



Trends and Events

APPEAL FOR NEW OFFICER CANDIDATES

From the Corner Pocket

Some important **QCC** topics for your consideration are ...

A new state QCC President for the next term. Just a few months are left of my second term. With your help and insight there will be a better one next time around. Our constitution calls for each president to serve no more than two one-year terms, then to pass the baton to the next to carry it onward. The job has its rewards if you can give a little time (no payment). You get to meet some wonderful people as part of the job. If you'd like to be that next president, please let me or any of the other officers know. Or if you know of someone with the time and talent who just needs a little coaxing, we can provide that as well and we will move into a new year with a smooth transition.

The QCC roster has been moving in two directions—older and smaller. Older is no surprise; we all do that and it's better than the alternative. The move to smaller is doubly difficult as it impacts our average age with more members moving to honorary status and thus non-dues-paying (good for them, but costly for the rest of us). Anyone who was 35 at the start of the Interstate buildup in 1960

has reached that mark and a flood of younger ones will be aged 80 in the coming years. With minimal recruitment, we may one day find that 90 percent of our members are Honorary and the remaining 10 percent assume the entire cost of operations. (Strong hint for more recruitment).

The heavy topic of costs and expenses – The QCC Board is evaluating the budget for the recent history to see how it fits our needs or if it is in need of revision. The constitution provides for four distributions from your annual dues payment; any or all of them could possibly use a long over-due adjustment. Look for the officers' recommendations in the next issue.

Our Symbol -- We began as the QCC of the Division of Highways and still have the original symbol of the "Winged Wheel/Flying Doughnut" as our seal. However, there are Caltrans employees who are now eligible for QCC membership for whom the CT is the only symbol they have ever known. Only those with 30 years or more have actually worked for the Division of Highways. A recent informal poll got a rousing "NO" to changing the QCC logo, (Department of Transportation is included), but some other ideas came forward for adding the CT symbol either below or to the right of the current venerable seal. What's your opinion on an updated logo and do you have a good idea on how to combine them for a new one? Would an updated



logo make the QCC more relevant to the younger employees?

(Last but not least)— A request that you to be available to help with your district officers or activities to the extent that you can. District officers contribute their time and talent but they're always looking for more help, whether it's calling cleaning organizing, phoning, writing or just stopping by with a friendly smile and encouraging words. Thanks for all you can do to help.

— Butch Biendara

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Secretary Treasure's Report

Another three months have gone by, and except for being gone for three weeks in June to Indiana, Virginia, and South Carolina, Pat's surgery in July, a quick trip back to South Carolina for a death in Pat's family, learning a week ago that my niece and her husband and three children lost everything to Hurricane

Katrina, and having a two-day yard sale over Labor Day weekend to raise some money for them it has been pretty uneventful.

DUES REPORT

My apologies for the misdirection in the last issue of the Cue See Seer. The dues paid-thru date was NOT on the cover sheet. There was a miscommunication between the printer and me regarding putting it on. I hope that will be taken care of on this issue.

UPCOMING ELECTION

HELP! HELP! We need candidates for offices! Time is growing short and I have not heard a peep from anyone with nominees for the positions. Again, the nominating committee consists of the District Directors and members of the Executive Committee. Please get nominations to the DDs as they must be returned to me by October 25th. That is only seven weeks (as I write this) away. Please refer to the Constitution for complete details of the nominating and election procedures.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A complete financial report will be included in the next issue of the Cue See Seer.

Until the next time, everyone please take care. Enjoy the fall season and the holidays that go with it.

— Kim Yarbrough

The Milk Carton

Here names of members we've lost track of.

William "Jack" Hill	03
Erwin J. Fuller	03
James D. Cross	04
Frank A. Swarzkopf	04
Jean S. Amster	07
Edith Berg	07
Walter S. Bowman	07

Thomas C. Spencer	07
Frank Terlecki Jr.	08
Lavonne Hale	11
Frances Hoff	11
Alice E. Brooks	CEN
Louise S. Plowe	CEN
Kenneth Wilson	CEN

If you know of their whereabouts, please contact Kim Yarbrough at:

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

The Haps in District 1

I hope everyone had a great summer. We have had wonderful weather after the June rains. I must share the latest first: on August 25, District 1 held its 24th annual employee award luncheon, this one at the Red Lion Inn. Our district director, **Charles Fielder**, was master of ceremonies. I brought my California Transportation Foundation brochures and Quarter Century Club applications. We had a moment of silence for one of our employees, **Dan Broeske**, who was recently killed in an accident. After lunch, supervisors honored their employees for service. Several were not able to attend, but I am including all honorees.

Those receiving 25-year awards included **Vicky Abbadusky, Jack Anaya, Kevin Balke, Delynn Banfill, Robert Borden, Luana Bywater, Russell Larsen, Gene Leo, Mark Leonhardt, John Maple, Rick McDaniel, Joseph Moore, Ron Robinson, Tim Strahan,** and **Robert Wilcox.**

For 30 years, **Mel Brim, Linda Dennon, Dennis Dickensheets, John**

Garstka, Gordon Johnson (yes, he retired recently), **Lee Loffelbein, Bob Melendez, Daniel Nalevanko, Peggy Parsons,** and **Ted Zepeda.**

For 35 years, **Mike Cossolotto, James Pelley** and **Ronald Sheehan.** And for 40 years, **Jerry Sheldon** and **Jim Siebert.** I am hoping to gain some new members.

We had a great retirement party for **Gordon Johnson** at the Scotia Park on June 4th. It was a nice day but I should have remembered it still gets a bit cold in the redwoods. Several retirees attended including the **Dennis Grinsells,** the **Harold Hallstens,** and **Bert Wythe.** Both current district director **Charles Fielder** and retired district director **Rick Knapp** were there and made presentations. We had a delicious catered lunch and a good chance to visit and to meet Gordon's family.

Later in June, I attended my historical society's conference in San Clemente. I had seen it from the freeway but had never visited. This time I got to see the town and to visit Camp Pendleton, President Richard Nixon's western White House, and San Juan Capistrano. Now I have a lot more appreciation for that beautiful area. (The shopping is great, too!)

We had a pleasant surprise at our July retired ladies lunch—**Sharon Stewart** popped in for lunch and a visit. She and **Claude** were here for their high school class summer camp out. Great to see them. I saw Claude again at the Fortuna car show. This show was also our time to meet **Jim** and **Linda Boyd** and **Jerry** and **Sharon Severson.** Great visit.

I made it to **Tom Georgeson's** home in August for his birthday. It was a good chance to visit with fellow CT people—**Jim** and **Nancy Maas, Bruce Marshall, Georgia** and **Bruce Hannel, Lanette Watkins,**

the **Jerry Spellenbergs**, and **Frank Schmidt**, along with several other family members and friends of Tom and his wife. Another beautiful day and a wonderful time.

I had a nice visit with fellow QCCer **Burt Walker** and hand delivered his honorary certificate and lifetime membership card. We enjoyed reliving our memories of District I work and fellow employees.

I have also been stopping in to see **Bob McClary**. Bob had a bit of a stroke last spring. He is not paralyzed but has to relearn the use of his body. He is still in therapy but is continuing to improve and his great sense of humor is still intact. I also had a nice chat with **Sonja**. She is staying with him most of the time and is a great support in encouraging him to continue to get better.

Marty Van Zandt's retirement party will be at the Benbow State Park at 11 am, on Saturday, September 17, 2005. It will be catered, but bring your own chairs. The cost is \$10.00 per person. For reservations contact **Helene Demling** at (707) 445-6446 or **Marlene Thomsen** at (707) 445-6477, preferably on or before September 9.

— Arlene Hartin

The Haps in District 2

The QCCer didn't receive a report from District 2

The Mother Tongue

In the 1920s, while barring the teaching of foreign languages, Texas governor Miriam "Ma" Ferguson picked up a Bible and famously declared,

"If English was good enough for Jesus Christ, it's good enough for Texas."

The Haps in District 3

Placerville News:
Darrell and **JoAnn Hansen** have embarked on a two-month motor home trip that will include a return to where Darrell was born and raised in North Dakota. We all enjoy going back to our roots and participating in what we grew up doing. They also plan to tour through Minnesota and attend a steam engine event in Wisconsin. They plan to return home about the middle of September.

Retired state employees celebrating their 80th birthdays this year include **John Krek** and **Keith Maggini**.

Keith and **Barbara Magginini** will attend their son's 50th birthday party in Napa on August 13th. After that they plan to drive to Vancouver, Washington, to spend a week with their daughter and her husband.

Report from the event committee:
The annual fall luncheon dine out for state employees will be held on Thursday, September 20th at the Casa Ramos Mexican restaurant off Mother Lode Drive on the south side of the Missouri Flat interchange in West Placerville. The luncheon will get underway at about 1 pm after an attitude adjustment hour planned at 12. The committee has arranged for ordering from the luncheon menu with individual checks. Our fall dine out was held at this restaurant last October with everyone reporting that the food and surroundings were excellent. If you haven't attended one of our luncheons, please contact one of the committee members listed below for reservations.

If you're on our list, you'll be contacted before September 22nd. We need a rough count by the 24th for the restaurant. We were honored by the attendance of Quarter Century Club Secretary/Treasurer **Kim Yarbrough** and his lovely wife **Pat** at the

spring luncheon. Their attendance was appreciated by all. Our luncheons are open to all state employees.

Join us and enjoy visiting with people you worked with in the past.

Committee Members:

Doug Becker – 622-1665

Gerry Hamm – 622-8030

— Keith Magginini

The Haps in District 4

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. My wife and youngest daughter made their annual pilgrimage to Texas. They originally planned to spend two weeks but cut it short because of the heat. They did get a chance to visit Galveston and the Gulf Coast and enjoy the Gulf breezes. They were impressed with how Texas maintains its beaches and the amenities that are provided. I told my wife about the storm that wiped out Galveston around the turn of the century. I have a copy of the book, *Isaac's Storm* by Erik Larson, which covers in detail what happened. I thought we would never see anything like that happening again but no one expected anything like Katrina to occur. We have friends who live in Lafayette, Louisiana, which is located west of New Orleans, so we're hoping only the fringes of the storm hit them as it veered to the east.

My daughter has decided to stay in Huntington Beach and will now be teaching second grade in the coming school year.

Bethel Rogers has volunteered to be the District 4 Quarter Century Club Treasurer. Thanks Bethel! I'll be looking for someone to be Secretary.

Brian White has contacted me to offer to be a liaison between the District 4 Quarter Century Club and those in the district who have more than 25 years of service but have not

joined the club. He furnished me a list of active district personnel who have more than 25 years of service. I'll cross-reference this with our membership so we can identify who isn't a member yet and offer them a chance to join. Brian says he can send a flyer via E-mail to them. Thanks, Brian!

Ed Coble will celebrate the 40th anniversary of his 40th birthday on October 1. My wife said to save the stamp on the envelope the announcement came in. I wondered why and looked at the stamp. Not using the Internet, I didn't realize you could buy stamps on line and design your own stamp. Ed's contained a picture of his granddaughter.

Niki and I ran into **Vern** and **Betty Waight** at the DeYoung Museum members' preview of its new museum building in Golden Gate Park. The building is one you either love or hate—there can be no middle ground. Vern shook his head and said he had some theories on why the building was constructed the way it was, particularly the last minute twist to the building's tower. I remember **Bob Halligan's** comment on art when he was taken to task for the statue of Father Juniper Serra on the Crystal Springs Rest Stop. "If it isn't controversial," he said, "it isn't art!"

John and **Nancy Buthenuth** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Jack and **Ruth Maltester** held their annual "Thank You Barbeque for Past and Present Leaders of District 4." QCC members **Harry Yahata, Ann Handen, Bob Jahrling** and I were there. **Tom Lammers** and the **Trombatores, Leo** and **Shirley**, were unable attend.

With regard to the District 4 QCC event I mentioned in the previous notes, my feedback indicates that a date around the end of January 2006 would work best. The preferred place would be somewhere on the Bay with plenty of parking available. I'm thinking of somewhere around the Berkeley Marina.

-- Paul Hensley

The Haps in District 5

Hard to believe it's almost time for pumpkins, ghosts and goblins.

Visitors to <http://www.dot.ca.gov>—the CT Website—will find Volume 2 of the California Transportation Journal available under “What’s New.” It contains an interesting article on the Division of Equipment that had its beginning in 1921 in a blacksmith shop that shod mules. The cover story by **Mark Turner**, Chief of Land Surveys, reveals the surprising fact that the center of population in California lies in western Kern County near Buttonwillow. You’ll have to read the article for the explanation.

The annual District 5 Holiday BBQ will be Thursday, December 8, at San Luis Obispo Elks Lodge.

The July issue of the Caltrans News (also on the website) featured Chief Deputy Director **Randy Iwasaki** who was recently honored by the Cal Poly College of Engineering. The university dedicated the Randell H. Iwasaki ITS Lab in recognition of this Cal Poly graduate, who was instrumental in placing the permanent ITS trailer and two mobile units from FHWA at the campus for student research and projects.

Nevin Sams, Chief of Traffic Safety in District 5 has received the Karl Moskowitz Award, presented to registered Caltrans transportation engineers. Nevin, who has worked for the department for 22 years, has been recognized statewide for his expertise in traffic safety. His safety improvements and projects have significantly reduced accident rates at locations in our five counties.

Golfers in the news: **Dyer Campbell** hit a hole-in-one on August 2 at Laguna Lake Golf Course, witnessed by **Dale Gordon**, **Pete Hom**, **Dick Foge** and **Bill Fieldhouse**. On the same day, **Gary Schultz** shot a hole-in-one at Hamilton Golf Course in Montana. Dyer bought a round of drinks for his compatriots, but we don’t know about Gary.

These pros practiced in July at the **Bruce Langford** Invitational held at the Laguna Lake course, followed by a BBQ. This is an annual get-together for District 5 golfers and friends, and it’s an occasion for fun and tall tales, according to my husband **Bob**.

A box of old employee photographs recently surfaced at the district office, including one group picture of the “Planning Dept Staff” dated April 25, 1958. Thanks to **Bob, Dyer Campbell**, and **Paul Bohrer**, we’ve identified about half of the 100 people. If you’d like to test your memory and add to the list of names, I’ll send you a copy.

Do you know Honku? No, it’s not the latest Asian food, but a poem about cars and traffic written in haiku style by our Architectural Historian **Paula Carr**. Here are some examples:

*This beautiful day
And the bright red stop sign, too,
—Both were meant for you.*

*Ninety miles per hour
Your lights are on for safety
—Let’s rethink this one*

*I’m gonna tum here —
You! On the phone! Behind me!
Please get this message!*

Congratulations to District Director **Gregg Albright** who became a grandpa twice this summer. His daughters presented him with grandsons just a few weeks apart. The proud grandpa has brought both boys to visit us at the office.

Gregg is losing his efficient secretary, **Sharon Bladow**, who is retiring August 31. She and **Ken** will move north to be closer to family.

Paul Bohrer sent us an interesting e-mail about a fisherman he met last January on the Rogue River. They began to get acquainted, and the man asked Paul where he worked before retiring. The man then said, “My mom also worked for the Division of Highways in San Luis Obispo; her name is **Joy Chafin**”. Paul says he’s waiting for Joy to come up and fish with him sometime. Paul is producing fake anchovy baits for river fishing on the

West Coast along with printing his fishing guide. He recently spent a week tent camping along the middle part of the Rogue, fishing for steelhead. He says the ground is getting harder these days.

Bill Cotnam is taking an extended road trip this summer. So far we've received postcards from Klamath, Crater Lake, Portland, San Juan Islands, Vancouver BC, Idaho, and Yellowstone Park. He was planning to end the trip with a visit to his family in Las Vegas.

Alston Hix, husband of **Ele**, was recently interviewed by the *Tribune* as part of its *People Next Door* series. Alston has been a resident of San Luis Obispo for 55 years. He and Ele were very active as directors and performers at the Little Theatre for more than 25 years, along with working and raising their three children. Now they are enjoying retirement and their five grandchildren.

Jerry Laumer visited the office in July while here on a break from the Sacramento heat. He and **Pat** are keeping busy with grandkids, exercising, social activities, attending River Cats baseball games, and traveling to visit family and friends.

Vern Leseman and his family attended the Caltrans summer BBQ at the park in Grover Beach. He said he phones **Bob** and **Bud Horton** every couple months. Bob, 85 and Bud, 96, are living near family in Arizona. Vern also reports that **Chris Callahan** has moved to Atlanta; he recently visited Sacramento and had lunch with **Ed Sheean**.

Leticia Soria, District 5 Construction, organized the BBQ. It was a pleasant day at the park, and it was nice to see our younger employees and their families enjoy the activities. **Richard Gonzales** from Reproduction was our BBQ chef, assisted by **Tamara** and his dad. **J. D. Wells** stopped by briefly to pick up lunch; he is undergoing treatments and was not feeling up to a long visit.

Mike and **Tess Pulido** returned recently from a cross-country trip that took them as far as Nova Scotia, down the East Coast, and across the lower states. Mike said they had a good trip in spite of the humidity and paying more than \$3 for gas in some areas. They missed Hurricane Katrina by just a few days.

On a sadder note: **Arthur B. Cole** passed away August 7 at the age of 95. Art was employed by Highways in San Francisco and transferred to San Luis Obispo in 1949 where he retired in 1971. He is survived by his wife **Adele**, daughter **Cindy**, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

David Lomeli, retired Maintenance Area Superintendent, was killed in a vehicle accident near Sonora on August 19. Dave retired from Santa Barbara Maintenance in 1995 after 31 years. He is remembered as generous, kind, and devoted to his family and the well being of his employees.

Madolyn Rossier, wife of **Harold**, passed away on July 5. Madolyn worked as a registered nurse; her favorite hobby was genealogy. She enjoyed traveling with Harold in search of family history and getting together with their sons' families.

— 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 September. The final deadline for the next issue will be September 5th.

The Haps in District 6

I thank those who get news to me for the QCCer. It wouldn't be anything without those of you who contribute.

A note from **John Mohn**:

"The Friday morning breakfast group, **Marvin Johnson, Don Peasley, Mel Shank, Earl**

Mar, Bill Burmeister, John Wright, Chester Sohm and John Mohn now meets for lunch on the first Tuesday of the month. “

“I still travel to Pismo in our 5th wheel about three or four times a year and sometimes take a longer trip. This last spring we went to Arizona, stopped in Yuma, Tucson, Phoenix and Parker. But with the higher gas prices I don't know if we will go any more.”

Don Peterson sent a sad note letting us all know that **Ken Clyde** passed away on July 20th. Ken and his wife, Lou had relocated to Eureka, Montana few years ago. They had sold their properties at Shaver Lake and Madera and moved lock stock and barrel to Montana seven miles from the Canadian border. Ken had been in ill health for the last year or so; he had knee and hip replacements among other things. There were no services and his ashes will be scattered over his property.

I am still enjoying retirement, especially the traveling. I spent another week in Tahiti on the Radisson “Paul Gauguin”, which I highly recommend. The next trip was to Central and South America for a month. Too many adventures to write about like using the zip line in the canopy in the rain forest in Costa Rica, but I have to say the highlight was visiting Iguazú Falls between Argentina and Brazil. It was fabulous and the park is set up so that it is an easy walk right in over the falls or in a boat below them. They are more than six miles long and 250 feet high, much bigger than Niagara Falls. If you get the chance to go or have the inclination to do so, don't pass it up. Just be sure to take wet weather gear because you will get wet.

Jim and **Carolyn Landy, Josie Rendon** and I are going to Canada later this month on an Elderhostel tour of Montreal, Quebec City and Ottawa. This will be my first official tour as I normally just wing it on trips but Carolyn assures me that it will be a lot of fun.

Cassie and **Bob Tsubota** have been traveling quite a bit, but this year **Bob** decided to quit going

long distances because the body won't take it anymore. They were scheduled to go on a Mediterranean cruise this October but Bob cancelled out; his daughter will take his place. His advice, “Do it while you're young and energetic”. He's still playing golf though.

Enjoying Retirement by **Virgle Ray**, Retired Highway Superintendent:

“While washing the motor home today—a warm day, a squirrel drinking runoff water from the motor home, butterflies flitting from flower to flower, a jackrabbit watching from the shade of the pine tree—my thoughts ramble as washing the MH only occupies a portion of my thoughts.”

“Suddenly names of Division of Highway coworkers who have been influential in my career start flashing like arithmetic flash cards. What was the name of that person? I believe each of us leaves something with the other when we interact. Enjoying the thought that washing the MH is in preparation for a visit to Bodega Bay and thankful that I can enjoy this moment. Knowing I owe so much to the environment enjoyed with the Division of Highways, I want to thank each name on those flash cards.

- Governor **Brown Senior** for dignifying the word State Employee; he supported those who worked for him
- **Jack Cropper**, Chief, Division of Highways Maintenance for believing there is a better way of performing our jobs
- **Gene Poch**, Maintenance Engineer, for teaching me to read (I still remember that first book)
- **Janet Benson**, Office manager, for teaching me that being an Arkie was OK; poor grammar was not
- **Walt Rowland**, Assistant Maintenance Engineer for understanding that a Signal Technician might not know how to operate a ten key calculator
- **Bill Richardson**, Bridge Foreman, for teaching me how to use a pick and shovel, and being a good friend

- **Shirley Shoup**, HFOA, for teaching me to laugh and enjoy the office routine;
- **Gene Wahl**, Maintenance Engineer, for teaching me to enjoy life after work (my grandchildren still have one of his wood toys)
- **Henry Pickerell**, Senior Superintendent for believing a kid from the Bay Area could be a Signal Technician
- **Dale Tenbrock**, Senior Superintendent, for teaching me to believe in myself and to try new ideas

"The list goes on to infinity. For those named and those not named, I want you to know you're remembered and I hope that your retirement is enjoyable and filled with good health and that you're surrounded by butterflies flitting while the birds sing."

— Terry Littleton

The Quotable Bob Hope

On turning 70: "You still chase women, but only downhill".

On turning 80: "That's the time of your life when even your birthday suit needs pressing."

On turning 90: "You know you're getting old when the candles cost more than the cake."

On turning 100: "I don't feel old. In fact I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap."

On giving up boxing, his early career: "I ruined my hands in the ring... the referee kept stepping on them."

On sailors: "They spend the first six days of each week sowing their wild oats, then they go to church on Sunday and pray for crop failure."

On never winning an Oscar: "Welcome to the Academy Awards or, as it's called at my home, 'Passover'."

On golf: "Golf is my profession. Show business is just to pay the green fees."

On presidents: "I have performed for 12 presidents and entertained only six."

The Haps in District 7

Last fall I took a three-week trip to Australia to visit my son and his wife. He is doing post-doctoral research in Marine Biology at James Cook University in Townsville, Australia, on the northeast coast near Cairns. Since it was my second visit, we decided to go into the outback. My son's father-in-law, who is a doctor, joined us for the trip. So there we were—three biologists (my daughter-in-law is also a marine biologist) who love snakes, lizards, birds, fish and insects—and one engineer who likes the outdoors, but is not terribly fond of lizards and snakes, taking off to look for all those types of creatures.

We flew from Townsville to Darwin, where we encountered very hot and humid weather. There we picked up a 4-wheel drive Toyota camper van that was supposed to sleep four, but barely had enough room for two (luckily we brought a two-person tent), purchased enough food and supplies for a week and headed into the outback.

During the next week we drove about 1200 kilometers while visiting the Fogg Dam Conservation Reserve, the Aboriginal Lands of Kakadu National Park, Leliyn (Edith Falls) in Nitmiluk National Park and Litchfield National Park. It seems that on all the trails we hiked where there was any type of water we encountered warning signs that said "Crocodiles inhabit these waters. DO NOT SWIM." At the Ubirr Art Site there were numerous locations that contained aboriginal art that was thousands of years old and a large scenic wetland to view. Some of the other places we visited were Jabiru, Anbangbang Billabong, Cooina, Ngurrungurrudja (Yellow Waters), Nangulowur, and Nourlangie. It was a challenge to try to pronounce these aboriginal names. We went swimming at the Buley Rockhole and Wangi Falls. At Wangi Falls, while swimming, we encountered a small fresh water crocodile (about 6' long). We

came within five feet of him so did not spend a lot of time there. The Aussies say that only salt water crocodiles are dangerous to humans. While driving we also encountered a western brown snake, the second most poisonous snake in the world. My companions were thrilled at these two events.

We returned to Darwin and caught a flight to Alice Springs in central Australia where we picked up another Toyota camper van. From Alice Springs we were headed for Uluru (the Aboriginal name for Ayers Rock). On the way we stopped at Ormiston Gorge and Kings Canyon, where we walked down into the canyon to see the Garden of Eden. It was a beautiful lush green area in the middle of the desolate outback. Arriving at Uluru we went to the Aboriginal Visitor Center and took a 10-kilometer hike around the 'rock'. This enabled us to learn much about the aboriginal people and their culture. We returned to Alice Springs eight days later. From there it took three flights to get back to Townsville.

The outback was really an amazing experience. It was hot and dry around Alice Springs. Although there was not much water, the plant life was much greener than I expected and there was more animal life (even though they were small) than I expected. At Kakadu the weather was also hot, but with very high humidity. The plant life was also very green and the trees bigger. Everywhere the sunrises and sunsets were beautiful and the insects plentiful.

If you ever get a chance to visit Australia and the outback, don't pass it up!

Charlie Olson passed away on August 4, 2005. The Olson family hosted a celebration of Charlie's life on August 15, 2005 at the Quiet Canon at the Montebello Golf Club. The family has asked that, in lieu of flowers, donations in Charlie's name, be made to CURE AUTISM NOW.

We have been informed that Sid Solomon passed away on Friday, January 21, 2005 at a Glendale Convalescent Facility. His family celebrated his 91st birthday with him just two days before his passing. Our condolences to the Olson and Solomon families.

Some Miraculous Properties of Vodka

To remove a bandage painlessly, saturate the bandage with vodka. The solvent dissolves adhesive.

To clean the caulking around bathtubs and showers, fill a trigger-spray bottle with vodka, spray the caulking, let set five minutes and wash clean. The alcohol in the vodka kills mold and mildew.

To clean your eyeglasses, simply wipe the lenses with a soft, clean cloth dampened with vodka. The alcohol in the vodka cleans the glass and kills germs.

Spray vodka on vomit stains, scrub with a brush, then blot dry.

Using a cotton ball, apply vodka to your face as an astringent to deanse the skin and tighten pores.

Add a jigger of vodka to a 12-ounce bottle of shampoo. The alcohol deanses the scalp, removes toxins from hair, and stimulates the growth of healthy hair.

Fill a sixteen-ounce trigger-spray bottle and spray bees or wasps to kill them.

Fill a dean, used mayonnaise jar with freshly packed lavender flowers, fill the jar with vodka, seal the lid tightly and set in the sun for three days.

Strain liquid through a coffee filter, then apply the tincture to aches and pains.

To relieve a fever, use a washcloth to rub vodka on your chest and back as a liniment.

To cure foot odor, wash your feet with vodka.

Vodka will disinfect and alleviate a jellyfish sting.

Pour vodka over an area affected with poison ivy to remove the urushiol oil from your skin.

Swish a shot of vodka over an aching tooth. Allow your gums to absorb some of the alcohol to numb the pain.

Don't drink the stuff – it'll kill you!

The Haps in District 8

The District 8 QCC midsummer luncheon was held at the Gourmet Restaurant July 27th with 64 members and guests in attendance. Those attending were **Evie Anderson**, new members **Dan** and **Beverly Armstrong**, **Jim Balcom**, **Diana** and **Jack Barich**, **Loren** and **Margaret Barnett**, **Dennis** and **Dianne Blakkolb**, **Eleanor Campbell**, **Barney Chapman**, **Morgan Choate**, **Gil** and **Jeanette Daab**, **John** and **Doris Estrada**, **Bill** and **Shirley Feenstra**, guests **Russ** and **Marta Fournier**, **Les Franz**, **Patricia Garcia**, **Jim** and **Jan Geller**, **Ed** and **Clarice Gritters**, **Dick** and **Louise Haight**, **John** and **Marj Hollensteiner** all the way from Roseberg, Oregon, new members **Margie** and **Jerry Hobbs**, **Frances Jacques**, **Carolyn Johns**, **Jack** and **Marilyn Lake**, **Pat Leatherberry**, **Stan** and **Ina Lisiewicz**, **Dick** and **Hazel Longstreet**, **Gerry Lunt**, **Stan Martin**, **Maxine Nelson**, guests **Les** and **Barbara Nolte**, **Ernie** and **Kay Parke**, **Lloyd** and **Alice Patterson**, **Linda Salmond**, **Melba Saucier**, **Bud** and **Judy Smith**, **Taylor** and **Katie Smith**, **Ken Steele**, guest **Dick Stephenson**, **Ron Wane**, **Grace Vinzens**, and **Don Weaver**.

Following lunch a brief business meeting was held to discuss drawings for cash prizes at our Christmas party. It was suggested that rather than cash prizes, the cost of the dinner be reduced by \$1. Those present unanimously voted to continue the cash prizes but also voted to have four \$25 prizes rather than one \$50 and two \$25 prizes.

We have reserved the Gourmet for our Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, December 4.

Jan Geller displayed a very attractive and unusual quilt that she made out of her husband **Jim's** work shirts following his retirement. She had saved the shirts over the years for this occasion. All of Jim's notes, lottery stubs, and other miscellaneous data were still in the shirt pockets.

Jim retired from Maintenance on August 1, 2005, with 41 years of state service. He started in District 5 in Hollister in 1964 and transferred to District 8 in 1973. He was acting Superintendent at Hemet when he retired.

The QCC has three new members, **Margie Hobbs**, **Dan Armstrong**, and **Marcella Marcy-Cagle**.

The club's oldest active member, **Tom Dwiggin**, and wife **Barbara** missed the luncheon. Tom had spent some time in the hospital and is recuperating nicely at home. **Dan Hodges** who lives in Temecula has expressed interest in joining but could not attend because of his wife's illness; **Mary Bermudez** attended a family reunion in Oregon in mid-July and couldn't make it to the luncheon.

Gary (R-Const) and **Sharon Waters** were set to take a two-week trip to Hawaii in late August. **Jim Landfried**, recently retired from Construction, once again was the official timer for the annual Powder Puff Derby, a national air race for the ladies. This race has been held annually since the 1930s, and as timer, Jim programs about 700 timing entries to determine winners in different categories... Jim has begun work as an Office Manager for a consultant on a major construction project. **Joyce Lewandowski**, wife of **Hank Lewandowski** (R-Design) reports from Nebraska that he is doing the best he can with his ongoing medical problems. **Marsha Lotze** (R-Engineering Services) along with active employees **Sheilah Neff**, and **Norma Gomez** (recently attended a Stampin' Up Convention in Salt Lake City. Marsha has taken up making her own cards and gifts since retirement. **Dean** (R- Lab) and **Sharon Pitts** report from Northern California that they took a recent trip to Branson, Mo. **Dave Lahti** (R-Const) has perked up after treatments for medical problems, and plans to start golfing again. **Duane Sharp** (R- Const) reports from Utah that he has recovered well from heart surgery and is once again taking up household improvement tasks, but that he misses many long time friends in California.

Speaking of cruises, **Taylor** (R- Design) and

Katie Smith, Dick (R-Traffic) and **Louise Haight, Francis Jacques** (R-Admin), and **Wes** (R-Design) and **Linda** (R-Planning) **Grimes**, along with several other friends and neighbors, were set to cruise on the American Queen paddleboat down the Mississippi River from Memphis to New Orleans in late August. This segment of the river will complete the Smith's full-length cruise of the Mississippi!

Our Secretary/Treasurer **Marsha** (R-Engineering Services) and husband **Craig Lotze** (R-Const) took a long weekend vacation to New Orleans. She'd always wanted to visit the city and both are avid Wheel of Fortune watchers. Craig is a Sony Rewards member and they received V.I.P. tickets to the show. The show was great and they also took a City Tour, drove to Oak Alley, a gorgeous plantation on the Mississippi River, and did some sightseeing while there. They were due to fly out on August 28th but thanks to good ole Delta, all flights were cancelled due to the pending Hurricane Katrina. It's just good that their daughter and Marsha's two sisters assisted via cell phones to allow these unseasoned travelers to fly out Sunday on a standby flight with Southwestern Airlines, first to Houston, and then two great ladies were able to book them on a flight to Las Vegas. Otherwise, nothing else was available until Tuesday. Marsha and Craig rented a car and drove home to Apple Valley from Las Vegas. They both wanted to get as far from New Orleans as possible. So much for a short vacation.

Gil and Jeanette Daab went on a cruise to Belize, Costa Rica, and the Panama Canal and made a stop at the Everglades National Park in Florida this past spring.

Roses to **Roy Smoot** (R-Design and Riverside County Transportation Director), whose wife **Wanda Beyers Smoot** passed away in July in Utah. Her large family paid loving tribute to Wanda during services here in California. Wanda was a great organizer, whether it was a yard sale or the parties that she and Roy liked to host. They were also a great couple on the dance floor. Wanda also loved to sing and play the piano. She is survived by a large loving family.

Leo Wilkinson (R-PSandE) passed away June

13, 2005 in San Diego. Leo had flown P-38s in the Pacific in WWII and received the Distinguished Flying Cross. He had retired from Caltrans where he had spent most of his time in Design about 20 years ago. He was 86.

We're also sad to report that "**Wild Bill**" **Cruthirds** passed away in early July. He was 83. Bill retired from Maintenance as a Senior Highway Superintendent. He started in District 3, Marysville as a temporary employee, working his way up through the engineering classes and working in several departments—Design, Surveys, Construction and Materials. In 1969 he transferred to the District 8 Maintenance Department. He was the Assistant District Maintenance Engineer until his retirement in 1978.

We've also heard that **Col. Dale Rogers** who worked in Construction and Design with the Division of Highways in the 1960-70s passed away recently at the age of 89 at Rogers, Arkansas. Dale was a B-24 pilot during World War II. He was shot down over Romania and was a POW until the war ended. He will be buried at the Leavenworth National Cemetery at Leavenworth, Kansas.

Two other retired employees have also passed away—**Doc Blanchard** and **John Gamboa**. No information was available.

"Where have all the soldiers gone? They have gone to the graveyards one by one!"

— Marsha Lotze

On Legal Representation

A lawyer walks into his client's death row cell and says, "I've got some good news and some bad news."

The prisoner says, "Okay. What's the bad news?"

"The bad news is that the Governor won't issue a stay of execution. They're gonna pull the switch at midnight."

"What possibly could be the good news?"

"I got your voltage reduced!"

The Haps in District 9

I'm late in sending this for the September QCCer. Too many things going on—building a new house, cutting down two large trees before my neighbor starts building next to the property line, getting the fence built and completing forms for the Community Services District elections this fall. This has been a hot busy summer for us.

Jim and Sharon West stopped by the end of August. They were going to **Dick and Pat Clark's** daughter's wedding here in Bishop. We had a long discussion about the old days and good times we had with the Caltrans group. They live in Fresno and were returning from a two-month trip from the Midwest.

From **Clarence and Ann Ohara**: "After we left Bishop, we headed up to June Lake and had dinner with another couple. The next morning we went fishing at Ellery and Tioga Lakes. Fishing was OK, lunch was good, but the scenery was outstanding! We couldn't have asked for better weather. The next day, we rented a skiff and stayed on June Lake. We even ate our lunch on the boat. It turned out to be an eventful day—slow in the morning, but lots of action in the afternoon. We had a very enjoyable outing and hope to be able to go back again next summer.

"I hope you had a good visit with your daughter and family (which includes the dog). Our dogs were so happy to leave the kennel and be back home. If they only knew that in a few days they'll be going back for two and a half weeks when we leave for our trip to China. Since we visited Beijing about 19 years ago, there have been tremendous changes, so it will be interesting to see what influence capitalism has had on that country. Already we've had the revaluation of the yuan (their currency), and so our dollar isn't worth as much as before.

From **Jim Bowles**: "Not much going on here, with the price of fuel I can't afford to take the motor home anywhere! We did take two of the grandkids

back to Oregon and visited a few days with my daughter and her husband, but not in the MH! We do plan on going back to Yuma for the months of January and February if I save up enough to buy fuel! We did purchase a condo down in Palm Springs that we've been fixing up (you know new paint, carpet, furniture etc., etc.,) and going down to visit every chance we get. Went down last week for a few days and it was 108 with the humidity very high because of the thunderstorms they have been having so it felt like 118. We didn't venture out for too long a period, WHEW, like a sauna bath, next time I'll just stay in the pool! That is if my chores are all done by then! Anyway hope all the rest of the retired folks from Caltrans are well and enjoying themselves.

From **Donald Belden**: It seems as if this old Caltrans employee just can't stay home for long. Joyce and I have made several trips since the first of the year and even though a couple of them have involved ships and planes, we still have had to travel the blacktop to get to the port and airport. In March, we took a very enjoyable eight-day cruise to the Mexican Rivera. At the end of May, it was off to Oahu for a week to see the sights we had missed the previous year. In August, we took Joyce's dad to his family reunion in Lyons, Colorado and loved traveling through the beautiful Utah country. While on that trip, we visited a nephew in Aurora who is a collector of Indian and Western artifacts. His home resembles a museum and was very interesting. Since we start bowling in September, I am not sure when, or in what direction, our next trip will lead us.

From **Harold Jones**: "Not much to say this time -- been pretty hot up here (but see that Bishop has been cooking too). Won't be long till Labor Day, so the temperatures will be moderating soon, we hope!!"

"Had a visit from **Jim and Ruby Strait** a while back (he worked at Crestview & Sonora Junction yards way back when). We went to the seafood buffet at Topaz Lodge with them, and enjoyed both the meal and visit."

"Also we've seen **Joe and Maxine Sam and Ed Reilly** some (they all live in Carson City now). Joe and Maxine celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently (it was a surprise party for

them at the Memorial Hall in Bridgeport, and it was nice we got invited to attend). Joe, Ed and I belong to the Korean War Veterans Association chapter in Carson City, so see each other now and then at the various functions of this group.

That's about all for now."

From **Jim and Kathy Passie**: "Hi all— Home late Sunday night from Alaskan cruise. Was absolutely wonderful. Jim had no desire to go so I went with a couple of quilter friends and we had a blast. Great staff, fabulous food (won't talk about the diet!!) and awesome sightseeing. Visited Juneau, Sitka, Skagway, Ketchikan and Victoria, B.C. Unable to go into Glacier Bay due to a propulsion problem on the ship that was an environmental thing so the park service did not allow us entrance. I guess that means another trip some other time... I am ready to go! It truly was gorgeous. Went on Norwegian Lines on the Star; it's a lovely ship. Ever attended a chocoholic buffet? Wow! At midnight on Friday they had one and it was two very long smorgasbord tables LOADED with all chocolate—candies, cakes, pastries, cookies, ice cream parfaits, sundaes, pies, fondues, chocolate covered fruits and any thing else you can think of... it was awesome! All you wanted, served on DINNER plates! Some people filled their plates and ATE IT ALL!"

"So now it's back to reality and garden, etc."

"Summer is going very fast; already it feels like fall here. Getting cooler at night, and mornings are crisp. Had hoped to make it over your way but time just got away. We should try to connect soon."

"Otherwise all's well here. Jim is playing lots of golf and still playing in his wood shop. I'm getting ready for another trip, this time to an eighth grade reunion in western New York. Should be a blast."

—Lance Hinek

"You can say any foolish thing to a dog, and he'll will give you a look that says, 'My God, you're right! I never would've thought of that!'"

- Dave Barry

Some Totally Useless Information

- Percentage of Africa that is wilderness: 28%
- Percentage of North America that is wilderness: 38%
- Percentage of American adults who go on a diet each year: 44%
- Barbie's measurements if she were life size: 39-23-33
- Average number of days a West German goes without washing his underwear: seven
- Percentage of Americans who say that God has spoken to them: 36%
- Percentage of Americans who regularly attend religious services: 43%
- City with highest per capita viewership of TV evangelists: Washington DC
- Percentage of American men who say they would marry the same woman if they had it to do all over again: 80%
- Percentage of American women who say they would marry the same man: 50%
- Percentage of men who say they are happier after their divorce or separation: 58%
- Percentage of women who say they are happier after their divorce or separation: 85%
- Number of different family relationships for which Hallmark makes cards: 105
- Cost of raising a medium-size dog to the age of eleven: \$6,400
- Average number of people airborne over the US any given hour: 61,000.
- Percentage of Americans who have visited Disneyland or Disney World: 70%
- Average life span of a major league baseball: 7 pitches.
- Portion of ice cream sold that is vanilla: 1/3
- Portion of potatoes sold that are French fried: 1/3

The Haps in District 10

Bob and Ardyth Biffel took daughter **Bonny -- 49th birthday --** and son **Brad** for a cruise around the Hawaiian Islands then on to Vancouver. "We rented cars to tour Oahu, Kauai and Maui, spent several hours on each of these islands touring with like minded passengers. We visited the northern area of Oahu and also Pearl Harbor. On Maui we toured Waimea canyon and Paipu; on Maui we did the road to Hanna, and then drove around the southern part. On the big Island we toured the volcano. Ardyth and Bob also managed to sneak in their 54th anniversary into the trip. The sea watchers managed sighting a few whales, porpoises, and flying fish.

Bob and Lynne Hargis took a three-week trip the end of April and first of May that included a cruise to the southern Caribbean for a week, then a few days in San Juan Puerto Rico. The remaining time was spent in the Florida Keys.

"The cruise was great," says Bob. "The Keys had great weather and the scuba diving was good. The Keys accommodations were right on the Gulf of Mexico and the sunsets were spectacular. Spent a day in Key West—very interesting and a lot of history.

The **Sellings** have been On The Road Again—"Hi Y'all: Well it's time to hit the road again. This time we are heading east on Monday June 13th through NV, AZ, NM, TX, OK, MO, IL, KY, TN, NC to Fredericksburg VA. **Stuart** has been transferred from the USS George Washington to the Pentagon in DC. They have purchased a new house in Fredericksburg and have a few work projects for **Bill**. **Darlene** will give the girls some more shopping lessons now that she has her PhD in shopping. From there we will head north to Canada and then west to arrive home some time around the first part of September. We will take a short break toward the end of July

to fly home so Bill can go fishing in AK and Darlene will go shopping for a few days in NV. We then will fly back to VA on Aug 9th. As in the past, our son **Marc** will house sit. We did purchase a laptop to check E-Mail and for Darlene to watch movies while traveling. Please keep in mind that we will only check E-Mail about once a week. If you need to get in touch with us, give us a call on our cell phone—(209) 602-2703. If we don't answer, it will take a message and we'll get back to you. Y'all take care, Bill, Darlene and Pumpkin."

Mike Ciccone—"On July 15, 2005 my wife, daughter and I will drive to Chicago to attend the 21st National Garden Railway Convention (G gauge). We will detour off Route 80 to Route 35 to Bloomington, Minn. to visit the Great Mall of America (the largest in the U.S.). Friends of mine said that I am out of my mind to take two women there for three days.

After the mall, we'll go to Little Falls, Minn. to visit a couple that we met at Laughlin, NV on our last trip; they invited us to visit them if we ever got near their town. We will then head to St. Charles, Illinois for the convention where we will see more train layouts, and go to barbeques, a botanical garden tour and whatever else we decide to do. After the convention we'll visit friends in Peotone, Illinois for a week and then we'll head to the Amish country (Indiana, Ohio and Penn). We'll stop to enjoy the Amish food and of course check out the little shops for the women's sake. After three weeks our daughter will fly home, as she has to return to work. We'll continue our trip to see more of the country and its historical sites and visit more friends in Ohio, Virginia and North Carolina. If time allows we'll test the seafood in Delaware, Maryland, Conn., Mass. and Maine. We plan to be home about the end of August.

Some District 10 lore from **Dick Mesa**:

"This happened back around the mid 60s. I was shanghaied off construction to head up the Geodimeter crew where I spent the better part

of a year traveling all over the district, setting control points. We were sent to Amador County to tie in some traverse lines to geodetic survey points.

It so happened that a major tie-in was a couple miles away and required a night shot. As was our practice, we drove out during the day and put a reflector on the point, which happened to be through a gate and up a Jeep track road on a high pointy hill that we could only get to by driving a Jeep 4x4 to within a hundred yards of the point and climbing the rest of the way carrying the reflector and tripod. We went to dinner and waited for dark. The shot was taken by using the laser beam geodimeter from the edge of the highway shoulder.

Things went smoothly and we finished the shot early, so I decided to retrieve the reflector that night instead in the morning as planned. **Mickey Marling** and I drove, headlights on, through the gate, up the road and up the hill. We were just loading the reflector in the Jeep when we saw headlights roaring up the road we had just come up.

I said, "It looks like we've got company." About then the car skidded to a halt, the doors flew open and we were staring down the barrels of several guns pointed in our direction from behind the open doors. Mickey's arms went up in the air and he hollered "Don't Shoot!!" (a sight I will never forget). Then we heard "Oh #@/o&*", it's only Highways. It was the County Sheriffs and, in their headlights, they could see the red tomato on the side of our orange Jeep. However, we weren't out of the woods yet. They told us that the property owner called because he thought we were stealing his sheep and that they had to take us to see him. It turns out that he had issues and was in litigation with the division, since they had bisected his property with the new Highway 124 to Central House and he wasn't happy with the "cattle pass" culvert they had provided. He chewed on us for about 20 minutes and I had' to eat a lot of crow. I hadn't got permission, primarily because I didn't know there was a house in the vicinity, but I learned a good lesson.

This was just one of many adventures that I had during that time on the Geodimeter Crew, but probably the most memorable.

Norman Penberthy, who celebrated his 90th this year showed up late, thinking the breakfast started at 9:00. He was able to visit for awhile and said he'll come early next month.

John "Cappy" Richards will go to Ireland again on Sept 8th. He will act as a guide for three nieces and their husbands. He'll have "one" for the gang and tell all about the trip when he gets back.

Cappy says, "Slainte."

Virginia Evinger spent two weeks camping at Sunset Beach with her three children, **Patrick** and **Ginia** from Tucson, **Denis** from Lake Isabella, and **Sheila** and **Garry** from Cameron Park, plus various grandchildren coming and going. "During the two weeks we all attended a funeral (another name for a Desmond reunion) in Walnut Creek, I reunited with a neighbor from 1948 and enjoyed getting acquainted with her grands and greats."

Twin Lakes Beach was the setting for the June 15th wedding of **Lynne Hammer Samberg** and **Edward Charles Callahan**. Reverend **T. Mike Walker**, of Santa Cruz, performed the ceremony. The bride chose a white gauzy skirt and blouse with lace inserts. She donned a lavalier worn by her late maternal grandmother, Lovely Carroll Horton at her wedding in 1909. Lynne was attended by three high school friends, **Betty Williams**, **Barbara Moznott** and **Beverly Kay**. Lynne and Edward graduated from Stockton High School and Stockton College in 1954. They attended their 50th class reunion together last September after not having seen each other for many years. The new Mrs. Callahan owns a travel agency in Valley Springs and Edward is retired from Caltrans. They will make their home in Linden.



Merle Leroy Evinger, of Stockton, age 91, passed away Friday, June 3, 2005. For 11 years he was employed by the State of California—

Caltrans—as a bridge tender, a job he dearly enjoyed.

He attended First Baptist Church in Stockton. He is survived by his wife, **Virginia Evinger** of Stockton, a retired District 10 employee for a number of years.

Ronald Lee Doran was born November 21, 1933 in Stockton. He passed away in Stockton, Monday, June 27, 2005. He had retired from District 10 where he was employed for more than 25 years as an Assistant Highway Engineer, devoting most of his career as a surveyor. He was an active member of the Elks and Moose Clubs and enjoyed spending time with his family and friends.

Alta Meservy Wittmayer, a long-time resident of Lodi passed away in Lodi at the age of 92 on August 11, 2005. Mrs. Wittmayer was born in Cleveland, Idaho on April 28, 1913. She married **Theodore A. Wittmayer** in 1932 in Twin Falls, Idaho and moved to Stockton in 1941. Eventually, she went to work for the State of California Division of Highways, retiring after 20 years as a file/clerk typist. She was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2nd Ward, Lodi, 1511 W. Century Blvd. Alta played the organ at church, and enjoyed traveling; however, her greatest love was her family.

— Brian Young

Got a regular Lunch or Breakfast Bunch? Send us the who-what-when-where and we'll put it in the Events section of the QCCer to bring around your colleagues to make your party a success.

The Haps in District 11

July 20 saw a good turnout for the "ROMEOs" breakfast with the attendance of **Gloria Alexanderson, John Biechner, Butch Biendara, Jack Blackburn, Joe Bramante, Bill Calland, Gene Calman, Ernie Danjou, Gary Darr, Bill Dillon, Bill Dotson, Chuck Gaunt, Bob Gibbs, Kathy Groben, Tom Hardison, Ralph Loveland, John Lyons, Dave Moody, Don Nothdurft, Denny Paquin, Jack Perry, Howard Pray, John Reeder, Roy Riesgo, John Rising, Rocy Rockwell, Dave Scheidnes, Jim Wiggins, and Bob Young.** And with the two ladies of **Gloria** and **Kathy** there, should the ROMEOs add a ladies auxiliary of "J.U.L.I.E.T.'s" Just Us Ladies Into Eating Too? If you weren't there you missed a good time and we missed you too.

By the time you read this the September picnic at Santee Lakes will be history, (at this writing it hasn't yet happened), but you will want to note this advance tip for the District 11 winter banquet at Tom Ham's on Thursday, January 19. Circle that date and look for the invitation in the mail.

If you haven't yet been by the new district office building it is quite impressive as the outer shell nears completion. Rumor has it that the staff won't move into the new building for another year. We can hope for an open house tour then.

One retiree who would agree to an interview and life story (many have left quietly with no story or farewell), is **Jim Buksa** whose party was a picnic on Mission Bay in September. Here is his story.

James Michael Buksa finished his 41-year career with a picnic party at Mission Bay. He was

born in 1945, the fifth of six children with three sisters and two brothers, in a Polish neighborhood on the south side of Chicago, just a mile from Comiskey Park. His father was a machinist. Jim went to Catholic school until the family moved to North Park in San Diego for a job with Convair where Jim was "reborn" at the age of 9. He attended Edison Elementary, Wilson Jr. High and Hoover High School with several fellow Caltrans employees. He remembers working in a car wash with **Bob Ledesma** for several of his teen summers. While in high school he ran Nicolosi's Pizza.

Jim took the exam for Highways while in high school and in January of '64 began working in preliminary surveys during the interstate buildup at locations along I-5 in San Clemente, I-8 in Pine Valley, El Centro and Yuma, I-10 in Indio and Blyth, I-15 in Escondido, SR-78 at the Chicken Shack, SR-86 in Brawley, and SR-111 in Calexico. Out on I-10 war games were underway with tanks and heavy artillery running wild. The new highway wiped out the small town of "Hell," just a few miles from Desert Center.

The draft sent Jim in 1966 to Viet Nam in 1968 for the first Tet offensive where he was part of an artillery unit shooting from barges in the Mekong River. Assigned as a surveyor, he had nothing to do as the observations were done by air, so he became the Colonel's Orderly with a 16-foot high-powered Boston Whaler to run mail up the river. Here **Jim** learned new tricks of the trade with the security of the mailroom and mailbag to keep a secret stash and smuggle booze onto ships in exchange for fine food from the officer's mess.

In 1969 Jim was back at Caltrans working full time and overtime in Design with **Judy Cunningham, Chuck Gaunt** and **Tom Killins** on the I-5 border crossing at San Ysidro. When the crunch of 1975 hit, he chose to reclassify as a planner rather than be laid off and has since worked on many special studies of ride-share on I-15, origin-destination in the desert at Glamis and the Sand Hills, and bike counts on the Mission Bay Boardwalk. Special projects have included the '87 AASHTO convention at the Hotel Del when as one of the first people there he met the head organizer

and was asked to stay at the hotel for the duration working 20-hour days. He chauffeured the main speaker, the President of General Motors from the steps of his private plane to the hotel. Later, when the private yacht of the CTC chairman was out to sail but with bad weather couldn't dock in Glorrietta Bay, Jim took a squad of limos to pick them up at the Ferry Landing to haul them all back to the Hotel Del.

Jim remembers many of his co-workers as the friends they were in other places like horseshoes with **John Smith**, tennis with **Jack Clark**, cribbage with **Randy Gibson**, pool with **Chuck Gaunt**, and **Gordy Balingit**, golf with the **Gamers**, baseball with **Ted Lee** and **Bill Dillon**, basketball with **Jimmy Wiggins** and **Rocky**, over-the-line with **Ken Ross** and **John Smith**, bowling with **Don Newman** and **Art Ojeda**, volleyball with '**Jake**' **Ledesma**, biking with **Bob Roland**, football with **Artie Whiting** and **Roach**, sailing with **Dennis Dailey** and **Mike McManus** and bridge with anyone, including **Gene Pound**.

Jim says he has played cards of some sort nearly every day of his 41-year career but some special card games were big ones in Las Vegas. On one occasion with his girl friend and **Jim Waters** he was playing two hands of blackjack at \$200 each and let his friends play when he had to take breaks. He was doing so well he kept stashing 'black chips' in his girlfriend's purse and still cashed out a few thousand winner. The next day his girlfriend emptied her purse of the 'black chips' at \$500 each and another \$10,000 of winnings.

In those days Jim's brother managed the Tropicana in Las Vegas. Jim's girlfriend, a flight attendant, got him free air travel and rooms at great places like the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans for New Year's Eve. His best trip was to New York City and the nightlife of Times Square. Another connection got him a job Friday nights and Sunday mornings as a bellman at the Half Moon Inn on Shelter Island loading and unloading bags at \$200 a shift.

Jim married and bought a house in Santee in 1970. His first son **J.J. (Jim Jr.)** was born that year

and a second son **Daniel** was born in 1976. When he was divorced in 1980 his boss **Bob Roland** lent him \$10,000 on just his good word to help get him through the time and trials. Jim still lives in that house that has since seen Super Bowl parties for a hundred people. Through it all, he has raised his kids as a single parent. Jim was involved with a singles camping group that went out one weekend a month. The group has grown from 15 to over 200 and still exists as "Campers-R-Us". One member had a trained chimp they took to the bars in San Felipe. He has taken his boys there every year since 1985 for a week at Easter break.

Jim has been the Sports Dad by coaching Little League, Pop Warner, basketball and special Olympics as well as himself playing on the Caltrans teams of volleyball, basketball and chess which had 20 players at one time. He won the championship two of his five years. One year two members of his Pop Warner team were co-"Players-of-the-Year" and one, **Artie Whiting** later came to work for Caltrans.

Jim has dated many friends over the years, some for longer and some for shorter times, and some were fellow workers but he is still a single man. Son **J.J.** manages a Discount Tire store and is married with three-year old **James Michael Buksa** to continue the legacy and seven-month old **John** as well. Son **Daniel** works in sales for Cox cable and is engaged.

Jim's best friend from high school sold him a 1986 Mazda and before he died in 1990, **Jim** told him that he would drive it till it hit 500,000 miles. When it did, he had the Mayor of El Cajon (also a car dealer) proclaim it as **Gary Conway** day with a big media celebration. He also told his boss that when the Mazda hit the 500k mark he would hang up his Caltrans career as well.

Jim's many long years and assignments have provided well for his future. He has plans for more card games in Las Vegas and trips to Hawaii as well.

— *Butch Biendara*

The Haps in Central

As happens each year, the Central District's annual picnic BBQ on September 22 takes place after the deadline for QCCer news – so please look forward to the December issue for reports on what our members have been doing since the May luncheon.

After a lot of searching and researching, Director **Gary Bush** and wife **Julie** located The **Buggy Whip** at 2737 Fulton Avenue for our **Christmas Luncheon on December 12**. You will receive an announcement with more details in November.

From **Gene Berthelsen**: "I got a chance to travel to Vallejo on the 2nd of September for the ribbon-cutting of the new Route 37 freeway portion between Marine World and the Napa River Bridge. We secured approval of it from FHWA when I was in District 10. At one point, I recall, I was about to leap across the table and throttle the FHWA reviewer, but we got the approval and you can drive on it now. What a rush! Had a chance to say hi to **Will Kempton** and a couple District 10 guys who really made the project go, **Jim DeLuca** and **Mike Hutchison**.

From **Gary Bush**: "**Julie** and I continue our traveling ways. In August we spent 10 days in Tennessee. We flew to Nashville, (good ole Southwest and free tickets) and went to the Country Music Hall of fame and Studio B. Studio B is where all the famous country western singers did their recordings including Elvis! While we were there we also did the Grand Ole Opry. What a hoot that was!"

"From Nashville it was off to Knoxville for two days, then to Seven Devils North Carolina to visit our son and family. Seven Devils is between Boone and Banner Elk in the Smokies. Our son's in-laws

have a condo in the Smokies that looks across the valley to Grand Father Mountain.”

“After Seven Devils it was off to Chattanooga for two days. A big mountain (2,400 elevation) there has several tourist attractions. Ruby Falls, the steepest railroad in the world (70% slope), and Rock City, which is actually in Georgia. Ruby Falls is 240 feet below ground in this large cavern. Rock City was an estate with huge rock outcroppings with narrow trails through the rocks. There is a vista point within the estate where on a clear day you can see seven states. With all the humidity in the air I doubt you can ever see all seven.”

“From Chattanooga it was back to Nashville and home.”

“This month we are heading to Lake Chelan in Washington to spend a week at a time share. The lake is located about half way between Seattle and Spokane. It is a glacier formed lake 50 miles long and 1,500 feet deep.”

“In October we're off to Pajaro Dunes on Monterey Bay with friends for a few days. November will find us heading to the big island of Hawaii for a week at a time share in Kailua and three days in a B & B in Volcano Village on the Hilo side.”

“Looking forward to our annual BBQ with the Central District at the College Greens Swim and Tennis on September 22nd and catching up on news travels from other members. Hope your summer was great and glad to see the 100 degree weather has finally gone.”

— Nancy Benjamin

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

Vote for a Friend

If you haven't already done so, vote for Chuck Valdes and Kurato Shimado—veteran members of the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPers). Valdes worked as an attorney for Caltrans; Shimado was supervisor of operations for the Oak Grove School District in San Jose. Both have diligently supported retirees. Use the ballots that have been sent out to vote through October 3. A majority for Chuck Valdes over the four other candidates would avoid a runoff that could cost as high as \$3 million.

The California Transportation Foundation Charitable Campaign Choice

Quarter Century Club members still in the workplace may designate the **California Transportation Foundation** to receive monthly donations through the annual fall California State Employees Campaign. Among CTF activities is the Worker Memorial program, which funds plaques in headquarter and district office lobbies to honor those who have given their lives while serving California's transportation system users.

CTF supports families who have suffered the loss of loved ones and funds the annual Caltrans worker memorial ceremony at the Capitol. We also provide assistance to employees and their families during medical emergencies and help them recover from natural disaster losses. CTF also financially supports scholarships and career development, achievement recognitions, and conference attendance.

Statewide sponsored events each year include the **Transportation Forum** at the start of each legislative session to discuss policy and financial issues affecting transportation, the **TRANNY Awards** and luncheon to salute special people, projects, programs and organizations in our field,

and an **Education Symposium** for graduating college students to give them working experience in transportation.

Tax-exempt donations to the foundation by retired persons also help support its many grants and programs. Donations may be made at any time; or you might consider making a recurring donation through regular on-line banking. Contributions may be sent at any time to: California Transportation Foundation, P.O. Box 163453, Sacramento CA 95816 (916-453-1767).

We encourage participation in the upcoming campaign and hope you will consider a donation to the **California Transportation Foundation**.

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.

In Memoriam

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

Name	District	Date
Dan Broeske	1	2005
Aaron Belansky	4	Unknown
Arthur B. Cole	5	8/7/2005
David Lomell	5	8/19/2005
Richard Malone	5	2001
Madolyn Rossier	5	7/5/2005
Ken Clyde	6	7/20/2005
Charlie Olson	7	8/4/2005
Sid Solomon	7	1/21/2005
Earl E. Soderstrom	7	10/30/2003
Melvin R. Thorup	7	01/24/1993
Doc Blanchard	8	2005
William Cruthirds	8	7/2005
John Garboa	8	2005
Dale Rogers	8	2005
Wanda Beyers Smoot	8	7/2005
Leo Wilkinson	8	6/13/2005
Ronald Lee Doran	10	6/27/2005
Merle Leroy Evinger	10	6/3/2005
James B. Munson	10	2/10/2005
Alta Meservy Wittmayer	10	8/11/2005
Evelyn G. Shermer	Cen	Unknown

I'm Thankful

I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees.

I fought prostate cancer and diabetes.

I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts.

I have bouts with dementia.

I have poor circulation, hardly feel my hands and feet anymore.

I can't remember if I'm 85 or 92.

I have lost all my friends.

It's a good thing I still have my driver's license!

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 Picnic Barbecue September 22nd

By the Book

Hospital regulations require that patients being discharged be given a ride to the door in a wheelchair.

One day a new orderly is dispatched to an upstairs room where he finds an elderly gentleman--already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet. He insists loudly that he doesn't need any help to leave the hospital.

After a chat about rules being rules, the man reluctantly let the orderly wheel him to the elevator. On the way down, making conversation, the orderly asked the man if his wife was meeting him downstairs with the car.

"I don't know," the man says. "She's upstairs in the bathroom, changing out of her hospital gown."

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