

# TheQCCer

The Newsletter of the Quarter  
Century Club

VOLUME 24, No. 2

JUNE 2015



## Are You Current?...

*BUTCH SAYS; "KEEP UP TO DATE!"*

### From the Corner Pocket

**B**efore you wander off on another exciting vacation adventure, of course you will check your current contact information with your family, but you might also think of your QCC membership information.

For those who are retired, you may not be aware that your former employer is forbidden to keep any of your personal information, such as phone number, address and email. Confidentiality, liability and security issues mandate that all of your personal information must be purged from your employer's files.

As a fraternal organization, you provide some information to the QCC when you join as a member. We keep that information as private as reasonable to avoid unwanted solicitations from commercial hustlers.

About once a month we get a request for contact information on someone who was a former Caltrans employee but is now retired. We stand firm on the principal that we do **NOT** give out information on anyone without their expressed permission.

The normal procedure is that someone sends an email asking, "If you have any contact info for good old "What's His Face"? If we have that info, we contact the one who is sought after to let them know that "The Searcher" is looking for them. We then give "The Searcher's" contact info to "The Searched One" and let them decide if they want to connect with them or not. We want no part of any involvements of collecting on old debts or finding long lost second lovers.



But here is where we need your help. We may not have the very latest information on you. Most QCC connections are via our quarterly newsletter mailed to your address of record and your other local social connections in each District. Many members stay in touch with any changes in their local network. **BUT** no one keeps a filed roster of you except your State QCC Secretary and possibly you're QCC District Secretary.

There is a common recurring change in phone numbers and email addresses as people change plans for both. You likely live at the same address, but it's slow to send USPS mail back and forth.

A very important detail to remember is that when you send in your annual Membership renewal form, please fill in the 'Renewal Form'

completely to let us know if any contact info has changed, phone number, email, etc.

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

**Index**

President's Remarks.....	Page 1
State and District Officers.....	Page 2
CTF .....	Page 3
In Memoriam .....	Page 5
District 1 Report.....	Page 5
District 2 Report.....	Page 6
District 3 Report.....	Page 7
District 4 Report.....	Page 7
District 5 Report.....	Page 7
District 6 Report.....	Page 7
District 7 Report.....	Page 10
District 8 Report.....	Page 14
District 9 Report.....	Page 15
District 10 Report.....	Page 15
District 11 Report.....	Page 16
Central District Report.....	Page 17
Events .....	Page 17
Honorary Members .....	Page 18
Membership Renewal Form.....	Page 19

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**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION  
FOUNDATION**  
By Kathy Freeman

The California Transportation Foundation (CTF) has established the “**Jerry Bachmann Assistance Fund**”. **Mr. Bachmann and Johnnie James, both District 1 Equipment Operators**, were recently honored as recipients of this year’s Medals of Valor for their rescue in 2011 of an injured elderly couple from their upside-down vehicle resting on a tree over a steep bank. **Mr. Bachmann** has been injured in a motor vehicle accident that left him a paraplegic and confined to a wheelchair. He is doing well with his physical therapy and rehabilitation, but in order for him to be able to drive again he will need his vehicle modified to have special hand controls. If you are interested in helping Mr. Bachmann, your donation should be sent to the California Transportation Foundation, 581 La

Sierra Drive, Sacramento CA 95864. Donations by check should be made out to CTF with “Jerry Bachmann Assistance Fund” in the check’s memo line. For convenience, on-line donations can be made on the Foundation’s website [www.transportationfoundation.org/donate](http://www.transportationfoundation.org/donate). Be sure to designate “Jerry Bachmann Assistance Fund” in the comments section of the on-line donation page.

The Foundation also established the “**John Knabenbauer Memorial Plaque Fund**” to pay for a memorial plaque to be placed at the base of the new flag pole located at the Magana/Ortega Maintenance Station in District 8. **Mr. Knabenbauer, an Equipment Operator II in District 8**, lost his life in 2007 as he was performing his assigned duties on I-215 near the 5<sup>th</sup> Street off-ramp. During this year’s **Workers Memorial Tribute** at the State Capitol in April, **Alyssa Knabenbauer** (daughter of John Knabenbauer) was presented with the very first *Children of Fallen Workers Memorial Scholarship* check in the amount of \$2,000. This scholarship fund was established to provide financial assistance to children of fallen Caltrans’ workers to help meet their post-high school educational goals. More information on this and the other scholarships available may be found on CTF’s home page under “Scholarships”.

The Foundation’s premier recognition event, the **Transportation Awards Ceremony**, was held on May 21<sup>st</sup> in Sacramento. CTF’s Transportation Awards recognize excellence in California transportation programs, projects and persons. This year’s prestigious award, *Person of the Year*, was presented to **Stacey Mortensen, Executive Director of the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission. The Honorable Jim Frazier, California State Assemblyman District 11**, won the award for *Elected Official of the Year*. The *Organization of the Year* was awarded to the **Alameda County Transportation Commission**, and the *Project of the Year* went to **West County Connectors**.

This project award is shared by **Caltrans D12, OCTA, US DOT, Atkinson Construction; Caltrop; Harris and Associates, Parsons, & TRC**. Our congratulations go to the winners of other categories including Division of Engineering Services (1 award), and Districts 4 (3 awards), 7 (1 award), and 11 (2 awards) that shared in the other winning projects presented during the ceremony. See CTF’s website for photos and more information on these individual winning projects.

The Foundation also congratulates 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*: **Skip Sowko, Principal Transportation Engineer, District 4 Division of Design** won the Charles H. Purcell Award (engineering management in transportation); **Debra Larson, Senior Transportation Engineer, District 5, Division of Traffic Safety** won the Karl Moskowitz Award (engineering in transportation); **Sylvia Vega, Deputy District Director, District 12, Division of Environmental Planning** won the Emerson Rhyner Award (management in transportation); and **Murugesu Vinayagamoorthy, Senior Load Rating Bridge Engineer, Division of Maintenance, Structure Maintenance and Investigations**, won the James E. Roberts Award (structure engineering in transportation). These awards were presented during the Foundation’s annual Transportation Awards ceremony.

### Rather read the QCCer on-line?

Go to

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

Information about QCC officers, history, and constitution are available at

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

Check the current haps at Caltrans at

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

## In Memoriam

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

Name	District	Date
Elvin Erick 'Finn' Jackson	01	Mar 28, 2015
Carol Ann Nelson	03	May 22, 2015
Kenneth 'Ken' P. Oliphant	06	Mar 7, 2015
Royal 'Wally' Wallace Rice	06	Dec 13, 2014
Lew Curtis	06	May 18, 2015
Ted Winter	06	May 12, 2015
Garland Cole	07	Feb 23, 2015
Alvin Reece	07	Mar 23, 2015
Glenn Almany	07	Mar 24, 2015
DiAnna Smith	07	2015
Lou Quan	07	Apr 21, 2015
James Reed	07	2015
John Evans	07	2015
Bishop Dowden	08	Apr , 2015
Thelma Jean Woodward	08	May , 2015
Manuel Mejia	10	Feb 18, 2015
Harold 'Hal' Lynn Burch	10	2015
Janet Hernandez	11	2015
Pat Sarkela	11	Apr 10, 2015
Chuck Hammer	C	2015
T. George Smith	C	2015
William 'Bill' Schaefer	C	May 16, 2015

## The Haps in District 1

**D**istrict 1 QCC/Retiree group tried out the Pantry on Broadway in Eureka this last April for our quarterly meeting.

We did a breakfast at 9:30 am with 34 in attendance. Everyone enjoyed it so the plan is to go there again for our July meeting. **Finn Jackson's** son, **Doug**, brought in his Dad's memory book for everyone to enjoy. I had also brought in a memory book that was found in the office when they were moving things around. They are full of photos of many of the District employees and bring back fond memories. The next lunch meeting is scheduled for July 16, the third Thursday at the Pantry, 1912 Broadway, Eureka at 9:30 am. Check with **John Sherman** closer to the event.

**Ben** and **Alice Van Zandt** celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on April 6. They were married in Ithica, New York, in 1945. They have 3 children, 7 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

On April 9, District 1 honored our 16 Fallen Workers with a moving program held in the front parking lot open to the public. District Director, **Charlie Fielder**, was the master of ceremonies, with 6 additional speakers. One, **Brett Fabri**, of the California Highway Patrol, mentioned that Caltrans has lost nearly as many workers on the job as the CHP. Another speaker, **Ed Holgerson**, was a survivor that had been hit by a vehicle in 2013 and severely injured. He still suffers greatly from his injuries. His family was also with him. There were rows of traffic cones set up and as each worker was named fellow employees placed a cone for each fallen worker with his name on it. We hope this may become an annual event. Photos of the event can be found on the Caltrans, D-1 facebook page.

On a sad note, retired engineer, **Elvin Erick "Finn" Jackson**, passed away on March 28th. He was born on February 1, 1923. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma in June, 1945 with a degree in Civil Engineering and his commission as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy. He went to work for Division of Highways as a Junior Civil Engineer and moved up to Assoc. Trans. Engr., spending much time as a Resident Engineer. He worked on several projects and was proud of the fact that they were all completed on time and on budget. He was also an avid outdoorsman, enjoying, hunting, fishing, and skiing. He is survived by his wife, **Dona**, of nearly 60 years, his 3 children, and several grandchildren and great grandchildren. Several of us fellow retirees attended his memorial service and reception. He received full military honors.

- Arlene Hartin

## *The Haps in District 2*

From **Bobbie Shaw**:

Retirement so far finds me latching on to this obsession and that. This past August I purchased "Blue Belle", a 1967 Shasta Astroflyte 17' travel trailer. Blue Belle became obsession 3; number 1 was repainting and flooring my house, and number 2 was dolling up my yard and koi pond for the Pond Test competition...

Blue Belle was/is a lengthy one. Water system required complete repair, electric partial...and then the stove, paint and decoration... See below:



My first "tow" I completed this week, I put 500+ miles on her and my new Toyota Tacoma pickup truck, "Silver Streak". We camped at Casini Ranch in Duncan Mills, CA, made a pit stop to Fairfield to visit former VP of Jelly Belly, my cousin and Marketer **Sharon**, then on to Winters and Lake Solano, CA, a unique spot on Putah Creek where free range Peacocks strut their stuff! I especially enjoyed painting the beautiful landscape scenes, and of course, peacocks!

We are home now, Blue Belle, Silver Streak, and I, but not for long, for I am due to go on a coastal camp trip with some of my Retired Caltrans buddies mid-April! All systems GO!

Safe travels, **Bobbie Shaw** (formerly **Henry**)

From **Cam & Ione Garbutt**:

Hello friends of RPEA, family, friends, and relatives. We had a safe and great trip. Rode to Sacramento airport with grandson Justin and Molly and baby Janessa. Flew to LAX to change planes to New Orleans on March 13. Rented a car and drove to Best Western where our daughter and husband were staying. Did some sightseeing in New Orleans. Embarked on Norwegian Cruise Lines on Sunday morning. Luggage came to our stateroom and we settled in for the week. Food was great on the ship.

We took one tour on the island of Roatan, which was about 35 miles long and 4 miles wide just off the coast of Honduras. People live very poorly but there are some nice homes. Public schools and also private ones. Seventh Day Adventist was prevalent there. Saw several good shows on ship. Rest of the family took excursions at Belize City, Cozumel, Roatan, and Playa Maya. These excursions included snorkeling, zip lining, swimming with the Dolphins, visiting Ruins in Mexico and shopping. Arrived back at New Orleans on Sunday morning. Spent half night in N.O. and boarded plane for home early Monday Morning. Arrived home on Monday Afternoon. Picked up our puppy and came home. Puppy was distraught the first couple of nights, they had to give her Benadryl, she was so happy to see us and has followed us all over the house since we got home. She is saying "Please don't leave me again". All in all our trip was so much fun to be with family. There were 10 of us altogether. Four generations.....a friend from Memphis joined everyone. He had lived here in Redding but works in Memphis. Mike and he were friends in High School. A fun memory for us at our age.

Love, **Cam and Ione Garbutt**

- **Bill Belcher**

### *The Haps in District 3*

**M**embers who attended the annual spring party, held at the Peach Tree Golf and Country Club, had a great time with good food and lots of happy people talking over old times or discussing their vacation plans. The Board of Officers are planning another party which will be held in November of this year. Flyers will be sent out requesting those who wish to attend to send back a reply with names (for the name tags) and the proper fee.

Director **Dan Johnson, Sr.** is looking for a volunteer for the Publicity spot on the Board. He also has an opening on the Social Committee. Anyone interested or needs more information is asked to call Dan at (530) 671-3889 or email him at [boots3@syix.com](mailto:boots3@syix.com).

Please send in your stories of travels to the above email address. Also, we would appreciate any input on members who are ill or have passed away.

From **Jan**:

We lost another former CalTrans employee. The following is a part of the article from the Appeal Democrat:

“**Carol Ann Nelson** died at the age of 89 on May 22, 2015. The majority of her work career was spent in the employ of CalTrans in Marysville. She started out as a secretary in the Right-of-Way Department and was subsequently promoted to the position of Executive Secretary to the District Director. She completed her service to CalTrans as the Assistant Administrator in the Contract Department for many years, retiring in 1994.”

- **Dan Johnson Sr.**

### *The Haps in District 4*

**D**istrict 4 did not submit an entry for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

### *The Haps in District 5*

**D**istrict 5 did not submit an entry for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

### *The Haps in District 6*

From **Lee Halderman** on May 15, 2015:

**F**Hi!! A lot has happened since you last heard from me. First off, we moved into a condo last September two weeks after my 90th birthday. Our place was getting to be more than I could take care of. We miss having a yard for Buddy (the dog, of course). He seems to have adapted better than we have. He really likes for us to take him for walks.

We put our house on the market in December and it sold in late March with escrow finally closing May 1st. It sure was a relief getting rid of double payments and the headaches of getting everything done for the sale. We had a big garage sale. One of my ski patrol buddies (I think you know **Rick Drago**) and his wife ran a one day event and sold a bunch of stuff. A week later our daughter, **Patrice**, and her husband had a 2 day sale and got rid of a bunch more and gave the rest to a pet rescuer group. When all was said and done, the house was empty and we took \$3000 to the bank. I think they actually sold some things we wanted to keep. I still haven't found my good shoes or a couple of my caps.

**Scott** is down to one son at home. **Jared** is a Junior at Beyer High in Modesto. He wants to go into law enforcement. **Ian**, the next to oldest, is in the army at Fort Meyers in Virginia as a member of the Old Guard a ceremonial unit that includes the guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. **Tyler**, the oldest of the three, has completed basic training for the army, went to about 10 weeks of Music School and will be in an army band at Fort Sill, OK. He is a music graduate from Fresno State and plays the trumpet (quite well, too).

My macular degeneration has progressed to the point where I no longer am driving. **Joyce** has dementia and has had her license revoked so we are at the mercy of our kids and my sister for transportation. It can be pretty frustrating at times. We are fortunate to have my sister in the condo across the street from us. We are only 300 feet or so from the senior center, so we can walk to lunch there. Most of the meals are pretty good.

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, **Joyce** was walking the dog and got tangled up with the leash and fell. She ended up in the hospital with a compression fracture of the femur. She had surgery on Thursday last week. They were able to repair her with three screws and a 3" incision. She is in rehab here in Oakhurst. I'm batching it and doing OK. Have been able to get over to see Joyce all but one day so far. We even got to take Buddy to see her on Mother's Day. He was really excited to see her and her to see him. She would like to come home, but realizes that she actually isn't ready to do it.

#### Road Last Traveled

**Kenneth (Ken) Paul Oliphant**, devoted husband, father and proud World War II veteran, passed away on Saturday, March 7, 2015 at the age of 88. Ken was an Honorary QCC Member.

**Ken** was born in Fresno, CA on July 21, 1926, to **Fred** and **Thelma Oliphant**. When Ken was in elementary school, his family moved to the

Yokohl Valley, a place he always recalled fondly. He liked to tell about living in the country, particularly the time he spent three days on a cattle drive. He was a member of Visalia Union High School's Class of '44 where he earned varsity letters in football, baseball, track and tennis. Ken also caught the eye of an auburn-haired young coed, **Laudine Hall**, whom he would later marry. During his senior year in high school, Ken was one of the young men who traveled out to Sequoia Field each morning to warm up the planes that wartime pilots trained on



before heading back to his classes. Immediately following graduation, **Ken** enlisted in the US Navy and served on the USS Renville, a transport ship, in the South Pacific.

He participated in the invasion of Okinawa and was honorably discharged in 1946. Ken fondly recalled his many adventures in the Navy, often reminiscing with family and friends. In later years, he attended many Naval Reunions around the country and volunteered at county high schools' Veterans' History Days. In May, 2014, he was accompanied by his son **Jim** on an Honor Flight to Washington DC and the World War II Memorial. On June 16, 1947, he married his sweetheart, **Laudine Hall**, at the First Baptist Church of Visalia. They remained in the same Sunday School class for the next 67 years, where lifelong friendships were developed. **Ken** and **Laudine** lived in Visalia and Fresno before building a home in Visalia in 1953 where they raised five children and continued to live until his passing. Soon after settling into their home, Ken converted one end of their garage into Ken's Sport Shop, where he strung and sold thousands of tennis rackets over the years.

His primary career was as a resident engineer for the California Department of Transportation from which he retired after 35 years, having built up an expertise of the towns and back roads of the Central Valley. A born inspector, **Ken**



continued to work as an independent contractor on various building projects for Quad Associates (now Quad/Knopf) and Self-Help Enterprises into his late eighties.

From **Steve Mason**: Sorry to hear about the passing of another fine man.

From **Roy Andersen**: The only person from the Visalia area that is left that I can think of is **Claude Halstead**.

**Jim** and **Carolyn Landy** and **Don Peterson**, his wife and daughter went to **Ken Oliphant's** memorial service in Visalia and said it was very nice.

**Royal (Wally) Wallace Rice Sr.** went to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on December 13, 2014. **Wally** was also an Honorary QCC member.

Wally was born to **Royal M. Rice** and **Zora Bingham Rice** on July 25, 1923, in a log cabin, where Lake Kaweah is now. The Rice's made their home on part of the 1,100-acre ranch, owned by Wally's Grandfathers Marx & Rice. The Terminus Dam and Lake Kaweah is on part of the acreage where the ranch was located.

Wally's Great-grandpa Marx settled in Three Rivers in 1880 and his Grandfather Jacob W.B. Rice came to visit, from Iowa, and married Cora Marx. Wally was proud to share the history of his family as one of Tulare County's pioneer families and honored at the Three Rivers Visitor Center and Museum\*\*.

\*\* For more info, see the transcript of the entire 2003-2004 interview given by Wally to Three Rivers resident Diana Jules:

[http://www.tularecountylibrary.org/yov/Rice,%20Royal%20\(Wally\).html](http://www.tularecountylibrary.org/yov/Rice,%20Royal%20(Wally).html)

Provided by: California Council for the Humanities, California Stories Initiative, Years of Valor, Years of Hope, Tulare County and the Years 1941-1946,

Tulare County Library, The Friends of the Tulare County Library And the Tulare County Historical Society.

**Wally** considered himself a mountain boy, born with a fishing pole in one hand and a 22 rifle in the other and his beloved harmonica tucked in his shirt pocket. Wally was educated K -8th grade in Lemon Cove and graduated from Exeter High School, where he was best known as "Windy", for his gift of storytelling.

**Wally** was called to serve his Country during WWII. Wally carried one of his harmonicas with him throughout the war. One Christmas Eve, Wally was playing Silent Night on the harmonica when a German soldier started singing the last verse. During Wally's military service he received two Purple Hearts, two Bronze Star Medal's and various other awards - upon returning home Wally resumed his education.

After the war **Wally** met **Margaret (Barbee) Corry**. They were married April 18, 1948. Wally started his career with Cal Trans, Division of Highways, in 1946. He became Lead Man and retired as Maintenance Superintendent. Wally Rice was a loving father of five children and he loved to tell stories to his many grandchildren & great-grandchildren. After Margaret's death in March of 1989, **Wally** married **Beverly Cassaday** on February 3, 1990 in Visalia.

I just got a call from **Barney Sano** that **Lew Curtis** passed away on May 18, 2015 at St. Agnes Hospital of pancreatic cancer.

**Ted Winter**, 88, of Fresno died May 12. He was a civil engineer for Caltrans, an Honorary QCC member, and a great friend to all of us.

From **Bob Dubel**: Ted was truly one of a kind. He was very active and into rifle modification, solar heating, and many other things over the years. Sorry to learn of his passing.

From **Lewis Wagoner**: I will send Jan a note. We were dressed to go to the graveside for Ted when my wife fell, so, went to St Agnes instead. The Survivor List is getting smaller and smaller.

Please send me your news updates or stories of travels, etc. Also, don't forget to check the "Events" section for various group meetings that you are welcome to attend.

-**Terry Littleton**

## *The Haps in District 7*

**S**trange Fortune: While dining at a local Chinese restaurant, I opened up my fortune cookie, which advised, "Enjoy yourself while you can" – no kidding! While this sounds ominous coming from a fortune cookie, it is sage advice. Lest you think I am being overly sentimental, I have my reasons, which you can guess if you read on. A quote that I learned as a child really resonates at times like this... "Life is short, and we have never enough time for gladdening the hearts of those that travel the long journey with us. Oh be swift to love! Make haste to be kind!" Henri Frederic Amiel

### Monthly Reunion

There is no time like the present, and soon it will be the second Wednesday of the month... Time to meet again for food and comradery at the **Tom Fera** Lunch Group! These jolly souls meet on the second Wednesday of each month, except December. The remaining 2015 dates and addresses follow below.

### **RESTAURANTS AND PROPOSED LUNCHEON DATES FOR 2015**

[Second Wed. of every month except Dec.]

July 8, 2015	Steer N' Ale
August 12, 2015	China Olive
September 9, 2015	Joselito's West
October 14, 2015	Steer N' Ale

November 11, 2015 China Olive  
December 5, 2015 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](mailto:chuckoconnell@prodigy.net), or **Tom Gildersleeve** at (661) 259-6226 or [tgilders@pacbell.net](mailto:tgilders@pacbell.net).

Another Caltrans retiree luncheon, is held the third Monday of each month at 11:30 AM, in Oxnard, at:

**BJ's Restaurant & Brewery**, 461 Esplanade Drive, Oxnard, CA.

For more information, e-mail Dick Stewart at [dick@jps.net](mailto:dick@jps.net).

### A Suspicious Package Can Ruin Your Day...

**Marie Martin** was heading to her local Von's Supermarket a few months ago when "I found myself in a traffic jam complete with lots of cops and fire trucks. Since Tujunga is usually a quiet place, this was amazing. [The] Supermarket parking lot was surrounded with yellow crime scene tape, and the adjacent fire station had all its equipment out in the street. Foothill Blvd. was blocked off and I had a [expletive deleted] of a time getting gas because everybody was cutting through the station to get around the road block. The Internet [said] a woman dropped off a 'suspicious package' at the fire station and it took 4 hours for the bomb squad to deal with it. (No mention on the Net if it was a bomb or not!) [It] really [expletive deleted] up traffic."

And how was your day?

#### A Better Day

“Our own **Bill Minter** was recently given the honor of speaking at the Memorial Day observance at the Lindon, Cemetery... As you may know, **Bill** is a Korean War Veteran. He also recently received the Ambassador for Peace medal from the South Korean Consul. This was given April 23rd at the Central Utah Veterans' Home in Payson, Utah for his service to South Korea during the Korean War. We are proud of **Bill**....” – *Greenvalley Homeowners News*, May 20, 2015

**Bill Minter** relates his recent brush with fame...

“What a day this has been! Lindon, [UT] as most cities do, hold Memorial Day remembrance and in this case, at 9 AM this morning. It began a week ago when a Police Officer came to my door and invited me to say a ‘few words’ as a Korean [War] Vet[eran].”

“I had been invited last year, and wrote a letter to the city citing my appreciation. What happened today, and very much to my surprise, that letter was read to the audience. You may recall that while I was at Caltrans, I often spoke to the many visitors wanting to see [Traffic] Op[eration]s Center. I never had a prepared speech, rather I would key on the group that came a 'knocking' as it were. And so it was today. I made up my 'remarks' as I went along.”

“Having spotted both a Navy and Marine jersey in the crowd, it was easy to give credit to the Marines, as I said they saved our National Honor, and to the Navy, because I watched them Napalm a mountain that stood 3000 feet higher than our positions. Afterwards, I knew I had hit the right note because of the sincerity of the many, many comments I received afterwards.”

“[My other] function was to present a new Flag to fly over the City's Monument for the next year.

In return, I was given last year's Flag in case, inscribed with my name. Lastly, *my name is also engraved on the Lindon City's monument! Warmest of Regards on a very special day for this guy, today known as Korean Cpl Bill, ret.*”

This was especially good news from **Bill**, because in early April, **Chuck O'Connell** had a message from **Bruce Minter**, “Hi all... I am son of **William** and this email is to inform you that Dad has been very ill. He has been in ICU for 4 days and then 3 days in a regular room and now is at a "Skilled Nursing Facility". He had a bladder infection which led to other complications but, I can say he is improving. He wanted me to contact you all and say hi. He should be back online (emails) in a week or two.”

Congratulations to **Bill**, for his special recognition as a Lindon dignitary, and our appreciation for his speedy recovery!

#### Contacts and Recent Sightings

**Bob Sassaman, Marie Martin** and **Bob Walters** who attended the Memorial Service at Riverside National Cemetery for **Alvin Reece**.

**Tom Gildersleeve** reports on his recent contact with **Debbie Mah**, who related a bit of info on [her] life: “Life is good! I have really enjoyed my time off and am so glad I [retired] when I did. [I] know it was early, but it was the right thing to do for all of us. **Allison** [**Debbie's** daughter] is in 6th grade now; middle school. My time at school is a lot less than when I first retired. But [**Allison**] has other activities to coordinate after school now. I'm still keeping up with my running (though knee trouble has slowed me down), watercolor painting class, and classical guitar lessons! I'm expanding my right brain! And we travel when we can - sometimes piggybacking on **Brent's** work trips.” **Tom** closes, “**Debbie** makes it clear that there is life after Caltrans, and it can be very good. I wish her well.”

**Tom Gildersleeve** also shared for “you closet

train buffs, and those who might be interested.” He gave a “presentation for the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society at 1PM on May 30 at the Santa Clarita Public Library, located in Old Town Newhall at the intersection of Lyons Avenue and Main Street. (Main Street used to be San Fernando Road and was Route 126 until it was relinquished to Santa Clarita about a dozen years ago.) The title of the presentation is ‘*The Last Great Steam Show in America*’ and it covers the last major steam railroad operation in the United States, the narrow gauge lines of the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad in Colorado and New Mexico. The program covers the time period from 1960 to 1964 and runs about a half hour. Portions of these lines survive as tourist lines today as the Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge and the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad.”

A recent request in the Information Notice, regarding, **Darryle Murphy**, Transportation Engineer in District 5, son of **Dick Murphy**. **Darryle** has been caring for his wife who is undergoing chemotherapy for advanced stage cancer. She was scheduled to undergo major surgery at the Stanford Cancer Center during March.

#### Moving On...

**Bassem Mullem**, announced his retirement, “with mixed emotions... effective the end of March 2015.” He began working “32 years ago... for this great organization [and] spent more than half of my life with Caltrans and my Caltrans family. This life has rewarded me with a career beyond my imagination. When I started my career with Caltrans, my first goal was to become a Senior Transportation Engineer. Never did I dream that I would retire as the District Director of District 8. I am very appreciative and grateful to all of the individuals who believed in me, supported me, and promoted me. I want to thank all the Caltrans staff who worked with me and for me. All of you contributed to my successful career at Caltrans. We cannot be

successful without the support of others. I want to thank you all for being part of my career and life. I will truly miss all of you.”

After 33 years of State Service, **Connie Deguzman**, retired from Caltrans. A reception in her honor was held at the District Office on April 15, 2015.

#### The Road Last Traveled

**Guillermo Hermosillo**, Safety Specialist in Maintenance, shared, “I am sad to announce the passing of **Garland Cole**, 42 year Caltrans employee. He passed away on Monday, February 23rd. **Garland** worked at the North Region San Fernando maintenance station as an Equipment Operator I. Garland first started working for Caltrans at the Sheldon maintenance yard, as many of you still remember.” His graveside service and burial was on Wednesday March 4, 2015, at Pierce Brothers Valhalla Memorial Park, 10621 Victory Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91606.

“Early morning phone calls are never good, unless you are expecting an Oscar or a Nobel Prize”, and so it was on Monday morning, March 23, when **Kirsten Stahl** got a call that always makes her blood run cold. “The assisted living place, where my dad, **Alvin Reece**, had been staying called to report he was ‘unresponsive’, and ‘may have died’. It came as a complete shock, as we spent the afternoon with him and his dog **Sammy**, the day before, and Dad seemed happy and healthy,” Kirsten remembers. “The La Habra Police were waiting for us and helped immensely in contacting Dad’s doctor, funeral home, allowing him to be released, and offering comfort.” Imagine that... One of the officers took Kirsten aside and said, “We have to make many of these calls, but we don’t often see an elderly person who was so obviously loved and cared for.” **Alvin**, who was a former Marine, was cremated; a Memorial Service, including an honor guard, was held on April 24, at the Riverside National Cemetery. His cremains were

interred in a niche beside those of his wife, **Marilyn**. **Alvin** is survived by his daughters, **Kirsten Stahl** and **Anne Bartolotti**, sons-in-law **Stewart** and **Darryl**, and two grandsons, **Christopher** and **Patrick Bartolotti**. **Alvin** will be missed by all who knew him. **Chuck O'Connell** wrote, "Al was a great guy and his company was much appreciated."

**Chuck Webster** had the unenviable task to report the passing of **Glenn Almany** on Tuesday, March 24th. **Tom** related that things "are quite unsettled". Those of you who know **Tom**, often heard stories of his travels and adventures, with his internationally savvy Marine Biologist son **Glenn**. "Tom was not able to travel until last Sunday, when his Doctor allowed him to fly. **Glenn** had been in the hospital [in France], for about 5 months for cancer treatments, when he had other complications; **Linda**, **Tom's** wife, travelled a month earlier when **Glenn** had the chicken pox virus. **Tom** and **Linda** returned home in early April and **Glenn's** wife and children plan a visit, before going back to France to finish school. Tom expressed thanks to all for their prayers and thoughts."

With great sadness and a heavy heart, **DiAnna Watson** announced the passing of retired Caltrans employee **DiAnna Smith**. **DiAnna** worked in Traffic Operations for about 30 years and retired after 38 years of State service. She leaves to cherish her memory, her daughter **Sydney Smith**, also a Caltrans employee in the Office of Project Studies, her son **Evan Smith**, and our Caltrans family. The funeral service for **Dianna Smith** was held on Thursday, April 23rd in the Chapel of Chimes at Inglewood Cemetery, 720 E. Florence Ave., Inglewood, CA 90302.

**Debbie Mah** and **Cindy Quon** related sad news from **Vince Quan**, **Lou Quan's** son, **Vince** shared the sad news that **Lou** passed away on April 21, 2015, for those who knew and worked with **Lou**. Many of us at the District Office remember him fondly from his Design and

Hydraulic days. **Lou's** funeral was held Saturday, May 2nd at Rose Hills Memorial Chapel.

On April 30, 2015, **Don Snowden** reported, "It is with a heavy heart that we inform you, **James Reed**, Caltrans Plumber with 41 years of State service, passed away. **James** retired from Caltrans on December 28, 2014." **Rick Harrison** reported, "Funeral Services for **James Reed** were held in Mary Magdalene Baptist Church in LA.

The family of **John Evans** requested that you "Celebrate the Life of **John Evans**, Caltrans Professional Licensed Land Surveyor, with friends and family." Funeral Services were held in May in Whittier.

Be like **Marie, Bill, Chuck, Debbie, and Cindy!**

Take a few moments to gladden our hearts! Without the love and good times with our friends, and shared experiences, who would we be? Please send your items, to: **Caltrans, attn: Kirsten Stahl, 100 S. Main St. Suite 100 MS 13, Los Angeles, CA 90012**. Phone 213-897-0470, or e-mail: [kirsten.stahl@dot.ca.gov](mailto:kirsten.stahl@dot.ca.gov).

**Tom Almany, Jr.** 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.

WAKE UP

Send those cards, and letters, or just make a call! Many thanks to those who forwarded information and who were not otherwise mentioned above.

- **Kirsten Stahl**

## *The Haps in District 8*

**O**ur District Quarter Century Summer Luncheon is scheduled for Hannah's Restaurant in San Bernardino on July 11<sup>th</sup> at noon. Please plan to attend and bring a guest or two. Membership is not required and we'd love to welcome any and all who have a connection to Caltrans. Notices will be sent out in mid-June.

Received recent telephone calls from **Dean** and **Sharon Pitts**, who have moved again back to Grass Valley. He is doing well after bouts with the Big C, stating they did the moving themselves, and from **Gerry Lunt**, recovering from hip surgery...and looking forward to shoulder surgery...Gerry reported on family news and was as talkative as always.

**Ralph Wheeler** (former District 8 employee) continues working in Baltimore, and took a family trip on the Appalachia Trail.

**Dr. Paul Fagan** retired in December, 2014, following an industrious 36 years with Caltrans, chiefly in Programs and Budgets. Paul looks forward to visits to Ireland, and also his daughter who lives in Ireland. Best Wishes, **Paul!**

**Walt Griffith** retired in April with a gathering at The Delhi Palace in San Bernardino. Walt worked in Landscaping for many years before joining the SWPPP monitoring crew in Construction...a total of over 30 years! Best Wishes, **Walt!**

Roses to **Taylor** and **Katie Smith**, both dealing with health problems, taking turns in the hospital and at home. Son, **Paul**, is providing a lot of care and Taylor looks after Katie during bouts of illness too. Roses also to **Duane Sharp**, confined to home due to ongoing health issues.

**Bishop Dowden**, 85, passed away in April. He retired from District 8, and worked in Special Projects in the 1990's. Memorial services were held in Crestline, but severe weather stopped "flatlanders" from attending up the hill to comfort Pat, his wife of 34 years. Burial services were at the Riverside National Cemetery on April 30, 2015. Our condolences go to his wife and family.

**Thelma Jean Woodward** (Maintenance) passed away in May. She had 19 years with the State, including 16 with Caltrans Maintenance. She was a dedicated and loved co-worker, and is survived by her large family.

Remembrances previously reported in March 2015 QCCer:

We reported that **Ken Corbin** (Drafting Services) passed away in February, 2015. Ken was well known as the "Boss" in Drafting Services where the department normally finished over 100 pen and ink plan sheets monthly, as well as other work before the advent of the computer systems we use today. A large group of family and Caltrans friends recalled him fondly at his services in Victorville.

Our condolences go to **Les Franz** (Construction) on the loss of his wife, **Vera**, in February. Vera was proud of her Native American heritage. A traditional native American ceremony was included in her services. Over the years prior to her recent illnesses, **Les** and **Vera** took many road trips across the USA, visiting National Parks.

Unfortunately, that's all the news from District 8 this month. PLEASE drop us a line or two to share your triumphs or tragedies...

Remember our Summer Luncheon on July 11, 2015 at Hannah's Restaurant at 12:00 noon.

- **Marsha Lotze**

## *The Haps in District 9*

**G**eorge Gray, ex District 9er, reports that fellow ex 9ers and others may find it interesting to review the history of transportation in the Eastern Sierra region by going to the following website; [www.virtualtransportationmuseum.com](http://www.virtualtransportationmuseum.com) and clicking on highways and then going to what interests you. Lots of history of familiar places.

[George E. Gray is the Statewide 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the QCC.]

## *The Haps in District 10*

**D**istrict 10 Retiree's spring luncheon was held at UJ's restaurant in Stockton on Thursday, April 3, 2015 and was well attended.

District 10 Retirees are also meeting twice a month for a while. On the 2nd Tuesday of the month we are meeting at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast at Denny's in Stockton at I-5 and March Lane. On Tuesday, May 12, because of a traffic jam on I-5 only about 6 people showed up an hour late. I understand **Bill Lamascus** was there on time, but left after a while because nobody showed up until an hour later. On the last Tuesday of the month we are meeting at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast at U J's Family Restaurant at 7628 Pacific Ave, Stockton. On Tuesday, May 26, about 20 people showed up.

From **Bob** and **Ardyth Biffel**:

Off zoom the traveling Biffels again. Right after Saint Patrick's Day, **Bob**, **Ardyth** and daughter **Bonny**, took off from Sacramento for LAX. They flew off on one of the huge double layered Qantas' planes for Melbourne, Australia. A nice mini suite was so welcome after the 18

hours flight, with a soft bed to stretch out on after a day and half of sitting.

The exchange unit down under is Australian dollars which was a little confusing as they are so much higher priced than our dollars. \$30 and some change for 2 beers and hamburgers. The next morning we got caught up in a foot race of over 15,000 runners, and about double that in spectators, so it took us a while to get to the port and board the Dawn princess for a 3 week cruise.

We did all the highlights we wanted to do as we knew we probably never would fly back there again. **B & A** had been there once before but only saw and toured Melbourne and Sydney areas. First time for **Bonny** and she was so thrilled the whole time. The highlights of the trip was doing the 1 thing we each chose as a MUST DO. Bob wanted to ride the old timey train up into the Karunda Mountains and down the 4.5 mile Arial Tram gondolas to Cairns. That had some awesome views, Green Mountain scenery, waterfalls, and soaring vistas to the Indian Ocean. This was breath taking, swaying high above the trees for that long a distance.

**Bonny** wanted to say she had been to the Great Barrier Reef—which is a 2 hour smaller boat ride out to the only place people are allowed to go in that huge Protected Sanctuary. The area has an underwater long full glassed room so you are face to face with the coral and fish swimming down there, and swimmers too. We opted to stay on the dry side. The submarine and under water walk way was enough of a thrill for us. **Ardyth** had her dream come true also. She wanted to go visit the late Steve Irwin's Zoo. And behold, they even saw his wife Terri walking around being sure things were as pristine and safe as could be. What an extra thrill.

At Broom we sat on the balcony of our mini suite and watched the full lunar eclipse. The moon was so full and beautiful. The happy smiling face

on it shown so brightly, was eaten up, then it shown brightly again.

We stopped at a lot of ports and did many a tour, all inside air conditioned busses as the heat and humidity was almost more then we could take at times. One side trip was sailing back up into Indonesia to the Island of Lombok. Next to Bali. A nice all day tour in light rain off and on and a lovely lunch outside kept us busy and damp. Broken down bus and all. The roads are not Caltrans ones for sure.

We got off the ship at Fremantle early in morning and was bussed to Perth, and to the Perth Air Port where we sat till about 5 PM. Flew out of Perth at 10 PM and got to Brisbane next morning. We had to fly all across Australia to get back to the east side to then fly back to LAX. A long wait, at both ends, then on to San Francisco where Bonny's husband **Bobby** picked us all up and to our homes.

A very long but rewarding trip. Thousands of miles traveled and much time sitting in airplanes and airports, and seeing so many strange and wonderful animals, such as Koala, snakes, Kangaroo, Saltwater crocodiles, birds of all kinds, etc. So if you want an ADVENTURE be sure to go visit the smiling friendly Aussies, you will not be sorry.

Next adventure in planning, third trip through the Panama Canal next year. Have a wonderful fun summer! **Bob and Ardyth Biffel**

From **Bill and Darlene Selling**:

Well here we go again and this time we are flying back to Florida for a visit with our daughter and her family. We will be attending our granddaughters' High School graduation and seeing some of the sites in the area. No work projects this time as they have their house up for sale because the Navy is moving them up north to Illinois.

As in the past, our son will be house sitting. We will have our iPad with us and try and keep up with the email. We should be back in mid-June. Love to all, **Bill & Darlene Selling**

From **Lou Donada**:

**Manual Mejia** who worked in Bridge Construction in D-10, died on February 18, 2015 at the age of 85 years.

It was also reported that **Harold Lynn "Hal" Burch** (1928 - 2015) passed away. Hal was an Engineer in District 10 who had transferred to Headquarters in Sacramento.

- **Brian Young**

## *The Haps in District 11*

**D**istrict 11 QCC is planning our Annual BBQ Picnic. So **Save the Date** for Saturday, October 10, 2015 at Sweetwater Summit County Park in Sunnyside. We will send out more information later this year.

We were saddened to learn of the passing earlier this year of retired employee **Janet Hernandez**. Janet had worked many years as a toll collector on the San Diego-Coronado Bridge and also served under the Administration Division in the D-11 mailroom.

It was also reported that **Eric Sarkela's** wife **Pat** passed away on April 10th.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to **Eric** and other family and friends of **Pat** and **Janet**.

The monthly Romeo meetings continue 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.

- **Leslie Franklin**



## *The Haps in Central*

**G**reetings from the Central District. Bet ya didn't know that the Central District is really HQS (Headquarters) in Sacramento? Ha!

We had our spring luncheon at the Dante Club in Sacramento on April 30th and had a rousing good time. Good to see members bringing their significant other to our get-togethers!

The month of February saw **Allen Wrenn** doing two tours in South America. Most of the time was in southern Chile and Argentina, in the area known as Patagonia. The lakes, fjords, glaciers and snow-capped mountains were beautiful. And this was during their summer. Some of the areas visited have German-inspired architecture due to the heavy migration of people from Germany and other European countries 100-plus years ago. From one of the tour hotels in Chile, two mountains could be seen with their slopes covered in snow. One of those erupted in late April, less than two months after his visit, and devastated the tourism business in the area. His tours then took him to Buenos Aires where he enjoyed seeing the famous sensuous tango dance performed in several venues. Then it was off to Iguazu Falls where an unexpected rainstorm came in and soaked everyone, but the next day on the Brazil side the sun was shining beautifully. **Allen's** travels ended in Rio de Janeiro just after Carnival had been celebrated. A visit was made to review some of the floats that had won prizes in the Carnival parade.

On a sad note, we lost three of our QCC Honorary members. Don't have dates of passing for **Chuck Hammer** and **T. George Smith**, but most recently **William (Bill) Schaefer** passed away on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

**Bill** was born in Columbia, Missouri and graduated from the University of Missouri. He spent time in the service during the Korean War. Bill married **Virginia Royston** and they moved to California where he received a graduate degree in civil engineering from the University of California at Berkeley. Bill worked for Caltrans for 38 years and retired as Deputy Director and Chief Engineer. During his retirement, he and Virginia traveled extensively in their RV. A memorial service was held on May 29<sup>th</sup> in Carmichael, CA.

Wow, is this year flying by or what? Here we are almost into summer and the rainy season passed us by with minimal amounts of moisture. We hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful time of year with many good times and fun travels. **Julie** and I visited Pacific Grove earlier this year. Everything was in full bloom. The Monarch butterflies had arrived and were flitting everywhere! We love the ocean and spent lots of relaxing moments watching the sea critters frolicking while sipping a nice Chardonnay!

Our next luncheon will be held at the Dante Club on August 20, 2015.

- **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](mailto: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](mailto:linedancerjudyt@citlink.net)

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

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#### 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](mailto:doug.becker@att.net)

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#### District 4 -

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

Contact: **Ed Coble** 925-465-4219,  
[edcoble49@astound.net](mailto:edcoble49@astound.net)

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

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

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#### District 5 -

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

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#### 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.

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#### District 7 -

The Tom Fera Monthly Luncheon Club meets on the second Wednesday of the month (except Dec.) in LA.

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

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#### District 8 -

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

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#### District 9 -

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

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#### District 10 -

For details on events contact **Brian Young** 209-329-3445 cell or [blyoung365@gmail.com](mailto:blyoung365@gmail.com).

Lenny's Huddle meets at 7:30 am on the last Tuesday of the month at U.J.'s Restaurant located at Hammer Ranch Center, 7628 Pacific Ave. in Stockton. (209-957-2081).

Contact: **Stan Randolph**, 209-957-1278,  
[stanran3672@aol.com](mailto:stanran3672@aol.com)

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#### District 11 -

Annual BBQ Picnic  
Saturday, October 10, 2015  
Sweetwater Summit County Park in Sunnyside  
Contact: **Gary Darr** 619-479-0549 (h) or e-mail  
[Fatdog261@cox.net](mailto:Fatdog261@cox.net)

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#### Central District -

Luncheon at the Dante Club  
August 20, 2015  
Contact **Gary** or **Julie Bush** (530-642-8208)  
[zbusharosa@wildblue.net](mailto:zbusharosa@wildblue.net)

## To Honorary Members

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 paying the dues would be a hardship for you, you may be able to get your dues waived. Contact your QCC District Director and if they approve, send the request to the QCC Secretary/Treasurer. See Renewal Form below.