

TheQCCer

The Newsletter of the Quarter
Century Club

VOLUME 21, No. 2

JUNE 2012



Stories, Tales, Adventures

BUTCH SAYS; 'SEND THEM IN !'

From the Corner Pocket

Are we having fun yet? Or are our best times kept as a secret? What stories do you have to tell that might challenge our editor to include more into each edition of the QCCer? The mission of the QCC is to 'encourage a closer bond of friendship' among our members, so I'd like to read more good news stories on the great things our members are doing or have done.

(I get hints that our 'Web Mistress', Peggy Veeder has an amazing history and also some exciting adventures from her life's story.)

Humility can hide some great stories if we never hear about you, and be as bad as the one who brags about trivia. In between those poles might be some nice stories about our fun loving members.

Some QCC Districts have a 'Correspondent' with the responsibility to submit the District's contributions, but there isn't any 'rule' on 'who, may submit, what'. I recall a few editions back where a member sent in a touching tale of travels with twists. I even got a page (besides the 'PresMsg') on my 2011 enriching vacation. There is nothing to keep you from sending your story along to our editor.

Here's a challenge: win a free QCC logo watch for the members (up to a total of 4) who can write up an exciting travel story, adventure story, or tale. An interesting historical article about your part of this great state would make good reading. Give Jay Leno a run for his money by submitting some jokes (of course, fit for all audiences). Perhaps write about your hobby or how you are serving your community. What can **YOU** write as fun reading for the rest of us who haven't walked the same paths with you?



It will be my choice of what gets selected. Send in your best to Chris Thomas, QCC Editor, or your District Correspondent and the winners will be announced in the next edition. (District Directors are not eligible.)

In support and defense of our distinguished QCC Editor, I must advise that anything sent in may not be immediately printed, and if and when it is printed it may be edited to some degree. That's what Editors do. The decision to include, exclude or modify text is not a group decision with responsive arguments for and against. I don't see it until it is finished.

So let's make him struggle to pick from pages and pages of your great stories to find the best to include in the next QCCer. I am really looking forward to

hearing some fun and exciting tales (and mostly true?).

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>

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Roster Corrections:

Page 4; District 11 Director
Jösan Feathers phone number 619-660-2915

Page 5; District 1
Paul Wilson should be David Wilson

**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION
FOUNDATION**
By **Kathy Freeman**

It's that time of year again to get into the swing of things! Register today for the California Transportation Foundation's annual **Charity Golf Tournament** coming up July 30 at the El Macero Country Club in Davis. If you have joined the Foundation in the past, you know what a great opportunity it is for you to help members of the Caltrans' community when their need is greatest as well as have a good time playing with friends and colleagues. And if you haven't had the opportunity to join us in the past, this is the time! Last year's event was attended by 125 golfers and even more for the dinner that followed. The event was able to raise more than \$24,000 to help support CTF's charitable purposes. Check out our website for more information and reservation forms.

Congratulations to the winners of CTF's **23rd Annual Transportation Awards**. This year's prestigious awards were presented in Sacramento on May 23rd with *Person of the Year* awarded to Lucetta Dunn, President and CEO, Orange County Business Council; *Elected Official of the Year* went to Mark Green, Mayor of Union City. The *Manager of the Year Award* was presented to Larry Rubio, CEO of the Riverside Transit Agency and the *Organization of the Year Award* was won by Mobility 21 (The Southern California Transportation Coalition). The award for *Project of the Year* was for the Interstate 15 Express Lanes Project which was shared by Caltrans **District 11**, Flatiron, SANDAG, FHWA, Metropolitan Transit System, Coffman Specialties, Atkinson Construction, T.Y. Lin International, Transcore, Barrier Systems, AECOM, HNTB, and CityWorks. Check out CTF's website for a complete list of the winning projects and programs.

The Foundation would also like to congratulate and recognize each of the following Caltrans' managers for their special contributions to the field of transportation and for winning this year's *Caltrans Outstanding Management and Engineering in Transportation*

Awards: **Robert Copp**, Chief of the Division of Traffic Operations won the Charles Purcell Award (engineering managers in the field of transportation engineering and transportation program management); **Rich Stone**, Senior Transportation Engineer in the Division of Construction won the Karl Moskowitz Award (registered engineers in the field of transportation engineering); **Boris Deunert**, Senior Environmental Planner in District 4's Office of Local Assistance won the Emerson Rhyner Award (non-engineering managers); and **Michael B. Johnson**, Chief of the Office of Bridge Management and Specialty Investigations won the James E. Roberts Award (registered engineers in the field of transportation structures). These awards were presented during the Foundation's annual Transportation Awards ceremony on May 23rd.

Other recognition ceremonies that the CTF has been able to help support so far this year have included the **Workers Memorial Tribute** held on May 9th on the steps of the State Capitol, **District 11's** own **Workers Memorial Ceremony**, and the service recognition ceremonies held in **District 3** and **Headquarters**. CTF currently has five ongoing Workers Assistance and Memorial grants including one that was recently established in March for **Katie Fasoli**, a new **District 7** employee whose legs were severely injured on the job when she was hit by an errant motorist. When you make a contribution to CTF, you are supporting the organization that supports Caltrans employees.

For more information on any of the above, or for information on how you can make a contribution to CTF, please check out our web page (www.transportationfoundation.org) or visit us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/#/pages/California-Transportation-Foundation-CTF/111235832303745) and click on "like CTF".

If you were unable to attend the **Workers Memorial Tribute** in Sacramento on May 9th you may wish to go to Caltrans web page (www.ca.dot.gov), scroll down the left side, and click on the video tribute "Remembering Our Fallen Workers". This video should be posted soon.

In Memoriam

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

Name	District	Date
Craig Swenson	01	Mar 18, 2012
Shirley J. Trombatore	03	May 5, 2012
Bill Wells	03	May 5, 2012
John Maes	05	Nov 14, 2011
Vern Leseman	05	Feb 28, 2012
Al Ross	05	Apr 13, 2012
Donna Langford	05	May 18, 2012
Lynwood (Lyn) Lentell	06	Mar 10, 2012
Chester H. Sohm	06	Apr 22, 2012
John Hawthorne	06	May 12, 2012
Paul H. Ortman	07	Dec 30, 2011
Andrew L. Still, Jr.	07	Feb 21, 2012
James L. Wright	07	2012
Melvin (Mel) L. Hodges	07	May 19, 2012
Billy Rogers	08	Dec , 2011
(James) Steve Aimar	08	2012
Tom Brannick	08	May 24, 2012
Robert W. (Bill) Gillispie	10	Apr 9, 2012
Austin H. Stedman	10	May 26, 2012
Kiel Jackson	11	May 11, 2011
Robert L Schaper	11	Aug 21, 2011
John F. Frojen	11	Nov 20, 2011
William (Wayne) Le Fevre	11	Mar 13, 2012
Gary L. Pinhero	11	Apr 19, 2012
Leonard R. Wright	11	Apr 26, 2012
Alan R. Hunter	11	Apr 29, 2012
Glen O. Rome	C	Sep 24, 2011
Norman Root	C	Oct 2, 2011

The Haps in District 1

On April 19, 2012, we had our second Caltrans retirees' lunch at the Samoa Cookhouse and it was another success. We had 39 attendees, including **Jerry & Sharon Severson** from Redding, **Glenn Hoffman, Gene & Susie Leo, Larry Bowermaster, Bob Melendez, Dave & Lynn Vierra, Nick Motto, Ray & Marlene Thomsen, Jim Siebert, Dennis Grinsell, Tom Georgeson, Linda Dennon, John & Jackie Sherman, Len Blomquist, Rita & Doug Coleman, Jim Boyd, Pete & Heidi Pettersen, Helene Demling, Dale & Shirley Cooley, Audrey Oakley, Dave Wilson, Guy Luther, Larry Look,**

Ed Scott, Jim Lyon, Mel Berning, Mr. & Mrs. Harold Hallsten, and Stan Bellatti. Everyone had a great time visiting and enjoying a nice lunch.

District 1's 31st annual State service awards presentation and lunch will be on July 19, 2012 at the Red Lion in Eureka. The honorees include, for 25 years, **Franklin Bartczak, Reid Buell, Howard Campbell, Philip Frisbie, Valerie Gizinski, Ralph Martinelli, Heriberto Ruiz, Jr., David Waterman;** for 30 years, **Gregory Bushta, Melvin Crawford, Glenn Hurlbutt, James Jones, Jeffrey Troxell, David Woodson;** for 35 years, **Lorene Enos, Leota Lovelace, Karol Petsch, Donald Puzin,** and for 40 years, **John Moore.**

Rick Knapp, retired District Director and Humboldt Bay Bicycle Commuters Assoc. President, wrote 3 columns for the Times-Standard to celebrate National Bike Month in May, sharing the benefits and upcoming activities. It is both a great exercise and fun.

I received a note from **Tom Georgeson** that our former District 1 Director of Right of Way, **Craig Swenson,** passed away March 18, 2012.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Craig's family and friends.

I appreciate any news you can send me. My email address is ahartin@suddenlink.net.

- Arlene Hartin

Editors Note:

Last edition we welcomed a new D-1 member but we got his name wrong. His name is **David Wilson** and we are sorry for the confusion.

The Haps in District 2

The District 2 Quarter Century Club annual picnic and social get together will be on Saturday, September 8th, 2012 in Anderson, CA. at the Anderson River Park Gazebo. All Caltrans

employees, past and present, including their families are welcome to attend. Specific information regarding cost, contact numbers, and menu will be available closer to the event date. RSVP's will be requested. For further information contact **Bill Belcher**, D2 Secretary, either at 530-347-9546 or shastaqcc@yahoo.com. We hope to see you all there.

From **Jim Ceragioli**:

Since my last submission I have done a few travels. **Sandy** and I went to Reno for Christmas with my son and his family. Then we returned in February for my Granddaughter's second birthday party. Oh they grow up fast. We also have done some driving around the North State area to areas Sandy has never been to. I saw most of this northern 30% of the state during my working days. We are now planning a November trip down under to Australia and New Zealand. That will be a 14 day cruise plus a 5 day stay in Sidney to see the sites. Maybe next year we will go to Europe for a tour. That may have to wait until 2014 though.

May 5th was Sandy's 70th birthday and so the two of us and two very good friends went to the Oregon Coast for a week to celebrate. Sandy has a timeshare that has three facilities in the Depoe Bay area and we went to the nicest of the three. One week right on the ocean was wonderful. We were joined by my sister and brother in-law for part of the time and another couple that are related to the other couple that went with us. Of course the ladies had to go shopping and the men either went with them to people watch or went off on our own to see the sites. Weather was clear most of the time but the wind did blow making it cold. Visited Florence for dinner one night, Tillamook for cheese one day, and Lincoln City on Saturday night for the show at the Casino. Howie Mandell was really funny.

Remember to send me anything you want included in the QCCer.

- **Bill Belcher**

The Haps in District 3

Libby and **Ed Haraughty** have returned from vacationing in Hawaii. Libby kept in contact with friends and associates the entire time they were having a great time on the islands. **Dan Johnson, Sr.** has a trip planned to go to Hawaii also. The reservations are for April next year. Speaking of our Director, Dan was diagnosed with cancer late last year. He finished up his treatments a month ago and no longer has cancer. Modern medicine can do some outstanding things. Since his cancer was advanced, he is extremely grateful. The doctors called it a miracle.

For those who didn't attend the recent QCC Party held at the Peach Tree Country Club we have news. Nominations for District 3 Director were brought before the membership during the meeting. It was decided by an overwhelming majority to re-elect Dan Johnson, Sr. for another two years.

We are looking for new members. In fact, Membership Chairperson **Carleen Hagen**, is always ready to sign new people into the Quarter Century Club. If anyone knows of someone who is a potential member, please give her a jingle at (530) 674-9026 or email her at hcdhagen@aol.com.

Shirley Jane Trombatore passed away on May 5, 2012. She is survived by her husband Leo Trombatore, three children, six grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Charles "Chuck" Kelly is doing better and is at home after serious health problems placed him in the hospital and then to The Fountain for re-cooperation.

Bill Wells passed away on May 5, 2012. Bill was a World War II veteran and after returning home continued his education in engineering. He joined the California Division of Highways in 1949 as a civil engineer. In 1950 he transferred from Sacramento to Marysville and worked there for almost 40 years. Bill loved trains all his life and was a supporter of high

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speed rail. He is survived by his wife Lita, five children and several grandchildren.

The history center, located at the District 3 Headquarters complex is an ongoing project which has several dedicated members of the QCC. Director **Dan Johnson, Sr.** presented Certificates of Appreciation at the recent Spring Party to **Bob Mulcahy, Palmer Haug** and **Carleen Hagen** for their continued dedication in volunteering many hours to the history room project. **Libby Haraughty** also was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for all her guidance as the lead person for the project.

Anyone with information for this publication is asked to contact **Dan Johnson, Sr.** at (530) 671-3889 or by email at boots3@syix.com.

- Dan Johnson Sr.

The Haps in District 4

Things have been a little hectic this spring so the news this quarter is somewhat skimpy. More on the reason later.

My apologies to **Ron Maasberg** for misspelling his name for the second or third time. Ron and his wife Judy are set for a Pacific cruise next March. They will fly to Los Angeles to begin the cruise which will take 4 weeks and include stops in Samoa and Tahiti.

Those District 4 49er ticket holders have declined the team's offer to purchase seats (which don't include game day tickets) at prices from \$10,000 to \$80,000. It remains to be seen what the team will offer fans that have loyally supported the team for up to four decades.

No one seemed interested in my idea to purchase a seat from old Cesar Stadium instead.

The reason things have been hectic for me and my wife, Niki, is that we are now grandparents at this late date. Our oldest daughter, Amber, gave birth to a healthy girl named Gates in April. So we have been busy at the local Target and Babies R Us stores making

sure she is properly outfitted and intellectually stimulated by the right toys. It's been almost thirty five years since we had a baby in the family. I think we were part of the pre-Pampers generation in that we used a Diaper Service and cloth diapers. Amber and her husband Dan were living in a 800 square foot apartment but quickly discovered that this was not enough room for a baby and moved to a 1600 square foot apartment. So we helped them move as best we could. My wife has been spending most of the time with her new granddaughter leaving me with the cats. I've warned my daughter to keep an eye on my wife because she may come home with our granddaughter permanently.

- Paul Hensley

The Haps in District 5

Hope you are enjoying a pleasant summer, not too hot or too foggy.

The awards banquet following the 50th Caltrans Invitational Golf Tournament was a pleasant affair. We enjoyed seeing many friends from all over the state and chuckled over the old photographs from previous years. Thanks to **Al and Ann McCuen** for all their work on the very detailed memory book. Congratulations to **John Luchetta** for his closest-to-the pin prize and to **Don McGray** and **Don Webster** for placing in their flights. Unfortunately, District 5 had to hand over the tournament trophy to District 6.

Monte Vernon celebrated his 90th birthday in March, at a party hosted by his daughters. Many old friends and co-workers gathered in Santa Maria to wish him well.

Please think good thoughts for **Bill Fieldhouse** and **Shirley Kathary** as they recover from recent hospital stays.

In memoriam: **Vern Leseman** passed away February 28. He was raised in Minnesota, served in the Army during the Korean War, and earned his CE degree in

North Dakota. He worked 36 years for Caltrans as an engineer and administrator and retired in 1994. He is survived by his daughter Sherry, sons Scott and Steven and their families.

Al Ross, husband of Marilyn, passed away April 13 following a recent illness. Al worked for many years as an equipment mechanic for Shop 5.

Mrs. Donna Langford, widow of **Bruce**, passed away May 18. She had moved to North Carolina and then to Arkansas to live near her daughters following Bruce's death.

- **Kathleen Copeland**

The Haps in District 6

Our Spring Luncheon was held at Yosemite Falls Cafe on May 8th this year. In attendance were **Gloria Adam, Roxie Aldama**, Shirley and **Roy Andersen**, Sandy and **Hal Avakian, Bill Bastian** and his guest, Beth, Barbara and **Dick Beck, Kay Chessman, Georgia Cordova**, Joyce and **Lee Halderman**, Eva and **Owen Helm, Annie Hlywa, Sandi Iley**, Lee and **Glenn Jensen, Carolyn Landy, LuAnne (Pinedo) Madden**, Laudine and **Ken Oliphant, Abe Paregian**, Barbara and **Don Peterson, Elaine Romagnoli, Jane Suo, Koke Uyeno, Bob Voss**, and me, **Terry Littleton**.

Virgle Ray wasn't able to attend "Drat, wouldn't you know, I will be sitting in a dental chair in San Jose on that day. I want to share laughs and hugs with ole buddies, maybe soon another event will come up". Also not in attendance was **Barney Deeter**. He is waiting to have his right hip replaced and as of now is using a walker to get around. *"I have to very careful as the pain is pretty great when I put any weight on my right leg. I also have to be careful so that I won't fall. Say hello to everyone for me"*. The surgery is scheduled for July 26th.

What's with all the hip surgeries lately. Do you think we're getting old?

From **Carolyn Landy** May 26, 2012;

Well, since **Josie Rendon** and I are not traveling to Europe this year, my granddaughters are going abroad. The oldest granddaughter is entering her 4th year of law school and was given the opportunity to work for an international law firm in Heibron, Germany for the summer. So, off to Germany she went. Her sister is entering her second year of law school and is taken some law classes in Ireland, sponsored by a law school in Boston. So, both granddaughters (my daughter's girls) are going to be in Europe. Sure wish I was going too, but we will next year. Our son James's children will be home this year and not going on any missions, like our granddaughter did last year going to Honduras. Thank goodness, as she came home with meningitis. This summer, Jim and I will be celebrating our 50th anniversary.

From **Virgle Ray**;

A kitchen project is taking most of my time and resources now. Keep up the good work Honorable Director!!!!

Recently while attending a CHP RV outing, a retired CHP Officer told of his wonderful experience with a Caltrans maintenance person. I did some research with the Dist. 3 Secretary and came up with the address of the CT worker, now a retired Senior Supt, and they are now going to get together to share good ole times. It's fun thinking of two who went on separate trails that are now able to share stories of retirement.

Another quick note, our 51 year old son is running the Police relay race, Baker to Las Vegas run on April 21st.

Barbara and Dick Beck celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary, which was on May 12, 2012, at the C.P.D.E.S Hall in Easton on April 29th. The celebration was put on by their children and grandchildren of whom there are many. Some of the Caltrans guests in attendance were **Emily and Tony**

Telesco, Maryann and Ed Hokokian, Margie and Abe Paregian, Reggie and Angie Silva, Linda and Steve Mason, Marilyn and Darrell Brooks and Terry Littleton. Darrell Brooks came all the way from South Dakota and Steve Mason came all the way from Arkansas. Abe Paregian and Tony Telesco were ushers at Barbara and Dick's wedding. Darrell, Tony, and Abe were all working together in Bakersfield in the early sixties and had some pretty



good stories to tell. Dick Beck will have hip surgery on May 16. Couldn't help but add a picture of the wedding party from 1962, which included Barbara and Dick Beck, Abe Paregian (left back row) and Tony Telesco (back middle).

Maryann and Ed Hokokian celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on May 5, 2012 by going to Monterey and then off to Lake Tahoe.

Don Peterson reports that when you are in your eighties, it seems all you do is go to the doctors' offices or funerals. On the bright side, he and Barbara did go to several great niece and nephew's weddings.

In Memoriam:



Lynwood (Lyn) Lentell was born on May 19, 1925 in Fairhaven, Mass and passed away, on March 10, 2012, in Fresno, California. He joined the Navy, during [World War II](#) and served in the Pacific theater on the USS Tutuila. He returned to and graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) with a BS in Civil Engineering. Lynwood's first and only professional job brought him to Fresno, California where he worked for Caltrans for 34 years. In Fresno, he met and married Wanda Detamore and they had two sons. Lyn was predeceased by his son, Brian Lentell. He is survived by his wife, Wanda, of almost 60 years; son, Gary and his wife Ann and their daughters, Amelia

and Coreen Lentell, and Rebecca Lentell Gottselig and her husband Robert.



Chester Howard Sohm, 91, of Clovis died Sunday, April 22, 2012. He was a highway engineer for the State of California for many years. He and his wife, Thelma, were married for 59 years. He was born on April 4, 1921 in Fresno, CA on a 15 acre farm located on McKinley between Fresno and Blackstone.

Chester graduated from Fresno Technical High School in 1939 and went on to earn post graduate certificates in surveying and electricity. He attended Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo from 1940 to 1942. He took a mixed course of Electric Engineering and Poultry Science. In July of 1942 when he was about to be drafted, he joined the Navy. He was in the radio electronics program. He served in various locations in the South Pacific and became a Chief Petty Officer. He was discharged on December 20, 1945. After the war, Chester returned to Cal Poly for a year and also attended Fresno State for a year.

In 1953 he started working for the California Highway Department which became Caltrans. He designed highway drainage systems and retired from Caltrans in 1978.

From **Virgle Ray** about **Chester Sohm**: *"It's sad to lose fellow friends and employees. Chester was a mentor to all of us - his humility and dedication to the job were admirable"*.

John Hawthorne, 86, of Fresno was a supervising associate highway engineer for Caltrans for 36 years. Born on July 9, 1925 and died on May 12, 2012. John's wife **Marty (Sanger) Hawthorne** also worked for Caltrans for many years.

-Terry Littleton

The Haps in District 7

For those who crave company, the **Tom Fera** Lunch Group is your kind of crowd! These active retirees meet on the second Wednesday of each month, except December. Upcoming meetings are: **July 11, 2012** at the Steer N' Ale, **August 8, 2012** at the China Olive, and **September 12, 2012** at Joselito's West. The remaining 2012 dates and addresses follow below:

RESTAURANTS AND PROPOSED LUNCHEON DATES FOR 2012

[Second Wednesday of every month, except December]

July 11, 2012	Steer N' Ale
August 8, 2012	China Olive
September 12, 2012	Joselito's West
October 10, 2012	Steer N' Ale
November 14, 2012	China Olive
December 1, 2012	QCC luncheon

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, or **Tom Gildersleeve** at (661) 259-6226 or tgilders@pacbell.net.

Tony Cole, a familiar face at the monthly executive committee meetings, writes "[I'm] reasonably certain that you're aware that I've retired [as of] 30 December 2011. If it's no trouble, please include my retirement as an item in *The QCCer D7 Haps*."

From **Tony Cole**:

"If details are appropriate: I walked into 120 So. Spring St. on 11 May 1970 classified as a Jr. R/W Agent in the Estimating section. After about a year, I was transferred into the new Community and Environmental Factors Unit [CEFU] which was the Department's first response to the environmental requirements of NEPA & CEQA and was the forerunner of the Environmental Planning Division. I earned an MS in Environmental Studies. In August 1979, I left State service to return to graduate school and work in the private sector. In November 1989, I returned to District 7 Environmental Planning. I transferred to Transportation Planning working in Advance Planning. I managed the Governmental Affairs Office for several years. Then returned to Transportation Planning where I was promoted to Senior Transportation Planner. For the past twelve years, my title was District Liaison to Local Agencies acting as an ombudsman for cities within the District that needed assistance navigating the Caltrans organization. In addition to being an ombudsman, I also served as a flack-catcher for the District Director, whipping-boy, smoother of ruffled feathers and sometime apologist."

"To those my actions may have irritated over the years, please forgive me. To the many, many other former colleagues who were quick to respond to my requests and help me do a better job on behalf of the Department, I will always be grateful."

"Feel free to provide my personal email, alcole205@gmail.com, and cell phone no. **310-344-8940** to anyone interested." - Sincerely, **Tony Cole**

Tom Takes Home the Winterail Hall of Fame Award
When **Tom Gildersleeve** wrote to **Chuck O'Connell** in an understated e-mail, "By the way, I received the Winterail Hall of Fame award this year at the event in Stockton last Saturday, [March 10]. It's kind of like getting an Oscar for lifetime achievement for train buffs." **Chuck** wrote back in bold type, and multiple exclamation marks, in encouragement, "**Tom-** That sounds great! Got some good recognition for your long dedication and hard work in your favorite 'occupation'! That doesn't happen very often -- you

should be really proud of the honor! Congratulations, I was going to share this award information with **Kirsten** for the QCCer, but then why don't you!"

Chuck had to force the issue, I'm serious... "Is it OK with you if I make **Kirsten** aware of the Winterail award... for the QCCer? I think that's really neat and would be of interest..." Ever modest, **Tom** gave his reluctant reply, "I didn't think any of my [other] fellow Caltrans friends would be all that interested. However, since you think there would be some interest, I drafted a couple of paragraphs below:"

Without further "ado", in **Tom's** own words, "On March 10 **Tom Gildersleeve** made his annual trek to Stockton to attend a gathering of railroad pistachios called Winterail. It's an event that has been held for over 30 years, and includes a swap meet and a number of multi-media slide and video shows. This time was a bit different for **Tom**, however, as he was one of the presenters this year, with a show titled "The Last Great Steam Show in America," which was a photo essay on the narrow gauge lines of the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad. It was the last significant railroad operation in the United States to be operated exclusively by steam locomotives. It was a 300 mile system that did not get abandoned until 1969. Today, two remnants, the Durango and Silverton Railroad and the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, continue to operate as tourist hauling historical railroads.

Immediately before his presentation it was announced that he had won the annual Hall of Fame award for 2012. It is presented each year at the event in recognition of a lifetime of accomplishment in the hobby. In **Tom's** case it is mainly for photography, although he has written one book and a number of magazine articles on railroads as well. His most recent article, due out in the fall, is titled "Early Days in the OC" and depicts railroads in Santa Ana in the early 1950s. It will include a number of photos in black and white and color that **Tom** took when he was barely into his teens."

Recent Sightings

Tony Cole, in the elevator of the District Office. Due to less stress and casual dress, he was going incognito.

Tom Almany and **Chuck Webster**, keeping an eye on the roads and the people who (try to) maintain them. Recent concerns include raveling and shoving of an I-5 overlay, and "warm mix" technology transfer. Hey Tom, where's that story you keep promising to write!

Frank Weidler, as an I-5 Dispute Resolution Board member at the Downy Field Office.

Karl Smith, also keeping an eye on the roads and the people who (try to) maintain them. Recent activities include demonstrations of concrete joint and spall repairs using fast patch "polyquik" joint filler on the LA-118 and the LA-60.

Retirements

After many [undisclosed] years of hard work and dedication as Maintenance Division's Emergency Contract coordinator, **Bill Varley**, Maintenance hosted a coffee and cake in his honor on March 23.

After 30 plus years of varied work investigating claims, as a project manager, and most recently as a Maintenance Office Chief, **Monir Ibrahim**, modestly entered retirement, no fuss, no muss, no cake?

James L. Wright, Associate Right of Agent in March. Please see "Road Last Travelled" section below for more information, on Jim's career.

Another example of the silent type, is **Chung-Fu Luan**, a Lead design engineer in Design B, who silently slipped the bonds of State Service in early May.

Cindy Quan, District 12 Director and former District 7 engineer, retired the May 31, 2012. Scuttlebutt says she'll be joining more of the Caltrans veterans at the local Metropolitan Transit Authority...

The Road Last Traveled

Andrew L. Still, Jr. 1937-2012, a fixture in the Caltrans Permits Office for many years, passed away Monday, February 21, 2012 due to a heart attack.

“**Andy** worked tirelessly for the State of California, Caltrans for 47 years as an Electrical Engineer in Caltrans District 7 Office of Encroachment Permits. Andy’s keen knowledge, independence and dedication were instrumental in getting things done ‘right’ and will be missed.”

Andrew Nierenberg, Division Chief of Right-of-Way, writes, “It is with great sadness we inform [you] of the passing of **James L. Wright**, Associate Right of Agent, most recently serving in the District 7 right of Way Local Programs Unit. Jim had just retired in March after a career in District 7 and District 12 that began in 1979.”

“**Jim** was a vital member of the Century Freeway I-105 Relocation Assistance Branch, training numerous agents to help relocate displaced along the corridor, [and] took great pride in the intensely personal service he supplied to each and every displaced household. He remained a vital source of institutional knowledge for the Division of Right of Way.”

“Prior to his recent retirement, **Jim** worked in Local Programs representing District Right of Way and providing guidance and support for the cities and public entities in District 7 [for] right of way procedures and compliance with FHWA guidelines. Many worked with him in his Local Programs role, [and considered him] a good friend, a professional mentor, and a kind and gentle person. He will be greatly missed.”

Melvin Leroy Hodges, born January 4, 1944, passed away May 19, 2012, due to lung cancer aggravated from agent orange exposure during his military service. **Mel** retired from Caltrans as Chief of Office of Project Studies after a working career of 37 years. He was an avid golfer and loved watching the University of Illinois Fighting Illini football team and the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team.

Please make donations in his honor to: Disabled American Veterans DAV Memorial Program
P. O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, OH 45250-0301, or

United Service Organizations (USO)
P.O. Box 96322, Washington, DC 20090-6322.

Be like Tony, Chuck, Tom and Andy!

So you’re retired? How hard would it be to send a card, letter, or an e-mail? Stay in touch! Please send your items, to: **Caltrans, attn: Kirsten Stahl, 100 S. Main St. Suite 100 MS 13, Los Angeles, CA 90012.** Phone 213-897-0470, or e-mail: kirsten.stahl@dot.ca.gov.

Tom reminds you that the District 7 QCC Director and Treasurer are available, and you can reach him directly at 17200 So. Stark Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90701-1822.

Please send **DUES (checks), membership applications and honorary member status information**, to Statewide QCC Secretary/Treasurer **Mike Ogilvie** directly...

WAKE UP!

I detest being a nag, so send in your vacation, gardening, concert, cruise, train or other travel details you’ve been hoarding. If not you, then who?

Many thanks to those who forwarded information and who were not otherwise mentioned above.

- **Kirsten Stahl**

The Haps in District 8

District 8’s Summer Luncheon is scheduled for the second Saturday in July, which is July 14, 2012, at Hannah’s Restaurant at 1355 East Highland Avenue in San Bernardino. It’s just a short block east of The Gourmet and is on the left side of Highland Avenue. Social time: 12:00 and lunch served at 12:30. Flyers will be sent out to all members towards the end of June. Please plan on coming and bring guests! The more the merrier. Contact **Wes Grimes** or **Marsha Lotze**.

The monthly Caltrans Ladies Lunch group met at Nena's on May 16th. **Sybillie Phillips** reported on the Governor's work schedule under the proposed budget. Sybillie also attended a Toastmaster Regional Conference in Palm Springs. **Mary Bermudez** is preparing for an extended family reunion, held every three years. **Janice Feenstra** had just returned from Colorado where she was at her granddaughter's wedding. Janice made several of the gowns worn by members of the wedding and will be returning to Colorado in July for another wedding. **Wes and Linda Grimes'** bowling team took First Place for this year, coming back from last place a year ago. Good job to both of you!!

Roses to **Jane Kirst**, headed for shoulder surgery in mid-May, and we all hope your recovery is going well. **Henry Hardy** is still in rehab following a hip injury after a fall. **Karen Meadows** returned from a trip to Tennessee to visit her extended family and is going to Colorado to see her granddaughter.

Linda and Wes Grimes had a reunion dinner in Oceanside in mid-May with **Maurice Eaton**, now in District 11, and **Chris Herre**, now in District 12. This is the first time they were together since Linda's retirement eight years ago. Wow, it doesn't seem like eight years for yours truly either!! Needless to say, lots of "war stories" were discussed.

Taylor and Katie Smith returned from a trip to Iowa, handling family matters there. They continue to organize get togethers now and then. At their last get together **Ernie Parke** came and was looking good! Also attending was **Gil and Jeanette Daab, Dick and Louise Haight and the Grimes.**

Jim and Linda Miller hosted a BBQ at their home in late May. In attendance were **Jim and Pam Landfried, Tom and Bonnie Powell, Dick Longstreet, and Wes and Linda Grimes.**

I received notice from **Sybillie Phillips** that (**James Steve Aimar** had passed away recently from cancer. He passed away at Redlands Community Hospital in Redlands, CA. Steve (68) retired from Caltrans in May, 2004. He worked 34 years in the Maintenance

Department at the Colton, Palm Springs and Camp Angelus Maintenance Stations. Steve always had a smile and he will be dearly missed by his Caltrans family. All our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this difficult time.

I had an e-mail from **Retha Rubiec**, a longtime District 8 employee who transferred to Redding and retired there several years ago. Retha had worked for **Billy Rogers** at the Riverside Maintenance Station for quite some time. She hadn't heard from him in quite some time. I gave her Billy's contact information and she called him and talked to his wife. Unfortunately she received the sad news that Billy a long-time Region Manager in Riverside before retiring, had passed away in December, 2011. Billy had a massive stroke in December and passed away six days later. Billy was a loyal Caltrans employee for many years and also a loyal Q.C.C. member. Our belated thoughts and prayers go out to his wife and family.

That's all for District 8 this quarter. If anyone has any news or information they'd like to share please contact President, **Wes Grimes**, or me, **Marsha Lotze.**

AGAIN, don't forget our Summer Luncheon on Saturday, July 14, 2012 at 12:00 noon.

- **Marsha Lotze**

The Haps in District 9

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

The Haps in District 10

Dana Willard rented a car to come to the March 27th breakfast. Why? It seems as how his garage door malfunctioned and he couldn't get his car out of the garage. This is a brief summary of a longer explanation supplied by Dana.

At the Tuesday April 24th meeting, **Merle Larabee** says those that were there, enjoyed themselves immensely. Too bad for those that didn't show.

Wilbur Elias says at 85 he is still working as a traffic engineer.

On Wednesday, April 18, 2012, **Virginia Evinger** and her daughter Sheila Desmond attended a tea party put on by the Gold Country Retirement Center where Virginia lives. This was in honor of Claudia, who is running for Miss El Dorado Rose. All those who had won in previous years were in costume; period dress from 1840 to 1870. Everyone looked lovely and we had a wonderful time.

On May 29th, 36 folks were present at our monthly breakfast. **George Crowley** and **Judy Ogata** graced us with their presence. George came from Modesto for the first time and was accompanied with Don Lane. Judy came from Arizona and was visiting family in Lodi.

From **Bill and Darlene Selling**:

We spent 15 days cruising through the Panama Canal with stops in Cabo San Lucas and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala; Puntarenas, Costa Rica; Colon and Panama City, Panama; Cartagena, Colombia, and on to Fort Lauderdale, Florida. We visited several historical sites, attended a local ceremonial dance put on by school children, toured a jade factory, several beautiful old churches, and shopped at local villages. While cruising through the canal, we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary and Darlene's birthday. We met while Darlene worked in the District 10 Planning/Design Steno Pool and Bill worked in the District 10 Reproduction Department.

Pictures of the Panama Canal do not do it justice. We were awestruck at the size of it and the amount of earth moved over 100 years ago with very limited heavy equipment. Unlike today, there are hundreds of pieces of equipment moving the earth for the new canal to open in 2014. In Colon, we took the dome train back to tour Panama City and some of the old military

installations. We spent a couple of extra days seeing the sights in Fort Lauderdale with the water taxi tour being the highlight before flying home. It was a trip of a lifetime and we highly recommend people seeing the Panama Canal for themselves.

Stan Randolph recently returned from a trip to New York City and Washington DC. While in New York he attended his Granddaughter's graduation from the University of Columbia's Nursing School and did the normal sightseeing tours. In DC he visited with his grandson who teaches High School in the DC area. More sightseeing and visits to Civil War battlefields in Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, The Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House.

In memoriam:

Robert William (Bill) Gillispie, age 87, passed away April 09, 2012 in Oakdale, CA. He was born January 10, 1925 in Ripon, CA. and was a lifelong resident of Escalon, CA.

He lived his 87 years farming the walnut and almond ranch, where he grew up. Bill was a Civil Engineer, and retired as Chief Construction and Traffic Engineer after 41 years from CALTRANS. The highlight of his career was supervising the completion of the final leg of Interstate 5, the highway project that stretches from the Mexican to the Canadian border.

He enlisted in the US Marine Corp during WW II and was stationed in various islands of the Pacific. Upon completing his military service, Bill graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno School of Engineering with a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering.

Described by many as a true public servant, Bill served on several boards and committees. His service included San Joaquin County Planning Commissioner for 26 years.

Austin Hall Stedman, passed away at home on Saturday, May 26, 2012. Austin was born to Carroll and Helen Stedman on May 5, 1937. He was a lifelong resident of Stockton. He graduated from Humphreys College Laurence Drivon School of Law

with Juris Doctor degree. Austin retired after 33 years as a property agent with CALTRANS.

- Brian Young

The Haps in District 11

Join the fun at our Annual BBQ at Santee Lakes! Save the date; Saturday September 8th from 11am to 2pm. We've streamlined our raffle process so there will be more time to visit with friends and chow down on all the delicious food. Any donations you have for our raffle are greatly appreciated. Don't miss it! More information will be sent to you in July. For questions or to volunteer to help contact **Gary Darr** at 619-479-0549 or e-mail at fatdog261@cox.net.

From **Butch Biendara**:

The indomitable **Tom Culver** hosted his 80th birthday party in the clubhouse of the Stone Ridge resort just beyond Warner Springs on a sunny Saturday of May 20th. There were nearly a hundred guests of some of his neighbors at the resort, as well as others from his past connections at Caltrans and his various other associations who made the hour plus drive up there. The guests spanned a wide age range with just one lady with a walker and most of the guests a very active bunch of seniors but other younger ones just in their prime of live and on down to youngsters coming in from the swimming pool.

Tom, the most generous host, had appetizer snacks that included shrimp cocktail and the open bar had fine wines better than I buy and no 'two-buck-chuck'. Then Tom got into the food line helping to serve up an abundant buffet of smoky grilled BBQ ribs and chicken, a many-bean side dish, corn-on-the cob, cole slaw and fresh strawberries and of course birthday cake for dessert. Tom would have us believe that he was the great cook but confessed that the only reason he has a kitchen is that it came with the house.

The 'Birthday Boy' was called up to the stage as we sang happy birthday and at his time on stage to greet the guests it was amazing to note Tom's memory in calling out the names of his friends from when he was a volunteer for the CHP and other past organizations and friends from his travels to England.

The live music was playing from the start and continued through the banquet with a few of the fun loving younger ones going up for a try at the Karaoke setup where even Tom sang a tune after most of the guests had left. One observation was that when you are drunk enough to try to sing Karaoke you are too drunk to sing, but you have to give credit to those willing to give it a try.

Reverend Tom, as his friends called him, was dressed in a black Hawaii print shirt with open buttons to see his big gold chain with a large gold cross that fit in with the crowd perfectly. The dress code had fine ladies in long floral gowns with hats and high heels, guys in baggy blue jeans, gals in tight jeans and plunging necklines, and guys in shorts, white socks and black tennis shoes. Much talk was of Tom's great head of hair even though there were other guys with much more long hair and big beards.

The active ones, including Tom, were dancing to 'belly rubbing' tunes of 'Lost in the 50's Tonight' and 'Can I Have This Dance For the Rest of My life'.

With Tom reaching the "Honorary" mark and still going strong and having fun one might think that the Energizer Bunny has met his match in Tom. He just keeps going and going and going.

Road Last Traveled from **Dean Burns**:

Alan Hunter, retired D-11 Maintenance Supervisor, lost his long battle with pancreatic cancer on April 29, 2012. Alan began his 33 year career as a Maintenance Worker, then moved into Special Crews and the Mudjack Crew. He enjoyed collecting coins and often came by the Kearny Mesa Maintenance Yard to show off his latest finds and bring treats to the office staff.

Gary Pinhero (March 19, 1938 to April 19, 2012) had a long and distinguished career with Caltrans and had a hand in designing many freeway projects in D-11.

William "Wayne" Le Fevre (May 8, 1916 to March 13, 2012) was head of Advanced Planning in D-11 when he retired. This group would perform surveys and prepare mapping that would be used to design future highways.

In the news: **Gary Darr** just returned home from knee replacement surgery and seems to be doing fine.

And finally, remember the Annual BBQ on Saturday September 8th. Hope to see you all there!

- **Jösan Feathers**

The Haps in Central

Greetings from Central District! Mark your calendar!! Our summer get-together will be a luncheon on August 30th beginning at 11 a.m. at the Dante Club. We hope you can make it. Flyers will be sent mid July.

Our Spring Luncheon featured guest speaker, **Suzy Namba**, who is the Supervising Landscape Architect in Headquarters. Suzy did a presentation about new and refurbished Rest Areas throughout California.

The following are notes from members who attended the luncheon:

Dick Pryor: Now that ski season is over, it's time to think about fishing. I skied 14 days in Colorado with the Ski Club and another 11 days at Tahoe. After the Sacramento Music Festival (formerly known as the Sacramento Jazz Festival), I'm heading to Alaska to go salmon and halibut fishing with my brother-in-law. Retirement is great, especially being able to visit with former employees at the QCC functions!

Jack Cropper: It's good to be back on the mainland after four months on Maui. Aloha!

Dave Crane: Don't have much new to report since Christmas. We are still working on plans for a trip to Hawaii in May. The whole family is going (9) to celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary. We have tickets, but no place to stay as yet.

Joe Thomas: Nothing exciting to report except I'm still here and in good company with my OLD friends!

Addie and Ray Forsyth: How fun to see our friends here at the Spring Luncheon! Ray's family from Oregon came to visit and party in March. We went to the Banjorama last Sunday at the Red Lion Inn. We heard Barbara Kampe and her Sacramento Banjo Band. They were great. We are looking forward to summer and patio parties. Have a great one!

Elizabeth Abersold: It's great to see everyone at our Spring Luncheon. My son, Mike, has been in Patika, Afghanistan for nearly a year. He is Brigade Commander for the 172nd U.S. Army. He returns to Germany in June. I plan to attend my two granddaughter's college graduations in Tennessee in August. My daughter, Susan, and I are planning a trip to London in September mainly to visit Cornwall where our heritage began.

Dave and Jan Nelson: We just returned from Kona, Hawaii, to face a lot of yard work! We will be travelling to the Grand Tetons, Yellowstone and Glacier National Park this summer. That's all for now.

Julie and Gary Bush: We just returned from a relaxing visit to Lake Chelan, Washington. It's located between Seattle and Spokane. The lake was formed by melting glaciers and is 55 miles long and in some places 400 feet below sea level. All the dogwoods were in bloom and it is a truly beautiful area. In January, we returned to our favorite B & B in Pacific Grove. It was another perfect weather trip. In June, we are attending Julie's 50th high school reunion in Pomona, California, and Gary's 50th college reunion from Cal Poly Pomona! We met there in 1960! We'll

June 2012

celebrate our 49th wedding anniversary in September on the Big Island of Hawaii. Yes, indeed, retirement is sublime!

- Gary and Julie Bush

Events

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

District 1 -

Caltrans retirees and QCC members meet on the 3rd Thursday of the months of January, April, July and October at 11:30 am at the Samoa Cookhouse.

Contact **John Sherman** at
jsherman1@Humboldt1.com
or call (707) 498-2629 for details.

District 2 -

Retired Caltrans Ladies Lunch Bunch meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 11:30 AM, location varies.

Contact **Judy Tucker** at
linedancerjudyt@citlink.net

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

District 3 -

Weekly Tuesday Coffee/Breakfast at 8:30 am at the "Green House" in the Raley's Shopping Center in Placerville.

Contact: **Doug Becker** 530-622-1665,
doug.becker@att.net

District 4 -

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

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

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

The North Bay Caltrans Retirees meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.
Contact: **Jim Boulter** 707-546-3097,
jboulter@comcast.net

District 5 -

Contact **Kathy Copeland**: 805-544-1834
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.

Christmas Party
Tuesday, December 4, 2012
Save the date

District 7 -

Annual Holiday Celebration
December 1, 2012
Save the date

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

- 7-11-12 Steer N' Ale, 3644 E. Foothill Blvd, Pasadena (626) 796-2278
- 8-8-12 China Olive, 9224 Reseda Blvd Northridge (818) 998-3688
- 9-12-12 Joselito's West, 7308 Foothill Blvd, Tujunga (818) 951-2275
- 10-10-12 Steer N' Ale, 3644 E. Foothill Blvd, Pasadena (626) 796-2278
- 11-14-12 China Olive, 9224 Reseda Blvd Northridge (818) 998-3688

District 8 -

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

District 9 -

Contact: **Lance Hinek**, 760-873-3885,
hinek@suddenlink.net

District 10 -

For details on events contact **Brian Young**
209-329-3445 cell or byoung@lodinet.com.

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

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

District 11-

ROMEOS (Retired Old Men Eating Out) meets at Denny's, Navajo Road at Fletcher Parkway at 8:30 am the third Wednesday of every month. Contact:

Butch Biendara, 858-279-5054
EagleAyerie@hotmail.com

Annual Fall BBQ Picnic at Santee Lakes
September 8, 2012
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Info will be mailed out in July
Contact: **Gary Darr**, 619-479-0549
fatdog261@cox.net

Central District -

Contact **Gary or Julie Bush**
530-642-8208
zbusharosa@wildblue.net

To Honorary Members

Have you seen this option-

FREE PRINTED COPIES

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

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

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