

# The QCCer

The Newsletter of the Quarter Century Club

VOLUME 19, No. 4

DECEMBER 2010



## From the Corner Pocket

Here's my wish to you and yours for a very merry Christmas with hopes for better days to come next year. I'd love to send each of you a Christmas card but times are tight.

There seems to be some confusion with the new renewal form. Remember, if you want the QCCer via USPS, the dues are \$20 but for those who choose to get it via email it's only \$15. And for Honorary members there are some options but even for those who select a 'no-cost' option, you must still return the form if you wish to continue getting the QCCer.

On the topic of a web newsletter, do you know of a good, 'reasonably-priced' web designer? In contacting dozens of them, they all have great promises of lots of new business, but at a cost that's way too high for our simple needs. Most web sites are designed to attract lots of viewers while ours will be restricted to a relatively small number of members. If you have someone in mind would you please have him or her contact me?

The QCC has a chance to have a piece written up in the official State Caltrans



newsletter <http://www.dot.ca.gov/ctnews/> each month; you may have something to contribute. QCC editor **Gene Berthelsen** has been doing the writing so far and I have asked the directors for their support as well. I'll open the door to anyone with some flair for wordsmithing. Send your contribution to Editor Gene for his review of the best he can collect and submit.

With the New Year and new constitution <http://ctqcc.150m.com/qcc.html> your district can look to be reimbursed for recruiting expenses up to \$4 for each paying member. Start getting some ideas for your director to use as outreach for new members to boost the strength of your district activities. The QCC web site also has the new Application for Membership with the free watch option.

Our financial picture is better than last year's. **If** we set aside the 2011 dues coming in for next year, and **if** we set aside the payments reserved for future paid-up members, and **if** the districts requesting reimbursements for printing and postage do not overwhelm us, we may still be a small bit in the black at the end of the year rather than resorting to contributions and dipping into next year's income.

How next year will evolve with new print/vs./E-news revenue and costs could be a new era of???

— Butch Biendara, your QCC President

## In Memoriam

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

Name	District	Date
Linda Boyd	01	October 8 2010
Linda Kirkham Haynes	01	September 4, 2010
Robert R. Johnson	02	October 8, 2010
Harold Barnell	04	2010
Miguel Cordis	04	2010
Serafin Cudiamat	04	2010
Gene Kem Fong	04	2010
Jean Negley Pappa	04	2010
Cynthia Stratton	04	2010
Joe Yee	04	2010
Rose Boydston	05	September 6, 2010
Loretta Dengate	05	June 2, 2010
Keith Forsberg	05	September 2010
Chrystal Grabil	05	October 25, 2010
Harold Rossier	05	September 15, 2010
Robert Wright	05	August 28, 2010
David Brooks	07	2010
Han Chen	07	November 6, 2010
Steve McClain	07	August 30, 2010
Glen Cagle	08	November 13, 2010
Paul Kirst	08	September 9, 2010
Clarice Richards	08	September 27, 2010
Al Saucado	08	October 25, 2010
Martin McWhorter	09	November 17, 2010
Lawrence Bjornstgard	10	November 4, 2010
Annie Ellis	10	September 10, 2010
Donald Mattes	10	October 4, 2010
Kenneth Mitchell	10	September 12, 2010
George Root	10	September 30, 2010
Donita Troglio	10	October 15, 2010
Don Alden	Central	2010
Wyatt Harris	Central	2010
Richard Eckert.	Central	2010

*A truck driver is driving along a freeway. A sign comes up that reads, 'Low Bridge Ahead.' Before he knows it, the bridge is right ahead of him and he gets stuck. Cars are backed up for miles.*

*Finally, a police car comes up. The cop gets out of his car and walks to the truck driver, puts his hands on his hips and says, 'Got stuck, huh?'*

*The truck driver says, 'No, I was delivering this bridge and ran out of gas.'*

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## The Haps in District 1

First off, I have to apologize to **Tom Georgeson**. I had some kind of mental block and, in my last report, called his car a Duisenberg. It is actually a 1936 Cord Westchester sedan, a beautiful classic car. I knew better. Tom told me that the Auburn Corporation made both of these cars.

We recently added two new members, **Fritz Silberstein and Dexter Luther**. Fritz retired from District 1 Maintenance last year and Dexter is still working for District 1 Special Crews as an Electrician.

Our retired Engineering Technician and accomplished organist, **Douglas Moorehead**, recently received the Eureka Arts Recognition Award from the Eureka Art

and Culture Commission at the Eureka City Council meeting October 5. He was chosen for his role in bringing great music literature for the pipe organ to our community through the Christ Church Concert series.

We try to make it to the monthly Swedish pancake breakfast at Runeberg Lodge. In October, we caught up with several Caltrans friends. We enjoyed eating and visiting with **John** and **Jackie Sherman**, and also saw **Harold** and **Liz Webster**, **Bob** and **Mary Kay** and **Vi Truby**.

The most recent Caltrans retiree quarterly lunch was held October 21. Attendees included **Vi Truby**, **Tom Georgeson**, **Rick Knapp**, **Don Comstock**, **Glenn Hoffman**, **Jim Lyon**, **Ray Thomsen**, **Dennis Grinsell**, **Bart Crews**, **Bruce Miner**, **Ken Vaughan**, **Bob Myers**, **Pete Petersen**, **Jim Long**, **Mel Beming**, **Harold Hallsten**, **Joe Thorne**, and me. We had a great visit, and I had a chance to share a new book by our fellow retiree, **Richard Philipson**. He wrote about his life and the generations of his family who spent much of their lives in the Ferndale area. I would recommend that we all at least get our life stories in writing whether it is a published book, or just a few pages of notes. It will be much appreciated by your families.

We made it to two holiday parties. The Caltrans District party was at Baywood Golf and Country Club. We had a lovely buffet. Fantastic prize baskets that had been put together by the different departments, each with their own theme, were raffled off. We ended with dancing to a fun band. We had a great visit with our table partners, fellow retirees **Ray** and **Marlene Thomsen**, **John** and **Jackie Sherman**, and **Helene Demling** with her husband **Frank** (not retired yet).

The other party was the Administration holiday party and ornament exchange at Babetta's. It is always fun to see people you worked with and meet new ones. We retirees still get invited and I saw **George Eitzen**, **Vicky Butler**, **Debbie Butler**, **Nancy**

**Pelascini**, **Barbara Nichols** and I sat with **Rita** and **Doug Coleman**. **Amy Mizoguchi**, my replacement, who left to raise her children, was there too. It was great fun.

We are sorry to report that **Linda Kirkham Haynes** passed away September 4. She had worked in District I as a Planner and married **Jerry Haynes**, a long time District I Engineer. She was a graduate of Humboldt State U. and received a Master's in City and Regional Planning from Harvard. She and her husband moved to Washington, bought a 44-foot yacht, and enjoyed cruising every summer up the Inland Passage to Alaska. She passed away far too young. Our deepest sympathy goes out to her husband, Jerry, and their family and friends.

The hardest person for me to say goodbye to is **Linda Boyd**. She passed away on October 8, losing a hard fought battle with cancer. She was just a year ahead of me in high school and returned to Caltrans shortly after I started. We had been friends ever since, enjoying many coffee breaks together, as well as lunches, especially when crab was in season.

Even after retirement in 1998, we had many chances to see each other. As QCCers, she, and her husband Jim, shared their many adventures with all of us. Some of their favorite times included hunting abalone and spending winters in Yuma, Arizona. She leaves behind her husband, **Jim**, who also retired from Caltrans, a sister and brother, a daughter, **Sherri** and son **Jim**, four grandchildren and three great grand children. She loved her family, as well as several good friends, deeply. Our deepest sympathy goes out to her husband, Jim, their family and friends.

Christmas is coming up and I wish all fellow QCCers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year; I would love to hear any stories you wish to share for the next issue.

—Arlene Hartin

## *The Haps in District 2*

**G**ene Knaebel recently went on a couple of fabulous tours of both the new San Francisco/Oakland Bay Bridge construction project and the world famous Golden Gate Bridge. He was able to join a small group from District 2 who were going on a tour of the bay bridge project, led by **Gary Purcell**, who had worked on the project for several years.

Tour members were briefed on the history of the project and some of its unique features. They then spent about two hours on site. The project incorporates many new and innovative features and construction methods. It is one of the costliest public works projects ever undertaken in California and incorporates the largest (and maybe the only) self-anchored suspension span. This was an excellent time for a tour as several sections of the tower have been erected and many of the final roadway sections placed on the temporary structure.

Gene says the Golden Gate Bridge visit was really exciting. He got to the top of the south tower, which is approximately 750 feet above the water. It was a perfect day; the views were spectacular and the engineering features of the bridge remarkable. The bridge, completed in 1937, is a testament to what engineers can do in creating outstanding public works.

**Jan and Burt Brockett** spent 11 days traveling to, and in the country of Panama. "We did a tour with 20 other people from throughout the US and a very knowledgeable tour guide. We toured the rapidly-developing Panama City, rain forests, Indian village, fortifications, then boarded a boat with 12 cabins for a two-day passage through the two-lane, three lifts and drops canal locks. We could also see the tremendous excavations that have brought the third lock system to about existing water surface, with digging another 50 feet for large draft ships, still to be done. The new locks will be 1500 feet by 150

feet compared to the existing 1030 by 110' locks. The aim is to finish the new locks in 2014, exactly 100 years after opening the first canal. Overall, it was a tour well worth our participation.

**Jim Ceragioli and Sandy** headed for Reno to see son, daughter and grandkids, then on to Walnut Creek to see his brother and sister in law. They continued to Santa Cruz for his 55<sup>th</sup> high school reunion. Afterwards, their journey took them along the coast to Pismo Beach to spend time with Sandy's cousin and family. Eventually they made it home with another short stopover at Rolling Hills.

Jim and Sandy are planning a cruise up the Inland Passage to Alaska for September 2011. He adds, "outside of that, life is ho-hum."

**District 2 QCC** will hold its quarterly luncheon at Lulu's Eating Establishment in Redding at 11:30 am on Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>.

—Bill Belcher

## *The Haps in District 3*

The Quarter Century Pre-Holiday Party, held November 14<sup>th</sup>, was a huge success. We had 118 happy people in attendance. The Peach Tree Golf and Country Club was set up beautifully and the food was excellent.

**Ethelmae Waller** was in charge; the colors she chose were right in line with autumn. In addition, the flowers were fresh and very nice. This type of event takes lots of work from the officers and the Social Committee. Our next gathering will be in the spring of 2011.

We send a warm thanks to those who donated money for the Gleaners food programs. See the letter in this issue from

Joanne Ellis.

We are sorry to report the passing of **Robert R. Johnson**, who died on October 8. He was on a ventilator in a hospital in Idaho. He was doing so well they removed the ventilator and moved him back to Idaho Falls where he died the next morning. Bob worked for the Division of Highways and Caltrans for 40 years as a Landscape Specialist. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, **Marjorie**, his daughter, **Deborah McDonald** and his granddaughter, **Megan McDonald**.

Membership is important to any organization. If you do not belong to the QCC or know of someone who'd be interested in joining please contact Membership Chairperson **Carleen Hagen** at (530) 674-9026 or email her at [hcdhagen@aol.com](mailto:hcdhagen@aol.com). Carleen will be more than happy to get a membership application to you.

The Holiday season is upon us. The Board of Officers and the Social Committee wish each of you and your families a joyous, warm, safe, and healthy Season's Greetings.

**Pat Howard** and **Margaret Strain** are planning a cruise in the Caribbean in the spring of 2011. They will fly to San Diego where they will board a ship for a cruise through the Panama Canal and 15 days visiting various ports of call. Both ladies are busy having lunch with friends have been seen at dances at the Yuba City Moose Lodge.

During our District 3 luncheon I had a visit with **Ron** and **Darlene Michaelis**. Ron retired from District 3 in 1994 and went to work as a consultant for the Santa Clara Valley Transit Authority. He retired from that job in 1996. Now, the Michaelises spend time with their children and grandchildren.

**Louise Sullivan** spends a lot of time giving to her church. Louise sings in the choir and is involved in women's groups.

**Mardell McClain** is doing very well. Looks great, goes on trips with her daughter and is having fun.

**Roger** and **Janis Stillwell** have a new motor home in which they have traveled to

Oregon and Canada. On December 28<sup>th</sup>, Roger and Janis will travel to Yuma, Arizona to meet **Chuck and Mary Dossey, Ralph Sandler, John** and **Wanda Rocha**, and **Bob** and **Marilyn Mulcahy** on a two-day Geocaching treasure hunt. Similar hunts are held all over the world. More information is available on the Internet.

A note from **Brad** and **Jolene Owens**: "It was good to see everyone at the QCC luncheon. "

Received from **Joanne Ellis**:

Dear District 3 QCC Members,

"Thank you for your kindness and generosity to the Yuba-Sutter Gleaners Food Bank and our program families in Yuba County. Your donations, totaling \$525, allowed our organization to purchase turkeys and chickens for all 270 families in Yuba County.

"The spirit of kindness, generosity and love is alive and well within the hearts of my Caltrans friends and family. I am proud to have every one of you in my life and honored to have known those who have passed on and are no longer with us.

"You are all welcome to drop by our warehouse and offices between 8 am and 1 pm during the week to tour our facilities and meet our senior volunteers who, without compensation, donate their time and efforts to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Our three oldest workers are 91 years old and still arrive once a week at 7 am, ready to begin helping to feed the hungry in Yuba and Sutter Counties.

"Once again, my heartfelt thanks to all who are making this holiday season bright and cheerful for our Yuba County families. May this holiday season bring you and your family joy, love and peace."

Sincerely,  
Joanne Ellis

Yuba-Sutter Gleaners Food Bank  
Office/Thrift shop manager

Several of our members have taken recent tours to Branson, Missouri. **Janis Agesen**

and husband **Richard**, along with mother **June Otto**, spent a sunny week in May enjoying Branson's shows. Janis planned the trip and made all the reservations; the three were able to see 10 shows. Earlier in the spring, June and her grandson, along with Janis and Richard, spent a week at Lake Tahoe.

On weekends, **Janis** rides with **Richard** on their Harley. The two have ridden as far as Milwaukee. In Wisconsin, they attended a gathering of Harley riders from all around the United States.

"We went to Turks and Caicos (islands near the Bahamas) in September for our granddaughter's wedding. The whole wedding party – about 30 of us – stayed at the Beaches Resort. It's a great place, with 16 restaurants and 20 bars, all-inclusive, with about 12 miles of beach frontage. We lucked out with the weather. We were concerned about hurricanes, but they veered of to New England.

"From Turks and Caicos, we went to Washington and did some more visiting and sightseeing before returning home. We are going to Los Angeles to join our son for Thanksgiving. If the weather is decent, we'll spend a few days on the coast before going home."

On their way to Parker, Arizona, **Betty** and **Everett Emmons** stopped in Yuba City for a few days. No longer wanting to drive from Vancouver, Washington to Arizona with their fifth wheel, they leave the rig in Parker and drive their van. **Lita Wells** and **Susanna Ford** met the Emmonses for breakfast and a good chat.

**We are looking for photos, both current and in the past. Please send your photos to Bill Malott at [billmalott@comcast.net](mailto:billmalott@comcast.net) or send them via snail mail to 1761 Hawk Court, Yuba City, Calif. 95993**

Thanks to everyone who has talked with me or has sent information for the QCC newsletter. You can always reach me, or any

of your board members by phone or e-mail. Have a wonderful holiday season.

— Dan Johnson, Sr. and Susanna Ford

### *The Haps in District 4*

**D**istrict 4 held its annual Executive Retirees tour of the Bay Bridge on September 29th. Present were **Harry Yahata, Ruby Louie, Bob Coleman, Ann Hansen, Tom Lammers, Jim McCrank, Gerry Ducey, Bob MacDougald, Bob Jacobs**, and me.

Current district director **Bijan Sartipi** provided an update on the project delivery achievements of the district, which not only delivered its committed projects but also those that were included in the federal stimulus program. However, as they say, no good deed goes unpunished; the Legislative Analyst's Office declared that since the district and the department delivered additional work beyond what they were resourced for, it was obvious that Caltrans was overstaffed. Therefore they recommended that staffing be reduced in future years. Things haven't changed.

After a briefing on the status of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge Project, **Bart Ney** noted that because of heavy demand, tours were booked for a full year in advance. A boat trip out to the self-anchored suspension span foundation and tower followed the briefing. It was a beautiful day to be on the Bay with little wind and the temperature in the 70s. Afterward we met at Brennan's in Berkeley for lunch. Ann Hansen mentioned she had downsized and moved to a smaller place. Jim McCrank talked about his

son **Scott** who is the congestion manager for the projects on Route 880.

I've received notice of three retirements, from the district office: **Judy Chen, Wade Greene** and **Malcolm Gilmour**. Between them the department will lose more than 90 years of experience.

**Glen Behm** has scheduled a road trip to Wisconsin to watch the 49ers play the Green Bay Packers on December 5th. He did it last year in November when the temperature was 15 degrees. He will fly in on Saturday and then back on Sunday after the game is over. The 49ers have won three of their last four games, or Glen would have had a long trip both ways.

**Cark Bianchini** will go to Italy for a week to visit his 99-year old aunt who he says is still mentally alert and active.

On a personal note, my eldest daughter, **Eden**, was married on October 10th in San Francisco. It is her second marriage. I asked her if she and her husband had chosen that day because it was 10/10/10, which is lucky in some cultures. She said no and that the date had been chosen because that was when the hall for the wedding and reception was available. It was just luck that they got the hall on that date.

My youngest daughter, **Heather**, and her fiancée have purchased a house in Lomita, just south of Torrance, so the Hensley Moving Company came out of retirement for a last time to assist them in moving from Santa Monica to Lomita. This time I just supervised my wife and daughter as they packed and unpacked.

On a sad note, I must report the passing of seven of our friends this last quarter,

**Cynthia A. Stratton, Gene Kern Fong, Serafin Cudiamat, Harold Barnell, Joe Yee, Miguel L. Cordis** and **Frank Pappa's** wife **Jean**.

**Cynthia (Cindy) Stratton** began work at Caltrans in March of 1977 as a Clerk Typist II. During her 32-year career she rose to the position of Deputy District Director of Administration. I believe everyone in the

district came in contact with Cindy during her career went away impressed by her work ethic, her helpfulness and experience. In a great many cases she was the first person many of the district's new hires met. The District 4 *In Memory* notice mentioned that Cindy loved all things to do with Star Trek and was a true "trekkie," attending Star Trek conventions with her husband, **Don** and friends. Cindy, along with her mother, knitted woolen caps for premature babies through "Stitches from the Heart".

I believe the district *In Memory* for Cindy stated it best. "Cynthia was a caring person with a gentle smile. She will be greatly missed and very fondly remembered, and we are all better off for having known her." She is survived by her husband Don, a Right of Way agent in District 4, her parents, a sister and brother.

**Gene Kern Fong** served in the United States Air Force; he worked for Caltrans for 37 years. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, **Joyce**.

**Serafin Cudiamat** worked as a Transportation Engineer in Alameda I until he retired in 2003. Besides his career at Caltrans, he was a Captain in the Philippine Army and a Lieutenant in the Philippine Navy. He also worked for various private engineering firms in Iran, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and Indonesia.

**Harold "Barney" Barnell** started his career with Caltrans in 1957 and worked for the department until retiring in 1997 with a tour as a Peace Corps volunteer from 1962 to 1964. He coached countless students in the Lamorinda School District baseball and basketball teams, for which he received Coach of the year awards and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Orinda Baseball Association in 2008. He also received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Fresno High School where he was born and raised. He is survived by his wife, Debbie, two sons and two granddaughters.

**Joe Yee** was an Associate Transportation Engineer who worked for 44 years before

retiring in 1995. He was born in China in 1921 in Canton. He immigrated to the United States and settled in Columbus, Ohio in the late 1920s. He graduated from Ohio State University and joined the US Army where he served with distinction in France and Germany. After the war he traveled to Hong Kong where he met his wife, **Joyce**. They settled in the Bay Area where Joe eventually went to work for the then-Division of Highways.

Joe was a respected and active member of the Chinese Community in San Francisco. He served on many boards and was president of many associations including the Yee Fung Toy Benevolent Association, Hop Wo Association, Chinese Six Companies and the Chinese Cemetery Association. He is survived by his wife, Joyce, his children and grandchildren.

**Miguel L. Cordis** was a Transportation Engineer in Design Alameda I until his retirement in 2010. He was born in Manila, Philippines and immigrated to the United States in 1976. He graduated from the Far Eastern University in the Philippines in 1975. He is survived by his wife, **Adeliza**, his daughter, **Michelle** and three brothers.

**Jean Negley Pappa**, Frank Pappa's wife, was born in 1927 on the family dairy in Escalon, California. She graduated from Escalon High School and USC. She worked as an occupational therapist until she met and married Frank Pappa. She is survived by her husband of 56 years, two sisters, three children and six grandchildren.

—Paul Hensley

## The Haps in District 5

In September we were still waiting on the legislature and governor to settle on a budget, and state employees are once again hit with a three-day furlough each month. (**Ed. Note:** They did settle on a totally unrealistic budget, so the new governor is trying again) As a result, many more are considering retirement.

We missed the luncheon for **Brad Warren**, who retired from Maintenance in August. I understand from **Shirley Kathary** that he had a good send-off at the Graduate. We were able to join several friends at the Sausalito Canyon Winery to say good-bye to **Irene Richardson** from Project Management. Among those present were **Joan McGrath, Jackie Parker, Judie Beck, Gary Saunders, Doug Mitchell, Carolyn and Ron Belben, Diane and Bruce Ward, and Mike and Judy Grantham**.

In July we found ourselves sitting next to the Granthams at our local fair in Paso Robles. Turns out they also enjoy watching the morning sheep dog trials and strolling through the exhibits before it gets too hot.

If you're traveling on Route 101 north of Paso Robles, plan to visit the newly remodeled Camp Roberts Roadside Rest. The Mission-style architecture and landscaping are very attractive, and the "facilities" are much improved.

In June, **RJ and Linda Brown** hosted a barbecue at their home. The guests included **Dyer Campbell, Ken Jones, Al and Delores Jorge, Jack and Ellen Neal, John and Mary Ritter, Pete Hom, Betty Nicholson, George Zanetti and Imoe VanAuker**. We enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by **Robert Bonilla** (D-5 Construction) and caught up on the news.

The Arroyo Grande Strawberry Festival in May is a popular community event. Fred and **Diane Brebes** were working at the Kiwanis booth, selling yummy shortcake and cotton candy. **Julie Gonzalez** (D-5 Traffic) was working with her family at the barbecue booth behind her husband's market.

**Bill and Faith Ann Fieldhouse** celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in August with



a big gathering at Trinity Hall on Edna Road. Their children, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren were present along with friends and family from all over the US.

**Shirley** and **Larry Kathary** are planning a trip to Oregon this fall in their RV. It will be shorter than their cross-country journey earlier this year.

The SLO Elks Club has open bingo nights twice a month. **Colin Jones** (Public Affairs) is one of the organizers. The money raised goes to support charities sponsored by this group. No big winnings yet, but we keep hoping.

Please think good thoughts for **Gary Schultz**, who is recovering at home after a lengthy hospital stay, and for **Pete Hom** who had major surgery at the end of August.

If you have news you'd like to share, please send me a note or e-mail.

Hope you enjoyed a happy holiday season. Best wishes for a wonderful New Year.

If you read the article in September's issue, it may have seemed familiar. The June article was accidentally reprinted in place of the newer one. It may appear in this issue if there is space available.

In September, the city dedicated nine trees near at the district office as "heritage trees." They were planted around the same time the older brick building was built in 1931. The trees are five sycamores, two incense cedars, one queen palm, and one black acacia. They are considered outstanding specimens and examples of how large trees can mature if well protected.

The annual District 5 Holiday Barbecue was held on December 7 at Trinity Hall. I'll send more information on this event in the next issue.

A few more folks have decided to pull the plug. **Dave Murray** and **Pat Mickelson** will retire from Transportation Planning. Former District Director **Gregg Albright** will leave Caltrans after 34 years, including two years at Agency. He has accepted a position with Parsons Brinckeroff and will be assigned to the High Speed Rail project.

In order to reach more members, CSEA Retired Employees Chapter 10 has recently added a quarterly meeting in northern SLO County. The January schedule is as follows: Thursday, January 27, 10:30 a.m. at SLO Elks Club; Friday, January 28, 10:30 a.m. at Players Restaurant on El Camino Real in Atascadero.

The **Copelands** enjoyed a visit to Denver in September, including a Giants-Rockies game at Coors Field. We watched LOTS of baseball in the fall, as our favorite team won the World Series. In October, we attended the AAA Travel Show in Woodland Hills with **John** and **Joan McGrath**, where we had the opportunity to meet Huell Howser. (He looks just the same in person.) In November, we spent Thanksgiving with family and then attended my niece's wedding the following Saturday.

**Bill Cotnam** sent his Christmas letter a little early this year before he left for Bangkok in November. Bill is quite the world traveler! He continues his support of local high school sports and was photographed in his "Tiger Bill" attire at SLO High's homecoming.

**Bill** and **Faith Ann Fieldhouse** spent a few days in Orlando, where she attended a nursing conference, and Bill enjoyed visiting EPCOT.

**Herb** and **Diane Flipponi** hosted the SLO High Class of 1950 as part of the 60<sup>th</sup> reunion weekend.

**Jenny** and **Joe Linzner** took their RV on the road in November, taking the southern route to Florida. The trip started with an unexpected (expensive) mechanical problem, but they enjoyed the remaining days, especially stops in San Antonio and Walt Disney World.

Happy to report that **Pete Hom** and **Gary Schultz** are recovering from their surgeries and looking forward to spending time again on the golf course. **Paul Donatelli** is also on the mend following hip surgery.

District 5 employee **Keith Forsberg** passed away in September. He worked in Surveys for nearly 18 years and had planned to retire in the fall.

Retired Maintenance Superintendent **Harold Rossier** passed away September 15. Harold worked in the Templeton area for many years. Last May he was recognized as a Paso Robles "Senior of the Year" for his volunteer service to the rides for seniors program.

**Rose Boydstun**, widow of **Larry**, passed away September 6. They lived in Atascadero for many years and were active in scouting and children's athletics. She is survived by her sons **Dale** and **Bruce**, daughters **Linda** and **Nancy**, and many grandchildren.

**Chrystal Grabil**, widow of **Louis**, passed away October 25. She and Lou lived in Avila Beach for years. She is survived by her daughter **Carla**, grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

**Robert "Bob" Wright** lost his battle with cancer and passed away on August 28. He had worked as a Highway Electrician and transferred to the Northern Region. His wife **Barbara** and daughter **Terri** were also Caltrans employees. After retirement, he and Barb returned to the area and enjoyed time with their daughters and grandchildren. Bob was active in the ACS Relay for Life and participated in this year's walk.

**Loretta Dengate** passed away at her home on June 2. She was the widow of Ralph Dengate, former Maintenance Supervisor at Big Sur. They were very active in that unique community for many years, and Loretta served as assistant to the Big Sur Post Master. They returned to San Luis Obispo after retirement. Three sons, 11 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren survive her.

—Kathleen Copeland

## The Haps in District 6

On Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> we had our Annual Christmas Luncheon at the Holy Trinity Armenian Church.

Everyone had a great time. Attending were **Gloria Adam, Roxie Aldama, Shirley and Roy Andersen, Joyce and Andy Anderson, Sandy and Hal Avakian, Bill Bastian, Mary Berg, Monte Berry, Dwight Bianchi, Paul Bogosian** and his wife, **Alma**, and **Ken Cartwright, Chad Chaderjian, Kay Chessman, Georgia Cordova, Joe Kosko, Barney Deeter, Ron DuBois, Aram Garabedian, Joyce and Lee Halderman, Ed Hokokian, Eva and Owen Helm, Annie Hlywa, Sandi Iley, Lee and Glenn Jensen, Jim and Carolyn Landy, Wallace McDougal, Tony McDowell, Jim Means, Ken Oliphant, Margie and Abe Paregian, Barbara and Don Peterson, Doris and Bud Rayburn, Josie Rendon, Elaine Romagnoli, Dick Schumacher, Thelma and Chester Sohm** and their son, **Kevin, Jan St Louis, Jane Suo, Bob Thomason, Arlene Urabe, Koke Uyeno, Walter Vosganian, Ed Wells, Jan and Ted Winter** and me, **Terry Littleton**.

**Ted Haynish** didn't make the luncheon, because he volunteers to drive cancer patients and was scheduled to work that day. It's pretty impressive when we donate our time to worthy causes. **John Wright** also missed the luncheon this year because he and Nancy are at the coast attending a luncheon with a group of old high school buddies that day. They said to wish everyone **"A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All"**.

**Helen AhTye** was born April 10, 1924; she passed away peacefully October 7 at age 86, surrounded by her loving family. Preceding her in death was her son, Vance. Helen is survived by her husband, **Philip**, her life partner of over 63 years. She lived in Fresno except for four



years when she attended boarding schools in China and Hong Kong. She graduated as valedictorian from Edison Technical High School in 1943. Helen continued her education and graduated from Fresno State College in 1947 with a degree in chemistry. She was employed by Caltrans in 1958 until her retirement in 1987. She had experienced many health issues in her life. Now, may she rest in peace.

From **Ted Winter**: "Just returned from Mission Viejo for the week. Sorry to hear about **Helen AhTye**'s death and her illness. She was a great gal and friend."

**Jack Brothers Sudbury**, 89, of Fresno died Sunday, October 17th. He was a Caltrans engineer for many years.

No services were held but his family requested remembrances be sent to the Central California Pigeon Club.

From **Virgle Ray**: "Sandy and I were sitting in our motor home in Columbia when we read of the death of **Jack Sudbury**; my memory lapse precludes a visual of him. However the 89 years he plied the trails is a testimony of a good life that we all subscribe to. We wish his family a rose in this time of sadness to soften the loss.

From **Barney Deeter**: "It's really sad that we lost both **Helen AhTye** and now **Jack Sudbury** this month. I worked with Helen in the Traffic Department for many years. Jack was a very dear friend. Both will be missed."

**Bob Larson** had double bypass open heart surgery at Fresno Community Hospital on Monday, Nov 15th. He is now in Golden Living Center - Hillcrest at 3672 N First St. and he can have visitors.

**Ken Cartwright** has been cleaning house and his son, **Bill**, who was down over the summer was been helping him. Ken gave his Huntington Lake boat that he had for 36 years along with the outboard boat motors to his son Bill in Oregon. Bill then took the boat and went crabbing in the ocean by the mouth of the Columbia River. He got his limit of 26

lbs of crab and had a great time. Who knew that old Huntington Lake fishing boat would do so well in the ocean! Alma and Ken still bowl once a week also.

Sandy and **Virgle Ray** are home from their trip to Las Vegas in November; pockets full of change while the wallet wilts, ha.

**Vernon Richard McDonell** July 25, 1929 - December 4, 2010. Vernon was born in Porterville to Charlie and Rachel McDonell and passed away in Bakersfield with his family at his side. Vernon married **Mary Ann Pardue** in 1947 in Memphis and they moved to Bakersfield where he began a 30+ year career with the State of California Division of Highways as a highway inspector. In 1985, he married **Annie "Lou" Moberg** and they enjoyed many years of traveling in their trailer and camping with their extended family. He



leaves his wife, Lou; daughters, **Vyn Wayne** and **Holly McDonell**; stepdaughter, **Becky Eidenshink**; stepson, **Leonard Moberg**.

Comment from **George Meyers**: I remember **Vernon McDonell** well. I

worked on a construction survey party with him on the Grapevine. I also served with him in the Seabees for 4 years. We were both Engineering Aides. He was an EA1 at the time and I was a lowly EA3.

— Terry Littleton

## *The Haps in District 7*

**T**he Miyako Inn in downtown Los Angeles' Little Tokyo was again the scene for our festive annual Holiday Luncheon, held Saturday, December 4.

This year, to save on postage, **Tom Almany** sent invitations by e-mail plus a few

by snail mail, which caused at least one guest to question whether he was invited or not. I hope this did not cause too much confusion for our regulars. This year's attendees included **Fred and Irene Bonilla, Angie Costantino, Beverly Yacks, Linda Morgan, Heinz Heckerroth, Linda Wilford, Larry and George Ornay, Mary and Carlos Jaramillo, Carol and Dick Huntwork, Chuck and Loretta Mathews, Len Thompson, Dale Neumen, Tom and Linda Albany, Ken Steel, Doug Richter, Doris Nakamura, Kirsten and Stewart Stahl, Al Reece, Dick Smith, Gus and Judy Sulitus, Paul McElwain, Walt Bowman, John Tomita, Oscar Janeway, Bob Sassaman,** and guest speaker District 7 Director, **Mike Miles.**

Mike commented on several large projects including the LA-60 HOV, widening of the I-405, extension of the I-710 by tunneling, the bike path dilemma on the upcoming Gerald Desmond Bridge replacement, work on the Interstate 5, and members of his executive staff. For those of you who missed our gathering, we missed you, too!

Festivities included a sumptuous luncheon with salmon in cream sauce, pork with bok choy, teriyaki chicken, spaghetti with mushroom meat sauce, shrimp and veggie tempura, green salad, fruit salad, sushi, mini-muffins, rolls, croissants and strudel. One enterprising diner combined the spaghetti with the salmon for seafood pasta, and another discovered the perils of wasabi, a hot horseradish, which he mistook for guacamole.

The table center pieces, courtesy of **Linda Albany's** brother-in-law, **John Johnson,** were wrapped vine "trees," in shades of lavender and gold on a silver platter, surrounded by multi-colored ornaments, ribbon and "pine" boughs. The gift "exchange" concluded the activities.

Let's hope next year more of our regulars can attend; mark the first Saturday of December for next year's reunion!

**Monthly Group Meets:** If once a year is not enough, how about once a month? The **Tom Fera** Lunch Group is your ticket to adventure! These active retirees meet on the second Wednesday of each month except December. The next several meetings are: **January 12, 2010** at the China Olive; **February 9, 2010** at Joselito's West; **March 9, 2010** at the Steer N' Ale Restaurant; on **April 13, 2010** they'll be back at the China Olive. All 2011 dates and addresses follow:

**China Olive Chinese Restaurant;** 9224 Reseda Boulevard, Northridge, (818) 998-3688

**Joselito's West Mexican Restaurant;** 7308 Foothill Boulevard, Tujunga, (818) 951-2275

**Steer N' Ale Restaurant;** 3644 E. Foothill Boulevard, Pasadena, (626) 796-2278

For more information about meetings, etc., 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).

**Mystery Request Solved:** Maybe it's all of the privacy awareness drummed into us here at work, or maybe a slight touch of paranoia, but I get suspicious when someone whom I have not heard of starts asking around for one of our members.

This happened recently to **Jean Amster.** A Property Administrator at the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District named **Blandon Granger,** began his enquiry, "I am attempting to contact a retired Caltrans employee by the name of **Jean S. Amster.** I believe he was an engineer who worked for Caltrans from the 1970s to the 1990s. I am certain he was with Caltrans in 1991 in Los Angeles area. Would you have any roster of retirees or another source where I could obtain contact information? Let me know."

Playing intermediaries to protect Jean's contact information if this were a shady deal, the headquarters employee and I learned that **Mr. Granger** and **Jean** shared a common

interest. **Jean** contacted him and shared, "I spoke to Granger today and yes he bought the cabin that we once owned. Thanks for passing on the information. **Jean.**" All's well that ends well.

Does getting that notice from the DMV give you pause, perhaps causing beads of sweat to appear on your forehead, especially after you've reached that certain age? **Al Reece** offers the inside scoop on what can often be a nerve wracking experience:

"As you approach your birthday, you get a notice from the DMV that your driver's license will expire on your next birthday. In my case, on March 5<sup>th</sup>. I received my notice early in February. The letter gave the phone number to call; my appointment was set at 9:30 am on February 24<sup>th</sup>. I had been by there not long before to get the booklet to go over the rules and data.

"I had thought the appointment was with a specific person. I arrived at the West Covina DMV at about five minutes to nine AM, and was given a number and instructions to sit and wait for my number to appear on a monitor. When my number came up, it indicated that I show up at a numbered window. I arrived at that window and was asked a number of questions pertaining to my health. They then required me to take an eye check – first my right eye, then my left eye, on which I did very well.

"After that, which only took a few minutes, I was instructed to go to another numbered window. At that window, I had my picture taken for my driver's license. After that, I was instructed to go to another window to take the drivers examination. After taking the exam, which amounted to 18 questions, I took it to another person to have it checked; I missed two questions, and was told that was a good score.

"I received my permanent driver's license on March 5! It 's good for five years.

"I thought I might have to take a DMV person for a ride as part of the exam, but I did not have to do that. My appointment was at

9:30 am on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February, and I was out of there at 9:35 – not bad!"

Congratulations, **Al!** May we all be so fortunate.

**Tahirih Smith**, retired Transportation Planner, writes from her new digs in Las Cruces, New Mexico: "The food is much higher than Los Angeles, the weather is good, and the traffic is mostly – no traffic! It's hard to believe, but on November 30, I will have been retired for a year!" In that year she has been to Shreveport, Louisiana to visit her sister, Dallas Texas, to visit a niece, Ithaca, New York, for the Cornell Planning Department 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, back to Dallas, and finally getting settled in Las Cruces, not far from another retiree, **James Crouse**, formerly of EEO.

"Adjusting to retirement was hard," but she is "better now, and plans to volunteer as a Master Gardener at a Junior High School, and take yoga and water aerobic classes twice a week."

**Recent Sightings, Retirements and Communiqués:** At the Memorial Service for **Han Chen, Douglas R. Failing**, Executive Director of the Highway Program at Los Angeles County Metro, who was requested to deliver the eulogy, and **Mrs. Failing, Yueh-Shen**. It's hard to believe **Doug** has been over at Metro for a year already.

It sounds like he is having fun clearing up misconceptions they have about Caltrans engineers and how to get things done. In a recent communiqué from our management, it seems Caltrans delivered all of its ARRA Stimulus Package projects "on time and on budget, but several local agencies were unable to deliver 17 projects... We suppose the Feds will want those stimulus \$\$ returned!

On several occasions enjoying fish dinners at the Seafarer Inn, in Whittier, **Oscar Janeway, Earl Thomas**, and wife **Anne**, and fish house regular, **Al Reece**.

Out for an evening stroll in his Hacienda Heights neighborhood, **Bill Weldele**.

Conducting QCC business at Caltrans, **Tom Almany** shared photos of his family at a recent family reunion and camping trip in the Sierra, when he and his sons caught several beautiful and colorful trout.

**Alexander Dvorkin**, with 30 years of State Service in the Legal Division, celebrated at a holiday luncheon in his honor on December 2 at Buca Di Beppo, at Universal City.

**Johnny Robertson**, Right of Way Engineering Office Chief and member of the "Traffic Jam" Caltrans band, will celebrate his retirement after 31 years on December 15, at a hors d'oeuvres reception in the "Thousand Cranes Room" of the Kyoto Grand, 120 S. Los Angeles Street, Los Angeles. To attend, RSVP with **Diane Wells** (213) 897-1766, **Connie De Guzman** (213) 897-0798, or **Fatima Choudhury** (213) 897-0798.

**Leann Williams**, also with 31 years of State Service, bade a retirement farewell in May this year, "I want to thank you for your teamwork and friendship over the years. Knowing you and the assistance you provided made my job easier. My sincere thanks to you all. Caltrans is an amazing place because of you. I am sure I've missed some folks, but they are not forgotten. You're the best!"

**Chuck O'Connell** forwarded a scenic e-mail from **Bob Akin**, who wrote, "This might be interesting to the highway engineers. Some we have seen before but they are good to view again."

**Chuck O'Connell**, who seems to be the go-to-guy for e-mail communication, received an e-mail from **Joan Murdock**, who looks to become more active with District 7 QCCers. She writes, "I admit I moved around a lot; how about I pay for my subscription and get on the list for District 7? I would also be willing to write something on my travels this year or whatever you think would be of interest to all of Caltrans? What is the next thing I should do?"

Needless to say, we are looking forward to hearing more from **Joan**.

**The Road Last Traveled: Dan Peterson** reports on the passing of **David T. "Red" Brooks**, who suffered a massive brain hemorrhage July 12. "Red was a special friend of mine; we worked on the survey crew laying out abutments for the Colorado Street Bridge, the first half in 1952. Our families have been friends ever since. Good bye sweet David. You were a very special friend. Dan".

David is survived by his spouse, Gene, in Paso Robles. No services were planned.

**Becky Havard**, daughter of **Steve McClain**, writes: "My dad is at peace. He died August 30 at home, surrounded by family and friends. He suffered through his cancer for one year and three months before the good Lord took him home. Thank you so much for being his friend; you all meant so much to him and he loved you all." Steve's service was on September 4, at Todd's Memorial in Pomona. His committal service was held at Oak Park Cemetery in Claremont.

**Chung-fu Luan**, of Design B, wrote: "It gives me great sadness to announce that **Han Chen** passed away November 6, after a long illness. **Han** retired from District 7 Design B on September 9, 2010. We extend our condolences to the Chen family."

**Han** worked for many years as a Permit Engineer before being appointed as a Senior Engineer by **Doug Failing**, who delivered his eulogy. Han's son and brother-in-law shared many stories of his knowledge and enthusiasm for Chinese cultural monuments, so much so that Han was often invited to China as a guest lecturer at the university, treated like royalty, and could outshine any tour guide. Han's memorial service was held November 13 at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier.

We learned also of the passing of **Hope Heckerth** from **Ted** and **Naomi Berg**. "Hope's" obituary was in the Sacramento Bee. She died on October 13<sup>th</sup>. She was born in 1925, was married to **Heinz** for 63 years. They raised four children, three of whom live on the Mendocino coast. There are eight

grandchildren and five great grandchildren. A memorial service was held at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Sacramento on October 23. Remembrances can be made to the Church, 2391 St Mark's Way, Sacramento, CA 95864

Be like Jean, Al, Joan, Dan, Chung-Fu and Joyce: Our members enjoy hearing of your recent escapades, to do stay in touch. Please send your items, 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).

**Tom** wants me to remind you the jobs of QCC Director and Treasurer of District 7 are still available. In the meantime, please **send dues (checks), membership applications and honorary member status information**, to Statewide QCC Secretary/Treasurer **Mike Ogilvie**, PO Box 421292 San Diego, CA 92142-1292 or e-mail [m.ogilvie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m.ogilvie@sbcglobal.net). You can still reach **Tom Almany** directly at 17200 South Stark Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90701-1822.

**Wake Up:** The QCCer is only as interesting as the items you send! So please, don't be shy, report on your activities or those of 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: **Tom Gildersleeve, Joyce Minzey.**

— Kirsten Stahl

## *The Haps in District 8*

**T**he Retired/Still working women's lunch group met recently at The Sundowner following the closure of their favorite Nena's Restaurant in San Bernardino.

**Marcy Cagle** reports that she and husband **Roy** just completed a 30-day cruise from San Francisco to Australia, followed by 10 days in Australia and New Zealand. She said the cruise was a bit long, but New Zealand, in particular, was great!

**Janice Feenstra** said she and **Don** recently went to Nevada to view the new bridge at Hoover Dam and were duly impressed. Don is now recovering from recent neck surgery.

**Mary Bermudez** is once again involved in the open house in Etiwanda at the Chaffey House. **Sybille Phillips** and **Julie Griffin** reported on the new SEIU contract. **Linda Grimes** told everyone about her and **Wes's** road trip to Missouri to visit an elementary school dum.

Heard at **Donna Rodrigues' Bunco** group: **Beverly Swilley** is planning a move to Missouri next year after retirement; **Judie** and **Gerald Brown** are heading to Florida for their time share vacation; **Darla Matthews'** mom is seriously ill, **Marsha Lotze** notes that hubby **Craig** is still plugging along; and **Karen Meadows** is taking a break for surgery.

Also, **Dick** and **Louise Haight** will set sail for the Mexican Riviera in December (if the Splendor gets fixed.)

**Taylor** and **Katie Smith** returned from a trip to Iowa, and **Jim** and **Pam Landfried** returned from a trip to Israel.

**Taylor** and **Katie Smith** visited Taylor's sister in Iowa in late October. Iowa's corn and bean crop was bountiful this year; shelled corn and beans were stored in huge open-air piles near all the elevators.

**Karen Reynolds Jessen** retired recently with more than 31 years of state service. Her retirement party was held at Shandin Hills Golf Club in San Bernardino on October 13. Everyone had a great time. The buffet was great. She began her career with Mental Health and

worked at several hospitals in Southern California. She transferred to District 8 from District 12 more than 12 years ago on a Training and Development assignment with Surveys; she retired from Program Project Management as an Associate Governmental Program Analyst.

Sadly, **Paul Kirst** passed away September 9 at the age of 82. He had worked for the Division of Highways for 41 years in many capacities. He began in Reprographics, continued in Surveys, Design, Construction and Administration. His most notable work in Construction was as the Resident Engineer on the Crosstown Freeway project. He achieved the rank of Deputy District Director of Administration in 1973 and held this position until his retirement in December 1988. He fully supported the Quarter Century Club.

Our condolences go to **Allan and Jane Kirst** and their family.

**Clarice Richards** passed away September 27. She had been a 48-year resident of San Bernardino and Highland, California. She worked for Caltrans for 33 years, retiring in 1994. "Grandmother," as she was affectionately called, leaves behind two daughters, two sons, one stepdaughter, eight grandchildren, two great grandchildren, three sisters, and a host of nieces and nephews. She will be dearly missed.

**Glen Cagle** 78, a long-time Caltrans employee, passed away at home November 13. He started his career in Maintenance on the District 8 Tree Crew. Shortly after that he transferred to the San Bernardino mountain area where he retired as a Caltrans Equipment Operator in December 1985. He was **Roy Cagle's** uncle.

We send our thoughts and prayers to Roy and **Marcella Cagle** and the rest of the family. Burial services were held in Tennessee.

**Al Saucedo**, 74, passed away October 25. Al worked in the Construction Department for most of his career.

We hope everyone had a safe and Happy Thanksgiving and a great Merry Christmas to all of our Caltrans family throughout the state at this time of the year.

— Marsha Lotze

## The Haps in District 9

**H**ello from Bishop. By the time you read this, we hope everyone will have had an enjoyable Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

Not much to report. We still see **Jim Kemp, John Nakken** and **Earl Frank** at the bowling alley every week. They are doing fine and so is their bowling. **Bill Dieneman**, who lives in Yerrington, Nevada, called a couple of times to discuss the November elections; as it turned out, there was good news and bad news. I get emails from **Dan** and **Bernie Young** and they are doing OK.

I am sorry to report that **Marlin McWhorter** has passed away. His wife, **Clara**, said that he died peacefully in his sleep on November 17th. "Mac" worked in the Bishop Shop. We extend condolences to his family and friends.

—Lance Hinek

## The Haps in District 10

District 10 QCC members and other retirees continue to meet for breakfast on the last Tuesday of each month at Denny's on March Lane and I-5 in Stockton. About 33 participants attend each month. **Merle Larrabee** and **Bob Giess**, who come from Elk Grove and Sacramento, are near regulars. **Gene Cummings, Russ Jackson, Don Lane**, and **Dennis Smith** all come from



Modesto on a regular basis. Four old timers (mid 80s) who never miss are **Wes Gilkey, Dana Willard, Verne Dorsch** and **Elton Fletcher**. All are happy they are still mobile.

**Virginia Evingers'** daughter, **Sheila Desmond**, reports that they celebrated Virginia's 90th birthday at UJ's restaurant in Stockton in October. Several family members and friends attended even though the weather was stormy. Virginia lives in Placerville, at Gold Country Retirement Community. Happy Birthday Virginia!!!

**Merle Larabee** says its great to be here; he wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Other regular attendees include **Gordon Bettencourt, Bob Biffel** and his wife **Ardith, Judith Burke, Don Burns, Bonnie Ciccone, Lou Donada, Virginia Evinger**, whose daughter brings her to Stockton from Placerville, **Bob Ikeda, Henry Lauchland, Bill Lamascus, Ron Lesan, Dick Mesa, Bob and Rose Mah, Paul Plinski, Stan Randolph, Bill Selling, Perry Smith, Claude and Sharon Stewart, Al Wells, Ron Wilson, Lee Wyant, and Brian Young**.

Occasional attendees include **Betty Ann Dal Porto, Wilbur Elias, Hal Emerson, John Gagliano, Bob Hargis, Jerry Long, Hubert Schultz** and his brother **Jim Schultz, Paul Sigwart, Tom Wright** and **Stan Yamanaka**.

**Claude and Sharon Stewart** spent four days in Monterey and attended the PECG annual meeting. They said the weather was a beautiful 70 degrees. They had dinner one night with members of the Monterey Bay Aquarium and traveled the 17-mile drive before returning home.

Unfortunately, seven of our friends have died since our last report:

**Larry Wieman** passed away August 26. Larry was born October 8, 1925. He began

his career with the California Division of Highways in 1946, working for District 8 After going back to school at UCLA to get his Civil Engineering degree he returned to District 8, eventually becoming District Design Engineer. In 1965 he was promoted to Headquarters to administer the Division of Highways Research Programs. In 1969 he became Chief of Urban Planning. He was involved with the 1972-1973 transition process from the Division of Highways to creation of the Department of Transportation (Caltrans.) In 1976 he was reassigned to serve as Director of Caltrans District 10. His last assignment was as Chief, Division of Transportation Planning, where he served from 1983 until his retirement in April 1990.

**George Root** passed away on September 30. He worked in District 10 for many years. George graduated from High School in Stockton in 1966. He served in the US Navy from April 1966 until March 1972. After being discharged he attended Delta College, where he earned an AA degree. He worked as a heavy equipment operator for Caltrans for 20 years; his last assignment was working in the map file unit. He retired in 2002.

**Kenneth Lee Mitchell** was born February 29, 1948 and passed away September 12. Ken was a Vietnam War veteran; he worked for Caltrans for 30 years. He retired as a CEO I. He is remembered for his keen wit and sense of humor. At his request there was no service. He was laid to rest at Park View Cemetery in Manteca.

**Donald R. Mattes** worked For Caltrans in Stockton for many years. He was an Associate Engineer in a number of departments including Office Engineer. Don, who was living in Angel's Camp, was born November 13, 1932; he passed away October 4 at the age of 77.

**Annie Kay Ellis**, born March 12, 1949, passed away September 10. Annie worked in District 10 for several years as the Equal Employment Opportunity Liaison before leaving the department.

**Donita Rae James-Allen-Troglio** was born April 2, 1943 and passed away October 15. Her father saw her only one time before being shot down in World War II. After High School she attended Bible College where she met and married **Carl James**. In the late 1960s she returned to college to study clinical psychology, stopping just short of her master's degree. With her second husband, **Chet Allen**, she moved to Amador County. Later, she moved to San Francisco; while working for District 4 she married **Charlie Troglio**. In 2007 she was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease. Donita was proud of her contributions to the American World War II Orphans Network.

**Lawrence (Larry) Bjornstad** passed away in Stockton November 4th. Born December 19, 1929, he attended North Dakota State University to become a civil engineer. After graduation he served in the Air Force in Alaska. Discharged in 1953, he went to work for the Division of Highways in Los Angeles, transferring to Caltrans District 10 in 1969 as Deputy District Director. He retired in 1990. Larry leaves his wife Marian, to whom he was married for 56 years.

—Stan Randolph

## *The Haps in District 11*

If you were not one of the fortunate people who made it to the QCC picnic at Santee lakes, you missed a really great day. The weather was perfect with warm sunshine and gentle breezes. The people also had warm smiles and friendly faces. There was plenty of good food and drinks and a huge cache of great prizes to raffle off. With the raffle proceeds, the picnic turned a small financial gain for next year.

The outstanding luck of **Tom Culver** again brought an amazing total of 14 winning tickets to those sitting at the table with him. It could be that Tom and his friends bought lots of tickets or it could be that Tom's generously brought his colorful birdhouses for raffle prizes has returned favor to him as the giver. Maybe God's gift to him of such a fine head of hair is an indicator of the favor showered on him.

Some changes with the picnic support crew had **Gary Darr** looking for help lest we may have to stop the picnics, but volunteers stood up to save the day for next year. With a big thanks to **Leslie Franklin** and **Pat Yarbrough** we can look to it again next year.

By now you should have your invitation to the annual banquet luncheon at the Barra Barra in Old Town. With a new and different venue, let's give our best welcoming smile for any potential new members who may still be at work that day. If you know of any of your friends who are candidates but not members yet, call them up to invite them. If they join and pay for three years in advance they will get a free lunch.

And if you read this wondering why there isn't some better writing for D-11, consider stepping up to take on the title of D-11 "correspondent." I'm sure there are lots of more talented people who can do better than this old farm boy. But wait, there's more. You get no pay and you can make up stuff to write about anyone you may choose.

—Butch Biendara

## The Haps in Central

In August, **Julie** and I helped out at the California Transportation Foundation's annual charity golf tournament at Rancho Murieta Country Club. It's quite a fun event for everyone. In September, we celebrated our 47<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with a two-week jaunt to the Big Island!

We cruised up the northeastern coastline in October and enjoyed the fall colors on a round trip from New York City. In Boston, we visited the library and museum of John F. Kennedy and the home and library of John Adams. While we were in Halifax, Nova Scotia, we visited the graves of some of those who lost their lives when the Titanic sank. In November, we will venture south to spend 10 days in San Diego.

I am pleased to welcome **Cindy McKim**, Caltrans Director, **Carolyn Dudley**, Headquarters Senior Landscape Architect, **Wes Lum**, Headquarters Chief of Office of Safety Innovation and Cooperative Research, **Sondra Bettencourt**, **Jan Winbigler** and **Diane Scherbenske**, and District 7 transfer **Brent Scott** to our central district.

I learned sadly of the passing of three of our members: **Don Alden**, **Wyatt Harris** and **Richard Eckert**. Don and I worked together many years ago inspecting bridges from the central part of the state to the north part of the state. We were quite a combination. Don was a bridge man and I was a landscape architect! Our job was to inspect the bridges for rehabilitation or reconstruction. This was at a time when bridges needing reconstruction had to meet Federal guidelines. Upper management was concerned about losing the aesthetics of some of these great old bridges by having to upgrade them to federal standards. It was quite a learning experience for me with Don educating me on bridge type and design.

**Gene Berthelsen**, who recently celebrated his 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday, traveled to Chandler, Arizona December 5, near Phoenix, to play Dixie music with his band, the Catsjammer Jazz Band (he didn't make the holiday luncheon). And once again he and the band will make the trip to Mazatlan for a late-winter tour. Various other performances abound, but it's never enough.

These trips amount to a welcome spell from fighting with his sycamore, which started dropping leaves and other detritus about the middle of September and promises to go on until early February. On the other hand, the ripening oranges are sugary and tasty.

The following are notes written at our summer barbeque in September: **Omar John Pertel**: "The family, **Judi**, **Gus**, **Roman** and I are making plans to travel during Christmas break. Gus graduated from Jesuit High School in May and is attending Cosumnes River College. Roman is a sophomore at Jesuit High. Judi still is teaching piano and donating time at church. I am retired and enjoying life."

**George Smith**: "A great gathering. The Division of Highways was the greatest place to work. Both the work and the wonderful people."

**Harry Valentine**: "It was a great lunch; I enjoyed meeting old friends again."

**Dave Theobald**: "My wife **Jeanne** and I are the proud great-grandparents of our first great-grandson, Conner, born June 11, in Oregon! His parents brought him to visit us at seven weeks and he could already turn over! Conner's father, grandfather and great-grandfather are all civil engineers. We have an Algebra One Book for him to start on!"

**Howard Posner** writes: "Due to the absence of anyone filing to run against me, I have been re-elected to my fourth, and likely final, term on the SMUD Board of Directors. Apparently my QCC membership was enough to scare off any potential opposition."

**Rudy and Liz Hendriks**: "This past summer Liz and I planned a week's trip to

Washington, DC. I had been there more than a half dozen times, and looked forward to being her tour guide. The plan was simple: pick the dates, book a hotel, and book a flight. Then we decided not to fly because of the increasing post-9/11 hassles.

"That's when the idea of "Rudy and Liz's Great American Road Trip" was born. It soon grew, and blossomed into a 9000+ mile, seven-week road trip, zigzagging through 27 states and DC. Our mode of transportation - our trusted 2006 Chevy Impala - would boldly take us to where we had seldom or never been before, including popular as well as "off the beaten path" places.

"Our journey began on August 28 and ended on October 14. To avoid the risk of early snowfalls we first traveled through the northern half of the US to Washington, DC. There we stayed nine days, visiting museums, monuments, Gettysburg, and Mount Vernon.

"We came back through the southern states. Along the way we visited friends from my Air Force days in Dingman's Ferry, Pennsylvania, paid our respects to fallen Marine Chance Phelps at his grave in friendly Dubois, Wyoming, and of course to the heroes buried at Arlington and memorialized in Washington DC.

From coast to coast and border to border, we witnessed the beauty of America and its people. And we liked what we saw.

—Gary and Julie Bush

management consultant. She is familiar with the functions of the foundation and its partnership with Caltrans.

As you know, the foundation was founded in 1988 to support transportation workers in times of crisis and educate the next generation of transportation leaders. Over the past 22 years it has helped more than 730 students with scholarship grants totaling over \$521,400 and has assisted over 200 workers in their time of need totaling more than \$417,400. Additionally CTF has been able to respond to more than 600 other types of requests for assistance with awards, ceremonies and events.

One of the foundation's premier educational events, the annual Transportation Education Symposium, was held recently. Thirty-five students from California's colleges and universities were selected and paired with professionals in interactive sessions exploring today's real world of transportation engineering and planning.

A special thanks goes to the following from Caltrans for their participation and mentoring this year: **Christine Inouye**, Headquarters Project Delivery; **Christine Cox-Kovacevich**, Interim Deputy District 6 Director, Planning and Local Programs; **Sean Nozzari**, Deputy District 4 Director Operations; and **Jess Avila**, Technical Liaison, High Speed Rail Office.

— Kathleen Freeman

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**E**ffective January 1<sup>st</sup> the California Transportation Foundation will welcome Sarah West as its new executive director.

Sarah will serve as the principal spokesperson for keeping the Board of Directors updated on activities and budgetary issues and submitting recommendations on current and new policies and programs.

Prior to her appointment as executive director, Sarah served as the foundation's

## Events

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

**District I -**

**Ret'd Highwaymen and Road Agents** meets on the third Thursday in January, April, July, and October at 11:35 am at the Hometown Buffet at the Bayshore Mall in Eureka

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#### District 2 -

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

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#### 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](mailto:kmaggini@hotmail.com)*

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#### District 4

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

*Contact: Ed Coble 925 465-4219, [edcoble49@astound.net](mailto:edcoble49@astound.net)*

**District 4 Administration Retirees Lunch**, first Wednesday of each month at the Mexicali Rose Restaurant in downtown Oakland at 11:30 am.

**North Bay Caltrans Retirees** meet on the second Tuesday of every month.

*Contact: Jim Bouler 707-546-3097, [jbouler@comcast.net](mailto:jbouler@comcast.net)*

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#### District 5 -

*Contact Kathy Copeland: 805-544-1834 [bcopel4674@aol.com](mailto:bcopel4674@aol.com)*

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#### District 6 -

**Caltrans Retiree Breakfast** meets at 9 am on the third Wednesday in March and September at the Waffle House on Route

68 in Lindsay. *Contact: DonPhillips, (559) 781-2057.*

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

An informal District 6 bunch meets at Santa Fe Basque Restaurant at 3110 N Maroa Ave, south of Shields in Fresno the first Monday of the month.

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#### 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](mailto:tgilders@pacbell.net); or Chuck O'Connell, 661-253-3428, [chuckoconnell@prodigy.net](mailto:chuckoconnell@prodigy.net)*

The **Tom Fera Lunch Group** meets the second Wednesday of each month:

**January 12, 2010** at the China Olive, 9224 Reseda Boulevard, Northridge;  
**February 9, 2010** at Joselito's West, 7308 Foothill Boulevard, Tujunga;

**March 9, 2010** at the Steer N' Ale Restaurant 3644 E. Foothill Boulevard, Pasadena

On **April 13, 2010** they'll be back at the China Olive.

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#### District 8 -

*Contact: Marsha Lotze, 760-247-2119, [mlotze12@verizon.net](mailto:mlotze12@verizon.net)*

**December 11:** Christmas Luncheon at The Gourmet Restaurant in San Bernardino

**Every Wednesday morning at 9:00:** District 8 Construction retirees and anyone

else interested at Coco's Restaurant on Hospitality Lane in San Bernardino.

### District 9 -

Contact: Lance Hinek, (619) 873-3885,  
[hinek@usamedia.tv](mailto: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](mailto: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, [eagleayerie@hotmail.com](mailto:eagleayerie@hotmail.com).

### Central District -

**April 14, 2011** Spring Fling at the Dante Club.

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**QCC Membership Renewal Form, 2011 forward**

If your dues are due for next year, you must return this form with the proper payment as shown below. Your mailing label now shows your 'paid through' date.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Mailed US Post Office QCC'er @ \$20 ( )

Emailed (electronic) QCC'er @ \$15 ( )

Mailed QCC'er, Honorary before 2011 (*bom 1930 or earlier*) @ \$ 5 ( )

Mailed QCC'er, Honorary free with Director's approval @ \$ 0 ( ) To continue, send

Emailed QCC'er, Honorary @ \$ 0 ( ) in card even if no

No QCC'er newsletter, Honorary listed on roster only @ \$ 0 ( ) payment is needed

Make your checks out (*if required*), to the Quarter Century Club and mail to:

Mike Ogilvie, QCC Sec/Treas.

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