

# TheQCCer

The Newsletter of the Quarter  
Century Club

VOLUME 20, No. 4

DECEMBER 2011



## Welcome New Members

*BUTCH SAYS MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL...*

### From the Corner Pocket

The Quarter Century Club welcomes those whom have joined during the last year. Here is the good news regarding membership recruiting.

State Secretary / Treasurer Mike Ogilvie reports that the next edition for December will have 33 new members on the QCC'er roster with members added in nearly every district. (I may be a bit smug that D-11 had the greatest number of new members, 11 being the magic number.) See page 22.

To encourage recruiting efforts for next year, I will offer a \$100 bonus, (my pocket, not the QCC bank), to the Director of the district with the highest 'percentage' of new members next year, (1-1-12 / 12-31-12), whether I'm the QCC president or not.

Also note that your chapter can be reimbursed for your documented recruiting costs, up to \$4 per member limit. So some dynamic recruiters attending CT events and retirement parties go with prizes, such as, a free watch for new 5-year memberships, a handful of applications and a very persuasive sales pitch. This will swell the ranks. Note also that your reimbursement is not a function of your new recruits but rather a factor of your current membership. Do your best to make it work.



Regarding the **QCC roster**, it will be printed in the March 2012 QCCer. At this point, we are planning to print only names for security reasons. If you would like, we could add one line of either your phone number or e-mail address. Please let the QCC Secretary-Treasurer, **Mike Ogilvie**, know prior to February 1, 2012 if you want your phone number or e-mail address listed. Otherwise, if you do not request this, only your name will be printed.

On a more personal note, some of you know that I like to write. For every one of you who have an email address, here is an offer of a manuscript of an E-book for free, even before it goes into circulation. My only request is for a bit of your help by replying back to let me know what needs correction, spelling errors or other edits to improve the reading quality.

I have been working for some time collecting and writing a few 'books' on a few topics that I feel have relevance. I have been told by several authors that there is no need to send the manuscript off for printing, but rather the trend is now toward E-publishing where the 'book' is sold on-line for a small fraction of the cost of printing a hard copy version and where the cost of getting the book out is greatly reduced. In contacting an E-book distributor, I found that the cost is quite small if there is no word-by-word editing, and that is where you enter the picture.

I have five 'work-in-progress' titles nearing completion:

**100% Employment, Working People Advance**, 13k words, 92k file

**Global Warming, How to Fix it**, 4k words, 2.2k file

**The High-Speed Air Train**, 5.5k words, 216k file

**Unlimited Clean Renewable Energy**, 3k words, 48k file

**Tax Calories for Health**, 3 k words, 52 MB file.

I would gladly send you a free ‘unpublished’ edition of any or all of these titles that you may be interested in and hope that on reviewing it you may have a suggestion or two on how to improve it. E-books sell for a very small price with no cost for a printing press and paper. Thus there is little room for any mark-up or profit for the writer so I never expect to make any money (maybe I’ll recover my up-front costs?). Of course there is no obligation on your part to commit to a review, but if you feel the writing has merit and can offer advice on making it better, I would greatly appreciate it.

If you are interested, just send me an E-mail request, letting me know which title(s) you’d like and I’ll send you the draft manuscript at no charge to you in pdf format. And I thank you in advance for your helpful comments.

**Butch Biendara**  
**QCC President**

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### *Editor's Corner*

The year is quickly coming to an end and I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year! With the coming New Year, it is once again time to renew your QCC membership. See page 23 for a Membership Renewal Form.

If you have suggestions for articles, or want to contribute one yourself, please let your Director or QCC contributor know and they can forward them to me. If you have comments on the QCCer, please send them to me directly. Thanks!

**Chris Thomas**, QCC Editor

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### Rather read the QCCer on-line?

Go to  
<http://ctqcc.150m.com/qccnewsletter.html>

A membership application and a wealth of information about QCC officers, history, and constitution are available at

<http://ctqcc.150m.com/qcc.html>

Check the current haps at Caltrans at

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

## CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION FOUNDATION

By **Kathy Freeman**

Join us! CTF is now on Facebook! Go to <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/California-Transportation-Foundation-CTF/111235832303745> to “like” CTF and keep up with the Foundation’s happenings.

The Foundation’s Scholarship Program is a proven way in which to sponsor students planning a career in

transportation. CTF cooperates with co-sponsoring organizations, usually districts or divisions, to administer three types of scholarships: Endowments, Partnered, and those in which CTF contributes 100 percent of the funds. So far in 2011, more than \$38,000 has been given in scholarships to students studying transportation. Congratulations this year go to Districts 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, and 12 and to the Divisions of Audits, Human Resources, Surveys, and Transportation Planning for their participation and sponsorship.

Special thanks this year go to the following from Caltrans for their participation and mentoring at the annual Transportation Education Symposium: Christine Inouye (Headquarters), Christine Cox (District 6), and Ryan Chamberlain (District 12). This year there were 38 students from California’s colleges and universities selected and paired with high-level practicing professionals, including those listed above, in interactive sessions exploring today’s real world of transportation engineering and planning.

The Foundation is always looking for volunteers to staff and support its many activities throughout the year either in Sacramento or in the Districts. Volunteers assist with registrations at various activities, stuff envelopes for annual solicitations, serve on a more regular basis on special tasks, share information about CTF, prepare CTF correspondence, provide financial record assistance, or participate in Caltrans sponsored activities as a CTF representative. If you are interested in joining us in any of these various ways, contact Executive Director Sarah West at [www.transportationfoundation.org](http://www.transportationfoundation.org) or (916) 489-1629 to add your name to the list of volunteers already participating. Your support and gift of time is appreciated.

From all of us here at the Foundation, thank you for your interest and support. We wish you the happiest of holidays and a very Happy New Year.



*In Memoriam*

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

Name	District	Date
Dewey Knittel	01	Oct 30 2011
Russ Mayfield	03	Dec 6 2011
Bob Cashion	04	Nov 18 2011
George Leong	04	Sept 1 2011
Jennie Hong Wong	04	Sept 21 2011
Betty "Mac" Hohensee	05	Nov 1 2011
Keith Hopper	05	Nov 10 2011
Wally MacDougall	06	Nov 8 2011
Fred 'Bud' Rayburn	06	Nov 20 2011
Richard 'Manabu' Nakagawa	06	Nov 22 2011
Robert 'Bob' Schaper, Sr.	07	Aug 21 2011
Robert 'Bob' Noll	07	Oct 10 2011
Rosa Emma Madrid	07	Oct 18 2011
Linda Browning	07	Dec 2011
Larry Castagna	08	Jul 6 2011
Lloyd Patterson	08	Oct 31 2011
Alice Jackson	08	Sept 24 2011
Ben Riley	08	Sept 21 2011
Westley Monroe Gilkey	10	Oct 27 2011
Norma Hall Demetras	10	Sept 28 2011
Robert F. Kraetsch	10	Oct 14 2011
Katherine Chan Bishop	10	Aug 31 2011
Van Dawson	11	2011
John McAllister	11	Dec 2 2011

*The Haps in District 1*

Where has the year gone. I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and will have a Merry Christmas. We had a great group at our last lunch at the Home Town Buffet on October 20. The group included new members **Stan Fosnaugh and Karl Brown**. Also attending were **John Sherman, Ray Thomsen, Kenny Vaughan, Bruce Minor, Mel Berning, Guy Luther, Rick Knapp, Wes Reinhart, Bart Crews, Larry Bowermaster, Don Comstock, Pete Pettersen, Tom Georgeson, Jim Boyd, Vi Truby, Ed Scott, Glenn Hoffman, Dennis Grinsell, Carl Zander, Bob Myers, Doug and Rita Coleman, Lowell Allen, Jim Long, Jerry Severson and Virgil and Wanda Muncton**, who had come over the hill

from the Redding area. John Sherman and I had a great visit with Virgil and Wanda. The sad part is that a few weeks ago the Home Town Buffet closed down and this really was our last lunch there.

Congratulations go to **Frank and Mariann Woodman**, who celebrated their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 18, 2011. Frank retired from District 1 as a Caltrans Maintenance Supervisor. They have lived in Orleans for many years and he is my go to guy for Humboldt County history in that region. Best wishes Frank and Mariann.

On a really sad note, we lost another of our retired family. **Dewey Knittel**, who retired from District 1 after 30 years as an Engineering Geologist, passed away on 10/30/2011. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Dewey's family and friends.

Here is wishing you all a healthy and happy New Year.

- Arlene Hartin

*The Haps in District 2*

The Fall District 2 QCC Picnic was a great success. Thanks to all who came and participated. Attendance was really good considering the day was cloudy and blustery. There were over 40 who gathered despite the lack of cooperation from the weather.

**Russ Huntington** and his wife tell us that they took a trip in August to visit the Columbia River on the Washington side. They came back down along the Oregon coast and had a wonderful time. They say they are anxious to do more exploring and traveling in their R.V.

**Jim Ceragioli** says we are approaching Christmas once again and time for an update of the happenings in his life during the past 6 Mos. Sandy and he traveled to Seattle with a couple from Redding to board "The Osterdam" for a cruise to Alaska. They left on Sunday afternoon in clear sunshine. First stop was Glacier

Bay, which was cold and windy, but they did get to see a Glacier calve. Very interesting. Then they headed to Juneau where it was rainy all day and did the usual tourist stuff in the rain. Then boarded ship to head to Sitka, which was sunny and warm all day, and is a quaint town with a lot of Russian architecture. Next stop was Ketchikan, where the fog was very low, so they did not go up the tram as everyone said, because all they would see was the fog. Then they headed back to Seattle. They watched, but no whales breached the surface, but they saw a couple of spouts. They didn't see any moose or elk either. Once back in Seattle, they drove north to Bellingham to see his Sister and Brother in-law. The six of them went to Bouchart Gardens and Victoria. This was a repeat visit to the Gardens and Jim says "they were the most beautiful we had ever seen them." They did some other stops in the Bellingham area and then headed home. Their next trip will be a short one to Reno to see the Grandchildren (and their parents). They are planning a biggie for next fall by taking the long trip to Australia and a cruise to New Zealand. Should be a real adventure!

**June McLean (Dean)** tells us that in August, she flew out of San Francisco to Charlottesville, Virginia, spent twenty days in the Shenandoah Valley, and went back to her hometown for a family reunion on the Dean's side. There were about a hundred and fifty cousins in attendance with ages ranging from the 80's down to babies. Her dad was from a family of 18 brothers and sisters, so they have a big family. She also visited Dean Mountain, which is where Dean Cemetery is located. That is part of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia. This was the first reunion since the early 1950's. Lots of good times, memories, and lots of good food. She also flew out of Sacramento to Dulles Airport in Alexandria, Virginia enroute to Harrisonburg Virginia to attend her brother's funeral in January. She was there for ten days. There was lots of rain and it was very cold at that time.

- **Bill Belcher**

## *The Haps in District 3*

The November Pre-Holiday party was a huge success with over 100 happy people in attendance. 80 Year awards were presented to **Bob Tyler, Gordon Bordson, Ralph Sandler and Ray Winton**. The buffet was delicious as usual at the Peach Tree Golf and Country Club. **Ethel Mae Waller** did a fantastic job coordinating the party and overseeing the decorations, which included a beautiful centerpiece at each table. In honor of Veterans Day a small flag was stuck under one of the eight place settings at each table. The lucky person who sat at that chair took home the centerpiece.

We are sorry to report the passing of **Russ Mayfield**. Russ passed away at his home in Sutter on Tuesday, December 6th. Russ was a Yuba City native and was born on November 14, 1940. Russ was a R/W Agent with Caltrans from 1965 to 1987, He was also into sports and the love of the game had him playing basketball for Yuba City High School and Yuba College. Russell is survived by his wife, Mary, daughter Brenda; sons Steven and Michael and many, many grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his brothers Robert and Richard.

A celebration of Russell's life is planned for January 14, 2012 at the Sutter Youth Organization Building located at the intersection of Acacia Avenue and Butte House Road in Sutter.

The District 3 History Room is moving forward thanks to **Libby Haraughty, Palmer Haug and Bob Mulcahy**, who are the persons there every month sorting through so many items. Anyone who wishes to help is asked to call **Dan Johnson, Sr.** at 530-671-3889 or email at boots3@syix.com. The committee meets once a month at the District 3 headquarters office in Marysville.

District 3 Quarter Century Club is looking forward to the New Year and plan on acquiring new members to increase our growing membership. Anyone wishing to

join with us in fellowship is asked to contact Carleen Hagen at email address hcdhagen@aol.com.

The D-3 QCC Board of Officers and Committee wish each of you and your families a healthy, prosperous and happy 2012.

- Dan Johnson Sr.

### *The Haps in District 4*

**O**n September 29, 2011 District 4 held its annual Retired Executives Visit. The visit consisted of a meeting with **Bijan Sartipi**, the District 4 District Director who gave the retirees an update on the District accomplishments over the past year and the challenges the District would face in the coming year and a tour of the latest construction on the east span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge.

The project to build the new East Span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge is the largest public works project currently underway in the United States. Bart Ney, the Department's spokesman for the SFOBB Project, brought everyone up to date. He also indicated the Bay Bridge would also play an important part in a future episode of The Bachelorette.

The past quarter saw the passing of three District 4 Retirees: **Bob Cashion, Jennie Wong, and George Leong.**

**Bob Cashion** was born on January 19, 1927 in Newark, New Jersey and died on November 18, 2011 at the age of 84. He retired in 1994 with 35 years of service. He grew up in the Flatbush neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York. He graduated from the Brooklyn Technical High School and after working a short time as a draftsman at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, he served in the US Army Air Force in WWII as an airplane mechanic. Afterwards he attended the University of New Mexico under the GI Bill and graduated with a BSCE. He worked for the New Mexico Highway Department and subsequently the California Division

of Highways before going to Saudi Arabia for five years with the American Oil Company. He learned to speak fluent Arabic. He met his German wife, Anne through his father. They were married in 1969 and had two children, Robert and Margaret. After retiring, they moved from the SF Bay area to Battle Ground, Washington. Bob loved all aspects of highway engineering. His position with District 4 was as the District Permits Engineer. As Pete Carpenter put it at Bob's retirement party, Bob liked to say: "not only no but hell no" if he felt that permitting access to the highway would jeopardize the safety of the public. In his retirement Bob traveled all over the world. He loved reading detective stories that took place in foreign countries or were set in the Past and listening to classical music. He kept up to date with the Engineering Profession by being active in several engineering societies and attending monthly meetings. His ashes will be scattered in a private ceremony.

**George Leong** passed away on September 1, 2011 at the age of 93. He retired from Caltrans in 1988 as a Civil Transportation Engineer after 35 years of service. He also saw service with the US Army during WWII. He is survived by his wife, Yat Sin, (Cindy), three children and two grandchildren.

**Jennie Hong Wong** passed away on September 21, 2011 at the age of 83 years. She was born on September 6, 1928. She worked for Caltrans for over 41 years. She is survived by two sons, six grandchildren, three sisters, and two brothers.

- Paul Hensley

### *The Haps in District 5*

**H**appy New Year! Hope you enjoyed a pleasant holiday season with family and friends.

If you haven't done so, please complete the QCC Membership Renewal Form (usually at the back of this newsletter). Return it with any payment to the address shown. You may continue to receive a printed QCCer or opt for an e-mailed version.

I do not have much news for this edition, but I hope to gather interesting tidbits when we attend the D-5 Holiday BBQ on December 6.

I can report that your tax dollars are funding several major construction projects in D-5. While driving north recently on Route 101, we encountered significant work being done in the Prunedale area north of Salinas. You may recall that moving the highway to new alignment could not get approved, and a series of improvements along the route were substituted to address safety and congestion issues. Work continues in San Luis Obispo County in the Atascadero area, and the new Willow Road intersection is being built near Nipomo. An impressive new structure is being erected on Route 46 east of Paso Robles, and the Santa Maria River Bridge widening project will benefit drivers from both sides of the river. If you would like to learn more about these projects, see the D-5 web site [www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/projects/](http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/projects/)

**Betty "Mac" Hohensee** (also known as Betty Pease) passed away on November 1 at her home in Arroyo Grande. Betty was born in Ohio and worked in a munitions factory during WW II. She and her husband moved to California in the late 50's. She was employed at Sierra Vista Hospital before coming to Caltrans, where she worked in Personnel over 20 years. Along with Catherine, Betty Tway, and Virginia, Betty was one of the friendly "personal" ladies on whom we relied for help with insurance and retirement questions. Betty is survived by her daughter, stepdaughter, grandsons, and other family members.

**Keith Hopper** passed away on November 10. He was a California native, born in Shandon, and served in the Army Air Corps during WWII flying cargo planes "over the hump". He farmed on the family ranch before beginning a 20-year career with Caltrans. He was an instructor at the META facility at Camp San Luis for ten years. Keith is survived by his wife Jean, two sons, grandchildren and sister.

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

- **Kathleen Copeland**

## *The Haps in District 6*

**N**ews from **Irwin Rosa** in Hawaii with the good news and the bad news.

-- Bad news, I fell twice and landed on my head both times requiring stitches..

-- Good news, I recovered in time for my trip to Portugal. I had a marvelous trip to Portugal and Spain starting from Porto on a ship up the Douro River through the wine regions of both countries. I also visited the beautiful Island of Madeira far south in the Atlantic. Aloha, Irwin Rosa

**Carolyn Landy** - "All I have been doing is making dichroic jewelry for my boutique and learning new software to talk to my sewing machine." I guess some conversations are not meant to understand. I also know that Carolyn loves to have coffee at LaBoulangerie in Fig Garden Shopping Center with her husband. You might want to call and meet her there sometime.

On Nov. 19th **Virgle Ray** sent this about the Christmas Party:

"Bah hum bug - Sandy and I are attending a Xmas party the night before in Vacaville; just don't think it wise to try and make yours. Darn, and I would like to see the old gang. Do you have the party on the same date each year? If so I will put it on the 2012 calendar, as you and friends are important to me. Wishing you a great new year and Merry Christmas." Your friends, Virgle and Sandra Ray

Our Christmas Party is Dec 8th this year so the news about it won't go in until the next QCCer.

**Wallace "Wally" Mac Dougall**, 85, of Fresno died Tuesday, Nov 8, 2011. He retired from CalTrans and then came back as a consultant with CalTrans. There



will be a private service for Wallace and probably a Celebration of Life as late as January. Arrangements: Chapel of the Light.



**Fred "Bud" Rayburn**, 90, went into the arms of Jesus Sunday, November 20, 2011, from his home with his loved ones by his bedside. He was born on January 15, 1921 to Fred and Ellen Rayburn in Delano, Ca. He was schooled in San Fernando, and after serving in the US Navy, World War II, enrolled at Cal Poly SLO. Fred retired after 31 years in Fresno from Cal Trans. He was active in North Fresno Exchange, Sirs and Huntington Lake Assoc. Fred loved to sail, play bridge and never knew a stranger. He was a member of First Presbyterian Church for 60 years. He celebrated his 90th birthday with family and friends on Jan 15th this year. Fred is survived by his lovely wife, Doris, of 62 years; his sister, June Simpson; his beloved children, Ron, Donna, Lynn, Julie Villata, Caroline Hoffmann of Munich, Ger. and Jacqui Haskett of Adelaide, Aus.; and four grandchildren, Christian and Emily Rayburn, Michael and Matthew Villata. Fred's Memorial will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Fresno, on Friday, December 9, 2011, at 11:00 a.m. Remembrances may be made to the Bulldog Foundation c/o Women's Tennis, PO Box 26267 Fresno, 93729 or First Presbyterian Church, 1540 M Street, Fresno 93721.

From **Bob Dubel** about Bud

"Bud was a special person. He was always willing to help others in need."



Recent Honoree of the Congressional Gold Medal, LTC **Richard "Manabu" Nakagawa** was born in Portland, Oregon to Seitaro and Tsunao Nakagawa on December 17, 1920, and passed away on Tuesday, November 22, 2011, at the age of 90. Richard served in the US Army's 442nd Regiment Combat Team -F Company during WWII in Europe in 1942-45. In recent weeks, November 3, 2011, John McCain addressed Richard and other living survivors of the 442nd, the 100th and the Japanese American MIS stating that they were the most decorated units in the history of the United States

moments before receiving the Congressional Gold Medal at Capitol Hill, in Washington, DC. His Military statistics include a Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commander Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Victory Medal, European Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 3D stars, Reserve Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Unit Citation w/2 dc, and Oak Leaf Cluster for subsequent awards. While serving his country, Richard met his wife Maria Assunta, an American Red Cross volunteer, in Lecco, Italy. They married in New York shortly after she arrived in the troopship USS Marine Perch on May 22, 1947, and remained married for 56 years until her death in 2003. Richard attended Washington State University and majored in aeronautic engineering until the interruption of the internment of the Japanese Americans during WWII. He and his two brothers, Bill and Sam Nakagawa volunteered and joined the Army, an extraordinary act of Patriotism, along with many other Nisei. After the war, he worked as a civil engineer at the State of California Dept. of Transportation as a civil engineer designing highways throughout California. He returned to college at Fresno State University and received a BA in Social Science. He continued to work at his civilian job as an engineer for the state of California at Cal-trans and retired in 1985. His interests and hobbies included college football, fishing, hunting and camping. Special thanks to Richard's caregivers from Interim Health care and Private caregiver, Nicky Sylvily, and the team at the Fresno Community Trauma Center in Fresno for their compassion and professionalism. Richard touched many more lives after the war and is loved and missed by his second wife, Shirley Nakagawa; his two sons, Aldo and Gary Nakagawa; eight grandchildren, Sean, Austin, Sara, Jenifer, Macrina, Brandi, Lacey, and Kelli. He is also loved and missed by Caleb and Wyatt Blacketter, Joshua Haviland and their wives Amy and La Quinta Blacketter, Angel Haviland; and nephew Kevin Haviland and wife Courtney.

**Lewis Wagoner** commented "Dick was a great person and a true American Hero. I feel fortunate to have known him I, along with **Mert Parlier** and **Ron Dubois**, attended the service for **Dick Nakagawa** yesterday. Full Military Honors. Well deserved. He was a True American Hero."

From **Irwin Rosa** -- "I always had the highest regard for Dick Nakagawa. He was a true professional. I remember times when **Russ Lightcap** questioned some of Dick's traffic figures and Dick always had a reasonable answer to back up his projections. I hope that there are some talented traffic experts in Caltrans today like Dick Nakagawa." Aloha

Have a great Christmas season and a Happy New Year.

-Terry Littleton

## *The Haps in District 7*

The Miyako Inn in Downtown Los Angeles' Little Tokyo area was the scene for our festive Annual Holiday Luncheon, on Saturday, December 10, 2011. This year, to save on postage, **Tom Almany** sent invitations by e-mail, and 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. **Heinz Heckerroth** sends greetings to all, as he has another event that day in Mendicino.

Since the QCC'er article submittal predates the Luncheon, I'll share the details in the March newsletter.

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 11, 2012** at the Steer N' Ale; **February 8, 2012** at China Olive; **March 14, 2012** at the Joselito's West; and **April 11, 2012** will be back at the Steer N' Ale. See more details in the Events Section.

**Gus and Judy Sulaitis** write of their three week, tres bon voyage to Spain and Portugal, last October, sure to make all our fellow Quarter Century Club members, vert with envy.

"We arrived in Paris on October 1<sup>st</sup> [and] stayed in Cologne, [where] we ate the best beef tartar and beer at an outdoor café. Everyone at the café was typical French—lots of kisses on the cheek for greetings, and lots of smoking. We were lucky to be there... our taxi from Paris missed pedestrians by a hairs breath, including a mother pushing her baby in a carriage! Who says L.A. drivers are bad!? From Paris to Lourdes, a holy site at the base of the Pyrenees Mountains, which form the southern border between France and Spain, amid hundreds of pilgrims, we got miraculous water. [When] we intended to go to Barcelona by train, there was a train strike! So, we were forced to take a taxi from Lourdes to Barcelona (500 miles!) and ended up costing \$900. (But, since we're careful Caltrans transportation folk, we took out travel insurance... and got every penny back!) In October fall colors were everywhere, we got to enjoy the beautiful mountain scenery. I guess there is no speed limit because we flew! It wasn't too cold, but there were sporadic rain showers mixed with wind. Barcelona has high rise homes, cobblestone streets and lots of iron work balconies. Then off to Madrid."

"We took an electric train to Madrid that went 150 miles per hour. There we visited the Escorial monastery home to King Henry II. We couldn't believe the beauty of the place. Tapestries made of gold thread, marble mosaics and ornate tombs. A real must see! We went the Prado museum, where we were told people over 65 went in free! Lucky us! ...but it turns out, only people who live in the European Union get to take advantage of this deal... A big hit the next evening was a Flamenco dancing show and dinner - I'll never appreciate our "play flamenco" again! The real thing was heart pumping and pure art. Next we took another electric train to Nerja. The train was smooth, had an individual TV, a dining car, air conditioning, was very comfortable, and had excellent service."

"When we arrived in Costa del Sol, Nerja, we rented a car and the fun started. There are good roads there, but they use traffic circles and we sometimes felt like we were never going to get out! [Fortunately], we had a

GPS that spoke very kindly in English and eventually we found our Villa on a hill above the Mediterranean Sea. Even though the streets were single lanes, narrow and had cars parked on both sides, we survived without accidents... Miracles do happen! Our villa was like something out of a movie, complete with balcony and elevator down to the beach. Our son John and his sister joined us there for a week. I want to go back but can't afford it. Even the topless ladies sunbathing didn't faze us."

"We drove to Gibraltar and went to the very top of the rock where we could see across the straight [to] Tangiers, Africa! One of the wild Macaque monkeys jumped on our car looking for food. Too soon we were on our way to Lisbon, Portugal via a 20 seat propeller plane, and paid \$800 for 2 people for a one-way, 45-minute trip! Otherwise, would you believe, it would've taken a day by train, as we would have had to go back to Madrid! In Portugal, we visited Fatima where in 1917 Our Lady made the sun dance. Look it up, it's a really interesting story! From Lisbon to Paris to LA and finally home. This ought to hold [em] for a while, ain't retirement great!"

Caltrans, HQ and City employees who occupy the District 7 Office had a bird's eye view to the excitement, sounds and smells of the Occupy L.A. protesters who camped out on the City Hall lawn for two months. The protesters were cleared out during the last week of November and the park remains fenced off while City workers restore the area.

### Recent Retirements

**Lorita Phillip**, of the Office of Operations, celebrated her 36 years of State service on Thursday, October 27, 2011 at Luminarias in Monterey Park, CA.

**Lauritz "Larry" Schulz** sent a heartfelt thank you to those who attended his retirement coffee party on November 29, 2011 at the District 7 Office. "Thank you very much from the bottom of my heart for your thoughtfulness, kindness, and caring, means so much to me. I appreciate all the things you did for me, and I will surely miss you! You guys are great and did an excellent job to make this event wonderful, memorable

and one that I will cherish for the rest of my life. I extend my sincerest thanks to everyone, and your contributions towards my gifts are all very much appreciated."

**Bernadette Cotton**, District 7 Right of Way, celebrated her 32 years of State service at a coffee party held in her honor, December 6, 2011, at the District 7 Office.

**Earline Mills**, Engineering Technician with Construction Division, will celebrate 33 years of State service at the San Antonio Winery, December 8, 2011. Future plans include competing in the New York Marathon, and selling Real Estate.

**Min Wun**, Senior Transportation Engineer, Office of Project and Special Studies, bids farewell to all my friends, and writes: "I will be officially retired as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011. Out of 55 odd-years of public service working in various Civil Engineering disciplines in the States [and] abroad, I have enjoyed my 21 years of work at CALTRANS. Other than the pay, pay raise, and the furloughs, it IS a great place to work, and has been a great pleasure to have worked together with you all, and fortunate to have had a cooperative and collaborate working relationship with you all. CALTRANS is a wonderful place not only to work but also to learn. I appreciate all the learning opportunities in Transportation Engineering and many other related disciplines. I will miss you all, and hope to see you all again.

### Road Last Travelled

**Sue McGinn**, reports, "I have sad news regarding my former father-in-law, **Robert Schaper, Sr.**, 1919 – 2011. **Bob** passed away on August 21, 2011, at the age of 91. His State employment started with the Division of Highways, in District 7, in 1953. In 1978 he transferred to District 11 and retired from Caltrans in 1983.

Because **Bob** retired from the Air Force at the rank of Lt. Colonel, he was given a full military funeral, and was buried on August 26th at the new Miramar National Cemetery. **Bob** is survived by his wife,



**Shirley**, and son, **Brad**. **Bob** was preceded in death in 2000 by his son, **Bob Schaper, Jr.** (Districts 7 and 12). Submitted by **Sue Schaper McGinn**

**Bob Joe** reported on the passing of **Robert (Bob) Noll** on Oct. 10, 2011, after a very short illness.



**Bob** was born in Palmerton, Pa., on Sept. 5, 1928, and grew up in Lehigh, Pa. He had two tours in the Army (1946 and 1949). **Bob's** first tour in the Army was directly after World War II (1946-1949) in the Army Intelligence Service in Osaka, Japan, for two years. He was assigned to work with the Japanese Police to prevent civil unrest. His second Army tour was a consequence of joining the Army Reserves for financial help for college tuition and pay for once per month drill weekends and was too good to pass up; then, the Korean War came along a few months later and he was one of the first to be recalled. He had been discharged for less than five months. This time he went to the 101st Airborne Division (1949-1951).

**Bob** and his wife **Elaine** moved to California in 1954 and to Ventura in 1956. Bob worked for CALTRANS for nearly 30 years. He was a highway field engineer, providing supervision and direction of contractors building the freeway section on HWY 33 to Foster Park, HWY 101 freeway construction through Ventura, HWY 101 freeway construction north of Ventura and HWY 126 going to Santa Paula.

He was one of the charter members of the Channel Island Condor radio control model airplane club in Camarillo. He was an avid model aviation enthusiast both as flyer and builder and was active until the end.

Bob also enjoyed skeet shooting with his son at the Point Mugu Rod and Gun Club.

He was preceded in death by **Elaine**, his wife of 60 years, last November in Ventura, and leaves behind his daughter **Robin**; son **Jeff** (wife **Susan**); granddaughter **Kimberly**; aunt **Arlene Sherman** of New Jersey; and cousin **Charles Noll** of Fresno.

**Bob's** memorial service was held on Monday, Nov. 7, at Grace Lutheran Church, 6190 Telephone Road, Ventura.

**Steve Devorkin** alerted us to the passing of **Rosa Emma Madrid**, born August 30, 1959, and departed October 18, 2011. Her funeral mass was held Wednesday, October 26, 2011, at St. Mary of the Assumption, 7215 Newlin Ave, Whittier, California 90601. Interment was at Rose Hills in Whittier. **Rosa** had 30 years of State service when she quietly retired two years ago at the tender age of 50. Most of us knew her from her days in Telecommunication, and later when she moved over to Project Management.

**Carmen Roberts**, of Facilities Management reported on December 6, 2011, "It is with great regret that I announce the passing of **Linda Browning**. Linda's career with Caltrans started approximately 31 years ago in Maintenance. She worked in the Division of Administration, Facilities Operations for the last 5 years and prior to that in the Cashiers Office. Funeral arrangements are pending at this time."

Be like Sue, Gus, Bob, Steve and Carmen and send me your articles!

Our members enjoy hearing from you! All it takes is an e-mail, card or snail mail to 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** reminds you that the District 7 QCC Director and Treasurer are available, and you can reach him directly at 17200 So. Stark Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90701-1822.



Please send **DUES (checks), membership applications and honorary member status information**, to Statewide QCC Secretary/Treasurer **Mike Ogilvie**. See contact information earlier in this edition.

WAKE UP!

No news may be good news to some, BUT for us, no news is BORING! So keep those cards and letters flowing! Don't be shy, here a chance to be a spy! Or the roving reporter you always aspired to be... send items to **Kirsten**; without your news and updates, our section would be empty! I kid you not...

Many thanks to the multitudes who forwarded information and who were not otherwise mentioned above: **Tom Gildersleeve, Chuck O'Connell, and Carol Huntwork**.

- **Kirsten Stahl**

*The Haps in District 8*

First off we want to congratulate **Allan and Jane Kirst** on their retirement and luncheon on Thursday, October 13, 2011 at the Mill Creek Cattle Company Smokehouse & Saloon in Mentone. According to their flyer, The "Hwy Czar is abdicating his holding, and "Empress Jane the Great" is hereby relinquishing her latest throne on the Eighth Floor.

Heir apparent, Allan, was taken into service by the Division of Highways at the humble position of Engineering Aid I in Traffic Operations on July 20, 1972. He worked his way through the retirement of his father, Paul, taking residence in the "All seeing Transportation Management Center. In 1975 Allan married the future Empress Jane. Her beginnings were that of a Stenographer in Traffic Operations on May 1, 1973. She worked her way through the standings to an Administrator in Environmental Planning for the Realm.

Allan and Jane Kirst want to thank those who coordinated and attended our abdication party. We were both deeply touched by all of the people who not only went out of their way to attend, but braved 100+ degree temperatures. It doesn't seem enough to just say how much we appreciate such a wonderful send off. We'll never forget the heartfelt presentations; beautiful and unique gifts, delicious salad, desserts and festive decorations. We know it was hard work creating what we considered the perfect party. These memories will be cherished forever!

We also want to thank those of you who stopped by with well wishes, but were unable to attend. It is all of you we will miss, and it is you we are so thankful for, since you made our stay at the old Division of Highways/Caltrans so memorable.

After working for almost 40 years in District 8, we've been asked what it was that made us stay so long... Our answer was simple: "You were all considered 'family.'" Both of us are truly blessed! -**Allan and Jane**

Heard around town by our new President **Wes Grimes: Bill Gilhaus**, Construction, keeping close to home and canning lots of tomatoes, **Jim Miller**, Construction, and his wife Linda on a motor home trip through Arizona and Nevada with their RV Club and just returned from Hawaii... **Roy and Marcy Cagle**, Maintenance, still in Tennessee, but planning on returning to CA for the winter season... **Janice Feenstra** recovering from knee surgery... **Karen Meadows** showing off her new kitchen and success at slimming down... Caltrans ladies still lunching at Ray's Deli monthly... **Mary Bermudez** having hip problems.

More news heard around and about: **Glenn Mills**, Construction, and his wife Rita moving into a new home overlooking Morro Rock in the bay; plus a great new home, report that **Art Henry** and **Bill Barrett**, former District 8ers doing well in retirement.

**Gerald Brown**, Maintenance, and his wife Judie from Administration on a trip to visit family in Minnesota and Wisconsin to attend Judie's brother's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday and Thanksgiving will also miss (again) our annual

Christmas Luncheon as they will be back from Minnesota and in a Christmas Parade and then run a petting zoo at a home for abused women and children.

Our "Reporter" also reports that retiree **Herberta Olive**, retiree from Administration, is dealing with walking problems; her legs are giving her trouble but she continue to write great letters to the editor of our local paper. **Joe Gomez**, Administration is set to retire at the end of December. He is currently working for the National Guard in Sacramento... **Irene Coyazo**, Administration, also set for retirement. We're sure others as well...

**Dick Longstreet**, Construction, enjoying a night on the town, watching a performance of "Riverdance" and **Guy Visbal** returning from Las Vegas a winner!

Our President, **Wes Grimes** writes that he has an elementary school boy friend in Missouri that sends him the most amazing and unusual e-mails and he doesn't know where he gets them, but must be his close friends. He gets stuff from others, but his stuff is pretty neat.

Another letter written to Wes and Linda Grimes from **Duane Sharp**, Construction, looking back when he was leaving Caltrans, he arranged for **Bob Westerson**, Construction, to get a new car and it arrived before he left. Bob didn't like that at all and wanted to keep the Ford which used to be his at one time. It was a good auto, but he thought he would do something pleasant for Bob as he did like him and he was a good engineer. He had to cancel the arrangement and let Bob keep the Ford. He had feelings that for some reason Bob didn't care much for him and he did feel bad that as he was a hard worker and did a good job of inspecting. He wondered if Wes had heard anything about him and if he is doing o.k.

Another Construction employee who had worked for us was **Ron Corrigan**. He had him on the Route 15 project in Corona and Ron did surprise him as he was doing o.k. on the job when he came up with some medical problems and **Duane** had to sit with him and arrange something in the office. Recently he received

word that he had passed away. Boy, what time will do. Ron goes on to talk about health issues he's had recently. He'd had some bad reactions to medications, but is now doing well. Ron goes on to say that he and wife, Carol, are o.k. and she takes care of his THINKING problems. Man it sure is rough getting old now isn't it. He thinks of you and Linda often and you both remaining so active. He also thinks of other Caltrans retirees.

Local Riverside resident, **Larry Castagna**, passed away July 6, 2011. He was born October 5, 1924, in Canon City, Colorado. Larry was a Riverside area resident for the past 34 years. He served in the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1946 and bravely served his country in World War II. He was employed as a civil engineer for Caltrans for 35 years until his retirement from Traffic in 1989.

Larry enjoyed cruising the world and camping in Big Bear with his wife, Barbara, but most of all he enjoyed his family. Larry is survived by his loving wife, Barbara, of Riverside, daughter, Nancy Truitt and her husband, Chuck, of Riverside, granddaughters Sara and Leann Truitt of Riverside, and several nieces and nephews.

Our condolences go out to his family and friends.

We received notice recently that one of our long time Q.C.C. members, **Lloyd Patterson**, Right of way, passed away on October 31, 2011, at the Braswell Colonial Care Facility in Redlands.

Lloyd had hip surgery in September, 2010, and was recuperating at home when he contracted a urinary infection that required more care than could be given at home and he was moved to the Braswell Care Center where he passed away nearly a year later.

Lloyd was a District 8 Right of Way Agent for 28 years and retired in 1978. No obituary was public and burial was private.

All our thoughts and prayers go out to Lloyd's family and friends.

We also heard that **Fred Jackson's wife, Alice** passed away at their home Saturday morning, September 24, 2011. Fred a Senior Transportation Engineer and Alice moved to Headquarters in 1984 when he was promoted to a Supervising Highway Engineer.

Our sympathies and prayers are with his family and friends.

President, **Wes Grimes**, received a telephone call from retired District 8 Surveys Party Chief, **Russ Hall**, from Shasta Lake, CA that retired Party Chief, **Ben Riley**, age 90, had passed away at his home in Lewiston, CA on September 21, 2011. Ben retired on 12-1-79.

A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our members and remember that it's dues time for 2012.

- **Marsha Lotze**

### *The Haps in District 9*

**D**istrict 9 did not submit an entry for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

### *The Haps in District 10*

**C**hris Wendland reports that volunteers for Amador County cancer support (STARS) recently held their annual fund raiser in which there was raised almost \$100,000.

The program supports transportation in five vans for cancer treatment in Sacramento, Stockton, Lodi, Roseville and Stanford. This program also provides funds for cancer research.

**Virginia Evinger** celebrated her 91st birthday on Oct 19th. She spent the day with her daughter, Sheila

Desmond and they went to Apple Hill for the afternoon. High Hill Ranch was in full swing with crafts of all kinds, all kinds of apples for sale at the market, and a full restaurant. Her comment at the end of the day, "I managed to survive". She enjoyed shopping, but was happy to be home by the end of the day.

Hi Y'all: from **Bill & Darlene Sellings**. From their daughter's in Fredericksburg, VA., they traveled to Myrtle Beach SC, .Then on to Ashville NC for a visit with a class mate from Japan. Next, they took a trip through the Great Smokey Mountains (Fall Colors) to Pigeon Forge TN. Also visited Dolly Wood Park, Then through GA to Orlando FL to visit friends and family...stayed at Disney's Fort Wilderness Camp Ground, then on to Tampa FL to visit family and to see the very special Dolphin "Winter" who has no tail until they made one for her...as depicted in the movie Dolphin Tale (2011). Then on North and West seeing the sights of FL, AL, LA and a visit with more family. Next was TX visiting two old Army Buddies and family. Then we ended up in NM. where we visited with an old HS Buddy from Japan that we had not seen since Jan 1956. Then on to AZ to visit family, an old Army Buddy and a friend from Lodi. We also spent a day at Sedona. Then on to CA for the fuel shock of our life. It jumped from \$3.73 to \$4.49, We were gone one day short of three months, drove 13,945 miles, took close to 2,000 pictures, and visited some awesome places, friends and family!! We drove on some awesome roads, best was AZ and some gross roads, NJ and CA!! It was a trip that Darlene and I will not soon forget and was well worth the cost!! Through the grace of God and the awesome performance of the GMC PU and the 5th Wheel Trailer, except for broken spring on the NJ Turnpike, we arrived home today, Nov 7th, safe and sound!!

Miracles still happen-- Tuesday, November 15th--A HOLE IN ONE was made by **LAINE SEVY** on the 12th hole at Saint George Golf Course. Sevy used a 31Degree hybrid for the 105 yard hole. This was the third hole in one for the 87 year old golfer

**Bob and Ardyth Biffel** with daughter Bonny Kangas went on the Crowne Princess from Quebec City for a 2

week cruise in October along the Eastern Coast to Florida to see the wonderful fall colors that the area is noted for.

Bob and Ardyth have driven that area before and wanted their daughter to see that beauty. Humm -- there was some colors, but mostly not. It was drizzly, overcast, and a little chilly, so Bob who was recuperating from a bad cold didn't get off the ship in Sydney, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Bar Harbor, Maine, or Newport Beach.

In Boston we all went for a drizzly tour in an old Army DUCK an amphibian vehicle. The tour guide was named Colo. Duck tape and had duck tape of all colors stuck everywhere on his clothes. He was a riot but knew his history. We learned a lot about our country and past history from him.

We didn't do much in New York City, as it was dusk when we sailed past the Statue of Liberty. By the time we got into warm waters we finally felt more at home. Charleston, North Carolina is one of Ardyth's favorite places to explore, so after a short walk around town, Bob took their shopping bags, of course, back to the ship to relax, while the two gals took a horse and carriage ride through the town. What a history buff that driver was. We felt we had gone back to school and was seeing history up close and in person.

The cruise was a little sad /sweet for us all. Our late son usually shared a balcony/cabin with his sister next to ours. We lost him early this year, so our daughter moved into our cabin for some fun times. A little tight, the roll away bed took a lot of room up, but we did fine. But for the next cruise which we have already booked, it will be in a mini suite so we all can have more room. LOL.

So any one wishing to go around the Horn of S. America with us in Jan. 2013 please ask us about it. It's a fun, beautiful cruise too. Happy Holidays to you all, and may your New Year be a prosperous, healthy, safe and happy one --- from the Traveling Biffel's.

**Dana Willard** when asked who the two ladies that were sitting next to him were wrote; we have two visitors with us today representing **Wes Gilkey** - They are **Millie Gilkey** and their oldest daughter **Terralea House**. In memory of Wes they picked up the check for all 30 of our breakfasts. Thank you ladies!!!

On a sadder note, we lost some D-10 QCCers or their spouses.

**Westley Monroe Gilkey** (Sept. 29, 1924 - Oct. 27, 2011) was born in Jamestown, North Dakota to Jeffrey & Birdie Gilkey. Westley grew up in Edgemont, South Dakota and upon graduating from Edgemont High he entered the Army, serving his country in WWII. Westley, at the age of 18 years old was a prison guard at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Westley went on to train and graduate from Fitz Simmons Hospital in Denver, Colorado and later assigned to an Army Medical Detachment Team.

He met and married his wife of 67 years, Mildred (Millie) Kuchda in Lansing, Kansas in 1944. He retired after 37 years as a Design & Construction Engineer from District 10. Wes was the primary designer on the relocation of Route 88 in Alpine County around the Red Lake area including the Carson Pass and the take off point for hikers to Round Top Mountain and many other beautiful Sierra Vista's.

Wes designed and implemented the design known as the "four leaf clover", the first being here in Stockton, at Highway 99 and Fremont Street. Engineers from Los Angeles came to view and adopt for their highway system. Wes took great pride in his work with the Highway 49 Bridge at what is now known as the New Melones Lake.

In addition, Wes volunteered to assist in the basic "operations" at the Farmington Cemetery. Wes was a contributing member of the American Legion and the Ed Stewart Post in Stockton, California. Wes was also an active member of The Willard Association, as part of it long line of lineage.



## December 2011

Wes is survived by his wife, Mildred Gilkey; daughters Terralea House and Vickie Savala, grandchildren, Terra Smith-Briel and husband Jon of Twenty-nine Palms, CA, Kern Albertson of Washington, Dion Foppiano and wife Diane of Atwater, CA and Johnna Bryant of Stockton, CA; great grandchildren, Bryan Schroyer, Richard & wife Patricia Bryant, Courtney & Westley Bryant, Sydne Anne-Marie & Andrew Westley Trull of Stockton, CA, Ridge Briel of Twenty-Nine Palms, CA and Tiffany Albertson of Alaska; great-great grandchildren Darrin Albertson of Alaska and the newest addition Gauge Bryant of Stockton, CA. He is also survived by his loving brother and best friend, Harrison Gilkey and wife Rachael; niece Carol Clemons and nephew Ronald Gilkey all of Stockton, CA; niece Glenda Teague and husband Jeff; great niece Nikki and Rachael Teague and great-nephew A.J. Teague of Agoura Hills, CA.

A special thank you to his daughter Vickie Savala, brother Harrison Gilkey and Vern Dorsch for their contributions. There was a celebration of Wes's life on Saturday, November 5, 2011 at noon at daughter Vickie Savala's home in Stockton.

**George Demetras** widow **Norma Hall Demetras**, 91, of Lodi, died September 28, 2011. She was born in Wellsville, Utah November 21, 1919, and raised and educated in Utah. Norma graduated from Utah State University with a teaching degree and married George Demetras on December 24, 1941.

**Robert F. Kraetsch** (16 Mar 1932 - 14 Oct 2011), a District 10 engineer for over 40 years passed away in Sumas, WA. on Oct. 14, 2011. A Private family Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

**Katherine Chan Bishop**, (April 4, 1942 - August 31, 2011) was born in Hong Kong, the daughter of the late Chi Pang Wong and Kam Shuk Ng, and the beloved wife of **Richard "Dick" Bishop** a District 10 retiree who served as branch chief in the surveys department.

Kathy was an active member of the Stockton Chinese Baptist Church. Prior to her retirement, Kathy worked

for Caltrans in Districts 10 and 6, as well as HQ Legal and HQ R/W. She served as R/W's planning and management person for a number of years. She owned her own business, "Silver House" for over 15 years. Other than her devotion to her family, Kathy enjoyed going on cruises, finding great deals shopping, and gardening.

There was a memorial celebration of Kathy's life at DeYoung Shoreline Chapel on Saturday, September 10, 2011.

- **Brian Young**

## *The Haps in District 11*

On September 20<sup>th</sup> 2011, Caltrans District 11 held its annual Employee Appreciation Day. The surprise guest speaker was **Tony Gwynn**, Baseball Hall of Famer and retired San Diego Padre. He gave a wonderful presentation and it was a delight and honor to have this San Diego County resident take the time to address the large audience assembled in the outdoor patio. The Quarter Century Club was represented by **Leslie Franklin** and **Jösan Feathers** who staffed a table at the event to recruit new members and to remind future members to join when they meet the time requirement. Cookies were available for all and new QCC members who signed up were each given a bar of Jösan's homemade aromatherapy soap. We recruited 6 new members including **Mark Bobotis**, **Ross Cather**, **Cheri Gouthier**, **Joe Hull**, **Steve Threlkeld** and **Catherine Bruce Johnson**. We also welcome additional new members for 2011, **Lon Ogdon**, **Linda & Gary Rinehart**, **Susie Baza** and **Vera Dolansky**. We thank our current members and new members for their support and encouragement. Tell a friend how much fun we have. Now let's recruit some more!

Thursday, January 19, 2012 @ 11:30 is D-11's next QCC Luncheon at Barra-Barra (the old Hambergesa) in Old Town. It's \$25 per person for a

Mexican food buffet, and last year it was yummy. If you haven't already made your reservation, please contact Leslie Franklin @ 619-466-1897. It was a great turnout last year, and we hope this event will be even better. We always welcome donated items for the raffle, and don't forget the 50-50 raffle as well.

On a sad note, D-11 lost two great people. Retired Caltrans Right-of-Way employee **Van Dawson** passed away earlier this month.

Van said in an earlier interview in the District's employee newsletter that after a successful career as stock clerk and bookkeeper for Paine Webber, Jackson and Curtis in Boston from 1933-1940, he was called to active military duty in 1940 and served as 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Calvary, transferred to the U.S. Air Force and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1962.

Van spent a brief two-year stint as Personnel Officer at California Western University in Point Loma before joining the ranks of the then-Division of Highways as an Account Clerk in 1964. Van was D-11's self-proclaimed "mean 'ol landlord," handling upwards of 100 rental accounts. He earned a Superior Accomplishment Award in 1980, the first year it was awarded.

Van retired from Caltrans in July 2007 at the age of 96 -- the oldest employee in state service at the time.

You can read an archived newsletter article about Van at this link:

<http://onramp.dot.ca.gov/dist11/pubafir/newsletter/Jul07/freeways.htm> .

It is regretful that we must announce that **John McAllister** passed away Friday morning December 2, 2011 with his family by his side in San Diego, California. It was just one week after Carol's Funeral Mass.

John's Funeral Mass was held at the Immaculata on Friday, December 16th, 2011 at 10am. John was a long time Traffic Operations engineer that developed

many innovative designs and techniques. He was a mentor to many Traffic engineers at D-11.

- **Leslie Franklin and Josan Feathers**

## *The Haps in Central*

**H**appy Holidays from Central District! We are having our annual holiday luncheon on December 14<sup>th</sup> at the Dante Club. Mark your 2012 calendar for our Spring Fling luncheon, Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, also at the Dante Club.

From **Gary and Julie Bush** - Julie and I just returned from a week's stay at our timeshare in Del Mar which is north of San Diego. We had incredible weather as we toured Safari Park and the San Diego Zoo. Both places are beautiful this time of year and all the animals were out basking in the sun. We visited several beaches where we picnicked and fed the seagulls. There were surfers everywhere enjoying the waves. All but a few hardy souls had full body suits as the ocean temperature was around 50 degrees...brrrrrr! The Scripps Aquarium has a really cool sea horse exhibit that's a must see if you're ever in the area.

We celebrated our 48<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, September 21<sup>st</sup>, snorkeling in the warm ocean off the Big Island of Hawaii, our favorite island. The two weeks we vacationed there were warm and breezy. We had a fun, relaxing time at our timeshare on the Kona side north near Waikoloa.

**Heinz Heckerroth** spent October traveling with two Roads Scholar (Elderhostel) Programs. He toured Washington DC the first week and then embarked on the Queen Mary 2 in New York to learn about D-Day and visit Normandy beaches and Paris. Both programs were great. Last week was spent in Germany to visit his cousin in Wiesbaden via Wolfsburg (the VW place). He traveled with the groups and on his own for the first time since Hope's passing. Meanwhile he continues to live in East Sacramento with frequent visits to the Mendocino coast to see family members

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who live there. He also continues to maintain his interest in and support for the California Transportation Foundation (CTF) since giving up the helm. He wishes everyone a Happy Holiday Season.

**Jack Derby** and his son Craig spent ten days on safari in Tanzania at the end of October. Saw 124 lions, five rhinos, eight leopards, 10 cheetahs, one rock python, thousands of elephants, zebras, buffalo and wildebeests. We spent time at Serengeti and Tanagire National Parks and two nights at the Ngorongoro Crater. It was a wonderful trip. Ellen plus her two daughters and a girl friend spent a week on the Big Island in Hawaii in November. Duck season has arrived so expect Jack to be out at the blind several days per week.

In September, **Brent and Linda Scott** attended a reunion of the military unit Brent was in prior to working for Caltrans. About 250 former military and wives met in Green Bay, WI. Linda and I got there about a week early and went to Springfield, IL to visit many of the historic sites associated with Abraham Lincoln, our 16th President. We visited his home, library, museum, office, etc. In Green Bay, we toured the Packer's Hall of Fame, and were in town to see their first game of the season with the New Orleans Saints.

- Gary and Julie Bush

### *Events*

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

#### **District 1 -**

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Retired 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 -**

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Retired Caltrans Ladies Lunch Bunch meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 11:30 AM, location varies. Contact Judy Tucker at [linedancerjudyt@citlink.net](mailto:linedancerjudyt@citlink.net)

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 -**

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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)

#### **District 4 -**

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

Contact: Ed Coble 925-645-4219,  
[edcoble49@astound.net](mailto:edcoble49@astound.net)

Administration Retirees Lunch meets on the third Wednesday of each month at the Mexicali Rose Restaurant in downtown Oakland at 11:30am. Contact Anita Appiano ([aappiano@pacbell.net](mailto:aappiano@pacbell.net)) or Kathy Freeman ([kathy.freeman1@att.net](mailto:kathy.freeman1@att.net)).

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

Contact: Jim Boulter 707-546-3097,  
[jboulter@comcast.net](mailto:jboulter@comcast.net)

#### **District 5 -**

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

#### **District 6 -**

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The 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:  
Don Phillips 559-781-2057

Informal Coffee at 8 am on Thursdays at Country  
Waffles at the NW 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 -

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The Tom Fera Monthly Luncheon Club meets on  
the second Wednesday of the month (except  
December) in Los Angeles.

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).

- 1-11-12 Steer N' Ale, 3644 E. Foothill  
Blvd, Pasadena (626) 796-2278
- 2-8-12 China Olive, 9224 Reseda Blvd  
Northridge (818) 998-3688
- 3-14-12 Joselito's West, 7308 Foothill  
Blvd, Tujunga (818) 951-2275
- 4-11-12 Steer N' Ale, 3644 E. Foothill  
Blvd, Pasadena (626) 796-2278
- 5-9-12 China Olive, 9224 Reseda Blvd  
Northridge (818) 998-3688
- 6-13-12 Joselito's West, 7308 Foothill  
Blvd, Tujunga (818) 951-2275
- 7-11-12 Steer N' Ale, 3644 E. Foothill  
Blvd, Pasadena (626) 796-2278
- 8-8-12 China Olive, 9224 Reseda Blvd  
Northridge (818) 998-3688
- 9-12-12 Joselito's West, 7308 Foothill  
Blvd, Tujunga (818) 951-2275

10-10-12 Steer N' Ale, 3644 E. Foothill  
Blvd, Pasadena (626) 796-2278

11-14-12 China Olive, 9224 Reseda Blvd  
Northridge (818) 998-3688

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### District 8 -

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Every Wednesday morning at 9:00 Construction  
Retirees and anyone else interested meet at Coco's  
Restaurant in San Bernardino.

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### District 9 -

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Contact: Lance Hinek, 760-873-3885,  
[hinek@suddenlink.net](mailto:hinek@suddenlink.net)

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### District 10 -

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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)

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### District 11-

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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)

Annual QCC luncheon on January 19, 2012 at the  
Barra Barra Saloon in Old Town.

11:30 AM

Call Leslie Franklin to RSVP  
619-466-1897

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### Central District -

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Call Gary or Julie Bush  
530-642-8208  
[zbusharosa@wildblue.net](mailto:zbusharosa@wildblue.net)



## Travel and History - Atlantic Canada

By Butch Biendara

This past summer my wife and I enjoyed three weeks in the Canadian Maritime Provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, also called Atlantic Canada, where we heard some different perspectives on history. You may recall lessons on the US Revolutionary war for independence and surmised that after the colonists defeated the 'Redcoats' and sent them back to England, the Colonists settled down and went back to farming or whatever their business had been. But did you ever hear the 'other side' of that story?

In New Brunswick, we heard that tens of thousands of colonists had been loyal to 'The Crown' during the revolution and were unwelcome in the new 'Republic' of the USA. Shortly after the war was over, 40,000 "Loyalist" colonists sailed north to settle in New Brunswick, (the 'English' Canadian Province just north of Maine), where they were given land grants proportionate to their support for the King in the failed defense of the 'Crown's colonies'. In New Brunswick and the other English provinces of Canada, especially "Prince Edward Island", those who stood beside the 'Crown' against the rebellion were proud 'Loyalists', especially their hero, Benedict Arnold, a traitor to the 'Rebels' in the US colonies.

In 1755, even before the revolutionary war, when the English found French Canadians living in that area with no allegiance to 'The Crown', the King decided it wise to send them back to France. Unfortunately, after years of living independently in Canada, those French pioneers were not welcome in Paris, nor were they eager to surrender their freedoms and return to the feudal rule of France. The next English ruse was to load over ten thousand of the French men, women and children (on separate ships, for 'social reasons' or 'defenselessness'), and to send them, not back to France, but to the Carolinas and Georgia. In effect dumping their problem peoples back onto the "Rebel Colonists's" southern flanks. Many were lost at sea or died from disease so that only the strongest survived the relocation. When the Catholic 'Acadians' met opposition in that new land and heard of fellow

Catholics to the southwest in the city of New Orleans, they headed that direction on foot, only to meet Spanish Catholics there, not French Catholics. Some 'connections' with the First Nation peoples along the way were not so biased, which has given us the mixed culture of English, French, Native 'Cajun' heritage along the south-west gulf states from Florida to N'awlins.

Other 'Acadians' were dissatisfied with the 'relocation, exile, deportation', and returned, (on foot), back to their homeland and resettled in the north coast area of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia around the Bay of Fundy. The English were still not willing to fully accept the foreigners living in their midst and set up schools for them, but using only English text and language in the classrooms for the next 20 years, so a generation of Acadians grew up with virtually no education and became mostly illiterate. In more recent history, 1960, with 1/3 of the population speaking French and 2/3 speaking English, New Brunswick has declared itself to be officially bi-lingual.

A week on the island of Newfoundland taught us some interesting recent history of that province. Although the rest of Canada joined into a confederation shortly after the US civil war, the Island of Newfoundland remained an English colony outpost for fishing until shortly after WWII. There are the remains of many US military bases there, where England allowed US outposts far to the east beyond US territory. After WWII, Newfoundland joined the Confederation of Canada in 1949. Until then, the population of Newfoundland had been scattered in remote fishing 'out ports' hidden in the many small coves along the rocky shoreline with no connecting roads and very little contact between them. The many generations living so remotely disconnected gave way to local dialects from one cove to the next just a few miles apart. Imagine that Boston, the Bronx, Brooklyn, New Jersey, Chicago, Atlanta, New Orleans, Dallas and Minnesota had small settlements just 20 miles apart over a high rocky ridge with no roads, but they were 150 miles away around the open ocean on a sailing trip in rarely good weather. Small close families of often less than 100 allowed for a lot of leeway in how the 'kids' keep up on grammar.

On joining the Confederation, the larger power and finances of Canada brought a movement from 1950 to 1970 to 'Resettle' the peoples of Newfoundland from the 'out ports' into larger towns where education and healthcare could be more easily provided and the 'Trans-Canada Highway' was finished across Newfoundland in 1965. In '80 oil was discovered in the north Atlantic and in '92 the endless bounty of cod was depleted with 12,000 fishermen out of work at the stroke of a pen. That brought several major changes to "Newfie" society in just a bit over 40 years, easily within the span of a single lifetime and the outcome of the upheavals is yet to be fully defined.

A real 'kick' we enjoyed was riding the whitewater jet-boat of the "Reversing Falls" at Saint John, New Brunswick where the 30-foot daily tides make for six foot high whitewater swells alternating in both downstream and upstream directions twice a day, every day. It was not a ride where you can stay dry!

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## **WELCOME**

<b>NEW MEMBERS</b>	<b>DIST</b>
Mary Ann Murphy	1
Gerald (Jerry) Re	2
Suzanne Connelly	3
Joy Hammons	3
Vivian Harmon	3
Guy Harris	3
Steven Kirkpatrick	3
Eileen Newton	3
Ed Stone	3
Algerine McCray	4
Kenneth Booth	6
David Gilstra	7
Theodosia Walker	7
Douglas Hogue	8
Duane L Sharp	8
Charlotte Sheehan	8
Linda Supernaw	8
Christine Wendland	10
Susie Baza	11
Mark Bobotis	11
Cathryne Bruce-Johnson	11
Ross Cather	11

Vera Dolansky	11
Cheri Gourthier	11
Joe Hull	11
Lon Ogdon	11
Gary Rinehart	11
Linda Rinehart	11
Steve Threlkeld	11
Loretta Y Gossett	Central
Christye Hatfield	Central
Randell Iwasaki	Central
Donna Springer	Central

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## **To Honorary Members**

Have you seen this option-

### **FREE PRINTED COPIES**

on the membership renewal form? Many of you have and didn't know exactly what it was for, or thought it was just a free subscription if you checked the box. Well, here is the rest of the story.

If you are at least 80 years of age, you are classified as an Honorary member of the QCC. Being an Honorary member qualifies you for a discounted rate for the printed QCCer or the electronic version of the QCCer for free (if you have a working email address). These dues rates are less than our cost of producing and sending the QCCer to you, so it's a pretty good deal. The other free option is for Honorary members who cannot afford the \$5 or \$10 rate and do not have a working email account. In other words, paying the dues would be a hardship for them. In this case, the QCC Constitution allows for the free delivery of the printed QCCer, if the Honorary member makes a confidential request to their QCC District Director, AND the Director provides written approval. This written approval is best sent along with the completed renewal form to the QCC Secretary/Treasurer.

So, if you think this may apply to you, don't hesitate to contact your QCC District Director. We don't want any QCC members to be left out.