

County Update

The Monthly Newsletter For The Belmont County Engineer's Department

Memorial Day
May 31, 2010



Fred's Desk



THREE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS were bid in May, one each week for the first three Wednesdays of May. On May 5th, bids were opened for Project 10-1 for the resurfacing of Mall and Banfield Roads. Two bids were received with Shelly & Sands, Inc. submitting the low bid of \$511,596.50, and Lash Paving, Inc. bid at \$513,350.55. The project is being 80% funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). On May 12th bids were opened for the placement of permanent pavement markings on Mall and Banfield Roads. Two bids were also received for this project with A & A Safety submitting the

low bid at \$28,236.02, and Oglesby Construction bid at \$33,949.60. This project is being funded 100% by FHWA using federal stimulus (ARRA) dollars. May 19th bids were opened for the furnishing and application of Bituminous Liquid Asphalt for dust control on various county highways. The only bidder was Lash Paving, Inc. for applying 50,500 gallons of material at a cost of \$148,790. This is being paid for using our MVGT funds. We have received word from the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) that in early July we will be receiving funding for three more projects, which will be

bid at that time. The first is for building two new bridges on County Highway 48 (Wegee Road) at an estimated cost of \$540,540. The second is for the resurfacing 3.12 miles of CH 56 (Cats Run Road), estimated to cost \$312,000. The third is for resurfacing 4.43 miles of township roads in 4 different townships, costing \$430,950. These six projects represent a total investment of almost \$2,000,000 for Belmont County's local highway system. This makes for another busy construction season.

In Flanders Fields

John McCrae, 1915.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
 Between the crosses, row on row
 That mark our place; and in the sky
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly
 Scarce heard amid the guns below.
 We are the Dead. Short days ago
 We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
 Loved and were loved, and now we lie
 In Flanders fields.

Engineer's Department Employees



From the Tacoma garage are from the left; Jimmy Gear, Forrest Kemp, Tom Butler, Keith Luyster, Bob Detling, Bruce Miller and Wesley Wells.



From the Neffs garage are from the left; Denny Hurst, Scot Ferguson, Troy Duffy, Keith Williams, Dayle Conaway and Chuck Earliwine.

May News Through the Years

I took a quick look through the previous years newsletters and found these items of interest.

May 1991

The estimated cost to pave one mile of road was \$35,000.

May 1994

Negotiations began to purchase the railroad right of way around the 'Lafferty Railroad Underpass'.



May, 1996

Work was progressing on the construction of the new Roscoe Road garage. Several roadway slips occurred after a wet spring. The bridge replacement project on Pultney Township 476, Klee Crossing, was nearing completion.

May 18, 2000

On Wheeling Township Road 337, the sixty foot steel girder bridge was closed to all traffic after a tractor trailer hauling a D-11 Caterpillar dozer attempted to cross the bridge. It was learned that the total weight of the load was 116 tons. The bridge was posted with an 18 ton weight limit sign.

May 3, 2002

The Annual Employee Safety Training was held at Roscoe Garage. Speakers for the day included the Sheriff Tom McCort, Bob Gillespie of OUPS and Bob Applegate of the Ohio OSHA.

May 21, 2004

A total of 20 slips were in the process of being repaired after the January 2004 heavy rains were declared a FEMA disaster. The \$824,000 price tag for the repairs would be a drop in the bucket in a few months after the September 2004 and January 2005 FEMA events.



May 19, 2008

The concrete box culvert was set on County Road 14, Farmington Road. The box culvert replaced a concrete slab bridge that was 13 feet wide.

Deed Transfer Stats

MONTH	DEEDS	TRACTS	EASEMENTS
JANUARY	152	271	25
FEBRUARY	157	250	53
MARCH	200	339	37
APRIL	209	368	45

Memorial Day Poppies

In 1915, inspired by the poem "In Flanders Fields," **Moina Michael** replied with her own poem:

We cherish too, the Poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led,
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies.

She then conceived of an idea to wear red poppies on Memorial day in honor of those who died serving the nation during war. She was the first to wear one, and sold poppies to her friends and co-workers with the money going to benefit servicemen in need. Later a Madam Guerin from France was visiting the United States and learned of this new custom started by Ms. Michael and when she returned to France, made artificial red poppies to raise money for war orphaned children and widowed women. This tradition spread to other countries. In 1921, the Franco-American Children's League sold poppies nationally to benefit war orphans of France and Belgium. The League disbanded a year later and Madam Guerin approached the VFW for help. Shortly before Memorial Day in 1922 the VFW became the first veterans' organization to nationally sell poppies. Two years later their "Buddy" Poppy program was selling artificial poppies made by disabled veterans. In 1948 the US Post Office honored Ms. Michael for her role in founding the National Poppy movement by issuing a red 3 cent postage stamp with her likeness on it.

This information was found at www.usmemorialday.org.

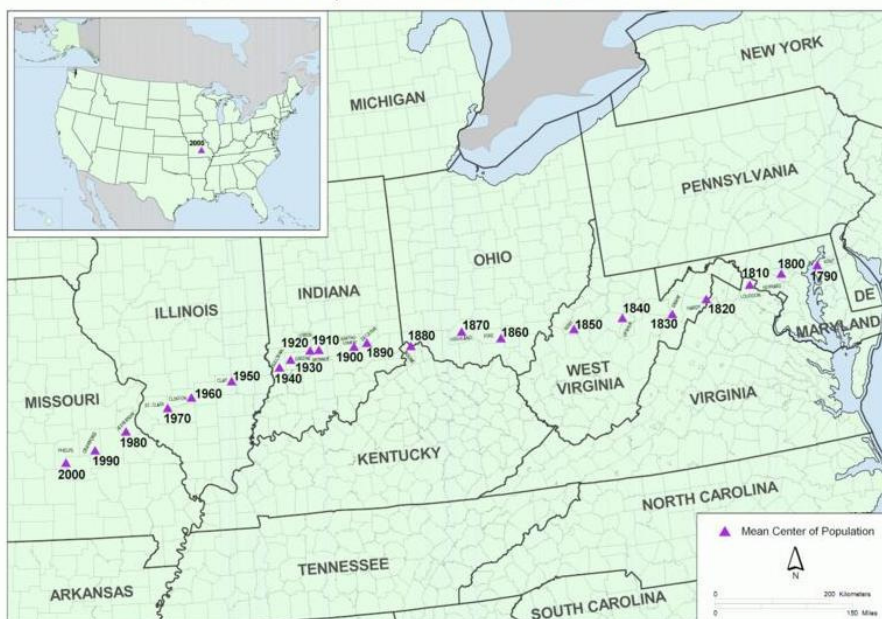


Center of the United States



The geographic center of the contiguous United States (the lower 48 states) is located near the town of Lebanon, Kansas. There is a historic marker in a park near the town but the actual center is about 3/4 of a mile away on private property. Known as being located in the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 32, Township 2 South, Range 11 West.

Mean Center of Population for the United States: 1790 to 2000



This map shows how the center of population shifted to the west from 1790 through the 2000 Census.

The following lists location information of the mean center of U.S. population since 1790:

1790 Kent County, Maryland; 1800 Howard County, Maryland; 1810 Loudoun County, Virginia; 1820 Hardy County, Virginia (now W. Virginia); 1830 Grant County, Virginia (now W. Virginia); 1840 Upshur County, Virginia (now W. Virginia); 1850 Wirt County, Virginia (now W. Virginia); 1860 Pike County, Ohio; 1870 Highland County, Ohio; 1880 Boone County, Kentucky; 1890 Decatur County, Indiana; 1900 Bartholomew County, Indiana; 1910 Monroe County, Indiana; 1920 Owen County, Indiana; 1930 Greene County, Indiana; 1940 Sullivan County, Indiana; 1950 Richland County, Illinois; 1960 Clinton County, Illinois; 1970 St. Clair County, Illinois 5 miles east-southeast of Mascoutah; 1980 Jefferson County, Missouri; 1990 Crawford County, Missouri; 2000 Phelps County, Missouri.