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TRANSPORTATION NEWS
June 2005 Volume 30 Number 3

Get your kicks on 66 + 1: U.S. 67

Pages 10 - 12

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN
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- The world according to Jack, Page 5
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On the cover:
Wildflowers line the roadside along this stretch of original U.S. 67 near Blanket, in Brown County. Long since replaced by divided four-lane roadway, portions of the old two-lane concrete highway — paved in 1927 — are now used for local traffic.

TxDOT photo by Mike Cox

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Straight Talk

5 decades for ROW

by Mike Behrens
Executive Director

Mike Behrens

You can't build a road without land to put it on.

From its beginning, TxDOT's reputation for excellence has largely been measured in lane miles. But before we could get the farmer out of the mud, we needed right of way for pavement. That need did not change as TxDOT built bigger and ever-better roadways.

Today, as we proceed with our most ambitious project ever — the Trans-Texas Corridor — the acquisition of land will continue to be a crucial function in improving mobility and relieving congestion in the Lone Star State.

Of course, most TxDOT folks know the story of Texas road-building. Over the years, TxDOT people have contributed their talent and expertise in building a state highway system we're all proud of.

What you may not know is that TxDOT's Right of Way Division is completing its fifth decade of service. The division's story, however, goes back even further. In 1925, the 39th Legislature laid the foundation for the Right of Way Division as it is today with the passage of an act allowing the department to obtain land through eminent-domain proceedings.

In 1956, the Right of Way function was separated from the Road Design Division, where it had been since 1942, and made a division in its own right.

For obvious reasons, exercising our eminent-domain authority has never been popular. Over the years, in acquiring more than a million acres of land for right of way, this department has always sought to negotiate in good faith. In most instances, we have been able to work out a purchase at fair-market value without resorting to our statutory power of eminent domain.

I realize the words "eminent domain" make most property owners wince. Taking land for the public good has never been particularly popular when it's your land being taken, but imagine what Texas would be like if TxDOT did not have this authority.

Next year, for example, we'll be marking the 50th anniversary of the interstate highway system. The 3,000-plus miles of interstate highway in Texas arguably could not have been built had it not been for eminent domain.

So, as it completes its fifth decade, our Right of Way Division will be playing a key role in the development of the corridor and other important projects across the state. The result will be better roads for everyone.✪

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Proceeds boost Mobility Fund

By Judith Curtis
Associate Editor

Congestion relief in Texas got a huge injection of funds in June with the transfer of $1 billion in bond proceeds into the Texas Mobility Fund.

An additional $1 billion in bonds will be issued for each of the next three years. That's because when the Texas Bond Review Board met this spring to consider the department's request to issue $3 billion in bonds using funds from the Texas Mobility Fund, the board upped that number to $4 billion.

As a result, said Ric Williamson, transportation commission chair, the board's action "will help us to double over the next 10 years the resources we have had access to during the last 10 years for improving mobility. We plan to move quickly to get Texans out of traffic congestion....We are moving forward on transportation in this state."

The Texas Legislature established the Texas Mobility Fund in 2001. In November of that year, voters approved the concept. In 2003, legislators authorized money for the fund.

The Mobility Fund can help to speed up locally supported and already-planned projects that reduce congestion, improve safety, expand economic opportunity, and enhance connections among various parts of the state.

The most likely projects to receive Mobility Fund money are those that leverage their allocation from the Mobility Fund with tolls, user fees, private funds and other revenue sources that stretch limited transportation dollars.✪

Letter from the editor

by Mike Cox

When I woke up to thunder early that Saturday, I thought, "I signed up to do WHAT?"

However, any idiot can stay in bed on a rainy weekend morning. It takes a REAL idiot to leave a perfectly warm, dry house and walk 6.2 miles in a cold rain whipped by a brisk north wind. Not to mention the accompanying lightning.

See photo, page 6

I doubt I was the only TxDOT employee experiencing second thoughts when his or her alarm went off on April 30. Even so, of some 5,000 participants, more than 400 TxDOT folks showed up at the Capitol for the 2005 Texas Round-Up. For that level of involvement in the 10K run-walk event, TxDOT won a silver medal. And everyone who took part got four hours comp time, a TxDOT Roadrunners T-shirt and sausage wraps.

In addition, everyone who walked or ran that morning "won" a significant calorie burn (for an average person, about 100 calories per mile), the runner's-walker's high that comes from increased oxygen flow and endorphin production, and the satisfaction of moving their bodies 6.2 miles while many folks were still asleep.

No one could ever accuse me of being the athletic type, but for most of the past five years, with a few periods of backsliding, I have been a fairly dedicated walker. A simple Google.com search will give you all the statistics you want on the benefits of walking, so I won't take up space here to repeat them.

Instead, let me just assure you that walking really does make you feel better — both mentally and physically — and it really does help you lose or keep off weight.

■ See Page 17

TNotes

Federal reauthorization

Congress moved closer last month to agreeing on a new reauthorization bill with passage of a $284 billion spending plan in the House, and a $295 billion measure in the Senate. (The Bush administration has said the president will veto any bill above $284-billion.) A conference committee, headed by Rep. Don Young of Alaska, has been named to work on a final measure. Meanwhile, Congress passed its seventh extension since the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century expired in September of 2003. This provides continued funding and program authority for the nation's highways, transit, highway safety, and transportation research programs through June 30 to give Congress additional time to complete the reauthorization bill. TxDOT is working with the Texas Congressional delegation and the authorizing committees to ensure that the final reauthorization bill provides as much flexibility as possible to enable Texas to take full advantage of the new financing and project delivery tools available at the state level.

Commission action

At its May meeting, the transportation commission passed rules that allow the department to take performance into account when distributing funds to public transportation agencies in rural and small urban communities.

Also, the commission approved a pass-through toll agreement with the city of Weatherford, and gave the go-ahead for TxDOT to begin negotiations with the city of San Marcos for roadway improvements using pass-through tolls.

The commission also discussed a plan that revises the process for hiring private sector contractors. The plan is designed to promote and reward innovative ideas, increase the number of firms participating in bidding, and to increase the number of minority and female-owned firms competing for contracts with the department.

TTC Advisory Committee

The newly-formed Trans-Texas Corridor Advisory Committee held its first meeting May 25 in Austin. The group, appointed this spring by the transportation commission, will advise the department and provide recommendations on issues related to the Trans-Texas Corridor. The 23-member body will hold its next meeting in Austin on June 29.

Public Transportation notes 30th anniversary

By Ginnie Mayle
Public Transportation Division

The Highway Department got a new name and a new job 30 years ago this month.

On June 20, 1975, Gov. Dolph Briscoe signed Senate Bill 761. That legislation merged the Highway Department and the Texas Mass Transportation Commission to form the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation.

Public transportation personnel initially worked in the larger division now known as Transportation Planning and Programming (formerly D-10). Recognizing the growing importance of public transportation, former Engineer Director Raymond Stotzer created a separate division for public transportation in 1988.

In 1991, House Bill 9 changed the name of the department to the Texas Department of Transportation. This same legislation mandated that public transportation become a separate TxDOT division.

Core functions of the Public Transportation Division (PTN) during its first 17 years included offering financial and technical assistance to public transportation providers, assisting in development of transit policies, and sponsoring transit training and research.

The 78th Legislature brought additional responsibilities to PTN. House Bills 2292 and 3588 required all health and human-service agencies to contract with TxDOT for the provision of transportation services to eligible clients.

In 2003, the state's medical transportation program moved from the Texas Department of Health (TDH) to TxDOT. Then in March 2004, 169 jobs transferred from TDH to TxDOT, increasing the size of the division from 20 to 180 positions. (Other full-time-equivalent positions went to the department's Information Systems Division and the Human Resources Division as part of the reorganization.)

Most PTN employees work in nine service centers across the state. These centers provide assistance to eligible people needing non-emergency transportation to authorized medical and dental care. In addition to the division staff in Austin and in the nine centers, 25 district public transportation coordinators assist in administering public transportation programs.✪

■ *PTN plans a 30th anniversary open house at a July 27 meeting with the transit industry and district staff.*

Conference for travel counselors marks 50 years

By Brenda Flores-Dollar
Travel Division

More than 100 Texas travel professionals traveled to San Antonio in April to attend the 50th annual meeting of the Texas Travel Counselors Conference that welcomed representatives from TxDOT's Travel Division, the American Automobile Association, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), and Texas cities.

For a half century, the conference has educated travel professionals about Texas history, geography and attractions.

Two TxDOT people received awards at the conference. Cindy Murrell, Travel Division administrative manager, took home the Lone Star Award, and travel counselor Teresa Carney of the Amarillo Travel Information Center received the TxDOT Roadrunner Award.

The first conference, held in Austin, featured TxDOT and AAA employees only. These days, the conference convenes each April in different Texas sites and has grown to include TPWD and visitor-information workers from various cities.

In addition, the conference allows TxDOT travel counselors who staff the state's 12 travel-information centers to detail what they learn from the more than 3.3 million visitors served by the centers annually.✪

TxDOT opens upgraded travel center in Gainesville

TxDOT earlier this month celebrated the opening of a renovated travel-information center on Interstate 35 in Gainesville.

Afternoon ribbon-cutting festivities on June 8 were followed by an open house with tours, entertainment, and refreshments.

The 8,953 square-foot building was expanded and renovated in a ranch-style design. Inside, the center features a video-viewing room to give travelers a sampling of state and area attractions.

The site also includes a large lobby with a fireplace where visitors can read the travel literature and maps available there. Restrooms are open 24 hours daily, and travelers also can use the center's eight covered picnic arbors. An expanded parking lot accommodates 23 tractor trailers, 14 buses and RVs, and 46 cars.

The original Gainesville site opened in 1936 and consisted of a one-room "Old Texas Colonial" bungalow.

As the number of visitors grew, and expansion and improvements were needed, the building was replaced in 1961, then again in 1988.✪

The world according to Jack

Security guard shares wisdom

By Judith Curtis
Associate Editor

TxDOT photo / Judith Curtis
Jack Mathis greets those who visit the Greer Building.

In Jack Mathis' world, there's an adage to go along with just about every situation, whether to smooth the awkward moment, coax a belly laugh for all involved, or merely cope with life's everyday hurdles.

During a particularly stressful day for the eight-year TxDOT veteran and security guard, Mathis opined, "What one cannot cure, one must endure."

The subject was Mathis' health, which hospitalized and kept him at home for more than three weeks recently. When he and his trademark witticisms returned, relief among Greer building workers and repeat visitors was vocal, frequent, and even gift-laden.

Jack Campbell Mathis, 75, values the people part of his job above all. Mind you, employee ID badges must be worn, safety measures have to be in place and certain civilities are required . "Your manners will take you farther than your money," he says. Once those things are taken care of, Mathis maintains his normally benign presence behind the counter of the Greer Building's art deco lobby. However, he says, "I have been known to have a short fuse if someone wants to argue." Generally absorbing, deflecting or shooing away any unpleasantness before it turns into trouble ranks high among his job duties. The personal touch, punctuated with a salutation preceded by one's first name, is extra.

"It's not in the policy book," he says, "but public relations has to be a primary part of this job." That job has placed Mathis throughout the Austin campus — Riverside, Camp Hubbard, Bull Creek — at one time or another over the years. Now he greets, protects and entertains Greer building workers first thing in the morning until 3 p.m., when he begins his 90-minute commute back to Lake LBJ where he lives with his wife, Sharon.

A business major, he occasionally visited the Greer Building in 1946 to see his friend Rose, the elevator operator. Mathis had other links to the building where he ended up working nearly 60 years later. His paternal grandfather, John Mathis, served in the Texas House of Representatives from 1918-1919 and from 1931-35. The elder Mathis was part of the legislature that approved the construction of the Greer Building.

A few years after he met Rose, Mathis went off to the Korean War. Assignment fulfilled, he traveled in Spain, Morocco and several points in between, meeting up with diplomats, royals, and at least one former German military officer along the way before getting back to Texas.

■ **See Page 8**

Words to live by... (or laugh by)

Pass by the front lobby of the Greer Building in Austin, and you are bound to hear one of guard Jack Mathis' thoughts of the day. Herewith, a few of Mathis' most-frequently uttered sayings.

- "In noble attempts, it is glorious even to fail."
- "Cowboys wearing spurs should not squat on their heels."
- "If you want to cast the first stone, be sure your aim is good."
- "Love don't last, but cooking does."
- "Never judge a book by its cover."
- "A dollar a day, a million days a million dollars."
- "Don't do anything today that you can put off till tomorrow."
- "There never was a horse that couldn't be rode. There never was a rider that couldn't be throwed."
- "If you want to be treated like a lady, act like a lady."
- "The magic word is really please."

TxDOT photo / Stan Williams

Not everyone got in the picture, but more than 400 TxDOT employees took part April 30 in the 2005 Texas Round-Up's 10-kilometer fitness walk in Austin.

TxDOT's on the road to clean air...

The Environmental Affairs Division (ENV) launched the department's new Clean Air Plan campaign on June 1.

From June through September, all employees with Novell Workstation credentials can log on to the new Clean Air Plan system and record their personal work-related activities to reduce air pollution. This includes carpooling, vanpooling, riding the bus, eating in for lunch and maintaining personal vehicles.

Points are earned and participation incentives will be awarded for those who record activities. A paper recording system also is available for employees who do not have computer access.

The Clean Air Plan system link is on the ENV crossroads page, http://crossroads/org/env/CAP.html, with additional information about the project.

Contact your district, division or office's air quality coordinator for the inside scoop on TxDOT's Clean Air Plan.

Keep reading T-News for more information on this exciting department-wide program!

— Ann Zeeck, PIO Austin

A high five for the High Five...

Good News. The Dallas High Five construction project is 10 months ahead of schedule or 77 percent complete after 36 months of construction. Looking at it another way, that's 60 percent of the contract time.

The five-year High Five contract officially began on Jan. 2, 2002. The contractor will be paid an incentive for every day the project is completed in less than five years, up to a maximum of one year early. The contractor will be charged for every day the project completion exceeds five years.

Additional information is available on the Dallas High Five website at www.DallasHighFive.org

— Mark Ball, PIO Dallas

Your vehicle's not a phone booth...

When used safely, cell phones help TxDOT people work better. But the National Safety Council says the unsafe use of cell phones

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■ Continued from Page 6

has contributed to injuries and mishaps involving workplace equipment and vehicles.

With safety in mind, these guidelines have been developed for employees who use cell phones on or off the job:

■ Employees should not use cell phones while driving or operating equipment for the department. Employees are encouraged to pull over to a safe area to talk on the phone. Note: The shoulder of the roadway is not considered a safe area.

■ Cell phones should not be used while conducting safety-sensitive duties. Hands-free devices may be used in some environments to enhance safety, communication and efficiency. Approval for the use of hands-free devices comes from supervisors.

■ Necessary calls on cell phones should be limited to short conversations. Every precaution should be taken to use cell phones in the safest possible way.

■ If an employee's supervisor allows personal calls on personal cell phones at work, the calls should remain few and brief so they do not interfere with productivity or cause distraction to others.

■ Cell phones should be placed in the silent or vibrate mode or turned off during meetings or other business activities.

■ Use of a personal cell phone for state business is not encouraged.

■ Unless pre-approved by a supervisor, the cost for use of a personal phone for state business is not reimbursable to the employee.

■ Supervisors should remind employees of these guidelines to ensure they are being followed. Inappropriate use of cell phones may be grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with the Human Resources Manual.

— Human Resources Division

Moving right along...

With school out for the summer, Texans are on the move. Check http://crossroads/org/pio/pubs casmovingintx.pdf for a pamphlet called "Moving In Texas."

Developed by TXDOT Motor Carrier Division and PIO, this piece contains consumer information on selecting a mover, moving intra and interstate, and how TXDOT helps with dispute resolution.

Motor Carrier has several hundred of these printed pamphlets in stock and would like to see them put to good use throughout the state. Please contact Chris Clay if you have any upcoming special events (rodeos, livestock shows, fairs, trade shows, conferences, etc.) in your district where you could use some of these pamphlets as handouts.

Tired of $2 gas?

A bunch of Texans evidently are weary of spending as much to fill their cars, trucks or SUVs as a motel room used to cost.

The R.L. Polk Co., which tracks U.S. auto sales, says Texas ranks seventh nationally in the number of hybrid vehicles sold.

Considered the future of the motor vehicle, hybrids combine traditional internal combustion engines with electric motors. No plug-in charging of the batteries is required.

The results: up to 60 miles to the gallon on the highway for some of the sedans and greatly reduced emissions.

To promote awareness of hybrid vehicles, TxDOT and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality staged a hybrid vehicle fair in the Greer Building parking lot on May 3. Commissioner Hope Andrade attended the event.

Even without a hybrid, everyone can play a part in reducing air pollution in Texas this summer by combining errands, avoiding long drive-thru lines, and keeping their vehicles properly maintained.

Think work-zone safety this summer...

Neon orange signs, cones and barrels lining stretches of Texas highways and interstates have already announced the onset of summer road construction.

The Amarillo District, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), and the Amarillo office of the Associated General Contractors (AGC), are working together to encourage motorists to slow down and use safe, responsible driving techniques, especially when traveling through construction zones.

According to the Federal Highway Administration, four out of five work-zone fatalities involve drivers and passengers, with drivers being the most likely victims. In 2003, the most recent year for which statistics are available, 161 people died in Texas work zones, and 85 percent of those killed were motorists. Nearly 15,000 were injured.

"Even one fatality in a work zone is too many," said Mark Tomlinson, Amarillo district engineer. "By teaming up with our safety partners at the DPS and the AGC, as well as Panhandle motorists, I'm hopeful we will meet our goal to keep Panhandle-area work zones fatality and injury free," added Tomlinson.

If the loss of life isn't a sufficient deterrent, the DPS reminds drivers that the fine for speeding through a work zone when workers are present doubles.

"Troopers will be highly visible while enforcing all traffic laws in work zones," said DPS Trooper

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Wayne Beighle. Exceeding the speed limit in work zones is the most frequent violation committed by drivers. It's also one of the most dangerous. If you are stopped for speeding through a work zone, you will be fined. Tonya Felder with the Amarillo AGC says the group in teaming up with TxDOT and the DPS in an effort to prevent work-zone accidents and fatalities in the Panhandle this construction season.

"The safety of those working on our state roads is a priority. We want all highway workers and the traveling public to make it home safely at the end of each day," said Felder. "Statistics show that four out of five work-zone fatalities are drivers and passengers. So let's all focus on slowing down and staying alert when we approach and enter a construction work zone."

— *Paul Braun, PIO Amarillo*

Work-zone safety tips:

- Expect the unexpected.
- Slow down.
- Refrain from using cell phones and avoid other distractions.
- Keep a safe distance between you and the car ahead of you.
- Pay attention to the signs.
- Obey road crew flag persons.
- Stay alert and minimize distractions.
- Keep up with traffic flow.
- Schedule enough time to drive safely (check radio, TV and web sites for traffic information).
- Be patient and stay calm.

Support the arts: Buy specialty plate...

Texans love their flag, and they love to "wave" it on the bumpers of their cars and trucks. Since the State of the Arts "Texas flag" license plate was introduced in 1995, it has been the top seller among specialty license plates. That success has translated into more than $3 million raised by the Texas Commission on the Arts to promote and support the arts and culture of Texas.

"In addition to looking great on your car or truck, the State of the Arts license plate generates funds that result in educational programming, economic stimulus and the preservation of our unique Texan culture," said Gaye Greever McElwain, director of marketing for Texas Commission on the Arts. "The State of the Arts license plate program is recognized nationally as a model public-private venture in support of the arts."

The State of the Arts specialty plate closely resembles the Texas state flag and features a bold lone star. The words "State of the Arts" appear on the bottom of the plate in white letters on a red background. In 2004, more than 22,000 State of the Arts license plates were issued or renewed.

The plate is available to motorists for a $30 annual fee, plus $40 if personalized, in addition to regular vehicle registration fees Of the $30 annual fee, $22 is appropriated to the Texas Commission on the Arts to fund arts and cultural programs, including arts education, folk art, performing, visual and literary arts, and film.✪

Jack's world fills with fun, favor, family

■ Continued from Page 5

(Further details must be withheld, as Mathis might say, for reasons of discretion.)

Back in the United States, Mathis graduated from the University of Texas in Austin in 1954 where, he says, "I never let school interfere with my education." After graduation he bought the marine supply company where he worked while attending classes. The firm grew and prospered before Mathis sold it to retire at age 56. A financial setback a few years later, however, required him to return to work.

Tiring of the constant travel required of that job and separation from his family (with 2 sons and 4 daughters, and 16 grandchildren, "my proudest accomplishment in life"), Mathis came to work at TxDOT in 1998 as a guard. For those who might raise their eyebrows at the contrast in careers — from corporate executive to government sentry — it's time to quote another Mathis saying. "Age slows you down," he says. "And I'm to the point I'm just glad to see the sun rise." ✪

Here's what you can do

TxDOT's security staff can't be everywhere at once. That's why the department relies on employees as its extra sets of eyes and ears.You just may notice the unusual, the suspicious, the potentially dangerous.

TxDOT offers training to employees so that they can follow the right steps in determining what to look for and to whom to report suspicious activity.

To learn more about the class and to view a presentation and instructor's guide, visit http://crossroads/org/mnt/, then click on Homeland Security Training.

Additional information on reporting suspicious activity can be found at https://www.swern.gov/.✪

Myth vs. Reality

Common myths on the Trans-Texas Corridor

In an effort to clarify what the Trans-Texas Corridor will – and will not – mean to Texans, TxDOT has compiled a list of commonly held notions about the corridor, along with facts that clear up any confusion. Below are a few of those issues.

MYTH: There will be no access to the Trans-Texas Corridor. Small towns and rural areas will be bypassed or cutoff from the corridor.

REALITY: A transportation system with no access serves no purpose. There must be access from the corridor to small towns and rural areas. The facility must be able to feed and unload the system or it won't work. The frequency and location of entrance and exit ramps will be determined as a project is being designed. It is impossible to do that level of design work now because we don't know where the corridor will be located.

As we do on any project, TxDOT will work with local officials to determine where access should be located so that it meets local needs and benefits statewide transportation.

MYTH: Farmers and ranchers whose property is divided will be forced to drive many miles out of their way to reach the other side of their property so that they can move their livestock and crops.

REALITY: As with other highways, TxDOT will consider routes for the corridor that are between properties. TxDOT will work to minimize the impact on the landowner. Examples include reconnecting severed roads, providing crossovers, constructing limited access roads or through some other means. Where appropriate, livestock crossings may be included.

MYTH: TxDOT will pump groundwater located under the Trans-Texas Corridor and transport it to other parts of the state.

REALITY: TxDOT is not in the business of selling groundwater. Furthermore, it does not have the authority to transport water. The only reason that TxDOT may access groundwater beneath state property is if it is needed for the transportation facility, such as a restroom or customer service center.

■ For more: www.keeptexasmoving.org

We Get Letters

TxDOT people distinguish themselves with acts of kindness and courtesy every day. As seen in letters of appreciation received for quick, attentive action, the traveling public takes notice. Here is one recent letter, followed by the names of other people from TxDOT who have received well-deserved thanks from those they helped all over Texas.

In the **Childress District**, Sally Preston shared her thanks for **Kenneth Fowler**, a transportation maintenance technician with the Hardeman County Maintenance Section in Quanah:

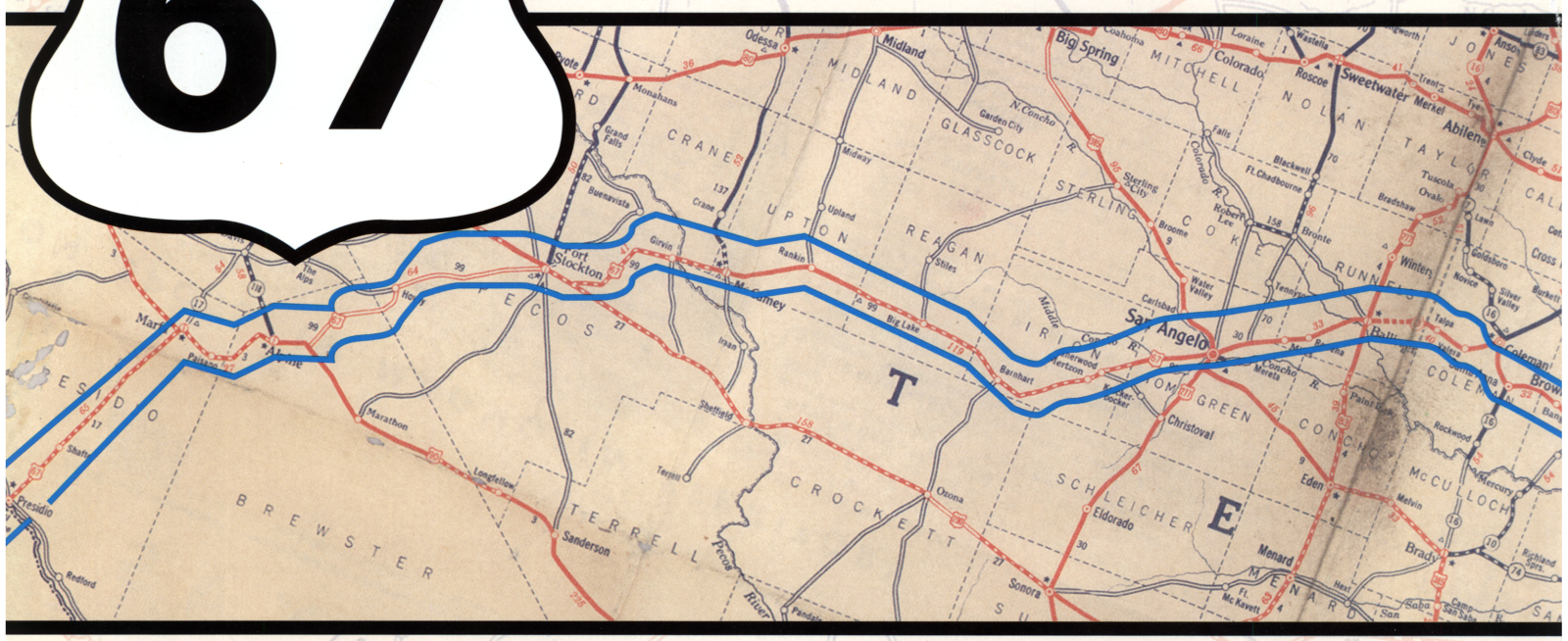
"I want to thank you for employing a wonderful man like Kenneth Fowler. I was on my way home from Albuquerque today and had a flat tire. I couldn't get the cover off my wheel in order to change the tire.

"I had only been stopped for five minutes when Kenneth showed up and quickly changed my tire for me. It would have taken me hours to figure out how to get the flat changed and it is not always safe being alone, on the highway, out in the middle of the country. I appreciate Kenneth making a potentially scary situation into a pleasant break in a very long drive. Thanks."

Others from TxDOT receiving praise in recent letters to the department:

Bryan District — Jennifer Stanush and William Necessary, and Mark Huff. Childress District — Lisa Vian, Larry Crabtree. Corpus Christi District — Mike Hill. El Paso District — Roman Gonzalez, Alonso Hernandez. Fort Worth District — Paul Worlow and Marvin Masten, Rocky Armendariz and James Cockerell, Danny Blackburn. Lubbock District — Joe Garza. San Antonio District — Bill Westrup, James A. Samford, Danny D. Perkins, Chandler W. Mohr, Dax L. Hooten, Bobby Morquecho, Ronald Johanningsmeier, Denson Brumley. Travel Division — Alicia Gowanlock, Amy Vincent.

Route 66 + 1 = th
from Presid



By Mike Cox
Editor

People still get their kicks remembering old Route 66, but Route 66 plus one — U.S. 67 — is still kicking.

It may not be the Mother Road, but U.S. 67 stretches 1,560 miles across five states, connecting Iowa to Mexico.

The highway extends through Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, and Illinois to the intersection of U.S. 52 in Sabula, Iowa, population 670. Six hundred thirty-seven miles of U.S. 67 are in Texas, from Presidio to Texarkana. Most of the Texas roadway is four-lane, some of it four-lane divided highway, though south of San Angelo, it is predominantly two lane.

People get shorter as they age, and so do highways. U.S. 67 originally covered 1,634 miles. Over the years, engineers have shaved 74 miles off the highway by straightening out kinks. One Texas example: Originally, the highway made an inverted V from Santa Anna to Coleman and then back to Valera. Back in the 1960s, TxDOT connected the dots from Santa Anna to Valera, transforming the old section of U.S. 67 south from Coleman to Highway 206.

Work on the Lone Star segment of U.S. 67 started in 1927 when it was extended from Fredericktown, Mo. to Dallas. In 1930, TxDOT began developing the highway — one of 45 U.S. highways in Texas — from Dallas to Presidio.

Reached Brownwood in '32

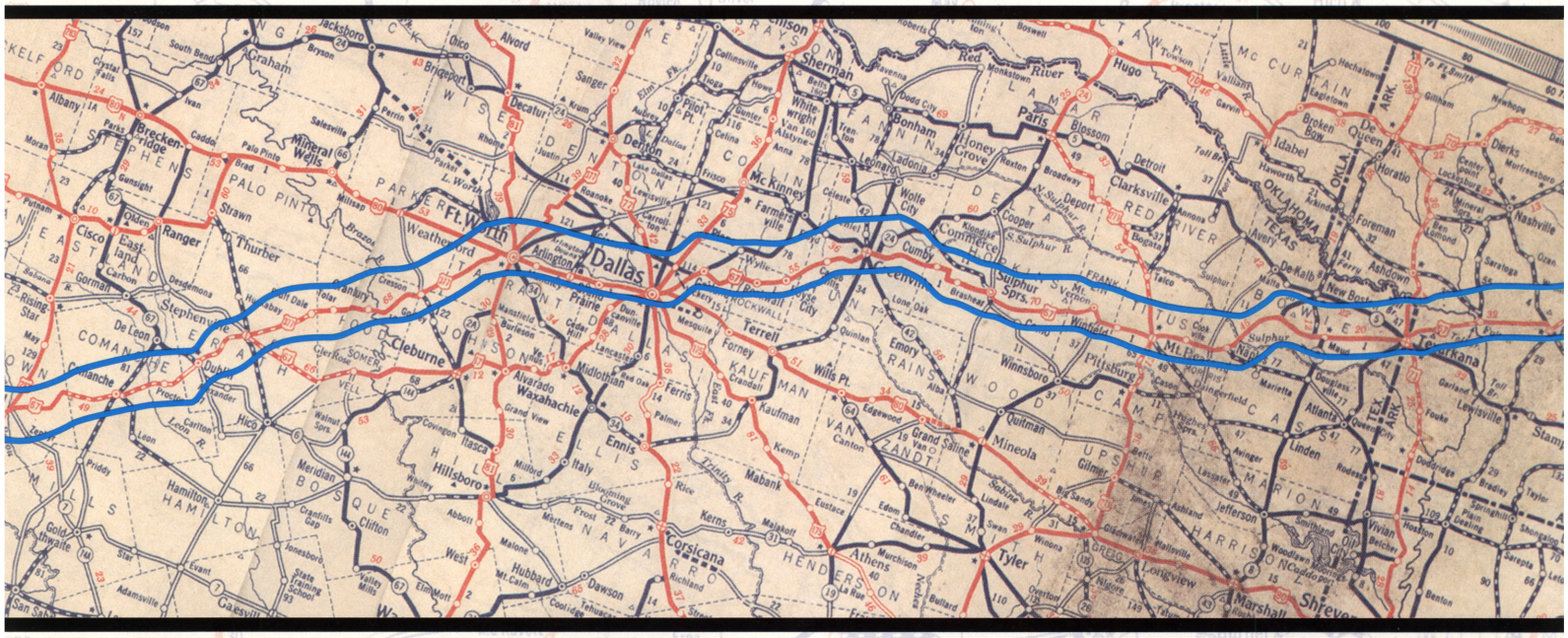
The highway reached Brownwood in 1932 and had been completed to the border by 1934.

That doesn't mean that U.S. 67 was a seamless ribbon of pavement from the Big Bend to Dallas when it first opened. A 1932 map shows the southbound pavement out of Brownwood ended just past Talpa, the rest of the way to San Angelo being what the map's legend referred to as a second-class road, "gravel or graded all weather." The pavement picked up again at Ballinger and continued through San Angelo.

West of San Angelo, the pavement played out about halfway to Mertzon, with no more hard surface until the Upton County line. Then a motorist had smooth driving to McCamey. After that, except for a brief stretch near Alpine, U.S. 67 ran unpaved all the way to Presidio.

North from Brownwood, the pavement ended at the

e story of U.S. 67 io to Texarkana



U.S. 67 in 1932 / Magnolia Oil Co. Map

Comanche County line and didn't resume until Hood County. From tiny Bluff Dale, drivers had pavement all the way to Texarkana.

Original road still visible

According to Brownwood District Engineer Lynn Passmore, U.S. 67 started as a concrete roadway. Between Brownwood and Blanket, he said, if someone dug about a foot beneath the present surface, they'd find the original concrete. At Blanket, a portion of the original two-lane highway is still in use as a local road.

When TxDOT engineers first began designing a highway system, some of the routes they selected for pavement had already evolved from animal trails to wagon roads to graded roads. In other instances, engineers planned roadways paralleling railroads. Passmore thinks much of U.S. 67 was new roadway surveyed adjacent to the railroad tracks from Dallas to Brownwood.

Beginning between Santa Anna and Coleman, the highway parallels the old Orient Railway, which came from Kansas City to Presidio via San Angelo and Fort Stockton in 1911.

TxDOT photo / Patsy Rainwater-Maddux

Westbound U.S. 67 in San Angelo

Speed limit 45

By the 1930s, Texas had a respectable highway system, but traveling still was not as easy as it is today. The speed limit had been raised to 45 miles an hour in 1928, and held there until 1941, when the Highway Commission bumped it to 60. That lasted until 1942,

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when wartime shortages forced a reduction to 35 miles an hour to conserve gasoline, oil and rubber.

At the end of the war, the speed limit went back to 60, where it stayed until July 1963. That summer it went to 70, the limit until another gasoline shortage in 1974 resulted in a slowdown to 55 that held until the speed went back to the present 70.

Water cost tops oil

In addition to speed-limit fluctuations, U.S. 67 has seen a couple of golden eras. The first came during the latter heyday of Big Lake, Rankin and McCamey, with oilfield activity at its peak. Back then U.S. 67 was the road to prosperity, with a lot of traffic in and out of the oil patch. Just to show how things change, when McCamey had 10,000 people, water was worth more than oil. When Passmore was resident engineer at McCamey, old-timers told him that water used to be shipped in by train from Alpine. It cost about $5 a barrel, compared to a dollar a barrel for oil.

The second U.S. 67 boom came during World War II, when Brownwood's Camp Bowie served as a major Army training facility. GIs who did not reach Brownwood by train came in on U.S. 67.

Road to Big Bend

After the war, a group of transportation and tourism proponents organized the Big Bend Trail Association, a non-profit corporation headed by Claude W. Meadows of San Angelo. The group touted U.S. 67 as the prime route to the new Big Bend National Park, and advocated a continuation of the highway to Chihuahua City in Mexico and from there on to South America.

"Along the route of U.S. 67," Texas Parade Magazine said in 1952, "is a loyal and devout group of representative business men who believe in their hearts that the Big Bend Trail is one of the greatest boons that has come…to the Southwest."

No matter the beliefs of businessmen, with the completion of Interstate 10 in the early 1970s, traffic on U.S. 67 west of San Angelo dropped considerably. The decline of oilfield activity between Big Lake and McCamey brought a further reduction in traffic, particularly from San Angelo to the I-10 intersection outside Fort Stockton.

The Big Bend Trail Association eventually changed its name to the U.S. Highway 67 Association and continued to promote the route, publishing a four-color brochure touting U.S. 67 as "The Big Bend Trail" and "Family Vacation Route."

No 'kicks' on 67

Despite the best efforts of the now-defunct organization, U.S. 67 never received the kind of press Route 66 enjoyed. John Steinbeck's classic novel "The Grapes of Wrath," Nat King Cole's "Get Your Kicks on Route Sixty-Six" and the early 1960s TV show, "Route 66," assured the highway's place in popular culture.

But unlike Route 66, U.S. 67 is not likely to become a ghost road. I-40 replaced the Mother Road in July 1984. By 1985, the few Route 66 signs that had not been stolen went to Austin for public auction.

The signs on U.S. 67 are likely to stay where they are, but the segment from McCamey to Presidio was renamed in 1997 as La Entrada de Pacifico. Though the corridor heads toward Odessa from McCamey on a different highway, U.S. 67 is still likely to see an increase in traffic as trade with Mexico grows.

Speaking of signs, in Brownwood at the intersection of 279 and U.S. 67, the largest sign bridge in Texas crosses above the highway. TxDOT is monitoring how the bridge does, which may result in similar structures elsewhere in the state.

U.S. 67 continues to be a valuable asset for Texas, a road with an interesting past and a promising future. ✪

TxDOT photo / Mike Cox

Bill Crumley, recently retired Transportation Planning and Development director for the Brownwood District, pulls a set of blueprints for U.S. 67.

■ DISTRICTS

ABILENE

May — (25) Kevin T. Rivers; (20) Richard F. Wasson; (15) Burt M. Spraberry; (5) Daniel P. Crow, Chad W. Teichelman.
April — (15) Jamie L. Branch, Tommy J. Jones; (10) Matthew S. Rogers, Joey M. Walker; (5) M Scott Free, Norma D. Thompson, Justin H. White, David L. Wittie.
March — (25) Russel W. Lenz, Johnny C. Moore; (20) Sue W. McAlister; (15) Jonnie T. Hise; (10) Jeffrey S. Holland, Reuben P. Jackson, Matthew K. Martin, Joel V. Nesmith; (5) Clay Belcher, Synthia A. Bolin, Bobby D. Howard, Paul N. Norman.
February — (35) Eliazar M. Saucedo; (10) Jesse Mendoza III.
January — (25) Oscar Tavarez Sr.; (15) Joe P. Clark; (10) Darrell L. Meissner, Bruce W. Wheeler; (5) Danny L. Bedell, Donald G. Froman, Jesse A. Gonzales, Laramie A. Letz, Andrew Vargas Jr.
December 2004 — (25) Ira W. Marsh Sr.; (20) James R. Carlin; (15) Debra K. Rector, Kevin W. Wright; (10) Theresa M. Fritz, Michael B. Kenyon; (5) Walter W. Cave, Eric C. Roberson.

AMARILLO

May — (20) Michael J. Robertson, Roy D. Tarpley; (15) Robin M. Frisk, Ronald L. Johnston; (5) Basem T. Dia, William G. McMurry.
April — (25) Jana S. Holdaway; (5) Christopher D. Gregg.
March — (35) Frank R. Gilbert; (25) Steve R. Johnson; (20) David L. Jennings; (10) William H. Jaques; (5) Michael D. Todd.
February — (20) Darrell W. Caldwell; (10) Johnny J. Cordova, Ray A. Harrison, Larry D. Maxwell; (5) Edward J. Rowell, Russell K. Wade.
January — (25) Sammy J. Harris Jr.; (20) Randal O. Clark; (15) Toby D. Bagwell, Tommy D. Davis, Terry A. Nix, Leon D. Vogler; (10) Carl W. Bournl.
December 2004 — (25) Richard A. Jennings Jr., Debby T. Skinner; (20) Wesley A. McDougal, Ronald L. Preston; (15) Susan R. Brown; (5) Geraline S. Reed.

ATLANTA

May — (25) Timmie L. Finley, Carl A. Peters; (20) Richard B. Bagley, Ronald D. Dillinger, David L. Neal Sr., Nanette T. Shockley, Thomas K. Young; (10) John E. Hines; (5) Thomas S. Campbell, Chad C. Ingram, Glenn R. Yowell.
April — (40) William C. Culberson; (25) Kevin S. Ward; (20) Dan W. Reynolds, Charles L. Stracener; (10) Jimmy A. Carson, Christina S. Melder; (5) Jason E. Waters.
March — (25) Perry C. Carpenter, Robert E. Ivory, James H. Voss; (15) Ruston L. Turner; (5) Damie R. Lee.
February — (15) Rea D. Jones; (5) Charles M. Cooper.
January — (25) Stevie E. Rawls; (20) Clifton R. Forsyth; (15) Sedric M. Gaston, Lisa D. Hayden; (5) Miki C. Allday, Hossein Jahanshahi, Elizabeth D. Simmons.
December 2004 — (30) Margarette H. Strawn; (20) Michael C. Anderson; (5) James R. Brasher, Gavin M. Hendrix, Billy E. Nutt II.

AUSTIN

May — (35) Mickey E. Johnson; (25) Susan M. Brown, Ricky L. Wilson; (20) Samuel R. Holguin; (15) Thomas J. Edmiston, William M. Forsythe, Richard D. Gammill, Julie A. Perales; (5) Michael I. Ivy, Ernest L. Luna, Justin E. McClenny , Kevin J. Setoda.
April — (20) Debora K. Zamorano; (15) Dennis D. Segner; (5) Patricia M. Moore, Mona G. Reynolds, John A. Robinson, Benjamin A. Samuel, Olin J. Seago Jr., Keith A. Taylor.
March — (35) John H. Fohn; (25) James D. Klotz, Benjamin B. May; (20) John C. Reavis; (15) David M. Goldstein, Tammy S. Hilbig, Mike C. Johnson; (10) Jim D. Shepperd; (5) Randy M. Carney.
February — (25) Richard L. Wilkinson; (20) Charles E. Collins; (15) Judith K. Brown, Clint J. Dube, David L. Plutowski; (10) Pernell L. Coats; (5) David C. Bauer, Mark A. McCoy , Demissie M. Sema, Jacob R. Staber.
January — (35) Gary W. Comer; (25) Gary J. Dunman, Wyette P. Williams; (20) Manuel G. Vela; (15) Michael A. Miller, Edwin D. Staats; (10) Brandi L. Rountree; (5) Clifton Bailey.
December 2004 — (30) Sammy J. Harris, Robert L. Stuard; (25) Russ K. Stateham; (20) Brian D. Burk, Kenneth L. McMillan , Jean L. Peterman; (15) Robert E. Harwood; (10) Stefanie L. Dougherty, Paula G. Gold, Timothy J. McDonald , Clifford L. Pellar, Will O. Weidenfeller; (5) Allan R. Hardison, Carol A. Jarosek, Eric W. Stromberg.

BEAUMONT

May — (35) Lynwood Walters; (30) Mark E. Hanks; (25) Alan D. Adams; (20) John A. Barton, Donna R. Jayroe, John V. Moser, Henry E. Sawyer Jr.; (15) Michael D. Skiles; (5) Ramoncito A. Belan, Jamie L. Caviano, Patrick D. Joseph, Joel M. Laningham, William H. McNally.
April — (25) Kenneth J. Brooks, Gary D. Dougharty, Robin A. Outhouse; (10) Jewell W. Taylor; (5) Kallun A. Sheppard.
March — (45) Earl Ard; (25) Delores B. Barriere, Theodore R. East; (20) Ted E. Clay; (10) Gary J. Beverly, Vada M. Byford, Juanita A. Domingue, Marc Shepherd; (5) Victor W. Johnson, John C. Vernedeau.
February — (20) Jacqueline G. Anderson, John P. Jannise; (10) Floyd Evans Jr., Woody H. Jones.
January — (25) Clyde O. Baker, Steven R. Templeton; (20) William K. Swearingen Jr.; (15) Marvin L. Morgan Sr., Paul A. Smith; (10) Robert A. Brown Jr., George W. Bush, David A. Caballero; (5) Anthony I. Cochran.
December 2004 — (20) Joanne S. Stokes; (15) Willie Celestine Sr.; (10) Benjamin O. Springs, Michael T. Tywater; (5) Jimmy W. Collier, John E. Romano.

BROWNWOOD

May — (5) David D. Fowler, Brandy L. Halk, Phillip E. Perley.
April — (15) Herman W. Dunlap Jr.; (5) Dale D. Carmack, Grady F. Laws II.
March — (20) Paul H. Musick; (10) Carl L. Johnson, Elsa Laing; (5) David S. Haley, Jo A. Templeton.
February — (20) Rocky A. Roberts;(5) Steven W. Hamrick.
January — (25) Clarkie G. Dellis, Robert K. Pearce Jr.; (20) Tammy M. Weiser.
December 2004 — (10) Celeste T. Johnson; (5) Jerry E. Poling.

BRYAN

May — (25) Daniel W. Vojtek; (15) Richard A. Courtney, Darrell W. Kolwes, Michael D. May; (10) David L. Brackens, Susan A. Icke; (5) Christopher M. Cowen, Sami Dadci, Trent A. Dierking, Leonard T. Long, David B. Stephens.
April — (25) Ronald D. McMurrey ; (20) Walter M. Parnell; (5) Danny M. Henderson, Brandy T. Huston.
March — (30) Lonnie G. Brothers; (20) James H. McCoslin ; (10) Kirk E. Barnes, Charles W. Gross, Allen D. Schulze; (5) Albert S. Grace, Randy M. Gurka, William H. Killough, Lisa D. Klintworth, Timothy R. McDuffie , Jared C. Rolling.
February — (25) Ricky G. Wills; (10) Marvin R. Craig, Freddie L. Green, Varughese Jacob; (5) William P. Morgan, Larry D. Rushing.
January — (10) Melvin L. Mims.
December 2004 — (15) Jeffery W. Massey, Terry A. Paholek.

CHILDRESS

May — (25) Mat R. Foster.
April — (30) Johnny T. Tiffin.
March — (30) Cosme Solis Jr.; (10) George F. Walker; (5) Willie E. Jones.
February — (30) Kenneth R. McClendon; (20) Jose A. Sanchez; (15) Tracy D. Cain.
January — (20) Billy L. Dill; (15) Marcia M. Henard; (10) Chad E. Skelton (5) Phillip T. MacKey.
December 2004 — (25) James R. Thomas; (20) Lowell W. Proctor; (10) Jimmy L. Bridges; (5) Lonnie Guerrero.

CORPUS CHRISTI

May — (25) Arturo Martinez Jr.; (20) Michael Esparza; (15) Melissa A. Zunker; (10) Billy R. Karnei; (5) Ross A. Huff, Woodren Pettis, Eugene Roberts, Deborah A. Shults.
April — (30) Jose M. Salinas; (25) Martin K. Timmerman; (10) Ismael C. Soto; (5)Bruce R. Kelsey.
March — (15) Cordelia Escobar, Randall S. Kircher; (10) Valentin Martinez Jr., Candelario Salinas III.
February — (35) Peter W. Stricker; (20) Adam A. Gomez Jr., Oscar L. Zambrano; (5) Anna Gonzalez.
January — (30) Carmela P. Garza; (20) Roberto Cantu Jr., Jimmy G. Rutkowski; (15) Mary Alice P. Hernandez; (10) Terry J. Castaneda, Kristi A. Gilbertson, Manuel R. Saenz; (5) Duane C. Hallemann.
December 2004 — (35) Leonardo Villareal; (10) Alicia G. Callejo; (5) Joe R. Rangel.

DALLAS

May — (35) James E. Pruett; (20) Praxedis Garza, Leann H. Lewis, Kojo A. Mensah, Johnny L. Reynolds, Robert W. Weatherall; (15) Wilfred D. Chabot, Raymond C. Hardemon; (10) Jason H. Miller; (5) Christina Acosta, Rebecca S. Jones, Rakhshanda Mahar, David C. Mahoney, Rebecca D. Nance, Joshua C. Vasquez.

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Service awards

( ) = service years

April — (20) Amir H. Aramoon, Michael R. Chavez; (15) Michael R. Richmond; (10) Jimmy C. Stripling; (5) Antonino A. Fernandez, Cynthia J. Graves, Becky L. Holland, Camhuyen T. Ly.
March — (35) Gerald W. Taylor; (25) Brenda K. Davis, Johnny D. Moore; (20) Ronald K. Bairrington, Lyle J. Seals; (15) Sheila K. Locke, Sonya E. Roston, Paul S. Smith; (10) Jill A. Jones, Eric C. Judd, Carolyn S. Keeble-simmons, Porfirio Lopez Jr., Shawn R. Tinsley, Tami K. Tolliver; (5) Donna L. Bennett, Michael D. Hudek, Richard Perkins, Mujtaba A. Yafai.
February — (40) George W. Tidwell; (25) Carl D. Fuller, Benny G. Sevier; (20) Charles L. English, Mary C. Velez; (15) William C. Hall II, Lynn E. McKinney , Rocky A. Mooney, Matthew R. Morrow, Rhonda R. Poole; (10) Robert K. Davis, Jeremy H. Miller, Rebecca J. Novakovich, Eric T. Saxon; (5) Jimmy E. Davis, Joseph D. Slack.
January — (30) Mickey R. Matthews; (25) Walter Williams; (20) H. S. Hall, James J. Monroe, William J. Pierce, Rena N. Taylor, Melanie B. Young; (10) Felicia R. Cortez, Daniel H. Peden, Janna T. Wampler; (5) Ryan W. Blue, Larry L. Butler, William J. Fisher, William M. Reeder III.
December 2004 — (30) John C. Hunter; (20) Jonathan Cox, Scott P. Hudson, Anthony N. Okafor, Jason C. Weeks; (10) David P. Apple, David W. Harlin, Keith E. Long; (5) Farris R. Allison, Ervin Green, David D. Griggs, Joel A. Guerrero, Clarence Johnson, Kevin L. Mathis, Charles R. Tarver, Kevin J. Wiles.

EL PASO
May — (25) Oscar G. Carrasco, Mary A. Hanson; (20) Antonio Cereceres, James M. Dobbins, Samuel R. Salmon; (15) Tomas A. Saenz; (10) Jesus E. Valtier; (5) Albert Bautista, Javier Castillo, Jesus S. Heredia, Guillermo Martinez.
April — (25) Raymond E. Lucero; (20) Wanda M. Fisher; (5) Jose Hernandez.
March — (20) Antonio Lopez; (5) Sandra De La Canal.
February — (10) Martha A. Boyd, Luis F. Mendez, Coby Nichol.
January — (25) Leopoldo Betancourt; (20) Adrian Valencia; (15) Fernando M. Arellano; (5) Ernesto Valdez.
December 2004 — (5) Thomas F. Friday, Omar Madrid.

FORT WORTH
May — (25) Thomas M. Pack; (20) Vicki W. Martin; (15) Patrick T. Haley, Willie J. McKinney, Jack E. Reeves; (10) Roosevelt Whitaker; (5) Guillermo Balboa Jr., Javier Salinas.
April — (25) Earl R. Spurlock; (20) Sam E. Swan; (15) Charles R. Collins; (10) Franklin F. Desai, Marcia L. Reyna, Enrique L. Salazar; (5) Kory L. Clarida, Robert O. Martin.
March — (20) Ricky D. Tompkins.
February — (20) Jesus F. Armendariz; (15) Rodney G. Holden, Sharon O. Makarwich, Kelly B. Price; (10) Clay M. Armstrong; (5) Cathie J. Carroll, James G. Hand.
January — (35) John E. Bailey; (25) Wendell L. Barrett, Agustin J. Martinez, Lisa R. Stone; (20) Albert H. Durant, Albert C. Ray, John M. Rosson, Kevin C. Rust; (10) Virginia E. Davenport, Teresa G. Doty, Carlos E. Molina, Jeremy D. Tyson; (5) Clara M. Elliott, Tracy J. Gibbs, Anthony W. Malone.
December 2004 — (25) Joe D. Fossett, Marcus N. McEndree, Belinda J. Smith; (20) Steven W. Baker, James E. Walling; (15) Allen R. Boone, Karen L. Hicks, Jerry A. Williams; (5) Felix Gomez, Daniel G. McCormick, Paula J. Meyer.

HOUSTON
May — (40) Raj K. Syal; (35) Reginald E. Janecek; (25) John Knowles, Mark H. Kroll, Mark D. Montgomery; (20) Joseph H. Bourdier Jr., Bob S. Eng, Mary D. Harris, Lawrence J. Heckathorn, John D. Horelica, Josefa R. Maghuyop, Stephen L. Olson, Michael G. Rayne, Jeanne M. Sobnosky, Kenneth D. Taylor, Terrance R. Vogt; (15) Alan Craft III, Thanh Binh T. Doan, David C. Kossa, Mike C. Myers, Roy Sanchez, Jose I. Tamayo, Norman M. Wigington; (10) William A. Greer, Laszlo Pato; (5) Gehrig G. Boone, Yee Cheng Chang, Garcia R. Coles, Harry L. Freudenberg, Richard L. Hensley, Linda F. Horace, Dedrick D. Knighten, Harold Love Sr., Sergio E. McGregor , Clinton R. Mighty, Willie A. Raymundo, Narciso D. Suayan, Sanjay G. Upadhyay.
April — (30) Ronald W. Fisher; (25) Howard B. Hawkins, Edward F. Murphy II; (20) Quincy D. Allen; (15) Joe R. Gonzales, Jarrett L. Hamilton, Jarret L. Williams, Charles R. Wusterhausen; (10) Wilford S. Simon; (5) Fawzi M. Abou-hossa, Hoda M. Assaad, Laura L. Bouche, Ofelia Garza, Marvin B. Henry, Donald W. Rutter Jr.
March — (20) David M. Berg, Terri L. Hybner, Jerry D. Lawrence, Ricky L. Morris, Steven R. Proffer, James D. Spivey, James R. Stoner, Barbara A. Storrs; (15) Elizabeth A. Gunn, Lonnie D. Riley, Edward L. Waguespack; (10) John R. Jones, James M. McGuire ; (5) Nidia Deleon, Deborah A. Derong, Ernett Harris, Donald R. Heimann, Barbara J. Jordan, Victoria V. Loredo, Joe A. Mendoza, Margaret J. Stanley-wells, Bassam A. Talafha.
February — (40) Clarence E. Pampell; (35) Ludvik E. Okruhlik Jr.; (30) Kenneth C. Fisher, Elizabeth K. Gerstenberger, Michael J. Jewell, Thurman A. Rector; (20) Rosminda B. Bautista, Tim W. Chase, John A. Elam, Fred E. Farnham, Su Jen Hwang, Sally G. Wegmann; (15) John W. Hunt, Brenda S. Theeck, Stephen M. Zapata; (10) Reza Mosaffa; (5) Stephen R. Brown, Samuel E. Dennis III, John J. Downs, Jacki L. Hendrickson, Kenneth E. Loggins, Connie S. Nobles, Servando Rodriguez.
January — (30) Sharla C. Bridges, Charles E. Gaskin Jr.; (25) Jose M. Gonzalez Jr.; (20) William P. Babbington, Mark F. Bathe, William R. Chappell, George S. Fan, Henry R. Norris Jr., Ambrouse L. Pilgrim, Ricky W. Williams; (15) Elie J. Alkhoury, Anthony D. Bailey, Peggy S. Goff, Todd D. Hebert, Ronald M. Mueller, James E. Orange Jr., William E. Repschleger; (10) Thomas W. Moss; (5) Francisco Garcia, David L. Hempy, Keri M. Locke, Ricky Monroe, Piphop Pach, Era R. Palmer, Michael W. Wawarofsky.
December 2004 — (30) Joseph C. Sze; (25) Roy G. Pippin, Mary Ann S. Ryba; (20) Vince G. Cannon, Robert T. Corbin, Joseph A. Durso, Claude P. Henry, Diane E. Lindenbaum; (10) Wendy G. Chappell, James L. Stephenson; (5) Reginald Delgado, Zhanfei Fan, Arthur F. Salako, Charles D. Spencer, Jaime O. Zamarripa.

LAREDO
May — (5) Edward L. Ochoa.
April — (25) Rebeca S. Gutierrez; (20) Dorina A. Romero; (10) Jose Esparza Jr., Iris E. Flores.
March — (20) Rogelio F. Garcia, Jorge Martinez; (10) Raul B. Hernandez; (5) Jesus Saavedra.
February — (25) Jesus O. Menchaca; (20) Rogelio Montemayor.
January — (15) Oscar Mendoza, Roberto Perez; (5) Crispin Razo.
December 2004 — (20) Oscar Sierra Jr.; (10) Ramiro Gonzalez, Juan J. Martinez, Candelario Ramirez, Enrique A. Romero; (5) Roberto Aguilar, Lourdes De La Garza.

LUBBOCK
May — (15) Russell N. Hayes; (10) Penny L. Mason; (5) Agustin Chavarria, Manuel Perez, Donald E. Sewell, Michael P. Stroope, Deborah J. Vinson.
April — (25) Ronnie L. Bales; (15) Randy W. Bounds, Rex A. Murphy; (5) Terry L. Blocker.
March — (25) William H. Brandon, Teddy J. Copeland, Mark C. Perry, John D. Warren; (20) Joe L. Flores, Tommy E. Gray; (10) Jesus M. Agundis Jr., Joel Benites; (5) Lynn O. Castle, Carolyn S. Craddick.
February — (30) Danny M. Holmes; (25) Leonardo R. Gallegos; (20) Steven L. Hudson, Carmen M. King, Marianne S. Kumley; (15) Ronald K. Gandy, Kim D. Wilson; (10) Carlos L. Howell, Harrison L. Jones, Tommy J. Miller; (5) Bobby J. Beakley, Kim D. Byrd, Mark A. Flores, Mark C. Jones.
January — (30) Higinio Vasquez Jr.; (25) Chris D. Cunningham, Jimmy B. Schwartz; (20) Juan Escobedo, Rick Rodriquez; (15) Richard C. Walbrick; (10) Benito Sanchez; (5) Carlos E. Adkins, Mario Ayala, Mary B. Crawford, James C. Melton, Jose A. Moreno, Catarino Soto.
December 2004 — (25) Felix Lopez; (20) Randy C. Hopmann, Jerry S. Morphis; (15) Keith W. Craig, Robert W. Lindley; (10) Weldon L. Baker, Raul O. Cristan; (5) Alan S. Albus, Jamey K. Huskey, Curt Masters, Richard Perez, Joseph W. Schaunaman.

LUFKIN
May — (20) Anthony R. Teichelman; (5) Tammy A. Oliver.
April — (25) John T. Corbin; (15) Stephen W. Walker; (5) Katherine A. White.
March — (25) Larry T. Jackson Jr.; (20) Robert W. Mosby; (5) Glenn P. Marshall, Frederick Wyatt.
February — (35) Donald R. Hodges; (30) Billy C. Raines; (25) Thomas P. Christian, Gary L. Fincher, Richard K. Ivy, Ricky A. McDonald , Rodger G. Stewart; (20) Joe M. Burke, Dianne H. Spinks; (10) Charles D. Malone; (5) Joe L. San Miguel.
January — (25) Stephen R. Allen; (10) Judy A. Beavers; (5) Tammy J. Neill.
December 2004 — (5) Danny R. Luna, John M. Mars, Billy V. Waller, Elton C. Williams Jr., John W. Wright Jr.

ODESSA
May — (35) Benny Walker Jr.; (5) Gabriel A. Ramirez.
April — (20) Guadalupe A. Rede; (10) George H. Garcia, Raymond Hernandez; (5) Jaime G. Mendoza.

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March — (20) Arnulfo R. Valdez; (15) Jose A. Navarrette; (10) Carolyn A. Dill, Roy N. Franco.
February — (20) Gabriel M. Castro, Florencio H. Molinar; (15) James L. Crain, Rebecca K. Hull Foster; (10) Juan R. Muniz; (5) Christi J. Foote, Saul B. Rodriguez.
January — (10) Orlando Padilla.
December 2004 — (25) Manuel V. Gonzales Jr., Robert R. Martinez Jr.; (20) Shirley G. Clay, Miguel L. Erives, Jesus M. MacHuca; (15) Donald S. McNatt , Kelli R. Williams; (10) William L. Hartwig; (5) Fernando Rodriguez, Eligio Trevino.

PARIS
May — (20) Nick W. Adams, Joe T. Miller, John E. Stinson; (15) Christophe D. Bragg; (5) Sam J. Mims, James P. Rivera, William F. Tubb.
April — (25) Bobby L. Beck; (20) Bobby R. Jones; (15) Jeannette A. Bush; (10) Dean C. Gatlin.
March — (35) Donald W. Nolen; (20) Cheryl J. Burt, David G. Norris; (5) Richard P. Coker, Ralph Vannoy, James M. Verner.
February — (25) James O. Dickerson, Charles A. Guffey, Elijah L. Palmer Jr.; (20) Byron M. Caylor Jr., Jeffery B. Dorner; (15) Michael S. Gibson, David W. Morrison, Cynthia G. Pitts; (5) Amy C. Edwards, Eric S. Morris.
January — (20) Stephen M. Barackman; (15) Anna L. Spencer; (10) Edward C. Brook, Robert C. Graves III; (5) Christopher G. Harrison.
December 2004 — (15) Gary D. Rater; (5) James C. Hopkins Jr.

PHARR
May — (10) Rolando Ortiz Jr.; (5) Eduardo Saenz, Sergio Sustaita.
April — (20) Tomas Beltran, Enrique Ruiz; (15) Juan M. Carbajal, Juan M. Mendoza, Francisco Trevino, Roel A. Vera; (5) Eligio Alvarez, George M. Guadiana, Cynthia C. Morales, Marlo L. Moya, Jesus G. Ramirez, Ricardo J. Zamora.
March — (25) Jose A. Cuate; (20) Jorge A. Rendon, Roberto Tovar; (5) Rodger N. Jones.
February — (20) Tomas R. Barraz; (15) Ernesto O. Alvarado, Ramiro O. Flores, Daniel Llanes; (5) Jose L. Gonzalez.
January — (25) Behrooz Badiozzamani, Lorenzo Leal; (20) Alberto Quintanilla; (15) Eduardo Blanco; (10) Evan M. Roberts; (5) Jeffery A. Hollenhead, David R. Nieto.
December 2004 — (25) Roel Mendoza; (20) Jose M. Hinojosa; (10) Isabel Y. Avelar, Epigmenio Gonzalez, Cecilia H. Ramos; (5) Reynaldo Cano, Roberto F. Leal, Pedro V. Lopez, Roel Rodriguez.

SAN ANGELO
May — (20) Daren W. Benbenek, Darla R. Mikulik.
April — (35) Emiliano R. Gonzales; (25) Daniel G. Bolt, Rocky E. Youngblood; (5) Ryan C. Ward.
March — (30) Eduardo P. Saenz Jr.; (25) Hector Dehoyos Jr., Jimmy Tambunga; (10) David D. Killingsworth; (5) David M. Aguirre.
February — (15) Jane Gray, James C. Hopper, Delmar A. Radde Jr., Douglas F. Roberts.
January — (25) Joe M. Rodriguez; (10) Bobby G. Knight; (5) Dan A. Hohmann.
December 2004 — (25) Ricardo Martinez; (20) David G. Jackson; (10) Michael C. Lara, Wesley B. Tinney; (5) Guillermo Resendez, Ben D. Shackelford, Jeffrey W. Timms, Ronald G. Waggonner.

SAN ANTONIO
May — (25) John K. Benson, Ernest L. Edgehouse Jr.; (20) Cary C. Lloyd, Lloyd F. Mair Jr., Roxie A. Melton; (15) Barry L. Engelke, Mary L. Rodriguez; (5) Christopher Castillo, Lamar L. Crear, Lance W. Gaither, Malcolm Gonzalez, Randy J. Koehler, William J. Trefzer, San Antonio District.
April — (40) Ray Lerma; (35) Kenneth L. Ricks; (25) Arnulfo Ramirez; (20) Jane C. Joseph; (15) Samuel A. Aguirre, John A. Cox; (10) Maria Ximena Copa-Wiggins, Debra M. Felder; (5) Thomas E. Hall, Dax L. Hooten, Ricardo Rivera.
March — (25) Thomas S. Clark; (20) Michael P. Lehmann, John E. Svab III; (15) Jim E. Braziel; (10) Roma L. Eliker, Edward J. Garza, Blaine R. Mitchell; (5) Morgan D. Ellis, Ricardo S. Flores, Marlin W. Grona, Danny M. Gutierrez, John E. Jackel, Rolando R. Morales, Enrique G. Santos Jr.
February — (35) Ervin R. Brooks; (25) Margarita Y. Rios; (20) Hugh J. Fleming III, Roberto Garcia, Ginger R. Jenkins, John Waliky Jr.; (15) Michael S. Bailey; (5) Robert E. Ferguson, Henry J. Fojtik, William P. Howard, Leticia Maldonado, Dale L. Picha.
January — (35) Gilbert G. Gavia; (25) Richard S. Butler; (20) Lawrence R. Coyle, Annie Dadian-williams, Brien A. Hocher; (15) John P. Heye, Joe A. Yanas; (10) Gregg A. Granato, Jesse R. Tamayo; (5) Bodie J. Browning, Michael D. Chandler, John G. Friesenhahn, Patrick S. Mondin, David B. Taylor, Gerald W. Vrana, Travis O. Young.
December 2004 — (30) Curtis A. Rabenaldt; (25) Juan L. Martinez, Dale R. Stein Jr., Jesse A. Torres; (20) Brian G. Fariello, Mark A. Narendorf, Leonid Vishnevetsky; (15) Jennifer F. Goodall, Danny D. Perkins; (10) George L. Gallegos; (5) Antonio Alvarez, Donald W. Deaton Jr., Sandra M. Diaz, Ahmed A. Kadi, Crystal J. King, Edward Soriano, Mark S. Strick.

TYLER
May — (25) Thomas L. Doss; (20) William M. Battles, James B. Hodges; (10) Daren E. Turner.
April — (25) Peter C. Eng, Clifford R. Mouser; (20) Walter G. Brown, Patsy B. Nichols; (15) Ted J. Pittinger; (5) Steven D. Campbell, Michael A. Lackey, James C. Rogers, Amy L. Stotts.
March — (20) Jay T. Townson; (15) Adrian C. Owen; (5) Sarah E. Hatley, Shelley K. Mathis.
February — (35) Bobby J. English; (25) Ernest J. Glasscock, Albert P. Sheppard, Warren B. Tidmore; (15) Pete Martinez; (5) Shannon D. Bell, Tracy L. Logan, Jeremy D. Taylor.
January — (20) Michael T. Schneider; (10) Randy G. Lemmon, John E. Loflin.
December 2004 — (20) Debra J. Heddins, Edith H. Sipes; (15) Kyle W. Collins, Hardie L. Ervin; (10) Susan P. Bates, Brandy D. Born; (5) David L. Reed, John P. Wiggin.

WACO
May — (25) David L. Beard, Harry C. Prince; (20) Kevin L. Pederson; (15) Roy R. Lopez, Phillip L. Miller; (10) Steven E. Parks; (5) Guy D. Grant II, Vanette M. Kuykendall.
April — (15) Richard P. Polansky; (5) Karie M. Brown, Thelma E. Nolen, Raymond W. Wiley.
March — (25) Donald R. Hall, Willis L. Patton Jr.; (20) Earl T. Anderson Jr., John L. Hrynyk; (10) Michael D. Jablonowski, Betsy F. Pittman.
February — (35) Doyle E. Bood; (25) Mary P. Lucien; (15) Larry D. Kruger; (10) Bobby A. Ramthun; (5) Paul Sosa.
January — (25) Jerry E. Handy; (20) Kathleen H. Smith; (10) Johnny M. Rodriguez; (5) Tommy B. Truelove Jr.
December 2004 — (10) Bernadette Little, Gregorio Soto; (5) Kay R. Pigg

WICHITA FALLS
May — (25) Leamon Ligon Jr.; (20) Joe D. Anderson, Larry C. Lott; (15) Mary S. Groth; (5) Casey L. Elliott, Darin W. Reed, Don S. Richardson.
April — (20) Johney C. Grimes; (15) Joe D. Brogdon.
March — (35) Allen L. Wood; (25) Julia A. Smith; (5) Scott A. Carter, Max L. Proctor.
February — (10) Anthony W. Self; (5) Christopher L. Hansard, Michael D. Karl.
January — (20) Charles E. Stanley; (10) Patricia R. Walls; (5) Jorge Contreras, Dennis A. Ramsey.
December 2004 — (20) James E. Watterson; (10) Sharon R. Brown, Paula J. Gordon; (5) Jan M. Allbritton, James C. Langley

YOAKUM
May — (35) Robert W. Jiral; (25) Charles M. Nobles; (20) James S. Stock; (15) Frank R. Clark; (5) Will R. Sorensen.
April — (20) Daniel Y. Perez; (5) Fletcher J. Harding, Brian P. Kutach, Vernon J. Rerich Jr.
March — (20) Jocelyn M. Bolom; (10) Mark D. Wooldridge; (5) James C. Boehm, Jeffrey L. Poenitzsch.
February — (20) Darren B. Florus, Glenn R. Jaeger, Kenneth W. Meyer, William A. Rowland; (15) Larry D. Howren; (10) Mark D. Goetsch; (5) John A. Cochran Jr., Robert G. Herman, Rodney P. Svec.
January — (20) Wilburn C. Griffin, Douglas A. Luedke.
December 2004 — (25) Reynaldo E. Cavazos; (20) Ronald W. Chernosky, Sherry L. Hutchinson, Rodney A. Leopold, Emma C. Raska, Richard A. Steffek; (10) Fidel Bernal Jr.; (5) Holly R. Fishbeck.

■ DIVISIONS

AVIATION
May — (15) Clarence B. Ehly.
January — (15) Ed Oshinski.

BRIDGE
April — (5) John S. Beard, James T. MacMillan III.
February — (20) Roger N. Porter.
January — (10) Estanislado Ybarra.
December 2004 — (15) Mark A. Bewley.

CONSTRUCTION
May — (25) Jay D. Tarwater.
April — (20) Earl O. Leaverton; (5) Maria T. Sepulveda.
March — (35) Ronald D. Gardner; (25) Henry

■ See Page 16

Service awards

( ) = service years

M. Strosser; (10) Sadashiv G. Pethe.
February — (40) Jerry L. Howell; (20) Sherwood E. Helms Jr.; (15) Michael D. Carter; (10) Dar Hao Chen.
January — (20) John B. Beckham, Thomas De La Portllla, George H. Vogt Jr.; (5) Timothy R. Owen.
December 2004 — (25) Robert R. Smith; (10) James R. Parrish; (5) Gunalini Kanthasamy.

DESIGN
February — (20) William G. Orr IV; (10) Maryann C. Jarutowicz.
January — (25) Bobby G. Dye Jr.; (10) Alison L. McMillan ; (5) Angela M. Gil.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
May — (5) Mark A. Rodriguez.
April — (5) Bruce D. Jensen.
February — (10) Richard A. Goldsmith.
January — (10) Michael J. Shearer.
December 2004 — (5) Mario L. Sanchez

FINANCE
May — (20) Gail A. Quimby; (15) William J. Fuhrman; (10) Helen A. Gregory; (5) Janice W. Wier.
April — (20) Caren S. Cowfer; (10) Marylou Castillo; (5) Charlotte L. Holweger, Irene Venegas.
March — (5) Ginia R. Foster.
February — (10) Carolyn A. Ridge; (5) Andrew L. Birdwell.
January — (25) Brian L. Hohle; (20) Mark D. Pollard, David A. Smith; (5) Guadalupe S. Hernandez

GENERAL SERVICES
May — (20) Tammy L. Oshel; (15) Michael J. Duncan; (10) Wayne S. Heikkila, Douglas L. Martin.
April — (5) Lloyd J. Matheson, Rhonda J. Martin.
March — (15) Robert Hill; (10) Guadalupe D. Cruz; (5) Aida U. Almaguer.
January — (20) Susan C. Tutt; (5) Jerry A. Figures, Harry B. Sanders.
December 2004 — (15) Geraldine C. Bartel; (10) Paul S. Alvis, W. B. Barrett.

HUMAN RESOURCES
May — (5) Patricia Thomas.
April — (10) Dianna R. Fair; (5) David Escamilla Jr.
February — (20) Janet L. Green; (10) Joe M. Dougherty, Cindy D. Miller.
January — (5) Tamra R. Bernhardt-Mascorro, David J. Houston.
December 2004 — (30) Diana L. Isabel; (20) Rita C. Grimes; (15) Mary S. Abright; (10) Gloria Jemmott; (5) Christopher M. Cochrum.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS
May — (20) Kenny E. Corzine, Bertha B. Legge; (15) Rebecca L. Ivey, Stephen R. Schmidt; (10) Henry P. Holguin.
April — (25) Jeffrey A. Rue; (10) Kevin E. Butts, Frances H. Chang; (5) Michael L. Barker, Karla R. Chittim, Gloria D. King.
March — (15) Justin L. Krause; (10) Carol A. Rogers; (5) Leslie J. Bates.
February — (20) David E. Norman, Daniel E. Walsh; (15) Steven B. Newman; (10) Martin L. Brown, Oscar Dominguez, Scott F. Miller; (5) Joseph W. Adkison, Audon E. Partida Jr., Chihua Shi.
January — (30) Harold L. Gurley; (15) Juan J. Mora; (10) Raquel Tovar.
December 2004 — (10) Cynthia M. Overton; (5) Dean N. Lamb.

MAINTENANCE
March — (10) Don K. Ballard; (5) John F. Shorter.
February — (15) Randall Sakai; (10) Marilyn G. Burnett; (5) Laura A. Mullins-Mercer, Carl O. Nix.
January — (5) Mary J. Dawson.
December 2004 — (20) Paul G. Campbell

MOTOR CARRIER
May — (5) Larry A. Simcox.
April — (30) Robert J. Margo; (15) William W. Moorhouse Jr.; (10) Linda Elaine Parks; (5) Robert R. Hood Jr., Charles O. Landers Jr., James E. Tweedy.
February — (20) Michael S. Warnken; (15) Barbara J. Linzey; (5) Connie L. Noble.
January — (10) Vanessa A. Haywood; (5) Laurie K. Brown, Dianna L. McIntosh.
December 2004 — (30) Rosario L. Villarreal; (20) Kent D. Lane; (5) Tiffiny L. Harvey.

MOTOR VEHICLE
May — (10) Jack L. Durham; (5) David Routh.
April — (10) Christine L. Beckwith, Anne F. Walthall; (5) Mona Acosta.
January — (5) Judean S. Manion, Mary Smith.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY
May — (15) Tom L. Kozy.
December 2004 — (10) Janice M. Johnson-Simcox

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
January — (5) Cynthia M. Mueller.
December 2004 — (5) Edward A. Gensweider

RIGHT OF WAY
March — (15) Jimmie D. Hampton

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS
May — (20) Margaret A. Moore, Charlie B. Wicker.
April — (25) David E. Mitchell; (20) Darin K. Kosmak; (15) Gregory R. Brinkmeyer; (10) Walter H. Shaw.
March — (15) Cindy S. Nelson; (10) William A. Reichert Jr.
February — (5) Tracie Mendez, Hal B. Owen.
December 2004 — (20) Dorothy S. Mayfield; (10) William D. Strawn.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING & PROGRAMMING
May — (20) Jeffery A. Wilhelm; (15) Gregory O. Lancaster, Gregory F. White.
March — (25) Kathleen G. Miertschin; (20) Mario G. Medina; (15) Earl W. Bernhard; (10) Juan J. Paredez; (5) Alfred E. Chandler.
February — (20) Michael H. Nunn, William T. Theis Jr.; (15) James W. Burnett; (5) Michael P. Green.
January — (25) Jeffrey C. Reding; (10) Cary C. Karnstadt; (5) Richard R. Barrientos.
December 2004 — (25) Peter M. Carrizales; (15) Jess D. Cook; (5) Sara N. Davis, Jolana R. Kruse.

TRAVEL
May — (15) Christine T. Jones.
April — (5) Kirsti M. Harms.
March — (10) Stan A. Williams; (5) Lupe Valdez.
February — (25) Rosemary M. Eaves.
January — Travel; (10) Theresa M. Olson; (5) Alicia N. Gowanlock.
December 2004 — (10) Marisol G. Clausen, Sandra Torres.

TURNPIKE AUTHORITY
January — (10) Maxine P. Ball.
December 2004 — (20) Julie H. Dillard.

VEHICLE TITLES & REGISTRATION
May — (25) Bernadette H. Muras, Sandra B. Tucker; (20) Stephen J. Palmer; (10) Nancy Rodriguez, Kenneth G. Strain; (5) Marilyn C. Sanchez.
April — (15) Sandra G. Doyle; (10) Cynthia M. Fagan, Mark A. Reyes; (5) Christy L. Escobedo.
March — (25) Alethea H. Sutphen; (10) John J. Clavin Jr.; (5) Leslie W. Elliott, Shelly G. Fudge-draper, Edna M. Reddin, Douglas B. Scott.
February — (20) Darlene C. Hancock, Lavaughana D. Rosebery; (10) Vivian M. Boehme, Jeffrey S. Kushaney, Joey L. Oestrick; (5) Dawn M. McNabb , Deborah M. Milam, Sylvia A. Nanyes, Barbara A. Smith, Barbara D. Walters.
January — (35) James D. McAdams.
December 2004 — (25) Raul D. Garza Jr., Gloria B. Guerrero; (10) Adam Vasquez; (5) Danielle L. Brandenburg, Linda L. Chapman, Linda C. Page, Hollie V. Singleton.

■ OFFICES

AUDIT
April — (10) Avis L. Watson.
February — (5) James E. Hudson.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
May — (5) Esther C. Hitzfelder.

CIVIL RIGHTS
March — (10) Pete R. Garcia.
January — (10) Julian Vera.

GENERAL COUNSEL
April — (20) Robert W. Jackson.
March — (10) Bobbie K. Sutton.

PUBLIC INFORMATION
December 2004 — (20) Randall D. Dillard.

RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY IMPLEMENTATION
May — (20) Sharon A. Barta; (5) Edward N. Mattila.
April — (10) Kay C. Lee.
February — (5) German J. Claros.

■ DISTRICTS

Abilene
Claudie J. Horn (38/JAN)
William D. Rister (28/DEC)

Amarillo
Alfred L. Osborn (31/MAR)
Danny L. Massie (28/FEB)
Lonnie D. Ferguson (15/JAN)
Ronnie D. Powell (23/JAN)
Sheri S. Lang (32/JAN)

Atlanta
Allen R. Stallings (29/MAR)
Jerry G. Turner (30/JAN)
Kenneth J. Smith (28/JAN)
Robert H. Mayfield (23/DEC)

Austin
Mario E. Hernandez (27/MAR)
Helen G. Stewart (18/JAN)
Anthony L. McNiel (32/DEC)
George R. Barnard (29/DEC)
Clifford L. Wilson (34/NOV)

Beaumont
Laverne M. Danos (29/JAN)
Thomas A. Strother (10/DEC)
Clyde O. Baker (25/NOV)

Brownwood
Dan A. Neuse (28/FEB)
Charles E. Rust (22/DEC)
William T. Crumley (40/DEC)
Aneta R. Ratliff (40/NOV)

Bryan
Thomas E. Fry (8/MAR)
Katherine W. Hall (27/JAN)

Childress
Gil M. Rodriguez (30/DEC)
Corpus Christi
Sherry M. McLeroy (18/FEB)
Reynaldo M. Galvan (26/NOV)

Dallas
Deborah B. Burgess (33/FEB)
Brenda K. Morris (24/FEB)
Dennis F. Hall (23/FEB)
Gerald W. Taylor (35/JAN)
Terry M. Sams (32/JAN)
Melvin P. Lusk (24/JAN)
Raymond G. Hicks (23/JAN)
Rena N. Taylor (20/JAN)
Judy A. Howe (25/DEC)
Doris B. Little (19/DEC)
Geary W. Burnside (26/NOV)
Louis O. Groner (15/NOV)
Mary E. Hanks (10/NOV)

El Paso
Judy L. Ramsey (29/NOV)

Fort Worth
Ben A. Asher (19/MAR)
Raymond T. Buzalsky (36/FEB)
Robert D. Robinson (24/FEB)
Don R. Singleton (16/JAN)
Gary M. Campos (30/NOV)
James C. Moore (18/DEC)

Houston
Kenneth C. Fisher (30/MAR)
Victoria V. Loredo (5/MAR)
Ronald D. Turner (30/FEB)
Forrest F. Perkins Jr. (20/FEB)
Ruben Zapata (24/FEB)
Walter R. Himly (41/JAN)
John F. Sissons (20/JAN)
John M. Curry (36/DEC)
Eloy S. Guity (23/DEC)
Ricky L. McInvale (20/DEC)
Juan Vasquez (20/DEC)
Charles D. Spencer (5/DEC)
Sharla C. Bridges (30/NOV)
Glena L. Dawson (28/NOV)

Laredo
Juan A. Hernandez (25/MAR)
Enrique A. Romero (12/MAR)
Salvador A. Mercado (29/JAN)
Roberto P. Sepulveda (21/JAN)
Fred R. Martinez (19/DEC)
Jacquelyn H. Clarke (11/DEC)

Lubbock
Mercedes L. Estrada (31/MAR)
Larry D. Johnson (20/MAR)
Stanley B. Aldrich Jr. (13/MAR)
Alice T. Ogden (22/FEB)
Fred A. McCraw (19/JAN)
Robert C. Ray (24/NOV)

Lufkin
Billy C. Raines (30/MAR)
Thomas E. Teagle (22/JAN)

Odessa
Rosalio Montejano (27/NOV)
Kim R. Burks (11/DEC)

Paris
Roy Harper Jr. (21/FEB)
Ruth R. Rupp (11/JAN)
Fred D. Hunter (31/JAN)
Kenneth R. Nichols (24/DEC)

San Angelo
Alfred G. Davenport (28/FEB)
James E. Smith (19/FEB)
Harvey J. Havlak (28/DEC)
Mario F. Talamantez (25/DEC)

San Antonio
Patrick L. Irwin (31/MAR)
Emma J. Cantu (23/JAN)
Marie E. Yates (23/DEC)
Patricia M. Greenwood (22/NOV)

Tyler
Ernest J. Glasscock (25/MAR)
Jerry B. Mize (20/DEC)
Mary D. Pinnell (18/DEC)
James R. McCasland (26/NOV)
Keys S. Bordwine (11/NOV)

Waco
Randall C. Bradshaw (28/FEB)
Bennie Neal Jr. (13/FEB)
Glenn D. Christian (30/DEC)

Wichita Falls
Cecil C. Clubb (19/JAN)

Yoakum
Robert W. Jiral (35/JAN)

■ DIVISIONS

Construction
Raymond J. Mason (18/JAN)
Lloyd S. Eveland (31/DEC)
Robert R. Smith (25/DEC)
Richard B. Rogers (26/NOV)

Design
Sostenes Palomo (29/MAR)
David C. Stolpa (26/FEB)

Environmental Affairs
Ann M. Irwin (27/DEC)

Finance
Cathy L. Williams (24/NOV)

General Services
Karen A. Koopman (28/JAN)
Alejandro S. Aviles (22/JAN)
Sharon R. McCallum (27/DEC)
James P. Lockhart (22/DEC)

Information Systems
Sandra J. Matthews (30/MAR)
Joseph M. Bradford (20/NOV)

Motor Carrier
Rosario L. Villarreal (30/DEC)

Motor Vehicle
Jack L. Durham (10/FEB)

Public Transportation
Susan N. Bryant (28/MAR)
Margarita Olivo (25/MAR)
John M. Cauley (23/NOV)

Right of Way
Robert W. Briggs (17/JAN)

Traffic Operations
Karl A. Burkett (25/NOV)

Travel
Virginia O. Garcia (27/DEC)

Vehicle Titles & Registration
Diana B. Caskey (21/MAR)
Andrea N. Nelson (30/FEB)
Joey M. Connell (27/NOV)

■ OFFICES

General Counsel
Sandra Y. Moehlman (20/MAR)

Public Information
Diana T. Ward (25/DEC)

■ ADMINISTRATION

Cathy J. Williams (26/DEC)

Letter from the editor

■ Continued from Page 3

Here's what works for me:

■ Tell yourself you're going to walk at least 30 minutes every day. That way, you'll still get four or five days in per week.

■ Walk at least two miles. Three's better. Four's getting compulsive.

■ Get a walking buddy. Having someone to talk with makes the time and the miles go by quicker.

■ Bring walking shoes to work and spend your lunch hour walking instead of eating. Or eating as much.

All that said, in the spirit of journalistic objectivity, in April the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a study concluding that the overweight but non-obese have no greater risk of early death than those who weigh what the charts say they should.

Still, if those of us who work for TxDOT are going to keep Texas moving, it's not a bad idea to do a little moving ourselves. See you on the track.

Learn more: "Total Fitness from Head to Toe," http://www.time.com/time/covers/20050606/graphics/

In Memoriam

Austin
James W. Braggs
Engineering technician II
died April 11, 2005

Corpus Christi
Mogonio Villegas
Maintenance operations
retired 1987
died April 12, 2005

El Paso
Manuel F. Dominguez
Maintenance technician
retired 2001
died May 1, 2005

Raul R. "Ruly" Ortiz
Assistant foreman, maintenance
retired 1986
died April 5, 2005

Curtis W. Gibson
Material and process inspector
retired 1998
died Feb. 3, 2005

Fort Worth
Max E. Baird
Maintenance technician
retired 1991
died May 18, 2005

Toby Daley
Signal Shop supervisor
retired 1991
died March 12, 2005

M.C. Sprinkle Jr.
Construction inspector
retired 1985
died Feb. 1, 2005

Mike Smith
Construction inspector
died Jan. 16, 2005

Joe Walker
Maintenance supervisor
retired 1993
died Sept. 1, 2004

Glyde Widders
Maintenance technician
retired 1986
died Oct. 14, 2004

Maurene Greenlee-Davis
Administrative assistant
retired 1995
died Nov. 16, 2004

Houston
John Christian Hemme
Professional civil engineer
retired 1998
died May 25, 2005

Kenneth R. Krumpholz
District Director of Administration
retired 1992
died June 1, 2005

Pharr
Isaias Gutierrez
Engineering technician II
died Jan. 19, 2005

San Angelo
Floyd "George" Potter
retired 1974
died Jan. 12, 2005

Julius C. Schroeder
retired 1984
died Sept. 26, 2004

Tyler
Freddie Phelps
South Tyler maintenance
died Dec. 6, 2004

Yoakum
Victor W. Clark
Dump-truck driver
retired 1987
died May 11, 2005

James Franklin Kocian
Gonzales County maintenance
retired 1995
died May 4, 2005

Construction
Edward (Ted) Ziller
Construction Division director
retired 1986
died May 15, 2005

Robert Rankin Smith
Program Specialist III
retired 2004
died May 20, 2005

General Services
Wayne Helton
Information specialist III
died April 17, 2005

Travel
Hilda Warne
retired 1990
died Jan. 3, 2005

NOTICE TO READERS

State law requires those people (TxDOT retirees and others) who receive Transportation News by mail to make a written request to remain on the mailing list. Address your request for annual renewal to:

TxDOT Public Information Office
ATTN: TNEWS MAILING LIST
125 E. 11th St.
Austin, TX 78701-2483

If you do not send us a request for renewal, we must drop your name from our mailing list. This notice does not apply to TxDOT employees who receive individual copies of Transportation News at work.

Calendar

2005

JUNE
30 Commission Meeting, Austin

JULY
4 Independence Day (holiday*)

6-8 Texas Ports and Waterways Conference, CC, TPP

18-20 Annual Sign Shop Meeting, Fort Worth, TRF

19-22 Value Engineering Conference, San Antonio, DES

21 Research Oversight Committee Meeting, Austin, RTI

28 Commission Meeting, Brownwood

AUGUST
16-18 Design and Bridge Conference, Dallas, DES/BRG

25 Commission Meeting, Austin

SEPTEMBER
12-14 Save a Life-Safety Belts & Sober Drivers, Austin, TRF

29 Commission Meeting, Austin

OCTOBER
11-12 Transportation Short Course, College Station

27 Commission Meeting, Corpus Christi

NOVEMBER
7-10 Research Management Committee Meeting, CC, RTI

17 Commission Meeting, Austin

DECEMBER
7 Research Oversight Committee Meeting, Austin, RTI

15 Commission Meeting, Austin

* = all agencies closed
** = skeleton crew holiday
*** = optional holiday (in lieu of any state holiday where a skeleton crew is required)

The complete TxDOT Calendar is on the intranet at http://crossroads/org/pio/articles/calendar.htm

It's the law:

Truck drivers face some new rules

Editor's note: The Human Resources Division provides the following as a matter of interest to all TxDOT employees:

Driving laws that are administered and enforced by the Department of Public Safety (DPS) affect TxDOT employees. Failure to comply with these laws may result in administrative or disciplinary actions.

TxDOT employees are responsible for knowing the status of their license at all times and must not drive for the department if they do not have the legal authority to do so. For instance, employees must maintain a current address on their driver licenses to receive notice from DPS about such laws.

Notice to truck drivers

Effective Sept. 1, 2003, legislation passed which does not allow persons holding a commercial-driver license (CDL) to take driving safety courses to dismiss traffic offenses. This means that all traffic offenses will be recorded on the CDL.

Endorsement renewed

To secure the transport of hazardous materials, and in accordance with Section 1012 of the USA Patriot Act, DPS has begun enforcing rules of the federal Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation.

These rules require a CDL holder for TxDOT to undergo a federal security-threat assessment to renew the hazardous material endorsement (HME) or "X" endorsement.

The commercial driver must first renew the regular CDL before beginning the process for renewing the HME.

The new threat-assessment provision for the HME or X endorsement of CDLs now requires a collection of the driver's fingerprints, verification of citizenship, and a criminal-background check.

If the TSA approves renewal of the endorsement, DPS will mail the driver a new CDL, which then will note any endorsement. The endorsement will be valid for five years.

The cost to commercial drivers for renewing their HME will be $83 — broken down as $10 for the fingerprinting service, $34 for the TSA threat-assessment fee, $24 for the FBI criminal-history processing fee, and $15 for the DPS criminal-history processing fee.

TxDOT will reimburse commercial drivers who are required to have the license and endorsement for their job. Reimbursement will cover the cost of renewing the endorsement along with the cost ($36) of renewing the regular CDL. TxDOT is estimating the total reimbursement for the renewal of a CDL and HME to be $119.

DPS encourages commercial drivers to begin the process for renewing the HME early — at least 60 days in advance of the expiration date — to allow time for processing. DPS may issue the commercial driver a 90-day extension on the applicant's current HME until the TSA completes the threat assessment.

Commercial drivers may renew their license and HME up to one year prior to expiration. However, renewal applications must be filed no later than 30 days prior to expiration.

TxDOT commercial drivers should work with the substance-control officer in the district and division for assistance with this process.

Disqualification

As of June 1, commercial drivers will be subject to disqualification of the CDL for certain traffic violations, even if those violations occurred while not driving a commercial motor vehicle. This change in the law extends to violations that occur while driving a non-commercial motor vehicle as well as a commercial motor vehicle.

According to DPS, when a disqualification is placed on a CDL it restricts a person from operating a commercial motor vehicle. Disqualification also bars a person from applying for a CDL. However, the person still may operate a non-commercial motor vehicle while under disqualification of a CDL.

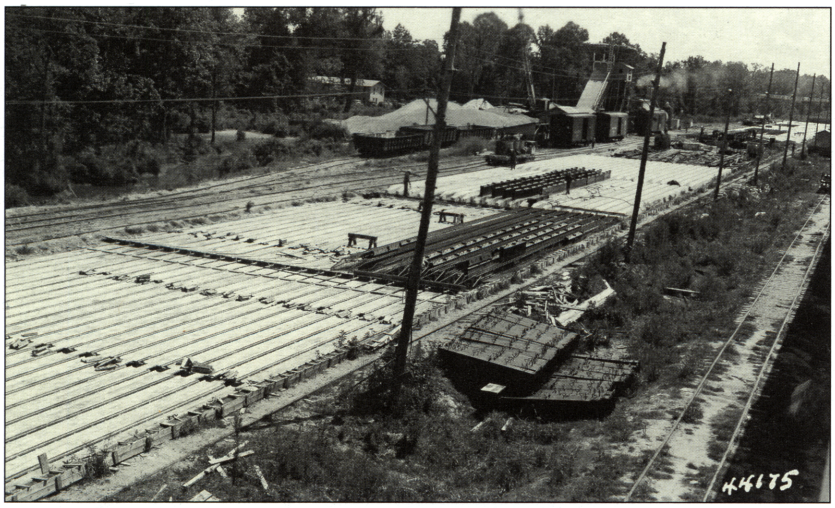
According to Transportation Code 522.081, disqualifications of the CDL will be enacted for 60 days, 120 days, one year, three years, or for life — depending on the violation.

Traffic violations that could result in disqualification of a CDL include driving a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs, leaving the scene of an accident, using a motor vehicle in the commission of a felony, refusing to submit to testing to determine the person's alcohol concentration, testing positive on a drug or alcohol test, driving a commercial motor vehicle without the legal authority, vehicular homicide, and violations involving the transport of hazardous materials.

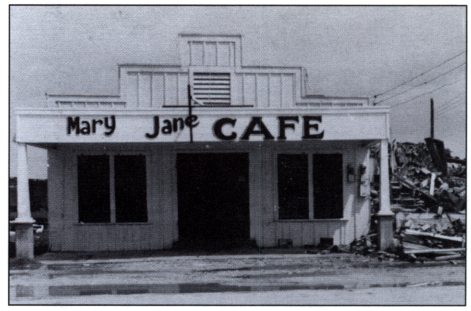
TxDOT employees required to maintain a CDL to perform the essential duties of their job may be subject to administrative or disciplinary actions if their CDL has been disqualified under these provisions.

Again, TxDOT employees are ultimately responsible for knowing the status of their license at all times. Also, they must not drive for the department if they do not have the legal authority to do so. ✪

backtracks



This unidentified construction scene was taken in August 1942. In the rear of the photo there is a banner for Keliher Construction Co. If you have more information about this picture, contact Anne Cook at (512) 486-5838 or by e-mail at acook@dot.state.tx.us.



The **backtracks** picture from the May 2005 issue of Transportation News is still unidentified. Any ideas? ✪

Texas Department of Transportation

TRANSPORTATION NEWS

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