

TheQCCer

The Newsletter of the Quarter
Century Club

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QCC Roster...

BUTCH SAYS; "THANKS MIKE!"

From the Corner Pocket

Enjoy your new and improved 2016 QCC Member Directory, and when you do, tip your hat toward our industrious and talented Secretary/Treasurer **Mike Ogilvie**, who is the brains and the muscle behind making it happen. Two years ago he got the idea as he was receiving and logging in dues payments from members, that it might be of merit to add more information to the roster. Unfortunately it was after the December edition had been mailed so he could only easily contact those who used email. Enough of them had a positive response so we pondered something more bold this year.

The best idea seemed to send a separate mailing to ALL members, even those who were technically delinquent at the end of February. And we do believe that the orange paper was a bright reminder for even those with older eyes and vision problems.

The response was great, although it did cause Mike a lot more effort than we expected. We worked hard to be certain that we covered every option, but our members showed us lots of new ways to think about it. And as you remember your buddies from your days of work, I'd encourage each of us to reach out to any new or

potential candidates for QCC membership as we reinforce our mission statement *"to establish a closer bond of friendship cementing twenty-five years or more of employment with the State of California with the Division of Highways and the Department of Transportation"*.

And as an added "victory note", the proposed ballot initiative to kill all public pensions in California appears to have run aground. The Reed and Demaio pair looked for fame claiming to save governments from financial problems by killing off all public pensions in California. We'll never know who their backers were, but even after three tries to get a proposition approved for gathering signatures, Reed, Demaio and the backers have thrown in the towel and are no longer going ahead to gather signatures.



Butch Biendara, QCC President

World Heritage Status Update for "El Camino Real de las Californias"

By George E. Gray

In January, **Benita** and I traveled north from San Diego to Aptos, which is just south of Santa Cruz on Highway 1, which gave us an opportunity to observe the recent Caltrans "El Camino Real Mission Bell Project" to install bells along designated state routes between Orange County and Sonoma.

This project resulted in placing about 585 mission bell markers along the route. The reach between the Mexican border and north through Orange County is along Interstate 5 and, since the Feds do not allow placement of such items on the Interstate, no bells were placed there.

The Caltrans program was hindered because the present legislatively designated El Camino Real state routes do not include, for instance, the routes that serve Monterey, so the major focus of government during the Spanish period is not included. The 2 million dollar installation resulted in a marker bell about every 4 minutes in the direction of travel!

At the Aptos meeting of Los Californias, I gave a talk on the El Camino Real bells and the California Mission Foundation effort to include it as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. At the February Meeting of the California Missions Foundation, **Keith Robinson**, Caltrans Principal Landscape Architect, manned a display of the above Mission Bell Marker Project.

I will continue to monitor and report on this program.

Index

President's Remarks.....	Page 1
El Camino Real Bells.....	Page 1
State and District Officers.....	Page 2
CTF	Page 4
In Memoriam	Page 5
District 1 Report.....	Page 5
District 2 Report.....	Page 5
District 3 Report.....	Page 6
District 4 Report.....	Page 6
District 5 Report.....	Page 9
District 6 Report.....	Page 9
District 7 Report.....	Page 9
District 8 Report.....	Page 14
District 9 Report.....	Page 18
District 10 Report.....	Page 18
District 11 Report.....	Page 19
Central District Report	Page 20
Events	Page 21
Honorary Members /Financial Rpt ...	Page 22
Membership Renewal Form.....	Page 23

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CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION FOUNDATION

By Kathy Freeman

The California Transportation Foundation (CTF) is again proud to co-sponsor the annual **Workers Memorial Ceremony** to be held on May 4th on the steps of the State's Capitol. The ceremony remembers and honors those employees who have lost their lives while working for the safety of the traveling public with the placement of a wreath in the center of a large diamond of orange cones. Each cone bears the name of one of the 184 Caltrans employees that have been lost. This year we will honor **Oscar Vargas**, a Structures Construction Engineer in District 11. It is a tribute that must be seen to be appreciated. We hope that you will be able to join us this year at any of the tributes being held, either in Sacramento on May 4th or in your own area.

In 2015 CTF donated almost \$115,900 to fallen and injured workers. Never have we needed your support more. Tax deductible donation to CTF's **Fallen and Injured Workers Fund** can be made at any time online or by check. A Workers Assistance Fund was recently created for **Matt Crete**, Structures Construction Engineer, who was seriously injured in a head-on collision on an icy Route 36 while on the way to a construction site in Lassen County. He was flown to a hospital in Reno. If you are interested in donating to his Workers Assistance Fund you can go online at www.transportationfoundation.org/donate and indicate "Crete" in the memo section. If you prefer, you may send a check made out to CTF with "Crete" in the memo section to the California

Transportation Foundation, 581 La Sierra Drive, Sacramento CA 95865. CTF will match your donation dollar for dollar until donations reach \$5,000. CTF keeps no administration fee.

Attention golfers! Looking for a way to help members of the Caltrans' community when their need is the greatest and at the same time have a good time playing golf with friends and colleagues. Dates for the Foundation's **Charity Golf Tournaments** have been confirmed. The northern California (NorCal) tournament will be held on **July 25** at the Yocha Dehe Golf Club and the southern California (SoCal) tournament will be held **August 29** at the Dove Canyon Golf Club. More information and photos from last year's tournaments can be found on CTF's website or on Facebook.

The California Transportation Foundation's (CTF) **Scholarship Program** now sponsors 41 scholarships. During 2015 over \$80,400 in scholarships were awarded to students in transportation related fields. At the recently held Transportation Forum event, scholarships were presented to four recipients Krista Purser, Cal Poly San Luis; Matthew Stewart, UCLA; Joyce Lin, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and Jillian Guizado, San Jose State.

In January CTF welcomed six new members to the Foundation's Board of Directors: **Tilly Chang**, San Francisco Transportation Authority; **Lupe Valdez**, Union Pacific Railroad; **Ray Wolfe**, San Bernardino Associated Governments; **Bob Morrison**, Bender Rosenthal, Inc.; **Sunne House**, AECOM; and **Stacey Mortenson**, San Joaquin Regional Rail Authority.

Newly elected Foundation officers are **Chair Anne Mayer**, Executive Director of Riverside County Transportation Commission; **Vice-Chair Sasha Danksy**, Principal, Mark Thomas & Co.; **Treasurer Andre Boutros**, California Transportation Commission Retired; and **Secretary Mary Rotelli**, Executive Vice President

and Chief Operating Officer of Teichert Inc. **District 12 Director Ryan Chamberlain** is the new CTF/Caltrans Liaison Committee Chair.

More information on these new members may be found on CTF’s website.

In Memoriam

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

Name	District	Date
Donald (Don) Knipping, Sr	03	Dec 17, 2015
Richard L. McGehee	03	Dec 23, 2015
Juanita L Powers	03	Dec 27, 2015
Charley W Lawson	03	Dec 28, 2015
Gary Keith	07	Nov 11, 2015
Katie Mae Smith	08	Dec 5, 2015
Michelle Walker	08	Feb 26, 2016
Harold McGrath	08	Jan , 2016
Landon Calkin	08	Jan 13, 2016
Gregory Keck	08	Feb 17, 2016
Clede Richard Beckley, Jr	08	Dec 24, 2015
Paul John Plinski	10	Dec 26, 2015
Gerald L (Jerry) Wisenor	10	Sep 23, 2015
Greg Batey	11	Dec 23, 2015
James (Jim) R Waters	11	Dec 28, 2015
William (Bill) Dotson	11	Feb 19, 2016
Earl Rogers	C	Dec 18, 2015

The Haps in District 1

District 1 did not submit an article for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

The Haps in District 2

Here are the exploits of **Jim** and **Sandy Ceragioli** as they went on another trek this fall.

After last year’s trip to the south, we decided to do something in the Continental US and tour the

New England States. We flew from SF on Saturday Sept. 18 to Boston with another couple. On Sunday and Monday we took the “Hop on/Hop Off” around Boston and Cambridge to see sites. We did a major portion of the Freedom Trail on foot through Old Boston and things such as “The USS Constitution” Boston Tea Party reenactment, Faneuil Hall, Site of the Boston Massacre, Trinity Church, Kings Cemetery, The Old Meeting Hall, etc. All very interesting. We even went to the site of “Cheers” and had dinner.

On Tuesday we rented a car, headed to Cape Cod and went all the way out to the end. Spent that night in Provincetown and had our first Lobster dinner. The next day we went to Concord, Rhode Island and toured the old mansions built by the likes of Rockefeller et.al. Spent the night and had our second Lobster dinner. The next day we went to Groton Connecticut and toured the Nautilus Submarine, the first nuclear powered sub. Very interesting tour and informative on the history of submarines. We then headed north to Hartford to tour the Samuel Clemmons home and Mark Twain museum which was another interesting site. We ended the day in Boston. Saturday we did some more touring in Boston including the Boston Library which was awesome.

Sunday we joined our Bus Tour group to spend a week in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. First stop was Kennebunkport and Portland where we had our best Lobster dinner. Then on to New Hampshire and Lake Winnepesaukee. Then on to a ski area in the mountains, and on to Vermont to learn about Maple Syrup and apples. We then headed back to Boston and the Kennedy Museum, which brought back all the memories of his assassination and the loss we all felt. Saturday we returned to SF and drove home. A very enjoyable trip and wonderful Fall Foliage.

The rest of the District 2 members are still out adventuring, so, for now, that's it.

- **Bill Belcher**

The Haps in District 3

The annual Spring Party will be held on Sunday, April 10th at the Peach Tree Golf and Country Club in Marysville.

The event will start off with a social hour from 1:00 P.M. to 1:45 P.M. followed by a membership meeting. A buffet dinner will be served at 2 P.M. which will also include dessert, coffee or tea and a free drawing for the centerpieces at each table. Also available is the Mystery Guest game. The winner will receive his or her dinner free at the next function. The winner, who guessed the late Gil Mulcahy, at the party last November was **Ed Betschart**. For tickets or more information please contact Carleen Hagen at (530) 674-9026.

We are saddened to report the following deaths in our District 3 family:

Donald J. Knipping, Sr.

Don passed away on December 17, 2015 at the age of 83 years. Don retired from District 3 Maintenance as the Paint and Stripping Supervisor and was a faithful **QCC Honorary Member**. He requested no services with burial at a military cemetery.

Richard L. McGehee.

Richard passed away on Wednesday, December 23, 2015 in Marysville at the age of 69 years. Richard worked for the District 3 Maintenance for 27 years before retiring.

Juanita L. Powers

Juanita passed away at her home on December 27, 2015. She worked for Caltrans for 29 years as a reproduction operator.

Charley W. Lawson.

Charley passed away at his home on December 28, 2015. He retired from Caltrans as a Heavy Equipment Operator after 28 years of service.

In other news, we have received word that **Walter "Bud" Ferguson** has been admitted to an Alzheimer Facility. We are not sure of the location of the ward, but assume it is in Oroville.

Wy Carter recently celebrated her 93rd birthday with friends and family. Wy worked for the Division of Highways and Caltrans for many years before retiring.

Once again we wish to thank **Leo Trombatore** for allowing the District 3 Quarter Century Club to have our functions, on his membership, at the Peach Tree Golf and Country Club.

- **Dan Johnson Sr.**

The Haps in District 4

The following two stories have been contributed by **Gordon Analla**.

"Hi **Adrienn (Huffman)**. **Phyllis** and **Rolf** both work for Caltrans. This details how they "adopted" **Miss Posey**. I think some of the retirees would like to read it as quite a few are pet lovers. If you wouldn't mind passing it on." – **Gordon Analla**

By **Phyllis** - Meet "**Posey Maegan**", the newest addition to the Chansen family! Posey came to us on Thursday, May 28, 2015.

While driving to the Oakland office on N/B 101 in SF around Cesar Chavez St., **Rolf**, along with another motorist, stopped in the #3 lane and found a tiny little kitten, in the middle of the lane

with that heavy traffic during morning commute, curled up in a tight ball.

Rolf turned on all his emergency lights, stopped traffic while the other motorist, scooped up the kitten and handed her to Rolf. The motorist was from out of town and didn't know what to do with the kitten. Without a second thought, my Hero, Rolf, became a proud father of a very lucky kitten.



They went on to the office (because Rolf had unfinished paperwork) and Posey (at the time, her gender was not determined) proceeded to steal many hearts and nearly

brought grown men to tears with her sad story!

At the same exact time, while others are being brought to tears, yours truly was at home madly purchasing supplies online to welcome the new little one! I was actually very nervous about her coming home because #1, I've never had a kitten before and #2, not sure how Bella (dog) would react to another furry one!!

They came home after lunch and both Bella and I finally got to meet this little bitty thing! She was so little and had these incredible blue eyes! She was so tired and just wanted to sleep. And slept she did. For what seemed like hours and hours! While she was sleeping in a crate, the rest of us, Rolf, Bella and I, went to Pet Club and purchased food, milk and litter box, etc.

She finally woke to eat and go to the bathroom on the comforter! Laundry time!!

Bella was ever so curious and wanted to find out what she could do with this one!! Bel was a bit rough at first but is now getting the hang of it.

Posey, as we call her now, seems to be adjusting fine! Knowing that she's already got Daddy wrapped around her little paw, is now working on Bella and me. I, knowing that I was fighting a losing battle from the get go, have surrendered to her every want and need! Posey's got me good!!! Bella on the other hand, still needs to ease up on her nudging and pawing, but she'll come around soon enough!

Posey is named after Buster Posey from the SF Giants. Although tiny in size, she had a GIANT will to live. She hung on until her angel came to rescue her. Maegan, her middle name, came from my boxer, Maegan (1988-2000). The day she came to us was Maegan's birthday. It was definitely a sign!

Well, friends and family, this is the story of Posey! Everything happened for a reason, we weren't looking to adopt a pet, but they came to us in a way as though it was meant to be. Rolf and I WERE a couple of empty nesters, but Bella and Posey came to us to make sure that our nest is empty no more!

We were twice blessed with our little ones and considered ourselves so very lucky! Everyday is filled with love, amazements and laughs! Really, what more can we asked for!

Wishing you all Love and Joy! - **Rolf and Phyllis**

The Man I Call Coach
By Gordon Analla

He's **Larry McPeak**, a 42 year veteran with Caltrans. I call him "Coach," after the late National Football League (NFL) coach, **Bill McPeak** (no relation). The NFL coach helmed the Washington Redskins for five seasons. He was renowned for acquiring personnel that later

led to championships and many of the players were elected to the Hall of Fame. He was a football lifer. That's **Larry** too. He spotted talented people, and helped them succeed in their careers with Caltrans. "My joy was seeing those that I worked with, go on to promote to Supervisors, Superintendents, and Region Managers, and to accomplish some pretty amazing things."

During **Larry's** distinguished career with the department he served as a Bridge Crew Supervisor, Superintendent, Hazardous Materials Specialist, and Region Manager ---a varied career from a man of varied interests. I know "Coach" as a man who encountered a great deal of mental anguish as he had to endure not only one major incident with multiple fatalities and injuries, but also another fatality, no less gut wrenching, spread apart 10 years' time. In each case, however intended, the one in charge, in this case Larry as a Region Manager, is put under the microscope. This scrutiny goes with the job and it's multitude of responsibilities. The scrutiny may not be fair but that's the nature of the job. In both cases, "Coach" handled himself with dignity, class, and compassion for those who lost family members and affected co-workers who suffered from a residual affect.

The first incident was on March 27th, 1994, a Sunday, spring morning. A clear and beautiful day that brought dark clouds over the San Leandro Region in particular, but also District 4 as a whole. At approximately 9:24 am, a truck driver crashed into a shoulder closure operation killing five people (one of whom was an 8 year old girl) and injuring multiple workers (MPROs working off their incarceration). The work operation was litter pick up and weed removal. The operation was overseen by a Caltrans Lead worker **Chuck Warner** (who was killed) and a Maintenance Worker. The driver of the big rig, a set of duals, was driving under the influence. His actions changed people's lives forever. One of the MPRO's had just become a Father that

morning. He was informed of that by one of the two private citizens that entered the closure in a pickup truck. The latter, driven by the uncle of the lady that gave birth, had his daughter in the pickup with him. The young girl (name withheld) exited the truck and told the young man the news. And just like that, they were both struck and killed. A moment's joy became a lifelong tragedy and sadness forever linked with birthday and death anniversaries.

An investigation commenced. Parallel to that was a decision made by "Coach" to begin the healing process. The very next day the entire Region was shut down and diffusing sessions were conducted by our Employee Assistance Program (EAP) contractors. This action by "Coach" was light years before what has now become the norm. That was **Larry McPeak**. He was a pioneer that believed in thinking outside the box and bringing people together to grieve, mourn, reflect, and review what transpired. Because of that incident, and unfortunately other fatalities and serious injuries that occurred during the years that followed, campaigns such as "Slow for the Cone Zone" and "Be Alert. My Parents Are At Work" were initiated. And also how such programs as the Maintenance Activity Zone Enforcement and Enhancement Program," (MAZEEP) and the Construction Zone Enforcement and Enhancement Program (COZEEP) with the California Highway Patrol on site were established. In addition, the law of "Double the Fine" in traffic zones was implemented. All these methods of trying to make the work zones safer for highway workers came about through tragedies and the efforts of those who cared and were in a position to make a difference.

As I previously mentioned Larry also had to endure another job fatality when a Structural Steel Painter (**Bill Callaway**) fell at the Benicia Bridge. Larry called me soon after the fatality. I had taken the day off to go to an Oakland A's game with my family. I could feel through the

phone line that **Larry's** heart was heavy. I then contacted the Safety Officer for the Region, and he began the investigation. I didn't get too involved with this fatality as I was only a few days away from leaving Caltrans to accept a position at SFO. But I'll never forget that phone call from Larry. It stays with me to this day.

I feel for "Coach" and that he had to experience both fatalities in his career. No one deserves it once, much less twice. But if it had to happen, Larry was the type of person that would cope with it as he did, as a professional and compassionate person. And that about sums up the man I call "Coach." - **Gordon Analla**

The Haps in District 5

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

The Haps in District 6

District 6 did not submit an entry for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

The Haps in District 7

Use It or Lose It. This statement is so often used, that people no longer take it seriously, but recent events remind me how important it is to "use it". Examples include: walk often or become immobile, go to work or lose your job, get a hearing aid or you lose the ability to comprehend and communicate

as the brain shrinks from lack of audible input, vote!, attend meetings or the group won't meet anymore, write articles or nothing will get published - dare I say it? Use it, or lose it!

Sometimes exercising your rights can be painful, inconvenient or seem futile. Past experience with mobility at a large conference hotel hit home, as my room was easily 1/2 mile from the conference rooms, and everything else worth seeing was twice that distance. The first three days of several miles of walking and taking stairs, I was in pain, stiff and sore. But by the fourth day, I noticed I had a new spring in my step, and the 1/2 mile trek did not seem so far, as I found the most direct, but equally distant route to get to the conference center. I know that to keep feeling this good, I need to keep walking the several miles, whether it is convenient or not.

So it is troubling when I hear and see that we may lose a valuable resource due to lack of participation. Please make the effort to stay in touch, attend reunion meetings, and stay active in your physical, intellectual, and social lives. If we don't use "it", we may just lose it, and that would be a shame.

Monthly Reunion

The second Wednesday of the month rolls around before you know it... Seize the opportunity for human contact and nourish body and soul at the **Tom Fera Lunch Group!** Meet on the second Wednesday of each month, except December.

RESTAURANTS AND PROPOSED LUNCHEON DATES FOR 2016

- April 13, 2016 - Joselito's West
- May 11, 2016 - Steer N' Ale
- June 8, 2016 - China Olive
- July 13, 2016 - Joselito's West
- August 10, 2016 - Steer N' Ale
- September 14, 2016 - China Olive
- October 12, 2016 - Joselito's West
- November 9, 2016 - Steer N' Ale
- December 3, 2016 - QCC luncheon at Taix

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

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

Steer N' Ale Restaurant; 3644 E. Foothill Boulevard, Pasadena, CA 91107; (626) 796-2278

For more information about meetings, etc., contact: **Chuck O'Connell** at (661) 253-3428 or chuckoconnell@prodigy.net, or **Tom Gildersleeve** at (661) 259-6226 or tgilders@pacbell.net.

Ventura Monthly Meeting

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.

San Gabriel Monthly Meeting

A third Caltrans retiree luncheon meets on the Third Thursday of each month at 11:30 AM, in San Gabriel at:

The **Golden Soup**, 1039 E. Valley Blvd., San Gabriel, CA, between San Gabriel Blvd. and Walnut Grove Ave.

Steve Leung encourages anyone who's interested, retired or not. For more information, e-mail **Steve Leung** <skingleung@yahoo.com

El Nino or Not?

As if to confirm the 2016 Farmer's Almanac prediction, the Orange County Register headline on February 19, claims that the highly touted El Nino rainy season has failed to materialize. So far, the few and scattered rain storms have not produced the drought busting effects we were rallied to prepare for early last fall. Southern

California has produced a scant 6 some-odd inches of rain, when a "normal" rainy season is closer to 15 inches. Unlike the 35 inches we experienced in the 2005 season, it is hard to believe the remaining months of March and April will make up the extra 9 inches to achieve a "normal" L.A. annual rainfall season.

Today's news included an item that County officials have been artificially seeding the clouds to produce rain, such as the brief 0.35 inches we had last Monday. When rain falls in the L.A. basin, does it have a better effect than if it falls in the form of snow in the mountains, as run-off into County groundwater recharge facilities at Santa Fe Dam and the San Gabriel River, or does it flow out to sea? At the very least, we will see over the next few months whether El Nino was a drought buster or was the Farmer's Almanac correct.

Polar Bear Plunge, anyone?

Marie Martin writes, "Once a year, every year, [we hear] of groups of idiots somewhere participating in a 'Polar Bear Plunge' wherein they hurl themselves into freezing bodies of water in the dead of winter for some undisclosed reason. So, I said to myself, 'Hey! I'm an idiot, how come I haven't done this?'"

"The Polar Bear Plunge this year was advertised as follows in our local fishwrapper, the Chinook Observer:

'Come participate in a crazy fun experience where you plunge into the freezing cold waters of Black Lake. The proceeds go to supporting music education at Hilltop and Ilwaco High School. All participants must have ...the signed waiver the day of the event.'

"Said waiver, as I read it before signing, held harmless the Schools, County, Cities (to use the term loosely) and emergency responders for any illness, injury or death resulting from being an idiot."

“I arrived on a foggy cold Northwest morning accompanied by my 160 pound Newfoundland Dog, **Bismarck**. Newfies, as you may know, are used by the Coast Guards of several countries as water rescue dogs. Normally you can't keep Bismarck out of the water.”

“The crowd encompassed about 50 people probably hoping to see someone drop dead from thermal shock, a few teachers from the schools, the local EMT ambulance, and the Clatsop County (that's right, ‘Clatsop’ ...don't blame me, I didn't name it) search and rescue team. The latter were an obscenely fit trio of men in wetsuits and life jackets, who deployed in kayaks after setting up a ladder at the end of the pier [and] admitted with chagrin that they forgot to bring their ladder and had to borrow a flimsy little one from somebody's pool.”

“[Of] 15 idiots [there] to be the actual plungers (‘plungers’ ...sounds like something to unstop a toilet), I was the oldest. The frogmen lined us up and let only one or two at a time jump off the end of the pier. When my turn came, I went into the water and promptly said, ‘Jesus!’ I wasn't swearing, I was having a religious revelation, for as I penetrated the water I realized exactly why Jesus chose to walk on top if it instead. One degree colder and the Lake would have supported a Zamboni.”

“I naturally assumed my faithful Newfoundland would follow his beloved guardian right in. Actually, if we had gone in by the side of the Lake he would have, but jumping off a pier was another matter. [The] poor Newfie cried and ran in circles, but remained high and dry. I swam over to the aforementioned ladder and attempted to climb back to the pier. Alas, my feet are larger than several types of foreign cars, and I was having great difficulty getting them to stay on the little plastic rungs, so two of the frogmen just flipped me out of the water and left me flopping on the dock like a gaffed flounder. Two

newspapers had sent photographers to record the plunge, and I could only hope that I didn't look ridiculous on the ladder, and more importantly that I didn't look fat in my bathing suit.”

“In addition to getting one's picture in the paper, one also got a T-shirt. Since the event was to benefit the schools' music programs, instead of saying, ‘I tried to commit suicide in Black Lake’, the stupid shirts say, ‘I plunged into music’, which sounds like we all dove into the bell of a tuba or something.”

“I drove home in a sopping wet cold swimsuit, my feet were numb for hours, and I will be thinking pure thoughts for a week.”

Fifty and Counting

Some of us have worked 25 years, 30 some-odd years, or even 40-plus years and think we have accomplished a fabulous career, what with a comfortable pension we paid into all those years, and grew with sound investments from our Public Employees Retirement System (PERS), and medical care, to manage our creature comforts, we are sitting pretty. Whether looking back on a satisfying career, or looking forward to a happy retirement in a few more, FEW of us have contemplated doing what **Ron Kosinski** recently celebrated – 50 years as a Caltrans Employee!

With his hip pony tail, distinguished beard, and witty demeanor, you'd never guess he must be pushing 70 years old (our guess), unless he began working while he was in elementary school!

District Management dedicated the entire Office Chief's Meeting on Monday March 7, aka “District Staff Meeting” to “par-tee” (a “play on words” golf reference). While it is unclear if the meeting/“par-tee” was open to all comers, or only Chiefs and above, cake was made available to the rest of the staff in an informational announcement on March 9, to wit, “There is cake in room 13.012 from **Ron's** 50th state service if

anyone is interested. Please come by with a plate [BYOP].” Two questions all staff were asking are, “What kind of cake?” and “Was this left over from Ron’s party on Monday?”

Congratulations to **Ron**, for 50 years, and for all appearances, enjoying it too!

Curcu-What?

Curcumin is the active ingredient in turmeric, a ginger-like plant whose roots are gathered, dried and made into a spice for its flavor and health benefits, as well as its lovely deep yellow color. The scientific name of turmeric is *Curcuma longa*. It is a popular spice in many Indian and Asian dishes and a critical ingredient of curry. A legitimate “superfood”, turmeric has been extensively studied and researched, and unlike Noni Juice or Goji Berries, turmeric has been around for centuries and doesn't have a marketing campaign behind it. Turmeric is a spice researchers are discovering, which has health benefits that help with common anti-aging conditions.

Milly Yamada shares ten reasons to add turmeric to your daily regimen:

1. Turmeric contains bioactive compounds with powerful medicinal properties, high in curcumin, a substance with powerful anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties. Most studies used turmeric extracts that are standardized to include large amounts of curcumin.
2. Curcumin is a natural anti-inflammatory compound which can reduce chronic inflammation, and prevent many common Western diseases. Curcumin inhibits many molecules known to play major roles in inflammation.
3. Turmeric dramatically increases the antioxidant capacity of the body, with powerful antioxidant effects to neutralize “free radicals”, and stimulate the body's antioxidant enzymes.
4. Curcumin boosts levels of the hormone, brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF), which increases the growth of new neurons and fights

various degenerative processes in the brain, is linked to improved brain function and a lower risk of brain diseases.

5. Curcumin has beneficial effects on several factors known to play a role in heart disease. It improves the function of the endothelium and is a potent anti-inflammatory agent and antioxidant.

6. Turmeric and curcumin leads to several changes on the molecular level that can help prevent and potentially even treat cancer.

7. Curcumin can cross the blood-brain barrier and has been shown to lead to various improvements in the pathological process of brain aging, such as Alzheimer's disease.

8. Arthritis patients respond very well to curcumin supplementation, since arthritis is a common disorder characterized by joint inflammation. Many studies show that curcumin helps treat symptoms of arthritis and in some cases, is more effective than anti-inflammatory drugs.

9. Curcumin has incredible benefits against depression, shown in a study in 60 depressed patients; curcumin was as effective as prozac in alleviating the symptoms of depression.

10. Curcumin’s help to prevent heart disease, cancer and brain aging, has obvious benefits for longevity, and has become very popular as an anti-aging supplement. Knowing that oxidation and inflammation play a role in ageing, curcumin’s effects may go way beyond prevention of disease.

In combination with bioperine, the active ingredient in black pepper, it is helpful in increasing the level of vitamin B6 concentration in the blood. Both vitamin B6 and co-enzyme Q-10 are seen to increase in individuals who take bioperine. One of the biggest benefits of bioperine is that it increases the bio availability of different useful vitamins and enzymes.

Selenium is an essential nutrient and used in different antioxidant reactions of the human body, including thermoregulation. Vitamin C is

another useful antioxidant. After using bioperine, the amount of selenium increases by a factor of two, as well as increases the amount of vitamin C in the body.

Daria Simolke, echos this information, “[My] neighbor in Topanga who was a researcher at UCLA, had very promising results in feeding Alzheimer afflicted rats cucumin, or whatever the chemical is called that is found in both turmeric and cumin.”

At the very least, these spices for life, Turmeric, cumin, and black pepper, are food for thought!

Contacts and Recent Sightings

Tom Gildersleeve writes about a longtime friend **Gordon Glattenberg** and photographing trains on California’s Donner Pass on January 27, 1967, when they encountered photography great, **Richard “Dick” Steinheimer**, doing the same thing. At a time when **Tom** was unpublished, **Dick** was a celebrity in railfan circles, and seemed as glad to see them as they were to see him. The “shoot” resulted in three panoramic shots of the same scene, interpreted by three different photographers. **Tom’s** recent article in the March 2016 issue of Classic Trains Magazine, reveals all three shots, after **Shirley Burman**, widow of **Richard Steinheimer**, contacted **Tom**. One shot showed a photographer taking a picture of a westbound freight; when **Shirley** asked if he was the photographer in her husband’s shot, **Tom** states, “I suddenly found myself the subject of a picture taken by the master that had remained unknown to me for 44 years! It was an exhilarating and to some extent humbling experience to find myself frozen in time by his artistry.”

Marie Martin, Bob Walters, Stewart and **Kirsten Stahl** on New Year’s Eve at the Glendale Center Theater, to see the eccentric farce, “You Can’t Take it With You”. The play won the 1937 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, and two Academy Awards (Oscars) for best picture and

best director, when it was made into a **Frank Capra** movie the next year, starring **Jean Arthur, James Stewart, Lionel Barrymore,** and **Edward Arnold**.

Marie Martin, Linda Wright, Daria Simolke and **Kirsten Stahl** for tea, scones, and “finger” sandwiches, in early January, to celebrate **Marie’s** birthday at the T-Room in Montrose. The sandwiches did not include any fingers (we hope), but cucumber, smoked salmon, chicken salad, and egg salad. Yum!

Vincent Moreno, on a team project to provide solar power and charging capability at a well-used Roadside Rest area. If all goes well, the State may become electrically independent at this facility, feeding electricity back to the grid, and allow electric vehicles to hook-up and charge-up.

Moving On...

Prakash Yadav writes, “Good Afternoon and Happy Holidays!, Today December 30, 2015 is the last day for **Romulo ‘Romy’ Robeniol**, Transportation Engineer from Hydraulics Unit - East, Engineering Services, District 7.” **Romy**, in typical fashion, quietly and unassumingly completed the ‘Employee Separation Clearance Checklist’ – part I and part II, turned in his employee badge and picked-up his final paycheck, before bidding farewell to his friends and coworkers from 30 plus years of State service.

Abdi Saghafi challenges, “There is no one in District 7 who has not heard of or worked with **Ken Hatai**, [who] has been with Caltrans for 33 years. Prior to that, he worked at the Department of Water Resources as a Hydraulics Engineer for 4 years. He has spent most of his career at Caltrans in the Division of Operations, where he wore many hats, [as] the Area Senior Traffic Engineer since 1993, [and] served as the District 7 Traffic Safety Devices Coordinator and the Intersection Control Evaluation Coordinator.

Now that he is retiring, he will spend most of his time golfing and fishing. Please join me in wishing **Ken** a happy and healthy retirement. Perhaps, when he has broken 70 and has caught the biggest marlin there is, he will consider coming back to Caltrans to help us as an annuitant.” **Ken** retired on December 30, 2015.

Maher Subeh writes, “Greetings to all: I would like to take the time to say that it has been a pleasure working with Caltrans for over 25 years. I have enjoyed working with many of you in the past and present. My last official day is January 14, 2016. I have had a great experience working in the Division of Construction as a Resident Engineer in Glendale Office. The Glendale office has been like a home in good times and bad times. Thank you for the great memories. Please keep me in your prayers as I take my new position with LA Metro.”

After 32 years of State Service, **Peter Vacura**, District 7 HQ Liaison, is retiring. **Peter** has plans to travel to and attend games at all 30 Major League Baseball Stadiums in the United States. He has already visited 14 of them. His other passion is running, and says he is working up to his first marathon. **Peter** hails from Alaska, and previously worked several years at Translab. After his impromptu celebration with District 7 Design staffers on March 8, he wrote, “I wanted to take one last time to thank all of you for taking time out of your day yesterday to celebrate my retirement and departure from D7. I thoroughly enjoyed my time here working with you all. This work is about relationships, trust, and respect, and collaboration. I witnessed it most every day I was here. Keep up the great work! Thanks.”

The Road Last Traveled

Marv Jackson reported that **Gary Keith** passed away on November 11, 2015. **Marv** said the last time he had seen him, **Gary** mentioned that he was on oxygen. No other information is available. May Gary RIP.

Be like Marie, Tom, Chuck, Daria and Millie!
Thanks to all who rallied to make this a viable report! Please take a few moments to share a few tidbits of your saga - past, present and future. 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 Almany, III reminds you that the District 7 QCC Director and Treasurer are available, and you can reach him directly at 17200 So. Stark Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90701-1822.

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

WAKE UP

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

The District 8 Christmas Luncheon was held at Hannah’s Restaurant in San Bernardino on December 12, 2015. Hannah’s is expected to close during the summer, so the search is on for another venue.

A good group of retirees and some members still working were in attendance and had a great time. Those in attendance were: **Evie Anderson, Andy & Kay Anderson, Dan Armstrong, Jim & Joanne Balcom, Mary Bermudez, Gil & Jeanette Daab, John & Doris Estrada, Janice Feenstra, Bill Feenstra, Les Franz, Jim & Jan Geller, Wanda Gernux, Joe Gomez, Wes & Linda Grimes, Dick & Louise**

Haight, Al & Judi Hudgens, Frank Lehr, Stan & Ina Lisiewicz, Dick Longstreet, Marsha Lotze, Phosie Lotze, Ernie Parke & Connie Young, Sybille Phillips & her guest Julie Griffin, Joe Potwardowski, Tom & Bonnie Powell, Ben Ramirez, Bob Sassaman, Ken Steele, Linda Supernaw and her guests Mark & Laurie Pertile, and Linda Wilford.

Evie Anderson marked her 99th birthday at the December luncheon. Evie was a featured presenter on Armed Forces Radio Worldwide,



with a daily joke for the troops over many years...Evie shared one with the group at Hannah's Restaurant, followed by a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday" from everyone attending and she was presented with a Christmas floral arrangement.

We were informed at the luncheon and gave all our condolences and best wishes for a speedy recovery to **Jesus Paez's** wife **Julie** who was shot in that disastrous shooting in San Bernardino. She was severely injured in the infamous terrorist attack that killed many county employees. She was shot twice about five minutes apart and has recovered and is now home. Roses to the Paez family.

Also during the luncheon an honorary 25 year certificate was awarded to **Tom Powell**. **John**

Feenstra, Dave Felix retired from Construction and **Leo Haynes** retired from Traffic had theirs mailed to them belatedly as our QCC Director missed his queue!

We had our usual drawings for poinsettias and door prizes. Many of our members donated and **Phosie Lotze** donated a "truckload" of gifts for our holiday festivities. Thanks again, Phosie...Winners of our money prizes were won by **Wes Grimes, Linda Supernaw, Frank Lehr** and **Linda Grimes**.

Floyd Salazar sent a newspaper article from the 1950's showing a survey party in action at the time...working on the 10 freeway through Banning. The article showed **Bob Hoff, Floyd,** and Senior Engineer, **Dennis Roy**. The article is very fragile being so old! Thanks Floyd.

Got a card and call from **Duane Sharp** (retired Construction) and wife **Carol** from their home in Utah...Duane is in declining health, but sounded good on the phone.

John (Andy) and Kay Anderson took a cruise to Mexico in November. They planned to go to Grass Valley for Christmas with family. Kay said they still go to their waterfront beach house in Oceanside as often as possible...**Bill Feenstra** reports he recently spent time visiting **Bill Edmonds** in Oregon...**Bob Sassaman** is now the drummer in his church's music group. He had not played the drums in years, but found it came back quickly...

Roses to **Taylor Smith** as he deals with ongoing health issues...**Doug Hogue** and **Morgan Choate** continue playing golf as often as possible.

Julie Griffin reported on her recent trip to Zimbabwe. Her group took extra boxes of clothing for distribution by missionaries in Zimbabwe and when the airlines learned of that

they did not charge for the extra baggage. Nice, Julie.

Sybille Phillips retired in February after an outstanding career in Traffic. She had three parties before leaving to visit her family in Germany, where her mother is celebrating her 90th birthday! Sybille's retired and Caltrans friends had a nice lunch at King's Buffet, a nice reception at the District office and a formal luncheon at Lotus Garden.

She is retiring after nearly 33 years with the State of California, Department of Transportation. She started as an Engineering Aid and retired as a Transportation Engineer, CT. She worked in many departments throughout her career, but her home was the Traffic Engineering Department. She was honored for her work in Public Affairs and Toastmasters and received many Certificates of Appreciation from San Bernardino and Riverside.

Gerald and Judie Brown once again set up a petting zoo for two county Christmas gatherings for abused women and children. They took their motor home to Oklahoma to house family at the hospital where their grandson will be for an extended period after his birth. They returned home from Oklahoma to find \$20,000 in tools had been burgled from their home while they were gone. Onions to the thief!

Just a note to all Construction Retirees and anyone else that the Wednesday 9:00 get together at Coco's has moved to the Family Home Style Café on Redlands Boulevard off of Tippecanoe. Coco's closed recently.

Third Annual Golf Tournament planned by District 8 Maintenance Branch – All friends, family and neighbors are invited. The tournament is on Friday, May 6, 2016 at Shandin Hills Golf Club. Check in starts at 6:30 a.m. Shotgun starts at 8:00 a.m. The cost is \$70 per person and includes a cart and lunch. Trophies

for 1st and 2nd place teams. Cash prizes for longest drive and closest to the pin. Four person best ball format. Singles/doubles are welcome! Last day to register will be Friday, April 22, 2016. For more information or to register, please contact:

Debbie Saiz 909-844-6386

Ken Matsuoka 909-214-6608

Tim Hatfield 760-954-4101

Don Lambert 909-638-5945

2016 Highway Workers Memorial Run Date and Information: Hi All, well here we go again...We have had many great volunteers step up to help keep this wonderful event going forward...So we are all set for this year's event...Tuesday and Wednesday, May 3rd and 4th, 2016. Giving away a 60" TV...for just \$5.00 it might be yours.

If you're interested in this please contact **Cindy Gano** at FLHRLB@yahoo.com at 909-499-4278 or **Deborah Prochnow** D-12 at 949-661-1273 or **Angelo Gross** D-3 at 916-686-4385 or **John Brock** D-7 at 310-479-7970 or **Shawn Silva** D-7 at 213-620-2708.

Sadly, we must report the passing of several of our Caltrans family:

Katie Mae Smith, Taylor's wife passed away December 5, 2015. She had struggled with illnesses since December, 2014, with Taylor at her side during the year. Services were on December 14, 2015 with a beautiful prayer service at Bobbitt Funeral Home, graveside service at Montecito Memorial Park in Colton, and a reception afterwards.

She left a daughter, Patricia of Manassas, Virginia and son Paul Taylor Smith of Yorba Linda, CA, two grandchildren and two great-grandsons, and her brother W. L. Stern of Houston, TX. Since her passing their son, Paul, has been a steady help to **Taylor**, and daughter Patty has traveled from Virginia to help sort

belongings. Katie and Taylor were just shy of their 70th anniversary.

We briefly mentioned in our last QCCer that **Robert Redden** passed away in October. He was 92 and had been an **Honorary QCC member**. He was born in Fresno and grew up in San Luis Obispo, CA and enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II and after the war graduated from Call Poly, SLO with a degree in Electrical Engineering.

He followed his father and uncle working at the CA Division of Highways and retired in 1986, but was frequently called out of retirement to adjudicate for state tribunals concerning highway construction until the age of 85. Sports played a large part of Bob's life as he played tennis and golf. He was a member at Arrowhead Country Club and served as Club President in 1980.

A memorial service was held on December 14, 2015. Family came from England and Australia and presented a fine program of remembrances. **Bob** is survived by his wife **Elizabeth (Libby)**, two daughters and one son, five grandchildren and one great granddaughter and his sister Nancie Murakami of Henrico, VA.

Bob was universally respected and loved and will be greatly missed.

Michelle Walker passed away on February 26, 2016, in Victorville, CA. Michelle began her state career with Caltrans, District 7 in 1991. She later transferred from District 7 to the District 8 Encroachment Permit Office as an Office Technician in 2002, where she continued to work until she retired in 2014.

Harold McGrath passed away in January. He was preceded in death by his son, Rick McGrath, a stalwart in Electrical Design. Harold was an electrical contractor completing a number of Caltrans projects.

Landon Calkin passed away Wednesday, January 13, 2016. Landon retired in 2009 as the San Bernardino Mountain Area Superintendent. His career started in District 11 in October 1977 as an Equipment Operator. He served in District 5, Camp Angelus, Special Crews – Fence and Rail Crew, then back to Camp Angelus. In January 1989 he was promoted to Leadworker at Camp Angelus, then promoted to Supervisor there in June, 2002, then promoted to Superintendent of the San Bernardino Mountains in December, 2005.

Gregory Keck passed away on February 17, 2016. Greg was a 33 year resident of Hesperia. Greg retired from Caltrans as a Civil Engineer. He enjoyed spending time with family, sports, and Disneyland.

Clede Richard Beckley, Jr. passed away on December 24, 2015. A licensed Civil Engineer at Caltrans for 50 years, **Richard** or "**Dick**" as he was known by his friends, was a man well loved and respected by his family, friends, and colleagues. He was a partner in "Cal West Engineering", and certified all the commercial building plans for the City of Victorville for many years in addition to working for the state and loved his work. A commitment to excellence was his motto and he would not tolerate anything less from his employees. With that in mind, he strove to bring out the very best in others.

He was a man of faith with a generous heart and he will be sorely missed by all who loved him. Dick is survived by his wife of 56 years, **Yvonne**.

All our prayers and condolences go out to all our current and retired family members in their time of grief and sorrow.

- **Marsha Lotze**

The Haps in District 9

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

The Haps in District 10

District 10 Caltrans retirees luncheon is Tuesday, April 12th at U.J.'s Restaurant in Stockton. The April 12th date was chosen to accommodate those with vacation plans. See Flyer below. You may receive duplicate announcements from Chris Wendland and Brian Young due to list overlaps.

District 10 Caltrans Retiree Luncheon Tuesday, April 12, 2016

UJ's Restaurant
7628 Pacific Avenue
Stockton, CA 95207
Social Hour at 11am, Lunch served at Noon
Speaker – Ralph Torres, retired Deputy Director,
CA State Dept. of Water Resources
Subject: State Water Project

Please respond to **Dick Mesa** by **Friday, April 8, 2016** with your entrée selection. You may use e-mail or phone. You may pay with cash or check at the luncheon. Checks must be made out to Dick Mesa or credit union will not accept.

RSVP MENU CHOICES:

_____ SALMON _____ ROAST BEEF
_____ CHICKEN

Price is still \$16.00, including tax and gratuity
Contact: **Dick Mesa**
6528 Herndon Place
Stockton, CA 95219
Phone: 209-478-6594
E-MAIL: DickMesa@aol.com

District 10 Retirees continue to go to UJ's restaurant in Stockton for breakfast at 7:30 am on the last Tuesday of the month.

If you had gone to our second Tuesday of the month Feb 9th breakfast you would have found a few of us at a locked restaurant at 7:30, a little later we ended up at the Lumberjack Restaurant on Benholt. Denny's was closed for cleaning.

From **Bob** and **Ardyth Biffel** - The traveling **Biffels** are about to go again, so I thought I better inform you of our new Trip. After a slow down during the fall and winter while **Bob** was having some medical troubles, having an I D F put in, he is now doing fine and ready to do again. Slower for sure, but still moving on his own. So in the middle of March, **Ardyth**, daughter Bonny and I are off for our 3rd trip through the Panama Canal. This time to admire all the work we have been seeing on their building more and larger locks for the really huge ships that are now being built. Mostly cargo ones.

We do have to take things easier now but still can admire and toast all that hard work while sitting on our balcony of the SUITE we will have, thanks to Comps from Princess Cruise Lines. We also are flying 1st class for first time, Sacramento to Phoenix to Florida to the Island Princess. So will be a lazy fun cruise we hope. Will spend Easter on Aruba, where we had our 55th Wedding Anniversary 10 years ago, as it happens. Will be home for the Caltrans lunch coming up, **Dick**, so never fear. We will be there as we get home on April 8th. So take care all, enjoy our lovely spring and have a Happy Easter. Till next time ---The Traveling **Biffels**.

Road Last Traveled

Paul John Plinski – July 3, 1928 - December 26, 2015. Paul joined the Navy and served on board the USS Seminole aka 104. After the Navy, Paul came to California in 1955. In 1957, Paul was joined in wedlock with **Darlene Hynson** of

Mankato, MN. Paul retired in 1991 from Caltrans Department of Transportation after 36 years and for several years served on the Board of Directors for the Lincoln Rural County Fire Protection District. Paul liked to spend time with his friends at Oak Park Senior Citizens Center. He is survived by his wife Darlene of 57 years.

Gerald Lynn "Jerry" Wisenor, 77, passed away on September 23, 2015, in Lodi, Calif. He was born on June 11, 1938, in Modesto, CA, to **Irvin and Ruby (Walts) Wisenor**.

Jerry attended California State (College) University at Chico where he received a B.S. in marketing in 1964. In addition, he served in the U.S. Army Reserves. Following several jobs in sales, he began work for the California State Department of Transportation as a Right of Way Agent in District 10. He retired in 2000 after 34 years.

- **Brian Young**

The Haps in District 11

District 11 QCC had our Annual luncheon on January 21, at Barra in Old Town San Diego. There was a full house with a lot of old friends and tall tales. 35 kind souls donated some cool items for our raffle, THANK YOU (you know who you are). **Dave Moody** was the winner of the 50/50 prize, lucky guy ;)

Heidi Martin was nominated and elected as our new District Director! Congratulations and thank you!

The Annual D-11 picnic will be held on November 5, 2016 at Sweetwater Summit County Park. More information will be sent in September. Please start thinking about what you

can donate for the picnic raffle. Thank you to all who participated last time, I know I had fun!
- **Leslie Franklin**

Road Last Traveled

Caltrans retiree **Greg Batey** passed away unexpectedly Dec. 23 while visiting family in Utah. Greg spent his entire Caltrans career in District 11 beginning in 1979. He worked in Maintenance, Surveys and Construction before retiring as a Transportation Engineer (Civil) on May 31, 2001. Greg returned to the District as a retired annuitant to work on special/critical assignments. He later moved to Las Vegas with his wife Carol.

We also received sad news that District 11 retiree **James R. Waters** passed away peacefully on December 28, 2015 after a battle with congestive heart failure. He was 86. Jim's career with Caltrans began in 1983 as a Heavy Equipment Mechanic at Shop 11. He moved to the District Office and held positions as Telecommunications Manager and then Building Manager. Later in his career he moved to the Planning Division where he proudly managed the elderly and handicapped transit services program for San Diego and Imperial Counties. He retired in 1993.

The father of five children, **Jim** was preceded in death by his wife and two sons. He is survived by his two daughters, **Beth Landrum** and **Pam Waters**, their spouses, children and grandchildren. **Beth** works in the District 11 Planning Division.

Honorary QCC Member and former D-11 District Director **William "Bill" Dotson** passed



away Friday, February 19th at the age of 94. He had served as the

District 11 Director for San Diego, Imperial and east Riverside counties from 1983-1988.

Bill was featured last year in an historical video entitled “Caltrans District 11 Directors - The Interchange of Innovators,” found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1_n0P4rtUBs.

At **Bill’s** retirement celebration in 1988, former Caltrans District 11 Public Information Chief **Jim Larson** said that Bill Dotson was “a universally respected engineer and administrator running what is generally regarded as the most efficient and trouble-free of the Caltrans’ 12 districts.”

He began his 41- year career with the state of California in 1947 as a Junior Civil Engineer with the then “Division of Highways.” Bill graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the California Institute of Technology and became a licensed Civil Engineer. He later received a degree from Carnegie-Mellon University in 1973. Advancements continued in following years through various assignments in District 11 including serving as Deputy District Director for Project Development and Principal Transportation Engineer.

Much of the construction work under Bill’s tenure covered rehabilitation and reconstruction of interchanges to bring them up to current design standards for the time. He focused on replacing highway lanes and adding shoulders. He was very proud to have worked on the San Diego-Coronado Bay Bridge. He was also involved in the planning stages for the Interstate 15 High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes.

Design on San Diego highways—Interstates 5, 8 and State Route 163—took place under Mr. Dotson’s supervision. Construction on State Route 52 (SR-52) from the Interstate 805 separation to San Clemente Creek was



completed in 1987. The portion of SR-52 from Convoy Street to Santo Road opened in May 1988. This new segment completed a 9-mile long link from Interstate 5 to Santo Road. That same month,

construction began on the first of several projects totaling 18 miles to widen State Route 78 from four to six lanes between Oceanside and Escondido.

According to Caltrans archives, Bill’s tenure as District Director came with challenge and opportunity. District 11 was project ready but short on people. He was tasked with reorganizing the district to develop the projects and hire staff to fill the needs—65 hires were made in the first year of reorganization. Many of these hires are still working in Caltrans.

Bill is survived by his wife **Dorothy**, and two grown children, **Janet** and **James**. Our heartfelt condolences go to the family, friends and those who worked with him.

Condolence cards may be sent to:
Dorothy Dotson
3012 Bear Valley Parkway, Suite#110
Escondido, CA 92025

The Haps in Central

Happy Leap Year and a wonderful beginning to Spring. A few weeks ago brought a little over 3 inches of much needed rain to the Busharosa! Our

seasonal creek is once again flowing. Our 3 desert tortoises have come out of hibernation and are enjoying the spring weather when the sun comes out.

Our holiday luncheon in December was a great success. Always good to get together and relive some wonderful times while working in the Headquarters Office with a great group of people. Our Spring Fling Luncheon is scheduled for April 28th at the Dante Club.

Roster Correction: **Gerald Meis** is incorrectly listed in District 7, instead of Central.

Sad news that **Earl Rogers** died on Friday December 18, 2015 after battling cancer for a number of months and spending the last two weeks in ICU. Earl was a fixture at Caltrans and had a hand in many projects throughout the State as he worked many years as a Design Coordinator in the Design Division. He is survived by his wife **Dixie**.

- 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 9:30 am at the Pantry on Broadway in Eureka.

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

District 2 -

Retired Caltrans Ladies Lunch Bunch meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 11:30 AM, location varies. Contact **Judy Tucker** at linedancerjudyt@citlink.net

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

District 3 -

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

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

District 4 -

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

Contact: **Ed Coble** 925-465-4219, edcoble49@astound.net

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

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

District 5 -

Contact **Kathy Copeland**: 805-544-1834 bcopel4674@aol.com

District 6 -

The Caltrans Retiree Breakfast meets at 9 am on the third Wednesday in March and September at the Waffle House on Route 68 in Lindsay. Contact:

Don Phillips 559-781-2057

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

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

District 7 -

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

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

Ventura Monthly Meeting

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.

San Gabriel Monthly Meeting

Caltrans retiree meets on the Third Thursday of each month at 11:30 AM, in San Gabriel at: The **Golden Soup**, 1039 E. Valley Blvd., San Gabriel, CA.

Steve Leung encourages anyone who's interested, retired or not. For more information, e-mail **Steve Leung** <skingleung@yahoo.com>

District 8 -

Every Wednesday morning at 9:00 Construction Retirees and anyone else interested meet at the Family Home Style Café on Redlands Boulevard near Tippecanoe in San Bernardino.

District 9 -

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

District 10 -

For details on events contact **Brian Young** 209-329-3445 cell or 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

District 11 -

Annual BBQ Picnic

Saturday, November 5, 2016

Sweetwater Summit County Park in Sunnyside

Contact: **Gary Darr** 619-479-0549 (h) or e-mail Fatdog261@cox.net

D-11 Retirees meet 3rd Wednesday at 8am every month at Denny's at Fletcher Parkway and Navajo Road. Call **Butch Biendara** for more info

Central District -

Holiday Luncheon at the Dante Club at 11am
April 28th, Aug. 18th and Dec. 7th.

Contact **Gary** or **Julie Bush** (530-642-8208) 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 on next page.

2015 Financial Year-End Report

Beginning Balance, 1/1/2015	\$26,127
Income:	
Dues*	8,951
New member fees**	34
Donations	60
Total Income	9,045
Expenses:	
QCCer newsletters	2,634
QCCer postage	844
Recruiting email campaign	794
Editor services	870
Sec/Treas services	1,305
Secretary expenses	251
Dist expenses reimbursed	345
District recruiting expenses reimbursed	0
QCC web site	69
Total expenses	-7,112
Ending Balance, 12/31/15	\$28,060
Less Future Obligations***	-17,221
Excess of cash on hand	\$10,839

* Contains dues paid for years beyond 2015

** 17 new members in 2015

*** 1033 membership years paid in advance