticipated claims each year, plus the administrative costs. "So, the more claims we file, the higher our premiums must be," she said. Unnecessary hospitalizations, doctors visits and surgeries, result in more claims filed and can drive up rates for everyone.

"Estimates vary, but experts say that up to 25 percent of all claims filed may be unnecessary" she said.

Effective September 1, only one health care plan will be offered by Blue Cross to state employees and retirees. For the first time since the group insurance program was established, active employees and retirees will participate in the same plan and at the same premium rates.

The single plan encourages employees and retirees to use their insurance more wisely, she said by requiring them to share the costs. The single plan also prevents "switching" from a low plan to high plan in anticipation of medical expenditures.

The single plan in effect after September 1 will be similar to the present Plan 2 under the Blue Cross program.

State Employees Uniform Group Insurance Program COST CONTAINMENT CHANGES Effective September 1, 1985

Recently the Board of Trustees of the Employees Retirement System adopted several changes to the Uniform Group Insurance Program in response to recommendations from the Group Insurance Advisory Committee and Governor's Task Force. While these changes may help trim rising insurance costs, employees must take personal action to reduce costs since our premiums are set at the level required to pay claims. If fewer claims are filed and the cost of medical care is kept low, employee and retiree premiums will remain low. Therefore, it is important that all employees and retirees be prudent with medical costs and associated claims.

Cost Containment Features

The following are some of the features which will be incorporated into the health insurance program on September 1, 1985. This summary is for informational purposes only and will not determine the actual benefits provided.

- (1) **ONE PLAN OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE** will be available to employees. The plan will be similar to the current Plan 2 with the additional features described below. Included in the plan is \$4,000 basic life with AD&D for active employees under age 70 and \$2,000 basic life with AD&D for active employees age 70 and over.
- (2) **NON-EMERGENCY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS** are discouraged under the plan. If surgery/treatment is not performed within 24 hours of admission, room charges will be denied; however, this requirement will not apply to conditions for which hospitalization is justified by medical necessity.
- (3) **ELIGIBLE OUTPATIENT SURGERY** is encouraged under the plan by providing full payment for the reasonable cost of services and supplies for specified procedures.
- (4) **PRE-ADMISSION DIAGNOSTIC TESTING** will be encouraged on an outpatient basis by providing full payment for the reasonable cost of prescribed diagnostic tests conducted prior to a hospital confinement. Tests must be acceptable to the admitting hospital and physician. Duplicated diagnostic tests will be excluded.
- (5) To reduce hospital confinements, **HOME HEALTH CARE, HOSPICE CARE, AND CARE PROVIDED BY A SKILLED NURSING FACILITY** will be eligible for reimbursement under the plan. Benefits will be payable only if the physician submits a treatment plan in advance to the insurance carrier for approval.
- (6) Benefits for **PRIVATE DUTY NURSING** will be limited to \$8,000 per year and a \$40,000 contract maximum benefit. Physician recertification of the continuing need for such care will be required every 30 days.
- (7) To reduce unnecessary surgeries, **SECOND CONFIRMING OPINIONS** will be required in order to obtain maximum reimbursement for certain surgical procedures. The full cost for obtaining the confirming second opinion will be paid.
- (8) After September 1, 1985, **THE ANNUAL OPEN ENROLLMENT** period will be eliminated. Individuals wishing to change HMOs or to move from the insured plan to an HMO will be given an annual opportunity to do so. Individuals wishing to add coverage or dependents or move from an HMO to the insured plan will be able to do so at anytime during the year, after providing evidence of insurability and receiving approval. A pre-existing conditions clause will apply.
- (9) A **PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS EXCLUSION** will apply to employees and their eligible dependents for initial coverage or coverage changes effective on or after September 1, 1985. The exclusion will not apply to eligible newborns or to congenital/birth defects. The exclusion will limit benefit payments to \$500 for 12 months for any condition for which the insured was seen or treated by a physician during the 90 days prior to the effective date of coverage. However, in conjunction with the evidence of insurability requirement for coverage changes after September 1, 1985, the 90-day period for purposes of defining excluded conditions will be the 90-day period ending with the receipt of the employee's completed application by the Employees Retirement System.

Employees are asked to remember that their help in controlling costs to the insurance program is required if we are to keep premiums at a reasonable level. This is your insurance program and only you can make it work.

STATE EMPLOYEES UNIFORM GROUP INSURANCE PROGRAM
Group Insurance Rates Effective September 1, 1985
For Active Employees

ACTIVE EMPLOYEE HEALTH PREMIUMS*

*Includes \$2.13 for basic life.

	Blue Cross/ Blue Shield	Central Texas Health Plan Austin	Prucare of Austin	Humana Health Plan Corpus Christi	Cigna Health Plan of Texas Dallas	Kaiser Foundation Health Plan Dallas	Cigna Health Plan of Texas Houston	Maxicare Texas, Inc. Houston	Prucare of Houston	HealthAmerica San Antonio	Scott and White Health Plan Temple
Employee Only	\$ 66.29	\$ 94.79	\$ 87.43	\$ 89.77	\$ 82.14	\$ 95.12	\$ 87.47	\$ 69.17	\$ 89.48	\$ 88.96	\$ 78.97
Emp. & Spouse	136.87	197.64	185.53	177.41	201.36	208.58	198.41	174.70	190.56	227.89	157.37
Emp. & Children	104.79	177.58	164.20	203.69	159.75	172.31	164.27	167.37	168.81	167.11	143.79
Emp. & Family	175.36	294.01	262.30	273.80	239.76	254.15	258.15	261.78	269.90	259.58	243.08

ACTIVE EMPLOYEE DISABILITY INCOME RATES

SHORT TERM ONLY RATE PER \$100—\$.18
LONG TERM ONLY RATE PER \$100 —\$1.36

NOTE: Premium is based on the employee's monthly salary divided by \$100, then multiplied by the rate. Insured salary may not exceed \$2000 per month for short term and \$3,000 per month for long term.

ACTIVE EMPLOYEE OPTIONAL TERM LIFE WITH AD&D RATES

Employee's Age	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70+
Coverage Category												
Election I Only	\$.15	\$.15	\$.16	\$.16	\$.17	\$.21	\$.31	\$.50	\$.81	\$1.18	\$2.89	\$3.41
Election I and II	.33	.33	.34	.35	.37	.46	.69	1.11	1.82	2.67	5.70	N/A

NOTES: The rates listed are per \$1,000 of salary. Notice that the rate for both Election I and II differs from past years in that it combines the two. This was done because an employee cannot take Election II only. To find out what the cost difference for Election I and II is, simply subtract the rate for Election I from the rate for Election I and II.

For employees under age 70, rates include AD&D coverage equal to the amount of optional term life. Employees age 70 and over do not have AD&D coverage and may elect optional life in the amount equal to one-half of their annual salary, up to a maximum of \$10,000.

ACTIVE EMPLOYEE BASIC TERM LIFE & AD&D, DEPENDENT TERM LIFE & AD&D, AND VOLUNTARY AD&D

Coverage Category	Basic Term Life Per Unit	Dependent Term Life Per Unit	Voluntary AD&D Per \$1,000
Employee Under Age 70	\$2.13	\$.77	\$.05
Employee Age 70 and Over	2.13	\$2.02	N/A
Employee and Family	N/A	N/A	\$.07

NOTE: For all active employees regardless of age, basic term life premium includes AD&D coverage equal to amount of basic term life. Basic term life units are: \$4,000 for active employees under 70, \$2,000 for active employees 70 and over. Basic term life premium is included in health insurance and HMO premiums. Dependent term life premium includes AD&D coverage equal to amount of dependent life for active employees under age 70. Dependent AD&D coverage is not available for dependents of employees over age 70. Dependent term life unit is \$2,000 for each eligible spouse and child "not to exceed 50% of the Employee's total life insurance (basic and optional)". Voluntary AD&D is not available to employees age 70 and over.

One of the most important cost containment features employed by Blue Cross in attempting to hold the line on medical costs is the UCR system. UCR means "Usual, Customary and Reasonable charge." It refers to the maximum amount Blue Cross will pay for medical services and supplies in given areas.

Blue Cross reimburses the employee, retiree or the provider for the actual charge or the reasonable (UCR) charge, whichever is less.

"One of the things that has driven premium rates up is the soaring cost of health care."

"So UCR is a cost containment measure designed to encourage the reasonable charging of fees. Blue Cross considers the charge to be reasonable for a service or supply if the charge or fee falls within 90 percent of the range of charges for that service or supply in your area," Williams said.

She said UCR is based on claims actually filed considering three factors: The geographic region, the medical procedure and the doctor's medical specialty. Because charges vary from place to place, the state has been divided into eight UCR regions by Blue Cross.

Ms Williams said Blue Cross can tell the patient or the physician ahead of time if the projected cost of treatment is within the UCR limit for that region. By requesting this information whenever possible before non-emergency care, you can compare charges by providers to help lower out-of-pocket outlays for charges that exceed the UCR limit.

To find this out, you can call Blue Cross

for this information. Just now, employees and retirees will have to call the Austin customer service office of Blue Cross at (512) 452-3388. Blue Cross soon will have a toll free 800 number for this service, but it was not available at press time.

Before calling, of course, the employee should get the projected cost of treatment from the physician.

"I would get it in writing if I could," Ms Williams said. Also get a description of the procedure and the code number. "Your doctor has the code number for each procedure," she said. "You need to know the type of medical specialty, doctor's name and where the procedure is to be performed." Blue Cross cannot release the actual cost for any procedure but it can tell you if the projected cost is within the UCR limits for the projected procedure.

"What can you do if your projected charge exceeds the UCR? Well, first you can discuss a fee reduction with your doctor," she said. "Because the UCR network has grown, more medical care providers have shown interest in keeping charges in line."

"UCR is a cost containment measure designed to encourage the reasonable charging of fees."

"Also you or your physician can submit information about any complications or unusual circumstances affecting the case when you file your claim and they will be taken into consideration when determining reimbursement," she said.

For most instances, the employee or retiree will share costs with Blue Cross, starting with a \$200 deductible. That's the amount an

individual must pay out of pocket before the insurance starts paying.

"Because the UCR network has grown, more medical providers have shown interest in keeping charges in line."

Those under present Plan 1 or Plan 3 now have \$150 deductible. Under the new plan, they would be required to pay an additional \$50 out of pocket before Blue Cross begins paying. For families, no more than three members are required to satisfy the deductible for each calendar year.

After the deductible has been satisfied for the calendar year, Blue Cross pays 80 percent of the first \$4,000 of eligible charges, so the employee would pay the other 20 percent or \$800. After the \$4,000 is reached, Blue Cross will pay 100 percent of reasonable charges for the calendar year, up to \$1,000,000 over the lifetime of the contract.

As before, a \$50 deductible must be satisfied anytime the employee or a dependent is admitted to the hospital. This deductible must be satisfied for each admission, even if the \$200 calendar year deductible has been satisfied.

Ms Williams said new limitations apply to non-emergency weekend hospital admissions. If surgery or treatment is not accomplished within 24 hours of admission, Friday or Saturday room charges can be denied. This does not apply to emergency or maternity care or any other medically necessary hospital admission.

"This refers only to cases in which a patient has been admitted to the hospital and

Please turn the page . . .

Texas will host WASHTO next July in Austin

This time next year, the department will be the host of the annual meeting of the Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (WASHTO).

It might seem like a long time away, but it isn't really, given the long lead time necessary to conduct a meeting of the size and scope of

this one. Some 650 persons are expected to attend.

The association includes state transportation officials from Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming, as well as the

Federal Highway Administration, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

Dates for the meeting are July 14-17, 1986, with the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Austin as the headquarters hotel. The Crest will also be used to house delegates.

The plans are under the direction of General Chairman Tom H. Taylor, director of the Travel and Information Division. Theme for the meeting will be "Transportation: Big Boots to Fill."

Others involved in the planning are Doris Howdeshell, assistant general chairman in charge of reservations and registration; Don Clark, assistant general chairman, hotel coordinator, finance chairman and tour coordinator; Henry Thomason, program chairman, assisted by Russell Cummings; Bob Flaherty, arrangements committee chairman, assisted by Jim Davis; Herman Kelly, press and public relations committee chairman, and Lucille (Mrs. Mark) Goode, chairman of the hospitality committee.

Texas last hosted an annual meeting of the association in 1971 at San Antonio. ★

Send Doris boots, boots and more boots

Got an old pair of cowboy boots too worn out to wear but still stuck there in the back of the closet?

Here's a way to get rid of them and to contribute to a worthwhile project at the same time.

Doris Howdeshell, assistant general chairperson of the 1986 WASHTO meeting in Austin, is looking for boots that have seen their better days. She's going to use them as table centerpieces.

It may sound kind of bizarre at first, but the boots really do look good when embellished with dried native flora,

walnuts, acorns, etc.

The decorations will provide a suitable motif for the official theme of the meeting—"Transportation: Big Boots to Fill."

Doris says ladies' boots or smaller sizes of men's boots are preferred. Those size 13s might crowd the pie and salad off the table. However, Doris says she will be happy to have any donations.

Send them to Doris Howdeshell, care of the Travel and Information Division, 11th and Brazos, Austin, TX 78707. In a plain wrapper. ★

SUMMARY OF BENEFITS Outline¹ of the Uniform Health Insurance Plan for 1985-86

DESCRIPTION:	09-01-85
Eligible Hospital Expenses	
Semi-private room, intensive care unit, services provided by hospital	80%
90 day psychiatric care, 30 day alcohol & drug dependency treatment	80%
Non-emergency Friday and Saturday admissions-Semi-private room charges	None
Eligible hospital expenses	80%
Eligible Out-patient Surgery	100% ²
Eligible Medical & Surgical Expenses	
Physicians, surgeons, prescription drugs and other medical expenses	80% ³
Out-patient Psychiatric Expenses	
Maximum calendar year visits/Maximum allowable charge per visit	80% ³ 25/\$60
Maximum calendar year visits to out-patient or day-treatment facilities	45
Out-patient Alcohol & Drug Dependency Treatment	
Maximum calendar year visits	80% ³ 30
Eligible Out-patient Pre-admission Testing	100% ²
Out-of-Hospital Convalescent/Nursing Services	
Home Health Care:	
Eligible necessary care prescribed by a physician	100% ²
Maximum calendar year visits	100
Maximum calendar year benefit	\$5,000
Hospice Care:	
Eligible necessary care for terminally ill	100% ²
Maximum claims payment per day inpatient hospice care/Maximum days	\$200/90
Maximum benefit per insured	\$18,000
Private Duty Nursing:	
Eligible necessary expenses (stop-loss not applicable)	80% ³
Maximum claims payment per calendar year	\$8,000
Maximum benefit	\$40,000
Skilled Nursing/Convalescent Care Facility:	
Maximum days/Maximum benefit, lesser of	100% ² 60/ill, or \$6,000
Second Surgical Opinions	
Plan pays UCR cost of 2nd (or 3rd) opinion for certain elective surgery	100% ²
If confirming opinion not obtained, plan pays toward surgery	50%
Employee Out-of-Pocket Expenses	
Calendar Year Deductible (Maximum 3 family members)	\$200
Co-insurance and Stop-Loss—Plan pays 80%/you pay 20% of eligible expenses per calendar year up to	\$4,000
Thereafter, plan pays for remainder of the calendar year	100%
Reasonable Charge Allowances—Plan covers only portion of charges deemed by carrier to be reasonable, usual, customary, medically necessary	Yes
Deductible per Hospital Admission	\$50
Maximum Benefits and Non-covered Items—Plan covers only charges within the limits defined and only for services specified	Yes
Contract Maximum Benefit	\$1,000,000
Basic Term Life Insurance	
Under age 70 with AD&D	\$4,000
Age 70 and over with AD&D	\$2,000

¹This outline is a brief nontechnical summary of benefits for informational purposes only. It will not be used to determine covered procedures, eligible charges or benefit payments. The master contract prevails and may differ from this document.

²Calendar year deductible not applied before payments begin.

³Subject to calendar deductible before payments begin.

. . . From previous page

nothing has been done within 24 hours." she said.

In an effort to control unnecessary hospitalization, 100 percent of reasonable charges will be paid for surgical procedures performed in an approved out-patient facility and the calendar year deductible will not apply.

Required second or third opinions will be reimbursed at 100 percent of reasonable charges. Types of non-emergency surgical procedures in which a second opinion is required are tonsillectomies, cataract removal, hysterectomies and others.

Pre-admission diagnostic testing is encouraged by the payment of 100 percent of reasonable charges for necessary tests conducted on an out-patient basis.

If surgery or treatment is not accomplished within 24 hours of admission, Friday or Saturday room charges can be denied.

Ms Williams said cost containment measures have become standard among medical plans of government and private employers. "They are meant to bring stability to insurance premiums. In short, it means taking more responsibility for your health care benefits," she said.

She urged employees to read the insurance manual carefully. Ask questions from the agency insurance coordinator, the retirement system or Blue Cross. Whenever possible, learn the cost of a medical procedure before receiving care. Keep good records of medical expenses, she said.

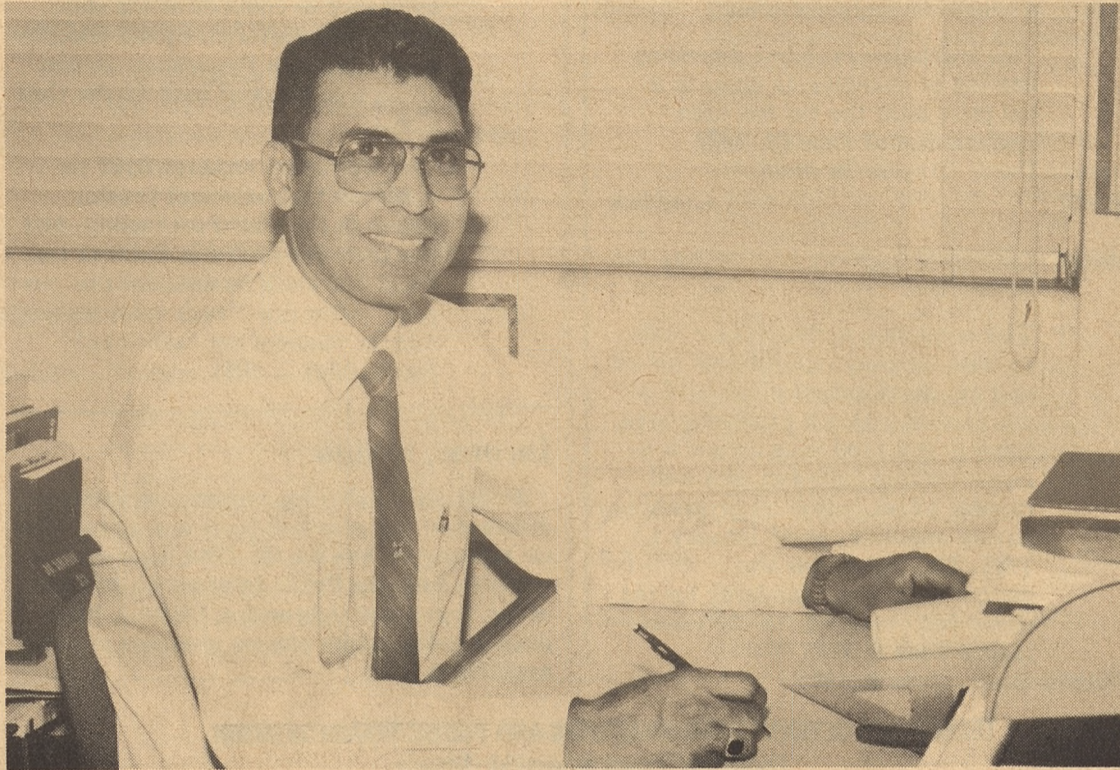
She also urged members and retirees to let the Group Insurance Advisory Committee or the board of the Employees Retirement System know about problems with health insurance. ★

Bernethy promoted

Gary Bernethy has been named assistant district engineer in Lubbock by District Engineer Mel Pope.

Bernethy has been district administrative engineer. He joined the department in 1966 as an engineering technician in Littlefield. ★

Atascosa residency employee is top guard non-com



Mel Pacheco Jr., dedicated worker chosen as Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year.

SUMMARY OF BENEFITS HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS (HMOs)

Effective September 1, 1985, ten HMOs have been approved by the Board of Trustees of the Employees Retirement System of Texas to provide services to State employees and their eligible dependents. The following information is applicable to all approved HMOs:

PREPAID HEALTH CARE: An HMO is a prepaid health care plan that delivers comprehensive medical services to an enrolled population for a fixed, monthly fee. There are essentially two types of HMOs: 1) A Group/Staff Model which delivers services at one or more locations through contracts with a group of physicians or through its own physicians who are employees of the HMO; and 2) An Individual Practice Association (IPA) which delivers services through physicians who practice in their own offices and see members there.

COST CONTAINMENT: Some of the cost containment measures used by HMOs are: disallowance of weekend hospital admissions; requiring that diagnostic and therapeutic services be performed on an outpatient basis when there is no danger to the patient; patients admitted to the hospital on the day surgery is to be performed; etc. With these savings, HMOs are able to provide preventive care such as routine physical examinations, eye examinations, and health care education services.

BENEFITS: All HMOs providing services to State employees are required to offer a minimum benefit package. In addition, many HMOs provide other services not required by the Trustee. The HMOs provide their members with a copy of their benefits at the time of enrollment. Listed below is the required minimum benefit package:

- 1) Basic Services
 - a) Physician services (including consulting and referrals).
 - b) Outpatient Services (services provided by the hospital on an outpatient basis).
 - c) Inpatient Services (services provided members admitted as a patient in the hospital).
 - d) Short term rehabilitation services and physical therapy.
 - e) Twenty (20) outpatient visits per member per year for short term evaluation and/or crisis intervention mental health services.
 - f) Treatment for alcohol/drug abuse or addiction (including detoxification).
 - g) Diagnostic laboratory and diagnostic and therapeutic radiologic services.
 - h) Home health care.
 - i) Preventive health services including:
 - Voluntary family planning services;
 - Services for infertility;
 - Well baby care;
 - Periodic physical examinations for all members;
 - Eye and ear examinations for children through age 17; and
 - Pediatric and adult immunizations.
- 2) Prescription drugs.
- 3) Mental Health Services.
- 4) Long term physical medicine (physical therapy, medicine and rehabilitative services to be performed as long as the patient shows improvement).
- 5) Provisions for out-of-service-area coverage for emergencies.
- 6) Provisions for after-hours services in the service area.

COPAYMENTS: Most HMOs charge a small copayment (from \$1 to \$5) for physician visits, prescription drugs, out of service area emergency care (\$5 to \$25), and for various other medical services with different copayment amounts.

PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS PROVISIONS: There are no pre-existing conditions provisions in an HMO; however, if a State member changes his/her health coverage from an HMO back to the insured health plan, there are pre-existing conditions provisions imposed on the member and dependents.

ADVANTAGES: No claims to be filed; no deductible to be met; no coinsurance requirements; and preventive health services are included.

DISADVANTAGES: Premiums are generally higher; you must use the HMO's doctors—you may be required to change doctors; only "emergencies" are covered when out of the HMO's service area.

Mel Pacheco Jr. is often described by his friends and co-workers as dedicated.

The Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce concurred with that when they recently named him non commissioned officer of the year for San Antonio area reserve units.

For Technical Sergeant Pacheco, a Texas Air National Guard member, it is a deserved honor.

The 42-year-old engineering technician in the Atascosa County residency is a highly motivated individual.

A native of Jourdanton, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1962 after graduating from high school. Serving as an ordnanceman, Pacheco was assigned to an anti-submarine flight group. Stationed in Japan and the Philippines, the group also conducted missions in Vietnam.

In February 1964, Pacheco was named Sailor of the Month by his unit. He was cited for his "leadership and supervisory capabilities, military bearing and appearance." After his discharge in 1966, he joined the Atascosa County maintenance section as a member of the patch crew. Within a few months, he had transferred to the residency as a materials checker.

To improve his job skills, Pacheco enrolled in a drafting class in San Antonio. He commuted to class several weeks for months. Combining his newly gained classroom skills with practical experience, he transferred to a survey crew and later became a construction inspector.

Becoming interested in the increasing role automation would play in the operations of the residency, Pacheco determined to be ready for it. Coupling a desire to learn with an opportunity to use his prior military service, he joined the Texas Air National Guard with the assurance of receiving computer training.

Pacheco has begun using his new skills in plan preparation work and in solving design problems. Today, he is assigned to the residency office.

While he was in the navy, one of his duty stations was Oak Harbor, WA. Invited by a fellow sailor to a party, he met Doris Rodriguez, a shy, beautiful young lady from Costa Rica. She spoke no English but Pacheco was fluent in Spanish and he gallantly kept her entertained.

It was the start of a beautiful friendship and they were married in 1965. Now they have a son and a daughter. The family are parishoners of St. Matthew's Church in Pleasanton. ★



Bentsen introduces bill to encourage planting of wildflowers in U.S.

Texas Senator Lloyd Bentsen has proposed legislation to encourage states to plant native wildflowers along the nation's highways.

The bill, S. 1238, would require states to spend at least 25 cents of each \$100 in federal-aid highway construction landscaping funds to plant wildflowers.

The requirement could be waived for agricultural areas or areas where the flowers would be difficult to grow.

Bentsen cited Texas' experience where, in addition to aesthetic values, the long-standing encouragement of native wildflowers has helped reduce mowing and some other maintenance costs along the roadside. ★

Legislative roundup:

Final report on bills that affect DHT operations

With the departure of a major portion of the student population and most all legislators, one no longer finds lengthy waiting lists in Austin's restaurants and the traffic around the Capitol complex has entered into its summer slumber.

As a final report on bills which have an impact on the Department of Highways and Public Transportation (DHT) and which were awaiting action from the Governor as of the June issue of Transportation News, the following occurred:

HB 473 Richardson

Subject: Rewarding state employees for recommendations that improve efficiency in state government.

This legislation establishes the State Employee Incentive Program which is to be administered by a newly created State Employee Incentive Commission (SEIC). The SEIC may grant awards to eligible state employees who make recommendations that reduce state expenditures, increase state revenues or improve the quality of state services. Signed by the governor June 15, 1985.

Effective Date: September 1, 1985

HB 580 Carriker

Subject: Width regulations for farm tractors and implements of husbandry on public highways.

This legislation excludes a farm tractor or an implement of husbandry, moving under its own power or being towed, from the width limitations set out in the statute.

GOVERNOR'S RATIONALE FOR VETO

The governor supported the intent of this legislation. However the purpose of this bill was contained in SB 16. Since SB 16 passed the legislature after HB 580, SB 16 represents the last statement of the legislature on this subject. The Governor has previously signed SB 16 into law.

HB 797 Rudd

Subject: Size/weight limits on certain motor vehicles and permits.

This new law allows DHT to issue permits by telephone for the movement of oversize motor vehicles. HB 797 also allows DHT the discretion of charging a credit card service charge in addition to a permit fee.

Also, the law eliminates the requirement for a permit clerk in each county. It permits DHT to impose reasonable restrictions regarding the weight and size of vehicles to be operated on state Highways on certain holidays and excludes truck-tractors, truck-tractor combinations, and truck-trailer combinations exclusively transporting oil field equipment from the legal length limits. Signed by the governor June 10, 1985.

Effective Date: August 26, 1985.

HB 916 Stiles

Subject: Changes to competitive bids.

This legislation prohibits amending, altering or changing an error in a bid price after the bid has been opened. Signed June 12, 1985

Effective Date: August 26, 1985

HB 918 Craddick

Subject: Leasing of highway right-of-way for oil and gas.

This legislation authorizes the state to lease highway right-of-way for oil and gas development if the land is not located within a producing area. Land is in a producing area if it is located within 2500 feet of a well capable of producing oil or gas in paying quantities as of January 1, 1985. This legislation also establishes certain standards for the terms and conditions of the leases. Signed June 8, 1985

Effective Date: June 8, 1985

HB 955 Smith of Harris

Subject: Dedication of revenue to encourage the establishment of a naval home port on the Texas Gulf Coast.

This legislation provides for assistance to counties of the state that may be affected by the selection by the Defense Department to construct a large naval base on the Gulf Coast.

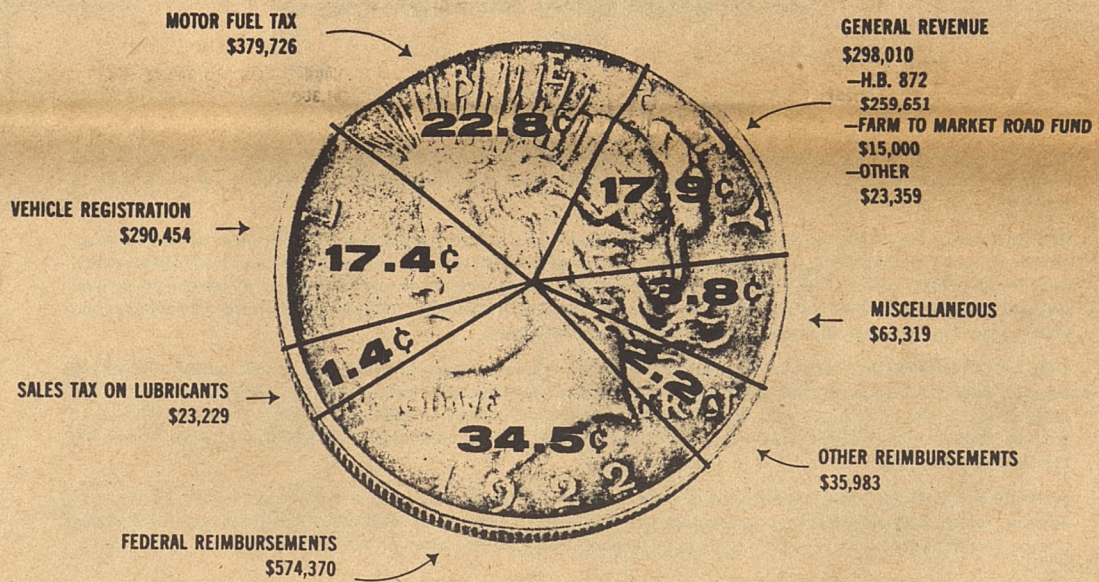
This legislation requires DHT to construct highways and provide access to the Gulf Port facility. Not less than \$61 million in the next two fiscal years will be used for this purpose. After that "such amounts as may be required are authorized." Signed May 2, 1985

Income, Outgo

Dollar charts showing receipts, expenditures, distribution of motor fuel taxes and motor vehicle registration fees for the 1984 fiscal year are available from the Public Information Branch of the Travel and Information Division. Most district public affairs officers also have copies available. ★

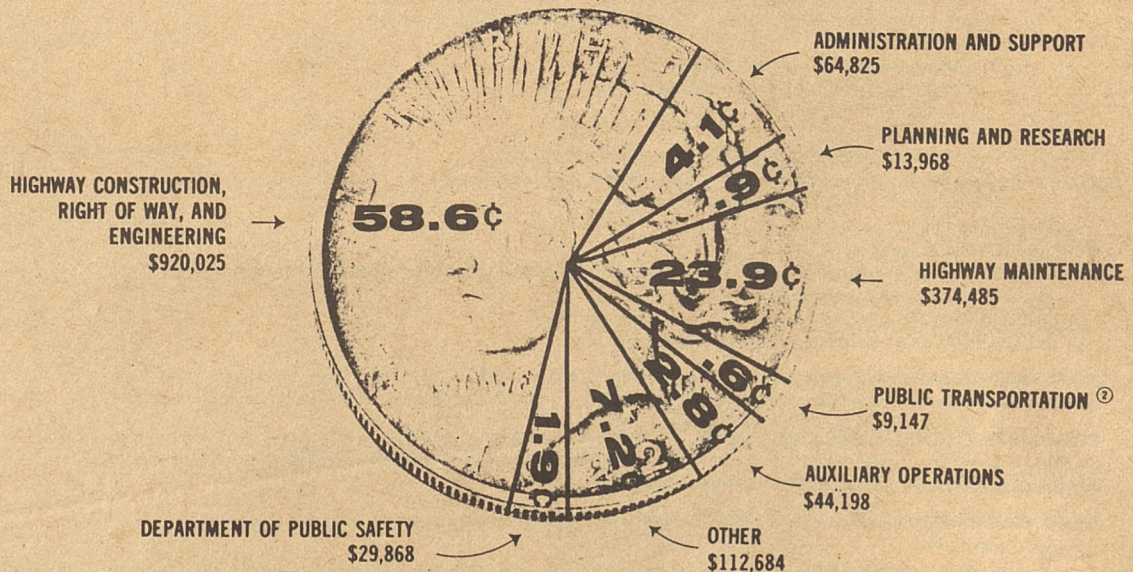
TEXAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 1984 (In Thousands)

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$1,665,091



TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$1,569,200^①

^① Total Disbursements include carryover expenditures from funds committed in previous fiscal years and paid from balances on hand at the beginning of the year.



^② This disbursement of state funds was matched by federal and local funds.

File 16.82-1
Rev. 04-85

HB 1717 — Vetoed

Horn

Subject: Sale of Gasohol.

This legislation requires gasohol dealers to properly label gasohol pumps and to properly document the delivery and sale of gasohol.

GOVERNOR'S RATIONALE FOR VETO

The governor was concerned that HB 1717 would create excessive regulation and needless bureaucracy without showing compensating benefits to the public. The Governor was also concerned that funding for this legislation was not included in the appropriations bill.

HB 1986

Cain

Subject: Transportation corporations.

This legislation authorizes transportation corporations to enter into contracts with DHT, county road districts, and road utility districts. It allows transportation corporations to issue bonds and sell projects to the Commission. DHT can contract with a transportation corporation to acquire highways that are to be con-

structed by a transportation corporation. Filed without signature.

Effective Date: August 26, 1985

HB 2375

Evans of Tarrant

Subject: Purchase and management of telecommunications and automated information items for state government.

This legislation changes the duties and responsibilities of the Automated Information Systems Advisory Council. The name is changed to the Automated Information and Telecommunications Council and membership is increased from seven to nine. The council is responsible for reviewing requests for telecommunications in addition to the current automated information systems responsibilities. Signed June 10, 1985

Effective Date: September 1, 1985

HB 2496

Cain

Subject: Permits for lift equipment motor vehicles on public highways.

This legislation provides an alternative for the movement of oversize/overweight unladen lift equipment. With this alternative, DHT may issue permits for the movement of equipment if there will be no material damage to the highway or serious inconvenience to highway traffic.

HB 2496 gives DHT the authority to establish rules and regulations concerning the issuance of permits. It also allows DHT to set the fee and time periods on permits.

HB 2516

Harris of Brazoria

Subject: Brazoria Parkway.

This legislation designates SH 288 from the Brazoria County line to Freeport as the Brazoria Parkway and requires DHT to erect, repair, and replace appropriate markers at each end and intermediate sites on the Parkway. DHT may accept grants and donations to assist in financing the construction and maintenance of the markers. Signed June 8, 1985.

Effect Date: June 8, 1985.

SB 21

Sarpalius

Subject: Alcoholic beverage regulations relating to age.

This legislation raises the drinking age to 21. It includes a provision which would change the legal age back to 19 if the federal law which imposes sanctions against states for failing to increase and drinking age is repealed, has expired, is suspended or is ruled invalid. Signed June 6, 1985.

Effective Date: September 1, 1985

SR 368

Leedom

Subject: Senate Committee on agency services management

This resolution establishes a Senate Committee on agency services management composed of 17 members. DHT will have a representative on the committee to be named by the engineer-director.

The committee is charged to work "in concert and cooperation" with the Texas Commission on Economy and Efficiency in State Government. The committee shall make appropriate recommendations to the 70th Legislature in the areas and on the issues of:

1. agency energy consumption and efficiency,
2. agency transportation costs,
3. state printing costs
4. health service benefits to state employees,
5. utilization of high-tech equipment,
6. policies and practices relating to membership fees and conference attendance.
7. proper use of state personnel.

The committee is to use only existing staffs in conducting the study and is authorized to request assistance from state agencies in the discharge of its duties. ★

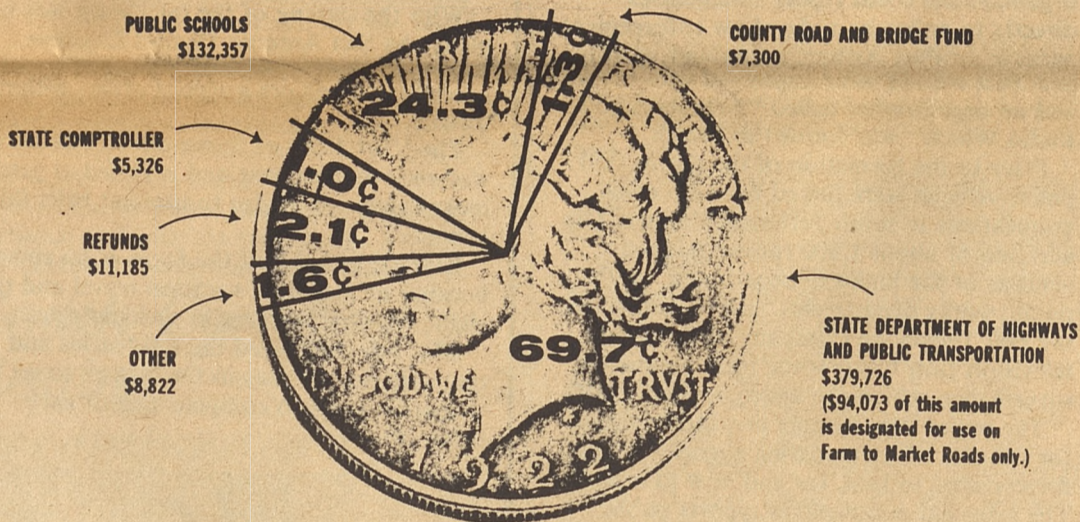
DISTRIBUTION OF STATE MOTOR FUEL TAXES

Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 1984

(In Thousands)

GROSS TAX COLLECTED BY THE STATE COMPTROLLER \$544,716 *

* Includes transfer of \$4,868 from Gasoline and Alcohol Mixture Fund 066



DISTRIBUTION OF MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES

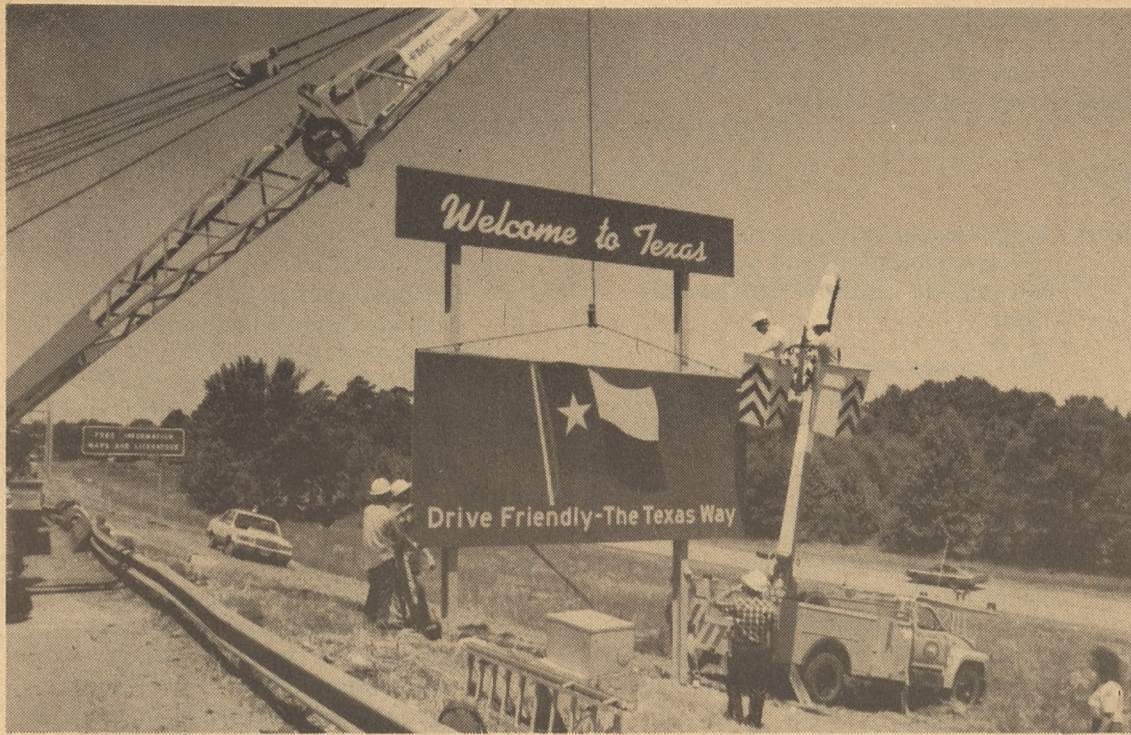
Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 1984

(In Thousands)

GROSS COLLECTIONS \$382,585



For further information contact: Don Clark (512) 475-3661



Atlanta District employees erect a new "Welcome to Texas" sign on I-30 at Texarkana. The signs also feature a panel reading "1836 Sesquicentennial 1986" which will be removed after the 150th birthday celebration is ended in 1987.

Departmental vehicles join in Beaumont emergency radio net

Maintenance sections in the Beaumont district are joining forces with other public and business organizations to create an innovative communication system to report emergencies.

The effort began earlier this year after an employee with Gulf States Utilities was frustrated by ineffective communications when trying to alert law enforcement officials about the beating of a Nederland woman. The woman's assailant fled before police arrived at the scene.

The instance prompted the utility company to contact south Jefferson County law



Craig Steffens, head of the Landscape Section, is shown with Chairman Bob Lanier after Steffens received the "Bluebonnet Award" from Keep Texas Beautiful Inc., at KTB's recent annual meeting in San Antonio.

enforcement officials and ask if a system similar to the neighborhood watch concept could be established so that public and private organizations could report emergencies directly to police by radio. Law enforcement agencies in Port Arthur, Nederland, Grove and Port Neches were impressed with the idea and an organization called "Neighborhood Radio Watch" was formed in March.

Prior to the formation of the group, 350 police vehicles were linked by radio communications in south Jefferson County. The addition of about 1,800 radio-equipped vehicles of the highway department, city's public works departments, utility companies, the Bell Telephone Company and a cable television firm brought the total number of surveillance vehicles to approximately 2,150.

The police departments provided training for vehicles of participating agencies telling drivers what to look for and how to report. The informal organization reports public emergencies, but leaves apprehension of suspects to police authorities. The effort has been highly publicized by the three television stations and the three newspapers serving the area.

The initial results have been markedly successful with a dramatic dip in vandalism in the area and several arrests made. Recently, the driver of a street-sweeper in Port Arthur used the system to report the presence of a man in a jewelry store that was supposed to be closed. Police arrived at the business and arrested the burglar.

The success of the program has prompted Southwestern Bell Telephone to implement the program for 1,500 vehicles in its East Texas district. The company is considering expanding the program nationwide.

Meanwhile, the south Jefferson County program has drawn the attention of Governor Mark White who has sent a letter of praise to Jefferson County officials.

Inspired by the success of the Jefferson County effort, the Neighborhood Radio Watch program has been initiated in Beaumont and in Lake Charles, La., while another is presently being organized in Columbus, Ohio. ★

San Antonio opens '101 days of summer' seat belt campaign



San Antonio District Engineer Raymond Stotzer signs the "Buckle Up" seat belt pledge for the 101 days of summer while Linda Lozano, district safety assistant, looks on.

With the signing of the buckle-up seat belt pledge by San Antonio District Engineer Raymond Stotzer, Roland Klar, traffic safety specialist kicked off a special effort within the district.

The "101 Days of Summer" campaign was well-received last year and is aimed at getting more drivers to pledge to use seat belts this summer.

Klar explained that the focus is on summer because of increased vacation travel and the slight seasonal increase in accident rates.

Klar has challenged the residencies and maintenance sections in the district to set participation goals to compete against each other. ★



Engineer of Automation Tommie Howell congratulates Kerry McAlister, director of photogrammetry operations on his retirement.

Waco pair achieve goal working in slack winter period

In September 1984, each district was required by Highway Design Division to photograph every historical bridge in the district in conjunction with the ongoing BRINSAP bridge inspection and sufficiency rating program.

For the Waco district, this required about 8,000 photographic prints of the approximately 1,200 bridges in the district.

Since the BRINSAP program requires on-site inspection of all the subject bridges, it was decided that the inspectors themselves would make the photographs as a part of the regularly scheduled routine.

But to have this volume of photographs developed commercially it would have cost between \$2 and \$3 per print, or a total estimated cost of \$16,000 to \$24,000.

The management of the district considered this cost to be excessive and decided the department could realize a saving by utilizing existing equipment and personnel. The district already had a darkroom and, with the addition of some small items, it was adequately equipped to produce the required 5x7 black-and-white prints.

As for personnel, two employees were available during the off-peak winter months from assignments in the traffic section and a construction residency.

Darrell Grote of the district traffic section and Al Soukup of the McLennan County residency were assigned the task with the goal of completing the printing before the summer construction season began.

Darrell had a limited amount of darkroom experience and with the purchase of a beginners' darkroom guide was able to brush up

South Carolina doubts preeminence in potholes

The same thing happened in Texas a few years back....

South Carolina Department of Highways and Public Transportation Director of Maintenance McRaney Fulmer puzzled mightily a while back at how his state could rank third in a pothole "count" made by a national organization.

South Carolina was credited with having three million potholes, third among the 50 states after Ohio with 6.8 million and Pennsylvania with 3.9 million potholes.

The astonishing pothole count for South Carolina was arrived at by dividing the total of 167,000 tons of asphaltic material used by the department by the amount of material necessary to fill a hypothetical 16-by-16-inch by 5-inch-deep pothole.

The fact that the same material is used for resurfacing whole sections of road, to repair pavement edges, to pave driveway connections and for shoulder surfacing was not taken into consideration.

"If we had not used any of the material, I guess, theoretically, we would not have had any potholes," Fulmer said. ★

his own skills and train Al in the necessary techniques.

Coupling a little more study with their own ingenuity, the pair had the operation in full swing, making as many as 350 prints a day.

Their efforts enabled the bridge section to absorb the assignment into the regular routine by effectively utilizing personnel from other sections in their off season.

The district's management thinks this kind of effort and initiative is of considerable benefit to the department. The district was able to fulfill a major requirement without resorting to a special contract.

In addition, the district now has two trained men which will benefit the organization when future photographic assignments arise.

★ Randy Spear

Dallas district cites veterans who retired

During the past six months, the Dallas district has honored 11 employees who have retired with an aggregate of more than three and a half centuries of service to the department.

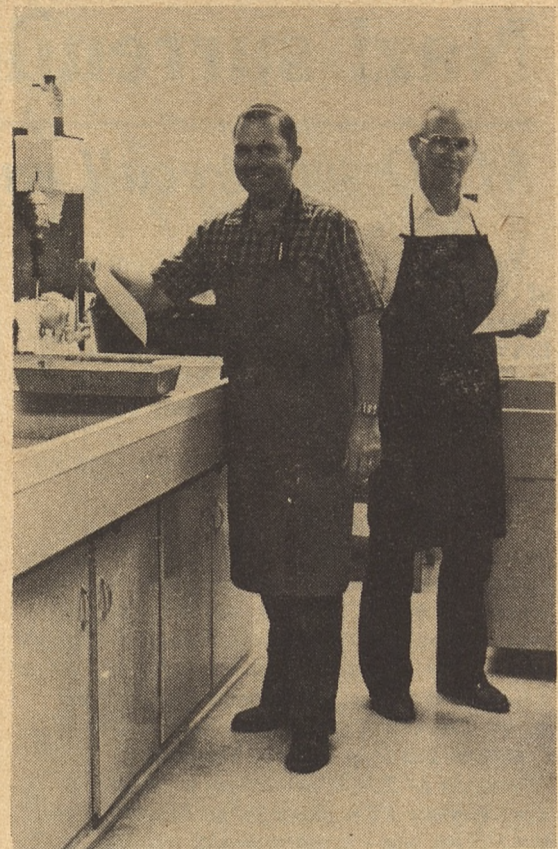
They are Mary Carter Easley, Engineering Technician II with 40.05 years; Giles R. Hurst, Engineering Technician V with 31.06 years.; Fred M. Simmons, District Right of Way Engineer with 34.04 years; R.O. Henley District Construction Engineer with 34.04 years; J.C. Hallabough, Administrative Assistant with 40.03 years; F.A. "June" Phillips Administrative Assistant with 32.03 years; Robert L. Cagle, Engineer IV with 35.03 years; Billy G. Brownfield, Engineer III with 37.05 years; James Goff, Staff Services Officer with 32.02 years; Leslie A. Phillips, Maintenance Construction Supervisor with 24.10 years and Trudy Tyler, Secretary III with 17.01 years. ★

Anne Newsome heads Austin info centers

Barbara H. (Anne) Newsome replaced Mrs. Brenda Steen on June 1 as manager of the department's Capitol Visitor Center.

Ms. Newsome has been with the department for 11 years, first in the Denison Tourist Bureau and more recently in the bureau at Orange. As chief of the information center in Austin, she will be in charge of travel counselors on duty in the Capitol and in the lobby of the Dewitt C. Greer Building.

Mrs. Steen joined the department in Del Rio and has been supervisor of the Capitol center for several years. She and her husband are entering a new business venture in Bryan. ★



Grote, left, and Soukup in action.

Borger employee's son received M.D. degree on May 25

John Fowlkes, son of Melvin Fowlkes, an engineering technician with the department in Borger, graduated May 25 with a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio.

A 1977 graduate of Borger High School, he earned a B.S. degree in Biology at West Texas State University before entering the UT medical school.

He will serve for three years as a resident in pediatrics at the Medical Center Hospital in San Antonio.

Later, he plans to fulfill an obligation to the Texas State Rural Medical Board after his internship, working for five years in a rural area to help pay back financial help granted him by the board. ★



Director of Finance Frank Smith congratulates Cleon Davis on his retirement June 28.

Nazi surrender just four decades ago

MVD vets recall end of 'The Big One'

The talk of the day wasn't the front page of the May 8, 1985 Austin American-Statesman. Instead, it was the "VICTORY DAY SPECIAL" edition of THE STARS AND STRIPES MEDITERRANEAN, Volume 2, No. 154, Tuesday, May 8, 1945, Italy Edition.

The headlines read: "IT'S OVER—OVER HERE." It continued:

"Victory in Europe is ours. After more than five and a half years of the bitterest fighting this continent has ever known, the armed might of Germany, the Wehrmacht and the Nazi party has been defeated—finally and utterly. Today will be treated officially as VE-Day, it was officially announced last night. There will be broadcasts from the Chiefs of State of the Big Three this afternoon at 3 PM, according to Reuter's. King George VI is expected to broadcast to the British and Commonwealth peoples at 5 PM. As the entire world waited anxiously all day yesterday for the VE-Day proclamation, there were reports, unconfirmed officially by SHAEF, that the Germans had signed an unconditional surrender agreement at 2:41 AM yesterday. While SAHEF declined to confirm the reports of the signing of unconditional surrender, AP carried a report from Rheims, France, where General Dwight D. Eisenhower's headquarters is located, giving details of the signing of the surrender documents. According to this report, Nazi Germany surrendered unconditionally to the United States, Britain and Russia. The signing took place in the red schoolhouse that has been SHAEF headquarters. General Eisenhower was not present at the signing but immediately afterward met the German delegates."

The surrender document was signed for the German Government by Col. Gen. Gustav Jodl, new chief of staff. Lt. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, chief of staff to General Eisenhower, signed for the Allies.

Jodl, after putting his signature to the full surrender, said: "With this signature, the German people and armed forces are, for better or worse, delivered into the victors' hands." The Soviet Union's representative who signed the surrender document was Maj. Gen. Ivan Susloparoff, who was formerly in Rome as Russian delegate to the advisory board of the Allied Commission. General Francois Sevez signed for France.

Nazi radio tells of the surrender in this manner: "German men and women: The High Command of the armed forces has

Bim Greer dies

M.V. (Bim) Greer, retired engineer of traffic, died June 9. He was 78.

A native of Tenaha, he had been a resident of Austin since 1925. He had served in the department for 42 years when he retired in 1972.

A graduate of The University of Texas, he also did post-graduate work at Yale University and was valedictorian of his class. He was a member of the Institute of Traffic Engineers. ★

today at the order of Grand Admiral Doenitz declared the unconditional surrender of all fighting German troops. As leading minister of the Reich Government, which the admiral of the fleet has appointed for dealing with war tasks, I turn at this tragic moment of our history to the German nation. After a heroic fight of almost six years of incomparable hardness, German has succumbed to the overwhelmingly power of her enemies.

To continue the war would only mean senseless bloodshed and futile disintegration. The Government which has a feeling of a responsibility for the future of its nation, was compelled to act on the collapse of all physical and material forces and to demand of the enemy a cessation of hostilities."

This memorabilia was furnished compliments of R.W. Townsley, Director, Motor Vehicle Division. He proudly served in North Africa and Italy. He had two years of ROTC at A&M and 3 years with the National Guard before active duty.

He recalls his 20-mile hikes as drill instructor in Mississippi, as being some of the unbearable times, and mid temperatures in North Africa when the thermometer would soar to 120 degrees or better.

He can still see the Battleship "Texas" protecting the boats that were carrying the troops to North Africa. From North Africa he went on to Italy and joined the infantry. While in Italy, he took every tour he could seeing Pope Pius XII, the Coliseum, the Catacombs, St. Peter's Cathedral, works of Michael Angelo, etc.

Townsley saw the arrival of the German surrender party, but it was hours later, before he actually realized what he had seen. With the announcement of "Victory in Europe!", everyone wondered if they would be lucky enough to finally go home.

He recalls vividly his return home and his first meal being prepared by KP's who were

German POW's; however, nothing can compare with his first sight of the Statue of Liberty. He realized that he was really HOME!

Tommy Kouri, Director of Programs, remembers VE-Day well. He was on the Island of Morati near Biak in the Pacific Ocean serving in the Army. The war with Japan was still being fought.

Warren Wolff, Chief Supervisor of our EDP Section, was in the Navy and was traveling by train from Norfolk, Virginia to San Diego, California, because he had been issued orders to report for duty in the Pacific, when news of VE-Day reached him.

Bill Billingsley, Accounts Examiner in our Correspondence Section, was serving in the 298th Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Army. He was stationed in the Pacific on the Solomon Islands. When VE-Day was announced, Bill had already served 33 months.

Harold Behne, and employee of our Special Plate Section, also served in World War II, but was not available for comment.

The War Department now turned all forces toward Japan. It can best be summed up in the words of Y.A. Marshall, Chief of Staff, United States Army, as published in the War Department Pamphlet entitled "Two Down and ONE to Go—": "Now, together with our allies we shall concentrate devastating power against this treacherous enemy, and rid the world permanently of this menace of barbarism. We can do this if every American, in or out of uniform, keeps in heart and mind the plain fact that we will not have won this war, nor can we enjoy any peace until Japan is completely crushed."

Forty years have elapsed since the original VE-DAY, but to the men and women who fought the battles, the memories are as fresh as yesterday. Congratulations to the MVD WWII Veterans! ★ Becky Beck



Recalling the end of the war are Wolff, Billingsley, Kouri and Townsley.



JULY

- 4 Holiday, Independence Day
- 9-11 Highway Construction Lettings, Austin
- 9-11 AASHTO Subcommittee on Maintenance, San Antonio
- 9-11 Pavement Design School on "Fundamental Behavior of Different Types of Pavements" for Districts 1, 10, 17, 18 & 19, Dallas, D-8PD
- 15-16 Summer Meeting of District Engineers and Division Heads, Austin
- 16-18 Pavement Design School on "Fundamental Behavior of Different Types of Pavements" for Districts 2, 3, 9 & 23 and for Divisions 6, 8, 9 & 10, Fort Worth, D-8PD
- 16-19 "Traffic Network Study Tool—TRANSYT-7F" Short Course, Austin, D-18T
- 23-24 Regional Finance Meeting, Lubbock, D-3
- 23-25 Career Enhancement Conference, Austin, File ARC/HAT
- 24-26 Transportation Planning Conference, Brownsville, D-10P
- 25 Commission Public Hearing, Austin
- 26 Commission Meeting, Austin

AUGUST

- 5-9 Highway and Intersection Capacity Analysis Short Course, Austin, D-18T
- 5-9 Pavement Design School on "Designing Pavements for the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation" for all districts, Austin, D-8PD
- 6-8 International Right of Way Association Regional Educational Refresher Seminar, College Station, D-15
- 7-9 Highway Construction Lettings, Austin
- 13-14 Seminar on Federal Highway Program Financing, Austin, D-3
- 27 Holiday, Lyndon B. Johnson's Birthday
- 29-30 Commission Meetings, Austin

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Holiday, Labor Day
- 4-5 Research Area I (Geometric and Environmental Design, Safety, Traffic, Right of Way, and Economics), El Paso, D-10R
- 10-11 Research Area II (Materials, Construction and Maintenance), Abilene, D-10R
- 10-12 Highway Construction Lettings, Austin
- 12-13 District Maintenance Engineers Meeting, Lago Vista, D-18A
- 23-24 Rural Technical Assistance Program Workshop on Transportation Resource Management for Rural Elected Officials, Districts 1, 10, 11, 17 & 19, location pending, D-10P & Dist. 19

San Angelo district holds awards event

Recently 147 employees of the San Angelo District received Safe Driving Awards from District Engineer D.R. "Doc" Watson.

Milton Dietert, chief engineer of safety and maintenance operations, addressed the group. Dietert complimented the employees for their fine work record that made the awards possible. He also reminded them that just a few seconds of "lack of alertness" can spoil their record. The Department is committed to safety of the employees and the traveling public, and commended those present for their help in reaching this goal.

Quinner Williams, director of insurance, assisted in presenting the awards.

The 147 employees represented 1831 total years of accident-free driving for the Department. The top award went to Kenneth Duckworth of Sonora with 31 years of safe driving. Nineteen employees had 20 or more years of safe driving.

In addition to the Safe Driving Awards the following employees received Certificates of Service as follows: L.B. Taylor, Sonora, 35 years; LeRoy Muecke, Del Rio, 30 years; John P. McClure, Ballinger, 25 years; Ramiro Minor, San Angelo, 25 years; Alfred Pena, Brackettville, 25 years; Fred Reschman, Del Rio, 20 years; Emil Gonzales, Ballinger, 15 years; Emit Salinas, Del Rio, 15 years. ★

Belton employee aids in thief's capture

James E. Bentley, an engineering aside in the Belton residency, was one of three bystanders who helped bring a thief to justice recently.

The thief walked out of a store with a \$1,095 video camera and was about to flee in his car when the citizens, including Bentley, blocked off his escape with their own vehicles.

The thief rammed into the other vehicles, then fled on foot. Belton police captured him about a block away.

Tom Jones, owner of the store from which the camera was stolen, paid tribute to the citizen trio. "They were courageous," he said. ★

South Korean traffic hard on pedestrians

Nearly 65 percent of those killed in traffic accidents in South Korea are pedestrians, compared to about 16 percent in the United States.

In fact, crossing the road in South Korea is more dangerous than any other place in the world and the government has launched a major program to try to do something about it.

It may take some doing. The Korean Transportation Ministry said there were 170,026 accidents reported last year. That's about one accident per six vehicles on the road there.

Police attribute the problem to general negligence and disregard for speed limits, as well as the nation's growing number of vehicles. Registrations have increased from 183,544 in 1974 to more than 900,000 now. ★



Chai Kit new U.S.—and Texas—citizen.

Automation employees aid co-worker with citizenship as Texan

When Chai Kit became a U.S. Citizen this spring, co-workers in the Automation Division applauded but also decided that wasn't enough. So with the help of Gov. Mark White, they saw to it that he received Texas citizenship as well.

Originally from China, Chai's family lived in Bangkok, Thailand. When he was 17, in 1968, they moved to Los Angeles. Chai worked at a gas station and learned english.

He moved to Texas in 1971 to go to school and worked for the Austin National Bank. He graduated from Huston-Tillotson in 1984 with a degree in Business Administration.

Chai joined the department in 1977, working as summer help in the print shop at Camp Hubbard. He later transferred to the Data Processing section and has worked for the Automation Division since.

He is married to an Austin native, Debbie Yates Kit, and he enjoys running, landscaping and working on foreign cars. He is involved with the D-19 activities committee and his neighborhood association. ★

AWARDS & RETIREMENTS

Service Awards

July, 1985

Administration

Diane L. Northam, 15 years

Automation Division

Donald A. Drew, Donald L. Putman Sr., 15 years; Michael E. Kieke, five years.

Bridge Division

Richard R. Flow, 20 years

Construction Division

John M. Finley, 30 years.

Finance Division

Valjean B. Dyer, 30 years.

Highway Design Division

Joe B. Davis, 30 years; William P. Byers, 15 years.

Materials and Tests Division

Timothy D. Stagg, 15 years; John M. Reedy, five years.

Motor Vehicle Division

Maggie E. Owen, 25 years; Janis W. Norie, Janet V. Vorwerk, 15 years; Theresa W. Elliott, 10 years; Virginia V. Stuessy, five years.

Safety and Maintenance Operations Division

Robert B. Lovelace Jr., five years.

Transportation Planning Division

Billie R. Kaufman, 35 years; Rosemary A. Muzny, 20 years; Mark S. Hodges, five years.

Travel and Information Division

Tom H. Taylor, 40 years; Baudelio R. Carreon, Lucia V. Fonseca, Luciano E. Leal, Samuel A. Martinez, Elma M. Rodriguez, five years.

District 1

Robert E. Long, 30 years; William A. Sherrer, 25 years; Leonard W. Fieseler, Jerry W. Goldsmith, Gerald Washington, 20 years; Jon Briggie, Elvin E. Harry, 15 years.

District 2

Charles E. Ware, 30 years; Raymond Dittfurth, Harold R. Taylor, 25 years; Ronnie T. Davis, James C. Sawey, 20 years; Lester B. Cummings, Baltazar T. Fierro, William E. Gartrell, 15 years.

District 3

Henry E. Brown, 30 years; Tommy L. Langston, 25 years; Jimmy A. Howry, Jerry C. Madden, Hillard E. Snow, 15 years; James A. Woods, five years.

District 4

Rufus L. Boyett, 25 years; Lillian J. Pulse, 20 years; Venita W. Hickey, Raymond G. Weller, five years.

District 5

Bill C. King, 15 years; Gregory N. McNabb, 10 years; Curtis D. Brown, five years.

District 6

Juan J. Arredondo, Luis M. Esquivel, 35 years; Sigifredo M. Bustos, Calvin E. McKenzie, 25 years.

District 7

Albert M. Petty, 35 years; William P. Harrington, 30 years; Gilberto R. Hernandez, 20 years; Candelario M. Flores, 15 years; Kenneth E. Forrest, Farrell K. Hardiman, five years.

District 8

Travis R. Smith, 30 years; Lester H. Shuler Jr., 20 years; Melvin L. Norris, 15 years; William L. Wells Jr., 10 years; Taina Y. Barrett, Nancy W. Holland, five years.

District 9

Bobby L. Woodward, 35 years; Charlie D. Harrell, Billy W. Hilliard, John F. Nors, Robert L. Simpson, Joe Q. Whitley, 30 years; Walter Sohns Jr., 25 years; Johnny R. Blakley, Dick Ford, Larry W. Meyer, 20 years; Leslie D. Cook, Jan E. Copeland, Wilburn R. Geltmeier, Rhuben K. Weeks, 15 years; Glenn D. Christian, 10 years; Patton C. Hudson Jr., five years.

District 10

James M. Norman, 25 years; Claudia H. Carroll, Daniel C. Wilbanks, five years.

District 11

Carlisle D. Dickerson, 25 years; Herbert F. Daw, 15 years; Barry E. Walker, five years.

District 12

Winona R. Horton, 35 years; Rodrick H. Neal, 25 years; Pedro Guerrero, Joanne K. Hemme, Betty E. Moline, Yreneo A. Negrete, 20 years; Miguel A. Garcia, Raymond A. Just, Miguel Rincon, 15 years; Robert E. Hicks Sr., 10 years; Leslie J. Davis, Alvin B. Scott Jr., five years.

District 13

Ignace A. Drozd, 35 years; George W. Maxwell, John G. Roller, 30 years; Rita M. Pullin, Hugo H. Richter Jr., 20 years; James A. Otto, 15 years.

District 14

Herbert J. Michalk, 40 years; Harold R. Voigt, 30 years; Jesus G. Munoz, Thomas G. Smith, five years.

District 15

Gary G. Johnston, Sam J. Pennartz, 25 years; Charles H. Arnold, Natividad Gonzales, Gordon D. Kirkland, Jerome J. Lindig, Paul H. Neimeier, Reynaldo Ramirez, 15 years; Steven C. Cordell, Robert A. Perez, Jerry W. Reavis, Fernando T. Santiago, five years.

District 16

William E. O'Donnell, 25 years; Ismael B. Galan, Arthur Garcia, Luis I. Palacios, Edwin R. Rothlisberger, 15 years; Harry E. Marshbank, five years.

District 17

Billy Chappell, 30 years; Joy C. Steck, 15 years; Rodney P. Klawinsky, five years.

District 18

Marion O. Wingfield, 30 years; Alton M. Hodges, Roy Pecina, 25 years; Charles D. Brooks, Roy R. King, Willie G. Pennington, 20 years; James E. Nash Jr., Richard T. Spear, 15 years; Linda C. Taylor, 10 years; Edward D. Driggars, Michael T. Isbell, Arthur R. Nance, five years.

District 19

Charles D. Pruitt, 40 years; Montie G. Wade, 25 years; Doyle G. Nugent, 15 years; Vernon Moses, five years.

District 20

Weldon R. Wilkinson, 35 years; Robert E. Smith, 30 years; Henry M. Zorn, 25 years; Raymond L. Hatch, Arthur Jolivette, 15 years; Leo H. Barriere Jr., Doyle R. Caraway, Dorothy H. Davis, Conrad Graffagnino, Marion S. Papania, Debra B. Verrett, five years.

District 21

Allen E. Knox, 35 years; Alfredo Longoria, Robert Van Cise, 30 years; Jose A. Lopez, Oscar Segovia, 20 years.

District 23

Lawrence E. Schulz, 40 years; Gerald D. Benbow, 25 years; Jackie R. Arrowood, 15 years.

District 24

Celso Rubio, 20 years; Donald L. Denham, Mary P. Johnson, Rene A. Olivo, 15 years.

District 25

Kenneth G. Rockholt, 30 years.

Retirements

April 1985

Highway Design Division

William C. Zatopek, Engineering Technician V.

Insurance Division

Ordell Heine, Administrator of Technical Programs II.

Equipment and Procurement Division

Ernest H. Motloch, Maintenance Technician III.

Transportation Planning Division

Maggie R. Caffey, Administrative Technician III.

District 1

James C. Bolton Jr., Maintenance Technician III; Jack C. Mason, Engineering Technician V.

District 2

Eddy L. Galbreath, Maintenance Technician III; Billy L. Stone, Engineer IV.

District 3

Margie C. Johns, Engineering Technician III.

District 4

Chester A. Lucas, Maintenance Technician III.

District 6

Vernon W. Bromley, Engineering Technician III.

District 7

Reymundo L. Avalos, Maintenance Technician III; Samuel K. Harvey, Engineering Technician V.

District 9

Bennie D. Freeman, Engineering Technician IV; Welton H. Ramsey, Maintenance Technician III.

District 10

Claude E. Davis, Maintenance Technician III; Charles N. Vandiver, Chief Accountant II.

District 11

James B. McDaniel, Maintenance Construction Supervisor III.

District 12

Dudley Barnes, Maintenance Technician III; Verbal Duke, Engineering Technician V; Louis L. Zulkowski, Maintenance Construction Supervisor I.

District 14

Billie C. Jones, Maintenance Technician III; Jean D. McDonald, Administrative Technician IV.

District 15

Emil C. Baumann, Maintenance Construction Supervisor II; Charles H. Mills, Maintenance Technician III; John E. Putnam Jr, Engineering Technician III; Miguel P. Reyes, Maintenance Technician III; Roy M. Terrazas, Maintenance Technician III.

District 16

Pedro Garcia, Maintenance Technician III.

District 17

Marion T. Slafka, Maintenance Technician III.

District 18

Truman C. Adams, Maintenance Technician III; Weldon F. Daniel, Maintenance Technician III; Orval W. Dement, Maintenance Technician III; Mildred M. Roe, Stenographer III; Ina L. Tyler, Secretary III; John D. Welch, Engineering Technician V.

District 19

Dennis R. Pruitt, Maintenance Technician III; Willard A. Shirley, Maintenance Technician II.

District 20

Hubert E. Cormier, Purchasing/Supply Officer II, Nathaniel Simmons, Maintenance Technician III.

AASHTO group creates award in Henry's name

Hubert Henry, retired head of the Automation Division has been honored for his work in automating many highway engineering processes with the establishment of a special award by the Administrative Subcommittee on Computer Technology of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).

The award was established by proclamation of the subcommittee at its May meeting in Seattle.

The proclamation reads:

"Whereas, Hubert A. Henry best represents the ideals and commitment that have allowed the AASHTO Subcommittee on Computer Technology to prosper and grow, and

"Whereas, Hubert stands as an example for all of the long-term commitment to excellence that has become the hallmark of the subcommittee, and

"Whereas, the AASHTO Subcommittee on Computer Technology has determined



*Hubert Henry
... saluted by
subcommittee*

Hubert's contributions should be recognized at this time and in the future;

"Now, therefore, we, the members of the AASHTO Subcommittee on Computer Technology do hereby establish and proclaim the Hubert A. Henry Award.

"And, we, the members of the AASHTO Subcommittee on Computer Technology do further proclaim that future Hubert A. Henry Awards will be made only on occasions that warrant the recognition of individuals whose long and exemplary service to the subcommittee emulate Hubert's contributions."

Henry was the first head of the Automation Division, starting when it was established in 1965. He developed an organization that pioneered many of the now-common automated techniques in highway design, surveying and record-keeping. Texas, under Henry's leadership has been preeminent in the development of automated systems.

Beginning with the use of photogrammetry, the department later moved into other computerized systems in developing interactive graphics of roadway design, interactive graphics drafting, and development of a statewide network of regional computer centers.

Under Henry's direction, the department was the first state highway department to enter into the field of satellite surveying.

Cook new Jasper RE

Paul T. Cook has been named senior resident engineer in charge of the Jasper residency.

He succeeds H.P.R. Smith who retired May 31 after almost 36 years with the department.

Cook joined the department in Jasper in 1954 after his graduation from The University of Texas. ★

Texas became a showcase for computer and automated technology in the transportation field. Visitors' came from throughout the world to study the systems developed under Henry's management. Henry himself was a frequent speaker at technical meetings in the U.S. and worldwide.

In 1984, Henry received the Alfred E. Johnson Achievement Award of AASHTO and annual award for "singular and very outstanding contribution to engineering and management which distinguishes him from among fellow workers."

Henry retired early this year with 36 years service, 19 of them as head of the Automation Division. ★

San Antonio cites Garrette Wilson

Garrette Wilson, San Antonio district design engineer who died recently, has been honored by the City of San Antonio.

At a meeting of the San Antonio city council, Mayor Henry Cisneros read a resolution passed unanimously by the council. He described Wilson's death as the "passing of a citizen who has meant so much to San Antonio." He noted Wilson played a major role in the development of key transportation facilities in San Antonio and Bexar County.

Councilwoman Helen Dutmer said, "What Garrette left this city was an eternal monument to his service—one of the best transportation systems in the country."



*Garrette Wilson
.....Saluted by
city council*

Last year when he received his 35-year service certificate, Wilson was praised by District Engineer Raymond Stotzer. "You've done a great job and you are a big help to a lot of people."

A native of San Antonio, Wilson played football at Brackenridge High. His plans to enter college were delayed by World War II and from 1943 until the war's end he saw action in the Western Pacific, earning five combat stars. He entered The University of Texas and won election to Chi Epsilon, honorary civil engineering fraternity.

Within a year after joining the department, he helped design a three-level structure, drainage facility and roadway details for the Loop 410-Austin Highway (now I-35) interchange. Three years later, he was put in charge of the district's structural section. He later became district planning engineer and was appointed district design engineer in 1974. ★

roadrunners



I am writing about Mr. Cezar L. Lopez. I think he lives in Goliad. While stranded with my almost 80-year-old father on the side of the road not knowing what to do, nobody would stop to help us out. Here comes your employee who does us the favor of changing our tire. But my dad didn't have the key to the trunk and we were unable to get to the spare tire. He stayed with us, trying to figure a way to help us out. He took us to get a spare tire, trusting us completely that we would get it back to him, then went back to change the tire in about 100-degree weather. He didn't want money for the favor. So my dad and I thought you should know what this employee of yours did. He was a trusting, caring human being and you are lucky to have him working with you. If at any time your employee needs a recommendation for being a good citizen, call on me.

**Fred Guerra
Kenedy**

Cezar Lopez is Maintenance Construction Supervisor for Goliad County. — Ed.

On May 23, my wife and I were on our way to El Paso and just outside of Van Horn—35 miles east—my right rear tire blew out but good. As I stopped and looked and started to change the tire—Oh, yes, I am 67—two of your personnel, a Mr. Hubert Sanchez and a Mr. Sabino Talavera, came by and asked if they could be of assistance. As my wife stated later, the Good Lord was on our side.

These gentlemen changed my tire and they were most courteous and true gentlemen and a fine credit to the department. It is most refreshing to meet people as nice and helpful as these two individuals.

**B.B. Cozens
San Antonio**

You have a Mr. Juan Rodriguez in your organization who deserves many thanks from me.

An envelope of wedding photos and gift cards was left on the top of my car by mistake and I drove off and the envelope fell off on the highway.

Mr. Rodriguez came along and picked it up and took it to the office.

I really appreciate his thoughtfulness when I know he could have easily not stopped or thrown it away.

If Mr. Rodriguez is an example of your work force, you certainly employ high calibre people.

**Mary Lou McLean
Sinton**

Mr. Rodriguez works out of the Sinton Maintenance section.—Ed.

I am writing in regards to two employees—Ron Perez and Rodney Johnson.

On a recent trip to the coast with my parents, we experienced car troubles about 10 miles outside of Mathis. After calling for a tow truck and waiting an hour, the truck never showed. During this time, no one stopped to ask if they could help. However, Ron Perez and Rodney Johnson were working on an overpass and after finishing work, came to our aid. If it had not been for their kindness, we probably would still be there in the hot sun.

I want to thank these two employees for helping us in a situation that left me feeling helpless. I would like to extend my gratitude to them and hope that the highway department will do the same.

I remain forever grateful.

**Mrs. Susie Blalock
San Antonio**

On Friday, May 10, my wife and I had an occasion to meet several of the employees of the Department of Highways and Public Transportation near Comanche.

My wife and I had stopped near a bridge on State Highway 36, about seven miles north of Comanche to change drivers.

While stopped, we started to walk down to a small stream under the bridge. My wife slipped and fell down an incline and received a compound fracture of both bones in her lower right leg.

I saw that we needed help in a hurry and went back to the highway. The first truck that came along was one of your state dump trucks and the driver stopped when I waved for assistance.

The driver immediately radioed for an ambulance for Comanche. His supervisor, who I assumed to be the maintenance foreman, drove up shortly and another dump truck driver arrived on the scene to assist.

The ambulance arrived shortly after and the foreman and the first driver assisted in getting my wife into the ambulance. The foreman dug steps into the incline to

Once is enough

If you have sent in your name and address to continue to receive TRANSPORTATION NEWS once, you are covered. You don't have to do it again. T-News has to run the notice in three successive issues, but just one card or letter from readers who want to remain readers will do the trick.

Third Notice

The State Appropriations Act requires all state newsletters and other periodicals to present a notice in three consecutive issues indicating "that anyone desiring to continue to receive the publication must so indicate in writing. The agency shall furnish future publications only to those persons requesting."

This does not apply to department employees who receive their issues through departmental distribution channels other than U.S. mail.

To remain on the mailing list, all others must respond prior to September 1, 1985, by returning the notice, properly signed and dated, with the mailing box below and the corrected label to:

**Transportation News
Circulation Department
P.O. Box 5016
Austin, TX 78763**

Signature _____

Date _____

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P.O. Box 5064
Austin, Texas 78763**

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assist us in getting up to the highway with the stretcher. They then assisted in getting her into the ambulance.

I would like to express my appreciation for these men, through you, for their assistance and concern for my wife during this mishap. The assistance rendered by your people sped our arrival at the hospital and could have saved her life. She spent 17 days in the Brownwood Regional Hospital before being transferred to Lubbock.

I met the above people but in the hectic times that followed, I have forgotten their names. I would again like to express our appreciation to these men for their help and concern.

I am a retired highway patrol sergeant and have received a lot of help and assistance from the highway department in the past, but this is one time that the help and assistance was really brought home to my family and to me. We do not have words to properly express my appreciation to you people.

**O.C. Guthrie
Lubbock**

Sgt. Guthrie's benefactors were Noah Gutierrez and Preston Cox, Maintenance Construction Supervisor III out of Comanche.—Ed.

The following was received by Frank Lively, the editor of T-News' sister/brother publication, TEXAS HIGHWAYS:

We want to use you excellent magazine to try to express our gratitude, thanks and praise of two employees of the Texas highway department.

On June 6, while travelling south on 1-35, we blew the right rear tire because of a rubber separation on an almost new tire. Neither my daughter, son-in-law or myself were physically capable of changing the tire. Two highway department employees travelling on a parallel service road stopped, walked across the grass divider and took complete charge most competently. They refused absolutely any gift, gratuity or compensation, saying it was against the policy of the department to do so.

In our confusion we neglected to get their names but we want everyone to know of our appreciation and respect for the Texas highway department and it's employees.

We hope this will be passed on.

**Fred H. Puckhaber
Dallas**