



Look For The New Kids

AND CHECK OUT YOUR MILITARY SERVICEPOINTS

From the Corner Pocket

First, for everyone — I'd like to encourage you to look up the 'new kids' who hired onto Caltrans in the restructuring after the 1970s layoffs and who might just now be reaching that magical 25-year milestone. Believe it or not, they are now eligible for the Quarter Century Club. More and more of the QCC membership is retired, and without an effort to renew and strengthen the organization with new and younger people, it could fade away. Make the effort to be there when that former 'new-hire, new-kid' gets the Caltrans 25-year certificate. Have a QCC application in hand with the name already filled in and maybe even a preaddressed envelope to send in. Might each chapter make an effort to find those newly eligible and hold a special event to recognize them and their new status?

For anyone with qualifying time other than at Caltrans — A very nice letter came from **Bill Hudson** of D-XIII, (HQ for non-Romans) who did some detailed accounting on buying back his military service, (could be other service for you). He found that he could add years of service credit to his PERS retirement by paying PERS for his service time. By adding those years, he increased his retirement benefit enough to pay PERS out of the increased benefit. In running the

numbers he found that he would get a small net increase in his monthly check while payments were being deducted. But after 15 years, when the repayment to PERS is completed, he shows a substantial increase. His careful accounting went out to the year 2021, (we expect to see him still going strong then); it may be different for you, but it may be worth your time to check it out. I endorse Bill's ideas, efforts and comments 100% and thank him for his contribution.

A great idea for those who remember came from **Guy Luther** of D-1. Here's the gist of his note:

"An idea that **Paul Detmer** (now a Senior Environmental Planner in Sacramento) had when he was in District 1 was for interpretive displays using



highway-related historic photos and putting them in roadside rest kiosks. I thought this would be a worthwhile effort for a sub-committee of the District's Quarter Century Club and volunteered to help. **Arlene Hartin** has a number of old Caltrans photos, and I think **Barry Douglas** (the District 1 Archaeologist) has more. Plus, **Jim Siebert's** relatives were

contractors on some of the original construction for Route 101, and he has more pictures. A few photos, a little interpretive seasoning (stories or lies, whatever you want to call them), and we may be able to buy Caltrans some much-needed good will!"

MORE FROM THE CORNER POCKET—

Knowing that Guy is as honest and hard-working a Guy you may ever know, and that Arlene has a wealth of information, I heartily endorse any district QCC effort to bring their vast experience, memories and material to rest area kiosks or wherever they can find access. I also hope the QCC logo is a significant part of any display. Check with your district QCC Director and Caltrans Public Affairs office to see what you can do. Work with your local area and tell us all how it went.

For Web-Gifted individuals, the QCC needs a web-guru volunteer with the time and talent to set up and manage a web page. In the past a QCC web page had a QCC application, a copy of the constitution, a calendar, and the email address of those who cared to be listed. If your web service has the capacity to host a web page, and you or someone you know has the ability to do the web page mastering, you could do the QCC a great service. Please contact me by phone, letter or email.

And for those in District 3 — A hearty thanks to **John Pennbaker** for the invitation to their great packed-house gathering and fine food at the District 3 annual dinner meeting in Marysville. There was lots of warm interaction with friends, positive progress with the chapter and plenty of good food. Thanks again, John. And thanks to **Kim and Pat Yarbrough** who also made the trip.

— *Butch Biendarra*

Deadlines

Deadline for material for the QCCer is the 5th of the month in which it is published. The next issue will be published in March. Therefore, the deadline for published material will be March 5th.

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In Memoriam

We extend our sympathy to family members and loved ones of our fallen colleagues in their time of loss

| Name | District | Date |
|------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Jim Flochini | 1 | October 15, 2004 |
| Helen Velasco | 1 | September 14, 2004 |
| Ron Wallin | 1 | September, 2004 |
| Ornie "Bert" Hanson | 2 | December 1, 2004 |
| Ray Porterfield | 2/4 | September 28 |
| Jim Welch | 2 | March 4, 2004 |
| Joan Peterson | 5 | September 9 |
| Daniel Douglas Howell | 6 | September 13 2004 |
| Ira Zipperman | 7 | October 15, 2004 |
| Dan Goble | 7 | October 15, 2004 |
| Rose Bailey Litchfield | 8 | April, 2004 |
| Clara Ringland | 8 | November 1, 2004 |
| Bill Metzel | 8/Central | August 26, 2004 |
| Jack Sisson | 8 | September 3, 2004 |
| Richard F. Barlow | 11 | September 19, 2004, |
| Patty Yates | 11 | September 22, 2004 |
| Bill Cross | 11 | September, 2004 |
| Roy M. Kelley | Central | April 24, 2004 |

Secretary Treasurer's Report

I was going to ask **George Ellis** what size shoes he wears! Wow! Talk about getting my feet wet ... I darned near drowned! But then I saw him a few weeks ago and his feet weren't all that big. I think I've figured it out —as soon as they found someone to take over this job, he started to relax and his feet shrunk. But he continues to bail me out when I have a problem.

It seems to be coming together now. I hope those who have sent notices, dues checks, membership applications, etc., have had patience with me in getting things out.

Dues need to be paid by the end of January 2005 for those paid up to December 31, 2004. New membership cards will be sent out shortly after payment is made. Payment can be directly to me at 5670 Brook Road, Mariposa, CA 95338, or to your District Director or Secretary/Treasurer.

I hope the holidays are a great time for you all, and that the New Year brings you peace, happiness and good health.

— *Kim A. Yarbrough*

Early in 2002, British composer Mike Batt included a composition entitled "One Minute of Silence" in his album "Classical Graffiti." The estate of American composer John Cage, author of a silence lasting four minutes and thirty-three seconds, promptly took him to court for plagiarism.

Batt settled out of court for \$150,000, but not without a Parthian shot: "My piece," he sniffed, "is more than twice as good as Cage's. I have said in sixty seconds what he took over four and a half minutes to say."

Leadership History

Part 3: San Francisco District 4
by George E. Gray, First Vice President

The San Francisco District of the present California Department of Transportation was one of the original seven established on January 2, 1912. It originally covered the City and County of San Francisco and the counties of Sonoma, Napa, Marin, Contra Costa, Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz

The first manager of the division was **Arthur E. Loder**, who was succeeded in 1916 by Division Engineer **W. Lewis Clark**, who transferred to San Francisco from Division VII in Los Angeles. Mr. Clark served until 1922. In that year, Colonel **John H. Skeggs** was appointed District Engineer. He served in that capacity until the fall of 1947 when he and District VII District Engineer and good friend **S. V. Cortelyou**, were appointed as Assistant State Highway Engineers to reflect the increased programs in the two districts. With these appointments, each district now had two District Engineers (these were civil service classifications). In District IV, these initially were **B. W. Booker** and **L. A. Weymouth**. In District VII, they were **P. O. Harding** and **A. D. Griffin**. Colonel **Skeggs** continued to head the San Francisco district until his retirement April 1, 1952. The subsequent District IV leaders* were:

April 1, 1952 – May 1959, Barney W. Booker - Assistant State Highway Engineer
May 1959 – April 1964, Joseph P. Sinclair - Assistant State Highway Engineer and from April to his death, May 24, 1964, he served under the new title of Metropolitan District Engineer
1964 – 1971, Alan S. Hart - Metropolitan District Engineer
1971 – 1973, Thomas R. Lammers - Metropolitan District Engineer
1973 — Feb. 22, 1980, Thomas R. Lammers - District Director of Transportation

- 1980 – 1981, John West - District Director of Transportation
- 1981 – 1982, Norm Kelley - District Director of Transportation
- 1982 – 1990, Burch Bachtold - District Director of Transportation
- 1990 – 1993, Preston Kelley - District Director of Transportation
- 1993 – 1996, Joe Brown - District Director of Transportation
- 1996 – 2001, Harry Y. Yahata - District Director of Transportation
- 2001 – 2002, Randell H. Iwasaki - District Director of Transportation
- 2002 – present, Bijan Sartipi - District Director of Transportation

Colonel Skeggs obtained his military rank in World War I in the Army Corps of Engineers as roads officer for the Second American Army in France. A native of Somerville, Alabama, he came to California in 1901 after graduation from Alabama Polytechnic Institute. Before joining the State Highway Department in 1919, he worked on the Owens Valley aqueduct and was a County of Los Angeles surveyor.

During **Colonel Skeggs'** career in District IV he was responsible for building widening or repaving almost every mile of state highway in the district. He was a leader as the organization's responsibility evolved from that for rural highways toward implementing the Interstate System. Besides involvement in the district's Broadway, Waldo, and Funston tunnels—his accomplishments included opening routes to the north and applying freeway principles of access control for the beginning units of the Bayshore and Eastshore freeways.

Under his leadership the Golden Gate and San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge approaches were built. He set a high standard for those who followed him and his influence lived long after his departure from the organization.

I began my career in a design squad on the Eastshore Freeway in District IV in early January 1951 as a Junior Civil Engineer at \$295 base plus \$15



per month. I remember **Col. Skeggs** as an impressive leader who was very patriotic, especially with the Korean "police action" in progress.

We gratefully acknowledge help in assembling this information by **Alice Whitten**, District 4 Library; **Laurel Clark**, Headquarters Library; and **Norman Root**, QCC Historian and retired from Headquarters Structures.

*On August 6, 1957, "District IV" became "District 4" when the Roman numeral designation for the districts was changed to Arabic to accommodate to the emerging computer world.

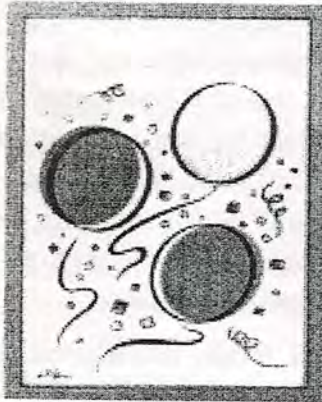
The Haps in District I

As I write, we are just getting into the holiday season. I hope everyone has a happy and healthy time. I am playing catch-up this quarter. I was not able to attend the last District 1 awards luncheon and so didn't get the information into the last report, but have it now.



The lunch was held June 25, 2004 at the Eureka Red Lion. The 25-year honorees included **Joe Aguilar, Tim Ash, Larry Bowermaster, Dan Broeske, James R. Brown, Vicki Butler, David Chang, Mark Cole, Darrell Deardorff, Janet Foster, Alan Radford, Fritz Silberstein, and Stan Woodman**. Thirty-year honorees included **Steve Hansen, Stephanie Launer, and Mary Salyer**. Thirty-five year honorees include **Dave Bywater, Mike Eagan, George Eitzen, James Herriott, James "Rusty" Johnston, Bill Richards, Rich Strubinger, and Marty Van Zandt**. The 40-year honorees (WOW!) are **Russ Allen and Lanette Watkins**. Congratulations to this great group of employees for their many years of service.

Honorees **Rusty Johnston**, Maintenance Supervisor and **Steve Hansen**, Environmental Planning retired in the last few months. Others include **Jennifer Tipton**, **Mike Cox**, **Steve Rafferty**, **Craig Burns**, **Dave Swallow**, **Mike Rowan**, and **Robert Guy Huber**. Planned



retirements for the end of December include Engineer **Jon Hedlund**, Senior Right of Way Agent **Chuck Edwards**, Senior Delineator **Tom Wrask**, and Maintenance Supervisor **Ron Schutz** from Idlewild.

One of our favorite local authors, **Diane**

Hawk, has produced another enjoyable book of interest to us, called "Touring the Old Redwood Highway," in Humboldt County. It features many sights found along Highway 101 from the 1930s to the 1960s, including gas stations, cafes, motels, tourist stops, bridges and the highway itself. She has one on Highway 101 in Mendocino County and one coming up for Del Norte County. This will cover all of 101 for District 1. These trips down memory lane are very popular.

We were saddened to lose some more members of our District 1 family. **Helen Velasco**, wife of retired engineer **Art Velasco**, passed away September 14, 2004. Art and Helen, with many friends in the Highway and local communities, operated Matthews Art Shop in Eureka for 20 years after their retirement.

Ron Wollin passed away in September after a long battle with cancer. He was just 66. He retired in 1999 after 41 years of service as an engineer. He had worked on many projects including the Prairie Creek Bypass and the Confusion Hill Bypass.

Jim Flocchini, another of our retirees, passed on at age 84 on October 15, 2004. I saw him and his wife often over the last several years as we managed

to attend many of the same events. He enjoyed many happy years of retirement.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the families and friends of those we've lost. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

— Arlene Hartin

The Haps in District 2

Dan Cherry has asked to be replaced as director in District 2. Dan started helping **Jim Ceragoli** in 1985 and took over before the first of 1996. And **Janet Briggs** would like someone to replace her as secretary. If you volunteer now, Dan can show you the ropes—what little there is to learn. As secretary, all you need to know is how to type. Please, *please* consider volunteering for the director's or secretary's positions.

Here's the news from District 2:

Bev and Ed Dunn – "We have moved back to Sacramento after more than 35 years in Redding. We must have been having a lot of fun because the time has flown by. It seems such a short time ago we bought our house on Pioneer Drive. We will miss Redding and the friends we have made over the 35 years but we are looking forward to being nearer to our family – children, grandchildren, and now great grandchildren as well. Perhaps we can find an excuse to come to a District 2 QCC meeting sometime in the future.



Grace Feuerhelm – "I'm now in travel industry and enjoying some personal travel as well.

Shirley Shoup – "We are leaving in the latter part of December for Lake Havasu City, Arizona for the winter. This will be our 9th year. We returned

from the Oregon Coast the first of October after a summer there.”

Linda McGee – “I’ll spend Christmas in Switzerland this year, then will visit several other countries.”

Joan Murdock – “I have left California for a warmer, less expensive location, but I may attend



QCC functions from time to time. I’ve been doing a lot of traveling—South England in June; Portland, OR, in July; Fire Island, NY, in August, and Orlando, FL in September (Yes, I experienced Hurricane Frances from start to

finish! I prefer earthquakes.) My friend and I will go to San Diego the end of this month; Clearwater, FL, the end of October, and NYC in December to see Rockefeller Center with its Xmas decorations. I’ll sell my house in Susanville and buy a new manufactured home. It has taken much effort to get everything set up and landscaped while doing all this traveling”

Lois Koenig writes: “It’s wonderful to find the QCCer in my mail box. All our trees are red and gold, and there is snow on the mountains in back of my house! I’ve had a busy year, family visits, dropins, gardening, and short trips. And yes, it’s deer and elk season so our little town is full of hunters. I am blessed with friends who give me salmon and wild game; my freezer is full of goodies. Miss going hunting with Cee, it was lots of fun. I am well, very active, and I enjoy life. I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.” (Ed. Note: Lois now lives in Grangeville, ID)

I’ve left the sad news for the last. **Ray Porterfield**, retired Caltrans design engineer, was killed in a car accident on Highway 97 near Weed on September 28. Services were held the following week in Mt. Shasta. He leaves behind his wife, **Virginia**, son **Russ**, daughters **Carol Castle** and **Janice Cable**, brothers **Harold** and **Roger**, mother, **Mary**, seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

I failed to include the passing of **Jim Welch** in the previous publication. His wife, **JoAnn**, writes: “Jim died on March 4, 2004, after battling chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. His family had a long history with Caltrans. His father, District Director in Fresno, and his brother **Bill** both retired from Caltrans. All told, his family put in about 100 years at Caltrans. His and **Chuck Sweet’s** families had about the same number of years. A nice tribute from **Clay Nystrom** was read at the services, and **Joe Atteberry** spoke. Caltrans was well represented and I want to thank one and all for the help and support over these last 14 years.” Jim was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War. He worked in the Right of Way Office and was an expert in right of way matters with the railroad companies.

Orrie "Bert" Hanson, former civil engineer in the District 2 Traffic Office, passed away on December 1 following a long illness. He worked for Caltrans 34 years before retiring and was an expert in his field. Anyone needing an answer could depend on Bert to answer a traffic question or to take care of a problem quickly. Services were held on December 12 at the Pilgrim Congregational Church in Redding. He leaves behind his wife, **Evelyn**, daughter **Jillene Rhyne**, a brother, and several grandchildren. Memorial contributions can be made to Good News Rescue Mission, 2842 S. Market St., Redding CA 96001 or Salvation Army, 2691 Lakspur Lane, Redding, CA 96002.

— Janet Briggs

The Haps in District 3

Ah! The weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas are a frenzied time when everything should have been done yesterday. The District 3 Italian buffet at the Forbes House came and went on October 24 and most would agree we had a great time.

The restaurant used Italy’s national colors, green, white and red in the main diningroom. The pasta,

served from a collection of splendid chrome chafing dishes, was very good. There were even thirds if you had the skinny waist or intestinal fortitude to make three passes at it. The weather was bright and brisk in the courtyard for socializing, but a later breeze made the dining room more attractive. Inside, with so many people knee-to-knee, the camaraderie was even better.

Notables included State President **Butch Biendara** and Secretary/Treasurer **Kim Yarbrough** and their wives, **Leo Trombatore** and wife **Shirley**, and **Howard** and **Betty Lou Paine**. **Irene Itamura** and her husband were unable to attend but sent a check to help cover expenses.

Fourteen or so prizes, including six or seven welcome food items, were awarded to ticket-holders. A 15th will be saved for a future event.

Our QCC members have been busy:

Wy Carter and her husband **Stery** are baseball fans and spent considerable time watching the World Series on TV. "Nanny Wy," as her nephews call her, is kept busy running to baseball and soccer games and to school, as she takes care of the boys most school days. Along with painting the house, Wy and Stery are happy spending several hours a week at church activities, and each morning around 6 am you will find Wy doing the Mall Walk. Wy makes trips each year to visit children in New Jersey and Georgia and is looking forward to next May when one grandchild will graduate from high school and another from college. Wy is also involved with the Retired Public Employees Association.

Brad and Joleen Owens enjoy their home at Sun City Park in Roseville. Joleen takes to the water each day for exercises while Brad plays golf and works as a consultant for URS Engineering. Last May the couple motored cross-country to the East Coast on a 33-day trip. They enjoyed visiting museums and monuments in Washington DC. Earlier they had visited their daughter, **Nancy** in Ghent, Belgium. Using Nancy's home as headquarters, they

had a great time touring Europe and particularly enjoyed the Netherlands. Brad and Joleen plan to return to Belgium in the spring of 2005.

After selling her home in Florida, **Susanna Ford** hopes to be in her new home in Yuba City by February 2005. She spent the summer house-sitting for friends in Citrus Heights, Yuba City and Brookings and Gold Beach, Oregon. The home of **Nile** and **Harriet Ferns** in Brookings was special. A two-week road trip up the coast with granddaughter **Ashley**, age 14, was great fun. They spent many

hours playing in the ocean or shopping. In late November, Susanna flew to Tulsa, Oklahoma to visit **Helen Reno**. They will drive to Nashville, where both have family. **Susanna** will spend Christmas this year with **Jimmy**, daughter **Tammy**, and granddaughters in Elk



Grove.

Nile and **Harriet Ferns** continue to add plants to their lovely yard in Brookings. When not working in the garden, Nile works in the shop he built. He also built a potting shed for Harriet. When not looking at the ocean, Harriet works on her quilting or can be found in front of the computer. Both are excellent cooks and have friends drop by regularly for dinner.

In June, Nile and Harriett flew to Los Angeles to visit Harriet's son, **Pat**, in Huntington Beach. Nile often drives to Clear Lake to visit his brother, and to Squim, Washington to visit his daughter, **Kathy** and two granddaughters. Nile also visits to Yuba City to see daughter **May** and son **Nile Jr.**, who works for Caltrans and lives in Chico. Nile and Harriet often take their two dogs, Max and Buster, in their motorhome to explore new areas on the coast.

Ray and Virginia Winton spent a week at the coast this summer, a gift from their daughter. This gave them a base as they traveled up and down the coast, enjoying the ocean. They spent a day with Virginia's brother and his wife, tasting wine in the Napa Valley. Ray plays golf as much as possible while Virginia takes it easy in front of the TV.

Chiyo Nakagawa, president of the Sutter County Chapter of the Retired Public Employees' Association, recently attended workshops in Reno, where she voted as a delegate to help insure that retiree benefits are protected. After that, she went on to Las Vegas to attend

AARP's national convention where she and her sister were two of the 25,000 who attended. Speakers included Laura Bush, Maya Angelou, Ruth Westheimer, Dave Berry and the comic group, Capital Steps. While Chiyo wasn't acting as a delegate, she got her turn at gambling and broke even.

Bob and Marilyn Mulcahy recently returned from a 16-day trip with **Joan Hanson Prouty** to Italy and Greece, where they did a lot of walking and sightseeing, visited many museums and places of interest, and ate lots of good food. December will mark Bob and Marilyn's 50th wedding anniversary. They continue to travel in their motorhome with a group called the Yuba Buttes RV Club. The group usually has a campout once a month.

Dorothy Leeper leads an active life making porcelain dolls. She travels the US in her motorhome, stopping at doll shows and visiting doll shops. If she needs company, she takes one of her three great-grandchildren with her. She took her 94-year-old mother and her 16-year old daughter east in 1996. She took her mother to Arkansas while her great granddaughter continued on to the Olympics and had a great time. Heading for a recent family reunion in Oklahoma, **Dorothy** traveled Route 66 when she could find it. Most recently, she flew to Knoxville, Tennessee for Thanksgiving to visit her son and family. This is a lady on the go.

Marion Anderson worked for the Division of Highways in 1957-59 and is the wife of **Jack Anderson**, attended the District 3 QC luncheon on October 24th. Marion worked in the Design and Right of Way Engineering departments and helped with the safety bulletin and drew cartoons.

Bill and Lita Wells welcomed their son **Randy** and daughter-in-law **Sina** and their son, who live and work in Finland, to their home in May and June. Lita had visited the kids in Finland in February and plans to return next spring.

In September, Lita spent a week on a genealogy search for information on her paternal grandmother's side, the Bearners, in Columbus, Ohio and West Virginia. She spent a week hiking and kayaking in Rockaway, Washington, staying at an Elder Hostel with room and food provided. She met a number of men and women with similar interests.

When Bill isn't spending time on his model railroad collection, you'll find him reading the Wall Street Journal in the library, one of his favorite haunts.



Sandy Johnson continues to work while husband **Dan** spends time on his many hobbies. Dan, **Bill Malott** and their sons and their sons recently hunted deer in the Chester area, bagging one buck and also fishing at Lake Almanor.

Dan and Sandy take three or four trips a year in their motorhome. This year, they spent 11 days at the Malott Family Fishing Derby. They also travel to car shows where Dan shows his 1931 yellow Ford hotrod. Dan is building a scale model to show with the full size car.

In the fall, Dan and Sandy visited Sandy's sister's grape vineyard in Aromous, California to watch the crushing of the grapes. Tuesday nights you'll find Dan volunteering as bartender at the Yuba City Moose Lodge.

Howard and Betty Lou Paine attended the District 3 CQ luncheon. They live in Sacramento, where Howard volunteers at the Railroad Museum.

Placerville News: Doug Becker and Jerrv Hamm

hosted the annual fall dine-out luncheon on Thursday, October 14th at the Casa Ramos Mexican Restaurant on Mother Lode Drive. Thirty-six attended, including **Doug and Grace Becker, Bill and Barbara Byers, Leroy Carroll, Leno Cruz, Ray and Teresa Day, Max and Delores Dodson, Richard Elliott, Jerry Hamm, Darrell and Joan Hansen, Buck and Wanda Ingram, Al and Delores Lara, Harry Leise, Keith and Barbara Maggini, Dan Mainwaring, J. C. and Barbara Moore, Bill Netto, John Qualls, Bill Sands, Ross and Barbara Shields, Bob and Suzanne Stapley, John Teresi, Martin Urevich, George Wilson and Wally and Dee Yeager.**

Most of those attending reside near Placerville, with the following communities represented: Auburn, El Dorado, Diamond Springs, Ione, Plymouth, Pollock Pines, Sacramento, Shingle Springs, Woodfords and one from as far away as Alaska. Everyone reported the food and service were excellent. Many arrived early and enjoyed the refreshments at the nearby watering hole.

Topics overheard mostly involved events from the past, but also including bringing everyone up to date on the latest happenings in their lives.

The next scheduled get-together will be sometime in the spring most likely around the middle of May, and is likely to involve a potluck at Hansen's Hideaway on Union Ridge Road. As the committee, consisting of Doug Becker, Jerry Hamm and Darrell Hansen, firms up the final plans they will be published in the March issue of the QCCer.

Anyone who hasn't attended one of the prior functions should contact a committee member for information. The committee includes:

- Doug Becker(530) 622-1665
- Jerry Hamm.....(530) 622-8030
- Darrell Hansen.....(530) 622-6255

-Keith Maggini, John Pennebaker and Susanna Ford

Senior With a Big Heart

A tour bus driver is driving a bus full of seniors when a grey-haired lady taps him on the shoulder and offers him a handful of peanuts, which he gratefully munches up.

After about 15 minutes, she taps him on the shoulder again and hands him another handful of peanuts. She repeats this about eight times. At the ninth time the driver asks the lady why she doesn't eat the peanuts herself.

"Oh," she says, "my teeth are so old and poor I can't chew them."

"Then why do you buy them?" he asks, puzzled.

"Oh, I just love the chocolate around them," she replies.

The Haps in District 4

Given the controversy over the cost, design and completion date for the new east span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, it was appropriate for Quarter Century Club member **Harry Yahata** recently to arrange a tour of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge construction. **Andy Fremier**, the District 4 Chief Deputy, set up the tour. I attended along with Quarter Century Club members **Harry Yahata, Bob Graham, Bob Jacobs, Ann Hansen, Jim McCrank, and Glenn Behm.**

The tour began with a briefing on the district's program. Although I've been retired for two years, it was comforting to find that the district is still wrestling with the same problems as when I was there. This was followed by a boat tour of the construction of the East Span skyway. You cannot

experience the size, complexity and scope of the project until you've viewed it from the Bay waters.

We didn't get to see the segment-casting yard in Stockton and had to settle for photos of it. Those in District 10 shouldn't miss a chance to see it and be amazed by the scale of the operation.

The tour ended with a lunch with District Director **Bijan Sartipi** at Brennan's in Berkeley. As I was getting my lunch I was reminded of a Brennan who had worked for me while I was a squad leader in Design. Just then someone approached me and said, "You may not remember me." It was **Neil Brennan**, who used to work for me and who had retired from Caltrans about 10 years ago, visiting from Ireland. Neil was originally from Ireland and returned there after he retired because his wife, **Paprika**, was ill. The hospital care in Ireland was better and less expensive than in the US. I regretted that I didn't have a QCC membership application to hand him. I'll have to start carrying them everywhere. I missed a chance to have an international correspondent for the District 4 Notes.

Harry Yahata and his wife, **Leona**, will make a three-week tour of northern Japan during the first part of November. They had done a three-week tour of southern Japan several years ago and have been looking forward to this tour since then.

Bob and Pat Jacobs took a railroad tour of Civil War Battlefields during the summer. The tour started



on the East Coast and ended on the Gulf Coast.

Bob and Camille Graham will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with their five children and many grandchildren.

Kathy Freeman retired in November after 40 years of state service. She was honored at a retirement luncheon on November 18th.

District 4 Quarter Century Club members were saddened to hear of the death of former District 4 employee **Ray Porterfield** in an automobile accident

on September 28th. The news was passed on to me by QCC member **Max Rothe**. Ray had worked in District 4 until the middle 1970s, when he transferred to District 2. He retired there and was a member of the District 2 Quarter Century Club.

Ray is survived by his wife, **Virginia**, who lives in Mount Shasta; his son, **Rusty**, who also lives with his wife and children in Mount Shasta; and his daughters, **Janice** and **Carol** and their children.

I first met Ray when I rotated through the District 4 Planning department. I'll always remember him, leaning back in his chair with his feet on his desk.

Several years later I worked with **Ray** in Design



where he was responsible for the design of the Route 101/280/680 Interchange during **Adriana Gianturco's** tenure as Caltrans Director. The interchange was scheduled to be built in stages. The first stage, which connected Route 101 to Route 280, was programmed and scheduled for construction. There was some concern that the director wouldn't approve further work on the interchange as she tried to move the department away from construction of new freeways.

It turned out that additional funds were available for the interchange but not enough to provide any new service. I remember Ray working with **Al Phillips**, the HQ coordinator, to add the construction of the span to the first stage of the Route 280/680 northbound connector over Route 101 as a safety measure. Doing it along with the first stage would greatly reduce the time that construction activities would have to take place over traffic. Everyone knew that doing the work at that time would commit the department to completing the interchange, because if it didn't, it would be forced either to leave the span over Route 101 like an arch proclaiming every day that here was unfinished work, or to remove the newly constructed span.

The uncompleted span became a poster child for the unfinished gaps in the state's freeway system and

became known affectionately as "Stonehenge west." As Ray anticipated, the work to complete the interchange did get programmed and it was constructed.

That wasn't the end of the story. Some Bay Area university students, as a prank, placed an automobile on the isolated span. I'm not sure how they did it but it took a crane to get it down. Ray proudly displayed a photo of the car on the span on his office wall.

This uncompleted work was probably the most famous gap closure in the history of the department but the East Span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge it may well supplant its infamy if the governor and legislature are unable to come up with a new funding package and commitment to complete it.

Ed Coble has set up the annual Christmas luncheon at the Basque Cultural Center in December. About 100 retired Caltrans employees and their wives, husbands, loved ones or companions are expected to attend.

Grandfather Ed will bring the latest pictures of his new grandchild for everyone to see.

We've received a note from **Larry Walker**, who worked for District 4 for 40 years before retiring in 1983: Larry married **Barbara Negro** of Soquel on August 14 at St. Joseph's Catholic church in Capitola. The reception was held at DeLavega Golf course. **Gary Saunders** of District 5 and **Ed Costa**, long time friends, were in attendance. Larry and Barbara traveled to Hawaii for their honeymoon. Their home is open to friends at any time.

- Paul Hensley

The Haps in District 5

Happy Holidays! Hope you enjoy health and happiness in 2005. Don't forget to mail your check for the annual QCC dues. It's \$10 per year for those who haven't reached the magnificent age of 80 and become Honorary Members.

The end of November brought record-breaking low temperatures to the county. We even had ice on the birdbath one morning. The finches and sparrows are quickly emptying the feeders, which may indicate a very cold winter ahead.

Now that the elections are finished, we're waiting to learn what the future will hold for Caltrans—will there be funding for projects, or more transfer of gas tax dollars to the General Fund? Only time will tell.

A retrofit project of the HQ Building at 1120 N Street began in November, after General Services completed a seismic evaluation. Construction is scheduled for completion next August, with relocated employees returning to their offices by November 2005. Most of the 250 impacted employees have been accommodated within the HQ building. A seismic retrofit study is also taking place in District 5; soil samples were taken around the yard in October. The old 20 Higuera Street building (formerly R/W) remains closed as a precaution following the 2003 San Simeon quake.

A ceremony was held in late October at the Cold Spring Arch Bridge on Hwy 154 to recognize the structure's designation as a "Historical Civil Engineering Landmark." A handsome monument was unveiled beneath the 700-foot-long arch, constructed in 1964. An article in the Santa Barbara News-Press quoted **Fred Yoshino**, resident engineer, and **R.L. Whitaker**, project designer, on the significance of the structure and the special techniques involved in the construction. On your next trip to Santa Barbara, you may want to detour down Stagecoach Road to view the plaque and take a break at Cold Spring Tavern.

Congratulations to former D-5 Director **Jay Walter** on his promotion to the position of Director of Public Works for the City of San Luis Obispo in November. Jay left Caltrans in 2001 to accept the deputy DPW position at the city.



The annual D-5 Holiday BBQ is scheduled for December 9 at the San Luis Obispo Elks Club. We'll have a report in the next QCC. Hope many of you were able to attend and enjoy the famous BBQ

prepared by **Bill Fieldhouse** and his gang

Our first Christmas card always comes from **Bill Cotnam**, full of news and a photo or two. Bill will visit Bangkok, his favorite city, at the end of December. He has also been to San Antonio and Las Vegas, and made his yearly visits to Lompoc, Fortuna, and the Mid-State Fair. When he's not traveling or taking photos, Bill continues to support the sports program at SLO High School. He calculates he has spent the equivalent of 21 days watching games, three days traveling to them, and 6,904 miles going to them. WOW! He has been honored twice as Grand Marshal for homecoming and was also Booster of the Year.

Dick and Sandy Elliott are anticipating a special Christmas gift this year—the arrival of a grandchild from daughter **Karen**. **Bruce and Diane Ward** will also have a new addition to the family with their next grandbaby coming in May.

Rene Foster reports that he is keeping busy singing with several choral groups and taking art classes.



We learned from **Betty Strampe** that **Bob and Bud Horton** surprised everyone by leaving their home in Shell Beach for Kingman, AZ to stay with family for a while and experience life away from the Pacific. If anyone hears from the Horton brothers, please share the news.

With **Al Ingram** retiring from Traffic Census at the end of December, the district is looking for

another engineer to keep track of traffic count information and equipment.

Sally and Ralph Jester spent Thanksgiving in Las Vegas, enjoying the pleasant accommodations and delicious meals at the Hilton. Sally said they came home with more in their pockets than when they left, which is always nice.

Bruce Langford was hospitalized in late November with a heart problem and is now convalescing at home under wife **Donna's** watchful eye. A card or phone call would be appreciated.

Jerry Laumer stopped by the district office for a visit. He and **Pat** returned from their New York home when the weather turned cold and are keeping busy in Sacramento with fitness classes and social activities. They visited friends and family this summer in Washington and Oregon and are planning trips to Las Vegas and Hawaii in the coming months.

Ken Miller is recovering from knee surgery and hoping to return to the golf course soon.

With these cold days, **Doug Mitchell** says he's working on indoor projects and thinking about a cruise next spring

Judy and Lyle Yager celebrated their 20th anniversary with a special dinner at Rosa's Ristorante in Pismo Beach, followed by dessert and entertainment at their home. We were privileged to be included in the large group of friends and family who gathered to honor them.

The **Copelands** spent a week on Maui in October with a small group of Caltrans golfers, including **Ranell and F. J. Bailey**. We hadn't been to the island for 10 years, and we noticed new resorts and shopping areas along the highway to Kapalua. We can report that the highway has been improved, and it's a smooth ride along the ocean. Traffic moves well in spite of the road's having only two lanes and a 45-mph speed limit.

I'm sorry to report that we lost a special lady, **Joan Peterson**, on September 9. Joanie worked in various offices in Administration prior to retirement, and she was known for her sense of humor and love of music. She and her husband **Ralph** had also served

as missionaries on the Navajo Reservation in Gallup, New Mexico.

Barbara Walters of 60 Minutes did a story on gender roles in Kabul several years before the Afghan conflict. She noted that women customarily walked about 5 paces behind their husbands.

Ms. Walters returned to Kabul recently and observed that women now walked even farther behind their husbands, but now seemed to be happy with the custom. She approached a Afghani woman and asked, "Why do you now seem happy with an old custom you tried so much to change?"

"Land mines," the woman said.

The Haps in District 6

Here is the story of **Barney and June Deeter's** trip to London. Barney:

"We had a great time. Our **London Theatre Odyssey** in September was the 60th that has been offered by the Travel Shoppe in Fresno. This trip is presented in September and January through the Educational Development Association, International School. The tutors were Professor Tom Wright, who directed the "New Wrinkles" productions at City College until his retirement this year, and Dr. Phil Walker.

"We left San Francisco on Virgin Atlantic Airways September 8th and, after an eight-hour flight, landed at London's Heathrow Airport. A bus took us to the Mountbatten Hotel in the Seven Dials section of Covent Garden, London. The section was a notorious slum in the 1600s until it was rehabilitated

in 1690. The hotel and surrounding buildings were very nice—old, but very nice.

"On Thursday September 9th, Dr. Walker took us on a walking tour to familiarize us with the area. This was followed by a reception and buffet. The following morning, we received our tickets to the eight plays and listened to a review of the program by theatre critic Ruth Leon, daughter-in-law of the actor, Robert Morley. In the afternoon, the tutors escorted the group to the National Theatre for a tour of the theatre after which we saw the play, "The Night Seasons." A feature of the tour was to bring in an actor or actress from the previous night's play to discuss it the following morning.

"The next play was 'Democracy' at the Wyndhams Theater, about the reign of Willie Brandt, Chancellor of West Germany in 1969. On Sunday, 'The Elephant Vanishes' played at the Barbican Theatre. June and I opted out and went on a sightseeing tour instead. Much of the area destroyed during WWII has since been rebuilt, with little evidence of the war's destruction. The RAF Chapel was not destroyed but still shows many hits, which have not been repaired.

"The Tower of London, once a prison, is not a single tower but a huge complex. It now houses some of the Queen's jewels. London is a beautiful city with many buildings from the 1600s and 1700s. We visited Buckingham Palace but didn't see the Queen as the gates were locked. The day after our visit a man dressed as Batman scaled the palace wall and was

arrested. 'Robin' was waiting below for him. When we passed 10 Downing Street, a huge crowd was protesting a House of Commons proposal to ban fox hunting. Some of the protesters later broke in and fought with members of Parliament over the issue.



The Thames River is nice but very dirty. We saw the cathedral, now being restored, where Prince Charles and Diana were married. I don't want to overlook 'Big Ben.' Tour buses pass it about six times on any tour.

"The next play at the National Theatre was 'Stuff Happens,' a play that takes its theme from speeches and comments of the Bush administration justifying the Iraqi war. Adjoa Andon, the very articulate actress who portrays Condoleeza Rice, discussed it at our hotel the next morning.

Instead of attending the next play at the Globe Theatre, 'Measure for Measure,' June and I went to see Agatha Christie's 'Mousetrap,' which was on its 25,840th performance. At the end of the play, an actor swears the audience to secrecy.

On September 15th, we attended the Playhouse Theatre to see 'Journey's End,' a very moving play about a British command post just before the Germans overran it during World War II.

"On Thursday, the group journeyed to Tunbridge Wells, about 80 miles from London, for a nice dinner, then on to the Trinity Theatre to see 'The Chairwoman.'

"June had left her medication at home so she contacted a local doctor to obtain a prescription. The doctor, dressed to the nines and with her little black bag and stethoscope, blood pressure equipment, etc., reminded me of the Chinese actress, Anna May Wong. After she left June said, "Since today is your birthday, how did you like your birthday gift? Wasn't she gorgeous?" That evening we went out to a wonderful dinner at a Chinese Restaurant dinner with some close friends.

"On Saturday, September 18th, June and I went to the Queen's Theatre to see 'Les Miserables,' about idealistic French students and the treatment of a prisoner by the French authorities. The music was superb.

"On Sunday, September 19th, we went by taxi to Westminster Cathedral for Sunday services. As we drove to the cathedral, traffic stopped for vehicles of the royal family. Our driver, who wasn't thrilled with

the interruption, said this happens frequently, not just for the royal family but also for visiting dignitaries. Westminster Cathedral was beautiful. June and I took the 'lift' to the top of the tower. The view of London from there was spectacular.

"The day before we left for home I went on another tour to take pictures of the Tower of London, the Tower Bridge, London Bridge and a few churches, which are beautiful. Afterward I went shopping at the Tower of London's gift shop. As I left the shop, it was pouring rain with gusty winds so my picture taking was over. This was the hardest rain we had during our 12-day visit. Most of the time we had great weather.

"That night we opted out of 'Brighton Rock,' a musical drama. As our sojourn in London was nearly over, we were tired and wanted to make sure not to miss the bus the next morning to the airport and our 10-hour flight to San Francisco. We'd had a great time but we were glad to return home.

June's Version:

"After reading Bamey's article for the QCCer, I realized my version of the trip was different. I felt that I had been in my own version of the TV program 'Touched by an Angel!'

"As I have breathing problems because of a partly missing lung, I must stop often to catch my breath. Because of this, we didn't attend all of the plays or tours, but it led to other adventures!

"I was touched by several meetings. Coming out of the play 'Democracy', we found ourselves in a crowd of Britney Spears fan look-a-likes. We had been warned about pickpockets, and I knew a 70-year old couple would stand out in a beer-drinking, smoking, spike-haired, tattooed, miniskirted crowd! The hotel was only four blocks away, but we didn't know which way. As we picked our way through the crowd at a busy intersection, I spotted a couple from our group who immediately became "our guardian angels" and walked us safely to our hotel!

"As we were getting on the bus to Tunbridge Wells, I lost my watch but the tour guide found it and returned it to me. (My guardian angels were seated

private tour of an English Garden behind a very old private home because I was standing next to Mr. Guardian Angel. As the group went on, I met a four-year old, blonde, blue eyed little girl who sang the alphabet song to me in a delightful English accent.

“When we boarded the 747 for home, I knew it would be a safe flight because Mr. and Mrs. Guardian Angel were assigned the seats directly behind us.

“As we were the last ones off the plane at San Francisco due to my needing wheelchair assistance we faced customs on a very long walk in an empty corridor staring at about 10 armed police.

“I related our adventure to my daughter by cell phone on our trip home. My four-year old grandson sang the Alphabet Song to me in an American accent! I believe this was my own version of Touched by an Angel.”

This scribe had a wonderful retirement luncheon on September 17th. Many retired friends whom I hadn't seen in some time showed up. There were too many to name all of them but they included **Bob Tsubota, Ken Walsh, Don McKenzie, Abe Paregian, Koke Uyeno, Grace Aitken, Mary Berg, Kay Chessman, Jane Suo, Fred and Doris Rayburn, Chester & Thelma Sohm, my uncle Ken Cartwright with wife Alma, Monte and Jane Berry, Roy Anderson, Virgle Ray, Barney Sano, Roy Anderson, Dick Nakagawa, Ray Becker, Ted Winter, Jim Exum, Carolyn Landy, Jim West, Annabelle Hlywa, Irwin Rosa, John Wright, Lee Halderman, Ed Hokokian, Vicki Warner, George Meyers, Perry Coy, Glenn Mills, and John Mohn.**

Retiring for me has been like running really fast in a hamster wheel, then having someone shove a stick into it and coming to a crashing halt. It has been hard to get used to but I have already been on a short cruise to Vancouver and Victoria, which was absolutely beautiful. I have visited family in Manhattan Beach and Texas and I'm now writing



this from Roseburg Oregon, where I'm visiting my father. In February, I will visit my son in Honolulu and stay as long as I like. I'm going to like retirement.

Other District 6 retirees this season will include:

Kim Waltersheid on November 19th

Josie Rendon on December 15th

Ted Haynish on December 17th (46 years)

Daniel Douglas Howell, age 86, died September 13 in Bakersfield. He was born on December 19, 1917 in Texasville, Alabama. His family relocated to California when Douglas was nine years old. He received his education in Glendale and the University of Nevada in Reno.

During WWII, Douglas served in Europe with the 101st General Hospital as a supply sergeant. He started his career with the Division of Highways in 1946 and was a resident engineer on several highway projects in Kern and Tulare counties. He was headquartered in Bakersfield until his retirement on in 1972. He and his wife enjoyed photography, traveling and sightseeing, visiting 49 of the 50 United States and all of the Canadian border provinces.

Mr. Howell is survived by his wife of 52 years, **Mary Hevron Howell**; nieces **Suzanne Ostermann** of Los Angeles, and **Linda Otis** of Montrose; nephew **James Douglas Otis** of Grand Junction, CO; and numerous members of the Hevron family. He was loved and respected and will be deeply missed. At his request, there were no services.

Just a heads up, our spring luncheon will be **Thursday, May 19th** at the **Piccadilly Inn at the Airport**. I'll send a flyer out before then.

Also, for anyone who would like to show up, we will meet at the **Santa Fe Basque Restaurant** on Maroa, south of Shields, for lunch on **Thursday, January 20th**. The table bell rings at 12:30 pm. Pay the bartender ahead of that time.

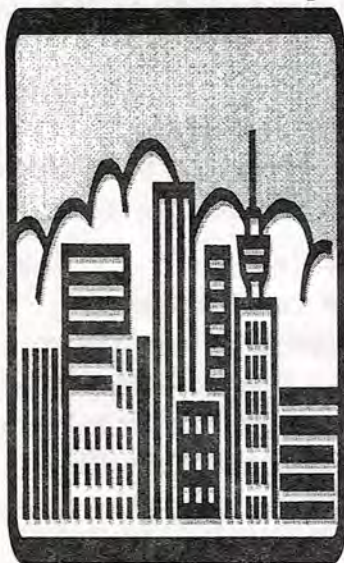
Have a joyous Christmas, and may you all be blessed this season.

— Terry Littleton

The Haps in District 7

Your QCC Secretary just returned from his annual visit to New York. The period between Thanksgiving and the New Year is a grand time to visit New York. Walking up Fifth Avenue from Grand Central Station to Central Park is a wonderful experience, as is walking along the Coney Island boardwalk. Having a drink at the bar in the Plaza Hotel is great, as is having a drink at Snooky's Pub in Park Slope in Brooklyn.

Something unusual is always happening in New York. For the past eleven years, two red-tailed hawks have been nesting atop one of the apartment buildings on Fifth Avenue across from Central Park. During this time, the birds have produced 23 baby hawks.



Watching these birds has been a joy for bird watchers from around the world.

Earlier this week, the nest was destroyed at the request of the management of the building. The birds are all right, but are homeless. You know what they say about finding a home in Manhattan, "It ain't

easy, and it ain't cheap." The destruction of the hawks' nest has created a firestorm among bird watchers and ordinary New Yorkers, and has dominated the news in New York.

It is with sadness that I report the passing of **Ira Zipperman** and **Dan Goble** on October 15th. Both were retired. We extend our condolences to their families.

—Wally Rothbart

The Haps in District 8

Eighteen retired Caltrans ladies met at the Mexico Café on September 8th to exchange memories and socialize. **Connie Sanford**, who was in Kanab, Utah, E-mailed to express her regrets that she couldn't attend. We also missed **Hope Sandoval** and **Beverly Hines**, who were visiting the Grand Canyon. We dedicated our meeting to **Rita Gonzales**, who passed away recently.

Hostesses **Janice Feenstra** and **Betty Ordway** greeted everyone and thanked them for coming.

Items of Interest: **Frances Jacques** is trying to clear 40 years of accumulation in her home. **Eleanor Campbell** was on her way with brother to visit in Pennsylvania and New York. **Linda Salmond**, who returned recently from a trip to Alaska, reported that she just bought her mom's home and is decorating it. **Diana Barich** enjoys the group and is busy with photography and church activities. **Carolyn Johns** still volunteers at Redlands Community Hospital and takes AARP trips. **Erma Aldape** exercises at the Highland Senior Center and keeps busy. **Connie Keefer** is planning a trip, complete with two doggies, to Mississippi to visit husband **Carl's** relatives.

Margie Hobbs is building a new home near Hemet. She recently traveled to Texas to visit another retiree, **Marian Bell**, who now lives in Barstow. **Mary Bermudez** is busy making rosaries and is a docent at a historical home in Ontario. **Clarice Richards** just visited Ghana for the second time. **Jennie Granado** is volunteering at the Hutton Center in Colton. **Angel Thompson** is busy with her new "Seal-a-Meal" and is freezing all the vegetables and goodies from **Walt's** garden. And **Marsha Lotze** is still enjoying her retirement and working on her hobbies. A great visit was had by all. We'll meet again in the spring.

A great thank you goes to **Grace Vinzens** in writing down what we all have been doing.

A follow-up on **Ed Gritters**, who had a serious boating accident last summer: the accident broke five of his ribs, each at two places, so that they were "flailing ribs." For three weeks the doctors said that they would heal on their own. After 10 of those three weeks spent in the hospital, he was finally sent home. At his one-week checkup August 25, they told him that they would have to do surgery to wire the ribs together. The doctors found that the ribs had overlapped at the break (put your fingertips together and then slip them past each other to see what the break was like), and one lung had herniated between the overlapped bones. He didn't have a punctured lung but they did have to repair some of the lung that the ribs had damaged. Ed has about a 12-inch incision from his side to his backbone. Thankfully, he has recovered and was well enough to drive home to California from Minnesota after a recuperative period.



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Wes and Linda Grimes took an 8,000-mile summertime motor home trip through part of the USA, visiting family and friends from Denver to Atlanta and points between. They also took a Caribbean cruise and toured much of Florida during November.



Gary Mayer spent time installing a new well on his desert property. He now sports a "good" well, replacing an old one that had collapsed.

Paul Bisnett retired in late October after a 40-year career in Surveys, Construction, Environmental Studies, Right of Way Engineering and Utilities Relocation. Paul plans to get in lots of dune buggy time near Glamis and traveling.

Janet Crosby Lipscomb left Caltrans in September, relocating to Georgia with hubby **Willie**. Janet started in 1983, worked in Right of Way

Utilities, Engineering, Design, Materials, Surveys and Construction. Best Wishes to Paul and Janet.

Thirty-two former coworkers of **Roy Smoot** held a get-together to at Nena's on October 19, 2004 to swap stories and remember the good old days. Roy retired from Riverside County but earlier had spent many years at the Division of Highways and Caltrans.

Roy, **Hal Lee** and **Taylor Smith** spoke of the 60/91 Interchange in Riverside. Taylor thought he might have been the only resident engineer to both build an interchange and then watch it being demolished.

Among the meet and greeters at our Tri-Annual Luncheon were **Dick Barrett**, who retired from the AAA Club (tried to get a flu shot), **Ed Gritters**, who looked fine even though he was recovering from his ribs injuries; **Tom and Barbara Dwiggin**s, who will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary this month; **Wes and Linda Grimes**, who have been traveling since retiring; **Tek Tanaka**, **Evie Anderson** (retired from Sacramento), and **Ernie and Kay Parke**, who are planning another trip.

Also attending were **Pat and Alice Patterson**; **Loren Barnett**, our senior member, next to **Dwiggin**s; **Maxine Nelson**, widow of **Art Nelson**; **Eleanor Campbell**; **Beverly Hines**; **Randy Sosa**; **Katie and Taylor Smith**; **Roy and Wanda**



Smoot, now living in Santa Clara, Utah; **Pat Leatherberry**; **Bill Feenstra**, and **Jeanette and Gil Daab**, all of whom are enjoying retirement; **Meribah Small**; **Grace Vinzens**, who still volunteers at Caltrans; **Otis Clopton**, a former janitor who now has his own Engineering Company; **Pat Leatherberry**, who brought visitors from Washington; **Don Weaver**; **Les Franz**, and **Bob Redden**, who still works as an expert witness when needed. **Dutch Miller** said he was glad to be a part of things.

As always, the gang was ready for a get-together.

They say that 50% of all marriages end in divorce. That's not as bad as it sounds, considering that the other 50% end in death.

QCC Director **Taylor Smith** and **Katie** had driven to Sun City to present **Ted Sheld** belatedly with his honorary membership certificate in October (three years late). Ted started in Maintenance in 1948 under **Joe Holt** at Lake Elsinore, retiring from there in 1980. Ted's wife **Nelda** has suffered a series of mini-strokes and is in a care facility. They have been married 65 years. This past summer Ted, a combat infantryman in the Philippines, and his son attended the dedication of the new W.W.II Veterans Memorial on the Mall in Washington, DC.

George Gary reports that at age 88 he is still doing land surveys in Desert Hot Springs. **Helen** is incapacitated and requires full time care at their home. George hopes to attend the QCC Christmas Party.

Theresa "Tess" Dill, widow of **Robie Dill**, writes that she enjoys the QCCer. She moved to Bothell, Washington in 1988 to be near her sons. Her son **Forrest** and daughter-in law have remodeled their home so that Tess has her own apartment and can do her own things. She has given up driving and finds it inconvenient not to be able to drive.

Jean Griffith, **Stan Griffith's** widow, is relocating to Santa Clarita to be closer to her daughter. She has lived in her present home in Riverside for 45 years and is finding it difficult to sort through her possessions and select which ones to move. It is especially trying, as she no longer drives.

Johnnie Hughes was hospitalized at Kaiser in Fontana in mid November for reoccurrence of leukemia. At this time he is uncertain what treatment he will receive. In September Johnnie and wife **Mary** moved from Pinion Hills, where they had lived for 16 years, to the Sierra Vista Independent and Assisted Living Complex in Victorville. They are very pleased with the complex. Mary will have knee surgery as soon as it can be scheduled.

We are saddened to report on the loss of several retired District 8 employees.

Rose Bailey Litchfield, who worked in accounting in the 1950s, passed away in April 2004. We hope to have more details in the next newsletter

Clara Ringland, **Dwight Ringland's** wife, has died at 81. Dwight passed away in January 2002. Clara's services were held at Atchison and Graham Garden of Prayer Mortuary in Riverside on November 1.

Evie Anderson recently received information that **Bill Metz** and **Jack Sisson** had passed away. Jack, who worked in the Design Departments in the district, died at San Juan Capistrano on September 3rd at the age of 76. Jack had left the district in the mid 1960s to work for the World Bank.

Bill Metz passed away on August 26th at Surprise, Arizona at the age of 78. We remember and admire him for his work as an illustrator in District 08 and in particular for his illustrations in the district's publication, "Profiles." He transferred to headquarters in the early 1960s and retired in 1985 as the department's Chief of Graphic Services.

Here's something for thought:

SIDE EFFECTS

by R.H. Greenville

So much to do...

What next to do?

The more I think about it,

The when and the what to do...

It's not so much what I've got to do,

As thinking about it...

That wears me out...

— Marsha Lotze

Three friends from the local congregation were asked, "When you're in your casket, and friends and congregation members are mourning over you, what would you like them to say?"

Ed said: "I would like to hear I was a wonderful husband and family man, a spiritual leader, and the best third baseman who ever played in Springfield."

John said: "I would like them to say I was a wonderful teacher and servant of God who made a huge difference in people's lives."

Don: "I'd like them to say, 'Look, he's moving!'"

The Haps in District 9

Not a lot to report this time. I missed the last three lunches at Whiskey Creek in Bishop so there isn't any info from that source. I have been working on the new house getting ready for the insulation installers and now the dry wall guys. The only E-mail info comes from **John and Mary Ritter's** daughter, who forwarded their E-mails came from Australia.

John Nakken and **Jim Kemp** bowl Wednesday evenings so we know they're doing fine. **Linda Kemp** is going through chemotherapy and isn't too peky. **Jim Strong** visited the Kemps last month. Jim and **Mikki** drove down from Montana so Mikki could teach a class at the hospital.

Bob Marsh is busy working the slot machines at the Indian Casino. The casino has a free competition where a person plays for 15 minutes and the person who gets the highest score wins some money. He stops by to give us an update occasionally.

I hope **John and Mary Ritter** will report in the future about their trip to Australia, New Zealand and Fiji that will be more complete. Their trip, which they enjoyed thoroughly, lasted several weeks and pretty much covered Australia.

-Lance Hinek

The Haps in District 10

The **Biffels, Bob and Ardyth**, visited the northeast for viewing of the fall colors. "We also toured around the Bay of Fundy and Waterford," they report. "The tides come and go, about 26 feet at Hopewell. We also managed two train rides, one on the cog wheel system to the top of Mt. Washington and the second on a ride from Conway up through Crawford Notch on a lumber

train. Another item was the reversing falls on the St. John River in New Brunswick. The falls are really just a reversing gradient caused by forcing the St. John River through a notch and having a 20-foot tide."

Elton and Pat Fletcher drove across the country on I-80 (side trip to Niagara) then returned on U.S. 50. This completed their travel to every state. "**Jack Cropper's** US 50 is a wonderful but crowded highway," they report.

The **Dean Colemans** celebrated 50 years of marriage in April with a cruise to Spain and Portugal. And after a six-week trip to Wisconsin and points between, they traveled to Mississippi.

Tony Segovia reports that his wife had a hip replacement about two years ago and still has pain. Further, she had an appendectomy a couple months ago, rendering Tony a househusband who hasn't been out of town for some time.

Ron Lesan is still looking for a trash pump—preferably a diaphragm type. Get in touch with Ron at rlesan@myway.com

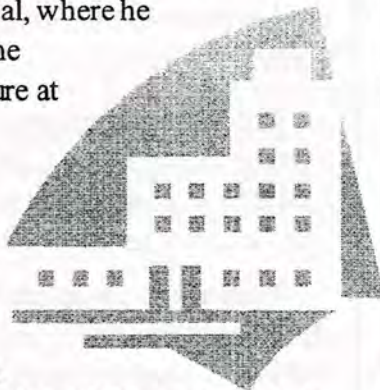
Dick Mesa reports that the three-month remodel of his house has entered the eighth month, but there is light at the end of the tunnel... wait a minute ... no tunnel was in the plans! He also took time to share a story from the past. Incidentally Dick and his wife moved out of their house during some of the work, but still hosted the 50th reunion of his high school class in his back yard in early October.

District 10 lore by Dick Mesa:

"**George Murphy** was a friend of mine. He since passed on, but he was the funniest guy I ever knew. We worked together in construction, first converting Highway 99 to freeway between the Calaveras River and Hamey Lane near Lodi and then on the new Route 124 between Ione and Waites Station. George and I roomed together in a modest apartment in Jackson while we were doing the Ione job.

“One Wednesday night I returned to Stockton to pick up supplies at the district office, leaving George alone overnight. George was prone to severe allergy problems. I had watched him put compresses on his forehead and take allergy medication many a night. This particular night his sinuses were really bad. He just couldn't get relief, so he continued to take his pills until he overdosed.

“They found George unconscious the next day and took him to a hospital, where he slept off the effects of the medication. The procedure at that time was to send suspected suicides to Stockton State Hospital for 72 hours for observation. I knew George had no intention of committing suicide. I also knew that if he didn't have his cigarettes, he just might change his mind. So I visited him in the lock-up and took him enough cigarettes to tide him over.



“At the end of the visit, I asked George to call the attendant to let me out. At first he refused, saying that if he had to stay then I ought to also. Finally he called the attendant, with whom he was on a first-name basis, and asked him to let me out. As we were walking to the door, George leaned over and whispered to the attendant, "How about letting me out too?"

“The attendant said, ‘C'mon George, you know I can't do that.’”

“To that, George replied, ‘If you let me out, the next time I think I'm Governor Brown, I'll give you a raise!!’ I just shook my head. ”

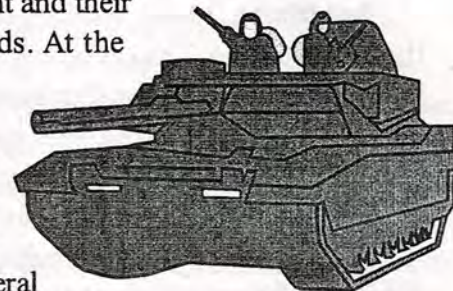
Bert Clark reports, “After selling our trailer last year we made plans for an extended vacation this year. There was an 82nd Airborne Division Association convention in Reno that I was not going to miss.

“We made our plans to leave right after that and spend some time with **Kathleen's** family in England,

take a tour of Ireland, then a cruise up the Rhine River and be in the Netherlands September 17 for the 60-year commemoration of the airborne drop at Nimegen, and the crossing of the Waal River. That was fine until our youngest grandson informed us that he was getting married September 11. Then our daughter informed us that she was getting married in the latter part of September. That shot our plans all to pieces.

“Since I wanted to be in the Netherlands, Kathleen decided that it did not allow her time even to stop by England to say hello to her family, so I was to go by myself. Then our daughter changed her date to the middle of October. That still did not give us enough time for what we had planned.

“Between 1,300 and 1,500 veterans and their families attended the 82nd Airborne Division Association convention in Reno. Two banquets were held, one for the 250 veterans of the 504 Parachute Infantry Regiment and their families and friends. At the banquet on Saturday, after some history of the activities of the division, the commanding general asked the actual combat veterans present to stand. Only about 75 of us stood up.



It was a very interesting few days and it gave us old timers a chance to get together and reminisce. I met one man that I had not seen in 60 years.

“We spent three days in Folsom and watched our youngest grandson get married on September 11, then celebrated our 58th Anniversary on the 12th. I left for Holland on the 14th. My nephew, who works for Delta Airlines, joined me in Amsterdam and went to Nimegen with me. At Nimegen, we visited a monument on the north side of the river where we had landed 60 years ago. We had several memorial lunches and services and even one parade.

“The airborne drop into Nimegen was commemorated on the 17th of September. On the 20th, the crossing of the Waal River to secure the

road and railroad bridges was re-enacted, using three Army Ducks instead of the 11-man canvas boats we used in the original crossing—a far cry from the originals. An article about this year's event that appeared in the Army Stars and Stripes referred to me twice, once with my camera ready to take a picture; the second time the reporter referred to me as a "retired California civil engineer." I don't know where he got that, as I was always in Maintenance. This year, by their accounts, only six of us who attended were in the actual crossing 60 years ago. All in all it was a very interesting and enjoyable week. The Dutch people in Nimegen are very friendly and show the highest respect to the 82nd Division veterans.

I returned home September 22nd to prepare for our daughter's wedding on October 16."

— Brian Young

The Haps in District 11

Some people have asked about the make-up of the Retired Old Men Eating Out, or ROMEOS. Here's what we've learned: many years ago it was started by **Norm Dilly** and **Sam Solomon** as a *men-only, engineers-only, invitation-only* breakfast. Since **Norm** and **Sam** are no longer with us, an informal question was put to those at last month's breakfast and got an overwhelming response: none of the restrictions was considered relevant.

So, gentlemen and **Ladies**, whether your work classification was in Administration, Engineering, Environmental, Landscape, Maintenance, Planning, Right-Of-Way, Traffic or other, consider this your invitation, (though not required) to join the group for a casual



breakfast. Even QCC membership is not required. ROMEOS meet on the third Wednesday of every month at the Denny's restaurant at the corner of Jackson Drive and Fletcher Parkway.

Members start showing up at about 8 am with a time to order at 8:30 and are usually going out the door at about 9:30 or 10:00. There is no agenda or program save for last month's short informal polling of what the make-up is supposed to be. The back room is reserved for the group and you order from the menu and pay for your own meal. There were only a dozen empty seats last month so a large showing next time may fill the room to standing room only (new restriction?)

There is usually no attendance roster but those who enjoyed the friendly chatter, story telling, laughter and reminiscing in November were **Vince Barsi, Glen Berry, Butch Biendara, Jack Blackburn, Joe Bramante, Dean Brown, Al Ceck, Bill Dotson, Bob Findlay, Ray Granstedt, Tom Hardison, Ralph Loveland, John Lyons, Tarbell Martin, Dave Moody, Jack Perry, John Reeder, Roy Riesgo, (newly retired), John Riesing, John Sage, Jimmy Wiggins, and Bob Young**. With that impressive gallery of wisdom and experience you know that there was a high level of energy and we'll be looking to see you there next time.

Upcoming QCC Winter Banquet — January 27 is the date for the QCC Winter Dinner Banquet at Tom Ham's Lighthouse restaurant. That's a Thursday night in order to save some cost over the higher weekend rates. Mark your calendar now and look for the sign-up notice coming soon with your annual membership renewal letter. And even if you can't make the dinner, don't toss the whole letter, but be sure to send your renewal form and check.

George Gray and **Benita** had an active summer, starting with a two-week "getting to know you again" fishing trip to northern California in July with their fifth and youngest grandson. It's a family tradition to observe each grandson's 14th year with a trip during the summer before he enters high school.

"A much longer eight-week trip to the United Kingdom followed," George says, "beginning with a house exchange to Larbert, Scotland. Larbert is a wonderful location to visit the highlands and the lowlands since it is centrally located. We visited Glasgow, Newcastle, Inverness, Aberdeen, Loch Lomond (Rob Roy country), Stirling (Robert the Bruce and William Wallace country), and Dunfermline (where five Scottish kings reigned and the home of St. Margaret)." George and Benita then spent a week in Edinburgh, where they investigated the genealogy of their Scottish roots.

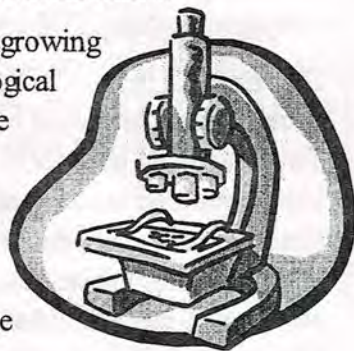
After Scotland, George and Benita journeyed to London. Their first house exchange was in west London near Kew Gardens and the National Archives, where they collected historical and genealogical information. They report they are acquiring a nice collection of records pertaining to their ancestors from the archives, some in Latin and others in Old English. The last two weeks were in their third house exchange in Islington, just north of the facilities of the Society of Genealogists, one of their favorite spots for genealogical research where they made the most of the short commute.

On September 11 they traveled to Southampton and boarded the Queen Mary 2 for a leisurely and pleasant cruise to New York City. After a brief stay in Rhode Island, they returned home.

George reports the growing use of DNA in genealogical studies and that anyone can use the free program by the Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation of Salt Lake City by contacting

<http://www.smgf.org>. A commercial firm can be contacted as <http://www.familytreedna.com>. The original organization doing this work at Oxford University is at <http://www.oxfordancestors.com>.

A slightly related item is **Tarbell Martin's** story at the November ROMEOS breakfast that he has traced some of his family back to 600 BC and



beyond. For some, that much history might turn up some scary surprises along the way.

If you haven't been to Old Town recently you'll be amazed at the progress on the new district office. It's quite impressive—even overwhelming, I might say—and should be a great improvement on the current one with staff scattered across so many locations. Parking is terrible with so many streets blocked off and lots closed, so it's a good idea to get there early on a weekday morning.

In an attempt to keep more timely information flowing to those who are interested, District 11 has an informal E-Mail newsgroup, which broadcasts news on projects, promotions or other news of what's going on in the district. There are a few variations in the level of service, but if you are interested, E-Mail butchbiendaral944@hotmail.com.

Memorials for D-11 are:

Richard F. Barlow, 9-19-04,

Patty Yates, 9-22-04

Bill Cross, 9-04

*Inside every older person is a younger person --
wondering what the hell happened.*

-Cora Harvey Armstrong

The Haps in Central

As always, the Central District's annual BBQ on September 9 was a great success. As **Jack Derby** reports, we had a great group of about 85 people at the picnic; the food was good and the company superb. A little delta breeze cooled things down nicely. We thank **Jeanne** and **Dave Theobald** for arranging use of the beautiful College Greens Swim and Racquet Club facilities. Thanks also to **Bob Geiss** for helping our director, **Dick Petrie**, get everything ready for the enthusiastic attendees.

We can attest that **Kim Yarbrough** is up and running as the new QCC Statewide Secretary/Treasurer. Thanks, Kim, for the quick response to our request for mailing labels.

Our annual holiday dinner is December 8, but in keeping with our "missed the deadline" theme, members' messages will be in the March 2005 QCCer. Following is news shared in September:

Don and Wilma Watson – "Our 2004 travel included a Mexican Riviera cruise in January, a visit to Pennsylvania and New Jersey to see relatives in June, and a week in Las Vegas in August to recover money spent on earlier trips. We'll cruise the Caribbean in November after the hurricane season."

Dick and Louise Ginsberg – "Just home from our annual trip to the Northwest. Dick caught six salmon while fishing with **John Burris** in Florence, Oregon but the sturgeon season was already over. We're off to Arkansas the end of this month for a reunion of Louise's family and will then spend a week in Branson where she was born. We'll take in some shows and renew acquaintances with relatives."

Jack and Ann Kassel – "Spent a great week in Santa Cruz in June with our kids and grandkids in a beachfront rental to celebrate our 55th anniversary. We enjoyed the cool weather and the kids enjoyed surfing. We're going on a river cruise in October – Eastern Europe to the Black Sea on the Danube."

Gary and Julie Bush – "We're on the move again after spending a quiet summer at home working on our landscaping Niagara Falls, here we come! We'll exchange our Tahoe time-share for a place in Barrie, Ontario Canada, our home base for 10 days. We will celebrate our 41st wedding anniversary while in Canada. In December it's off on a cruise leaving from Ft. Lauderdale and going to the Western Caribbean for 10 days through New Year's. It was great seeing the retirees at the BBQ. The brisket was superb!"

Jim and Earlene Borden – "We had a busy summer. Had much company, then each of the three grandchildren from San Jose for a week. Then we had the two from here for several days while Mom

arranged for day care (nanny had quit). **Jim** went to Alaska on a six-day fishing trip and brought home a freezer full of halibut and salmon. We are leaving next week on a trip to Oregon and Washington. See you all in December."

Jim and Emily-Ann Standley – "In June we visited Mt. Shasta and had dinner on the train out of McCloud – a gourmet four-course dinner eaten while winding around the mountain. A great trip. On the way home we visited the 'Sundial Bridge' in Redding – a work of art."

Jack and Ellen Derby – "Jack got back from a pleasant trip to Alaska where he got several halibut – one weighed 98 pounds. Ellen is in Las Vegas with her pal, **Nancy McClelland**. Jack tries to play golf once a week and fishes several times per week. He gets in a little fishing and skiing during the season. We had an outing with our ski club to Loon Lake earlier this summer."

Jack Cropper – "I plan to go back to Maui this winter, I hope with **Jerry and Sharon Severson** and any others who'd like to join me in swimming and golf"

Shirley Weber – "The barbeque aroma is great. There were breezes here for the picnic – kind of warm but it was good to feel the air move! Great to sit with the **Schaefer's, Grace Harrington** and **Irv Denny**."

Orrin and Rose Finch – "Rose and I are enjoying the company and good friends at the BBQ. I'm still working on Dispute Review Boards for Caltrans and with the Transportation Research Board. As soon as we get the house rehabbed (finally) maybe we'll be able to cruise again."

Bill and Virginia Schaefer – "Bill and I had a great summer. We vacationed at Stinson Beach with our daughter in June. In August we all went to St. Louis to celebrate Bill's mother's 100th birthday. Visited with lots of relatives and had a great time at her party. Also visited Virginia's sister in Columbia, MD. Fun times!"

Dave and Jeanne Theobald – "I just returned from the 57th annual reunion of the 69th Infantry in

Stanford, Connecticut. While there we took side trips to West Point, Bridgeport and New York City where we visited Ground Zero (called 'the site' or the 'bath tub') – a three-square-block hole with skyscrapers on all sides – it's eerie, especially after having had lunch five years ago in the World Restaurant in the towers."

Glen and Sharon Rosander and Merle and Adele Larrabee – "We recently took a two-week car trip to visit friends in Durango, Colorado. On the way we toured Hoover Dam (Merle thought it might hold up for a few more years). Spent one night on a Hopi Indian Reservation at Cameron, Arizona. We visited the son of our former pastor in Farmington, New Mexico. Stopped at Four Corners monument on the way. At Durango we rode the Durango-Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. Also visited the Grand Canyon, Mesa Verde cliff dwellings, Arches National Monument, then Salt Lake City where we had hoped to hear the Mormon Tabernacle Choir practice. Unfortunately they were cutting their Christian CD so we missed out on that—a fun trip. In late November and early December we will go with a tour group to Branson by way of Saint Louis. Should be great to see the area in all its Christmas trimmings."

Hugh and Kay Griffin – "We visited our identical twin granddaughters in Durham, North Carolina in March and August. We survived a tropical storm and hurricane in August while watching the girls take their first steps."

Pete and LaOna Doljanin – "We took an Elderhostel trip to Seattle/Victoria/Orcas Island in April and then went on to Idaho to visit Pete's sister and her husband in Jerome. Had a great two weeks."

Tim Leahy – "I started the year with a four-way bypass. Got a motor home and spent some time in Oregon – "Camped" in Crater Lake area. Starting to plan more trips."

Harry Valentine – "I took a nine-day trip to Switzerland with many side trips to tops of mountains. It was beautiful! I am a docent at Sacramento Railroad Museum."

Les and Myrna Kay Robinson – "We moved from Sacramento to Jackson in Amador County two years ago. We really enjoy the new location and clean air, along with the light traffic. On a sad note, my friend **Dick Barlow** is battling cancer and in a

hospice in San Diego. He was 66 years old on September 16th."

Fred and Alice Jackson – "Had our 10th fishing trip in July on the M/V Seatex out of Prince Rupert BC. Our 11-year old grandson, **Jeffrey**, and **Jan** and **Bill Johns** went with us. Bill is the nephew of former State Highway Engineer **John Vickrey**. The fishing and cruising were terrific. We caught limits of king salmon (four) silver salmon (four) and halibut (three). Bill landed a prize 48-pound Chinook."

Don and Bev Tueller – "It's good to see so many of our friends and associates. Time hasn't been kind to any of us, but as long as we can get together each fall, life is enjoyable."

Bob and Naomi Grout – "We've had an unusual summer. From June 1 to June 6 we were in France as guests of the Chevalier Court of Honor – Yep – I (Bob) am a Knight."

Mac and Betty McKenney – "Great cruise in July from Seattle to Alaska (Inside Passage). We now have five great grandchildren."

Chuck Paulson and Margie (it's still **Weston**) – "Had a wonderful voyage with friends on the Regal Princess to Alaska. Fantastic scenery—mountains, skies and fjords. We took an exciting floatplane ride out of Juneau over glaciers, landing on the Taku River opposite the glacier of the same name for a fantastic BBQ salmon dinner. We also took a ride on the White Pass and Yukon Railroad out of Skagway into the mountains along the 1890s gold miner trail as far as Canada. Last stop was beautiful Victoria, then home by sea to San Francisco."

Chuck Chenu – "Nice tour to China in June/July. Looking forward to the next location though undecided."

Wayne and Gloria Luney – "Wayne finally retired after 40 years of service and had a retirement luncheon at the Spaghetti Factory in mid-July. Then we drove with our daughter and niece to Albuquerque and back during the last half of July. Saw the Grand Canyon for the first time on the way back."

Gene Berthelsen and wife, **Donna Springer** – "Spent 10 days in Denmark in August, traveling on the Jutland Peninsula. Visited Gene's father's birthplace (there's a truck distribution center now where the family cottage had been) but we found the

900-year-old church where he had been baptized in 1892, including the 400-year-old baptismal font in which "Valdemar Julius Knut Peter Bertelsen" had taken the waters. Also spent a couple days in Copenhagen, seeing the sights and dining on *frigadiller* and *red fled med gled* and other odd Scandinavian foods."

Don and Nancy Benjamin – "Spent most of the summer enjoying the garden and taking day hikes led by **Bill Bethell**. Not only did we view the stunning wild flowers as they emerged throughout the region, but we visited with a special group of hiking friends, including **Pat and Elton Fletcher**, **Vi and Dick Strain**, **Janel and John Hebner**, **Gerri and Ken Wigglesworth**, **Bob Price**, **Ruth Gill**, **George Avery**, **Earl Rogers**, **Jack Derby** and **Jim Borden**. This fall we explored many sites on a 7,000-mile road trip and visiting family in the Midwest. One highlight was camping and hiking in Chaco Canyon, NM and the ancient Indian ruins. We are excited about leaving January 2, 2005 for a seven-week South American adventure including an Antarctic Peninsula cruise and a Patagonia trek."

We wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and a very happy new year!

Foundation Matters

The California Transportation Foundation has deemed its 2004 Education Symposium a success, based on attendee evaluations from the 32 students and 38 professionals who participated this year. The foundation received \$19,000 in sponsorship funds for the event, in addition to registration fees, resulting in an event surplus of about \$8,000.

The Foundation sponsors the annual Education Symposium, a program for upper division students in transportation, with the objective of attracting the best and brightest young people to careers in transportation. The event was held this year at Asilomar on November 18 and 19. Students are

paired for two days with mentors from public and private institutions to work on real-life problems together.

Over the past several months, the foundation has established final memorial grants of \$7,250 for **Ihab Abouelfittouh**, a popular and highly-thought-of Deputy Director in the Central Region who died in a motorcycle accident this fall. The foundation also established a memorial grant of \$25,000 for **Randy Sanchez** of District 11 and \$55,000 for **Li-Hang Wang**, of Headquarters Transportation Systems Information. In making these grants, the foundation receives donations from individuals and uses foundation funds to increase the grant funds.

The foundation has awarded 11 scholarships totaling \$8,000 since its previous meeting and has established a fund to provide four \$500 scholarships each at San Bernardino High School in memory of John M Cowgill, a former District 8 engineer.

The Division of Engineering Services will sell its 2005 Bridge calendar to raise funds for its scholarship program with the foundation acting as treasurer. Those interested in obtaining the calendar should contact Donna Perry, Associate Administrator with the Division of Engineering Services.

The foundation, each year, sends a funding appeal to the members of the QCC. About 10 percent of the membership responds annually, contributing about \$7,000 to support the work of the foundation. We urge members to consider contributing to CTF and its programs. Gifts can be designated for special programs or as a memorial. Donations can be mailed anytime to CTF's mailing address: PO Box 163453, Sacramento CA 95816. All donations are tax deductible.

More than 160 Caltrans workers and many private workers have been killed, and hundreds

of others have been injured by incursions of errant vehicles into work zones. Until the foundation began assisting them, aid to these workers and their families was minimal. The fund, over the past 10 years, has disbursed more than \$200,000 to assist the families or workers.

The foundation provides grants to public and private organizations and individuals to:

- Recognize outstanding performance and achievement in transportation
- Develop professional transportation employees through scholarships, career days and other means
- Assist transportation employees and their family members who are subject to misfortune and hardship
- Co-sponsor transportation seminars, conferences, research projects and studies
- Honor deceased employees.

Some Definitions

1. Coffee (n.), a person who is coughed up or
2. Flabbergasted (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained.
3. Abdicate (v.), to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.
4. Esplanade (v.), to attempt an explanation while drunk.
5. Negligent (adj.), a condition in which you absent-mindedly answer the door in your nightgown.
6. Lymph (v.), to walk with a lisp.
7. Gargoyle (n.), an olive-flavored mouthwash.
8. Flatulence (n.) the emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller.
9. Balderdash (n.), a rapidly receding hairline
10. Rectitude (n.), the formal, dignified demeanor assumed by a proctologist immediately before he examines you.

Events

District 3 - *No Contact*
Breakfast at Perko's 3rd Wednesday of every month
 Yuba City
 7:00 a.m.

District 4 *Contact: Ed Coble, (650) 941-5156*
 Email: edcoble49@worldnet.att.net
Caltrans Lunch Bunch 2nd Tuesday of every month

District 6 *Contact: Ralph Tritch, (559) 535-4295*
Caltrans Retiree Breakfast 3rd Wednesday in March and September
 Green Valley Restaurant
 Olive & J Street Porterville
 9:00 am

District 7 *Contact: Tom Fera, (818) 896-9377*
Monthly Luncheon Club
 2nd Wednesday of the month Los Angeles

District 8 *Contact: Marsha Lotze, (760) 247-2119*
Christmas Party Saturday, December 4, 2004
 the Gourmet

District 9 *Contact: Lance Hinek, (619) 873-3885*
Lunch at Whiskey Creek 1st Friday of the month
 Bishop

District 10 *No Contact*
Lenny's Huddle Last Tuesday of the month
 Denny's, I-5 and March Lane, Stockton

District 11 *No Contact*
ROMEOS (Retired Old Men Eating Out)
 3rd Wednesday of every month
 Denny's, Navajo Road
 8:30 am.

District 11's Annual QCC Dinner January 27, 2005
 Tom Hams Lighthouse

Central District *John Hebner*
 John Hebner@hotmail.com

Holiday Dinner, Wednesday, December 8, at the Dante Club

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