



HQ Award Party

KEMPTON, OTHERS, HONOR YEARS OF SERVICE

From the Corner Pocket

Central District held a well-appointed, well-attended awards program on a beautiful afternoon in Capitol Park near the Caltrans Workers Memorial on October 6 to honor 65 HQ employees for 25 and 40 years of service. The artsy food treats were overshadowed by dignitaries, including the QCC President (me), Central District Director **Gary Bush**, **Heinz Heckeroth** of the CTF and Caltrans director **Will Kempton** who assisted the presentation of the awards and stood for photos with each of those receiving awards. We handed out QCC applications to all of them.

When recruiting new members, I'm often asked, "What's in it for me?"—a reasonable question, yet hard to answer. When I hit the 25-year mark in 1988, it was obvious: almost all of the top-level people at Caltrans were Quarter Century members. To stand among that group was an honor in itself.

Fast forward 20 years and nearly all of those distinguished leaders have retired. Caltrans' new leadership ranks are just now qualifying with few if any, senior leaders in their midst. And the wide variety of social issues in the workforce today makes it a 'whole new ballgame'. So what issue today will give

prospective new members a reason to join the QCC?

I'd like to suggest that at your next district gathering, or even before, those who are active in the community, bring their favorite cause to the QCC membership for support. Publicize your cause in the newspapers and larger ranks of Caltrans employees to get their involvement.

Help sponsor a "Friends of the Library" effort to collect and sell used books. Support a local park, trail or rest area graffiti cleanup. (*Adopt-A-Highway?*) You don't have to do all the hard work; there are lots of administrative tasks of collecting names and organizing others.

How about helping to host a race, (foot, bike or motor), with QCCers—in their QCC shirts—in charge? Art shows, auto shows, fair exhibits, garden tours, museum docents, and many other events may be part of your days already. Just bring your favorites to the local QCC bunch so others can support

it. Next year try another one. Our mission, "A closer bond of friendship" can be part of a community effort that attracts attention and new members.

Be generous with your support of fellow QCCers and their causes with an eye to getting the QCC recognized by the public and other Caltrans employees. The efforts of QCC members will go a long way to winning friends and signing up members. Imagine wearing your old red vest with the tomato patch to a



restaurant and having some guy walk up and say, "Aren't you one of the great guys who?"

And as a bonus, you'll meet new friends and get some fresh air and exercise as well.

— 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>

Check the current haps at Caltrans at

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/ctnews>

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Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Hi everyone, glad to be with you again. Thanks to all who dropped me notes wishing me well on my triple bypass surgery recovery. All went well, with few after-effects. I imagine several of you have had the same experience. I lost about 20 pounds (and am keeping it off) but I don't recommend it as a weight loss program. Pat and I leave on a 15-day cruise to Hawai'i on Nov 18. I bet my doctor I wouldn't gain more than two pounds ... he just laughed. See me at the fruit and veggie buffet.

Dues: It's that time again. Remember, the Constitution now requires all dues to be paid by the end of February or the member will be dropped. We will send reminders out early in March to those who don't meet the deadline. A member suggested that the *Cue See Seer* contain a "dues renewal form" to make it easier for everybody to know exactly how much the dues are and where to send them. That is a great idea and you will find said form on the last page so you can cut it out and not lose any of the vital information in the *Cue See Seer*. Thanks to Rick Knapp for the idea.

New Members: We acquired 25 new members this year, down from 38 last year, despite our recruitment efforts. Caltrans has been quite cooperative in inviting QCCers to attend District Awards and Honors programs, and these representatives have been handing out QCC information and membership applications to those who qualify. While the number of new members is disappointing, it is encouraging to know that Caltrans is to helping us in our efforts.

May you all enjoy the coming holiday season and that the New Year brings peace and happiness to all. Do not forget the reason for the season. Bless you all.

— Kim Yarbrough

The Haps in District 1

I wrapped up this quarter by attending the District 1 holiday party on November 30 at the Baywood Golf and Country Club. The district went all out to include the retirees both by sending notices and calling them.

We had pre-dinner appetizers and all types of drinks, alcohol and non-alcohol, several buffet stations and lovely desserts. Several baskets of goodies were raffled off. Each basket was put together by a different department, including Design, Administration, Planning, etc. We could choose the ones we preferred by putting our tickets in a box in front of the basket. After dinner, we enjoyed music and dancing with a band called Dr. Squid. Great group. I saw several retirees including **John and Jackie Sherman, Tom and Murline Georgeson, Ray and Marlene Thomsen, Jim and Nancy Maas, Jim and Linda Boyd, and the George Beckmans.** The Boyds and Beckman' came over the Route 299 Mountains to be there. We were all delighted to see each other.

September was busy. **Butch Biendara** and his wife stopped in Eureka for a QCC meeting with local members, including myself, **Guy Luther and Harold and Liz Webster,** as well as **Carl Zander and Jim Siebert,** who became QCC members. We went over ideas for increasing interest and membership in QCC and getting more involved in Caltrans or local community activities.

Our new member, Jim Siebert, retired in June, 2005 as an Associate Transportation Engineer, with more than 40 years of service. Our other new member, Carl Zander, retired in September, 1986, as a Transportation Engineer, with more than 28 years of service.

I also attended a District 1 fundraising barbecue and had a nice visit with **Mike**

Eagan and Bob Myers. We also enjoyed wishing Bob a Happy Birthday.

Later in September, we went to Redding and had lunch with **Jim and Linda Boyd and Richard Wilson.** We have maintained a lunch tradition every September, but this is the first time we all got together in Redding. It was a great visit and nice drive over Route 299. We also got to enjoy a tour of Jim and Linda's new house and the car they are restoring.

I got a nice report from fellow QCCer **Rick Knapp.** He attended the Caltrans retired men's quarterly luncheon in October and got to see **Bruce Marshall, Bart Crews, Dennis Grinsell, Bruce Miner, Kenneth Vaughan, Jim Lyon, Glenn Hoffman, Carl Zander, Dale Cooley, Bob Myers, Pete Pettersen, Jim Long, Mike Eagan, and Jim Maas.**

Also, in October, Jim and Linda traveled to Idaho to celebrate their granddaughter's birthday. While they were there, their daughter took them to the Warhawk Air Museum in Nampa, Idaho, then to Ogden to visit extended family. There they had a chance to visit the Union Station, which houses five museums, the Utah State Railroad Museum and Model Railroad, John M. Browning Firearms Museum, the Natural History Museum, the Eccles Rail Center, and the Browning-Kimball Classic Car Museum. They also went to the Hill Aerospace Museum.

In November, they had a chance to get back to Eureka and had a real Caltrans old home week at the Elk's Wednesday night dinner. They saw the **Dennis Grinsells, the Pete Pettersens, the Jim Longs, Dale Cooleys, Bob Kays, Barry Jacobsen, Tom Quigley, Mike Yancheff, and Royal McCarthy.** Mrs. Cooley wanted to let me know that their granddaughter's drawing was selected to be included in the Caltrans district calendar. Congratulations.

We love seeing young people get involved. She might be a future Caltrans employee.

In November, we ran into **Bob** and **Joyce Trice** and **Larry Bowermaster** at the Henderson Center (a business section of Eureka) holiday open house. Larry, Senior Transportation Engineer, will retire this month and will have an open house at the Presbyterian Church in Eureka on December 22nd. He is looking forward to catching up on several projects.

Joyce is a dedicated volunteer at the Cancer Society gift shop. During the winter months, she and Bob will be back at their favorite spot in Yuma, enjoying the sun.

Sadly, we've lost another of our District 1 family. **Andy Carlson**, who worked in our Records and Map Files for 13 years, starting in 1968, passed away November 1, 2007 at 89. I will always remember how well he took care of those records. He enjoyed a long retirement, loved to travel and hunt as well as keeping an eye on our local governments and their policies. He leaves behind a large, extended family and fellow members of the Native Sons, Elks and Veterans of Foreign Wars. We extend our sympathies to Andy's family.

I hope to hear from more of you out there. I need to correct my error from last quarter. My e-mail address is ahartin@suddenlink.net, not ahartin@suddenlink.com. Don't forget to keep the news coming.

—Arlene Hartin

The Haps in District 2

Shirley Shoup and **Diane Tomicich** are working to get District 2's QCC outfit back in action. To help, contact **Shirley** at

6150 Dolores Ave
Anderson CA 96007-4807
Ph: 530-365-2191
e-mail: will-shirl@juno.com

or **Diane** at

3505 Tamarack Dr
Redding CA 96003-1716
Ph: 530-243-4908
e-mail: dtomicich@charter.net

— Cam Garbutt

The Haps in District 3

We ran into **Bob Mulcahy** and **Jack Adkisson** and wives having a great time celebrating their birthdays at Ruthy's Restaurant in Yuba City. **Don** and **Bev Knipping** also had a great time during a week in Maui. Don says the only problem they had was that the stay didn't last long enough. We enjoyed talking to **Jim** and **Margaret Strain** at the Moose Lodge last week. They're planning an RV trip to Arizona after the first of the year.

We were sorry to learn of the passing of **John Pennebaker**. John died November 1 at Rideout Hospital. He was born in Missouri and was a Yuba-Sutter resident for 61 years. John served in the Army and was a veteran of the Korean War. His career of 40 years with Caltrans and the Division of Highways was mostly in Construction. His final eight years were as the legislative liaison to the Governor's Office, the Congressional Delegation, and the Legislature for the San Francisco Bay Area.

John served in many capacities throughout his life including as President/Member of the Boards of Trustees of the Marysville Elementary School District, Marysville Union High School District, and the Yuba Community College. He also served on the Levee Commission and as State Secretary/Treasurer and Board of Directors of the California State Employee Association. He was District 3 QCC Director for many years, retiring in 2007.

Survivors include his brother, **Dean Pennebaker** of Fort Bragg, and two sons, **Daniel Pennebaker** of Fort Bragg, and **Michael Terry Pennebaker** of Apple Valley and three nephews.

Sandi and I would appreciate any news from the District 3 Quarter Century Club members. Please end us an email at boots3@syix.com or give us a call at (530) 671-3889.

From Placerville: The annual Fall Luncheon was held at the Green House Cafe in Placerville on September 20 with 33 people attending from Auburn, Grass Valley, Marysville, Sacramento, Lone, Woodland, Markleeville, Woodfords as well as the local areas around Placerville. Hosts **Doug** and **Grace Becker** and **Jerry Hamm** were joined by the following retirees and their spouses: **Dale Bourne, Aldo Brunello, Bill** and **Barb Byer, LaRoy Carroll, Max** and **Delores Dodson, Rich Elliot, Bob** and **Betty Fowler, Darrell** and **JoAnn Hansen, Buck** and **Wanda Ingram, Keith** and **Barbara Maggini, J.C.** and **Barb Moore, Bill** and **LaQuita Netto, Loren** and **Elaine Pollock, John Qualls, Dan Sattler** and wife, **Martin Urevich. Rick** and **Vickie Houston, Jack Stephenson** and **S.A. Dorman.**

S.A. Dorman was the first Senior Foreman to serve in the Placerville Maintenance Territory. **Ed Willis** was Superintendent and **Jimmy Garrett** was Highway Field Office Assistant at the time.

LaRoy Carroll spent some time in the Porterville Area visiting with old friends and people he worked with there. LaRoy started his state career in the Porterville area before promoting to Senior Foreman in Placerville. He then spent the later years of his career in the Truckee Area as Highway Superintendent.

Keith and **Barbara Maggini** spent the Thanksgiving Holidays with their daughter, **Janis** and son-in-law in Vancouver, WA. Their

son, **Donald** and girlfriend and granddaughter **Courtney** also joined the group. Weather was cold in the mornings, but afternoons were nice. No rain for the first time since the family has been getting together in the Northwest. Everyone had a good time. They drove up by auto and reported that Oregon and Washington have cheaper fuel than California.

Doug and Grace were busy moving equipment to Southern California during the wildfires earlier in November. They later had to assist in the return of the same items when the fires were out.

— Dan Johnson, Sr. and Keith Maggini

This Could Be Your Last Issue!!

Please check your mailing label ... the date in the upper right hand corner is your dues "paid to" date. The Constitution now provides that members whose dues are not current by the end of February shall be dropped immediately from the Cue See Seer mailing list. Check it out! We wouldn't want you to miss a single issue.

The Haps in District 4

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New year to everyone!

Ed Coble's lunch group and the North Bay Retirees group both held their Christmas luncheons on December 11 so several retirees had a dilemma as to which to attend.

Vera Whalen called me so I could let everyone know she still gets around. Vera said although she is 92 years young, suffering from Parkinson's disease, and a leg injury in 2001 requiring a brace, she stays active. Everyone will remember Vera as District Construction Engineer **Dale Ryman's** secretary for many years. **Bob Jacobs** and **Bob Keller** send their best wishes to Vera.

District 4 held its annual executive retirees' tour on November 1, which I attended. Also attending were **Don Reynolds, Jim McCrank, Glen Behm, Ann Hansen, Lincoln Chu, Harry Yahata, Bob Jacobs, Bob McDougald, Tom Lammers, Gerry Ducey,** and **Bob Graham.** The day started with a briefing from District Director **Bijan Sartipi** and his staff on the major accomplishments of the district. What a year it has been! The two most important accomplishments as far as we, the public, were concerned, were the repair and reopening of the ramps in the Route 80/580/880 Interchange that were destroyed or damaged by the tanker accident and fire, and the successful closure of the Bay Bridge over the Labor Day weekend to demolish and replace a section of the viaduct at the east entrance to the Yerba Buena tunnel.

The district also successfully delivered all of its projects on schedule in 2006/2007. This takes place outside of the public's eye as opposed to the reopenings listed above, but is just as critical. However, as **Stu Ng,** Deputy District Director for Project Management and Programming explained, whereas in the past, delivery meant delivery in a specified quarter of the fiscal year; now the district will be held accountable for delivery by month and day!

After the briefing we toured the Bay Bridge construction projects starting with the almost-completed East Span Skyway. From there we went to the West Approach Project. Although the project is not as well

known as the Bay Bridge construction projects, it is one of the most challenging projects ever attempted in terms of staging and traffic handling. That it has proceeded without major traffic tie-ups is a tribute to the design engineers who developed the staging plans and the construction engineers who implemented them.

Later, we stopped at the site east of the tunnel where the section of Bay Bridge viaduct was demolished and replaced over the Labor Day Weekend. At the briefing, we were shown a time lapse video of the demolition and replacement that made it appear easy to accomplish, but once we got onsite we were hit with the immense challenge the construction staff and the contractor were faced with over the Labor Day Weekend.

After the tour was finished, we went to Brennan's for lunch with the District 4 executive staff.

These annual tours have been such a success that the district is thinking of inviting more than just executive retirees in the future.

My mother-in-law, **Marie Nelson,** who lives in Rossmoor, sent me an obituary for a former district employee, **Al Back.** I've included it below for those who may remember Al and didn't know of his death.

Albert "Al" Back died peacefully at his home in Rossmoor on November 8. Born in the Bronx, New York on December 8, 1923 to Finnish immigrant parents, he moved to California after serving in World War II. He remained married to **Lynn Opiela Back** from 1952 until her death in 1998. Al spent his career as a photogram-metric engineer for Caltrans in San Francisco, retiring in 1980. His son **Allan Back** of Sandy, Utah and daughter and son-in-law **Mary** and **Anthony Ruiz** of Concord, and six grandchildren survive him.

— Paul Hensley



"Hand me the Hairdryer"

The Haps in District 5

Happy New Year! Best wishes for good health and happiness in 2008.

District 5 enjoyed mild weather during the fall, and we missed most of the firestorms that struck Southern California. Two District 11 employees suffered the total loss of their homes and possessions; an account has been set up by the California Transportation Foundation to assist these families in covering losses that were excluded from coverage. To help, send a check payable to "CTF Assistance Fund", 581 La Sierra Drive, Sacramento, and CA 95864. Please indicate "Fire Relief" on the memo line of the check.

The district's project development and construction workload continues to grow. The California Transportation Commission recently voted \$53 million for the Milpas Street interchange and improvements in Santa Barbara. We have a record \$185 million now in construction, and this figure is expected to grow to \$250 million. The recent news about

future reductions in state government should not affect our delivery of the Bond projects.

The annual Holiday barbecue was held December 5, too late for this deadline. I hope to report on the festivities in the next edition.

As I mentioned in the previous issue, 2007 became the year of retirement for several District 5 employees, and the latest group included **Dave Yelton, Jenny Linzner**, and me from Administration, **Kristine Ellingson** from Project Management, **Ron Rider** from Traffic, **Sharon Fasulo** from Planning, **Joseph Ivora** from Construction and, from Maintenance, **Roy Freer, Joanne Frederick, Tim Griffin, Teresa Salak**, and **Gary Suffia**. (It will seem strange not driving to 50 Higuera Street after all these years, but I'm looking forward to the retired life.)

Some of you may have read about the adventures of our Resident Engineer **Charlie Hench**, who became stranded while hiking in the Sierra National Forest this fall. His friends became concerned when he failed to appear for a scheduled pick-up after a sudden snowstorm in the mountains. Search and rescue teams were called out, and several District 5 employees joined the hunt, hiking in from east and west along the route Charlie had taken. Volunteer **Dave Grah**, a former Caltrans employee, flew his Cessna from Bishop and discovered Charlie perched on a narrow ledge. He was rescued and treated for a broken wrist, chipped vertebrae, and exposure, at Northern Inyo Hospital before returning home. Charlie thanked everyone who put themselves on the line for his rescue, especially **Grant Krueger, Joe Blommer, Alan Haag, Steve Balaban, and Billy Leu**.

Good job, guys!!

Paul Bohrer wrote in September that he and **Norma** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary and Paul's 85th birthday that month. As of October 1, he had been retired for 28

years. He took the summer off from fishing and started raising jumbo bobwhite quail. His fishing buddies are looking forward to Dutch oven quail dinners in January when they gather to fish for steelhead. Paul said **Del** and **Hilde Hollinger** had stopped by on their way home from the Alaska trip in their fifth wheel.

Paul also wrote tell us that **Gordon Lammiman** passed away in Bishop on November 17 at the age of 91. **Gwen Philbrick** forwarded a copy of the notice from the Bishop paper.

Gordon interrupted his career with the Division of Highways to serve in the South Pacific with the Sea Bees during World War II. He returned to San Luis Obispo and married **Irene Jones** in 1947. He transferred to Bishop in 1960 and worked mainly in right-of-way engineering, retiring in 1976. Gordon enjoyed fishing and outdoor activities, and Paul said they did a lot of cross country hiking in the mountains. He was also involved with Boy Scouts, served on the Rural Fire Board, and attended many soccer games with his grandchildren. His wife Irene, son John, daughter Patricia, and their families survive him.

When **Alan Estes** stopped in the District Office to purchase tickets for the barbecue, he said Rene Foster would be visiting from Oregon and hoped to attend also.

Bill Fieldhouse is recovering from knee surgery in November that kept him off his feet for weeks. Bill was forced to supervise barbecues and other activities and miss several rounds of golf—very frustrating.

JB Popnoe writes that he and **Betty** "are doing about the BEST we can do in paradise", visiting doctors, getting flu shots, etc. He has been retired for more than 20 years—how time flies.

Ken Taylor also came to purchase tickets and told us about his unplanned stay in Cheyenne, Wyoming last summer. He and **Edna** were traveling in the area when he began to feel ill. They sought emergency treatment,

and Ken was promptly hospitalized for tests and subsequently underwent triple bypass surgery. After a month's stay, he was released and driven by his son to Denver to fly home. I'm happy to report that Ken looked quite well as he was telling the story, and making travel plans for the holidays.

Thank you to someone in Bakersfield who sent a memorial card for **Jack Gusner**, who passed away April 6 at age 73. Jack was born in Bakersfield and served in the Army Air Corps. He and his wife, **Bea**, started their family in Santa Barbara, where he worked as an engineer with Caltrans for 28 years. In 1990 he began managing day-to-day operations of Longview Electric; he went on to form Cobblestone Industries Inc, manufacturing parts for the plastic industry. Jack is survived by his wife Bea, daughters **Janell, Julie** and **Jolene**, son **John**, and their families.

As I will no longer be an active Caltrans employee, my news sources will be changed from now on. I hope you QCC folks will drop me a line now and then to let me know what's happening in your world. THANKS!

— Kathy Copeland

The Haps in District 6

District 6 held its QCC Christmas Luncheon on December 4 with many retirees invited whether they had joined QCC yet or not. Hal Avakian did his Christmas specialty of shish kebab and all the trimmings.

Everyone had a great time as a lot of old friends got together. Those in attendance were: **Gloria Adam, Bill Ahlenslager, Roxie Aldama, Roy Andersen, Perry Anderson, Andy Anderson, Hal** and

Sandy Avakian, Dick and Barbara Beck, Mary Berg, Paul Bogosian, Don Burnes, Al and Doris Clayton, Dottie Combs, Mike Donahue, Jerry and Marilyn Fay, Aram Garabedian, Lee and Joyce Halderman, John and Marty Hawthorne, Annie Hlywa, Ed and Maryann Hokokian, Jerry Janigan, Marvin Johnson, Miyo Kimura, Jim and Carolyn Landy, Terry Littleton, Earl and Barbara Mar, Al Mendoza and his wife, Dennis Miller, Ken Oliphant and his wife, Moses Pacheco and his wife, Abe and Margie Paragian, Don and Barbara Peaslee, Don and Barbara Peterson, Virgie Ray and his wife, Fred and Doris Rayburn, Josie Rendon, Wally Rice and his wife, Barney Sano, Chester and Thelma Sohm, Jane Suo, Tony and Emily Telesco, Koke Uyeno, Bob Voss, Ted Winter, John Wright, and Angelo Zito.

Kim Yarbrough celebrated his 55th high school class reunion in Merced in September 2007. In October Kim and **Pat** went to San Antonio for about 10 days, to attend a Yarbrough family reunion. More recently they have returned from a 15-day cruise to Hawaii. Sounds like you guys are staying pretty busy.

Grace Aitken had a heart attack on December 3 and is in St Agnes Hospital at this time.

Virgie Ray got a note from **Ed Anderson** in San Diego to let him know that the fire went around his home and also that his brother, **Perry**, is still active and battling health issues. How thankful we are for health and happiness!!!

Note from **Larry Layton**: "Thank you for the invite to the Christmas luncheon. We had just been in Fresno and I can't get back up there so soon. And with the fires down here, I'm afraid to be away until the weather changes. We have already packed to evacuate with the last round of fires, and it came within 10 miles

of our house. Now Malibu is burning again. So sad. Have a good time and maybe and can come to the next one."

Cap Akers passed away on Jan 21, 2007. I don't have any more information than that so if anyone would like to give me more to put in the QCCer, I would appreciate it.

In case any of you missed this, **Larry Luby** passed away on Feb 28 in Redding. I missed it but luckily District 2, where Larry had worked, put it in the QCCer.

Forest Kellogg passed away in October. Forest had worked in Construction the last part of his career and was liked very much.

Bill Patterson 82, a civil engineer for Caltrans for 36 years, died September 19, 2007.

Bill passed away peacefully, with his family by his side, on September 19 at the age of 82.

Mr. Patterson was born on September 15, 1925, to Billie and Lulu Patterson in Claremore, Oklahoma.



Bill was a resident of Fresno County for most of his life. As a young man, he made the decision to serve his country in the United States Marines. During World War II, before the United States landing on the island of Peleliu, three days of naval gunfire and shelling preceded the amphibious landings. H-Hour for the amphibious landings was September 15, 1944.

Three regiments of the U.S. Marines landed on the western beaches of Peleliu. Bill Patterson was a member of the 1st Regiment, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Division, which landed on the designated White Beaches. September 15th was a significant date for the members in the regiment and it also marked the date of

Bill's 19th birthday. Defending Peleliu was an aggressive garrison of 10,500 men. What ensued was one of the most brutal battles in the war's history.

Very few of the men who landed in Peleliu survived the invasion. The temperatures on the islands during the battle exceeded 110 degrees. Bill fought on the island and went without water for almost four days. He watched as many of his friends were mortally wounded, yet he remained committed to fighting for his country.

Bill's distinguished service in the Marines also included stints in the Palau and Ryukyu Islands, and the infamous battle at Okinawa. His military service also included time in China. He served as a Corporal and was honorably discharged in March of 1946.

Shortly thereafter, when Bill was a student at Visalia Junior College, a pretty, young co-ed named **Charlotte Schreiner** caught his eye. On June 17, 1949, Bill and Charlotte were married. In 1951, they celebrated the birth of their first child. Bill and Charlotte created a wonderful home for their five children. Bill served as a strong role model not only for his children, but for others as well, including members of the Little League baseball team that he successfully coached.

Bill was known for his integrity, honesty and quick, dry wit. He was also respected by his co-workers. After earning a degree in Civil Engineering from Fresno State College, Bill went on to a successful 36-year career at Caltrans as a civil engineer. His distinguished service at Caltrans won him numerous accolades and promotions. He retired in 1988, where, at the time, he supervised the lab and hazardous waste divisions.

The family thanks the physicians, nurses and staff at Saint Agnes Medical Center for their outstanding care and loving support during Bill's stay. He is survived by **Charlotte**, his loving wife of 58 years; son **Tom Patterson**; daughter **Linda Smith** and son-in-law **Matthew**; daughter, **Karen Northway**

and son-in-law **Cliff**; son **Bill** and daughter-in-law **Teresa**; daughter, **Sandy Riddell** and son-in-law **Jim**; and 12 grandchildren. **Ted Winter, John Wright, Al and Doris Clayton, Don and Barbara Peaslee, Kenneth Cartwright, Chub Gann, Jim Ringgold, John and Marty Hawthorne** and **Roy Andersen** attended the service.

A Memorial Service was held at New Hope Community Church of Clovis on September 28 for **Melvin Homer Shank**. **Mel** was born on March 7, 1933, in Fresno, California; and passed away September 21. Mel grew up in Fresno and attended Fresno High School, graduating in 1951. He spent four years in the U.S. Navy; then went to work for Caltrans.

Melvin married **Betty Larson** in 1956, and they spent most of their life together in Fresno. He was a member of the Fresno Church of the Brethren, where he sang in the choir and served in many other ways. In 1992, after 40 years of service, Mel retired from Caltrans.

After Betty's death, Mel met and married **Joyce Elizabeth Ellero**. After 10 years of building memories and sharing good times together, Joyce tenderly cared for Mel at home over the past six months as he battled cancer. The family wishes to thank their friends, the doctors and staff of the California Cancer Society and the staff of Hinds Hospice for all their care and support.

Mel is survived by his wife Joyce Elizabeth; daughters and sons-in-law, **Linda and Don Davis**, and **Lori and John Wenger of McFarland**; and grandchildren **Laura Cheng, Brian Davis, Julie and Joel Wenger**. Other living family members include his brother, **Delbert Shank** and his wife **Mildred**; sister **Lorene Robinson** and her husband **Dick**; brother-in-law **Charles Larson** and his wife **Thelma** and sister-in-law **Rosalene Larson**.

Cap Akers passed away on Jan 21. I don't have any more information than that so if

anyone would like to give me more to put in the QCCer, I would appreciate it.

And in case any of you missed it, **Larry Luby** passed away on Feb 28 in Redding. I missed it but, luckily, District 2, where Larry had worked, put it in the QCCer.

Forest Kellogg passed away in October. He had worked in Construction the last part of his career and was liked very much.

I think we've had our share of deaths this year. We will miss all of them.

— Terry Littleton

Deadlines

The deadline for material for the QCCer is the last day of the month before the one 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 December 31.

The Haps in District 7

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

If the **Annual District 7 Holiday Luncheon** at the **New Otani Hotel**, on Saturday, **December 8, 2007**, is anything like previous years, it will be a feast for the eyes and the soul, as well as the belly! This letter will arrive, no doubt after the event, so you will just need to wait for the next issue to hear about the great food, the gorgeous decorations, the fun gift giving, and all of the fine friends who attended this year. I'm looking forward to seeing you there or sharing it with you, next time.

TGFTSW OR TFLG FOR SHORT

If you would like some lunchtime camaraderie and to say, "Thank goodness for the second Wednesday", the **Tom Fera** Lunch Group may be the place for you. The TFLG meets on the second Wednesday of each month, except December. The calendar for the next several months is: **January 9** at the China Olive Chinese Restaurant, 9224 Reseda Boulevard, Northridge, (818) 998-3688; **February 13** at Joselito's West Mexican Restaurant, 7308 Foothill Boulevard, Tujunga, (818) 951-2275; and **March 12** at the Steer N' Ale Restaurant, 3644 East Foothill Boulevard., Pasadena, (626) 796-2278. On **April 9** the group will be back at the China Olive Chinese Restaurant.

For more information about meetings, etc., contact: **Chuck O'Connell** at (661) 253-3428 or chuckoconnell@prodigy.net, or **Tom Gildersleeve** at (661) 259-6226 or tgilders@pacbell.net.

RECENT SIGHTINGS

Sighted at a recent Kingston Trio concert at Citrus College: **Robert Pauly** and wife **Laurie**, who live nearby. By the time this issue goes to press, **Bob** will have celebrated his 88th birthday! He recently renewed his driver's license for another five years. He and **Laurie** often can be seen at the college campus, attending educational events, especially the travel presentations on Wednesday evenings.

Marie Martin, Bob Walters, and Stewart Stahl at a "Friends of the Fighter Aces" Symposium held near Los Angeles International airport. Six of the remaining World War II Fighter Aces were in attendance, including one who had been shot down in the South Pacific and lived his own version of "Survivor South Seas". Marie and Bob are

currently back in Washington, riding out a hurricane with gale force winds and waves.

Tom Almany III stopped by to arrange some training for Caltrans Designers in mid-December on Pavement Preservation using Rubberized Seal Coats and shared a few tidbits of his recent trips to South Africa and Australia (see below).

NEW MEMBERS WANTED

Why should it go without saying? New members are welcome! Congratulations to recently joined member, **Walter Thompson**, of Maintenance, and to **Fred Cubillas**, who introduced him. **Walter** worked for District 7 for 37 years, from 1969 to 2006. Thanks to Statewide Secretary/Treasurer **Kim Yarbrough**, who sent this information forward.

Guess what, you don't have to wait until retirement to join; if you have 25 years or more with the State, 15 of those with Caltrans (or its prior designations) including military time, or know some one else who does, get them to join! The more the merrier!

TRAVELS OF TOM

The first of **Tom Almany III's** trips this year was to Kruger National Park in South Africa in July. "It was 16 days in a Mazda with my son **Glen**. We traveled between various camps, photographing animals. Most of the camps had man-made wind-powered watering holes." **Tom's** second trip was to Australia in November. We hope to get a full write-up from Tom on these in the near future.

I asked **Tom**, was his son not named Tom, too? Witty as ever, he quipped, "No, we named him **Glen**. If we had named him **Tom**, he would have been **Tom IV**, and his nickname would have been Ivy; we did not want to do that to him. Now I wish we had", he added with his characteristic grin.

No Mystery Here...

Dressed in their Victorian-era finest, seeking out clues to a Sherlock Holmes' mystery and generally having a good time, members of the Sherlock Holmes Society of Portland, "The Noble and Most Singular Order of the Blue Carbuncle", turned up at—you guessed it—**Marie Martin's** rustic northwestern cabin in Ocean Park, Washington. What gave it away? Was it her flair for the unusual adventure, like traveling across Canada by train, flying helicopters, or because you know that she lives part time on the Long Beach Peninsula of Washington State?

Damian Mulinix, a photojournalist from the Ocean Park Observer was present to document the festivities and provide the 15 minutes of fame for the Society's annual retreat. Socializing and eating were high on the list, as were searching out clues from the various Sherlock Holmes novels, hidden throughout the grounds - a snake in the bushes, bees in the trees and the body of Black Peter in the back bedroom. "Oh my!" exclaimed **Maria Vaughan** as she and her husband **Clark** came across the body of a dead sailor. "Well, that's a harpoon isn't it?"

Club president **Fritz Camp** explained the purpose of the group: "We all have an interest in the Victorian era and the mystique of it all, in the clothing or the language, it's particularly selected around the books of **Sir Arthur Conan Doyle** and his ability to conceive all these wonderful mysteries, creating the character of Sherlock Holmes. We all love to read and to solve mysterious problems, so it evolves from there."

Marie Martin and **Bob Walters** were back in Los Angeles in time to attend the local Chapter's Gas Fitter's Ball in Fullerton in November, and to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Birthday with the Adventurer's Club of Los Angeles at the Pacific Dining Car. Cheers!

WAITING FOR A SIGN

The long awaited effort to "sign" the San Diego (405) Santa Monica (10) Freeway Interchange as the **Marilyn Jorgenson Reece Memorial Interchange**, is nearing its goal, through a cooperative effort of Caltrans, the California Transportation Foundation (CTF), the California Legislature, PECG, the County Board of Supervisors, and the many individuals and groups that provided the private donations to pay for the signs.

Corresponding to the Tom Fera Lunch Group, **Tom Gildersleeve** explained, "In summary, the proposed target dates for the sign unveiling ceremony for the Marilyn Reece Memorial Interchange are either March 7 or 14 of next year. Caltrans needs four months of lead time to get this done, and we are still \$500 short of the amount needed. Now is the time to donate to this if you have not already done so. **Al Reece** will have to make up the difference if nobody else steps forward."

Responding for the CTF, **Heinz Heckerroth** provided the additional information: "Reece Memorial Donations can be mailed to CTF, 581 La Sierra Dr, Sacramento, CA 95864. Checks should be made out to "CTF Memorial Fund" and designated in the lower left of the check as "Reece". The fund will cover the cost of procurement and erection of the signing and any March dedication costs not otherwise provided for."

On behalf of the Reece Family, Al Reece expressed his gratitude; "The whole family will be really thrilled, after waiting all this time. We have certainly appreciated all of the donations from family and friends, which can only be interpreted as love."

Marilyn Reece designed the San Diego-Santa Monica Freeway Interchange and won the Governor's design award from Governor Edmund Brown, Sr. in 1964. The Legislature passed the Senate Concurrent Resolution

(SCR) 72, in September 2005. Marilyn passed away in May 2004 after complications from a long illness. She is survived by her husband of 47 years, **Alvin**, two daughters, **Kirsten Stahl** and **Anne Bartolotti**, two grandsons **Christopher** and **Patrick Bartolotti**, a sister **Shirley Peterson**, and several nieces and nephews.

BE LIKE MARIE, TOM III, TOM G, CHUCK, CAROL AND JEFFREY!

You and only you can make an interesting QCCer! PLEASE keep sending those cards, letters, e-mails and phone calls! It would not be the same with out 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.

As a quick reminder, send dues and honorary member status information to **Leonard Thompson** directly... His address is: 3711 W. 64th St. Los Angeles, CA 90043.

The Road Last Traveled: Carol Huntwork has been in touch with **Louise Laughlin**, and reports the sad news that **Dick Laughlin** passed away November 27. His family held a Celebration of Life for him December 8, at the Castaway Rest Home in Burbank. They are requesting donations, in lieu flowers, to **V.O.I.C.E.**, P. O. Box 273, Montrose, CA, 91021-0273, a charitable group dedicated to preserving the urban wilderness of Glendale and Crescenta Valley.

Dick had been hospitalized since early October with a form of melanoma, which had spread to various parts of his body. **Chuck O'Connell** and **Tom Gildersleve**, who had visited him at the Mountview Retirement Residence in Verdugo City, said that he had been in good spirits and was welcoming visitors. We will miss him.

Tom Gildersleeve forwarded the sad news and obituary of **Al Cramer**, who passed away at the age of 86 on September 16. **Albert Joseph Cramer** was born August 22, 1921, was Class President of North Hollywood High, served in the Merchant Marines, where he was known as "Iron Al" for his courage, and later as a professional engineer for 31 years in the California Division of Highways.

Al loved gardening, swimming, the beach, golf and most of all his family. Married to **Mavis Ida** for 55 years, he is survived by his children, **Victoria, Alison, Angela and Kevin**; and five grandchildren, **Bryce, Brett, Brooke, James and Curtis**. His family would like to thank his wonderful caregivers Elsie and Raquel, and are requesting donations, in lieu of flowers, to Providence Street Joseph Foundation Heart Center, 501 S. Buena Vista St., Burbank, CA 91505. His service was held at Mission Hills Catholic Mortuary, September 22.

In mid-October, **Jeffrey Barlogugh**, nephew of **Frank Zizda**, wrote about **Frank's** passing and included a few items that were not mentioned in the previous newsletter; "My uncle began working for the state in the late 1940s, and retired about 20 years ago. He had been receiving the QCCer Newsletter and liked to keep up with the doings of his former colleagues in the Division of Highways. He was an avid cyclist until about a year ago when his health began to fail. He enjoyed watching golf and tennis on television. He is survived by his sister, **Irene Barlough**, her husband **Ernest**, and their two sons **Gary** and **Jeffrey**. Services were held at Inglewood Cemetery Mortuary with interment at Inglewood Cemetery on August 22." Thank you, Jeffrey, for the memories of Frank.

Tom Almany III provides a brief note regarding the passing of **C.J. Vosburg** on October 15. Additional information will be provided when it becomes available.

Wake up! Drop a quick note of your activities to **Kirsten**; then you can keep track of your QCC friends when they do the same! DO send something!

Many thanks to the multitudes who provided information and who were not otherwise mentioned above: **Lewis Yee, Deborah Harris, and Doug Failing**.

— Kirsten Stahl



The Haps in District 8

In mid-September **Katie and Taylor Smith** and **Louise and Dick Haight** enjoyed an Alaskan cruise down the Inside Passage from Anchorage to Vancouver on Holland American's ship Statendam. The weather and scenery were great. After

disembarking at Vancouver the Hights spent several days visiting former District 8 and San Bernardino County friends **John** and **Ginger Steger** at Port Ludlow, Washington.

Gil and **Jeanette Daab** recently returned from a 7-day Mexican cruise to discover that a water pipe had broken in their kitchen and flooded their home. They will live with friends for an estimated six weeks while repairs are made.

Wes and **Linda Grimes** met former District 8 employee **Sarah Chesbro** and her mother for dinner at the Mission Inn in Riverside during Sarah's recent visit from Sacramento where she has been promoted to a senior position. Her husband, **Dave**, is still located in San Luis Obispo.

Former District 8 employee, **Glenn Mills**, who transferred to District 6 and is now retired, was recently feted at a surprise birthday party at his home in Clovis. Former District 8 employees **Bill Barrett**, **Art Henry** as well as **Wes** and **Linda Grimes** were in attendance.

The Caltrans Retired Ladies Luncheon was held on November 27, at Nena's Mexican Restaurant in San Bernardino. Sixteen women were able to make the luncheon, including **Donna Rodriguez'** new granddaughter, a real sweetie. Everyone, of course, is still enjoying retirement whether it be by traveling, volunteering, taking care of grandchildren, or whatever suits each individual desire.

Everyone had such a good time, we're all looking forward to our next luncheon. We might meet three times a year instead of two as we all have such good times.

In mid-August **Barbara Dwiggin's** son **Donald** flew from Anchorage, Alaska and joined Barbara on a flight to Boston where they met other family members and then all drove to Stowe, Vermont to attend a grandson's wedding. While in Boston they visited the

house where **Tom** and **Barbara** lived in 1947 while Tom attended Harvard.

The retired District 8 Construction koffee klatch continues to meet on Wednesdays. Usual attendees are **Jim Miller**, **Les Franz**, **Sam Taylor**, **Dick Longstreet**, and **Wes** and **Linda Grimes**. **Craig** and **Marsha Lotze** will stop by when they're down the hill from Apple Valley. Most recent visitors were **Sumner Baker**, **Tom Powell**, and **Morgan Choate**. They meet at Coco's on Hospitality Lane around 9 am every Wednesday.

Former District 8 Director, **Anne Mayer** has recently been named the Executive Director of the Riverside County Transportation Commission. Before joining RCTC two years ago, Anne had worked for Caltrans for 15 years; including four years as District 8 Director.

The Toastmaster International Club held a Retirement Reception for **Henry Hardy**, age 87, at the District Office on October 2nd. Henry started with the Division of Highways in 1950 and retired in the early 1970s. Following his retirement he was a member of Toastmasters for more than 23 years.

We're sorry to inform our members that **Al Ordway**, 72, passed away on September 29, while doing what he loved, collecting minerals at Soda Lake near California Valley. He was a Transportation Engineer with the Construction Department for 30 years before his retirement in 1995. He is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, **Betty**. He also leaves a brother, three daughters and many grandchildren.

Al proudly served in the U.S. Army before his career with Caltrans.

Al was passionate about his hobby of mineral collecting. He had been a member of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California and the Friend of the Mineralogy Society for many years. Specimens he personally collected

are displayed in several international museums. Articles that he wrote appeared in several mineralogical publications and those reflected his dedication, knowledge and the joyous hard work that he put into collecting.

He enjoyed spending his hours with family, golfing, photography, traveling and writing. The love he had for his pets radiated in his caring ways and he taught his family to cherish, enjoy and respect all of nature's wonders.

Honorary member **Jean Griffith**, reports that her 60 year old son, **Charles David Curtis**, passed away on August 14, 2007, after two years of chemotherapy for a brain tumor. Charles had been a 20-year officer with the CHP and a Major in the CA National Guard. While in Southern California for her son's funeral, Jean attended the 76th Reunion of her 1932 Santa Paula Union High School class. Four members of her class were present.

Fred Jackson, retired former District 8 employee now living in Fair Oaks, CA wrote that **Henry Case** passed away in San Luis Obispo on July 11, 2007. Henry and his wife, **Doreen**, also a District 8 employee, transferred from District 8 to District 5 in San Luis Obispo in the mid 1950's. Henry worked for Caltrans 36 years.

Bob Redden received a telephone call from **Dick Lowry's** daughter that Dick passed away in Wappinger Falls, New York, on September 27, 2007. Dick will be best remembered as the District 8 Traffic Engineer for many years. We have no details of his death.

Les and Barbara Nolte's 60-year-old son **Hal Bowers** passed away in Tijeras, New Mexico on August 2, 2007, after a short struggle with cancer. He was a sound recordist and network news audio technician for NBC, CBS, and ABC news for many years.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all our members who've lost family members recently.

Here's a short writing you might like to print:

Honey for the Soul

- A Smile Is Infectious...bee a carrier.
- Laughter Is Internal Jogging.
- A candle loses none of its light by having another candle lit from it.
- Look on the bright side --it won't hurt your eyes.
- Faith will keep you going even when you can't see the path.

—Marsha Lotze

The Haps in District 9

Barbara and Lance Hinek took a week tour of Washington, DC and surrounding area. We spent two nights in Washington, seeing the war memorials and Smithsonian Air and Space Museum then to Williamsburg touring Jamestown and Yorktown. Gettysburg battlefield was very interesting and so was the Eisenhower's farm. We finished the trip in Philadelphia.

The Washington, DC architecture is impressive and we did appreciate where some of our tax dollars were spent. Seeing all of the Smithsonian Museum locations would take months. Walking through the War Memorials was an emotional experience.

I got a phone call from **Don and Katy Walton** and then a letter.

Katy: "I enjoy reading all the latest happenings in the Quarter Century Newsletter. Here is a check for \$15. Please sign me up. Don and I are enjoying our retirement here in Montana. We have been traveling whenever we can. This summer we spent a month in Mongolia, on our second trip there. The first was in 2001.

Don hunts a lot and makes things out of rawhide. I substitute teach K-12 one or two days a week and volunteer to be on county committees. The latest one is to renovate a historic bridge. I also garden, which keeps me busy. Oh, and I started painting (oil) and am actually good. **Bob and Trudy Mischell** are coming over from Washington to visit us for the week spending Thanksgiving here. Looking forward to getting the Quarter Century Club newsletter."



I left a misimpression in my last submittal for the Quarter Century Club newsletter concerning **Jim Kemp** and **Margaret MacLaren**. I neglected to include Margaret's last name. They are not married—just good friends who are occasionally seen together. Sorry for the confusion.

Gordon Lammiman passed away November 17. I worked with Gordon in District 09. He was on of the "old guard" from World War II who shaped the Division of Highways/Caltrans and made it into a "can do" organization. He was a good husband, father and friend. The following is the obituary from the Inyo Register:

"Services were held on November 24 at the First Presbyterian Church in Bishop for Gordon Frederic Lammiman.

"Born in Merced Falls, California, on July 23, 1916 to Fred Arthur Lammiman and Mary Jeannette Griffin Lammiman, Gordon died peacefully at his home in Bishop on Nov. 17, 2007. He was 91.

"Gordon grew up in Chico. He was active in Boy Scouts of America and attained the rank of Eagle Scout. After graduating from Chico High School he continued his education, first at Chico State, then at UC Berkley where he finished with a degree in civil engineering.

"Gordon began his career with the California Division of Highways, but was recruited in 1942 to join the newly formed 73rd Sea Bees of the U.S. Navy. He served in the South Pacific during World War II and retired as a lieutenant. He was thought to be the last surviving officer of that unit. He was rehired by the Department of Transportation in 1947, and returned to San Luis Obispo to resume his friendship with Irene M. Jones, who he had met prior to the war. They were married Aug. 24, 1947 and recently celebrated their 60th anniversary.

"Gordon always loved the mountains and fishing for trout. In 1960 he transferred to Bishop to combine those two passions. He continued his association with scouting with his son and later his grandsons. He was honored by the district in 1975 with the Silver Beaver award for years of outstanding service to Scouting.

"Gordon retired from Caltrans in 1976 with 38 years of service, mostly in right-of-way engineering. In his retirement years he enjoyed sharing his love and skill of fishing and the beauty of the local mountains with his children, grandchildren and friends. He served for 20 years on Bishop's Rural Fire Board. He was "Poppy" to a generation of soccer players, attending the games of each of the grandchildren over a 15-year span. Gordon had a long, full life. All who knew and loved him and his compassion and humor will miss him.

Gordon is survived by his wife, **Irene J. Lammiman**; son and daughter-in-law **John**

and **Kathy Lammiman** and daughter and son-in-law **Patricia and Ted Gardner**.

— Lance Hinek

The Barber of Seville...

A guy sticks his head into a barbershop and asks, "How long before I can get a haircut?"

The barber looks around the shop full of customers and says, "About two hours."

The guy leaves.

A few days later the same guy sticks his head in the door and asks, "How long before I can get a haircut?" The barber looked around at the shop and says, "About three hours."

The guy leaves.

A week later the same guy sticks his head in the shop and asks, "How long before I can get a haircut?" The barber looked around the shop and says, "About an hour and a half."

The guy leaves.

The barber turns to a friend and says, "Hey, Bill, do me a favor. Follow that guy and see where he goes. He keeps asking how long he has to wait for a haircut, but then he doesn't ever come back.

"A little while later Bill returns to the shop, laughing hysterically. The barber asks, "So where does that guy go when he leaves?"

Bill looks up, tears in his eyes from laughter and says, "Your house."

The Haps in District 10

Dennis Smith won his breakfast at the September 25th breakfast meeting, which was attended by 33 guests.

Jack Johnson reports that he has been doing lots of "honey-dos and has become a very good cook.

Jack's oldest granddaughter got married on August 3. His other grandchildren are in college. No scars yet and his health has been very good. He's playing golf a lot, may give it up though because of a lack of improvement.

Virginia Evinger attended her Modesto High School Class of 1938, 69th reunion on September 15th and 16th. Twenty-nine classmates (out of a class of 284) and 32 friends gathered at a classmate's home on Saturday for a sumptuous buffet dinner. Following an open bar manned by her grandson, Skye, there were choices from a deli tray of *hors d'oeuvres*. Then they dined on specially baked ham, asparagus, pasta salad, tomatoes and rolls. Followed with cookies. They were blessed with nice cool summer weather - maybe too cool by the end of the evening!

On Sunday, 22 of the classmates, along with friends, gathered for a picnic where they enjoyed a lunch of fresh fruit salad, croissant deli sandwiches, cookies, wine and soft drinks. Next year she is looking forward to the big 70th reunion.

Brian Young traveled to Virginia in September to meet 40 other Youngs in Staunton, Virginia, where they formed the Andrew Lamont Young Society. They all are descendants of Andrew who was born in 1644 in Toward Castle, Knockdow, Argyll, Scotland; some have linked themselves to Andrew by their DNA. A trip to Scotland is planned for next year and the group plans to gather at Staunton, Virginia every two years. Many ancestors, including Brian's, had plantations there in the mid-1700s.

Brian is a member of the Delta Chapter (Stockton) of The Sons of The American Revolution through his 4th great grandfather, a patriot from the Staunton area. Captain **John Young** led a company of the Augusta County, Virginia Militia and fought alongside Washington at Yorktown during the American Revolution.

Captain John Young is also the 4th great grandfather to Senator **John Sidney McCain** who was invited to attend the gathering, but sent a letter declining for now because of the upcoming Presidential election.

Claude Stewart won his breakfast at the October 30th breakfast meeting, which was attended by 30 guests.

Claude and **Sharon Stewart** traveled to Southern California via the coast. They headed down to Pismo Beach, Morro Bay and Grover Beach for 2 days. Then they headed to the annual PCEG meeting in the Los Angeles area with a stop at Peterson Auto Museum. Spent three days in the Los Angeles area before heading north to Solvang and home.

Dave McPeak found some pictures of the District Traffic Department that date from 1982. We believe they belong to **Lola Kyle** who worked here at that time. We have lost touch with her but would like to return the photos. We have heard a rumor that she is in the Grass Valley Area. If anybody knows of her whereabouts, please have her call **Bob Ikeda** at (209) 931-2609.

Vern Dorsch won his breakfast at the November 27 breakfast meeting, attended by 27 guests.

Ruth Rosamond Hoopes, born on April 8, 1919 in San Diego, passed away, June 16, 2007 in Tucson. She wife of, and is survived by her husband of 47 years, **Gordon**. She is also survived by her three sons, **Loren Weinbrenner** of San Francisco, **Paul Weinbrenner** of Alexandria Louisiana, **Thomas Weinbrenner** of Ashram-Kunsi, in India; half sister **Colleen Chaney** of Watsonville; stepson, **Jim Hoopes** of Lodi and stepdaughter, **Susan Habel** of Orange California. She is also survived by four grandchildren.

During her first marriage she lived with her husband, **Elwyn Weinbrenner** on their farm in Mineral Point, Wisconsin. After moving

to California, Ruth was employed by the State of California Department of Transportation, as a secretary. Ruth and Gordon both retired from Caltrans in the early 1980s and spent many summers volunteering in State parks along the Pacific Coast. Friends and family will celebrate her life at a Brunch Part

Some Personal Profiles:

Dana Cowell, who started his Caltrans career in Headquarters with the Division of Mass Transportation, has completed his 25 years with Caltrans. Dana's career included stops in District 10 (twice, first as a Senior Transportation Planner and then as the Deputy Director for Planning), special assignment with the Director's Office in Headquarters and District 4 as Planning Deputy Director. Dana is now Deputy Director of the San Joaquin County Council of Governments.

Bill Seigi, an honorary member, still lives in Fairfield. Bill has lived there most of his life, except for his service in Company E of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II. **Stan Randolph** once asked Bill why he smoked and his answer was the best reason any one ever had. He said he started smoking to keep his hands warm in the cold winters on the battlefields in Northern Italy and Northeastern France. Bill seldom missed our monthly breakfast meetings in Stockton, but the crazy and impatient drivers on Route 12 have curtailed his early morning travels to Stockton

Merle E. Larrabee was first employed as an Engineering Aid I during the summers of 1954/55. After graduating from UC Berkeley, he became a Junior Civil Engineer in District 10 in 1956. Merle rotated thru most District 10 departments. His District 10 tenure included 10 years as a Resident Engineer in construction. Merle was promoted to Senior Highway Engineer in Headquarters Local Assistance in 1972 moving to Headquarters Construction late in 1979. He returned to District 10 as Deputy Director for Construction in July, 1989. Before retiring on October 30 1996 he served

as Chief, Headquarters Office of Construction Engineering and Management and Deputy Director, Project Development/Division Chief, North Region Construction in District 03.

Merle now does some consulting work from his home in Elk Grove. He and his wife were blessed with a daughter and three sons who have given them 10 grandchildren and two great grand children (actually - they're all great he says).

Merle is a QCC member in the Central District but keeps his ties to his District 10 friends by attending the District 10 breakfast at Denny's on the last Tuesday of every month.

Don't forget to check the date on your newsletter for your anniversary date and get your dues in on time!

— Brian Young

The Haps in District 11

The Annual Dinner will be on Thursday evening January 17, 2008 at Tom Ham's Lighthouse. Watch your mail for the notice and collection of dues.

One of our retired members, **Chad Lambirth**, lost his Ramona home in the recent fire. You can make a donation to his recovery fund through the California Transportation Foundation.

We have lost three of our members lately.

Associate Member **Carol Calvin**, wife of the deceased **Jim Calvin**, long time Traffic Engineer.

Robert Findlay, former Deputy District Director passed away on Thanksgiving Day.

Lloyd Hughes, Design Engineer on October 31, 2007.

We still have three vacancies in the District QCC. We do not have a director, correspondent or a picnic coordinator. If

you're interested in any of these positions, please let me know.

— Dean Burns and Butch Biendara

The Haps in Central

It was great seeing so many district friends at our First Annual Luau Barbeque held at College Greens Swim and Racket Club on September 26th. Many participated in our Best Hawaiian Outfit contest, with **Pat Laumer** and **Norm Root** taking home the prizes this year.

Heinz Heckeroth reported on the status of the California Transportation Foundation. Our members voted to give \$200 to the CTF fund in memory of **Don Benjamin** who passed away on July 17th.

Director **Gary Bush** welcomed new member Joyce Rosenberg. Gary announced that our next function would be our Holiday Luncheon on December 12th at the Buggy Whip Restaurant in Sacramento. Honorary Membership Certificates will be presented to **Jack Derby, Orrin Finch, Evelyn Goetz, Dean Larson, Earl Rogers, Wanda Rose, William Schaefer and Donald Watson**. Congratulations to our new Honoraries!!!

Central District welcomes three more new members: **Sherry Liberty-McGarity, Suzy Namba and Susan Swain**.

Thanks to those who shared the following news:

Hope and Heinz Heckeroth: "Celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary with a two week trip to Southern California. The freeways got our inspection. Hope was co-pilot so we traveled the extensive HOV system. Met lots of old friends including some Division of

Highway "Pasts" like **Bob and Elaine Adams** in Huntington Beach (They say, "Hi!") and **Helen Ayanian** in Camarillo. Lots of Memories. "

Joe and La Rena Hannon: "In July, we attended a reunion of the **Harlan** family, **Joe's** mother's family, in Reno that was attended by 402 people! Joe and La Rena were in charge of bus trips. Joe took buses to Virginia City where a Harlan owned one of the first hotels during the Silver Rush. La Rena guided buses to Donner Summit, since the Harlans were on the same wagon train as the Donners. However, the Harlans separated from the Donners in the Salt Lake area. The Harlans were able to reach the summit a week or more before the Donner party and before the heavy snow. Joe and La Rena were responsible for eight buses over two days with 225 family members on tour. They did such a good job; Joe was elected to the Harlan Family Association Board. The next reunion will be in San Antonio in five years. The Reno reunion represented 320 years in America. "

Pat and Jerry Laumer: "Took a cruise to Alaska. A highlight was seeing the calving of a glacier, which was exciting to see and hear. Also enjoyed the White Pass railroad train out of Skagway. A couple of months later we took a trip on Amtrak to Milwaukee for a family wedding. Of course, took in a Brewers baseball game while we were there. "

Dorothy and Vince Paul: "We've been enjoying our new digs in Santa Rosa for two years now. We're living in a 55+ community with some 5000 residents with many, many things to do. Other than that, we're bound for another trip to Hawaii (about our 5th) in November and then a trip to Cozumel with family for Christmas. "

Ron and Luann Hollis: "Our adventure this year was a return trip to Alaska (third time since 1971) with our travel trailer. Compared to the 1500 miles of gravel road in 1971, this trip was easy except the portion in the Yukon

with lots of frost heaves. Fishing for salmon and halibut was successful. Next year, a trailer trip will be to Urban/Champaign, Illinois, to attend our youngest daughter's graduation as a DVM then on to other states for family visits. "

Glen and Sharon Rosander: "Returned from a cruise and land trip to Alaska. Weather on ship was lovely. Glacier Bay was clear and sunny, one of only average of 50 days a year of sunshine. Our trip to Mt. McKinley Park was a bust as clouds closed in and we didn't even see its base. Had a good time anyway. Saw moose, caribou and lots of whales. "

Ron and Margaret Lemmon: "Have limited our travels somewhat. Beginning in February, we took a few days to attend our annual SOD's get-together in Arroyo Grande. This is a group with some connection to South Dakota (Sons and Daughters of the Dakotas). Over the 4th of July we attended a family reunion in Aberdeen, South Dakota, to attend Margaret's oldest brother's 80th birthday. Later in the summer we went to Reno to attend the Nevada Alumni College (Ron's college). These "colleges" are conducted each year for three days to learn about Nevada's (and sometimes eastern California's) history. We also spent one day on campus learning about the latest classes being offered and the newest buildings being constructed. Our final trip was to Las Vegas to attend the University of Wisconsin vs. UNLV football game. Margaret's brother, **Bill**, is the grandfather of the Wisconsin place-kicker, **Taylor Mehlhaff**. Another family reunion. Happily, Wisconsin won. We rented a van and Margaret and I, our daughter, our son and his wife and their two sons, all traveled together for 13 hours each way. "

Dick and Jacki Pryor: "Celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary with a three-week stay in Paris in April. The cherry trees were in full bloom and the flowers were also in full bloom. The only downer was Dick coming down with walking pneumonia on Friday the 13th. "

Judy and David Saxby: "During the summer, we took our tent trailer to MacKericher State Park and VanDamme State Park on the Northern California coast. Our camping neighbors provided us with freshly pounded abalone twice. What a treat fresh from the ocean. We are leaving next Wednesday (October 3-10) for Maui. We are taking our granddaughter, Morgan (who's five years old), our two sons, daughter, son-in-law and daughter-in-law. It should be a great trip."

Chuck and Dianne Davis: "We traveled to Alaska (SF round trip) with 23 family and friends to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. What a wonderful time we had."

E.G (Pom) Pomeroy: "Having more problems getting around. So far Kaiser has been able to fix the problems."

Gene Berthelsen: "I had a wonderful 70th birthday in October when my son, from the Bay Area, and my daughter, from New York City, dropped in unannounced to take out me for a birthday dinner. Also, my wife, Donna Springer, threw a bash for me with, as they say, just a few hundred of my closest friends. This 70 business ain't half bad."

Jack and Ellen Derby: "The annual picnic was a great get-together. Many thanks to Gary and Julie Bush for a great event. Jack had a great trip with his son, Craig, to the Galapagos area and Machu Picchu during the spring. Ellen and Jack spent a week with their ski club camping at Loon Lake. Lots of hiking, fishing, eating and games. Ellen did a trip to Phoenix to visit her pal, Miriam, in August (pretty hot). We have been playing a lot of golf and doing quite a lot of fishing."

Merle and Adele Larrabee: "So great to be here—great time at the barbecue. Just a note on our recent vacation: Between August 29 and September 11, we visited our grandson and his wife in Kansas City, Missouri. We stayed with them for five days after flying into Kansas City. KC is a very interesting place—very historic in regards to opening up the West."

Also, many national companies have their headquarters there. After our stay, we drove via rental car across Missouri to see Mark Twain's birthplace at Hannibal. Then for the next four days we made our way through Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan and over to Minnesota. We ended our driving in Minnesota at the Mall of America. We stayed across the street from the Mall for three days.

Mother Larrabee got her fill of shopping. Actually, she was "shopped out". We flew home from Minneapolis after putting 1700+ miles on our rental car. Coming home, the weather disrupted our flight to the extent we had to spend the night in the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport! Other than that, we had a great time and have lots to tell our children and grandchildren."

Vern Leseman: "Just returned from a wonderful 10-day land and sea cruise to Alaska. My lady friend, Marcy, and I had a great time in Denali Park where we saw five brown bears, one moose and four reindeer. No Santa Claus! Hope our next trip can be to Germany, maybe next year."

Gloria and Wayne Luney: "Celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary in June 2007."

Don and Wilma Watson: "Celebrated our 56th wedding anniversary the day of the picnic, September 26th. In August, we went on a family cruise to the Western Caribbean. One hundred and five family members attended. The East Coast met the West Coast families. Wilma celebrated her 80th birthday in July. We will be in Las Vegas during New Years and plan another Hawaii trip early in 2008."

Anonymous (forgot to sign their name but it's good to know whoever it was had a good time visiting): "Good to visit with former business associates again. We were able to visit Redrock Canyon Lodge in western Colorado. It is a wonderful new lodge. In July we had a fishing trip to Craig, Alaska with our 14-year old grandson. Fishing was great and we were able to bring back an excellent supply of halibut and salmon."

Gary and Julie Bush: "We traveled to Arizona in May to visit friends who had moved to Chandler. Also visited our best man and his wife in Tucson as well as dear family friends who have lived there for over 50 years. They still live in the house they built back then. Beautiful area, but HOT! We enjoyed touring Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West in Scottsdale. The Botanical Gardens in Phoenix and the Dessert Museum in Tucson are both beautiful and very interesting.

Our son, **Erik**, and family visited from North Carolina. Erik and grandson, **Josh**, have gold fever and spent several mornings panning in the South Fork of the American River. They actually found some gold dust! We visited Black Chasm Cavern in Volcano. They have a new store and the tour is well worth taking.

In September, we celebrated our 44th wedding anniversary in Kauai. In October, we took a 10-day cruise from New York to Quebec. A highly recommended cruise. The fall colors were awesome the further north we went.

In November, we headed to Oahu to attend the wedding of our youngest daughter, Lauren. Everything was perfect. The wedding took place at the Ihilani Hotel on the grass overlooking the ocean. Great weather and a beautiful setting for a wedding.

Our next spring luncheon will be held at the Dante Club in Sacramento on April 30th 2008.

— Gary and Julie Bush

Foundation Matters

California Transportation Foundation

Update on 2007 Programs

The California Transportation Foundation continues its mission by supporting Caltrans activities and employees with a growing list of programs. Our latest is the establishment of accounts to support Caltrans-sanctioned employee activities when state funding is inappropriate. These funds are administered exclusively by sponsoring Caltrans units including the raising of all funds required.

Some recent activities supported by these funds have included District 8's *All Employee BBQ*, Structures Conference travel per diem and Civil Rights sponsorship of the Department's *Diversity Day Celebration*. CTF financially manages these individual funds without a fee.

As 2007 nears an end, more than \$45,000 in scholarship grants have been provided to 58 students with transportation career goals.

Memorial and Assistance Grants totaling almost \$35,000 have been provided to Caltrans families in need. These include the administration of five active Memorial Fund Programs and three Memorial Facility Signing Programs. The Foundation has also established a Fire Relief Fund to assist the two District 11 employees who lost their homes in the recent Southland Fires. District 11 is also helping an ailing security guard with medical expenses by contributing to the CTF Assistance Fund. In all of these incidences the Foundation's Board passes on all the designated contributions received and adds some of its own discretionary funding to the grant provided.

You can help in 2008 when you receive our annual call for contributions in February. This year's appeal is again being processed by **Nancy Benjamin** and **Peggy Sweet**. We

continue in the tradition of using volunteer help while maintaining a low overhead of administrative expenses. No salaries, no rent and no personal or Board Member expenses are being paid. We hope we will continue to merit your support. Please call anytime (916.453.1767) with questions or offers to volunteer your time on short-term projects, as a staff person or as a Board Member candidate. You may also contact the Foundation at its website at www.transportationfoundation.org or by mail at 581 La Sierra Drive, Sacramento CA 95864.

The Quarter Century Club— for application or newsletters go to <http://ctqcc.150m.com/qc.html>

Murphy's Lesser Known Laws

1. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
2. He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
3. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
4. Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.
5. Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.

In Memoriam

We extend our sympathy to family members and loved ones of our fallen colleagues

Name	District	Date
Andy Carlson	01	November 1, 2007
John Pennebaker	03	November 1, 2007
Al Back	04	November 8, 2007
Ho Lam	04	Unknown
Michael O'Hanlon	04	September 5, 1007
Susan Scarecliff	04	October 14, 2007
Jack Gusner	05	April 6, 2007
Forrest Kellogg	06	February 2007
Larry Luby	06	February 28, 2007
Al Cramer	07	September 16, 2007
Dick Laughlin	07	November 27, 2007
C.J. Vosburg	07	October 15, 2007
"Cap" Akers	08	January 21, 2007
Dave Baldrige	08	September 29, 2007
Hal Bowers	08	August 2, 2007 Bill
Patterson	08	September 19, 2007
Mel Shank	08	September 21, 2007
Henry Case	08	July 11
Charles David Curtis	08	August 14, 2007
Dick Lowry	08	September 27, 2007
Al Ordway	08	September 29, 2007
Gordon Lammiman	09	Nov 17, 2007
Ruth Hoopes	10	June 16, 2007
Carol Colvin	11	2007
Albert Nichols	11	November 5, 2007
Robert Findlay	11	November 22

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

Ret'd 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

Holiday Luncheon Friday, Dec 14 2007 at 11:30 AM at Upper Crust Pizza. Contact Diane Tomicich 530-243-4908 or Shirley Shoup 530-365-2191

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

District 4

The **Caltrans Lunch Bunch** meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month – Contact Ed Coble at e-mail: edcoble49@worldnet.att.net

The **North Bay Caltrans Retirees** meet on the second Tuesday of every month – Contact Jim Bouler at 707-546-3097

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 am on Thursdays 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

District 8 District 8 Construction koffee klatch meets at Coco's on Hospitality Lane around 9:00 every Wednesday *Contact: Marsha Lotze*

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

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

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

District 11 *No Contact*

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

Central *Contact Gary Bush– (530) 642-8208*
Spring luncheon will be held at the Dante Club in Sacramento on April 30, 2008

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