



## Stay Connected!

*BUTCH ASKS: SHOULD ROSTER INCLUDE E-MAIL?*

### *From the Corner Pocket*

**N**ews has many variations so I'll start with the report that our QCC'er Editor Gene Berthelsen passed away on April 10. More info will follow later in this issue.

We have a new QCC'er Editor in Chris Thomas, a seven-year (and second generation), QCC member still working at Caltrans. His years of service at Caltrans have given him experience and talents for the task and he is one of a very few QCC members working in the hallowed halls of Caltrans. That inside connection may be a big help to find who are our "Candidate" members still working but we have a hard time contacting.

I offer my humble apologies for not staying on top of details that let the printing of the QCC roster, slip by last year. We are looking to make next year's version better than ever. Previously, listing just the members names, only let's you know that your good friends are still around and keeping current with their membership.

A few years back, when email first became popular, there were a few attempts to list the email address for those who wanted to share theirs. However, as the web

became corrupt, you had to be wary lest your email address invited hackers, scammers and worse as some of our members have learned the hard way (me too).

Might it be more helpful to let friends connect if we provided the option for 'Contact Info' to be included in the QCC roster? We might let each member have the option to add a second line of 'Contact Info' to their "Roster Listing" that could be their either their email address or their phone number. The QCC Secretary has some of that info on each member (but not all), and we would not print any contact info without your consent. However, if you requested that one item of your 'Contact Info' be published we could do so with an additional line if you wish.

One problem is that people change their email addresses and phone numbers often.

We could print yours in March 2012 edition and if you changed it in April it is no longer valid. Would you like to find old friends that may have moved, or do you wish that your friends could contact you even if you have a new phone number? If you would like to have your email address or your phone number

included in the next QCC Membership roster in the March 2012 edition of QCC'er, please let our Secretary know.

Is there a connection between the downfall of the world's economy and the significant drop in the number of QCC'ers renewing their membership? We hope that



the economy has not hit too many of our members too hard. If you know of a friend who has been dropped, and did not get this issue, remind them to get their QCC membership renewal in.

The QCC has been given the opportunity to provide articles for the Caltrans monthly newsletter. You can help our new Editor and the QCC recruiting efforts by sending in encouraging QCC stories. This will help our recruiting efforts by putting the QCC prominently before the eyes of many potential new members who are still working. The address of the March edition is <http://www.dot.ca.gov/ctnews/mar11>.

Butch Biendara, QCC President

**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>

***In Memoriam***

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

Name	District	Date
Bob McClary	01	March 26 2011
Harold Webster	01	March 27 2011
Ray Sweet	01	April 21 2011
Paul William Welty	01	April 24 2011
Virginia Lauff	03	2011
Karen Coble	04	2011
Ronald Sterling	04	April 25 2011
Gaylord Chur	04	March 21 2011
M W "Web" Beckstead	05	August 23 2010
Jon Patterson	05	November 29 2010

Colleen Bardelli	05	2011
LaVerne Hawkinson	05	May 9 2011
Wilma Grice	05	April 5 2011
Donald Burnes	06	February 19 2011
John Asher	06	May 18 2011
Jim Franklin	07	December 2010
Eldon Neff	07	January 24 2011
Frank Luchetta	07	January 29 2011
Gary Bork	07	February 18 2011
George Pearson	07	March 7 2011
Ralph Leon	07	March 26 2011
Jerry Holcombe	07	April 20 2011
Robert "Bob" White	08	March 29 2011
Tek Tanaka	08	March 17 2011
Fred Beck	08	March 21 2011
Kermit Otteson	08	May 31 2011
Ray Bocanegra	09	April 27 2011
Russell Waggoner	10	January 22 2011
Emanuel "Mal" Huun	10	March 5 2011
Harry Jyono	10	March 20 2011
Rose Lee Mah	10	April 26 2011
Christina Swayze	10	May 20 2011
James Watts	11	April 28 2011
George Ebenhack	C	March 11 2011
Gene Berthelsen	C	April 10 2011

**Index**

President's Remarks .....	Page 1
In Memoriam .....	Page 2
District 1 Report .....	Page 3
District 2 Report .....	Page 4
District 3 Report .....	Page 5
District 4 Report .....	Page 6
District 5 Report .....	Page 7
District 6 Report .....	Page 8
District 7 Report .....	Page 9
District 8 Report .....	Page 15
District 9 Report .....	Page 16
District 10 Report .....	Page 17
District 11 Report .....	Page 19
Central District Report .....	Page 19
Events .....	Page 20
Tribute to Gene .....	Page 22

### Honorary Members

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

## *The Haps in District 1*

**D**istrict 1 retiree, **Carl Zander**, was one of about 36 WW II veterans from Humboldt County honored to fly to Washington, D. C. to attend the new WW II memorial. We attended a welcome back party for them which included the ROTC, and the high school band and choir. What a thrill. Carl got a second honor with his photo and story of his WWII experiences making the front page of the local paper on May 30, Memorial Day.

**Blanche D. (Rusty) Kay** turned 104 in April. I have enjoyed many visits with her, talking about the Division of Highways and its people. She is the widow of **Alton F. Kay**, who was the Supervising Bridge Engineer, assigned to our District, and the mother of Retired, Sr. Trans. Engineer, **Alton "Bob" Kay**.

On April 21, we had our Caltrans retirees' lunch. Our group included **Ray Thomsen, Jim Boyd, Glenn Hoffman, Jim Long, Bob West, Jim Beagle, Mike Eagan, Tom Georgeson, Rita and Doug Coleman, Rick Knapp, Jim Lyon, Vi Truby, Harold Hallsten, Ed Scott, Bob Myers, Dennis Grinsell, and Jerry Haynes**, who was here from Washington State. We had not seen Jerry for a long time so we enjoyed his visit.

I made it to two fun retirement parties. **Doug Helton**, SSM I, Chief, Office of Project Management Support Unit, had his party on April 7, 2011 at Chapala's Café in Old Town, Eureka. **Gary Banducci** served as the Master

of Ceremonies, and speakers/presenters included District Director **Charlie Fielder** and his co-worker, **Paula Pavlich**.

**Terry Davis**, North Region Construction Manager, West Area, had his party at the Wharfinger building on the Eureka waterfront. Terry had reached out to the retirees and about 45 attended. **Larry Bowermaster** was the Master of Ceremonies. The speakers included **John Sherman, Rick Knapp**, and our District Director, **Charlie Fielder**. **Chuck and Pat SeCoy** came over from Redding to attend. Several employees thanked Terry for getting them started with their Caltrans career.

This was a very sad time for our District 1 family. **Bob McClary**, our retired District Survey Engineer, passed away on March 26, 2011, at age 83. He is survived by his wife, **Sonja**, also retired from District 1 Accounting Dept., his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He served with the Navy in the Pacific during WW II. He came to California in 1951 to work for Division of Highways. During his highway career, he spent time in Saudi Arabia running a survey program for a private contractor. He also had a private pilot's license and I used to see him regularly at the North Coast Vintage Aviation Society, where he was the greeter before the meetings. We attended Bob's memorial service, shared memories, and saw many friends.

Ironically, one of Bob's long time survey associates, **Harold Webster**, passed away the next day, March 27, 2011. He also started with the Division of Highways in 1951 and retired as District 1's Aerial Photogrammetry Engineer after 40 years of service. He had also worked in Design and Construction. He was from a Humboldt County pioneer family and his parents were able to attend his retirement party. We enjoyed seeing him and his wife, **Elizabeth**, often. We attended his memorial service at Eureka First Baptist Church with a reception

after to visit and share memories with his family and friends.

**Ray Sweet**, retired Deputy District Director for Administration, passed away on April 21, 2011, with his wife **Dottie** by his side. He was 86. He was a part of a Highway family. His father, **Charles P. Sweet**, and his brother, **Charles P. Sweet II**, also were District 1 employees, rising up through the ranks and leaving us quite a history. We attended his memorial at the Ingomar Club in Eureka, and enjoyed the celebration of a life very well lived.

**Paul William Welty**, retired District Maintenance Engineer, passed away on April 24, 2011, at age 84. He started his career in Bishop in 1951, then to Eureka in 1966 until his retirement after 39 years. He was instrumental in the initial application of the "Botts Dots", now referred to as raised pavement markers.

My deepest sympathies go out to the families and friends of **Bob, Harold, Ray, and Paul**. I had worked with all of them for many years and enjoyed seeing them after retirement. We will miss them very much.

Just a reminder, in case you have done some things you wish to share with the rest of us, my email address is [ahartin@suddenlink.net](mailto:ahartin@suddenlink.net).

—Arlene Hartin

## *The Haps in District 2*

**J**ohn Bulinski, Caltrans District 2 Director, gave a great talk on "Caltrans, the Good Things We Do" at our April Luncheon in Redding. The many in attendance were impressed with his presentation and we say a hearty "thanks" from all of us!

The **District 2 Quarter Century Club** will be hosting our annual picnic/luncheon at the Anderson River Park gazebo on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is welcome, so mark your calendars. Specific details will be sent out in a flier shortly preceding the event. Those coming from out of District can get information by e-mailing [shastaqcc@yahoo.com](mailto:shastaqcc@yahoo.com)

**Cameron and Lone Garbutt** recently took a trip to Maui with their daughter and son-in-law. The island was beautiful, taking tours north of LaHina and over to Hana. The luau was very good, and a day at the Aquarium was interesting. The condo where they stayed at Sands of Kahana had an ocean view. Mike did snorkeling every day and they had a very nice time.

**Burt Brockett** says they haven't been anywhere or done anything since tax season, and his wife has been doing volunteer AARP Tax-Aide work. He did find time to finish the Shasta Wheelmen 100 mile bike ride on May 1st.

**Jim Ceragioli** says that December 2010 found him and his bride on their way to Reno to spend Christmas day with his Grandchildren. Given the time of year and threat of snow, they rented a Jeep for the 4-wheel drive. As you can guess, they had dry pavement both ways. So, come New Years Eve, they went to Mt. Shasta Resort with another couple. Cold, crisp snow showers greeted them on arrival but cleared off. They spent three nights to get a deal, but had a good time playing cards and doing nothing much. Along comes February, and another trip to Reno for his Granddaughter's first birthday, and his Grandson performing in a musical. They did not rent a jeep this time, and sure enough, snow. They had to drive about 58 miles with chains on. It took six hours for a normally 3 hour trip. Since then, they've just been homebodies. The next trip to Reno will be on Memorial Day weekend for his Grandson's graduation from preschool.

**Bill & Michelle Belcher** both received some good news. Michelle has finally been accepted onto the kidney recipient list at U.C. Davis. She has been placed in the national database. Now the wait has begun. Bill was recently appointed to a vacated position on the Tehama County Arts Council Board of Directors.

— Bill Belcher

### *The Haps in District 3*

**W**e had our Annual Spring Party at the Peach Tree Golf and Country Club. It was well attended with 102 happy people in attendance. Table decorations, which consisted of potted plants, were given away, one to each person at each table via a number under one of the dinner plates. **Ethel Mae Waller**, the clubs Social Director, was awarded a special Certificate of Appreciation for her continued expertise and Membership Chairperson **Carleen Hagen** received another special Certificate of Appreciation for her outstanding work in building membership. The awards were presented by Director **Dan Johnson, Sr.**

A business meeting was held at the Yuba City Moose Lodge on May 26, 2011 with Membership Chair Carleen reporting four new members; **Vivian Harmon, Ed Stone, Susan Connley and Steve Kirkpatrick**. Dan discussed conducting a membership drive and it was decided he and Carleen would work together and come up with ideas.

Under Sickness and Distress, Ethel Mae Waller's husband, **Jim** is having skin cancer problems and **Virginia Lauff** passed away.

**Libby Haraughty** reported on progress with the District 3 history room located in

the new headquarters building in Marysville. Libby stated she learned lots while in Hawaii when she met with the curator of the Lanai Museum. Many ideas were discussed for displays, cabinets and etc. Libby will be sharing these ideas with our own history room committee and possibly incorporate some of them into the plan. The history room committee meets at the District Office the first Thursday of each month at 9:00 A.M. **Palmer Haug** and **Bob Mulchay** have been involved for some time helping sort through boxes and etc. Anyone wishing to get involved and help are encouraged to contact Director **Dan Johnson** at email [boots3@syix.com](mailto:boots3@syix.com) or call him at (530) 671-3889.

**Libby and Ed Haraughty** just returned from three weeks in Hawaii; one week on Lanai, reconnecting with old Hawaii, and two weeks on Maui, re-visiting their old haunts. Travels included beaches, trails, ancient churches, and shopping areas. Libby reports their horse was spoiled rotten by the time she and Ed returned. Their family took excellent care of the horse and even gave her a bath!

**June Otto** and her daughter, **Jan Agesen**, recently returned from a Pacific Coast repositioning cruise with Royal Caribbean. Although the weather was not the best, there many activities on board to keep them busy. June met her friend of over 60 years in Victoria, Canada which was the highlight of her trip. The two had worked together in Toronto, Canada and have kept in touch all these years. June will be celebrating her 85th Birthday in June surrounded by family.

Help is needed preparing for the two annual parties. We need help with mailing out invitations, name tags, door persons and so on. Anyone who can help is asked to contact **Dan** at (530) 671-3889.

Our next social function is scheduled for late October or early in November. Watch

this publication for the date. Members will also be sent out notices prior to the event.

We would appreciate any input on membership travels or any other news of interest. Please send your input to boots3@syix.com for inclusion in the next issue of the QCCer.

We also thank Susanna Ford for all her years providing news for this publication. She has relocated and will be missed.

— Dan Johnson, Sr.

## *The Haps in District 4*

In May my wife, Niki, and I along with her sister and husband celebrated the 90th birthday of her mother, **Marie E. Nelson**, a Quarter Century Club member at lunch at Skates on the Bay located on the Berkeley waterfront. The weather was perfect and the bay views spectacular. While we were there, we learned a nearby table was also celebrating their mother's 90th birthday.

Speaking of ladies in their nineties, I had mentioned in the last issue of the Cue See Seer that **Carl Bianchini** had gone to Italy to visit his 99 year old Aunt. He reports she is now 100 and still mentally alert and kicking.

Two other retiree groups that include QCC members are meeting on a regular basis.

Over the past few months, the attendance at the Admin Retirees Lunch seems to continue to grow. Now not all of the following have gathered together at one time but the retirees listed below do attend on a regular basis: **Ken and Katie Leytem, Don Shnarr, Dave Paulsen, Spencer Ng, Dan Hess, Anita Appiano, Clara Nichols, Kathy Freeman, Elsa Loaiza, Jenny Wong, Ruby Louie, Mike LeFaivre, Karen Cox, Glenna**

**Linn** (still working at Industrial Relations), **Frank Milani, Mike Neff, Tess and Eddy Villanueva**, and **Marlene Martin**. More recently **Beth Davies, Greg Bayol, Don Stratton, Yolanda Henderson, Anne Hohener, Lorraine Sato, Mike Hillard, Sal Priolo**, and **Drago Dolar** have joined this group at least once a year.

On March 30, 2011 a group of old and newly retired former Toll Bridge veterans met for lunch at Westlake Joe's in Daly City for the second time. Attending were, **Carl Bianchini, Joe Buell, Pat and Nora Batiste, Mike LeFaivre, Cornelius Harris, Bob Osborne, Laura and Larry Owens, Sal Priolo, Ronold Reed, Ann Freitas and Bethel Davies-Rodgers**.

Regretfully I have to report the passing of **Karen Alette Hanson Coble (Ed's wife), Ronald Sterling, and Gaylord Chur**.

**Karen Coble** was born in Red Wing, Minnesota. She married **Ed Coble** in 1959. Her biggest pride was her family. She is survived by her husband Ed, her daughter **Alette Coble-Temple**, granddaughter **Kathryn Temple**, stepdaughter **Beth Kreft**, and step granddaughters **Jeanette Kreft** and **Valerie Timm**. She advocated for her daughter with Cerebral Palsy and also for the disabled community. In past Cue See Seer issues I covered their struggles in support of their daughter and her husband, Robert to adopt a grandchild. This was a struggle with a Hollywood ending resulting in the adoption of a wonderful granddaughter, Kathryn who became the apple of her grandfather's eye. Karen will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

**Ronald Sterling** passed away at the age of 79 on April 25th. He was born on October 4, 1931. He served during the Korean War with distinction. As an engineer with the 36th Engineer Corp in the Sixth Army he received several service medals and a meritorious unit commendation. While on leave in Japan he met his future wife **Tomoyo** who he married in 1960. He was

unwavering in his love and devotion to Tomoyo who succumbed to cancer in 1975. He is survived by a sister, brother-in-law and two nephews.

**Gaylord Chur** passed away at the age of 78 on March 21st. He worked for Caltrans for 40 years. He worked on many bridges and tunnels in the State including the reconstruction the Caldecott Tunnel after the 1982 explosion and fire. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, **Lillian**, their daughter, **Elizabeth**, a sister **Diane** and a sister-in-law and a nephew.

— Contact Paul Hensley

## *The Haps in District 5*

**T**hank you to everyone who recently renewed their membership in QCC.

We were sorry to hear that our longtime editor **Gene Berthelsen** passed away. We always enjoyed his cheerful reminders to submit our news on time. Welcome to Chris Thomas who has taken over for Gene.

In April I attended the annual **Worker Memorial Ceremony** at the District Office. This was the 21<sup>st</sup> such ceremony to honor those workers killed on duty. Since 1924, 175 Caltrans employees have been lost, eight in District 5. Each was recognized with the placing of a rose atop the memorial rock in front of the office.

The local Chapter 10 of CSEA Retired Employees will hold their summer meeting and BBQ on July 28 at El Chorro Regional Park, beginning at 12 noon. The park is located off Highway 1 across from Cuesta College (about seven miles north of San Luis Obispo). Tickets may be purchased at the BBQ.

I'm sorry not to have more news of members' activities, travels, etc. We'd love to hear from you, so please drop me a note or e-mail.

(Some of the following news was accidentally omitted from the March newsletter, and I apologize to the families concerned.)

In December we learned that **M. W. "Web" Beckstead** had passed away on August 23 at age 88. Web and **Helen** had relocated to Sequim, Washington after his retirement as Deputy District Director.

**Jon S. Patterson** passed away on November 29 at age 64. Jon was a native of Santa Maria and worked for Caltrans 36 years. He served with the US Army in Germany prior to joining Right of Way. Jon is survived by his daughter **Jennifer** and his close friend **Sally Hopkins**.

**Mrs. Emma Reinhardt**, widow of **Ted**, passed away on December 18. She was a nurse who joined the Navy during WWII, where she met Ted, a naval aviator. After raising their family, she worked for several years for Dr. Crook at the old French Medical Clinic. Emma and Ted had moved to be near family in Rocklin.

**Pearl Cole** notified us that **Colleen Bardelli** had passed away in February. She worked with us in the Maintenance Office before becoming one of the first women to fill a Junior Engineering Tech position in Construction.

**Mrs. Wilma Grice**, wife of **Roy**, passed away on April 5 at the age of 76.

**Mrs. LaVerne Hawkinson**, widow of **Tom**, passed away on May 9. She was one of my long-time Sees Candy customers, and I enjoyed visiting with her each year. LaVerne had quite an interesting life as a Navy wife, including being evacuated from Shanghai, China during the Japanese invasion in 1937.

She is survived by her two sons and several grandchildren.

— Kathleen Copeland

## The Haps in District 6

**A**ndy Anderson celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup>

Birthday Party with family and friends on Saturday, March 5, 2011. Some in attendance were: **Jim and Carolyn Landy, Georgia Cordova, Lew Wagoner** and his wife, **Doris and Bud Rayburn, Tom Ashley** and his wife, **Ron DuBois, Ted Winter** and his wife, **John Wright** and his wife and **Aram Garabedian** and his wife.

From **Virgle Ray** talking about the good ole days!

Hi Terry - one forgets - some houses even had a door into the kitchen where milk bottles were delivered and would stay cool until put in the ice box, which was filled by the ice man, whom was greeted by an unlocked door even though no one was home.

We can laugh of those days, as life was simple - my Dad even rode a bicycle to work, though it was several miles or even at night.

The water heater stood in the kitchen, a door was opened to light the burner prior to needing hot water, no pilot or automatic operation.

Now we have two door refrigerators with ice and water dispensers and that's in the motor home, tee hee. Keep up the great attitude!!!!

Love, Virge

**Lee Halderman** reports that he and Joyce have decided it is time to downsize their

living arrangement. They have 3/4 acre near "downtown" Oakhurst and at 86 years of age it is just too much to maintain. Now all they have to do is get rid of 63 years of accumulation. Lee had a fall on his skis about a year ago. He needed help to get up and was so dizzy he could barely stand. So at age 85 he decided it was time to give it up. He says he can't feel too bad about it. He had 65 good years of the sport, spent 31 years on the National Ski Patrol, 2 years as a Professional Patroller, skied 33 different ski areas and was skiing the best of his life up to the last. What more could anyone ask for!! (side note from me since I was a fellow Ski Patroller with Lee; he is a great skier).

On April 1, 2011, **Josie Rendon** and **Carolyn Landy** flew from San Francisco to England and then on to Amsterdam, Netherlands (Holland) where they boarded an Avalon Waterways boat. This was the beginning of an 8 day trip on the canals and waterways of Holland and Belgium which included such sites as Kinderjilk, home of the famous windmills and the Keukenhof Gardens, famous for its tulips, Delta Water Works project which holds back the water from the North Sea and other small cities in Holland. They also visited Antwerp, Brussels, and Bruges, Belgium. Their trip ended in Amsterdam where they got to see some of the city and famous Red Light District. All meals on the boat were prepared fabulously. What a way to be pampered! Both highly recommend cruising the waterways of European cities.

**Ron DuBois** is the newly elected president of the Fresno Dixieland Society. Way to go.

**Barney Deeter** is having knee problems and had a shot in the knee in May in hopes of avoiding knee replacement. Let us know how that worked out, Barney.

**Eve Helm, Owen Helm's** wife, had a heart attack the first part of April and not only survived but is doing very well. Well



enough in fact to come to our Spring Luncheon.

**Alma and Ken Cartwright** celebrated their 16th wedding anniversary by coming to the Spring Luncheon, which was held on May 12th this year. In attendance were: **Gloria Adam, Shirley and Roy Andersen, Bill Bastian, Mary Berg, Corinne Cathcart, Alma and Ken Cartwright, Kay Chessman, Don and Virginia Chong, Georgia Cordova, Barney Deeter, Ron DuBois, Joyce and Lee Halderman, Eva and Owen Helm, Sandi Iley, Lee and Glenn Jensen, Carolyn Landy, Don and Barbara Milburn, Ken Oliphant and his wife, Barbara and Don Peterson, Doris and Bud Rayburn, Elaine Romagnoli, Jane Suo, Bob Thomason, Koke Uyeno, Bob Voss, Ted Winter and myself, Terry Littleton.**

**Bud Rayburn** is recuperated from cancer treatment and doing very well. He and **Doris** just celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary on April 30th with lunch at the Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite National Park. They said there were lots of photo opportunities and the waterfalls were spectacular.

On a sadder note:

**Donald A. Burnes**, 92, of Redmond, OR, formerly of Clovis died Feb. 19. He was an engineer for the state division of highways (Caltrans).

**John H. Asher**, 64, of Fresno died May 18th. He was a senior land surveyor with Caltrans and in road and highway construction for 18 years.

**Barbara Peaselee**, wife of the late **Don Peaselee** is suffering with stage 4 cancer and needs our prayers.

— Terry Littleton

## *The Haps in District 7*

**J**udy Reynolds Saves the Day (Who Knew?)

It was a bittersweet April Fool's day joke, and it got me good! I say bittersweet, because it occurred due to the illness of our beloved Newsletter Editor, **Gene Berthelsen**. Gene, the trooper that he was, gave us an extra month to prepare our articles for the QCC'er, still expecting he would get the March news letter out, only a bit delayed. **Butch Biendara**, the ever thoughtful leader, took on the task himself and decided to reinstate a March 10 deadline.

At the time, it felt like someone was playing an April Fool's day joke, be it Butch or Gene, or just having a plate that is too full of early March due dates. In retrospect, Butch made an appropriate decision, because Gene would not have been able to get out the newsletter, as he succumbed to cancer in mid-April, although I'm sure Gene would be having a good laugh about his inadvertent April Fool's day Joke, had he known!

Since Gene had given us an extra month, I was preparing for a just-in-time delivery, and in early March the only information I could relay on such short notice was an article from **Judy Reynolds**; so thanks to Judy, we had a newsletter submittal! And that is how Judy Reynolds saved the day!

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Lunch Anyone?

The monthly meeting of the **Tom Fera Lunch Group** may be just what you need. The group meets on the second Wednesday of each month, except December. The

calendar for the next several months is below:

#### RESTAURANTS AND PROPOSED LUNCHEON DATES FOR 2011/2012

[Second Wednesday of every month except December]

June 8, 2011	Steer N' Ale
July 13, 2011	China Olive
August 10, 2011	Joselito's West
September 14, 2011	Steer N' Ale
October 12, 2011	China Olive
November 9, 2011	Joselito's West
January 11, 2012	Steer N' Ale
February 8, 2012	China Olive
March 14, 2012	Joselito's West
April 11, 2012	Steer N' Ale
May 9, 2012	China Olive
June 13, 2012	Joselito's West

**China Olive Chinese Restaurant;** 9224 Reseda Boulevard, Northridge, CA 91324; (818) 998-3688

**Joselito's West Mexican Restaurant;** 7308 Foothill Boulevard, Tujunga, CA 91042; (818) 951-2275

**Steer N' Ale Restaurant;** 3644 E. Foothill Boulevard, Pasadena, CA 91107; (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).

"On the evening of December 5," **Tom Gildersleeve** shares, "I began an 'adventure' I would have preferred to bypass. That evening I tripped and fell over the cord to the electric blanket in our bedroom, and by the time it was all over I had a torn Achilles tendon in my right foot. I had surgery to put it back together on December 23, and am now definitely on the mend. Who would have thought the bedroom would be such a hazardous location."

**Tom** also relates, "A number of us visited the TOC recently, and it was a very nice facility. We wish to thank **Marco Ruano** for hosting us and **Wayne Peirce** for setting it up for us.

**Tom** also forwarded a brief article from the April 29, 2011, "Signal" regarding "Caltrans Honors Fallen Workers". Caltrans held a memorial for workers killed on the job. During the Department's 21st annual Workers Memorial, 175 workers were honored. 'Every day, highway workers put their lives in danger just by going to work,' said [former] Caltrans Director **Cindy McKim**. 'This memorial reminds us that we all must do our part to keep our state's highways safe by slowing down in work zones.' Caltrans and the California Transportation Foundation also developed two new funds that would benefit the families of Caltrans workers killed on the job. The Fallen Workers Assistance Memorial will help with the initial needs of surviving families. Next year, children of lost workers can apply for the Fallen Workers Children's Scholarship."

California's first freeway, the **Arroyo Seco Parkway**, turned 70 years old on December 30, 2010. It took great vision, cooperative effort and engineering prowess to create the Parkway, aka State Route 110/Pasadena Freeway, which is still an important route carrying 120,000 motorists a day.

To celebrate the anniversary, the District 7 Museum Management Committee designed and developed the exhibit, "Arroyo Seco Parkway - Dawn of the Freeway Age", which included priceless historic photos, implements of pre-computer engineering technology, then and now video footage and other memorabilia. Mike Miles, District 7 Director, strongly urged "all employees to view the exhibit and learn about the construction of this truly ground breaking roadway."

The District 7 Museum Management Committee was established last year to enhance museum space usage; for questions concerning the museum, please contact Norma Dorsey, D7 Museum Committee Member, at (213) 897-9862.

**Bob Akin**, recently asked some questions that many of you may have: "Does District 07 still have a Public Information Department? If so, do they still go to small community groups. If so, please give me a name, number and extension to contact them. I had that Department for almost two years. It was a great experience. I am putting together some items the museum might be interested in... Does District 7 have a library? I found I have a number of the old Highways and Public Works publications from the 50's and 60's, maybe a couple from the 40's. There are many photos of highways in several stages of construction, quite a few from District 7. I started in District 7 in 1949 and retired in 1988. I would be very happy to donate these to anyone interested.

"As a personal note, your Mother [**Marilyn Reece**] and I had adjoining "desks" in Branch A in the 50's'. I don't remember the last name of the Squad Leader. I think his first name was George. We were working on the 405 back then too. Both of us being from Minnesota, we recalled many times and places of the area. Several of us even went pheasant hunting out near Palmdale. I don't think we even fired a shot - too many other people around. Back to the present, on reviewing the magazines I found a copy of the March-April 1955 Issue of the magazine. There is an article on page 29 you may be interested in, concerning **Marilyn**. I'll forward it to you. Give me an address and I will send it on. I think it was her first introduction into the Division of Highways. Thanks," - **Bob Akin**, PE, retired

**Joan Murdock**, who served District 7 as the Deputy Director for Administration back in the early 90's, reflects: "It has been a long time since I left Caltrans in District 7, and

moved to Susanville, CA. Some of you know I took a position with DOC at the CA Correctional Center as Business Manager. I took the exam for Correctional Administrator. Six months later my Associate Warden retired. Interviews were scheduled and I was appointed because of having been at that level and did the best interview. I worked there until 1996 when I retired. High Desert State Prison had been built during that time, and they needed to staff up. I took the position of Associate Warden as a retired annuitant there until 2001 when they could find a permanent employee. At that point, I wanted to do some traveling and contribute to the community in other ways, and I had my mother for whom I needed to find adequate housing. She passed away in Oct. 2010 at 102 yrs.

"My life in Las Vegas is very busy when I'm home. My partner and I live in a gated community with a homeowner assn., and we have been on the board for that almost continuously since I moved here in 2004. We are also on the board for a non-profit foundation overseeing a recovery house for up to eight women who have addiction problems. I am a member of the Las Vegas Rotary Club, my fourth Rotary club over the past 24 years. I have had my share of physical problems allowing me to learn that growing old is not for sissies. Nevertheless, I work out at Curves up to five times a week, and help out wherever I can. I play poker with five other residents in our park every Sunday night for my weekly fun when we are not traveling.

"Since retiring, I have had the opportunity to travel to many places: England, Scotland and Wales, 2003; England in 2004; Moscow and St. Petersburg in 2005; Denmark and Sweden in 2006; Australia and New Zealand in 2007; the Isles of Great Britain on an ice-breaker, Polar Star, in 2008; Southern England and Wales, a driving trip to see Hadrian's Wall, and Durham, Scotland in 2009; and a river trip from Prague on the

Elbe River to Magdeburg, Germany and a tour bus to Berlin in 2010. This year is a second trip on the ice-breaker Polar Star to Norway Fjords and across to the Arctic Circle and the island of Svalbard where we hope to see some wildlife like polar bears.

"Travels in the US in between all of these trips have included a yearly trip for a week on Clearwater Beach, FL, and two weeks every summer on Fire Island, NY. Shorter trips include the Inside Passage in AK, Mt. Rushmore and the Badlands and Wounded Knee, SD, The Big Apple, NY, Washington DC, Oahu, HI, Great Train Escapes through Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island; and trips to see my two sons in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, and Redding, CA.

"That sums up my life after Caltrans until now. Who knows what's next. If you want to know more, email is the best way, although I am on Face book for friends." **Joan Murdock** - [joanhm255@hotmail.com](mailto:joanhm255@hotmail.com)."

**Paul Perez, Marvin Lim, and Millie Yamada** reported on May 24th, **Chuck Yee's** wife informed **Marvin**, that **Chuck Yee** is in Garfield Hospital since the evening of Thursday May 19th in the ICU. "Let's all pray for his speedy recovery." - **Marvin**

**Bill Weldele** was at Mimi's restaurant on Mother's Day in Whittier.

**Tom Almany** was at the District 7 District Office, checking on projects.

**Dave and Helen (Ortiz) Gilstrap** at the Skydreamers exhibit at the Autry National Center of the American West (formerly Museum of Western Heritage). **Helen**, who worked in District 7 Public Information Office, is still active over at Metropolitan Transit Authority (aka Metro).

Speaking of Metro, **Frank Quan** and **Cleave Govan** have changed hats and headed over to Metro, to work on the

pending 710 extension through South Pasadena.

**Vince Martinez**, celebrating 27+ years of service at his retirement luncheon on March 2, 2011, at the Sizzler Restaurant in Lancaster.

**Greg Damico**, after 31-years of service, celebrated at Luminaria's Restaurant in Monterey Park, on Saturday, March 5. I thought something was afoot when I saw him carrying boxes to his car!

**Beverly Swilley**, after 30-years of service with many of them in District 7, has a luncheon in her honor on March 17, 2011 at the Sayaka Restaurant in Colton. She will retire to St. Louis, Mo. to be with family and friends of the Red Hat Society.

A coffee to celebrate the long career of **Doris T. Nakamura**, was held March 22, 2011, in the District 7 District Office. Doris is most noted for her time in Design A and Maintenance Office Support.

**Gary Franken**, after 31-years of service, many of them in District 7, enjoyed a coffee celebration on March 23, 2011, in the District 12 District Office.

Another District 7 Alumnus, **Wes Lum**, celebrated 31 years of hard work and dedication at a luncheon on March 30, 2011, at the Dante Club in Sacramento.

**Raja Mitwasi**, celebrated his farewell retirement luncheon on April 12, 2011, at the Monterey Hills Steakhouse in Monterey Park. Raja served briefly as the Chief of the Southern Region Materials Lab in Fontana.

A farewell luncheon honoring **Tom (Tai) Cho**, after 29 years of service, was held April 27, 2011 at OIWAKE Japanese Buffet in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles.

Our members enjoy hearing of your recent and not-so-recent escapades, so keep us informed! 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). You can reach **Tom Almany** directly at 17200 So. Stark Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90701-1822.

Don't forget to send **DUES, (checks) new membership applications, and honorary member status information, to Mike Ogilvie**, QCC Secretary-Treasurer. His address is:

**Mike Ogilvie**  
[m.ogilvie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m.ogilvie@sbcglobal.net)  
 PO Box 421292  
 San Diego, CA 92142

**Bob Jordan** reported in late December the passing of **Jim Franklin**, "Jim passed away sometime in October. His son and daughter-in-law moved him up to their home in Lake Tapps WA, in the summer to be with family. Their address is: Mr. & Mrs. James Franklin, 415 207th Avenue, E. Lake Tapps, WA. 98391.

More sad news from **Bob Jordan** regarding **Eldon Neff**. This note arrived in mid-January, "I spoke to **Eldon's** son **Carl** this evening to check on **Eldon's** condition after his surgery to remove his right foot (caused by diabetes). He informed me that **Eldon** passed away last night, [January 14] at Kaiser Hospital in Downey." A grave side Service for **Eldon** was held January 24, 2011 at Rose Hill, in the Garden of Remembrance.

**Tom Gildersleeve** reported on February 3, 2011 an article from the L.A. TIMES, an Obituary of the passing of **Frank Luchetta**. He worked for the Division of Highways for 40 years as a land surveyor. He passed away Jan. 29, 2011 in Alhambra. His rosary and funeral Mass were held February 7th, at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Alhambra.

**Chuck O'Connell** reported on the February 18, 2011 passing of **Clarence George (Gary) Bork**, age 89. **Gary** was a long time District 7 employee and former

Branch Chief in Traffic Operations. **Gary's** obituary noted he spent his entire professional career with Caltrans, where he worked for well over thirty years. He introduced and improved the diamond lane and ramp metering concepts, benefiting motorists through improved travel time and safety. He also co-patented cement water traffic dividers, or Water Carry Barriers. **Gary** is survived by two sons, a granddaughter and two great-grandchildren. His services were held on February 28th at Mausoleum Chapel, Forest Lawn Cemetery, Long Beach.

**Jim Renshaw** reported that he "received a letter the other day from **Steve Fields** notifying me that his father, **George Pearson**, [born March 9, 1913], had passed away on March 7, 2011. **George** worked in Construction Branch with **Dave Gentry, Dick Bek**, myself and I don't know how many others. He was living with his son in Colorado. We had always kept in touch at Christmas time and I talked to him on the phone last year."

**Tom Gildersleeve** reported on the passing of **Ralph F Leon**, age 85, of Fillmore, peacefully on March 26, 2011 at Fillmore Convalescent Center surrounded by his loving wife and family. **Ralph** was born on September 19, 1925 in Los Angeles. After graduating from Fillmore High in 1943, he soon after became a member of the U.S. Army Air Corps serving honorably during WWII in the Pacific Theatre until August 1, 1945, to continue his education. He received his Bachelor's Degree in civil engineering from the University of Southern California in 1952. All of his education prepared him for his position as a senior bridge engineer, having retired in 1989 after 37 years of service. He enjoyed coordinating family functions, especially annual family reunions. An avid traveler, he traveled all over the United States, Europe, Mexico, Canada and Africa. He was active in several churches, and memberships in the VFW, Knights of Columbus, Optimist, Oddfellows, Toastmasters and California

Parliamentarians.

**Ralph** is survived by his wife, **Rosemary**, sons **Ralph Jr.**, **Gabriel**, **Jose Luis**, and **Gilbert**, daughters **Marguerite**, **Susanne**, and **Patricia**, sisters **Eva** and **Lupe**, brother **Jess**, 22 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. **Ralph** was preceded in death by his sister **Elena** and brother **Elias**.

In early April 2011, **Frank Gaudenzi** of North Region Maintenance reported, "It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of **Jerry Holcombe**. **Jerry**, the former Area Superintendent in North Region, retired from State service in October 2007 with 40+ years of service. He will be truly missed. The family has asked that if you know any retired employees, please let them know." **Mac Hunter** and **Carol Huntwork** also forwarded the information regarding the memorial service, which was held on April 14, 2011 at San Fernando Rey Mission. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to "The Leukemia Lymphoma Society".

**Louise Griffin** sent a touching personal note to report that **Wallace (Wally) Griffin**, my dear husband of 65 years, passed away April 22, 2011. He worked in Design mostly with some time at the Vincent Thomas Bridge in San Pedro. This created a long commute from the San Fernando Valley. - **Louise Griffin**, Grass Valley, California. (May we all be blessed with so many years with the person we love - KRS)

**Carol Huntwork** reported on the passing of **Hank Elizagaray** on May 3, 2011. His service was held on May 16, 2011, at Wee Kirk of the Heather, Glendale Forest Lawn. **Carol** had been in touch with **Hank's** wife, **Arline**, during his terminal illness from fibrosis, and encouraged people to visit him at Kaiser Sunset, during his last weeks. "May **Hank** rest in peace. He was a good guy." - **Carol**

**Tom Gildersleeve** reported on the passing of **Lawrence (Larry) D. Whiting**, 75,

Ventura resident for 56 years, peacefully at home on Monday, May 9, 2011, after a brief illness. **Larry** was born in Bellflower, Calif., June 11, 1935. He attended schools in Hemet and San Jacinto, CA. before moving to Santa Paula. **Larry** had a multi-faceted career, working for United Water, then twenty years with Caltrans, then ten years as a business owner of a popular cocktail lounge, The Pump Room, and returning to Caltrans until his retirement in 2001. **Larry** kept a busy schedule with a Monday breakfast group, a Tuesday dinner group, and a Thursday afternoon Texas Poker group. A loyal fan of Ventura College Basketball, **Larry** loved people, was a good friend to many, and will be missed by his family and so many, many friends. **Larry** was a regular at the QCC luncheons. He is survived by his wife of 18 years, **Mary**, and six daughters: **Mary**, **Terrie**, **Carrie**, **Debbie**, **Donna**, and **Diane**; and eight grandchildren. Memorial services were held May 13, 2011 at the Ted Mayr Funeral Home in Ventura.

**Millie Yamada** and **Oswald Elizondo**, of the Traffic Division, report the passing of retired Caltrans employee and former retired annuitant, Mr. **James Kawamoto**, during a mid-May weekend at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Mr. **Kawamoto**, a former internee of the Poston, Arizona, Internment Camp, served in the Armed Forces during World War II, as a medic stationed in Italy. He graduated from the University of Southern California and became a lifelong fan of Trojan football. Mr. **Kawamoto** worked for many years at the Office of Traffic Design and as a retired annuitant was affectionately known at the office as "The Chief". Mr. **Kawamoto's** family has indicated that his funeral services would be private.

#### WAKE UP!

Don't be shy! We want to hear happy news too, so send items to **Kirsten**, or as you can see, all we'll have would be sad news.

—*Kirsten Stahl*

## *The Haps in District 8*

On March 17, 2011 a retirement luncheon was held for **Beverly Swilley**, Associate CT Administrator, at Sayak's Japanese Restaurant in San Bernardino. Approximately 39 friends and coworkers had a delicious luncheon of chicken, beef or vegetarian, with soup, vegetables, rice, beverage and cake for dessert.

Beverly is retiring with over 30+ years of state service. She worked for several State agencies, including Districts 7 and 8. She is moving to Missouri to be with her daughter and the rest of her family, the Red Hatters and travel. Beverly, you'll be missed by all your Caltrans AND Bunco friends.

Our new QCC President, **Wesley Grimes** and his wife, **Linda**, celebrated 50 years of marriage on April 10<sup>th</sup> at the El Rancho Verde Country Club in Rialto. A delicious buffet was enjoyed by approximately 100 family members and friends; including a large group from Caltrans. Friends and family came from far and wide and a great time was had by all. Wes, Linda, and sons recounted many memorable anecdotes of their long and happy marriage.

Our previous QCC President for many years, **Taylor Smith** and his wife also had a wedding celebration, their 65<sup>th</sup>! They celebrated their anniversary on May 14<sup>th</sup> at Hannah's Restaurant in San Bernardino with over 42 family and friends from Virginia, Oregon, and right from good old San Bernardino, part of the Inland Empire. A delicious lunch of prime rib with all the trimmings was enjoyed by all in attendance. Especially nice was that each person selected their prime rib (well done to rare) and it was served to perfection. Cake and ice cream was enjoyed by all.

Taylor introduced all his family members in attendance and spoke on their married life, tips for everyone, several jokes and then anecdotes on how and when he met everyone! Yours truly thought that was very nice and made everyone feel at home. I believe Taylor is already planning for their 70 anniversary.

I received a note from **Doreen Case** who worked for the Division of Highways during the mid 1940's and was married to **Henry Case**, "a real engineer". She was a Draftsman Delineator. He has gone on to a higher level. Some of her memories are of being knocked off the stairway of the old building by **E. Q. Sullivan**, a crusty District Engineer, having tea with **Lulu Hague** and **Jake Jacques** saying to her some day her prince would come. She goes on, I have outlived many but the **Barnetts** and **Frances Jacques** are still around.

Doreen goes on to say she lives in the nice home Henry built for her next to Cal Poly in District 5. She has taken up square dancing again. She inherited the pistol used by the first sheriff in Orange county, joined the NRA, but doesn't want to be put to the test! She is close to Highway 101 and her telephone number is 805-543-7138. Our traffic is a little much these days, but she lives in a great area for sightseeing.

Yours truly received a note from President, **Wes Grimes** that **Jim Hammer** who started in District 8 as a graduate from Cal State Northridge continues with his career in the following announcement (excerpted): Vanir Construction Management, Inc. has hired Jim Hammer as the firm's new transportation market segment leader. Hammer is a former Caltrans executive and has managed a \$600 million project for the state highway agency in Stanislaus County. Congratulations Jim!

I also had a note from **Taylor Smith**, our illustrious retired QCC President, that he's

been planting and working in his garden and is going on a guided fishing trip on Lake Shasta. "Good Luck Taylor"

On a sadder note, we lost several long time Caltrans retirees since the New Year.

On March 29, 2011, Retired Regional Manager **Robert White** passed away. **Bob** was the Region Manager based in the San Bernardino Mountains when he retired in 1986 after 33 years of state service with the Division of Highways and Caltrans. He started in Barstow in 1953; promoted to Foreman in 1963; to Superintendent in 1970; to Senior Superintendent in 1977; and became the Region Manager in 1981. Our thoughts and prayers go to all his family and friends.

**Tek Tanaka** passed away at a rehab facility in Ontario on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Tek Tanaka was in the ICU convalescent unit of the Riverside Community Hospital from November 1, 2010, until early March, 2011 for atrial fibrillation heart valve repair and leak syndrome. He was recuperating well until suffering a sudden cardiac arrest.

Tek started in District 8 in 1954 in the Construction Branch and left the district to work for Riverside County, retiring in 1999. Our thoughts and prayers go to all his family and friends.

Maintenance Superintendent, **Fred J. Beck**, passed away on May 21, 2011. Fred retired as the superintendent in Barstow after a 44 year career. He was a Navy veteran and worked for the Forest Service before joining Caltrans. He was active with the Sheriff's Reserves, a member of the Knights of Columbus, a devoted great grandfather and family man. He will be missed by many.

**Kermit Otteson**, 85, passed away May 31, 2011. Kermit was the longtime companion to **Evie Anderson**, one of our faithful QCCers who retired from Caltrans as a graphic artist. Kermit was a retired music

teacher and was well known in the San Bernardino and Riverside area as a featured musician at The Mediterranean Restaurant and the San Bernardino Elks Lodge. Evie writes that she has lost her significant other to pneumonia. He died after a couple of bouts in the hospital and time in the care facility where he lived. They were together for five years and four months.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Evie and I'm sure Kermit is playing the piano in heaven for all to hear and enjoy.

#### SUMMER LUNCHEON

Our summer luncheon will be held July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011, the second Saturday at Hannah's Restaurant in San Bernardino at 12:00. Notices will be going out towards the end of June. Please plan on attending.

— Marsha Lotze

## *The Haps in District 9*

**B**arbara and I went to the Mule Day Parade and did not see any Quarter Century Club Members but did see many mules and some horses.

**Ray Bocanegra** passed away April 27, 2011 in Round Valley near Bishop. He was 79 years old. Ray worked for Caltrans for 25 years in Design and Administration. After retiring he worked for Kern County Public works and San Bernardino Road Department. Our condolences to his family and friends.

— Lance Hinek



## The Haps in District 10

**D**istrict 10 retiree's continue to meet for breakfast on the last Tuesday of the month at Denny's on March Lane at I-5 in Stockton. On March 29 there were 27 present.

**Boots & Barbara Cureton** paid a visit from Auburn. He says they are enjoying life at Lake of the Pines (between Auburn and Grass Valley). They have planned a month long trip to Turkey & Greece in May and are expecting their 7th great-grandchild any day.

On May 21<sup>st</sup> the **Biffel's** Luau at Micke Grove helped explain what the 1000th moon for **Bob** was all about. You may not believe this, but a few of the people who came to the Biffel's Luau at Micke Park on May 21<sup>st</sup>, came only to find out what the 1000th moon for Bob was all about besides the "80 - 60 - 80". He has the formula if you care to get it from him.



**Bob and Ardyth** both turn 80 this year, and on May 6th they celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary. So they threw a Hawaiian Luau for friends, neighbors and family

members. Many of the Denny's Caltrans Breakfast group attended too. They were greeted with Leis and Mai Tai's, along with other drinks, soft and otherwise. Hawaiian BBQ Beef, Hawaiian Chicken, Chicken Katsu, rice, and fresh fruit of all kinds were on the menu. 2 huge cakes, one for their birthdays

and one for their Wedding Anniversary were enjoyed by all.

It was a perfect day for an outdoor party and we think all enjoyed it as much as we did. It is always nice to remember old times with friends. ( you notice I left out the OLD part with the friends I hope. ) Congressman John Garamendi sent them a Proclamation for their 60th Anniversary and for Bob's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

"We want to thank you all for coming and the lovely cards and gifts too. We may have to throw another party in October when Bob celebrates his much looked forward to 1000th moon. Aloha friends."  
- Bob and Ardyth



The Denny's Caltrans Breakfast group had 34 present on May 31<sup>st</sup>. **Darrell Merritt**, graced the group with his presence and four of the groups octogenarians (**Dana Williard 89, Vern Dorsch 88, Wes Wilkey 86, and Elton Fletcher 85**) were present. Also attending was **Virginia Evinger** who is 90.

**Al Wells** just returned from a week Kayak trip in Northern Michigan with old high school friends. It is an annual trip with last year's trip down the Manistee River to Lake Michigan and this year the Au Sable River to Lake Huron. It is a geezer trip with mostly retired people; a college professor, a surgeon, a geologist, an air force officer, etc. Al is looking forward to a fishing trip to Alaska for a week in July and a cruise to the Baltic countries in August.

**Russell Jason Waggoner**, a loving husband, father and grandfather, passed away on January, 22, 2011 in Auburn, CA. He was born on May 31, 1919 in Santa Rosa, CA where he attended school. After graduation he joined the U.S. Marine Corps, serving in the South Pacific during World War II, and after being released, he was called back to duty for the Korean conflict, for which he was awarded the Silver Star. Returning to civilian life he worked as an Equipment Superintendent for Caltrans, until his retirement. He enjoyed traveling around the country in his 5th wheel trailer whenever time permitted. He will be deeply missed by his wife of 69 years, family and friends.

**Emanuel (Mal) Alfred Huun**, a longtime Stockton resident, passed away on March 5, 2011 at the age of 83 after a valiant battle with multiple myeloma. Mal was born in Glidden, Wisconsin but departed the state in 1945 to join the U.S. Navy where he served stateside during the end of World War II. Following his military service, he entered Michigan Tech, where he employed his exceptional math skills to earn a degree in Civil Engineering. Seeking a warmer climate after graduation, he went west to Stockton, CA where he met and married his wife of 53 years, **Arlene Young**. Mal worked at the California Division of Highways for 40 years during which time he and Arlene raised three boys. He is survived by his wife; three sons, Paul (Kathleen) Huun of Salem OR., Mark (Julie) Huun of Denver, CO and Robert (Sherill) Huun of Elk Grove, CA. and six grandchildren. His grandchildren, Cassidy, Collin, Jack, Kate, Abby and Emma Huun will remember their grandfather as an unpretentious man who enjoyed simple pleasures, like a sunny day, a good game on T.V. and a nice meal. Services were held at San Joaquin Catholic Cemetery on Friday, March 11, 2011 at 10:00 am in the Mausoleum.

**Harry Michiharu Jyono**, age 75, of Lodi, California passed away on March 20, 2011 at home following a lengthy battle with cancer. He was born to Matsuo Joe and Miyoshi

Grace (Yamashita) Jyono on April 21, 1935 in Oakland, CA. Following the family's release from internment camp, they moved to Lodi in 1948. Harry attended Lodi High School where he graduated in the class of 1954. He then attended Delta College and received his AA Degree.

Harry worked for State of California Highway Division (Cal Trans) for 42 years, first in Lodi-Stockton area, then was transferred to San Francisco, later to San Jose for 15 years, and he retired as an engineer. He returned to Lodi following his retirement.

He was a member of the Lodi Buddhist Church, and enjoyed target shooting, sail boats, and reading. Harry was a caring and loving uncle, who was always there to help the family. He will be dearly missed by all the family, and those who knew him. He is survived by two brothers, Bob and his wife Maria Jyono of Lodi, and Earl Jyono of San Francisco; nephew Mark and his wife Kelli of Lodi; niece Ann of San Pedro; a grand-nephew Kai; 2 grand-niece's Nyah and Mylie; and cousins and uncles.

A Memorial Service was held on Saturday, April 2, 2011, at 2:00 p.m. in the Lodi Buddhist Church, 23 N. Stockton St, Lodi. Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki officiated and internment was private at Cherokee Memorial Park.

**Rose Lee Mah** passed away in Stockton, CA on April 26, 2011 at the age of 84. Rose was a life-long resident of Stockton, working at Caltrans for over 20 years. Rose is survived by **Robert Mah**, her husband of 62 years; son Randy and wife Mary of Tustin; son Ricky and wife Patricia of Pleasanton; grandchildren Brandon, Ryan, Daniel, Erin, Regan and Alexander; brother King Lee and sister Virginia Lee, both of Stockton.

Rose was a kind, loving, and supportive wife and mother, with a great sense of humor. She enjoyed her grandkids, cooking, bowling, traveling, game shows, cards, and family parties. She will be deeply missed.

Private services were held on Sunday, May 1st. There was also be a Celebration of Her Life Luncheon for family and friends at China Palace Restaurant, Stockton, CA on Sunday, May 15th,

**Christina Mary Swayze**, 62, passed away on May 20, 2011 in Lodi. She was born in Stockton on Dec. 18, 1948 to Eleanor and John Felix. Christina was raised in Stockton and graduated from St. Mary's High School. She moved to Sacramento to begin her career. It was there that she met her husband, **Thomas Swayze**. She began working for Caltrans in the Sacramento office in the '70s and retired to Lodi. She spent her retirement enjoying her three grandchildren and keeping in touch with her extended family of cousins, aunts and uncles.

Surviving are daughters Elizabeth (Diego) Swayze Texca of Stockton and Jennifer (Justin) Thompson of Lodi; three grandchildren; Robert, Alejandra and Thomas; brother John Felix; sister Lisa (Robert) Schmidt and mother Eleanor Felix.

Preceding her in death were her beloved husband Thomas Swayze and father John Felix. Friends and family were invited to attend a memorial service held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Tuesday, May 31 at Galt Funeral Home.

—Brian Young

## *The Haps in District 11*

**D**istrict 11 did not submit an entry for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

## *The Haps in Central*

**T**he Central District held their Spring Fling Luncheon at the Dante Club on April 14, 2011. Attendance was down from previous luncheons, but those that attended had a wonderful time. We gave a toast to **Gene Berthelsen** in remembrance of all that he has done for those of us in the Central District. He will be missed.

We had guests from District 3 attend our luncheon. **John and Marie Allison** came down from the north to be at the luncheon. Retirement is really agreeing with John as he looks great.

The following are messages from some of our members who attended the luncheon.

**Ray and Addie Forsyth:** Same ole, same ole! Still have 5 o'clock cocktail hour and brandy after dinner. Look forward to the QCCer gatherings. They are a great group. We will miss Gene very much!

**Joe Thomas:** Hi everyone. I just want you all to know - I'm alive and kicking! I hope you are too.

**Jim and Florine Rae:** Enjoyed the luncheon this year very much. We picked up **Cal and Joyce Peterson** and it is good we did as they had forgotten about the luncheon.

**Dave Crane:** Not much new with us. No grandchildren graduating from anything this year. Will go to Washington (State of) this summer to see relatives, and have a get together with my High School Class of '43. (Castle Rock). We enjoyed getting together with friends at this luncheon. Jan and I traveled to the Grand Canyon this year, and

also spent the month of February in Kona, Hawaii.

**Ileen Jellison:** Last May I traveled all around Ireland and spent a day researching my Grandfather's roots. In May this year I'll be visiting the Southern States. In September, I am going to Hawaii for a seven day island hopping cruise.

**Elizabeth Abersold:** It was wonderful to see everyone at our Spring luncheon. Look forward to our Luau BBQ in September.

**Gary and Julie Bush:** Got back recently from a trip to the east coast. We visited our son, Erik, and family in Lake Waccamaw, NC. Saw our one day old great-grandson and then off to Myrtle Beach for a week. Not a place to be in tourist season. It was then off to Petersburg, VA for a night and a visit to the Petersburg battlefield which is noted for the North digging a 500 foot tunnel under the Confederates and then igniting an explosive charge that created a huge crater which is still visible today. We visited the Capitol of VA which is Richmond. The Capitol is a very impressive building and was designed by Thomas Jefferson. We then proceeded north to Laurel, Maryland for four days. Also, went to DC, Julie's birthplace, two days and then a side trip to Gettysburg, PA. They have recently opened a new visitor center at Gettysburg which is beautiful. The end of May we are off for a seven day land tour of Alaska and then a seven day cruise back to Vancouver, BC. That will hold us until September. We will have a two week visit to the Big Island to celebrate our 48<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary!!

- Gary and Julie Bush

**Ray & Beebe Fisher** just returned from a trip to AZ visiting Relatives & Snowbird friends. Ray is also leading a group of 21 fellow Baptists to Newport (OR), June 8 & 9, to visit the Hatfield Marine Science Center & the Newport Aquarium, former home of Keiko the Whale & still a very popular site at the Coast. - Ray Fischer

**George Ebenhack** passed away March 11, 2011, at the age of 96. He retired December 18, 1975 and was a pavement specialist in Headquarters' Design. His wife, Helen, passed away at the age of 92 on 5/30/2010.

- Fred Jackson

Upcoming events for the Central District:  
**BBQ Luau** at College Greens Swim and Tennis Club, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 4p.m.  
**Holiday Luncheon** at the Dante Club December 14, 11am

- Gary and Julie Bush

## Events

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

### District 1 -

**Ret'd Highwaymen and Road Agents** meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the months of January, April, July, and October at 11:35 am at the Hometown Buffet at the Bayshore Mall in Eureka.

### District 2 -

**Retired Caltrans Ladies Lunch Bunch** meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month between 7:30 and 9 am at the District Office snack bar at 1657 Riverside Drive Redding.

**Annual picnic/luncheon** at the Anderson River Park gazebo on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is welcome. Specific details

will be sent out in a flier shortly preceding the event. Those coming from out of District can get information by e-mailing [shastaqcc@yahoo.com](mailto:shastaqcc@yahoo.com)

**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)

**District 4 -**

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 first Wednesday of each month at the Mexicali Rose Restaurant in downtown Oakland at 11:30am.

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

**District 5 -**

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

**District 6 -**

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.

**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 on the second Wednesday of each month:

**July 13** China Olive, 9224 Reseda Blvd Northridge (818) 998-3688

**August 10** Joselito's West, 7308 Foothill Blvd, Tujunga (818) 951-2275

**Sept 14** Steer N' Ale, 3644 E. Foothill Blvd, Pasadena (626) 796-2278

**District 8 -**

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

**Summer luncheon** will be held **July 9<sup>th</sup>**, 2011, the second Saturday at Hannah's Restaurant in San Bernardino at 12:00. Notices will be going out towards the end of June.

Contact: **Marsha Lotze**, 760-247-2119, [mloetze12@verizon.net](mailto:mloetze12@verizon.net)

**District 9 -**

Contact: Lance Hinek, 760-873-3885,  
[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,  
[butchbiendara1944@hotmail.com](mailto:butchbiendara1944@hotmail.com).

**Central District -**

**BBQ Luau**, September 8, 2011, at 4pm, College Greens Swim and Tennis Club, Sacramento.

**Holiday Luncheon** at the Dante Club December 14th, 11am.

Contact: Gary Bush, 530-642-8208,  
[zbusharosa@wildblue.net](mailto:zbusharosa@wildblue.net)

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**For a great article on Gene Berthelsen see:**

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/ctnews/apr11>  
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**Tribute to Gene**

From Caltrans to jazz stage, he had style!

Submitted By Gary Bush  
Article from Sacramento Bee

Gene Peter Berthelsen, a retired state transportation official who was a longtime volunteer and former head of the Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society, died of multiple myeloma. He was 73.

Bright and outgoing, Gene had a talent for connecting easily with people as a government bureaucrat and a musician. He was quoted often in news stories as chief spokesman for Caltrans.

He charmed audiences in a popular jazz band called the Catsnjammer Jazz Band that he founded in 1980 that played at the Sacramento Jazz Festival and Jubilee and other venues.

His ebullient personality set the tone for lively shows featuring early jazz tunes sprinkled with smart, funny anecdotes he loved to share onstage.



"Gene was one of those fortunate people whom people really like, so he could say anything and get away with it," trombonist Brian Richardson said. "He was like Fats Waller - you couldn't look at his face without smiling."

"No matter what Gene was doing, he always had a good story to tell," retired Caltrans official Joe Dobrowolski said.

Gene retired in 2003 after 35 years at Caltrans, where he started as a computer analyst and was a senior planner. He rose to public information director and wrote and edited the department's magazines.

Gene and his twin brother, John, were born in 1937 in Yreka. He played in bands to pay for school and earned an English degree at San Francisco State University. He moved to Sacramento in 1968 and earned a master's degree in government at Sacramento State.

He was married since 1985 to Donna Springer. He has two children from a previous marriage.



He wrote theater reviews for the Sacramento Union and followed the San Francisco Giants and

49ers. He enjoyed reading and writing, working in his yard in Land Park and sipping an evening martini before dinner.

A natural raconteur, Gene shared a story about how, after giving birth to him and his identical brother, his mother left the hospital with an identification wristband on each boy. After removing the bands for their bath, she realized that she could not tell them apart.

"So then, she just put Gene on me and John on my brother and let it go at that," Gene said in 2003. "She didn't tell us about this until both of us were 35.

"My reaction was, 'I'm still the older brother by 20 minutes.' "

Gene Berthelsen Born: Oct. 4, 1937 Died: April 10, 2011 Survived by: Wife, Donna Springer of Sacramento; son, Justin of San Francisco; daughter, Maren of New York; brother, John of Hong Kong; and two grandchildren. In memory: Donations may be made to Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation or Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society.

