

TheQCCer

The Newsletter of the Quarter
Century Club

VOLUME 26, No. 3

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A Goodwill Ambassador

BUTCH SAYS; "KEEP IN TOUCH!"

From the Corner Pocket

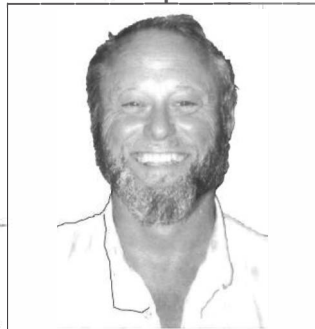
In this closing half of the year, many Districts are making plans for year-end Holiday get-together parties. This may be your chance to reconnect with many of your friends that you may not have seen for a while, and be a time to catch up on the news of what's happening in their lives.

Some of us "Oldies" will remember when Caltrans mailed out printed copies of the local District newsletters to all retirees every week in addition to circulating them throughout the District Staff. Well times have changed, (not for the better), as Caltrans is now required to delete all contact information on all employees when they retire. For the last few years of my "Highway" career I collected email addresses of retirees and 'Broadcast' any news that went through the District's 'email newsletters' to let them know about any promotions and 'who' was up to 'what'.

Some may also remember the days when the Caltrans Districts put on warm and friendly Christmas parties for a nominal fee with all employees invited. And I remember that when a retirement was coming up, there was a generous allotment of free time for staff to plan the event, pass around "Memory sheets" for all employees to

jot down memories of the times they shared that would be put together in memory photo albums for the retirees keeping.

We still get inquiries from the Caltrans Public Information Office with a question from those heading out the door to retirement asking if we have contact info on "Good Old What's His Name". Under the *new* orders of the day YOU are now the best person to serve as goodwill ambassador for your retired friends and those who may still be grinding their way through the work days. It's likely that very few of those at work in Caltrans today are aware of all the good comradery that was the regular way of joining together work crews of the past.



Care to hear of the best way to renew a friendship? How about you buy someone a lunch and get your lunch for free as well. When you attend a retirement lunch or dinner for a co-worker heading into retirement, you can bring along some applications for membership in the Quarter Century Club to introduce your friends to this great way to keep in touch with all the good people they worked with in the past. It doesn't have to be an official retirement party, you might just connect with someone and offer to meet them for lunch near to their work location. Take an application with you and let your friend know how they too can join the QCC and be a part of the good times to be shared. Keep track of who you had lunch with to be reimbursed for your

recruiting efforts, and if your friend joins for an initial five-year membership, both they and you win a free logo watch in your choice of three logo faces.

Butch Biendara, QCC President

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The QCC Website

By the Webmaster

Do you have a story to tell? About your world travels; hobbies; favorite places; life experiences - anything at all? Here's how to get it posted on the Quarter Century Club website:

Write your story in an email and send it to:
post+speedreportsjs@coffeecup.com

Your story is then transmitted to the CTQCC website where it is stored in a folder accessible only by the webmaster, who then extracts the text and pictures you sent and stores them in a private folder on the Stories page of the Caltrans District specified by you.

The webmaster then sends you an email with a link to the page containing your story, accessible only by you and the webmaster. You can then view your story on the Internet, make any changes you would like, then send them in an email to post+speedreportsjs@coffeecup.com just as you sent the original.

The webmaster then notifies you by email when the changes have been made.

When you are satisfied with the web page containing your story, send an email to post+speedreportsjs@coffeecup.com authorizing the webmaster to post the story for public viewing.

You can still add to or make changes to the story as described above after it is published by sending an email to post+speedreportsjs@coffeecup.com.
 Let us hear from you!

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

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION FOUNDATION

By Kathy Freeman

We want to keep you in the loop of what's new at the California Transportation Foundation and how we help the transportation community by inviting you to connect with CTF on social media. We share the impact CTF has on the transportation community on social media: pictures of our CTF events, thank you notes from scholarship recipients, videos of the people, programs, projects and organizations that show excellence in transportation, how you can help, and so much more!

Stay connected with CTF to hear the amazing effort we give and the result we see in the transportation community – we reached a milestone this year – a total of \$1M in scholarship grants given since our founding to students studying in the field of transportation. We have helped 7 transportation workers and their families who were injured or killed on the job in California so far this year.

Show your support and like, follow and subscribe to CTF on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube!

The Foundation would like to recognize and offer our congratulations to the four Caltrans employees who displayed extraordinary acts of heroism when rescuing motorists who were trapped in their vehicles. These Caltrans heroes received the **Governor's State Employee Medal of Valor Awards** earlier this year at a ceremony held at the California Highway Patrol Academy in West Sacramento:

- **Caltrans Alturas Maintenance Shop Leadworker Dean Rouse** rescued a passenger from a vehicle that had slid off U.S. 395 and landed upside down in the Pit River.
- **Maintenance Equipment Operator II James Anderson** responded to an

emergency dispatch call regarding a citizen trapped in a pickup truck that had rolled off I-80 in the Sierra landing upside down in the water.

- **Maintenance Operator II Kenneth Myers** and Maintenance Supervisor Rodney Walker assisted James Anderson in the rescue and kept Mr. Anderson from being swept into the current and helped carry the citizen up the steep, slippery embankment to safety.

A Workers' Assistance Fund has been established in the name of **Mr. Michael Jones, a District 7 Caltrans Maintenance Supervisor**, who while inspecting a culvert, was struck by an errant vehicle that entered the work zone. Mr. Jones's leg was pinned between two vehicles, breaking his femur. He is currently recovering from surgery and will be off work for an extended period of time. If you are interested in helping Mr. Jones, donations by check may be made out to "CTF" and designated "Jones" in the memo line. Checks can be mailed to: CTF, 581 La Sierra Drive, Sacramento CA 95864. Donations may also be made online at www.transportationfoundation.org/donate/. Indicate in the drop-down menu that this donation is for the "Jones Assistance Fund."

Thank you for all your support and interest in CTF's programs and events.

In Memoriam

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

Name	District	Date
Raphel Sauls	01	2017
Chuck Klassen	01	May 16, 2017
Richard Young	03	Aug 6, 2017
Hugh Thomas	03	2017
Debby Arnold	03	2017
Robert Hernandez	05	Jul 2017
Gifford (Giff) Bland	05	Jun 05, 2017
Monte Berry	06	Jun 11, 2017

Ruben Nunez	06	Aug 12, 2017
Jimmy Shirley	06	Aug 02, 2017
Kay Chessman	06	Aug 06, 2016
Deborah Meyers	07	Jun 09, 2017
Lionel Joseph Irvine	07	Jul 14, 2017
Jerry Tourtellotte	07	Jul 29, 2017
Charles George Sr	07	2017
Evie Anderson	08	Jun 2017
Henry Hardy	08	Jul 2017
Sharon Stewart	10	Aug 01, 2017
Marcel De La Cruz	10	2017
Frank E Orozco Sr	10	Jul 27, 2017
Venancio (Benny) Herrera	11	Aug 18, 2017
Murray Wilson	11	Jun 08, 2017
Larry Barnard	C	2017

History of Public Meeting Open House Format By Nigel Blampied

Do you recall or have documentation of **Gene Berthelsen's** approach to project decisions?

Twenty or more years ago, I recall attending a class given by Gene Berthelsen on project decision making. My recollection is that **Gene** said that one should identify possible opponents or interested parties in projects, especially controversial projects, and assist them to make logical cases for their preferences about the project. As I recall, Gene spoke about the need to avoid getting into emotional tussles, but rather to present decision-makers with logical alternatives from which to choose. If decision makers are influenced by emotional public outbursts, they might make less-than-optimal decisions.

My sense at the time is that **Gene** was a significant player in introducing public workshops, rather than public hearings, on environmental documents. In workshops, there are many booths addressing different issues around the project, and members of the public are invited to submit written or video-recorded testimony at the booths. This avoids the grandstanding that often occurs in public hearings, where a few vocal opponents make loud and ill-informed emotional public statements.

In addition to avoiding grandstanding, the workshops provide an opportunity for less vocal members of the public to have their say.

All this is my recollection, and I may have it wrong. Can anyone put me straight, and do you have similar recollections either of Gene's work or of others who spoke or wrote of this approach?

I have been talking with researchers who are studying a somewhat similar approach on the High-Speed Rail project in the UK, and would like to write up the parallels and differences from **Gene's** approach. In doing so, however, I would like to have more to go on than just my memory.

If you have any memories or documents to share, please contact me at blampied@berkeley.edu or 510-479-7070.

The Haps in District 1

Our District had our quarterly breakfast on July 20. It was well attended with 34 people. **John Sherman** has been having health issues and we got a report on how he is doing. We are hoping that when he gets better, he and **Jackie** can get back to attending the breakfasts.

I was able to attend a Celebration of Life on July 8 for **Raphel Sauls, Arlon's** wife. It was at Rohner Park in Fortuna and gave us a great chance to visit and honor her memory. I got to talk to his brother **Arden**, another District retiree, whom I had not seen for several years. Several people shared their memories and **Arlon** shared a wonderful history of their time together.

We also lost another retiree. **Chuck Klassen** passed away on May 16 in Solvang, CA. He worked in several Districts during his Caltrans career, including District 1. He went from Equipment Operator to Sr. Maintenance Superintendent for the Santa Barbara area. I was

glad to have known him. He was very kind and interesting to talk to.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends of **Raphel** and **Chuck**.

I am always interested in news.

- **Arlene Hartin**

The Haps in District 2

A note from **Jerry Severson**: **Nancy Benjamin** and I are enjoying a cross country drive to the outer banks of North Carolina. Made the trip in 8 days. Spent two nights and three days in Kansas.... stood on Boot Hill in Dodge City.

Along the way, we drove over a 12,184-foot peak of the continental divide.... SCARY, but beautiful!!!

Retirement just keeps getting better every day!!

- **Bill Belcher**

The Haps in District 3

The Annual Pre-Holiday Buffet will be held on Sunday, November 12th at the Peach Tree Country Club in Linda. Social hour begins at 1:00 P.M. with the buffet luncheon at 2 P.M. Tickets are available from **Libby Haraughty** or **Carleen Hagen**. Their phone numbers and emails will be on your QCC roster.

Sickness and Distress

Bill Malott had a six-way bypass and is home recuperating. Also, **Leo Trombatore** fell and broke his leg and is mending at a facility in Stockton.

In Loving Memory

Richard Young passed away on August 6, 2017. **Hugh Thomas** and **Debby Arnold** also passed away recently.

Volunteers are needed for a position on the Board of Officers as a Publicity Chairperson and on the Social Committee as a member to assist in annual parties. Please contact **Dan Johnson, Sr.** at boots3@syix.com or call him at (530) 671-3889 if interested.

We will have nominations from the floor for District 3 Quarter Century Club Director at the business meeting which will be held in April 2018. Anyone interested should attend the meeting and announce the nomination during the meeting. The person or persons who are nominated will be voted on by the membership.

The fall luncheon was held September 14th at the Sportsman's Hall in Pollock Pines. Lunch was served and enjoyed by all.

Contact **Jerry Hamm** at (530)622-8030 or **Doug Becker** at (530) 622-1665 for information on upcoming events. All Caltrans active workers and retirees are welcome.

The History Center, which is located in the District Office in Marysville, will be an invaluable resource in years to come. Contact **Libby Haraughty** for updates and if you wish to join as a volunteer in this worthwhile endeavor.

We are looking for members to strengthen our social circle. Any Division of Highways or Caltrans employee currently employed or retired, with 25 years' service is eligible to join. Applications are available from Membership Chairperson **Carleen Hagen**. Join us for the memories and the good times!

-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 we will all be enjoying Fall weather when this newsletter is published. We had record breaking heat over Labor Day weekend, with San Luis Obispo reaching 115 degrees! It was followed by a storm which brought a few showers to cool us down for a day.

Caltrans continues to make progress on the Hwy 1 bridge replacement project near Big Sur. On the District 5 Facebook page, there is an interesting picture of the steel girders being moved inch by inch across the canyon.

Another Hwy 1 project recently completed is the three-mile realignment near Piedras Blancas lighthouse. This shifts the road to a safer location inland and provides a sweeping view of the hills nearby.

The September 5 issue of our local Tribune featured an article on **Herb** and **Diane Filipponi** and their Filipponi Ranch Winery. The tasting room is housed in the old home on the dairy farm where Herb was raised and tended cattle. We spent a pleasant afternoon there a few months ago and recommend it highly.

We heard recently from **Pearl Cole** that our peripatetic friends **George Phebus** and **Bob Smith** have relocated and are now enjoying life in Florence, Oregon.

Pearl also told us that **Robert Hernandez**, a retired Maintenance employee who worked in Santa Maria and San Luis Obispo, passed away in late July.

We are sorry to report that **Gifford “Giff” Bland** passed away on June 5 at age 84. Giff was born and raised in Atascadero, and he married the love of his life, Shirley Forsythe (daughter of Sam and Marian) in 1954. During his 40-year with Caltrans, he worked on a multitude of projects including the Gaviota Tunnel, Morro Bay Bypass, and construction of Hwy 46 from Paso to Cambria. He was a lifelong supporter of youth sports in Atascadero, coaching Little League, organizing the High School Boosters Club, and serving on the “chain gang” for football games for almost 30 years. **Giff** is survived by his wife Shirley, four sons and their wives, and several grandchildren.

- Kathleen Copeland

The Haps in District 6

Just a reminder of the following events for QCCers to enjoy. A Caltrans Retiree Breakfast meets for an informal Coffee at 8 am every Thursday at Country Waffles at the NW corner of Herndon and Cedar.

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

Monte Berry, age 84, of Fresno, CA, passed away on Sunday, June 11, 2017. He was an environmental analyst for Caltrans Environmental Division for 40 years. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Jane Berry**; and one grandchild. He is survived by his four children, eight grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. He was a really good friend and we all had a lot of parties together.



Ruben Nunez, age 79, passed away peacefully on August 12, 2017. Ruben suffered with Alzheimer disease for five years. Ruben retired from Caltrans after 43 years as a R/W Agent. He took pride as the president of Fresno Handball Club for many years. He loved dancing, was a member of SHPE, hiking, running and visiting family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; six brothers; and grandson Ryan. He leaves behind his devoted wife, Rosemary, of 59 years; two sons, Ruben Sr., and Raymond and wife Terry; two daughters, Debra and husband Fernando, and Denise; his five grandsons, Randy, Aaron, Aris, Louis, and Jared; five granddaughters, Ariana, Jaclyn, Raylene, Lauren, and Danielle; four great-granddaughters, Khloe, Kelsie, Gabrielle, and Abrielle; one brother; and four sisters.

From **George Meyers**: “**Ruben** was a good friend of mine. We spent many years together in the Navy Reserve Seabees. It makes me really sad today. I was talking to a man this morning about when Ruben and I were in the Seabees and working together. I had not forgotten him.” Suzie and I went to the visitation rosary at the 5:00PM service. We both talked with Ruben's family; Rosie, their daughters and sons and grandson. I had been to Ruben's and Rosie's home and had dinner a few times with them. I went over some of the activities that **Ruben** and I did together when we were on active duty, while we were being trained by the Seabees at Camp Pendleton. The family members liked talking with me about the things Ruben and I did together and working at Caltrans. I think they were pleased to be informed what Ruben and I did together. I also told them that **Ruben** was well liked at Caltrans.

George Meyers was unable to attend the church service on the 23rd because he is being treated in Physical Therapy for neck and back pains. He

has therapy every 2 weeks. He reported that he was disappointed because he didn't recognize any Caltrans people on the 22nd.

Jimmy Shirley, age 79, of Fresno, CA, passed away on Wednesday, August 2, 2017. He was a beloved husband, father, papa, and friend to all. Jimmy was born on July 26, 1938 to John and Gracie Shirley in St. Louis, OK. Jimmy retired from Caltrans after 40 years and was a long time local musician. He was preceded in death by his wife, Bernice, of 60 years; and sons, John Earl, and Jimmy Brian. He is survived by his children, Jonanna Simonian, Kim McAdams, Kathy Evans and Justy Long; 17 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren, brothers, John N Shirley and Scott Shirley.

From **Roy Andersen**: You may not have known **Jim**. He was in Special Crews-signs. One of the good guys.

Roy also let me know that **Kay Chessman** passed away on Aug 6th but I can't find anything in the papers on this. She was another great lady and an **Associate Honorary QCC Member**.

History Moment

Bill Bastian is part of history as told by him: "73 years ago at daylight on June 6th I was on the deck of an LST, watching the beginning of the invasion of Europe, code name 'OVERLORD'. We were several miles offshore and could see little as events unfolded. We also were not told what was happening. We could see and hear the smoke and sounds of battle. The sea was quite rough and the sky grey with a light rain. As the time passed with no updates from the action we had some concern as to what was happening on the beach. Those aboard were a mixed group with different landing schedules. As an Officer, I was aware of this and assumed we would stay well offshore, unless the schedule changed."

"Hours later apparently (we were not told) a call came out for additional troops and our vessel complied by sending small boats of Infantry ashore. I got swept up in this group and landed ahead of my own group and equipment. The section of Omaha Beach where we landed had been pretty well cleared by the time we got there and the LCVP I was on suffered no harm although we stopped a little far out and got wet wading ashore. All aboard but me turned out to be an Infantry platoon and its leaders and we parted company at the beach. Thus, I began a 145-day camp out at Omaha. As my story of the 203rd Engineer Combat Battalion will tell that our adventures, both good and bad will picture the lives of typical outfits. Not sure we had any HEROS, but maybe some heroes and hardworking soldiers; of who you would be proud."

- Terry Littleton

The Haps in District 7

September may seem too early to think about December, yet someone must, or as they say, "if you fail to plan, you plan to fail." The annual luncheon is in the works, and keep the date open for the first Saturday in December, the 2nd, at 11:30 AM.

Monthly Reunion

Staying in touch is precious, and the second Wednesday of the month, gives us this opportunity for food, friends, travel and adventure. The **Tom Fera** Lunch Group awaits for members and others to meet the second Wednesday of each month, except December. The next several meetings are: **October 11, 2017** at the China Olive; **November 8, 2017** at Joselito's West; and **December 2, 2017** will be the QCC luncheon. The remaining 2017 and some of the 2018 dates and addresses follow.

RESTAURANTS AND PROPOSED LUNCHEON DATES FOR 2017 and beyond
[Second Wednesday of every month except December]

October 11, 2017	China Olive
November 8, 2017	Joselito's West
December 2, 2017	QCC luncheon
January 10, 2018	Steer N' Ale
February 14, 2018	China Olive
March 14, 2018	Joselito's West
April 11, 2018	Steer N" Ale
May 9, 2018	China Olive
June 13, 2018	Joselito's West

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.

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 monthly reunion 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>

Lighthouse Adventure

Marie Martin writes of last year's adventure to Norway, "Where the road ends the lighthouse adventure begins," says the motto of the U.S. Lighthouse Society. "I had taken [a] lighthouse tour of Norway in fall 2008 and said if they ever did it again in winter, I would go. At the beginning of December [2016], twenty-three intrepid (or possibly deranged) lighthouse nuts (they prefer to be called 'keepers' as in keeping the lights burning) headed off to Norway. [My] 'adventure' began with one hour to change planes in Schiphol, Amsterdam's huge airport. The arrival gate was miles away from the departure gate, and I ran the whole way with a heavy backpack. (They should make that an event in the next Olympics.) [A] two-hour flight to Oslo was followed by [a] meet-and-greet with other keepers, some pictures of the Tramlaget Club - the Norwegian Adventurers' Club, [and] to the Christmas Market. Unlike US street markets which are often tacky, this was arranged around a skating rink, with bonfires, logs to sit on, [and] little wooden chalets [of] gorgeous Norwegian knitted goods, most of which cost more than my first car. [It] was sooo dreamy-holiday-beautiful that I was fa-la-la-ing all the way back to the hotel. Supper was traditional grand Scandinavian meal featuring reindeer. That's right - we began the holiday season by eating Rudolph! We also had lutefisk... just say no."

"The following morning 2 inches of snow [lay] on the ground, the 4th Sunday before Christmas, [when] Norwegian tradition is [to] put Christmas stars in their windows. I [was] intrigued by the number of star points, [which] varied from 5 to 9 and nobody could tell me why."

“Visiting beautiful remote lighthouses by bus and various boats is always a delight. For the Oksoy Lighthouse, we went in Zodiaks. They offered us survival suits, [which] were huge and I declined. [It was a] rough ride on saddle-like seats; I was in the first one in the bow, and was absolutely frozen when we got there. A seafaring type told me *people have died of exposure in that first seat*. I laughed [and] he assured me he wasn’t kidding. Coming back from the light that same sailor jumped from the zodiac to the dock, missed his footing and nearly broke an ankle.”

“These tours are definitely insider ‘in’crowd trips; at Høyeværde we had silver candelabras and roses on the table; at Lindesnes Light we were treated to Norwegian fish soup served in palm leaf dishes (usually about \$30 a serving) and homemade seaweed bread (both divine!) On the way to Lindesnes, our Norwegian guide stopped to show us a traffic circle with a [miniature] lighthouse in the center. Later, the lady who baked the seaweed bread told us that she had been driving by just then and nearly died laughing at these crazy lighthouse nuts running around in the traffic circle taking photographs. The Christmas market that night had various choirs and ‘umpa’ bands; the voices in the cold snowy night were beautiful.”

“Speaking of atmosphere – the Norwegian guide had taken such a liking to our group that he invited us all to his house where his wife served tea and “Lappe”, small pancakes with whipped cream topped with several homemade jellies. The guide’s son is a tanker captain and had good stories to tell. Imagine walking down snowy streets with the lights and Christmas stars and ending up in a beautiful home like that. Pure magic!”

“[Another] day we were boarding a fjord boat when one of the ‘keepers’ slipped on the icy ramp, fell, and broke several bones. By this time, four other ‘keepers’ had pneumonia and almost

everyone else had bronchitis. The bus sounded like the TB ward, but we soldiered on in good spirits... even the guy in a shoulder cast. People would stop into clinics whenever there was time between buses and boats, and nobody was charged a single cent by the Norwegian doctors. On [a] fjord boat we traveled past breathtaking scenery to pulpit rock (famous overhanging cliff that base jumpers launch from); [our] waiter collected icy pure water from a waterfall to serve with lunch.”

“We finally made it to Bergen, bid goodbye to our Norwegian guide, and boarded M.S. Finnmarken, a working ferry that was to be our home for the next week. [Every afternoon], the ship stopped for a few hours [for] various excursions onshore. They were expensive, so [I and] a guy from Fresno usually just went on our own; we photographed Trondheim Cathedral, found a great Nautical Museum, went shopping, and avoided anything cultural, [yet] we always managed to get back to the boat on time. Two of our group arrived one afternoon when the ferry was already pulling out, [and] about 30 feet from the dock. The boat did come back to let the latecomers on, but (word is) they got a tongue-lashing from the Captain. On a couple of days, while everybody was out ‘excursioning’, I swam in the ship’s pool. [It was] an awesome feeling to be on the 7th deck, overlooking snowy Christmas-card towns while a blizzard of flakes fell all around. My body was warm in the pool, my ears were cold, and it was really uncomfortable walking back to the locker room on the pool deck barefoot in the snow.”

“Everybody wanted to see the Aurora Borealis, [and] got one rather feeble display - it was a disappointment. I have seen the Northern Lights before, [and] felt sorry for the others. We were going to cross the arctic circle the next morning, [and] I wondered what that would be... maybe a rope with Styrofoam floats on it like they put across the pool for kids who are too stupid to figure out which is the deep end? So, in the early

morning pitch dark we assembled on deck and then the ship's brilliant searchlight beamed up the fjord and there was the monument with a huge globe on it showing the circle. It was an awesome moment. Later we assembled on deck for the Arctic Circle ceremony wherein Neptune pours ice water down your neck and then everybody drinks champagne. The ice water does eventually warm up but remains wet and runs down into your underwear. I haven't felt like that since I was potty-trained. Also special, I got to see the Maelstrom, a wild stretch of water with huge whirlpools. Speaking of wild water, that night we rounded the northernmost point in Europe, in open Ocean, in a force 7 gale! I almost died of seasickness. [The] next day people were saying they had been afraid the ship would sink. I was *hoping* it would sink. [We were] very glad to get off [the] ferry at last in Kirkenes, up to our knees in snow, but at least it wasn't bouncing and rolling like the ship."

"We went to the Ice Hotel, another item on my ['life'] list. They carve the snowy walls [into] beautiful scenes, [with] reindeer and sled dogs outside, it's all very Nordic and fabulous. Finally, we [arrived at] the Russian Border. I have always wanted to go to Murmansk, but couldn't figure out how to get there. Now we were even further north, and the road signs pointed to the road to Murmansk in both Norwegian and Cyrillic. [It was a] BIG thrill for me."

"We flew back to Oslo, 'ate' a farewell supper, and went our separate ways. I flew to Amsterdam. You may remember about 22 years ago I [was in] Texas to fly a DC-3? During WWII that aircraft had flown in Holland against the Nazis. Now my DC-3 is in the *Wings of Liberation Museum* in Eindhoven. I wanted to see the plane in [her] new home. The Museum was closed, but a nice Dutch guy let me in and told me the saga of getting the plane from Texas to the Netherlands. [It] seems they flew it across the Atlantic, but one of the engines caught fire

upon landing. The European counterparts of the FAA said that DC-3 was not airworthy and should never have been in the air at all. The Dutch guy and I looked knowingly at each other and laughed... that's what DC-3s are famous for... they go on flying no matter what. I was a little teary when I touched the propeller and said goodbye."



"['Life'] list #3: since grade school I have wanted to go ice skating on the canals in Holland. So I lugged my ice skates all over Norway in hopes of using them when I got to Amsterdam. Alas, the canals rarely freeze anymore. I took my skates on the canal cruise boat, which is as close as they'll ever get I guess. Poor little kid, poor old lady, poor planet."

"**Bob** continues to recover from his accident. He is doing well. Before I left for the above adventure, he and I went to Van Nuys Airport for a fundraiser for Wings of Rescue – corporate aircraft flying shelter dogs all over the USA to be adopted. It was a gala vegan dinner with the corporate jets in the hangar, and we sat next to one of the pilots. He was flying a planeload of

dogs to New Jersey right after the dinner. Back at Van Nuys the following afternoon we were at airshow-pilot **Bob Hoover's** memorial service. **Harrison Ford** delivered a eulogy."

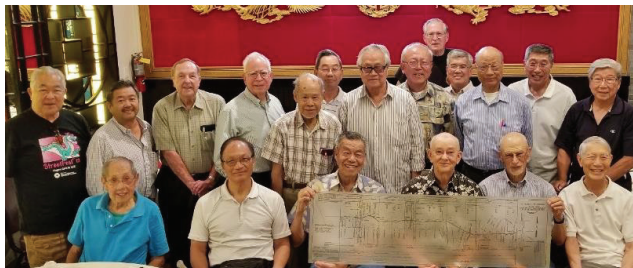
"Ending on a very sad note – the friend I call the 'Engineer husband' with whom we have shared many great trips with him and his wife, died of cancer just before Christmas. Farewell **Stewart Stahl**. Perhaps we and all our pets will meet again at the Rainbow Bridge?"

Contacts and Recent Sightings

In June, standing in line at Phillippe's for a beef dip sandwich with a friend from Sacramento, **Kirsten Stahl** spied a familiar face, it was **Bob Walters!** He was getting a sandwich for **Marie Martin**, who was travelling from San Diego, to visit an elderly friend.

At **Art Salazar's** retirement luncheon on June 22, **Doug Failing**, **Tom Gildersleeve**, and **Paul Perez**, at Steven's Steakhouse in the City of Commerce.

On August 17, 2017, at Golden Soup Restaurant, the proud members of the I-105 Design Team, and others: **Peter Wong**, **Larry Tokoyama**, **Dick Smith**, **Paul Perez**, **Jimmy Lam**, **Hong Huang**, **Tom Choe**, **Ken Hatai**, **Doug Richter**, **Luu Nguyen**, **Paul Hsu**, **Marshall Young**, **Bowman Lee**, **Calvin Lee**, **Steve Leung**, **Paul In**, **Don Cross**, **Stan Lisiewicz**, and **Wah Shum**. [Many apologies if I misnamed anyone, please write and set the record straight!]



Moving On...

Susan Hess, former District 7 engineer in Traffic Operations, wrote about her mom, **Phyllis King**, who worked as a delineator in District 7 from approximately 1950 to the 1970's. "I wanted to let you know my mom moved to Golden Oaks senior apartments at 33398 Oak Glen Rd. in Yucaipa, 92399, and she's doing really well! Her phone # there is (909) 790-5399. [My brother] **Paul** stayed the night on a fold out loveseat a few nights and mom has been going to Bingo and Beanbag Baseball (whatever that is?) all on her own. Yay! And she's only 8 minutes away. Thank goodness she's not alone anymore, in that old house, walking up all those stairs."

The Road Last Traveled

Dan Murdoch of Right-of-Way writes, "It is with deep regret that I share the news that **Deborah Meyers**, former Senior Right of Way Agent in District 7, and Right of Way Office Chief in District 12, passed away on Friday June 9, 2017 after a lengthy illness. **Deborah** had 36 years with Caltrans. She started as a Right of Way Agent in District 7 in 1979, and held the District 12 Right of Way Office Chief position for several years. Deborah returned to District 7 as a Senior R/W Agent, and later retired in 2015. Her services were held at St. Albert the Great Church in Compton, CA, and she was interred at All Souls Cemetery, Long Beach, CA.

Douglas Irvine, son of **Lionel Irvine**, writes, "It is with sad heart that I am reporting the death of **Lionel Joseph Irvine**, on July 14, 2017, at the age of 82 years, 6 months and 1 day." **Lionel** was a good and god-fearing man and an **Honorary QCC Member**. He loved his family, his co-workers, his friends and his neighbors; he loved joking with people; he loved traveling whether by plane, train or automobile; he loved drinking Moxie, a New England Soda, when he could get ahold of it; he loved researching his genealogy

and attending the Scottish Highland Games and Festivals.

Lionel was born in Leominster, Massachusetts, on January 13, 1935, and graduated Cum Laude in Latin from Leominster High School. He attended Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in Worcester, Massachusetts and graduated with a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Civil Engineering. Soon after graduating college, he married **Joanne Alice Preston** and moved to California. He worked for the State of California, Department of Public Works, Division of Highways, known nowadays as Caltrans, for approximately 35 years, as a Construction Engineer. He obtained his Professional Engineering License (Registered Civil Engineer) in California and Delaware. **Lionel** also served his country with three years of service in the United States Army at Fort Benning, Georgia and at Fort Ord, California. After his service to our country, **Lionel** completed one of his dreams, to obtain a Pilot's License. In addition to flying, [he] loved to collect model trains. In particular, the O gauge - Lionel Trains.

Lionel was a member of Oneonta Congregational Church in South Pasadena, California for over 35 years before retiring and moving to Dover, Delaware, where he lived for approximately 20 years. A celebration of **Lionel's** life will be held in Dover, Delaware, on October 9, 2017. **Lionel** was cremated and he will be buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Leominster, Massachusetts.

Tanisha Butcher writes, "With great sadness the Division of Design shares the loss of our D7 survey alumnus, **Jerry Tourtellotte**, on July 29, 2017." Born November 15, 1935, **Jerry's** service was held Friday August 25 at Grace Church of Glendora, CA.

James Deno, writes, "It is with a heavy heart that I notify you of the passing of **Charles George**

Sr., the father of current Caltrans employee **Alisa George** in the Office of Business Management." **Charles** was a member of the District 7 Caltrans family where he worked as a Supervisor in the Division of Maintenance, South Region for approximately 42 years and retired in 2012. **Charles** was known to all as a good hearted, family oriented individual who loved what he did. He will be greatly missed by all. **Charles' Memorial Service** was held Friday, September 8, 2017 at New Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church in Los Angeles, CA.

Be like **Marie, Susan, Chuck, Dan, Tanisha and James!**

Take a minute, take an hour, take whatever it takes, but please do share some time with your fellow friends! Send information 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... See his address on page 3.

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

Our summer luncheon was held at Hannah's Restaurant in July with 22 in attendance. We were smaller this time, but had lots to visit and talk about.

Those in attendance were: **Dan Armstrong, Jim & Joanne Balcom, Mary Bermudez, Gil & Janette Daab, Wes & Linda Grimes, Al & Judi Hudgens, Frank Lehr, Stan & Ina Lisiewicz, Dick Longstreet, Marsha Lotze, Sybille Phillips, Tom & Bonnie Powell, Taylor Smith** and his son, **Paul Smith**, and **Ken Steele**.

Our state President, **Butch Biendara**, again donated a Caltrans watch and it was won by **Joanne Balcom**. We also had a bottle of wine donated by **Dick Longstreet**, but I can't remember who won?? Senior Moment.

Anyhow, good food and good friendship were enjoyed by all, and we now look forward to our big Christmas Luncheon.

Many of our regular attendees were busy elsewhere: **Wanda Gernux** was at a Women's Christian Conference, **Frances Jacques** broke her wrist and can't drive. She's also having problems with other household chores. Hope you're feeling better **Frances**. **Doris Peddy** is still very active with the Pacific Crest Trail and was cooking up at Red Meadows for volunteers working on the Trail. I believe that is in northern CA.

One of our long-time members, **Virginia Reed**, is now in a nursing home. **Bob Sassaman** wrote that he's in the cool "Sierras" and hopes to see us in December. **Bud Smith** wanted to wish everyone "Hello" and indicated he is having health issues. Hope you're doing better **Bud**.

Linda Supernaw was out of town up in the Lake Tahoe area; assisting her husband with chores and maintenance on their home in Truckee. **Bob Viveros** was planning on attending but fell and hurt his back and hopes to attend in December. **Linda Wilford** had planned on attending but will be attending a "Celebration of Life" in Woodland Hills. She'll see us at Christmas.

We missed those who couldn't make it and hope everyone can make our **Christmas Luncheon**. The luncheon is scheduled at this time for the second Saturday in December, the 9th, at the Elks Club in San Bernardino.

Jim & Joanne Balcom celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on July 3. Jim related that they had planned to marry on July 11, but Uncle Sam called **Jim** to active duty, thus they married earlier than planned.

Jim & Linda Miller took a motor home trip to see Mt. Rushmore, stopping in Colorado Springs, to visit **Jim & Pam Landfried**, and enjoyed dinner with them and **Dick & Micky Althouse**, former Districts 8'ers who retired to Colorado some years ago. The Landfrieds do volunteer work for Save the Storks, continuing a long-term relationship with that cause.

Doug & Carol Hogue also took an RV trip this summer, and lo and behold they "bumped" into **Jim & Linda Miller** at an RV park near Mt. Rushmore! Small world, isn't it?

Taylor Smith celebrated his 96th birthday with a dinner at Mitla's Café in San Bernardino. Daughter **Patty** flew in from Washington D.C., son **Paul**, and about 15 guests including **Louise Haight, Mary Bermudez** and **Doris Peddy** enjoyed the evening. . .

Wes & Linda hosted a recent Bunco Club at their home, members are current and retired Caltrans folk, meeting each month at a different home. **Donna Rodriguez** started the club over ten years ago and the club is still going strong.

Gil Daab had two kidney stones pass via a hospital stay, and is doing well now. . . **Karen Meadows** underwent surgery recently and by all accounts it was successful and she is recovering well. Thoughts and prayers are with **Karen**.

Priscilla Williams planned a trip to Sacramento to visit family and friends when car trouble stepped in. Her Jeep needed a new transmission control module, and, of course, the dealer got the wrong part three times . . . **Priscilla** wound up flying, probably more comfy than a long drive.

Andy Machen is in the midst of moving his wife to Alaska.

Mike Babich retired in late June and was honored at a catered luncheon in the District 8 office building. It was calculated that he had taken a million smoke breaks over his career and thus should have worked longer to make it up!!!! Best Wishes, **Mike**.

Julie Griffin has transferred to Sacramento. District 8's loss but Sacramento's gain . . . Best Wishes, **Julie**.

Marsha Lotze treated her daughter, **Christy Ulstad**, to a delicious luncheon and guided tour of the Ronald Reagan Library on July 23, 2017. The tour was a special one celebrating the Titanic Exhibit at the Library and included a very informative speaker from the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising speaking on the clothing of passengers and workers on the Titanic. Both **Marsha** and **Christy** really enjoyed the authentic reproduction of the Oval Office during Reagan's term as President and the Air Force One used by Reagan and five previous Presidents.

The Ronald Reagan Library is a very wonderful place to visit and the scenery and views are great! The Library reminds you of Early California and the early California missions. Visiting the burial site is awe inspiring and simple, just how the Reagan's lived after his retirement from the Presidency.

Evie Anderson passed away in late June, only six months after she celebrated her 100th birthday. **Evie** was an **Honorary QCC Member**

and District 8's oldest member, now passing the baton to **Taylor Smith**. Evie had a worldwide following via the Armed Forces radio network, as she was called every day to provide a joke. She never failed to give so many laughs to service people all over the world.

We also got word that **Henry Hardy** passed away in mid-July . . . he was well known in the halls of District 8 many years ago. He was well into his 90's.

One last reminder from **Sybille Phillips**, that a group of retirees and current employees meet for lunch on the third Wednesday of each month. Currently they meet at The Sizzler on South Waterman at 11:30am. Everyone is invited. The most recent attendees included **Dennis Green, Al Hudgens, Julie Griffin, Manoj Kar, Andy Machen** and **Sybille Phillips**.

REMEMBER: Our Christmas Luncheon is scheduled for the second Saturday in December (December 9th) at The Elks Club at 12:00 noon.

All our thoughts and prayers are with the Houston, Texas area; including their surrounding cities and states suffering from Hurricane Harvey. We are thinking and helping where we can, hoping that they have a safe and swift recovery. [Editor's note: Also add Florida, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands and Mexico City to these 'thoughts and prayers'.]

- **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.

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

The Haps in District 10

Message from **Dick Mesa** about the fall luncheon: “You may have heard that UJ’s is changing hands. The good news is that it won’t happen until November. They will still be able to handle us for our usual October luncheon. We’ll figure it out from there.”

“I attempted to schedule the lunch for Wednesday or Thursday of the second week in October, but both days are already taken, so I scheduled it for **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2017.**”

“So as far as our District 10 retirees breakfast on the last Tuesday of the month, the Oct 31st breakfast will be at UJ’s restaurant at 7:30 am but November is not determined yet.”

A call from **Tim Sharp**, chairman of the PECG retirement committee who was contacted by **Bruce Blanning** chief executive officer for Blanning and Baker Associates that **Sharon Stewart**, a retired engineer from Stockton District 10, a **QCC Member** and currently a committee member of Professional Engineers in California Government (PECG) retirement and deferred compensation committee passed away August 1st.

Sadly, **Marcel De La Cruz** passed away recently. He had just retired weeks ago as the Office Engineer at the Waterfront Construction Office.

Frank E. Orozco Sr., who devoted his life to make life better in the Stockton community, passed away peacefully at a Stockton hospital on July 27, 2017. His family was at his side. He is preceded in death by his wife Linda. They were married 67 years. He worked as a civil engineer for the State Division of Highways, later renamed Caltrans. He served as a

surveyor, district permits engineer and Affirmative Action officer in District 10. (source: Legacy.com)

- **Brian Young**

The Haps in District 11

District 11 QCC Fall picnic is coming up on Saturday, October 14 at Sweetwater Summit County Park from 11am to 2pm.

You should have received a flyer in the mail. There is a \$3 parking fee. Food serving begins at Noon with Burgers, Hotdogs & Drinks provided. It is \$5 if you do not bring a potluck dish. The picnic is free to all potential new members. Raffle items are welcome as always. If you did not get a flyer or have questions, please contact Director **Kelly Manring** at 619-977-0389 or email manring@cox.net. Please sign up by September 29, 2017.

Last issue it was noted that **Pamela Dekema, Jacob (Jake) Dekema’s** daughter was having a Celebration of Life for her Dad. **Butch Biendara** attended and said that **Pamala** did a great job with music, speeches, a slide show and refreshments.

On a sad note, we lost two D-11 members since our last edition.

Ed Anderson reported that he heard from **Al Herrera**, District 11 East Region Manager II, and



son of **Benny Herrera**, the sad news that his father retired Caltrans Maintenance Supervisor **Venancio “Benny” Herrera**, passed away Friday, August 18, after a lengthy illness. He was 80 years old.

Benny started with Caltrans in 1971 in the

District 11 Landscape Maintenance Crew. He promoted to Maintenance Supervisor overseeing a six-person plumbing crew and was known as a working supervisor that could always be counted on for his knowledge and skills to ensure facilities were repaired in a timely fashion. **Benny** retired from District 11 after 30 years of service.

He is fondly remembered by co-workers and friends as evidenced by some of the quotes below. "He was a great man, and such nice guy. So comfortable and enjoyable to be around. We all loved him!"

"We have all lost a great man, no, a great gentleman. **Benny** was a wonderful person both off and on the job. He will be greatly missed. I know I will miss him. God Bless Benny, I was so privilege to have had the pleasure of knowing him."

"Your Dad was so very sweet and kind. I always felt like he and my Dad were from the same mold. He was so very comfortable to talk to and work with."

Gloria Alexanderson noted that she was contacted by **Mary Wilson, Murray's** sister, who informed her that **Murray Wilson** passed away from congestive heart failure on June 8th, at 2:00pm. He was 67 years old. He had worked all of his time at Caltrans D11 in R/W Engineering & R/W. He will be missed.

Our heartfelt condolences go to **Benny's** and **Murray's** family members and friends.

The Haps in Central

Greetings from Sacramento and the Central District Quarter Century Club. On August 17, we had our summer luncheon at the Dante Club in Sacramento. A grand time had by all. Below is a list of those in attendance.

Nancy Benjamin, Jerry Severson, Jack Cropper, Jim & Earlene Borden, Doug Boyd, Gary & Julie Bush, Bob & Bernardine Chapman, Chuck Chenu, Chuck Davis, Ed Delano, Jack & Ellen Derby, Joe Dobrowolski, Peter & La Ona Doljanin, Connie Felton, Bob Giess, Hugh & Kay Griffin, Heinz Heckeroth, Marilyn Lambeth, Merle & Denise Larrabee, Jerry & Pat Laumer, Jerry Meis, Gene Poch, Ron Lutz, Omar & Judi Pertel, Chuck & Jane Pivetti, Dick Pryor, Glen & Laura Rosander, Warren Weber, Ken & Gerri Wigglesworth

Because the **Saxby's** were on vacation we had help from **Warren Weber** with the registration and **Nancy Benjamin** assisted **Julie Bush** with our tremendous raffle. A BIG THANKS to both of you! We had two surprised guests this time join us for lunch. **Gene Pock** of District 2 and **Ron Lutz** of District 4 and HQs.

Boy, have you had enough heat yet? The highest at our place up in the foothills was 108 degrees. You can see that the heat has really taken its toll on the native oaks. To conserve water, the oaks are dropping leaves. It is like having fall in the summer. Because of all the rain this year, the Blue oaks got mildew on their leaves which turned them to an off white. Boy, Mother Nature is not a happy camper!

Brent Scott wrote: "My wife **Linda** and I had a wonderful opportunity to take 3 days and view the total solar eclipse on August 21. We drove to Boise, ID where we had a motel room. Since Boise was not in the path of the total eclipse, the morning of the eclipse we drove north west to a little town called Weiser, ID. The people there were so hospitable. We parked in a field and viewed the total eclipse of the sun. For two minutes, we could actually look at the eclipse without our special glasses on. People had come from all over to see the eclipse and we had a nice visit with a couple from Cologne, Germany. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime spectacle."

Merle and Denise Larrabee wrote: "Great to be here! Having a great time! We spent a week last month in Jamaica at the Sandals Resort. It was a once in a lifetime experience. We are looking forward to a cruise to Europe next month. Great to see everyone here!"

Allen Wrenn enjoyed a 17-day driving trip in June and July that began in the Canadian Rockies and continued on to Vancouver Island and down the west coast back to home in Folsom. Highlights were staying at the Fairmont Hotels in Banff, Lake Louise, Jasper and Victoria.

Chuck Chenu wrote: "I am off on a cruise next week (August 21st): Denmark to The Netherlands by way of Norway, Iceland, Greenland, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Should be a fine trip."

On a sad note, **Larry Barnard** passed away around the first of August from Parkinson's disease.

Our next luncheon is scheduled for December 6th, location to be announced.

- **Gary and Julie Bush**

Lost Friends Can Be Found Again!

By Mike Ogilvie, QCC Secretary/Treasurer

The QCC Roster of Members will be printed and mailed along with the March 2018 QCCer newsletter. Your name will be listed. This will be the third biennial roster to include a member's contact information, at the discretion of each member.

This new feature was offered at the request of many QCC members that wanted other members to be able to contact them, as Caltrans no longer keeps or provides contact information for retired employees.

If you will be owing dues for 2018, or, if you are already paid up for 2018 but want to change your selection of which, if any, of your contact

information will be included with your name in the 2018 QCC Roster, please use the Special QCC Membership Renewal form found in the back of this QCCer newsletter (don't use an older renewal form because it won't have the check boxes for you to check). It has a place for you to indicate if you want any of your contact information printed in the 2018 Roster.

Look at the address block on this QCCer newsletter to see what you currently have in effect. Look for Roster < > on the first line above your name. The letters between the brackets will be A=mailing Address, T=Telephone number, E=Email address, or blank=no contact information printed in the roster for you.

Example:

Status <R> Paid thru <2018> Roster <AE>

John Filmore

123 Main St

National City, CA 91234

Note: members who receive the electronic version (e-QCCer) will see their current selection in the follow up status email message, or, they can look in their orange 2016 Roster.

On the special QCC Membership Renewal form at the back of this newsletter, you can check any or all of the first 3 boxes to indicate what contact information you want printed. Or, you can check the 4th box to indicate you do NOT want any of your contact information printed in the roster.

Only the contact information on file in the QCC database will be used. Don't write in different contact information to be printed instead of what we have on file.

If you don't send in this special form, or if you don't check any of the boxes on the form, your previous selection will remain in effect for the 2018 QCC Roster.

You will have another chance to deal with this issue with the December 2017 QCCer newsletter, in case you didn't get to it this month or want to change your mind. December will be your last chance.

Our Roads are Improving!?

by George E. Gray

A recent issue of Time magazine included an item titled "our roads are improving". It stated that in 2014 only 3.3% of the Interstate system were in unsatisfactory condition and in 2015, 9.6% of the bridges were structurally deficient. Both figures are a big improvement over previous years. That may all be true, but the system is much more in need of attention than just the reported Interstate statistics.

The needs of the non-Interstate facilities as well as County roads and City streets need attention. The item goes on to report that in spite of large population increases from 1980 to 2014 the annual traffic fatalities has declined from 51,091 to 32,675 over the time period. All of this points to the fact that Caltrans and the other State transportation organizations are doing a remarkable job with limited resources.

With new Federal legislation pending, let's hope that these above figures don't give the wrong impression.

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 Details

Ventura Monthly Meeting

Caltrans retiree luncheon is held the third Monday of each month at 11:30 AM, in Oxnard.
See D-7 Haps for Details

San Gabriel Monthly Meeting

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

See D-7 Haps for Details

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.

A group meets for lunch on the third Wednesday of each month. Currently they meet at The Sizzler on South Waterman at 11:30am. Everyone is invited. Contact **Sybille Phillips** for more info

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 byoung365@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.

Central District -

QCC Luncheon December 6th, Location TBD
Contact **Gary** or **Julie Bush** (530-642-8208)
zbusharosa@wildblue.net

WANTED

by Andy Machen

Past copies of the QCCer newsletter from as far back as possible to complete an online database of past newsletters being posted on the CTQCC website. If you have electronic copies, or the means to scan the newsletters, please send them by email to the following address:

post+speedreportsjs@coffeecup.com

If you have paper copies, please send a list by date to the same address. The webmaster will let

you know which editions are needed, to avoid duplication. You can then mail them to:

CTQCC Webmaster

P.O. Box1239

San Bernardino, CA 92402

The webmaster will scan them and mail them back to you after scanning.

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.

Thoughts on the Eclipse

By Dave Weiss

In August of 2017, we traveled to Tennessee, joining the hundreds of thousands, maybe millions of Americans who flocked into the path of the rare solar eclipse.

We were fortunate to have a family member with access to a remote cabin right in that path but "far from the madding crowd". In complete solitude, alone but for the seven of us, we were privileged to experience one of nature's most spectacular events.

The morning of August 21 dawned with scattered clouds that gave us some anxiety. There is always the very real chance of traveling so far to see something so rare, only to have it obscured by the elements. But our fears were not realized. The clouds drifted away by mid-morning, leaving us with a crystal blue sky and a powerful sun.

At the appointed-time we donned our ISO and NASA-approved glasses and began to observe the moon slowly begin its creep across the face of the sun, minute by minute swallowing more and more. It was painfully slow, but terribly exciting because we knew how the story would end, and we had waited our entire lives for the chance to see it.

What was most exciting was what we didn't know to expect:

1. The moon is not a smooth marble but a craggy planetoid with appreciable mountains and valleys. During the slow movement of the moon across the sun there were times when we could see along the leading edge of the disk of the moon a saw-tooth effect, those mountains clearly on display. Even observers of a partial eclipse would have seen this, if they had looked closely.

2. The diminishing of light as the moon progresses is imperceptible until around 80% of the sun is occluded. Then the lighting becomes subdued, as if the clouds had drifted in front of the sun, but instead of blurring or disappearing, the shadows cast by people and objects are sharp and distinct. Then, at the moment of totality, the immediate area is cast into darkness, but the distant sky and scenery remain in light. The effect is breathtaking.

3. In Tennessee, quiet is unusual. Day and night, the air hums and buzzes with the incessant song of the cicadas. Once one gets used to the sound, it is comforting, soothing, signaling that all is well. At the moment the sun is fully blocked, the cicada song suddenly ceases, adding to the skin-prickling sensation that this is a very special and reverent moment in the natural world.

4. When one sees photos or videos of total eclipses, the sun fills the screen. It looks enormous, ominous, frightening. But the disk

of the sun, minus the emanating brightness, is exactly the size of the moon from the perspective of the earth. Viewing an eclipse in person is a completely different experience. When totality is achieved, what one sees is a full moon-sized, pitch black disk that, against the expanse of the entire sky, appears quite small and humble. But it is fully mesmerizing. It somehow attracts, like an eerie magnet, impossible to look away from. To me it looked like a perfectly punched and endlessly deep black hole in the firmament, surrounded by rays of glow from the corona. The sky is still immense, but the normally overpowering sun is reduced to a tiny, blacker-than-black disk nestled in a glow of emanating rays, like the center of a cosmic sunflower.

5. And this year, the corona held an extra premium for viewers: a spectacular sun flare dancing and showing off in the background of the temporary darkness. Indescribable.

6. The climax is far too short, as all climaxes are. The first warning that the end is near is a growing of the glow on one side, a glow that appears to be a water-color wash of sunrise or sunset colors. Then, just when one expects the full burst of color, there appears in the middle a drop of light, white and brilliant, and the black disk metamorphoses into a breathtaking cosmic diamond ring.

7. And then, quickly on with the glasses, because 5 seconds later the moon has continued on its journey far enough that the sun's ability to overwhelm the eyes has returned, though it will be another 60-90 minutes before its face will be fully unobscured.

All in all, it is an emotional experience for which oooo and aaaaah are inadequate expressions. What is surely the result, an overwhelming desire to see it again. And since it's merely a 7 year wait before we are offered a reprise of the same show here in the U.S., our reservations are already in!