

TheQCCer

The Newsletter of the Quarter
Century Club

VOLUME 26, No. 1

MARCH 2017



A Closer Bond of Friendship!

BUTCH SAYS; "IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU!"

From the Corner Pocket

It's all about YOU now, the one in charge, as the strength and the future of the Quarter Century Club. Welcome to a new year with more adventures for you and the QCC. In this issue, you will read the State QCC annual financial report noting that we spent more than we gained last year, and I have some explanation on that after a bit of history.

Way back in '06 we were spending our reserves of advance dues to meet the then current budget. We also saw a slow drop in membership as our "mostly retired" QCC members had difficulties meeting new *candidates* with 25 years of service. An attempt to resolve both problems increased the annual dues with added funds to reimburse Districts for any *recruiting costs*. There are no guidelines or restrictions as we had no statewide plan for that. We looked to Districts to try new ideas and let the best plans surface for others to use. Unfortunately, the years went by and the unspent "Recruiting Funds" just gathered dust.

Trying another tack, Caltrans HQ email systems gave permission to send a large batch of QCC email invitations through their firewall, to all employees who had reached the 25-year mark. We found a commercial source who could take our invitation

and 'blast' it out to all the current workers we could find. Currently we have over 2,000 email addresses of current employees with 25-years of service. It has been marginally successful as, in that note, they get a link to our QCC Web site to find news about us and to find an application, (on-line recruiting). Yes, we spent a lot of money, first on sending out the email invitations, and then trying to restore our former web site, until Andrew Machen of D-8 (our hero), stepped in with his awesome and extensive new web site. Our on-line invitations will only work when we have an on-line web page to advertise our merits.



However, with the expressed QCC mission of "... to establish a closer bond of friendship cementing twenty-five years or more of service ..." our main mission is friendship and that's hard to do on-line. And that's where YOU come in. The one-on-one effort by YOU is the best thing to bring stronger energy into the QCC.

All District leaders are volunteers and often they are a small, hard-working team. Anyone could go to a retirement party and pass out QCC applications and be reimbursed for that "Recruiting Effort", just remember that only your District Director can call for the reimbursement from the State QCC Treasurer.

Butch Biendara,
QCC President

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State & District Officers

President: Emil "Butch" Biendara
4041 Mt. Everest Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92111-2624
(858) 279-5054 EagleAyerie@hotmail.com

1st Vice President: Dave Weiss
10111 Canyonridge Place
Spring Valley, CA 91977-6915
(619) 820-5117 daveweiss@cox.net

2nd Vice President:
Francisco "CDR. Frank" Paras Jr.
11439 Toscana Circle
Stanton, CA 90680-3390
(949) 294-7345 (714) 248-9158
SGTPARASJR@YAHOO.COM

Historian: George E. Gray
9720 Oviedo Street
San Diego, CA 92129-3827
(858) 538-3027 gray850@aol.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Mike Ogilvie
PO Box 421292
San Diego, CA 92142-1292
m.ogilvie@sbcglobal.net

Editor: Chris Thomas
6121 Howell Drive
La Mesa, CA 91942-3829
(858) 736-4924 cmthomas4848@gmail.com

Web Master: Andy Machen
174 E. 3rd Street
San Bernardino, CA 92410
andrewmachen@rivsan.com

District 1 Director: Arlene Hartin
2301E Street
Eureka, CA 95501-4126
707-443-8841 ahartin@suddenlink.net

District 2 Director: James Ceragioli
1861 Shasta Pines Way
Redding CA 96002-0306
(530) 223-0208 sirravioli@shasta.com

Treasurer: Burton Brockett
444 Basalt Court
Redding CA 96003-3331
(530) 246-4721
jbrockett@shasta.com

Secretary: Bill Belcher
18600 Quail Ridge Rd
Cottonwood, CA 96022-9058
shastaqcc@yahoo.com

District 3 Director: Dan Johnson, Sr.
901 Dennis Way
Yuba City CA 95991-6110
(530) 671-3889 boots3@syix.com

Secretary: Lib Haraughty
2225 Lincoln Rd
Yuba City CA 95993-9759
(530) 673-5587 libbyanneh2@aol.com

Treasurer: Carleen A. Hagen
1568 Oro Grande St
Yuba City, CA 95993-1311
(530) 674-9026 HCDhagen@aol.com

District 4 Director: Paul Hensley
161 Allen Drive
San Bruno, CA 94066-1602
(650) 359-5172 hphensley@gmail.com

District 5 Director: Kathleen Copeland
1255 Orcutt Rd A-2
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-0918
(805) 544-1834 BCopel4674@aol.com

District 6 Director: Terry Littleton
6675 N Woodson
Fresno, CA 93711-1132
(559) 974-3885 TerryLittleton@comcast.net

District 7 Director: William Almany III
17200 So Stark Avenue
Cerritos, CA 90703-1822
(562) 865-2440

Secretary: Kirsten Stahl
100 S Main St Suite 100 MS13
Los Angeles, CA 90012-3712
(213) 897-0470 kirsten.stahl@dot.ca.gov

District 8 Director: Wesley J. Grimes
5818 N. Sycamore Avenue
Rialto, CA 92377
909-875-5400 wesleyj38@hotmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Marsha Lotze
20250 Majestic Dr
Apple Valley CA 92308-5030
760-247-2119 m1otze12@verizon.net

District 9 Director: Lance Hinek
1642 S Valley View Dr
Bishop, CA 93514-1958
760-873-3885 hinek@suddenlink.net

District 10 Director: Stan Randolph
3672 Wood Duck Circle
Stockton, CA 95207-5262
209-957-1278 stanran3672@aol.com

Secretary: Brian Young
1056 Bradford Circle
Lodi, CA 95240-7002
209-334-6028 blyoung365@gmail.com

District 11 Director: Heidi Martin
619-886-6675
hmlandarch@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Gary Darr
3011 Sylvia St
Bonita, CA 91902
(619) 479-0549 fatdog261@cox.net

Central District Director: Gary Bush
1420 Cougar Track Drive
Placerville, CA 95667-8728
530-642-8208 zbusharosa@wildblue.net

Secretary: Julie Bush
1420 Cougar Track Drive
Placerville, CA 95667-8728
530-642-8208 zbusharosa@wildblue.net

Treasurer: David Saxby
9503 Dunkerrin Way
Elk Grove CA 95758-4402

HISTORY CORNER

By George E. Gray, Historian

This is an update on the effort to nominate the El Camino Real de las Californias as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The program to accomplish this was covered in my column in the last issue of the QCCer.

On January 12, 2017, my wife and I attended an event titled El Camino Real Public History Research Project Workshop which was held at the San Diego History Center in Balboa Park. The purpose of the workshop was, for the San Diego area, to present the scope of the proposal, the concept, and the process of nominating El Camino Real de las Californias as a cultural route, as well as describing the first two public participation research projects and recruiting interested volunteers to assist with them.

The two initial San Diego area projects are;

- 1) Develop a database listing of potential collaborators.
- 2) Map and define the historic corridor and its various stages of development.

It was pointed out that the database listing will not be restricted to only supporters of the World Heritage concept but is intended to be a foundation for future outreach efforts. The second project should involve the San Diego Caltrans District.

The workshop was well attended with representatives from a wide variety of organizations as well as individuals. The attendees represented a wide range of interests such as Native American groups, cultural heritage organizations the San Diego Maritime Museum and included representatives from Corredor Histórico CAREM, A.C.

It is expected that similar workshops will soon be held in the other areas of the State. Anyone interested in the San Diego area projects is encouraged to contact the San Diego District Research Coordinators David Richardson (dr42@att.net) or Connie Gunther (connie.m.gunther@gmail.com). I plan to contact the San Diego District regarding this program.

The interest in the World Heritage site proposal is high at all levels of government south of the

border. North of the border, we certainly hope for improvement at the federal level between Mexico, UNESCO and the United States. The San Diego area workshop presented a new approach for developing public education and active participation in preserving El Camino Real heritage and strongly supports the ongoing binational cooperative efforts.

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION FOUNDATION

By Kathy Freeman

On February 8th **Robert Gill** of Granite Rock Co. was hit and killed by a dump truck while he worked to clear a landslide on SR 17. The California Transportation Foundation (CTF) has established the "Gill Memorial Fund" to collect donations for his family and will match those donations dollar for dollar. To donate go to www.transportationfoundation.org/donate and type in Gill Memorial Fund in the space provided. CTF provided his widow a Fallen Worker Grant of \$2,500 to help cover final expenses but your donations are much appreciated by the family.

The CTF Transportation Forum, held in February, brought together transportation policy makers, who are finally getting closer to a funding package, with California's transportation community. Attendees got to hear **Butch Waidelich**, Acting Deputy Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) bring people up to speed on what the new federal administration is thinking about transportation funding. **Tony Harris**, PointC Partners, LLC, moderated a panel on Autonomous Vehicles.

Forum attendees donated \$8,300 to the CTF Children of Fallen Workers Memorial Scholarship Endowment. CTF Scholarships were presented to **David Roachford**, USC, \$5,000; **Carole Wigno**, Cal State Chico, \$2,500; **Fernanda Gushkin**, USC, \$1,000, and **Josephine Hazelton**, Cal State Stanislaus, \$1,000. Photos of this event can be

found on our website and on the Foundation’s Face Book page. A special thank you from CTF to our sponsors for making this event possible and so successful and to the attendees for their support of CTF.

Upcoming events to support and raise funds for the Foundation’s charitable programs include:

- April 17 SoCal Charity Golf Tournament, Dove Canyon Golf Club
- May 24 CTF Transportation Awards, Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento
- July 17 NorCal Charity Golf Tournament, Yocha Dehe Golf Club
- Nov. 2-3 Transportation Education Symposium, Lake Arrowhead Resort & Spa

Registration information on the above events may be found on CTF’s website (www.transportationfoundation.org).

In Memoriam

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

Name	District	Date
Betty Barton	01	Jan 01, 2017
Raphel Saul	01	Jan 05, 2017
Audrey Larsen Hinch	01	Jan 07, 2017
Herb Drake	05	Dec 11, 2016
Mel Nester	06	
James (Jim) A Ringold	06	Feb 26, 2017
Eddie Gradias	08	2017
William Hudson	08	Dec 30, 2016
Alec (Al) Zarek	10	Dec 09, 2016
Michael (Mickey) Marling	10	Dec 30, 2016
Beverly Colvin	10	2017

Check out the new QCC website here:
<http://www.caltransquartercenturyclub.net/index.html>

The Haps in District 1

Forty-one retirees/QCC members attended our quarterly breakfast on 1/19/17. We had some that don’t always make it. One special person was **John Fletcher**. We were delighted to see him. He is now back in Humboldt County. We also welcomed **Gail Popham**, another one it was good to see. Everyone enjoyed a chance to visit and catch up.

On a sad note, we recently lost three spouses of our CT retirees. Betty Barton, **Bill Barton’s** wife, passed away on January 1, 2017; **Arlon Saul’s** wife, Raphel, passed away on January 5, and Audrey Larsen Hinch passed away on January 7. Her husband was our District Director, **Hal Larsen**, who had sadly passed away several years ago. We enjoyed visiting with Audrey many times over the years. She was a lovely lady. We attended Betty’s service at the Elks Lodge. Since she had been a member of the Emblem Club, they had a special presentation for her and **Bill** shared his wonderful memories of his wife. We then had a chance to share our memories at a great lunch in the dining room. I had also enjoyed visiting with her and **Bill** over the years. These ladies will all be missed.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the families and friends of Betty, Raphel and Audrey.

- **Arlene Hartin**

The Haps in District 2

The ice storms of this winter are over and hopefully not to be repeated any time soon. I will be honest and say those were an experience I do not want to repeat. I have never seen so many damaged vehicles in such a short time in my life. This is what the trees looked

like (see below) after 1/2" of freezing rain fell. - **Bill Belcher**



Retha Rubiec and a couple other Caltrans retirees toured France in September, 2016. Unfortunately, Retha was not able to continue with the tour to Italy with her travel companions and returned home from Paris, France. She said it was a good trip. **Retha** recently had a total hip replacement on February 27 and is still recovering.

John Strode: This is about the most fulfilling incident that I have had and it occurred in China and the USA. The young woman's name has been changed to Miss Wang (Pronounced "Wong").

I called her in February, 2013. Her husband (in China) said she was in the hospital preparing to take the first of three abortion pills. I asked him "Do you want her to have an abortion?" He said "No." I knew she did not want to have an abortion. She was one of our English Class students. She unofficially adopted me and Jane as her parents.

Problem? Beijing authorities demanded \$40,000.00 US for a second baby permit! I told her, "Miss Wang, if you kill your baby, you will never forget it...! Silence. "OK, I won't!" It took her half a day to go through the paperwork (including an affidavit that it was her idea, no one else's not to have the abortion). I told her to come to Redding and I picked her up at the Redding

Airport, looking like a hand grenade wrapped in a blanket!

On July 15, 2013, she walks into my bedroom and says "I'm leaking!" We took her to the midwife, a Christian registered nurse at about 9AM. Then at 1 PM, I was holding a 7.5-pound beautiful little Chinese baby girl! She was nick-named Baby Esther.

Now the fun begins. ... I had the privilege of going to Beijing with Esther and her Mother's nine-year old daughter. I stayed in China for five weeks, did a lot of traveling and visiting friends.

Here is the climax: Last February, I called Miss Wang and she told me what Baby Esther's first question is every morning; "Is Grampa coming to see me today?" Miss Wang told her about her "natural grandparents." Baby Esther said "No, Grampa has his bed, Gramma has her bed, and they live in a small house in a green forest!" That is the exact truth! Now she will be four years old July 15th!
- **John Strode**

For those of you who might be interested, I have continued my challenges in Oregon and we are seeing some light at the end of the tunnel. I have managed to maintain some of my old music endeavors with some of the churches in the area. Attached is a picture of yours truly singing with a visiting church's praise group for Sunday services.



I am also active on a citizens' review committee for a local utility provider's budget process.

- **Bill Belcher**

The Haps in District 3

The annual Spring Party will be held at the Peach Tree Country Club in Marysville on April 2, 2017. Tickets are available from **Carleen Hagen**. This fun event will get underway at 1:00 P.M. with a social and visiting hour and a business meeting following at 1:45 P.M. A delicious buffet will follow which includes dessert. Get involved and plan to attend one of our two parties throughout the year. These gatherings are a wonderful way to keep in touch with co-workers, both now still employed and retired, to maintain friendships and memories. More information can be obtained by Contacting **Dan Johnson, Sr.** at (530) 671-3889 or by email at boots3@syix.com.

The near disaster at the Oroville spillway several weeks ago, was a wakeup call regarding facilities which are becoming old with the need to upgrade, repair or do whatever it takes for the safety of the general public. Most of us were in some way or another a part of the State and Federal highway system and thus are also involved with the Quarter Century Club. We all drive the highways and are aware of the need for repairs. This evacuation involved three counties within District 3. Cities, including Oroville, Gridley, Live Oak, Yuba City and Marysville, including other outlying areas and smaller communities in Butte, Sutter and Yuba had a mandatory evacuation order. We thank God that the spillway and emergency spillway held. We all came close to a disaster, one much worse than the floods of 1950, 1955, 1986 and 1997.

There is an opening for a volunteer appointment on the District 3 Quarter Century Club Social

Committee. The position requires involvement two or three times a year attending meetings and helping with one of the two annual parties with doorperson duties and etc. Anyone interested in becoming a part of this committee is asked to contact Director **Dan Johnson, Sr.** at the above phone number or email address.

We are requesting any input for this publication from the general membership including sickness and distress. Anyone with information is asked to email it to **Dan Johnson, Sr.** at the above email address.

Our hearts go out to anyone who has lost a loved one or has a relative who is seriously ill.

- **Dan Johnson Sr.**

The Haps in District 4

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

The Haps in District 5

Hope you made it safely through the long wet winter and are enjoying sunshine and flowers. It is wonderful to see the creeks running and reservoirs filling. Our Central Coast hills are green again, and the poppies are just starting to bloom.

Caltrans has had a very busy winter with flooding, rock slides, and falling trees. Highway 41 between Morro Bay and Atascadero was closed for some time while several thousand yards of material were removed from a slope above the road. Highway 1 between Cambria and Carmel has had its share of problems, and a closure has been in place at Ragged Point for

many weeks. The recent loss of the bridge at Pfeiffer Canyon near Big Sur has closed the road entirely, and residents and businesses between the two points are now isolated. Efforts are being made to clear the road south of the bridge, but it may take as long as a year to replace the structure and reopen the highway.

I'm sorry to report that **Herb Drake** passed away on December 11. Herb was raised in Santa Margarita and attended local schools. He served in the Navy during the Korean War and worked at Caltrans for 43 years. He was very active in the community and started the Old Timers BBQ in Santa Margarita. His wife Sharon told us he always enjoyed reading the QCC newsletter and was an **Honorary QCC Member**. He is survived by Sharon, sons Christopher and Mike, daughters Sandy and Mary, his brother and sister, and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

We have been staying home more because of the wet weather and haven't seen many folks. We hope to get out and about again this spring and have more news for the next edition.

- **Kathleen Copeland**

The Haps in District 6

On November 19th, a surprise party of around 100 friends and relatives of **Pee Wee Walrath** assembled in Taft to celebrate his 80th birthday as reported by **Virgle Ray**. **Pee Wee**, a retired Caltrans Supervisor from Taft, was roasted by friends from his past, including friends from the Navy. In the Navy, Pee Wee was a Master Chief in the SeaBees, whom are known for their motto: "We do the difficult immediately, the impossible takes a little longer". **Pee Wee**, known for his knowledge and ability in Caltrans, brought that same can do attitude and was respected by all whom he came in contact with.

His sons, Dennis and Darren were able to send out notices and pull off the surprise party without Pee Wee's knowledge. When he arrived at the Oil Workers Restaurant he thought he was in the wrong place as he saw all the people awaiting him. Some Caltrans friends attending were **Cassie Swords** and husband, **Steve Mason** retired Manager came all the way from Arkansas with his wife Linda, **Jon Wood**, retired District 5, **Joel, T. J. Bamford**, and Sandra and **Virgle Ray**. I'm sorry to those not named, memory at 78 isn't as good as **Pee Wee's** at 80. **Pee Wee** had miniature loaders and trucks replicating ones he used, painted orange complete with CT stickers and C numbers, which were prominently displayed for perusal. – **Virgle Ray**

Virgle Ray also said he stayed home for the holidays saying "too much traffic to travel and weather is threatening".

Road Last Traveled

Mel Nester, an **Honorary QCC Member**, passed away several months ago. **Bill Bastian** received a notice of **Mel Nester's** passing from Frieda or his son. He didn't remember any details but did say that he had worked with Mel for years and kept in touch with him.

James Anderson "Jim" Ringold, 91, of Fresno died Feb. 26, 2017. He was a resident engineer for Caltrans for many years. Several people sent in comments:

From **Bob Dubel**: Another one of us gone. Jim was well liked by everyone.

From **Carolyn Landy**: I really liked **Jim**. As you said he was a great person.

From **Virgle Ray**: I have a hard time remembering his face, but remember his dedication to his job; funny what we remember. Condolences to his family.

From **Terry Littleton**: I really liked **Jim** too. He was a great R.E.

- **Terry Littleton**

The Haps in District 7

District 7 congratulates **Dahlia Jaramillo** for volunteering to be the new District 7 QCC Director. **Tom Almany III** may continue as Treasurer...

Tom Fera Monthly Group

The **Tom Fera** Lunch Group meets on the second Wednesday of each month, except December. The next several meetings are: **April 12, 2017** at China Olive; **May 10, 2017** at Joselito's West; and **June 14, 2017** at the Steer N' Ale. The 2017 dates and addresses follow below.

RESTAURANTS AND PROPOSED LUNCHEON DATES FOR 2017

[Second Wednesday of every month except December]

- April 12, 2017 - China Olive
- May 10, 2017 - Joselito's West
- June 14, 2017 - Steer N' Ale
- July 12, 2017 - China Olive
- August 9, 2017 - Joselito's West
- September 13, 2017 - Steer N' Ale
- October 11, 2017 - China Olive
- November 8, 2017 - Joselito's West
- December 2, 2017 - 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

Several Caltrans retirees meet for lunch 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

More Caltrans retirees meet for lunch 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, to contact him and attend: e-mail <skingleung@yahoo.com>

Send in your stories or information!

Support your local post office and send a card or letter. An e-mail would do too! Stay in touch! Please send your items, to: **Caltrans, attn: Kirsten Stahl, 100 S. Main St. Suite 100 MS 13, Los Angeles, CA 90012**. Phone 213-897-0470, or e-mail: kirsten.stahl@dot.ca.gov.

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

- **Kirsten Stahl**

Check out the new QCC website here:
<http://www.caltransquartercenturyclub.net/index.html>

The Haps in District 8

District 8's Christmas Luncheon was a huge success. It was held at The Elks Lodge in San Bernardino on December 10 at 12:00. This year it was a Buffet and it was delicious! Servers were available for those needing help.

Those in attendance were **John & Kay Anderson**, their guests **Jim & Patty Imborski, Jim Balcom, Mary Bermudez, Dennis & Dianne Blakkolb, Morgan & Glenna Choate, Christy Conner** and her husband, **Joe Walsh, Gil & Janette Daab, Paul Fagan**, his guests **Guy & Joan Visbal, Janice, Feenstra, Bill Feenstra, Les Franz, Wanda Gernux, Linda & Wes Grimes, Angela Hall, Al & Judi Hudgens, Frank Lehr, Stan & Ina Lisiewicz, Dick Longstreet, Marsha Lotze, Phosie Lotze, Gerald Lunt, Andy Machen, Jim & Linda Miller, Sybille Phillips** and her guests, **Julie Griffin** and **Fred Rios, Joe Potwardowski, Tom & Bonnie Powell, Taylor Smith** and his son, **Paul Smith**, and **Linda Supernaw**.

Several of our regulars were unable to attend, included **Dan Armstrong, Joanne Balcom** and **Jim & Jan Geller**.

Morgan Choate, Les Franz and **Wanda Gernux** won our money prizes and **Gerry Lunt** won a Caltrans watch. Many of our members also donated door prizes and **Phosie Lotze** again donated many of the prizes.

We all had a good time of fellowship, delicious food and everyone seemed to have a great time.

I've already been informed by President **Wes Grimes**, that due to an overwhelming positive response our Christmas Luncheon is already booked for December, 9, 2017, at The Elks Lodge in San Bernardino. Mark your calendars. Our Summer Luncheon is expected to be at The

Arrowhead Country Club in July, but no arrangements have been finalized.

Taylor Smith's Tuesday Troupe met at the Asia Buffet recently, including **Taylor**, his lady friend **Betty Sechris, Gil & Janette Daab**, and **Wes & Linda Grimes**. An enjoyable time and the buffet was great.

Julie Griffin's "Ladies Lunch" was held at The Sizzler in San Bernardino; including **Julie, Sybille Phillips, Janice Feenstra** (laid up in a wheelchair due to ankle surgery) **Linda Grimes**, and two "adopted" gents **Wes Grimes** and **Manoj Kar**.

Janette Daab is planning a 100th birthday party for **Evie Anderson**.

Taylor Smith has had health setbacks, including breathing issues and another fall, but no injury this time ... **Wes** saw **Taylor Smith** a week later and he is doing well but continues with various doctor visits (don't we all) and reports he's riding his bicycle again. Where does he get all his energy???

Notes from Members and Friends:

Retirees **Dale** and **Sally Strait** hosted **Suzette Goldson** and her hubby **Terrel**, for Thanksgiving. A good time was had by all. **Suzette** works in Design.

Marsha Lotze and her daughter, **Christina Ulstad**, attended the Lifestream Gift of Life 10-Gallon Donor Celebration Luncheon on Sunday, February 26, at The Riverside Convention Center. The luncheon was very good and the honorees this year were the Heroes of December 2, 2015, Humanitarian of the Year – Redlands Community Hospital, Award for Medical Excellence to **Wesley T. Stevens, MD**, Chief of Section, Transfusion Services at Loma Linda University Medical Center and Youth Ambassador of the Year – **Keely Proctor** and the

Donor Recognition Ceremonies for all new 10-gallon blood donors. Each of the honorees had a video presentation and the First Responders on 12-2-2015 video was very inspiring. If any of you are able to donate blood I urge you to do so. I'm at 14 gallons and going for 15 by the end of this year.

Linda Supernaw recently talked with **Steve Pusey**, Director of Maintenance, who informed her that **Ken Matsuoka** and **Armand Silva** had recently retired from Maintenance. Neither one wanted to have a retirement party. Yours truly worked extensively with both Ken and Armand on personnel, interviewing and testing for the Maintenance Division. I know they will both be missed.

Ken Matsuoka wrote to District 8 Employees. "This is my last day on the job. After 39 years it's time to let someone else have the chance to put their mark on things.

I'm going to miss the people (some anyway) that I have interacted with and have developed a relationship. My thanks to all who have helped me over the years (current and past, too numerous to list here).

There have been some extraordinary acts performed in the line of duty, not many of which have been recognized, but are appreciated by those who witnessed or heard about after the fact. Particularly, family time sacrificed for the safety of a mostly unappreciative traveling public is, unfortunately part of our job. You will hear (have heard) just do your job, well, I say job done damn well.

Stay safe, watch out for each other and everyone go home at the end of shift." **Ken Matsuoka**

A retirement reception was held for **Garry Cohoe**, previous Deputy District Director for District 8 in early January. Many friends and Quarter Century Club members were in

attendance; including **Linda Supernaw, Angela Hall, Sharon Phillips, Linda & Wes Grimes, Al Hudgens, Karen Jessen, Tim Kirkley, and Phil Reynolds.**

Flyers were seen posted for the retirement of **Pat Hennessey**. A cake reception was held for **Pat** on December 22. **Pat** was a long-time employee in the PS&E Department. **Linda Supernaw** ran into **Mike Babich** and he informed her that in seven months he'll be retiring too.

Also retiring at the end of last year was **Michele Banks** retiring with 32 years of state service. Her festivities were held at the Black Angus. **Michele** started at a Clerk in the Mail Room and was responsible for Central Files in the District.

Congratulations to all our new retirees. Please think about joining District 8's Quarter Century Club. Please let **Marsha Lotze** know of any and all employees who are planning on retiring. We need new members and also let her know of anything that is newsworthy.

Road Last Traveled

The Sun Telegram of March 1, 2017, had the notice that **Eddie Gradias**, Reprographics Operator had died. His wife died years ago. **Eddie** had 32 great grandchildren. Our prayers are with his family and friends.

Yours truly received a note from **William Hudson's** wife that he passed away on 12-30-16 at 92 years of age. **William** was an **Honorary QCC Member**. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends also.

Hope everyone has a great Spring, Happy St. Patrick's Day and Happy Easter!

- **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 continue to meet for breakfast at U.J. restaurant for breakfast at Pacific Ave in Stockton on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30 am. The next meeting is Tuesday March 28th so please come and have fun.

The next District 10 Caltrans Retirees Luncheon is Tuesday, **April 11, 2017** at UJs Restaurant, 7628 Pacific Avenue, Stockton, CA 95207. The Social Hour starts at 11:00 AM with Lunch served at 12:00 Noon. The speaker and subject is to be announced. Please respond to **Dick Mesa** by Friday, April 8, 2017 with your entrée selection. The choices are shown below.

Menu Choices:

____ SALMON
 ____ ROAST BEEF
 ____ CHICKEN

Price is still \$16.00 including tax and gratuity. You may email or phone **Dick Mesa** your RSVP. You may pay with cash or check at the Luncheon. Checks must be made out to **Dick Mesa** or they won't be accepted.

Dick Mesa
 6528 Herndon Place
 Stockton, CA 95219
 Phone: 209-478-6594
 Email: DickMesa@aol.com

From **Sheila Desmond** -

Thought I'd send you a little note on Mom. She's doing well, as you know, but maybe we can put a note in the QCCer, so everyone else who might like to know can keep track.

Virginia Evinger is now living at Gold Country Assisted Living, where she is making friends, enjoying the resident cats and dogs, walking all over the facility, and finding comfortable chairs to read all the books on hand. She had been living at Gold Country Independent Living; however, after a bad fall last October, she was eventually moved into Assisted Living. She's recovered completely from the fall and is actually much happier now with all the attention she gets.

Thanks for keeping me on your list, **Brian**. I don't know when, or if, we'll be down again. BTW, **Bonne** has moved to Paradise.

- **Sheila**

From **Chris Wendland** -

I recently had an adventure of a lifetime, you never know what to expect!!

The plan was to be on a Caribbean cruise, away from the stress, winter weather and enjoy the tropics.

My adventure started by the tragic incident of the shooting in Ft Lauderdale, Florida airport, my prayers to all those affected. We had to stay over in Chicago, seven below so not really prepared. Luggage was not taken off original flight, so we fended hoping our luggage would be directed to our final destination. No such luck, so we were without our belongings, including carry ons, for our ten-day excursion.

Then the weather did not cooperate, four days of rain and winds while on the cruise, waves up to fifty feet, rocking and a rolling!! Missed

scheduled ports and tours, but we made the best of it. Good thing we were seasoned travelers, or



it could have been women overboard!! Highlight of the trip was a culinary treat prepared by a local Pine Grove, CA restaurant, a wonderful lobster cocktail!!



See photo above for one of the times that the weather was nice. Anxious to plan another trip, without the unforeseen happenings!! **Chris**

Road Last Traveled

Alec ‘Al’ Zarek, passed away at home, at the age of 86 on December 9, 2016. His wife, Cleo was by his side. **Al** was a Sonora resident since 1996 but vacationed with his family at their retreat in East Sonora since 1980.

He was born in the little prairie town of Butte, North Dakota, the son of Alec E. and Lila

Kachuck Zarek. He moved to California with his parents at 5 years of age. **Al** had twin sisters, Farryle and Phyllis, who were years younger than him. They mostly lived in Lodi, and became successful grape farmers. **Al** was a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and worked in the family grape fields while growing up in Lodi. He had a Holstein dairy and attended college in Stockton at U.O.P., studying to become a medical doctor. It was then that he was drafted into the U.S. military. He served in Korea at a medical station that was the first stop for the injured and dying brought in from the front lines. In 1956, **Al** went to work for the State of California, District 10, in the engineering department, inspecting the highways, for 37 years. He liked his work and was sincere about doing a good job. **Al** was an **Honorary QCC Member**.

In 1965, he moved to Turlock, where he continued his love of gardening, ranching and farming. He married Cleo Smith Hislop in 1974 in Turlock. There they enjoyed raising registered quarter horses and Angus cattle. They had 42 beautiful years together.

Al enjoyed hunting and horseback trips to Utah with his brothers-in-law. He was a member of the American Legion, Mother Lode Gun Club, and the NRA. **Al** had a great love for his family. He enjoyed family reunions, camping, hunting and fishing trips with children and grandsons and growing fruits and vegetables to share with others.

Al was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Phyllis; and baby brother. He is survived by his wife, Cleo; children, Mark Zarek (Leann), of Woodbridge, Lee Ann Zarek, of Sonora, Kelly Hislop, of Jupiter, Suzanne Simpson (Randy), of East Sonora, Sherrie Hislop, of Jamestown; three grandsons, Hank Hislop, of Turlock, Jake Kern, of Twain Harte, and David Kern, of Oakdale; and his sister, Farryle Vlavianos, of Stockton.

Michael (Mickey) Marling ended his battle with a long-term illness on December 30, 2016 at the age of 78. Born in Stockton, California May 20, 1938, **Mickey** attended Stockton High School and Stockton College. Following graduation he served with the U.S. Air Force in the United States and Japan. He worked for Caltrans for 41 years and made many long-lasting friendships while helping with major projects for the Central Valley of California.

In 2011, **Mickey** was inducted in the Stockton Hall of Fame as a member of the 1955 World Championship Stockton Reds baseball team.

As an avid golfer, he would take annual golf vacations to Hawaii & Canada with friends until his health prevented it. **Mickey** was a kind soul much loved by his friends and neighbors who will miss him. He was preceded by his parents Vernon and June Marling and is survived by his brother Timothy Marling (Ana Teresa), nephew Nicholas Marling and cousins Judy Jensen and Gary Ruff. Donations can be made to: Lodi Memorial Hospital Foundation at 845 S. Fairmont Suite 3, Lodi, CA 95242 or online at: www.lmhfoundation.org

We received a note from Caltrans that **Beverly Colvin**, D10 Construction Employee, passed away recently. A Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, March 11, 2017 in Galt.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the families and friends of **Al, Mickey, and Beverly**.

- **Brian Young**

The Haps in District 11

District 11 held our annual QCC Banquet Luncheon on March 16, 2017 at the Barra Saloon in Old Town. The next edition will recap this event.

The monthly Romeo (Retired Old Men “and ladies” Eating Out) 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.

From **Ed Anderson** -

If you want a CT Hoodie, follow this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/211362045991357/photos/a.211380905989471.1073741828.211362045991357/235776573549904/?type=3>

Robert Snyder sent this in to lighten things up- Sally Mullihan of Coral Springs, Florida decided to take one of the jobs that most Americans are not willing to do, lemon picker.

Sally applied for a job in a Florida lemon grove and seemed to be far too qualified for the job. She had a liberal arts degree from the University of Michigan and had worked as a social worker and a school teacher.

The foreman frowned and said, "I have to ask you, have you had any actual experience in picking lemons?"

"Well, as a matter of fact, I have," she said: "I've been divorced three times, owned two Chryslers and I voted twice for (fill in the blank)."

She starts work in the morning....

Not to be outdone, **Ray Ruggles** then sent this in:

"I purchased my first car picking oranges during the summer of 1954 my name on my pay checks were issued to: "Primo Gringo" not **Ray Ruggles** ... I helped shorter orange pickers by picking oranges they could not reach and putting their tree's hard to reach oranges into their orange box ... we got paid 8 cents a box for each box we filled ... I purchased a 1941 Ford sedan for \$120 cash..."

The Haps in Central

Holy Moly! Spring is just around the corner and the rains have slowed a little.

Have you seen the Club's new web site? Wow, it looks great and is filled with a lot of information for each District. Congratulations to Andy Machen and Mike Ogilvie for a super job.

I made a Quarter Century recruitment presentation in HQs at the 25-year award program last month. I handed out applications and a Quarter Century information brochure to those getting awards in hopes of getting some new members. So far getting new membership is pretty bleak!

Our next luncheon is in Sacramento on April 27th at the Dante Club beginning at 11am. Lunch is served at noon! Hope to see you there! Our other luncheon get-togethers are on August 17th and December 6th. Mark your calendar!

- 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.

- April 12, 2017 - China Olive
- May 10, 2017 - Joselito's West
- June 14, 2017 - Steer N' Ale
- July 12, 2017 - China Olive
- August 9, 2017 - Joselito's West
- September 13, 2017 - Steer N' Ale
- October 11, 2017 - China Olive
- November 8, 2017 - Joselito's West
- December 2, 2017 - 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

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 -

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 -

Luncheon at the Dante Club at 11am
 April 27th
 Contact **Gary** or **Julie Bush** (530-642-8208)
zbusharosa@wildblue.net

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

HONORARY MEMBERS

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

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

So, if you think this may apply to you, don't hesitate to contact your QCC District Director. We don't want any QCC members to be left out. See Renewal Form on page 19.

NEW MEMBERS

Name	District
John Carson	1
Mike Sheridan	10
Terry Abbott	C
Sri Balasubramanian	C

2016 FINANCIAL AUDIT

An audit of the records, bank statements and other information was performed on February 27, 2017 by QCC member **Russell Plowman**. President **Butch Biendara** and Secretary/Treasurer **Mike Ogilvie** were present. The year-end financial statement on page 18 here-in is an accurate representation of the transactions and account balance of the QCC, as of December 31, 2016.

CALIFORNIA STATE ARCHIVES

Wes Lum of the Central District sent this in several months ago. It is a great place to go if you love California, roads, or history in general.

The **California State Archives** has released “California Road Trip” a digital exhibit hosted by the Google Cultural Institute. The exhibit traces the early history of California’s car culture, dating all the way back to the first state highway built in 1895. The State Archives is a division of the California Secretary of State’s office.

“Today enjoying a scenic road trip is a quintessential California experience, but we’ve come a long way since the first automobiles hit the road,” Secretary of State Padilla said. “The State Archives’ latest digital exhibit takes a look back at some of the Golden State’s earliest motorists and the efforts to build roads equipped

to handle the automobile age. The hard work of State Archives staff, and our partnership with Google, brings this unique look at California history to a global audience online.”

The “California Road Trip” exhibit includes rare photographs from the Department of Public Works, California Highway Association, and others to illustrate the challenges faced by California’s first motorists. Click here to view the “California Road Trip” exhibit.

<https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/beta/exhibit/twJCUuaVA4eXIA>

Secretary of State Padilla and Google announced a partnership to make State Archives exhibits available online. “California Road Trip” is one exhibit released as part of this partnership. The first three exhibits released focused on the history of California state parks, the office of the California Secretary of State, and the nation’s first political consulting firm, Campaigns Inc. To view all eight of the State Archives’ exhibits available via the Google Cultural Institute visit:

<https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/beta/partner/california-state-archives>

As part of this partnership, the State Archives will continue to digitize exhibits for inclusion on the Google Cultural Institute website.

About the California State Archives: California's first legislature, meeting in 1849–50, charged the Secretary of State to receive "...all public records, registered maps, books, papers, rolls, documents and other writings . . . which appertain to or are in any way connected with the political history and past administration of the government of California." The California State Archives, a division of the Secretary of State’s office, continues to serve in the spirit of those early instructions, providing a repository for the state's permanent governmental records as well as other materials documenting California history.

QCC Financial Report

January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

Beginning Balance, 1/1/16	28,060
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Income:

Dues*	6317
New member fees**	26
Donations	51

Total Income	6,394
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QCCer newsletters	3385
Editor services	838
Sec/Treas services	1258
Secretary expenses	227
District expenses	121
Recruiting expenses reimbursed	471
eMail recruiting	984
Rosters (notices, printing, mailing)	1699
QCC Web site	499
Refunds	17

Total expenses	-9,499
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Ending Balance, 12/31/16	<u>24,955</u>
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Less Future Obligations***	-14,840
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Excess of cash on hand	<u>10,115</u>
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* Contains dues paid for years beyond 2016

** 19 new members in 2016

*** 825 membership years paid in advance