

Fallen Workers Memorial



**Your Safety • Your Mobility
Your Economic Opportunity**

*Dedicated in memory
of Idaho
Transportation
Department employees
who have lost their lives
on the job.*

1960's

E. Russ Barker (1962)
Carl Fleming (1963)
B. John Van Dusen (1964)
Jack Brown (1966)
James Gifford (1966)
Jim Plumb (1966)
Richard Hardy (1967)
Lanny Blattner (1969)
Dave Bennett
Jim Dunsmore
Albert Evans
Earl Hamilton
Troy F. McCracken

2000's

Dennis Taylor (2000)
Duane Gibbons (2001)
Toby Stevens (2005)
James Onthank (2005)
Art Fournier (2006)

1970's

Ben Pedigo (1972)
Les Bartholomew (1974)
Lawrence Lyons (1974)
Ed Fisher (1976)
Edwin Johnson (1978)
Sherman Sorenson (1979)

1980's

None

1990's

Joe Glenn (1991)
Mike Malloy (1999)

Jonathan Prahasto (2010)
Douglas Freeman (2015)
Byran Bidegain (2016)
Matt Kime (2018)



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

February 1962

EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

In Remembrance

Russ Barker, Special Maintenance Superintendent in Boise, died Jan. 31, 1962.

Barker had been employed by the department for 25 years, and will be missed by his fellow workers.

The district wishes to extend condolences to Russ' family.

Memories/Notes

Idaho Transportation Department

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Fleming's Rock helps legacy live on

A mile east of Lowell on the Lewis & Clark Highway (US-12), you'll find an ITD maintenance station, one of a dozen throughout the region (13 if you count the one at Reed's Bar, which is only manned in the winter). Yet it is a unique shed. What makes the Fleming maintenance station unique is the man behind the shed's name.

On May 9, 1963, 59-year-old Carl Fleming drowned when his vehicle was knocked 200 feet into the Lochsa River after meeting another car on a sharp turn six miles west of the Powell Ranger Station. That stretch of road between Lowell and the Montana border had been finished and dedicated the year before.

A Bureau of Public Roads resident engineer from Kooskia, the 35-year veteran was likely working on the last major project before his retirement later that year. Fleming had supervised much of the work on that section. In a tragic, ironic twist, he was the first victim on a road that he helped build.

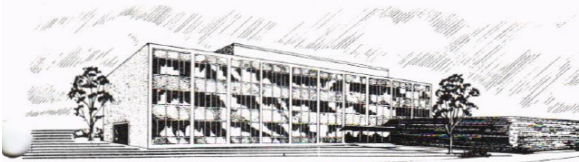
The Fleming legend has died a little since the site was renamed in 1967. A rock memorial out front helps shed light on the subject.

In the years after Fleming passed, the meaning of the rock was better known. At one time, there was even a garden of wildflowers surrounding it. Over the last many decades, however, the memorial had been overgrown by weeds and abused by the elements.

"It is kind of a forgotten thing," said longtime shed foreman Mark Schuster. "I have been here for 41 years and if it was not for the strange name of the Fleming shop, I would not know anything more than the name on the plaque."

The station is still referred to by locals as the Fleming shed, although ITD began officially calling it the Lochsa shed a few years ago. Whatever the name, as long as the Fleming rock/plaque exists, the man behind it, and the story behind him, continues.

Memories/Notes



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

March, 1964

In Remembrance

B. John Van Dusen, 20, equipment operator for the department, died of an apparent heart attack while at work on highway construction between McCammon and Pocatello, Thursday, Feb. 20, 1964.

The district wishes to extend its condolences to John's family.

Memories/Notes

Idaho Transportation Department

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ITD names Hailey road for Bartholomew

In March 1974, D4 Maintenance Foreman Les Bartholomew was run down by a drunk driver as he put additional warning signs out on a section of what was then US-93 north of Bellevue during spring breakup. As he was returning to his truck, a northbound driver struck Bartholomew from behind before careening off the opposite side of the road.

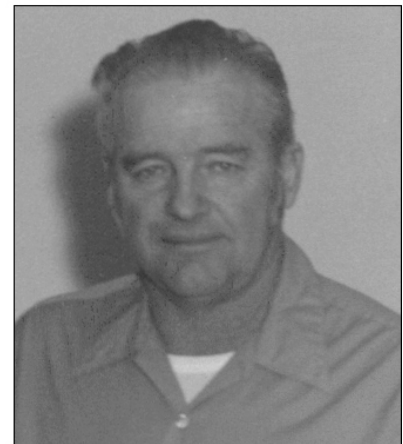
Ten years ago, D4 named the short street leading to the department's Hailey Maintenance shed in his honor.

With ITD putting in housing to accommodate maintenance workers wanting to live on-site, a physical address was required, so Ron Robinson, maintenance foreman at the time, suggested they name the road after Bartholomew.

Born in Jerome, Bartholomew stayed in south-central Idaho until WWII called him away. He received a Purple Heart medal and the Oak Leaf Cluster.

He started with ITD in 1952, and became maintenance foreman in 1963.

"We were given a great opportunity to pay tribute to one of our own," D4 District Engineer Devin Rigby said. "Fortunately, few have paid the same price as Les, but the dedication exhibited by Les that night to maintain a safe roadway carries on."



Les Bartholomew

Memories/Notes

The Transporter



In Remembrance

Sherman F. Sorensen, 50, of Shoshone, was killed Aug. 9, 1979 during a seal coat operation near Malta, Idaho.

He was born May 18, 1929 at Burmah, Idaho. He served in the Army during the Korean conflict from March 1948 through June 1952.

On July 13, 1956, he started working for the Idaho Division of Highways as a Rear Chainman in Shoshone. Other titles he held were Head Chairman, Inspector Class II, Project Inspector Class I, Highway Maintenance Operator, and Highway Maintenance Foreman, the position he held until his death.

Survivors of his immediate family include his wife, Mary Ann, two sons and two daughters.

Memories/Notes

The **T**ransporter



BOISE, IDAHO

In Remembrance

Joe B. Glenn, 56, of Boise, died Aug. 1, 1991 in a road construction accident at the intersection of Idaho 44 and 55 near Eagle.

"Smokin' Joe" was born Oct. 18, 1934 in Boise, and graduated from Boise High in 1955. He joined the Idaho Air National Guard as a reservist, at age 17, retiring in 1988 with a rank of Master Sergeant.

Glenn was a dedicated worker, and an avid bowler and outdoorsman who loved high school football. He enjoyed camping, fishing and hunting. He was also interested in music, singing at weddings and taking part in musical productions.

Glenn worked for the Idaho Transportation Department beginning at age 17. He was a Transportation Technician out of the District 3 Boise Residency "A" offices at the time of his death.

Joe's death is a tragic reminder to those that work on the highways to use extreme caution.

Memories/Notes



TRANSPORTER

A Newsletter for the Employees of the Idaho Transportation Department

Co-workers remember Dennis Taylor



Flags flew at half-mast at ITD for D3 Maintenance Worker Dennis Taylor.

ITD lost a great friend and employee Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2000. Dennis Taylor was conducting routine maintenance work on Interstate 84 when a high-pressure water hose fatally struck the 52-year-old District 3 employee.

Taylor worked for ITD for six years, the last five years as a member of the Boise Maintenance Crew. Taylor made many friends in the department, and was well respected by his co-workers at the Boise Maintenance Shed.

"He was the finest person you'll ever meet," said Dan Hurlbert, who worked with Taylor and had known him since his youth in Eagle. "If you were having a bad day, he'd do something to make the whole day wonderful."

Taylor's boss, Steve Miller, said he was so proficient at the many different facets of maintenance work that he'd use him to train new employees. Miller said he was an ideal employee who never 'balked or complained' and was extraordinarily dependable.

"He was a special person; he'll be missed by the entire crew, said Miller.

The crew uniformly characterized Taylor as a generous, humorous and intelligent man who always had something positive to say about everyone and often talked about his love for his family.

His wife of 34 years, Judy Taylor, two daughters and a son (all adults) and five grandchildren survive Taylor.

Memories/Notes



TRANSPORTER

A Newsletter for the Employees of the Idaho Transportation Department

Duane Gibbons Leaves Lasting Memories

Caldwell Maintenance Foreman Duane Gibbons passed away Feb. 10 of natural causes after he stopped to remove some tire debris from Interstate 84. Gibbons had risen early that Saturday morning to inspect the freeway after he noticed some snowflakes falling outside his home in Middleton.

"He loved his job," said District 3 Hazardous Materials Coordinator Dick Powell. "He was the foreman and he knew it was his job [to check the Interstate]. Duane had his own personal style, but he always got the job done and done well."

Gibbons worked in District 3 all of his 28 years with ITD, most of it at the Caldwell Maintenance Shed. He was a valuable asset for D3, with deep institutional knowledge of the area he grew up in.



he didn't like his fishing and hunting and gambling, and not necessarily in that order."

Powell fondly remembers the meticulous care Gibbons took of his equipment, including his own truck. Powell slipped and was covered with mud on a fishing trip with Gibbons. Only after much discussion and lining the cab of the truck with coats was Powell confident that he

wouldn't have to walk back to civilization.

Caldwell Leadworker Jim Smith said Gibbons was well known throughout the district and will be especially missed by his Caldwell crew.

Gibbons served in the Idaho Army National Guard for 21 years and was a volunteer fireman for several years. Most of his life was spent in Middleton with his wife of 34 years, Sylvia. He was 54 years old.

**"... He always
got the job done
and done well."
—Dick Powell**

Memories/Notes



THE TRANSPORTER

The Idaho Transportation Department

In memory of Toby Joe Stevens

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Idaho Transportation Department

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 Fax: 208.334.8563

[Email](#)



Toby Joe Stevens, loving husband, brother, son and friend, lost his life Tuesday, March 15, 2005. Toby was born in Loyalton, Calif., in 1962 where he lived until 2003. Toby spent many years working in the woods, beginning in 1977 when he was 15 years old.

He operated heavy equipment for the family logging business. Toby moved to Paradise, Calif., where he met and married Juli; they moved back to Loyalton. He left working in the woods and went to work for the Truckee Public Works Department from 1990 to 2003.

He and his wife moved to Idaho. Toby went to work for the Idaho Transportation Department in 2004. He and his wife had just purchased a home in Grangeville where they had decided to settle.

Toby was an avid outdoorsman, enjoying hunting and fishing. He was involved in archery, the National Wild Turkey Federation youth program and was teaching hunter education in Grangeville. He was in his element in the woods.

He is survived by his wife Juli Stevens of Grangeville; her parents, Billy and Shirley Adkins of Kamiah; his parents, Royce and Elaine Stevens of Loyalton, Calif.; a brother, Chris Stevens of Reno, Nevada; a niece Brandi Stevens of Oregon; and a host of friends and loved ones.

A memorial service will be held **Saturday, March 19 at 1 p.m.** at the Blackmer Funeral Home, Grangeville. Memorial services will follow in Loyalton, Calif., on Saturday, March 26.

The family suggests memorial contributions may be made to Hunters Education, c/o Blackmer Funeral Home, 305 No. Mill St., Grangeville, Idaho 83530. Send condolences to the family at

Blackmerfuneralhome.com

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Memories/Notes



THE TRANSPORTER

The Idaho Transportation Department

In memory of James W. Onthank

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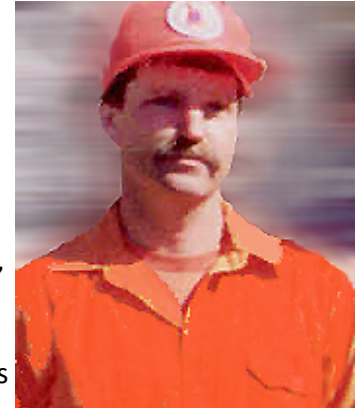
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James W. Onthank of Grangeville died March 15, 2005, at the age of 42 in a work-related automobile accident on Highway 95. Also killed in the accident was Toby Stevens.



Jim is survived by his wife, Cynthia, his parents, Samuel and Katherine of Clarkston, Wash., and siblings, Michael, Scott and Kelly.

Jim was born on Oct. 24, 1962, in Grangeville. He met his future wife, Cynthia Oleson, at a community dance in Cottonwood on July 19, 1980.

Jim and Cynthia were married on Jan. 23, 1982.

Beginning in July of 1987, Jim worked for the Idaho Transportation Department at Reed's Bar for six years, after which he transferred to the Grangeville office and continued there until his death on the job.

Jim loved the outdoors. Whether hunting, fishing, hiking or camping with his family, he always seemed to find peace and enjoyment when surrounded by nature. Always by his side during hunting ventures was his best friend since high school, Joe Lothspeich. The two planned for years to hunt caribou in Alaska, but never had the chance.

Above all, Jim was a loving and dedicated husband and father who would put aside anything else in his life for them, even passing up promotions in his career to preserve the time he had with his loved ones. He leaves behind a perfect example of what a family man should be. Jim will be missed by all who knew him, many far beyond our small community.

Memorial services will be held **Monday, March 21, at 2 p.m.** at the Grangeville Church of the Nazarene. Services are under the direction of the Blackmer Funeral Home, Grangeville. Please send condolences to the family at

Blackmerfuneralhome.com

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Memories/Notes



Thursday incident claims ITD's Art Fournier

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The transportation department today mourns the loss of Art Fournier, a 13-year ITD employee who died late Thursday afternoon while returning to the Caldwell maintenance facility.

“On behalf of his many friends at ITD, I offer my condolences to Art’s family,” said Director Dave Ekern. “He was a valued, respected employee whose many contributions to the state of Idaho, the transportation department and his community will be greatly missed.”

Fournier was alone in a small ITD pick-up truck, towing a trailer loaded with construction barrels, when the vehicle left Old Highway 30 near Middleton. It traveled through an open field and a rustic barn before coming to rest in an irrigation ditch. The incident occurred about 3:30-3:45 p.m., according to District 3 Maintenance Manager Dick Powell.

Authorities say medical conditions may have contributed to his death; an investigation is under way.

Fournier, who was 51, began his ITD career in District 2, working out of the Deary maintenance facility. Well-liked and respected by colleagues, Fournier transferred to District 3 in 2003 and worked as a Transportation Technician in New Plymouth. He and Cynthia, his wife of 19 years, lived in New Plymouth.

Published 6-2-06

Memories/Notes

IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

THE TRANSPORTER

OUR MISSION. YOUR MOBILITY.

Monday crash claims life of ITD's Jonathan Prahasto

The Idaho Transportation Department lost a long-time friend and respected employee when Jonathan Prahasto died in a tragic two-vehicle crash Monday near Ashton.

Prahasto, 55, was westbound in a one-ton ITD pickup truck on U.S. 20 when it collided with a Peterbilt semi-truck carrying produce. The 2010 GMC Sierra pickup was destroyed in the crash; the semi-truck overturned on the side of the highway. Truck driver Mandeep Singh, 30, Surry, B.C., was transported to Madison Memorial Hospital in Rexburg with minor injuries, according to the Idaho State Police (ISP).

The crash occurred shortly after 11:30 a.m. The highway was closed about two hours while ISP and Fremont County Sheriff's Department investigated.

"ITD employees throughout the state join with District 6 this week in mourning the loss of our colleague," said Director Brian Ness. "I want to express to Jonathan's family how deeply we have been touched by his loss. I encourage fellow ITD workers who knew and respected Jonathan to do everything possible to help his family through this very difficult time.

"Monday's crash is a reminder of the risk our employees take every day in service to their state," the director added. "We do everything possible to ensure that our employees are safe on Idaho highways, from training, to the use of special equipment and high-visibility clothes. Providing safe transportation for all highway users, including our employees and the public, is our highest priority."

Prahasto, a 16-year ITD veteran, lived in Island Park and worked out of ITD's Island Park maintenance facility as a transportation technician.

He had a great love for the area in which he lived and was "a passionate conservationist who worked to preserve the region's natural resources," according to a report in the Island Park News. He also was dedicated to improving his city by serving on the Island Park Planning and Zoning Commission.

He is survived by wife Genny and many friends, family members and co-workers. Funeral arrangements are pending.

The fatal crash is the first involving an on-duty ITD employee in more than five years.

Published 10-8-2010



Memories/Notes

Idaho Transportation Department

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2015: District 2's Doug Freeman passes away on return from sign-inventory work

Editor's Note: Of the 10 ITD workers who have died on the job since 2000, only one of them did not have a story written about them in the Transporter – Douglas Freeman. I'm correcting that oversight now:

Douglas Freeman, a Transportation Tech Sr. in District 2, died when he suffered a heart attack as he returned following sign inventory work on Nov. 5, 2015.

Freeman had driven to Eastern Idaho with Scott Fry of the Federal Highway Administration to conduct a federally mandated inventory of outdoor signs. On the way home, after dropping Fry off in Boise, Freeman suffered a heart attack around New Meadows. The heart attack caused him to lose control of his department-issued truck on US-95.

The 64-year-old Freeman worked for ITD from Oct. 1978 until the time of his passing. In that time, he spent many years in the tutelage of District Project Manager Ken Helm.

"Doug was extremely detail-oriented and helped me a ton over the years," said Helm. He oversaw the outdoor advertising program, signage, project design, right of way, and helped tremendously when I had 76 projects to manage in 1996 as we rebuilt after the area flooded."

"It was a shock when he passed. He was a great guy, a great friend, and we all miss him still."

District 2 Engineering Manager Doral Hoff has a vivid recollection of Freeman's last day:

"As fate would have it, on the day Doug left, he stopped by my office. He was simply reminding me he was leaving for District 3 and 6 to help provide some training on Outdoor Advertising. I thanked him for letting me know and I took the opportunity to tell him, face to face, how much I appreciated his willingness to do the things I and others had asked of him and the good-natured way he accepted the challenge, and I thanked him for his work. I will always be grateful I took that opportunity. He meant a lot to us and we were fortunate to have known him."

"I found Doug to be very knowledgeable in the work we do here at the department. He was always willing to accept work and challenges and usually had a better way of accomplishing work tasks. If you asked him to work on a project, he always would start out by saying in his mild tone: "Yes, I can do that - but would you mind if I did it this way?"

"I can't ever think of a single time when I didn't like his idea better."



Doug Freeman - Nov. 2013

Published 01-11-19

Memories/Notes

IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

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ITD mourns recent loss of Byran Bidegain

ITD's District 3 recently lost one of its own while he was on the job in Idaho City. Byran Bidegain died Dec. 13 while clearing snow near the small mountain community. Byran was 62 years old and had been with ITD for about five years before his untimely passing.

The outpouring of support for Byran's Idaho City crew has been outstanding, from D3 colleagues and transportation techs statewide. Many offers have also been made to help cover critical maintenance activities in and around Idaho 21. That solidarity has included shifting resources and personnel in the wake of Byran's passing, ensuring that all responsibilities and operations are met seamlessly.

"Byran was always in a good mood, and would jump in and help with whatever task needed to be completed," said D3 Maintenance Coordinator Dan Bryant.

D3 Idaho City Foreman Stuart Wilson shared the same sentiment about Byran's willingness to work with minimal direction. An example stems from his close supervision of regular inmate crews that go to Idaho City to assist ITD with maintenance activities.

"Byran really enjoyed working with that group—and they liked working for Byran. When they learned of his death, they started working on a card which means so much."

Byran's wit, even about his own name, was also noted by D3 Operations Manager Michael Garz.

"He would preface his introduction to any new person by saying 'Hello, I'm Byran, not Bryan,' which always made me laugh."

Wilson added, "I'm going to miss Byran and the way we he used to stop into the office at least once a week, and say 'Stuart, we've got a problem.' The funny thing is that usually we ended up laughing about it later, because it was something we were always able to take care of."

A memorial service for Byran will be held at the Idaho City High School Gymnasium on Dec. 30 at 1 p.m. The district is collecting donations to assist the family with expenses. Byran's family has also established an account at CapEd Credit Union for those wishing to contribute.



Published 12-23-16

Memories/Notes

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ITD family mourns loss of D4's Kime

The ITD family lost one of its own in the late afternoon of Wednesday, April 4, as District 4 mechanic Matt Kime apparently lost control of his eastbound pickup on Idaho Highway 24 in south-central Idaho. He went off the road, overcorrected and flipped. He was ejected from the vehicle.

Kime, 55, had been a diesel mechanic out of the District 4 headquarters in Shoshone since 2001.

"We are all deeply affected by this loss," said D4 District Engineer Devin Rigby. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends during this time; he will be missed."

This is a reminder to all of us to be safe and vigilant in everything we do, but especially behind the wheel."

A memorial service is planned for 2 p.m. April 20, at the Parkes Magic Valley Funeral Home.

Kime, of Gooding, was born in Gordon, Nebraska, and was survived by 18 nieces and nephews, 13 great-nieces and nephews, and 11 brothers and sisters.

He graduated from Richfield High School in 1980 and received his Diesel Mechanic's certificate from College of Southern Idaho.

Published 04-06-18



Memories/Notes

Fallen Workers Memorial

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