



Highway News



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Pennsylvania Department of Highways

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BARTLETT NAMES EXEC 'FIRST TEAM'

PDH EMPLOYEES GIVE STORK AID IN SNOWSTORMS

PDH employes in the Scranton and Philadelphia districts have won honorary membership in the "Stork Club" after two separate displays of snowstorm heroics.

In the first incident, Ralph Neipert, a Monroe County PDH truck driver came across a stranded auto in which a young couple were ever-so-close to becoming parents.

Neipert blazed a trail through swirling, drifting snow and got the couple to a hospital in Stroudsburg just moments before they were blessed with a new baby boy.

In Chester County a trio of Department men picked up where the stork left off when they saved the life of a young woman suffering complications from the birth of her week old baby.

The mother -- nearly unconscious from severe loss of blood -- and her husband and her baby were also stranded when they were discovered by Chester County Superintendent and his assistant, W. F. Brandenberger.

Wallace contacted Leroy Piper who was operating a "V" plow nearby and the PDH-ers escorted the family to Chester County Hospital in a trip that took 45 minutes to cover seven miles of drifted highways.

Les Wise Suffers Fatal Heart Attack

Lester D. Wise, 62, of Lebanon, who was to serve Highways Secretary Robert G. Bartlett as a special assistant, died of a heart attack in his home January 22, three days after his promotion.

Wise served former Secretary Henry D. Harral as a special assistant to the Deputy Secretary for Administration.

In his new position he was to have handled the critical area of inter-governmental cooperation.

"As a friend and as one of our most competent administrators, Les Wise will be sadly missed here at the Department," Bartlett said.



PRINCIPAL FIGURES IN PERSONNEL MOVES

Key figures on the Department's executive team are, from left, top row, Victor W. Anckaitis, Eric J. von Hausswolff, Fred B. Atwood, and Frank C. Hollister. Bottom row, Robert L. Keller and Robert J. O'Donnell.

'FIRST IN NATION'S HIGHWAYS' IS NO PIE-IN-THE SKY GOAL

PDH will enter the 1967 construction season with a strong claim on the position of "First in the Nation" in Interstate Highway progress.

More than 1,000 miles of the State's vital 1,585-mile Interstate network is now serving Keystone State motorists.

And with the exception of 287 miles still on the drawingboards, the remaining mileage is either under construction or awaiting only connecting links before being opened.

In September, just prior to a series of Pennsylvania Interstate openings, PDH was only .9 per cent behind Ohio in its percentage of completed Interstate mileage.

This gave the Department second place in the nation among the five states with the largest Interstate systems.

Eakin in Promotion To Management-Info

George S. Eakin, 37, of Harrisburg, has been named director of Management Information Systems, which includes the Department's vital Data Processing Section.

Eakin replaces Fred B. Atwood, who was promoted to Deputy Secretary for Administration.

He formerly had been handling the computer operations and training between the Central and district offices.

Central Office officials are optimistic that the later openings might well have put Pennsylvania at the very top of the rankings.

A total of 88 new Interstate miles were added to the completed portions of the system in 1966, including more than 50 miles of Interstate 80.

New openings on I-79 gave motorists continuous four-lane driving from north of Mercer to the Pennsylvania Turnpike, eliminating what had been one of the most painfully slow trips in the Commonwealth.

Department plans call for virtually every segment of the system to be open or under construction by next December and completion of the entire 1,585 miles before the 1972 deadline is almost a certainty.

'Sno Snow in Juneau Like Our Snow-Show

When the Public Information Office lends one of the Department's four motion picture films, it asks the viewer to fill out a reaction report.

On one recent report -- for "Snowfight, Pennsylvania Style" -- was this comment:

"Glad we don't have that much snow!"

The viewer? Alaska Department of Highways, Juneau, Alaska.

IN-RANK PROMOTIONS DESIGNED TO ASSURE CONTINUITY, EXCELLENCE

Secretary Robert G. Bartlett has completed the bulk of his executive staff line-up -- entirely through in-rank promotions and re-assignments.

Bartlett said the assignments -- aimed at combining youth and experience -- were designed to assure the Department the greatest possible continuity in Pennsylvania's accelerated construction program.

Remaining as Deputy Secretary and Chief Engineer is Victor W. Anckaitis, 64, of Easton.

Other deputies are Eric J. von Hausswolff, 65, who will continue to handle planning and programming; and Fred B. Atwood, 44, of Camp Hill, who will be in charge of administration.

The post of Chief Deputy Secretary, expected to be left vacant with the announced intention of Wilbur C. Webb to enter private industry after February 15, will be filled at a later date.

Other appointments are:

Frank C. Hollister, 69, of Camp Hill, to continue as special assistant to the Secretary coordinating matters pertaining to the Secretary's membership on various boards and commissions.

Robert L. Keller, 40, of Mechanicsburg, to remain as Chief, Operations Review Group, and report directly to Bartlett.

John Hohenwarter, 37, of Elizabethtown, a former assistant to the Chief Deputy Secretary has been named to the new position of Federal and State legislative coordinator.

He will work with Ralph J. Down, 51, of Camp Hill, who will be legislative liaison.

Robert J. O'Donnell, 55, of Harrisburg, former Civil Defense coordinator, is re-assigned to the Bureau of Maintenance.

A Challenge

"Attaining the goal of 'First in the Nation's Highways' will only be met if each and every one of us does our best to earn it," Governor Shafer told the Highway Department's management staff at a special statewide meeting in late January.



Secretary's Column

by ROBERT G. BARTLETT

In this, my first column for Highway News, I should like to appeal strongly to every employe of the Department for a re-affirmation of dedication to the tremendous job that faces all of us over the next four years.

We have been given a sacred public trust to expand on the progress made by the Department over the previous four years.

And it is our equally sacred responsibility to insure that we in no way violate that trust."

During my recent visits to our 11 districts, I called on all employes to exercise initiative, integrity and imagination --- the "Three I's" --- in our quest for excellence.

I should now like to add industry and innovation to this list of qualities which all of us must practice if our goals are to be realized.

These are more than simply grand terms; they describe how each of us --- from the Secretary's office to the county maintenance office --- must pursue our daily duties.

No matter what our position, each of us must do our assigned work in such a manner that at no time can any of us --- and that means the Department as a whole --- be criticized for not protecting the public interest.

We must pay maximum attention to cost effectiveness --- implementing new ideas where feasible and eliminating old practices where wasteful --- to give the taxpayer the greatest possible return on his tax dollar.

We must take pride in the appearance of ourselves and our equipment and in the quality of our finished work --- whether that work be the building of a massive new highway or the repair of a "chuckhole" on an old Pinchot road.

In short, we must set our own pattern for excellence --- individually and collectively --- if we are to answer the mandate for a highways department and highway system second to none in the nation.

WOMAN'S ANGLE EASES RELOCATION HEADACHES

No one feels the pain of moving more than the housewife.

And this is probably why a housewife --- Mrs. Mary Chilcott --- has found such success in her job as right-of-way agent in the Franklin District Office.

As right-of-way agent, Mrs.



Mrs. Chilcott

Chilcott comes face to face with families whose homes must be removed to make way for highway construction.

And with both I-80 and I-79 under construction in her district, her job is a gigantic one.

Her typical workday includes visits to claimants' homes, explanations of construction plans, discussion of claims with the families involved and final settlements of the claims.

"People usually express surprise when they encounter a woman representing the Department of Highways, but after their initial reaction wears off I think the fact that I am a woman works to my advantage," says the Nashville, Tenn., native.

A former real estate assessor for Jefferson County, Mrs. Chilcott came to the Department in September, 1965, "with a few misgivings of my own, I guess, about stepping into what I had always considered a man's world."

"Now, my only regret is that I didn't come with the Department sooner than I did. It's a wonderful place for qualified people to find a real challenge."

WHAT DRAWS CROWDS LIKE THIS ...



This is just a sample of the throngs that jammed the front entrance of the main concourse of the State Farm Show Building recently. For a look at what the mob --- including the distinguished looking gent in the center --- was fighting to see, turn to top of Page 4.

PHIA Marshals Congressmen For Funds Fight

The Pennsylvania Highway Information Association (PHIA) is marshalling the strength of Pennsylvania's 29 congressmen to fight the federal cutback in highway funds.

The congressmen --- including the State's two U. S. Senators --- were invited along with 80 other government officials to a PHIA breakfast in Washington, D. C., February 7 to learn details of how the cutback will effect Pennsylvania's accelerated road-building program if the belt-tightening measure is not rescinded soon.

On the slate of speakers at the breakfast was Highways Secretary Robert G. Bartlett.

PHIA has contended that the cutback --- as an economy measure --- is ill-advised and misdirected in view of the heavy traffic toll caused by still-inadequate highways.

PHIA also contends that since the Interstate Highway System is also the National Defense Highway System, the cutback as a means of financing the Viet Nam War is a "rob Peter, pay Paul" measure.

SLIP FORM SCORES BIG

Slip-form paving --- which made its Pennsylvania debut last fall --- has turned out to be a real miser.

In a contract for a section of I-378 in Lehigh-Northampton counties, PDH has gained federal approval for use of the new paving method at a reduced cost of 24 cents per square yard of concrete.

And with 90,000 yards of concrete involved in the project, the total savings adds up to a whopping \$21,600.

What's New!

Contractors are midway in a renovation project that will give the Clearfield District Office new work space and storage rooms in the basement area.

George C. Younker, 36, of Monroeville, formerly with the Ohio Department of Highways, has been appointed district construction engineer in the Uniontown District.

Paul J. Saladigo, of Harrisburg, has been named to fill the new position of Chief, Division of Procurement, in the Central Office Bureau of Office Services.

Kenneth C. Larson, of the Montoursville District, is the second district engineer to announce implementation of a complete campaign to familiarize residents with potential effects of major highway construction projects.

W. Clyde Shissler Going Strong at 84

Feeling your age today? Like to sack in instead of going to work? Then W. Clyde Shissler, in the Central Office Right of Way Unit would put you to shame.

Shissler, who started his career with the Department following his retirement as a lieutenant colonel with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1953, will be 84 years old in April.

And he hasn't missed a day of work even though he commutes daily from Lancaster. Spirit like his does a lot to boost the image of the entire Department.

FILIPINO ENGINEER RECRUITED FOR PDH BRIDGE DESIGN UNIT

PDH recruiters like to say they'll go "to the ends of the earth for a good engineer."

And while that may be an exaggeration, they did go almost that far to get Vicente Vergara, who recently joined the Bridge Unit in the Central Office by way of Saipan in the Pacific Ocean.

The Philippine Islands native, who has 14 years experience as a civil engineer and is a Registered Professional Engineer, is proof of the effectiveness of the Department's recruiting efforts.

Vergara first became interested in PDH through advertisements in professional journals. And personal correspondence with Knud Jensen, head of the Bridge Unit, was enough to convince him to move halfway around the world to take part in Pennsylvania's booming roadbuilding

Atwood A Winner Twice In One Day

January 19 was a big day for the Department's Fred B. Atwood.

He started the day as director of the Bureau of Management Information Systems at the Central Office.

By noon, he had been sworn in as Deputy Secretary of Highways.

And that same evening he was named winner of an "excellence in government" award, presented by the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration.

Almost as if saying "amen" to selection of Atwood for the Deputy Secretary post, the Association honored Atwood for developing exceptional programs in the Management Information Systems Bureau, effective modernization of the Bureau's operation, development of significant publications and overall "good government" service.

Atwood, 44, was lured to the Department from Sylvania Electric Products Inc. in 1964.

He served as special assistant to the Chief Deputy Secretary and then as director of the Management Information Bureau a job which called for sweeping innovations in connection with the Department's Electronic Data Processing System.

A native of Minneapolis, Minn., Atwood is a graduate of the University of Minnesota. He holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.

In the little bit of spare time he can salvage from his Department work, Atwood serves as a volunteer announcer for the Market Street Presbyterian Church radio station, WMSP, in Harrisburg.

program.

"This is typical of our improving position in the field of recruiting," said Charles J. Ryan, director of the Training-Recruitment Unit.

"As the professional nature of our operation becomes better known and as we make the engineering positions more and more attractive, we continually improve our recruiting batting average."

He said the recent waiver of the citizenship qualification for civil engineer classifications in the Department should bring a marked increase in recruits from outside the United States.

Vergara is a graduate of Cebu Institute of Technology in Cebu City, Philippines. He has worked in many areas of design and construction engineering in both the Philippines and Saipan.



Vergara



Ambler



Stephens



Speegle

Ambler Steps Down Stephens, Speegle Get District Promotions

A new district engineer for the Pittsburgh District and a new deputy in Montoursville highlight latest personnel changes in PDH field offices.

Promoted to the top Pittsburgh District post was William S. Stephens, of Dilltown, Indiana County, to replace J. Paul Ambler, who retired after 36 years of service at the age of 70.

Stephens, formerly district engineer at Indiana and Hollidaysburg, served as deputy engineer under Ambler.

Bruce E. Speegle, formerly assistant district engineer at Montoursville, was promoted to deputy district engineer to serve directly under Kenneth C. Larson in the Montoursville office.

Speegle joined the Department 18 months ago after 14 years of experience with private engineering firms.

Stephens, Ambler and Speegle are registered professional engineers.

THE LADY GOES TO COURT



Evelyn McElphatrick cleans up last-minute work before moving from Secretary's office to new post as assistant attorney general.

PDH Photo by Joe Foose

HARRAL'S EVELYN RETURNS TO PRACTICE OF LAW FOR PDH

Evelyn McElphatrick's word will be law from now on in PDH.

The soft-spoken Venango County native, who served former Highways Secretary Henry D. Harral as administrative assistant, has been re-assigned to the Department's Legal Bureau as an assistant attorney general, one of the most respected positions ever held by a woman in PDH.

Miss McElphatrick won't be entering a strange new field when she joins the Department's chief counsel, John Rezzolla.

From 1934 to 1938 she practiced law in Franklin following her graduation from the University of Wisconsin.

She was admitted to practice in Venango County courts, Pennsylvania Superior Court, Federal Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in 1934.

"But I found I didn't really care for the general practice of law," she said.

So she armed herself with some new skills --- typing and shorthand --- and in 1939 joined the

RETIRED SUBSCRIBERS BOOST HIGHWAY NEWS CIRCULATION

Highway News this month has dozens of new subscribers, thanks to the response to an item last month asking for names of retired employes not receiving the newspaper.

We are proud to tell the story of Pennsylvania's "new look" in highway construction and we want still more new readers.

If you know of retirees or other former employes who should be receiving Highway News, send their names and addresses now to the Public Information Office, Room 523, North Office Bldg., Harrisburg.

Highways Department as a clerk.

Miss McElphatrick --- with a flair for efficiency combined with gentle disposition --- gained continual promotion and was eventually made executive stenographer under former Secretary Park H. Martin.

"I have enjoyed every minute in the administrative offices," she said, "but I think specializing in highway law will be an even greater opportunity."

Succeeding Miss McElphatrick in the front office will be Miss Donna Manno, who was Secretary Robert G. Bartlett's "Gal Friday" while he held the post of Deputy Secretary for Administration.

Mrs. Sondra Press, a former American Airlines stewardess, is the new receptionist in the ante room of the executive offices.

Hazel McGready, who was receptionist under former Secretary Henry D. Harral, has been assigned to the engineering library.

Shirley Thompson will continue as secretary to the State Highway Commission.



Manno



Press



McGready



Thompson

THE STORY OF THE PDH BOOM



This is the colorful display manned by the Department's Public Information Office and other PDH employees at the State Farm Show. Equipped with a continuous-run projector, an endless-belt sign, and tons of literature, the display was visited by literally hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians interested in highway progress. The exhibit was created by PIO's Ed Reber.

PDH Photo by Ercol Aciri

Interns Like PDH; 1966 Class Intact

The Pennsylvania Department of Highways in 1966 set what has to be a record for retention of newly hired engineers.

Of the 65 graduates hired for the Department's 18-month internship program, not a single man has left for employment elsewhere.

Charles Ryan, head of the Department's Training-Recruitment Unit, says the key to the retention record is the professional, businesslike way the Department now operates.

Ryan, along with Gerald Evans, campus recruiter, are in the midst of a 17,000 mile recruiting campaign aimed at bringing 100 to 125 new interns into the Department in 1967.

Keller, Wilt Join Highways Commission

With the inauguration of Gov. Raymond P. Shafer, the line-up of the State Highway Commission is as follows:

Highways Secretary Robert G. Bartlett, chairman; Louis G. Feldman, of Hazleton; Roy E. Furman, of New Cumberland; Henry Huth, of Lancaster; Thomas J. Mullaney, of Philadelphia; Robert B. Pease, of Pittsburgh; and Harold Reslink, of Erie.

Legislative members, chairmen of the highways committees in the General Assembly, are Sen. Marvin V. Keller, of Newtown; and Rep. Raymond E. Wilt, of Pittsburgh.

Shirley Thompson continues as Commission secretary.

Pennsylvania's road-building program has been accelerated because of a \$980 million legislative borrowing authorization.

BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM DRAWS WIDESPREAD ACCLAIM

PDH has drawn editorial applause from every major newspaper in the State for the massive beautification program slated to get underway in the 1967 construction season.

Under the program, the Department has obligated \$2.6 million for 15 roadside planting projects, two tourist-information sites and 10 roadside rest improvements.

In the planting projects, heavy roadside growth that now hides outstanding scenery from the view of motorists will be replaced with low-level plantings of small trees and shrubbery.

The plantings are expected to cost \$958,500. All funds in the program are reimbursable under the Federal Highway Beautification Act of 1965.

The tourist centers --- costing a total of \$617,900 --- will be the first of a network which eventual-

ly will include similar facilities at every Interstate highway entrance to the Commonwealth.

Improvement of the 10 existing roadside rests, at a cost of \$1.089 million, will include expansion of rights-of-way from five acres each to 10-12 acres, modernization of comfort facilities and addition of parking and picnic facilities.

The beautification program stems from a 10-year needs study calling for a total of \$133,886,000 in beautification projects.

RETIREMENTS

Charles H. Reinert, a civil engineer in the Central Office Plans Unit, retired in January after 42 years of Department service. He was honored by 66 of his fellow employees at a noon luncheon farewell.



Other retirements this month are:

Paul E. Sultzbach, materials engineer, Central Office Materials Testing Laboratory.

Frank Adamshock, engineering assistant, Scranton District.

William J. Frieze, clerk, Scranton District.

Mahlon L. Wrisley, maintenance superintendent, Scranton District.

Anthony J. Colucci, engineering assistant, Scranton District.

Fred W. Von Steuben, highway design engineer, Allentown District.

Howard W. Holmes, traffic engineer assistant, Central Office.

George Bonna, construction inspector, Scranton District.

OBITUARIES

Lloyd E. Smith, engineering assistant, Harrisburg District.

Emil Pollard Jr., laborer, Uniontown District.

Alex Raymond, right-of-way agent, Uniontown District.

James C. Richardson, construction inspector, Franklin District.

Lloyd N. Verbeck, construction inspector, Clearfield District.

Walter R. Dutter, storekeeper, Allentown District.

Reginald Ferry, construction inspector, Allentown District.

Valentine O'Grodnick, engineering assistant, Allentown District.

Woodrow P. Hull, laborer, Uniontown District.

Letters

To William S. Balint, Indiana District engineer: "At this time I wish to extend to you and your staff my thanks for the many acts of kindness done to me over the years as I travel each day on the roads of District 10." Signed, Todd R. Christy, rural mail carrier, Shelocta, Pa.

To all Allentown District superintendents: "As we enter the new year, let us all strive to make the future issues of Highway News more enjoyable. Just send us any items of interest from district concerning retirements, promotions, deaths of PDH personnel, testimonials or Department activities. The Highway News is about the Department, its goals, accomplishments and personnel. Let's all participate." Signed, District Engineer F. K. Witherow.

To all PDH employees: "Ditto!" signed, Highway News staff.

To James Loughran, Philadelphia District Maintenance Engineer: "Although only the remnants remain from the big snow at Christmas, I remember its severity. I also remember it took the efforts of you and your men to move those plows over the many roads, even at the sacrifice of working on the holiday. I've never seen the job done better." Signed, Robert Williams, Ambler.

PROMOTIONS

Harry C. Johnson, to assistant construction engineer, Clearfield District.

Ernest W. Carns, to assistant construction engineer, Clearfield District.

George F. Potter, to construction engineer, Uniontown District.

TOWARD IMPROVED MANAGEMENT



A week-long pilot seminar in supervisory-management training was conducted in the Harrisburg District Office in January for some 25 top-level employees. The seminar, opened by Highways Secretary Robert G. Bartlett, standing left, was coordinated by the Department's Training-Recruitment Unit, represented by Edward McLain, right. The seminar, following evaluation, is expected to be conducted in the Department's remaining 10 districts.

PDH Photo by George King