



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By the time you read this, Benita and I will be back from our one-month stay at our house-exchange residence in north London. Because of deadlines I am writing this in late July—a few days after receipt of the last *Cue See Seer*—so I haven't heard from any district people re district director histories except **Grace Vinzens**, who sent me the information on District 8. Thanks **Grace**. It doesn't take a great deal of time to collect the information and I am not fussy about format, so I am still hopeful!

The Highway Users Alliance has an informative Web site that many of you would find of interest. It is www.highways.org. The FHWA site is also of interest: www.FHWA.dot.gov.

In mid-July I presented the third brown bag in this year's series, "Myths and Facts." I introduced 78 statements, such as Myth #42; "The Brown administration (and Gianturco) was responsible for the large reduction in the engineering force of the Division of Highways/Caltrans." Fact: In 1968 there were over 9,000 engineers. In 1976 this was down to about 3,000. During Gianturco's tenure, the number increased to over 4,000 engineers. The layoffs began six years before her arrival. I enjoyed discussing my responses with the group.

Well, I'll end with thoughts from **Andy Rooney**.

"I've learned . . . That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

"I've learned . . . That just one person saying to me, 'You've made my day!' makes my day.

"I've learned . . . That being kind is more important than being right.

"I've learned . . . That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.

"I've learned . . . That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

"I've learned . . . That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.

"I've learned . . . That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with."

**GEORGE GRAY, President
QUARTER CENTURY CLUB**

