

news

NHTSA



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Editor M. J. Noll

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And A Good Time Was Had By All!



The refreshment table is always a popular gathering place for Christmas well-wishers. (Top) Dianne Diffebaucher, RD, and Almota Hilton and Lenora Borow, Administrator's Office, help set up the attractive (and delicious!) buffet for the annual Administration Christmas party held December 15.

Frank Turpin (bottom, far left), Office of Fuel Economy, in his usual fine form, led the carollers and guests in several hours of Christmas songs. Their rendition of the ever-popular and lively "Twelve Days of Christmas" added to the merriment.



Children's Hospital Thanks You

Children's Hospital received a generous contribution of \$718 from NHTSA employees on December 21 when the large Christmas poster card and a letter signed by the Administrator were delivered personally to the hospital by Alice McGonagle, Administration. The colorful poster card with contributors' signatures was used as a part of the holiday decorations for the children.

In expressing gratitude for our continuing support, President John H. Sharon said, "Today, more than ever, Children's Hospital merits your support. Its facilities and quality of child health care rival those of any children's hospital in the United States. We are constantly reminded of the increased costs of maintaining this facility and performing these services. Therefore, the ongoing need is more important than ever." Well done, NHTSA employees!

Who's Who in NHTSA

Communications is the Name of His Game



Judson Vaughn

Communications is like the weather: everybody in government talks about it but nobody seems able to do much about it.

Judson Vaughn is doing something about it. Last March he accepted an IPA assignment (Intergovernmental Personnel Act) with NHTSA as part of an effort to improve communication between State and Federal agencies.

Since his arrival in NHTSA's Office of Driver and Pedestrian Programs, one project Jud has been responsible for is initiating NETWORK, a newsletter for professionals who use mass communications for highway safety purposes.

The format for NETWORK is short and graphic, and is always illustrated by drawings about the subjects--never photographs. "It's a newsletter that can be read quickly and will attract the reader's attention

while sitting in the IN box," Jud says. And attract attention it does! Those big block-like, black and white drawings lead the reader's eye directly to the written message.

"The purpose of NETWORK," he says, "is to form an information chain between public communications people in the highway safety field. So many times, people in different States 'reinvent the wheel' because they have no contact with one another. With NETWORK, a good idea in Nebraska can be changed around and used in California, then modified and used in Louisiana. There is no 'silver bullet'--the magic highway safety message that will produce results. But by exchanging ideas and working together, we can come closer to developing ideas that save lives. The newsletter has really gotten great

response. We've received lots of mail in reaction to stories we've run."

IPA is a program which allows government workers who have expertise in certain areas to assist other agencies. For the past six years Jud had been with the Virginia Department of Transportation Safety where he directed Public Relations for the Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP). "NHTSA's Traffic Safety Programs Office was looking for someone from the States to sort of provide the local perspective. They stumbled across me," he says modestly.

If NHTSA "stumbled" onto Judson Vaughn, it surely must have been by design and not by accident. Jud's education and work experience, combined with terrific drive, talent, enthusiasm and a very personable manner, made him just the person NHTSA needed to assist its expanded public communications program. "I've always had an urge to communicate with other people," he says. "I used to play 'radio' as a kid.

"I started my own newspaper in the fifth grade. I worked on the high school newspaper and started one in college. It's a very difficult thing to say or write something that can motivate someone to action. That is the challenge of highway safety. You keep striving for that message that will get a driver to take an action that could be lifesaving for him or her."

Jud earned his BS

degree in art, with a minor in journalism, at Troy State University, Troy, Alabama, in 1971. His graphic artistry was put to the test shortly after graduating from college, when for 4 or 5 months he was the "one-man art department" for a small firm in Richmond, Virginia. Other jobs gave Jud experience in newspaper, radio, TV and printing. Meeting and working with people plays an important part in Jud's work-a-day world and carries over into his personal life. "It's a rewarding thing when you actually feel people are listening to you," he says. "On the State level, I had lots of contact with real people.

"Here, there's little contact with the public. So I got involved with the youth drunk driver program at Fairfax ASAP. I'm leading a group one night a week. We talk about driving, the medical aspects of alcohol, alcoholism and the family, self-concept, goal-setting and things they should know about.

"Part of abusive drinking is concerned with decision-making and effective living skills. This emphasis helps them think about what they're doing, where they're going. They learn a lot more about the drug they're using and it's a chance to hit them with some basic driving information."

Summing up his 10 to 11 months with NHTSA, Jud says it has been a great experience.

"I've learned so much

about the way the Federal Government operates. I understand a lot more about why certain things are done or not done. I also have come to realize how wide a gulf exists between the State and Federal bureaucracies. It takes real effort just to bridge the gap. The closer Federal workers get to the local level, I believe, the more effective they become. The same is true in reverse, which really comes down to improving communications. That is why the IPA Program is so valuable."

Dwight Fee, Special Assistant for Public Communications in the Office of Driver & Pedestrian Programs, says that the only trouble with having Jud assigned as an IPA is filling his shoes when he departs. "Besides singlehandedly launching NETWORK he has contributed significantly to our plans for providing technical assistance for States. He has served as a reliable sounding board as we consider new ways to help States upgrade their communications capabilities. He's been able to tell us what specific manuals, guides and policy guidance are most useful, and those which are not. But when his assignment with us is over, it's not his State point of view we'll miss the most, it's the talent and energy of a heavyweight professional."

THOUGHT PROVOKER

A friend is a present you give yourself.

Robert Louis Stevenson

Number Please!

The General Services Division requests that each employee check the accuracy of his own individual listing in the DOT Telephone Directory. Corrections should be reported to your Office Time and Attendance Clerk or directly to Cris Croft, NAD-42, Room 4423 Nassif Building on Form DOT F 1700.1. Forms are available from your Time and Attendance Clerk or from Room 4423.

In order for corrected listings to appear in the April Directory, General Services must be advised of any changes by February 15, 1978. Cris will be happy to answer any questions about the Directory. She can be reached on 426-9221.

NHTSA News Staff Moving

The NHTSA News staff will soon be moving from Room 5215, Nassif Building, to Room 5221 down the hall. The move is in conjunction with the Executive Secretariat relocation in order to permit the Legal offices to be combined in one area.

graffiti



Laughter is not a bad beginning for a friendship, and it is the best ending for one.

Oscar Wilde

Winter Driving Tips

Now that we are in the middle of the winter season, we hope you are following the driving tips recommended by the highway safety experts. NHTSA's booklet, Safe Driving in Winter, provides good tips on how to prepare for winter driving and how to react to hazardous driving conditions. Briefly, here are some of the things to check carefully:

Battery--make sure it will stand up to the extra power required for cold weather starts.

Ignition System: A tune-up before cold weather sets in is a good idea. This should reveal ignition problems if they exist.

Heating & Cooling System: Have the antifreeze in your radiator checked. If there is a leak in your radiator or hoses are deteriorating, have them repaired/replaced before adding antifreeze.

Exhaust System: Leakage from an exhaust system into a vehicle interior is always dangerous. It is even more dangerous in the winter when many drivers keep all windows shut. Even if the exhaust system is in good order, it's a good idea to drive with at least one window open.

Important items such as a flashlight, an ice scraper, extra fuses, rags for cleaning lights, work gloves, a small shovel and more should be carried in your glove compartment or trunk for emergency use.

For all the tips, a single copy of the booklet may be picked up from Distribution, Room 4423.

Awards

Thirty-Four NHTSA employees recently received awards for noteworthy contributions on the job.

Outstanding Performance Ratings were given to Phyllis D. Alston, RM; Lenora Borow, Office of the Administrator; Mary Ann Carman, NEF; Lois C. Flynn, AD; James R. Hackney, RD; Barbara E. Jackson, TS; Frances V. Johnson, RM; Russell L. Kirkbride, RD, East Liberty, Ohio; Leonard I. Lann, RD; Susan Partyka, RD; Shirley Siler, RM; Judith L. Stone, Office of the Administrator; and Nancy Symons, Region VI; Doris West, RM; Vernon With, Region VI.

Receiving Special Achievement Awards were Irvin H. Chor, PACPS; Richard M. Cook, Region V; Richard Gowen, TS; Henry D. Lederman, OCC; Billy S. Peterson, RD, East Liberty, Ohio; Lauren Reynolds, EF; Doris E. Shepherd, RM; Donald A. Williamson, Region V; and Michael G. Witter, Region VII.

Quality Step Increases were awarded to Gary K. Bell, RD; Charles L. Gauthier, RD; Robert L. Henderson, RD; John L. Krause, TS; James W. Murray, EF; Robert Pavlovic, RM; Marcia A. Robertson, EF; James C. Small, EF; Delores A. Stevens, Region V; and Gary R. Toth, NRD.

We Apologize

In the early December issue on Awards, the name of F. Cecil Brenner, Rulemaking (formerly RD) was mistakenly left out of the caption under the group picture on page 5. Sorry, Dr. Brenner!

Personnel

Welcome Aboard

Gaetano C. Catanzano, Accountant, Region I, 11-5-78.

Marilouise H. Burgess, Mathematical Statistician, RD, 11-5-78.

John B. White, Transportation Industry Analyst, RD, 11-5-78.

Robert M. Clarke, General Engineer, RD, 11-12-78.

Jon M. Ohman, Mathematical Statistician, RD, 11-19-78.

William Sulak, General Engineer, RD, 11-19-78.

John Gillis, Program Analyst, NRM, 11-27.

'Bye and Good Luck

Myrna J. Freeman, Safety Compliance Analyst, NAD, 11-14-78.

Francis E. Grenier, Safety Standards Engineer, NTS, 11-24-78.

Congrats on Promotion

Darlene F. Childs, Classification Clerk, AD, 11-19.

Lynn Miller, Clerk Typist, AD, 11-19.

Jonathan White, Safety Defects Engineer, P&P, 11-19.

Adrienne Williams, Clerk (DMT), P&P, 11-19.

Joseph Young, Management Analyst, AD, 11-19.