

THE CUE SEE SEER



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In **John Canfield's** farewell message as outgoing QCC President, he noted that the day was cold, wet, and windy. Today in San Diego is cold and damp. Wish I could say wet, we certainly need water, but it is a painfully dry "wet" season.

As I assume the QCC President position, I want to thank my fellow officers, district directors, newsletter editor, and all who input to our organization for their continued support and efforts.

There are several projects that I, as a history buff, have been working on. I would like to tell you about them with the hope that some of you would be willing to help bring them to successful conclusions. The first of these is to present to each District, and perhaps to HQ, a series of talks on the history of land transportation programs and challenges in California. For several years before my retirement, I presented such a series in District 11. With the recent staff growth and retiree replacement, a large percentage of Caltrans employees have a very limited knowledge of their employer and it's proud, but sometimes tumultuous, past. The new District Director of District 11, Pedro Orso-Delgado, has Okayed such a course for monthly brown-bag lunchtime presentations here. Are there any of you who would like to take this on in your area? I feel we have an obligation to help those who follow us in assisting them to understand Caltrans.

Secondly is to identify, by district, all the District Engineers/Directors for each district, including a short biography and their DOH/Caltrans accomplishments. I already have most of this information from 1935 to 1958 as gleaned from the *California Highways and Public Works* magazine, but for the last 30 years the records for each district are hard to locate, especially from here in San Diego. Are there any of you who would find this small historical effort interesting and would like to help by documenting their own district?

I have also been helping the Headquarters History Librarian, **Shirleigh Brannon**, in producing some oral histories by interviewing various retirees. So far, with the help of **Jim Larson** and others, I have interviewed **Jake Dekema**, **Bill Dotson**, **Jesus Garcia**, and **Norm Kelley**. I am sure **Shirleigh** would welcome suggestions from all of you. The program was first undertaken by **Francis Hveem** a number of years ago.

Well, if I can't get you interested in the above, can I challenge you to the following?

- Proselyte for new associate and full QCC members.
- Support the California Transportation Foundation. **Heinz Heckroth** is doing a great job for that transportation support organization, but can always use some help and money (tax deductible).
- Give silent support and thanks that CalPERS with its \$152 billion of our money didn't lose it with Enron.
- Give thanks to all the California voters for support of Prop 42. I hope they realize the impact of this legislation is years off.
- You Ex-District 11 people to support the **Dekema** scholarship fund by donating (tax-exempt) to the fund through the CTF/Dekema Scholarship, P.O. Box 163453, Sacramento, CA 95816.
- Lastly, I would like to hear from you about any gripes, ideas, or thoughts re QCC or related topics.

GEORGE GRAY, President
QUARTER CENTURY CLUB

