



Looking for a Logo

FOUNDATION ASKS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

From the Corner Pocket

With an eye to attracting more members from those hired after the '75 layoff (80'ish), who now may have the 25 years of service to qualify, can we find a logo that might incorporate the "CT" symbol of Caltrans as well as the "Flying Doughnut" or "Tomato" from the Division of



Highways? Do you have an idea on how to arrange the letters, 'Q,' 'C' and 'C' in a nice tight symbol that is more than just circles on circles? Thanks for anything you think might help.

Heinz Heckerroth of the California Transportation Foundation called to ask the QCC to collaborate with Caltrans and the CTF to welcome a contribution from **Kathy Freeman**. You'll find it under "Foundation Matters, on Page

— 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>

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

It's hard to believe it's September already. So much has happened this year. Pat and I just got back from a two-week trip to the east coast. My stepmother passed away in Virginia and we went back for the memorial service. We also went to South Carolina to visit Pat's sister.

Elections Yes, it is that time again. The constitution states that nominations shall be in the hands of the Secretary-Treasurer by October 25th. That isn't very far away. Butch Biendara, our president, "has served his allotted two years plus one more year as "acting/interim?" president to keep things going. It's time for someone to step up. Butch has done a great job, but I know he has other irons in the fire. If any of you would like to get a little more involved in QCC, please let us know. Also, the position of **2nd Vice President** is now vacant. This position requires very little work and provides an opportunity to learn more about the inner workings of the Quarter Century Club.

Roster YES!!! I did get it done and you will find it as a part of this publication.

In Memoriam You will note that there are quite a few names in the "In Memoriam" section this issue. I did a check with the Social Security Death Index prior to this issue on members born before 1916. Nineteen members had passed away. Our records showed that nine

of those had spouses listed. All nine of those spouses had also passed away.

On a personal note, I knew personally two members who passed away in the past couple of months, both named Jim. **Jim Roberts** was a great person as well as a great engineer. **Jim McDowell** was construction engineer in Fresno when I left to go to District 11. Working with both of these men was one of the pleasures of my career.

Dues The new dues rate of \$15 per year is now in effect. Also, the new rule requiring that a member whose dues are delinquent by the end of February be dropped from the mailing list immediately is also now in effect. I will notify by mail all those members who are delinquent, but as the March issue of the Cue See Seer will be published early in the month, those members will probably miss that issue. I know I've mentioned this before, but I just want to make sure everyone is aware of the new status.

A few of you have not caught up on your dues for 2006 (and some still for 2005). Check the date in the upper right corner of your mailing label for your "paid to" date.

Honorary Members The certificates for new honorary members have been prepared and I will take them to San Diego with me for the President's signature. They will be distributed to the districts in September for presentation at an appropriate time.

Remember, the revision to the constitution now requires members reaching the age of 80 to apply for Honorary Membership. For those reaching that age in the coming year, don't forget to let me know so that Honorary Membership can be bestowed upon you. (Sounds something like Knighthood, doesn't it?)

Miscellaneous: Pat and I plan to attend some district functions this fall beginning with the picnic in District 11 on the 9th. Then on the 27th we will attend the fall BBQ in the Central District. All this hinges on the Good Lord willing and the creek don't rise.

Take care, all of you. Watch out for the little ones going back to school.

— Kim Yarbrough

The Milk Carton

Here are the 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
Bob Wallin 07

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 even after listing their names three times in this column. Those members will be dropped from the roster until we receive more information.

The Haps in District 1

—Arlene Hartin

This has been a busy summer. As soon as I finished that last report, we were off on a great road trip that took us up 101 from Eureka, over 199, and up I-5. We discovered that staying at casino hotels was a fun way to travel. We stayed in Canyonville, on I-5 above Grants Pass the first night. Since it was Sunday we saw a great Las Vegas style show. Our first planned excursion was to Mt. St. Helen's. I had wanted to get up there for years and finally got it together. At the first visitor's center we connected up with my husband's niece and her husband. They had gone on the Alaska cruise, then rented a vehicle in Vancouver, B.C. and driven down. After several hours visiting the different visitor centers and seeing the mountain, which was amazing, we headed for Seattle and spent two days visiting, including the waterfront and

the Space Needle. There was also a great Rock 'n Roll museum next to the Space Needle that is well worth a visit. Then we headed for Anacortes and had dinner and a nice visit with family friends. We took the ferry to Victoria for another two days to visit the downtown and Butchart Gardens. Bill's niece and nephew ferried back to Vancouver and flew home. We ferried back to Anacortes and drove back. At Tigard, Oregon, we left I-5 and went to the coast and 101. We stayed at the casino resort in Lincoln City, then worked our way home, spending a night in Brookings/Harbor. We had dinner at a place on the Harbor that was on our list to visit. The next day we stopped at the Trees of Mystery south of Crescent City and finally rode the Sky Trail lift that takes you to the top of the mountain for real panoramic views. We live only about an hour south of there but it has taken five years to get around to doing that. I do love our highways. There is a lot to see along the way to your destinations.

A friend and fellow Caltrans employee, **Brenda Little O'Bryant** and her husband came down from Oregon for a visit. This gave her a chance to show where she had lived both in Crescent City and Eureka. We E-mail a lot but had not seen each other for several years.

In August we enjoyed the Rio Dell BBQ and classic car show and had a great visit with **Ray Thomsen**, retired senior delineator, who had a car in the show. His wife, **Marlene**, recently retired from the District I maintenance office. This is a great area for car shows. There are shows in July in Fortuna, Rio Dell and Blue Lake in August, and Eureka and Willow Creek in September. We always look for Ray's car among others and find several friends to visit with.

Recent retirees from District I include **Tim Fisher**, DDD for Administration, June 6 (he is helping out now as a retired annuitant); and **Karen Morris**, Staff Services

Manager I, July 1. I've enjoyed working with both of them and will miss them.

Frank Woodman, retired District I Maintenance Supervisor and his wife, **Mariann**, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Samoa Cookhouse in Eureka on June 17. They have lived in Humboldt County for 45 years, currently in Orleans. One of his sons, **Stan**, is a District I Maintenance Superintendent. Frank is a great historian for the northeastern Humboldt area; we keep in touch through our mutual interests in history. Congratulations, Frank and Mariann.

Sometimes news comes from unexpected places. At the Northcoast Aviation Society meeting in July, I sat at the table with fellow QCCers **Bob Myers** and **Ben VanZandt**. They, along with Ben's wife, **Alice**, and son **Marty**, attended **Ralph Fullmar's** 85th birthday party at Hawkins Bar and had a great time visiting Ralph and friends.

On August 23 I was attended the District I Awards lunch held at the Red Lion Inn in Eureka. District Director **Charlie Fielder** was emcee. The honorees included **Tamara Libolt**, **Steve McCluskey**, and **Alice Jensen** for 25 years, **Wayne Ingle** and **Jim Grow** for 30 years and **Roy Spivey** for 35 years. We also honored the following, who were not able to attend. **Laura Fields**, **Carol Bryant**, **Scott Shipman**, **Ed Chase**, **Juan Salas**, **Barry Douglas**, and **Steve Jorgensen** for 25 years, and **Leonard Morales** for 30 years. It was great to see these wonderful people with whom I worked and to meet some of their families. **Bob Trice** had another commitment that happened to be in the same building, so he was able to get away in time to visit with the honorees.

Bill and I walk every morning to try to keep in shape and happen to pass the home of **Drew** and **Judi Irwin**, who trained me in

personnel. We usually get to see Bob Trice come by. He and Drew head off together for a great morning of golf. We retirees are not ready for the rocking chair yet.

My friend, **Dorothy Nivens**, a retired District 1 Transportation Engineering Tech., recently had a stroke and is currently going through rehabilitation at Pacific Healthcare in Eureka. Right now she is not able to move her right arm or leg but does have some feeling so we are hoping for the best. She transferred to District 1 from District 9 so has several friends in that area as well.

We lost some wonderful Caltrans employees/friends this past quarter. **Don Warren** passed away on July 3rd. He was born in Willow Creek and spent most of his life in the Willow Creek and Salyer areas. He had worked for the Forest Service and served in the Army during WW II. He went to work for Division of Highways in 1946 and retired in 1977, working in maintenance. I remember him as a very nice man and conscientious worker.

Jack Smith, retired Deputy District Director for Design in District 1, passed away on August 5th. He is survived by his wife, Norma, who was a District 1 Transportation Engineering Technician. He was born in 1921 in Albion in Mendocino County. He started in District 4, then in 1961 was assigned to the Office Engineers in Sacramento. In 1966 he went to District 7 and finished his career in District 1, retiring in 1975. I had a chance to talk to **Ben Van Zandt**, who told me that he and Jack knew each other in high school in Anderson Valley. Jack's dad worked for Ben's dad out of the Boonville yard. Ben enjoyed the irony that he ended up working for Jack near the end of their careers. Small world.

Robert E. Baker passed away on August 3 after losing a courageous battle with cancer. He was born in Arcata in 1949 and was a fourth generation Humboldt County native. He got a B.S. degree in geology and worked

many places on the west coast, including Alaska. After becoming licensed as a registered geologist, he started with Caltrans in 1999 in the East Bay, then transferred to District 1 in 2001. He was involved in many projects, including the Confusion Hill Bypass. Before I retired I enjoyed talking to him about local history.

Our condolences go out to the families and friends of Don, Jack, and Robert. They will be greatly missed.

Don't forget to keep those cards and letters coming. Your friends like to hear what you are up to these days.

— Arlene Hartin

The Haps in District 2

We're delighted to hear from District 2 after an extended silence: Retired District 2 Caltrans folks meet on the third Monday of each month 7:30 to 9 am at the district office snack bar at 1657 Riverside Drive in Redding. Please send a membership application to:

Ed Lamkin
P.O. Box 496073
Redding, CA 96049-6073

Sixteen persons met for conversation and food this A.M.

Jim Ceragioli: "After being retired for eight years I have made Grandpa status. A grandson born September 10 was given a true Italian first name, Giovanni. No major trips or activities. I spend time with **Gene Podh** doing volunteer work for library. Saw **Maryanne Jackson** recently. She took a short Mexico cruise—"Great, but once is enough."

Lew Wood: "In May we enjoyed a trip to Ashland for Shakespeare and a visit with friends from Bishop. In July we went to the Garden Railroad Convention with **Merle Larrabee** (HQ) and had lunch with **Darrell Merritt** (Dist 10). We are enjoying Lewiston. The

remodeling is 99% done. It will probably take another five years to do the last one percent. Retirement still agrees with Sandy and me.”

Gene Podh: “We will going to British Columbia and Alaska in August. Our son and his family moved back to California from Minnesota so we don’t have to use our travel budget to see grandchildren and can spread our wings.”

Gene Knaebel: “My cancer surgeries keep me pretty close to home. Thank goodness for my photography, which gives me an opportunity to be innovative and creative. My favorites are creating panoramas by combining a series of separate images together, and making infrared black and white prints.”

Ralph Harkness: Mary and I are stove up with the ravages of old age, so any extensive travel is out of the question. We take it a day at a time. She knits and I do woodwork from time to time.

Norm Stephens: “Played with Merle Haggard at the Cascade Theater on August 15. Got airtime for my CD Instrumentals on XM Radio Channel 10.”

Cam Garbutt: “In July, we drove to my nephew **Rico’s** wedding at Cabrillo National Monument. The weather was beautiful. My wife, **Ione**, and I appreciated our splendid California Highway System.”

Those attending our recent meeting were **Russ Azevedo, Jack Ennis, Cam, Ralph Harkness, Gene Knaebel, Norm Stephens, John Strode, Gene Wahl, and Bob Wenham.**

— *Cam Garbutt:*

The Haps in District 3

A big “Happy Birthday” to **Leo Trombatore** from his friends in District 3. A surprise happy birthday wish to Dad and Grandpa along with a nice

picture of Leo appeared in our local newspaper. Your friends at District 3 wish you a very happy birthday.

Joann and George Ellis report that all is well with their lives. They will leave for Graeagle on September 1 and return home in two months or when the snow flies— whichever comes first. Both George and Joann want to say hello to all of their friends.

Dave and Noreen Bundock celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in May. To celebrate the occasion they renewed vows and took a European vacation. Their trip began in London and ended in Paris. Way to celebrate!

Betty and Everett Emmons will head home around the first of April for their new home in Washington. After spending the winter months in southern Arizona and California, Betty sends her new address:

5101 NE 121st Street #117,
Vancouver, WA 98682-6155.

WY and Sternal Carter celebrated 60 years of wedded bliss this summer. Their daughters **Mona** from New Jersey and **Lisa** from Atlanta surprised the Carters with their unexpected arrival home along with a surprise party, all orchestrated without Wy or Sternal knowing anything.

Connie Pappas Kerites recently spent time in Greece with her son and his family. She was able to tour parts of the country and had a lovely time.

Jerry and Lois Harkenrider are now making their home in Knoxville. This summer the Harkenriders returned to Yuba City, spending time with **Ron and Heidi Sykes** and having lunch with **Lita Wells.**

We were sorry to hear about the death of **Nancy Sultuska.** What a loss at such a young age. **Libby Haraughty** was with Nancy for the last few weeks.

Linda Sarmona, with her daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter were seen at Green Acres RV Resort in Fort Bragg over the July 4th weekend. I also visited with **Bob and Marilyn Mulcahy** and **Jim and Pat Howard** at the

RV Park and was treated to homemade clam chowder and abalone for dinner with berry cobbler for dessert. Great food.

Short talk with **Roland D'Arcy** who is now playing golf and occasionally gets together with work mates from Sacramento.

Hugh and Penny Thomas are traveling the world this year. In June they traveled to Europe. Penny had lots of fun with her granddaughter on a Mexican cruise this summer. Hugh and Penny are off to China in October for a three-week trip. Both say they enjoy the retired life.

Bill and Lita Wells stay busy with volunteer work, and playing with Bill's trains. This summer their son and his family, who live in Helsinki, Finland, spent three weeks with the Wellses. From Lita, being grandparents is fun and can also be a little tiring.

John and Wanda Rocha are making plans for their getaway in January. One stop will be at Quartzsite in Arizona. Wanda reports that **Jessie May Armstrong** is doing well.

Joe and Carroll Ferro appear to travel more than they stay home. Their 20-day trip to Europe included five days in Rome where they heard the Pope speak and were later blessed by the Pope as he was driven past them. Both climbed the Tower of Pisa, and visited Spain, France, Sicily and many other exciting places. With all of the walking the two did in Europe, Joe lost weight. Joe and Carroll will soon leave for Mexico on their next trip. On top of all of this, the Ferros will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in December.

As for me, much of the summer has been spent in Fort Bragg with an occasional trip north. In July I drove up the coast of Oregon and Washington and spent a week in the San Juan Islands. The first two weeks in August, taking our granddaughter with us, we flew to Washington, rented a car and had a wonderful time on Vancouver Island. Later we took the ferry to the mainland, visited with friends, and explored the countryside. In October I leave for an 18-day cruise through the Panama Cannel. I

try to make every day a positive one and to keep my brain stimulated.

Please continue to forward news that you would like to share.

—Susanna Ford

News from Placerville

Our weather has been anything but normal this year. First we had an unusually wet winter and a fairly normal spring, followed by an extremely hot summer with 17 days of temperatures over 100 degrees. August has mellowed out and is again near normal.

A couple of our locals have had surgery in the past months. **Grace Becker** underwent a knee replacement. **Gerry Hamm** had back surgery and a bout with heart problems. Both are back to normal and feeling fine again.

Doug and Grace Becker have spent time fishing for salmon and abalone at Ft. Bragg where the weather was a little cooler. Later, they had a visit from one of Doug's grandsons from Texas. Many days were spent in the upper American River fishing and relaxing. Doug reported that the fishing wasn't the greatest, but everyone had a good time.

The weekly Tuesday Coffee/Breakfast is still ongoing at 8:30 am at the "Green House" in the Raley's Shopping Center. **Laroy Carroll** has joined the group during the past month. All Caltrans retirees are welcome with no notification necessary. If you are interested, just come on out and join us.

Barbara and Keith Maggini spent a day visiting with **Nancy and Stan Freeman** at their lovely home in Mt. Aukum. The afternoon was spent playing pinocle with the ladies prevailing over the men, as usual. An enjoyable evening meal in Fairplay completed the day. Stan reports he just had a water well dug and struck a good amount and quality of water. The cost of water service in the development kept rising, which prompted him to go to "Plan B".

Highway 50 construction in the western end of Placerville is under way. The Placerville Drive ramp to Eastbound Route 50 has been closed for realignment to Main Street and elimination

of the ramp entering the freeway. Lots of detours and confusion, but we all hope for better traffic flows when the improvements are completed and improve the daily back-up most afternoons during commute time.

— 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

Ed Coble has been playing golf with **Bob Jacobs**. He says old age has affected his golf game. It isn't getting the ball from the starting tee to the hole that's the problem. It's bending down to get the ball out of the hole!

Ed also reports that he met **Art Haylor's** son and had a good time reminiscing about Art. In a previous QCCer I gave a brief overview of Art's career with the Division of Highways.

Ed and **Karen Coble** are beaming about their daughter, **Alette**, who has been invited to speak before the United Nations. Of course another benefit is that they'll probably get to care for their granddaughter while Alette is back east.

Several QCC members have made recent trips to Italy. **Bob Guinn** went with his son to northern Italy. Bob enjoyed the roads, especially the tunnels and sweeping switchbacks.

Bev Ryman took a walking tour of Italy and enjoyed the small, quaint hotels the group she was with stayed in between the tours.

Bob and **Camille Graham** had to go to Phoenix for their son, who needed to undergo a serious heart operation. Bob reports that everything went fine and his son is looking forward to putting in long shifts back at work.

Speaking of **Bob Graham**, he and **George Samoulides** discussed life in the Marines at a recent meeting of Ed Coble's lunch crowd. George had been in the Marines in the last days of World War II; he was stationed in China before the Communists took over. Bob had spent his Korean War time assigned to an amphibious boat company.

Bob Tucker spoke to me at the luncheon about his recent trip to China and his visit to the Great Wall. The tour guides took very good care of him, even bargaining with local vendors over souvenir items. Bob also talked about his time as a docent at the historic Half Moon Bay jail. I've been to Half Moon Bay several times, but I've never seen the jail. I'll have to ask Bob next time for directions and information about it.

Vern Waight talked about problems with computer viruses and a recent school reunion. He also attended a recent railroad convention at the Oakland Hilton. The only problem with the convention, he said, was that it was too close to home for him to travel to it by rail, except for BART.

Bud Bowers and I talked about daughters and his collection of vintage slide rules. I'll have to talk to him about them again, since I've been cleaning out the garage in anticipation of sending items we have been storing for my

daughters back to them. During the garage archaeological investigation, I uncovered my old college slide rules. I've still got the manuals on how to use them. I hope it's like riding a bicycle—that is, once you learn to ride one you never forget how to do it.

Rich Monroe has been having a wonderful retirement, drying vegetables. He says you're really missing something if you haven't tasted a properly dried tomato. He says their sweetness is unbelievable.

Harry Yahata contacted me to set aside Tuesday, October 3 for District 4's annual get-together for retired district directors and deputies. I'll report on it in the next QCCer.

On a sad note, **Hal Cole** called from Headquarters to inform me that **Elmer "Ace" Forsen** had passed away after a bout with cancer. I knew Ace for almost my entire 40 years with Caltrans. I first met him when he was a squad leader under Bill Russell. He was a fine engineer and an even finer gentleman. He'll be missed. Our condolences go to his wife.

Hal had just retired and I think he said this was his first or second day in retirement. He has been asked back as a retired annuitant and probably will do it.

My wife and I have had a busy summer. As I mentioned previously, my youngest daughter has taken a job in Texas as a teacher and has purchased a home in Garland, Texas, where she'll be teaching first grade. So my wife went down to Huntington Beach in Southern California to help her pack. They followed the moving van to Garland, which is just northeast of Dallas, making the 1300-mile trip in two days with my daughter's two dogs and a cat for company. Surprisingly, the animals loved the trip and survived better than my wife and daughter! When

they got to Garland, they found they now had a large yard to play in with squirrels and birds (that is, the dogs, not my wife and daughter!) More on this in the next QCCer.

— Paul Hensley

The Haps in District 5

It's almost fall....sunny days, cool nights, and pumpkin pie. Congratulations to our new District 5 Director **Rich Krumholz**. Rich has 27 years service with Caltrans, starting as a Junior Engineering Tech and working his way through the ranks to DDD-Planning. He succeeds **Gregg Albright** who is now the Deputy Director of Planning and Modal Programs for the department. The August issue of the Caltrans News contains information on both Rich and Gregg, and the new District 6 Director **Malcolm Dougherty**. The web site address is <http://dot.ca.gov/ctnews/aug06>

The state budget was signed on time this year—a pleasant surprise. State employees will receive a one-time bonus and will also receive a pay increase, depending on the MOU for their bargaining unit. As of August 25, the bills dealing with employee compensation were sitting on the governor's desk awaiting signature. Also on its way to the governor was AB2242, which will provide state retirees with a vision care plan similar to that offered to active employees. This is good news for all of us who wear glasses.

District 5 enjoyed a visit in July from Director **Will Kempton**. He was here to celebrate our success in achieving our project delivery goals for the previous year. All employees were invited to a free BBQ at Sinsheimer Park, where Will congratulated the district on its outstanding performance.

The district also enjoyed a visit in August by **Heinz Heckeroth**, who spoke about the Transportation Foundation at the managers meeting. Heinz reviewed the many activities that

CTF supports, and he recognized District 5 for the scholarships we provide to high school students and our contributions to the emergency fund for employees.

We were saddened to learn of the passing in July of **Jim Roberts**, who served as an engineer at Caltrans for more than half a century. He spearheaded the \$4.5 billion seismic retrofit program and oversaw nearly \$50 million in seismic research projects. He had retired in 2001 as the department's Chief Deputy Director.

We also received a note from **JB Popnoe** about the passing of **Wilbur "Bill" Altus** on July 19. Bill had many friends from his 19 years in District 5 and his 16 years in Sacramento. Bill is survived by his wife **Lola** and children **Cindy**, **Scott**, and **Dean**, and four grandchildren.

Roy Alderman, another long-time District 5 member, passed away August 14. Roy was born in Colorado and moved to San Luis Obispo at age 10. He served in the Army Air Corps as a pilot in WWII. Roy worked as an engineer in several areas of the district and retired as a senior engineer. He was preceded in death by his wife **Helen** and son **Doug**. Roy is survived by his children **Jane** and **Michael** and three grandchildren.

Thanks to everyone who took advantage of the bargain rate for QCC renewal. You still have until October 1 to renew at \$10 per year. After that, the dues increase to \$15 per year. Congratulations to our newest member, **Ann Danko** from maintenance. She looks too young to have 25 years service, but we're pleased to have her join the group.

We seem to have golfing news to report in every issue; this time we're congratulating **Gary Schultz** for shooting a 33 at the Laguna Lake course in July. This amazing score earned Gary his third Caltrans Legions of Golf title and a mention in *The Tribune*. In the article, fellow golfer **Dick Foge** said, "When you get to be our age, it makes us happy just to be there."

Mark your calendar for the annual Caltrans Holiday BBQ to be held December 6 at the Elks

Lodge in San Luis Obispo. Hope you will be able to join us and enjoy a delicious meal while visiting with old friends.

Be sure to drop me a note or postcard and let me know what's happening in your part of the world.

— Kathy Copeland

Deadlines

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

The Haps in District 6

My district must be awfully busy lately because I'm not getting much news from anyone.

Since January 2005, we have had eleven retirements from District 6. If any of you have the addresses or e-mail for the following people, please let me know.

Shirley Hanrion	Jan, 29,2005
Larry Kerber	Feb 28, 2005
Gary Lyman	June 1, 2005
Mike Donahue	July 5, 2005
Nora Luttrell	Nov 30, 2005
Mike Suydam	Dec 30, 2005
Lynn (Riley) Faraone	Dec 31, 2005
Jules Gottschalk	Jan 1, 2006
Robert Jamison	Mar 3, 2006
Lonnie Myers	May 2, 2006
Diane Nunes	May 12, 2006

On a sad note, **Jim McDowell** passed away on August 30, due to diabetes related causes. Services are set for 10:30 am,

September 30 at College Community Congregational Church, 5550 N Fresno Street, Fresno.

I have been taking care of a sick sister in Texas for the last few weeks and just arrived home recently.

— Terry Littleton

The Haps in District 7

New Otani Holiday Celebration

The time of year is nearly upon us once again to celebrate the winter holidays, such as Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, winter solstice, ski season, and other winter celebrations.

District 7's holiday celebration will be on Saturday December 9th, the second Saturday, at the New Otani Hotel, 120 South Los Angeles Street between 1st and 2nd in downtown L.A. For more information about the hotel, please view their web site at <http://www.newotani.com/facts.htm>

The meal price is \$25, the same as last year, and as is customary, please bring a wrapped gift for the "prize event". Of course the real prize is in reacquainting with longtime friends and co-workers.

Our President, **Tom Almany III**, promises a guest speaker, great food, and a good time for all.

Best in the West

Tom Fera writes, "Just in case you guys missed it, **Doug Failing** made the list of top movers and shakers in L.A. County" in the LA Times' West magazine. The short dip provided a picture of Doug in hard hat and the following information: 'Douglas R. Failing, Director, Caltrans District 7 oversees a stretch of 1,188 miles of freeway in L.A. and Ventura counties on which drivers log the daily equivalent of 4,000 trips around the globe. Of course, sometimes it

feels like 8,000. But Failing is trying hard to move in the right direction. Under his leadership, Caltrans is set to build the first high-occupancy vehicle lane on I-5 in L.A. County, has



added 21 miles of carpool lanes on the 405, has installed electronic signs with estimated travel times, has launched the 101-405 interchange improvement

project and has taken numerous other steps to try to ease gridlock."

Great Windows

Intrepid adventurer **Marie Martin**, who just got back from a helicopter trip to Mt. St. Helen's sent the following item: "Last year I replaced all the windows in my house with those expensive double pane energy efficient kind. But this week I got a call from the contractor who installed them. He was complaining that the work on the windows had been completed a whole year ago, and I hadn't paid for them.

"Hellloooo? Now just because I'm blonde doesn't mean that I'm automatically stupid. So, I told him just what his fast talking sales guy had told ME last year... namely, that in just ONE YEAR these windows would pay for themselves!



"Helllooooo? It's been a year! (I told him). There was only silence at the other end of the line, so I finally just hung up. He didn't call back.

Guess I won that argument!"

Way to go Marie! Don't we wish all deals were that sweet?

Marie's on the right, with friend Gloria

Mail from Santa Rosa

I was excited to get an actual response in the mail from **Vincent Paul** to last quarter's QCC'er! Vince writes, "What a wonderful story in the June QCCer about the recognition given to the four Caltrans women engineers in the ASCE publication. I've had experience on a personal basis with each of them during my Caltrans career.

"As a new design project engineer in the early 50's, **Lois Cooper** was assigned to my group. She'd had no engineering experience but had a wonderful mathematical gift. As we worked together over the next few years, she learned on the job, took night courses, and eventually passed the State license exam.

"Later in the 1950's, **Carol Schumaker**, a newly graduated civil engineer, was assigned to my freeway design group. Over the next two or so years, she was a fast learner, passed the State license exam and when I moved on to other assignments, she was promoted as my replacement.

"My experiences with **Marilyn Reece** and **Ann Hanson** were professional on a one-on-one basis. Marilyn had gained warranted recognition as the project design engineer for the Route 10/405 interchange. Following this, she became the resident engineer for construction of a section of the Route 210 Freeway involving massive earthwork through a semi-urban area. I had done the route adoption studies for this section of freeway and she kept in touch about particular issues.

"I had less involvement with Ann, but we certainly got to know each other. She was Deputy District 4 Director for Design when I was in Headquarters Design. Our discussions were generally about major project issues.

"I have been privileged to know each of these women professionally. Each was a pioneer in her involvement as a women engineer.

Sincerely,
Vincent Paul"

Thanks, Vince, for reminiscing with us, and making my day, the day your envelope arrived in my office mail box.

Be like Vincent!

Keep those cards and letters coming! Have you taken a trip? Send me a post card! Celebrated an anniversary, planted a garden, found a new career path, adopted a pet, graduated from Santa Claus School? 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.

Speaking of Anniversaries...

No matter what you have heard, they are not two to brag, but... **Stewart Stahl** and wife, **Kirsten** celebrated their 25th this March, by returning to Hawaii, that honeymoon venue, Snorkeling in Hanauma Bay One was of the highlights. "The water was very dear, but the surf was very strong," Kirsten recalls. "We were both wearing flotation devices, but left the fins at home—a big mistake! When we saw the buoys marking the entrance to the outer reef, we both panicked and began to flounder! Fortunately we were able to swim back to shore to tell the tale..."

Twenty-five years has a nice ring to it — Here's to the next twenty-five!

The Road Last Traveled

Lest we need to be reminded how important it is to share the memories, sniff the roses, savor the friendships, etc. someone comes along and gives us a wake up call.

Bob Jordan sent a message regarding **Johnny Ough**, who passed on since the last QCCer: Funeral services were held June 24 at the Thousand Oaks United Methodist Church.

Tom Tayrien reported on the passing of **Bob Rockwood**. Bob had been on oxygen in a care unit, and was suffering from an upper respiratory problem and an infection. Tom remembers that Bob had been a member of his lunch group at one time. Bob and his wife, Jane, had been living in Bakersfield for some time. In case you would like to send condolences or other recognition, her address is:

Jane Rockwood,
5501 Glacier Court
Bakersfield CA 93313-4305

Paul Perez received word from **Ed Stone IV**, that his father, **Edwin "Pohaku" Stone III**, who recently retired from Traffic Operations in District 07, passed away on August 16. Services were held on Friday August 25 at Forest Lawn in Burbank.

Many thanks to others who forwarded this information who were not otherwise mentioned above: **Chuck O'Connell, Tom Albany III, Tom Gildersleeve, and Milly Yamada.**

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*

The Haps in District 8

Our annual summer luncheon was held in June and things went very well. We had a total of 61. Everyone met at the Gourmet in San Bernardino to visit and enjoy lunch. Director **Taylor Smith** welcomed our state director, **Butch Biendara**. Many familiar faces were missing... among them were **Marsha Lotze**, our secretary, **Doris Peddy** (on the trail), **Bob** and **Libby**

Redden, Bill and **Shirley Feenstra, Ed Gritters, Roy Smoot** (moving back to California from Utah) **Dick** and **Louise Haight Loren Barnett**, and **Tom** and **Barbara Dwiggin**s, our most senior members.

Those visiting before lunch were **Donna Rodriguez** (foot in a cast), **Les Franz, Jim Balcom, Morgan Choate, Les Nolte, Stan Martin** (recovering from knee surgery), **Mary Bermudez, Kay** and **Ernie Parke** with **Evie Anderson, Pat Leatherberry** and many more.

Taylor interspersed business with witticisms... a great time was had by all.

District 8 QCC President **Taylor Smith** and **Katie** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a great luncheon at The Gourmet Restaurant in San Bernardino on August 5. More than 55 family and friends from as far away as Washington DC attended to help celebrate the momentous occasion.

Your Secretary/Treasurer, **Marsha Lotze**, and her husband **Craig, Jim Miller, Wes** and **Linda Grimes**, and **Terry** and **Betty Hobson** from District 5 are celebrating the summer with their annual trek to Oceanside. Loafing and just relaxing have been the order of the day. Terry and Betty are enjoying the shopping in the area—plus the casinos at Pala and Harrah's. Linda has also enjoyed them with Betty. Linda and Marsha have been busy designing cards for the coming holidays and also catching up on their crocheting; Jim and Wes played a great round of golf at a local course and were pleasantly surprised with the fun they had. Several other Caltrans retirees have stopped by to visit—among them **Sam Taylor** and **Dick** and **Hazel Longstreet**. They have summer homes in the Oceanside and Carlsbad area.

One of our favorite building custodians, **Leroy Bailey**, recently retired; the Caltrans Office in San Bernardino held a great reception for him. Leroy's last day of work was August 25, after more than 30 years service. We may have more on the festivities in our next report.

We were saddened to hear about the loss of several retired Caltrans employees. **Elta Walter** passed away in Oregon on July 26. She and her husband **Ben** worked for Caltrans for many years.

Charles "Chuck" Benefiel, District Right of Way Agent, passed away on May 27. We don't have any details.

The annual Christmas Party is set for the first Saturday in December—December 2.

—Marsha Lotze

The Haps in District 9

My part of this report is low-keyed. I saw **John** and **Shirley Nakken** at the winter bowling organization meeting. They are doing OK. **Bob Marsh** called earlier this month to see about going to lunch, but I had to decline. I have a date certain to finish the house or pay a penalty fee. The pressure is on.

Jim and **Kathy Passie** were in town in July visiting their son Chris in Mammoth Lakes. They are doing well and look good. **John** and **Mary Ritter** were in Bishop in August and they were also doing OK.

From **Harold Jones**: "Nothing much going on up here (except for watching the baby quail in our back yard grow up). We're going to try to get in one more short camping trip before the weather gets too cold. We've only been out three times this season, so would like to do one more trip yet. Where has 2006 gone? Soon it will be Labor Day, and then fall."

Jim and **Ruby Strait** visited us in June—we took them to the "C Hill" flag dedication on Flag Day in Carson City (the big U.S. flag on the hillside in southwest Carson, that and can be seen all over Eagle Valley). Quite an impressive sight, it is dedicated as a tribute to all the fire fighters, paramedics, law enforcement and military personnel, etc who respond in times of emergencies. The idea was inspired by 9/11 and

promoted by the locals, so progressed from there. Take a look at the flag when you're out that way—it's big and easy to see.

We also saw **Joe** and **Maxine Sam** at the dedication, so we all had a nice visit. Needless to say, the subject of our old days with the Division of Highways came up!!!

From **Jim Bowles**: "Just a few things to say this year; it's been a little slow. I'm recouping from a gall bladder and a ventral hernia operation right now and haven't been doing to much for a couple of months. The OI MH is in storage just waiting to gooooo. As soon as the operator is able and the price of fuel is not too high, off we go! Other than that just a few trips with the senior center to theaters and sight seeing etc., we haven't done too much, but it's kind of fun and I don't have to drive!

We will go on a seven-day Alaskan cruise out of Seattle the first week of September, and will travel by train from LA to Seattle going and coming to see the beautiful California coast. It's a 23-hour trip by train so will have to see half going and the other half on the way back in the daylight. We also spend time at the condo in Palm Springs when it's not too hot! Right now it's about 110, so don't stay too long 10-4? Then down to Yuma for the winter in January and February with the rest of the snowbirds and do a little golfing or goofing as the girls call it! Anyway that's about it. If anyone would like to chat and get caught up my E-mail address is jbbowles@hotmail.com. I do E-mail a few old Caltrans friends like JK, BM, LH, DK & J&JL but haven't heard from many others lately so if you want to chat drop me a note, OK? JB

— Lance Hinek

The Haps in District 10

Dick Mesa reports the annual "Ghosts from Christmas Past" luncheon this year will be

held at the Buggy Whip Restaurant at 2737 Fulton Avenue in Sacramento on Friday, December 1. District 10 employees, former District 10 employees, those who have transferred to Headquarters, those who wish they had worked in District 10 and all others are welcome. Everyone gets an opportunity to stand and trade tales from the past. Another District 10 event is the bi-annual luncheon in October at the Elks Lodge in Stockton. Dick says the date hasn't been set, but possibly the second Tuesday in October and another one in April 2007. For final details, contact Dick Mesa at dickmesa@aol.com.

6-25-06 22 present

Bill Seiji warns to be careful about Comcast high speed Internet. He changed to Comcast for three months and was unable to get online. He even had Comcast geek squad come out at a cost of \$179.

Dennis Smith is recovering well from hip replacement surgery on May 12th.

Don Burns says he ran into **Paul Plinski** while southbound in the tunnel between Harvey's and Harrah's and spent 15 minutes "shootin' the breeze."

Sharon and **Claude Stewart** towed their travel trailer in June/July to Mount Rushmore, then to Nebraska to visit Sharon's cousin's wife, then to Kansas to Claude's Aunt 100th birthday party. Claude got to meet a lot of cousins he didn't know. "Great time—and the weather wasn't bad either."

7-25-06

Ken Steele called Dick Mesa to report that his stepfather, **Wayne "Whip" Wilson** passed away on June 6 at the age of 80. Whip worked for construction in District 10 for 24 years. Ken talked to the group about Whip. Following the breakfast **Elton Fletcher** and Dick Mesa accompanied Ken as he spread Whip's ashes on Red Lake Grade on Highway 88 in the Sierra overlooking Red Lake per Whip's wishes.

Ken Steele was in town taking care of family business after his mother passed away on January 30. Ken worked in the district from 1961 to 1973, then moved to Phoenix. Ken is now retired and living in Arizona.

Stan Randolph is one of six graduates from Lodi Union High School's class of 1947 who eventually found their way to the Division of Highways District office in Stockton. The six were **Ray Muster** and **Jun Kawamura** (both now deceased), **Don Pontius**, **Walt Curtis**, **Jim Schultz** and **Stan Randolph**. Don and Jim still live in Lodi; Walt recently moved from Lodi to Clear Lake.

Stan lives in Stockton. Since 1947 was 59 years ago the class will hold its 60th reunion next July. Incidentally, Walt, Jim and Stan are QCCers and have also been regulars at our District 10 Lenny's Huddle breakfast every last Tuesday of the month. Jim and Stan and Walt also attended class mini reunion in Lodi recently

Musings by Bob Biffel

"This might be an interesting addition to the QCCer. I find bodily activity lessens when it is so hot, but the mind just keeps perking along in its own fashion. Here is what it has kicked out.

"WOW -- IS IT HOT! Too hot to venture out to work, play, golf, or even fish. Time to sit in the cool and with literally nothing interesting on TV, there is time to read and to think.

"Time to think or to muse about our cycling heroes, Lance Armstrong and Floyd Landis.

"Heroes, yes, and more. They both have overcome serious medical adversities. And when winning was in doubt, they reached down deep and gutted it out -- to WIN.

"They provide an inspiration to us all. And yet, considering myself in their stead, could I have found the strength to gut it through, as they did? Could you?

"Such are the musings of an old man with time on his hands whose thinking the heat has affected."

Mike Ciccone, wife, and daughter left for Italy on June 19th to see the sites and visit relatives. "The first two weeks were spent with students of Central California School of Italian Language and Culture (evening classes). We stayed in Rome for four days, four in Florence, two in Cinque Terre and three in Venice Lido. First four days in Rome and Tivoli we visited the Coliseum, Arch of Constantine, Roman Forum, San Pietro in Vincoli to view Michelangelo's Moses and St. Peter's chains, Pantheon (the temple to all the Gods) visited the Piazza Navona, built on the site of Domitian's stadium, notably Bernaini's Fountain of Four Rivers, St. Peter's Basilica (it was something to see), visited the Vatican Grottos, a series of crypts built under the basilica, where 147 Catholic Church's popes are buried including Pope John Paul II.

"Also, visited Via Appia where we viewed the catacombs of San Sebastiano. The next day we went to the Vatican about 10 am; by 1 pm there must have been a million people filling in the square. We didn't know for sure if the Pope would speak—but he did speak and we were about 100 feet away. He delivered his speech in four different languages. It was interesting to see 40 miles of 50-foot tallstone walls surrounding Rome. In the late afternoons we did some shopping in Piazza di Spangna, Via Condotti, Via del Corso and Via Frattina.

"One evening we enjoyed dinner in Tivoli Hills Ristoranta La Sibilla. This was a 200-plus year old stone building overlooking a canyon and plush hillside homes. The pasta, veal, wine etc. were excellent.

"People in Rome and other major cities drive like you've heard—FAST, and courtesy is the last word. Cars and motor scooters come first. I saw business people dressed in suits, women in dresses driving two on a scooter, probably at full throttle. They park on

sidewalks, in no parking zones, and anywhere there is an opening. They really use their transportation system, every bus and train is packed at all times.

"The following day we visited the Duomo, Giotto's Bell Tower and Piazza Signoria in Florence. In the church of Santa Croce we saw the final resting places of Michelangelo, Machiavelli and Galileo. We also visited the Academia and saw Michelangelo's *David*, the best-known of all Florentine treasures, and Leonardo's leather workshop. Of course, in the evening we had to visit Vivoli, the best place to purchase genuine gelato (ice cream). Next day we visited Siena and San Gimignano. We toured through the Chianti country, visited the Piazza del Campo, where colorful horse races are held twice a year. Did a walking tour through the town of Assisi—a beautiful, quaint town with its pink stone buildings with flower boxes in all windows.

"Next day we toured Montecatini, Lucca and Pisa. The area of Tuscany to Montecatini is termed—one of Europe's most famous health spas. Prince Rainier of Monaco and his bride Grace Kelly spent their honeymoon there in the 1950s. Then on to Lucca, the Citta Vecchia (old city). This old city is brimming with ancient merchant palaces, towers and old shops. Then we continued on to Pisa, and of course the Leaning Tower (now 17 1/2 feet from its vertical axis) Then on to Cinque Terre (five lands)—these little villages line the Liguatian Coast, clinging to the very edges of the cliffs since the Middle Ages. There are no roads—only boats or trains link the villages. A path takes you from one village to another. While visiting Genoa, we took the tram to the mountaintop above Genoa for lunch. In Venice, we had a professionally guided walking tour, including the Doge's Palace, St. Marks Basilica and a glass blowing demonstration and then a water bus (*vaperatto*) to St. Mark's Square.

"Needless to say we ate pastas and pizzas most of the time. We spent part of the next

week with relatives and then we went back to Venice to see some more and so my wife could buy some jewelry (18 k. gold). Our money in Italy did not go to far as the dollar is worth only about 78 cents to the Euro."

Bill and Darlene Sellings:

"**Darlene and Pumpkin** and I will fly east on June 21st to see our daughter in Fredericksburg VA. We will attend Stuart's promotion ceremony to Commander at the Pentagon on July 3rd. On the 4th of July, there will be a promotion and going away party for him as he departs for a year in Iraq on July 12th. They do have a few projects for me and we'll also try and see some of the sights back in VA and DC. We will fly home on July 20th.

"Then on August 23 with the 5th Wheel Trailer North to Oregon, we will spend time with friends and do some camping along the coast and near Crater Lake. We'll return on September 11 for one day and then off to Yosemite NP for a few days. We should be home for the winter by September 15th?"

August 29

Larry Bjornstad: "Sorry I haven't been to the Huddle for a while. Marian had a knee replacement in May and has been in rehab ever since but is doing well and has returned to her normal duties and activities pretty much. In other news, my daughter **Jane** and family have moved to Batheson, Maryland. Her husband recently became Senior VP for business administration for the Washington Nationals baseball club. It was a dream come true after many years of working and consulting for baseball teams."

Bill and Millie LaMascus enjoyed a 10 day Alaskan Cruise July 15-25 on Princess Regal, with stops at Victoria, Ketchikan, Juneau and Skagway. Sorry to say, due to heavy fog, the Captain opted to bypass Tracy Arm (a trip highlight). The trip was fine, the food great.

Donald C. DeAtley of Lodi passed away July 30 at the age of 73. He was born on July 10, 1933, in Pineville, Missouri. He

graduated from Delta College with an AA degree; was a Caltrans engineer with for 17 years and a rancher for 25 years. Don was a member of the Faith Baptist Church of Stockton, a life member of the Modesto Rifle Club and the NRA and a 50-year member of the Lodi Odd Fellows Lodge. He is survived by his wife **Jackie DeAtley** or Lodi.

Bill Seigi reports that **Bill Gillispie** says he has gotten a new pacemaker because his doctor told him that the old one was nine years old and they're supposed to be replaced every seven years. He said he wouldn't be able to get to breakfast since he has to have the doctors review how the pacemaker is making out. He will let me know but he also says there shouldn't be any problems. His voice sounded very strong when I was on the phone with him. It sounded like he might be able to make next month's Huddle in September.

— Brian Young

The Haps in District 11

There are a couple of upcoming dates you will want to block out on your calendars. On Saturday, October 21, Caltrans District 11 will have an event for includes all retired employees and their families. They are working out the details but the program is to include food and fun for a large part of the day. Keep the date open and watch for their invitation.

Also, this is an early heads-up to reserve Thursday, January 18 for the QCC mid winter banquet.

In Memoriam, Hank Chislom passed away in August '06.

— Butch Biendara

The Haps in Central

Director **Gary Bush** says: "Here we are again, another summer almost gone and Labor Day fast approaching. Other than the record breaking 100+ degree weather, it was a pretty good summer. We spent a week at Tahoe in a cabin that was built in 1935. The amenities are minimal, but the cabin is located on the lake with an awesome view. Weather all that week was terrific, so we decided to take a sunset cruise on a 50-foot sailboat out of Tahoe City. Would you believe we motored around for two hours without any wind to fill the sails!!

"We will leave on September 9 for Xtapa, Mexico for a week at an all-inclusive resort, something we haven't experienced. **Julie** and I will celebrate our 43rd wedding anniversary while sipping margaritas!!! (Yes, she was a child bride.)

"Also in August we toured the new Mormon Temple in Folsom and visited San Francisco to view the Titanic exposition. Wow, very impressive. They actually have on view a portion of the Titanic's hull and a reconstructed Grand Staircase. We were also able to view replicas of the first, second and third class cabins and listen to stories of the passengers. It was interesting to note that many of the passengers bound for the United States had booked on other ships, but a coal strike in England forced them to switch to the Titanic.

"Our annual Central District BBQ will be held on Wednesday, September 27, at the College Greens Swim and Tennis Club at 4 pm. JR's BBQ will provide his wonderfully prepared food. Wine, beer and other beverages will be provided.

"On another matter, my term as director will be up in December. **Nancy** and **John's** terms will be up also. They have served admirably for four years and have made my two-year term in office duck soup. *Be thinking of new*

leaders for 2007. Nominations and elections will be held at our holiday get together in December."

As Gary says, when you read this, summer will be gone and fall will be here. We're looking forward to finding out at the BBQ what others did over the summer. And I have a confession to make. Gary planned to have a Hawaiian theme for the BBQ and asked me to include a request in the BBQ announcement for everyone to come in Hawaiian dress. Well – I put announcements in the mail today and just realized I forgot about the Hawaiian theme. ***If you read this before September 27 and come to the BBQ, I would sure appreciate your wearing something Hawaiian. SO SORRY GARY!!***

I have some sadder news to report. In July I received a note from **Betty Goetz** advising that her dear friend, **Lillian Skimin**, passed away on February 9. Lillian was an Associate Central District member who worked for the Bridge Department for more than 40 years.

On July 6, **James E Roberts** passed away at age 75. **Jim** joined Caltrans as a junior civil engineer in 1951 before earning a bachelor's degree in engineering in 1953 from the University of California, Berkeley. He joined the army for two years, working with the Corps of Engineers in Korea during wartime. He also served 33 years in the Army Reserves, retiring as a colonel. In 1966 he earned a master's degree in structural engineering from the University of Southern California.

Jim began work with Caltrans on the eve of a historic highway and bridge construction boom. He served as director of the Caltrans Engineering Service Center, overseeing 2,300 engineers, architects, support staff and consultants responsible for designing, building and maintaining the state's 12,000 highway bridges.

For about 15 years as state bridge engineer, he led efforts to retrofit bridges to withstand seismic shakes and spearheaded rebuilding of

structures damaged in major earthquakes in Whittier in 1987, Loma Prieta in 1989 and Northridge in 1994. He also served as chief engineer for Sacramento Regional Transit's light rail system and belonged to numerous professional groups. Jim was a leading international authority on highway bridges and published dozens of technical papers, spoke at engineering conventions and won many awards. In 1996, he became the only Caltrans employee to be inducted into the National Academy of Engineering. Jim retired from Caltrans in 2001.

Jim is survived by his wife, **Patricia Lee Brighton Roberts**, two children and two grandchildren.

On July 7, **Max Rothe** passed away at age 80. **Don** and I picked up our local *Auburn Journal* on July 12 to find an article written by the *Journal's* editor **Deric Rothe**. The article's caption is: "Editor's father, **Max Rothe**, fueled by passion for learning." Following are excerpts from **Deric's** article about his dad:

"For more than 15 years I have been cutting used postage stamps off envelopes and saving them for my dad. As editor of a daily newspaper, I get a lot of mail and my dad enjoys collecting the stamps. I cut the entire corners off the envelopes to include the postmarks and cancellations. He says this way the stamps do not get damaged.

"My dad asks me where his stamps are as soon as we meet. And I give him my latest collection. Over the past years we have marveled at stamps featuring the space shuttle, dinosaurs, presidents, flags, insects, national parks, Marilyn Monroe and Elvis Presley... The list is endless. I shudder to think at the number I have given him over the years, but it's in the thousands.

"Regarding the newer U.S. flag stamps, I told him I didn't want to give him every one I received; there were too many. No, he told me, there are something like nine varieties of U. S. flag stamps that look almost the same, so I should just cut out every one and he would decide which ones he wanted to keep. My mother, **Roberta**, who has been married to

Max Rothe for 57-plus years, asked me privately a couple of times over the years to quit giving him all the stamps because they were taking over their Davis home. But Max was so joyous and enthusiastic in receiving them that I couldn't stop.

"Max constantly studies new subjects. He is the most voracious reader and book collector I have ever seen. Everyone who knew him tells the same story. Max gives people books and other reading material. He finds out what you're interested in and gives you 15 books on the subject. My mother is the only one who knows where he finds all the books, magazines and newspaper articles that he gives away. He reads several newspapers daily and uses the U.S. Postal Service to send out pertinent articles to those he meets across the country. Each piece of mail he sends has a beautiful collector stamp on it. That's his trademark."

Deric's article goes on to say that although his dad was a "little quirky," he was a brilliant man who earned a doctorate in engineering from UC Davis at age 64, a master's degree from UC Berkeley and a bachelor's from Stanford University. Max was valedictorian of his high school class. He enlisted in the U. S. Marines at age 17 and was shot on Iwo Jima in a vicious firefight that left most of his platoon dead. Deric says that, although his dad was a World War II hero, he never talked about it. He did display a huge American flag in front of their home on holidays.

Max worked for Caltrans for 33 years in transportation and safety. He was a member of the Davis United Methodist Church, the Davis Democratic Club, Friends of the Library and Suicide Prevention of Davis, which he founded.

Long time Auburn resident, **Wilbur Dean "Bill" Altus**, passed away on July 19. **Bill** was born in Harlingen, Texas in 1924. After serving his country in the Navy in World War II, he attended Stanford University where he was a fullback and place kicker in football and a lightweight class boxer. After getting his engineering degree, Bill went to work for Caltrans. He served 34 years as an engineer

before retiring in 1985. An avid bridge player, skier and golfer, Bill continued to hit the slopes and fairways well into his seventies.

Bill is survived by his wife of 53 years, **Lola Altus**, three children and four grandchildren.

— Nancy Benjamin

Foundation Matters

IN MEMORY OF
JAMES E. ROBERTS
1930-2006

Jim Roberts passed away July 6, 2006. His career as a registered structural engineer spanned over half a century, including 15 years as Caltrans' State Bridge Engineer and retiring in 2001 as its Chief Deputy Director. Jim was well known as a leading authority on highway bridges and was deeply involved in the California Transportation Foundation and its mission to promote and recognize excellence in California's transportation infrastructure.

Although the Foundation has many programs to support its mission, two were specifically named in Jim's honor:

The James E. Roberts Manager Award, which annually recognizes outstanding contributions by Caltrans registered engineers to the field of transportation structures; and,

The James E. Roberts Scholarship Fund that provides support to student intending to pursue a transportation relate career. Over the years, this scholarship fun has enabled many students to follow their dreams.

Jim's family has agreed that donations in lieu of flowers or in Jim's memory could be used to

support the scholarship fund. If you wish to take the opportunity to remember Jim, your contribution may be addressed to "**CTF Memorial Fund**", designated "**In Memory of Jim Roberts**", and forwarded to:

California Transportation Foundation
581 La Sierra Drive
Sacramento CA 95864

Contribute to The California Transportation Foundation

Each year, QCC members are asked to donate to the annual fall California State Employees Charitable Campaign, as the California Transportation Foundation helps Caltrans to promote the drive. You may designate the foundation; an IRS approved 501(c)(3) organization eligible to receive tax-deductible donations, as a recipient of your donation. Those who are retired or no longer working for Caltrans may still donate directly to the foundation to provide assistance and support to Caltrans activities and employees

And what does the foundation do with these and other contributions?

CTF sponsors four major annual events:

- The Transportation Forum in March, which brings together elected officials and chief executives to discuss current transportation policy, funding and program issues.
- The TRANNY Awards and Luncheon in June, which recognizes outstanding transportation persons, projects and programs of the prior year.
- The Charity Golf Tournament, in August, helps fund the Employee Assistance and Memorial Program. This program helps Caltrans men and women and their families to put their lives back together after a death, incident, or major catastrophe.

- The Education Symposium, in November, brings practicing professionals and outstanding senior transportation college students together for a two-day "real world" mentor experience.

Other programs include:

- Financial support to Caltrans employees and their families after an incident or major catastrophe.
- Funding of memorial plaques in headquarters and district offices to honor those who have given their lives while serving California's transportation system users. This program also funds the annual Caltrans Worker Memorial Ceremony held at the Capitol and individual memorials.
- Scholarships for students who intend to pursue a transportation related career and for sons and daughters of Caltrans employees. Travel support is given persons who participate or give papers at conferences to help further their careers.
- Co-sponsorship of transportation seminars, conferences, research projects and studies.

To learn more or to read the latest copy of the Newsletter, please visit CTF's website at: www.transportationfoundation.org or contact the foundation at: California Transportation Foundation, 581 La Sierra Drive, Sacramento CA 95864, e-mail: ctf@transportationfoundation.org, or (916) 453-1767.

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
Robert Baker	1	August 3, 2006
Edward Downing	1	March 28, 1999
Eal V. Snook	1	June 24, 2002
Jack Smith	1	August 5, 2006
Don Warren	1	July 3, 2006
Thomas Lillie	2	September 29, 1989
Margaret Weaver	2	April 16, 2005
Elmer "Ace" Forsen	4	2006
Henry Cayla	4	June 5, 1992
Michael Hogan	4	February 19, 1999
John Ongaro	4	December, 2005
Manda Tessman	4	January 29, 2003
Otto Vogelsang	4	April 17, 2006
Matthew Wise	4	December 16, 2004
Roy Alderman	5	August 14, 2006
Wilbur "Bill" Altus	5	July 19, 2006
Harry Bryant	6	June 25, 2005
James McDowell	6	August, 30, 2006
Willard Brown	7	December 27, 1999
Henry Compagnon	7	August 24, 2002
Seymour Cowan	7	December 1995
:Laveme Gardier	7	April 10, 2006
Andrew Lynn	7	January 26, 2002
Archer Munger	7	September 4, 2005
John Ough	7	June 5, 2006
Jess Reynolds	7	February 27, 2003
George Rockefeller	7	March 15, 2005
Milford Yokum	7	November 29, 1993
Charles "Chuck" Benefid	8	May 27, 2006
Robert Rockwood	8	2006
Edwin "Pohaku" Stone	8	August 16, 2006
Elta Walter	8	July 26, 2006
Donald DeAtley	10	July 30, 2006
Hank Chislom	11	August, 2006.
Homer Latham	11	May 24, 2006
Robert Pattee	11	June 6, 2006
Jack Eckhardt	C	February 25, 2006
Doris Morrow	C	January 31, 2005
James Roberts	C	July 6, 2005
Max Rothe	C	July 17, 2006
Lillian Skimin	C	February 9, 2006
Travis Smith	C	February 10, 2005
Eleanor Smith	C	April 3, 2001
Edward Tinney	C	February 18, 200

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 month 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 chuckococonnell@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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