

D.B. Hill, Jr.

Darius Betterton Hill, Jr (D.B.) was born in Knoxville, Tennessee on February 11, 1918 to Darius B. and Ann Hill. In 1920 the family moved to Arkansas. D.B. graduated Little Rock High School in 1936 and attended the Junior college in Little Rock, now the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, for one year before enrolling at Stanford. During his summers in school, D.B. worked on some of the company's jobs, giving him the experience he needed to later work full-time for his father at D.B. Hill Contractor. D.B. graduated Stanford in 1939 with a B.A. in Mechanical Engineering.

D.B. married Shirley Vestal in January 1948 and he celebrated his 30th birthday on their honeymoon. They had three children: D.B. Hill, III, Howell V. Hill and Richard W. Hill.

D.B. continued his work with his father until Stub's death in November 1957. After his father's death, D.B. continued the company much as his father had. The interstate system of highways was becoming a reality in Arkansas and the company had their share of the work. D.B. Hill Contractor built the first lanes of what is now I-30 between Little Rock and Benton as well as the first lanes of I-55 North of Marion. D.B. built sections of I-430 and I-630 as well as numerous primary and secondary roadways around the state.

D.B. Hill Contractor did highway work all over the state by working with bridge-building and paving contractors on five jobs on the Fayetteville bypass, building the Dequeen and Bearden bypasses, building a bypass in the Fort Smith and Van Buren area to the east and building the initial section of the Hot Springs bypass. Into the 1990s and under D.B.'s leadership, the company has had major subcontracts for work rebuilding Arkansas' aging interstate system. D.B. Hill, Contractor is currently rebuilding a section of I-40 east of Hazen where the company did the original grading on it in 1964.

D.B. has served on several national AGC committees and was president of AGC in 1954. In 1982 he received the AGC Distinguished Service Award. His hard work and influence in Arkansas' construction industry earned him the title of Life Director of the National AGC in 1987. D.B. served on the vestry on Trinity Episcopal Cathedral for several terms, twice as the Senior Warden. He is also a Shriner and a 32nd Degree Mason.

When asked what he enjoyed most about the construction industry, D.B. said it was the satisfaction of getting a project done from start to finish. His determination and work ethic in the construction industry have influenced the growth of the contracting business in Arkansas, set a high standard for projects undertaken by D.B. Hill Contractor, and ensured that his business would remain one of the oldest and hardest working companies in the state.