



## Changes in Many ways

*BUTCH SAYS: THAT'S WHERE YOUR \$\$ GOES!*

### From the Corner Pocket

**Gene Berthelsen**, our QCC'er Editor has health problems and can't be blamed for this, blame **Butch Biendara** for any errors.

It seems there is difficulty with what the QCC renewal categories and costs are, so let me try another approach. If you are not yet 80 years old, you have just two options, to get the QCC newsletter via E-mail and pay \$15 / year or to have it mailed to you and pay \$20 / year.

If you are age 80 or more, (born in 1930 or earlier), you qualify as Honorary and have **four**, (4) options. (1) You can pay \$5 and have the QCC'er mailed to you. (2) You can pay nothing and get the QCC'er mailed to you with an exemption from your District QCC Director. *But it's your obligation to contact your Director and have the Director provide a written statement approving your no-cost membership.* (3) You can pay nothing and get the QCC'er via Email. (4) You can pay nothing if you choose to not get the QCC'er in any version but would like to remain on the roster to be a part of District events. Remember, with any of the choices of 2, 3, & 4 you **must** send in your intention to stay on the roster.

While on the subject of finances, lets recap how our State QCC budget operates. It costs about \$1.50 to print and mail each copy of each issue of the QCC'er or \$6 / member / year. District Directors can be reimbursed \$4 / member / year for their recruiting costs and \$2 / member / year for any district printing and mailing costs. Our State Secretary/Treasurer and QCC'er Editor get a combined \$3 / member / year. And there are some misc. expenses of about \$1 / member / year for our

State Secretary supplies and mailings to districts and members. Add up all the numbers,  $6 + 4 + 2 + 3 + 1 =$  \$16 of costs / member / year.

So where does the extra \$4 of your \$20 dues payments go? About 1/3 of our members are Honorary, paying a reduced cost that runs a deficit. A small share of the cost is recovered in the \$5 Honorary fee that does not fully cover the newsletter costs. Secretary / Treasurer **Mike Ogilvie** has pulled together the 2010 financial report in this issue that shows we have made some progress but we still need to rebuild our reserve for our future obligations. The report was a challenge as money starts to come in before the start of a new year and is still going out after the end of any year.

At the end of 2009 the reserve was gone and we were spending the 2010 funds that were coming in early. We don't have records of District reimbursements in 2010 and anticipate District Director reimbursements for last year's expenses will draw down on our balance. They are actually an expense of the 2010 year but they always come in after the end of the year.

Some members have paid for years in advance and that money should be seen as a trust to be held in reserve.

If it had not been for several very generous donations last year we would still be in the red at the end of the 2010 year.

The new year of 2011 with the new dues structure helped rebuild the reserve some but the future is not a clear picture. What will be the outcome of the E-news option and how will the 2011 dues income & costs balance out?

I apologize that there has not been an accounting audit for years and the reserve just slipped away. I don't see that there was any mismanagement but admit that I was lax on keeping up on the financial picture.

The 2011 theme is **recruiting new members**. Sign up 5 new members and get a free logo watch.

*Butch Biendara, your 'termed out' QCC Pres.*



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**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.

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***The Haps in District 1***

Our fellow retiree, **Vi Truby**, went through some highs and lows recently. She took a trip to Egypt in January with a local tour group and had a wonderful time seeing the sites until the protests/riots broke out near the end of her trip. She had positive thoughts about the experience, though. She was witnessing history in the making and they got out safely. We were very happy to learn that **Vi** made it home safely. Sadly, her sister, **Eva Jean (Truby) Luce**, lost her long battle with cancer just before **Vi** got back. She had made many trips up to Washington to be with her sister during that time. **Eva's** brother, **Dave**, is also a Caltrans, District 1 retiree.

On January 20, we had our quarterly retiree lunch at the Home Town Buffet. **George Otterbeck** made it over from Redding. **Carl Turco** came. I had not seen him since he retired and moved away. He is back now so we hope to see him often. Others that came included **Jim Boyd, Lowell Allen, Bruce Miner, Don Comstock, Rick Knapp, Rita and Doug Coleman, Ray and Marlene Thomsen, John Sherman, Bob Myers, Len Blomquist, Glenn Hoffman, Jim Siebert, Dennis Grinsell, Ed Hill, Jim Long, Pete Petersen, Bill Henry, Jim Beagle, Ed Scott, Julian Barbash, Slater Smith, Bob Fallis, Carl Zander, and Jim Grow**, who came up from Ukiah. It was a delightful turnout.

I got to attend a retirement party on February 13 honoring **Mark Moore**. He worked for Caltrans over 15 years, and then transferred to the Department of Fish and Game in 1997 for a total of 30 years of service. We received the flyer and several Caltrans employees and retirees joined the Fish and Game party held at the Elk's Club in Eureka. They included **Lena Ashley, Glenn Hurlburt, Rick Knapp, me, Mike Yancheff** and his wife **Kitty**, and **Tim Ash**. He was very highly thought of for his outstanding work and expertise as a biologist for both agencies. **Rick Knapp** shared many of his memories as the one who brought him up to District 1 and as his supervisor. **Mark** totally loves the outdoors and fishing and plans to spend much

***Secretary/Treasurer's Report***

**2010 Year-end Report**

Begging Balance, 1/1/10	<b>\$2,845</b>
Income:	
Dues*	14,926
New member fees	26
Donations	4,680
Interest	1
Total Income	<b>19,633</b>
Expenses:	
QCCer newsletters	5,565
Postage	1,313
Editor	1,535
Sec/Treas	1,127
Secretary expenses	127
QCC Web site	70
Bank charges	48
Total expenses	<b>-9,785</b>
Ending Balance, 12/31/10	<b>\$12,693</b>
Less Future Obligations**	<b>-\$11,152</b>
Cash on hand	<b>\$1,541</b>

\* Contains dues paid for years beyond 2010

\*\* 697 membership years paid in advance

of his retirement getting to do more of that. We wish him a long and healthy retirement.

Our long time District 1 engineer and fellow retiree, **Slater Smith**, lost his loving wife of over 50 years, Edna Smith, on January 14, 2011. Her mother, **Margaret Schwab** and brother, **Melvin**, had both been Caltrans, District 1 employees so it was a real Caltrans family. She was very active in the Runeburg Lodge and we enjoyed seeing her nearly every month at the lodge breakfasts, either taking tickets or helping in other ways. She was a member of the First Baptist Church and we nearly filled the church at her memorial service. Several Caltrans retirees attended. Her bowling team, including District retiree, **Mary Salyer**, sat together wearing their bowling shirts in her honor. We had a reception in the dining hall after and a chance to visit family and friends and remember Edna. **Slater** had some photos of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary trip to Hawaii.

We also recently lost two Caltrans retirees. **Irv Schroeder**, a Bridge Engineer, who worked in District 1 and retired in 1993 after 36 years of service, passed away November 30, 2010 at his home in Briceland after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. He graduated from UC, Berkeley in 1956 with a Civil Engineering Degree. He worked on many bridge projects in Humboldt and Mendocino Counties.

**Wilfred Williamson**, a Mechanic's Helper, retired from the District 1 Shop in 1982, and passed away on November 30, 2010, at the age of 91. He and his wife moved here in 1946 and he worked in several local mills before taking a job with the Division of Highways. He loved gardening and fishing and was a gifted handyman.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the families and friends of **Eva, Edna, Irv, and Wilfred.** —*Arlene Hartin*

## The Haps in District 2

We had our quarterly luncheon in January at Lulu's Eating Establishment in Redding with a good showing of 27 attendees. **Phil Baker**, Caltrans Project Manager for Shasta County, gave a great overview and synopsis of the phases and stages leading up to completion of the Dana to Downtown (S.R. 44) project.

The next quarterly luncheon of the District QCC will be Thursday, April 14th, 11:30 AM, at Lulu's Eating Es-

tablishment in Redding. Contact **Bill Belcher** 530-347-9546 or shastaqcc@yahoo.com

**Bill and Michelle Belcher** traveled north to Oregon to see family and friends later in January, spending 4 days at the coast. The weather was just fantastic! A much needed respite. If you go through Depot Bay, there is a restaurant called "Tidal Raves" that is worth the stop! Also more good news, Michelle has been given clearance to be on the U.C. Davis kidney transplant list. We are very thankful indeed. Now the wait begins.  
*Bill Belcher*

## The Haps in District 3

The annual Spring Party will be held at the Peach Tree Golf and Country Club on Sunday, April 3rd starting at 1:00 P.M. Cutoff for this event is Monday, March 28th.

We are saddened by the passing of the following: **Dan Valdez** had a long career in the R/W Department as a R/W Agent. He was 82 years old when he died on February 10, 2011. We have no further info at this time due to his daughter being out of the country when he died. More information will be available when she returns.

**Paul Sheridan** passed away on February 12, 2011. Paul was 101 years old when he passed. We have no further information at this time.

**Bill Bauer** passed away on January 30, 2011. He was preceded in death by his wife Joann and eldest son William George Bauer. Bill worked for 25 years as a R/w Agent in District 3 Marysville promoting to Deputy Director of Right of Way. His age at the time of his death is not known at this time.

**Dick Peacemaker** passed away on February 16, 2011 at the age of 79 years. He enjoyed a long career with Caltrans. No further information is available at this time.

**Sandi Johnson** passed away on January 26, 2011. She is survived by her husband Dan Johnson, Sr., two Daughters, Meghan Roberts and Caylon Myers both of Yuba City and her first grandchild, a granddaughter Kiley Sue. Her family was at her side when she died. She was a young 61 years of age. Sandi worked for many departments during her 28 years with Caltrans, retiring as a Associate Caltrans Administrator in June of last year while in Program Project Management in District 3. She always had a smile on her face

and her wonderful laugh could be heard bouncing off the walls wherever she ventured.

Dues were due on December 31, 2010. If you do not know if you are due please check your copy of the QCCer next to your name on the address label. Membership Chairperson **Carleen Hagen** can assist. Her phone number is (530) 674-9026 or she can be reached via email at [hcdhagen@aol.com](mailto:hcdhagen@aol.com). Dues are \$15.00 per year if you wish the QCCer to be emailed or \$20.00 per year if it is mailed by the U.S. Postal Service.

On February 16, 2011 a group of Retired Caltrans Employees' met for an enjoyable breakfast. They try to gather between 6:30 and 7:00A.M. on the third Wednesday of each month. On February 16th they met at Denney's Restaurant on 10th Street in Marysville.

They discussed many things such as: How things were done in the past compared to the present. What Equipment was used and what they use now. They told stories about themselves and others.

Present at this meeting were: **John Sanger, Bill Smith, Bob Burrows, Walt Pfeiffer, Ron Nelson, Bob Froehlich, Wilbur Wright, Gene Abshire, Dennis Patterson and Jim Scott.**

We are looking forward to seeing even more retirees at the March meeting. **Wilbur Wright**

Returning from a month in the desert where there was good eating, lots of fun and fellowship were **Bob and Marilyn Mulcahy, Roger and Janis Stillwell, Ralph Sandler, Chuck and Mary Dossey, John and Wanda Rocha.** All are making plans to go next year.

A call to **Charles Vierria** finds him working on his car to have it ready for the Car Show in Oroville during the first week-in in May. Prior to Oroville, Charley will have his car in the Yuba City Car Show.

On St. Valentine's Day a group of us women treated ourselves to dinner at Ruthe's and a Try County Concert Association concert presenting "Carpe Diem". This was a trio of strings musicians who came from Chicago. Those in our party were **Wanda Rocha, Libby Haraughty, Barbara Denney, and Susanna Ford.** Missing was **EthelMae Waller** who was taken ill at the last minute. During intermission at the Concert I saw **Ray Winton** and **Pat Steinwert**, also **Suzanne Connelly** who retired from Caltrans in Sacramento.

*Dan Johnson, Susanna Ford and Wilbur Wright*

## The Haps in District 4

**Bob Macpherson**, the District 4 Deputy District Director for R/W, has announced his impending retirement after 44 years of service with the Division of Highways and Caltrans.

**Bob** will remain in his position until a successor is chosen to insure a smooth transition. He says his decision to retire has been difficult because of the interesting work and the dedicated people he has worked with. He will make a formal announcement later setting a date for his retirement.

**Dino Cassenelli** passed away at the age of 84. He worked 41 years for Caltrans. He came from a large extended Italian family. At the age of 18 he joined the US Navy and served on the U.S.S. Nereus. He had many hobbies including woodworking and working on **Burch Bachtold's** car. A skilled self taught craftsman in woodworking, he provided many of his friends pieces of his work. He was an avid reader of History, a crossword puzzle aficionado and an ardent but frustrated 49er fan. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Eleanor. They had 4 children and 3 grandchildren. **Car** was proud of his children's accomplishments and the families.

**George Gee** passed away at the age of 82. He worked at Caltrans for 41 years. He was an active member of the Chinese American Institute of Engineers and enjoyed biking, travel, skiing and golf. Among his accomplishments was biking across the US twice. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Edna and 4 children. He was a grandfather to one child and step-grandfather to three.

**Charles "Chuck" Mertes** passed away at the age of 83. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Connie. They had five children, ten grandchildren and a great grandchild. **Chuck** was born and raised in Port Huron, Michigan. He loved his golf group of friends. He was a trustee of the Sierra Club. He was the Recording Secretary for the Don Busco Council of the Y.M.I., a member of the SIRS of San Francisco and a devoted member of the Knights of Holy Name.

He attended and graduated from the University of Michigan in Engineering. He served in the Corps of Engineers at the close of the Korean War. He supervised the construction of many bridges. One of his major accomplishments was being commissioned by the Golden Gate Bridge District to supervise the redecking of the Golden Gate Bridge.

**John Robles** passed away at the age of 92. He retired in December, 1981 after 35 years of state serv-

He was born in Mexico and immigrated with his family to the United States in 1922. He grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico, graduating from the University of New Mexico with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. After graduating he spent a year building liberty ships in the Kaiser Richmond Shipyards before joining his two brothers in the U.S. Army. The Army sent him to study Sanitation Engineering at his Alma Mater, the University of Michigan where he met the love of his life, Donna McCourtie, at a USO dance. **John** always said that he was captivated when Donna entered the ballroom, and out of all her adoring admirers, she deigned to dance with him. After World War II ended he went to work for the California Division of Highways. Shortly after that he married Donna and she joined him in California. **John** worked on the design and construction of Bay Area freeways particularly Highway 17 (Interstate 880) in Oakland at Oak Street.

**Muriel Stewart** passed away on January 19, 2011. Her obituary did not indicate her age but said she celebrated her 29th birthday 2,932 times. I did not know **Muriel** so the following is from her obituary which indicates she was a woman of many talents. Only her close friends may know how much of what follows reveals the real woman. She was born in St. Joseph's Hospital and was a native San Franciscan and then a long time resident of Marin County. She attended Notre Dame high school where she was class president and voted most popular. She first attended San Jose State University and ultimately graduated summa cum laude from SF State. Just after World War II, she lived overseas in Germany working as a teacher for the Armed Forces. She is suspected of masterminding and engaging in several clandestine affairs in the service of her country. She later returned to the US where she married and raised a family. She worked as a teacher for a while and then went to work for Caltrans until she retired. **Muriel** was a masterful bridge player, greatly enjoying the game. She often recounted making her grand slam hand against Robert Hamman and is currently be considered for the ACBL Hall of Fame. She was an avid 49er fan and attended many games and frequently made passes at Joe Montana. **Muriel** especially enjoyed a good Manhattan when celebrating special occasions and instructed many a bartender on how to make it the way she liked it to be served up. She had a wild sense of humor and on many occasions she made sailors and construction workers alike blush when she told them a joke.

**Vincent "Vince" Yoder** passed away at the age of 91. He is survived by two daughters, one son, four grand-daughters and five, soon to be six, great-grand children. Vince was an avid naturalist, interested par-

ticularly in ornithology and botany, and whatever else he ran across during his time outdoors. His bird watching dates back to 1937. He worked for Caltrans for 31 years but spent most of his free time locating hikes and taking his children along. He was a construction Resident Engineer and the District's Permits Engineer. He was a longtime member of the California Native Plant Society in the Marin and Bristlecone Chapters. After he retired he moved to Lone Pine California with his wife, Ann and the two of them continued hiking and record keeping. Much of his botanical observations are included in "Vegetation of the Alabama Hills Region, Inyo California", published through UC Davis. He also compiled "A Alabama Hills Plant List".

I remember well the above Caltrans retirees, except **Muriel**, and remember them as fine professionals whom it was a pleasure to know and work with. I remember especially **Vince Yoder** because he was the Resident Engineer on the project to build the Route 101/580 interchange, the first project I worked on in my first summer as an Engineering Student Trainee. I also remember seeing him in the District Office carrying a copy of Charles Darwin's "Origin of the Species" for light reading during his breaks. Contact Paul Hensley

## The Haps in District 5

Flooding in December, beach attire in January, and snow at the end of February... winter weather is unpredictable on the Central Coast.

Hope you enjoyed Happy Holidays and a good start to the New Year.

We had to miss the annual CT Holiday BBQ in December, but I understand Trinity Hall was well filled with past and present employees. As always, the guests enjoyed visiting with old friends and eating the delicious BBQ meal. **Clyde Philbrick** was recognized as being retired the longest of those present—33 years. WOW!

In December, D-5 Surveyor **Bob MacKenzie** was presented the Governor's Gold Medal of Valor at a ceremony in Sacramento. **Bob** was recognized for his heroic efforts to help an elderly couple involved in an accident on Hwy 88 near Kirkwood in freezing temperatures. **Bob** provided clothing to keep them warm and waited until rescuers arrived to free the woman from the vehicle that was about 75 feet downslope from the road. **Bob** then drove her husband to the hospital in Reno to join her. District Director **Rich**

Krumholz praised **Bob** for "his extraordinary act of service above and beyond the normal call of duty".

Those of you living in rural areas may be interested in a new method of animal control being installed on Hwy 101 at the top of Cuesta Grade. In order to reduce the number of animals killed or injured by vehicles, CT has installed electrified pads on four roads near Tasajara Creek. The pads administer a mild shock and are meant to deter large animals such as bear and deer from entering the travelway. The devices, called Electro Mats, replace the metal grates currently in use. Also, traditional barbed-wire fences are being replaced with wildlife mesh that stops larger animals but allows smaller creatures to pass through. The goal of this project is to channel animals to locations where they can safely cross beneath the freeway. Note: The mats will not affect vehicles or pedestrians wearing shoes.

In January I attended a meeting of CSEA Retirees Chapter 10. The guest speaker was Dr. Phillip Sherwood, Director of CSEA Retirees. It was a pleasant surprise to see Phil; he worked in the HQ Training Division during the time I was D-5 Training Officer. He brought us up to date on current issues pertaining to PERS and retirees. Chapter 10 President Jerry Evans (retired from Maintenance) will be moving to a new position on the CSEA Board of Directors, representing District B. The next Chapter 10 meetings will be April 28 in San Luis Obispo and April 29 in Atascadero. Their summer BBQ is planned for July 28 at Rancho El Chorro.

In January we happened to see **John Card** at the Willie Nelson concert at Chumash Casino. Later that week we met **Gary Schultz** shopping at Vons, and he told us Jeanne had hip surgery a few days prior. In February we saw **Walt Ross** perusing old magazines while waiting his turn in the barber chair. We also saw **Frank Rowan** and friend **Jackie Mansfield** at The Graduate—still a great place for burgers and beer.

Please think good thoughts for **John Burke**, recovering from neck surgery, and **Shirley Kathary**, recovering from injuries sustained in a fall. *Kathleen Copeland*

## The Haps in District 6

**Fred "Bud" Rayburn** celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 15<sup>th</sup> this year at the Sunnyside Country Club. It was a fabulous party with so many friends from his various walks of life. Among the Caltrans attendees were **John Wright**, **Bill Bastian**, **Ted Winter**, **Ron**

**DuBois**, **Lewis Wagoner**, **Andy Anderson** and myself, **Terry Littleton**. Some guests came from as far away as Germany and Australia because they are considered part of the family since **Bud** had taken them under his wing when they played for the Fresno State Tennis team. Other guests were from the North Fresno Exchange Club, First Presbyterian Church, Bridge Club, the Huntington Lake crowd and countless others. Way to go, **Bud**.



### ROBERT PETER "Bob" LARSEN Sr.

was born July 12, 1933 to Einar and Kathleen Larsen, in the same house his father was born in on Kearney Street in Fresno, Ca. and went to heaven on December 22, 2010. He was married for 49 years to Gloria, who he met on a double date with Lee Fanucchi. She had passed away previously. He served in the U.S. Navy Reserve. He was retired from State of California as a safety engineer consultant with Cal-OSHA. Throughout his working career he also was a raisin farmer. He was a past Master of Las Palmas Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rites with over 50 years as a mason, Past Director for State Employee Association, Master Gardener of University of Cal-Davis and was a member of Edison Social Club and American Legion. **Bob** loved to hunt, fish, garden, play poker, travel and be with his friends and family. He loved life and was a very positive happy person who loved to be with people. He cherished being with his family and talked with pride about his brothers, sister, children, grandchildren and the rest of his family. From **Lewis Wagoner**: Yes, sad news. Bob was one of the good guys. Regardless, our group is dwindling.

**Barbara and Dick Beck** had a very nice New Years at Harrah's in Laughlin. They came home with a few bucks for their next trip and spent the night in Tehachapi watching the snowfall.



**Earl Ernest Mar** died of a cardiac arrest at the age of 85 in Fresno, California on Thursday, January 13th, 2011. It happened in his home.

Earl was born on November 14th, 1925 in Fresno to Ming Mah and Kung Shee. He was one of six brothers; Paul, Andy, Edward, Phil and Bob

along with two sisters; Mary and Ada. **Earl** spent his life in Fresno and attended Franklin Elementary, Edison High School and Fresno State College where he received his Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering in 1950. In 1958, he married Barbara and had two children, Pat Hobbs and Gary Mar. **Earl** worked at the Division of Highways (now known as CalTrans) for 37 years. During his time as a civil engineer, **Earl** designed

many freeways and bridges including Freeway 41 and earned an award for the design of a section of State Route 190 in Tulare County.

In 1988, **Earl** retired and picked up a series of hobbies including woodworking, gardening, ballroom dancing and playing bridge with friends. **Earl** became a Master Gardener and was recently named Honorary Master Gardener by the University of California Cooperative Extension. This meant more to him than words can describe as he'd been inactive due to his devotion to his wife of 52 years who had suffered a severe stroke. He had also been an active volunteer at the Blood Bank and was a blood donor who donated more than 10 gallons of blood! **Earl** was a generous, intelligent, driven and spirited man and will be missed by all. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, his two children Pat and Gary, his granddaughters, Ali, Kaitlin and Elise, brothers Al and Bob and his sister Mary.

**Georgia Cordova** said "Earl has always been one of my favorite people!"

**Joe Kosko** said "I suppose he was a mentor to many at Caltrans. I got to work for him, and with **Pat Gibson**, and **Carl Thompson** for about a year during my rotational training. What a great place to learn! Too bad I didn't get a chance to visit with him at the old timer coffee every Thursday. I didn't know his wife had a stroke and he was the sole caretaker. Anyway I went to the old timer coffee yesterday and visited with **Andy Anderson**, **John Wright**, **Louie Wagoner**, **Tom Ashley**, and **Ron Dubois**.

**Thelma and Chester Sohm** have moved into Orchard Park Assisted Living at 675 W. Alluvial, which is east of Willow Ave. in Clovis.

**Tim Man Lum**, 89, of Fresno died Sunday, Jan 30, 2011. He was a civil engineer for the California Department of Transportation for 34 years.

**Ken Bradshaw** said "One of the truly great ones. He was one of the 1st persons in D6 to shake my hand when I transferred from D5. He also made some outstanding Chinese food"

**Lewis Collins**, 92, of Fresno died Thursday, February 17, 2011. He was an engineer with Caltrans for many years.

We sure lost a bunch of good guys this time around. Maybe it's time to make some of those phone calls to friends; you know, the ones we put off.

*Terry Littleton*

## *The Haps in District 7*

**Judy Reynolds** writes about a trip that she and her husband, **Dennis** recently took: "All my life, I've wanted to take a cross-country car trip, so after nearly ten years of retirement and two important incentives there was ample reason to pursue this long-held dream of mine, ending at Lincoln Center where the community choir I've been involved with for ten years was invited to perform Rutter's Requiem. As if Carnegie Hall in 2004 wasn't a big-enough deal - where we got invited to perform it, conducted by the composer himself, we were invited to repeat the performance in Lincoln Center on Memorial Day weekend, with a wedding in Massachusetts two weeks later. We decided not to fly.

As some of you know, I had spine surgery in February, so the smartest thing I could possibly do was get in a car and ride along for 6,000-plus miles. I was more than ready for the up-coming adventure, lasting the better part of ten weeks. I have never claimed superior intelligence so I relied on my heroes at Kaiser who said "go- just be careful!" You can't get into much trouble riding shotgun while my ever-vigilant husband, made sure we stopped periodically to relieve any stiffness or discomfort I might encounter. So drive we did - through Arizona into New Mexico - kind of pretty in a boring sort of way - if you've been there, you know. Our first stop on 5/5 was our 25th anniversary where we celebrated with dinner in a magnificent dive in New Mexico - More later on the 25th-anniversary celebration - (the food was good, the atmosphere sucked!)

Continuing on included Painted Desert and Petrified Forest in whatever state they're in - some things get all mixed up. Seen one red rock - you've seen them all. If I wanted to see petrified, I can look in the mirror.

Stopped at my high school friend's house near Austin and enjoyed spending time with her and her family. Our next destination was Winter Haven Florida to visit with my former sister and brother-in-law, who I never did divorce, or never will, some love can't be erased with a court order.

Next stop was at the daughter of aforementioned sister-in-law and her family of five terrific kids. Her husband is now in his fifth deployment in the gulf - seems to me the bigger your family, the fewer your deployments should be - the military people just don't consult me often enough.

From her house in Georgia, we took the next week to get to New York, but we had to see D.C. first. If God

wanted to see D.C., I wonder where He'd park. So there was an incredible amount of walking, which I had to just sit it out because I was screaming with every other step and really blew Dennis' good time. It was fascinating. I'll tell you one thing - if Washington really did throw a coin across the Potomac, he had one hell of a good arm - it's wide and pretty. Speaking of rivers, the Mississippi River is ugly, dirty and I wouldn't want to water-ski on it. We crossed it and a few others many times and none of them ever got better. Appreciate the Colorado River more now. It's blue, clean, and mostly flat and pristine and still makes for a terrific ski-run. Although I can't do that much anymore. I will though, in the future. Did not get near the White House, but I waved at it as we strolled by (slowly). By the way, this is a beautiful country we live in and seeing it first hand and up close and personal was very special to me.

We left D.C. to continue to Boston for the wedding of my cousin's daughter. We got there a week before the wedding and my first night in Boston was spent making 500 truffles, by hand! If you drink enough, that exercise can make for a really enjoyable evening. I know this now. The wedding was magnificent and, of course, the bride was spectacular with her long, dark hair and white dress - she really looked stunning. The ceremony was held in a mansion, on a hill, and the grounds were off the charts. It was well worth every penny my cousins spent, and I am sure there were several pennies.

The rest of the week was spent in Andover, Mass., where my cousin and his family live - childhood home of Jay Leno - they live around the corner from where his parents' house was - it's gone now, but we saw the remaining vacant dirt. We rested and relaxed after the wedding and I experienced my first "micro burst" a rare event where the wind blows the torrential rain UP the street. It was fascinating to watch, the rain was so fierce and the wind was so strong - I thought we might end up in Boston Harbor. I've never seen rain flow UP a hill!

After N.Y., D.C., Mass., our plans to enjoy family and friends were complete and we headed up the east coast to Maine. Had to go to Camden, ME, because we have a granddaughter named Camden and I wanted a shirt with "Camden" on it to take home to her. Nine-year-olds like that stuff. We found a shirt shoppe. Wiped that place out, then we found a souvenir shop and almost cleaned them out, too.

As mentioned earlier, part of this trip was to celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary and it was really special and unique and meaningful. We traveled to Vermont where we had a reservation at the Von Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe, Vermont. It would be hard to find a more beautiful location and accommodations. The

"Sound of Music" ends when the family reaches Switzerland in their escape from the Nazis. As part of that escape, they hopped a ship in Austria and ended up in Vermont which reminded them so much of Austria, Switzerland, and Germany that they settled in Vermont and built this lodge. Captain Von Trapp was knighted because he rescued a bunch of people from a burning boat. The name was originally "Trapp" but when you are knighted, they stick the "Von" in front of it. The real Maria Von Trapp used to stroll throughout the lodge and the grounds greeting guests, but she died in 1991, or 1981.

We then motored to Niagara Falls and enjoyed all that Canada has to offer up there. We're gonna have to go back there because we didn't see everything we wanted. I think we'll fly next time.

Our room was stocked with champagne on ice, two crystal flutes, and a congrats note from Johannes Von Trapp, grandson of Georg, and President and CEO of the Von Trapp Family Foundation. We couldn't have chosen a more perfect place to celebrate 25 years with each other. How we gonna top that for our 50th? Probably pushing up daisies or a cacti on our property in Bullhead City Arizona .

As you might imagine, the Lincoln Center experience transcended amazing. We were conducted by a former choir conductor who transferred to Carmel to take over the musical ministries of a church up there near Pebble Beach. It was magic to have him conduct us again. The venue, itself, is spectacular!!

This gentleman took most of his entire two choirs (almost 200 voices) on a British Isles tour, including Scotland, Wales, and Ireland back in 2005. That was my first experience at singing in foreign countries. I can't begin to describe the thrill that THAT little outing provided us.

We stopped to see some dear friends in Idaho who live on a beautiful lake (house on a lake is Judy's dream home).

So, in closing, I want to mention a terrific visit with **Bill and JoAnn Minter** in Utah - they're in a wonderful condo development - a two-story, completely self-contained on the first floor which is downstairs and gives one the impression that it has a completely set up and fully furnished whole another house - you could live down there and never be seen, and a great yard. We had a wonderful visit - altho way too short - we were getting anxious to return home to our house and family so couldn't catch up with the **Loudons**.

I've lived in this zip code all my life and I'm beginning to appreciate it. We'll bring a couple more cruises in 2011 so the anticipation is running high into the coming year.



Best to all for a great 2011. Stay well, stay safe, stay happy, and travel much, Best Wishes.

Judy and Dennis

—Kirsten Stahl

## The Haps in District 8

We recently got a card from **Ralph Wheeler**, a former District 8er who worked with **Bob Austin** in Environmental Planning. He left California years ago to return to roots back in the Baltimore area. He reports he suffered a stroke at work, was rushed to St. Joseph's Hospital about one mile from his office. There he received treatment and was back to work in 11 days, but still has residual problems with his right hand. He credits their swift work for his quick recovery. Roses to ya, Ralph....

Our District 8 Christmas Luncheon was held the second Saturday of December 11, 2010, at The Gourmet Restaurant in San Bernardino. We changed the date due to many District 7 and also District 8 members who wanted to participate with both Districts. It worked out very well and we had a good turnout.

Those having reservations were: **Andy & Kay Anderson, Dan & Beverly Armstrong, Jim Balcom, Diana Barich & guest Linda Wilford, Loren & Margaret Barnett, Mary Bermudez, Dennis Blakkolb, Gil & Jeanette Daab, Bill Feenstra, Don & Janice Feenstra, John & Beverly Feenstra, Les Franz, Jim & Jan Geller, Carolina Gonzales, Wes & Linda Grimes, Ed & Clarice Gritters, Angela Hall & guest Sharon Phillips, Harold & Patty Herring, Phillip & Miriam Holdaway, Frances Jacques, Carolyn Johns, Jim & Pam Landfried, Frank Lehr, Stan Lisiewicz, Dick Longstreet, Marsha Lotze, Phosie Lotze, Maxine Nelson, Ernie & Kay Parke, & guests Mike, Diana & Ernie Parke, Sybille Phillips, Tom & Bonnie Powell, Virginia Reed, Bob Sassaman, Taylor & Katie Smith, Roy Smoot & guest Marjorie Bruhn, Ken Steele, Robert & Hannah Viveros, Don Weaver, and Gil & Cheryl Wilcox. A great time was had by all.**

**Taylor Smith**, reluctantly "retired" as President after many years and **Wes Grimes** was elected as the new President by all members present. **Marsha Lotze** was reelected as Secretary/Treasurer.

We all look forward to our Summer Luncheon, which will be held again at Hannah's Restaurant either the second or third Saturday in July. Notices will be

mailed out around the end of June. Please plan on attending.

At the QCC Christmas Luncheon **Dennis Blakkolb** reported on the home invasion robbery he and his wife **Dianne** suffered in late January 2010. Their first indication of trouble occurred when an armed robber completely covered with sweat clothes and a ski mask smashed through their rear sliding glass door with an ax and ordered them to lay down on the floor. He bound **Denny's** hands and placed him in a closet. While the robber was busy in another room, **Dianne** got up off the floor and got her pistol and ordered him to leave. He tried to rush her and she shot him, hitting him in the shoulder. He overpowered her and took the gun away from her and placed her on the floor again.

A neighbor had seen the suspicious activity and yelled at the robber who then fled taking a TV, the gun and some cash with him. The neighbor had taken his vehicle license number and the robber was identified within a few hours. Following the robbery, the robber drove to Mexico to have his gun shot wound treated and then surrender to the police the following day. He is now serving a four-year term. Needless to say, it was a horrifying experience for **Denny and Dianne**. We're all so grateful that they are fine.

Early congratulations go out to **Taylor and Katie Smith** on their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on March 8, 2011. They will celebrate this momentous occasion later this summer.

**Tek Tanaka**, former District 8 employee was in ICU at Riverside General Hospital from the first of November 2010, until mid February recovering from micro heart valve surgery. He is presently in a rehab center in Reche Canyon. **Tek** started in District 8 in 1954. He left the District in 1974 to work for Riverside County. He retired from the county in 1999.

**Taylor Smith** reports that he recently had telephone conversations with **Mike and Ed Walker**.

**Mike** left the District to work for San Bernardino County under former District 8 Director, **Jack Peddy**. When **Jack Peddy** retired from the County, **Mike** became the San Bernardino County Director of Public Works. He later became secretary for the County Board of Supervisors. **Mike** and **Rhandi** now live in Carlsbad, CA.

A telephone call to **Ed Walker** from **Taylor Smith**, disclosed that he lives from April to November in Reno, Nevada and from November to April in Modesto, CA. **Ed** left District 8 in 1970 for a promotion in District 10. He later left there to become the Director of Public Works for Sonoma County.

It is with a great deal of sadness that we received the news that **Grace Vinzens** passed away on December 4, 2010. **Grace** was born in Harlan, Iowa, graduated from Omaha Tech High School in June 1940, and moved to Colton in 1954. She worked for the Division of Highways, District 08 (Caltrans) from 1955 to 1978 where she was "keeper" of the Stationary Section of Administration. One of the many memories of **Grace** is that if an employee wanted a new pencil, you had to bring whatever part of the pencil you had to her before she'd give you a new one. She really took her job seriously. After retirement, she did volunteer work for another 25 years compiling Black Books for completed construction projects and also Memory Books for all Caltrans employees who requested them. She was active in C.S.E.A. for more than 60 years, the Retired Public Employees Assoc. for more than 20 years, spending 15 years as President, and many years as the QCC Secretary/Treasury. She is survived by a daughter and son, and three grandchildren. **Grace** gave of herself to everyone who knew her and will be sorely missed. Our prayers go out to all her many family and friends.

It was learned at **Grace Vinzen's** Memorial that former Division of Highways employee **Roy Stevenson** passed away on January 10, 2011. **Roy** had been ill for several years.

Another recently retired employee, **Gus Krug**, passed away July 3, 2010, from cancer at Lake Havasu City, AZ. He was born on February 20, 1940 in Philadelphia, PA and served proudly under the direction of the United States Air Force. He worked for Caltrans as an Administrative Officer for many years before transferring to Construction where he was an engineer in San Bernardino, CA for thirty years. He leaves behind his beloved family; two daughters, one brother, two sisters, four grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Our thoughts are with all his family and friends.

One of our newer QCC members, **Julie Griffin**, lost her mother on January 26, 2011. Caltrans friends of **Julie** donated food for her and her family in their time of sorrow. Services were held at Highland Avenue Lutheran Church in San Bernardino.

We received sad news that former District 8, Deputy District Director of Administration, **Donald Gengerich**, passed away the evening of January 1, 2011. **Don** was a 37-year Caltrans veteran. **Judie Brown, (Cady)** researched and found that **Don** started his state employment with Caltrans, District 7, as a Delineator in 1956. He transferred to Water Resources in 1966 and back to Caltrans, District 8, in 1970. He was promoted to Deputy District Director-Administration in 1988 and retired in 1993. Services were private and in lieu of flowers, the family requested donations to either

the City of Hope or St Jude's Hospital. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the whole family; including son-in-law, **Ken Matsuoka**, currently working in the District 8 Maintenance Branch.

When **Taylor Smith**, our retiring President, returned home from a visit with his daughter and family in Manassas, VA, he learned that **Dick Longstreet's** wife, **Hazel**, had passed away on December 21, 2010. Memorial services and burial were held at Montecito Cemetery.

**Dick and Hazel** had a long and happy marriage and she'll be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. I remember playing softball briefly with the Caltrans ladies softball team that **Dick** managed and **Hazel** was always with him cheering us on.

Sadly, another of our long time members **Don Feenstra**, 72, passed away on January 4, 2011. He was born in 1938 and had lived in Redlands his whole life. He had fallen at home, was taken to the hospital and passed away that night. He had been in ill health for quite some time and will be sorely missed. **Don** was a civil engineer with the State of California, Division of Highways, for 40 years. He was a member of Hope Protestant Reformed Church in Redlands, San Bernardino-Riverside County Orchid Society and a QCC member for many years. He leaves a wife, **Janice**, sons **Christopher, Glen, Marlin** and daughter, **Michelle**, brothers **William, Gerald, John, Marvin** and a sister **Audrey**. He leaves behind 21 grandchildren and many, many happy times with his extended family and friends.

Another long-time employee, **Donald C. Weaver** passed away, January 15, 2011. **Don** graduated with a degree in civil engineering from the University of North Dakota, where he met his wife of more than fifty years, **Annmarie Kyle**. Soon after they married they settled in Riverside to await the birth of their only child, **Linda Kae**.

**Don** worked for and eventually retired from Caltrans. Most of his career was dealing with wind-blown sand and the effects on roadways. **Don** was known for his expertise on our surrounding environment and he was recognized as one of the top experts in the world. **Don** also worked as a consultant to the Army Corps of Engineers in Saudi Arabia. He was a talented musician who delighted many when he would sit down at the piano. He was also a history buff, particularly interested in the early days of California and the Inland Empire. He also enjoyed staying in touch with friends, connecting with those who shared his interests, and following the successes of his beloved University of North Dakota Fighting Sioux hockey team.

**Don** is survived by his wife of more than 50 years, **Annmarie** of Riverside, their daughter **Linda**

tains or to Golden Empire Humane Society/Animal Save in Grass Valley, Calif.

**AZEVEDO, Dennis Michael** of Roseville, CA died February 9, 2011, surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Stockton, CA and passed away at the age of 62, after a heroic battle with cancer.

After serving in the U.S Army, he earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Geography. **Dennis** held a long and distinguished career with the California Department of Transportation. **Dennis'** many interests included coin collecting, cars, hiking, traveling and social times with family and many close and special friends.

In addition to his beloved wife, **Christine, Dennis** is survived by son Devin and grandson Kellan of Lake Tahoe, daughter Ann, son-in-law Matt Brett of Elk Grove, granddaughter Hailey and grandson Nik. **Dennis** is also survived by his brother Paul Azevedo and wife Cindy of Valley Springs, his sister Lynette and husband Dave Everhard of Lincoln, CA, Aunt Ali and Aunt Roselle, numerous cousins, nieces and nephews and their families and many very dear friends.

**Dennis** was a truly special man who loved life and those near to him, whose family and friends will never forget. A memorial service was held on March 7, 2011, with private interment at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, Dixon, CA. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society and/or the UC Davis Cancer Center for cancer research. Please make check payable to UC Regents and mail to: UC Davis Health System, Health Sciences Advancement, 4900 Broadway, Suite 1150 Sacramento CA 95820.

**Gabriel Ramirez**, June 18, 1955 - February 25, 2011 Long time District 10 employee, **Gabe (Gabriel) Ramirez** passed away in Manteca at Doctor's Hospital after medical complications. **Gabe** was a Caltrans Equipment Operator I out of the Stockton Maintenance Yard on the Stockton East Crew.

Survived by wife **Rachel Ramirez**, children: Angie Marquez, Jessica Olivarez, De Anna Ramirez, Gabriel Joshua Ramirez Jr., grandchildren: Bobby Olivarez Jr., Jazmyne Marquez, Samantha Olivarez, JJ Marquez.

**Bob and Ardyth Biffel's** son **Brad** passes, Bradley Lee Biffel (1953 - 2011) | Brad Lee Biffel, born Feb. 13, 1953 in Stockton, passed away after a massive heart attack on Fri, Feb, 25, 2011 in Lebanon, Oregon. He attended grammar school in Vacaville, and then moved to Acampo where he graduated from Lodi High School and Delta College. He worked for Corn Product for many years as a Process Operator. He loved riding his Harley Davidson and belonged to several Motorcycle clubs in the Stockton area. He also loved to travel and took many trips on his Harley, and with his sister and parents on ocean cruises.

Brad is survived by his daughter Jennie of Oregon a sister Bonny Kangas and family of Vacaville, his parents **Bob and Ardyth Biffel** of Acampo, and ex wife Kittie Nix of Oregon. He was preceded by late brother Terry Biffel, and both sets of Grandparents.

Since he loved the Sea, later in March, Club Members and family will take his ashes on his last ride and spread them in the sea. Brad will be greatly missed by all of his family and many friends far and wide, and especially by his devoted little dog Baby Girl, who lived only for Brads love and attention. —*Brian Young*

## *The Haps in District 11*

The 2011, D-11, QCC, Banquet Luncheon was a packed house sell-out on a sunny "San Diego" day in January. The social time on the outdoor patio was warmed by a bit of sun and the greater warmth and well wishes of those who came early. Of the eighty who had sent in their RSVP, only one was a no-show and there were five others who showed up unannounced. Many of the people there have not been seen at the banquet for several years so it looks like the convenience of the mid-day time slot and the lower cost of a lunch was well appreciated. Did the "Old Town" location have a nostalgic draw for some remembering happy times at the Hamburguesa long ago?

The buffet lunch had two salads, four sides, four entrées and they gave us 'large plates' to serve yourselves. Desert came to the tables later as baskets of chocolate churros. All of the comments that I heard were strong appreciations of the good food.

In a short business session **Leslie Franklin** has agreed to, and was voted in as the D-11 QCC Director in the absence of a proposed co-director. If you can be of any help to her as she takes on this role it would be appreciated. We have **Dean Burns** as our reliable D-11 Secretary, **Gary Darr** serving as D-11 Treasurer and Picnic Chair, and **Josan Feathers** as the Banquet chair. Someone with writing skills would be welcome as Correspondent.

A surprise 'warm-up act' was **Leslie Campbell**, who left Caltrans for greener pastures at SANDAG, is now retired and is running for a seat on the CalPERS board. After she spoke, it was moved, seconded and passed for the D-11 QCC to endorse her for the CalPERS Board position.

Our scheduled main speaker was our own former Caltrans District Director **Jesus Garcia** giving us a

summary of how he, his carrier and his family came to San Diego and some of his adventures along the way.

The prizes for the raffle were too numerous to list them all, with some of them donated by **Dean Burns, Tom Culver**, and many others. Thanks to **Gary Darr** and **Jack Blackburn** for running the raffle drawings and prize awards in a speedy and efficient manner.

**Carla Winget** and **Tom Culver's** friend **Betty**, did a great job of selling tickets raising over \$300 to help cover some of the costs not covered by the lunch charge. And the strange pattern of a few people winning the majority of prizes continues. How does one explain that the **Fiestels** and the **Wingets** each won on multiple tickets, the **West**s won on four tickets and **Steve Gardella** won on four prize tickets plus the biggie of the 50/50 cash prize of \$137 that had first been won by **Elma Garcia** who drew her own winning ticket and then returned the prize for another chance. **Steve** then came back to split the prize with **Elma**.

Contact our District Director **Leslie Franklin** at 619-466-1897 for any ideas to help.

## The Haps in Central

Spring is a comin' and the daffodils are a bloomin'. Hope everyone has had a successful start of 2011. Our holiday luncheon in December at the Dante Club was filled with good times and lots of conversation as members caught up with the happenings of other members.

Since December 2010, we have 4 new members who have joined the Central District: **Sondra Bettencourt, Jan Winbigler, Robert Copp** and **Brent Scott** who joined us by transferring from the Southland to the Central District. Welcome all!

The **Bush Duo** will be traveling soon. At the end of March we will be off to see our son, Erik, and family. Their son will be 21 this year. He is our oldest grandson. They live in North Carolina near Myrtle Beach where we have a condo. After a week's visit, we're driving to Julie's birthplace, Washington, DC, for a few days. On May 25th we will be off to Alaska on a land tour (7days) then set sail for Vancouver, BC (7days).

On a sad note, **Joe Montoya** passed away on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

In January, I participated in the HQ's 25-40 year awards ceremony again handing out applications to the Quarter Century Club to the honorees.

Our good thoughts go out to **Gene Berthelsen** who is recovering from a bad case of the shingles. Get well soon!

Mark your calendar: April 14<sup>th</sup> at the Dante Club, September 8<sup>th</sup> at College Greens and December 14<sup>th</sup> at the Dante Club. Hope to see everyone soon!

The following is notes from our December get together at the Dante Club.

**Tom and Julie Hubbs** have many fun trips planned for 2011. Visiting son and his family in Colorado, meeting friends from England in Georgia and a road trip to the Dakotas. Happy New Year to all!!

**Shirley Weber** enjoyed the company of the **Hubbs, Don Baumgartner, Susan Swain** and **T. George Smith** and others. It is always good to be here.

**Joe and Marge Dobrowolski** was pretty much anchored to Fair Oaks. The only travel we did was to Tahoe where there is free lodging. **Joe** celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday with lots of friends and a day of skiing with his daughter. **Marge** is very connected to the Crocker Art Museum and we attended all of the various parties and celebrations for the opening of the new annex. We also spent time working on our backyard and house. Great to see the recent retirees at the Christmas Party.

**Marilyn Lambeth** was very happy to see so many friends at the Dante Club luncheon. I am now an Honorary Member.  
*Gary and Julie Bush*

"My son, Michael, U.S. Army, stationed in Germany, has been promoted to Brigade Commander, and will be departing for Afghanistan in August along with 3,500 troops. I was fortunate to make my second trip to Germany last fall. We spent the majority of my visit in Florence, Italy.

I am still very active in the Widowed Persons Association, and enjoy all the friendships and activities of the group.

I am looking forward to welcoming my new granddaughter who will be arriving on May 1."

*Elizabeth Abersold*

## Foundation Matters

### CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION FOUNDATION

The California Transportation Foundation continues to be a proud co-sponsor of the annual **Workers Memorial Tribute** coming up in April on the steps of the State's Capitol. The ceremony honors those employees who have lost their lives while working for the safety of the traveling public with the placement of a wreath in the center of a large diamond of orange cones. Each cone bears the name of one of the 175 employees that have been lost.

It is a tribute that must be seen to be appreciated. We hope that you will be able to join us this year at any of the tributes held either at the State Capitol or in one of the Districts as Caltrans honors **Gary Smith**, Caltrans Maintenance Leadworker (District 3). **Mr. Smith** lost his life due to an errant motorist in November 2010 and his name will be added to the memorial plaques in District 3 and at the Headquarters Office building.

During this first quarter of 2011, the Foundation's **Workers Assistance and Memorial Fund** ongoing accounts include:

Aid to **Daniel Bui (Headquarters)** and his family for emergency medical costs;

Grant established for the family of **Gary Smith, District 3**, killed in the line of duty by an errant motorist;

Grant established for the family of **Michael Nelson, Division of Engineering Services**, to assist the family with medical expenses.

Grant established in the name of the **Wheeler Family (Headquarters)** to assist in covering expenses for a family accident; and,

Assistance to the family of **Son T. Nguyen from District 12**.

On February 22<sup>nd</sup> during the **Transportation Forum**, two scholarships were presented: **Thomas Wong** of UC Berkeley (\$5,000) and **Alex Yu** of Stanford University (\$2,500). Congratulations and good luck to both Thomas and Alex.

As the new year started, we welcomed **Will Kempton**, Chief Executive Officer of the Orange County Transportation Authority and past director of Caltrans as the new Chair of the Board of Directors of the Foundation. **Ann Olson**, President of MRO Engineers, Inc. has become the Vice Chair. **Randy Iwasaki**, Executive Director of Contra Costa Transportation Authority and past director of Caltrans; **Lia Reyes**, Vice President of The Solis Group; and **Stanley Taylor III** of Nossaman's Northern California practice have re-

cently joined the Board. Welcome and congratulations to all.

The Foundation continues to respond to the needs of our Caltrans family each year. Here's a brief summary of some of the **accomplishments that occurred in 2010** thanks to your support:

Over \$44,000 in **Scholarship Grants** were processed helping 49 students reach their transportation career goals.

Nearly \$20,000 was provided to 11 Caltrans employees and their families in need through the **Workers Assistance and Memorial Program**. We also continued financial support for the annual memorial tribute held each April by Caltrans.

The **Awards and Recognition Program** responded to special assistance requests from **Headquarters, the Historic Preservation Committee, Division of Transportation Planning, and Districts 1, 10 and 11**.

Continued the **Conference and Events Program** sponsorship of the Transportation Forum, the Transportation Awards Ceremony, the Education Symposium and the Charity Golf Tournament. The Golf Tournament this past year raised \$15,000 in support of the Foundation's General Fund.

Issued a special grant from the **Career Development Program** to the Caltrans **Traffic Operations Academy** and partnered with the **California Land Surveyors Association** in conducting Trig-Star Contests throughout the state.

If you would like further information on any of CTF's programs or upcoming events, you may wish to check out the Foundation's website

[www.transportationfoundation.org](http://www.transportationfoundation.org) or contact Executive Director Sarah West at [sarah\\_west@transportationfoundation.org](mailto:sarah_west@transportationfoundation.org).

## In Memoriam

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

Name	District	Date
Irv Schroeder	1	November 30, 2010
Wilfred Williamson	1	November 30, 2010
Dan Valdez	3	February 12, 2011
Paul Sheridan	3	February 12, 2011
Bill Bauer	3	January 30, 2011
Dick Peacemaker	3	February 16, 2011
Sandi Johnson	3	January 26, 2011
Dino Cassinelle	4	January 2011
George Gee	4	January 2011
Charles Mertes	4	February 2011
John Robles	4	January 2011
Muriel Stewart	4	January 2011
Vincent Yoder	4	January 2011
Robert Larsen Sr.	6	December 22, 2010
Earl Ernest Mar	6	January 12, 2011
Tim Man Lum	6	January 30, 2011
Lewis Collins	6	February 17, 2011
Grace Virzens	8	December 24, 2010
Gus Krug	8	July 3, 2010
Donald Gingerich	8	January 1, 2011
Don Feenstra	8	January 4, 2011
Donald C. Weaver	8	January 15, 2011
Roy Steven	8	July 3, 2010
Gerrit Van Oldenbkk	10	2011
John Walter Catanzaro	10	January 30, 2011
Michael Baltich	10	January 31, 2011
Denis Michael Azevedo	10	February 9, 2011
Gabriel Ramirez	10	February 25, 2011
Joe Montoya	C	February 17, 2011

## 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 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.

**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@citilink.net](mailto:linedancerjudyt@citilink.net)

The next quarterly luncheon of the District QCC will be Thursday, April 14th, 11:30 AM, at Lulu's Eating Establishment in Redding. Contact **Bill Belcher** 530-347-9546 or [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)

**Breakfast at Perko's** Yuba City at 7:00 am third Wednesday of every month.

The annual Spring Party will be held at the Peach Tree Golf and Country Club on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> starting at 1:00 P.M. Cutoff for this event is Monday, March 28th.

### 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)

**D-4 Admin. Retirees lunch** first Wednesday of each month at the Mexicali Rose restaurant in downtown Oakland at 11:30 AM. Contact either Anita Appiano at [aappiano@pacbell.net](mailto:aappiano@pacbell.net) or Kathy Freeman at [kathy.freeman1@att.net](mailto:kathy.freeman1@att.net) for more information.

The **North Bay Caltrans Retirees** meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**District 7 -**

The **Monthly Luncheon Club** meets on the second Wednesday of the month in Los Angeles. *Contact: Tom Gildersleeve, 661-259-6226, tgilders@pacbell.net; or Chuck O'Connell, 661-253-3428, chuckoconnell@prodigy.net*

**District 8 -**

*Contact: Marsha Lotze, 760-247-2119, mlotze12@verizon.net*

**Every Wed. AM at 9:00** D-8 Construction retirees and anyone else interested meet at Coco's restaurant on Hospitality Lane in San Bernardino.

**District 9 -**

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

**District 10 -**

**Lenny's Huddle** meets at 7:30 am on the last Tuesday of the month at Denny's, I-5 and March Lane in Stockton.

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

**District 11 -**

**ROMEOS** (Retired Old Men Eating Out) meets at Denny's, Navajo Road at Fletcher Parkway at 8:00 on the third Wednesday of every month. *Contact: Butch Biendara, 858-279-5054, EagleAyerie@hotmail.com.*

**Central District-**

Mark your calendar: April 14<sup>th</sup> at the Dante Club, September 8<sup>th</sup> at College Greens and December 14<sup>th</sup> at the Dante Club.

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

**QCC OFFICERS, 2008****President: Emil "Butch" Biendara**

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If you are not paid up for years in advance you must return this form with the proper payment as shown below. Your mailing label shows your '**paid through**' date.

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Make your checks out to the Quarter Century Club and mail to:

Mike Ogilvie, QCC Sec./Treas.

Questions - m.ogilvie@sbcglobal.net

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*Substitute editor's note.*

*As you see, much of Gene's masterful formatting skills are sorely missed.*

*When I sent my PresMsg into the Berthelsen estate for this issue in early March, I got a reply back from the 'Better Half', Donna, saying that Gene may not be functional for any near time in the foreseeable future.*

*Rather than let the calendar drag out to an unknown date, I took the bull by the horns and contacted each District Director to have them send me their submittals and I'd try to pound out a March edition of the QCC'er.*

*What you see is the 'pounded out' / beat up, haggard efforts to work through all of Gene's fancy*

*'editor' tricks of word processing that are mostly hidden or beyond my humble keyboard skills.*

*Recently there was a very positive E-note from Gene hinting that he is getting better and will be back for the next (June) edition. So I humbly submit my scrambled script, begging your forgiveness for anything I did that was so far from Gene's normally very high level of talent.*

*A 'personal' observation is that this edition has a lot more 'terminal' news in the 'obits' as opposed to the good news, (see D-7 tripping) and needs the support of good people like you and the stories of your great life with Caltrans and the broader events of living.*

*This is a special thank you to all the contributors in the districts who adjusted their plans to send their stuff along to me.*

*And of course we all owe a tremendous debt to the Officers in each District who work so hard to keep the local events well prepared, promoted, populated, presented and fun.*

*El Butcho, QCC Pres.*

Kae Curtis of Charlotte, NC and his only grandchild, Wesley Kyle Curtis, two sisters both of Naples, FL and three nieces. Services were held in Riverside and in lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the School of Engineering and Mines Excellence at the University of North Dakota Foundation. Our prayers go out to all of Don's family.

Taylor Smith heard that **Ray E. O'Bier, Jr.**, 78, the son of deceased **Ray O'Bier, Sr.** former District 8 Right of Way Engineer, passed away January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Again, all our thoughts and prayers go out to all the families and friends of our dearly departed loved ones.  
— *Marsha Lotze*

## The Haps in District 9

Hello from Bishop. Spring is beginning here in the Owens Valley, fruit trees are starting to bud out, again way too early. Oh yes, tax time is here also.

I don't have reports from any members. However, we see **Jim Kemp, John and Shirley Nakken, Earl Frank**, at bowling every week. I see **Ken Rischer** occasionally out on the back roads in the White Mountains.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable spring.  
*Lance Hinek*

## The Haps in District 10

About 30 District 10 retirees meet for breakfast every month on the last Tuesday of the month at Dennys in Stockton on March Lane at I-5, 2-22-11 - 32 present.

**Bob & Ardyth Biffel** just returned from a round trip cruise to Hawaii. They visited most of the islands and received a special VIP tour of the Pearl Harbor exhibits especially the Air Museum and the Battleship Missouri. It was a 14-day trip with lots of sea time. We saw lots of whales and a few flying fish.

**Gerrit "Van" Van Oldenbeek**, who had a long career with the state's Office of Traffic Safety before retiring to an active life of volunteerism, died at age 83 of a heart condition. Born in Holland, **Mr. Van Oldenbeek** served in the Dutch Armed Forces during World

War II, said his close friend, **Barbara Bania**. A graduate of San Diego State University, he worked for IBM in Asia, the Caribbean and the United States.

For nearly two decades, he was a manager with the California Office of Traffic Safety, and retired as assistant director of the agency in 1987. After retirement, he dedicated his time to various volunteer causes, including Loaves & Fishes homeless services, church activities and the American Cancer Society, said **Bania**. "He was very kind and patient. I never heard a cross word from him," she said.

**Mr. Van Oldenbeek's** only surviving family members live in Holland and will travel to Sacramento for his memorial service, **Bania** said.

**John Walter Catanzaro** July 21, 1923 - January 30, 2011. Born in Forest Park, Illinois. **John** and his family moved to Stockton in 1945. He was employed by CalTrans for 40 years and spent his retirement enjoying time with family and working at the IAC kitchen. **John** is survived by his loving wife, **Andrea**, his son and daughter-in-law **Joseph and Pamela Catanzaro**, his daughter, and son-in-law **Carol Ann and Bob Gagliardi**. His grandchildren, **Anthony**, along with wife **Lyra**, **Jason** and wife **Melissa**, **Nicholas** and **Jessica** will fondly remember their grandfather as a kind and generous man. **John** is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews in the Stockton, Illinois and Michigan region. It was **John's** request that there be no services and in lieu of flowers, please send contributions to the American Cancer Society.

**Michael Baltich** passed away in Grass Valley on Jan. 31, 2011. **Mike** was born Dec. 7, 1931 in Ohio. He served his country in the Air Force and then attended and graduated from the University of Arizona with a degree in engineering. He settled in California and was a CalTrans Engineer for 37 years, retiring in 1995. He was a tireless advocate for employees as an officer in the California State Employees Association. **Mike and Barbara** made their retirement home in Grass Valley, where **Mike** pursued his love for building and renovating, volunteering many hours to the Music in the Mountains organization and refurbishing their beautiful home.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and a brother and sister of Ohio. He is survived by his beloved wife, **Barbara** of Grass Valley and sister **Eleanor Barber** of Copake, New York. He also leaves behind and will be sorely missed by family members: **Ann and Larry Iwanicki** and son **Alex** of Castro Valley, Calif.; **Pete (John)** and **Linda Kroger**, sons **Eric and Brian** of Sacramento, Calif.; **Bill and Michelle Kroger**, son **Brand** and daughter **Emma** of San Ramon, Calif.; and his little dog, **Benny**, rescued from the streets of Sacramento. Memorial donations may be made to Music in the Moun-