

JANUARY 2010

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ONE 2 ONE

WITH DIRECTOR NANCY RICHARDSON

I will occasionally take a month off from my column. You know how it is with us temperamental writers—occasional writer's block! This month

Kevin Mahoney, who is planning to retire at the end of January as director of the Highway Division, is going One 2 One with you in my place. Enjoy and I'll see you next month.

More often than not it seems as though life comes full circle. After I graduated from high school in 1966, I had a summer job with the then Iowa State Highway Commission. I worked on both construction inspection and survey during the building of the Interstate 480 and Interstate 29 corridors in Council Bluffs. On Jan. 26, 2010, three days before my retirement from the Iowa DOT, staffs from both District 4 and the central office have scheduled a meeting with me to discuss a few project issues related to the upcoming rebuilding of the interstate corridors in Council Bluffs. The very same ones I labored on that summer, pounding paving hubs, setting slope stakes and forever checking settlement plates nearly 44 years earlier.

Since that adolescent beginning, I have been afforded the opportunity to meet and work with hundreds of wonderful people in this agency, travel and experience the state from one end to the other and become involved in countless projects and events that have so much meaning to not only us here at the DOT, but to those who depend on Iowa's highways for both their livelihood and pleasure.

When I take a few moments to reflect as I near my final day, I become a little melancholy. Since I announced I was leaving, I have received many kind and thoughtful notes and greetings from a number of you from all over the agency, bringing back memories of times past from my days in Council Bluffs, Davenport, Cedar Rapids and here in Ames. One generally does not give a lot of active thought about what impressions they may make on others, but trust me, they're there. And when those impressions are positive, it can sure warm your heart.

Eight years ago when I accepted the job as highway division director/chief engineer, my overarching goal was to not mess things up. I don't believe I did, but you'll have to be the final judge of that. What I tried to provide was a guiding hand, a thoughtful approach to finding practical solutions to issues and a challenge for staff to grow and be as good as they could be. I tried to help assure that there was harmony among the divisions, that both the field staff and central

office staff could better understand and appreciate each other and that we collectively tried our best, come thick and thin. I think much of what I wished for came about, but there is always room for more.

Many have asked what my plans are. My response is I'm "retiring." It's that simple. I'm going to do what my wife Mary Jo and I want to do. When I started this job we had no grandchildren, now we have four. Our children and their families live close. I play golf (hopefully a lot), enjoy fishing, am fairly handy, like to putter around the house and yard and we spend a fair amount of time visiting family and friends that are scattered all over. I am so looking forward to being without all the demands, the daily routine and the need to plan, I could shout...let alone regularly getting a good full night's sleep.

In April of 2008, I was invited to give the keynote address at the spring banquet for the civil and construction engineering students at Iowa State University. Many of the students were seniors and I took the opportunity to share with them some of what I thought would be important considerations for them as they set about the beginning of their work and engineering careers. I looked back at my notes from that talk and realize that the same points I offered that night have application here, so I'll leave them with you too:

– Be open minded

- Get out of your comfortable shell and take on new interests...challenge yourself
- Read and listen to understand...also read for pleasure
- Don't be ashamed to admit you have had changes in thinking over time...it shows growth and maturity
- Have integrity and be honest...the most flexibility you can have is when you tell the truth
- You can be candid...have a sense of humor, but be respectful
- Be able to anticipate change...have some vision...develop insight
- Have agility to better cope with constant change
- Don't let things go...bad news is best delivered fresh
- Don't lose sight of the people you work with
- Be tolerant...everybody doesn't think like you
- Don't be judgmental...especially without the facts
- Have some patience
- Care about your work
- Make things better
- Don't forget your family

I've told Nancy that I hope I have given as much as I have received all these years, because I sure have been given a lot. I leave with both a strong sense of accomplishment and appreciation and a chest full of good memories.

Iowa DOT begins small business development contracts program

Doing business with a large state agency like the Iowa DOT can be overwhelming to small business owners. In an effort to include more Iowa companies in state contracts, the Iowa DOT's Jan. 20, 2010, bid letting will include the first small business development contract.

This contract will be for tree removal and brush clearing from the right of way on Interstate 35 in Decatur and Clarke counties. Roger Bierbaum, director of the Iowa DOT's Office of Contracts, said, "The new program will create small contracts of less than \$100,000 for projects that require little or no specialized equipment. The first project, as an example, can be done with only a chainsaw and a truck."

For a company to qualify for bidding on a small business development contract, it must meet the definition of a small business found in Iowa Code section 15.102(6): "any enterprise located in this state, which is operated for profit and under a single management, and which has either fewer than 20 employees or an annual gross income of less than \$4 million computed as the average of the three preceding fiscal years." There are no ethnic or gender requirements.

Bid lettings are typically held the third Tuesday of every month, except for the January letting, which will be held the third Wednesday due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Over the next four months, the Iowa DOT has targeted three small business development contracts in each of the agency's six districts. In addition to tree removal, other projects could include pavement patching, joint sealing, sidewalk repair, replacing culvert aprons, and pavement painting. All projects will be on the interstate or primary highway systems.



Although performing Iowa DOT contracts entails some paperwork, none of the projects being considered for small business development contracts involve federal funds. Therefore, there will be no predetermined wage requirements, disadvantaged business enterprise program requirements or other federal contract requirements.

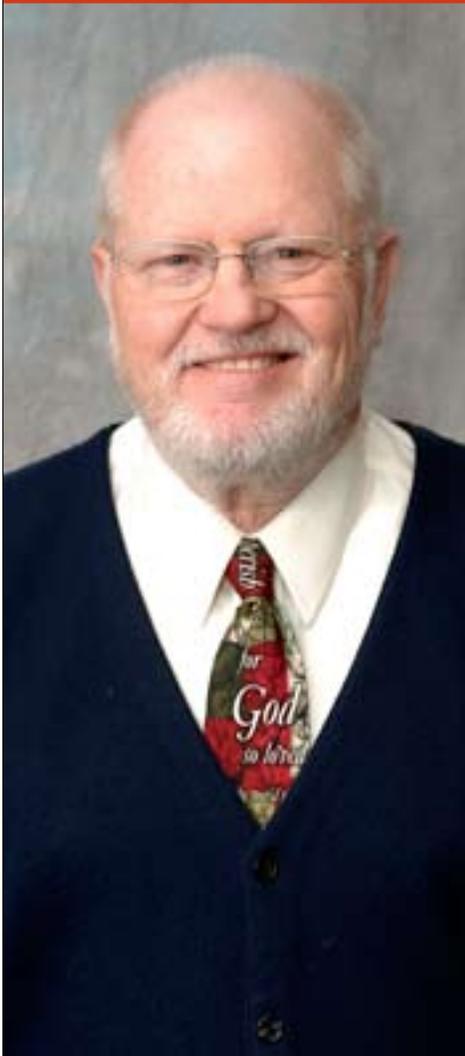
The Iowa DOT will not require completion of the department's normal prequalification form. However,

contractors wanting to bid on the small business development contracts will have to complete the Small Business Certification form in which the contractor must certify that they meet the Iowa Code definition of a small business.

For more information on the Small Business Development Contracts Program, log on to www.iowadot.gov or contact Roger Bierbaum at 515-239-1414.

Patrick Sell 45 years of service

“The increased ability to gather and analyze data that drives decisions continues to make my job challenging.”



Upon graduation with an associate degree in bookkeeping/accounting from Oklahoma State Technical College in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, in

1965, the Clarinda native found his true calling when he moved to Ames to work full time in the Iowa State Highway Commission's (ISHC) Office of Transportation Inventory, now called Transportation Data. Performing traffic counts kept Sell traveling Iowa roads for nine years, until he decided to settle in central Iowa and began working in the Office of Advance Planning at what is now known as the Iowa Department of Transportation. With various reorganizations and updates, the office name was changed to Systems Planning. But, while the names of the agency and his office have changed, Sell's intrigue with traffic data remained constant. "Traffic analysis is challenging for me," he said. "I never get bored."

The ability to analyze a set of data and report information to support changes in our transportation system is gratifying to Sell. "I like watching the changes over time," he said. "Back in the 1960s each family had one car at the most. But now, traffic has increased to multiple cars in each family, which means many more vehicles on the road, changes to traffic patterns and more challenges to highway designers."

When asked about the most significant changes he has experienced in 45 years at the DOT, Sell, who is deaf, says the updates to communications technology have had a huge impact on his career. "E-mail is obviously a very important tool for me," he said. Sell also says the team-building and total quality management initiatives in the 1980s and 1990s helped him and his co-workers understand the connections between their job duties.

Stuart Anderson, director of the Planning, Programming and Modal Division, said, "I've had the pleasure of working with Patrick in various situations since I first started working at the DOT as a summer intern in the Office of Advance Planning back in 1990. Patrick taught me, and many others at the DOT, the proper way to complete traffic forecasts. Pat's extensive experience forecasting traffic is a real asset, because forecasting can be more of an art than a science, but is a critical part of the highway design process."

Sell says working with those forecasting numbers has taken on new meaning since he first started completing those tasks. "The increased ability to gather and analyze data that drives decisions continues to make my job challenging," he said.

In his free time, Sell collects both marbles and stamps. He and his wife, Dorene, have several lamps with glass bases to house the 65,000 marbles in his collection. He said he started collecting American stamps in the 1990s when the "I love you" stamps first came out. The couple have two grown daughters, Cheryl Ridgeway and Sally (Alan) Webb; along with five grandchildren, Shawn, 28, Christopher, 24, Tony, 22, Jonathan, 19, and Russell, 14. They also have one great-grandchild, Travis, 8.

Sell, who is working for his ninth DOT director and has seen six different governors in 45 years, says his plans are still a little up in the air, but he thinks he may retire July 1, 2010. When he does, a wealth of traffic forecasting knowledge will go with him, but luckily for the DOT, he has been instrumental in training a whole new generation on that complicated task.

A deep-seated fascination with traffic analysis - that is what Patrick Sell credits with keeping him at the Iowa DOT for 45 years. Sell, now a transportation planner 1 in the Office of Systems Planning, started his career as summer help in the Red Oak construction residency, working the summers of 1964 and 1965 during the height of the interstate construction period. Sell completed various accounting tasks during those summer positions, following his graduation from the Iowa School for the Deaf in Council Bluffs, where he was valedictorian of the class of 1963.



From Pine to Palm

Retracing the Jefferson Highway

by Keven Arrowsmith

When they were growing up in Canada, best friends Mike Conlin and Gary Augustine never imagined a United States highway would provide a great adventure. Conlin, a historian, and Augustine, golf course owner/manager, were motivated to retrace the Jefferson Highway as Conlin worked on a map of the historic route, regarded as North America's first transcontinental international highway.

To verify the map's accuracy and existence of the remaining segments of the original Jefferson Highway, Conlin and Augustine embarked on a journey Winnipeg to New Orleans. Along the way, the pair stopped Nov. 9 at the Iowa DOT headquarters in Ames. During his visit, Conlin had an opportunity to view the Jefferson Highway's original 1916 Iowa route registration documents and other related materials in the Iowa DOT's archives.

During the United States' early road-building period, auto trails were generally organized and marked at the local or state level. The Jefferson Highway, with its end points in two countries and spanning many states, is different. Its most northern point is Winnipeg. From there the route goes through Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, and ends in New Orleans. The Iowa portion of the Jefferson Highway includes the communities of Northwood, Kensett, Manly, Freeman, Mason City, Rockwell, Sheffield, Chapin, Hampton, Iowa Falls, Hubbard, Zearing, Colo, Nevada, Cambridge, Ankeny, Des Moines, Somerset, Indianola, Cool, Medora, Liberty, Osceola, Weldon, Van Wert, Leon, Davis City, and Lamoni.

The Jefferson Highway runs along what today is primarily U.S. 65, former U.S. 30/Lincoln Way and U.S. 69. In the past, the highway was referred to as the "Pine to Palm Highway" or "The Jeff." Before the route was numbered, many businesses and private citizens painted murals on their barns and buildings to help travelers find their way and experience



Gary Augustine and Mike Conlin visited the Iowa DOT headquarters in Ames along their journey to retrace the original Jefferson Highway.

local commerce. Some of the murals, landmarks and other memorabilia of the route still exist, including the Reed-Niland Corner gas station, tourist cabins and restaurant in Colo at the junction of the Lincoln and Jefferson highways. The site has been preserved through an Iowa DOT Transportation Enhancement grant.

According to Conlin, the Jefferson Highway has had just a few minor changes since 1915. "I like the roads we have traveled on so far in Iowa. Lots of nice pavement," said Conlin. "We ran into many roads in Minnesota where we couldn't drive our recreational vehicle on them. Lots of dirt and gravel roads there."

Augustine had some thoughts on the trip as well. "I enjoyed seeing the wind farms and farm country in northern Iowa. My favorite part of the trip though was seeing the headwaters of the Mississippi River. The people we have met on this trip so far are so hospitable."

Another observation Conlin and Augustine made was that the properties and yards along the Iowa portion of the highway were so well kept and clean. Some properties near New Orleans were not in such good condition, especially after Hurricane Katrina.

Following the trip, Conlin plans to finalize the map he has updated and offer it for sale. Details and photos from the trip can be found at www.jeffersonhighway.com.



FHWA recognition for Recovery Act implementation

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recently commended the Iowa DOT as a leader in implementing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act). In a letter to DOT Director Nancy Richardson, FHWA Division Administrator Lubin Quinones said, "Iowa is among the leaders in the country in the timely implementation of the Recovery Act with more than 90 percent of available funds obligated to date. Thanks to your leadership and efforts of your staff, the implementation of the Recovery Act program in Iowa has progressed beyond expectations."



Iowa DOT Office of Driver Services employees joined Department for the Blind Director Karen Keninger (center) and accepted the DOT's award. Representing the Iowa DOT were (from left) Kathy Ohorilko, Diane Sappenfield, Sue Hickey, Keninger, Kim Snook, and Mark Lowe.

DOT honored for work with Department for the Blind

The Iowa Department for the Blind honored the Iowa DOT as "Employer of the Year" at a ceremony Oct. 30, 2009. This award was presented by Department for the Blind Director Karen A. Keninger and the agency's commission to honor the Iowa DOT as the leading business or agency working in partnership with the Department for the Blind to either hire someone who had a vision loss or, in the DOT's case, accommodate a current employee with a vision loss. The awards ceremony was held in conjunction with a celebration of the Department for the Blind's 50 years of service to blind Iowans. The DOT was specifically cited for accommodations made for Sue Hickey in the Office of Driver Services (see the October INSIDE). Rosie Thierer, vocational rehabilitation counselor at the Department for the Blind who worked with Hickey, said, "Not every company is willing to provide the type of support that the Iowa DOT did. It has been a great pleasure to work with your agency and this award was most deserved."



Kudos!

These are letters that have been submitted to the editor. They may have been edited for length and continuity.

To: Cheryl Williams, Office of Finance
From: Timothy Prindle, professor of accounting,
Des Moines Area Community College

Please accept my sincere thanks and appreciation for hosting my accounting class in your offices on Tuesday, Oct. 27. The presentations and remarks from Ron Juelfs, Dennis Willadsen, Scott Zalaznik, and you gave my students an excellent overview of the finance function at the Iowa Department of Transportation.

One of the most striking aspects of the visit came from a description of the amount of money that flows into and out of the department. It was beneficial for the students to learn a bit about the various accounting functions (financial management and reporting, payables, payroll, etc.) and to be able to associate those functions with the people that help carry them out. So, in addition to the students getting a glimpse of the enormous fiscal responsibilities, it was meaningful for them to interact with you and some of the other employees in the finance area. The interaction we had with all of you made for a truly positive experience.

You all had many positive things to say about your employment at the DOT and what you have accomplished in your respective careers. To that extent, this field trip was multifaceted, giving students insights about what it is really like to work in your area on a daily basis and it was not merely about accounting at the DOT. Your efforts in planning and execution of the afternoon exceeded my expectations.

My sincere thanks to you, Cheryl, and to Ron, Dennis, Scott, and your staff of accounting professionals for taking the time to give us this valued experience.

I hope we will work together in the future and that perhaps I can bring future classes to your department for a similar experience.

To: Motor Vehicle Enforcement
From: Oddis D. Myers, safety director,
Mid Seven Transportation, Des Moines

On Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2009, after an IMTA Safety Council meeting I had the privilege of a "ride along" with Officer Aldridge. After each stop, the driver occupied the back seat of the patrol car while Aldridge explained in detail what each citation was for and what the options were for discharging the citation. In all cases, Officer Aldridge was very courteous, very friendly and extremely professional. I was very impressed with the entire operation, especially the appearance, demeanor and knowledge of Aldridge. Thank you for an interesting and enlightening "ride."

(Editor's note: Officer Terry Aldridge lives in Des Moines.)

To: Iowa DOT road crews
From: Carol Patch-Snyder

I wanted to send a good job message to the people that plow U.S. 65/69 between Des Moines and Indianola. The highway this week (Dec. 7-10) has been in the best shape I have ever seen in weather like this. Please keep up the good work, and I hope you know how much I appreciate all of your hard work.

To: Iowa DOT Highway Helper
From: Deb Hoyt, Runnells

I wanted to submit a HUGE THANK YOU for the Highway Helper program. I have been having trouble putting gas into my car and the gas gauge does not work. I ran out of gas in the rain, in rush hour traffic in the farthest lane over. I was terrified that we would be hit as vehicles were flying past, honking and skidding around us. I was on the way to my foster daughter's birthday party with her in the car. I had called AAA and they said it would be at least 30 minutes before help could arrive. The Highway Helper arrived within minutes and got us on the road quickly. We arrived at the party only 20 minutes late, and, thankfully, her guests were still there. This program was a Godsend for us.

To: Office Paul Herburger,
Motor Vehicle Enforcement
From: John O'Connor,
Namasco Metals, Dubuque

I want to express my personal appreciation, as well as the appreciation of Namasco Metals, for your very professional presentation at our recent driver's safety meeting. Our drivers always pay attention to and take to heart what is presented to them by the DOT officers they see daily enforcing the law in the Dubuque area.

Thank you for your attention to detail and for answering the questions that our drivers had. I was remiss in not sending a letter last time you spoke, but both appearances were very helpful and just what we wanted in getting good information to the drivers.

(Editor's note: Officer Paul Herburger lives in Dubuque.)

Family happenings

Driver Services Noralee Warrick



Don and Traci Sharr welcomed their son, James Donald Sharr, Aug. 17, 2009. He weighed 8 pounds, 15 ounces and was 21 inches long. Daddy Don is an investigator with Motor Vehicle Enforcement and Mommy Traci is an examiner at the Ankeny driver's license station.

District 2 Lu Mohorne



Miranda and James Eilders welcomed Kenna Kaeann into their lives Dec. 1. Baby Kenna weighed 7 pounds, two ounces and was 19.25 inches long. Mommy Miranda works as a right-of-way survey party chief at the District 2 Office. Proud Grandpa Ken Stark is the District 2 land surveyor.

Thank you

There really are no words to express our gratitude toward each and every one of you who played a part in Christy Roth's life and in her passing. Christy received a standing ovation in her passing due to the wonderful life she led as a wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, friend, and respected co-worker. Our hearts go out to the Clinton driver's license station employees, for their pain is as real as ours. A special thank you to Kim Snook for giving of herself at Christy's funeral, so that Christy's memory may live on. You all made a difference.

The family of Christy Roth

(Editor's note: Christy Roth worked as a driver's license hearing officer in the Office of Driver Services. She passed away Aug. 28. Roth's daughter, Jennifer Teymer, is a driver's license clerk at the Council Bluffs driver's license station.)

Anita and I would like to thank you so much for your generosity, prayers and kind words since my health issues began last April. We have been completely overwhelmed by the outpouring of support we have received. Your kindness has helped our family so much to deal with these very challenging times. We are truly blessed to have you in our lives, and I feel very fortunate to work for an organization with such caring employees.

Dean and Anita Wiebke

(Editor's note: Dean Wiebke works as an engineering technician senior at the District 2 Office in Mason City, and was diagnosed last spring with mantle cell lymphoma. Dean is now recovering at home from a bone marrow transplant.)

My family and I would like to thank everyone at the DOT for the memorial gifts, cards, thoughts and prayers following the recent death of my brother. He will be missed by the lives he touched. The money given to the family will go toward scholarships for the Ankeny Junior Football League.

Joe Pitts
Facilities Support

In Memory



Roger D. Muller, 59, of Grundy Center, died of complications of lung cancer, Saturday, Aug. 15, 2009, at his home

under the care of his family. Muller was born Sept. 6, 1949, in Grundy Center, the son of Sievert and Lillian (DeLange) Muller. He graduated from Grundy Center High School in 1967 and attended Marshalltown Community College and the University of Northern Iowa for a semester. On July 31, 1970, he was united in marriage to Wendy Sue Miller. Muller started his career at the Iowa DOT in 1987 as an equipment operator in the Grundy Center garage. In 1993, he joined the Office of Motor Vehicle Enforcement (MVE) as a motor vehicle officer, where he proudly served until his passing.

He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Grundy Center, the Grundy County Officials Association, the Iowa High School Athletic Association, and Grundy County Cowboys. In past years, he had been a member of the Grundy County Fair Board; and Iowa Paint Horse Association. Roger's interests and hobbies included horses, football officiating, deer and pheasant hunting, fishing, landscaping, and morning coffee with his friends.

Above all, he will be remembered for the love he had for his family and friends, especially his grandchildren who will carry "Papa" in their hearts forever. He is survived by his wife; daughter, Jessica (Jeremy) Eilers; son, Scott (Somer) Muller; grandchildren Drew, Kolby and Kayden; and a brother Les (Gaye) Muller of Steamboat Rock.

In Memory, continued on page 9

In Memory, continued from page 8



In recognition of Muller's friendship and the many lives he touched by working to improve highway safety, his colleagues at MVE recently planted a tree in his honor at the Brandon northbound scale on Interstate 380 in Buchanan County. A rock placed at the base of the tree bears a plaque inscribed with his name. Muller was also given a limited edition MVE wristwatch by his crew members, presented to him at his home shortly before his passing.

Ronald C. Welch, 81, of Ames, passed away Nov. 16, 2009, due to complications of Alzheimer's disease. Welch was born Nov. 16, 1928, in Fort Madison, the only child of the late Iris and Clarence Welch. He served with distinction in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1946-1948. Following his service to his country, Welch attended Iowa State University, where he graduated with a degree in civil engineering. Following graduation, he joined the Iowa DOT as a civil engineer in bridge design, a position he held for 39 years.

Welch met his beloved wife, Joan, while attending ISU and they were married on June 13, 1953. The couple have three children, Michael, of Berlin, Germany; Linda of Portland, Oregon; and David of Frisco, Colorado.

Welch was an avid outdoor enthusiast who enjoyed camping, canoeing and hiking. He also was an active volunteer for many years as a Boy Scout troop leader as well as in a variety of other civic organizations, including a long dedication to the Memorial Lutheran Church of Ames. Welch had a love for his family, books, model ship building, jazz; and all things Irish.

He is survived by his wife, three children and three grandchildren, Camille, Simon and Charlotte Welch. His dignity, stories and sense of humor will be greatly missed by all touched by his smile.

Duane Luverne Davis, 71, of Clear Lake, died Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2009, at the Muse Norris Hospice Inpatient Unit in Mason City. Davis was born Nov. 27, 1937, in Cerro Gordo County, the son of Leonard and Alta (Shaffer) Davis. He was baptized in the Evangelical United Brethren Church in Goodell. Davis attended Clear Lake Schools and served proudly in the U.S. Army. He was united in marriage to Diane Fay Avery Aug. 30, 1959.

Davis began working as a butcher and meat cutter for We 3 Markets in Belmond. From 1971 to 1977, Davis owned and operated his own meat processing company in Joice. The Davis family moved to Clear Lake, where he was employed by the Iowa DOT for 23 years until his retirement Dec. 29, 2000.

Davis enjoyed trout fishing in Decorah with his granddaughter, nieces and nephews. Davis enjoyed having his granddaughter, Ashley, spend summers in Iowa. He also enjoyed his walks with his wife, gardening, bird watching and the great outdoors. He was a member of the United Methodist Church in Clear Lake.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, his children, Clayton Davis of Mason City and Christine (Robbie) Marchesano of Tumwater, Washington; his granddaughter, Ashley (Scott) Marchesano-Ricker and great-grand-

daughter, Rory Marchesano-Ricker, of Tumwater, Washington; two brothers; two sisters; many nieces and nephews; and other extended family members and friends.

Paul Edwin Johnson, age 62, of Sac City, passed away Thursday, Nov. 26, 2009, at Loring Hospital in Sac City, due to complications of ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). Born Feb. 28, 1947, in Sac City, Johnson was the son of Gordon and Marjorie (Venzke) Johnson. He grew up on a farm and went to country school through the eighth grade. He then attended Sac City High School, graduating in 1965.

Johnson worked for neighboring farmers during his high school years. After high school he worked for Noble Manufacturing before being drafted into the U.S. Army in August 1966. Most of Johnson's tour of duty was spent in Germany. He was honorably discharged from active duty in July 1968. Johnson remained a member of the active reserves for 10 years, earning the rank of staff sergeant E6.

On Sept. 5, 1970, he married Dianna Jessen at the United Methodist Church in Early. The couple settled in Sac City where they raised three daughters, Stephanie, Kimberly and Amy. Johnson began his career as an equipment operator for the Iowa DOT in 1973 and retired in 2008. He also helped his mother farm after his father passed away in 1969. Johnson was a faithful member of Faith Bible Church in Sac City, where he served as deacon, elder, Sunday school teacher, and Awana leader. He also served with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 2999 as president, was AFSCME steward of the Sac City garage, was a member of the Sac County Democrats, and was active with Partners in Progress for the Senior Citizen Center. Survivors include his wife; three daughters, Stephanie

In Memory,
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Personnel updates

Information supplied by the Office of Employee Services for Oct 16. to Nov. 13, 2009

New hires

Jessica Christy, driver's license clerk, Davenport DL station; **John Deitchler**, highway technician associate, Pacific Junction garage; **Travis Elbert**, highway technician associate, Algona garage; **Jason Fisher**, highway technician associate, Neola garage; **Lance Gardner**, highway technician associate, Garner garage; **Cory Glover**, mechanic, Osceola garage; **Russell Goeser**, highway technician associate, Neola garage; **Justin Huling**, highway technician associate, Donnellson garage; **Todd Mennenga**, highway technician associate, Mason City garage; **Kathy Renteria**, clerk-specialist, Driver Services; **Troy Rubendall**, highway technician associate, Sioux City-Leeds garage; **Zachary Smith**, highway technician senior, Cherokee construction; **Jeffrey Sundholm**, information technology administrator 2, Information Technology Division

Promotions

Jafar Al-Kofahi, from information technology specialist 3 to information technology specialist 4, Information Technology Division; **Pamela Cook**, from accounting clerk 2 to clerk specialist, Motor Carrier Services; **Mark Sigmon**, from highway technician associate to equipment operator senior, Sac City garage; **Richard Starks**, from highway technician, Marion garage, to highway technician senior, Cedar Rapids construction; **Wendell Wanek**, from highway technician, Tipton garage, to highway technician senior, Cedar Rapids construction

Transfers

Nicholas Bieber, motor vehicle officer, within Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Robert Mycka**, highway technician, within Sioux City Hamilton garage; **Mary Netten**, secretary 2, from Finance to Right of Way

Retirements

Timothy Anderson, design technician associate, Design

Service awards

Information supplied by the Office of Employee Services for January 2010.

35 Years

Warren Barcus, De Soto garage; **Robert Schauf**, Sigourney garage

30 Years

Danny Bailey, Davenport garage; **Gary Brunsvold**, Hanlontown garage; **Ralph Hansohn**, Denison garage; **Alan Lohr**, Design; **Steven Menke**, Dyersville garage; **Allan Oberbroeckling**, Anamosa garage; **Dean Roberts**, Pocahontas garage

25 Years

David Beary, Information Technology Division; **David Brisbrois**, Avoca garage; **Dennis Christensen**, Leon garage; **Dennis Kleen**, Motor Vehicle Division; **Dennis McQueen**, Soldier garage; **William Nading**, Design; **Charles Pattee**, Neola garage; **Michael Raab**, Policy and Legislative Services; **Joseph Schupnitz**, Cedar Rapids garage; **Alan Shields**, Osceola garage; **Cathleen Webber**, Waterloo DL station; **Douglas Wedemeyer**, Adair garage; **Jay Williams**, Transportation Data

20 Years

Olya Arjmand, Information Technology Division; **Bradley Azeltine**, Location and Environment; **Christopher Boswell**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Curtis Richardson**, Design

15 Years

Randy Crannell, Procurement and Distribution; **Steven Devoe**, Perry garage; **Steve Ehrich**, Facilities Support; **Lance Evans**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Deanna Smyth-Peters**, District 1 field staff; **Kevin Steele**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement

10 Years

Jeffery Arbogast, Mount Pleasant garage; **Rodney Ferguson**, Driver Services; **Kyle Hardie**, Cherokee construction; **Susan McCullough**, Location and Environment; **Lisa Schwery**, Council Bluff DL station; **Rick Taylor**, Oskaloosa garage

5 Years

Kristin Brostrom, Design; **Tim Carlson**, Facilities Support; **David Duncan**, Ashton garage; **Scott Jordan**, District 3 bridge crew; **Kent Miller**, Information Technology Division; **Thomas Miller**, repair shop; **Jennifer Rehbein**, repair shop; **Aaron Wiegand**, Grinnell garage; **Dustin Wilkinson**, Materials

In Memory, continued from page 9

(Chad) McFarland of Clarksville, Missouri; Kimberly (Brian) Herbst of Cedar Falls; and Amy (James) Lofflin of Des Moines; two grandchildren, Killian McFarland and James Paul Lofflin; his mother; two brothers; two sisters; his mother-in-law; and many nieces, nephews and other extended family members.

Larry D. Wheeler, 71, of Cherokee passed away Thursday, Nov. 26, 2009, at Careage Hills in Cherokee. Wheeler, the son of Carl and Julia (Logue) Wheeler, was born July 22, 1938, in Knoxville. His family moved to Cherokee, where he attended school and graduated from Washington High School in 1957. Following graduation, he attended Mankato State and Wayne State colleges.

On June 12, 1960, Wheeler was united in marriage to Linda Stowater. Wheeler began his Iowa DOT career in the Cherokee construction office in 1970, moving to Sioux City construction in 1998, where he worked until to his retirement in August 2000.

In his free time, Larry enjoyed reading World War I and Civil War books. He was a history buff who enjoyed researching trains. He also enjoyed hunting pheasant, deer and ducks, but most of all, he enjoyed spending time hunting with Nigel, his English Setter hunting companion.

Wheeler had a wonderful sense of humor and loved being around his family and friends. Left to cherish his memory are his wife; two daughters, Ann Wheeler of Cherokee and Kristin (Mike) Maves of Phoenix, Arizona, and their children, Sara, Kate and Matt; one sister; one brother; as well as several nieces; nephews; other relatives; and many friends.



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Beginning Jan. 15, the Iowa Department of Revenue's Web site will feature links to companies that provide online filing of both federal and Iowa income tax returns. Click the e-file logo at www.state.ia.us/tax to find two categories of electronic filing: "e-File for Free" and "e-File for a Fee." Those who do not qualify to file free will discover that online filing is not expensive.

Most filers receive refunds and want them fast. To get your refund in 10 days or less, electronically file through the Department of Revenue's Web site, purchased software or tax professionals. Last year, 74 percent of Iowa returns were e-filed.

If your cause is green, you should know that e-filing is good for the environment. Little, if any, paper is used or stored by e-filers or the Department of Revenue.

INSIDE

INSIDE is developed to help keep all Iowa DOT employees informed about critical issues affecting them, recognize DOT employees for their excellent service and share interesting aspects in the lives of our co-workers. For more information, contact Tracey Bramble, Office of Media and Marketing Services, at 515-239-1314 or e-mail tracey.bramble@dot.iowa.gov.

Nancy J. Richardson, Director

Tracey Bramble, Office of Media and Marketing Services, Editor
Lynn Purcell, Office of Media and Marketing Services, Desktop Publisher
Christina Andersen, Media and Marketing Services, Staff Writer
Keven Arrowsmith, Media and Marketing Services, Photographer/Writer
Printing Staff, Office of Document Services, Printing



800 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50010 • 515-239-1372



PLEASE RECYCLE THIS ISSUE

On the cover: Red-twig dogwood makes a colorful living snow fence to protect Iowa roadways from blowing and drifting snow. I-spy clue: White rabbit!

Service Area	Correspondent	Phone
District 1	Kay Ridgway , Des Moines	515-986-5729
District 2	Lu Mohorne , Mason City	641-423-7584
District 3	MaryBeth Banta , Sioux City	712-276-1451
District 4	Marlene Jensen , Atlantic	712-243-3355
District 5	Brenda Hadley , Fairfield	641-472-6142
District 6	Sandi Byers , Cedar Rapids	319-364-0235
Bridges and Structures	Judy Whitney , Ames	515-233-7917
Construction	Nancy McMenamin , Ames	515-239-1353
Contracts	Peg Muxfeldt , Ames	515-239-1422
Design	Judy Lensing , Ames	515-239-1469
Driver Services	Noralee Warrick , Ankeny	515-237-3253
General Counsel	Chris Crow , Ames	515-239-1509
Information Technology Division	Colette Simpson , Ames	515-233-7728
Local Systems	Kathy LaRue , Ames	515-239-1081
Location and Environment	Susie McCullough , Ames	515-239-1225
Maintenance	Cindy Shipley , Ames	515-239-1971
Materials	Brian Squier , Ames	515-233-7915
Planning, Programming and Modal Division	Cathy Mather , Ames	515-239-1140
Motor Carrier Services	Diann McMillen , Ankeny	515-237-3250
Motor Vehicle Enforcement	Anthony Batcheller , Ankeny	515-237-3218
Operations and Finance Division	Sheri Anderson , Ames	515-239-1340
Research and Technology Bureau	Tami Bailiff , Ames	515-239-1646
Right of Way	Mary Netten , Ames	515-239-1216
Traffic and Safety	Linda McBride , Ames	515-239-1557
Vehicle Services	Becky Sawatzky , Ankeny	515-237-3182

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Church on the move

The South Bethel Church has a new home. Thursday, Dec. 3, the 150-year old structure was relocated 12 miles from rural Cedar County to a farm field near Tipton. The church, thought to be the oldest continuously operating rural Methodist Church west of the Mississippi River, closed a year ago because of declining membership. The remaining few church members offered the building to the county historical society.

Nearly \$60,000 was raised to fund the move to the society's museum site, where it will become part of the Prairie Village exhibit. Jeremy Patterson House Moving Inc. of Washington, Iowa, the second-largest structure-moving company in the world, successfully completed the relocation with traffic control assistance from folks in the Iowa DOT's Tipton garage and Cedar County Sheriff's Department. Dan Laing, highway maintenance supervisor in Tipton, said the move down Iowa 130 went very smoothly.

To accommodate the move, employees of the Cedar County secondary roads and engineering departments built two earthen entrances to allow passage between fields and roads. Because the church is wider than the road, signs in the right of way had to be removed and reinstalled as the church passed by. The historical society dealt with homeowner issues such as the mailboxes along the route. Crews from three different utility companies took down and reinstalled power lines. The move was captured by a film crew producing an episode for "Heavy Haulers," a cable reality program on The Learning Channel.



The church is the fourth building to relocate to the historical society's Prairie Village. The church joins an 1840s log cabin, country school and blacksmith's shop. Historical society members say the church's stained-glass windows, pews, altar, organ, and piano made the move with the building.

According to an article in the *Quad City Times*, the South Bethel congregation got its start in 1837, nine years before Iowa became a state, by meeting in the home of pioneer Henry Hardman. Marking 1837 as the church's beginning, the congregation lays claim to being the longest, continuously operating rural Methodist Church west of the Mississippi River. The building construction began in 1854. It was damaged and repaired following a tornado in the 1920s, after which a tower and addition were built. In the 1960s, a large stained-glass window called "The Good Shepherd" was donated by Dwain and Evelyn Ford in memory of their son, who had died at the age of 3 years. In 1970, carillon bells were placed in the bell tower in memory of Donald Johnston. Up until the move, the sound of hymns from the carillon bells still filled the countryside every morning at 7:30, even though the church building was closed after Thanksgiving 2008.

