



Membership Results

BUTCH SAYS GIMME THOSE IDEAS!

From the Corner Pocket

I trust that you keep up with the local, state and national news, so I won't bother retelling the bad news; there is far too much of it these days.

What great things are you doing to help with the events for your district? I would really like to report on them. Does your district have a team for your diamond anniversary celebration? If not, maybe you can get the ball rolling by just calling a few of your friends to meet for coffee and talk it over. It would be a great recruiting tool.

The winner of the two-year recruiting contest that brought 91 new members into the QCC statewide since January of 2007 is **Dan Johnson** of District 3, who recruited 29 new members for a 20 percent addition of new members over their January '07 membership. As I promised, I'll buy dinner at the best place in town, (his choice) in honor of his outstanding efforts. It shows what some organized efforts can do. If Secretary/Treasurer **Kim Yarbrough** under-reported the number for your district and you feel that you had a higher percentage increase in new members, please let me know.

More on the plus side, **Dan Johnson**, Director in District 3 tells me that they are

going forward with their spring fest under a plan that will invite non-members of the QCC but at a higher cost to them, since it is the QCC leadership that provides all of the planning and coordination. Will some of the freeloaders drop out and skip the lunch with their friends or will they see the merits of membership and sign on to join the QCC?

District 11 has had a meeting of some potential leaders to see if they can match District 3's 14-member leadership team to lighten the burden formerly carried by the lone **Dean Burns**. Ten people met for lunch as a steering committee to assist in the little details needed to make things happen. Two new leaders stepped forward and several very promising ideas are being considered. You will hear more if and when Caltrans District Administration supports the ideas.

Let me invite you to join in on a trip to Eureka on April 27 for the adventure of "mucking" for clams in Humboldt Bay. It's an exciting, cold, wet, dirty, smelly time of sliding around on your belly on the soft mud flats at low tide and sticking your hand into the mud up to your armpit to grab huge clams that are only accessible at very low tides.

Give me a call at (858) 279-5054 and I'll answer any questions you may have.

— 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/dnews>

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Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Hi everybody. First and foremost, **I must resign my position.** I hate to dump this on our long-serving President, but events over the past several months have forced me into this position. A couple of strokes, some cancer surgery, etc., etc., brought

this all about. I tried to keep it going but it just isn't working out. Consequently I got way behind on the dues postings this year so you will find that rather messed up right now. I will keep the position until somebody can be found to take over, but hopefully it will be very soon. And the second news (although not that important) is that I am moving. The new address is: Kim Yarbrough, 2205 W Acacia Ave, Space 50, Hemet, CA, 92545-3721. My wife and I purchased a mobile home in Hemet and will be moving there during March.

Membership: As most of you know, we have had a membership drive the past two years. We did pick up 91 new members, with District 03 coming in first with 29 new members and District 11 placing 2nd with 15.

Congratulations to all the new members and welcome to the **Quarter Century Club!** State QCC President Butch Biendara has volunteered to buy dinner for District 03 Director, **Dan Johnson**, and will be taking care of that shortly.

Dues: No notice appeared in the previous issue regarding payment of dues. This was partially my fault (along with many these past few issues) for which I apologize. This just delays everything a little bit, but we will survive. We do need to get our dues paid and the membership list brought up to date. The current addresses on this issue of the *Cue See Seer* do not reflect current "paid to" status or membership type. This is due to a late recording of this data.

In the event that someone steps forward to take over the Secretary/Treasurer position prior to the next issue, I will take this opportunity to thank all of you for making my job pretty easy. I have really enjoyed doing this and do really regret having to step down. It has been

great meeting so many throughout the state and traveling to almost all the different Districts (missed 4). I wish I could have made it to all of them. God willing, I will try to make it some of the Districts as time goes by. Bye....

PS: Last Minute News! It looks like we have found a new Secretary/Treasurer! Our President has found someone to take over this position. **Ron Lesan** of District 10, our current 2nd Vice President, has volunteered to step up and take over as Secretary/Treasurer. (Of course now we need a new 2nd VP.) I will meet with Ron the first week of March and get everything handed over to him. Of course I will be available (even though I have moved) to give him a hand whenever he needs it. So congratulations to Ron, and you members take it easy on him . . . at least the first 4-5 months.

—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 everyone has recovered from the holidays. We had several fun parties up here. We started out on December 4 with a retirement lunch for **Grace Fridley** at the Red Lion. She had worked for Caltrans, and then ended up with the Worker's

Compensation Appeals Board, from which she retired. I got to sit with **Dennis** and **Mary Grinsell** and had a nice visit. He is Grace's husband's cousin.

The next night we attended the Caltrans, District I Holiday Party, again at the Red Lion. We had the dining room and lounge. The band that played included some Caltrans employees, which was nice. Good band too. They raffled off wonderful baskets of goodies put together by different units; a little competition there. We sat with fellow retirees, **John** and **Jackie Sherman**, **Ernie** and **Liz Tumell**, and **Ray** and **Marlene Thomsen**. Other retirees included **Lonnie Arney** and his wife, **Rick** and **Jean Knapp**, **Al** and **Barbara Nickols**, **Cindy Haney**, **Larry Bowermaster**, **Mary Salyer**, **Tim Fisher** and **Janet Bottini**, and **Bob West** and his wife. Our District Director, **Charlie Fielder**, welcomed everyone.

On December 16, I made it to the Administration Christmas lunch at Babetta's. We always do a competitive ornament exchange. Several of our retirees come, including **Ted Cook**, who recently moved back from Oregon. It was good to see him again.

Our quarterly retiree lunch at the Home Town Buffet was in January and 28 attended, might be a record. **George Beckman**, **Chuck SeCoy** (QCC) and **Jerry Severson** came over from the Redding area. Everyone enjoyed seeing them again. Vi, Rita, and I represented the women, all QCCers. Rita also brought her husband, **Doug** and it was great to see him. **Julian Barbash** was our most recent retiree to attend. We had a nice chat with **Tom Georgeson** (QCC) and **Ray Thomsen**, who are planning to have their classic cars in one or more of our local car shows. Ray usually makes it to all of them. Too many to name all but other QCC members attending included **Ben** and **Marty**

Van Zandt, Bruce Miner, Rick Knapp, Jim Long, Dennis Grinsell, Bob Myers, and John Sherman.

Jim Lyon did it again. In December, he won first prize at the Humboldt Senior Resource Center's second annual Holiday cookie bake-off with "Jim's Delight" cookies, made with amaretto, pecans, cream cheese and maraschino cherries. Sounds yummy.

George Otterbeck reported that he is busy helping others with their taxes again. This is his seventh season doing them under the AARP program "Tax Consulting for the Elderly", and his second season as a local coordinator. That is an important service.

Jim and Linda Boyd are in Yuma now but made it up to Idaho to visit with their daughter and family and see their two new great granddaughters. So hard to believe how the time is passing.

In November, **Vi Truby** had a super trip to Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji. She enjoyed the sights, the different cultures, and the food, even trying out a Kangaroo steak. She said that the Great Barrier Reef was awesome and the cities were beautiful and clean. She also enjoyed a tour and performance at the Sydney Opera House. She was gone for 24 days, and we are happy to have her back.

Dave Bywater also retired the end of December from our Maintenance Department. Congratulations, Dave.

—Arlene Hartin

A blind guy was selling pencils in the subway and every day a commuter got off the train, put 10-cents in the tray but never took a pencil. This went on for several years.

Then one day the man put his dime in the tray and the blind guy asked, "Are you the one that puts ten cents in the tray but never takes a pencil?"

"Yes, I am," the man admitted.

"Well I just wanted to let you know, the pencils are fifteen cents now."

The Haps in District 2

The District 2 Quarter Century Club held its recent luncheon at the Country Waffle in Redding on January 9th. A fine showing, and everyone who went had a good time.

Prior to the luncheon, **Wes Reynolds**, retired police captain, gave a presentation at the Redding Police Station about how the new red light traffic surveillance cameras function. Everyone in attendance shared the same opinion: "If you run one, they got you, from all the angles." We gratefully extend our appreciation to Mr. Reynolds for his very informative presentation.

June McLean and Shirley Shoup took a fast four-day trip last November 16-19 to Las Vegas for a "bingo blast." The tournament was for Monday and Tuesday with about 2,000 people playing bingo. The night before the blast, Shirley won \$5 (splitting the bingo with 15 other people) in the small bingo parlor at the Plaza Hotel. No one else in the group of about 15, including the others coming from Lake Havasu City, won any money.

Needless to say, June and Shirley had a great time in Vegas!

John and Norma Haner are proud great grandparents of **Autumn Haner** and **Hailey (Haner) Bleach**, both in the Redding area. Autumn was born November 11, 2007 and Hailey on August 4, 2008

Jim Ceragioli says "Christmas found me in Reno with my grandson **Giovanni**, my son, and my daughter-in-law. Got snow Christmas Eve, but never had to chain up going there or coming home. Planning a golf vacation to Acapulco in early February, but that depends on space available. Other trips are possible, but nothing is planned thus far."

Marta Slionys shares these thoughts with us: "Retirement is sooooo great! Here is a brief report to let everyone know what I have been up to the last few months. The end of April and most of May were taken up with a great trip, 26 days in China. This was a small tour group, 14 people, which made it especially nice as you get to know all the people as friends, not just travelers.

"We started off with five days in Shanghai, including the Shanghai Museum, the Bund, dinner with a Chinese family and a visit to the Yu Gardens. While here, we took a train ride to Suzhou for a boat ride on the city's canals, and a tour of a silk factory.

"Off next to Beijing for a rainy trip to Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City, a tour of a cloisonné factory and a gorgeous day for a climb up the Great Wall. Here we also enjoyed a Chinese opera. From Beijing, it was overnight, by Pullman coach, train ride to Xian. Here we toured the Terra Cotta Army (unbelievable). We also toured a jade carving factory, a laquerware furniture factory, and spent an overnight with a family in a rural farm village. Whoopee, I got to line dance with the whole village female population.

"Next, we flew to Wuhan, took a six-hour bus ride to Moaping and boarded a cruise ship on the Yangtze River. We cruised up through the impressive Three Gorges Dam, and took a boat ride up smaller tributaries with beautiful topography. We got to see many acres that will soon be flooded when the Three Gorges Dam is completed next year.

"Here is where we got lucky. On a Monday afternoon, the huge earthquake hit Wenchuan. Wednesday morning we were to depart the ship at Chongqing and take a bus to Chengdu, only 45 miles from the quake epicenter. We missed being in the middle of this by 48 hours.

"A change of plans put us in the 'Government Employees Hotel' in Chongqing for three days. The party members definitely

have lots of perks. Here we got to see the Pandas. Way cool!

"Flew next to Guilin in southern China for another boat ride, mountains in the mist, and more great cuisine that we enjoyed for the whole trip. Next it was off to Hong Kong and then the flight to home sweet home.

"I also spent a week in Baja California on the shores of Los Barriles, Mexico. Three days fishing the Sea of Cortez and catching a 145 lb marlin, three tuna and one Dorado. Rented ATVs, drove them on the beach, and enjoyed the nightlife in Cabo.

"I also have been crabbing in Bandon, Oregon. Limits 4 days straight! Two trips to Oregon and Washington to visit relatives and spent a week enjoying good company and the beautiful fall colors in Wisconsin.

"Tell me folks, how did I have time to come to work? Cheers!!!!!!!!!"

Bill Belcher is the new secretary for the District 2 QCC. His employment has led him from District 6 through District 5, Headquarters and District 2. He is married to **Michelle (Curler) Belcher**, who has worked in District 1, District 2, and Sacramento, and is also a Quarter Century Club member. They just recently celebrated their second anniversary. You can reach Bill at bill.belcher@dot.ca.gov.

— Bill Belcher

A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store but she couldn't find one big enough for her family. After rummaging through the turkeys for awhile, she asked a stock boy, "Do these turkeys get any bigger?"

The stock boy replied, 'No ma'am, they're dead.'

The Haps in District 3

From **Dan Johnson, Sr.** The District 3 QCC Board of Officers is moving forward with the new District Office History Room. Deputy Director of Administration **Frank Maskovich** has stated his staff and the QCC will be working as a team once the project gets underway. We have a History Room Committee formed and are looking for more volunteers from the membership. Anyone interested in being a part of the team is asked to contact **Dan Johnson, Sr.** at 671-3889 or by email at boots3@syix.com.

Our annual Spring Party and meeting will be held on March 22nd at the Peach Tree Golf and Country Club in Linda. The social hour will get underway at 1:00 P.M., a meeting at 2:00 P.M. and the buffet to follow. Members and Guests will be entertained by **Katlan Rex**, a student at Yuba City High School. Katlan is a very talented singer and will open the meeting singing the National Anthem. After a buffet lunch, consisting of shaved tri-tip roast, chicken, salad, vegetable and dessert, she will continue to entertain with another song. Katlan will be accompanied by her mother, **Pattie**, who will provide the background music. In addition, Katlan was chosen to open Yuba City High School basketball games with her beautiful voice singing the national anthem.

Congratulations to three of our members: **Nile Fems, Walter Lyons and Howard Payne** have been awarded Honorary Life Memberships in the Quarter Century Club. Nile, Walt and Howard have been personally invited to attend our Spring

Meeting and buffet to receive their certificates.

The Sunday afternoon function will conclude with a drawing for numerous door prizes.

The District 3 QCC membership drive is still underway and we are happy to report several new members. Renewing members are asked to please send their dues to Membership Chairperson **Carleen Hagen**, who will record and send the renewal on to the state level. Carleen's address is 1568 Oro Grande in Yuba City. Carleen can also be contacted by phone at 674-9026 or email at hcdhagen@aol.com. Please remember, those with honorary memberships, you must advise Carleen **each year** if they wish to remain on the QCC mailing list.

Each year a group of Caltrans retirees heads to Yuma for a month's stay. This year the trip included **Chuck and Mary Dossey, Bob and Marilyn Mulcahy, Roger and Janis Stillwell and Ralph Sander**. Ralph took an extra week to travel up the coast when heading home.

Wally Crother is another retiree spending time in the sun. Wally and **Dealla** are spending three months in the Palm Springs area.

We are looking forward to seeing **Rich Von Tersch** at the QCC Luncheon on March 22nd. Rich, the Accounting Officer for District 03 for many years, now resides in San Diego.

We received a note from **Betty Emmons**. Betty and Everett traveled to Southern California in October and will head back to Washington in April. Betty had hoped to be back in Yuba City by March for our luncheon and wishes everyone well.

Joanne Ellis is looking good. Recently she had dinner in Meridian with **Duane and Jane Myers**.

C J Kelly, Leo Trombatore, and **Ray Winton** are out on the golf course each week. CJ reports that the three have a great time. CJ also talks about his three children and six grandchildren. When time allows he travels to El Dorado Hills to visit with son **Scott** and wife who have three children, to San Jose to visit **Debbie** and husband with one child and to Greenbrae to see **Sheia** and husband with two children. At his home in Yuba City, CJ keeps busy with yard work and taking care of the odd jobs around the house.

A note from Gordon and Carol Jean Borden: "We are enjoying retirement and are traveling a bit and enjoying our grandchildren, including a new great grandchild born on Washington's Birthday.

From Keith Maggini: I haven't been able to scrape up much news from the area, as we haven't been getting too involved with outside happenings yet. I am slowly getting back to accepting events that happened, so I hope to have more in the coming issues. I am enclosing an item on Retiree Pensions and an announcement on our Spring Luncheon as I promised in the last issue.

Important: I recently received word in a letter from Harold Jones, a Cal Trans retiree who lives in Gardnerville, Nevada, concerning an effort by **Paul McCauley**, a CPA from Santa Monica, to circulate a petition what would add an initiative on the next State Ballot to amend State Constitution Article I, Sec.9 to allow Public Employee pensions to be renegotiated, including reducing benefits for existing and prospective retirees. This measure is known as "The McCauley Public Employee Pension Reform Act (08-0018). If passed, this measure could have a devastating impact on the retirements we paid into and worked so hard for so many years to earn. It is important that all retirees take an active role in defeating this movement; if he gets the required signatures to put it on the ballot, we must

defeat it.

The Annual Placerville Area Spring Luncheon for Caltrans retirees will be held Thursday, April 16 at the Green House Cafe in the Raley's shopping Center in West Placerville starting at 2:30 pm. Guests will order from the Luncheon Menu with individual checks to eliminate the collection of money in advance. The luncheon is open to all Caltrans retirees and their guests. People attending for the first time need to make reservations by calling either **Doug Becker** at (530) 622-1665 or **Gerry Hamm** at (530) 622-8030 prior to April 10th in order to give the cafe an estimate on attendance. No action is required from returning retirees, who will be contacted by phone or E-mail about a week before the event. We promise an enjoyable time, so come on out and join us.

The biggest news from this area is the weather. February has been a blessing toward bringing the moisture conditions up for the year. The residents woke up to low snow three mornings during the middle of the month, with heavy snowfall in the higher elevations that will help fill the local reservoirs this spring.

The latest addition to the area is the opening of the Red Hawk Casino just East of Shingle Springs on Highway 50 on December 17th. The casino, which introduced Nevada-style gaming to the area is served by a state-of-the-art interchange. Also completed, was the Missouri Flat Interchange, which greatly improved travel conditions. Route 50 improvements to the Placerville Freeway are proceeding, but delayed due to the wet weather.

— *Dan Johnson, Sr. Susanna Ford and
Keith Maggini*

The Haps in District 4

I'm back after an unforeseen hiatus last quarter. I'll try to catch up with what I missed last quarter.

District 4 held its annual briefing on the district's accomplishments for retired District Directors and deputies at the devil's Slide tunnel construction office in Pacifica. The district continues to meet or exceed its project delivery commitments.

This was followed by a field trip to the tunnel construction site. We were unable to go into the tunnel property because we lacked the necessary training to work in confined spaces, but we were able to see the precautions the contractor has taken to insure they knew who was in the tunnel at any time.

This was important in case of an accident so that they could quickly account for everyone. The tunnel construction includes more than just the tunnel. It includes a bridge approach to the north end of the tunnel and a maintenance facility at the south end. The bridge at the north end is a major project in itself and its fine design, I believe, will surprise users when the tunnel is opened to traffic.

We also got to see the **Harry Yahata** Home for Displaced Red-Legged Frogs. This was a pond built prior to the start of construction to replace habitat that would be destroyed by the construction. The frisky frogs apparently enjoy frolicking in the new pond and are multiplying.

Ed Coble hosted the annual luncheon for his lunch bunch at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco. All were pleased to see that **Barbara Jahrling** and **Eleanor Cassinelli** were able to attend.

Richard Monroe and his wife will

head for Australia this spring. They're going to Sidney, just east of where the wildfires are raging. Hopefully the rains will come to dampen them down (the fires, not the Monroes). Rich is looking forward to walking over the top of the Sidney Harbor Bridge. He is also hoping for a tour of the iconic Sidney Opera House. He does have one concern, that he will be unable to persuade his wife not to pack too much for the trip.

Ron Lutz and his wife will head for Hawaii for two weeks.

Bob and Joan Tucker send their regards from Half Moon Bay. Last August they had a big 155-year old birthday party (Bob is 80 and Joan is 75) at the Half Moon Bay Last Chance Saloon and Casino. Unfortunately Joan subsequently had to have a hop replacement on the same leg that received a knee replacement 15 years ago. (Was there too much celebration and dancing at the party?) The surgery went well, except that the recovery took longer than expected because of a bad side-effect of edema.

This put a damper on their plans for long-distance travel except for their annual trip to Charlotte, North Carolina to visit their son, Doug. They still try to do short trips and stay in the far west of the country. In the past, they have been seen and visited all of the United States using their trailer and with friends. In view of the present situation of the world, they're glad to have had the opportunity to have visited 22 countries. They don't plan at the present time to make it 23.

Bob continues to take morning walks, work in the yard, play golf and fish with his fishing buddy Bruno and attend Ed Coble's monthly Lunch Bunch lunch. He is also active as the membership chairman for his SIRS retirement club.

Joan enjoys playing bridge and mah-jong. Both Bob and Joan are kept busy in their

spare time by their granddaughters **Vibeka**, **Camillia** and **Linnea**, and their parents, **Russ** and **Pia**.

The next big event for them is the May 2009 marriage of Vibeka. (He didn't say whether he had two more marriages of granddaughters to go. As a father of two daughters who married within two months of each other, I suggest he tell them to space their marriages years apart, or better, elope!

I have to end this report now because the Hensley Family Moving Company is back in business after my wife and I thought we had retired from that business. We're helping our oldest daughter to move from Sunnyvale to San Francisco. We thought that once our daughters finished college and were married we could take it easy. With daughters, it never ends.

Bob, good luck with your granddaughters.

— Paul Hensley

The Value of a Drink

"Sometimes when I reflect back on all the wine I drink I feel ashamed. Then I look into the glass and think about the workers in the vineyards and all of their hopes and dreams. If I didn't drink this wine, they might be out of work and their dreams would be shattered. Then I say to myself, "It is better that I drink this wine and let their dreams come true than be selfish and worry about my liver."

~ Jack Handy

The Haps in District 5

We saw the first poppies today, a sign of spring and a bright spot in today's gloom and doom.

As you've read, most State employees have been furloughed two days per month, staying away from work with no pay. Maintenance has made arrangements to cover any emergencies that arise on the highway, and an equivalent furlough plan has been developed for Construction personnel assigned to work with contractors. Our district office is closed on the first and third Friday each month. This reduction will continue through June 2010.

We retired employees are concerned about a petition being circulated titled "Renegotiation of Public Employee Pension Contracts" written by Paul McCauley. The measure may be placed on the November ballot if sufficient signatures are collected by June 22. Please urge your friends and neighbors NOT to sign this petition, which could reduce vested pension benefits for existing and future retirees. The Secretary of State tracking number for this measure is 1350, and the Attorney General tracking number is 08-0018.

I took a few notes at the annual District Holiday BBQ held on December 9 at Trinity Hall. About 240 attend, so we were not quite as crowded as the previous year. We all enjoyed a delicious meal courtesy of **Bill Fieldhouse** and his experienced helpers, and the desserts were especially yummy. Each of the managers provided a gift basket to be raffled after the meal. District Director **Rich Krumholz** welcomed everyone and recognized the retirees. **Russ Westfall** and **Clyde Philbrick** had been retired longest, each more than 30 years.

I chatted with **Edna** and **Ken Taylor**, who had been traveling in Arizona; they were

standing in line in Tucson and discovered the man next to them was Don Cross—small world! **Dick Young** and his wife toured the New England states last year to see the beautiful fall foliage. **Louise** and **Alex Woolworth**, **Fred** and **Diane Brebes**, and **Leonard** and **Sueann Rocha** had enjoyed a Caribbean cruise together on a Princess ship.

We also attended a holiday dinner at the Madonna Inn with several Caltrans folks and spouses. **George Zanetti** is still working part-time as a retired annuitant when he's not playing golf or dancing with Imo. **Monte Vernon** also gets to the course three days a week. **Al** and **Delores Jorge** visited the redwoods in spring, took a Mississippi River cruise, toured the northeast including Niagara Falls and Canada in the fall, took the trailer to San Antonio Lake, and were going to the Sierras at Christmas. **John** and **Mary Ritter** had been traveling every three months or so and working on the house.

Pete Hom attended a family reunion in July in Seattle and also visited Colorado. **Betty Nicholson** made a trip to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island in August. She has a new granddaughter, and waiting for work to begin on her new garage. **Ken Jones** keeps busy with woodworking, leather, and lapidary, and also four parakeets. He and his wife visited family near San Diego at Thanksgiving. **Jack** and **Ellen Neal** saw the Greek Isles on a Mediterranean cruise, and also visited Quebec, PEI, and New York. They have two grandsons attending Cal Poly.

Gary and **Jeanne Schultz** keep busy with golf, yard work, and grandchildren. They haven't been able to enjoy their condo in Hawaii as it's being refurbished. **Dyer** and **Sheila Campbell** have not been traveling lately because the trailer needs work. **Bob Scamara** was invited to a special celebration in Seattle for WWII "aces". **Lois** and their three daughters also attended to see **Bob** honored. **Giff** and **Shirley Bland** have not been

traveling much, only to King City recently. They are working on a patio room at the house. **RJ** and **Linda Brown** made a trip to the Grand Canyon. They care for one of their grandchildren, and **Brownie** is working on a project to remodel closet doors.

Bob and I enjoyed our Panama Canal cruise in January. The ship sailed from Acapulco and stopped in Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, the Canal Zone and Jamaica. The transit through the Canal started before daylight and took all day. It was interesting to see the operation of the locks and the many vessels passing through with us. The Canal is being widened to accommodate the increased size of newer cruise ships (we had just a few feet of clearance).

In memoriam: **Marian Muller** passed away on December 4 at age 92. **Marian** worked in Accounting for many years, and her late husband **Lew** worked in the District Warehouse.

Othel "Lee" Cox, wife of **Wally**, passed away January 14. She had been a public health nurse before retirement and was very involved in church activities. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

Ervin Royse passed away on January 9. **Erv** was not a State employee, but he was the founder and CEO of our Central Coast Credit Union for over 50 years. During that time, many Caltrans employees served with him on the Credit Union Board of Directors, Credit Committee, and Supervisory Committee. We always looked forward to attending the annual dinner meeting in January and seeing old friends.

If you have news of Caltrans folks, please drop me a note or e-mail.

—Kathleen Copeland

The Haps in District 6

Note to Highway friends: One has to remember while shoveling snow from the driveway that all this means pretty flowers to share in the spring. How thankful we are, that we're still able to shovel snow.

Angelo Zito passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Valentine's Day, February 14. He was diagnosed at the end of September 2008 with mesothelioma, a lung cancer caused by exposure to asbestos. He fought this evil disease valiantly.

Angelo was born in Los Angeles on August 1, 1931. He joined the Navy in 1948. He married **Mary Jane Metzler** November 9, 1965. He retired from the Navy as a Chief Machinist Mate and retired from Caltrans in 1992. He loved all sports, attending ship reunions, and tinkering. He was a goodhearted man and always came to the aid of others. He never asked for anything in return or complained. He was a hard-working man, he loved his dogs, and he enjoyed playing games on his computer and keeping in touch with



family and many friends via email.

He volunteered often for the American Legion and Fleet Reserve Association of which he was a member of both. He held many offices; mainly

secretary, for the Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 249. He was proud of being in the Navy and Military.

His good friend, **Abe Paregian**, introduced him to the gym many years ago. He

worked out daily at Bally's, never looking his age and being so healthy and fit.

Margie and I had visited with him the day before and he was able to recognize everyone and could communicate with us but it was obvious he would not last much longer. I don't believe he was in much pain - they were giving him morphine to relieve his anxiety and help him breath.

Let's all keep him in our prayers.....

Abe Paregian

"You mention Angelo and, immediately this face pops into memory, a smile, his eagerness to do his duty, regardless of what it is. Memory recalls the last moment shared- he was at a QCC Luncheon, scurrying here and there to see that all were getting their lunch portions. No one was directing him; he was doing to help others; that's a memory we all could wish for. How grand we could call him friend. God Bless Angelo!"

— **Virgle Ray**

"Amen"

— **Glenn Mills**

I was hoping more of you would get some news to me but every time I ask I get the same response, "I'm not doing anything exciting". I think you would be surprised that everybody isn't really looking for excitement; just some thoughts of their old friends to jog the good memories. Anyway I've decided that the next newsletter I may make up some stuff and you'll really be excited when it's about you so the only defense will be to send me news.

This is a short newsletter for me as the last couple of months have not been the best for me. My son, while trying to break up a fight on New Year's Eve was smashed in the head and has taken quite awhile to recuperate. Three hours with the neurosurgeons putting him back together and then a stay in the ICU. He's

almost back to normal except for a giant "S" type scar that runs from the top of his head down and ends up in front of his right ear. All I can say is it's lucky he is not a she.

HEADS UP! This year's Annual Spring Luncheon will be Thursday, May 7th at Yosemite Falls Café located at 4278 W Ashlan Ave in Fresno. A flyer will be sent two to three weeks in advance.

Hope all of you are doing well and hope to see you at the luncheon.

— Terry Littleton

Mafia Godfather finds out that his bookkeeper has cheated him out of ten million bucks. His bookkeeper is deaf. That was the reason he got the job in the first place. It was assumed that a deaf bookkeeper would not hear anything that he might have to testify about in court.

When the Godfather goes to confront the bookkeeper about his missing \$10 million, he brings along his attorney, who knows sign language.

The Godfather tells the lawyer, "Ask him where the 10 million bucks he embezzled from me is."

The attorney, using sign language, asks the bookkeeper where the money is.

The bookkeeper signs back: "I don't know what you are talking about."

The attorney tells the Godfather: "He says he doesn't know what you're talking about."

The Godfather pulls out a pistol, puts it to the bookkeeper's temple and says, "Ask him again!"

The attorney signs to the bookkeeper: "He'll kill you if you don't tell him!"

The bookkeeper signs back: "OK! You win! The money is in a brown briefcase, buried behind the shed in my cousin Enzo's backyard in Queens!"

The Godfather asks the attorney: "Well, what'd he say?"

The attorney replies: "He says you don't have the nerve to pull the trigger."

The Haps in District 7

Still Looking. Any Volunteers?

District 7 QCC Treasurer duties are still available to someone ("Please!" as District QCC Director **Tom Almany** says), who enjoys handing other people's money. **Tom** is also willing to let some fresh blood assume his director's duties. If you miss serving your members, and would like to have something to look forward to, please contact **Tom, AKA William Almany, III**, at his e-mail at talmany@earthlink.net or other information is listed in the back of this newsletter.

If this were not enough, the Statewide QCC Treasurer position is also up for grabs in light of **Kim Yarborough's** stroke recovery efforts. If you or someone you know would like to do this, please contact **Butch Biendra**, Statewide QCC Director also listed in the back of this newsletter.

Annual Holiday Celebration at the Historic Mayfair Hotel

Saturday, December 6, 2008 was a great day for a party! This year, the annual holiday luncheon and QCC reunion was held at the Mayfair Hotel's Regency Ballroom. Near Downtown with decent parking it was a nice change of pace from previous years, and easier on the pocket, thanks to **Doris Nakamura** who has been our arrangement Queen for several years.

Attending were: **Tom and Linda Almany, Jean and Julia Amster, Fred and Irene Bonilla, Walt Bowman, Satish Chander, Angie Costantino, Fred Cubillas, Jim and Louise Kaainoa-Fowler, Millie Goble, Dylan Luther, Hubert Himes, Mack and Betty Hunter, Carol and Dick**

Huntwork, Paul and Maxine In, Oscar Janeway, Bob Jordan, Bob Kabel, Marty Leis, Marie Martin, Angel Medina, Ken Miller, Doris Nakamura, Jackie Nichols, George and Larry Omay, Al Reece, Judy and Dennis Reynolds, Doug Richter, Dave and Margie Roper, Bob Sassaman, Carol Schumaker, Marie and Jim Smiley, Dick Smith, Kirsten and Stewart Stahl, Ken Steele, Gus and Judy Sulaitus, Bob Wallin, Bob Walters, Larry and Mary Whiting, and Bev Yacks.

As advertised, it really was a sumptuous buffet! Goodies included plain and Caesar salads, marinated green beans and mushrooms, rice pilaf, roasted potatoes, four kinds of viand – roast beef with onions, chicken with mushrooms, turkey with cranberry sauce, and white fish in wine sauce, plus carrots and steamed broccoli. Dessert, a treat in itself, included freshly baked cookies, flan (yum), carrot cake, brownies, fruits of all sorts – pineapple, watermelon, and cantaloupe.

The centerpiece, designed by **John Johnson, Linda Almany's** brother, was a gorgeous lantern in holiday silver and red, accented by sprigs of pine and roses, with a huge velvet bow. His background as a professional florist is obvious – who knew a retired School Principle could be so talented? One lucky winner at each table got to take it home, if they one the table drawing. Other winners of the annual "gift drawing" were **Ken Steel** (two items), **Angel Mendoza, Margie Roper, Doris Nakamura, Larry Whiting, Hubert Himes, Jackie Nichols, Mack Hunter** (two items), **Millie Goble's** grandson **Dylan, Julia Amster** (two items), **Jean Amster, Carol Huntwork, Al Reece, Jim Fowler, Angie Costantino, Paul In, Carol Schoemaker** and **Gus Sulitis.**

The only missing thing was a guest speaker. We all got to use the time to socialize instead, so it just shows every cloud has a silver lining! If you couldn't make it in 2008, plan on December 5, 2009. We'll try to include the information in September's issue.

Meet you at the Club?

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: **April 8, 2009** at the Steer N' Ale Restaurant, 3644 East Foothill Boulevard, Pasadena, (626) 796-2278, **May 13, 2009** at the China Olive Chinese Restaurant, 9224 Reseda Boulevard, Northridge, (818) 998-3688; **June 10, 2009** at Joselito's West Mexican Restaurant, 7308 Foothill Boulevard, Tujunga, (818) 951-2275; and **July 8, 2009** will be back at the Steer N' Ale.

April 8, 2009 Steer N' Ale
 May 13, 2009 China Olive
 June 10, 2009 Joselito's West
 July 8, 2009 Steer N' Ale
 August 12, 2009 China Olive
 September 9, 2009 Joselito's West

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.

Judy – Judy – Judy!

Judy Reynolds sent this very newsy letter about her recent activities: "Well, **Dennis** and I have been enjoying this lifestyle we call retirement for several years now - six years for me; two years for **Dennis**, but 2008 so far has been an incredible banner year for us that will be difficult to top. It started in March when the **Reynolds**, joined by **Marie Martin**, made a trip to **Larry Loudon's** house in Utah and had several days with him

and his lovely wife, **Roz**, at their beautiful home in Jordan, near the Jordan River - note to Larry - there is no Jordan River.

"We had a terrific time visiting them in their huge, gorgeous home with a back yard as big as the City of Glendale. Over the weekend, our gracious hosts put on a delicious reunion BBQ that included special people in **Marie** and **Judy's** life, namely, **Bill** and **JoAnn Minter**, former 07 employees, and **Vince Desimone** (**Vince** was employed with us during the early 1960's) and his lovely wife **Linda**, whom **Judy** hadn't seen since 1966, and we totally enjoyed visiting and digging up memories of the old City and County Projects days when highways was Highways - those really were the "good old days" (?!?) (words I never thought would come out of MY mouth - I sound like **Lavina** and **Bosilka**).

"What a terrific trip that included enjoying the best potato salad in the entire world. Then, they took us into Salt Lake City where we saw the Mormon Tabernacle, which was most impressive. We got to see that nice little choral group they have there, as they have open rehearsals preparing for the next service. (Very remarkable!) - and we're not even in April yet. **Larry** and **Roz** have a sleep-by-the-numbers bed. My number is 62. One thing of note - I slept the whole night through every night and woke up pain-free - a first for me.

"OK, here's June: **Dennis's** sister and brother-in-law retired as teachers in the Central Valley, for a total of 56 years, so to celebrate, the family took a cruise to Mexico that was unbelievable and a lot of fun. Trying to get all 11 people to agree on tours and sightseeing would make a terrific sit-com, especially in Cabo, Mazatlan, and Puerto Vallarta. Lots of tequila, couple of tacos - it's all good.

"All this cruising was to get us geared up for a 31-day cruise to Sydney - left San Francisco on September 24, hit Hawaii, Tahiti, Fiji, all the islands in French Polynesia (Bora

Bora, Pago Pago, Moorea, four ports in New Zealand, and on 10/26, we arrived in Sydney where we spent four extra days on tour. My favorite things in life are boats, water, and floating and I got my fill of all three. The Pacific Ocean is so blue - I have three granddaughters whose eyes are the same blue as that ocean. There are not enough adjectives to describe this trip. Had never been to Hawaii and it was kind of a drive-by, not there long enough, but I got Hawaiian dirt on my shoes and that made me happy.

"But I must report a serious misconception, which must be dispelled. WE HAVE BEEN DUPED! You know that rumor about the water going the other way in the toilet south of the equator? That's why I went! Just to see that. Well, it goes the same way as in Tujung. I was kind of disappointed. I went around flushing everything - and no luck - same with the sinks. I was crushed! But not as crushed as I was about that stupid International Date Line. Going down, my 31-day cruise became a 30-day cruise, so I get it back when I get back to Tujung. Big whoop! Other than that, I had no complaints, highly recommend Princess Cruises - it was great!

"Note to self: Must live long enough to pay for this - but bankruptcy is but a state of mind - it's all relative. Don't know what we can do for an encore (Princess has a 107-day cruise that intrigues me). Not too bad. We'll see. Love and happy holidays to all - have a fine 2009!

Dale Goes to India and Nepal

Dale Neumen, who, as we are learning, is an avid world traveler writes, "I visited India and Nepal this last November (no Turkey) and the first of December. I used frequent flyer miles (80,000) and spent about 21 to 22 hours in the air each way. Singapore Air treats you royally (food every time you turn around). The Singapore Airport is one of the best and has a shuttle train to take you from terminal to

terminal (very efficient). I went mainly to see the Taj Mahal and Mt. Everest.

"Both India and Nepal are very dirty, much traffic and poverty everywhere. The roads are very narrow and bumpy in the rural areas. There were 25 people on the tour from all over the United States. One highlight was a 10-minute elephant ride (two to an elephant). We stopped at the Ganges River (very dirty) for a small boat ride. On the shore they were cremating two bodies. One day we were to fly from Khajuraho, India to Varanase, India but we ended up taking a bus from 1 pm to 3 am over a narrow and very bumpy road. The road was worse than the old gravel roads in the U.S.

"Several people had diarrhea, in fact one person missed going to the Taj Mahal because of it. I took prescription medicine to avoid it. The tour included breakfast every day so I ate plenty of eggs and bacon each day.

"The cow is sacred here so they are everywhere even on the platform at the train Station. You see a lot of temples and mosques. One place in Nepal you climb 80 steps to see a temple. In Kathmandu, Nepal I took a trip by plane to fly to Mt. Everest. I was disappointed, as we never got closer than a mile. When I went to New Zealand I took a plane to Mt. Cook and we flew next to the glacier. You could see the color of the ice was royal blue.

"The best time to visit India is October thru March. The temperature is about 75 F. In the summer the temperature is over 100 F. They do have McDonalds here but you have veggie, fish, and chicken burger with fries."

Recent Sightings

Stewart Stahl, reports, "On January 9, 2009 while attending a model [airplanes, ships, etc.] show sponsored by the Academy of Model Aeronautics in the Ontario Convention Center, [I] saw **Roy Mills**.

Roy, who has been retired for several years, is doing well and in fact he is working for a consultant as an assistant resident engineer on District 7 construction projects.

The **Stahls** also report seeing **Marie Martin** and **Bob Walters** on their current home turf in Ocean Park Washington. There was every type of weather imaginable, snow, sleet, hail, snow, rain, dead-of-night... This was when Portland got snowed in for three days, and luggage got lost... One of **Kirsten's** bags is now named the "world traveler" because in making its way back to Portland, it's been to more U.S. cities than she has.

Speaking of **Marie Martin** and **Bob Walters**, they were announced as the featured speakers at February's dinner meeting of the California Officers Association at Coco's Bakery and Restaurant Huntington Beach. **Bob** who has more titles than Carter has pills, is introduced in their announcement as "retired from service as the Director of Engineering and Housing at JFTB Los Alamitos, having attained the rank of Colonel after 29 years in the CAANG, Calguard and SMR. **Bob** currently shares a cabin in Washington State with his long-time companion, **Marie Martin**, a retired civil engineer and sometime helicopter pilot.

"Their cabin is on the Long Beach Peninsula, which extends north from the Columbia River and is bordered by the Pacific Ocean and Willapa Bay. The rocky outcropping of Cape Disappointment anchors the peninsula at the river. The peninsula itself is well known for its history of Lewis and Clark, its salmon and lumber industries and its recreational activities, including 24 miles of continuous highway on the sand.

"The area is infamous for its stormy seas, and the bar at the Columbia entrance is known as the "Graveyard of the Pacific." **Bob** and **Marie** have a fairly comfortable little place in

which to relax. After a stay of a few weeks in December of 2007, they were about to return for holiday events in Southern California when, at the last minute, they decided to stay a bit longer as a strong storm was forecast and because they had delayed trimming trees that threatened property. The storm turned out to have the worst winds in recorded local history reaching hurricane proportions, and henceforth the adventure began."

Other News

Tom Gidersleeve reported an item from **Bob Pauly** about a medication his wife, **Laurie**, is using to fight cancer that appears to be very effective. It fights the cancer by stimulating the body's immune system to do the job. The name of the medication is Naltrexone, a medication normally used to fight addiction. In low doses, however, it is apparently being tested with some success to fight a variety of diseases, including cancer. You can find out more at <http://www.lowdosenaltrexone.org/> if it sounds like something of interest to you.

Those of us who have been hit by the furloughs and budget delays can thank **Nick Jones** for keeping us on top of the news. He has been regularly sending articles from the Sacramento Bee. The link includes a "weblog", or "blog" for short, which if not entertaining, has certainly been informative! Thanks, **Nick!**

Be like Judy, Dale, Marie Stew, Tom and Nick

I enjoy getting mail and the rest of us get to live vicariously through your adventures, so don't be shy! You make this thing work! Send your items, by snail mail or email to:
Caltrans, attn: Kirsten Stahl, 100 S.

Main St. Suite 100 MS 13, Los Angeles, CA 90012. E-mail: kirsten.stahl@dot.ca.gov. or just ring me up: 213-897-0470.

Don't forget to send DUES (checks) and honorary member status information to Tom Almany directly... His address is: 17200 South Stark Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90701-1822.

Special thanks to **Stanley O. Buckmaster** who has been sending information regularly through **Chuck O'Connell** under the pen name of "**Buck**".

The Road Last Traveled

Maria Carmody, of East Region Maintenance, reports Retired Maintenance Supervisor **Richard Romero** passed away December 17, 2008. The Rosary service was held on December 22, 2008, at Saint Dennis Church in Diamond Bar, with the Funeral Mass on the following day. Saint Dennis is located at 2151 South Diamond Bar Boulevard, Diamond Bar, CA. 91765. To all who remember **Richard Romero**, our condolences.

In late December, **Marie Smiley** and **Chuck O'Connell** reported the passing of **Ralph Kuzmic** passed away last summer. There were no additional details.

Eldon Neff and **Bob Jordan** reported that **Carl Mastro** passed away on February 2 at his home in La Mirada. The viewing was held on March 6 at the Chapel of Memories located at 12626 Woods Ave. in Norwalk. Services were held at Olive Lawn Cemetery on Saturday February 7. The Cemetery is located on the easterly side of La Mirada Boulevard North of Rosecrans Ave. in the City of La Mirada.

Nick Jones reported some bad news, that **Bob Girod** passed away at the end of

January 2009, from cancer. "He started out with prostate cancer more than ten years ago, and it's gotten better and worse over the years. The last I had heard was that the cancer had spread into the spine." No word regarding services.

Joe Brazile, Jr. reported that **Verle Williams**, formerly, District 7 Chief, Office of Accounting passed way. **Bob Sassaman** reported that he died February 3rd in his home after a long battle with cancer. Services were held on Monday February 9, 2009 at Angelus Funeral Home in Los Angeles, CA., located at 3875 S Crenshaw Boulevard The viewing was on Sunday, February 8th. **Verle's** remains are being returned to Atlanta, Georgia for burial.

Dahlia Persoff, whose parents live off of Moonstone drive in Cambria, reported the sad news of the passing of **Joy**, the wife of **Art Van Rhyn** about one month past. Those who knew her considered it sudden. No other details were available.

Wake Up!

This article is only as interesting as the items you send in! So please, don't be shy, report on your or others' activities for your QCC friends, and send them to **Kirsten**; without your news and updates, our section would be empty!

Many thanks to the multitudes who forwarded information and who were not otherwise mentioned above: **Al Reece**, and **Steve Devorkin**.

—Kirsten Stahl

The Haps in District 8

The Quarter Century Christmas Luncheon Party was held at The Gourmet in San Bernardino on December 6. Sixty members and guests attended. Those present were **Evie Anderson** and **Kirk Otteson**, **Jim** and **Joanne Balcom**, **Loren** and **Margaret Barnett**, **Dick Barrett**, **Dennis Blakkolb**, **Morgan Choate**, **Gil** and **Jeanette Daab**, **John** and **Doris Estrada**, **Bill Feenstra**, **Janice Feenstra**, **Jim** and **Jan Geller**, **Wes** and **Linda Grimes**, **Ed** and **Clarice Gritters**, **Nancy Harvey**, **Angela Hall**, **Dick** and **Louise Haight**, **Al** and **Judi Hudgens**, **Carolyn Johns**, **Pat Leatherberry**, **Frank Lehr**, **Stan** and **Ina Lisiewicz**, **Jim** and **Pam Landfried**, **Dick** and **Hazel Longstreet**, **Marsha Lotze**, **Gerry Lunt**, **Dick Massaro**, **Maxine Nelson**, **Les** and **Barbara Nolte**, **Ernie** and **Kay Parke**, **Tom** and **Bonnie Powell**, **Virginia Reed**, **Retha Rubiec**, **Bud** and **Judy Smith**, **Taylor** and **Katie Smith**, **Roy Smoot** and **Marjorie Bruhn**, **Grace Vinzens**, **Don Weaver**, **Gary Waters**, and **Gill** and **Cheryl Wilcox**.

The food was good and the fellowship excellent! A good time was had by all and members should plan on joining us for the next Christmas Lunch on December 5, 2009, the first Saturday of December.

The ending to the Super Bowl Game on February 1 was not the only surprise that day. **John Estrada** was pleasantly surprised when over 50 family, friends, and neighbors surprised him with a birthday party on his 80th Birthday. "Happy Birthday" John and many, many more.

Larry Eisenhart, who, following his retirement in 1978, established a consulting firm specializing in highway and street design, lighting and signal design, is still in business. He operates his business from his home and reports that he keeps busy.

Following a fall at home, **Bob Hall** is living in an assisted living facility in Hemet.

Bob Ponds reports that all is well in Novato. Bob Retired as the District Traffic Engineer in 1983. Following his wife, **Pansy's** death in 2006, he moved to Novato to be near his son. He now lives next door to his son, which works out well for all.

Barbara Dwigins reports that she had planned to spend Christmas with her son and family in Anchorage, Alaska; however, at the last minute she had to cancel the trip because of conflicts in her airline schedules. Shortly after canceling the trip she was hospitalized with pneumonia and spent eight days in the hospital and nine days in a convalescent hospital. She has recovered and is doing well.

Ed Gritters had a knee replacement in late February and will be in rehab for several weeks. Recovery is slow and he is having a lot of pain. Get well soon, Ed!

The Retired Caltrans Ladies met January 7, 2009, at the home of **Janice Feenstra** to enjoy a delicious lunch, visit and meet with old friends. Most of our group seemed to have previous commitments: **Lana Beals** had a back injury; **Evie Anderson's** birthday was the next day and she had a previous commitment; **Carolyn Johns** had a dental appointment; **Marcella Marcy-Cagle** had the flu; **Connie Keefer** was also under the weather; **Jane Kirst** couldn't take leave time; **Karen Meadows** is in Oklahoma visiting her Mother; and **Marsha Lotze** was home with a bad cold and also taking care of her husband, **Craig**, who had extensive back surgery the end of December. We who were there really enjoyed Donna's vegetable soup,

Janice's bean soup, the chicken salad and desserts.

Angela Hall dropped by and left a pie and apologized because she had to attend a physical therapy session. **Judie Brown** brought us up to date on her new grandchildren. **Linda Grimes, Janice, Beverly Both, Frances Jacques** and **Betty Ordway** didn't have much to say except they were all recovering from the holidays.

Donna brought her grandbabies, **Brooke** and **Ryan**, who entertained us all. **Grace Vinzen's** reviewed her tumble, showed her scars and says she is doing fine. She had a bad fall before last November.

Betty Ordway noted that several of our ladies meet at Nera's on the second Wednesday of each month and invited everyone there to attend.

Mary Bermudez received sympathy on the loss of her brother, Tony.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch and good conversation. Our next lunch will be several months down the road and we hope more of our retirees will be able to attend.

Grace Vinzen had a Christmas telephone call from **Virgil Lovingfoss**, a retiree from District 8 Maintenance in the 1980's. He and his wife, **Mary**, are living in Sonoma and are Docents at the Columbia Museum. They send greetings to all and wishes he could come south more often but hay fever is rampant and doesn't help his health.

Grace also had a nice note from **Helen Baker**, a retiree from District 8 Accounting in the 1960s. Said she and her family are all well and misses the District employees, but life is good.

In an additional note Grace wrote that she has nearly recovered from the tumble she took in November. It took six weeks for the two black eyes to fade and she says, "I looked like a raccoon". She received a hairline fracture to

her shoulder and scraped her arm from her shoulders to her wrist. It was like a burn and had to heal from the bottom and that took three weeks. She was bruised from the clavicle to her breast. She also had a lump on her forehead the size of an egg. She told everyone she belonged to the Rainbow Coalition. I never break, just bend.

We're just glad that Grace is up and about and is feeling better now. This reminder should let all of us be aware of where we're walking and being extra careful not to fall.

Grace Vinzens also received a nice note from **Martha Rosenberg Quade** from Galesburg, Illinois. Martha, who retired many years ago, was the Clerical Supervisor and then an analyst before her retirement. She thanked Grace for her card and she appreciated the picture of Grace and Donna Rodriguez. She asked Grace to give her regards to Donna.

Martha told Grace that her daughter, **Cheryl**, is in remission again from her second go around with cancer and she's glad but cautious. She's been there before. Cheryl was a young girl when Donna Rodriguez and Marsha Lotze were stenographers in the Steno Pool many years ago. Where has the time gone?

Martha says she's having many "episodes" with her heart but guesses it's to be expected. It's 12 years since her triple bypass and two years since a stent was inserted in her heart. She can be a member of our District 8 Retirees Stent Club. Martha said to say "hello" to everyone.

District 8 has unfortunately had several deaths since our last QCCer. Some were QCC member and some weren't.

Taylor Smith was informed on December 5, 2008, that **Harry A. Odle**, 84 had passed away on November 25, at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center following a brief illness. He started with Caltrans as an Administrator in 1963 and retired in 1978. His

services were at the Riverside National Cemetery as Harry had retired from the military. A daughter, **Victoria Weaver**, also an employee of Caltrans, survives him.

LaGloria Mary Austin, wife of deceased Caltrans employee Robert Austin, passed away on January 5. Several children and grandchildren survive her. Services were also held at the Riverside National Cemetery.

Sam Taylor passed away on January 20 from a massive stroke. Sam retired from Caltrans in March 1994, where he had worked in construction for many years. Sam and his wife **Carolyn** had recently bought a home in Oceanside and had been living in the Carlsbad area.

Alvin A. Brown, a retired Caltrans employee passed away on January 18 in Calimesa, California at the age of 82. He had worked for more than 45 years as an Associate Highway Engineer and was a member of PECG (Professional Engineers in California Government.) Al served in the California National Guard and was a member of the U.S. Air Force for three years during the Korean War. After military service he came to state service in District 8. He retired in 1988 and continued to work as a retired annuitant.

Most recently he worked in Design F where he was responsible for the design of drainage basins on Segment 9 of Route 210.

Al loved music, especially singing in choral groups. As a dedicated Christian he volunteered time and talents to various church and charitable ministries. He leaves a wife and several children and grandchildren.

I just received word from our President, Taylor Smith, that **Kenneth E. Olsen** passed away on February 24. Ken was born on January 30, 1925 in Bruno, Minnesota. He was a retired major in the U.S. Air Force. He entered the military in 1943, serving in World War II as a navigator and retiring in 1964.

He worked as an engineer for Caltrans beginning in 1964 until his retirement in 1989. Following his retirement he participated in the U.S. Forest Service Fire Lookout Program.

Ken and **Aileen**, the love of his life, were the proud parents of five children, **Kenneth Olson**, of Minnesota, **Richard Olson** of Highland, **Frank Olson** (deceased), **Carolyn Cloud** of San Bernardino, and **Thomas Olson** of Beaumont, California. He was a widower, with nine adoring grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Ken loved sailing, playing pinochle and canasta, working crossword puzzles, and spending time with his family and pets.

All our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of our dear departed friends from Caltrans. All who knew them will miss them.

— Marsha Lotze

The Haps in District 9

Not much to report from District 09. **Bill Dieneman** called in February about the PERS status and possible effect on our retirements. Like all of us in these difficult times he is concerned. Bill and **Nancy** live in Yerington, Nevada. They keep busy with yardwork, short vacations and they enjoy fishing. Bill retired 21 years ago from District 09.

We see **Link Stanley** around town; he is still volunteering at Laws Museum. Link had shoulder surgery and is almost as good as new.

From **Clarence Ohara** in December 2008: (Clarence worked in District 12) "Hi, Lance I hope this letter finds **Barbara** and you in good health and cheers. Several events happened in these last several weeks that prompted me to send this e-mail. I went to a retirement lunch for **Sandy Ankhasirisan**

who headed up the Landscape Architecture branch in District 12. Since I haven't made contact with District 12 for the 7 years since I retired, it became a nice reunion of people we worked with.

"**Delores Martinez** and **Catherine Zepeda** were there. They are both Landscape Architecture technicians with Catherine now in District 7. **Jim Beil** gave a short presentation; I was told that he is the new chief deputy for District 12, They also told me that **Gail Farber**, who was a project manager when you were in District 12 is the new Los Angeles County Engineer. **Alberto Angelini** is now in District 7 and looked older with graying hair, like the rest of us. Some of Sandy's people such as **John Roberts** and **Eric Dickson** did most of the arrangements. I told people that though I don't miss the Caltrans work and the commute, it was real nice to reconnect with the people that we worked with.

Memorial services were held on January 8 for **Timothy Raymond Donnelly**, 1946-2008, in Orangevale, California. Born October 19, 1946 in Bridgeport, Timothy died at home on Dec. 31, 2008. The son of **Clifford** and **Edna Donnelly**, Tim grew up and graduated from high school in Lee Vining. He married **Darlene Pudwill** on Oct. 28, 1964. Tim spent the majority of his career working for Caltrans in the Eastern Sierra. He is survived by his wife, **Darlene**; brothers, **Ron** and **Mike**; daughters, **Tina** and her husband, **Bob Everett**, **Toni** and her husband, **Dave Tallmadge** and **Dana** and her husband, **Jeff Phillips**; and eight grandchildren. Our condolences to the family and friends.

From **Don Beldon: Joyce M. Bigham**, my beloved life partner, passed away this morning, February 21, 2009. Our condolences to family and friends.

— Lance Hinek

The Haps in District 10

Bill Selling: "Hi Y'all. Here we go again. This time we are flying to Virginia on Tuesday the 16th to spend Christmas with our daughter's family. We will return on January 6th. As in the past, our son will be house sitting and we will have our laptop with us to receive your Emails. Please hold all the big forwards until we return. We would like to wish all of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Remember, he is the reason for the season! God Bless!!

Bill, Darlene, Pumpkin and Pooky.

Twenty-four were present at the December 30 meeting. Usually there is no breakfast meeting in December, but because the last Tuesday occurred between Christmas and New Year, a meeting was held.

Claude and **Sharon Stewart** went to San Diego in October. They headed down the coast and spent two days in Pismo Beach then a day in Solvang before heading to San Diego. They left a nice cool 84 degrees in Stockton for a heat wave on the coast. "Pismo was 94 degrees and Solvang was 100 degrees. We about melted. Had a good time."

Dennis Smith and **Al Wells** took their annual elk hunting trip this year but switched from Idaho to Colorado. It was a great trip with a guide who had hunting rights on an 11,000-acre private ranch. They both got their elk in the first three days and did a little sightseeing in the area around Montrose Colorado. The Black Canyon of the Gunnison River is spectacular, especially in December with snow on the ground. They are already planning for their 2009 trip to Colorado.

Bruce Leavitt sends greetings and Happy New Year from Sequim, Washington.

"I've been here for over a year now, and like it very much. We are in the shadow of the Olympic Mountains, so we get less bad weather than the rest of the state. There's much to do here, such as hunting, fishing clamming, crabbing, hiking, and numerous senior activities. In case some of the guys want to get in touch with me, my email address is gpabruce@olympen.com."

Alan Wells sends word that Bill Seiji, 83 passed away November 20, 2008. He had been fighting cancer for at least a year. Bill had served with a Japanese-American battalion during World War II. His funeral was held at East Lawn Cemetery in Sacramento and many E Company Veterans and widows attended.

From Ron Lutz about Bill Seiji: Bill and I used to email but there hasn't been anything for a couple of years now. Someone told me he wasn't feeling good. For a long while he was the go-between for Laine Sew and many of us here.

"I remember working with Bill in Fairfield - he, being a single man, didn't have the financial obligations that some of us had. Consequently, he sometimes got a bit lax about cashing his paychecks. There was a point where his wallet wouldn't close anymore because there were so many checks in it. Also, he started getting letters from Sacramento saying that if he didn't cash his checks, they would begin voiding them. That got his attention, I believe.

"Bill was also one of the best (the best?) asphalt plant men in the district. Because of this, **Frank Fleharty** kept assigning him to plants everywhere. Bill was getting a bit weary of this. I finally told him that he had to start screwing up every once in a while to get out of the rotation. Of course, Bill didn't go for that. He was a good man."

— Brian Young

The Haps in District 11

At our annual dinner, **Butch Biendara** asked for volunteers to serve on a District 11 QCC Steering Committee. Seven of those present indicated a willingness to serve. The group met on February 19. A summary of the meeting follows.

Ten District 11 QCCers met for lunch and a steering committee discussion on a number of future issues. They were **Anicia Gottwig, Butch Biendara, Cathy Gaunt, George Gray, Dave Weiss, Dean Burns, Jack Gottwig, Kathy Phillips, Leslie Franklin, and Richard Von Tersh.**

One strong positive item is that **Kathy Phillips** has volunteered to be the new D-11 correspondent, so start forwarding any QCC type news bits for the June issue of the Que See Seer to Kathy. Her address is: Kathy Phillips, 2434 Manzana Way. San Diego, CA. 92139-4032. Phone (619) 470-2603 or Email: marty-kathy@cox.net

Dean Burns gave an encouraging financial report that although the District 11 QCC is not rich enough to open a bank account, we have a small positive balance sufficient to make deposits to reserve our two annual events, so Dean will not have to dig into his pocket to front those fees and hope for later reimbursement. Dean also gave the committee a rundown on the people in his master file who are members, eligible and retirees.

While the annual dinner attendance was down a bit, 51 in attendance, (perhaps the cost was too much for some?) the committee heard that next year's annual banquet at Tom Ham's will be a buffet at a more reasonable cost for more people and we expect to see you there.

While there is still no 'official' District 11 director, the steering committee did cover a

number of options that could be a helpful encouraging way of recruiting more of the younger new Caltrans employees now reaching the Quarter Century mark in their careers. With the increased confidentiality on disclosures inside Caltrans and with most of members on the outside in retirement, bridging the gap will take some creative ideas and actions. There are some positive signs coming from inside. Would you care to assist and support the effort when and where you are able?

Some of the items that were proposed will need the review and approval of Caltrans administration before we can take any action, so stay tuned for what develops.

The District 11 Employee's Committee meets regularly to develop ideas on how to encourage employee moral with a bit wordier mission statement, but closely parallels the QCC one "... To establish a closer bond of friendship cementing 25 years or more employment with the State of California."

Maybe with some more cooperative efforts inside and outside the "official firewall" the QCC and Caltrans can develop some mutually beneficial interactions. Contact any of the steering committee members mentioned above for how you might be a part of the action.

In a follow up to the meeting and an offer by Anicia to be Secretary/ Treasurer, Dean suggested splitting the duties between the offices. The details of the Treasurers duties and the transfer of funds to Anicia should be accomplished by the next issue of the QCCer. Dean plans on retaining the job as Secretary until his retirement in 2011.

The QCC member and retiree picnic will be on September 12, 2009 at Santee Lakes number 5 this year. Please note the change of location when you put it on your calendar. Gary will provide a new map showing the location.

Remember to send your news for the June QCCer to Kathy Philips.

— Dean Burns

The Haps in Central

Well, here we are in the second month of the 2009 and I hope the New Year has been kind to all of you in spite of the down economy.

We held our elections for Secretary, Treasure and Director and as you can see the current board was unanimously reelected.

Julie and I, in trying to provide some stimulus to the economy, took a seven day Princess cruise to the Mexican Riviera at the end of January. We left San Pedro and spent two days at sea and arrived at Puerto Vallarta for the day.

The following day we were in Mazatlan and then on to Cabo. Wonderful cruise and weather. Met lots of fellow cruisers escaping from the sub zero weather of the mid west. Oh, how lucky we are that we live in California!

The news from the Central District is light as we have not had a get-together since December and all our members' adventures were printed in the last edition of The QCCer. Our next get-together will be at the Dante Club for lunch on Thursday, April 23rd.

On a sad note, I received word that **Jeanie Winkleman** passed away on August 20, 2008.

Have talked with **Kim Yarbrough** several times and he seems to be progressing in a positive direction. Our thoughts are with **Pat** and Kim. Hoping to see them in April.

The next functions for the Central District are:

- April 23, 11am Dante Club - Luncheon
- September 10, 4pm - College Greens Swim and Tennis Club - BBQ
- December 9, 11am — Dante Club Holiday Luncheon

Please mark your calendars, as we look forward to seeing you all again. Don't forget to bring money for the raffle!!

— Gary and Julie Bush

Foundation Matters

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION FOUNDATION

Each year in April, at a special Workers Memorial Tribute held on the steps of the State's Capitol, Caltrans honors those employees who have lost their lives while working for the safety of the traveling public with the placement of a wreath in the center of a large diamond of orange cones. The California Transportation Foundation is a proud sponsor of this impressive ceremony. On October 16, 2008 **Muoi Tran**, a District 3 Transportation Engineer lost his life in an automobile accident while driving to his worksite. In addition to being honored at this year's tribute at the State Capitol, his name will be added to the memorial plaques at the Headquarters Office building and in District 3.

The best 2008 Transportation Projects, Programs and Persons selected from the nearly 100 nominations will be honored at the Foundation's TRANNY Awards Luncheon on June 3rd in Sacramento. Presentations of the annual Charles Purcell, Karl Moskowitz, James E. Roberts, and Emerson Rhyner awards will also be made by Caltrans to recognize outstanding contributions by Department managers.

During 2008 almost \$50,000 in Scholarship grants were processed helping 55 students reach their transportation career goals. This year the program is already in full swing with **Lily Ang**, a USC Engineering student receiving the \$5,000 CTF Scholarship and

David Biswanger, a Geomatics student from CSU Fresno being awarded the \$1,000 CTC Scholarship.

The Employee Events program was established to provide financial assistance for Caltrans employee-related events that are management approved, but involve funding beyond the scope of the state budget. Last year the Foundation was able to support requests from Headquarters and District 11.

Thanks to the efforts of **Nancy Benjamin** and **Peggy Sweet**, you recently received a copy of the Foundation's newsletter "Headways" along with our annual appeal for your financial assistance. We hope you enjoyed the information on the activities held in 2008. We encourage your continued support and depend on your contributions to keep our programs going.

For further information on all of the Foundation's activities and programs, you may wish to visit CTF's website at www.transportationfoundation.org.

— Kathy Freeman

In Memoriam

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

Name	District	Date
Frank Dysart	03	January 2 2009
Muoi Tran	03	October 16, 2008
Mike Vinsonhaer	03	November 9 2008
Othel Cox	05	January 14 2009
Marian Muller	05	December 4 2008
Angelo Zito	06	February 14 2009
Bob Girod	07	January 2009
Joy Van Rhyn	07	January 2009
Verle Williams	07	February 3, 2009
LaGloria Mary Austin	08	January 5, 2009
Alvin A. Brown	08	January 18, 2009
Kenneth E. Olsen	08	February 24, 2009
Sam Taylor	08	January 20, 2009
Timothy Donndly	09	December 31, 2009
Joyce Bigham	09	February 21, 2009
Genie Winkleman	cen	August 20, 2008

Events

Got a group that meets regularly? Let your editor know and we'll add it to the event calendar.

District 1 -

CT retired ladies, second Thursday of each month at 12:30 pm at various locations. Contact: 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 am at the Hometown Buffet at the Bayshore Mall in Eureka

District 2 -

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

District 3 -

Weekly Tuesday Coffee/Breakfast at 8:30 am at the "Green House" in the Raley's Shopping Center in Placerville. Contact: Keith Maggini 530-295-1257, kmaggini@hotmail.com

Breakfast at Perko's Yuba City at 7:00 am third Wed

Annual Spring Party and meeting will be held on March 22nd at the Peach Tree Golf and Country Club in Linda, Social hour underway at 1:00 pm, meeting at 2:00 pm.

Annual Placerville Area Spring Luncheon for Caltrans retirees will be held Thursday, April 16 at the Green House Cafe in the Raley's shopping Center in West Placerville starting at 2:30 pm. Contacts: Doug Becker 530-622-1665 or Gerald Hamm 530-622-8030

District 4

The **Caltrans Lunch Bunch** meets on the second Tuesday of every month.

Contact: Ed Coble 925-645-4219,
edcoble49@astound.net

The **North Bay Caltrans Retirees** meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

Contact: Jim Bouler 707-546-3097,
jbouler@comcast.net

District 5 -

Contact Kathy Copeland: 805-544-1834
bcopel4674@aol.com

District 6 -

The **Caltrans Retiree Breakfast** meets at 9:00 am on the third Wednesday in March and September at the Waffle House on Route 68 in Lindsay. Contact: DonPhillips, (559) 781-2057.

Annual Spring Luncheon will be Thursday, May 7 at Yosemite Falls Café located at 4278 West Ashlan Ave in Fresno.

Informal Coffee at 8 am on Thursdays at Country Waffles at the NW corner of Herndon and Cedar.

District 7 -

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

Contact: Tom Gildersleeve,
661-259-6226, tgilders@pacbell.net; or Chuck O'Connell,
661-253-3428, chuckoconnell@prodgy.net

District 8 -

Contact: Marsha Lotze, 760-247-2119,
motze12@verizon.net

District 9 -

Contact: Lance Hinek, (619) 873-3885,
hinek@usamedia.tv

District 10 -

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.

Contact: Stan Randolph, 209-957-1278,
stanran3672@aol.com

District 11 -

ROMEOs (Retired Old Men Eating Out) meets at Denny's, Navajo Road at Fletcher Parkway at 8:30 am the third Wednesday of every month. Contact: Butch Biendara, 858-279-5054,
butchbiendara1944@hotmail.com.

Central District -

Spring Luncheon, April 23, 2009. Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd, Sacramento. Social Hour – 11 am, Lunch at Noon.

Contact: Gary Bush, 530-642-8208,
zbusharosa@wildblue.net

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