



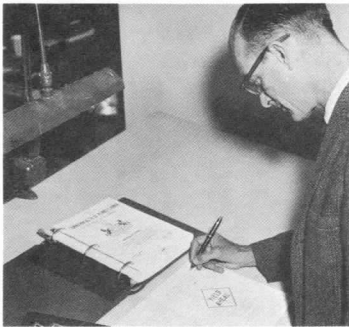
Highway News



Vol. 9 No. 11

Pennsylvania Department of Highways

November, 1967



Donald Porter with old and new traffic sign manual-regulations.

New Traffic Sign, Signal Regulations

New, and one of the most detailed sets of regulations for traffic signs, signals and pavement markings will be distributed on or before December 1.

Secretary Bartlett said the new regulations, which required five years to prepare, for the first time will bring complete uniformity to signs, signals and highway markings in Pennsylvania.

"They will play a major role," the Secretary said, "as we continue to plan our path of travel in our challenge to develop a highway system of excellence -- not in quantity, but in quality, utility, service and safety.

New regulations, which supersede the 1955 Manual of Regulations For Official Traffic Signs, contain 378 pages and were prepared by PDH's Bureau of Traffic Engineering and Legal Bureau.

The regulations will not place a financial burden on any of the Commonwealth's 2,561 municipalities which will receive a copy. Bartlett explained that "as rapidly as is economically feasible, existing signs of non-standard design or application shall be replaced by new standard signs.

"Signs that are not dangerously inconsistent," he explained, "with the new standards or not clearly inadequate may remain in use for a reasonable period of normal service life. Signs of sub-standard size or design, if otherwise suitable, should be relegated to minor roads or secondary streets."

Hard Hat Again Is 'Life Saver'

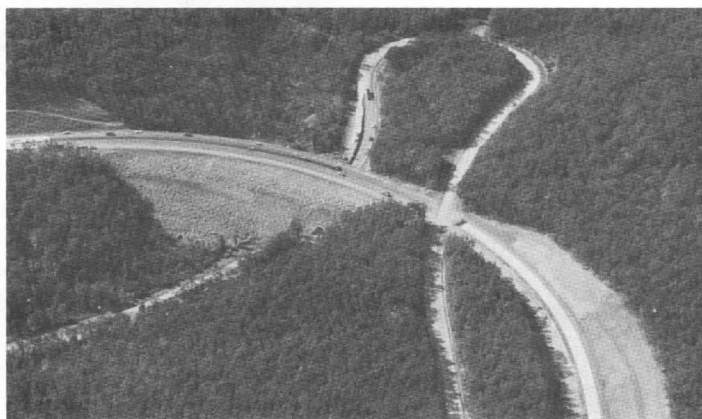
The hard hat required for all PDH personnel in the field was not overwhelmingly popular when it was made mandatory early in the year, but already it has resulted in preventing at least two serious injuries.

First it saved serious facial injuries when deflecting hot H-1 material, and on September 8 it prevented serious injury when Robert Page was struck on the head and shoulder by a 200-pound rock, which became dislodged from a truck, in Susquehanna County.

Page was knocked about 10 feet by the impact. He was retained in the Montrose Hospital overnight for observation. Although his vision was affected for a short period he returned to work within two weeks.

Use Safety Belts

Secretary Bartlett encouraged all Department personnel to use safety belts while operating a vehicle. He emphasized that a belt would have saved the life of a District 12 employe who was thrown from a vehicle on the Pennsylvania Turnpike late in October.



No More "Devil's Elbow"

A frightening hazard to motorists traveling Route 322 through the Seven Mountains portion of Mifflin County—the horseshoe curve known as Devil's Elbow—has been eliminated by a \$4 million, five-mile improvement. Aerial view shows culvert used to alternate one-way traffic lanes since April. This was eliminated with the opening of southbound lanes in late October. Project completion is scheduled for December.

New Equipment, More Training Bolster Winter Road Program

Spot Accident Checks Planned

Pennsylvania is organizing a team of specialists in each of PDH's 11 engineering districts to conduct "special" on-the-spot accident studies. It is part of the state's expanding effort to reduce the mounting number of highway accidents.

More than 254,000 accidents occurred during 1966, resulting in the death of 2,226 persons.

Gov. Shafer, in making the announcement October 8, said about 500 accidents will be investigated annually under the program established by PDH.

William L. Sacks, head of PDH's Traffic Analysis Unit, said a list of types of accidents requested to be investigated will be presented to State Police, who along with physicians and engineering specialists will form the special team.

The program calls for on-the-spot investigations. Members of the team will be on call on a 24-hour basis. PDH is hopeful of having the team in operation before the end of the year.

It will be a more experienced force, already "on the alert," and equipped with some of the newest and biggest motorized vehicles available that will keep Pennsylvania's 43,577 miles of state maintained highways clear this winter.

A fleet of 6,575 (3,525 state owned) snow fighting vehicles, if placed bumper to bumper would stretch for about 25 miles, stands ready.

By mid-November there will be enough snow fence erected in the Commonwealth (3,400 miles) to cross the continent from New York City to Los Angeles.

In addition it is estimated that 600,000 tons of chemicals will be used during the winter. This is an average of about 12 tons per mile.

One year ago it cost Pennsylvanians a record \$38 million to keep highways both open and safe for travel.

Harvey W. Gehr, assistant chief engineer in charge of maintenance, said the Department is revising and expanding operations in an effort to provide a program of safety second to none.

Program revision or changes include:

-- Advancing by several weeks the start of vehicle maintenance to assure sufficient time to ready equipment;

-- For the first time in 27 years all county superintendents attended a meeting in Harrisburg to review and discuss the snow removal program;

-- The start of equipment operator training courses; and

-- A special equipment inspection tour (Nov. 1-17) by Central Office personnel in each of the 11 districts.

The first snow flurries of the winter season were reported in most northern tier and several southwestern counties Oct. 26.

New equipment includes a truck with a 28-foot wide snowplow blade which will be assigned to the Erie area for use on limited access highways.

Also, for the first time 70 trucks will utilize tungstencarbide blades and five will utilize rubber blades. Tests show both out-last the steel blade.



Management Notes

by Fred B. Atwood
Deputy Secretary for Administration

Wanted: Your Help

Shortly each of us, as employees of our State government, will be asked to participate in OPERATION: TRIPLE E. The E stands for Economy, Efficiency and Excellence, and the program objective is to reduce costs and improve service.

Your reaction is very likely, "Ho Hum - another cost cutting campaign that will soon go away like those of the past." My purpose in this message is not to debate the merits of OPERATION: TRIPLE E but to reflect for a moment on why we should be interested in the objective.

Each one of us has been given a mind that is different from anyone else and, therefore, we see and think about a problem in different ways. Our sense of values determines what motivates us to perform as we do on our jobs. If we value the satisfaction of saving money, (and who doesn't) then we will strive to be efficient in our work. If we consider the providing of information in answer to a request as a personal satisfaction, (and who doesn't) then we will think of means to provide the answer quicker or more accurately.

Every activity we perform can be done either more swiftly, more cheaply, more simply, more imaginatively, or more thoroughly. It might not be done this year or next - but eventually. There is always a better way, and, by applying our own mind to our own job, the chances of discovering it are far better than waiting for someone else to do it for us.

No one knows the job better than the one doing it.

With a little effort on our part we can each come up with some very valuable ideas. The satisfaction of contributing, of improving, of simplifying or of eliminating a small part of the work we do, or the work others will have to do, should be sufficient to motivate us. On top of this, we are all taxpayers, and, in that role, there is nothing we dislike more than waste in government.

Under OPERATION: TRIPLE E, each of us have an opportunity to contribute our ideas for improvement of our work, thereby gaining satisfaction for ourselves and also promoting efficiency in government. When the time comes, I hope that every employee in the Department will participate. The challenge is there! Will you accept it?

The cost for Pennsylvania's 1,584 miles of Interstate and Defense Highways now is estimated at \$1,653,086,000.

A new Erie County Maintenance headquarters building was completed and opened during September.

Lycoming Employee Is Cited By Yaw

Norman Baker has been cited by Emerson A. Yaw, Lycoming County maintenance superintendent, for his efforts in aiding Lycoming County Prothonotary Robert Kempf and his wife who were injured in an automobile accident September 23.

Baker, employed by PDH, took the injured Kempfs to a hospital, returned to the scene to remove personal items, and returned to the hospital to take the couple to their home. "Employees like Mr. Baker," Yaw said, "are a credit not only to the Department of Highways but to the entire Commonwealth."

DISTRICT 9

Edwin A. Trofino, of 505 Maple Ave., Johnstown has been assigned civil engineer in charge of structures on Route 1022, Section 3, presently under construction as an Appalachia project in Somerset County, following completion of Civil Engineer Internship Training with PDH.

DISTRICT 1

Edward L. Kreger, who started with PDH in 1946, has been promoted to the position of right of way administrator in the Franklin district. His first PDH assignment was on a survey corps.

PDH Film Big Hit In Lebanon, Indiana

"Round The State On Pa. Interstate," a PDH film production, has made a big hit with ninth grade students in Lebanon, Indiana. Also, an earth science teacher said she will use the film in a summer institute in geology.

Included when the film was returned in mid-October was this comment:

"Amazed at the mammoth construction equipment. All want to visit Pa. now and see the beauty and modern highways."

DISTRICT 4

Ed Ruether and Vince Cinquegradi won the District 4 Golf Championship in the Twilight Golf League September 21. Twenty four golfers competed.

Deputy District Engineer Jim Scandale briefed 26 members of the World Bank, representing most of the major countries, on I-80 and 81 October 5 during a bus trip through northeastern Pennsylvania.

DISTRICT 12

The Maintenance Building is taking on a new look as painters, electricians, plumbers and roofing contractors continue their renovation work. Also, a new gas heating system has been installed.

Ruth M. Miller, chief clerk, Washington County, started her 26th year with the Department on October 16.

Warren S. Bailey, traffic engineer, attended the 37th annual Institute of Traffic Engineers in St. Louis.

A MINOR MIRACLE IN BEAUTIFICATION

"The hard-working women of the Route 8 Civic Improvement Assn. deserve credit for accomplishing a minor miracle. Their organization, devoted to planting flowers and shrubs along Route 8, has convinced even hardboiled businessmen that highway beautification makes sense."

This was part of an editorial appearing in the Oct. 24 issue of the Pittsburgh Press under the heading "Highway Beauty Victory."

The editorial was concluded with: "Perhaps women in other communities will accomplish a few more minor miracles of beauty."

The project had received the support of PDH which is expanding its beautification program.

DISTRICT 6

PDH received a letter of praise for prompt action in repainting a historical marker near the New Goshenhoppen Church, East Greenville (Montgomery County) during the church's 240th anniversary. The letter, in part: "The neat, new paint job adds to the appearance of the area, and the Congregation wants you to know they appreciate your cooperation."

100th Anniversary

Roadside Development Engineers Ralph E. Chamberlin and Francis A. Gansz recently assisted in planting a Sourwood tree commemorating the 100th anniversary of Fairmount Park in Philadelphia. The ceremony was sponsored by the International Shade Tree Conference.



"Build A Road." Why not? The cooperative movement is exemplified in the presentation of a "Build A Road" model for matchbox cars by Joseph Barr of Community Affairs to Highways Secretary Bartlett.

Bartlett Heads Governor's New Safety Task Force

Secretary Bartlett, on October 18, was appointed chairman of a seven-member Highway Safety Task Force by Gov. Shafer.

It is part of Gov. Shafer's highway program of "excellence," which will comply with Federal law while implementing a "highway safety program second to none."

Named to the all-cabinet level group were Attorney General William G. Sennett; Arthur F. Sampson, Secretary of Administration and Budget Secretary; Dr. Thomas W. Georges Jr., Secretary of Health; Dr. David H. Kurtzman, Superintendent of Public Instruction; Warner M. Depuy, Secretary of Revenue; and Col. Frank McKetta, Commissioner of State Police.

Wilson Begins Training Course

James B. Wilson of the Uniontown District currently is on a six-month temporary assignment with the Central Office. A graduate of Carnegie Institute of Technology, Wilson is assigned to the staff of Deputy Secretary and Chief Engineer Victor W. Anckaitis.

Prior to his assignment in the Central Office, Wilson was the acting location engineer for the Uniontown District.

Anckaitis said the assignment is part of the Department's continuing program in Management Training. The purpose is to familiarize young engineers with operations of the various Central Office bureaus. Following completion Wilson will return to the Uniontown District.

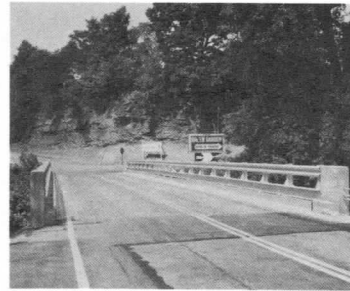
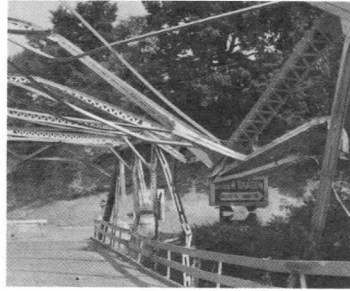
He replaces Richard F. Hill who recently completed his training and returned to the Philadelphia District as a squad leader of a design team.

RETIREMENTS

Thomas J. Brophy, of 102 Lafayette St., Olyphant, draftsman with 32 years of service, September 9.

George G. Johnston, of 110 Main Street, Towanda, engineering assistant, four years of service, October 31.

William M. Dougherty, of 216 N. 10th St., Easton, materials engineer, 12 years of service, September 29.



'Improbable' Is Accomplished

It all happened in less than two months. On July 11 a runaway tractor-trailer loaded with steel was stopped as it collided with the Greengarden Road Bridge crossing Racoon Creek in Beaver County. Within eight days plans for a new bridge were completed and the contract awarded by PDH. On September 1 ribbon cutting ceremonies were conducted, three days ahead of the target date. Photos show damaged and new bridge.

Aid Patrols For Holiday

The Motorists' Assistance Program, which resulted in the 30 patrol units providing aid to 822 "stranded" motorists over the Labor Day holiday, is being planned again for the Thanksgiving Day holiday.

The Labor Day patrols traveled 67,639 miles, or equal to nearly three trips around the world. The mileage was recorded on 717 miles of limited access highway.

Mechanical trouble accounted for 309, or 38 percent of the assists. Another 259 motorists had tire trouble, 88 ran out of fuel, and 19 assists involved accidents.

Secretary Passes Blue Print Course

A secretary in the Philadelphia district construction unit is believed to be the first girl in the district to have passed the state's Blue Print Reading Course.

She is Janet D'Annibale, 19, of Bryn Mawr. A graduate of Radnor High School, Janet joined the district staff December 22, 1966. Answering telephone calls made Janet realize she could be more helpful if she knew how to read blueprints.

So with some encouragement and help from Charles Connor, assistant district construction engineer, she went to work on the textbook on her own time. A couple of months later she passed the test.

Now she is able to answer many inquiries, thus saving the time of the engineers and expediting the Department's business. Janet, a Steno II, also acts as secretary at the pre-construction meetings.

- OBITUARIES -

Merle J. Calvin, 59, of Meadville, Construction Inspector I, October 13.

Joseph R. Thaig, 40, of Williamsburg RD 1, Clerk III, September 14.

John W. Trego, of Three Springs, a mechanic in Huntingdon County, September 20.

Aloysius J. McNulty, of 412 Exeter Ave., West Pittston, mining engineer, September 24.

John H. Kordish, of Fourth and Market Streets, Kelayres, retired materials inspector, October 4.

Merle See, of W. Main St., Youngsville, Warren County Maintenance Superintendent, September 27.

Edwin M. Grove, 69, of Frenchville RD, assistant district engineer at Clearfield 1956-1962, September 14.

James F. Hoch, of New Cumberland, laborer, York County, October 20.

What's New!

Highway construction work during August exceeded \$1 billion for the first time. Work on 623 projects was valued at \$1,009,990,554. A year ago 589 projects carried a cost value of \$832 million.

Department employees authorized to make a trip into Canada using a Commonwealth vehicle must contact the Equipment Division of the Bureau of Maintenance at 12th and State Streets in Harrisburg to obtain necessary insurance cards.

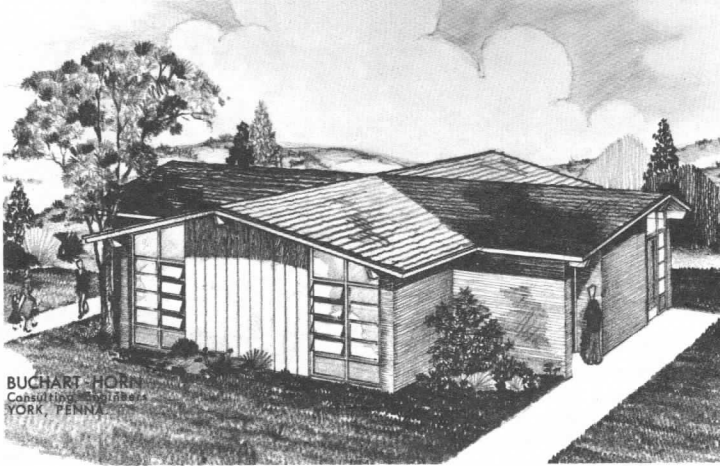
A reorganization of the Bureau of Design has taken place with primary changes in the differentiation of duties and responsibilities of the various units. The final review of plans is being phased out of the Central Office to the Districts. Purpose is a more rapid movement of plans to letting.

An intensive program of training for maintenance personnel is planned during the next year. It follows as a result of a September meeting, when for the first time in 27 years, all county superintendents met for the first time in Harrisburg.



"Rumble Strips" For Safety

A new warning system to alert motorists approaching intersections which have been the scene of frequent accidents is being added to PDH's expanding safety program. Two "rumble strips" have been installed in Cumberland County west of Mechanicsburg. The 25-foot strips every 75 feet are produced by three quarter-inch aggregate (stones) rolled into an abrasive substance (tar). Above photo in on Route 174 approaching Route 641 from the south. The "strips" are to be placed in other areas of the state beginning next Spring.



New Information—Roadside Rest Centers

Three of 14 proposed Tourist Information-Roadside Rest Centers, similar to the above, are expected to be serving visitors entering Pennsylvania via Interstate highways in 1968. The site for the facility at Delaware Water Gap, Monroe County, on I-80 near the New Jersey line, has been completed. Advertising for building bids is expected within several months. Well advanced is the preparation for the site on I-90 in Erie County. The third is planned for I-95 near Marcus Hook at the Pennsylvania-Delaware line.

40 More Miles

Road users can look forward to a series of pre-Christmas "presents" from PDH within the next eight weeks. If all schedules are met, they'll be driving over more than 40 miles of new Interstate roadway, costing \$56 million to build.

This would close out the year with 62 additional miles of expressway valued at \$94 million. During the summer about 21 miles, costing \$38 million, were opened. They were key links of I-95 in Philadelphia; I-79 in Mercer County and I-80 in Clearfield County.

The Bethlehem Spur (I-378) will be open Thanksgiving week. December openings include joint ceremonies with Ohio along I-80 from Hubbard, Ohio, east to near Sharon; similar exercises with West Virginia marking Pennsylvania's last link of I-70 to be finished; I-79 in Greene County, from Ruff's Creek to near Waynesburg; 10 miles of I-80 in Clarion County; Erie County's first usable segment of I-79; and closing of the I-81 gap from Ashley to Nuangola in Luzerne County.

The weather and makeup of time lost during the steel truckers strike are key factors in the opening schedules.

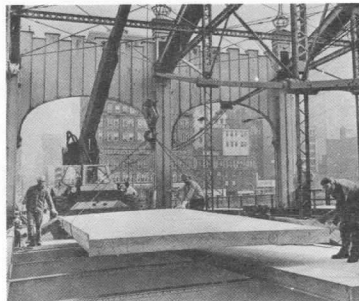
A number of additional links of various interstate routes were completed this year but won't be opened for use until next summer when interlocking portions are completed.

APPALACHIAN PLANS ROLL DESPITE FREEZE

PDH is proceeding, without letup, in the preparation of plans involving Appalachian and Beautification Program funds despite an October 9 "freeze" set by the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads.

"We can not afford to stop our work on these much needed highway improvement projects," said Secretary Bartlett.

Current projects affected by the "freeze" are located in Milton Borough (District Three), Richland Twp. (District Nine), Somerset Borough (District Nine) and the Bucktail School access road project (District Two).



Aluminum Decking

The Smithfield Street Bridge, one of Pittsburgh's oldest, has been decked with 225,000 pounds of pre-fabricated panels of aluminum.

Ricker Heads Special PDH Highway Safety Task Force

A special task force has been set up in the Department by Secretary Bartlett to coordinate all highway safety activities, particularly as they apply to federal-aid programs.

Named to head the three-man group is Edmund R. Ricker, PDH traffic engineer since 1959 and president of the Institute of Traffic Engineers.

Particularly concerned with implementing innovative programs developed during the past six months for helicopter evacuation of injured in the Philadelphia area; accident analysis; and on the scene reviews of accidents by teams of engineers, physicians and mechanics. The team will report directly to Secretary Bartlett.

Assisting Ricker will be Robert R. Coleman, also a professional engineer with the Department since 1952. He moves up from the position of assistant traffic engineer.

Also on the team is James Sloane, who was transferred from Fiscal Management. He will be responsible for financial operations.

Henry S. Pomroy, regional traffic engineer, has been named acting director for the Bureau of Traffic.

In other personnel changes:

Knud H. Jensen, 66, chief bridge engineer for the past 10 years, will retire November 8. Jensen, of Mt. Gretna, played a vital role in PDH's expanded and continuous highway improvement in recent years. During the past year the bridge unit processed plans for 690 structures whose estimated cost was \$69 million.

Bernard F. Kotalik, Camp Hill, has been named Jensen's successor. Kotalik, who joined PDH in 1957, had been an assistant bridge engineer. He is a native of Wilkes-Barre Township, Luzerne County.

James A. Byron, Camp Hill and assistant district engineer for operations in the nine-county Harrisburg district, began duties as deputy engineer for the Indiana district on October 26. He succeeded George Spence who had retired.

William A. Ball, Harrisburg has been named assistant district engineer for construction for the Harrisburg district. He has been with PDH for 17 years.



RICKER



COLEMAN



KOTALIK



BYRON

PHIA Honors Commissioners

Pennsylvania's big push in highways, which started with the establishment of a Highway Commission in 1963, was recognized by the Pennsylvania Highway Information Association (PHIA) October 9 when it honored both past and present commissioners.

The gathering at the West Shore Country Club brought together, for the first time, commissioners of two administrations. It demonstrated, not only the continuity of the program under the bi-partisan organization, but enthusiasm and optimism as Pennsylvania moves ahead on a program of highway excellence.

It also highlighted 1967 Highway Week activities, including the beginning of another round of statewide public hearings. From these hearings the Commission will draw up a work schedule for 1974-75.

Honored were past chairman and Secretary Henry D. Harral, and former Commissioners Rep. Ralph J. (Bucky) Down, Rep. Edward W. McNally and Sen. George N. Wade.

Commander Moredock

Commander William J. Moredock recently completed six weeks of instruction at the Armed Forces Staff School in Norfolk, Va. Prior to that he spent two and a half years in Viet Nam. He is the son of Kenneth C. Moredock, PDH Director of Right of Way.