

news

NHTSA

Merit Promotion Review Board Wants Your Suggestions



Mary Lou Engel
Union Representative
Secretary



Jim Elmore
Traffic Safety Programs
Chairman

Board Members



Kathy DeMeter
Chief Counsel's Office



Jim Auten
Administration



Jose Berrios
Civil Rights



Joe Cameron
Planning and Evaluation



Bob MacDonald
Research and Development



Jim Small
Motor Vehicle Programs



Volume 3
Number 21

Published by
National Highway Traffic
Safety Administration

U.S. Department of
Transportation
Washington, D.C.

NHTSA News is a semi-monthly publication prepared for all agency employees by the Executive Secretariat, Room 5215, Nassif Building, 426-2876. Distribution is on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month.

Editor M. J. Noll

November 1977

If you have any suggestions concerning merit promotion, now's the time to make them known.

The Merit Promotion Review Board is actively seeking employee comments on NHTSA's Merit Promotion Plan. You can either submit your suggestions in writing to Jim Elmore, Chairman, in care of the Personnel Office, Room 5306, or make a personal appearance before the Board. Should you choose the latter, call Jim Elmore

on extension 61760 to schedule a time and place.

The Merit Promotion Review Board was established by NHTSA Order 333-1, "The Merit Promotion Plan," dated August 19, 1975. Its functions are to recommend improvements in the operation of the Merit Promotion Plan to the Administrator and to review annually the list of career ladders. It is

(See Merit Promotion
Review Board on page 3.)

You Are Really Something

An American Indian legend tells about a brave who found an eagle's egg and put it into the nest of a prairie chicken. The eaglet hatched with the brood of chicks and grew up with them.

All his life, the changeling eagle--thinking he was a prairie chicken--did what the prairie chickens did.

He scratched in the dirt for seeds and insects to eat. He clucked and cackled. And he flew in a brief thrashing of wings and flurry of feathers no more than a few feet off the ground. After all, that's how prairie chickens were supposed to fly.

Years passed. And the changeling eagle grew very old. One day, he saw a magnificent bird far above him in the cloudless sky. Hanging with graceful majesty on the powerful wind currents, it soared with scarcely a beat of its strong golden wings.

"What a beautiful bird!" said the changeling eagle to his neighbor. "What is it?"

"That's an eagle. The chief of the birds," the neighbor clucked. "But don't give it a second thought. You could never be like him."

So the changeling eagle never gave it another thought. And it died thinking it was a prairie chicken.

It's all too easy to go through life thinking we're prairie chickens when we're really eagles. But doing so shortchanges us and

everyone else. Don't stay on the ground, when you have it in you to soar. Be what you are. Be all that you can be.

You're really something, you know.

Please, Lord...

It's a rough life, trying to do a job when you think some of your people are inadequate. But that's the way the cookie crumbles these days for many supervisors. When the strain gets more than you think you can bear, it might help to read:

A SUPERVISOR'S PRAYER

By John Luther

Dear Lord, Please help me
To accept human beings as
they are--not yearn for
perfect creatures;

To recognize ability--and
encourage it;

To understand shortcomings--and make allowance for them;

To work patiently for improvement--and not expect too much too quickly;

To appreciate what people do right--not just criticize what they do wrong;

To be slow to anger and hard to discourage;

To have the hide of an elephant and the patience of Job;

In short, Lord, please help me be a better boss!

Thought Provoker

Wisdom is knowing when you can't be wise.

Paul Engle
Poems in Praise, 1959

Job Openings

Printing Assistant,
GS-1654-5/7, AD. Opens:
10-21, Closes: 11-14.
NHTSA 78-08.

Voucher Examiner,
GS-540-4, AD. Opens:
10-26, Closes: 11-15.
NHTSA 78-09.

Position
Classification
Specialist, GS-221-11,
AD. Opens: 11-03,
Closes: 11-23. NHTSA
78-11.

Electronics
Technician, GS-856-11,
MVP, Engineering Test
Facility, East Liberty,
Ohio. Opens: 11-9,
Closes: 11-30. NHTSA
78-12.

Awards

Since September, 19
NHTSA employees have
received awards for
especially noteworthy
contributions on the job.

Outstanding performance ratings were given to Drena Campbell, PACS; Thomas Herlihy, OCC; George H. Jones, TSP; Leonard Pirato, MVP; Shirley R. Siler, MVP; Hattie Smith, MVP; Robert F. Stone, TSP; and Theresa Walls, Exec. Sec.

Receiving Special Achievement Awards were: Harriet A. Clark, AD; Marlene Hardester, AD; Regina A. Hill, AD; Marvin M. Levy, RD; Carol O'Neil, MVP; and Patrice A. Parr, Region X.

Quality Step Increase Awards were awarded to Roman Brooks, MVP; Karen Dyson, OCC; Marelana G. Glaze, TSP; John B. Norris, RD; and David P. Talley, AD.

Merit Promotion Review Board

(from page 1)

not an appeal or investigative body.

Representatives currently serving on the Board are:

Jim Elmore (Chairman)
- TSP

Mary Lou Engel
(Secretary) - Union
Representative

Jim Small - MVP
Bob MacDonald - RD
Joe Cameron - P&E
Jim Auten - AD
Kathy DeMeter - OCC
Jose Berrios - Civil
Rights

As designated by the Order, the Board meets at least once each quarter, or more often if necessary. Any two members can petition the Chairman to call a meeting.

"Everyone on the Board is sincerely interested in helping to make NHTSA's Merit Promotion Plan a model one," Chairman Elmore said. "But we need employee suggestions."

OK, NHTSAites. Here's your chance.

graffiti



Commuter - one who spends his life
In riding to and from his wife;
A man who shaves and takes a train
And then rides a train to shave again.

E. B. White
Commuter

The Roots of Thanksgiving

For most Americans Thanksgiving is a time when family and friends feast together and give thanks for the blessings of the past year.

Food is an important part of the festivities as the holiday commemorates a three-day harvest celebration by the Pilgrims and Indians in 1621. As is the case with many holidays, the actual date of this early feast is not known. However, historical reports indicate that it took place some time between September 18 and December 11.

Nor is there any record that the feast was called a "thanksgiving." The first record we have using this designation is in 1623 when the Pilgrims set apart a "day of thanksgiving" for rain that ended a terrible drought.

The practice of setting aside special days for giving thanks spread throughout the New England colonies. Proclamations by State Governors kept the custom alive.

The dates varied from State to State, however, much to the dismay of Sarah Josepha Hale, editor of popular women's magazine, "Godey's Lady's Book." A "Union Thanksgiving," she thought, would bring the States closer together. Beginning in 1846, Sarah Hale campaigned vigorously through editorials and personal letters to the President, State

Governors and other persons of influence to have the last Thursday in November designated as a national patriotic holiday. She selected that particular Thursday because it was on that day and month in 1789 (November 26) that George Washington had proclaimed a National Thanksgiving Day in honor of the new U.S. Constitution.

It was not until October 3, 1863, however, that her idea was crystallized. On that date President Abraham Lincoln, convinced that the Union was now saved, proclaimed a national day of thanksgiving to be celebrated the last Thursday in November each year. Every President who followed made similar proclamations.

A slight change was made by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1939. Because he felt that Thanksgiving came too close to Christmas, he proclaimed that the third Thursday in November would be Thanksgiving Day. In December 1941, however, Congress by joint resolution proclaimed that henceforth the fourth Thursday in November (which is not always the last Thursday) would be Thanksgiving Day.

Thought Provoker

If you have to ask what jazz is, you'll never know.

--Louis Armstrong

'Round About NHTSA

Personnel

Welcome Aboard

Stephen D. Benson,
Research Psychologist,
RD, 9-19.

Florian J. Daniels
III, Highway Research
Engineer, RD, 9-25.

Charles J. Daye, HSMS,
RD, 9-25.

'Bye and Good Luck

Beverly Scott, Voucher
Examiner, AD, 9-10.

Gail C. Moler,
Clerk-Steno, Region VIII,
10-01.

Congrats on Promotion

William M. Elliott,
Safety Standards
Engineer, MVP, 9-25.

Robert Pavolvic,
Safety Compliance
Analyst, MVP, 9-25.

Big Bertha

"Big Bertha," the three-year-old Dieffenbachia belonging to Bob Hellmuth of MVP, was again cut down to size. (See Volume 2, No. 2 of NHTSA News.) It appears to be an annual operation.

In a little less than a year, "Big Bertha" had once more reached ceiling height (about 8 feet), an indication that it's time for "Operation Apportionment." In what has now become routine surgery, Bob skillfully divided the stately flora into 16 parts. "Big Bertha" and offspring, Bob reports, are all doing fine.

NHTSA Boaters Make Daring Rescue



Woody Driver, MVP, Captain of his 25-foot motor boat, the "Untenshu," commanded a heroic rescue of a fellow seafarer during the annual Fall Flotilla.

Hats off to Captain Woody Driver and crew for their courageous rescue of a fellow seafarer.

On October 23, during the annual fall flotilla, Captain Driver heard a call for help from a police car on shore. Via his marine radio he found that someone had suffered a heart attack.

Immediately he and his tenacious crew of Chuck Livingston and Nelson Gordy sped into action. Searching among several sailcraft anchored in the same cove for the ailing person, they were able to find the right boat. A woman nervously blurted out that her husband needed help.

Quickly and carefully they transferred the victim to the "Untenshu II" (meaning driver in Japanese) and raced for shore where an emergency

medical vehicle was waiting. Putting his boat perilously close to shore, Captain Driver had Crewman Gordy row the victim the rest of the way in a borrowed dinghy. The victim was placed in the ambulance and taken to the hospital for observation.

Captain Driver and crew report that the victim is recovering.

Congratulations

Belated congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Wood on the birth of their son, Matthew Scanlan, on September 19. Matthew weighed in at 8 lbs., 4 oz.

The Wood's have two other children, Christopher and Sarah.

Mr. Wood is Assistant Chief Counsel for Rule-making.