



## QCC Web Site Up

*QCCer Peggy Veeder to the Rescue*

### From the Corner Pocket

#### A Note From Butch

The Quarter Century Club has a web site again, thanks to **Peggy Veeder**, a San Diego member now retired and living in Florida (the web can connect you anywhere in the world.) A QCC web site several years ago was canceled, but Peggy has some free time and has found a hosting location offering a good deal of free space. To start, put <http://ctqcc.150m.com/qcc.html> into your web browser and you will find a wealth of info on QCC officers, history, constitution, an application, and an 'under construction' roster of members. Bookmark the address for easy access later.

Lets hope that having a web site and the application on-line will help to recruit new and younger potential members who are just now reaching their 25-year mark. Check out the site and send a note (with an application), to the younger people you trained 25 years ago. A word from you might encourage them to sign on as member.



Another plus is that this site can be a means for web-savvy members to connect with friends who are scattered around the world. If you choose, send a note to Peggy at [QCCWebmaster@yahoo.com](mailto:QCCWebmaster@yahoo.com). She will post your name and E-mail address on the web site so your friends can find you. This is **on request only** so you must E-mail her directly to be listed. I have nearly 100 QCCer E-mail addresses on my computer but each will have to send Peggy a request for a listing as they wish.

Peggy is also working on getting the entire QCC roster, (names only), into the web site. Our constitution calls for publishing a bi-annual roster, but

Secretary **Kim Yarbrough** tells me hundreds of updates to the current 'static' printed roster are needed. With a 'dynamic' roster we can keep current as members drop out or join. One caveat is that this will be a names-only listing. If you wish to contact someone, you must contact Kim, who will contact the member to see if they wish to share their name, address or phone number. Addresses and phone numbers will be kept confidential unless you permit someone to be informed.

A big item we hope to start soon is having the **QCCer** newsletter available

on-line. Members like past President **Jim Larson** spend much of their time in the far corners of the world and rarely get home to read US snail-mail. If you are in Amsterdam, Bangkok, Cape Town, or Dubuque we could inform you via E-mail that the next newsletter is available and you can read it wherever you are, (and send a note to your friends.) A potential plus is that if many members choose to get their QCCer as an electronic version only that could postpone a dues increase.

We have lost our long-time, low-cost printer because of equipment failure. Thanks to Editor **Gene Berthelsen** who found a replacement printer at a slight increase in cost, but with a possible postage increase we must evaluate our ongoing expenses. As more of our members become honorary—and are relieved of their obligation to pay dues—we may need to raise the annual dues. So unless you care to leave the QCC a large endowment, be advised that a dues increase may be needed soon.

The \$2 each district gets annually doesn't allow for much more than printing and postage for district news. Don't expect a free lunch each month. As volunteers the district officers need help. Contact them and let them know if you have any member news or the time to help make things happen. If you haven't been well connected in your district, contact State Secretary **Kim** who can generate a list of the members in your district for you to take the ball and get it rolling.

Remember, **all** of us are far more able than **ANY** of us.

— Butch Biendara

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## Secretary Treasure's Report

**H**ere we are with almost half the year gone already. Hope you are enjoying life to the fullest.

**Dues Report:** A number of you still have not caught up on your dues for 2005. Please check the date on the cover page of the QCCer that indicates when your dues expire. Please try to save the club a little money by getting your dues in so I don't have to send a reminder.

**Elections:** Election of officers will come up soon; think about whom you'd like to run the Quarter Century Club for the next year. The end of this year will complete **Butch Biendara's** tour of duty and he's allowed to serve only two terms. Butch has done a great job—it'll be difficult to replace him.

However, I know someone out there can carry on. The nominating committee consists of the district directors and the members of the executive committee. Please get your suggestions to the DDs as they must be returned to me by October 25, less than five months away. Please refer to the constitution for details about the nomination and election procedures.

Pat and I joined the members of the Central District for their spring luncheon on May 18. Aply led by new district director Gary Bush, they put on a great gathering. It was fun to see friends with whom I had worked in Districts 6 and 11. To top it all off, Pat and I won two prizes in the drawing! In all the years we have been attending these functions, it's the first time we've won anything! I hope they invite us back!

Until the next time, take care. We want you back for the next issue.

— Kim Yarbrough

### The Milk Carton

**Here are names of members we've lost track of. If you know of their whereabouts, please contact Kim Yarbrough at:**

5670 Brook Road  
 Mariposa CA 95338-9752  
 e-mail: [propman@sti.net](mailto:propman@sti.net)  
 Phone: 209-742-4591

Josephin A. Randolph	02
Mrs. Pearl Salvador	02
William J. "Jack" Hill	03
Lrona D. Richards	03
Will F. Bruning	04
Theodore J. Nicou	04

Norris W. Hollon	04
Mrs. Meyer Hyman	04
James D. Cross	04
Frank A. Swarzkopf	05
Steven S. Pavitt	05
Phillip Pugnier	05
Raymond P. Duffin	07
John Iwasaki	07
Allison D. Mayfield	07
Thomas S. Ortiz	07
Georgia A. Schneider	07
Gerald L. Shue	07
Mrs. Abner J. Stripling	09
Ohn G. Engman	10
Francis A. Snyder	10
Sharon Dionisopoulos	11
LaVonne Hale	11
Frances Hoff	11
A. H. Green	ctl
Louise S. Plowe	ctl
Richard W. Robinson	ctl
Charlotte G. Watson	ctl
Kenneth E. Wilson	ctl

### History of District 10

by George E. Gray, First Vice President

The Stockton District of the California Department of Transportation—Caltrans—was formed January 1, 1924 from portions of the previous Division III (then headquartered in Sacramento) and Division VI (Fresno). The resulting District X, headquartered at first in Sacramento, covered Merced, Mariposa (previously in Division VI) and Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Alpine, Calaveras, Amador, and San Joaquin Counties, which were previously in Division III. At the time the new district was created, the previous divisions were renamed districts.

The first District Engineer was **J. S. McLeod**, who was succeeded by **R. E. Pierce** in 1926. At the end of February 1935, the district office was relocated to a newly constructed building in Stockton. Prior to that, the district had operated from four different locations. Mr. Pierce continued to serve as District Engineer until his appointment February 1, 1942 to take charge of the State Planning Survey effort.

**Paul O. Harding**, previously Assistant District Engineer in District IV (San Francisco) under **Col. Skeggs**, succeeded Mr. Pierce. Mr. Harding, a native of Kansas, was a 1st lieutenant in World War I. A graduate of the University of Nebraska, he entered state service in February 1929 after experience with the Rock Island Railroad; the Oregon State Highway Commission; the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, and his private practice in Pasadena. He was active in the early years of the California State Employees Association, serving as its president in 1932.

**Charles E. Waite** succeeded Paul Harding in the fall of 1947 and held the office until the fall of 1949 when he became the State Engineer of Design in Sacramento. Mr. Waite, a graduate of the University of Oklahoma, had begun his state service in District II (Redding) in 1929. He ended his career as Deputy State Highway Engineer.

#### DONATION

Father O'Malley answers the phone:  
 "Hello, is this Father O'Malley?"  
 "It is," says the priest.  
 "This is the IRS. Can you help us?"  
 "If I can," states Father O'Mally.  
 "Do you know a Ted Houlihan?"  
 "I do."  
 "Is he a member of your congregation?"  
 "He is."  
 "Did he donate \$10,000 to the church?"  
 "He will."

**John G. Meyer** transferred from District V (San Luis Obispo), to replace Mr. Waite. Born in 1902 in San Francisco, Meyer graduated with a B.S. in engineering from the University of California at Berkeley in 1928. After working with the Division of Highways while attending school he started full time in 1928 in District III (then in Sacramento) as a field draftsman on the Echo Summit relocation project. He became a resident engineer after working his way up in surveying and construction. Most of his jobs were on U.S. 40 between Colfax and Donner Summit. In 1935 he was assigned to headquarters in Sacramento working under the Office Engineer on Federal Aid projects.

Mr. Meyer served in the Navy Seabees (1943-1946) as a lieutenant commander during World War II, serving in Australia, New Guinea, and the Philippines. He returned to the Division of Highways in 1946 as Supervisor of Structural Road Design in Sacramento. In 1948 he transferred to District V as Operations Engineer and in the following year was promoted to District Engineer at Stockton. He served for 19 years, retiring on May 30, 1968. His tenure covered the district's thrust into the freeway era. Mr. Meyer was most proud of his role in establishing the Interstate 5 alignment through the district and the national recognition of Scenic Route 88 in the Sierra. He died in August 1982.

In October 1990, a scenic overlook near Red Lake in Alpine County was named for Mr. Meyer. The San Joaquin edition of the *Senior Spectrum Weekly* of October 15, 1990 stated, "The outlook, dedicated today in a ceremony sponsored by the California Transportation Foundation, pays tribute to Meyer for his engineering accomplishments and his community dedication." **Larry Wieman**, who served as District Director in Stockton after Meyer retired and had become acquainted with him through civic activities,

spearheaded development of the memorial. "He was a decent human being, a good engineer and active in the community," Wieman said.

Following are memories of Mr. Meyers as District Engineer by several of his District 10 colleagues:

**Bill Selling:** "I had the pleasure and honor of working for John in the early 1960s. There was one thing not too many people knew about John—how he always knew the field maintenance people by their first name. When I worked as a photographer he had us take pictures of all the crews and make folders with their names included. He always carried the folders with him and he would review the photos just before a visit. The crews would blow their minds trying to figure out how the District Director knew their names! He was a people person and always had time to chat. He could prepare for a Board of Review claim in minutes and sound as if he was intimately familiar with all details of the project. He used to reduce odds matching for coffee by coming into the game after eight people were out and only two left so he could buy for the crew."

**Merle E. Larrabee:** "Sometime in the mid-sixties, **Jim Wilson** drove John Meyer, **Bill Gillispie** and me to a contract claims hearing in headquarters. After the hearing, Wilson wanted to visit with some friends, so we started out with him around the building. At every doorway someone wanted to greet John. The rest of us posted ourselves at the turns along the way so as not to lose him; he needed to be at the Senator Hotel by noon. Wilson didn't get to visit many friends before we got John to the hotel. As we let him out in front of the hotel, guess what? Four or five persons approached along the sidewalk. The last we saw of John that day, he was greeting every one of them by name. John knew everyone and everyone knew him. What a great guy!"

The following district leaders succeeded Mr. Meyer:

1968-1969	<b>Robert Datel</b>
1969-1976	<b>Neal E. Anderson</b>

(In 1973 the title District Engineer was changed to District Director of Transportation.)

1976-1982	<b>D. Larry Wieman</b>
1982-1987	<b>Preston Kelly</b>
1987-1991	<b>James B. Borden</b>
1991-1996	<b>Gordon Marts</b>
1997-2003	<b>Mark Leja</b>
2003-Present	<b>Kome Ajiseis</b>

—George Gray

## *The Haps in District 1*

**A** lot has happened here in District 1 this last quarter. I want to mention that our ACT retired ladies lunch takes place the second Thursday of each month at 12:30 pm at various locations. Anyone is welcome and can call **Marilyn Hernandez** at (707) 442-1135 or E-mail me at [ahartin@cox.net](mailto:ahartin@cox.net). We always have a great visit and keep up with the news. Several QCCers attend.

Several of our friends have retired from District 1 recently. **Russ Lee**, Transportation Engineer, on May 1, **Dan Adams**, Maintenance Manager, December 29, 2004, **Joe Hadrian**, Janitor Supervisor, February 9, **Disa Dahlin**, CEO II, April 28, and **Janie Neustrom**, Assistant CT Administrator, May 1. Janie just joined our ladies lunch group.

**Gordon Johnson**, Transportation Engineer, also retired on June 3. His party was held June 4 at the park in Scotia so I'll have a report in the next issue. **Marty Van Zandt**, Deputy District Director, Operations and fellow QCCer, will retire at the end of the year but will run out his vacation starting in June. The office had cake for him on June 1, his last day. We're still hoping for a retirement party later this year. **Mark Suchanek** will take his place.

District I will hold its Service Awards lunch in August so I hope to find some more 25+ year members for QCC.

Sadly, QCCer **Eileen Quigley, Tom's** wife, passed away on April 14. Many of us retirees, QCCers, her fellow square dancers, St. Joseph Hospital volunteers, friends and family attended her memorial service at the Elks Lodge. It was packed. I do want to mention a few that were there. **Arlon Sauls** was up from the south visiting family and was able to attend. **George Otterbeck** came over from Redding. I saw **Mary Ann Bottini**, whose husband, **Dean**, is recovering from a stroke. He was my supervisor before his retirement. **Sonja McClary** took some time from tending to husband **Bob**, who is also recovering from a stroke. Bob is currently going through therapy and making good progress. Both are QCCers. **Ben** and **Alice Van Zandt** were there. They recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Yes, they are **Marty's** parents and also QCCers.

I've seen **Vi Truby** at several events, including Eileen's service and the ladies lunch. She has now joined the Quarter Century Club. Welcome, Vi.

**Jim** and **Linda Boyd** had a great time going after abalones and shopping in Fort Bragg and Mendocino in May. With them were fellow retirees **Jerry** and **Sharon Severson** and **Chuck** and **Pat SeCoy**. They plan to make it back in June for some more. They have to get away from that heat in Redding now and then.

On May 8, we attended **Norm Worley's** 94th birthday party at the Elk's Club (We do like that place). We saw several retired Caltrans people, including QCCers **Bob Myers, Ben Stebbins, Bob** and **Mary Kay, Tom Quigley**, and **Joe McDonough**. It was a lively party with good music, food, and—best of all—good visiting,

and Norm, the liveliest of us all. He is thinking of doing this every year now.

On May 27, a section of Route 101 north of Trinidad was dedicated to **Everett R.** and **Louella Thomas**. The section is next to that of his friend and co-worker, **Bill Hegy**. We had a nice turnout with District Director **Charles Fielder** serving as Master of Ceremonies. The speakers included **Zuretti "Zuey" Goosby**, who represented State Senator **Wes Chesbro, Mike Thomas, Everett** and **Louella's** son, and **Thea Gast**, former Arcata City Council member. She shared memories mainly of Louella. I also took advantage of the opportunity to speak, remembering him as the Deputy District Engineer, Administration and my third level supervisor when I started in 1966. He was a great person to know. It was great to meet several members of his extended family and friends and hear their memories. Everett retired in 1973 after a 43-year career in Caltrans that included districts 1, 6, and 10.

I hope to hear from more fellow District I QCCers on how the summer goes or other interesting news you may want to share.

— Arlene Hartin

## *The Haps in District 2*

**D**onald C. Carlile sends a note with his dues: "Patty and I still go each year to Trinidad for fishing (May 15 to October 1.) We will miss the picnic this year."

Don didn't know we'd found it necessary to cancel the picnic that had been scheduled for the middle of June. Maybe a new director will be able to make plans for one next summer.

We lost **Kathryn Elizabeth Raymond**, nee Manter, on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Born July 31, 1921 in Redding, she had retired with a total of more than 40 years of service on December 2, 1982. She had

done stints in maintenance, construction, District 4 headquarters and the headquarters lab. She is survived by three nephews.

**Pete Espil** died on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 92 years of age. He was born July 21, 1912 in Long Valley Ranch, Nevada and moved to Redding in 1945 from Davis Creek. A civil engineer, he worked for the Division of Highways before retirement. He is survived by wife **Janet** of Redding, son **Barry** of Buhl, Idaho, daughter **Wendy** of Stockton, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Margaret Elda Weaver** died April 16, 2005 at 93. She was born September 27, 1911 in Keswick and was a lifelong resident of Shasta County. She was preceded in death by her husband **Earl**. She is survived by daughters Gail Richey of Redding and Jackie Allen of Goleta, two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

We extend our condolences to the families.

— Dan Cherry

### NOT FAIR

A man and his wife had a huge fight at home and were giving each other the silent treatment.

The next week, the man realized that he would need his wife to wake him at 5:00 AM for an early morning business flight to Chicago.

Not wanting to be the first to break the silence (and lose), he wrote on a piece of paper, "Please wake me at 5:00 AM."

The next morning the man woke up, only to discover it was 9:00AM and that he had missed his flight.

Furious, he was about to go and see why his wife hadn't awakened him, when he noticed a piece of paper by the bed.

The paper said, "It's 5:00 AM. Wake up."

(Men are not equipped for these kinds of contests.)

## The Haps in District 3

Our semi-annual get-together took place on April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Sportsman's Hall in Pollock Pines with about 40 in attendance. The day started with a sharp breeze that kept the day on the cool side, so the luncheon was set up indoors. We were honored with the attendance of QCC Secretary/Treasurer **Kim Yarbrough** and his lovely wife **Pat**. This was indeed quite an honor and was appreciated by the group. Kim gave a short history of the Quarter Century Club and described how our numbers are getting smaller. He reminded us that a large number of active and retired employees qualify for membership but are never approached to join. He urged us to bring in these friends.

Here is a rundown on the luncheon: **Doug** and **Grace Becker** hosted the event; guests of honor were **Kim** and **Pat Yarbrough**. Those attending included **Aldo** and **Mary Bruneilo**, **Bill** and **Barb Byer**, **John Cottier**, **Max** and **Dolores Dodson**, **Stan** and **Nancy Freeman**, **Darrel** and **JoAnn Hansen**, **John** and **Mary Krek**, **Al** and **Dolores Lara**, **Keith** and **Barbara Maginnini**, **Dan Mainwaring**, **Gerald** and **Carol Martin**, **J. C.** and **Barbara Moore**, **Bill** and **LaQuita Netto**, **John Qualls**, **Bob Robertson**, **Ross** and **Barbara Shields**, **Bob** and **Suzanne Stapley**, **John Teresi**, **Martin Urejevich**, **Bob** and **Sally Walker**, and **Wally** and **Dee Yager**.

Our other hosts, **Gerry** and **Luanna Hamm**, were unable to attend as Gerry is experiencing back problems. The group applauded **Doug** and **Grace Becker** for their work in putting on this and past functions and requested that their

appreciation be relayed to Gerry and Luanna. Doug announced that our fall event would take place in late September or early October and will be noted in the September issue of the QCCer as soon as the decision is made on what, when and where by the committee.

A few notes on what is happening in the area: winter weather continues even through the middle of May, with Gerry Hamm reporting that we have had a total of 56 inches of rain, 175 percent of normal with more predicted at that time. The rain is accompanied by warm weather, which is accelerating the spring runoff and causing flooding in a few areas. **Darrel and JoAnn Hansen** had RV reservations at Yosemite during the middle of May; no word from them yet, but according to news reports, the Merced River is causing problems in the valley with most visitors being turned away due to road and campground flooding.

**Doug and Grace Becker** are planning an RV trip to the coast in late May to try their luck with abalone harvesting. **Stan and Nancy Freeman** report that the Mt. Aukum area has been drier than Placerville but still above average, with deer, quail and peacocks enjoying the abundance of food. Stan says this also results in more mowing to lower the fire hazard alongside roadways and to keep the place looking good.

— Keith Maggini

## The Haps in District 4

It has been a slow quarter of the year for me so I don't have that much to report. First off, my apologies to **Vern Wright**. In the last QCCer, I had reported Vern was celebrating his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was his 85<sup>th</sup>! While correcting me on his age, Vern also related some great stories of his adventures with **Jake Dekema** in District 11 in 1938.

**Kathy Freeman** dropped me a line stating that she is now the contact between the California Transportation Foundation and the Quarter Century Club. She's unsure what her duties are other than the once-a-year request for donations from Quarter Century Club members (Heinz never rests). Anyone needing something from the CTF should contact [Kathyfreeman1@aol.com](mailto:Kathyfreeman1@aol.com). Kathy is also recruiting several of her friends at District 4 who have reached their 25-year mark for membership in the Quarter Century Club. Good idea! Let's all do that!

**Tom Lammers** is improving and expects to be back in action shortly.

**Bob MacDougald** and his wife recently took an intercoastal cruise from Jacksonville, Florida to Charleston, South Carolina.

I have news from the district office that **Ruby Louie** is planning a dedication and memorial for former District Director **Burch Bachtold**. Also, **John Viterello** retired at the end of May. I'll have to get him a QCC membership application since I know he has more than 25 years in with Caltrans.

**Dino and Eleanor Cassinelli** celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to both!

My wife has been in Southern California visiting our youngest daughter who is finishing her kindergarten class teaching year. This year's class has been a nightmare for her. Several troubled students have been transferred into the school and all were placed in her class! To give you an example of the problems she has faced, on seven occasions she has had to confiscate knives that kindergarteners brought to class. I used to think that would get a student expelled, but apparently not! They're sent back to the class with an admonition from the principal that the teacher should handle the problem by giving the students more love! My daughter is looking at Texas again as a place of possible educational sanity.



With regard to the District 4 Quarter Century Club Chapter, when I took over the directorship at the request of several members, I expected it would be just a short-term solution until I found someone who had the enthusiasm and drive to set up some social activities—never my strong suit.

This short time has extended to five plus years now! I didn't realize I had assumed the duties of District 4 Director in 1999. This means we haven't had a District 4 Quarter Century Club function in more than five years. It has been longer than that, I know, because **Bob Halligan** was unable to plan a function in his last few years. Bob did plan one function and announced that **Jerry Brown** would be the guest speaker! The last part was intended as a joke but everyone I talked to thought Bob was serious and I believe the function never went anywhere from there.

I'll begin planning a function for this fall. I need some guidance on where to hold it, when, what time, etc. and if anyone would be willing to help. I promise not to invite Jerry Brown as speaker. QCC President **Butch Biendara** has offered to help kick the event off. Let me know your thoughts and maybe we can get an annual event started once we get the momentum going.

My address and phone number are listed in the QCCer. I don't have an e-mail address yet but maybe someday.

I'm also looking for someone to be the District 4 Treasurer. No real duties are involved except to act as a check on how the funds are spent. I've been holding the funds that Bob Halligan transferred to me from in 2000 and the yearly payment to the district. There have been no expenses incurred to date and the function to be planned will involve the use of some of those funds. I would feel a little easier if I didn't have to do it alone.

Best wishes to everyone for a wonderful summer and looking forward to a District 4 Quarter Century Club function.

— Paul Hensley

## POETRY

A young theologian named Fiddle  
Refused to accept his degree.  
He said, "It's bad enough being Fiddle,  
Without being 'Fiddle, D.D.'"

## *The Haps in District 5*

Summer has arrived in San Luis Obispo with our usual "June gloom" weather pattern—foggy mornings and warm afternoons. Traffic around town improves as the Cal Poly students depart.

June is the month when we check for information on the Governor's Budget. At this time, funding for transportation looks promising, but we're not sure what's in store for state employees next year.

The district office is currently being spruced up with new office lighting, replacement carpet in the hallways, interior painting, and paving on the south half of the parking lot. The puddles should be smaller there when it rains next winter.

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Caltrans golf tournament was held May 19-20 at Rancho Canada in Carmel Valley. Headquarters had the winning team, followed by District 10 and Bridge. District 5 did not place, but our captain **Jacques Van Zeventer** won Low Gross on the east course, and **Don Webster** won a closest-to-the pin. One of the nicest parts of this tournament is visiting with old friends and co-workers, and we were pleased to see

former Superintendent **Ed Anderson** from the San Diego area, and **Augie Rosales** and **Bob Reynaga** who now work in Sacramento.

Thanks to our members who responded after the previous QCC with an address for **Mel McAllister**. We even had a call from Mel himself, which was a nice surprise. He has had some health issues recently like the rest of us, but is enjoying life in Santa Maria.

The **Copelands** have done some traveling recently, with a trip to spring training in Phoenix/Scottsdale in March and a cruise on the Delta Queen from Memphis to Cincinnati at the end of April. "If you're looking for a relaxing trip, we highly recommend "steamboating."

**GREAT TRUTHS  
CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED:**

- 1) No matter how hard you try, you cannot baptize a cat.
- 2) When your mom is mad at your dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- 3) If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
- 4) Never allow your three-year old brother to hold a tomato.
- 5) You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
- 6) Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
- 7) Never hold a dust-buster and a cat at the same time.
- 8) You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- 9) Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
- 10) The best place to be when you're sad is Grandpa's lap.

**Bill** and **Faith Fieldhouse** enjoyed a Caribbean cruise this spring with a group of former Navy buddies and wives. A big event in the family was a surprise party in April at the Madonna Inn to celebrate Bill's birthday. It was fun to see Bill's face when he came through the door to find children and grandchildren and lots of family and friends there to wish him well.

We happened onto **Bruce** and **Donna Langford** enjoying a Sunday afternoon stroll at Avila Beach. Bruce is still recovering from major surgery and is not yet able to drive so he and Donna stay close to home these days. Donna told us that **Ginny (Mrs. Lowell) Kraatz** also has a serious health problem, so please think good thoughts for her, too.

The newest D-5 retiree is **James Lowe** from Cambria Maintenance. Best wishes, Jim, for many happy, healthy years.

**Doug Mitchell** and **Gary Saunders** stopped by the office to say hello and raid the candy dish. They had just come from visiting **Bill Harms** in the hospital. Gary will have his third knee surgery when he returns from the annual District 5 fishing derby at June Lake.

**Irma Romero** and **Jerry Foshee** tied the knot in April at a small family gathering in Ennis, Texas. Irma sent us e-mail and asked that we share the good news. Best wishes to the happy couple!

**Betty Strampe** called to ask if anyone had news of **Bud** and **Bob Horton** who had been staying with family in Arizona. Please let her know if you are in touch with them.

We're sorry to learn that **Carol Catherina** passed away on May 13. Her husband **Frank** retired from Environmental Engineering a few years ago. Memorials in Carol's name may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Attn: ALSAC, 332 N. Lauderdale, Memphis, TN 38105.

**Florence Dietrich**, a Division of Highways retiree, also passed away May 13 at age 97. Flo had a degree in architecture and worked for the Corps of Engineers before moving to California with her husband **Lloyd** after the war. She used her drawing skills for many years in District 5, at the same time developing her talent at watercolors. We are fortunate in having one of her colorful paintings hanging in our living room. An article about Flo and Lloyd had appeared in our local *Senior Living* publication prior to her passing.

**F. Marjorie Fischer** passed away on April 20 at age 89. Marj was working in the Data Center and Steno Pool when I first started for the Division of Highways. Our supervisors were sisters **Jo Patchett** and **Esther "Petie" Patton**.

Former District 5 Director **Bill Ojeda** passed away on April 15. Bill, who worked in District 11 during the early 1990s, retired 1993. He was a civil engineer for more than 40 years. He enjoyed camping, fishing, woodworking, and golf. He is survived by his wife Louise, three children, and two grandchildren.

— *Kathy Copeland*

### **Deadlines**

**The deadline for material for the QCCer is the 5<sup>th</sup> 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 September. The final deadline for the next issue will be September 5<sup>th</sup>.**

## *The Haps in District 6*

**D**istrict 6 held its spring luncheon May 22 at the Piccadilly Inn Airport. Attending were **Bill and Margaret Ahlenslager, Roy Andersen and wife, Mary Berg, Dottie Combs, Georgia Cordova, Barney and June Deeter, Ed Hokokian, Terry Littleton, Ken Oliphant and wife, Don Peaslee and wife, Don and Barbara Peterson, Chester and Thelma Sohm, Jane Suo, Koke Uyeno and Bud and Pat Woodson**. Everyone had a good time.

**Bill and Margaret Ahlenslager** have slowed down but not before seeing the Far East, Europe four times, and everywhere in between. They went on an Alaskan cruise two years ago. Bill is still farming grapes, but the most enjoyable thing in their lives right now is their granddaughter, who visits frequently. They will celebrate 55 years of marriage on September 3rd.

**Don Peaslee** and his wife will go to Alabama this summer to visit their son. They will also celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary on July 2, 2005. A lot Caltrans people must have gotten married that year.

**Chester and Thelma Sohm** want folks to know that they have finally come out of the mountains (Prather) and have moved to a new home in Clovis. Congratulations to them on the birth of a great-granddaughter, born on May 1.

**Tom Bamford**, retired superintendent of Taft and Delano maintenance stations, had a heart transplant in April this year at Salt Lake VA Hospital. He's doing fine. We wish him well. His son, TJ, still works at the Taft Maintenance station. Anyone wishing to send

a card may write to **Tom and Betty Bamford**, PO Box 971, Troy, MT. 59935.

**Irwin Rosa** moved to a condominium in the beach community of Kailua, Oahu, Hawaii at the end of March. Three miles of white sand shoreline—heartbreaking, isn't it, but I guess someone had to move there so we'd have someone to visit. He'll be in Fresno in July and August finishing up business and then off on his grand adventure.

**Virgle Ray** didn't make the luncheon. He has been preparing genealogy records for his family of 900 for their reunion in Arkansas in June. Time is the one thing that doesn't give any extra on a deadline. Hopefully we'll see him again after June.

**Barney and June Deeter** have spent a lot of time watching plays lately. Seems their grandson, David, 17, is involved in the Bakersfield Community Theater. He has performed in *Joseph and The Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Singing in the Rain*, and *Miss Saigon*. He is now rehearsing for *Funny Girl*.

On a sad note, **Lawton "Cap" Akers'** wife, **Helen**, was killed in an auto accident this spring.

I've been a busy girl since retiring. Just got back from a cruise in Tahiti on the Paul Gauguin. I highly recommend it if you like water. It was beautiful and so much fun.

District 6 QCCers will meet at the Santa Fe Restaurant on Maroa, south of Shields, for lunch at the boarders table on Tuesday, July 12th. They ring the bell at 12:30 PM so get there early enough to pay the bartender \$10 and enjoy. Bring along anyone who wants to come.

— Terry Littleton

## *The Haps in District 7*

**T**he National Association of Activity Professionals recently invited your secretary to make a presentation to their annual convention in our nation's capital.

NAAP is a non-profit, professional organization dedicated to continuing education and national representation of activity professionals across the United States, Canada, and Bermuda. They are the only national association whose membership consists exclusively of individuals who provide activity programming in geriatric settings such as nursing homes, retirement communities, assisted living, and senior and adult day service centers.

My two hour-long presentation was about the rules governing formal business meetings. About 80 interested people attended the presentation.

Robert's Rules of Order is the most widely used parliamentary textbook but not the only one. To many, the terms "parliamentary procedure" and "Robert's Rules" are synonymous.

The convention was at the Alexandria Hilton Hotel, just down the road from the capital. My trip was a whirlwind. I left home at 7 am on a Tuesday morning, landed at Reagan National Airport at 7:30 pm, and reached my hotel at 8:30. My presentation the next morning was from 8:30 to 10:30; by 4 pm I was back on the plane and on my way to Los Angeles. I landed at 7:30 and was home by 9, Wednesday evening.

### **Other Notes of Interest:**

**Lois Cooper**, now retired, is working on and advocating for Breast Cancer detection and treatment. She participated in

an excellent TV presentation. The project involves screening, exercise, and healthy food consumption.

**Tom Almany III** retired at the end of 2004 and is now working as a consultant for rubber-asphalt utilization.

The new District 7 office is now in full service. The old building, located just across the street, is currently empty and will be demolished.

— Wally Rothbart

### **Some Things It Took Me More Than 50 Years To Learn**

by Dave Barry

1. Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.
2. If you had to identify, in one word, the reason why the human race has not achieved, and never will achieve its full potential, that word would be "meetings"
3. There is a very fine line between "hobby" and "mental illness."
4. People who want to share their religious views with you almost never want you to share yours with them.
5. Never lick a steak knife.
6. You will never find anybody who can give you a dear and compelling reason why we observe daylight savings time.
7. Never say anything to a woman that even remotely suggests that you think she's pregnant unless you can see an actual baby emerging from her at that moment.
8. The one thing that unites all human beings, regardless of age, gender, religion, economic status or ethnic background, is that deep down inside, we ALL believe that we are above average drivers.

## *The Haps in District 8*

Farewell to **Anne Mayer**, District 8 Director, who has gone to greener pastures with the Riverside County Transportation Commission. District 8 gave her a fine farewell coffee on the patio, as no room in the District 8 building was large enough to accommodate all the guests. Anne noted that she began work at District 8 just out of college, traveling cross-country in her car to an unknown future. At Caltrans, she not only had great work experiences, but also met her husband **Randy** (now with Skanska-Yeager), began their family together, and was constantly regaled by tall tales from dad-in-law **Gary** (retired Construction Resident Engineer). She leaves Caltrans with a host of friends who wish her well.

**Katie Smith**, wife of legendary **Taylor Smith**, continues to deal with health problems, but seems on the mend. She and Taylor are planning an August Mississippi River cruise with a group of Caltrans friends....**Ernie Parke** (Design) and wife **Kay** also have had a few health problems, but are on the mend....**Wes** and **Linda Grimes** just returned from a West Coast cruise from Los Angeles to Vancouver, British Columbia aboard the Norwegian Star. On board they met **Ken** and **Helene Steele** (retired D-8 and D-7 Director). Wes and Linda count this as one of their best cruise itineraries, and say the Star is worth another trip.

Retirements we've heard of include that of **Jim Landfried** (Construction), former Resident Engineer and for some time a Construction Office stalwart. He was honored with a luncheon at the Shandin Hills Golf Club in late May. I also hear that **Sharon Phillips**, Deputy Director D-8,

Administration is planning to retire next April.

A group of retired Caltrans ladies met at the Mexico Café on April 14 to swap tales and visit. Hostesses **Janice Feenstra** and **Betty Ordway** greeted one and all.

Missing were several familiar faces—**Mary Reeder**, **Hope Sandoval**, **Annette Smith**, **Irma Aldape**, and **Marsha Lotze**, who had a dental appointment. Following lunch each lady spoke of her activities during the past year. **Janice Feenstra** is busy with church and planning a cruise; **Betty Ordway** just keeps busy; **Mary Bermudez** is still active with the historical society in Etiwanda; **Eleanor Campbell** is planning a trip to Pennsylvania with her brother, still active in CSEA and doing a lot of baking; **Rachel Roldan**, welcomed as a first timer, said she'd been busy for three years and finally slowed down; **Angel Thompson** traveled through Europe and Sri Lanka; **Margie Hobbs** is getting settled in her new home in Hemet; **Beverly Both** said she had no complaints enjoying retirement; **Carolyn Johns** was still traveling and working at Redlands Community Hospital as a volunteer; **Diana Barich**, busy with photography and a church reunion, wonders how she had time to work; first timer **Donna Rodriguez** has not had time to really enjoy retirement as yet, but is working on it; **Beverly Hines** said she had a quiet year; **Linda Grimes** traveled more than 3,500 miles of the USA with Wes and still has more to go; **Clarice Richards** returned to Ghana and took a cruise with her daughter; **Connie Keefer** tried RVing, got as far as Mississippi and decided travel is more enjoyable by plane; **Grace** is still making memory books and being helped by **Donna** one day a week.

We will meet again in October and hope to see a lot of you there.

### *Thoughts to ponder:*

- Never read the fine print. There's no way you'll like it.
- The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket.
- To err is human, to forgive, highly unlikely.
- In about 40 years, we'll have thousands of old ladies running around with tattoos.
- Money can't buy happiness, but it's more comfortable to cry in a Porsche than in a Hyundai.
- Drinking makes some husbands see double and feel single.
- Living in a nudist colony takes all the fun out of Halloween.

**Mary Reeder** has had additional surgery on her shoulder to improve the mobility of her arm. The surgery was not entirely successful so she is presently undergoing occupational therapy. She will also be scheduled for cataract surgery.

**Harvey Herrington** reports that following the death of his wife, **Jean**, a year ago, he moved to Shaver Lake and is living with his goddaughter. He suffered a stroke a year ago that has affected his left side. He gets around with a walker and doesn't drive. He is 87 years old.

**Shirley Feenstra** was hospitalized six days with a broken pelvis after an automobile accident in early March. With **Bill's** assistance she is recuperating at home. She goes up and down stairs but won't be able to golf for some time.

**Libby Redden** joined the "stent" club in December 04, when she received two stents during angioplasty.

**Taylor Smith** suffered a minor stroke in early March that affected his left hand and foot. The most lasting effect is that although he can move all his individual fingers, he has difficulty typing with his left hand. In mid March Taylor, not about to let Libby Redden have more stents than he has, spent three days in the hospital for his

seventh angioplasty and had his second stent installed.

A combination of lymphoma chemotherapy and a poisonous insect bite resulted in a 15-day hospital stay for **Katie Smith**. Katie's cancer is now in complete remission but the spider bite has not healed. She is on antibiotics with a nurse dressing the wound daily.

**Larry Wieman** advises that the dedication of the Donald S. Wieman Vista Point on the Rim of the World Highway east of Crestline has been delayed by damage to the site by last winter's storms. The dedication will be rescheduled for sometime this fall.

**Maxine Nelson** used St. Bernardine's Hospital drive thru facilities to have her gall bladder removed in mid March. She entered the hospital at 7:00 a.m. and was home at 3:00 p.m. minus her gall bladder.

**Arlie Smith, Archie Smith's** wife of 62 years, passed away on May 16, 2005.

**Roy Smoot** reports that **Wanda** had a heart valve replaced and double bypass surgery on May 20<sup>th</sup>. She is recuperating nicely.

Sadly we report that **Johnnie Hughes**, retired from Maintenance and battling leukemia, passed away on May 25, 2005. Memorial services were held at the Phelan Community Church on June 5<sup>th</sup>. He was 77 and a loyal supporter of the Quarter Century Club. He will be missed at our luncheons and dinners. He and Mary had been married for 51 years.

**Reminder:** Our summer luncheon will be on July 27th at the Gourmet in San Bernardino. Information will be sent out shortly. Hope to see you there!

— Marsha Lotze

### Pickup Line

An elderly gentleman, well dressed, hair well groomed, great looking suit, flower in his lapel, smelling slightly of a good after shave, presenting a well looked after image, walks into an upscale cocktail lounge.

Seated at the bar is an attractive lady, maybe in her mid-sixties.

The gentleman walks over, sits along side of her, orders a drink, takes a sip, turns to her and says with a come-hither smile, "So tell me, do I come here often?"

## The Haps in District 9

Attending the Whiskey Creek luncheon in May were **Chuck Carter, Bob Marsh, Bob Ripley, John Ritter** and **Lance Hinek**. We talked about our activities and what was going on in the area. We're all getting older and slowing down.

John Ritter was in town for the Home Show/ChooChoo swap meet at the Tri County Fairgrounds in Bishop. John is still repairing his house, damaged in the Paso Robles earthquake more than a year ago. So he's keeping busy.

**Alice Carlson** had hip surgery this spring. I saw her going for a walk at the end of May so she is up and about.

**Chuck and Nancy Gillem** showed up for Memorial Day Mule Day festivities. They live in Roseburg, Oregon and come to Bishop to visit their grandchildren. They're both doing fine and enjoy their home in Oregon.

**Jim Kemp** stopped by to check on my house construction. Jim is doing OK also. He

has a positive outlook and a great sense of humor. I am glad he stopped by because I needed a third hand to hold a ceiling speaker in place while wiring it. Thanks Jim.

**Geale Fitzpatrick** passed way on April 10, 2005 in Bishop. Geale worked for Caltrans for more than 40 years. He worked in District 09 for 20 years in Design and Construction. Geale was a good highway designer and dedicated employee. He regularly attended the monthly Whiskey Creek luncheons. Our condolences to his family and friends.

**Ed Houghton** died on April 10, 2005. Ed worked for Caltrans for 40 years in Sacramento and Bishop. He retired in 1973 and was District 09 Materials Engineer. Ed was active in the community in the Presbyterian Church, CSEA, RPEA, and even "Adopt-a-Highway" program. He was seen frequently riding his bicycle around town throughout the year. Our condolences to his family and friends.

**Bob Yeager's** wife **Dorothy** passed away in May 2005. Dorothy was active with her family and Servicemen's Mothers Club. She was a very good horseshoe player. Our condolences to her family and friends.

—Lance Hinek

## The Haps in District 10

**Vern Dorsch:** "My wife and I will entertain four relatives from Ireland in April. Lots of work for us but they are fun."

**Sharon and Claude Stewart:** "Spent last weekend in Pismo Beach and Santa Maria for the Chevy Madness Car Show in Santa Maria. Claude won a 2nd place with his '57 Chevy Bel Air. Had a great time. Ran into **Jay Fisher** at the grocery store. He said that he, his wife, and **Bill Rotert** and wife will be on a cruise in the Mediterranean and will miss the next meeting.

## The Checkup

I just got back from my cardiologist who gave me a six-month checkup. I had prepared some questions I thought might help me in taking better care of myself in the future. His answers were very reassuring.

**Q:** I've heard that cardiovascular exercise can prolong life. Is this true?

**Dr:** *Your heart is good for only so many beats. Don't waste them on exercise. Everything wears out eventually. Speeding up your heart will not make you live longer; that's like saying you can extend the life of your car by driving it faster. Want to live longer? Take a nap.*

**Q:** Should I cut down on meat and eat more fruits and vegetables?

**Dr:** *What does a cow eat? Hay and corn. And what are these? Vegetables. A steak is nothing more than an efficient mechanism of delivering vegetables to your system. Need grain? Eat chicken. Beef is also a good source of field grass (green leafy vegetable). And a pork chop can give you 100% of your recommended daily allowance of vegetable products.*

**Q:** Should I reduce my alcohol intake?

**Dr:** *No, not at all. Wine is made from fruit. Brandy is distilled wine, that means they take the water out of the fruity bit so you get even more of the goodness that way. Beer is also made out of grain. Bottoms up!*

**Q:** What are some of the advantages of participating in a regular exercise program?

**Dr:** *Can't think of a single one, sorry. My philosophy is No Pain...Good*

**Q:** Aren't fried foods bad?

**Dr:** *Foods are fried these days in vegetable oil. In fact, they're permeated in it. How could getting more vegetables be bad for you?*



**Mike Ciccone** - On May 6, this year, my wife and I will drive to Knoxville to attend the 16th annual F-100 Ford pickup (48-56) convention. We also plan to visit Fort Knox and spend time with friends in Rutledge. We will continue our trip to Virginia to stay with friends and eventually tour the eastern states. On the way back we will visit friends who are Model G gauge train buffs in Little Rock and Dallas. We plan to be back in June.

**Ron Wilson** - We left Lodi for Alabama and Florida on March 8th in our fifth wheel—off to see our grandchildren, son and daughter-in-law, and sister-in-law and her husband. A highlight was our granddaughter's soccer tournament (they won).

**William D. Stewart** passed away on May 2, 2005. He was born on September 10, 1928. Bill was a member of District 10, many years ago. **Merle Larabee** remembers meeting and working with Bill in June 1956 at a freeway project on US-99 from Lodi to Jahant Road. In the late 50's Bill transferred to District 3. Merle met him again at the Headquarters Lab and again at Headquarters Local Assistance when he went there in 1975. This unit worked with cities and counties in the administration of federal aid money. Bill retired from Local Assistance as a Senior Transportation Engineer.

In addition to his work at Caltrans, Bill was active at First Baptist Church of Sacramento and was a long-time member of the Sacramento Camellia Society, receiving numerous awards for his camellias. He was also a 20-year member of the International Camellia Society.

A memorial service was held for Mr. Stewart at the First Baptist Church of Sacramento on Friday, May 13, 2005. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to the Camellia Society, First Baptist Church or the Fremont Presbyterian Church of Sacramento.

**George Rae "Tiny" Neil**, 74, passed away on April 19, 2005. Born on Grand Island near Isleton, California on July 30, 1930, he lived in Lodi for 73 years. He married Clara Mayer, August 19, 1950. He is survived by **Cynthia Rae Haines** and son-in-law **Bill** of Magnolia, Texas; **Cathryn Rae Aubrey** and son-in-law **Bryan**, of Lodi; **Patricia Rae Ketchie** and son-in-law **David** of Stockton. His grandsons include **Jeremy** and **Christopher Haines, Eric, Brandon,** and **Justin Aubrey**, and **Alexander** and **Kayla Ketchie**. Great-grandchildren include **Shelby, Dylan,** and **Cody Haines**. George retired from Caltrans after 33 years and went on to do some private consulting. He was an avid golfer for most of his life and belonged to Woodbridge Golf and Country Club. He enjoyed traveling with his wife to play golf. He is survived by his wife of 55 years. His father, **Alexander Neil**; his mother, **Inez**; and his brother **Richard** preceded in death.

**Judy Burke** reports that she and two other women were the first female engineers hired by District 10 and that **John Meyer** was concerned one day at seeing Judy, dressed for a field trip, walking with two or three male employees across the parking lot towards a vehicle. He apparently ran after them to stop this female engineer from going off into the field with the men. But to no avail, as onlookers observed he couldn't reach them in time.

**Brian Young**: I was paired up with John Meyer in a District 10 golf tournament at Swenson Golf Course. And even though at the time he had a touch of gout and would rest on his golf bag cart seat between holes he still beat me. At the end of the match people quietly congratulated me on being smart and letting the boss win, but I'm a hacker now and was back then. He was the better golfer.

Two stories from **Derwin Davis** (District 10 R/W Agent 1954–1970): “Until the construction of the Benicia/Martinez Bridge the auto ferries connecting the two cities were operated by District 10. At a mid-fifties Christmas Eve party in the old Center Street office John Meyer was presented with an authentic US Navy "fore&aft" dress uniform hat with all the gold braid an Admiral was entitled to and a commission as Admiral of the Benicia Navy. Shortly thereafter he planted his foot in a mop bucket and stomped around the office as a peg-legged sailor to the delight of all. (Further note: the socially accepted attitudes toward the consumption of alcohol were vastly different then)

In the planning of John's retirement party a major concern was the number of speakers who had asked to speak but because of their official stature, could not be turned down and would drone on into the middle of the night. The solution was to erect a full sized traffic light on the stage visible to the speakers and the audience. Speakers were informed in advance that the green light would last for three minutes. When it went yellow they had one minute left and when it went red the Emcee would nudge them off the podium. It worked fairly well except when the traffic manager determined a story was too good or the speaker was too important and didn't press the red button. My memory says **Bruno Dentino** had control of the button.

### ***Paid Up?***

**Haven't paid your Quarter Century Club dues? Better get cracking! What with postal rates these days, those reminder letters cost money that could be better spent on luncheons and barbecues. Check the mail page of the QCCER to see if you're current.**

**Jerry Erwin** – “I started with the Division of Highways on a location survey party. I'd worked for about three months when a Buick with state license plates drove up. An older man got out, spoke to **Charlie Nuding**, my party chief, then came over and introduced himself. It was Mr. Meyer. He asked about my family and said he appreciated my coming to work for the state. Of course I thanked him. After he took his goodbyes and left, I went to Charlie and asked who the man was. Only then did I find out he was the District Engineer. After that, every time I saw Mr. Meyer, he never failed to talk to me and ask about my family. It wasn't just courtesy, He was sincere and really wanted to know. He was a gentleman of the old school. By the way, Mr. Meyer drove that Buick for a long time. Buick guaranteed it would last for 100,000 miles—that was when cars usually needed overhauling at 60,000 to 70,000 miles. Mr. Meyer was determined to use all the 100,000 miles or know the reason why!

— Brian Young

## *The Haps in District 11*

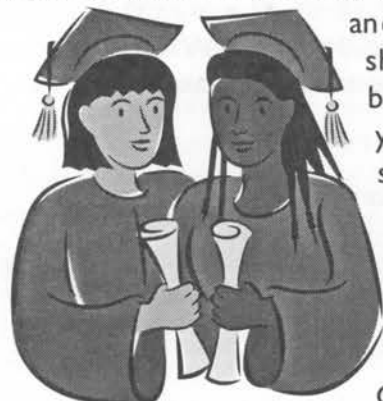
**D**ean Burns says to put a big red circle around Saturday, September 17, 2005 on your calendar for the annual QCC and Retiree picnic at Santee Lakes. Details will come in the mail in July.

**Carol DeBaca**, nee Olson, retired on May 14 and has set sail for parts unknown.

Carol was born the only child to hard working parents in August 1946 in Moline, Illinois. Her dad worked in the federal civil service for the Rock Island Arsenal and her mother worked nights as a nurse and then later as a buyer for Robinson's-May Company. Moline was a small town with just 18,000 people. Carol remembers her first day of kindergarten when she walked in and wrote

her name on the blackboard, an indication of things to come in her life. At age five she also began piano lessons, a great influence on her later life. She remembers the cold winters and the extra layers of warm clothing needed but recalls that as soon as she got out of sight from home she would take her heavy show pants off before continuing on to school.

When Carol was nine her father was transferred to North Island Naval Air Station as an airplane mechanic and the family moved to San Diego (North Park). She attended Central Elementary for the fifth and sixth grades, then attended Horace Mann Jr. High School where she was the all-school spelling champ. At Crawford High School she was voted all around secretary of the year and during Secretary's week the school club was featured in a two-window display downtown



and also on a TV talk show. The summer before her senior year and then after school and during breaks, she worked as a secretary for a court reporting firm. When

Carol graduated with honors in 1964, her next-door neighbor saw her on TV and told her son (who was the court reporter) to hire Carol permanently, which he did.

Carol has played the piano since age 12 for the Foursquare Church and later Bonita Valley Community Church—a total of 34 years. In her younger days she was the Youth Group Leader in the church and then it was on to SDSU where she attended college at night for the next 14 years to earn her BS degree in Public Administration.

While still in high school she practiced taking civil service exams including for Stenographer I for Caltrans. She was

contacted off the list and on Christmas Eve 1964 had an interview with **Dave Burns**. She began working in the R/W clerical pool on January 18, 1965. She was later promoted to Stenographer II and in November 1967 was promoted to Senior Stenographer in Maintenance where she supervised the clerical pool. **George Gray**, Deputy Director for Planning and Administration, hired her as his secretary in 1969. George volunteered her to work on the HQ GEM Program as a Work Standards Analyst because he said the nine-month out-of-class experience would be good for her career. This assignment was a turning point for her transition into administration.

So in 1970 it was off to Sacramento as a Work Standards Analyst (Management Systems) where she took the exam for administrative trainee. In 1971 she returned to San Diego as a Junior Staff Analyst. Performing management analysis, she was promoted to Highways Administrative Officer I and later to Training Officer I. In 1972 **Bill Bertkin** promoted her to the position of District Training Officer.

I'm not going to vacuum 'til Sears makes one you can ride on.

—Roseanne Barr

My second favorite household chore is ironing. My first is to hit my head on the top bunk bed until I faint.

—Erma Bombeck-

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending and to have the two as close together as possible.

—George Burns

"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire."

—Winston Churchill

Carol recalls that in those days the district organization chart had pictures of the District Director, Deputies and all branch managers. At the time there were seven deputy directors. Unbeknownst to Carol, someone took a photo of this first associate level blonde and superimposed it over **Jake Dekema's** head, named her Snow White and gave appropriate dwarf names to the seven deputy faces below.

Carol had two other short-term assignments writing transit related booklets in HQ while working for George Gray when he managed Mass Transit. Back in San Diego she helped George get his Master's thesis typed, edited, and submitted to the SDSU degree committee while George was out of the country on a special assignment.

Carol had joined the American Society for Training and Development and in 1976 she took a vacation to attend the International Training Directors Conference in Canberra, Australia. A friend who was also in ASTD invited her to come along and meet a promising widower. And it was on that trip she met Al DeBaca, and eleven months later they were married on June 11, 1977. They took a five-week honeymoon with three weeks touring Europe and two weeks in Spain.



widower.  
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Since Al was also a former Training Officer in Federal Civil Service, he volunteered his time to help Carol teach some training classes for the district. In 1979 she was promoted to Staff Services Manager I as the District Personnel Manager. A year later their son Michael was born and Carol took maternity leave. Upon her return she shared a position as personnel analyst with Pat Arrick, who also had just had a child.

In October 1981, Carol was back to work full time as a staff services manager and chief of business management over contracts, procurement, facilities, automotive management, audio-visual services, reprographics, and records. She promoted to Staff Services Manager II in 1984 and often encouraged potlucks and coffee breaks to promote team spirit and office cooperation, becoming known as the office "party gal". Under **Ken Allen**, Deputy Director of Administration, Carol moved to Management Services in 1989 with responsibility for personnel, budgets, training and safety.

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## Churchiliana

**We often awaken with the wish that we had known what to say when a timely quip was called for. Winston Churchill never seemed to be without one.**

*I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend—if you have one.*

—George Bernard Shaw to Churchill

*Cannot attend first night, will attend second—if there is one.*

—Winston Churchill, in reply

*Interpreter! Interpreter! How do you say the opposite of Vive Le France?*

—Winston Churchill, on Charles de Gaulle

*A sheep in sheep's clothing.*

Winston Churchill, on Clement Atlee

*There but for the grace of God, goes God.*

—Winston Churchill, on Stafford Cripps

*He occasionally stumbled over the truth, but hastily picked himself up and hurried on as if nothing had happened.*

—Winston Churchill, on Stanley Baldwin

When the cutbacks resulting from centralization and regionalization of administrative activities of 1995 hit, Carol replaced the retiring **Chuck Winslow** as Chief, Information Services, guiding the organization through the trauma of the Y2K scare of 1999. She remembers that in 1995 the district had only 500 PCs and that only 16 people had access to the Internet. In 1999 Gary Gallegos obtained money from the FHWA to establish a Technology Transfer Center in District II with an emphasis on information exchange with Baja California.

Carol transferred to the newly created managerial position in Organization Effectiveness to facilitate the growth of the center (one of 82 in the world) and increase training opportunities for the staff. Under Carol's stewardship, District II received an award for training excellence in government, just narrowly missing first place, which was awarded to Qualcomm.

Carol has supervised as many as 42 staff members at a time, many of whom have worked for her on repeated occasions over the years. She has helped many district employees and managers through one-on-one coaching; several have gone on to be outstanding managers and leaders. While Carol can point to many accomplishments with pride, she feels her career highlights came at those times when she mentored and helped clerical and administrative employees achieve their goals through education, special assignments, and promotions.

Carol has written and instructed several management and supervisory training programs including career counseling (with **Karyn Farr**), legendary service and later commitment to service leadership, supervisor's refresher workshop, supervisors workshop, completed staff work, ADEPT administrators workshop, and job placement skills for toll collectors.

Carol has lived in Chula Vista since she married in 1977. For travel and other adventures, Carol went to Europe in 1968 with a singing group stemming from her lifetime love of gospel music. Church, in which she has played the piano and taught Sunday school for years, has always been a big part of her life. She bought a new home in 2000 that is just three miles from her church. Al took her on a Far East tour as her graduation present from SDSU and they traveled extensively on cruises as well as frequent visits to see family and friends in Illinois and Florida.

Carol has been an outstanding single parent. Husband Al passed away unexpectedly in 1997 when their son Michael was just 16. Michael graduated with honors from Bonita Vista High School and was accepted at Stanford University where he made friends with Chelsea Clinton. Carol says the Clinton connection gave her some assurance that someone was keeping an eye on him. Michael graduated with honors from Stanford with a degree in American Studies in 2002. He has been given a full 5-year scholarship at Harvard University where he is in his second year of graduate studies working toward a Ph.D. in American Studies.

—Butch Biendara

## *The Haps in Central*

On May 18 the Central District got a good start on this year's socializing with a gathering of more than 80 members and friends at the annual Dante Club luncheon. Our newly appointed director, **Gary Bush**, presided over the event with aplomb. We thank **Ralph Carhart**, Caltrans Division of Landscape Architecture, for giving us a great overview of what is happening with roadside rests in

California and some interesting comparisons with roadside rest programs in other states. Thanks also to **Heinz Heckeroth** for a report on the accomplishments of the California Transportation Foundation. And we appreciate **Kim Yarbrough** (QCC's Statewide Secretary/Treasurer) and his wife, **Pat**, who traveled from their home in Mariposa to join us. They are delightful.

Since QCC officers have been asked over time to consider having a luncheon in December rather than a dinner, **Gary** opened discussion on the subject. The concerns were: (1) some members are not able to attend evening events because nighttime transportation is a problem; (2) each year costs increase—and dinners cost more than luncheons; (3) some members prefer a dinner because there are so many luncheons in December; and (4) a dinner seems more festive. With a show of hands after the discussion, it was decided to try a luncheon this year. Look for the location and other details in the September 2005 QCCer.

Congratulations to 12 Central District QCC members who qualify for honorary membership this year and are receiving certificates. They are: **Wyatt Harris** (January); **Dave Crane** (February); **George Fields, Jr.** and **Jack Kassel** (March); **Fred Murphy** and **Douglas Dean** (June); **Shirley Morten** (August); **Bob Datel** (September); **Larry Wieman** and **Heinz Heckeroth** (October); **Fred Campbell** (November) and **Norm Lambeth** (December).

Mark your calendars for **Thursday, September 22, 2005** when we'll gather for the annual JR's Texas Bar-B-Cue at the College Greens Swim and Racquet Club.

Judging from the following member reports, the Central District gang is going strong:

**Janel and John Hebner** – "Had a great time at the Dante Club luncheon. Lots

of good food, entertainment and information. Enjoyed **Ralph Carhart's** presentation of the California rest areas. Had the pleasure of meeting and being entertained by **Kim** and **Pat Yarbrough**. Look forward to future get-togethers. Now on to the next quarterly Central District function – the summer BBQ in September. We're still hiking with the **Bill Bethell** group (**Don** and **Nancy Benjamin, George Avery, Earl Rogers, Ruth Gill, and Ken and Gerri Wigglesworth**). Between Bill and Ken they can name 95 percent of all the wild flowers we come across. The rest of us just nod our heads and agree. We leave in June for two weeks in Eastern Europe. We fly to Budapest for three days, then cruise up the Danube to Nuremberg. Then we bus to Prague in the Czech Republic for three days. The boat holds 142 passengers and will make stops in the Slovak Republic (Bratislava), Austria (Vienna, Durnsten and Linz) and Germany (Passau, Regensburg and Nuremberg)."

"He inherited some good instincts from his Quaker forebears, but by diligent hard work, he overcame them."

~James Reston (about Richard Nixon)

We could certainly slow the aging process down if it had to work its way through Congress.

~ Will Rogers

By all means, marry. If you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher.

~ Socrates

I have yet to hear a man ask for advice on how to combine marriage and a career.

- Gloria Steinem

"In order to avoid being called a flirt, she always yielded easily."

- Charles, Count Talleyrand

**Bill Warren** – “I have been a member of the QCC for a quarter century plus eight years -- so I feel a bit antique to see all these fine young people in the club. **Hazel** and I celebrated our 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this spring. We are both active and enjoying life with travel and family. Attending a Quarter Century Club meeting always gives us a lift.”

**Harry Valentine** – “I traveled to Switzerland and Panama last summer. My e-mail address is heval2735@aol.com.”

**Norm and Marilyn Lambeth** – “Enjoyed our Princess Cruise from Los Angeles to Hawaii and around some of the islands. The ship was beautiful and the shore excursions very interesting. We sailed back to Los Angeles and then flew home to Sacramento.”

**Dick and Louise Ginsberg** – “Just back from a three-week cruise and tour in South America. We will do our annual four-week trip to the Northwest from early July until late August after which we will probably sell our RV. There comes a time. We have made a deposit on a river cruise in Russia next April.”

**Gene Berthelsen** – “I’ve just started treatment for multiple myeloma—bone cancer. Had a pin placed in my left femur to compensate for bone lost to the disease, which kept me out of the Sacramento Jazz Festival for the first time in 32 years – damn! There are a number of treatments though, and I’m in good spirits. I expect to continue with my hectic schedule—including editing the QCCer—for many years.”

**Heinz and Hope Heckerth** – “Are planning an Elderhostel trip in June to Italy with an extension to Germany. Switzerland and the Riviera are the destination.”

**Bob and Connie Felton** – “We’ll be off to Switzerland late in May on a tour and

### Golf Stuff

If you drink, don't drive. Don't even putt.

~ *Dean Martin*

If profanity had an influence on the flight of the ball, the game of golf would be played far better than it is.

~ *Horace G. Hutchinson*

Golf was invented by people who think music comes out of a bagpipe.

~ *Author Unknown*

If a lot of people gripped a knife and fork the way they do a golf club, they'd starve to death.

~ *Sam Snead*

If you're going to throw a dub, throw it ahead of you, down the fairway, so you don't have to waste energy going back to pick it up.

~ *Tommy Bolt*

Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today it's called golf.

~ *Will Rogers*

It's not good sportsmanship to pick up lost golf balls while they are still rolling.

~ *Mark Twain*

to visit some friends. In early July we will depart for the Felton Family Association meeting in Peabody, MA and a visit with a daughter in Trenton, NJ. Have not been to the ocean for abalone since 2002. May make it this year in September or October. Nice to see some of our many friends here at the QCC luncheon.”

**Glen and Sharon Rosander** – “A trip to the Reagan Museum and the Crystal Cathedral are on tap for the Rosanders and Merle and Adele Larrabee in June. We have

**Check the Mailing Label on your QCCer to find the date on which your membership expires. Please remit your membership dues as soon as possible.**

not had an opportunity to visit the Simi Valley site and are looking forward to seeing the Oval Office replica."

**Ken and Gerri Wigglesworth** – "Took a great trip to Belize, watching birds and visiting Mayan ruins. Got home and spent the next month or so building a greenhouse for our cactus collection."

**Dick Pryor** – "Went to Paris for my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. The weather was colder than usual with snow flurries during the first week and the temperature staying in the 30s. The second week the temperature stayed in the low 40s. The day we left the temperature was to be 65 degrees so we just missed spring. There are always strikes in Paris but one does not expect the *Louvre* to be on strike. We had a wonderful time and highly recommend visiting this beautiful city."

**Ron and Margaret Lemmon** – "Time to catch up on recent trips. Last fall we went to Norway with our daughter to do some genealogy research. Had a chance to revisit Voss where Margaret has roots. In an earlier trip we found that Knute Rockne was a distant relative. Margaret still has two third cousins living there. Then we went north to Trondheim where Ron has ancestral history at nearby Sogndal. Saw lots of beautiful scenery – waterfalls, fjords, reindeer, glaciers, etc. Last month we went to Seattle for Margaret's sister's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. All siblings were present as well as many nieces, nephews and other relatives. From there we spent two days researching more of Ron's genealogy at Sequim, Washington. Tramped

through a damp cemetery and found many plots of Ron's relatives – fraternal grandparents, uncle, and several grandparents. No more travel for now."

**Merle and Adele Larrabee** – "In mid June the Rosanders (Glen and Sharon) and the Larrabees are off to a trip up the Feather River and points south and east. We will wind up in Portola to visit the Western Pacific R/R Museum. We will also get the opportunity to drive a main line diesel freight engine around local tracks for an hour. On the way home a trip to the seafood buffet at Boomtown is on the schedule. Great to be here today."

**E. G. Pomeroy** – "Retirement is fine since 1988 and I don't have any plans to go anywhere."

**Tom and Julie Hubbs** – "Recently returned from family visits in San Diego, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. Also visited the beautiful mission in San Juan Capistrano. Currently we are looking forward to son Randy's return from duty with the U. S. Army in Iraq."

**Jack and Ellen Derby** – "Skiing at Crested Butte and Mammoth, beachcombing along the Oregon Coast, house boating with Caltrans buddies at Shasta Lake, golfing at Carson City, etc., have kept us busy. We congratulate the officers for a great luncheon at the Dante Club."

### **Support a Family?**

The prospective father-in-law asks, "Young man, can you support a family?"

"Well, no sir," the surprised groom-to-be answers. I was just planning to support your daughter. I guess the rest of you will have to fend for yourselves."



**Pete and LaOna Doljanin** – “Spent eight days in Kentucky this April. Visited the horse park, the Toyota plant and several bourbon distilleries. Finished off the trip in St. Louis, visiting the Arch and the museum.”

**Shirley Weber** – “Great to be at lunch with the Caltrans crew – **Irv Denny**, Editor **Gene Berthelsen**, **Pete Doljanin**, **Ron Hollis**, **Bob Giess**, **Bill and Virginia Schaefer** and **Grace Harrington**, who I worked with years ago at the California Youth Authority. The food was good and the company grand!

**Don and Nancy Benjamin** – “It’s a lot of fun working with **Gary and Julie Bush** and **Janel and John Heber** on QCC activities. Such neat people! **Jim and Earlene Borden** seldom miss a QCC event, but this time, **Jim** was undergoing arthroscopic knee surgery to repair a torn meniscus. We talked to **Jim** recently and are happy to report he is doing fine. This spring we are enjoying magnificent displays of wild flowers and water flows on **Bill Bethell’s** hikes. Mother Nature’s work is amazing. All the water helped to make our April Shasta Lake houseboat trip (with the **Derbys, Pivettis, and Seversons**) especially nice. We’re looking forward to a June 11 departure for the Ukraine; Russia on a riverboat from Moscow to St. Petersburg; Estonia; and Helsinki, Finland.

“Sadly, we attended a memorial service for William (**Bill Stewart**) on May 13. **Bill** was born in Sacramento on September 10, 1928 and passed away on May 3, 2005. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, **Dorothy**. **Bill** retired from Caltrans in 1991 after working 42 years as a civil engineer. For much of his career **Bill** worked in Local Programs and was responsible for ensuring the rapid disbursement of federal funds to local agencies after disasters.”

—Nancy Benjamin

**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.**

#### Some Useless Information That Will Dazzle Your Next Cocktail Party

1. Coca-Cola was originally green.
2. Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than for the US Treasury.
3. Smartest dogs: 1) border collie; 2) poodle; 3) golden retriever.
4. Dumbest dog: Afghan
5. The Hawaiian alphabet has 12 letters.
6. Men can read smaller print than women; women can hear better.
7. Chances that an American lives within 50 miles of where they grew up: 1 in 2
8. Amount American Airlines saved in 1987 by taking out one olive from each salad served in first class: \$40,000
9. City with the most Rolls Royce cars per capita: Hong Kong
10. State with the highest percentage of people who walk to work: Alaska
11. Chances of a white Christmas in New York: 1 in 4
12. Portion of US annual rainfall that falls in April: 1/12th

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 on the 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 9 am on the third Wednesdays in March and September at Green Valley Restaurant at Olive & 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 *No Contact*

**Lenny's Huddle** meets 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

## In Memoriam

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

Name	District	Date
Eileen Quigley	1	April 14, 2005
Pete Espil	2	March 23, 2005
Kathryn Elizabeth Raymond	2	March 2, 2005
Margaret Elda Weaver	2	April 16, 2005
Frank Lew	4	Spring 2005
Carol Catherina	5	May 13, 2005
Florence Deitrich	5	May 13, 2005
F. Marjorie Fishcher	5	April 20, 2005
Bill Ojeda	5	April 15, 2005
Helen Akers	6	Spring, 2005
Les Reese	7	Spring, 2004
Johnnie Hughes	8	May 25, 2005
Geale Fitzpatrick	9	April 10, 2005
Ed Houghton	9	April 10, 2005
James Olds	9	Spring, 2005
Dorothy Yaeger	9	May, 2005
George Rae "Tiny" Neil	10	April 19, 2005
William D. Stewart	10	May 2, 2005
Edwin R. Settle	11	March 21, 2005
Glydus Gregory	Ctrl	December 1, 2004
J. Frank Jorgensen	Ctrl	Spring, 2005

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