



Cooperation Pledged

GOOD NEWS FOR MEMBERSHIP

From the Corner Pocket

THere's good news for you in QCC land—a way to get more members together, more active members, and also more new members to join and help on events. In truth, the honor goes to QCC members **Heinz Heckeroth** of central district and **Arlene Hartin**, QCC director of District I.

Heinz, as director of the California Transportation Foundation, has kept up as Caltrans HQ and district leaders have changed. He called awhile back to meet with District II CT staff and QCC people to work toward closer relationships between the three groups. He brought a flyer from Arlene of the D-I QCC group announcing their 24th annual district awards lunch. With help from both CT and the CTF, the people in D-I reaching 25 years are honored in a lunch along with those who have won awards for other reasons. As an added inducement, those with 25, 30, 35 or 40 years of service get lunch free, creating an opportunity to hand the person a QCC application if they are not a member.

Another plus from this association is that as a non-profit, the CTF has the means of running a state approved raffle to raise funds for a district



employee fund and to act as treasurer. If there is some distinctive recognition (Tranny Award) in the awards lunch, they can help financially as well. Other fundraising ideas for a district employee fund might be a can at the cafeteria counter for change as a donation, or shirts, pins, hats or whatever, made for local special CT events and sold to employees and friends.

At a followup meeting that included QCC member and CTF Area Representative George Gray, the idea took root that in D-II, Caltrans, the CTF and the QCC will work jointly to support each other. Caltrans has the names of anyone now receiving 25, 30, 35, or 40-year awards. CTF has a non-profit status for awards recognition and some larger benefactors. The QCC has a valuable pool of retired expertise with time to volunteer, yet a limited means of connecting with the people now working and eligible for membership. The D-II QCC has planted the seed with a donation to get the fund started and will work toward ITS first recognition lunch next spring.

Here's where I again make a pitch for a new QCC logo that can incorporate the CT of Caltrans—a symbol everyone has worked for in the last 34 years and something that potential new members might be attracted to. I tried a few ideas on the D-II QCC picnic people and got only a mixed response. So I have nothing to brag about or submit for a wider review and vote. What might you suggest for a better idea?

A common concern is the low response to events. We are happy our members have full lives with travel and other things on their

agendas. Some have moved away to be near family and can't get to every event and some just don't get out that often. What can be done to get more people involved?

One 'member magnet' that D-11 will borrow and your district might try is to invite "first timers" who have not yet attended any QCC function to attend the summer picnic at no cost: "free". That assumes that your district has a reasonable budget reserve, a low cost event, (not a deluxe dinner), and that you have a records guru like **Dean Burns** who has kept track of member attendance. New members or those who have not been involved may hesitate to join in on the action, but who can resist a chance at a free lunch and fun with old friends? After they experience the fun of your event, they are certain to return to the next one and maybe volunteer to get more involved.

A late 'PS' to this story is a call from Heinz telling of a meeting with **Will Kempton**, who has endorsed the trilateral cooperation concept and will assign a deputy-level staff person in HQ to ensure the effort continues and to host quarterly meetings between QCC, CTF & CT to further develop the idea. So, "Gentlemen, start your engines!" The QCC district activity, along with new recruitment efforts is about to take off on high-test fuel.

— *Butch Biendara*

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

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

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Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Yet another year has gone by. This year has really passed quickly, it seems. Pat and I made another trip, this time to the south to spend time with her family around Thanksgiving. We had a great time with her family, but three Thanksgiving dinners (Mississippi, Alabama, and South Carolina) were not conducive to weight loss, believe me. Had our week at Lake Tahoe—just love that place.

We attended the holiday celebration with the District 07 QCC people in early December. Really a great group of people and we really enjoyed meeting them all. As I have said before, it is really nice to put faces with the names I see so often. Then a few days later we attended the Central District Holiday luncheon. Another great bunch of people.

Elections—Again, no response for nominees for QCC President or other offices. I am not sure just how long our President, Butch Biendara, is going to be able to serve. I do hope that someone will step up before El Butcho burns out completely.

Roster—There were a few errors and omissions on the new roster. One of the most stupid was having an error in my own e-mail address. It should be@sbglobal.net. What can I say??? I am planning to have a section in each upcoming issue with changes in the roster so that everyone can keep up to date.

Dues—The new year is just around the corner, which means that it is time to pay dues for 2007. Please get them in as soon as possible. Don't forget that yearly dues are now \$15. Also, don't forget that those members who are not paid up by the end of February will be dropped from the mailing list after notification by the Secretary-Treasurer. Be sure to check the mailing label for your dues status.

Honorary Members—Remember that the revised constitution now requires honorary members to request in writing each year that they continue to be exempt from paying dues.

Happy holidays to all of you—May you all remember the reason for the season. And may the New Year bring you much happiness and good health. Until the next time, take care of yourselves.

— Kim Yarbrough

The Milk Carton

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

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Edwin J Gribble | 02 |
| George S Arthur | 07 |
| Winfield Felker | 07 |
| Leroy D Smoot | 08 |

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

The Haps in District 1

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone. My email address recently has changed from ahartin@cox.net to ahartin@suddenlink.net. If you know anyone else in the Eureka area with cox, theirs should change too.

I still get to the district office to share information on the Quarter Century Club and the California Transportation Foundation. I was able to visit **Bob McClary** at home. He still has limitations with speech and getting around, but **Sonja** is doing a wonderful job keeping him healthy and happy. She has help to continue his care and therapy and they go out often.

This is a happy but also often sad time of year. We recently lost several Caltrans friends. The morning that I am writing this, we got the news in the paper that **Bert Davis** passed away on December 9. He was a lifelong resident of northern California His entire career was with Caltrans District 1 as a surveyor, designer, and resident engineer. He retired in 1982 and enjoyed many years of travel, hunting, fishing, camping, and community involvement, especially around Hydesville, where he lived. I enjoyed the many years I worked with him. He was a wonderful person. He left behind a large extended family.

His son, **Terry**, continued the family tradition working in District I. He was also a great person to work with.

We lost **Fred Lemstrom** on October 17. I knew him as a Senior Right of Way Agent. He started with Division of Highways in Stockton, then in 1958 transferred to District I. He retired in 1991. His wife of 40 years passed away in 1993. He stayed involved in community activities and was fortunate to find a loving companion, **Frances Bradley**. They enjoyed traveling for many years. We would see them at our local bank senior group activities. They enjoyed the bank's many travel opportunities.

His memorial service was held at the Elk's Club in Eureka on October 23. There was a huge turnout including many current and retired District I employees, with the Right of Way section very well represented. It was great to see everyone, almost like a reunion. Fred would have loved it.

I was most saddened to lose my friend, **Dorothy Nivens**, who passed away October 27, from a heart attack, a few weeks after suffering a bad stroke. She had transferred from Bishop to District I right after the 1975 layoffs and we have been friends since. Her family history was mainly in Humboldt and Mendocino counties; we shared interests in history and genealogy. She also belonged to QCC for several years. After retirement, we went to lunch, especially with the retired Caltrans ladies group, genealogy meetings, and movies together. She retired as a Transportation Engineering Technician. She left two sons that she dearly loved, two granddaughters, and her cousin, Pat, who was a big help to her.

Michael Lucas, a Transportation Planner for District I, passed away on September 29. We saw his strength and courage over the years as he continued to work in the face of increasing blindness. We learned of the accommodations available and how to treat the dog he needed in later years. One great memory that **George**

Otterbeck shared was the battle between himself and Mike during our Christmas food and open house day over who made the hottest chili. Mike finally won the battle the Christmas before George transferred to Redding. I think a lot of us fondly remember those days and knowing this great guy.

I recently got a note from **Steve Mason**, that his dad, **Pete**, a fellow QCCer, passed away on October 18 in Ojai. He retired from the Garberville Maintenance Station in 1977 after a 37 year career. He and his wife, **Maxine**, were married for 68 years. I also enjoyed knowing and working with Pete for several years before his retirement and hearing from him later.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to all the family and friends of Bert, Fred, Dorothy, Mike, and Pete. They all added so much to our lives and we are so sorry to lose them.

Many of us comment on how much time we now spend visiting doctors and attending funerals after retirement. Unfortunately, it has been especially true this last quarter. As Christmas nears, this is a good time to count blessings, and really appreciate your health, family and friends, and the ability to enjoy life.

We've also received the following note from the McManus family regarding the death of **Jim McManus**, who died at his home in Arizona on December 2, 2006, after a yearlong battle with bladder cancer.

"Jim is survived by 10 grandchildren, many of whom spent individual time with him during this last year. He believed strongly in family, religion, and service to others. He demonstrated this every day of his life beginning with his own distinguished 38 year career as a civil engineer, to coaching his sons in football and basketball, to volunteering, in his spare time, to lead a division of Civil Air Patrol in Northern California for 11 years during which he conducted search and rescue missions for downed aircraft and provided air transportation of life-saving organs between medical facilities.

"In the final phase of his career, James and Patricia relocated to the state of Washington,

where he joined the engineering faculty at the University of Washington. He blended his love of academia with his own professional experiences to design a continuing education program of value for practicing engineers. He held a strong devotion to his faith and never missed Mass. In the last two years, James and Patricia had built their beautiful "castle in the desert" planned for just the two of them, although designed both inside and out for the comfort and enjoyment of their visiting children and grandchildren.

"He spent his last four months enjoying this grand effort. A consummate proud father and grandfather, he celebrated each one of our accomplishments with an exhilaration felt deeply by each one of us at many times throughout our lives. The capacity to excel in every aspect of his life both professionally and personally made him the role model behind all of our achievements. Both during his lifetime, and certainly in his memory, he will continue to occupy the center of our hearts."

— Arlene Hartin

Why men wear earrings!

A man is at work one day when he notices that his co-worker is wearing an earring. This man knows his co-worker to be a normally conservative fellow and is curious about his sudden change in fashion sense.

The man walks up to him and says, "I didn't know you were into earrings."

"Don't make such a big deal, it's only an earring," the co-worker replies sheepishly.

His friend falls silent for a few minutes, but then curiosity prods him to say, "So, how long have you been wearing one?"

"Ever since my wife found it in my truck."

The Haps in District 2

John Strode will return to China on November 27. He will stay with his Chinese daughter and her husband for awhile. He will visit many old friends in Beijing, then his son **Chris** in Seoul, Korea for Christmas. Chris is a doctor in charge of the emergency room of the Army hospital there. In January he will go to central China to work with the locals to help their economy.

Gene Wahl has just finished 40 wooden toys for the Toys for Tots Christmas drive.

Ruth Hardman Miles, born December 11, 1916, passed away on October 29, 2006.

Thought I would try to cajole some news of interest from other than those who came to the Caltrans District Office on the third Monday of each month, but, alas, not much success with **Jack Ennis, Russ Azevedo, Bill Melton, Bob Towers** and **John Strode**.

Claude Lukes, who now lives in Idaho, stopped by in October.

The November breakfast brought us **Don** and **Vivian Cherry**, and **Eugenes: Knaebel, Poch, Wahl** and **Rider**.

— Cam Garbutt

The Haps in District 3

Here we are in another busy holiday season. Like others, District 3 members are busy with their families and shopping but still find time to volunteer and have a good time. We see one another out and about, at parties and when attending holiday dinners.

Irene Itamura and I cross paths as she leaves yoga class and I arrive for line dancing. Irene looks very well.

Hi to everyone from **Hugh and Penny Thomas**: "This was a busy year for us. Three cruises, two of which were with teenage granddaughters, a trip to Hungary and a wonderful 16-day tour to China. Nine of the 16 days were on a Viking River Cruise up the Yangtze River where we traversed the locks of the Three Gorges Dam. We visited many cities along the river. The river trip was fascinating and we enjoyed the visits to Shanghai, Xian and Beijing. The cities were filled with modern skyscrapers and palaces that date back thousands of years. It is a land of contrasts. Great trip!! February of 2007 we plan a cruise of the Caribbean with a stopover to see friends in Florida and a visit to Disneyworld. Next summer we plan an African safari with our grandson. We spend much time enjoying our grandchildren and playing with our dogs."

Penny and Hugh hope all are well and happy.

Betty and Everett Emmons report they spent Thanksgiving in Needles, CA and are now at Emerald Cove Resort at Earp, CA/AZ and hope to stay in Earp for most of the winter. Betty attended aqua size classes from 10-11 three days/week while in Needles. By 11 the weather was comfortable and she would sit in the sun to dry off. The Emmons have friends who live at Sun City Palm Desert and the four go to the local casino for dinner and a little gaming, which is always fun. Betty also attended a Somerset Auction where she bought a 15-piece knife set. Along with another friend Betty attended the Tamale Festival. We look forward to the next report on the travels of the Emmons.

Had a nice chat with **Carol Nelson**, who will spend Christmas with her daughter along with her two grandsons and two great granddaughters from Oregon. Last year she traveled to Oregon for the wedding of one grandson.

Carol mentioned that it was wonderful to see so many people at the groundbreaking

ceremony for the new District 3 building. A lot of new faces also. Carol keeps busy volunteering at Covillaud School and for the Marysville Police Department. She keeps in touch with **Lenna Mullins** and tells me that Lenna has been traveling to Oregon recently.

Look for **Ralph Sandler** in the kitchen of the Moose Lodge the second Wednesday of each month. He will also cook at the New Years Eve Gala. Each month Ralph takes off with his RV Club and they party for four days. January 4th, Ralph will leave for Yuma and plans to stay two weeks.

John Sanger is another guy who leads an active life. His home will be full at Christmas with sister **Marty** and husband **John Hawthorne** who both work for Caltrans in Fresno. Arriving from Tennessee is son **Michael** who teaches at TSU, daughter **Judy** working in the Bay Area for a medical company and daughter **Merlyn** who works for Caltrans in Williams. I wonder if they talk about Caltrans when they get together. John has three trips planned before summer—a visit to Branson, a trip to Alaska and he leaves in February for a 10-day cruise of the Mexican Riviera.

The Red Hat Society is one of the many clubs that keep **Barbara Woodward-Forte** busy. This past May the group spent five days traveling to Monterey, Hearst Castle in San Simeon, the Reagan Library and Yosemite National Park. In September Barbara traveled to China. Her trip was 20 days long: she says it was fantastic!! She flew into Shanghai, cruised the Yangtze River for three days, spent one night on a train traveling inland and flew to several inland cities. She traveled with a group of 18 leaving Beijing to return to Seattle. Most of October went by fast as Barbara spent time with all three daughters, in Lakeport, the Bay Area, and El Dorado Hills. Christmas will be spent in El Dorado Hills with one daughter and a grandson.

For me (**Susanna**) 21 days in October were spent on a cruise from San Francisco down the Mexican Coast to the Panama Canal. Three ports in Mexico, and on to Huatulco, Costa Rica, San Juan del Sur (Granada). What an

engineering marvel the Panama Canal is. At dusk we could look over the front of the ship and see 20 or so ships waiting to head west thru the canal. Stopped in Cartagena, Colombia and took a guided tour of the city. After Jamaica and the Bahamas we disembarked in Fort Lauderdale. Spending three days driving the coast, we stopped at small boat marinas and visited Miami including South Beach. To visit countries and ports that I knew little about was enlightening. We did take a tour or go by taxi into the small surrounding towns of each of the 13 ports where we stopped. Christmas for me will be a few days with my family in Sacramento and a few days in the snow at La Porte.

John Pennybaker, Lita Wells, Libby Haraughty, John Sanger and I have discussed having a Spring Fling in March on the order of what we had last year. We need help in planning and would like to have input as to what you, our members, would like. Please call us or e-mail or drop us a line.

Each one I've talked with asked me to wish everyone in the Quarter Century Club Happy Holidays.

— *Susanna Ford*

December News From Placerville:

Fall in the Mother Lode has been mild and dry up to the last part of November, with a cold spell starting the last week of the month — unpleasant for local residents but good news for the ski resorts. Rain totals have been on the dry side, with mornings below freezing for the first times this fall.

Darrell and Joann Hanson enjoyed an extended vacation by motoring north in their motorhome in October. They visited with friends along the way and made an interesting stop at the Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMilleville, Oregon. While there, they toured the eight-engine wooden flying boat that Howard Hughes built at the start of WW II. Darrell recommends a visit to this museum if

you are in the area. The trip ended with visits along the Oregon and California coast via Highways 1 and 101.

Former Caltrans employee **Bob Johnson** and wife **Marjorie** moved to Thayne, Wyoming a couple of years ago. They report that they enjoy the rural lifestyle with the weather much cooler than here in California.

Doug and Grace Becker enjoyed a visit to the state of Washington in early November and while there took in a football game involving their grandson. They reported having an enjoyable trip.

Others doing some traveling since the last issue are: **Keith and Barbara Maggini** took a motoring trip to Arizona and New Mexico to enjoy the sights at Carlsbad Caverns, Roswell, and Tombstone. They followed that up with a Thanksgiving trip to Vancouver, Washington for an annual family gathering.

The weekly Tuesday Breakfast gathering at the Green House Cafe continues with the usual attendance being **Grace and Doug Becker, LaRoy Carroll, Gerry Hamm, Darrell Hanson and Keith Maggini**.

The committee is working on the Annual Spring Placerville luncheon. The final plans will be printed in the March Issue of this publication.

— *Keith Maggini*

Dues Due?

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

The Haps in District 4

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

First of all, apologies to Ace Forsen's family and friends. His first name is **Hilmer**. I knew that but didn't proofread my text adequately.

Ed Coble is preparing his annual Christmas luncheon for the Caltrans Lunch Bunch on December 12 at the Basque cultural center in South San Francisco. This is a combined luncheon, both for Ed's lunch bunch and the Caltrans ladies and any retired or active Caltrans employees who would like to attend. If you would like to attend future Christmas luncheons, just contact Ed. His E-mail address and phone number are listed in the Events Section of the QCCer.

On October 3, former District 4 directors, deputies and invited guests were treated to a tour of the construction of the new East Span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. This included Quarter Century Club members **Ann Hansen, Vera Waight, Don Reynolds, Jim McCrank, Harry Yahata, Tom Lammers, Bob Coleman, Bill Evans, Bob Jacobs, Bob Baxter** and me.

The tour started off with a greeting and update on District 4 activities from Director **Bijan Sartipi**. Several presentations on the construction from the construction staff followed. Afterwards, the group was taken on a boat tour on San Francisco Bay around the construction site. The weather for the day was superb with no wind and mile temperatures.

We felt sorry for Tom Lammers, who was unable to take the boat tour, but our sympathy turned to envy when we

learned that the construction staff had taken him for a one-on-one tour on portions of the bridge under construction high above us mortals who were putting along on the bay below.

Frank and Jean Pappa are preparing for a Mediterranean cruise in June.

Bud Bowers spent an enjoyable week in Hawaii. He and I got into a discussion about slide rules. Bud has a large collection. I told him I was cleaning out my garage and found my old college slide rules and that I was looking for a good home for them. I said I would take them to the January Caltrans lunch bunch luncheon to see if they would add to his collection.

John and Nancy Buthenuth are set for a cruise from Chile to San Francisco. They had already been on a cruise covering the east coast of South America and are looking forward to completing the loop.

Larry Walker has been recovering from surgery. He said the best thing about it was that he lost weight while he was in the hospital. **Bob Guinn, John Buthenuth** and **Charlie Kotek** sympathized with him on the aches and pains of getting old.

Bob Graham and **Ron Mossberg** talked about their work on design review boards but didn't like to travel to distant meetings, preferring to stay close to home. Bob and Ron had something else in common – their sons had dreams of playing major league baseball. They discussed the joys and pains of being a parent to a potential major league player. Both sons got college scholarships to play baseball, but never realized their dreams of making it to the Show.

Anne Hohemer sent me a note that **Laura Shaner** had died on October 27 after a short illness. Laura had been a secretary in the district office,

mainly in maintenance and the executive suite.

The Caltrans ladies met at the Peninsula Regent for their November luncheon. It was a great way to start the holidays. **Bev Ryman** proudly showed a photo of her great granddaughter's first Halloween. She was dressed as a mini pumpkin.

Attendees included **Niki Hensley** (my better half), **Camille Graham, Anne Hohener, Pat Jacobs, Betty Waight, Jean Pappa, Karen Coble, Pat Keller, Bev Ryman and Lucille Mellish.**

Karen was also a proud grandmother, showing new photos of her family, including her granddaughter. Lucille Mellish described the burial ceremony for her husband Bill at the Arlington National Cemetery. Two hundred people, including the family, attended the ceremony, which the Naval Reserve held for Bill. The Navy Band played. A caisson carried the casket to the gravesite. This was followed by a rifle salute and the playing of Taps.

— Paul Hensley

The Haps in District 5

Happy New Year! Hope you enjoy happiness and health in 2007. As a result of the passage of Propositions 1A and 1B in November, the gasoline sales tax revenue is once again protected, and Caltrans is now faced with the daunting task of deciding how best to utilize \$19.9 billion for transportation improvements in California. We are hoping to see funding for some much-needed projects in D-5 including Route 46 East and Route 101 widening

We're proud to report that our district bridge crew received the governor's safety award in September. The crew has driven more than 550,000 miles with no preventable vehicle accidents since 1999. Attending the ceremony in Sacramento were Supervisor **Phillip "Buzz" Betts, Carol Salas, Ray Ricafrente, Lu Estrada, Gene Meehan, Adam Gleason, John Schnoor and Ron Estrada.**

Speaking of Buzz, we attended his retirement party in December at the local Moose Lodge. Buzz has 37 years service, starting with the SLO Sign Crew under **Charlie Dana** and then moving to the Bridge Crew with **Duane Bywater.** Following a delicious meal, we enjoyed the many stories told by his coworkers and friends involving—among other things—squid, pigeons, Fish & Game, and floating out to sea on their barge. It was nice to see many other Maintenance retirees with whom I had worked.

We also attended a pleasant luncheon in November at Madonna Inn for **Sally Strait,** who is retiring from Permits. Sally and her husband **Dale** were transfers from D-8, and some of their long-time friends traveled to SLO to wish her well at the party.

The annual District Holiday Party was held at the local Elks Lodge, with approximately 250 past and current employees and their families. Our talented BBQ Crew, headed this year by Richard Gonzales with a little coaching by Bill Fieldhouse, prepared a delicious meal. About 50 retirees and spouses attended, and they were recognized by our District Director **Rich Krumholz. Clyde Philbrick** had the distinction of being retired longer than anyone else present—a goal for the rest of us.

Ranell and FJ Bailey enjoyed a Panama Canal cruise this year, but they are now staying close to home while their flooring and carpeting are being replaced. Just prior to leaving, they had a water problem that caused considerable damage. Ranell said "thank goodness" it didn't happen while they were traveling!

Paul Bohrer E-mailed in October after returning from camping six weeks along the lower Rogue River. During the summer, he was visited by **Del** and **Hilde Hollinger**, **Al** and **Delores Jorge**, and **Joy Chafin** and her husband. Paul also was busy canning and juicing produce from his garden. He and Norma celebrated their 59th anniversary this year.

Nina Bryan told us that **Dick** had recovered from the heart attack, and they are keeping busy helping to care for their grandchild. Her mother is visiting with them from the Philippines until January. They have delayed relocating to their home in Arizona for a while.

Bill Cotnam sent photos and his Christmas letter that we always enjoy. He has been keeping busy with traveling to Las Vegas to see family, rooting for SLO High School athletes in 20 different sports, and taking photographs at the Lompoc Flower Festival, Fortuna Rodeo, and Paso Robles Fair. He is hoping to make another trip to Thailand in the future. Bill told us he was present at the closing of the Stardust Hotel in Las Vegas at the end of October and was interviewed by a reporter from the local newspaper. (We have stayed at the Stardust ourselves for many years, and we're sorry to see it go.)

Dick Elliott said he and **Sandy** made a visit recently to Belmont for a family party, and they happened to meet their neighbors at a restaurant in Campbell. We had a similar occurrence years ago when we discovered **Dick** and **Sandy** at a hotel in Barstow. I seem to recall we were heading east and they were returning home, or was it vice versa?

Monte Vernon is recovering from a run-in with a skill saw—ouch! Fortunately no tendons were damaged, but his golfing was restricted while the hand healed.

The **Copelands** enjoyed a fall cruise on the Mississippi Queen from St. Paul to St. Louis, and we were pleasantly surprised to see familiar faces on the boat. **Bob** and **Arlene Chapman** were on board, and we were able to visit with them throughout the trip. They are

living in the Palm Springs area, and Bob is an active volunteer at the Air Museum there. After we returned from the trip, we learned from **Dyer Campbell** that his sister had also been on the cruise with a group from her church. Small world.... We are now planning a Panama Canal trip early in March, a journey that Bob has always wanted to make.

We are sorry to report the passing of **Robert "Bob" Pederson** on August 31. Bob was my father's friend and coworker in Drainage for many years, and we lived just a block from the Pedersons when I was growing up. Bob was raised in Alaska, and served with the Navy Seabees in the Pacific during WWII. He was a graduate of USC and worked 39 years for Highways. He is survived by sons **Jim** and **Rick**, daughters **Karen** and **Marcia**, and four grandchildren.

Long-time San Luis Obispo resident **Burton Van** passed away on November 6. Burton's family came here in 1938, and he served in the Pacific Theater during WWI flying the P-38 Lightning. After the war, he worked in Administration until his retirement in the early 1970s. Burton enjoyed the out-of-doors and kept a garden for more than 50 years at his Oak Street home. He also enjoyed working on cars, especially a vintage Jaguar. His wife **Vera** preceded him in death last year.

Charles "Geoff" Hotchkiss passed away on September 27 at the age of 63. Services were held in October at All Souls Cemetery in Long Beach. (I'm sorry that we don't have additional information—will try to say more in the next issue.)

— *Kathy Copeland*

One day, a guy comes home to be greeted by his wife in a very sexy nightie.

"Tie me up," she purrs, "and you can do anything you want."

So he ties her up and goes fishing.

The Haps in District 6

From **Virgle Ray** - Oct 19th: "Sandra and I just attended the 45th Navy Ship USS Union reunion in San Diego. What fun to try to find someone with whom you shared the ship at that time.

About 60 attended, spanning years from 1944-1970 when the ship was retired. One 96-year old remembered landing in some of the last events of WWII.

"We found one officer who probably was my boss for a month and then was transferred. The fun was just seeing how others did their jobs and where they traveled. My ship, the USS Union, saw action in Korea and Viet Nam, as well as moving troops at the end of WWII. We were told it was dismantled and probably made into razor blades and cars. We had six Mariposa area shipmates, one the present District Attorney for Mariposa County.

"We toured the USS Midway, a retired aircraft carrier. A city afloat, it made our ship seem small.

"Recently heard from **Steve Mason**, he discovered it can rain and light the skies with lightning in Arkansas.

"At the end of the month we attend our 50th class reunion in South San Francisco, more fun to come.

"While strolling in a Pumpkin Patch with grandchildren in Avilla Beach, I noticed some familiar faces, those of **Thelma** and **David Wammack** (retired Madera Superintendent). They were also visiting grandchildren. He never ages. What a delight to chat with familiar faces.

"Last minute addition: Happy Holidays to friends in the Quarter Century Club from the Rays! **Sandra**, dressed in Victorian dress, and in top hat and tails, will celebrate a Victorian Christmas dinner show historic Columbia.

"In April of 2007 we celebrate our 50th anniversary on Kauai. Hope to see you at the retiree breakfast on March 21 in Lindsay."

Harold Gable of Fresno, born on April 21, 1924, joined the Lord on September 24, 2006. He was preceded in death by his mother and father, both German immigrants from Russia's Volga River area; and brothers Hank and Clark. To help support his family, Harold dropped out of school in the eighth grade to work picking fruit, selling newspapers, shining shoes and doing odd jobs. After he married, he completed his education at night school.

The Division of Highways hired him as a heavy equipment operator in 1947. He was promoted often and ultimately retired as Assistant Superintendent of Special Crews in 1985 after 38 years service. He was a dedicated husband to **Lois**, his wife of 61 years; and a wonderful father to his sons **Mark** and **Donn**.

Harold is survived by siblings, **Clarence Gable** and **Irene Byrd**; daughters-in-law **Sharon** and **Beverly**; five grandchildren **Justin, Courtney, Rebecca, Megan** and **Ashley**; and two great-grandchildren **Mikayla** and **Everly**.

Your scribe, **Terry Littleton**, spent Thanksgiving in Mainz, Germany, near Frankfurt for just 24 hours. My sister, **Gail**, is a flight attendant. She worked the trip and I just went along for the ride. Of course, while she worked I lived it up in first class both ways. I'll never look at flying again the same way. The little pods make into beds or you can kick your seat into a lounge chair and just watch movies and eat and drink. It was short but oh so sweet.

— Terry Littleton

Deadlines

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

The Haps in District 7

Holiday Celebration at New Otani

Our annual holiday celebration at the New Otani Hotel to celebrate the season and renew old friendships was met with joy, warmth, and humor on Saturday December 9th.

At the appointed time, members began to arrive – **Rita and Bill Even, Betty and Mack Hunter, Chuck Boyer, Lois Cooper, Carole Schumaker, Satish Chander, Fred and Irene Bonilla, Fred Cubillas, Larry Omay, Jack Himmel, Paul and Maxine In, Dave Roper, Mary Jaramillo, Judy and Dennis Reynolds, Chuck Mathews and Len Thompson**, to name a few. Among the missing were **Bob and Laurie Pauly, Bob Sassaman, Jerry Baxter, Bob Wallin, Chuck O'Connell, Heinz Heckeroth, and Marie Martin**. We hope you can make it to next year's event.

Thanks to the excellent arrangements by **Doris Nakamura**, this year our meal was delivered to the table with green salad, a selection of teriyaki chicken and roast beef, rice pilaf, broiled tomato, steamed broccoli, and a delightful carrot cake for dessert. No slipping and tripping from the buffet table this year.

A highlight of the event is always the gorgeous centerpieces, which are given away to a lucky member at each table for a small donation. This year **Linda Almany** and her brother-in-law **John Johnson** outdid themselves with a hurricane candle lamp surrounded by a large pine bough wreath. **Stan Liscowitz** was enlisted to play Grinch by selecting the number that would take home the centerpiece.

Another highlight was the gift exchange. For another small donation, names were drawn, and gifts brought by the members were selected, one at a time. Much amusement occurred when the big spenders' (\$5) names got drawn over

and over. This year QCC Statewide Secretary/Treasurer **Kim Yarbrough, Walter Bowman** and **Al Reece** were the names most frequently drawn.

District 7 Director **Doug Failing** and **Kim Yarbrough** were asked to say a few words. Doug indicated that the district had met 100 percent of its Capital Outlay commitment for last year; he expressed optimism regarding the recently passed bonds and a need to fix up the SHOPP side of the house. Kim brought copies of the new QCC Constitution, commented on a few highlights, introduced his wife **Pat**, and expressed their appreciation for meeting with us, as they travel around the state to various QCC events.

Then what to our wondering eyes did appear, our QCC 7 Director **Tom Almany III**, presented a giant \$500 check made to the California Transportation Foundation, toward the **Marilyn Reece** Memorial Interchange Fund. **Kirsten Stahl**, Marilyn's daughter, thanked the QCC members for their generosity on behalf of the Reece family. An additional \$150 donation was collected at the holiday event and sent to CTF. Additional information regarding CTF and donations follows below.

The group agreed to meet again, the second Saturday in December 2007. Pencil in December 8 for next year's holiday gala.

Interchange Named

As we travel around our district, we see sections of freeways and interchanges named in memory of fallen heroes, such as CHP officers killed in the line of duty, or important dignitaries such as Christopher Columbus and Rosa Parks. QCC 7 Director **Tom Almany III**, said, "It will be nice to have an interchange named after one of our own."

The California Legislature recently voted to designate the I10/405 Freeway Interchange in honor of its award-winning design engineer, **Marilyn Reece**. Marilyn was the first woman civil engineer licensed in California, and Caltrans' first female resident engineer.

Most organizations are surprised to learn they must bear the cost to sign the interchange; here at Caltrans, we know better. In response, the California Transportation Foundation has actively assisted with the legislation and raising funds for the signage for the Marilyn Reece Memorial Interchange. Make tax-deductible contributions by check to "CTF Memorial Fund", designated "Reece", and mailed to: CTF, 581 La Sierra Dr., Sacramento, CA 95864.

District 7 is planning a tamale sale and toy drive called "Toymales" for December 14 and 21, in the DO Plaza to assist with the fund raising effort. Coordination for the Interchange dedication will be made through the District Deputy Director of External Affairs, **Deborah Robertson**.

Many thanks to those who forwarded this information who were not otherwise mentioned above: **Chuck O'Connell, Tom Gildersleeve, Heinz Hedkeroth, and Deborah Harris**.

Recent Sightings

These were not UFOs (figure out your own acronym), but rather IFLR—identifiable, fun-loving retirees.

Sighted in Palm Desert, at the Rubberized Pavements Conference, was... you guessed it... Our QCC 7 Director, **Tom Almany III**. Tom and **Chuck Webster** recently led a tour to see successful rubber chip seal interlayer projects.

Sighted at Phillippe's, Home of French Dipped Sandwiches, was a group of old-time surveyors. Anyone else remember **Carl Mastro, Louie Zehfuss, Virgil Archambault, or Jerry Tourtelott?** Jerry said, "When I retire I can have a nice day out at Phillippe's, instead of having to rush back to work... Virgil said, he'd see [some of you] at the **Tom Fera** Luncheon Group, which meets once a month except in December. (The name honors Tom Fera, who ran it for almost 20

years.) It is currently organized by **Tom Gildersleeve** and **Chuck O'Connell**.

Sighted at the Autry Museum, recently (and not so recently) were **Carl Nelson, Stan Lisczewiz, and Ed Krauss**. The current Yosemite exhibit is awesome, including paintings by Bierstadt and lesser known painters, and photography by Rowel, by Ansel Adams and Hodkney!

Long Time, No See

I recently received a great phone call from none other than **Larry Loudon**, who currently resides in Utah! Larry sent a lengthy letter, making up for lost time. Here is the first installment...

"I retired in July of 1997. I enjoy reading about the Haps in District 7 in the QCCer and am sending you a long list of things I have done since I retired. I can't remember everything—age has done something to my memory. If you would like more detail about something you can ask and I'll do what I can.

"First of all, I can't believe how busy I am. I don't know how I had time to work at a paying job. My home keeps me busy like everybody's. I have a vegetable garden that keeps fresh food on the table. I have several fruit trees and I can applesauce, apricots and apricot jam, peach jam, mint jelly and tomatoes in all forms. I also dry the fruits and fruit leathers. I'm really fortunate, I only have to pull weeds about 6 months of the year but boy do they grow. I found out that dandelions are very good for you and can be eaten in dozens of ways. My wife uses the tea to help her with her asthma. The trouble is I have about eliminated them from my yard—but the neighbors haven't.

"I have a large lawn and used to walk behind a power mower to keep it clipped but my wife insisted that I buy a ride-around, so now I ride around. The nice thing is that the grandsons like to drive it so all I do is watch a lot of the time.

"I worked at the LDS Church's Family History (Genealogical) Library for two years

helping people research their ancestors. I also worked there during the 2002 Winter Olympics. That was interesting and rewarding. I now work at the local Family History branch doing the same things. I have been an Ordinance Worker at the LDS Church's Jordan River Temple for the last four years. I generally work two days a week but often more.

"In my spare time my wife and I do travel. We have been to our timeshare in Mexico several times. About three years ago we took a tour to Southern Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras and visited some of the ruins. It was fantastic. We flew to Veracruz, Mexico and bused to Palenque visiting Hill Vigia, La Venta and Villahermosa on the way.

"Last July, **Roz** and I drove to Indiana to visit my sister. We had a wonderful time. I learned that I-70 is not the highway to go west on. The truckers own it. I-80 was much better. I did drive on some Interstates that have less traffic than the one block long dead end street I live on. I really enjoyed the trip.

"In May of this year, we decided to visit Arizona so we went to Sedona and spent a week. We drove Oak Creek Canyon, visited some parks, took a train ride up the Verde River and in general enjoyed ourselves. The bad part was finding good food. We did find an excellent sandwich shop and a super restaurant about 50 miles from Sedona. After we got home, they decided to burn up the place. Glad we were home.

"Then last month a friend arrived from Southern California and family arrived from Florida. We visited the Golden Spike Monument and drove on the original railroad grade. On that trip we drove up the Rexburg, Idaho to visit Roz's brother and his wife. We went west on I-80 and visited the Bonneville Salt Flats Speedway; the family from Florida are racing enthusiasts and they wanted to see where the speed records were set. We visited the Bingham Copper Mine, the world's largest open pit mine. If you haven't seen it, it is really impressive. They use trucks that will carry 130 tons in one load.

"We also drove down to Brice Canyon and hiked to the bottom of the canyon. Roz was having breathing problems at 8500 ft. elev. so we drove to the east side of Zion park and had breakfast. The mile long tunnel was being operated one-way because of the campers and buses so we stopped at a turnout and hiked a mile to a canyon overlook. Got back to the car in time to be first in line for the next trip thru the tunnel. I kibitzed with the park ranger there and told her that the first time I went thru the tunnel 68 years ago there was two-way traffic and we could stop at the windows in the tunnel and look out. She explained that things had changed since that time.

"We drove thru the tunnel and parked at the Visitors Center and hopped the tram and rode thru the canyon. We got off and hiked to Emerald Pool. A park ranger was there and I complained to him about how they had changed things so much; the hikes were longer and steeper. He looked at me like I was nuts. We drove on to Hurricane, Utah where Roz's parents are buried so her niece could visit her grandfather's grave. Then we headed home. We were fortunate; I set the cruise control on 80 and was home by 10:15pm. Before everybody went home Roz took her family to the Cathedral of the Madeline and I took our friend to a live broadcast of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in the LDS Conference Center.

"I guess that does it for now."

- Larry

Don't think you've heard the last from Larry... There is more about his many cruise vacations and his experiences in Mexico. I know you can't wait for the next QCC newsletter to find out more.

Be Like Larry

Keep those cards and letters coming! No event is too trivial; we DO want to hear about it! Don't be shy. Send me a note! We'd like to hear from YOU! The address is: Caltrans, attn: Kirsten Stahl, 100 S. Main St. Suite 100 MS 13,

Los Angeles, CA 90012. Phone 213-897-0470, or e-mail: kirsten.stahl@dot.ca.gov.

The Road Last Traveled

I am constantly amazed by the network of information among our retirees, and thankful they send me their news items...

Bob Kleges' wife, "**Corney**", shared that Bob passed away, peacefully, the morning of September 21, 2006. The private funeral, held at San Fernando Mission, was followed a few weeks later by a memorial service, so his friends could reminisce.

John Robertson received notice that **William "Bill" Palmer** passed away July 8, 2006. Bill worked in District 7, R/W Engineering for many years and retired in 1999. Services were held at Rose Hills.

Wake Up!

Hey you! Was your name mentioned above? If not, we want to hear of your exploits while you are alive and kicking – so send those cards and letters!

— *Kirsten Stahl*

"Yeah, I know, some people are against drunk driving, and I call those people "the cops." But you know, sometimes, you've just got no choice; those kids gotta get to school!"

---Dave Attell

The Haps in District 8

Congratulations to **Dennis Green**, who was honored at a retirement gathering at the District 8 office on September 21, 2006; capping a long and

illustrious career, mostly as the Public Affairs Officer for the Construction Branch. Dignitaries representing Assemblywoman **Sharon Runner**, Riverside County Transportation Commission and San Bernardino Associated Governments joined District Director **Mike Perovich** and other Caltrans staff in wishing Dennis a great retirement.

Sally Strait, former District 8 surveyor, designer, and special studies expert was honored at the Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo, marking her retirement from District 5 where she had relocated a number of years ago. She joins hubby **Dale Strait**, also a former D&R, who had retired about three years ago. Many of her coworkers in District 5, and a large number of District 8 friends enjoyed a great luncheon and the Madonna Inn's famous chocolate cake (this reporter can testify it's to die for)!!!

Roses to **Taylor** and **Katie Smith** at the passing of **Harold Smith**, Taylor's brother and long time electrical contractor on many Caltrans projects. Harold was known as a thorough and diligent contractor and was the epitome of an American entrepreneur.

Harold Lantis, Retired District 11 Maintenance Engineer, was featured in a recent magazine article about the Route 210 freeway under construction in District 8. Harold, who had retired some years back, has been Resident Engineer or Construction Manager on all the segments of Route 210 from the Los Angeles County Line to Route 215 in San Bernardino. He had a 20-year career with Caltrans and is a Registered Civil Engineer in California, Nevada, and Arizona. He is building a retirement home in Cherry Valley where he plans to retire with his wife.

Dick Althouse, retired Construction, has moved to a ranch near Colorado Springs, Colorado to join his wife in becoming horse ranchers as well as to keep up his golf game. Dick will be missed by many, including the Wednesday Coffee Club and the Tuesday and Thursday Golf Leagues. Best wishes to you both in your new venture.

Retired Caltrans Ladies of District 8

On Wednesday, September 20, 2006, 18 retired Caltrans ladies had lunch at Nena's Restaurant in San Bernardino. This has been a semiannual event for many years.

Donna Rodriguez who sent out the announcements could not attend due to illness. **Linda Grimes** agreed to MC on short notice. Everyone participated with a short talk about recent events in their lives and **Janice Feenstra** took notes.

Each attendee was asked how many years of service they had with Caltrans and how long they have been retired. Some ladies had more years of service with other agencies.

Linda Grimes and her husband **Wesley** have been on 10 cruises, most recently to the Mexican Riviera and the Panama Canal. They plan a trip to Alaska next year. Linda has one granddaughter, **Eve**, who lives in Oceanside with her parents, **Mike** and **Rachael Grimes**. 45 years of service and retired three years.

Mary Reeder, 17.5 years of service and retired 15 years, has recovered from shingles this year and visits the Senior Center often. She also celebrated her 80th birthday this year.

Carolyn Johns, 30 years of service and retired 15 years, will attend a Redlands High School reunion soon. She still volunteers at Redland's Community Hospital on Thursdays.

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Eleanor Campbell, 25 years of service and retired 28 years, recently sent out 500 letters in a membership drive for CSEA. She works in her yard a lot and has been retired since 1978.

Mary Bermudez, 42 years of service and retired 11 years, recently visited her niece in Idaho with her three sisters and had a wonderful time seeing the Grand Tetons and Jackson Hole, Wyoming. (Her niece worked one summer at Caltrans while in college.)

Beverly Both, 10 years of service and retired five years, visited family and had a sister's reunion in Washington.

Judie Cady Brown, 35.5 years of service and retired 6 months, has 10 grandchildren and another one on the way. She and her husband Gerald, (also retired from Caltrans) have homes in Fontana and Yucaipa. They are not sure where they will end up just yet. Judie also talked about their many animals.

Betty Ordway, 14 years of service and retired 10 years, has seven grandchildren and a great granddaughter. Betty and her husband **Al** (also a Caltrans retiree) visited family in northern California in June. They still go rock collecting here and there.

Clarice Richard's daughter had an aneurism and has had quite a path to recovery, still having trouble with short-term memory. Clarice, 34 years of service and retired 12 years, was in Texas with family over the Labor Day holiday. Her family wore orange shirts, so they looked very "Caltrans."

Marie Vargas, 10 years of service and retired three years, was attending her first luncheon. She cruised for the first time last year and has a grandson in the Army and a granddaughter who recently returned from classes in Oxford, England.

Angel Thompson, 13 years of service and retired 5.5 years, ...continuing from last time, the problem with their contractor has been settled. She also has been going on cruises.

Connie Keefer, 33 years of service and retired 10 years, and her husband Carl went 'way' up into Alaska where people still live in mud huts. Her husband is working part-time. In October they plan a trip up the California coast.

Grace Vinzens, 24 years of service and retired 29 years, and **Donna Rodriguez** will be transferring all the memory book stuff to Donna's house because they are no longer allowed to volunteer at the State building and make the books there. Grace still drives but will accept a ride anywhere.

Janice Feenstra, 15 years of service and retired 12 years, and husband **Donald** (another Caltrans retiree) welcomed a new granddaughter three weeks ago. That makes 20 grandchildren. She plays the piano for singing at the grandchildren's school. Don had a stroke recently and has mostly recovered; a little dizziness persists. Janice will have knee replacement surgery next week. As of December, the surgery was successful and Janice is walking again without crutches. Congratulations to Janice.

Pat Leatherberry, 21.5 years of service and retired 26 years, says she leads a quiet life and is involved with CSEA.

Carolina Gonzalez, 37 years of service and retired 14 years, makes lots of trips to Kaiser. She visited a brother in New Mexico recently and plans a cruise to Mexico next year.

Erma Aldape, 45 years of service and retired 14 years, (**Carolina Gonzalez's** sister) doesn't care to travel. Her young great granddaughter calls her Gi-Gi.

Margie Hobbs, 31 years of service and retired 5 years, (her father was **Earl Wearing**, a longtime surveyor with Caltrans.) She has a home in Texas and also in Hemet and travels back and forth. She and her husband Jerry play golf. She has a son working with Caltrans at Lake Tahoe. She attended Jerry Atkinson's 80th birthday. He worked in Permits in District 8 before transferring to Bishop.

Our annual Christmas Luncheon was held at The Gourmet in San Bernardino on December

2, 2006, with 71 members, spouses, and guests attending. Those in attendance were **Evie Anderson** and guest **Kirk Ottenson, John and Kay Anderson, Dan and Beverly Armstrong** and their daughter **Terri, Jim and Joanne Balcom, Loren and Margaret Barnett, Mary Bermudez** and guest **Ethel (Gallwas) Nichols, Dennis and Dianne Blakkolb, Barney and Sue Chapman, Morgan and Glenna Choate, Gil and Jeanette Daab, John and Doris Estrada, Janice Feenstra, Bill Feenstra, Les Franz, Pat Garcia, Wes and Linda Grimes, Ed and Clarice Gritters, Dick and Louise Haight, Angela Hall, Carolyn Johns, Pat Leatherberry, Stan Lisiewicz, Dick and Hazel Longstreet** and their guests **Don and Eudene Troy, Frank Lehr, Marsha Lotze, Gerry and Aida Lunt, Jim Miller, Maxine Nelson, Les and Barbara Nolte, Ken Olson** and daughter **Carolyn Cloud, Ernie and Kay Parke, Lloyd and Alice Patterson, Tom and Bonnie Powell, Ben Ramirez, Virginia Reed, Mary Reeder, Melba Saucier, Taylor and Katie Smith** and their guests **Dick Massaro, Paul Welch, and Bill Kraisosky, Roy Smoot, Linda Salmond, Grace Vinzens and Don Weaver.**

Fred and Alice Jackson were surprise visitors from Fair Oaks, CA. Fred transferred to headquarters in 1975 from our district and retired in 1984.

All members are encouraged to bring Caltrans friends and retirees to our festivities.

MC **Taylor Smith** discussed news of other members not present. For the first time in many years **Beverly Hines** was unable to attend. Beverly is afflicted with Alzheimer's and is living at an assisted care facility in San Diego, where she is near her daughter.

Stan Martin collapsed in the parking lot at Redland's Community Hospital and is presently hospitalized.

Jean Griffith, Stan Griffith's widow reports that she is moving from Santa Clarita to Femley, Nevada to be closer to her children.

Marv and Arlene Fuller made a quick trip to the area a few weeks ago.

Bill Feenstra's wife, **Shirley**, is doing well after battling illness for many months.

Louise Haight's mother, **Verna Bubier**, passed away in mid-October at age 94.

Roy Smoot, formerly of St. George, Utah, has purchased a condo in Laguna Woods, (formerly Leisure World.)

Director Smith called the business meeting to order and **Marsha Lotze** gave the financial report that was approved by a vote of the members. No nominations or volunteers were received for the positions of Director and Secretary/Treasurer. Ms. Lotze will continue with the position for another year and she was unanimously approved by vote of the members. Taylor asked for volunteers for Director. There were no volunteers. Taylor Smith advised that he would continue as Director through 2007. He further advised that 2007 was the last year that he will serve. He has served as the District Director for 10 years and as the state President for two years. He will submit his resignation effective January 1, 2008. His acceptance for 2007 was also approved by vote of the members.

Elephant Blues

An elephant goes into a high-class restaurant and sits at the piano bar, where a pianist is playing soulful blues. When the song is over, the pianist notices that the elephant is all teary-eyed over his drink.

"Wow, man," he says to the elephant, "I'm surprised you would be that affected by the blues."

"No, no it isn't like that," says the elephant. "I just recognized some of the keys."

There being no old or new business, the meeting was dosed.

Honorary certificates were presented to **Virginia Reed** and **Mary Reeder**. Other members not present who were to receive certificates are **Floyd Salazar, Bob Espy, Carolina Gonzalez** and **Alvin Brown**. Their certificates will be delivered to the recipients at a later date.

Everyone enjoyed the party and the attendees won many prizes donated by the members. Next year's luncheon will be the first Saturday in December, which is the 1st. Please plan on attending and bringing a guest or two!!!!

The more the merrier.

Unfortunately, several of our long time members have passed away in the past few months.

Tom Dwiggin, our oldest QCCer passed away on November 28th, at the age of 94. Tom attended schools in Oregon and California, graduating from the University of Southern California in 1939 with a degree in Business Administration. Tom was an active Trojan, serving in many USC service groups and President of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. In 1948 he was a charter member and President of the USC Trojan Alumni Club in San Bernardino.

Following his service in World War II, he studied at the Harvard Graduate Business School in Cambridge, MA. Tom and **Barbara Dwiggin** moved to the San Bernardino area where they lived for 49 years.

Compatibility

A husband and wife were at a party chatting with friends when the subject of marriage counseling came up.

"Oh, we'll never need that. My husband and I have a great relationship," the wife explained. "He was a communications major in college and I majored in theatrical arts. He communicates really well and I just act like I'm listening."

Tom was employed by Caltrans for 30 years (10 years in Redding) and retired in 1975 as the Deputy District Director of the Right of Way Department in San Bernardino. He was a member of the American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers. Following retirement, the couple traveled extensively around the world, visiting over 60 countries. Mr. Dwiggins is survived by his wife Barbara and a large loving family.

Private family services were held at Olivewood Cemetery in Riverside, Ca. Tom was a loving husband, father, and grandfather and he will be sorely missed by all of us.

We recently received a letter from **Phyllis Redifer, Milton Redifer's** widow, from Nampa, Idaho, that he had passed away August 16, 2006. He had been sick a long time with lung cancer and also had macular degeneration. Fortunately, he was only very sick for a short 10 days.

Milton had been one of our Maintenance retirees. Mrs. Redifer says it is very quiet now in their home, but her four-year-old great grandson will brighten things up a bit. She wishes Greetings to all and Merry Christmas.

Just today we received information that **Hilbourn "Hibbie" Mincer** passed away on December 1, 2006, at the age of 79. Hibbie had worked for Caltrans for 36 years and was an administrator before retiring. Funeral services were scheduled for Friday, December 8, in Rialto.

Another one of our Maintenance retirees, **Harvey Herrington**, has passed away, but we haven't any information on his passing.

Sady to say, we received a telephone call from **Marv Fuller**, a retired Caltrans Design Engineer, that **Fred Mielen** passed away on November 3, 2006 at the age of 78. Fred retired from the Surveys Department in 1980. Services were held at the Elks Club, St. George, Utah, on November 6, 2006.

We also received notice that **Margaret Lynn**, a Senior Stenographer with the Right of Way Branch, for many years passed away in

October 2006. Margaret had been a QCC member for quite some time.

Art Betherum, Maintenance Supervisor **Dick Norton's** Office Assistant, also passed away in October. We don't have any additional information on Art or Margaret.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of our retirees and their families in their time of sorrow.

—Marsha Lotze

Yellowstone

A lady, on her first visit to Yellowstone National Park, says to her guide, "Look at all those big rocks. Wherever did they come from?"

"The glaciers brought them down," says the guide.

"But where are the glaciers?"

"The glaciers," said the guide in a weary voice, "have gone back for more rocks."

The Haps in District 9

December is here already. We all know about time and tide. I see **John Nakken, Jim Kemp** and **Bob Marsh** on a regular basis. I get e-mail jokes from **Jim Bowles, Don Beldon, Chuck Carter, Nancy Gillem, Harold Jones, Don Kitchens, Jim Passie** and **Dan Young** so I know those people are still around. Other wise not much news.

Barbara and I finally are moving into the new house. Building this new house turned out to be nearly a five year project. A once in a life time project, maybe it just seemed like a life time.

From John Ritter – “We returned from Ireland last week. While in Ireland Mary feels that she became the poster girl for Grand Circle Travel.

“Mary drives exclusively when we have to travel on the left side of the road due possibly to her left handed brain and a bit of previous experience, some of it before John, some of it with John, and some while traveling with Jill. This trip was no different.

“One day, Mary stopped along side of the road to look at the lovely green Irish grass. When she proceeded to reenter the driver's seat the car began to roll. She opened the door and tried to put her foot on the brake pedal; but the open door knocked her down and her leg went under the car. It was a good thing that it did because her leg stopped the car as well as a log. In fact, the wheel stopped on her leg resulting in unquotable loud utterances. When I assisted her and drove the car off her leg I inadvertently drove over her ankle. Boy, that made her mad.

“Later, we met some people with Grand Circle ID tags. Mary said a picture of her pinned under her rental car in the Irish countryside with the caption “Next time take Grand Circle” would be an incredibly effective ad.

“We found a country doctor whose office was isolated among trees, rock fences, green grass and mist. In this setting it was like being a participant in a fairy tale. The doctor cleaned her abrasions and told her without the benefit of an X-ray that she had no broken bones (you could see bruises in the shape of tire treads on her leg) and told her to come back to see him the next day. Mary spent the rest of the day lying in bed at a bed and breakfast while I educated myself with the local culture and customs by participating in activities at a nearby pub.

“We found the Irish to be extremely pleasant with remarkable humor. One night we were in a pub when a about six older Irishmen came in and began to sing. One of the songs was about a rooster that was gay, resulting in a farmer losing money due to the lack of new chickens. These guys sang and drank for over

two hours. The more they drank the better they became. One guy ended up lying on the floor but kept singing. All the time they laughed a lot and poked fun at each other. This fun and humor everywhere was remarkable to us.

“Their structures, whether new or old, are constructed of unreinforced masonry. I stopped and looked over a large home under construction and talked awhile to the contractor. I was shocked at the fact that no steel was being incorporated in the masonry. The contractor was surprised at my concern and asked why steel was needed. His inquiry was reasonable since century old masonry structures are abundant in Ireland.

“Two odd things we found were: 1) We didn't have to show our passports when we entered the country. We just walked from the aircraft to our rental car and drove off. 2) Our credit card would not insure our rental car. We were told that credit cards would not insure rental cars in only three countries: Ireland, Israel, and a country in South America.

“United Airlines set Mary up with four seats so she could keep her leg up during the flight home. We had a good flight from Heathrow to LAX. I talked to a male flight attendant who lived in Sweden for nearly two hours during the flight. The service and the conversation was incredible and says a lot for United.

“Mary had her leg and ankle X-rayed after arriving home. Sure enough the Irish country doctor living in the mist and green grass was correct, there were no broken bones.”

— Lance Hnek

The Haps in District 10

News from Oct 31 meeting (37 present)

John D. Tyrrell, Sr., passed away on September 30, 2006. John was born in Stockton June 15, 1932, and attended schools

in the Stockton area and graduated from San Joaquin Delta College with an Associates of Arts degree in 1953. He continued his education and received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1976 and a Masters of Business Administration degree in 1977. John started working in District 10 Division of Highways about 1954 and after many years he continued his employment under PERS with the California National Guard. He retired after a long career with the National Guard as a Colonel. In retirement he was involved with many social and retirement functions. He loved golf and the 49ers and was a big time donor and volunteer to blood bank.

Memorial Services were held at Arden Christian Church Sacramento. He is survived by his wife of 53 years Joyce and Children and grand children.

From **Brian Young**: "When I worked in the District 10 in the 60's I had the pleasure to be on a softball team for CSEA local 38 and John Tyrrell was our manager and pitcher. I played right field and I remember **Bill Zieker** played third base (nickname Dr. Strange Glove). One game, we played the youth authority and their third base coach asked John, who was pitching at the time, if he could see the ball. John rolled it to him and everyone all ran home.

Larry Dyke passed away at the age of 76 on November 23, 2006. He was born in Plymouth Wisconsin. He was with District 10 for 35 years before retiring at Lake of the Pines Auburn in 1992. Larry is survived by his wife **Lois** and two daughters and a son. Memorial services were at Combie Bible Church Grass Valley, CA

From 11-28-06:

Mike and **Bonny Ciccone** have gone to Arizona

Al Wells and **Dennis Smith** went on their annual Elk hunting trip to Idaho in October and harvested a real nice bull elk.

Vern Dorsch – "My wife went on her annual trip to Ireland. She's back so I'm eating once again." Vern won the raffle for a free breakfast.

Bill and **Darlene Selling** say "Hi Y'all. Well it is time for us to hit the road again. This time we are flying on Dec 14th back to VA. **Stuart** is in Baghdad, Iraq, so we will spend Christmas and New Years with **Michelle** and the girls. We return home on Jan 12, 2007.

— *Brian Young*

The Perfect Shot

A golfer stands over his tee shot for what seems an eternity to his partner.

He looks up and down, measures the distance and figures the wind direction and speed. The longer he takes, the more his partner fidgets. Finally his exasperated partner says, "What's taking so long? Hit the ball!!"

The guy points. "My wife is up there watching me from the clubhouse. I want to make this a perfect shot."

"Forget it, man," the partner says. "You'll never hit her from here."

The Haps in District 11

There is much of interest for D-11 in the QCC President's message and just a few things to be added here.

One strong plus is that a new assistant cook in the person of **Marty Phillips** has stepped up for the QCC picnic BBQ. Former CT employee and husband of QCC member **Kathy Phillips**. You need to be aware that **Dean Burns**, the D-11 QCC director, and Gary Darr, the longtime chief cook for the picnic both have announced that this coming summer will be their last time to serve. There is just the one time for apprentice training before

a new crew is on its own. **Denny Paquin**, Gary's chief assistant, will step up to head cook and Marty will fill in as chief assistant.

Now, can we find a volunteer or two or three to pick up the tasks related to the picnic that Dean has been doing for so many long years? If you think you can add your time and talents to the fun times for all to share, Call Dean at 619-448-6728 for a review of what it is that he does.

Those attending the Caltrans open house had much to see and do for entertainment as well as meet a few other retired friends.

Gloria Alexanderson tells of an 8,900-mile road trip lasting seven weeks and four days through 19 states. She got a GPS system for navigation, a laptop computer to pay bills while away, a cell phone 'just in case' and headed out on the open road. She stopped in Las Vegas, NV, Beaver, UT, Yellowstone and one to visit Dale Schmoltd in Cody, WY. Then on to Mount Rushmore, SD where one of the original workers was there to answer questions. The long empty roads let her push her Jag up to 107 mph as she headed across the plains to Sioux Falls, SD and up to the Mall of America in Minneapolis, MN where the roads changed to badly congested.

On to Madison, WI where the SDSU Aztecs were playing the Wisconsin Badgers with Monty Montezuma in town. Visits with family and friends in Chicago and Lockport, IL, boating on Lake Michigan, old friends in Leesburg, IN, and Marshall, IL. On Oct. 15 she celebrated her 60th birthday in Nashville, TN before a few days in Blairsville, GA for more family visits.

She continued to Putnam Hall, FL to meet **Don Rosbaugh** and then to Saint Lucie and across 'Alligator Alley' for a stop in Naples and again at Spring Hill.

In spite of Florida's humidity, she had more bugs on the windshield in Wyoming and South Dakota. Was it the 100+ mph speed that caught them? She headed back north to Gulfport, MS and more visits with friends and on to New Orleans and a stop in Marshall, TX. The drive through Dallas, and on to her stop in Amarillo,

TX was a hard one with state police keeping her speed down. On to Albuquerque, NM for four days with more family there and tours of their Old Town and Santa Fe. Next stop of Las Cruces, NM before a few days of visits with friends in Tucson, AZ. Then it was one long hard drive back to home in San Diego and home at last.

Memorials from D-II are for **Kenneth White**, September 8, 2006, **George Parrott**, September 9, 2006 and **Ed Kubichedk** - December 6, 2006.

— Dean Burns

The Haps in Central

Gene Berthelsen gave us an extended deadline for this issue of the QCCer, and here I am trying to meet that deadline at the last minute. Not good! **Don** and I returned on November 20 from an amazing Elderhostel trip to Egypt, Jordan and the Frankfurt, Germany area. What we saw was a neat follow-up to our trip to Greece earlier this year. We enjoyed everything, but an excursion into a Pyramid, a walk through Petra and a Dead Sea "float" top our list. Also, I can't pass up the opportunity to announce that we traveled to Warner Robins, GA on September 7 with our daughter, **Cindi**, and granddaughter, **Natalie**, to be with our grandson, **Vincent**, and his wife, **Krista**, for the arrival of our first great grandchild. His name is **Dominic** and he's adorable.

Central District's last gathering was the annual barbecue meeting on September 27. The weather was perfect and JR's Texas Barbecue was the best. Director **Gary Bush** reminded everyone that officers for 2007 would be nominated and elected at the holiday luncheon on December 13.

Gary presented **Louise Ginsberg** with an Honorary Certificate, though it is hard to believe she really qualifies!! Others receiving the

award this year are **Robert Bennett, Thomas Borman, Charles Brailier, Jr., A. Neil Dunham, Harold Garfield, Clayton Giroux, Betty Jane Goetz, K. Joe Kataoka, Lawrence Larsen, Joseph Montoya, Vincent Paul, Charles Paulsen, Thomas Scrimsher, Donald R. Smith, Ila Staneart, Harry Valentine, Jr. and Charles Zell.**

Heinz Heckeroth talked about the many accomplishments of the California Transportation Foundation (CTF), including the Transportation Forum in March, Tranny Awards in June, a Charity Golf Tournament in August and an Education Symposium in November. CTF "enables" cooperation of many public and private organizations and individuals to support California transportation goals and objectives to provide employee assistance, memorials, scholarships, recognitions, conferences, career development and conference travel. CTF uses a network of volunteers and a fund accounting system to financially manage its own and cooperative programs. Heinz is developing a plan to keep CTF on track and is proposing that the QCC and its members become more involved in CTF in the future.

Our members have been pretty busy. **Pete Doljanin:** "Has been working on his daughter's house for five years and expects to go on for some time."

Gene Berthelsen: "I'm pretty much recovered from a stem-cell transplant from my identical twin brother at Stanford Cancer Center in March. It appears that the transplant, for Multiple Myeloma, is successful so far. Other than that, I remain busy with my jazz band and updating my 80-year old house. I've also taken over of manager of publicity and marketing for the Sacramento Jazz Jubilee. I also have a sycamore tree. I'm working too hard."

Omar Partel: "Continues to ferry his son, Gus, back and forth to Jesuit High School, through heat, waves, rain, sleet and nightmarish traffic."

Bob Nelson: "I'm just happy to still be on feet and see all faces."

Jack Cropper: "After the winter on Maui I visited the Southeast Caribbean and then a trip to San Diego to attend the decommissioning of the aircraft carrier named after the ship I was on in WWII, namely the USS Belleau Wood. Enjoyed a lunch and afternoon with **Ralph and Ada Loveland** and **Bill and Dorothy Dotson.**"

Glen and Sharon Rosander: "Are heading for Nova Scotia the first week in October. We plan to see the 50 foot tidal change on the Bay of Fundy, go whale watching and enjoy the fall colors."

Joe and LaRena Hannon: "Flew to Oklahoma City in June, rented a car and drove through Oklahoma and Texas visiting LaRena's relatives. They also attended a 50th Wedding Anniversary party in Texas for LaRena's Aunt and Uncle and her 50th high school reunion in the panhandle of Oklahoma. It was a small class of 26 and a friend had her Sacramento address. She only attended there two years and transferred to Colorado Springs and later to Redding, CA. On September 30 she will attend her 50th Shasta High reunion in Redding. Joe's older brother passed away in mid-September and Joe and LaRena flew to Chicago and on to Wisconsin for his funeral. It gave Joe a chance to meet with his relatives that he had not seen in years. He wished it could have been a better time. Joe and LaRena also attended a Sons of Norway convention in Ventura in late June. They are both officers in the Sacramento Lodge."

The **Heckeroths, Hope and Heinz:** "Are traveling to Seattle for a 10-day Elderhostel cruise on Puget Sound visiting seven ports of call including Victoria, B.C., Friday Harbor and Port Townsend."

Bob and Buttons Grout: "It has been another great year for us including Bastille Day at the Legion of Honor in Lincoln Park in San Francisco; a few days at our cabin at Serene Lakes; and busy keeping track of grandkids and now two great grandkids."

Jim and Florine Rae: "We are glad to be attending another QCC meeting especially with the great weather for the picnic. It was good to see so many old friends from Caltrans."

T. George Smith: "No travels anymore, but great to get to functions like this. Nice people."

Dick and Louise Ginsberg: "We returned in May from a river boat cruise in Russia where we thoroughly enjoyed getting acquainted with the people and customs of Russia. After spending three days in a hotel in Kiev we flew to Moscow where we boarded the riverboat Tikhi Don. We spent three days enjoying the wonders of Moscow. We then spent the next seven days on the canals and the Volga River sailing toward St. Petersburg, which is one of the most beautiful cities in the world."

Don and Wilma Watson: "Celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on 9/25/06 with their two sons, their wives and several grand children at a local restaurant. Travel plans over the next few months include Las Vegas during New Years; a trip to Pennsylvania to visit family; and a family reunion cruise of the Western Caribbean."

Hugh and Kay Griffin: "We are now in the midst of a kitchen remodeling so are staying close to home. We did travel back east in late May and early June. Our task on the trip was to baby sit our twin granddaughters while our son attended some of the functions during his 10th college reunion. The girls were nearing the end of the "terrible twos" so we had some challenges but all in all they were very good. The trek from North Carolina to Boston included an extension to Vermont where we visited Middlebury College, Rutland and Woodstock. The girls enjoyed visiting Billings Farm in Woodstock and the Maple Sugar Museum in Rutland."

Jack and Ellen Derby: "We had a pleasant week with our ski dub pals at Loon Lake in July, fishing, hiking and socializing. Jack went to Prince of Wales Island in July. Fishing, crabbing and sightseeing were the order of the day. He towed the trailer to Dunsmuir and fly

fished with son, **Jim**, in August and traveled to Vancouver Island to fish with son, **Craig**, in September. Did a nice hike to Winnemucca Lake with **Don** and **Nancy Benjamin** in August. We really enjoyed the picnic. The officers did a great job in organizing the event."

Jim and Earlene Borden: "In July we took a trip across Canada via rail from Ontario to Vancouver. The Canadian Rockies are something to behold! We took 16 days. The trains in Canada are wonderful. Service is great and food is wonderful. Had grandkids for a week each during the summer and have worked on home projects the rest of the time. Good to see so many friends tonight. Good picnic!!"

Peggy Sweet: "Jim and Earlene were sweet enough to bring me along to the party. Nice to see so many friends. Haven't made any trips lately - just to the casino. Was a big winner last time. I made back the \$50 I lost and 50-cents extra!!!"

Since the picnic, **John Hebner** received an E-mail from **Ann Glover** to say, "Sorry to miss the holiday luncheon, but Georgia is a long way away. This has been a really busy year. Hang gliding, flying lessons, trips to Niagara Falls, New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Northern Mexico and the Copper Canyon. While in Mexico I went horseback riding for the first time since having both hips replaced. What a joy to have so much fun and no problems. My health remains excellent (no prescriptions yet) so I'm trying to travel while it's still so much fun to do it. At home I'm keeping busy with Red Hats, Bridge, Pinochle, Canasta, Book Club and serving as VP to the Newcomer's Club here in Warner Robins. Also trying to sort all the pictures taken on trips. It would be wonderful to see all of you from Highways but I'll just have to say MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!"

I'm sad to report the passing of two of our members. **Hilmer (Ace) Forsen** passed away in July at age 73. His wife, **Shirley**, told me Ace worked for Caltrans for 43 years and retired in 2000.

John D. Tyrrell, Sr. passed away on September 30, 2006 at age 74. John worked for Caltrans District 10 before a career move to the California National Guard. He was the former Installation Commander of Camp Roberts, CA. In addition to being an active QCC member, he was past Governor of Sirs and President of CSEA. He was also a supporter of the Delta Blood Bank and Blood Source. John loved traveling and was an avid golfer and 49ers fan. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Joyce, a son, four daughters, nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Norman Lee Lambeth, the California highway engineer who tamed the treacherous "Grapevine" grade of the Tehachapi Mountains with a modern freeway linking the San Joaquin Valley and Los Angeles, died December 12, 2006. He was 80.

It seems impossible that 2006 is nearly over. As Secretary of Central District QCC I have enjoyed the opportunity to be in touch with many members and their families throughout the year, and it has been a pleasure working with Gary, July, John and Janel. Don and I wish you the very best in 2007!

— Nancy Benjamin

Here's a good trick: Next time you have an event, take a pad and pencil with you. Pass it around among the guests and ask them to write a squib about what they've been up to lately, then E-mail it to the QCCer. Great way to let us know what's going on.

In Memoriam

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

| Name | District | Date |
|-----------------------|----------|--------------------|
| Bert Davis | 01 | December 9, 2006 |
| Fred Lemstrom | 01 | October 17, 2006 |
| Michael Lucas | 01 | September 29, 2006 |
| Pete Mason | 01 | October 18, 2006 |
| Dorothy Nivers | 01 | October 27, 2001 |
| Jean Hadman Miles | 02 | October 29, 2006 |
| Ramesh Dugal | 04 | Unknown |
| Barton Jones | 04 | April 14, 2005 |
| Vernon Ramos | 04 | June 2005 |
| Laura Shaner | 04 | October 27, 2006 |
| John Watson | 04 | May 1, 2005 |
| Charles Hotchkiss | 05 | September 27, 2006 |
| Robert "Bob" Pederson | 05 | August 31, 2006 |
| Burton Van | 05 | November 6, 2006 |
| Harold Gable | 06 | September 24, 2006 |
| Alfred Eloffson | 07 | July 26, 2001 |
| Robert Kleges | 07 | September 21, 2006 |
| James Needham | 07 | July 29, 2006 |
| William Palmer | 07 | July 8, 2006 |
| Tom Dwiggin | 06 | November 28, 2006 |
| Art Betherum | 08 | October 2006 |
| Harvey P. Herrington | 08 | February 10, 2006 |
| Margaret Lynn | 08 | October 2006 |
| Fred Miden | 08 | November 3, 2006 |
| Hilbourne Mincer | 08 | December 1, 2006 |
| Milton Redifer | 08 | August 16, 2006 |
| Lary Dyke | 10 | November 23, 2006 |
| John D. Tyrrell | 10 | September 30, 2006 |
| Edward Kubichek | 11 | December 6, 2006 |
| George Parrott | 11 | September 9, 2006 |
| Vera Sheppard | 11 | 2006 |
| Kenneth White | 11 | September 8, 2006 |
| James McManus | Central | December 2, 2006 |
| Norman Lambeth | Central | December 12, 2006 |

Events

**Got a group that meets regularly?
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 months of January, April, July, and October at 11:35 a.m. at the Hometown Buffet at the Bayshore Mall in Eureka

District 2 - *No Contact*

Retired folks meet on the 3rd Monday of each month between 7:30 and 9 am at the district office snack bar, 1657 Riverside Drive, Redding

District 3 - *No Contact*

Weekly Tuesday Coffee/Breakfast at 8:30 am at the "Green House" in the Raley's Shopping Center in Placerville.

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

Annual Placerville Spring Luncheon is scheduled for April 20

Spring Get Together Sunday, March 19th at the Family Moose Lodge

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 5 *Kathy Copeland*

Holiday BBQ to be held December 6 at the Elks Lodge in San Luis Obispo

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

The **Caltrans Retiree Breakfast** meets at 9 am on the third Wednesday in March and September at the Olive Tree Restaurant at the intersection of Route 65 and Hermosa in Lindsay.

Informal Coffee at 8:30 am at Country Waffles at the NW corner of Herndon and Cedar.

District 7 *Contact: Tom Gildersleeve (661) 259-6226*

tgilders@pacbell.net, or Chuck O'Connell, (661)253-3428 chuckoconnell@prodigy.net

The **Monthly Luncheon Club** meets on the second Wednesday of the month in Los Angeles
Holiday celebration, December 9 at the New Otani Hotel,

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

Lunch at Whiskey Creek meets on the first Fri

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

Ghosts from Christmas Past Lunch Friday, December 1, Buggy Whip Restaurant at 2737 Fulton Avenue in Sacramento

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

Central *Gary Bush— (530) 642-8208*

Annual Picnic Barbecue, September 27, 2006 at College Greens Swim and Racquet Club.

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