



Financial Trends

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE PROPOSED

From the Corner Pocket

This is likely to be my last offering as President of the Quarter Century Club, since my term ends at the end of this year.

Our club has lost about \$4,000 this year, seriously hurting our limited reserves. We need a budget change to stay solvent or we will go bankrupt in a few more years.

Our major expense is the cost of printing and mailing the QCCer, but we may be sending out hundreds of excess copies. Delinquent members are kept on the roster and continue to receive the newsletter for two years. As a result, we have been sending the QCCer to members who have passed away, lost interest, or moved and given no new address -- in one case for 20 years. Also, we do not require payments (or response) from honorary members over the age of 80.

This year we have moved to correct the problem. We incurred a higher expense by putting "Return Requested" on the mailings, which brought hundreds of returns from those no longer at the address we had. The returns cost almost a dollar extra, but we will save by no longer sending the unappreciated issues. The number and cost of returns will be far lower in the future.

The executive board has recommended revising the QCC constitution to stem the financial drain,

including a dues increase from \$10 to \$15. That's a big increase, but we have not had one in a very long time. It should allow us to rebuild our reserves and to continue a long while before another increase. For those with an eye toward savings, we will allow members a one-time advance payment at the old \$10/year rate for a minimum of three years. (When I was just 55 I paid up in full to age 80.)

We will also stop sending any QCCers to members who have not paid their dues by February 25 of the new year. We will mail a postcard to the delinquent members advising them that they will not get any more issues. The cost of sending the QCCer to a delinquent member for two years is significant and often ends with no renewal.

The number of honorary members who pay no dues is growing. We propose to allow them to continue, but require a written request each year to continue the QCCer. In the past, each member was

automatically recognized as non-paying at age 80 even though some have kindly continued to contribute (thank you.) If some are able and kind enough to send in a voluntary dues payment past age 80 it will certainly help. Those over 80 who choose to be non-paying should find that an annual postcard is not a serious financial burden to remain on the roll. For those who are interested we will continue sending the QCCer at no cost.

For those who aren't, it will save an unnecessary expense.

And now for some *good news!* Some highlights of the past two years are that we have a strong Secretary/Treasurer in **Kim Yarbrough**, who is



willing and able to serve for the foreseeable future. And when our former 'low-cost, old wet-ink' printer broke down, our editor, **Gene Berthelsen** found a replacement at a small increase in cost, far less than any I could find.

I hear good news that various districts are seeing more participation from a wider ring of members. After all, our Objective, "... *a closer bond of friendship* ..." can best be achieved through connections with friends on a frequent face-to-face basis. Some district officers have held the position for a long time and that is appreciated, but others may find they have the time and talent to help. And of course you can give a big thank you to those who carry the load while offering them a helping hand.

I'm repeating a plea for a member to step forward and volunteer for the title of state president. With all of the other state positions on solid ground, I'll take the heat for the dues increase to allow a new president to enjoy an unhindered term. Please contact your district director or any of the state officers listed in the back.

For those with web connections and for newer potential members, our Webmaster, **Peggy Veeder**, has put together a very good web site that includes our constitution, an application and a list of members who are connected via email.

Lastly, recruiting is showing positive results. Remember that to qualify, a working member may have 10 years in some other state agency as part of their 25 years and, on retirement, a new member qualifies with just 20 years of service since they won't get any more. Please do all you can to contact others who may now qualify and add strength to the club. We need to acknowledge that most of our members are now retired and our hopes for the future rest in newer members who are still working and who just now are reaching that magic **Quarter Century Mark**. Have an application in hand to give your friends when you go to the next retirement luncheon.

As with trees and other living things, it's new growth that indicates life.

— Butch Biendara

The Milk Carton

Here are names of members with whom we have lost contact. If you know of their whereabouts, please contact the Secretary, Kim Yarbrough, at the address shown elsewhere in this issue.

Robert H Fisher 07
Allen C Backer Cen

Although this list is very short, it doesn't mean we have found all the persons listed earlier. Unfortunately we received no information for several members after listing a name three times in this column. Those names will be dropped from the roster unless we receive more information.

Check out the QCC website:
<http://ctqcc.150m.com/qcc.html>

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Secretary Treasure's Report

Hi everybody. Hope you all had a great Thanksgiving with family and loved ones.

Elections: Members, we have a problem. No nominations have been received for any of the QCC offices. Our president has served two terms and that is all the constitution allows. (There is no limit on terms for the other officers.) I am hoping Butch will continue to function as interim president until a replacement can be found.

Dues Report: Dues are beginning to come in for the year 2006. Please get your dues in as quickly as possible. The date on the mailing label will show your "paid thru" status. Personally I would like the dues to come directly to me as it gives me the opportunity to check addresses to see if anyone has moved, and to check the phone number when it is on the check.

Membership: As I have mentioned before, sustaining and increasing membership is one the QCC's greatest challenges. Employees now becoming eligible for membership have worked only for Caltrans. And many are not familiar with our logo (affectionately called the flying donut) although the logo does include the Department of Transportation. Contact with these people is becoming increasingly difficult due to rules that limit the state's ability to cooperate with us in learning who is eligible for membership. I ask that all members do everything they can to recruit new members.

At the present time, according to our records, approximately 16 percent of our members are still working. I suspect that the actual figure is two or three percent lower as it is very difficult to keep track of all the retirements.

I have been trying to update our records on birth dates (for ascertaining eligibility for honorary membership), date of retirement, and number of years served. The mail label on this issue contains a code for member status just above your name, along with your dues "paid thru" status. "A" is for active members (still working); "R" is for retired;

"AS" is for associate members. "HON" and "ASSOCHON" on the label indicate Honorary and Associate Honorary members. If the category shown does not fit your status, PLEASE drop me a card or send me an E-mail so I may update the records.

May you all have a very merry Christmas and don't forget the reason for the season.

— Kim Yarbrough

The Haps in District 1

I must start by sharing our most famous retiree with you. **Jerry Severson** sent me a clipping from the Redding Record Searchlight that declared the winner of the Grocery Outlet's Mr. Turkey Leg contestant. It was our very own **Chuck SeCoy**. His wife, **Pat**, took a photo of him in Spam shorts, which he topped with a white boa. After a monthlong Mr. Turkey Leg Pageant with the entry criteria being a photo and entry form, customers voted for their favorite contestant. Chuck's legs got 148 votes. The second place winner had 103. Chuck says he is now a supermodel after winning the pageant and he's hoping for a call from Sports Illustrated. We wish you luck, Chuck

We have a new District 1 QCCer. **Larry Bowermaster**, Senior Transportation Engineer, joined at the end of August. Welcome aboard, Larry.

We had a nice visit with **Rick Knapp** at a recent breakfast. He is now a grandfather with the birth of **Caleb Knapp** to his son Randy and wife **Jenny** on September 22nd. Congratulations.

We made it to **Marty Van Zandt's** retirement party, a catered barbeque lunch at Benbow State Park. The weather was nice and everyone had a great time, especially Marty. His family was there, including his wife,

Margaret, two sons and parents. His dad, **Ben Van Zandt**, is also a retired District I engineer and fellow QCCer. Guests included the **Dennis Grinsells, Dave Brekkes, Ray Sweet's, Lowell Allens, and Rick Knapps**, among several others celebrating Marty's many years of work. Our district director, **Charles Fielder**, was Master of Ceremonies and speakers included **Terry Davis** and **Royal McCarthy**, as well as Marty's dad, sons, and a special with his mom and two sisters. **Helene Demling** earns special thanks, along with her husband, Frank, for keeping things going smoothly at the party.

Upcoming District I retirees include personnel assistant **Nancy Pelascini**, with whom I worked for several years; **Louise Oliver**, office technician, and **Jerry Sheldon**, maintenance superintendent in Ukiah.

Carol Kish, from Right of Way, retired on October 1st and is heading for Texas soon. **Ron Robinson** retired from Maintenance on November 1st.

I missed mentioning in last quarter that I was able to attend a going away party for **Paul Welty** on June 28 before he moved to Sacramento to be closer to his children. It was a great chance to visit several fellow retirees and QCCers, including **Rita** and **Doug Coleman, Chuck** and **Helen Gersbach**, and **Linc Martin**.

I neglected to mention that **Tom Georgeson's** birthday was his 75th, which is special. Also special is a 2006 calendar put out by the Historic Sites Society of Arcata and featuring many buildings designed by his architect dad, **Franklin T. Georgeson**. An outstanding architect in Humboldt County, he designed many important buildings that are still in use. He was also a consulting architect for the Eureka Inn. It must be great to see so many structures in your community designed by your dad. We are all enjoying them.

Stan and Julie Elcock recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. Stan worked for Caltrans for 22 years and is

now self-employed as an engineering consultant.

This is the time of year that we should be enjoying the holidays, but sometimes sadness intervenes. My sister's husband developed a cancerous tumor and passed on within two months, the week before Thanksgiving, at age 56. He was a backhoe operator and did contract work on some of our state highways, including the freeway bypassing Trinidad, several years ago. We had a great time bantering about highway building. We will miss him.

We also lost one of our long time District I employees, retiree **Art Johnson**. He passed away on October 3 at age 85. A native of Eureka, he was employed for 36 years as an engineer at Division of Highways and Caltrans, retiring in 1982. He worked 25 years with his good friend and fellow QCCer, **Bob Myers**. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, **Patricia Hunt Johnson**, and his three sons and their families. I enjoyed working with him for several years. He was a nice person who cared about and worked hard at his job.

Marguerite Lester, widow of District I retiree **Ed Lester**, passed away on September 11th. They enjoyed many years together in Bandon, Oregon, participating in a wide variety of activities.

District I has lost a current employee, engineer **Chris Chalfant**, to leukemia. He had been a surface water quality engineer for Department of Health/Drinking Water, and a ground water quality engineer for the State Water Quality Board prior to coming to District I.

Our deepest sympathy goes to the families, co-workers and friends of those we lost from our Caltrans family.

I wish everyone a happy, safe and healthy holiday.

— Arlene Hartin

The Haps in District 2

The QCCer did not receive a report from District 2.

The Haps in District 3

Seen recently were **Leo Trombatore, Jack Kelly, Merle Larabee, Bill Wells, John Sanger, Jud Talbot, Bill Smith** and **John Pennebaker**. All looked well.

A new face at the RPEA meeting in Yuba City was **John Meyers**. Still riding his motorcycle, he has taken a road trip to Michigan and is looking forward to many more. Also attending the meeting were Caltrans retirees **Wilbur** and **Sandy Wright, Susanna Ford, Barbara Forte, Bob** and **Marilyn Mulcahy, Jack** and **Sherie Atkinson, Tom Madsen, Don McDonald, Joe Lantsberger, Dennis Miller, Roger Stillwell, Chiyo Nakagawa, Wy Carter, Barbara McBurney, Susann Conely** and **Neil McMillan**. **Willy Crother** is President of the organization and was home taking care of his wife **Delea** after her surgery. We wish her a speedy recovery.

During October, **Lita Wells** did a great job arranging a luncheon for the retired Caltrans women. Those attending were: **Carol Hislip-Nelson, Pat Miller, Lita Wells, Dona Sparkman, Betty Fowler, Charlotte Dompier, Dorothy Leeper, Susanna Ford, Libby Haraughty, Fumi Fukumitsu, Nancy Sultuska, Carleen Hagen, Marge (Feith) Edger, June Otto, Wanda Rocha, Juanita Powers, Bev Larson, Madge Johnson** and **Bobby Hensley**.

Irene Itamura tells us that she and **Fumi Fukumitsu** are taking Yoga. Good way to stay young and healthy.

Chuck and **Pat Miller** recently drove to Las Vegas for some R&R. I didn't hear if they won lots of money. During the summer, they took a driving trip across the US, visiting friends and relatives in Missouri, Tennessee and Florida.

Dorothy Leeper reports she is still traveling in her motorhome. This summer she drove across the country with her granddaughter to visit the east coast.

Attending the play "Mama Mia" in Sacramento was **Linda Sormano** as she treated her grandchildren to an afternoon of fun.

Seen dining and dancing at the Moose Lodge recently were **Bill Perkins, Jon Sanger, Jim** and **Pat Howard** and **Bob** and **Marilyn Mulcahy**.

Betty and **Everett Emmons** have purchased a home in Vancouver, Washington, this after 15 years of full time travel in their fifth wheel. After spending the summer furnishing their new home and visiting family in the area, they're now headed south in their fifth wheel to spend the summer in the sun.

Bill and **Donna Sparkman** have been world travelers this year, thanks to their daughter's business trips. They spent eight days in Singapore and Malaysia shortly after the tsunami hit that part of the world. There was no damage where they were. They spent another eight days in London and Paris. The Sparkmans also took a seven-day West Indies cruise and enjoyed all of their travels.

Chuck and **Mary Dossey** spent part of the summer traveling. In May they went to Washington State and in October they headed to Kansas. Mary was seen recently at the Moose Lodge helping to decorate the beautiful Christmas trees.

Lita Wells reports that this year's travels included her first attempts at white water rafting – one of those things on her "to

do" list that is almost too late in life to do (that is, according to her!) Mother's Day found her on the Colorado River below the Grand Canyon, a 37-mile day trip. This included hiking and climbing a wood-and-rope ladder to view a waterfall and a helicopter ride out of the canyon. That was so much fun she took a second excursion in September to Highlands, North Carolina that included two rafting trips, one on the Nantahala River near Bryson, and a second, wilder, trip on the Chatoopa, on the Georgia South Carolina border. Per Lita: it's more fun if you stay *in* the raft! An added attraction on this trip was a loop up through Knoxville to spend a week with **Jerry and Lois Harkenrider** at their beautiful new home. Jerry says to tell all "Hi." **Bill Wells** is keeping busy with his projects and holding down the fort while Lita is off on her adventures.

From **Susanna Ford**: "This year has brought major changes in my life. In March I went with friends to China on a 17-day trip to Beijing, Shanghai, Xi'an, took a five-day cruise on the Yangtze River and marveled at the beauty of the land and how friendly and courteous the Chinese people were.

"After returning from China I moved into my new home in Yuba City. I had no furniture, just 65 boxes and a blow-up mattress. Now I have accumulated rooms full and am looking for storage space. During the summer I made trips to Fort Bragg and to LaPorte. In August I headed up the west coast with a stop in Brookings Oregon to visit **Nile and Harriet Ferns**. The first week of October, I flew with a friend to the east coast. We rented a car and toured for 12 days. Boston has so much history, with museums to visit and a lot of traffic. We found the tours of Boston and the harbor were the way to go. Up the coast to Gloucester where the picture *The Perfect Storm* was made. Continued traveling north along the coast into Maine to Bar Harbor. The last few days were spent heading west across Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. Beautiful small towns to wander through and

much fall foliage. The holidays for me will be spent with family and friends. New Years Eve I hope to be in La Porte with lots of snow."

"Nile and Harriet look good. They returned recently from a bus trip through Canada. They both love to travel and are now looking for a cruise. Nile spends many days in his garden. Harriet is working on her quilting and lunches with friends. They plan to be in Yuba City in January for a grandson's wedding.

Lita and Susanna are planning a luncheon in the spring for QQC members. Please let us know if you are interested in helping.

Continue to send information you would like to share with our members to either of us:

Susanna Ford sford@syix.com

Lita Wells billitaw@comcast.net.

— Susanna Ford

Placerville Area News

The annual fall luncheon dineout was held September 29th at the Casa Ramos Mexican Restaurant in West Placerville with 33 people in attendance. Quite a few arrived early and enjoyed an attitude adjustment hour, followed by an excellent Mexican dinner. **Darrell Hansen** furnished a tape from Channel 7 in San Francisco on the 1983 slide on Route 50 and the snow removal and opening of the detour via Iron Mountain to Route 88. The very interesting video was enjoyed by all.

The guest list included people from Mt. Aukum, Placerville, Pollock Pines, Mariposa, Plymouth, Diamond Springs, Marysville, Camino, Orangevale and Sacramento. QCC Secretary/Treasurer **Kim Yarbrough** and his wife **Pat** again joined us. Those attending included hosts **Doug and Grace Becker** and the following: **Aldo Brunello, Bill Byer, Marty Cookman, Max and Delores Dodson, Stan and Nancy Freeman, Darrell and JoAnn Hansen, John and May Krek, Al and Delores Lara, Keith and Barbara Maggini, Shirley Mickish, Bob Robertson,**

John and Wanda Rocha, Bill and Barbara Sands, John Teresi, Jim and Claudia Tollison, Martin Urevich, Bob and Sally Walker, Wally and Dee Yager and Kim and Pat Yarbrough. It's always nice to hear stories and tales from the past, as was the case at the luncheon.

Doug Becker reported that **Gerry and Luanna Hamm** were unable to attend as the luncheon conflicted with a trip celebrating their wedding anniversary.

Secretary/Treasurer **Kim Yarbrough** gave us a rundown on the latest happenings in the club and reported that he had signed up **Marty Cookman** as a new member today, so the trip was rewarding as our number of dues paying members is growing smaller. At the end of his presentation, he presented **John Krek** and **Keith Maggini** with Honorary Member certificates.

Doug Becker reported that the spring luncheon was in the planning stage. Contacts are being made with the Moose Lodge in the 8-Mile House area around the first of April. Final time and place will be announced in the March issue of the QCCer. Doug invited everyone to attend. He also advised that the weekly breakfast is still held every Tuesday at the Green House in the Raley's shopping center at 8:30 am, no reservations necessary. Just come out and join us.

— Keith Maggini

Dues Due?

Check the mailing label on your QCCer to find the date of your membership expiration. Please remit your membership dues as soon as possible.

The Haps in District 4

It is with regret and sadness that I report the passing of **Bill Mellish**. Bill had suffered a fall from his wheelchair two months ago and had been recuperating at a rehabilitation center. Our heartfelt condolences go to his wife, **Ludille**, and the Mellish family. A memorial service has been planned for December 10th at the Grace Lutheran Church in Palo Alto. All of us who knew Bill will miss his camaraderie and his annual crop of home grown juicy ripe tomatoes.

Earlier this year I also learned of the death of **Vern Richey**. Vern had been a deputy director in District 4, having come from the Division of Bay Tolls when it merged with the Division of Highways as part of the creation of the Department of Transportation.

On a happier note, District 4 Quarter Century Club members **Harry Yahata, Ron Lutz, Ann Hansen, Bob Jacobs, Bob Graham, Glenn Behm, Bob MacDougald, Gerry Ducey, Bob Baxter, Jim McCrank, and Tom Lammers** and I recently toured the new Benicia-Martinez Bridge construction. We were greeted by District Director **Bijan Sartipi** and given an update on the project's status by the construction department, followed by a boat tour and lunch afterwards. The district director hosts this annual event for retired District 4 directors, deputies and office chiefs. He is considering extending the invitations to other retired District 4 personnel. If you get an invitation, don't miss it.

The project to construct a new Benicia-Martinez Bridge was one of the projects I had responsibility for as chief deputy and deputy for the toll bridge program before I retired. The project has run into major cost increases and delays due to, among other items, the necessity to research, design, and implement measures to mitigate the effect of driving piles on fish within the Carquinez Strait. The work involved the use of the largest pile drivers available, which created noise levels exceeding 130 decibels in

the vicinity of the piles.

We had used similar drivers in constructing the Carquinez Bridge without any significant effect on the fish traversing the strait, so we did not expect any problems and received the required permits from Fish and Game, the Corps of Engineers, and other state and federal agencies. One requirement of our permits was to have a district biologist on site in case problems developed.

I was in my office after construction had started when I received a message from the executive office receptionist that a person was in the lobby with a dead fish for me. I had no idea what this was about but remembered watching the movie, *the Godfather* the night before and was concerned about the significance of what a dead fish meant.

I asked the receptionist to check and see if any of the deputies were missing or unaccounted for at the moment. Then told her to send the individual to my office. He turned out to be the district biologist assigned to the Benicia-Martinez project. He put the dead fish on my desk and said, "This is a dead fish!"

I said yes I could see that. He explained that when they started driving piles in the water 30 to 40 dead fish floated to the surface. He was able to get this one before the seagulls got it.

I put the dead fish in the Executive Office's refrigerator. However, it disappeared by the end of the day. We never did catch the fishnapper, who I assume enjoyed a nice fresh fish dinner that evening!

The district had to halt pile driving until we developed a method to prevent the fish kills. The construction staff, with help from the Bay Bridge project staff, was able to develop a way of surrounding the pile being driven with a curtain of compressed air or "bubble curtain" that lowered the noise to acceptable levels. The noise reductions were beyond the department's expectations. I asked if the department was planning to patent this device and was staff is pursuing this? Staff indicated it was being pursued. Although the designed mitigation was wildly successful, the delays while this was being implemented resulted in the addition of several years to the construction schedule and hundreds of millions in costs.

Ann Hansen recently returned to her Alma Mater, the University of Utah, in Salt Lake City, to

speak to the University's civil engineering students. Ann was the first woman to graduate from the "U's" civil engineering program. She has been recognized for her contributions to the profession, receiving the Merit of Honor Award from the Alumni Association, and being selected as an honorary member of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, and receiving the Theodore Matson Award.

Ed Coble celebrated his second 40th birthday with 75 of his friends and family in Palo Alto. His daughter, **Alette**, put together and narrated a slide show of Ed's life. Some of Alette's baby pictures were part of the slide show, which, if you hadn't been told beforehand, you could have assumed to be pictures of Alette's daughter—Ed's granddaughter—**Kathryn**.

After the show Ed got up to speak and was immediately heckled by his granddaughter. Most of us thought this was rude until Ed began to tell his old biblical jokes and we realized she had heard these before and was giving us fair warning of what was to come! Ed then launched into a talk adding to what Alette had covered in her slide show. One of the items was his service in the Navy during World War II. He was trained as a sonar operator even though he was practically tone deaf. He said it was lucky he was assigned to a tug during his service. At the end of his talk, Ed expressed his pride in Alette and her achievements.

Ed and his lunch bunch will have their annual Christmas luncheon at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco.

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

■ Paul Hensley

Website

A membership application and a wealth of information about QCC officers, history and constitution are available at the QCC a <http://ctqcc.150m.com/qcc.html>

Rather read the QCCer on-line? Go to <http://ctqcc.150m.com/qccnewsletter.html>

The Haps in District 5

Happy New Year! Hope you had a pleasant holiday season. A lot has happened since the previous newsletter: hurricanes, the statewide election, and higher fuel and gas prices. I hope the following news will be more cheerful.

Those in San Luis Obispo may have wondered about an unusual paving operation on Broad Street, Route 227. As the southern part of town has grown, the pavement has disintegrated under heavy traffic. According to Maintenance Engineer **Kelly McClain**, maintenance didn't want to do a complete overlay now because a rehab job is planned in about two years, so. So Caltrans negotiated a joint paving operation with the City of San Luis Obispo providing material and Caltrans the labor and equipment. The "wheel tracks" in all four lanes were dug out and paved, resulting in a much smoother ride and a striped look between Orcutt and Tank Farm Roads.

The following District 5 folks have recently joined the retirement ranks: **Bill Rodgers** from Design, **Mike Eul** from Willow Springs, **John Guerra** from Templeton Maintenance, **Carol Mortensen** from special crews, and **Don Wallace** from the north tree crew.

Mike Keller from traffic volunteered with the Red Cross in New Orleans, driving a semi filled with much-needed items for the hurricane victims. He happened to be partnered with another volunteer from San Luis Obispo who was writing about the experience for *The Tribune*, and we were proud to see Mike featured in the front-page article.

Carol Beardsley stopped in during one of her trips from Kauai to see her grandkids. Looks like retirement Hawaiian style is agreeing with her. Carol said she has used the boogie board we gave her as a going away gift.

Nina Bryan says she and **Dick** are still enjoying retirement in Templeton. Their plans to relocate to their home in the desert have been

postponed as Dick is recovering from surgery, and they have a new grandson to spoil.

Don Cross is recovering slowly from an attack of shingles that affected his movement in one shoulder. Don says he's had to modify his golf swing somewhat, and he is going to therapy regularly.

Sandy Frederickson is also on the mend following complicated knee surgery. She and **Gary** have recently purchased a retirement home in Washington State. Gary retired in December and is planning improvements for their new home until it's Sandy's turn to retire.

Doug Friend is undergoing more chemotherapy and is having a difficult time. Please think good thoughts for him.

Shirley and **Larry Kathary** recently completed a 2-1/2 month trip across the US in their travel trailer. Shirley kept in touch with friends by E-mail, and we enjoyed hearing about their adventures. They went as far as the Virginias and Carolinas and had hoped to return by a northern route, but the beginning of wintry weather caused a change in plans. Shirley says they're already thinking about their next big trip.

We had a very pleasant surprise one Sunday afternoon at the Hamlet in Cambria, where we'd gone to enjoy a jazz performance. The gentleman at the next table said, "**Bob**, is that you?!" It was **Keith Miller**, whom Bob had not seen since they worked in Construction with JB Popnoe. Keith and **Chris** are still living in Lompoc and had been to the Hamlet several times, but we had never attended on the same dates. Small world! (If you enjoy good music in an intimate setting we recommend you attend an afternoon or evening performance. You'll hear the best in jazz from east and west coast musicians—and even a few from Europe.)

JB says he and **Betty** keep in touch with **Bruce** and **Donna Langford**, **Ginny Kraatz**, and **Floyd** and **Doreen Lowe**. Their social outings are into Santa Barbara for clinics and doctor appoints, then to dinner. JB has had some health problems and has "lost my sea legs" as he puts it.

We enjoyed a visit last year from **George Phebus** and **Bob Smith**, who had been cruising with family and stopped in San Luis before returning

home to South Carolina. They are enjoying retirement there, as well as traveling in the US and Canada.

Gordon West is recovering from an emergency appendectomy that left him hospitalized for about 10 days. He was not feeling 100 percent when released, and **Dyer** and **Sheila Campbell** kindly invited him to stay for a few days until he was stronger. It's wonderful to have friends like that.

We had a letter in October from **Bob Wilson**, former District 5 design engineer, regarding the picture of the planning department that I mentioned in the September issue. He was the person who had dropped off the photo at the office last June. It had been around the house for a long time, and Bob thought it might be put to better use in the district office. He was glad to hear that **Paul Bohrer** and others were putting names to the faces.

We're sorry to report the passing on October 9 of **James McGillis**. Jim was born in Detroit and joined the Division of Highways after being stationed in San Diego with the Army. He worked in right of way engineering and other departments before leaving to become co-owner of San Luis Engineering. He was active in youth sports and community organizations in the Arroyo Grande area. Jim is survived by his wife Linda, six children and ten grandchildren.

— Kathy Copeland

Deadlines

The deadline for material for the QCCer is the 5th of the month in which it is published, although we prefer to get it earlier if we can. The next issue will be published in March. The final deadline for the next issue will be March 5th.

The Haps in District 6

This news is from **Virgle Ray**, who, luckily for us, keeps in contact.

Tom Bamford left Salt Lake City hospital November 12th and was flying home to arrive in Montana after having been there since March of this year. He was having problems of rejecting the donated heart, but now has a positive test. Tom is legally blind now. **Betty** reads the cards and notes that are his only contact with the outside world. Tom has expressed appreciation for these, though he can't write to respond. "You don't know how important friends are until you go through something like this," he says, so if you have a thought to share, Tom would appreciate it.

Tom and Betty Bamford
PO Box 971
Troy, Mt. 59935

I don't have a lot of news this quarter so I'll send along this Retirees' Q and A:

- Q. When does a retiree get to bed?
A. Three hours after he falls asleep on the couch.
- Q. How many retirees to change a light bulb?
A. Only one, but it might take all day.
- Q. What's the biggest gripe of retirees?
A. There is not enough time to get everything done.
- Q. Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?
A. The term comes with a 10% percent discount.
- Q. Among retirees what is considered dress attire?
A. Tied shoes.
- Q. Why do retirees count pennies?
A. They have the time, why not?
- Q. What's a common term for someone who enjoys work and refuses to retire?
A. Nuts!
- Q. Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage?
A. They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there.

Q. What do retirees call a long lunch?

A. Normal.

Q. What is the difference between a worker retiring and a student going on summer vacation?

A. None, summer ends but so does the other, eventually.

Q. What is the best way to describe retirement?

A. The never-ending coffee break.

— Terry Littleton

The Haps in District 7

District 7 will hold its annual QCC Luncheon held Saturday, December 10, just across the street from the new Caltrans building (120 S. Los Angeles Street). No-host cocktails will begin at 11:30 am; lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. (Flyers will be mailed). Lunch will be a buffet featuring chicken, beef, chefs catch of the day, rice pilaf, mixed greens, and potato and pasta salads, dessert and coffee or tea. The luncheon price will be \$25.00.

Dues and Elections

Quarter Century Club dues (\$10.00) are now due and can be mailed with your luncheon reservations. Reservations should be sent to **Leonard Thompson** by December 2, 2005. Leonard's address is: 3711 West 64th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90043-3746.

Nominations for the positions of director, secretary and treasurer are now in order. Candidates at present are: Tom Albany, director; Kirsten Stahl, secretary; and Jeanne Bonfilio, treasurer. Please send your marked ballot with your luncheon reservation.

Leonard Thompson, our treasurer, joined 16 relatives and friends on a cruise to Alaska last summer. The group included three of Leonard's brothers, one retired from District 7, one a District

8 maintenance region manager, and the other a community college automotive instructor from San Jose, an only sister, retired Transamerica Accountant from Deltona Florida, two cousins from Denver, a life-long friend from Indio, and another from Los Angeles, all accompanied by respective spouses or travel partners. Leonard says he'll bring a group picture to the holiday luncheon.

"We boarded the ship in Seattle and made our first stop in Ketchikan where we took photos of the beautiful landscape and hillside homes, walked around town shopping for souvenirs and enjoyed the ideal weather. With daylight from 4 am to 10 pm, you can imagine the leisure that provided.

"We then cruised on to the capital, Juneau, where we traveled on a tour bus to view the glaciers and surrounding mountains inhabited by mountain goats.

"Our third stop was Skagway, where we took public transportation to town; there again we shopped for souvenirs, clothing items and viewed the antique buildings and walkways/sidewalks.

"The last stop was Victoria, BC where we had our last chance to purchase items and gifts for family and friends back home.

"This cruise fulfilled my dream of returning to Alaska after my original tour for a cold weather training exercise in 1959 as a US Marine. (The cruise ship certainly provided better beds, meals, entertainment and travel partners than the naval landing ship dock). It was a great, interesting, and relaxing vacation.

—Wally Rothbart

The Haps in District 8

Judie Cady Brown was honored at a retirement luncheon November 16th at the Shandin Hills Golf Club. More than 100 friends and a large loving family gave her a fine sendoff to mark her retirement after a 36-year career. She started as an engineering aide in construction, advancing through the ranks in administration to

acting deputy district director just prior to her retirement. She was the district's project manager for the new "superblock" District 8 office building. She and hubby **Gerald Brown**, (maintenance) plan to enjoy various hobbies, traveling, and their grandchildren. They were off on a trip to Florida the day following her luncheon.

Roy Cagle retired November 1, after 38 years. He was honored at a luncheon on October 28th, also at Shandin Hills Golf Club. Roy started as a landscape worker in Riverside and retires as a Maintenance Manager II. He and wife, **Marcella**, (local assistance) will travel, camp, and spend time with family in Tennessee at their property.

Sharon Phillips' last day was September 30th. She was honored with a luncheon at Shandin Hills Golf Club after a 23+ year career, beginning as an office assistant in encroachment permits. She rose through the ranks and was appointed deputy district director-administration in 2002 and will gladly leave behind her commute from Lake Arrowhead. She plans to spend time with family and work with her husband doing interior design and remodeling houses.

Congratulations to these fine folks who were part of the great organization through all its historic years.

Taylor and **Katie Smith** took a trip over Thanksgiving to be with family in the Washington, D.C. area.

Ernie and **Kay Parke** drove to Hilliard, Ohio via Denver to visit a nephew in late September. From there they returned to Canton, Missouri for Kay's 64th high school reunion. On their way home they visited a niece at Fort Collins, Colorado. All together their trip totaled 5,300 miles!!! Wow!

Paul and **Mary Kirst** made a 27-day trip around the world in early October. Points of interest were Hong Kong, Thailand, India, and England.

The cruising **Hights, Dick** and **Louise**, made an 11-day eastern Caribbean tour in late October. They visited the islands of St. Vincent, Grenada, St. Lucia, Martinique, St. Thomas, and Princess Cays.

In June **Stan** and **Betty Martin** traveled on the American Queen from New Orleans to Memphis.

Fred and **Alice Jackson**, who live in Fair Oaks, California, attended Fred's 65th San Bernardino High School Reunion on October 22nd. Fred was the District 08 design engineer and was promoted to supervising highway engineer in headquarters construction in 1975. He retired in 1983.

Pat, widow of **Vic Gardia**, and her three daughters visited England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales for 18 days in October.

Roses to all those putting up with the "gifts" of aging: **Craig Lotze**, who continues to suffer from back problems and to **Aaron Rains** who is undergoing surgery. **Wes Grimes** is recovering from minor back surgery. **Connie Keefer** is recovering from illnesses that caused her to cancel a long-planned European trip.

A vista point on State Route 18 about a mile north of the junction of 18/138 was dedicated in the memory of maintenance superintendent **Donald S. Wieman** on October 21st. Mr. Wieman, a division of highways employee, was a skilled stonemason who assisted in and supervised the construction of the scenic masonry/chain link guardrail and vista points along Route 18 in the 1930s. Don started in District 08 in 1932 and retired in 1965. He passed away in 1977. Don's sons Larry, Paul, and granddaughter, Angela Wieman attended the dedication.

A group of **Roy Smoot's** friends interrupted his trip to play the ponies at Santa Anita on October 7th with a lunch at Nena's in San Bernardino. Those attending had an enjoyable time visiting and reminiscing.

Maxine Stone, the widow of **Kent Stone**, who lives with her daughter in San Bernardino, would like to hear from old friends. She suffers from arthritis and is confined to a wheelchair. Her telephone number is (909) 883-2478.

Betty Tallman, widow of **Chris Tallman**, passed away in Oro Grande, California on September 4th at the age of 90. Chris passed away in April 2003.

Sally Nelson, Eric Nelson's wife, passed away in Chandler, Arizona on August 29th.

Patsy Pond, Bob Pond's wife, passed away in Crestline on September 28th. Patsy was 80 and Bob is considering relocation to Vallejo, CA to be near their daughter.

Billy Gilbert, who left the division of highways in 1995 to work for Match Corporation, and later for E. L. Yeager, other Riverside contractors and engineering firms passed away on September 29th. His wife Betty had passed away September 6, 2004.

We have belatedly learned that **Fred Quillen** who left the District 08 construction department in the late 1950's to work for the Match Corp. and later for other local construction firms, passed away several years ago.

Al Partridge sends word that he's still in Florida dodging the hurricanes, which he's managed to do for the last 12 years. He gets to California every year or two but doesn't see many people. He visited with **Nancy Harvey** and visits with **Retha Rubiec** when in Redding. She used to work in District 8 before transferring to Redding many years ago. His trip last summer began with a week in Las Vegas for a Moose convention, then 10 days in San Bernardino with his daughter, then the 4th of July in Bishop, and then two weeks with his sister in Carson City. Part of that time was spent at a family reunion for his mom's side of the family. "Saw people I hadn't seen for 50 years and some I had never met before. Had a great time."

Al really enjoys the QCCer; it's about the only contact and news he gets from California. He has an E-mail address, Alchucker@aol.com, and would enjoy communicating with other state employees.

—Marsh Lotze

The Haps in District 9

Not much to report. I see **John Nakken** and **Jim Kemp** at the bowling league every week; they're doing OK. We see and

talk to **Bob Marsh** on a regular basis and saw **Bob Yeager** a couple of weeks ago both are doing fine.

From **Harold Jones** - Not much going on up our way. We need some moisture real bad -- all we've had is clouds and wind so far this fall -- sure hope we get some rain or snow before too long.

I saw in our local paper recently where **Mrs. Strippling ("Strip's" wife)** passed away. She had been residing at Merrill Gardens here in Gardnerville. Also, **Fred Stepler** passed away in late August. We attended the services for him in Bishop on Sept. 10th.

My wife and I visited the brand new Carson-Tahoe Regional medical center at the north end of Carson City. It opens on December 3rd, but they held an "open house" tour of the facility on November 12th (about 7,000 people took the tour that day). It's really something to see, as it's "state-of-the-art" for sure! Open heart surgery can now be performed there, as well as many other advanced procedures. There are 138 patient beds (each with private rooms), plus more operating rooms, expanded emergency facilities, etc. We heard the facility cost about \$300 million to build. It will serve the whole region (including Bishop too -- so may save having to go to Reno for many of our medical needs). The old Carson-Tahoe Hospital will become an acute care facility once the new facility opens and is operational. We remember the original Carson-Tahoe Hospital from back in the 50's -- it had about 12 beds -- quite a change!!

Otto Mikes passed away in November 2005 at Washoe Medical Center in Reno. Otto worked in District 07 after graduating from CSULA in the early 1960's. He was a registered geologist and came to District 09 about 1978. Otto retired about 10 years ago. He was a knowledgeable, hard-working Caltrans employee. He emigrated from Czechoslovakia as a young boy after WW II, escaping from the communists. Our condolences to his family and friends.

— Lance Hinek

THE QCC CONSTITUTION AS AMENDED TO AND INCLUDING AUGUST 2000 August 2006

SECTION 1 - NAME: The name of the club shall be the Quarter Century Club.

SECTION 2 - OBJECT: Object of the club is to establish a closer bond of friendship cementing twenty-five years or more employment with the State of California, 15 or more years of which shall have been with the Department of Transportation, or its predecessor the Department of Public Works.

SECTION 3 - QUALIFICATION FOR ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP: All employees upon completion of twenty-five years state service, 15 or more years of which shall have been with the Department of Transportation, or its predecessor the Department of Public Works, Department of Transportation employees who have retired during the period of October 1, 1973 to July 11, 1978, when the retirement age was lowered from 70 to 67, and those employees who were retired for disability after having completed 15 years of service, who could have completed the normal work tenure required by this section had the mandatory age of retirement not been lowered or disability not occurred, shall be eligible to apply for membership.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: a. The surviving spouse of any member of the club. b. Any employee with 20 years of service with the Division of Highways or Caltrans who retired after 20 years of service, but less than 25 years.

Active membership shall become effective upon filing an application in proper form and the payment of an entrance fee of \$2.00 and the payment of dues for the first calendar year. New members who join after September 30th, shall be credited with the following year's dues.

Anyone who has been retired after becoming an active member may, upon payment of dues, continue to hold membership with all privileges, including the right to vote and to hold office.

Any person eligible for active membership, who may have retired without becoming a member, may at any time, become a member with all rights and privileges, including the right to vote and to hold office, upon filing an application in proper form, the payment of an entrance fee of \$2.00—and the payment of dues for the current calendar year.

Associate membership for the surviving spouse of an Honorary Member becomes effective immediately upon written request of the surviving spouse and will be continued, without payment of dues until the surviving spouse reaches the age of 80 when they will become an Associate Honorary member.

Associate Membership for a surviving spouse of a non-Honorary Member who has paid dues for a

minimum of five (5) years will attain the status of Associate Honorary Member upon reaching the age of 80 and will not have to pay any further dues.

Associate members are entitled to all rights and privileges of the Club, except voting or holding office.

Members whose dues are delinquent for ~~two years~~ at the end of February each year will be notified by mail and will be dropped from the mailing list immediately and excluded from the Roster at the end of the second year. A member may be reinstated by paying dues at the current rate for the ~~two years~~ time for which they were delinquent plus the dues for the current year.

Members who have attained the age of Eighty (80) and have paid dues for the five years preceding, shall may upon their application, be awarded an Honorary Life Membership in the Quarter Century Club.

Upon reaching age 80, Honorary and Associate-Honorary members must make an annual written request to be relieved of paying annual dues and to continue receiving the QCCer publication. With their annual request to be exempt from paying dues, they will continue to receive the QCCer for the following year at no cost. If no written request is made, they will be considered delinquent and dropped from the mailing list.

SECTION 4 - OFFICERS: The elective Officers shall be a President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President and Historian. The duties of the various officers shall be the customary duties attached to each office.

The Secretary-Treasurer and Editor shall be appointed by the President with the consent of the Executive Committee and serve at the pleasure of the Executive Committee. Any retiree or person still in the employ of the Department of Transportation may be appointed though not eligible for Club membership. In addition to the usual duties, the Secretary-Treasurer shall prepare a complete membership roster as of February 1st of each even-numbered year, and transmit it to the Editor for mailing with the March 31st "QCCer".

The Historian shall be the Custodian of all the Club's historical documents.

The various District Directors and members of the Executive Committee shall act as the nominating committee with the President as Chairman of this committee. Each District Director shall canvas the District for eligible candidates for the Office of President, First Vice-President and Second Vice-President. Before submitting any member's name as candidate, the Director or Members of the Executive Committee shall determine that the individual will be willing to serve if elected. The nominations must be returned to the Secretary-Treasurer before October 25th, to be considered valid, after which they will be canvassed by a committee appointed by the Secretary-Treasurer. As soon as the nominations of the candidates have been determined, and not later than November

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10th, the Secretary-Treasurer shall mail appropriate ballots with the December Issue of the "Cue See Seer" with instructions that such ballots must be returned to the Secretary-Treasurer before January 15th to be valid. They will then be counted by a committee appointed by the Secretary-Treasurer.

Each ballot shall provide a space for the names of candidates for each office to be filled.

Officers shall be elected annually, taking office February 1 and serve for the following 12 months.

The President shall be elected for a one-year term, but may stand for re-election. If successful in the re-election the President cannot run for that office any further time. Any President who has served only one year in the past is eligible to run for one additional year. No person may serve as President for more than two one-year terms.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall receive a salary of ~~40~~ **15** cents per member per month and the Editor shall receive a salary of ~~5~~ **10** cents per month per member **effective on January 2007**. They shall be the only paid officers.

SECTION 5 - MEETINGS: Meetings of the club shall be at the call of the President or on petition of not less than ten members, at a place fixed in the call. No expenses shall be allowed for attendance of meetings.

SECTION 6 - DUES: Dues in the Club shall be ~~Ten Fifteen~~ Dollars (~~\$10.00~~) (**\$15.00**) per year for all members. Dues shall be payable in advance by the end of January, effective January 1, 1992 **on voter approval of the 2005 amended Constitution. At that time there will be a 60-day window when current members may choose to pay any number of years with a three-year minimum, in advance, at the former \$10.00 / year rate. After that date, all new members and renewals will be \$15.00 / year.**

SECTION 7 - COMMITTEES: Except for the Executive Committee, there shall be no standing committees, but special committees may be appointed from time to time on written petition of not less than ten (10) members, or on proposal of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers of the Club. The responsibilities of the Executive Committee shall be to direct the affairs of the Club, authorize expenditures, and arrange for an annual audit of the financial records of the Secretary-Treasurer, as desired. The Secretary-Treasurer shall annually submit a complete financial statement.

SECTION 8 - AMENDMENTS: This Constitution may be amended at any time on proposal submitted by the Executive Committee, or by written request of not less than ten (10) members, provided however, that no amendment shall be effective except by approval of not less than two-thirds of the members voting.

SECTION 9 - ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER: Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the Club in all cases in which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution of this Club.

SECTION 10 - DISTRICTS: Districts shall coincide with the Districts of the Department of Transportation and shall be identified by a corresponding numeral, except that an additional district shall be known as Central District and shall be comprised of members of Headquarters Office. Employee members of Shops and Transportation laboratory within the various Districts, shall be considered members of the corresponding District. Retired members may elect membership in any District and those retired members who do not so elect shall be considered as members of the District in which they reside. Retired members living out of the State of California may elect membership in any District and if such out-of-state member fails to elect, he shall be considered to be a member of Central District.

DISTRICT DIRECTORS: Each District having a membership in excess of five (5) shall elect a District Director during the month of November to serve the next forthcoming year. Election for the position of District Director shall be held in any manner satisfactory to the membership of that District. In the event a District Director is not so elected, the President shall appoint a District Director to serve for the current year. Such appointment shall be made prior to February 1st of the said current year.

DUTIES OF THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR: Each District Director shall assist the Officers in managing the affairs of such District and shall preside over, or appoint a personal representative to preside over, any business or social meeting of members of such District, and shall report the activities of such meetings to the Secretary-Treasurer, as well as retirements, deaths, and activities of members of such District. During the Fall Season, each District shall determine the members in such District and shall obtain suitable assistance and conduct an election for a District Director to serve that District during the forthcoming year. The District Director shall report the results of such an election to the Secretary-Treasurer before 30 days expire. A District Director may be reelected. No State Officer shall be a District Director while holding State office.

DISTRICT EXPENSES: Once each year upon demand, supported by vouchers, the Secretary-Treasurer shall reimburse each District Director for postage, balloting and miscellaneous expenses, the amount not to exceed two dollars (\$2.00) per paid-up member in the respective District. All other expenses incurred by the District shall be an obligation of the members of such District, shall be financed in any manner satisfactory to such members, and shall not be an obligation of the Treasurer or any of the Officers.

The Haps in District 10

Twenty-nine folks attended the huddle at Denny's on October 29th; two new QCC members were recruited -- **Tom Rasmussen** and **Bill Zieker**.

Elton Fletcher – “Just to be different, **Patricia** and I flew to San Antonio in September and after a short visit, rented a car and drove to Denver. After several days in the Mile High city, we boarded the train to Sacramento. The best parts of the trip were the San Antonio River Walk and driving through the Rocky Mountain National Park. The worst was that the train was five hours late coming into Sacramento and we missed our connection to Lodi.”

Brian Young – “In September another retired State employee, **Art Ray**, and I were driven by his wife to the Sacramento Airport where we took the \$218 redeye Jet Blue roundtrip flight from Sacramento to Washington D.C. where we spent four days doing genealogy research and a tour of the city. Through Congressman Pombo's office we took a tour of the Capitol and found that our guide was Laura, who was a 1998 graduate of Lodi High School. Then we went to Staunton, Virginia, in the Shenandoah Valley, where a farmer, C.H. Cox, and his daughter Hannah took us in a pickup across a corn field and into a wooded clearing to the Glebe burying ground, the oldest cemetery in Augusta County, Virginia, established in 1749. It contains the grave of a member of the House of Burgesses, graves of colonial and revolutionary soldiers, and of victims massacred by Indians. My fourth great grandfather, Captain John Young, who fought with George Washington at Yorktown, is buried there. (He is also the fourth great grandfather to Senator John McCain of Arizona.) I have joined the Delta Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution through this ancestor. In Charlottesville at the library in the hospital at the University of Virginia I found the bust of my grandfather's second cousin Dr. Hugh

Hampton Young, a graduate from 1894, across from Dr. Walter Reed's bust. Dr. Young in 1897 was the head of the urology department at Johns Hopkins at the age of 27. In 1903 he performed the first prostate operation. Later he was President Wilson's doctor. During World War I he assisted General Pershing with the venereal disease problem in France. Next we went nearby to Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's home, then to Williamsburg and home. While flying over the Rockies we watched on the seat back televisions the Jet Blue plane with the landing gear problem circling the field at LAX. When it landed successfully, everyone on our plane applauded.

Laine Sevy writes: “Good to be back on the Internet again—heard from **Russ Waggoner**, **Doug Boyd** and **Ron Lutz**. They all survived another summer. Summer in Panguitch was much less exciting this year—no good fish stories. All the lakes and reservoirs were full to overflowing and the fish were not hungry for anything I had in the fish box. It was a good year for the farmers and gardeners with water available all summer long. My garden turned out quite well with lots of carrots and potatoes— I also raised some goooood tomatoes and cucumbers in my greenhouse.

“Labor Day weekend all our kids and grandkids showed up and we spent three days together—I fixed a Dutch oven for them one night—turned out OK despite a few rain showers. Twenty of us were there including three great-grandchildren. We moved down here in Santa Clara on the 18th of October. If you go to the Denny's meeting tomorrow, tell all the guys hello for me.”

Spiro Vlavianos, 77, passed away August 24 in Fort Smith, Arkansas. A member of Saints George and Alexandra Orthodox Church, he was a U.S. Army Veteran of World War II. He is survived by his wife, Suzanne.

Larry Chun passed away September 6, 2005 at the age of 75. He was born in Honolulu August 3, 1930 and was a veteran of the Korean War. He attended the University of the Pacific, obtaining a BS degree in Civil Engineering.

He then began a 37-year career working for the California Department of Transportation starting in District 10. Larry, a registered civil engineer, worked in all phases of civil engineering: design, construction, planning, and structures. After 25 years in District 10, he accepted a promotion to become a construction reviewer in headquarters. After four years as a reviewer, Larry accepted his last promotion as the headquarters deputy chief of construction. Larry was married to **Sonia Chun** for 49 years.

Peter Thomas Raggio, 74, of Angels Camp died September 16, 2005. Born April 27, 1931, Mr. Raggio was a native and lifelong resident of Angels Camp. He had retired after 43 years as an equipment operator. He was an honorary member of Calaveras Saddle Club, Angels Volunteer Fire Department and Calaveras Junior Livestock Committee. He was a former 4-H leader and a longtime member of Angels Gun Club and Native Sons of the Golden West. He was a member of Figlia D' Italia, California Cattlemen's Association, National Cattlemen's Association, Calaveras Farm Bureau and CSEA.

Clair E. Hall, 86, of Acampo passed away November 20th. He was born November 4, 1919 in Omaha, Nebraska. He was a civil engineering graduate of the University of Wyoming. He was employed by the California Department of Transportation for many years prior to retirement. He was a member of Lodi Chapter of Sons in Retirement and enjoyed watching sports, photography, gardening, harvesting his pecans and walnuts and traveling worldwide.

Marvin Lee Philippi of Stockton, and formerly of Lodi, passed away November 24, 2005. He was born October 4, 1928 in Dallas, South Dakota. He served in the U. S. Army and was a veteran of the Korean War. He worked as a traffic engineer for the California Department of Transportation for 29 years prior to retirement. He also owned and operated Marv's Refrigeration and Appliance Store in Stockton for several years. He was an active member of the Stockton Central Seventh-Day Adventist Church. He was also a member and former vice president of the San

Joaquin Orchid Society, San Joaquin Bonsai Club, Volunteers in Police Service (V.I.P.S.), Sons in Retirement (S.I.R.S.), American Legion and the Lockeford VFW Post 9009, where he recently served as Chaplain. He enjoyed gardening, reading, making model ships and doing ceramic artwork while attending classes at Delta College. He is survived by his wife **Elsie** of 50 years.

The Haps in District 11

The October R.O.M.E.O.'s breakfast was a rousing good time for a nearly packed house with **John Barns, Butch Biendara, Jack Blackburn, Joe Bramante, Earl Brydon, Ernie Danjou, Bill Dillon, Bill Dotson, Bob Findlay, Ray Granstedt, Chuck Green, Lloyd Hughes, Tom Killans, Ralph Loveland, Jim Lyons, John Lyons, Tarbell Martin, Dave Moody, Dave's Cousin, Don Nothdurft, Denny Paquin, Howard Pray, John Reeder, Dave Scheidness, Dave Weiss, Carl West, Jim Wiggins, Jim Williams and Bob Young.** If a few of the other 'regulars' had showed up it would have more than filled the few remaining chairs.

Bill Dotson was dressed nicely and doing well with his cane. **Jim Lyons** was straight up with his back brace recovering slowly from back surgery. **Dave Weiss** has his son living at home again while he is attending chef school full time. Jim Williams gets an award for the greatest effort, a two-hour drive from Fallbrook to attend. Jim says he is about done with his second career of providing materials for highway overlay contracts because Caltrans and others are getting too slow in making payments. **Bob Young**, who by now has celebrated his 84th, told the highlights of taking his granddaughter to his boyhood home in St. Louis to find that his elementary school has been sold and is being converted to condos. And at departure time **Earl Brydon** found that after leaving home in the dark, he had left his lights on and his car wouldn't

start. Thanks to **Bob Young, John Reeder** and a few others they found a guy with jumper cables and soon had him off and running again.

Ken Running Wolf Feistel closed out his 35 years of service with a double celebration, first a lunch for the whole crowd of crews at the Kearny Mesa Maintenance yard and then another with a group of friends at the Casa Machado that ran until midnight. Very fitting for a guy who has always made friendships an important part of his life.

Ken, a native San Diegan, was born an only son with one older sister in 1946 at Navy Hospital. He grew up in Linda Vista at a time when the Linda Vista Center was a warm and harmonious melting pot of many cultures. His parents separated shortly after he was born, his European father leaving him to grow up with his mother of Indian and Mexican descent. Although **Ken** says he always thought of himself as Indian, at that time and place it was just easier to call himself Mexican. His mother later remarried and **Ken** thinks of his stepdad as his father yet they were comfortable with him keeping his birth surname.

Ken attended Linda Vista elementary but when a developer built 50 new homes near Kearny High the family moved and he went to Chesterton Elementary and later Beale, just two blocks from his home. His Junior high was at Montgomery (now Linda Vista). He graduated from Kearny high school in 1964. He was a 'sports nut' with football, basketball, baseball and of course surfing on longboards when the sport was just taking off. In those years he had many close friends of various nationalities who shared school sports and other outside activities at a peaceful time when doors were never locked and cars were parked with the keys in the ignition. The harmony of the neighborhood was such that any child knew that any other adult was to be respected and any parent would deal with misbehavior.

Ken went to Mesa Collage as a full-time student while living at home and working in a foundry, a warehouse, and as a gas station attendant where he could work odd hours for extra cash.

In 1966 with a few friends **Ken** chose to be drafted into the Army and got his basic training at Fort Ord, with extra time in a supply school there,

followed by a stop at Fort Lee, Virginia for signal supply schooling. He spent his remaining service time on Okinawa where, in his spare time he explored ruins of the WW II battlefields until his discharge as a sergeant E-5 in 1968.

On returning to San Diego **Ken** and a few friends took an \$8.40, 1,200-mile, 48-hour second-class train ride from Mexicali to Mazatlan, Mexico with all the adventures of sharing seating space with whatever freight or animals other passengers carried aboard. After three weeks of relaxing on the sunny beach, (keeping their 'liquid' intake high), they returned on a bus trip of just 24 hours.

Ken found a job in the warehouse for the Navy Exchange in National City and spent another year in school under the GI bill but switched to a job with city schools where he would start each day early, calling to find substitute teachers.

While growing up, **Ken** had a good friend whose sister **Josie** who was three years older, and whom **Ken** would often admire when they crossed paths. Of course in the teen years, an attractive young gal had no time for her kid brother's young punk friends. Before **Ken** went into the Army, when he was just 18 and she was 21, **Josie** married. **Ken**, invited to the wedding as one of the neighborhood friends, told **Josie** she should dump the guy and marry him, but alas it didn't happen. Fast forward to 1968 when **Ken** returned from the service and met **Josie** at his friend's home and found that she was divorced with a two-year old son to raise. One thing led to another, they dated until **Josie's** divorce was final and two years later they were married. **Ken's** dream had come true.

A week after they were married, **Ken** took a job with Pacific Bell doing warehouse supply work, which included outside deliveries that he enjoyed much more than the inside work. One day while on delivery going past a highway landscape crew in Balboa Park he stopped to ask how to get one of those great outdoor jobs. He was directed to the Old Town office and applied on the last filing date, took the test a month later, and on October 16, 1970 began working for the Division of Highways at the Old Town landscape yard.

Six months later the new Pacific Highway landscape yard opened and **Ken** moved there for

two years and then it was on to the Camino Del Rio yard under I-805. He served as acting leadworker in Chula Vista for six months before coming back to Camino Del Rio and in 1975 was promoted to leadworker at the 9th Street yard. Two years later found him back at the Old Town as leadworker on the landscape spray crew before going to the Pacific Highway yard again as acting supervisor. In 1981 he was off to the Kearny Mesa functional crew as leadworker and in 1983 to Chula Vista as supervisor of the spray crew. He returned to the Kearny Mesa yard as supervisor of the spray crews working to consolidate the two regions and three spray crews into one for simpler supply and equipment management. In 1989 he promoted to area superintendent for South Bay landscape at the Chula Vista maintenance yard until he took the crews to the Santee yard and finally came back to Kearny Mesa from 1994 until his retirement on October 17 with exactly 35 years of service.

When Ken married in 1970 he bought a home in the Fairmont Park area where he adopted Josie's son **Marty** and raised his family, which included three more sons, **Kenny Jr., Eddie** and **Danny**, four years apart. Over the years the boys were involved in all the Boy Scouts and Pop Warner and Little league sports and when they were a bit older Ken took the full month of August off to take the boys surfing at Torrey Pines beach every day. Through the years his life revolved around his family and close friends from the old neighborhood so much that the children of those friends had the impression that they were related.

Ken's father passed away in 1988 and Ken moved back to his boyhood home in Linda Vista and gave the Fairmont Park home to his son Kenny Jr. who now has a two-year old son. Son Marty has three girls 15, 12 and 9; son Eddie has a son 12 and son Danny plans to marry next year. Ken looks forward to spending lots of great times with his grandchildren.

About four years ago Ken and his wife took vacation trips to Arizona and New Mexico and stopped by Lake Havasu along the way. Last year they bought a home there that is bigger than his Linda Vista home and is just a 300-mile drive away

for spending long weekends or special weeks of vacation. He may choose to spend half of his time there. Surprisingly he plans to be there in the summers when it's nearly empty of snowbirds.

Ken has been a die-hard Charger, Padre and Aztec fan for many years, sometimes showing up for a tailgate party four hours before game time. With 'maturity' he now finds it easier to watch games on TV where he can get a cold and cheaper brew from the fridge and have no lines at the rest room.

Ken-Running Wolf identifies himself as Native American Indian and has quite a collection of Indian crafts of baskets, pottery, and other ancient family treasures to decorate both homes. His several buffalo skulls are a reminder of the culture and he sees the buffalo as a source of strength for him that he takes pride in.

We wish him all of the best that friends and family bring in life for many long active days of peace, joy and happiness.

Joy Byrd 'flew the coop' with friends gathered to wish her well in a big sendoff on November 17.

She was born **Joy Marie Staton** in Oakland in October of 1944, the youngest in a family that included an older brother and sister. Her father was an electrician in the shipyards and her mom was a full time homemaker. When Joy was three, the family moved to Concord where with other family members helping, they built a home, "one board at a time." She grew up next door to both sets of grandparents with other aunts and uncles nearby. Joy had asthma as a child and spent at least four Christmases in the hospital with pneumonia. Had it not been for a new miracle drug, penidillin, she would not have made it to the age of four. She missed so much school one year they gave her a home teacher. Around the age of 12 Joy outgrew the asthma to become a healthy adult.

The big thing of Joy's younger years was square dancing. On her first night of dancing at age 13 she met **Lester Davis**, the man she later married at age 16 in January of 1961. Daughter **Lynn** was born that November, **Tamye** was born in November 1962 and son **Roy** was born in July 1965, making her a mother of three who could buy a car or house before she could drink or vote.

In March of 1972 the family began work on a new home in Concord for which Joy, with her granddad's help, had designed and drafted the plans. The plans were good enough that they were able to get a permit, financing and bids on the materials costing \$25,000. Then with other family members helping and with no rain that year they were able to build a house that they later sold for \$102,000.

In 1976 Joy began working as a full time bookkeeper for a convalescent hospital while studying to be a tax accountant. In 1977, Lester started with Caltrans as a structural steel painter on the Carquinez Bridge in District 4. He soon brought home an announcement and application for toll collector. She took the exam with 600 others. Only 200 passed, but Joy placed in the 78th rank.

Soon Lester saw a chance to transfer to San Diego and work on the Coronado Bridge. As a new guy on the crew and with only three spots open, he didn't have much hope for the move but in April 1979 he came home with the news that he had the transfer. The very next morning brought news that Joy had been accepted for a position as toll collector in Antioch. When she explained her dilemma, and they said that she could start there and look for a transfer as well, she took the job starting as permanent intermittent toll collector in May.

Lester headed to San Diego in July while Joy stayed in Concord to sell the house as they said it might be six months or more to get transferred, but in August an option came open and though the house had not yet sold, she took the "bird-in-the-hand" and made the move to District 11. They lived in Ocean Beach while both worked on the Coronado Bridge but the old 'Coastal Eddy' hid the sun for several months of summer and Joy was ready to move back to the sunny east bay area. By October they found a house in Chula Vista where the sun did shine and she was much happier, at least until December of that year when the bridge went to one-way tolls. Even though Joy had a job as an intermittent, she had no hours of work.

Joy then took the Junior Engineering Technician test and took the first opening to come up in surveys in June of 1980. She was now permanent full time even though it meant she was out of town a lot that year. Then, in December Les drowned while

scuba diving. Joy remembers the exceptional support she got from her new Caltrans family. Being a widow working full time with children 15, 18 and 19 was a challenge but Les's boss, **Ron Cabrel**, took care of many things for her, even picking up her mom from the airport. A Marriage Encounter weekend just six months before Les died had given her peace, knowing that he was now at rest in spirit as well as body. Her family and strong faith in the Lutheran Church were also big help.

The next year Joy met **Joe Byrd**; they married on November 7, 1981. She and her children say Joe has been the best possible choice she could have made. The very next question Joe asked after the proposal was, "What do you do for Thanksgiving?" Her answer was that they usually had a big family dinner. Joe said that he went to the Glamis sand dunes for Thanksgiving and with that written into the marriage contract they haven't missed a Thanksgiving in Glamis for 23 years. Joe also brought his children **Bruce, Mike** and **Karyn** into the fold for larger family get-togethers when they can pull them off.

Joy was working in surveys for **Max Wickham** then but took a year off to play house with her new husband and family. She returned to work in November 1982 in surveys, and then went to design where her first task was to plan the retirement party for her new boss, **Ken Mock**. While in design in July 1983 she was promoted to TET and worked for **Lloyd Hughes** on the Route 52 project between I-805 and Santo Road. Then in September 1986 the major incident response team had an opening and she figured that some other experience would help her with the upcoming assistant test. **John McAllister** was in the hospital at the time and **Joel Havens** hired her. Her first call-out was a midnight call from the CHP and she started to panic thinking that one of her children might have had an accident. The caller was surprised when she was so overjoyed to get up and drive out to some power lines that were down at the I-8/I63 interchange.

In January 1987 Joy was promoted to assistant transportation engineer to become a team leader in MIRT (later known as TMT) where she found she had no life of her own with round-the-clock call-

outs. Exciting highlights include the October 1989 Bay Area earthquake when she drove her sign truck up there for a 12 day gig and the January 1994 Northridge quake which took her to District 7 for a week. Some days it was hard to find an eating place open in all the wreckage. In January 1996 John McAllister retired and she took his place as the TMT leadperson. She says the most challenging event is the Rock and Roll Marathon with its long and complex traffic disruption.

Besides Joy and Joe's six children, they have 22 grand children and two great grandchildren. When the kids were growing up they were active in the 4-H program as it was something that was open to both boys and girls.

Joe has worked as an electrician for Kelco, (the seaweed company) and got four weeks of vacation a year with no carry-over rights so they have had to make use of it every year. When the company was bought out by a company from Scotland a few years back he got a nice retirement severance but has been called back on a consultant basis for much of the time since then.

For fun Joy and Joe have traveled to world-class scuba diving places like the Turks Caicos Islands, Belize, and St. Thomas in the Caribbean and to Hawaii. This year's trip was two weeks in Fiji with a couple of their kids. They also own a vacation time-share and had vacations in Acapulco, Guadalajara, and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. While the children were taking scuba diving lessons in 1990, the instructor talked her into taking lessons herself and she says that learning to dive made having babies seem easy. Learning to dive was the biggest personal accomplishment of her life. After having dived for 10 years, and getting older, Joy hasn't had much inclination to continue. She and Joe have enjoyed bowling and square dancing and often traveled to Joe's family roots in Florida where fifteen years ago they bought some property on the river with the intention of building a home there one day.

The day has come and they have sold their home in Chula Vista for a handsome profit, bought a home near Yuma, Arizona to be near the sand dunes and are living in their motor home while building that

home in Florida, which should be finished soon. They can then move east or west as the seasons change and always have a new adventure down the road. Near term plans include another dive vacation to Hawaii for more fun-in-the-sun as they feel the urge, that is - after Thanksgiving at Glamis.

Dewey McNeil, a respected 32-year Caltrans construction engineer, passed away on November 18. He had fought through several bouts of cancer since retiring in 1989.

Mr. McNeil had worked on major freeway projects from the I-5/I63 interchange to the Camp Pendleton I-5 segment to I-8 freeway all the way from San Diego to El Centro... lots of desert time!

Mr. McNeil's son, **Craig**, led a memorial service at the Bonham Brothers and Stewart Mortuary in Ramona November 26th.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, **JoAnn**; his son Craig, a civil engineer for the county in Gardnerville, Nevada and daughter, **Trica Lambert** of Ramona, her husband **Steve** and two grandchildren, **Stephanie** and **Shannon**. Those wishing to send a sentiment to JoAnn and the kids may do so at 16863 Daza Drive, Ramona, CA, 92065

— Butch Biendara

The Haps in Central

Again this year **Dave Theobald** coordinated use of the College Greens Swim and Racquet Club for our picnic on September 22. Since **Dave and Jeanne** do not use the facilities any more, they are terminating their membership. That means we'll be finding another location for the 2006 event. Our thanks to **Dave and Jeanne** for all they have done to ensure the good times we have enjoyed for many years.

The weather could not have been better for this year's gathering, and **JR's Texas BBQ** was delicious and plentiful, as always. It was a challenge,

but **Director Gary Bush** was able to squeeze in a short business meeting between the lively conversations. Members voted to donate \$250 to the California Transportation Foundation and \$250 to the Red Cross for the Katrina Relief Fund. **John Hebner** has sent checks to both.

Many lucky guests left with special raffle prizes selected by Gary and his wife, **Julie**. It was a perfect fall evening to linger and enjoy the time with friends. Here's what some had to say:

Merle and Adele Larrabee – "What a great night to have a BBQ. Just perfect weather and arrangements. So great to see everyone, especially several who have not been here for some time. We just have had a grandson born. He is, of course, the best one ever. We had to care for him the second week of his life as mom was in the hospital with an infection. Wow, back to basics! Things are OK now with his mom. We leave in mid-October for three days in New York City and then a seven-day cruise to Bermuda, back to NY and then home. Will tell more about it next time."

Jane and Chuck Pivetti – "Just got back from viewing and photographing animals and birds in Tanzania. The trip was fabulous! If you'd like to know more about a great safari company and an amazing guide, call us! 916-359-7049.

Ellen and Jack Derby – "Jack and his son, Craig, spent two weeks in Bikini and Hawaii fly fishing. Jack had worked there in the 50s during the nuclear testing era. We spent a great week at Loon Lake with our ski club. Ellen leaves for a cruise of the Greek Isles in October."

Peggy Sweet – "I came with **Jack and Ellen Derby** and I had a great time. Walking the streets of Sacramento for the experience and playing lots of bridge. I miss **Charlie** but other than that life is good."

Earlene and Jim Borden – "We missed the last meeting due to arthroscopic surgery on Jim's knee. But he has recuperated and is doing everything – even played softball in Golden Seniors League. His team won the championship for their age group. We did the grandparent thing with two from San Jose one week and one more from San Jose another. The two here spent a lot of time swimming at our house all summer. Spent a week in

Logan, Utah. Just returned from a short trip to Clear Lake and Windsor. Hawaii next week."

Vern Leseman – "I love the home I bought last October in a gated development called Heritage Park near Arco Arena. Our 75,000 square foot clubhouse includes indoor pool, gym, bridge, poker, pool, computer class, an English Pub – you name it. The singles club has about 105 women and six men.

"In June I went to Minnesota for three weeks, and for the life of me, I don't know what I liked about that state when I was a kid. The weather is terrible and the wood ticks and mosquitoes are so bad. I am happy I live in California."

Dick and Louise Ginsburg – "We spent our usual eight weeks in the northwest this year, but have decided to sell our 5th wheel and truck. We'll still spend time there during the summer but in a motel or extended stay facility for a couple of weeks instead of staying most of the summer. Dick caught three salmon and one sturgeon this year and we will enjoy that. We took a cruise on Holland American Cruise Lines to South America this spring and really enjoyed it. We're looking forward to a river cruise in Russia in April 2006."

Ann and Jack Kassel – "Took a river boat trip in Eastern Europe this spring, the Danube River from the Black Sea to Budapest. It was great except for Eastern Europe's version of Montezuma's Revenge. We also spent a relaxing week in Santa Cruz with our family and two weeks in the hills in our trailer. Now it's work hard and try to stay cool. We have a great turnout at the summer BBQ."

George Smith – "A great meeting. Many, many old friends at the picnic. Really enjoyed it."

Kay and Hugh Griffin – "This spring and summer we drove about 14,000 miles over 6-1/2 weeks to the east coast, leaving May 15 and visiting Gunnison Canyon, the U. S. Air Force Academy, Branson, the Clinton Library, and the Great Smoky Mountain National Park on our way to Durham, North Carolina and our two-year old twin grand daughters. We drove to Cambridge, Massachusetts so we could babysit the twins while our daughter-in-law celebrated her 10-year college reunion. Over the five days we rode the "T" all over Boston visiting the Children's Museum, Boston Commons, etc. Our trip back to the west coast went through

Vermont, Hancock Shaker Village, Corning Glass Factory, College Football Hall of Fame, Studebaker Museum, International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, Wisconsin, the Dells, Badlands, Mt. Rushmore, Crazy House, Yellowstone National Park and the Tetons. It was a great trip but good to get back to Sacramento by July 1."

The Hollises – "Greetings to everyone. We are still recovering from our three-month sojourn to Europe in 2004. We are confining ourselves to the RV mode for a while to see the parts of the US not visited previously."

Bob and Connie Felton – "Went to Medicine Lake in Siskiyou County a couple of days after Labor Day for three days and nights. The fishing was great. Rainbow trout, 10-1/2" to 13". Limited out two consecutive days. They were great eating too. Got snowed on Saturday morning. Total snowfall was 1/8 inch with a temperature of 36 degrees F. It did not interfere with the joy of the outing. Have not been to the coast for abalone since the 2001 fishing season."

Don Tueller – "I don't have money to do exciting things as I have to pay rental on the Med-Clinic. In spite of everything, my urologist gives me six months; my cardiologist gives me one year; my endocrinologist, three months; and my primary care physician, two months. We did make an extended trip to the scene of our childhood in Idaho and Utah but someone cancelled the month of August."

Omar John Pertel – "The family took a trip to the Baltic Sea and Russia during summer school break. The kids, Gus and Roman, and wife, Judi, had a great time, as I did. We went through Moscow to Krasnoyarsk to visit Roman's birthplace. Then back to Moscow. We took a train to Tallin, Estonia where we visited my parent's birthplace. Then we flew to Copenhagen, Denmark to start our cruise of the Baltic. We visited Estonia, St. Petersburg, Finland, Sweden, Germany and Denmark. Berlin was accessed by train, where we visited Checkpoint Charlie, a museum for the Berlin airlift and Potsdam. We would like to go again since the trip was so great."

Jeanne and Dave Theobald – "Drove to Lake Oswego, OR in June for our granddaughter's

graduation from Jesuit H.S. In August we attended the 69th Infantry reunion in Louisville KY. Dave was elected vice-president. Louisville has many interesting areas including Louisville Slugger where professional baseball players have their bats made. At the end of the tour we were given a small bat. We toured an arms museum—only one year old—very interesting. Churchill Downs was an interesting tour. Also did the city tour, lunch on a river cruise and Caesar's Casino on the river."

Pat Mooney – "Went to Washington, DC last year to see the sights. Also traveled through Virginia, Pennsylvania where we went to Gettysburg, and West Virginia to visit a coal mine."

Fred Jackson – "Always good to see former co-workers. Thanks, Dave, for arranging the picnic here again. We missed our annual fishing trip to Prince Rupert, B.C. this year."

August (Gus) Egli – "It was great to see many of my co-workers after all these years. Some of you looked younger than !!"

Jack Cropper – "Enjoy seeing everyone. In the last year I've spent the winter on Maui, my 60th reunion from VA Tech in Virginia and a cruise to Alaska and the Caribbean."

LeRena and Joe Hannon – "Took a tour of Norway in late May, landing in Oslo two days early. This gave us time to travel by train to the small town of Al where Joe searched records for his great grandfather. The librarian was very helpful and directed him to family history books that took his Norwegian roots back to 1690. He was also able to locate a farm where some of his ancestors had lived.

"Staying at the local hotel allowed us to enjoy a music festival and a dance where some of the women wore their ceremonial dresses called Burads and whirled around to accordion and Hardanger fiddle music. The next day we began an enjoyable seven-day tour with 14 Sons of Norway members from Sacramento and 12 other people. We first visited the town of Edisvoll, where the Norwegian Constitution was signed in 1814 and Lillehammer, the site of the 1994 winter Olympics. We rode along extensive snow fields and visited a glacier and glacier museum. The tour included

several fjords that extended miles inland, usually between mountain walls on either side. The scenery was beautiful lush and green and little houses and villages dotted the fjords. There were waterfalls everywhere. A farm visit provided how an average family lives. Each night provided a stop at a lovely old hotel with excellent dinner and breakfast buffets with lots of salmon and other fish available. The tour continued through Telemark and snow fields.

"We visited picturesque stave churches and the 'Heavy water Fertilizer/Hydro Plant at Vemork.' This is where the Norwegian Resistance movement pulled off several bombings during WWII. The heavy water was a byproduct of fertilizer production and the Germans needed it for developing an atomic bomb. Back in Oslo visits included the Park of Sculptures, the Viking Ship Museum and Kon Tiki Museum, which concluded the tour. The next day we rented a car and traveled southeast of Oslo to the Holand-Hemnes area in search of Joe's great-great-grandfather, Thorkild Mortenson's farm. Again a local librarian was very helpful by calling two historians/ genealogists for them to talk to. One person was developing family histories for the local municipality.

"Joe's Mortenson family would be included in the next volume that would be available this fall. The other historian invited them to his home where his wife served coffee, lefse and sweet rolls and took them to the farm that great-great-grandfather Thorkild had owned up until 1868.

"On our final day in Oslo, the King opened Parliament and kicked off the 100 year celebration of the separation of Norway from Sweden. Upon returning to Sacramento, We were surprised to find a picture of ourselves in the Oslo newspaper on the Internet, watching the celebration proceedings. What a surprise after a wonderful trip. In July we went to Wisconsin to visit relatives and provide ancestral information on their Norway trip."

Don and Nancy Benjamin – "In June and July, we had a wonderful trip to the Ukraine, Russia, Estonia and Finland. We visited and explored too many special places to mention but Red Square in Moscow and the Hermitage Museum in St.

Petersburg top our list. As we cruised the Volga and other waterways from Moscow to St. Petersburg, it was hard to imagine the lush green forests and bodies of water we were seeing are snow covered and frozen a good part of the year.

"We just returned from a 10-day trip to Skamokawa, Washington for an Elderhostel that focused on kayaking in the area and learning about the Lewis and Clark Expedition. We were blessed with perfect, calm weather so the Columbia River and adjoining sloughs we kayaked were like glass – so beautiful!! A highlight was standing at the spot Lewis and Clark stood exactly 200 years before (November 17) when they saw the Pacific Ocean for the first time."

I received notes from two central district members who qualify this year for honorary membership:

Bob Datel writes, "Thanks so much for sending my 'old age' certificate – it has a very attractive design. I also appreciate getting notices of the three special events for QCC central district members. It's been a while since I have attended one. I hope to do better in the future. Can't make it for Christmas Party, however. I'll be recovering from hip surgery. Hope you and your family are well. Best regards. Bob"

Thanks, Bob. We look forward to seeing you in 2006.

A note from **Heinz Heckeroth** reads "Hope and I plan to take in Southern California at the time of the QC Club Christmas Dinner so will be unable to attend on December 12th. I'll take a rain check on my 80th recognition and reward until the following meeting."

Thanks, Heinz. You have the rain check.

Robert T. Martin sent a note from Carmel, Indiana, saying he cannot attend meetings but definitely wants to continue to receive copies of the QCCer.

Will do, Robert.

Max Rothe sent a message forwarding information about **Frank Navarrette** and **Warren Polsley**, former Caltrans employees who passed away in 2005:

Frank Navarrette died September 16th. Born April 4, 1931 he was an urban planner in the

division of transportation planning before teaching political science and Native American studies at the college level for three decades. (Max notes that **Charlie Zell** worked there at the time also.)

Warren Polesley died in March 2005. He had worked with **C. Calvin Peterson** in Research Administration and had been in Design with Dave Henry. *Thanks, Max.*

More sad news to report

Vance William Abersold died September 3rd at age 64. He graduated from U.C. Berkeley with a BA in Civil Engineering. Vance served in the Army Reserves and worked for Caltrans in District 10 and Sacramento until he retired after 28 years to become a self-employed businessman. Vance is survived by his wife, **Elizabeth**, who also worked for Caltrans in Sacramento.

Harry Kagan, 84, passed away October 2. Mr. Kagan had operated a consulting firm, Kagan & Associates, for 10 years after retiring from Caltrans in 1988. He was a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley and a naval officer during World War II. He began work for the Division of Highways in 1948 in the right of way office and is remembered for his skill at acquiring right of way for freeways up and down California.

Albert F. Bowling passed away November 21st. Mr. Bowling was born on February 15, 1922 and attended Sacramento Junior College and the University of San Francisco. While serving in the Air Force during WW II, he received the Distinguished Flying Cross, three air medals and the Purple Heart. He left the Air Force in 1946 as a 1st Lieutenant and began working for the Division of Highways in District 04 the following year.

After 10 years in San Francisco, Albert moved to headquarters where he worked as an associate engineer in design and planning until his retirement in 1985. He leaves Beverly, his wife of 61 years,

Timothy N. Leahy passed away on October 9, 2005. Tim was 67.

The central district will say goodbye to 2005 with a holiday luncheon at the **Buggy Whip** on December 12. We look forward to seeing many of you there. To those who can't attend – Happy Holidays and hope to see you in 2006!!!

— Nancy Benjamin

In Memoriam

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

Name	District	Date
Art Johnson	1	10/3/2005
Marguerite Laster I	1	9/11/2005
Bil Melish	4	2005
Vern Richey	4	2005
James McGillis	5	10/9/2005
James T. Creamer	7	12/3/2004
Eugene Wallin	7	5/8/2004
Thomas Spencer	7	Unknown
Betty Tallman	8	9/4/2005
Sally Nelson	8	8/29/2005
Patsy Pond	8	9/28/2005
Billy Gilbert	8	9/29/2005
Fred Quilen	8	Unknown
Fed Steppler	9	8/2005
Otto Mikes	9	11/2005
Spiros Vlavianos	10	8/24/2005
Larry Chun	10	8/3/2005
Peter Thomas Raggio	10	9/16/2005
Clair E. Hall	10	11/20/2005
Marvin Lee Philippi	10	11/24/2005
Jim Haines	11	11/18/2005
Dewey McNeil	11	11/18/2005
Arthur Elliott	Cen	Unknown
Frank Navarette	Cen	9/16/2005
Warren Polesley	Cen	3/2005
Vance Abersold	Cen	9/3/2005
Harry Kagan	Cen	10/2/2005
Timothy Leahy	Cen	10/9/2005
Albert Bowling	Cen	11/21/2005
Bertha Wiley	Cen	Unknown

The California Transportation 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.

Events

Here are some QCC groups that keep in touch. Got a group that meets regularly? Be sure to let your editor know and we'll add it to the event calendar.

District 1 - *No Contact*

CT retired ladies, second Thursday of each month at 12:30 pm at various locations. call Marilyn Hernandez at (707) 442-1135 or E-mail ahartin@cox.net

Retired Highwaymen and Road Agents

meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 11:35 a.m. at the Hometown Buffet at the Bayshore Mall in Eureka

District 3 - *No Contact*

Breakfast at Perko's Yuba City at 7 am third Wednesday of every month

District 4 *Contact: Ed Coble, (650) 941-5156*

E-mail: edcoble49@worldnet.att.net

The **Caltrans Lunch Bunch** meets on the second Tuesday of every month—contact Ed Coble.

The **North Bay Caltrans Retirees** meet on the second Tuesday of every month—contact Kearn Lee at (707) 538-3484

District 6 *Contact: Ralph Tritch, (559) 535-4295*

The **Caltrans Retiree Breakfast** meets at noon on the third Wednesdays in March and September at Green Valley Restaurant at Olive and J Street Porterville

District 6 QCCers will meet Tuesday, July 12th at the Santa Fe Restaurant on Maroa, south of Shields. Lunch is at the boarders table. The bell rings at 12:30 pm.

District 7 *Contact: Tom Fera, (818) 896-9377*

The **Monthly Luncheon Club** meets on the second Wednesday of the month in Los Angeles—contact Tom Fera for information.

District 9 *Contact: Lance Hinek, (619) 873-3885*

Lunch at Whiskey Creek meets on the first Friday of the month in Bishop—contact Lance Hinek for information

District 10 *Contact: Stan Randolph (209) 957-1278*

Lenny's Huddle meets at 7:30 am on the last Tuesday of the month at Denny's, I-5 and March Lane, in Stockton

District 11 *No Contact*

ROMEOS (Retired Old Men Eating Out) meets at Denny's, Navajo road, at 8:30 the third Wednesday of every month

Annual QCC and Retiree Picnic Saturday, September 17, 2005 at Santee Lakes

Central *Gary Bush— (530) 642-8208*

Annual Winter Luncheon Dember 12th

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