# TheQCCer



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The Newsletter of the Quarter Century Club

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DECEMBER 2013

QCCer



## 'UNCLE BUTCH WANTS YOU!!'

# From the Corner Pocket

This is for anyone looking for a chance to give back to those who have went before us and reinforce the front lines of leadership of the Quarter Century Club, both at the State and District levels.

If you are one of the many who enjoy the fun of

getting together with your friends, you might give some thought to those who put in so much work to make those times happen. As a minimum, be sure to thank them for what they have done, but better yet; ask how you can help with the next event.

Before going farther, we owe a tribute to the 'Legacy Leaders' who have carried

the torch for the many years that have made the QCC a sterling league of public servants. Dedicated people who carried the ball for years in support of QCC activities have faithfully served many Districts. There have no doubt been many stalwarts, two that I am quite familiar with are Taylor Smith of District 8 and Dean Burns of District 11 who were the 'One-and-Only' leader doing ALL of the local planning work for the local District events for many years. If your legacy District Director's name is not listed here, you have my permission to take them out to lunch and to send the bill to me for my



personal reimbursement. In some cases when the "Old Faithful" leader passed the torch it took several people to pick it up and carry on the functions left to them.

The QCC has our most important connections at the local level, where Districts have the most involvement with their friends. Some Districts have run onto the rocks in getting local events going. It is a challenge to make arrangements for a special

event without knowing how many will be there. If it's too 'Fancy' and too costly, some members stay away. And if it's too frugal and 'Humble' others don't bother. And of course the date and location will always have a conflict with some.

There is no way to please everyone, and if you have some better ideas for social event, by all means contact your District

Director and offer to help in what ways might best suit your talents.

Volunteering as an assistant to help an active master smoothly orchestrate an event to success can be very helpful and instructive.

A big area for improvement is the 'recruiting' side of the District agenda. There has been very little of it, in spite of the fact that expenses for that effort are reimbursable from the State QCC budget. Since we don't have any past record of policy or regulations, you are free to develop your own best ideas with your Director's agreement to seek reimbursement.

Anyone interested in stepping into a State QCC leadership position should contact their District Director. The positions of State QCC president, first Vice President and Historian are open for prospective candidates.

Last but not least, this note sends my very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

#### Butch Biendara QCC President

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## Rather read the QCCer on-line?

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

A membership application and a wealth of information about QCC officers, history, and constitution are available at <a href="http://ctqcc.150m.com/qcc.html">http://ctqcc.150m.com/qcc.html</a>

Check the current haps at Caltrans at <u>http://www.dot.ca.gov/ctnews</u>

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#### CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION FOUNDATION By Kathy Freeman

Recognition of special people and projects is an important aspect of what the California Transportation Foundation (CTF) is all about. CTF is currently in the process of accepting nomination packages for any outstanding projects, programs or people of 2013 that you may deem deserving of this recognition. Nominations are due March 1, 2014. A special Transportation Awards ceremony will be held in Sacramento on May  $22^{nd}$  to honor the winners. You may wish to check out the Foundation's website for more information on the process or to see photos of last year's winners.

CTF's Annual Transportation Education Symposium was held in early November. This event brought together 38 California university students will highlevel practicing transportation professionals. This was a unique opportunity for students to increase their understanding of the transportation field, get career advice and meet some of today's transportation leaders. Special thanks go to the following from Caltrans for their participation and mentoring this year: **Steve Takigawa**, Deputy Director Maintenance & Operations; **Jody Jones**, District 3 Director; **Dan McElhinney**, District 4 Chief Deputy District Director; and **Scott Guidi**, District 10 Senior Environmental Planner.

A Workers Assistance account was established recently to assist Edward Holgersen, District 1 Equipment Operator II at the Special Crews Maintenance Office. Mr. Holgersen had been struck and severely injured by an errant motorist while working at his job site. If you are interested in making a donation to his account you may do so online at <u>www.transportationfoundation.org</u> or by sending a check made out to "CTF" with Mr. Holgersen's name designated on the memo line. The check may be mailed to the California Transportation Foundation, 581 La Sierra Drive, Sacramento CA 95864. CTF will match your donation dollars. Interested in learning what policy makers have in store for transportation in 2014? CTF's annual Transportation Forum is the place you want to be. It is coming up in January so be sure to check out CTF's website for more information.

From all of us here at the Foundation, we wish you a safe, healthy, and happy New Year!

## In Memoriam

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

Name	District	Date
Bart Berger	04	Aug 7, 2013
H. R. (Ole) Redden	05	Nov 9, 2013
Roy Grice, Jr.	05	Nov 12, 2013
Virginia Kraatz	05	Oct 13, 2013
George K. Toyama	06	Sep 21, 2013
Alvin H. Krug	06	Sep 24, 2013
Theodoshia (Theo) Wa	alker 07	Aug 25, 2013
Ted Berg	07	Sep , 2013
Dick Roberts	07	Oct 13, 2013
Bill Weldele	07	Sep 26, 2013
Michael LaBeau	07	2013
Gary Mayer	08	Sep , 2013
Jerry Hahs	08	Sep 10, 2013
Bob Wirts	08	Sep 30, 2013
Larry Eisenhart	08	Nov 3, 2013
Lynn Barton	11	Sep 1, 2013
Yolanda Mieling	11	Oct 11, 2013
Harold Frank(Spider)W	Vebb 11	Dec 4, 2013
Richard L. Whiting	11	Oct 3, 2013
Ken Bandow	С	Nov 18, 2013

#### **Nothing But Dog Rocks**

By Ray Ruggles

The year was 1962. Our California Division of Highways survey crew had to establish new centerline alignment from the terminus of SR78 (1962) near the Glamis sand dunes in Imperial County, to the existing SR78 terminus at Palo Verde about 20 miles south of Blythe, CA. in Riverside County. Our survey instrument-man, Slim Harpham, had a reputation as a "no-nonsense expert" in rocks and minerals. In fact, Slim was associated with the San Diego Rock and Mineral Lapidary Society.

During the early morning hours along the new SR78 alignment, the sun would rise from the East and cause sparkling reflections from the rocks on and near the new SR78 centerline. We continually asked Slim if there was any gold or diamonds in the glistening rocks. Slim said, "Look, these rocks are nothing but fool's gold, they're "Dog Rocks"."

"Slim, what's a "Dog Rock"?"

"Ah, it's a rock that you throw at you neighbor's dog", Slim replied.

Today, if you use Google Earth and look at SR78 just east of the Glamis sand dunes, about four miles out you will see that SR78 detours around what is today the Mesquite Gold Mine.

#### Dog rocks???

(Note: **Ray Ruggles** worked from 1961-2001. He says, "Every time I pass the Mesquite surface gold mine on SR78 I always think of **Slim Harpham**, the consummate rock expert and how sure he was that we were just excited kids... Slim was a great guy...)

## The Haps in District 1

District 1 held its quarterly retiree lunch on October 17, 2013 at the Samoa Cookhouse. Thirty seven attended this time and we had a great time. We are now looking at other possible lunch venues so do check with **John Sherman** or myself before the January lunch in case we do make a change. We will send emails or phone those on our list.

The Cal State Retirees Christmas lunch was in December and I had a nice visit with fellow Caltrans retirees including **Bob Myers, Helene Demling, Lanette Watkins,** and **Linda Dennon**.

I got a nice note from **Tom Georgeson** in September. From **Tom**: "Once again, this summer, I entered our 1936 Cord in local car shows. There are a lot of people that have never heard of a Cord or seen one. I enjoy talking to them and pointing out the many features of this beautiful car. Many of these people have thanked me for bringing the car to these events which makes it a very rewarding experience."

**Tom** does not enter car shows to get awards but he did get two. One from the Fortuna Redwood AutoXpo, first place in Stock cars to 1936. His car is on the website with his family in it, including himself, Murline, Brian and Sarah. The other award was a real cutie. He won the Sexy Sedan Award at the Eureka car show which was held for the benefit of the Girls and Boys Club of Humboldt County.

**Reminder:** Please send DUES (checks), membership applications and honorary member status information for year 2014 to Statewide QCC Secretary/Treasurer **Mike Ogilvie.** See Page 19 for the Membership Renewal Form.

The holidays are a very busy time for family and friends. I wish you all a safe and enjoyable Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

#### - Arlene Hartin

## The Haps in District 2

ere's hoping everyone has been enjoying a wonderful holiday season. District 2 has nothing new on the QCC front to report this time. One must assume that from the lack of responses that many of our esteemed members are out enjoying the season with friends and family, and will fill us in on their exploits for the next issue. May the New Year bring you good health and fortune.

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#### - Bill Belcher

## The Haps in District 3

The annual Fall party held in November was a smashing success with 96 members and guests enjoying fellowship, excellent food and fond memories of times past. The event took place at the Peach Tree Country Club in Linda which is always a beautiful setting and great food. Thanks to **Ethel Mae Waller** for her decisions on decorations and centerpieces. As usual she does superb work. The next party is scheduled for April 2014. The Board of Officers and Committee will be meeting after the first of the year to firm up a date and other chapter business.

The District Office History Room is moving forward thanks to **Lib Haraughty** and her committee. It has been a slow process, but is coming together. It will be a place for all to see and be amazed at the way things were done since the beginning of the Division of Highways to the present.

Many thanks go out to **Carleen Hagen** who now wears two hats in the D-3 Quarter Century Club. **Lita Wells**, after many years of dedicated service, has stepped down as the Club treasurer and Carleen volunteered to take the position. Carleen also holds the position of Membership Chairperson. Lita will continue to be of assistance as an adviser.

**Charlotte Mattocks** has stepped down as a member of the Social Committee. Thank you for your excellent assistance these past years. **Jan Johnson**, who volunteered for the position at our Fall Party, will replace Charlotte. Thanks to Jan for her volunteering to fill the position.

We are looking for volunteers to greet the members at the door when they arrive for our two annual functions. Anyone who wishes to step forward will be greatly appreciated. Please contact **Dan Johnson, Sr.** at (530) 671-3889 if interested.

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**Mike Ogilvie.** See Page 19 for the Membership Renewal Form.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

#### - Dan Johnson Sr.

## The Haps in District 4

am back. Rumors of my demise are unfounded. We did have a medical emergency involving our son-in-law but it all came out alright in the end.

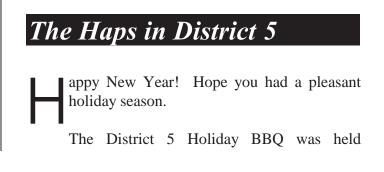
During this crisis we did provide daycare for our granddaughter, Gates. This included 6 weeks of 24/7 care. I never realized chasing after a toddler could be so exhausting. Our daughter and son-in-law were unable to find acceptable daycare for Gates so we grandparents provided it five days a week. And then the medical emergency occurred on top of this. However our daycare duties are down to two days a week. So I'm back.

Harry Yahata sent me news of the passing of Bart Berger on August 7, 2013. More information about Bart Berger's career and accomplishments will be included in the next issue of the QCCer.

I hope to be back to full speed after the first of the year but someone is in need of a diaper change at the moment!

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#### - Paul Hensley



December 5, too late for this newsletter. I'll have a report for you in the next edition.

We received **Bill Cotnam's** annual Christmas letter and photo. He visited Bangkok during November in spite of some aches and pains. He still enjoys attending SLO High School sports and visiting with old friends.

**Faith & Bill Fieldhouse** had a houseful of family for Thanksgiving, including children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The **Copelands** have been staying close to home most days, but we did visit Bob's sister in Eugene in November. We occasionally meet **Shirley Kathary's** husband **Larry** for breakfast at Denny's.

I'm sorry to report the loss of three old friends:

**Virginia Kraatz**, widow of **Lowell**, passed away October 13. She is survived by her four children and several grandchildren.

John Nye called to report that H. R. "Ole" Redden passed away November 9. He and Kathie had been living in Baker City, Oregon near family. Ole was a faithful QCC Honorary Member and will be missed.

**Roy Grice, Jr.** passed away November 12. It should be noted that **Roy** was also a faithful **QCC** Honorary Member and will be missed. No other information was available.

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Please drop me a note if you have news to share.

- Kathleen Copeland

# The Haps in District 6

will repeat my request for someone to step up and take over preparing the District 6 QCC article for the quarterly newsletter. I will help in any way I can but I just won't be in CA that much for some time. I'm still spending a lot of time up in Roseburg, OR trying to get my dad's estate in order and completed. Call me at 559-974-3885 if you can help or you have any suggestions. Thanks!

#### Road Last Traveled

**George K. Toyama**, age 88, passed away on Saturday, September 21, 2013. On a personal note, he was so much fun to ski with. He was a beautiful skier. He taught both my daughters to ski as well as many others. He loved to play the guitar too.

From **Kim Anderson**: I well remember George and admired his ardent passion for biking, etc.

From **Bob Dubel**: I worked alongside George for over ten years when **John Hawthorne** was our supervisor in "Special Projects". George took care of all the Freeway Agreements and files for the entire District. What a GREAT GUY.

**Alvin H. Krug** (Al), age 87, passed away peacefully on September 24, 2013. In 1957 he went to work for Calif. Division of Highways Engineering Dept. He retired from there in 1987. His main hobby was woodworking and he built himself quite an impressive wood shop in his backyard to amuse himself. He was an active member at First Baptist Church (now GateWay) since 1946.

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Send in your articles, notes and stories so we can have more news next time.

#### - Terry Littleton

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# The Haps in District 7

District 7 QCC Holiday Luncheon was celebrated, Saturday December 7, somewhat ironically at the modern **Miyako Inn**, approximately two blocks south of the "9year-old" District 7 Office. If you recall why December 7 is called a day of infamy, and you are familiar with this part of Downtown Los Angeles, then you would realize that Caltrans QCC members met in the distinctly Japanese cultural area, full of appropriately themed shops, restaurants, museums, hotels and residents. <u>www.miyakoinn.com</u>.

District 7 and 8 again coordinated efforts, so we could have dual-district participation. Tom and Linda Almany, Fred and Glorial Cubillas, Gloria Gwynne, Heinz Heckeroth, Mack Hunter sans Bettye, Carol and Dick Huntwork, Mark Johnson, Stan Lisiewicz, Paul McElwin, Mike and Susan Miles, Ken Miller, Dale Neumen, Larry and George Ornay, Pat and Mike Perovich, Al Reece, Doug Richter and daughter Michelle, Dave Roper, Bob Sassaman, Kirsten and Stewart Stahl, and Ken Steele.

**Mike Miles** shared some District 7 insider scoop about the two design build projects on the I-405 and the Gerald Desmond Bridge, also that there are 115 projects worth \$5 billion in construction, and that they have not yet interviewed for his successor as District 7 Director. **Susan** related that there were snow flurries in Cucamonga on their way in.

**Dave Roper** has taken up the cause to get the Regional Transportation Center (which we may think of as the Traffic Operation Center) at the 2/134 interchange named for the late **Dick Murphy**. He requested that tax deductible contributions toward a memorial plaque be sent to the California Transportation Foundation (CTF).

**Mike Perovich** took center stage as he performed Magic tricks with cards, top hat, large metal rings, an egg and a bag, a cane, sleight of hand, and turn of phrase. **Tom Almany** introduced him as "half-man, half-wit, and man of a thousand talents, all of them useful". **Pat** shared that they attend an annual Magic Convention, which has been in Pittsburgh, China, Las Vegas, Burbank, and will be soon in St. Louis. They are also planning a Civil War Heritage tour and 21 days in Europe.

**Dale Neumen** has a clip on YouTube.com under Product Testing Institute. He still fishes each Monday out of Marina Del Rey on the "Betty-O", and cooks Rock Fish for the Big Fun Club twice a year. Not bad for a 32-year retiree!

**Fred** and **Gloria Cubillas**' son **James**, is a Caltrans surveyor on the I-5 widening in the City of Commerce. Their travels have taken them to mingle with the Canadian snow-birds down in Cabo San Lucas, which by their estimation, is the best and safest place to travel in Baja.

**Paul McElwain**, who is active in the Masonic Lodge, shared that his 21-person Knights Templar drill-team took first place in a national competition in Roanoke, Virginia.

Many regulars were among the missing this year, some for health issues, such as a double heart bypass, foot surgery, or residence in an assisted living facility. Our beloved **Doris Nakamura** now needs a walker to get around. Others were double booked, such as **Milly Yamada** and others who went to Pala Casino, and **Marie Martin** and **Bob Walters** who were hosting their Sherlock Holmes Reenactment Group.

For the hungry, delectable edibles included tender teriyaki chicken, fried noodles with vegetables, steamed salmon, tempura squash, yam, shrimp and peppers, a tray of assorted sushi, steamed rice, miso soup, fresh pineapple, honeydew melon, strawberries, and grapes, and hot tea.

The ever gorgeous center piece was made of a white cube vase, filled with silver and white poinsettias, and evergreen accents.

It was surely great to get caught up with friends, all wished that more of us could have attended, and most attendees expressed that the more recent 25+ year folks need to get involved. **Tom Almany** and **Carol Huntwork** discussed the venue for next year, which is likely to be held in Cerritos or La Crescenta, and catered from a local restaurant, to help hold down the expense, and simplify parking. Note to all – **keep the FIRST SATURDAY, December 6, 2014** open, so we can all get together and get caught up.

#### Monthly Group Meets

So many of the reunion attendees asked about the **Tom Fera** Lunch Group... so instead of asking, try attending! Don't wait until the horse is out of the barn! Get a move on, and plan to meet on the <u>second</u> Wednesday of each month, except December.

The next several meetings are: January 8, 2014 at the China Olive; February 12, 2014 at Joselito's West; March 12, 2014 at the Steer N' Ale; and April 9, 2014 back at the China Olive.

#### The 2014 dates and addresses follow below: **RESTAURANTS AND PROPOSED LUNCHEON DATES FOR 2014**

[Second Wednesday of every month except December]

January 8, 2014 China Olive February 12, 2014 Joselito's West March 12, 2014 Steer N' Ale April 9, 2014 China Olive May 14, 2014 Joselito's West June 11, 2014 Steer N' Ale July 9, 2014 China Olive August 13, 2014 Joselito's West September 10, 2014 Steer N' Ale October 8, 2014 China Olive November 12, 2014 Joselito's West December 6, 2014 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 <u>chuckoconnell@prodigy.net</u>, or **Tom Gildersleeve** at (661) 259-6226 or <u>tgilders@pacbell.net</u>.

#### A Surprise Appearance

**Chuck O'Connell** reported that the June luncheon of the TFLC at the China Olive in Reseda, hailed the return of a long time member, "whom we had not seen in a long time [and] made a 'surprise' appearance. We were all very pleased to see that **Jack Christie**, who had moved with his wife **Lucille**, to Playa Vista, in the Marina Del Rey area several years ago, was there for lunch! Jack looked great and was doing well with the help of a walker. Jack explained that "someone" took his driver's license away so he couldn't drive any more. But **Wes Johnson**, who lives in the San Fernando Valley did a real good deed and drove down the 405 to pick up Jack. So **Wes Johnson** gets our "Hero of the Month" award for his good deed!!!"

Chuck added, "Among those in attendance were 'regulars' Walt Bowman, who drove in from Fillmore, Angie Constantino, Dick Huntwork, Bob and Myra Joe, Cal Lee, Stan Lisiewicz, Clifford Nakamoto, Dale Neuman, Gilbert Ozuna, Wayne and Ernestine Peirce, Dave Servaes, Dick Smith, Tony Wong, Wes Johnson, Tom Gildersleeve and Chuck O'Connell."

#### Better Late Than Never

Is it ever too late for cake? Here is a belated slice of information that did not make it into the September edition, but happy none the less and we can always use some good news... **Doug Tugwell** turned 75 years old, last June, and his children **Steve** and **Sandra**, arranged a surprise birthday party for him. Sandra wrote, "Hello everyone! If you're receiving this email, you probably know that our dad, Doug Tugwell, is turning 75 this <u>June 17th</u> (much as he would hate us to be reminding everyone, I'm sure.) To celebrate his birthday, we'd like to put together a little surprise to let him know that his nearest and dearest are thinking of him. We're going to try and create "75 Years of Memories" by filling 75 envelopes, each with a memory his friends and family have of him."

"...Thank you so, so, so much for participating -we know everyone is busy with their own lives, and we do appreciate you taking a few minutes to do this; it will be so worth it when he reads all the memories people have of him!..."

(Perhaps we can get a report on how the surprise birthday party came out next time!)

#### One Heck of a Day

It has been said that the worst day retired is better than any day working. **Tom Gildersleeve** related this story from a working acquaintance...

"I was sitting there at the bar staring at my drink when a large, trouble-making biker stepped up next to me, grabbed my drink and gulped it down in one swig.

"Well, whatcha' gonna do about it?" he said menacingly, as I burst into tears. "This is the worst day of my life," I said. "I'm a complete failure. I was late to a meeting, and my boss chewed me out and threatened to fire me. When I went to the parking lot, I found my car had been stolen, and I don't have any insurance. I left my wallet in the cab I took home. To top it off, I went to a Caltrans retiree lunch at Joselito's and only 9 people showed up. So I came to this bar to work up the courage to put an end to it all." "I buy a drink, I drop a cyanide capsule in, and I sit here watching the poison dissolve... and then you show up and drink the whole damn thing! But hell, enough about me, how are you doing?"

Tom felt that the biggest issue here is that only 9 people showed up at the Tom Fera lunch group and hopes they do better in the future.

#### Orange Day

If you happen by the District Office on Tuesdays, since early October, no your eyes are not playing tricks on you, employees are wearing orange. Employees were instructed by Acting Director Carrie Bowen, "Show your Caltrans pride! Wear orange every Tuesday. Orange vests are not encouraged. We are encouraging employees to wear orange attire (shirt, tie, blouse, dress, etc.) every Tuesday throughout the entire day, as a way of showing pride in Caltrans."

#### Recent Contacts, Sightings and Retirements

**Bill Minter,** apparently just turned 80, and as inquiring (and thrifty) minds are wont to know, what was the ruling on that free QCC membership? I don't know the ultimate decision and details, i.e. was **Bill** born before or after 1931? Did he want the electronic or the paper copy of the newsletter? But we had a nice chat, and he shared that he and **Joann** would be celebrating their 61<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary on November 30. They currently live in Linden Utah, which is between Provo and Salt Lake City. He encouraged anyone to come for a visit, and emphasized "they don't try to convert you around here anymore".

Stewart and Kirsten Stahl met Bob Walters at the Fighter Aces Reunion in Seattle. Kirsten reports she and Stew were on hand to witness the sound and light show (thunder, lightning and downpour) which accompanied the 49er's/SeaHawks game in September. In October, Kirsten and Stew went on a road trip to see Ernie Stahl, who lives in Gardnerville, Nevada. "Fall foliage was breaking out all along route 395 in the Owens and Carson valleys. It was quite lovely, and the weather cooperated, too. When we stopped at the Mono Lake Visitor's center during the 'sequestration', it was closed to our dismay. A few

days later, sequestration ended, and this time we were glad to see it had reopened." she related.

**Christina Ruano** in her role as engineering liaison to the Legal Division, could tell you what was discussed, but then would have to violate the policy against violence.

**Mike Miles** scoping out **Lindy Lee's** new Porsche in the 2<sup>nd</sup> level DO garage.

**Larry Tokuyama** of the permit office celebrated his 43 years of service at a Retirement Luncheon in his honor at Wahib restaurant in Alhambra on December 4, 2013. Attendees reported it included an all-you-caneat kabob buffet. Some of us wanted to know, did that also mean all-you-caneat baklava?

#### The Road Last Traveled

**Thedoshia (Theo) Walker**, a longtime Resident of Los Angeles, California, retired employee of the Calif. Dept. of Transportation (Caltrans), District 7, **QCC** member and Board member of the California Bear Credit Union passed away, suddenly, on August 25, 2013. A memorial/celebration of her life was held on Saturday, September 28, 2013, at the home of her daughter, **Demetria Milton**, in Inglewood, CA.

Alex Beanum reported, on September 15, "I just received a call from Andy Berg, Ted's son that Ted passed away last night. Ted had a brain tumor and we last talked two weeks ago. He turned 83 last February. His desire was cremation, no service is planned."

Marie Smiley reported to Chuck O'Connell, that Dick Roberts passed away the morning of October 13, 2013. "He passed away in the ICU. He had been in failing health for the last several months. He worked at DOH in the Landscape Architect Dept. He turned 90 years old on Oct. 2 of this year. I had kept in touch with Dick through the years and was notified of his passing by a friend of his."

Mary Ellen Weldele expressed the news that her husband, Bill Weldele went to his heavenly home on

Thursday, September 26, after an on-going battle with bladder cancer. Toward the end, he was in Hospice Care and very weak, while pain meds were keeping him comfortable. A vigil was held on September 29, his funeral mass was held Monday September 30, at St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Hacienda Heights, followed by a graveside service at Resurrection Cemetery. The family requests a donation can be made to "St. John Vianney Rebuild Fund" or to City of Hope. "God bless all of you for your continued prayers."

Tom Gildersleeve reminisced, "Bill, along with Ralph Kuzmic, was one of the friends I made right after I was promoted to Associate Highway Engineer in 1967. We saw each other almost every day for coffee, and had lunch together almost every day as well. **Bill** even replicated the fireplace in my house in the home addition which he built himself at his home in Hacienda Heights. (It was a combination fireplace and interior barbecue.) Bill, **Ralph** and I were pretty inseparable in those early years, and I now remain as the last man standing from that group. (Ralph passed away in 2008.) After the early to mid-1970s we all ended up with divergent careers and assignments and our paths rarely crossed after that. I was glad to see him join the Tom Fera Group and we occasionally saw each other at the Pasadena luncheons. He sought me out at the last one I attended and we sat together and had a good conversation with each other about where we were in life at that time. The subject of his cancer never came up, however, and I was not aware of it. Bill was a good man and will be missed, but it would appear that he now has more important work to do in his next assignment.

Kirsten Stahl also remembers that Bill was one of the carpoolers from Hacienda Heights. "He had a small Honda civic, and most of the time, there were 5 other members of the carpool, Paul Pritikin, Bob Wallin, Dan Goble, Earl Thomas and Marilyn Reece. How they fit all six, mostly large people into such a tiny car is amazing. And the back windows did not roll down, as I recall." Kirsten also spent one summer as a member of that carpool. "I was a Junior Engineering Technician then, and they were all Senior Transportation Engineers." Al **Reece** still gets together once or twice a month to have dinner with **Earl** and **Ann Thomas**.

Memorial Services for **Michael LaBeau** were held on Saturday, November 9th at the Angelus Funeral Home on South Crenshaw Blvd. Michael retired two years ago, at the age of 68, and succumbed after a struggle with cancer. He is fondly remembered by his friends as a gentle man, and a guitarist for "Traffic Jam", District 7's in-house band.

#### Be like Tom, Chuck, Bill, and Marie!

**Dave Roper** said you can just make stuff up, who's gonna' know? All it takes is an e-mail, card or snail mail to stay in touch (and I know some of you Tom Fera folks have iPads...) 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.

**Reminder:** Please send DUES (checks), membership applications and honorary member status information for year 2014 to Statewide QCC Secretary/Treasurer **Mike Ogilvie.** See Page 19 for the Membership Renewal Form.

#### WAKE UP!

No news may be good news to some, BUT for us, no news is BORING! So keep those cards and letters flowing! Don't be shy! Even if you had a bad day at the bar, you can still be a wit! Send items to **Kirsten** for without your news and updates, our section would be empty, and don't think I'm joking.

Many thanks to those who forwarded information and who were not otherwise mentioned above: **Millie Yamada, Marie Martin**.

# The Haps in District 8

b istrict 8 wishes every Q.C.C. member a very Happy Holiday Season. Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving with lots of turkey and all the trimmings with all their family and friends. Also, by the time you read this Christmas will have come and gone. So we want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Where did the year go???.

More information on our members attending the annual Christmas Luncheon scheduled for Hannah's Restaurant on December 14, at noon will be in our next edition.

Not too much heard around town this month. Guess everyone was busy with all the holiday shopping, eating, and visiting. Our main "News Guru", President Wes Grimes, has been pulling double duty with his consultant position. "First Lady" Linda Grimes has been taking care of her three grandchildren appointments, with doctor chauffeuring two to and from school and also taking care of her young toddler granddaughter. Plus. she's bowling in several leagues. Where does she get all the energy? I get tired just thinking of her schedule. It's great that she can help her family. Congrats to you Linda!

Jim and Pam Landfried have just returned from enjoying all the attractions in Branson, Mo. They won't be attending our Christmas Luncheon this year as they will be in Colorado Springs, CO. Hope you have a great time and you both will be missed at our annual Christmas Luncheon this year. Jim is one of Santa's helpers with our door prizes at our luncheon.

**Duane Sharp** continues recovering from back troubles in St. George, UT. Hope you're feeling better now Duane.

Our retired/current Caltrans ladies, continue to meet

for lunch at various restaurants in San Bernardino. Those enjoying lunch recently at King's Buffet were **Sybille Phillips, Julie Griffin** and retirees **Mary Bermudez, Janice Feenstra, Linda Grimes and Marsha Lotze.** King's Buffet serves oriental and American food and we all go away stuffed each month. Everyone is invited to lunch on the third Wednesday of each month at 11:30. If interested please contact one of the above as they sometimes change the location.

The Construction folks plus any other interested employees meet every Wednesday at Coco's for coffee and whatever at 9:00. Please feel free to join them if you're out and about on Wednesday morning.

On a sadder note:

**Taylor Smith's** sister passed away in early November. **Taylor** and **Katie** despite still recovering from infections, travelled to Iowa for the services. Their son, Paul, accompanied them to assist with their trip. Glad Paul was able to go with them. All our thoughts and prayers are with Taylor, Katie, and their families.

We want to extend our condolences to **Gary Mayer's** family on his passing away at the age of 72 in September. Gary retired from Caltrans with over 38 years of service. He spent the majority of his career with the Construction Branch as a Resident Engineer.

His son, **Randy**, worked for Caltrans for many years and was with the Surveys Department. Randy Mayer's wife, **Ann Mayer** also worked for Caltrans and was the District Director before leaving to work with RCTC. Gary will be missed and our condolences and prayers go out to his family and friends.

Several other Caltrans veterans passed away in the last three months:

Jerry Hahs passed away on September 10, 2013. If

my memory serves me right Jerry worked in Streets and Roads with **Bob Wirts** who also passed away on September 30, 2013 in Minden, NV. Both left the old Division of Highways to work for the city of San Bernardino. Bob Wirts also worked as a consulting traffic engineer.

We also received word that **Larry Eisenhart**, an engineer with our Traffic Department, passed away on November 3, 2013. Larry served in the Army Corps of Engineers and finished his civil engineering studies at U.C.L.A. before working for the old Division of Highways. Larry worked in Traffic before moving to the private sector where he was a highly respected engineer. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

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#### - Marsha Lotze

# The Haps in District 9

Solution. Submit an entry for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

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# The Haps in District 10

istrict 10 QCC meets for breakfast on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30 a.m. at Denny's at March Lane and I-5 in Stockton. At the Oct 29<sup>th</sup> meeting 28 were present. In

# addition to the regulars were **Dean Alexander**, **Janice Hose**, **Claude** and **Sharon Stewart** and **Betty Dal Porto**.

**Dick Mesa** reports another Ghost from Xmas Past lunch will be held at the Club Pheasant in West Sacramento on December 10th. If it is like past luncheons it should be well attended.

Alan Wells reported that Anne and he were back from their cruise in September to England, Scotland, Ireland, Norway and France. He said they enjoyed Inverness, Scotland. When asked why he did not try Haggis, the national dish that is a savory pudding containing sheep's pluck (heart, liver and lungs) minced with onion, oatmeal, suet and spices, he made a funny face and said he really liked the fish n chips. More from Alan, next adventure is a hunting trip.

**Sharon Stewart** reports; "Well I'm back from having a stroke. I don't remember anything for  $2\frac{1}{2}$ months. Then I woke up middle of May. Spent another month & half in the nursing home. I got out the 26<sup>th</sup> of June. **Claude** is taking care of me. I can walk with a walker now."

Good for you Sharon. Glad you're back.

**Virginia Evenger** celebrated her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on October 19<sup>th</sup> with her daughter **Sheila Desmond**. They went to a new restaurant in Placerville called the Independent, where they enjoyed turnip French Fries for the first time. **Virginia** had the prawn salad, **Sheila** had a salmon salad, all delicious. Dessert was crème Brule. Afterwards they took a drive up to Cold Springs. The fall colors were spectacular this year.

Happy Birthday Virginia !!!

**Stan Randolph** spent a week in Virginia, visiting his grandson in Arlington and several Civil war Battlefields as well as Monticello. Also toured the University of Virginia (Thomas Jefferson founder).

Brian Young and son Kevin reports back that in

mid Sept. they spent a week back east. First, a couple of days in Washington D.C. doing tours. Then on to Mt Vernon, Germana Foundation in Lotus Grove VA. Monticello and then Staunton, VA to the gathering of the Andrew Lamont Young Society. Andrew, the ancestor of everyone in the Society, was born in Dunoon, Scotland circa 1642. Then a tour of Woodrow Wilson's home in Staunton. In Charlottesville, at the University of Virginia hospital library, they took pictures with the bust of Dr. Hugh Hampton Young, Brian's grandfather's second cousin who was a famous student there and while head Urologist at Johns Hopkins performed the first prostate operation in Baltimore in 1907. Across from his bust was the bust of Walter Reed.

At the Nov 26<sup>th</sup> meeting at Denny's, approx. 20 were present (some missing because of colds). It was decided that we would meet the last Tuesday in December, the 31<sup>st</sup>, New Year's Eve morning. Still time for a nap before bringing in the New Year.

**Monte Seibel** was sighted at a Christmas lunch recently and gets the news and emails, but is still working and can't make the breakfast. Hope you can make it someday **Monte**.

In an email to **Bruce Leavitt** Issaquah, WA:

**Bruce** while I'm writing our newsletter for the QCCer I am listening to KSQM radio in Sequim, Washington and a voice announces the radio station call letters that sounds like you. Are they using your voice? Hope you're doing fine have a happy New Year and Merry Christmas. **Brian** 

#### Reply from **Bruce**;

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you **Brian**, and to the rest of the guys and gals too! No, it's not my voice. I've heard him too. I'm doing quite well, and so is my 'show' here. The folks enjoy that music of the 40's, 50's & 60's. **Big Bad Bruce** <u>bellewood.bruce@gmail.com</u>

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**Mike Ogilvie.** See Page 19 for the Membership Renewal Form.

#### - Brian Young

## The Haps in District 11

Note Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 on your calendar for our Annual QCC Banquet luncheon at Barra Barra Restaurant (the former Hamburguesa) in Old Town San Diego at 11:30 AM. Come join us and visit with your friends while enjoying a delicious buffet of sumptuous Mexican Food. You should have received a flyer along with your dues renewal form by now. If not, contact San Diego QCC Director **Jösan Feathers** at josan.dem@cox.net.

The D-11 QCC needs a new District Director. **Jösan** has served two years and is moving on. The duties of the District Director include:

- Preside over business or social meetings.
- Report the activities of these meetings.
- Assist other District Officers as needed.
- Report the results of District elections.

We will take nominations from the floor at the Annual Banquet and vote at that time. If anyone is interested but wants more information, please contact Jösan at josan.dem@cox.net. In the event a District Director is not so elected, the QCC President (**Butch Biendara**) shall appoint someone to serve for the current year by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

As you can see from the info above, there really aren't that many duties for the District Director. We have two annual events, the Picnic and the Banquet luncheon. Jösan, **Gary Darr** and **Leslie Franklin** will help you with these.

**SAVE THE DATE!** We already have reserved a new date and location for the Annual Picnic. Due to the typical excessive heat in September, we have moved the picnic back until October 11, 2014. Also,

due to the increased price at Santee Lakes, we will now hold our picnic at the Sweetwater Summit Regional Park in Bonita.

**Butch** reports: Our monthly Romeo meeting continues to be well attended with anywhere from 30 to 40 attendees. Come join us on the third Wednesday of every month. We start gathering at 8 AM and place our orders by 8:30 AM at the Denny's at the corner of Fletcher Parkway and Navajo Road.

Road Last Traveled:

Lynn Barton passed away Sunday, September 1, 2013 of liver failure. Lynn retired in 2009 as a Senior Transportation Engineer after many years in District 11. He was working as a Tech in the 1970s when he was laid off from Caltrans. Lynn used that opportunity to go to school at San Diego State University and get an engineering degree. Caltrans began hiring again in 1978 and Lynn became a Junior Civil Engineer. Lynn worked in many departments throughout his successful career. A highlight was in 1999 when he coordinated the Automated Highway Exhibition on the I-15 Reversible lane facility that attracted participants from throughout the country. Lynn supported the QCC and was a faithful member. Lynn will be greatly missed.

We are saddened to learn that former District 11 employee **Yolanda Mieling** passed away on October 11, 2013 after a long battle with cancer. Yolanda, a Transportation Engineer, worked for the Division of Design. While at the District she met her husband **John Mieling**, a Transportation Surveyor with the Office of Land Surveys. In 2005, Yolanda and John transferred to District 2 in Redding, where they formed a beautiful family and called it home until their return to San Diego earlier this year.

Retired Caltrans Employee **Richard L. Whiting** passed away in his home on October 3, 2013. A

Memorial service was held at Mission Santa Ysabel. Richard, a Caltrans Equipment Operator II in the Division of Maintenance, retired in July of this year after 34 years of Service in District 11. He worked with the West and East Tree Crews, Bridge and Mud Jack Crews, and Lake Henshaw Travel Way.

**Ed Anderson** reports; **Lodi**, **Spider's** wife, called to inform me that **Harold (Spider) Webb** passed away Wednesday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>. They lived in the Carmichael area of Sacramento after their return to Headquarters Equipment. Spider came from Sacramento to Dist. 5 as Shop Superintendent where he spent a few years then on to Dist. 11 as shop Superintendent and back to HQ Equipment. Spider was a good friend to many of us at Caltrans.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Lynn, Yolanda, Richard, and Harold (Spider).

Reminder: Please send DUES (checks), membership applications and honorary member status information for year 2014 to Statewide QCC Secretary/Treasurer Mike Ogilvie. See Page 19 for the Membership Renewal Form.

#### - Jösan Feathers

## The Haps in Central

S ave the dates! Three luncheons at the Dante Club have been booked: April 24, 2014, August 21, 2014 and December 10, 2014. Social hour begins at 11am with lunch served at noon. Hope to see you there!

From **Elizabeth Abersold**: My son, Michael, retired from the U.S. Army after 30 years of dedicated service. He and his family have relocated to Lincoln. My family enjoyed a Thanksgiving reunion in Palm Desert. The weather was beautiful and we had a wonderful time being together.

I am very involved in the Widowed Person's Association and have been installed as Secretary on the Board of Directors. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

From **Gary and Julie Bush**: Wow, how time flies when you are having fun! We spent 2 weeks on the Big Island celebrating our BIG 50 in September. Wonderful trip and we really relaxed this time. We are off to the San Diego area for a week of goofing off beginning November 30th. Our annual trip to the Zoo and Safari Land and doing some wine tasting along the way. Hoping to get to Julian for some apple pie and doing more wine tasting too.

**Jack Derby** and his son Craig had a wonderful fishing trip to British Columbia in October. Here they are (below) with a 34 inch steelhead trout. The fishing was all fly-fishing, catch and release, with barbless hooks. Wonderful fun.



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On a sad note, we lost another member on November 18, 2013. **Ken Bandow**, a QCC Honorary Member, passed away. I have no additional details at this time.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

- Gary and Julie Bush

Editor's note: If you are having a bad day, see page 10 and read the story "One Heck of a Day". It should cheer you up.

### **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 <u>linedancerjudyt@citlink.net</u>

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** 925-465-4219, <u>edcoble49@astound.net</u>

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 Bouler** 707-546-3097, ibouler@comcast.net

District 5 -

Contact Kathy Copeland: 805-544-1834 <u>bcopel4674@aol.com</u>

#### **District 6 -**

The Caltrans Retiree Breakfast meets at 9 am on the third Wednesday in March and September at the Waffle House on Route 68 in Lindsay. Contact: **Don Phillips** 559-781-2057

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

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

#### District 7 -

The 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 <u>chuckoconnell@prodigy.net</u>, or **Tom Gildersleeve** at (661) 259-6226 or tgilders@pacbell.net.

See **D-7 Haps** for dates, addresses and phone numbers.

#### 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, <u>hinek@suddenlink.net</u>

#### District 10 -

For details on events contact **Brian Young** 209-329-3445 cell or blyoung365@gmail.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-

Annual QCC Banquet at Barra Barra Restaurant Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 See **D-11 Haps** for more info

ROMEOs meets at Denny's, Navajo Road and Fletcher Parkway at 8:30 am 3rd Wed. each month

#### **Central District -**

Luncheons at the Dante Club April 24, 2014 August 21, 2014 December 10, 2014

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.

#### **NEW MEMBERS IN 2013**

Name	<b>District</b>
Antonetti, Jerry	3
Brownyard, Chuck	11
Chapman, Robert M	С
Cirilo, Terry	11
Cunningham, Carole	10
Elkins, Steve	2
Fisher, Tim	1
Gernux, Wanda	8
Gomez, Jose	8
Grinstain, Dawn	С
Hunemuller, Fred	11
Jackson, Clay	10
Karns, Rob	8
Mead, Ken	11
Miles, Michael	8
Norman, Sienna	10
Parsons, Sharon	10
Rice, Cliff	10
Riesgo, Roy	11
Rosen, Marty	11
Saia, David	С
Sauls, Arlon	1
Schroeder, David	6
Shaw, Bobbie	2
Van Zandt, Marty	1
Wederbrook, Myrlane	2
Williams, Laura	11