



## Recruiting goes on

*PICK UP A FLIER AND PASS IT AROUND*

### *From the Corner Pocket*

Halfway into our two-year recruiting effort, I trust you are chatting with your friends now reaching their 25-year mark and have convinced them to join up. Some long-time QCC leaders are growing weary and would appreciate some help. District 2 has new QCC leadership people and District 11 has new people helping with events.

Help is on the way, but you must extend an invitation in order to get people involved. To assist with our recruiting contest, each District QCC Director has been sent a bundle of colorful fliers. When you're anywhere where Caltrans employees (potential recruits) gather, (coffee, retirement or whatever) get some from your local director and take them with you. It might help to have QCC applications with you, but the fliers have the QCC web page listed where they can get an application.

Everyone can be a recruiter and a potential winner in the contest, but to simplify shipping the fliers were sent just to the directors of each district. Check with them for some 'silent salesmen' before your next Caltrans event.

The Caltrans web newsletter lists district retirees along with their years of service, but there is no way to contact them after they

retire. You may be invited to their retirement party. If they're not a member, sign them up.

The fliers have three different front cover images—the basic QCC logo and two variations incorporating the CT logo that has been the official one for the last 35 years and the one new recruits are most likely to recognize. Your comments are appreciated. The message inside may not be the very best, but if you care to suggest improvements, it can help us all.

On another important subject, the *New York Times* recently led a story with, "WASHINGTON - The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission said Wednesday that employers could reduce or eliminate health benefits for retirees when they turn 65 and become eligible for Medicare."

This has a very serious potential impact on most QCCers, who are retired and likely over 65—especially if the governor's review of post-employment benefits finds that dropping our CalPERS healthcare benefit is a means to cut expenditures. The state's retirement healthcare benefit is a good one—a recent study by the

Pew Trust found that a third of retired public employees and two thirds of retired private employees in the USA get no health benefits.

Thanks to CalPERS for covering this expense.

— 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**

**Is this the last issue you will receive?** Yes, it could be, **IF...**

1. You have not paid your dues for 2008 (PLEASE check the mailing label on the front of this issue. If the date is not 12/31/2008 (or later) you are

delinquent. Please use the renewal form on the last page of this issue when submitting dues payments.

2. You are an Honorary/Associate Honorary member but have failed to notify the Secretary/Treasurer that you wish to remain exempt from paying dues. You can e-mail exemption requests to me at the following address: [propman211@sbcglobal.net](mailto:propman211@sbcglobal.net). You may also use the form on the last page.

I want to give a big **thank you** to all the Honorary/Associate Honorary members who paid dues for this year and/or made donations to the "cause" to defray expenses although they did not have to. It is greatly appreciated.

I also want to thank everyone who sent notes with your dues payments. It is so good to get the messages from you. I am sorry I don't have time to answer them all.

Remember, dues must be paid by the end of February (which is now in the past) and to continue receiving the *Cue See Seer* you must be current on the dues. You can use the form on the last page for your renewal. The dues are coming in quite well, but there are still a few out there who need to get your payments in.

Pat and I attended a couple of district Christmas gatherings and we had a great time. I wish all the districts had a holiday party so that everyone could enjoy the company of their fellow workers. After reading the details of the District 6 (where I started with the Division of Highways) Holiday shindig, I sure wish we could have made it there to see a lot of people I haven't seen for years. But we just returned the day before from our wonderful cruise and needed some rest.

You may remember from my previous Secretary/Treasurers column) that I had bet with my doctor about weight gain on the cruise. Well, I only gained 4 pounds, BUT after we got back I put on about 8 more! I think the reason was all the exercise we got

on the ship by walking from our cabin directly below the bridge to the stern to participate in the eating process. As the ship was almost a thousand feet long, it was a pretty good trek. No, I won't say how many times a day we did that.

I certainly hope that this New Year brings happiness and peace to all of you. Until next time, may the good Lord watch over you and keep you well and healthy so that you may enjoy the springtime that is on its way and the opportunity to enjoy the fellowship of your Division of Highways/ Caltrans friends.

— Kim Yarbrough

### Honorary Members

Honorary members must notify the Secretary-Treasurer if they wish to continue their dues-free status. See officer list for Secretary-Treasurer address.

## *The Haps in District 1*

I hope the cold, rainy weather is coming to an end and we can start enjoying spring soon. December was a busy month. Our CSEA chapter had its Christmas party December 6 at the Elks Lodge. Caltrans retirees I saw there included **Ben Stebbins, Bob Myers, Bill and Betty Barton, Bert and Janice Bertolini, Ray and Donna Truttman, Jack Moore, Vi Truby, and Catherine Malloy**. We always have a great lunch there and enjoyed a delightful musical performance by the Eureka High School Jazz singers.

On December 13 our ladies lunch bunch had a nice potluck lunch at **Marilyn Hernandez'** home. She and husband

Larry recently had their kitchen remodeled. It was made for entertaining and absolutely gorgeous. Our group has been shrinking lately but we enjoyed visiting with **Marilyn, Rita Coleman, Vi Truby, Rosalie Aker, Lorraine Owsley and Bobbie Hribal**.

On December 22, we attended fellow QCCer Larry Bowermaster's retirement party, which was an open house with coffee and cookies at the Presbyterian Church in Eureka. It was casual and people were invited to wear cowboy hats and outfits. This was a first for me and it was wonderful. There was a continuous video showing Larry's life and the jobs he worked on, several pictures of him through the years, and his retirement awards. A beautiful quilt that his wife made for him was on display. This type of party was really made for visiting and seeing so many friends and Caltrans family. Some of the retirees included **Guy Luther, Jim Siebert, Rita Coleman, Stan and Judy Murdock, Pete Pettersen, Slater Smith, Dennis Grinsell, Kenny Vaughan and Harold and Liz Webster**. We knew and were delighted to see some of Larry's relatives. I recommend this type of party for any retiree. Congratulations Larry, and many happy years of retirement.

The recent retired Highwaymen and Road Agents lunch, held January 17 at the Home Town Buffet at the Bayshore Mall in Eureka, was very well attended. **Chuck SeCoy and Jerry Severson** made it over from Redding and had a great time visiting with everyone.

An email from **Chuck Finch**, in Phoenix, one of our retired bridge engineers, was forwarded to me recently. He was having pain and shortness of breath. After extensive tests, they discovered three blocked arteries. He had a triple bypass February 8 and was back home in time to celebrate Valentine's

Day. His wife was with him, and his children, **Steven** and **Stacey**, arrived to provide support. He still has his sense of humor. He introduced his E-mail with, "For those who have not heard, I am in the process of supporting the Arizona health industry." Our thoughts are with you, Chuck, for a full and speedy recovery.

On February 14, fellow QCCer **Guy Luther** and I attended the Caltrans History Preservation Committee meeting thanks to video conferencing. It was good to see everyone and find out what is going on in other districts. District 1 is still organizing our historic items and most recently started reviewing items from the traffic counting unit to see what should be set aside for, either in our district or others, where they could be preserved and displayed. Guy has taken on the project of inventorying these items. Wouldn't working on the preservation of our highway history be a good project for QCCers?

When **Bill** and I were walking the other day, **Sonja McClary** stopped and we had a nice visit. She keeps very busy at home with Bob, even with extra help. He is healthy and in good spirits. He knows what is going on even though he does not say much. He enjoys seeing and hearing from his friends and co-workers. Our thoughts are with you, Bob and Sonja.

I am happy to report that the District 1 Caltrans Social Fund Committee is drafting a letter to retirees to find out who is interested in being notified of upcoming events. This is a great idea and I hope it works out. Some of us still like to go to the special events but don't always hear about them in time.

For those who have memories of many Caltrans retirement parties and other events or just had dinner at O-H's Town House in Eureka, and I am sad to report that it served its last dinners February 29. After more than 50 years in business, family members were

ready to retire or move on. It was best known for its wonderful steaks and its huge banquet room. Nearly 300 people attended when my then-supervisor, **Darinka**, retired back in the '70s.

Remember, dues are delinquent after 02/29/2008. Please check the date on your mailing label to see if you are current with your dues. I hope to hear from fellow QCCers. My email is [ahartin@suddenlink.net](mailto:ahartin@suddenlink.net).

—Arlene Hartin

## *The Haps in District 2*

The QCC luncheon in December was a real success. Good to see so many friends and fellow members (45 in all) including Secretary **Kim Yarbrough** and wife, **Pat. John Martin**, Design R1 Branch Chief gave an excellent presentation of the Dana-to- Downtown Project, which begins construction in April. District 2 Director **Brian Crane** gave an informative update on the happenings at Caltrans.

Welcome to the new club officers! **Jim Ceragioli** has graciously accepted the position of Director and **Burton Brockett** agreed to be Treasurer. The Secretary position is still vacant so if anyone is interested let Jim or Burton know. A heartfelt THANK YOU to **Dan Cherry**, **Vivian Cherry** and **Janet Briggs** for many years of dedicated service as director, treasurer and secretary, respectively.

**Retha** and **Nick Rubiec** traveled to Europe in June 2007 to see Nick's birthplace and celebrate their retirements. The guided trip, "Jewels of the Alpine," traversed Switzerland, France, Italy, Lichtenstein, Austria and Germany. It encompassed about 1,200 miles and three lakes and focused on the medieval parts of the various cities.

Highlights included crossing the Alps, going to the top of Mt. Blanc, and being in Munich during its 400-year celebration of Hofbrauhaus. Since their return they constructed a large metal building to house their new patio boat.

**Bill Belcher** reports he and **Michelle Curler** married in December 2006 in Lake Tahoe. They stay busy with mutual interests and spend a lot of time with their seven grandchildren. Bill says, "Grandkids are just about the very best thing in life!" Michelle worked in Administration in Districts 1 and 2 and Headquarters. Bill worked in District 6 and at META. He currently works in District 2.

**Gene Knaebel** has been doing very well with his photography. He recently received an award of excellence from the Highland Art Center in Weaverville in its annual photo competition. Also, six of his photographs hang at Shasta Health Care and three at the North Valley Art League. Two of his images will be included in the next issue of "Moving Mountain" a publication of writers and artists in the Mt. Shasta area. The City of Redding will include some of his pictures of the art of the Cascade Theatre on its official website. Gene says "Photography has been really good for me at this point in my life as it gives me a means of being productive and creative and being able to contribute to the community."

**Bob and Karen Bryceson** took a 12-day trip to Prague, Bavaria, Germany, Austria and Budapest in July 2007. First stop was Prague for three days, and then a bus trip down the Rhine/Mien canal to the Danube River. They stopped at Regensberg, Passau, Linz, Vienna and finally Budapest. It was very warm most of the time. They saw a lot of history and beautiful country. They said it was a fun and plan to go back soon to see what they missed.

**John and Jane Strobe** suffered a most

unfortunate loss in August 2007 when a fire destroyed the home they were having built. On a better note, the footings and slab for the new house were completed December 12. They'll resume the construction when they return from China in May.

**Jerry and Sharon Severson** attended a "big birthday bash" for **Peggy Sweet**, widow of former District 2 Director **Chuck Sweet** in November. More than 100 people were in attendance, including **Lew** and **Sandy Wood** and **Dan** and **Vivian Cherry** from District 2. Attendees consisted of family, neighbors, tennis friends, bridge friends, houseboat group and Caltrans friends. They were treated to a wonderful dinner and live music and great stories about Peggy's escapades over the years.

Former District Director **Al Phillips** and wife **Eileen** are still living the good life in Shingletown, east of Redding and working on their fourth motor home. In the summer they camp and fish along Hat Creek with family and friends and in the winter they shovel snow and ice out of the driveway so they can head south in search of spring. They always find it in Death Valley or at Laughlin, Blythe or Yuma.

They also enjoy the Southern California beaches in Oceanside and Carlsbad. Reno is their favorite city because of the many events including Bull Riding, Hot August Nights, Balloon Races and losing at slots! Al says he is in good health, hiking four miles most days on a course with some pretty good hills. Eileen suffers from arthritis and uses a cane at times, but she can still wear him out in any mall in America! Al says "I plan to climb Mt. Lassen for the ninth time on my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, just a year and a half from now. It's been 15 years since I retired but I still have Caltrans and especially Caltrans people in my thoughts."

We're sorry to report that our friend and co-worker **John Reynolds** passed

away October 21, 2007 at age 84. He began his career in District 2 in 1963 and retired as Redding Maintenance Supervisor. His wife Mary, two sons, a daughter, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren survive him. He was a terrific family man and enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren.

We send condolences to retired Senior Right of Way Agent **Jim Ceragioli**, whose wife **Judith** passed away September 25, 2007 after an extended illness. Jim and Judy moved to Redding in 1976 when Jim transferred with Caltrans. They were married 43 years and have a son, **James**, daughter-in-law **Tracy** and two year old grandson, **Giovanni**.

Another friend and co-worker, **Robert Breuning**, passed away December 18 at age 78. He was a Caltrans engineer for 33 years. Robert is survived by **Patricia**, his wife of 52 years, and five children, **Ann Smith**, **Marie Belongie**, and **Denise Crabill** of Redding, and **Kevin Breuning** of Eureka and **Therese Breuning-Azzam** of Anchorage.

We send our prayers to our members who have lost family members recently.

Thanks for all the notes and e-mails, the response has been great. Keep them coming! Our e-mail addresses are: [dtomicich@charter.net](mailto:dtomicich@charter.net) and [will-shirl@juno.com](mailto:will-shirl@juno.com)

— Diane Tomicich and Shirley Shoup

### The Haps in District 3

District 3 will hold its **Annual Spring Fling** will be held at the Yuba City Moose Lodge on April 6. Mark your calendar. Watch your mailbox for the official invitation and more information.

The District 3 QCC now has a Board of Officers and a Social Committee as follows:

- Dan Johnson, Sr.** Director
- Lita Wells** Treasurer
- Libby Haraughty** Secretary
- Susanna Ford** Publicity Chair

Social Committee members are **Charlotte Mattocks**, **Ethel Mae Waller** and **Palmer Haug**.

**Frank Maskovich**, District 3 Deputy Director of Administration advises that the new district office building is about 40 percent complete. Most of the work now is on the inside. The wallboard installation began on February 8 with windows to be installed by the end of February. HVAC, electrical and plumbing are ongoing. Frank anticipates completion in late July or early August.



The move of employees into the new facility will start about two weeks after completion. Demolition of the existing building will then start and work on a new childcare center would begin. Project completion is sometime in the spring of 2009.

We welcome **Frank Gould** and **Walter Lyons** as new members.

**Lita Wells** went to Boreal recently for an afternoon of skiing. She advises it's a real bargain now. For seniors the fee is only \$5

for the day. She said it was beautiful in the high country with sunshine and snow on the tree branches. Lita said the trip up from Grass Valley to the summit was gorgeous. She reports she had a ball with no mishaps and to top it off she had no sore muscles the next day. This was her first ski adventure since 2000.

**Joan Hanson Prouty** was installed on January 31 as president of the Fremont Hospital Auxiliary for the 2008 year. Congratulations, Joan.

We hear from Gene Mattocks that **Wayne Hinsdale** has been placed in The Gardens Alzheimer's facility. Wayne seems way to young for this dreadful disease.

**Irene Itamura** embarked on her annual ski trip to Mammoth. She, her siblings and friends have been going the last week of January for many years. **Dona Sparkman** went along on the trip.

**Merle and Pat Larson's** daughter, **Penny**, MD, OB/Gyn is now practicing with Sutter North in Yuba City. Merle and Pat are seeing lots more of their four grandchildren, ages 3 to 15 since they moved back to the area.

**Chuck and Pat Miller** cruised the Mexican Riviera in February.

**Allen Wrenn** contacted Lita Wells and wants to attend our next gathering. He is going on a Caribbean cruise sometime in April. We hope his schedule doesn't interfere with the Spring Fling.

**Pat Steinwert** took her eldest grand daughter on a Mexican cruise in January as a high school graduation present. They sailed out of Los Angeles and toured Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta and had a great catamaran excursion at Cabo to view whales. Pat's granddaughter, Ellen, is attending college in Denver.

Our condolences go to **John Myers** who lost his wife last fall. John recently

attended the Retired Public Employees Association Meeting.

After the big storm in January **Bill Sanders** and **Bud Ferguson** were hard at work repairing their driveways and roofs.

**Betty and Everett Emmons** are having a warm and wonderful time in the desert with family close by for potlucks and an occasional trip to the local casino.

**Wally and Della Crother** are spending three months in Cathedral City enjoying the warm weather and playing golf. Back in September the couple celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary with a party hosted by their three children.

In September, **Howard and Barbara Hardie** celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with an event hosted by their two children. Visiting the Hardies last month were their twin great-granddaughters who were born in September. Howard said he keeps busy with honey-dos and Barbara volunteers with the Rideout Hospital Auxiliary where she has been a member for almost 50 years.

**Mardell McClain** recently attended the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday party of a friend who went to high school with her. Also attending the party were **Joe and Carol Schmidl**. Joe and Carol live in Yuba City and spend time in Arizona in the winter and Fort Bragg in the summer.

**Bill Malott** spends quite a lot of time traveling; he spent Christmas 2007 in Branson, Missouri enjoying the shows and the bright holiday lights. He has another fishing derby planned in June at Little Grass Valley Reservoir.

**John Sanger** is also heading for Branson this May. Also taking the trip to Branson in May is **Susanna Ford**, who recently played in the snow at La Porte. In addition, Susanna and nine other lady friends will rent a house in Bodega Bay, play golf, take walks and do a

lot of eating. In July she will cruise from San Francisco to Alaska and back with her granddaughter, Ashley. The trip is a high school graduation gift.

**Charlotte Mattocks** has returned to work and will assist Facilities with the new District Office building.

We are looking for volunteers for the newly created Social Committee; we appreciate news of members and families. Contact **Dan Johnson, Sr.** at (530) 671-3889 or e-mail [boots3@syix.com](mailto:boots3@syix.com) if you have input or have time to volunteer.

Many thanks to **Lita Wells**, Libby **Haraughty** and **Susanna Ford** for their help in gathering information for this column.

Please remember the Caltrans Memorial Service, April 8 on the west steps of the state capitol at 11 am. Three of our fallen comrades will be memorialized.

—Dan Johnson, Sr.

### Placerville Area News:

The Placerville annual spring luncheon will be held Thursday, April 17, 2008 at 2:30 pm at the Green House Café in the Raley's Shopping Center in West Placerville. The Café closes at 2 pm and will reopen for our luncheon at 2:30. The luncheon is open to all retired Cal Trans employees, their spouses or guests. We will order from the menu with individual checks, thus no advance payment is required. We'll contact those on the mailing list a week or so in advance to obtain a head count for the Café.

New people need to contact one of the committee members listed at the end of this article for reservations. Use Exit 44B and continue on Placerville Drive to Ray Lawyer Drive, turn right at the signal light and use the first entrance on the right. Parking is available anywhere in the shopping center. Contact **Doug Becker** -- (530) 622-1665 or **Jerry Hamm** -- (530) 622-8030.

**Grace** and **Doug Becker** flew to

Corpus Christi to celebrate their son **Bruce's** retirement from the US Navy after 30 years service. All family members attended, which made an enjoyable and memorable time.

**Barbara** and **Keith Maggini** met **Stan** and **Nancy Freeman** for lunch in Plymouth and then continued to Mount Aukum for an enjoyable afternoon of visiting and pinochle.

Construction on Highway 50 is proceeding rapidly with good progress being made in spite of the weather. The Indian Casino Interchange, Missouri Flat Interchange and Placerville Freeway are on target for completion in 2008.

Remember, dues are delinquent after 02/29/2008. Please check the date on your mailing label to see if you are current with your dues. **This will be your last issue if dues are not current.** Please use the form on the last page of this issue.

—Keith Maggini

## The Haps in District 4

I don't have much to report in the way of since last December. My wife and I have been busy helping our daughter resettle in Southern California. She spent the last school year living and teaching in Garland, Texas, just outside Dallas. The weather, tornadoes, golf ball-sized hail and ice storms made California look like a paradise, so she decided to move back with her two dogs and a cat.

**Ed Coble's** annual Christmas luncheon at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco was a great success. More than 40 people attended. Ed was unable to attend due



to illness, but **Ernie Holt** filled in as host.

The Cobles are living in Walnut Creek but haven't finished renovating their new residence. Ed has to take it easy since his doctors have said he suffered a mild heart attack. Ed insists it may have been a bout of pneumonia. Either way, he has been taking it easy. He missed hosting the December and January luncheons but was back at Westlake Joe's in Daly City in February and looking well.

I'm sad to report that former QCC member **Robert C. Stewart** passed away November 22, 2007. Bob's forth wife, **Grace** worked for me for several years.

Bob was a veteran of World War II and Korea and as those who came in contact with Bob knew, he had been severely wounded in Korea. His recovery was a story in itself.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* ran an exhaustive obituary notice on Bob. The highlights: Bob started work as a field surveyor on the New York State Thruway until he decided to pursue a medical degree. However, after his first year of pre-med, he found his future was in engineering. He then went to work on the St. Lawrence Seaway until 1957 when he joined the staff of the Niagara Falls hydroelectric power plant construction. He worked there until 1962, when the Golden State caught his attention.

Bob started his Caltrans career in District 7 working in construction and traffic. He found the administrative side of the department to his liking and in 1969 transferred to San Luis Obispo and from there to headquarters in 1970. In 1972 he moved to District 4 where he spent the remainder of his career. He retired after 25 years of state service. He is survived by five children, including his son Michael, who was at his side when he died.

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mailing label to see if you are current with your dues. **This will be your last issue if dues are not current.** Please use the form on the last page of this issue.

— Paul Hensley

**Spring Classes for Men**

Registration must be completed by March 30

Class 1

**How to Fill Ice Cube Trays** -- Step by Step, with Side Presentation. Meets 4 weeks; Monday and Wednesday for 2 hours beginning at 7 pm.

Class 2

**The Toilet Paper Roll** -- Does It Change Itself? Meets 2 weeks, Saturday 12:00 for 2 hours.

Class 3

**Fundamental Differences Between The Laundry Hamper and The Floor** -- Pictures and Explanatory Graphics Meets Saturday at 2 pm for 3 weeks.

Class 4

**After Dinner Dishes** -- Can They Levitate and Fly Into The Kitchen Sink and Dishwasher? (Examples on Video.) Meets 4 weeks, Tuesday and Thursday for 2 hours beginning at 7 pm.

Class 5

**Real Men Ask For Directions** -- Real Life Testimonials. Exercise: Hiding the GPS Tuesday at 6 pm Location to be determined.

Class 6

**How to be an Ideal Shopping Companion:** Relaxation Exercises, Meditation, and Breathing Meets 4 weeks; Tuesday and Thursday for 2 hours, beginning at 7 pm.

Class 7

**The Stove/Oven/Microwave** -- What It Is and How It Is Used. Live Demonstration. Tuesday at 6 pm, location to be determined.

## The Haps in District 5

The California poppies are blooming along Route 101, a sign that spring is on the way.

We hope you all enjoyed the holidays with family and friends. The District 5 Holiday barbecue was well attended. We enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by **Richard Gonzales** and his experienced crew.

**Bill Fieldhouse** was still recovering from knee surgery and supposed to be taking it easy, but he was seen keeping a close eye on the preparations. The new location at Trinity Hall is not as spacious as the Elks Club, but most people were good-natured about the cozy conditions. Thanks to everyone who brought the delicious desserts—YUM. Each of the division managers brought a gift basket to be given away, and we listened closely for our names to be called.

A note to the committee for next year: Be sure that maintenance has not scheduled a road closure on Hwy 227 on the day of the Barbecue!

Trinity Hall was also used for a retirement party for **Joanne Frederick**, South Region, and **Tim Griffin**, Templeton. It was great to see so many Maintenance folks past and present who came to honor these two special friends.

I omitted a few names last time when listing the retirees: **Brian Bennett** from Construction (formerly Shop 5), **Richard Green** from Maintenance, and **Tom Houston** from Project Management. A lot of experienced employees left the department last year, judging by the lengthy list published in the Caltrans News.

At this time, Caltrans is waiting to learn how the governor's proposed solutions to the

budget crisis will affect our activities. The initial order to cut spending pertained to the General Fund agencies, and we are hopeful that our separate bond funding will keep us from being impacted. District 5 is on track to have a record \$250 million in construction this year—WOW.

Attention golfers: The annual Caltrans golf tournament will be held in Reno, May 15-16. This year's courses will be Wolf Run Golf Club in Reno and D'Andrea Golf Club in Sparks. The golf package includes lodging at the Peppermill Hotel/Casino. Deadline for submitted entry forms is April 4. District 5 golfers should contact **Jacques Van Zeventer** for more information.

Congratulations to **Garret Wiley**, son of **Rick Wiley**, who was chosen to be the July artist for this year's Slow for the Cone Zone calendar. The competition is open to children of Caltrans employees in all districts and divisions, and 12 entries are selected for this colorful publication. The youngsters do a great job of conveying the important message to drive safely in work zones.

We were pleased to have a phone call from **John Maes**, telling us that he had relocated from Salinas to the Rancho Bernardo area. He had been having some mobility problems and decided to move closer to his son. John said he's been having physical therapy and is getting around more easily. He is an Honorary QCC Member now and was preparing his annual letter to Secretary **Kim Yarbrough**.

If you have reached the magic age of 80, don't forget to send your renewal request to Kim to continue your membership. If you're still a dues-paying member, check the expiration date on the mailing label and send in your \$15 if necessary. Also, if your address changes, please notify Kim or me.

Even if your address hasn't changed, I'd love to hear from you.

I'm sorry to report that we lost some special friends in the past few months. Mrs. **Mary "Pat" Vernon**, wife of **Monte**, passed away December 6. Pat was born in St. Paul, MN and came to California in 1940. When Monte was transferred to District 5, they settled in Santa Maria and raised a family of four daughters, ten grandchildren, and six great grandchildren in their 62 years together. Pat was also involved in her church, community, and PTA activities.

**Rodger Vierra** passed away unexpectedly on December 21. He was born in Hanford and graduated from Cal Poly, majoring in agriculture. Rodger retired from the D-5 Permits office in 1998. He enjoyed ranching, building projects, and traveling, and served several terms as a director of the Atascadero Mutual Water Company. He is survived by his wife **Skipper**, daughter **Rochelle** (a Senior Surveyor), son **Brien**, and two grandchildren.

**Paul Bohrer** died January 7 in Gold Beach, Oregon, at age 85. He had been doing what he loved most, steel head fishing on the Rogue River with family and friends. Paul was born in Parsons, Kansas and moved to California with his wife **Norma**. He retired from District 5 in 1979. For many years, he and Norma resided in Big Sur, where Paul hand-built two houses. Eventually they relocated to Fortuna, where Paul could be closer to rivers and fishing. He was always glad to pass along his knowledge to novice fishermen. Paul was also an avid backpacker and trekked the John Muir and Chilkoot Trails in the US; he also hiked in New Zealand, Nepal, Peru and China. He made several trips to Ecuador to visit the native people. Paul is survived by his wife Norma, four children, and four grandchildren.

Mrs. **Millie Hom**, wife of **Peter**, passed away at home February 13, surrounded by her family. Millie was born in San Francisco and met her future husband while attending

UC Berkeley. After raising their family, Millie obtained teaching credentials and spent 20 years with the San Luis Obispo School District. She was also active in Camp Fire, American Field Service, and the German School Committee. Millie was an avid sports fan and especially enjoyed "March Madness." She is survived by her husband **Pete**, three children, and seven grandchildren.

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— Kathy Copeland

**Idle Thoughts Of A Retiree's Wandering Mind**

I planted some birdseed. A bird came up.  
Now I don't know what to feed it.

I went to San Francisco. I found someone's heart. Now what?

Protons have mass? I didn't even know they were Catholic.

If the world were a logical place, men would be the ones who ride horses sidesaddle.

What is a "free" gift? Aren't all gifts free?

Teach a child to be polite and courteous in the home and when he grows up, he'll never be able to merge his car onto the freeway.

Experience is the thing you have left when everything else is gone.

One nice thing about egotists: they don't talk about other people.

My weight is perfect for my height -- which varies.

If swimming is so good for your figure, how do you explain whales?

Show me a man with both feet firmly on the ground, and I'll show you a man who can't get his pants off.

Is it just me ---- or do Buffalo wings taste like chicken?

## *The Haps in District 6*

**E**arl Mar writes, "That was a great Christmas luncheon you put together and thanks a bunch. Tell the others who helped a big thank you. Also, **Hal Avakian, Angelo Zito**, and your daughter, **Susan**. It was great socializing with the other retirees, some of whom I haven't seen in almost 20 years. It was a great affair and Hal mentioned probably a yearly event, which sounds good to me. You party guys did a great job like Christmas parties in the old days at the Division of Highways."

**Roy and Shirley Andersen** wrote to say,

"Hi Terry,

"Thanks for all of your effort in organizing yesterday's lunch. The food was great and everyone had a good time. If they didn't, it was their own fault. Same thing if they left hungry.

"Even **Chester Sohm** said the food was good. That is probably a first for him. I worked with him for about seven years so I have heard a lot of his comments about food.

"I saw a lot of people I hadn't seen in years so that was an added bonus. I would have to say that this is the best get-together since I joined the QCC. It was really neat for us to meet your daughter. We had a nice visit and none of it was about that nasty four-letter word "work".

Have a Merry Christmas and all that other stuff."

In attendance were **Gloria Adam, Bill Ahlenslager** and wife, **Roxie Aldama, Shirley** and **Roy Andersen, Andy Anderson, Sandy** and **Hal Avakian, Barbara** and **Dick Beck, Mary Berg, Paul Bogosian** and wife, **Don Burnes,**

**Doris** and **Al Clayton, Dottie Combs, Perry Coy, Mike Donahue, Nancy** and **Jerry Fay, Aram Garabedian, Joyce** and **Lee Halderman, John** and **Marty Hawthorne, Annie Hlywa, MaryAnn** and **Ed Hokokian, Jerry Janigan, Marvin Johnson, Miyo Kimura, Jim** and **Carolyn Landy, Barbara** and **Earl Mar, Al Mendoza, Dennis Miller, Ken Oliphant, Moses Pacheco, Margie** and **Abe Paregian, Barbara** and **Don Peaslee, Barbara** and **Don Peterson, Sandra** and **Virgle Ray, Doris** and **Fred Rayburn, Josie Rendon, Wally Rice, Barney Sano, Thelma** and **Chester Sohm, Jane Suo, Emily** and **Tony Telesco, Koke Uyeno, Bob Voss, Ted Winter, John Wright, Angelo Zito** and me, **Terry Littleton.**

**Peter Varvis** passed away February 9. He leaves a legacy of reserved dignity, hard work, and integrity.

After serving as an officer during World War II, he graduated as an engineer from the University of California, Berkeley. He concluded 34 years with Caltrans,



supervising the construction of Freeway 41 to Bullard Avenue. A colleague described him as a wonderful manager and brilliant engineer.

Pete loved classical music, dixieland jazz, the Sierra, and travel. He taught his children and grandchildren to stream fish. He was reader of mysteries, astronomy, history and economics, a collector throughout his life and a restorer of furniture. To all, he brought an eye for elegant simplicity. The family thanks the staff of the ICU of Saint Agnes Medical Center.

Mr. Varvas is survived by **Mary Josephine**, his wife of 54 years; his children, **Susan** and **Richard Hunsbarger**, **Stephen** and **Teri Varvis**, and **Cathy** and **J.D. Varvis-Griffin**; he was **Papau** to Kristin **Hunsbarger**, **Brandon** and **Jennifer Hunsbarger**, and **Nathan Varvis**.

A memorial service was held at University Presbyterian Church, Fresno, February 16.

Some of the comments I received about Pete from friends are:

**Glenn Mills:** "Sorry to hear about Pete. I liked him. He was good to me and was one to believe you didn't need a PE to do the job."

**Virgle Ray:** "So sad, Pete was loved for his work. This is getting too familiar to our generation. Must meet and have fun."

Virgle has been on the road again, at Laguna Seca and Petaluma: "Noted in the last QCCer the passing of **Lawton (Cap) Akers**. Cap and I worked in Lemoore maintenance station. Cap was one of the most sincere state workers I knew in my 36 years. He was tireless when the road washed out or any highway urgency. His knowledge of equipment was unequaled; he even drove his own 18-wheeler on his off time. Cap came to District 06 from District 01 where, as supervisor, he talked proudly of dealing with monster redwood trees.

Cap was proud of his service in the Marines, where he earned the nickname of "Cap." The Marine influence carried over to civilian life with his crew haircut and fetish for polished boots. His take-charge attitude continued into retirement, he managed a RV park near the Grapevine off of Highway I-5. Cap will always be remembered for his voice,

(he did not need a loudspeaker,) and enthusiasm for any job assigned to. If you met Cap, you will never forget him.

--**Virgle Ray**, Retired Highway Superintendent, Lemoore

Plan to attend the spring luncheon in May at the Yosemite Falls Restaurant in Clovis. You will receive a flyer in April with all the details.

Also, please call me at 559-974-3885 or e-mail me [dittleton@comcast.net](mailto:dittleton@comcast.net) with any news. You have no idea how hard it is to come up with articles if nobody gives me anything. I may be forced to make it up and with my sense of humor, some of you may not be happy.

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**Attention Engineers:** The California Board of Registration is making a new exam site available to the Central Valley. It is tentatively set for October 2008 in Visalia. Proctors are needed, especially those who have previously worked at a test site. The Board also indicated that they might ask for active and retired members in the Central Valley to see if they're interested in becoming proctors for the test. Contact:

**Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors**

2535 Capitol Oaks Drive,  
Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95833-2944  
(866) 780-5370  
or (916) 263-2222

— 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 June. The final deadline for the next issue will be May 31.

## The Haps in District 7

We celebrated our annual Holiday luncheon December 8 at the New Otani Hotel in style, once again renewing friendships with joy, warmth, and humor.

This year member attendance was excellent: **Rita and Bill Even, Betty and Mack Hunter, Chuck Boyer, Lois Cooper, Carole Schumaker, Satish Chander, Fred and Irene Bonilla, Fred and James Cubillas, Larry and George Ornay, Dick and Nancy Hummel, Paul and Maxine In, Dave and Margie Roper, Mary and Carlos Jaramillo, Judy and Dennis Reynolds, Chuck Mathews, Len Thompson, Jackie Nichols, Bob and Myra Joe, Alex Beanum, Dale Neumen, Tom and Linda Albany, Ken Steel, Doug Failing, Millie Goble, Doris Nakamura, Kirsten and Stewart Stahl, Al Reece, Dick Smith, Gus and Judy Sulitus, Satish Chander, Bob Wallin, Paul McElwain, Walt Bowman, Jim Fowler, Louise**

**Kaainoa, Gene Malin, Walt Thompson, Bob Goodel, John (Nagao) Tomita, Jean and Julia Amster, Oscar Janeway, Hubert Himes, Larry and Mary Whiting, and Jim and Millie Renshaw.**

Among the missing were **Bob and Laurie Pauly, Bob Sassaman, Jerry Baxter, Chuck O'Connell, Heinz Heckerroth, Marie Martin, Bob Walters, Tom Gildersleeve, and Stan and Hendrina Lisiewicz**, several of whom had a schedule conflict with **Dick Laughlin's** memorial service.

**Doris Nakamura**, who coordinated the event, delivered a delightful to the table, with green salad, baked chicken, sliced potato, broiled tomato, steamed broccoli, and a marvelous coconut cake for dessert. However, we were shocked to learn that the New Otani has been sold and will have a complete change of staff. That leaves us to wonder where will we meet for next year's event?

The gorgeous centerpieces consisted of driftwood, pinecones and velvet ribbon, designed by **Linda Albany's** brother-in-law, **John Johnson**. One lucky person at each table took home a centerpiece based on a small donation collected for that purpose. For the gift exchange and another small donation names are drawn, and donated gifts are selected, one at a time, with the lucky donors being rewarded for their generosity. Gifts this year went to a variety of members, including **Lois, Paul, Ken, Doug, Len, Mary, Oscar and Hubert.**

District 7 Director **Doug Failing** gave his traditional "state-of the district" update. And to prove that you can take the transportation employee out of the work place (i.e. retire), but you can't take the transportation spirit out of the employee, several members voluntarily carpoled to the event, such as **Hubert, Oscar and Ken**, and several of our Ventura members.

Although we agreed that the second Saturday of December is the preferred day for our holiday luncheon, the sale of the New Otani may require another location. Keep your eyes open and ears tuned so we can all get back together in December 2008.

### **San Diego/Santa Monica Interchange Dedication Scheduled: The Marilyn Jorgenson Reece Memorial**

**Interchange** will be officially dedicated on Friday, March 14, at 10 AM, at the Westdale Maintenance Station, in the airspace of the I-10 and I-405 interchange.

Organizations including the County of Los Angeles, our District 7 QCC chapter, the L.A. PECG Chapter, ASCE, the Tom Fera Lunch Group, Wilson High School Girls Basketball Team, and District 7 External Affairs have raised funds. Donors include (in chronological order of donation) **Russ Lightcap, Marie Martin, Dale Neumen, Tom Gildersleeve, Irv Sherman, Chuck O'Connell, Phillis Staple, Bob Joe, Carol Schumaker, Richard Smith, Earl Thomas, Ethel Ann Hansen, Nancy Jensen, Lou Ann Frederick, Shirley Peterson, Heinz Heckeroth, Gale Young, Ken and Gloria Reid, Tom Brady, Merle Trobee, Robert Wallin, Marvin Lim, Paul In, Dan Peterson, Francis Wiedler, David Kilmurray, Westley Johnson, David Roper, Calvin Lee, Alfred Iwamasa, Tammy Plante, Patricia Green, Leanne Provost, Stewart Lim, Lois Cooper, and Neda Fabris** for sign installation.

Formal invitations have been sent or e-mailed. The rest of us are looking forward to seeing the actual signs as we drive through what is often proclaimed as one of the busiest interchanges in the nation. As QCC 7 Director **Tom Albany III** has stated, "It

will be nice to have an interchange named after one of our own."

### **Retirees Wanted for a Good Time**

The monthly meeting of the **Tom Fera** Lunch Group meets on the second Wednesday of each month, except December. The calendar for the next several months is: **March 12, 2008** at the Steer N' Ale Restaurant, 3644 E. Foothill Blvd., Pasadena, (626) 796-2278, **April 9, 2008** at the China Olive Chinese Restaurant, 9224 Reseda Blvd., Northridge, (818) 998-3688; **May 14, 2008** at Joselito's West Mexican Restaurant, 7308 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, (818) 951-2275; and **June 11, 2008** will be back at the Steer N' Ale.

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

**Recent Sightings: Marie Martin, Bob Walters, Judy and Dennis Reynolds, Daria Simolke and Stewart and Kirsten Stahl** at Marie's birthday and New Year's Eve in Glendale for dinner and the play "The Foreigner".

Haggis anyone? At the Tam O'Shanter in Los Feliz for Scottish Poet, Robert Burns' birthday, **Marie Martin, Bob Walters.**

And for **Cheryl Powel's** retirement luncheon at the Monterey Hills Restaurant, **Len Thomson, Don Henderson, Bob Goodell, Mel Hodges, Roy Dilworth, Mack Hunter, Marie Martin, Lois Cooper, Cleave Govan, Sim Green, Nora Piering, Tony Cole, and Michelle Smith.** The meal was tasty: chicken, salmon, choice of salads, veggies, rice, potato, and several types of lovely cakes, plus movie trivia, nice speeches, karaoke, and dancing afterward.

**New Members Wanted:** Remember, members don't have to wait until retirement to join; if someone you know has 25 years or more with the State, fifteen of those with Caltrans (or its prior designations) including military time, get them to join! The more the merrier!

**Jean Makes Good:** The first words in **Jean Amster's** recent e-mail were, "As promised. Finally got it done." Written in late December 2007, nine years after he retired from Caltrans. He continues, "with 43 and a half years of service. In the last nine years the first three were the usual—do many home projects that needed to be done, some western states traveling and a lot of roller skating."

Never underestimate the power of friendship. "In May of 2001 I was introduced by some mutual friends to a young lady by the name of **Julia**. We dated for three years and were married in April 2004. I guess we were destined for each other as we were looking at homes prior to being married. We looked at 55 communities in Northern and Southern California. We found our brand new home in the Ryland Oasis in Menifee.

"Much of the next two years was spent completing the inside to our liking and landscaping the rear and side yard. All of this is in a very large plus-55 community we moved into. Any getaway time was to Laughlin Nevada or one of the local Indian casinos for a couple of hours of relaxation.

"Once the house was basically finished inside and out we started doing some serious traveling. Our first major trip was in August 2006 on a cruise ship from Seattle to Juneau, Sitka and Ketchikan."

They liked cruising so much that several more trips got booked, "We booked a trip for January 2007 and cruised the Mexican Rivera with day trips in the ports of Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlan, Acapulco Puerto Nuevo and a few other ports. Again, we did seven days cruising the Hawaiian Islands in April 2007. On the big island of Hawaii, we had day trips

to Hilo and Kona, two days on Maui and some time on the island of Kawai.

"We returned a month ago doing a 14-day cruise thru the Panama Canal. We started in San Diego and ended the cruise in Ft. Lauderdale FL. The ports of call were Cabo San Lucas with a sea cruise to the famed arch rock. The next port was Acapulco and saw the cliff divers from a boat. The next port was Huatulco MX. Then on to Punt arenas, Costa Rica. Then one day cruising thru the Panama Canal. The next port of call was Cartagena Columbia and finally to Ft. Lauderdale, FL and then home. We have cruises planned for 2008 and beyond.

"Life is good in retirement, especially if you have a mate who likes to travel. With all of this travel we have taken a few thousand digital photographs, [and] copied and framed a few to remind us of where we have been. Now the spare time consists of the Internet, doing a lot of computer photographs, copying slides to digital and copying VHS movie tapes to DVD."

As if this did not keep Jean and Julia busy enough, "All of this along with gardening and socializing. "One side note, two of my community neighbors are Caltrans retirees being **Joe Sanchez and Rose Jenkins.**"

Jean's final comment is, "I could go on and describe each detail of each trip. If I did that none of the readers would venture to see these places."

**Be Like Jean:** Your fingers are getting itchy . . . you're going to write a note about your activities and send them to: **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](mailto:kirsten.stahl@dot.ca.gov).

As a quick reminder, send dues and honorary member status information to **Leonard Thompson** directly... His



address is: 371 I W. 64<sup>th</sup> St. Los Angeles, CA 90043.

**The Road Last Traveled:** Sadly, **Judy Reynolds** reports that **Irma Lopez'** husband, **Mike**, passed away in December of complications from diabetes.

**Millie Yamada** reports, "I am so sorry to be the messenger of the sad news of the passing of **Ross Keeling**, who worked in Traffic, [as] the senior engineer." **Chuck O'Connell** remembers, "**Ross** was a stalwart in Design for many years." The memorial service was held October 25, 2007 at St. Bernard Church in Los Angeles.

**Carl Nelson** reports that **Pat Williamson** passed away December 12. A funeral Mass to celebrate her life was held on Tuesday, December 18 at St. Rita's Catholic Church in Sierra Madre.

Another brief note was provided by **Tom Albany III**, regarding the passing of **C.J. Vosburg** on October 15, 2007.

**Wes Johnson** reported the passing of another contemporary. "It is with my deepest regret to inform you that **Les Bergquist** passed away on December 15, 2007. He developed pneumonia and was hospitalized in Colorado while returning from a hunting trip. Les had retired from the District 07 Materials Construction Lab about three years ago." The memorial service was held on January 5, 2008 at the Glendale Moose Lodge.

An obituary of **Donald Cassillo** was circulated via informational notice to his coworkers.

"It is with great sadness that the family of **Donald Samuel Cassillo** announces his passing January 6, 2008 at the age of 72." Born in Lancaster, NY, he is survived by his children, **Michael James Cassillo, Lisa Marie Cassillo, Bryce Samuel Cassillo, Max Avery Cassillo, Jamee Margaret Thompson** his sister,

**Shirley Arnold** and brother, **Steve Cassillo** and a number of grandchildren.

Mr. Cassillo worked as an engineer for Caltrans for 30 years until his retirement in 2000, and touched the lives of many people with his humor, debate and, overall humanity. The Funeral services were held January 14 at Green Hills Cemetery.

**WAKE UP!** Hey, we don't have forever! Send something you want us to celebrate **now**, while we all can. Send a note of your activities to **Kirsten**, ASAP or better yet, immediately if not sooner!

Thank you to those who provided information, such as **Judy Gish** and anyone else who I have neglected to mention!

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— Kirsten Stahl

## The Haps in District 8

Our District QCC Christmas Party was held at The Gourmet on December 2. It was well attended and all those present enjoyed it. Members attending were **Jim and Joann Balcom, Loren and Margaret Barnett, Mary Bermudez, Dennis Blakkolb, Roy and Marcella Cagle, Morgan Choate, Eleanor Campbell, Gil and Jeanette Daab, John and**

**Doris Estrada, Janice Feenstra, Bill and Shirley Feenstra, Les Franz, Jim and Jan Geller, Wes Grimes, Ed and Clarice Gritters, Dick and Louise Haight, Angela Hall, Margie Hobbs, Allan and Jane Kirst, Paul and Mary Kirst, Jim and Pam Landfried, Frank Lehr, Dick and Hazel Longstreet, Marsha Lotze, Bruce and Terri Parks, Maxine Nelson, Ken Olson and son Rich, Ernie and Kay Parks, Lloyd and Alice Patterson, Bob Redden, Virginia Reed, Floyd Salazar, Taylor and Katie Smith, Bud and Judy Smith, Roy Smoot and guest, Marjorie Bruhn, Richard Standley, Ken Steele, Grace Vinzens, and Don Weaver.**

Guests included State QCC President **Butch Biendara, Frank Hazas, Dick Massaro, Paul Welch, Les and Barbara Nolte and Joe and Gloria Sanchez. Bob Sassaman** cancelled his reservation to attend the funeral of his 95-year old mother in Pennsylvania.

Winners of the drawing for cash prizes were **Kay Parke, Hazel Longstreet, Angela Hall and Maxine Nelson.**

Our thoughts and prayers go out to **Eleanor Campbell** and her family. Eleanor is in the Intensive Care Unit at Loma Linda University Hospital with pneumonia and a staph infection. We hope she's soon on the road to recovery.

**Katie Smith** has now joined the "stent" club. She had a minor heart attack after Christmas and had angioplasty with stent installation on January 2. Her big problem was pain in her right leg. She was on pain medication every four hours and unable to walk on it most of the time. Doctors were going to give her an epidural cortisone injection in her back until they learned that she is taking Plavix for her heart. Now they can't do that as the cardiologist insists that she has to take the Plavix. Life is a problem!

I'm happy to say that as of this news article, Katie is pain free and isn't going to have an epidural. Our prayers were answered.

**Bill Edmonds**, former District 8 Director, who now resides in Corvallis, Oregon, reports that he had quintuple bypass surgery in mid November. Bill and his wife are now at their winter home in Florida and Bill is back out on the golf course.

**Stan Martin** reports that in early March he will undergo surgery to fuse five vertebrae in his back. Good luck Stan.

For many years **Gil and Jeanette Daab** have been the proud owners of a beautifully detailed and immaculately maintained Lincoln Town Car. Unfortunately on New Year's Eve they were broadsided on Highland Avenue by a car pulling out of a parking lot and the Lincoln was totaled. Other than the severe impact and black eyes from the exploding air bags, the Daabs suffered only minor injuries. The Lincoln Town Car has been replaced by a new Lincoln LS.

**Don Sanborn** has recently retired with 28 years of state service with Caltrans. During his tenure with Highways he worked in Surveys, Traffic, Operations, Traffic Design, Construction, and Claims. He was the District Claims Engineer in Construction when he retired.

Unfortunately, the district has lost several long-time retirees in the past several months.

We previously reported that **Bob Findlay**, 85, passed away on November 22, 2007, in Albuquerque. Bob was a Senior Construction Engineer in our district before moving to Headquarters for a Supervising Highway Engineer position. He retired from District 11 with 38 years state service. **Bill Hudson** sent me the following on hearing of Bob's passing:

Bill remembers three events about Bob while in District 8:

1. He and his partner won a large noontime bridge tournament,
2. He organized a betting pool for the Kentucky Derby. The pool was run out of Agua Caliente until it was later outlawed. The pool bet on "Like Magic" at 40:1. As time went on the odds went down to 4:1. (We still had 40:1 odds). Then the horse was scratched and we lost our wager.
3. Bill visited Bob when he was Resident Engineer on the Redlands Freeway. The office was located in an old house. Bill's crew had designed the detours for that job. In conversation Bill asked him about the Bridge Department Representative. He said he housed them upstairs. (It was July without air conditioning). They both laughed.

**Marshall "Timothy" Griffin, 85**, passed away on December 22, 2007, from cancer. He retired from Caltrans as the Head Drainage Engineer in 1985. He served in the USAF during World War II and was a member of the Elks and Knights of Columbus. He leaves behind a loving family. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Claire**. Private family services were held.

**Joseph Francis "Joe" Hernandez** passed away at home on December 7, 2007. Joe was born March 2, 1935, in San Bernardino and lived in the area all his life. He served in the US Army and received an Associate of Arts Degree from San Bernardino Valley College. He retired from Caltrans after 35 years with much of his time with Right of Way Engineering and then retired as a Senior Design Branch Chief. Joe leaves his loving wife, **Juanita**, a son and daughter, two brothers and one sister, plus many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**Frederick "Fred" Berry** passed away December 25, 2007, at his home in San

Bernardino. He was 72. Fred worked as a Transportation Engineer for Caltrans for more than 37 years. Most of his career was spent in Right of Way Engineering and Design. Following retirement he was active with the Highland Senior Citizens Center. He is survived by **Melba**, his wife of 42 years, his sons **Donald Berry** of San Bernardino and **Michael Berry** of Redlands, two grandsons, a goddaughter, and two brothers and their families.

**Milton R. "Micky" Barnes** passed away on February 13, 2008, at Kaiser Hospital in Fontana, with his family at his side. He was 67. His family moved to San Bernardino when he was a small boy and he graduated with the Pacific High Class of 1969. He was in the Army National Guard for nine years training boys at Ft. Erwin to be tank men. He was a Civil Engineer and retired from Caltrans with 35 years of service. He was a member of the Eagles American Legion and the Moose Lodge. He is survived by his wife, **Donna**, three daughters, a sister and many grandchildren.

Micky will be missed, along with all our other members who have passed on. We send our thoughts and prayers to all of them.

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—Marsha Lotze

## *The Haps in District 9*

**T**he information for this edition of the newsletter comes from an email and conversations from the past several

weeks. The email comes from **Harold Jones** who has something to add every time. I don't see many Caltrans people, so another slim report.

My wife **Barbara** saw **Alice Carlson** while shopping at the local grocery store. So we know that Mike and Alice are still around.

**John** and **Mary Ritter** stopped by while they were in Bishop earlier in the month. While visiting a friend in the Bishop Care Center, they saw **Larry Paglia**. He had back surgery about two months ago. Larry is getting around well using a walker.

**Jim Kemp** reported that he and **Lou Wadsworth** had breakfast with **Bob Yeager** a week ago. We see **Jim Kemp** in the Wednesday night bowling league.

I talked to **Bob Ripley** about a month ago—he'd been shoveling out from the heavy snowstorms. He is doing OK.

From **Harold Jones**. Thought I'd send you the note below as a reminder (just in case you want to put it in the next QCCer).

Also, we recently visited **Roy Brown** (retired Maintenance Supervisor) at Topaz Ranch Estates near Wellington, Nevada where he's living now. He moved there from Bridgeport some time ago, and has a very nice three-bedroom manufactured home with a separate garage set up on his property. There's quite a variety of visiting wild life (quail, magpies, goldfinches, cottontail rabbits, etc.) that gather in Roy's backyard to feed on the "goodies" he provides for them. These critters put on quite a show that can be viewed through the living room window of Roy's home.

**Debi** (Roy's daughter) lives there too, which helps him a lot. At almost 80, he's doing pretty well yet except for the usual ravages of age that eventually affect all us! He still has the sense of humor that we all remember from working with him for so many years.

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02/29/2008. Please check the date on your mailing label to see if you are current with your dues. **This will be your last issue if dues are not current.** Please use the form on the last page of this issue.

— Lance Hinek

## *The Haps in District 10*

**Dick Mesa** says the District 10 Retiree's Luncheon will be Tuesday April 8 starting with a social at 11 am at the Stockton Moose Lodge at 9035 North Davis Road. A special guest speaker is anticipated. Call Dick at (209) 478-6594 or e-mail at dickmesa@aol.com for reservations.

From **Bill Sellings**:

"Hi Y'all,

"Today Friday, December 14, 2007 my son-in-law **Stuart** took me to attend the Pentagon Wounded Warriors Program. WOW!!!! What a moving experience to say the least!!!!

"This is something the folks at the Pentagon do one Friday of the month where they pay tribute to a group of Wounded Warriors and their families from Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Hundreds of people from all walks of life lined the hallways of the Pentagon.

"Honor Guards from Arlington National Cemetery and the Arlington Band led them through the hallways while people along the way greeted and applauded the Wounded Warriors. The spirit of the warriors is unbelievable! Some are missing limbs, eyes

etc. They were very moved by all of us who greeted them!

"The event was started by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, the number one person over all our military. I might add that his number one mission is taking care of the ground troops.

"This is an event that I will never forget. It was an honor to attend and pay tribute to these great warriors! It is too bad the press does not cover this special event for those who have put their lives on the line so that we all can enjoy the freedom we take for granted!

"Please remember, freedom is NOT free and keep these warriors and their families in your thoughts and prayers!

"Tomorrow we all go to the Arlington National Cemetery to lay Christmas Wreaths on fallen warriors' graves. It will be a great honor and another very moving day! We fly home Monday, December 17th.

"Merry Christmas to all and we hope y'all have a Happy New Year!"

—Bill, Darlene and Pumpkin in Virginia

#### From Bonnie Ciccone about Mike:

"Hi to all our friends; I want you to know Mike has an inoperable cancerous brain tumor. He is having a rough time of speaking and making me understand and the same when I talk to him—we use a lot of gestures. He is not in any pain and he started radiation on Tues and a chemo pill today. The Doctors have given him nine months to a year. He has been to UCSF and had a biopsy but got the same prognosis. He can use all the prayers you have. He looks good and has been eating well and you would not know anything is wrong. We are stunned by the news. Contact us at [mbciccone@comcast.net](mailto:mbciccone@comcast.net)"

— Love, Mike and Bonnie

Thirty six folks attended the breakfast on Tuesday January 29, 2008.

**Bob Mah** won his breakfast and **Tom Wright, Bill Sellings** and **Hal Emerson** won the DVD "The Bridge So Far: A Suspense Story," filmmaker David L. Brown's humorous and biting documentary about the long delays plaguing construction of the east span of the Bay Bridge, which won two Emmy awards from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, San Francisco/Northern California Chapter. It was produced by Professional Engineers in California Government.

Welcome to new District 10 QCC members: **Dave McPeak**, who worked from July 31, 1974 in District 4 maintenance to the present. His spouse is **Debbie**.

**Barbara Hempstead** worked from June 1972 at General Services to the present. Her spouse is Howard.

**Steve Rodarte** worked from August 4 1976 to the present. His spouse is **Esther**.

At the Tuesday February 26th breakfast, 32 folks attended.

**Bill LaMascus** won the breakfast drawing. And **John Lopes** attended for the first time. John is an avid golfer and so is his wife B.

Welcome to another new QCC member—**Jerry Long** of Stockton. Three other new attendees were **Ed Maki** from Lodi, **Harvey Smith** from Modesto and **Tom E. Hamman** from Modesto.

**Erven Reher** still lives in Yucaipa, and at 93 still has good health except for a touch of arthritis. **Stan Randolph** talked with him recently on the phone. Erv lives in a retirement home and still drives his car on short trips. He was happy to hear from someone from his DOH/Caltrans days. His new address is P.O. Box 1303 Yucaipa Ca and his phone number is (909) 797 8671.

Here's a joke provided by **Bob Biffel's** wife, **Ardyth**:

An old man strode in to his doctors office and said, "Doc, my druggist said to tell you to change my prescription and to check the prescription you've been giving to Mrs. Smith."

"Oh, he did, did he?" the doctor shot back. "And since when does a druggist second guess a doctor's orders?"

The old man says, "Since he found out I've been on birth control pills since February."

**Norman Penberthy** passed away December 5 2007. Norm, a devout Christian, was 92. His memorial service was held at Stockton's First Baptist Church where he and his wife Esther, who preceded him in death, were members for 67 years. Norm was an accomplished musician, able to play almost all instruments. He worked in District 10 in design and traffic his entire Caltrans career.

**Dudley Hatch** passed away in Hanford in January. He and his wife **Berneice** moved to Hanford from Stockton to be near their son, a Highway Patrolman. **Dud**, in declining health, was 92 when he passed away.

Born and raised in El Centro, California, he and his brother Kenneth lived in Stockton most of their lives Both worked in Construction for most of their careers. Dud's wife survives him. Both were avid golfers and only recently had to give it up.

**Verl "Hoddy" Miller**, of Lodi, died February 4, 2008 at age 80. Verl was born on June 9, 1927 to **Clarence** and **Mabel** (Steffen) Miller in rural Olivet, South Dakota. He was employed by Caltrans from 1956-1987. He was a member of the Zion Reformed Church in Lodi. Following his retirement he and **Joanne** enjoyed RV travel and frequent trips to the central coast.

Mr. Miller is survived by his wife, Joanne; daughter, **Marcy (Stephen) Kludt**; son, **Scott Miller** and seven grandchildren. A memorial service was held February 8 at

Zion Reformed Church in Lodi.

Many in District 10 will remember former District Director **Neal E. Anderson**, who passed away in Sacramento on February 6. He and the late **Marion Anderson** had been married 54 years. He was the father of **Donald R. Andersen**; grandfather of **Dawn Marie Andersen** and **Michael Robert Andersen** and had a number of great grandchildren.

Neal, a native of New York, had resided in the Sacramento area since 1963. He was a member of Rotary, a longtime bridge player, and worked for Caltrans as a civil engineer. He worked in District 10 as a young man and returned as District Engineer for seven years, from 1969 to 1976. He was 88 years of age.

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— Brian Young

## *The Haps in District 11*

**E**ighty-five people attended the annual dinner and everyone had a good time. It was one of the best we've had. Prizes for the drawing, always an interesting event, were outstanding. In addition the "hat" was passed to help cover the advance made for reserving the place for the picnic and dinner. This cost has increased each year

and the funds have been provided by the Treasurer's personal funds and then are repaid by the attendee's reservations. A total of \$750 was raised for this purpose.

Former District Director **Jesus Garcia**, was presented with his honorary certificate as a QCC member. Those present voted to keep the format of a buffet dinner one year and a sit down the next. We were honored by the presence of the State QCC Secretary/Treasurer, **Kim Yarbrough** and his wife **Pat**. Pat is always willing to help and makes the drawing an event to remember. Thanks Pat!

Good news on the annual picnic. It will go on this year with **Gary Darr** and **Kathy Phillips** as co-directors. Gary had volunteered to do it for one year and Kathy and her husband, **Marty**, will take over permanently. Kathy is one of the new retired annuitants in administration. The picnic will be September 13 at Santee Lakes.

We've been saddened by the news that **Barbara Edmonds**, wife of **Leon Edmonds**, our District Office Engineer passed away on February 11, 2008. In addition **Libby Zink**, wife of **Leonard Zink** passed away on February 13. Both Barbara and Libby worked for the Division of Highways in the '60s and '70s.

**Bob Roland**, retiree, passed away on January 14. Our heartfelt sympathy to all the families involved.

Now that we have a picnic coordinator, we still need a district director and correspondent for the QCCer. These are important non-paying jobs for a volunteer!!

From **Christine Carrington**: Some of you know that I have worked in District 11 for many years; what you may not know is that my dad, **Vernon Cable**, worked for Caltrans way back when it was known as Division of Highways. He started in Shop 8 in 1952 as a mechanics helper. He told me that

he and **Bob Rayburn** started the same day. He worked there until 1963 when we moved up to Redding where he became assistant shop foreman.

In 1964 he transferred to General Services in Sacramento. Then in 1968 we moved to San Diego and he worked for the State Garage until he retired in 1982 at the age of 55 (which was considered a really early retirement age then. Thank goodness for deferred comp!)

Back in the late '50s he traveled a lot to Barstow, Needles and other desert and mountain locations. I remember when I was little in the '60s visiting **Don Belden**. Rumor has it that they could always find me fast asleep in Don's dog's bed! Don and my dad have stayed in touch for which I am very thankful. We have some great memories.

Growing up in San Diego, I became friends with **Kathy Mikesell**. Her dad, **Wayne** (District 11 and HQ) happened to work at Caltrans. Wayne is now living in Sacramento. They are very special to me and I miss having them here as we don't get to see them often enough. There were about five families who all hung out together while I was growing up; we all try to get together whenever possible. We miss having the Mikesells at those functions.

While Dad worked at General Services, he became very good friends with **Al Schultz**. While Al never worked at Caltrans, his son, **Russ Schultz** (District 2) did. Haven't heard from Russ and I'm thinking he retired. Russ if you are out there – get hold of me. We miss you and would love to hear what is going on with you.

Other names you might know from my dad's past are **Roy Hunt**, who dad says is living in Georgia, **Bob Hayhurst** and **Dick Frame** (District 8). I spent a lot of time growing up at Dick's house down the street from my dad's in La Mesa. Dick isn't in the

best of health and I'm sure he would love to hear from those who know him.

My mom and dad (**Peggy** and Vern) just celebrated 80 years this October and, in June, their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They are doing pretty well and still live in the house in La Mesa that they bought back in 1969.

When I started working at Caltrans in 1989, I never made the connection that dad used to work for the same agency. As you can see, we have made a lot of lasting friendships and great memories that both my parents and I treasure.

If you would like to get hold of my parents, their e-mail is [pcablevc@cox.net](mailto:pcablevc@cox.net). Please put Caltrans in the title or Mom will delete your e-mail! Their address is 7765 Ropal Street, La Mesa, CA 91941.

If you would like to write to **Dick Frame** (wife **Lee**), his address is 7685 Torrem Street, La Mesa, CA 91942

Or you can always get hold of me here in District II. [Christine\\_Carrington@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Christine_Carrington@dot.ca.gov)

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— Dean Burns and Butch Biendara

## The Haps in Central

Our holiday luncheon was held December 12 at the Buggy Whip Restaurant and was attended by 90 members. Good food and conversation was enjoyed by all.

The following are updates on members' recent travels and happenings:

**Jim and Earlene Borden, Dick and Louise Ginsberg and Jack and Ann Kassel** traveled together to New York to cruise on Holland America n along the New England coast and the Canadian Maritimes. A very enjoyable trip.

**Naomi Button** did a 15-day tour of the Caribbean and brought back a few Cuban cigars. She went thru the Panama Canal from West to East.

"Hi everyone from **Joe Thomas**. I've had a good year. I took a two-month trip across the US to visit my daughter in South Bend. I was there the weekend that USC trounced Notre Dame 38-0, the worst defeat in 120 years. Then on to New York to visit my son. I was fortunate to have beautiful weather the whole trip."

**Jim and Florine Rae**: "It was good to see many friends from Caltrans. Heard a good Christmas riddle: what did Santa do with the reindeer that lost its tail? He took him to the retail store!"

**John and Laura Reeves**: "Even though we don't join the group very often, it was amazing how many people still remember us. Merry Christmas."

**Gerri and Ken Wigglesworth** went on a great bird watching trip to Thailand in 2007 and another in Florida (saw lots of alligators as well). Looking forward to some great trips in 2008.

**Jack and Ellen Derby**: We had a good time at the Christmas luncheon. Kudos to the officers who arranged it. Ellen's friend, **Nancy McClellom**, visited in November. They traveled to Mendocino and did a mini-cruise to Victoria. Jack played a lot of golf and fished. We celebrated our 80<sup>th</sup> birthdays at a nice party in July.

**Jim and Earlene Borden**: "Lots of excitements since our last get-together. In September, we went on a 10-day cruise with



the Kassels and Ginsbergs. Started in New York and ended in Montreal. Was a wonderful trip. A different port everyday. In October, we celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Our children helped us have a wonderful party. Had 33 relatives in attendance from five states along with many friends. Good to see everyone at the Christmas luncheon."

**Elizabeth Abersold:** "Wonderful seeing so many friends at the Christmas luncheon. I vacationed in Santa Barbara and Hollywood where I enjoyed a great musical, "Wicked," with family members. I'm looking forward to celebrating a "White Christmas" with my family in Wisconsin."

**Ray and Addi Forsyth:** "Ray and I went to France at the end of September. Landed in Nice, traveled to the French Rivera and ended in Paris. Of course, the day we visited the Eiffel Tower it was fogged in. Our hotel was across from the Louvre. Wish the flights were shorter. First weekend in December we were in Portland for Ray's oldest and only grandson's wedding. Great family get-together."

**Chuck and Diane Davis** celebrated 50 years of marriage with a cruise to Alaska with 21 other friends and family.

**Dave and Judy Saxby:** "In October we took our four kids and their significant others plus two grandchildren to Maui. Great time had by all."

**Dave Crane:** "Merry Christmas everyone. This has been an eventful, but good year for me. In February, I had open-heart surgery to replace my aortic valve and do a couple of bypasses. That worked out great and after recovering from that I had my right knee replaced in September. So far that is working out great also. I'm in a lot better shape than last year. So Merry Christmas again."

**Shirley Weber:** "It has been an eventful year. My son, **Ken**, passed away on April 18 just before his 58<sup>th</sup> birthday. And my grandson, **Warren Loat**, passed away on May 17 from colon cancer after a long battle just after his 39<sup>th</sup> birthday. (They are from separate branches of the family) Warren's wife is in Germany with her sister-in-law while her brother is in Prague. She'll have fun in the snow with her nieces and nephews. The rest of us are getting used to being without our two boys the best we can. Happy Holidays to all."

**Joyce and Neil Dunham:** "Great Christmas party. We still love RVing several months a year. Fun to visit our families in North Carolina, Virginia Beach and Salt Lake City. Still love living in Shingle Springs.

**Pete Doljanin** is still working on his daughter's house.

**Joe Dobrowolski:** Still working on his house on the slope behind American River Parkway in Fair Oaks. "We enjoyed a trip to New York City and upstate New York twice.

**Kay and Hugh Griffin:** "Completed our kitchen/family room remodel/expansion in the spring so we can now travel. Our first trip was to visit our twin granddaughters (now 4) in North Carolina. We are looking to our first cruise this April through the Panama Canal.

**Ron and Luann Hollis.** "Ventured to Alaska via RV in June and July for the third time and enjoyed fishing with the locals for salmon and halibut. We found out that Alaska is a popular destination for motor homes from Michigan and Florida and they all like to fish!"

**Dick and Jacki Pryor.** "The highlight this year was celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in Paris in April. Paris was beautiful with its cherry trees in full bloom and the flowers everywhere you looked. We

also became grandparents for the first time. Dick still enjoys skiing, fishing and traveling."

**T. George Smith:** "A great get together. Fun to see all the old friends."

**Earl Rogers:** "I have begun a new career as a reporter for the Valley Community News Service. I write articles on various topics mostly relating to the local airport issues."

**Clayton and Sharon Giroux:** "After several decades of restoring old cars at a crawling pace we have completed the restoration of a boat! It is a 1930 Chris-Craft 20-foot triple cockpit runabout. The boat is the same model as was a refurbished one owned and operated on Lake Tahoe by Sharon's father 70 years ago. It shares the same name. Ours is NAU-T-GAL II. Varnish barely dry and we exhibited it at the Tahoe Yacht Club show in August."

**Dave Theobald:** "At their 60 plus Annual Convention in Salt Lake City, the Fighting 69<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association elected Dave as National President. Dave's wife, **Jeanne**, was elected Vice President of the Women's Auxiliary. The next convention will take place in Washington DC."

**Pat and Jerry Laumer:** "Traveled to Hawaii for Valentine's Day and in May off to Alaska, a gift from Jerry's son. We also did a train trip to Milwaukee to see Jerry's grandniece. Pat had a new knee in November and spends most of the time exercising."

**Dave Nelson:** "Great lunch with old friends and co-workers. **Jan** and I have spent a few weeks on the Oregon and Northern California coasts. Look forward to next year. Wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

**Art and Pat Naylor:** "Still traveling in our RV and planning cruises. Next big ones, Alaska with 4-day land tour May 12 and Orient Beijing to Bangkok, 16-day cruise in October. Enjoying life with good friends and family."

**Martin and Gloria Kiff:** Twice-a-year trip to Charleston, Oregon for family time in June and friends time in September. We clam, crab, fish and lots of beach walking. We RV whenever possible and just enjoy our family, friends and retirement to the fullest."

**Gene Berthelsen:** Retirement truly was wonderful until I took the job as Executive Director of the Sacramento Jazz Jubilee. I mean I like the people and the music and it's a great organization with 2,700 dedicated-and nice- volunteers. It runs almost as efficiently as Caltrans did in its heyday. But it is a full-time job, and I had really gotten used to being on my own recognizance and not having to be anywhere I didn't want to be at that particular moment. I've promised them three years unless my multiple myeloma kicks up.

**Gary and Julie Bush:** "We spent a few days in Pacific Grove at the Lighthouse Inn and Suites. We highly recommend this place. Up through May they charge for only two nights and get the third night free. They serve complimentary wine and *hors d'oeuvres* in the evening and a full cooked breakfast delivered to your room in the morning.

We stayed in one of their mini-suites that have fireplaces. We were there two days after the big storm in January. Wow, downed trees everywhere. We were lucky to get in on the 17-mile drive as they had just opened it that morning to visitors. We visited the Aquarium in Monterey and ended up spending most of the day there. They keep adding new exhibits and new ones are being constructed. On March 9 we leave for the Big Island of Hawaii for 10 days to celebrate, yee gads, my 68<sup>th</sup> birthday."

On a sad note, I received word that one of my old bosses, **Jim Gordon** passed away on March 2, 2008. He was in Merced at the time and went unconscious and never woke up. He passed away from pneumonia. Jim was 78 years old and is survived by his son **Scott**, Scott's wife and his grandson,

**Montgomery.** Jim was a true legend of Caltrans and the Division of Highways. He worked in Headquarters Landscape Architecture along side the Chief Landscape Architect Dana Bowers. He was assigned the job of establishing the first District Office of Landscape in District 7 and became the first District Landscape Architect for the Division of Highways. After a few years in District 7, he transferred to District 4 and became the District Landscape Architect and my boss. After several years in District 4, Jim was promoted and became the Chief Landscape Architect in Headquarters.

**Dana Bowers** and **Jim** were quite the team in the early days, traveling around the state designing highway landscaping projects. One of their great efforts was the planting of Monterey pine seedlings on Highway 1 at Carmel Hill in Monterey. They stand today as a testament to their efforts. Jim always told his young designers, "Get to know your district. When you go out into the field make it a point to come back on a different route." Jim was a true believer in a maintainable landscape. He will be missed by all who knew him. In his retirement, Jim played a lot of golf and tennis until his health slowed him down."

I had the opportunity to make a short presentation about the Quarter Century Club to the recipients of the 25 and 40-year awards at a Caltrans ceremony on February 28. I handed out brochures and applications to those in attendance.

Our next Central district luncheon will be at the Dante Club in Sacramento on April 30 starting at 11 am. See you there.

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— Gary and Julie Bush

## Foundation Matters

### Foundation Is There to Help

Each year in April, Caltrans honors those who lost their lives while working for the safety of the traveling public with a special **Workers Memorial Tribute** on the steps of the State Capitol. This year's event is scheduled for **April 8.**

The California Transportation Foundation is a proud sponsor of this impressive ceremony. In 2007 three Caltrans employees lost their lives and will be honored at this tribute. The Foundation has established Memorial Funds to assist each of the families:

- **Djuan Bush** – District 4 Highway Maintenance Worker
- **John Knabenbauer** – District 8 Maintenance Equipment Worker
- **Matthew D. White** – District 3 Highway Maintenance Worker

The Foundation was there to help these families and 10 others in need during 2007. Since the beginning of 2008, four new programs now support Caltrans employees and their families.

The **Scholarship Program** is underway again with six grants already awarded—one sponsored by the Division of Transportation Planning and five by Caltrans Surveyors. Approximately \$50,000 is expected to be awarded in 2008.

Under **the Awards and Recognition Grants Program**, CTF provided financial support for the February 28 **Employee Recognition** event held in Headquarters and the one in September. These events are co-sponsored by the **Foundation**, the **Division of Human Resources** and the **Quarter Century Club**. A grant was also provided in February to cover travel expenses for the families of two **Medal of Valor** recipients.

The **Event Management Program** provided financial services in support of the **Transportation Planning Conference** held recently in Long Beach and will financially manage the **AASHTO Maintenance Subcommittee Meeting** coming up in July.

Thanks to **Nancy Benjamin** and **Peggy Sweet**, you recently received a copy of **CTF's newsletter "Headways"** along with our annual appeal for financial assistance. We hope you enjoyed the information on activities held in 2007. We encourage your continued support and depend on your contributions to keep our programs going.

Reach the foundation at  
[ctf@transportationfoundation.org](mailto:ctf@transportationfoundation.org)  
 Or write California Transportation Foundation  
 581 La Sierra Drive  
 Sacramento CA 95864  
 Or call  
 (916) 453-1767  
 Or log onto  
<http://www.transportationfoundation.org>  
 Still another way to stay in touch is to log onto the Caltrans monthly newsletter at  
[www.dot.ca.gov/ctnews](http://www.dot.ca.gov/ctnews)

**Eye Test**

A Polish immigrant goes to the DMV to apply for a driver's license. First, of course, he has to take an eye test. The optician shows him a card with the letters: 'C Z W I X N O S T A C Z.'

"Can you read this?" the optician asks.  
 "Read it!" the Polish guy replies, "I know the guy."

*In Memoriam*

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Date</b>
Robert Breuning	02	December 18, 2007
Judy Ceagioli	02	September 25, 2007
John Reynolds	02	October 21, 2007
Delbert Denny	03	November 2, 2007
Joseph Gage	03	June 6, 2007
Robert Stewart	04	November 22, 2007
Paul Bohrer	05	January 7, 2008
Millie Horn	05	February 13, 2008
Mary 'Pat' Vernon	05	December 6, 2007
Rodger Vierra	05	December 21, 2005
Donald Cassillo	07	January 6, 2006
Les Bergquist	07	December 15, 2007
Ross Keeling	07	October 2007
Mike Lopez	07	December 2007
C.J. Vosburg	07	October 15, 2007
Pat Williamson	07	December 12, 2007
Mickey Barnes	0	February 13, 2008
Frederick Berry	08	December 25, 2007
Marshall "Timothy" Griffin	08	December 22, 2007
Joseph Francis Hernandez	08	December 7, 2007
Neal E. Anderson	10	February 6, 2008
Dudley Hatch	10	January 2008
Verl "Hoddy" Miller	10	February 4, 2008
Barbara Edmonds	11	February 11, 2008
Bob Roland	11	January 14, 2008
Mary Winn	11	Unknown
Libby Zink	11	February 13, 2008
Jim Gordon	Central	March 2, 2008

*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](mailto:ahartin@cox.net)

**Ret'd Highwaymen and Road Agents** meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 -** *Diane Tomecich or Shirley Shoup*

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

**March 27, 2008** 11:30 am Spring Luncheon at Country Kitchen Restaurant

**June 28, 2008** Summer BBQ at Anderson River Park (Details to follow)

**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** *Contact: Ed Coble 925-645-4219*

E-mail: [edcoble49@astound.net](mailto:edcoble49@astound.net)

The **Caltrans Lunch Bunch** meets on the second Tuesday of every month—contact Ed Coble.

The **North Bay Caltrans Retirees** meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month—contact **Jim Bouler** (707) 546-3097 or E-Mail at [jbouler@comcast.net](mailto:jbouler@comcast.net)

**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](mailto:tgilders@pacbell.net), or Chuck

O'Connell, (661) 253-3428

[chuckoconnell@prodigy.net](mailto:chuckoconnell@prodigy.net)

The **Monthly Luncheon Club** meets on the second Wednesday of the month in Los Angeles

**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*

Annual Spring Luncheon, April 30 starting at 11 am at College Greens Clubhouse

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**District 10 Director: Stan Randolph**

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Stockton, CA 95207-5262  
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**Secretary: Brian Young**

1056 Bradford Circle,  
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