

Town honors 'Boy with name change

The Waco District has a "new" town that put a football star on the map.

Blue-and-white signs marking the city limits of "Troy Aikman, Texas" went up on Interstate 35 in mid-November. Troy, a town of about 1,400 between Waco and Temple, had officially changed its name to "Troy Aikman" the month before.

The signs, which featured football helmets and the Cowboys logo, were to remain in place until the end of the football season. At that time, the city's name would revert to Troy, and department crews would remove the signs and return them to the city.

Everything went according to plan until the early hours of Super Bowl Sunday, when an over enthusiastic Cowboys fan stole the sign on the north side of town.

"We were afraid something like that would happen," said City Manager Ellis Prince, who added that the sign had generated a lot of interest in the community.

Throughout football season, motorists on I-35, including many from out of state, stopped to take pictures of the signs.

As Super Bowl Sunday approached, interest in the community and its unique name grew. "We had a lot of people call asking if they could buy one of the signs," Prince said, "so it didn't really surprise us to discover one of them missing." The second sign was removed by department workers the morning after the Super Bowl and returned to city hall.

The temporary name change came about after Jim Verdi, a radio producer for KYGN-FM's "Dallas Young Country," noticed the community during a trip to Austin to cover the Cowboys' training camp. He contacted city officials to suggest that the town alter its name in honor of the Dallas quarterback. Most citizens agreed, said Mayor Tom Vanderveer, and the city



Margaret Sanders

council unanimously approved the change in October.

The signs were donated by Haywood Ware of Hall Sign, Inc., the company that makes other signs for the city.

The department became involved when the signs arrived in November. Larry Colclasure, the district traffic engineer, wanted to ensure that the signs were installed correctly and safely. Working with Jim Cowan, Bell County area engineer, and Debbie Rogers, the Belton area maintenance supervisor, Colclasure arranged for department crews to hang the signs at the city limits on I-35.

Rogers worked with Vanderveer and other city officials, and suggested the unveiling be held at city hall on FM 935, rather than the median of the busy Interstate. Though the town's namesake was unable to attend, he sent word that he was honored by the action.

"We're thankful to the department for helping us in this project," Vanderveer told the citizens and reporters attending the unveiling, "We had a lot of fun with this. If it helps someone notice us and leave the freeway to see our town, all the better."

Bill Meyer, left, and Willis Patton of the Belton Maintenance Section, install limit signs for the Waco District's newest city.

Margaret Sanders
Waco District

Transportation NEWS

- Page 3** When she was looking to appoint the newest member to the Texas Transportation Commission, Gov. Ann Richards turned to a familiar face. Richards tapped McAllen lawyer Rubén R. Cárdenas to fill the unexpired term left by Henry R. Muñoz III, who recently resigned. Cardenas becomes the first Hispanic from the Lower Rio Grande Valley to be appointed to the commission.
- Page 4** Everyone knows that oil and water don't mix. That's why TxDOT and the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission's Clean Texas 2000 team are focusing on oil recycling as part of a pollution prevention program, including a public service announcement aimed specifically at illegal oil dumping. Unlike oil and water, TxDOT and TNRCC do mix.
- Page 5** Minority and women-owned businesses that would like to participate in TxDOT activities will now have a greater opportunity in the department's purchasing and procurement process. The department is adopting new measures to increase minority participation in state-funded highway construction and maintenance contracts.
- Page 7** Calling all High Flyers! Now is the time to complete the 1994 High Flyer Award entry form. This award is for employees who soar with the eagles and have set their sights high to avoid being confused with those who swoop with the pigeons. Winners will be announced at the Transportation Short Course in October. If you think you or a co-worker might qualify, fill out the entry form on pages 7 and 8.
- Page 9** With major-league action just getting under way, it's time to start thinking about home runs and strikeouts. The first pitch of TxDOT's fifth annual softball tournament will be thrown out Saturday, June 18 in Austin's Pleasant Valley Sportsplex. For two days, teams of TxDOT employees and their families will rip line drives, turn double plays and hurl heat in hopes of capturing the tournament title.
- Page 9** After two and one-half years of service, Texas Commission member Henry R. Muñoz III of San Antonio resigned Feb. 25, citing pressing obligations to his family and his business. Muñoz was the first Hispanic and the first minority to serve on the three-member commission. During his tenure on the commission, Muñoz was recognized as a strong advocate of the transportation needs of South Texas.

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Ask Bill



Q: Why can't a graphical user interface similar to WINDOWS-based graphics programs for PCs be implemented for plotting mainframe data from CICS applications?

It would seem very simple to implement a system where the program variable names were listed on a screen. You could then select which variables you wanted to plot and what type of plot to be used.

The very simplest of these systems would be bar-charts of a single variable over a user-selected time interval—for example, pavement condition plotted by year. Simple X,Y plots should also be easy to program—for example, maintenance cost vs. maintenance level of service labeled by district or county for each data point.

More complex plots could also quickly answer critical questions—for example, what areas under pavement performance curves were integrated to estimate a

given district's funding needs based on PMIS optimization techniques.

All of these can be easily done once the data has been downloaded to a PC, so why can't high-resolution graphics for this be done on the mainframe which has been around for many more years? Or, if it can be done, why aren't these options available through on-line CICS menus?

I think everyone in TxDOT would benefit greatly from such enhancements and it would eliminate much of the wasted time expended by each office trying to implement such graphics independently using office PC programs.

*Scott R. Lambert, P.E.
Design Division, Pavements Section*

A: Thank you for the suggestion concerning a Graphical User Interface (GUI) for accessing mainframe data and creating graphical displays from that data.

Many of the enhancements you referenced will be delivered in PMIS Stage I. This solution will use Arbiter and SAS to access mainframe data from a PC. A Visual Basic front-end may be used to make Arbiter more user-friendly.

While there are many solutions available on the market that could be used to accomplish this type of interface, the challenge will be to implement a consis-

istent solution that provides the department's users with transparent access to mainframe data with little or no knowledge of the underlying processes or the network communications. This type of client-server GUI interface should allow an end-user to produce ad-hoc reports, graphics, and other forms of data analysis from a PC networked to a mainframe or database server.

This type of application appears to be a tool that many users will want in the future. It is very similar to what is needed for GIS and appears to be similar to what the Executive Information System requires. The technical architecture decisions resulting from the Business Information Systems Plan (BISP) concerning operating systems, networks, client-server technology, databases, development tools and GIS should provide a path for implementing a consistent approach to this type of application. We expect that products similar to the one described above will be recommended as part of the migration plan. This method would extend the life of legacy systems while providing the GUI look and feel that new systems utilize. Consistency of approach will be critical to reduce costs of training (users and developers), support and software licenses.

I share your desire to provide a graphical user interface to access mainframe data; however, a consistent approach must be developed in conjunction with the BISP. In the mean time, it is suggested you make sure your PMIS user coordinator is aware of your requirements.

McAllen lawyer named to commission post

Meredith Whitten
Staff Writer

When she was looking to appoint the newest member to the Texas Transportation Commission, Gov. Ann Richards turned to a familiar face.

Richards tapped McAllen lawyer Rubén R. Cárdenas to fill the unexpired term left by Henry R. Muñoz III, who recently resigned. Cárdenas becomes the first Hispanic from the Lower Rio Grande Valley to be appointed to the commission.

As he joins the commission, Cárdenas brings with him years of public service. He is a former chairman of the Texas Public Safety Commission. He also served on the Board of Regents of the University of Texas-Pan American and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Southwestern Bell Corporation and the Public Broadcasting Service.

The appointment of Cárdenas also brings another lawyer to the commission. Cárdenas is a partner in the firm of Cárdenas, Whitis & Stephen in McAllen. He is board certified in residential real estate law as well as farm and ranch real estate law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Commissioner of Transportation

David Bernsen of Beaumont and Commission Member Anne Wynne of Austin are also lawyers.

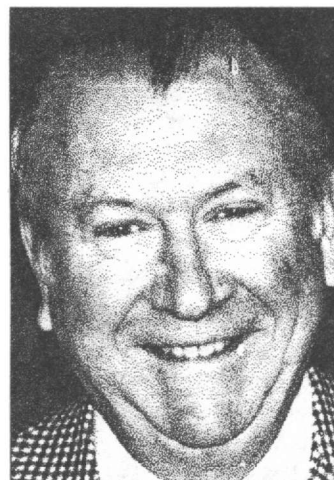
Cárdenas received an accounting degree from St. Edward's University and a doctor of jurisprudence from the University of Texas at Austin School of Law. In 1976, he was named a distinguished alumnus of St. Edward's. UT bestowed the same honor on Cárdenas in 1991.

After receiving his bachelor's degree, Cárdenas served four years in the U.S. Air Force as a radar observer navigator in F-94 jets. He also served three years in the U.S. Air Force Reserves.

At a news conference announcing Cárdenas' appointment, the *San Antonio Express-News* quoted state legislators' reactions to the appointment. State Sen. Eddie Lucio of Brownsville, in whose district Cárdenas lives, praised Cárdenas.

"I am extremely pleased to see the Valley represented on this important board," Lucio said. "Our area has experienced rapid growth, and with the passage of the (North American Free Trade Agreement), the Valley is becoming the gateway for trade in the United States.

"The infrastructure needs of the Valley



Rubén R. Cárdenas

are tremendous. With a Valley representative on this commission, I am confident that we will see improvements in our highway system in the coming years."

State Sen. Carlos Truan of Corpus Christi, whose district includes part of the Valley, echoed Lucio's words.

"Ruben is no stranger to public service," Truan said, "but now, more than ever, his strong voice is needed to ensure that the

Department of Transportation focuses on the need to develop the South Texas infrastructure as the state prepares for the increasing demands on our roads and highways brought on by commerce as a result of (NAFTA)."

Cárdenas' popularity in the Valley is nothing new. In 1969, he was named McAllen's Outstanding Man of the Year. He also was selected as the Outstanding Young Attorney of Hidalgo County by the Junior Bar Association in 1968.

Cárdenas and Dardanella, his wife, have three children: Carlos, Oscar and Diana.

Earth Watch

TxDOT, TNRCC to battle water pollution

Karen LeFevre

Environmental Affairs Division

Everyone knows that oil and water don't mix. So you don't pour dirty oil from your car into a storm drain where it can go right into the drinking water supply, right?

But every year, thousands of Texans do just that. A quart of oil pollutes up to 250,000 gallons of water—about what a family of four uses in a year.

Polluting a million gallons of drinking water for an average car's oil change is a high price to pay to avoid the hassle of taking that oil to a recycling center. That's why the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission's (TNRCC) Clean Texas 2000 team focuses on oil recycling as part of its pollution prevention program. It's also why TxDOT's Environmental Affairs Division was developing a public-awareness program to prevent storm water pollution, including a public service announcement (PSA) aimed specifically at illegal oil dumping.

Unlike oil and water, TxDOT and TNRCC do mix. The two were developing separate campaigns, but now they've gotten together. The result of their partnership is a jointly produced PSA targeting do-it-yourselfers who—like the rest of us—may wind up drinking the water they pollute.

The TxDOT Travel and Information Division's audio-visual section produced the 30-second PSA using TNRCC's script concept and a campaign slogan developed by Sherry Matthews Advertising. As an inky mass of oil completely covers a screen full of pure, blue water, a child's voice gives us a message that says it all—

"You Dump It, You Drink It." Without spelling it out, the PSA conveys the need to protect our resources today for our children's tomorrow.

The PSA, while emphasizing the damage oil dumping can cause, gives an alternative to pouring used oil into the nearest storm drain. Recycling is the solution, and viewers can call a toll-free number (1-800-64-TEXAS) for the location of a recycling facility in their community.

The PSA complements other "You Dump It" public awareness materials, such as bumper stickers, print ads, billboards, and a radio PSA featuring top-10 Tejano recording artist Oscar G.

Commissioner of Transportation David Bernsen said, "Our environment is a reflection of our behavior. It's everyone's responsibility to keep our environment clean. I applaud this joint effort, and I know its impact will be significant."

A kick-off for the television PSA was held Nov. 20 at the Montgomery Ward Auto Center in Austin. The first 400 people who brought their used motor oil to recycle received free oil recycling canisters bearing the "You Dump It" slogan, provided by TNRCC.

Chairman John Hall and Commissioner Peggy Garner of TNRCC and Robert Cuellar, TxDOT's deputy executive director for transportation planning and development, all expressed their support for the program and the partnership between the two agencies. Montgomery Ward manager Bob Thomas, Dianna Noble, TxDOT's director of Environmental Affairs, and SueAnn Wade-Crouse, president of Keep Texas Beautiful, were

also present. And Oscar G was on hand to sign autographs.

Hall commended TxDOT as the first state agency to become a partner in the Clean Texas 2000 program, thus joining the ranks of business and community partners. Garner applauded the initiative of the two agencies to combine their public-education campaigns about motor oil recycling. "Not only is this a unique cooperative effort between state government agencies, by working together both agencies saved thousands of taxpayer dollars in TV production costs," Hall said.

Cuellar cited TxDOT's successful anti-litter program, "Don't Mess with Texas," as a model for what can be accomplished through public education campaigns. "Since 1985, visible roadside litter has been reduced 72 percent. We hope that Clean Texas 2000's 'You Dump It, You Drink It' campaign will have a similar effect on changing the behavior of those who carelessly dispose of their used oil," he said.

While the television PSA is the first cooperative effort between TxDOT and TNRCC to encourage used-oil recycling and reduce water pollution, it won't be the last. Other projects in the planning stages include a storm-sewer stenciling program for communities around the state. The goal is to paint a warning right on curb inlets to remind folks not to dump their used oil into the storm drains.

Texas' water supply will be a lot safer if everyone remembers just one thing—"You Dump It, You Drink It."

Program provides access to state government

Roger Polson

Staff Writer

It's one-stop shopping for state government.

That's the way Gov. Ann Richards describes Capital for a Day, one-day sessions held in various locations around Texas. The activities bring representatives from state government to places like Carthage, Paris, Clear Lake, Abilene, Kingsville and Temple, giving citizens direct access to the agencies to help solve their problems.

"These Capital for a Day meetings have been great," said Executive Director Bill Burnett. "I enjoy meeting the people, spending some time with the district folks, and occasionally coming up with

instant solutions. It could take citizens days to have access to this many state offices even if they came to Austin."

Burnett has helped at least two communities locate needed equipment by canvassing district surplus equipment lists and working with the General Services Commission to earmark the equipment for sale to the communities.

"We found a front-end loader that was needed by the city of Carthage and in Abilene, the Tye Volunteer Fire Department was looking for a water hauler. We found one scheduled for sale in April down in the Pharr District and made it available to Tye. These kinds of results are very rewarding."

But Capital for a Day is more than a used-equipment flea market. All day long people visit booths to pick up information and ask questions about agency operations. People with vehicle title problems or concerns about safety, public transportation or pending projects in their area can talk with Burnett or local TxDOT officials to get answers.

"Our job is to solve problems on the spot if we can. I've gotten on the phone

and arranged meetings or found answers to questions," said Burnett.

The governor usually arrives at Capital for a Day in the afternoon. After wending her way through the crowd, she settles into her "office" and meets with citizens one-on-one. At 5 p.m., she holds a dinner meeting with agency heads to talk about the day's events. In the evening, a town-hall meeting gives area citizens another chance to address questions directly to state officials.

"One thing for sure, someone will ask why the lottery money is not being earmarked for education," Burnett said. "Seriously, it's quite educational to hear the community's issues discussed. It is a unique opportunity to be in one place with so many agency heads and elected state officeholders. I'm pretty sure we get was much out of the events as the citizens."

The next Capital for a Day will be in Bryan-College Station on April 28. Other events are scheduled monthly through August but specific locations have not been announced.

HUBs to get bigger piece of TxDOT pie

Victor Rodriguez
Staff writer

Minority- and women-owned businesses that would like to participate in TxDOT activities will now have a greater opportunity in the department's purchasing and procurement process.

The department is adopting new measures to increase minority participation in state-funded highway construction and maintenance contracts. TxDOT is committed to having at least 30 percent of its state-funded contracts awarded to historically underutilized businesses (HUBs).

Pursuing an increase of HUBs in its purchasing and construction contracts, TxDOT will include the HUBs in its new strategic plan. The HUB goal calls for specific programs aimed at encouraging the use of minority- and women-owned businesses, like the one created by Administrative Services last March when it officially took the department's HUB program under its wing.

"The No. 1 priority of our program is to increase participation of historically underutilized businesses in our purchasing and contracting activities," said Cassie Carlson Reed, deputy executive director for Administrative Services.

The Administrative Services office announced the position of HUB coordinator, who will be responsible for handling the program's activities. "All of the department's HUB activities will be centralized in this office under a HUB coor-

dinator," added Reed.

A HUB steering committee was also formed to facilitate the process. The committee, headed by Reed, includes personnel from district and division offices familiar with the HUB program.

Joining the deputy executive director in this committee are Cynthia Gonzalez of the Civil Rights Division, Ed Gibson and Katie Nees of the Dallas District, Victor Garcia and John Aldridge of the Construction and Maintenance Division, Brownwood's Mark Bradshaw, Sil Romero of the General Services Division, Johnny Folkes of Houston and Dorn Smith of Administrative Services.

Any small business is eligible for HUB certification if it is a sole proprietorship, partnership or joint venture corporation and is at least 51 percent owned by one or more persons who are minorities or women. These people must have active participation in the control, operation and management of the business' affairs.

The department continually looks for ways to help divisions and districts achieve TxDOT's HUB goal.

For instance, the department has a special provision in contracts that allows prime contractors awarded state-funded highway construction projects to use HUBs, as certified by the General Services Commission. The provision specifies the terms governing a contractor's or subcontractor's use of HUBs to meet a contract goal.

Other efforts by TxDOT include sub-

scribing to minority-owned publications for leads on upcoming events and vendors to contact; attending trade shows; and sharing vendor lists with other agencies and corporations.

To do more business with HUBs, TxDOT has increased the delegated purchasing and signature authority given to districts. TxDOT has also established new guidelines that will allow districts and Austin offices to make purchases of up to \$5,000 using informal or telephone bids. The current limit is \$1,000. Other changes include making purchases of up to \$1,000 without taking bids.

TxDOT has also recommended to districts that two-thirds of all bids be from HUBs. The current General Services Commission rules require three bids when purchasing goods or services, of which two must be from HUBs. The new procedure goes beyond the minimum requirements to maintain a 66 percent participation of HUBs in the bidding process, regardless of the number of bids mailed or taken.

The department urges districts to use certified HUBs whenever possible for purchases that require no bids. TxDOT also urges them to use HUB original equipment manufacturers whenever possible when making distributor purchases.

To ensure greater HUB participation in the bidding process, TxDOT has recommended that districts augment the General Services Commission bidder's list by using the certified HUB list whenever taking formal bids for local purchases of fuel and for purchases of services over \$15,000.

Reed anticipates that these new procedures and guidelines will help increase HUB participation in the department's procurement process.

Cooperation brings CNG refueling station to Yoakum

Pearlie Bushong
Yoakum District

A compressed natural gas (CNG) refueling station in Yoakum represents a cooperative effort between the department, Southern Union Gas Company, Diamond Shamrock and Southern Union Econofuel Company.

"The Yoakum refueling station is the first of its kind to be located in a rural town the size of Yoakum," said Glenn Hagler, of the General Services Division. "It will serve not only Texas Department of Transportation vehicles but school buses and other fleet vehicles in the area."

"The Yoakum TxDOT fleet currently has 12 bi-fuel pickups, which can be run on gasoline or CNG at the flip of a switch" said Robert Kaiser, district equipment supervisor. "This new station will provide faster and easier access to natural gas for our CNG vehicles, which are currently refueled overnight. With the new station, filling time will be approximately the same as filling a vehicle with gasoline," he said.

CNG vehicles have many advan-

tages over gasoline-powered vehicles. Compressed natural gas is safer to use because it is stored in aluminum or steel cylinders that are stronger than regular gasoline tanks. It is non-toxic and will not pollute ground water.

Burning CNG produces significantly less carbon monoxide than gasoline and zero evaporative emissions. Engine life is prolonged because the CNG burns cleaner, which means fewer oil changes and longer between tune ups. CNG is 20 to 30 cents a gallon cheaper than regular gasoline.

TxDOT is converting its fleet of vehicles to CNG or propane to comply with the Clean Air Act of 1990 and a Texas legislative mandate. Using alternative fuels taps the state's natural resources and can cut dependence on foreign sources of oil. And, as more people convert to using natural gas, the state's economy should enjoy a boost.

"Now that we have this station that makes refueling so much easier, we will be purchasing more with CNG capability," said District Engineer Michael Behrens.

Ground broken for Bob Bullock Loop in Laredo District

Braving cold weather, Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock was on hand at the Feb. 2 groundbreaking of Laredo's Loop 20 and the unveiling of the sign for the loop that will carry his name.

Construction of the Bob Bullock Loop started at the Milo interchange on Interstate 35 and will continue approximately 7 miles to just north of US 59. The initial phase will include a two-lane rural highway with 12 foot-wide travel lanes and 10 foot-wide shoulders.

Phase 1 of the project will be completed in about eight months and will cost about \$5.5 million. Completion of this part of the loop will provide access to I-35 and Texas A&M University in Laredo. *Cristina Guevara, Laredo District*

Summer Employment Program revamped

Victor Rodriguez
Staff Writer

As part of TxDOT's Continuous Improvement concept, the Human Resources Division (HRD) has revamped the department's Summer Employment Program.

The department traditionally hires students during the summer, recruiting temporary help from high schools, technical schools, colleges and universities.

The summer employment program serves to introduce students to TxDOT, providing them opportunities to gain practical, on-the-job experience. It also enhances the cultural diversity of the department's workforce and assists regular employees during peak workload periods.

Project leaders Maria Finch and Tim Cook, from HRD's Special Projects Office, coordinated a group of TxDOT employees to examine and enhance policies and procedures regarding summer employment.

"The purpose of the study was to review the department's Summer Employment Program," said Finch. "A study team was selected from the department's divisions and districts to brainstorm and identify problems and recommend solutions."

The Summer Employment Study

Team identified nine areas of concern, Cook said, adding that some of the alternative solutions to these problems could not be implemented this year, either because of legal or time constraints.

"But the team agreed that these issues could be considered as enhancements to next year's program," he said.

With the assistance of Continuous Improvement facilitators Karen Schlueter of HRD and Cathy Oatman of the San Antonio District, the 26-member team met during January and February. The end result of their efforts has been incorporated into the program's policy.

The new and revised policy and procedures for the 1994 Summer Employment Program went into effect March 1. Changes in the program will help administrators when hiring students.

Some of the changes resulting from the summer employment study team project were new summer employment application forms, new performance evaluation forms, revised wage schedules and miscellaneous checklists.

The new policies contain criteria for student employment eligibility, opening and closing dates for job vacancies, hiring practices and safety training.

Members of the SEST included division employees John Gilbert, Motor Vehicles; Darryl Hunt, Vehicle Titles and Registration; John Barker, Transportation

Planning and Programming; Milton Meharg, Travel and Information; and Jackie Hopmann, Norman Carter and Charles Spinn of HRD.

Also on the team were Shelly Radcliff and Faye Bomar, Civil Rights; Chris Clark, Occupational Safety; Jim Markle, General Services; Doris Finley, Budget and Finance; Jose Hernandez, Construction and Maintenance, and Victor Rodriguez, Public Information Office.

District employees participating in the SEST were Maynard Wagner of Yoakum, Dannie Massie of Amarillo, Shelby Peoples of Lubbock, Elvin Rousseau of Atlanta, Tina Walker of Lufkin, Joe Stockert of San Antonio, Waldine Hernandez of Austin, James Kennedy of Houston and Jerry Moore of Fort Worth.

Helping the team as resource personnel were Leslie Pool, Debbie Westbrook and Trina Towery, HRD; and Richard Monroe, Office of General Counsel.

"The Senior Management Team and I would like to recognize the SEST's accomplishment in making our summer employment program efficient and highly successful," said Daffney Henry, assistant executive director of Human Resources Management. "I am very pleased with the team's recommended changes and efforts in continuously improving our programs."

Traffic data team makes every minute count

Cheryl Converse
Staff writer

Bobby Lester was surprised when he saw a newspaper story about him.

He wasn't too happy that the writer made his job sound like he was desert nomad.

"I can come home every weekend," said the six-year traffic counting veteran. "Sure, we move around a lot, but I'm only responsible for myself and the work I have to do. I like it just fine."

Lester, Brian Brymer and Steve Haizlip make up the department's traffic data collection team. Although the department uses automated counters for most of its traffic averages, humans often count traffic too.

"The first step is planning. Our supervisor makes assignments, telling us what spot we're going to count," Lester said.

Team supervisor Jeff Reding picks the count locations and creates a monthly schedule. To have an official count of a spot, Lester, Brymer and Haizlip take 8-hour turns counting and categorize each vehicle that passes in a 24-hour period. Although there are some guidelines to follow, the most important one is to have an uninterrupted count.

"If one of us, for some reason, can't

make our shift, then the count is thrown out," Brymer said. "That's only happened once in the six years I've been here."

Brymer and Lester recalled a storm that forced them to abandon their count. "There's not much sense in staying there if the situation is dangerous. Our bosses always tell us to leave if it's dangerous, even though that makes the count null and void," Lester said.

Another guideline is to not count vehicles on holidays or Fridays because Friday traffic patterns are unusual. Lester many folks leave town on those days. Fridays are a good day to do paperwork.

Reding said the job is a lot like an office job—some days are fast, others slow. Some days you see a lot of vehicles, others a few. They don't do traffic counts on Fridays or holidays because those are unusual travel days.

Reding divides his time between the office and the count locations. "I just make sure that the guys have everything they need to do their jobs," Reding said. Besides a punch board to keep track of cars, pickups and tractor-trailers by number of axles, the three men also are responsible for some paperwork.

"It's a very independent job," Lester said. "But our work also depends on one another."

The three counters sometimes stay in the same hotel, but pretty much it's up to each person to pick his place to stay. If they stay at the same place, they often

share meals. If not, they talk a bit during shift change—but they make sure to keep counting traffic from each direction.

"Usually, you're looking at the axles of a vehicle, and you don't really notice what make of vehicle it is," Lester said.

Lester and Brymer agreed that the radio can be good company. The men drive their own vehicles, so radio options are a personal choice. Brymer prefers rock 'n' roll, Lester likes country music and Haizlip most often listens to talk radio.

"I knew Texas was big before I started this job," Lester said. "I didn't know it was this big."

Lester was born and raised in West Texas and still prefers working traffic counts in that area. Brymer, who hails from the Hill Country, enjoys Central Texas most. But both agree they prefer to work rural areas rather than urban.

"In some places you've got to have eyes in the back of your head," said Brymer, who most often works the mid-night to 8 a.m. shift. "The local police usually know where our count spot is, and they often keep an eye open for us. That's comforting in some of the inner-city areas."

Lester and Brymer agree their job is the best in the department. They said, they enjoyed being their own as long as the work gets done the way it is supposed to be done, there's little interference.

"It's a great job," they said.

New award to separate eagles from pigeons

Calling all High Flyers!
Now is the time to complete the 1994 High Flyer Award entry form.

"This award is for our employees who soar with the eagles and have set their sights high to avoid being confused with those who swoop with the pigeons," is the quote that Executive Director Bill Burnett used to portray the intent of the award.

"We're pleased to get this award off the ground," said Bobbie Templeton, Assistant executive director for field operations and chairman of the High Flyer Award Selection Committee. "This award will be conferred upon an employee or a group of employees who have taken innovative risks to support the department's mission of providing safe, effective and efficient movement of people and goods."

According to the award guidelines, an

employee or group of employees can be nominated for innovative, risk-taking ideas, technologies or processes implemented in the previous calendar year. TxDOT's executive director and management team members are ineligible.

"Say that a group of employees discovered a process to compile time sheets that was more efficient and more effective. However, to put the new process to work, they had to take a calculated, manageable risk. If that process was put to use last year, they could complete an entry form and have their director submit it to the executive director," Templeton said.

Eligibility for the award is simple: be an employee who has taken a risk to implement an innovative idea, technology or process that can benefit the department in its mission. The second part of eligibility is getting the nomination form

submitted in time. This year's deadline is May 16. All completed entry forms must be submitted to the executive director, marked personal and confidential. He will turn the nominations over to the selection committee on June 1.

Winners will be announced at the Transportation Short Course in October. Finalists will receive a framed certificate of recognition and a High Flyer Award lapel pin. The winner or winners will receive a plaque, a pin and possibly a monetary award.

Each year, the names of the winners will be added to a roster displayed at the Austin headquarters main office and at division or district offices.

"People who take risks are people who can look into uncertainty and see an opportunity to succeed. That's the base of this department. That's our heritage and we will build on it," Burnett said.

High Flyer Entry Form

Contact person: Title:

District, division or special office: Telephone:

Mailing address: Fax:

Attachments (circle one) YES NO

Name of program, policy or technology nominated:

Date program began, policy became effective or technology first used:

Employee(s) responsible (include job titles):

What does the program, policy or technology do?

What are its primary purposes, clients and methods?

What risks were taken? How is it innovative?

Describe your startup efforts, stages of completion and final implementation:

Guidelines, deadlines set for award entries

Break-away posts, Adopt-A-Highway groups and wildflower propagation programs.

Those are just a few of the successful programs started by TxDOT employees.

Each employee responsible for these accomplishments started at the same place—they looked at the risk involved. Then they decided the opportunity to benefit was greater than the one to fail.

Some folks might call them courageous. Dedicated. Creative. Energetic. Steadfast.

At TxDOT, we call them high flyers. Even though many might think they were just doing their jobs, we know better. Great accomplishments come only after great commitments. Usually, the greater the commitment, the greater the goals.

Every year, we will recognize our high flyers—our employees who soar with the eagles, who set their sights high to avoid

being confused with those who swoop with the pigeons.

This is the official call for entries. Think about your co-workers. What they've done. How they've succeeded. Does your team fly high?

Put your two cents in. Tell your district engineer, or division or special office director what you think should be recognized. Just fill out the form beginning on page 7 and send it in. Tell us who you think is a high flyer.

If you have any questions about this application that are not addressed below, contact High Flyer Award Selection Committee Chairman and Assistant Executive Director for Field Operations Bobbie Templeton.

Eligibility

- Employees or groups of employees can be nominated
- Entries must be submitted by May 16, 1994

- TxDOT's executive director and other members of the Management Team are not eligible

Applications must be:

- Neatly printed or typed
- Signed by office, division or district head or an appointed representative
- Accompanied by six photocopies of the application and a transmittal letter addressed to the executive director
- Sent in an envelope marked personal and confidential to the executive director

Selection process:

- Executive director will submit the nominations to the High Flyer Award Selection Committee by June 1
- Winners will be announced at Transportation Short Course

High Flyer Entry Form (continued)

What have the results been? Use both descriptive and quantitative information.....

What has the program, policy or technology accomplished?.....

Have there been unexpected results?

What obstacles did your innovation have to overcome?

How did you overcome these obstacles?

What is the budget for your innovation? Have there been any financial savings?

Signature

Date

Mitchell takes Pollard Award for testing work

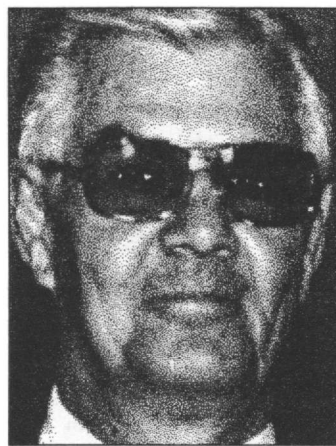
William Mitchell, Materials and Tests Division, was named the recipient of the third annual Albert H. Pollard Award for Merit.

The award recognizes Materials and Tests Division employees who make outstanding contributions in research, design, construction, testing, analysis, or administration. It was established by a bequest from the estate of Bertie Pollard, wife of former Materials and Tests Division employee Albert H. Pollard.

Mitchell, an engineering technician assigned to the structural section, was recognized for his work in the division's structural steel inspection program, particularly in the area of non-destructive testing. He has developed and implemented the department's non-destructive

testing inspector training program to prepare structural steel inspectors for Level II Certification in accordance with American Society for Non-Destructive Testing (ASNT) requirements. All department employees who have trained under Mitchell have passed the examination and are eligible for certification.

Mitchell recently passed the ASNT



William Mitchell

Level III certification exam in radiographic testing and magnetic particle testing. He is also preparing for the Level III certification examination in ultrasonic testing. Acquiring these certifications will give Mitchell the credentials to coordinate and administer TxDOT's entire non-destructive testing program.

Mitchell is one of only two Materials and Tests Division employees certified to perform ultrasonic testing of structural steel. He spends much of his time providing technical expertise, direction, and leadership to other division and district inspectors.

Fifth annual softball tourney set for June 18-19

Meredith Whitten
Staff Writer

With major league action just getting under way, it's time for TxDOT employees to start thinking about home runs and strikeouts.

The first pitch of TxDOT's fifth annual softball tournament will be thrown out Saturday, June 18, as teams from districts and divisions statewide converge on Austin to compete. For two days, teams of TxDOT employees and their families will rip line drives, turn double plays and hurl heat in hopes of capturing the tournament title.

Teams can compete in one of three divisions: co-recreational, men's recreational and men's competitive. The tournament format calls for double elimination and slow pitch. Teams must follow National Softball Association rules, and each team is guaranteed to play in at least three games.

At the conclusion of the tournament, awards will be given in each division for first through fourth place, as well as consolation team trophies. Players from the first- and second-place teams also will receive individual awards. Twelve outstanding athletes will be named to the all-tournament team, and several special

awards — such as Most Valuable Player — will be given.

All games will be played in Austin at the Pleasant Valley Sportsplex. For free entry into the ballpark, players and fans should mention TxDOT at the gate. Players making road trips should make hotel reservations as soon as possible.

Zach Graham, who organizes the event, said he expects the turnout to be similar to last year's, when approximately 40 teams participated. Graham said in the upcoming weeks he will send tournament packages to all districts, divisions and special offices. Teams must register by June 10 by mail, or by June 14 by phone. For more information, contact Graham at 512/467-3812.

Henry Muñoz resigns from commission

Meredith Whitten
Staff Writer

After two and one-half years of service, Texas Transportation Commission member Henry R. Muñoz III of San Antonio resigned Feb. 25, citing pressing obligations to his family and his business.

Gov. Ann Richards appointed Muñoz to the post in November 1991. His term was to expire Feb. 1, 1995.

Muñoz was the first Hispanic and the only minority to serve on the three-member commission.

Muñoz is vice president for marketing and corporate development for the San Antonio architectural firm Kell Muñoz Wigodsky. He recently became a partner in that firm.

During his tenure on the commission, Muñoz was recognized as a strong advocate of the transportation needs of South Texas. In a memo to TxDOT employees, Executive Director Bill Burnett praised Muñoz's dedication.

"He has worked to improve the state's infrastructure, especially in the area

along Texas' border with Mexico," Burnett said. "Some of his most important contributions include accelerating the design and construction of the US 281/83 interchange in Pharr, Mines Road in Laredo, US 59 and Texas 44 between Laredo and Corpus Christi, and transportation projects that will soon become a reality in El Paso."

Muñoz expressed his admiration for the hard work and loyalty of TxDOT employees. In a letter to Burnett he said, "Because I can't write each and every employee, I would ask you to pass on my deep appreciation for their many thoughtful actions and suggestions and tell them I was honored to represent them during my term. I can't tell you how impressed I've been during my many visits of their hard work and dedication. I wish each and every one the very best."

After Muñoz's resignation, Richards appointed McAllen lawyer Ruben R. Cardenas to the commission to serve out the unexpired term.

1994 looking like a banner year for Lubbock's Baker

So far, 1994 has been good to Ronald Baker.

The first day of the year was his first day as the District Design Engineer for the Lubbock District. A couple of weeks later, he was named Young Engineer of the Year by the South Plains Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers.

Baker, a Lubbock native, graduated from Texas Tech University with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering in 1987. He joined TxDOT immediately after graduation and was assigned to the Lubbock Urban Area Office.

Baker became the assistant Area Engineer for the urban office and was responsible for the design of several complex projects. He is credited for developing a standard and specification for bridge underdrains.

Baker is a member of the Chi-Epsilon Engineering Honor Society and the Texas Society of Professional Engineers.

Service Awards

MARCH 1994

Abilene

30 years
Troy D. Williams
25 years
James C. Peters
10 years
Michael W. Taylor

Amarillo

30 years
Jimmie D. Hays
Edgar L. Wood
25 years
Earl C. Goodson
15 years
Lynne A. Jones
10 years
Nick W. Durfey
Bobby J. Pulliam
5 years
Edmundo R. Badillo
Michael D. Weavers

Atlanta

25 years
Stuart G. Callison
15 years
Robert E. Lansdale

Austin

15 years
Robert Salas
10 years
Janet Miley
Gail M. Stenholm
5 years
Danny J. Filla
Jacqueline A Magill

Beaumont

25 years
Issacks Mickle
Dearl E. Walters
Joseph M. Zachaire
20 years
Thurman A. Rector Jr.
15 years
Ronnie E. VanPelt
5 years
Roy A. Powell

Brownwood

30 years
Earl W. Reynolds
15 years
Tommy F. Treadaway
10 years
David L. Bitner
John L. Whitney
5 years
Richard L. Cook
Bruce A. Stewart

Bryan

30 years
Clyde T. Barnett
25 years
Floyd K. Robinson

Childress

25 years
LeRoy A. Thomas
15 years
Kenneth D. Fowler
5 years
Donna K. Garrison
Kenneth J. Warren

Corpus Christi

25 years
John S. Arnold
Tommy J. Solomon
10 years
John M. Armstrong
Robert E. DeLeon
Arturo Morin
5 years
Edward Bernal
Lester W. Caraway
Larry E. Ditzenberger
David R. Perez

Dallas

30 years
Jimmy F. Prince
Walter J. Weicicoskie
20 years
James S. Clement
Bernhart B. Schlachter
15 years
John B. Dupre
Juanita H. Schulz
10 years
Alan P. McNeil
Ann Marie Smith
5 years
David R. McClung

El Paso

30 years
Donald R. Hart Jr.
20 years
Alfredo D. Bazan
10 years
Arturo Gutierrez
5 years
Horacio Fernandez

Fort Worth

35 years
John M. McIntosh
30 years
John R. Eskue Jr.
Clifford C. Logan
25 years
James L. Austin
Thomas W. Bishop
James R. Hall
20 years
Edward L. Jameson
15 years
Roy G. Butler
10 years
Deborah G. Bodiford
James N. Whitehead
5 years
Kenneth G. Boyd
Rex A. Frye
Jack H. Hobson

Houston

30 years
William E. Neyland
25 years
Juan DeLaCerde
Betty J. Mueller
20 years
Burl E. Holmes
15 years
Jose D. Corvalan
Isaac P. Lucio
10 years
Lloyd E. Dumont Jr.
Robert R. Flores
Edgar Harris
Alan K. Hohle
Janet E. Lamphier
Charles P. McLachlan
George R. Nichols
Kelly J. Petru
5 years
Olivia H. Brown
Elton L. Brown Jr.
Chad O. Burks
Dwayne D. Gajewski
Juanita L. Gilbert
Leslie S. Howard
Benjamin C. LaCount
Michael S. McCoy
Matthew D. Nguyen
Kenneth B. Paradowski
John D. Sullivan
Douglas W. Turner

Lubbock

20 years
Leonardo Castillo
15 years
David W. Kinser
10 years
Carlos Flores
Tommy M. Stevens
5 years
David L. Harper
Regan T. McNeely

Lufkin

10 years
Walter G. Fornea Jr.

Odessa

35 years
Fred H. Nelle
25 years
Phyllis C. Bates
15 years
Frances S. Tedford
Juan M. Zepeda
10 years
Ruben G. Molina
5 years
James W. Burton
Javier B. Guebara
David L. Prather

Paris

30 years
Jack R. Williams
20 years
Tommie E. Cox
15 years
Dan D. Bray
Lenny G. Kanaday
10 years
Delbert L. Gann
Roy Harper Jr.
James E. Meals Jr.
Billy R. Michael
5 years
Jolita S. Vaughan

Pharr

25 years
Noe Gonzales
Harvey L. Heerssen
15 years
Arnoldo Cortez
10 years
Juan C. Ramirez
5 years
Jose Gaytan Jr.
Francisco J. Rivas

San Angelo

15 years
Dennis W. Wilde
5 years
Kyle M. Abbott
Sara F. Gilbert
Arthur D. Welborn

San Antonio

30 years
Jack M. Lively
25 years
Stanley W. Burrier
Alfred A. Fey Jr.
10 years
Garland C. Galm
Rickey L. Hanks
Darren B. Marty
John E. Spencer Jr.
5 years
William A. Chancellor
Victoria L. Lessing

Tyler

15 years
Mary W. Kee
Walter Roberson
10 years
Wilford Easley
Darlene M. Wheeler

Waco

35 years
Charlie J. Edison
20 years
Charles D. Snider
15 years
Clayton L. McElfresh
William W. Walker
10 years
Robert A. Armstrong
Kristi S. Neumann

Wichita Falls

25 years
Clifford L. Bartram
Sharon C. Robinson
5 years
William R. Robertson
Manley E. Taylor

Yoakum

35 years
John J. Trojczak Jr.
25 years
Clara L. Heintschel
Billie J. Malatek
15 years
Maxine C. Brugger
Junius R. Johnson II
Ruben A. Trevino
10 years
Carlton L. Efrid

Aviation

5 years
Harold R. LaFitte
Edie M. Sanders

Budget and Finance

15 years
Barbara L. Gittinger
10 years
Curtis W. Reinert

Central Permit Office

5 years
David M. Stellato

Construction and Maintenance

10 years
Manuela Gomez
Barbara A. LeBlanc
Dawn E. Scheel

Design

10 years
Paula M. Howrey
Mark W. Jurica
Charles D. Reasonover
Joann K. VanBurkleo

General Services

30 years
Grayson Crayton
10 years
Craig S. Mason
5 years
Kathy W. Manuel

Information Resources

5 years
Cecelia J. Icard

Information Systems

20 years
Lee D. Formby
Charles H. Parr
10 years
James A. Marotz
Bennie C. Pridgon
5 years
Madjid Benchouia
Edward L. Dean
Michele L. Petrich

Materials and Test

15 years
Teresa F. Cloud
5 years
Robert L. Sarcinella

Occupational Safety

5 years
Phillip B. Dendy

Right-Of-Way

5 years
Kerry K. Fulton
John F. Reed

Senior Management Team

10 years
Paula H. Nichols

Traffic Operations

25 years
Dorothy P. Ingram
10 years
Mark A. Thorp
5 years
Robert E. Small

Transportation Planning and Programming

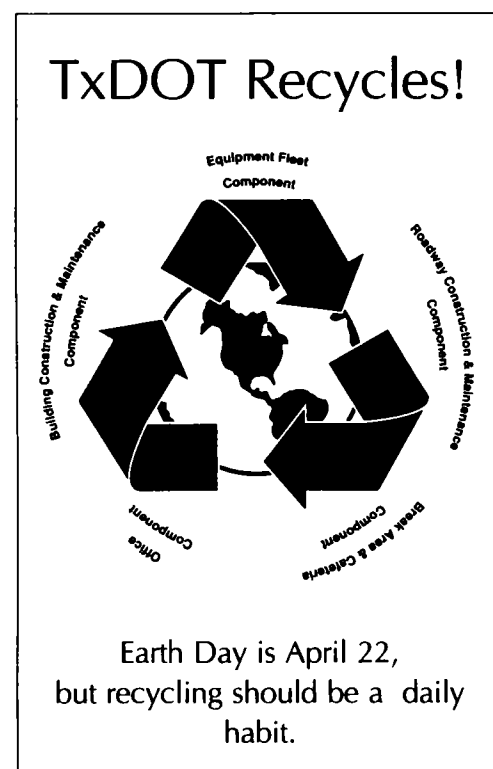
20 years
William D. Shaffer
15 years
Stella F. Jennings
10 years
Elizabeth M. Moreno
5 years
Karen K. Ching

Travel and Information

20 years
Barbara H. Newsome
10 years
John C. Lowry
Tonji D. Rudd
5 years
Jan M. Autry

Vehicle Titles and Registration

30 years
Dorothy P. Doran
15 years
Debra E. Langley
10 years
Diana B. Caskey
5 years
Frances M. Dehaven
Loretta L. Tenbrink



Retirements

January 1994

Yoakum
John M. Stallings, 25 years
Assistant Foreman
Raymond O. Granz, 37 years
Plant Maintenance Manager III

February 1994

Beaumont
David L. Williams, 10 years
Maintenance Technician II
Brownwood
Jerry W. Godfrey, 30 years
Engineering Specialist I

March 1994

Beaumont
Elvis H. Shuler, 27 years
Maintenance Technician III
Brownwood
Earl W. Reynolds, 30 years
Maintenance Construction Supervisor I
San Angelo
Leroy P. Taylor, 30 years
Engineering Technician IV
Waco
Buck Warrick, 30 years
Maintenance Technician III

April 1994

Amarillo
Jimmie D. Hays, 30 years
Roadway Maintenance Superintendent I
Austin
Dayton P. Crenwelge, 22 years
Maintenance Technician III

Beaumont

Issacks Mickle, 25 years
Maintenance Technician III

Fort Worth

Lonnie B. Kemp, 31 years
Engineering Technician V
Tommy B. West, 24 years
Engineering Technician V

Houston

Jack D. Henson Jr., 31 years
Engineering Specialist II

Lufkin

Emory M. Adams, 30 years
Maintenance Technician III
Vernon C. Teel, 25 years
Maintenance Technician III

Pharr

George Barrera, 28 years
Engineering Specialist II
Ernesto M. Fernandez, 8 years
Engineer III

Vehicle Titles and Registration

Ron Burns, 24 years
Staff Services Officer I

Service Awards

APRIL 1994

Abilene

35 years
Thomas Jones
15 years
Larry J. Dagestad
Carol H. Musgrove
10 years
Letha F. Morris
5 years
Donny R. Smith
Amarillo
30 years
Gerald R. Wyche
20 years
Claudene L. Hartranft
10 years
Thomas R. Hall
Steven R. Prock

Atlanta

10 years
Morris K. Young
5 years
William M. Burns Jr.
Louis C. Goodman
Adam A. Lundy
Jeffery K. Weatherford

Austin

25 years
Jimmie E. Sibert
15 years
David W. Cox
10 years
David W. Klipple
James W. Sacratini
Joe L. Tijerina
5 years
Robert W. Jackson
Therese R. Kline
Patricia D. Lindemann
Bruce E. Thurin

Beaumont

30 years
John R. Wilson
25 years
Donald R. Cloud
15 years
James D. Ogradowicz
10 years
Alex Trahan

Bryan

35 years
Lester L. Oliver
10 years
Gracie S. Sherrill

Childress

25 years
Ronnie L. Ressel
35 years
Burrell B. Bentley
10 years
Seferina A. Chavez
Ofelia G. Frias
Charles C. McKinney
5 years
Kelly J. Booth

Corpus Christi

30 years
Richard A. Terry
Ronald C. Tonne
25 years
Kenneth G. Keller
20 years
Michael E. Johnson
15 years
Reginald B. Durham
Carl R. Mayberry Jr.
10 years
George V. Cavazos
Billy L. Ferrell
5 years
Christophe D. Caron
John A. Evers
Richard W. Swartz
Paul M. Tijerina

Dallas

30 years
Larry N. Polser
25 years
Billy J. Burgess
Leslie W. Sikes
20 years
Daniel R. Johnson
15 years
Paul E. Duvall
Robert A. Hammett
Dennis N. Neighbors
Gail D. Richardson
10 years
Janette S. Jones
James D. McKinney
5 years
Michael D. Bostic
David L. Clark
Jason E. Dale
Larry D. Estes
Bobbie S. Harris
Susan D. Kelly
Hugh W. Knight
Kevin A. Lay
Jerry L. Looper
Jerry W. Sargent
Rebecca Shellabarger
William A. Wade Jr.

El Paso

25 years
Ramon S. Mendoza
Hubert R. Sanchez
15 years
Frank G. Hartnett
5 years
Aureliano Flores

Fort Worth

25 years
Raymond T. Buzalsky
William L. Wimberley
15 years
Ernest R. Carr
Randall E. Grard
David W. Hutton
Tai T. Nguyen
James N. Weaver
Velina G. Willis
10 years
Vicki C. Burton
Robert D. Shaw
5 years
Michael A. Durda
Rachelle Edmundson
George W. Railsback
Don R. Singleton

Houston

25 years
John M. Curry
Jerry W. Richey
20 years
Earl L. Bates
Rufo O. Uribe
Alan M. Voigt
15 years
Eldridge A. Collins
Russell L. Johns
Annie M. Knapp
Johnny G. Longoria
Emma B. Macik
Israel Moore
Gregory W. Schultz
Frankie H. Stuksa
10 years
Nancy L. Adamson
Kevin D. Barrett
Jack W. Fitzwater
Cary S. Geron
Duane E. Hartmann
Jerry J. Lloyd Sr.
David E. Matthews
Mohammed Omar
Gordon R. Robinson
Larry L. Spinks
Julian Wisniski
5 years
Stephen W. Aldridge
Dennis J. Biddle
Lisa L. Brundrett
Stephen L. Godinich
Bassem C. Talje
Stephen Waller III
Kenneth W. Wells

Lubbock

30 years
Jerry D. Anderson
25 years
Patsy H. Self
15 years
Ruben G. Gonzales
Brian G. Rudd
Linda M. Wilcox
10 years
Marianne S. Larez
James C. Melton
Alred R. Moore
5 years
Tracy W. Beye

Lufkin

30 years
Emory M. Adams
25 years
Vernon C. Teel
15 years
Carolyn C. Blackburn
Leroy McBride

Odessa

25 years
Jack L. English
10 years
Donna K. Dominguez
Charles A. Reicha
5 years
Lee Ann E. Miller

Paris

15 years
Keith W. Mitchell
5 years
Larry J. Beddo
Johnny R. Kirkland
Dennis G. Troutz

Pharr

25 years
Pedro Galvan
Antonio Mercado
Omar Salinas
Medardo Salinas
10 years
Mario R. Jorge
Maria J. Meza
5 years
Adalberto B. Garcia
Jorge Gutierrez

San Angelo

35 years
Gavier M. Gonzales
30 years
Richard R. Horne
25 years
Heraldo F. Martinez
15 years
James C. Bell
Dean W. Pritchard
Francisco Vasquez
5 years
James G. Casey

San Antonio

25 years
Liborio R. Vasquez Jr.
20 years
Dianne L. Braun
George A. Guerra
Albert J. Reyes
15 years
Jonathan D. Kelley
Aaron Z. Moore
10 years
Jeffrey C. Arceneaux
Thomas J. Wilkinson Jr.

Tyler

25 years
Jerry G. Alvis
15 years
Kenneth S. Folmar
Kerry W. Milham
Joe R. Moore
Gary W. Stringer
10 years
Jimmy W. Dangler
Barry L. Hardin
5 years
Gilbert Arteaga
Dennis A. Padgett
Randall C. Redmond

Waco

15 years
Dwayne H. Wolf
10 years
David A. Hayes
5 years
Rubin R. Felan
John M. Stelma

Wichita Falls

25 years
David R. Whatley
10 years
Curtis L. Jordan

Yoakum

15 years
Felipe Cisneros Jr.
Louis W. Etie
Mark J. Lauer
William J. Neubauer
10 years
Thomas C. Macha
5 years
Travis D. Mixon Jr.

Audit Office

5 years
Richard D. Monroe

Aviation

5 years
John F. Greer

Budget and Finance

10 years
Ronald L. Brown
Vicky L. Nowlin

Design

10 years
Bryan E. Stampley

Central Permit Office

30 years
Bert A. Lundell

Construction and Maintenance

15 years
Carilyn Jirasek
Frances S. Rubio

General Services

20 years
Bertha H. Whitley
10 years
Ernest W. Wilson

Human Resources

5 years
Joan E. Littleton

Information Systems

20 years
Karen V. Vanhooser
15 years
Adrian J. Janak
10 years
Frank A. Williams III
5 years
Stanton C. Coffman

Materials and Tests

25 years
Douglas L. Neely
10 years
Richard A. Garcia
5 years
Steven S. Piper
Ruth A. Shoebottom

Research and Technology Transfer

10 years
Kathleen M. Jones

Traffic Operations

25 years
Robert B. Ledesma

Transportation Planning and Programming

25 years
Roger D. Jones
Kenneth D. Wharton
15 years
Richard B. Rogers
10 years
Joan E. Ludwig

Travel and Information

5 years
Rebecca L. Boyd
Anne L. Cook

Vehicle Titles and Registration

30 years
Charles D. Ray
25 years
Michael O. Lansdowne
Mary W. Reaves
10 years
Lisa C. Hillin
Bernice T. Poer
5 years
Sandra M. Cain

In Memoriam

Employees

Paul M. Bell Jr., General Services Division, 14 years service, died Feb. 11, 1994.
Frank H. Houston, Houston District, 37 years service, died Feb. 28, 1994.
Jesse C. Rangel, General Services Division, 15 years service, died Feb. 7, 1994.
Retirees
Pedro Alvarez, Brownsville, retired from Pharr District in 1974, died Jan. 31, 1994.
Charles P. Barrett, Dekalb, retired from Atlanta District in 1989, died Feb. 4, 1994.
Winfield S. Bartow, Austin, retired from Right of Way Division in 1973, died Feb. 11, 1994.
Allen Beatty, Livingston, retired from Houston District in 1971, died Nov. 16, 1993.
Gale Chappell, Lamesa, retired from Odessa District in 1970, died Jan. 13, 1994.
Thomas M. Chesser, Plainview, retired from Lubbock District in 1973, died Nov. 23, 1993.
Doyle R. Coleman, Huntsville, retired from Bryan District in 1993, died Jan. 7, 1994.
John E. Conway, Crystal Beach, retired from Houston District in 1990, died Feb. 6, 1994.
Philip L. Cornelius, Round Rock, retired from Materials & Test Division in 1993, died Jan. 9, 1994.
O. B. Cospers, Meridian, retired from Waco District in 1977, died Jan. 2, 1994.
Stephen A. Crain, Sweetwater, retired from Abilene District in 1975, died Jan. 31, 1994.
Alma F. Duke, El Paso, retired from El Paso District in 1985, died Jan. 9, 1994.
Marvin K. Gillespie, Ballinger, retired from Odessa District in 1982, died Dec. 15, 1993.
Jessie Hotchkiss Jr., Texarkana, retired from Atlanta District in 1993, died Feb. 8, 1994.

Vernie Lockett, Emory, retired from Paris District in 1969, died Jan. 17, 1994.
Berneice C. Maas, Yoakum, retired from Yoakum District in 1984, died Feb. 2, 1994.
Joseph H. McGowen, Lubbock, retired from Lubbock District in 1975, died Jan. 24, 1994.
John C. McKenzie, Whitesboro, retired from Paris District in 1990, died Nov. 12, 1993.
Tennie O. Monk, Troup, retired from Tyler District in 1972, died Jan. 22, 1994.
Albert D. Morton, Fort Worth, retired from Fort Worth District in 1983, died Jan. 21, 1994.
Manuel O. Ochoa, Monahans, retired from Odessa District in 1975, died Jan. 30, 1994.
Arturo L. Padilla, Del Rio, retired from Del Rio District in 1976, died Dec. 18, 1993.
Waymon C. Rhea, Georgetown, retired from General Services Division in 1982, died Dec. 21, 1993.
Billy R. Rogers, Austin, retired from Design Division in 1991, died Dec. 20, 1993.
Frank Rohacek, Port Bolivar, retired from Houston District in 1979, died Jan. 14, 1994.
Benito Salinas, Harlingen, retired from Pharr District in 1979, died Feb. 5, 1994.
John M. Smith, Fredericksburg, retired from Pharr District in 1976, died Nov. 14, 1993.
William R. Smith, Mena, Ark., retired from Bryan District in 1969, died Jan. 15, 1994.
Otto M. Stobbs, Robstown, retired from Corpus Christi District in 1974, died Oct. 13, 1993.
John W. Teer, Fairfield, retired from Bryan District in 1976, died Dec. 27, 1993.
Brady B. Traweck, Rockport, retired from Corpus Christi District in 1981, died Jan. 22, 1994.

Letters

On Feb. 7, my car broke down, in Keller. As I was walking to get some assistance, a white TxDOT truck pulled up. I began thinking, is this a gift from God? It was very cold and I was not prepared for walking.

I looked up to see this smiling face. The driver stopped and asked if I needed help. I told her I was going to a gas station down the road. She said she had a can of gas in the back of her truck and asked if I would like to see if that helped. Of course I agreed.

Once the gas had been put in the tank, I offered to pay her for her time and trouble. She just said, "I'm just doing my job, Mr. Williams. Here is my card; if we can ever be of any assistance, please give us a call."

The purpose of this letter is to extend a warm thank you for the help that your fine young lady extended to me in this era when people will kill you for just looking at them. I applaud her for her courage and for her dedication to her job and to a friend in need.

Phill Williams

That smiling face belongs to Anette Moss, a traffic signal maintenance technician in the Fort Worth District.

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On Jan. 27, in the middle of an icy-cold rain storm, I had a blowout on Texas 59 near Inez. I barely got the truck onto the shoulder before it stopped, and I set out on foot back toward Inez to call for help.

Much to my relief, **James Tippins** came to my rescue. He had noticed my vehicle and looked for its driver. He found me walking along the highway and gave me a ride back to the truck. Then he removed the tire and put on the spare (which was very difficult to remove from under the truck). This was dangerous work since the bad tire was on the traffic side on a busy highway in dangerous weather.

Long story short—Tippins is my hero and I wanted his boss to know how grateful I am, and how lucky the department is to have him on the team. Tippins was efficient, professional, and courteous. He was also of good cheer and great patience. He turned my nightmare into a working-again vehicle and gave me a great impression of the Texas Department of Transportation. I tried to pay him for the service but he refused to

accept my offer. So I told him the least I could do was to write a commendation to his superiors.

You have a great ambassador of goodwill working for you!

**Missy Marlow
La Salle**

Tippins is a building maintenance mechanic with the Victoria Maintenance Office in the Yoakum District.

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On Jan. 20, my truck broke down and I was unable to reach anyone to pick me up so I was walking. It was cold and misting rain. I had spent the night before in a motel and had to get a check cashed to get something to eat before I went to the doctor.

Joseph Tidwell was an exceptionally nice young man. He not only gave me a lift but waited for me to cash a check and get food, then took me to the doctor's office. I was very thankful for his help.

Wanda Martin

Tidwell works as an engineering technician with the Greenville Area Office, Dallas District

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I wish to compliment you on your employee, **Curtis**.

My husband and I found ourselves stranded south of Wichita Falls on the Interstate. Our truck broke down, and we were towing a large cabin cruiser. My husband walked for help and called AAA. Unfortunately, they misunderstood where we were and didn't show up.

Luckily, Curtis came along, stopped to see if he could help and called on his radio to find out if AAA was on the way. He stayed with us until help came. I think we could have been there forever if Curtis didn't stop. He was genuinely caring and a very nice gentleman.

Count yourself lucky to have such a fine person as an employee.

**Mrs. Eugene Bott
Loveland, Col.**

Curtis Jordan is the District Preventive Maintenance Coordinator, Wichita Falls District.

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I was on my way to work after going to lunch today and had a blowout on North Central Expressway. I was there about 5 minutes when this Texas Department of Transportation truck pulled up. The man who helped me was Kevin Ballard. What a nice, kind person he is, and boy can he change a flat tire fast! It is nice to know there are other people on the road who will help you. I am sure your people don't get enough praise for the job they do, so maybe this letter will help. If the Department of Transportation has a Good Samaritan Award, Kevin surely deserves it. Thanks again for the help; it was much appreciated.

**Susan Roberts
Sachse**

Ballard works as an engineering aide in the Collin County Area Engineer's Office, Dallas District

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On March 4 I was coming home from Texarkana, when I had a flat. I had never changed a flat on this car I have and had no idea how to go about where to put the jack.

I am a 73-year-old lady, but was going to try to get the job done. I got the tire and jack out, took them to the front of the car, when two angels said, "Can I help you?" I said, "You sure can."

There stood two young men ready to help me. Then to them I said, "I thank God for sending you to me." What a wonderful blessing these two fine young men were, who had come to my rescue.

I was going to Waco and they were going east to Tyler. They saw me and turned around to help me. May God bless them. I have told many people about these two fine young men, who came to my rescue.

I am so pleased you have young men like this working for you. For to me they were two angels sent from God to come to my rescue. I hope they will be rewarded.

**Mrs. Fred M. Behringer
Waco**

The two angels were Robin Reynolds, an engineering technician with the Longview Area Office, and Mark Harris, a design technician with the Tyler District Design Office, both of the Tyler District.

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