



Thanks to George Ellis. . . .

HANDICAPPED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDED BY PUC

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The QCC and its members owe a hearty "Thank you" to George Ellis, who has served the statewide membership for many years in the combined roles of QCC Editor and Secretary/Treasurer. Due to his added golden years and health he has had to reduce his obligations, first by handing the editor's job off to Gene Berthelsen. Now we need someone to step forward to pick up the job of Secretary/Treasurer.

Our constitution treats the two jobs as a single one and provides payment for the effort required. If the workload is divided into two separate tasks we may have to consider revising the constitution. Ideally, the job should be handled by someone in the central California area (D3, D4, D10, Central). That person would keep the computerized files of membership by district and category and the financial records of the club. If you are gifted in those areas, have some free time and want to pay for your golf course fees, we'd like to talk to you.

One person with extensive computer skills has volunteered to set up a system for the person who would take over the tasks. We need someone -- or maybe two people -- to take on the regular month-to-month record keeping. George says that it took him only a few minutes a day to receive mail and post updates to the records. On longer cycles there is a need for address labels for the QCCer mailing and occasional updates to district rosters.

Please work directly with your District Sec/Treas until the new person is named and if you or anyone

you know can step up to fill George's big shoes, please contact me as soon as possible.

Again, we thank George for his work over many years and wish him all the best.

I have received a bit of good QCC news in the form of an invitation to the D-2 annual QCC reunion picnic on June 24, where I hope to see many friends from years ago.

Another item of interest to the statewide membership is that the California Public Utilities Commission has a version of the ADA handicapped assistance program, much the same as the blue parking



spaces make vehicle access easier for some. It's the California Telephone Access Program - CTAP - funded from a small (5-cent per month) fee paid on each phone line. With a doctor's authorization anyone who has difficulty using a telephone can receive a free phone set to meet his or her needs. They have tele-text for the deaf, amplification for those with hearing limits, large buttons for those with vision problems, portables for any with mobility restrictions and even one with buttons with a space for pictures for those with cognitive handicaps.

There is also a number for those with speech limitations to call where trained operators can assist. If needed, they will come to the home and set up auto dialing or other connections. They have offices around the state, so check your phone book for a listing of CTAP under the state PUC office.

With this help, we can all stay connected with friends and family.



-- Butch Biendara

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IN MEMORIAM

We extend our sympathy to family members and loved ones of our fallen colleagues in their time of loss

Name	District	Date
Monty Jackson	1	
Connie Thomas	1	May 16, 2004
Vivian Snyder	1	March 25, 2004
Donald Turner	2	May 19, 2004
Neil Clay	2	November 22, 2004
Jim Welch	2	March 4, 2004
Rose Christman	3	April 2004
Burch C. Bachtold	4	March 26, 2004
P. Brook Rasmussen	5	March 3, 2004
William "Rudy" Gamer	5	March 26, 2004
Alvin Scheueman	5	May 16, 2004
Richard Graves, Jr.	5	April, 2003
Ella Stevenson	6	
Peter Hsu	7	March 5, 2004
Bill Sodie	7	March 8, 2004
Manlyn Reese	7	May 17, 2004
John Cowgill	8	
J. R. "Dick" Saucier	8	March 2003
Jim Horton	8	
Phil Herring	8	November 2003
Stanley Norwood Nelson	10	April 10, 2004
Esther Pennini Vrieling	10	April 20, 2004
Jack Daniel Fisher	11	May 26, 2004
John Weigand	11	February 2, 2004
George Chulick,	Central	April 2004

TRANSPORTATION FOUNDATION MATTERS

The California Transportation Foundation will hold its annual golf tournament on August 23rd at the Winchester Country Club near Auburn in Placer County. Proceeds from the \$150 entry fee go to the foundation's worker memorial assistance fund. For information, E-Mail ctffoundation@aol.com.

The recently completed Alfred Zampa Memorial Bridge led a parade of honors awarded to Caltrans at the foundation's 15th annual TRANNY Award ceremony on May 12 at the Sterling Hotel in Sacramento. The foundation named the bridge its Project of the Year.

Caltrans received TRANNYS in the Highway Freeway category for District 5's Route 101 Cuesta Grade project in San Luis Obispo County; in the Highway Operational category for District 7's soil stabilization project on Route 1 at Topanga Canyon; and in the Highway Management category for District 4's Bay Area Incident Response System.

Kathleen Sartorius, the Caltrans North Region Native American Liaison, was named Employee of the Year.

The foundation provides assistance to transportation employees and their family members who are subject to misfortune and hardship and honors deceased employees. It also makes grants to public and private organizations and individuals for professional development, recognizes outstanding performance with awards, and co-sponsors transportation seminars and conferences.

Over the years, the foundation has assisted more than 100 employees with more than \$130,000. It supports its activities through undesignated donations, special fund contributions. To find out how to contribute, visit the foundation's website at <http://www.transportationfoundation.org>

Other Foundation-sponsored events include the Transportation Forum in February, Charity Golf Tournament in August, and an Education Symposium in November.

Caltrans was also awarded TRANNYS in the Highway Freeway category for District 5's Route 101 Cuesta Grade project in San Luis Obispo County; in the Highway Operational category for District 7's soil stabilization project on Route 1 at Topanga Canyon; and in the Highway Management category for District 4's Bay Area Incident Response System.

SOME DISTRICT 7 HISTORY

Leadership of the Los Angeles District of the Division of Highways/Caltrans

by

First Vice President, George E. Gray

The Los Angeles District of the present California Department of Transportation – Caltrans -- was one of the original seven divisions established on January 2, 1912.

Originally covering all of Southern California – an area of close to half of the state -- it is now served by four of the present 12 districts. In 1924, District VIII (San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial Counties) was carved out of the parent Los Angeles Division, which, at the same time, was designated as District VII, Department of Public Works, Division of Highways.

The Los Angeles Division's first manager was W. Lewis Clark, Division Engineer from February 1, 1912 to July 1, 1915, when he moved to the then Division IV in San Francisco. W. W. Patch served as Division Engineer from July 11, 1915 to January 1, 1924. The next four managers, titled District Engineer, and were:

- S. V. Cortelyou: Jan. 1, 1924 to Oct. 1, 1949
- P. O. Harding: Oct. 1, 1949 to Feb. 1, 1956
- E. T. Telford: Feb. 1, 1956 to Aug. 9, 1967
- Haig Ayanian: Oct. 1, 1967 to June 30, 1973

In 1973, when legislation created the California Department of Transportation, the managerial title changed from District Engineer to District Director of Transportation. The development of computers necessitated the change from the Roman numeral designations for the Districts to Arabic numerals on August 6, 1964. The list of the directors for this district with the District Director of Transportation title follows:

- Haig Ayanian: July 1, 1973 to Sept. 1, 1975
- R. J. Dattel: Oct. 13, 1975 to Feb. 22, 1980
- Heinz Heckerth: Feb. 25, 1980 to Aug. 2, 1985
- Donald L. Watson: Aug. 27, 1985 to Nov. 30, 1987
- Jerry H. Baxter: Dec. 1, 1987 to Oct. 28, 1994
- Ken Steele: May 1, 1995 to Sept. 30, 1996
- Brent Felker: Dec. 1, 1996 to Apr. 11, 1997
- Tony Harris: May 1, 1997 to Feb. 7, 1999
- Robert W. Sassaman: Feb. 8, 1999 to May 31, 2002
- Douglas R. Failing: June 2002 to the present

In my opinion, the key leader of the district probably was Spencer V. Cortelyou, who guided it from one mainly providing rural paved roads to one of the world's foremost highway organizations and who was a leader in the development of urban freeways. Mr. Cortelyou, a noted football player, who graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1902. He worked first for the Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad, then spent five years in the Philippines as the first Provincial Supervisor. Later he was District Engineer for the Insular Department of Public Works before joining the Los Angeles County Road Department. He spent three years with the road department where he was in surveys along with John Skeggs, a long-time friend of his, who later became District Engineer in the San Francisco District.

On February 1, 1912, "Red" Cortelyou became a charter member of District VII as the principal assistant to the district's first Division Engineer, W. Lewis Clark. The division's first payroll consisted of 20 names.

When Mr. Patch became the division leader in 1915, Mr. Cortelyou continued as the Assistant Division Engineer until his appointment as Division Engineer (soon to become District Engineer) in 1924. In 1933, when state legislation greatly expanded the state highway system and, for the first time, included state highways through incorporated cities, District XI was formed. The new district included San Diego County, taken from District VII, and Imperial and eastern Riverside Counties from District VIII. The eastern Riverside County portion has since been returned to what is now District 8.

Prior to 1931, the major work of the division/district involved establishing and constructing rural state routes such as that connecting the Los Angeles area with the San Joaquin Valley. The resulting Ridge Route construction cut 50 miles off the best previous route through Palmdale and Tehachapi. Under Mr. Cortelyou's leadership, this route was improved, saving an additional 10 miles between Los Angeles and Bakersfield. Concurrent with the work on the Ridge Route, the Coast Highway between San Diego and Ventura, the route from Los Angeles to Pomona, and Foothill Boulevard from Pasadena to Claremont were among the rural routes receiving special attention.

Help!

The QCC needs a new Secretary/Treasurer

Interested? Contact Butch Biendara

ButchBiendara1944@hotmail.com

With the state highway system expansion in 1934, district activity accelerated. With the Division of Highways working with the various cities and counties, the state highway system, especially in the Los Angeles basin, grew robustly. Much of this rapid growth was expedited by the previous work in Los Angeles, where the Traffic Commission of the City and County of Los Angeles had produced a *Major Traffic Street Plan* in 1924. This plan was followed up by a 612-mile *Parkway Plan*, which was produced under Los Angeles City Engineer, Lloyd Aldrich, in 1939. Concurrently, the city was constructing the Cahuenga Pass Highway to high standards and the state, under Mr. Cortelyou, was designing what became the first freeway through the Arroyo Seco from Los Angeles to Pasadena. This freeway opened December 30, 1940 and was instrumental in promoting strong support for the development of a freeway system.



The advent of WWII curtailed most construction in the district except for defense-oriented highways, mainly in the San Pedro/Terminal Island area. However, it was a period of intense planning activity with city and state engineers working together on an ambitious plan of highway development and, with peace in 1945, the last four years of Mr. Cortelyou's administration saw a high level of construction activity on the first units of major freeways such as the Hollywood, Santa Ana, Harbor, and Ramona (now San Bernardino Freeway). As reported in California Highways and Public Works Magazine, these freeways "... will stand as monuments to the engineering genius of a great man, Spencer V. Cortelyou. More particularly will they stand as testimonials to his greater genius for working in harmony with his own organization and with public officials and engineering staffs of counties and cities so that their combined efforts represent truly cooperative enterprises in the public welfare and interest of value beyond measure."

Mr. Cortelyou was "a mild, thoughtful individual who has always been quick to give credit to others," according to an article in the May 8, 1959 issue of *Southwest Builder & Contractor*. This father of the L.A. freeway system died in Claremont, August 9, 1962 after 13 years of retirement.

I would like to thank Dave Roper and Laurel Clark for their help in assembling this information.

THE HAPS IN DISTRICT 1

Last quarter I mentioned two upcoming retirement parties. We made it to both. **Barbara Nickol's** party was held at the end of March at the Wharfinger building. We had a great buffet, nice visiting and watched a fun roast. Each of her supervisors, past and present, made presentations. They came up in numerical order. Several people brought her See's candy, her favorite. A fellow employee dressed as Elvis sang to her. There was a great turnout of family, friends, co-workers and fellow retirees, including Shop retirees **Bill Barton, Ken Monk, and Steve Ruonavaara** (who had promoted to District Safety Officer before retiring).

John Sherman's party was at the Scotia Park on May 15. Like Barbara's, it resembled a reunion with several of us retirees welcoming John into our ranks. It was great to visit with everyone. **Jim and Linda Boyd, Chuck and Pat SeCoy, Dave Crabtree and George Otterbeck** came over from the Redding area and **Paul Helwer** and his wife came up from Stockton. We also saw other fellow QCCers, **Bob and Sonja McClary, Bruce Miner, Pete Petersen, Tom Quigley, Marty Van Zandt, Mike Eagan, Tom Georgeson, Dennis Grinsell** (the MC), **Georgia Hannel, Jim Long, Don Quintrell, Dale Cooley and Paul Welty**. It was a nice afternoon, the buffet was great, and the roasting of John, outstanding. One of the highlights was a walker decked out with lights, a radio, and several other items he would need, presented by fellow employee and good friend, **Bob Fallis**. Another was a salmon given to him by **Dave Chang**, a reminder of fishing times. **Dennis** did a great job as MC, guiding a great group of supervisors, co-workers, retirees, friends and family. This was one of the best parties we have had -- outdoors, picnic style -- so relaxing and enjoyable. The downside was having to peek around those pesky redwood trees to see everything. Small price to pay for such a beautiful setting. Congratulations to **Barbara and John**. We wish you many happy and healthy retirement years.

The District 1 family suffered some losses this quarter. **Monty Jackson**, who worked 25 years with the Maintenance Department, passed away at age 55, after a brave battle with cancer. He had been in the Coast Guard and was a mechanic before coming to Caltrans. He was a hard worker, a great family man who enjoyed hunting, fishing and camping. We lost him far too soon.

We also lost two wives of retirees. **Connie Thomas** passed on May 16, 2004. Even though they left District 1 years ago for Sacramento, we still kept them in our hearts and saw them when they were visiting here. Her service was at Sunset Cemetery and well attended by fellow District 1 retirees, including **Bob Myers, Burt Walker, Norm Worley, Ben and Alice Van Zandt, the Lowell Allen's, Bob and Sonja McClary, Margaret Blumer, Margaret Wooden, Bob and Mary Kay and Paul Welty.**

Vivian Snyder, wife of retired Maintenance Superintendent **Charles Snyder** (died 1990), passed away on May 25, 2004 at age 95. She and Charlie had enjoyed traveling, square dancing and acting. She remained very active after Charlie passed on and for many years attended our Caltrans retired ladies luncheon. She had an active lifestyle, the secret of long life. She also will be missed. Our sympathies go out to the family and friends of these three wonderful people.

We finished this quarter watching the Kinetic Sculpture races on Memorial Day weekend. We ran into retired engineer **Les Kruse** and current Senior Bridge Engineer **Steve Hughes**, with their racer. Steve added a lot of fun with his Elvis impersonator costume. This annual treat has drawn many who like to design and build their sculptures to travel over land and sea, sand and mud for more than 30 years.

Summer is coming up. I hope to hear from you. My email address is ahartin@cox.net.

-- Arlene Hartin

A government that robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul.

-- George Bernard Shaw

Foreign aid might be defined as a transfer from poor people in rich countries to rich people in poor countries.

-- Douglas Casey

Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you.

-- Pericles (430 B.C.)

THE HAPS IN DISTRICT 2

peaking at our last QC Luncheon at the Upper Crust Pizza, **Brian Crane**, District Director of District 2, spoke about the current happenings at our old job site. Having avoided layoffs, they are looking forward to what is ahead. Brian also spoke about current and upcoming projects, safety issues and mentioned a web site for travel planning. The website is www.dot.ca.gov, then go to the District D2 local office.

Charlie Moss: "We sold our home of 40 years and are in the process of moving into the City of Mount Shasta into a home that we have had under construction for 2 years."

John and Jane Strode: "We will be going back to China on July 9, where we will be teaching again."

Sharon and Jerry Severson: "Building a shop, going to Maine twice a year to help elderly parents, boating and abalone diving at Ft. Bragg. Also, have now been retired about three years. We spend a lot of time in big iron birds going to Maine where Sharon's parents live and going to Hawaii to visit with her uncle, **Jack Cropper** (Central District retiree). This year we squeezed a trip to Las Vegas, Lake Havasu and finally to Yuma, Arizona, where **Linda and Jim Boyd** (District 1 retirees) treated us like



royalty. Meanwhile, we are remodeling our 40-foot patio boat --

an ongoing project but fun because we use it to spend summers on Shasta Lake. We very much appreciate the PERS."

Agnes Woodord says hello!

Chris Hultz, accompanied by her friend, **Dorothy Flowers** attended the musical stage production of "Ragtime" at the historic Woodland Opera House a couple of weeks ago. Lassen Motor Transit sponsored the trip. They stopped at Granzella's in Williams for dinner prior to arrival at the Opera House. It was a most enjoyable trip. Later, she accompanied her son-in-law and oldest grandson to Santa Rosa to visit two daughters, **Nancy and Rosemary**. While there, she attended a memorial service for their father.

Gene Knaeble, as we know, is an accomplished photographer. His photographs will be displayed in the Redding City Hall, 777 Cypress Avenue, as part

of the "Art in City Hall" Summer Exhibit. A reception will be held for the artists on Wednesday, June 23, 2004, 5-7 p.m.

Bill Ewing of Shasta is a new member to the QC Club. Bill retired from Caltrans Maintenance in May 1992 with almost 29 years of service. Welcome!

Sad news to report is the passing of **Donald Turner** at age 64 in May. Services were held in Woodland. He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam War, a member of PECG and retired from Caltrans.

Neil Clay passed away on November 22, 2003. Services were held on November 24 with final resting place in Malvern, Iowa. He had been retired from Caltrans for many years and was a former engineer.

Jim Welch, 74, died on March 4, 2004, at his residence in Redding. He had been retired from Caltrans Right of Way Department for many years. Before he started with the then-Division of Highways, Jim served in the Marine Corps in the Korean War. He belonged to several organizations. He leaves behind his wife, **JoAnn**, sons and grandchildren.

We will hold our annual Quarter Century/ District 2 picnic in Anderson River Park on Thursday, June 24, catered by the Anderson Lions Club. We're sure a good time will be had by all. It's a good time to see old and new friends and catch up on the latest news .



-- Janet Briggs

Chocolate

*Chocolate is a vegetable
 Chocolate is derived from cacao beans
 Bean = vegetable
 Sugar is derived from either sugar cane or sugar beets
 Both are plants, which places them in the vegetable category
 Thus, chocolate is a vegetable
 To go a step further, chocolate candy bars also contain milk, which is dairy. So candy bars are a health food.
 Chocolate-covered raisins, cherries, orange slices and strawberries all count as fruit.
 So eat as much as you want.*

THE HAPS IN DISTRICT 3

Girls and Boys: I've a number of things on which to touch base but I've fooked around and let the deadline bite me in the gluteus maximus, so many details will have to wait for another time. The initial membership survey is essentially complete. One hundred forty five letters went out. Half a dozen could not be delivered. Forty-one responses were received. The letters returned were a goldmine of personal information. I expect to be better-organized next time and will share them.

Virtually 100 percent wanted to continue; virtually all the respondents wanted some kind of a Christmas Season event. Many were interested in something in addition to the Fall Happening.

Interim Solution: begin planning a dinner meeting, either buffet or sitdown, in an attractive location where we have a full bar and a chance for a leisurely visit. After all, it has been a long time. Marysville seems to be the logical location -- Christmas always presents a problem for many of us. I suggest a late afternoon affair in mid-to-late October before the end of daylight saving time. Some who may want to attend may have a significant drive home. A Spring Do presents its own challenges. We don't have enough committed active members to have something like a picnic. I intend to send out a second inquiry suggesting we piggyback on some local event and plan our own production within the parameters of the occasion. I'll suggest some choices and hope you come up with your own ideas.

There is plenty of speculation going on around 703 B Street. According to those in the know, Caltrans has a five-year lease on a new office building on Yuba Street. A new plan for Bordsen Towers is being floated on the present site at a proposed cost of 65 to 80 million dollars. One version calls for clearing the site, 1930s building and all. I'll just list two of the three strikes against such an effort: 1) 65 to 80 million dollars? Not in our lifetime, 2) raze the original building? The ghosts of Anita Laney and hundreds Marysville preservationists would stand shoulder to shoulder to deny any such blasphemy. There is a spiffy new mini-mall where the car lot was located and something similar is planned across the street near the old swimming pool and tennis courts.

Remember the potential suicide that tied up traffic on the Bay Bridge back in April, I believe? Yours truly took four hours to get from Vallejo to the west end of the Bay Bridge. It was after eight pm when I arrived

with \$86 worth of useless tickets. It is obvious the site commander had no idea how to handle the situation. Tens of thousands of people tied up by one deranged person and a clueless CHP. Another trip in late May was much more satisfying. It was a reception for former Secretary George Schultz at the Marines Memorial Club. Fantastic food, from the 20-piece 29 Palms Marine Band. We were in a room approximately 100 feet by 40. The music was Sousa marches, and as I said there were 20 of them, young and equipped with a double set of lungs. After five minutes you couldn't even hear the cymbals clash.

A number of survey letters commented on the early meeting hours of the Perko's meeting. This group is the brainchild of KJ Emery and his associates. It is not part of QCC and is noted as a convenience to those of you who wish to attend.

I have heard a couple references to the efforts of Lita Wells and Libby Haggarity's efforts to get a group of Caltrans women together. I haven't had a chance to call either of these ladies but I will and let you know if there is anything to it.

Haven't heard anything from Placerville as yet.

--John Pennebaker

Things to Ponder

- *Once you're in heaven, do you have to wear the clothes you were buried in for eternity?*
- *Why does a round pizza come in a square box?*
- *How is it that we put men on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?*
- *Why is it that people say they "slept like a baby" when babies wake up like every two hours?*
- *If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?*
- *Why are you in a movie, but you are on TV?*
- *Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?*
- *If a 911 operator has a heart attack, whom does he/she call?*
- *Why is "bra" singular and "panties" plural?*

THE HAPS IN DISTRICT 4

I have quite a few items for everyone this month: a death, a birth, celebrations, a second career, a scam, sorrow and then rejoicing and a comment about the last quarter District 3 notes concerning a retired District 4 District Director.

All District 4 alumni, current and past, were saddened to hear of the death of District Director **Burch C. Bachtold** on March 26, 2004. It was just short of his 80th birthday. I cannot use the terms *former* or *ex-District Director* when referring to Burch because for anyone who knew or worked with him during their careers, he was *the* District Director. He set the example for all others of what a District Director should be and how he or she should act.

Burch always emphasized when reviewing a project that we should do the right thing and fight for it. I particularly remember Burch during the days following the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake and the decisive actions he took to get the Bay Area transportation system back into normal operation. The Bay Bridge was up and running within 30 days. Route 17, with the help of **Joe Browne**, was also repaired and up and running in the same time. Route 1 and Santa Cruz County, with **Harry Yahata's** help, were back in business. The Cypress Freeway rescue efforts under **Bob Jacobs** and others were accomplished under nationwide scrutiny. As the years have gone by we tend to take that recovery for granted, forgetting the extraordinary leadership Burch provided. All of us will sorely miss Burch but he will always be in our hearts. I'm sure many others have stronger memories of Burch and his accomplishments to pass on.

The family held a private service for Burch, but all of us who knew him were there in spirit. Our condolences to his wife, **Nancy**, and their children.

Vern Waight is celebrating his 85th birthday and still going strong. He has promised to send me some notes about his latest activities that I can pass on to everyone.

Dick Giegling sends his regards and writes to let us know that he and his wife are still alive and kicking. For the past few years they have been spending about eight months of the year in Mexico – in Cuernavaca (my wife and I spent part of our honeymoon there) and a small town named Tepoztlen. The other four months are spent in San Mateo, California. Dick says mail in Mexico is rather slow – if not entirely lost. He has been sad to see that many of the old Division of Highways people have passed on but it is nice to

realize so many others have reached the age for honorary membership.

Frank and Jean Pappa celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Benbow Inn in Humboldt County. Joining them for a few days were **John and Nancy Buthenuth** who were celebrating their 49th anniversary. Let me see...ah. That's 198 years of wedded bliss. Engineers can really stick with it until a project is completed!

Anne Hohener relates that **Cy Jung** has embarked on a new career. He has been studying art and painting at San Francisco City College. His paintings were recently displayed at a gallery in San Francisco at 46th and Noriega. He will be taking his work to China in the near future with his teacher and mentor.

Ed and Karen Coble welcomed a new grandchild, **Katherine Taylor Temple**, who was born in April. What would seem to be a simple happy event has an amazing story of hope, despair, and joy behind it.

For those of you who are not aware of that story I'll briefly retell it: **Alette Coble Temple** and her husband have been trying to adopt. To assist them in their search they enlisted the help of a facilitator -- an attorney -- who found a young mother-to-be who would be unable to care for her child. In return they would pay the medical and other expenses. But as time neared for the birth they became concerned about the genuineness of the birth mother and decided to go public with their concerns even though it meant the possible loss of the promised baby. Most of us became aware of the story when it appeared in the San Francisco newspapers. But the upshot was that the publicity brought forward two other couples who were being scammed by the same woman. It seemed at this point the story would end with disappointment and despair over the loss of an expected child. However, at this point, things took a joyous turn.

The story made the TV news shows and was broadcast over a station serving Humboldt, California, where a 30-year old expectant mother woke up from a nap to see the story. She was unemployed and already had a child and aware she would be unable to adequately care for the child she was expecting. After seeing the news show she knew that Alette and her husband would be a family to whom she could entrust her new baby. She immediately set about trying to contact them to see if they could adopt her child. It wasn't easy but eventually contact was made and the arrangements were finalized. The Coble and Temple families went to Humboldt to an entrustment ceremony where they received the new daughter and

How to Bathe the Cat

1. Put both lids of the toilet up and add the required amount of pet shampoo to the water in the bowl.
2. Pick up the cat and soothe him while you carry him toward the bathroom.
3. In one smooth movement, put the cat in the toilet and close both lids. (You may need to stand on the lid.)
4. The cat will self agitate and make ample suds. Never mind the noises that come from the toilet; the cat is actually enjoying this.
5. Flush the toilet three or four times. This provides a "power-wash" and "rinse."
6. Have someone open the door to the outside. Be sure that there are no people between the toilet and the outside door.
7. Stand behind the toilet as far as you can, and quickly lift both lids.
8. The cat will rocket out of the toilet and run outside where he will dry himself off.
9. Both the commode and the cat will be sparkling clean!

Always here to give you the best of tested advice in difficult times....

Sincerely,

The Dog

granddaughter into their families. The birth mother asked the Temples to be sure to tell the child that her mother did not sell her but gave her to her new family because they would be able to care for her, which was something she was unable to do.

When I saw Ed in May, he was a beaming grandfather happily showing pictures of the 21-day old baby.

The national networks have shown an interest in broadcasting the story. Originally scheduled for Mother's Day but pre-empted by the stories from Iraq, it is likely to air later in the year.

District 4 Quarter Century Club members who happened to read the District 3 Notes in the last issue were treated to the verbal equivalent of the Janet Jackson breast baring incident at the Super Bowl when they read the item regarding a District 4 Director. I don't say "former or ex" -District Director because everyone who has served as District 4 Director (except for maybe two during the '70s) will always carry that title and remain a District Director even in retirement!

The District Director referred to is one of the more colorful ones to hold that position. Some people, only a few as far as I know, were unable to adjust to his style. However among most District 4 alumni he has fiercely loyal supporters ready to descend en masse on District 3 to defend his honor.

I first ran into him as a Junior Civil on six-month rotation in Surveys where he District Director to-be was the Senior in charge. I walked in expecting to be told where I would be assigned, but was treated to a diatribe about how I was only interested in Surveys because I wanted to lay around in the sun getting a tan without doing any work! All I could do was wonder who this guy was; he'd never met me. Was he for real? After the "interview" I asked some of the people working for him. "Don't worry, that's just his bark and he's really mellowed since he transferred back from District 7, they said. I thought, he's mellowed? Thank God I won't be working for him after I leave Surveys! That turned out to be untrue. I ended up working for him and with him over the next 30 years, all of which were memorable and enjoyable. But I don't think he ever mellowed -- and if he had, he never would have been an effective District Director.

It's a pity some hard feelings last beyond retirement. There is too little time left to waste rehashing old conflicts. I've had some experiences during my 40 plus years that have not been stellar and I'm sure some could say the same when they worked for me. But I believe in the old saw, "if you can't say anything good just keep your mouth closed" because we're among friends.

Editor's Note: *Basta!* The earlier item shouldn't have been published. We apologize.

With regard to family happenings, my oldest daughter has returned to the Bay Area from Texas via the University of Michigan where she got an MBA. We've spent the last several days helping her unpack. My wife's mother, **Marie Nelson** is now happily moved into Rossmoor. My youngest daughter is still mulling over a possible move to Dallas, Texas.

- Paul Hensley

Stu: "I didn't sleep with my wife before we got married, did you?"

Ralph: "I'm not sure. What was her maiden name?"

THE HAPS IN DISTRICT 5

Hope you're all enjoying a pleasant summer and managing to be out and about in spite of the gasoline prices.

A big sigh of relief was heard in April when we learned there would be no layoffs this fiscal year. Hiring and purchasing are still restricted under the freeze, but we're hoping for a "thaw" come July. We have some critical positions to be filled, especially in Maintenance, and we're hoping the Governor will give us some leeway in replacing these workers.

The district has again been recognized for our outstanding Cuesta Grade project, receiving a Tranny award from CTF in the Highway Freeway category, an Excellence in Transportation award in the Rural Highways category, and APWA awards for Transportation Project over \$10 Million and Project of the Year. Congratulations again to **Tim Campbell** and all the folks involved.

Employees at the district office have again put their coffee fund to good use. Thanks to matching grants from CTF, we are awarding six \$500 scholarships to high school seniors from Harbor, San Lorenzo Valley, San Luis Obispo, Aptos and Lompoc High Schools.

I'm pleased to report that the District 5 golf team finished third at the annual Caltrans tournament held in May at Los Serranos Country Club near Chino. First place was won by District 7 and second place went to the Bridge team (aka Structures). **Mike Perham** from Salinas Maintenance won the longest drive contest; **Mike Giuliano**, **Mike Thompson** and **Mike Don Webster** also placed in their flights. **Mike Giuliano** also won gross on the low North course. Next year's tournament may be somewhere in the Monterey area. One of the nicest things about the annual tournament is seeing former District 5 friends including **Ed Anderson** and **Ken and Gloria Nelson**, who are all looking well.



A few more folks have decided to join the retired ranks: **Nina Bryan** from Traffic, **Doug Mitchell**, **Jim Gracia**, and **John Lewis** from Maintenance, and **Carol Beardsley** from Administration. Nina was honored at a good-bye lunch in April. She and Dick have purchased a home in Arizona and plan to relocate in a year or so. **Doug Mitchell's** party was held at the SLO Elks Club in April; we had to miss the

festivities, but I understand it was quite an affair—Maintenance folks know how to celebrate with style. Carol's retirement party is scheduled for June 15, and we will be saying "Aloha" to her before she moves to the island of Kauai.

On a sadder note, we lost the following Caltrans friends this spring: **P. Brooke Rasmussen** (March 3), **William "Rudy" Gamer** (March 26), **Alvin Scheuerman** (May 16), and **Richard Graves, Jr.** They represent almost 100 years of service to our organization, and they will be missed.

Another individual with close ties to Caltrans, **Alex Madonna** of Madonna Construction Company, passed away on April 22. He was remembered in the local media for his individuality and generosity to the community. Several businesses decorated with "Madonna pink" on the day of his funeral.

Hope you will send us a postcard or e-mail this summer and let us know what's new with you, or "whassup" as the kids say.

-- Kathy Copeland

THE HAPS IN DISTRICT 6

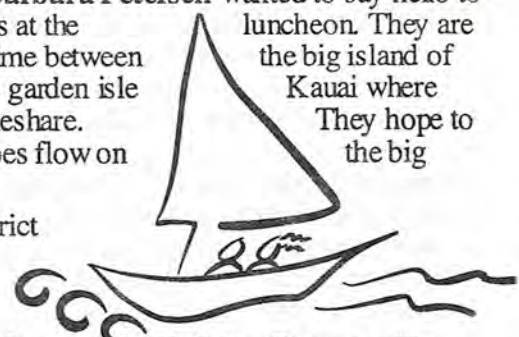
We had a very good turnout at the District 6 May 20th Spring Luncheon. Six new members -- **Lee Halderman, Jim Exum, Glenn Mills, Richard Schumacher, Ted Winter and John Wright** -- joined us. If anybody knows someone who would like to join, give me a call @ 559-974-3885 or e-mail: tlittleton@comcast.net. I will contact them.

Irwin Rosa had a good excuse for missing the Spring luncheon: he was in the canyons of Escalante, Utah. Prior to that he was in New Zealand, trekking on the Milford and Routeburn tracks on South Island. Milford gets over 200 inches of rain a year so water was flowing everywhere. According to Irwin, New Zealand is wonderful -- safe, clean, friendly people, no litter -- but they drive on the wrong side of the road.

Been up to something you're proud of? Something your fellow QCCers just ought to know about? Let your district correspondents know, or drop an email direct to us at catsnjam@sbcglobal.net. Be sure to let us know your district so we can get it in the right place.

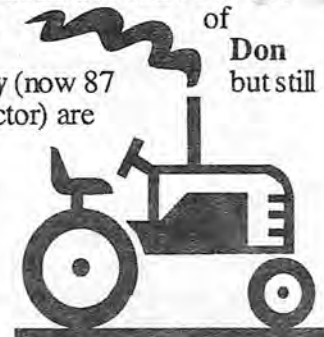
Sandra and Virgle Ray missed the luncheon because an ailing friend in Alabama was in need and they were on their way there. Another good excuse.

Don and Barbara Petersen wanted to say hello to all the attendees at the luncheon. They are splitting their time between Hawaii and the garden isle they have a timeshare. They hope to see the volcanoes flow on island.



Some District retiree news from Virgle and Sandra Ray: Found **John Nail** in a Doctors office recently, a sign of the times. We caught up on his fishing adventures and they're enough to make you want to start fishing again.

The semiannual gathering of retirees in Porterville proved to be fun, sharing of stories of the Division of Highways and of retirees' current activities. Travel is the main activity. Some told of moving into senior homes. **Don Phillips** and his father, **Roy** (now 87 plowing the fields with a tractor) are contemplating a move to Arkansas. **Steve Mason**, though not retired, is also contemplating a move there. (Moving to Arkansas -- my birth state -- is appealing. We recently spent three weeks around Mammoth Springs, where I did research for a book I'm writing. Real estate prices are appealing as is the laid back atmosphere. A trip to Wal-Mart is a social event)



Most notable are the senior attendees and how active they are, **Charlie Wilson** (85), **Marvel "Mutt" Gregory** (84) and the youngster **Victor Sills** at 80.

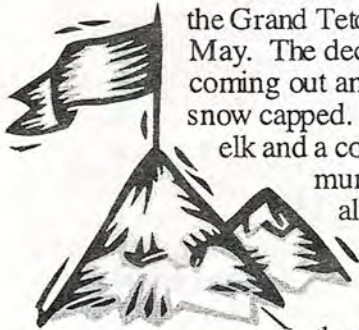
The retirees at Porterville sent **Perry Anderson** a get-well card as he is recovering from heart surgery. (He is doing well in his recovery). He called to thank everyone for thinking of him! **Ed Anderson**, Perry's brother from District 11, underwent heart surgery this past year and then survived the San Diego fire. So we wish them each a better year in 04.

Note to other retirees: the gathering at Porterville is open to all!!! Check the dates on the calendar on the back pages of the QCCer.

Sandra and I traveled 4-1/2 months on the highways of Northern America and Eastern Canada. We spent two months exploring Nova Scotia,

Labrador, New Found land, and Prince Edward Island. We discovered history in Gettysburg, Boston and Niagara Falls. I shudder to think of driving 18,000 miles at current gas prices. Many stories to relate regarding motor homes, ferry boats and drivers in Quebec, all for another day. Thank you, again Terry for becoming our leader.

Sad news: **Bob Stevenson** of Lemoore Maintenance, lost his wife **Ella**. Our heart and thoughts are with him and his family.



Barb and Dick Beck enjoyed a trip to the Grand Teton National Park in early May. The deciduous vegetation was just coming out and the mountains were fully snow capped. They encountered several elk and a couple of buffalo, one that was munching on some grass right alongside the highway.

Needless to say, this area is one of the most beautiful in the U.S and they intend to return when they

can spend more time in the area.

Martin Tresidder spent the month of January in the Arizona desert. "Quite cool and windy down there but it was mostly enjoyable. Usually spend about six weeks to two months on the Oregon-Washington coast in summer visiting friends and relatives. I still make the annual Cedar Grove trip in April every year."

Everyone had such a good time at the luncheon we decided to have another at the Santa Fe Basque restaurant on Maroa, south of Shields in the latter part of September. More to come, but it will probably be Thursday, September 23rd. It's family style at the borders table. Come early and pay the bartender and then wait until they ring the bell at 12:30 PM.

-- Terry Littleton

THE HAPS IN DISTRICT 7

Incumbents **Tom Almany**, **Wally Rothbart** and **Leonard Thompson** were reelected by landslides in District 7's annual elections for director, secretary and treasurer.

Tom Gildersleeve, former QCC director and frequent contributor to the QCC News, has been heard from. Tom and his wife, Betty, had their first grand-

From Irwin Rosa:

Editor: If you started a QC Laughs column, you wouldn't lack for material.

Here's one:

*Around 1950, when people weren't so skittish about church/state relations, management used to give us two hours off on Good Friday, ostensibly to attend church services, but most employees just used it as a long lunch hour. **Harold Wilkinson**, chief draftsman in District 5, thought he would have some fun. He produced and placed a memo on each drafting table during the break. It read something like this:*

*"To qualify for the Good Friday leave, I attended the _____ Church.
Signed _____"*

*Most of the employees were puzzled but went ahead and committed perjury. However, one person was so incensed that he raced to the office of District Director **EJL Peterson** and asked indignantly, "What about this?"*

Of course Peterson didn't have a clue. Meanwhile, Wilkinson sat at his desk, chuckling.

*Editor's Note: By all means!
Got a funny Caltrans story? Email it to us
at Catsnjam@sbcglobal.net*

child, **Guyllles Thomas Alford**, born on September 9, 2003. Shortly after birth, the baby developed an E-Coli infection that threatened his spinal system. Fortunately, the infection was discovered and after a week in the hospital, young Gylles is doing fine. Although it was a scary time for the parents and grandparents. The baby has doubled his birth weight of 8 1/2 pounds and shows every indication that he is going to be a big guy. His father is 6' 3" and his paternal grandfather is 6' 5". Tom is only 6' 1", a shrimp by comparison. Tom and Betty babysit once a week so daughter **Kristin** can work part time.

A noted train historian and aficionado, and photographer, Tom increased his train chasing activity with a trip in October to Sumpter, Oregon, to

photograph the Sumpter Valley Railway, near Baker City, and another in December to the Nevada Northern Railway, located in Ely. For the latter, Tom was accompanied by his son-in-law, **Terrill Alford**.

They were joined in Las Vegas by another train buff from Indiana, and the trio had a great time. Terrill was introduced to the wide world of Motel 6 in Las Vegas, as well as to a Chinatown that they didn't even know existed. In Ely, they stayed at the Hotel Nevada, where each had a mini-suite that included a luxurious room, with a king bed, refrigerator, microwave, etc., all for the princely sum of \$35 per night.

On their first night in Ely, they joined a group of friends for dinner at the Jailhouse Restaurant, which did in fact have interior décor reminiscent of a jail. Terrill, who had never in his life been involved with trains, had a great time, even riding in the cab of a steam locomotive. Now that's really living. He even helped Tom take the first synchronized night flash extravaganza that he had shot in over 20 years. This required the assistance of a bunch of sixty-

somethings (as well as Terrill, who is in his early thirties) stringing wire (around 1,000 feet of it) and setting up flash guns (seven of them) to take this picture. It's kind of like a bunch of second hand lions, except that in this case it's second hand dinosaurs!



Taking this picture put Tom on the cutting edge of last century's technology. They don't even make cameras that synchronize with flashbulbs anymore. It's all electronic flash these days.

On January 20 the Los Angeles Museum of Railroading sponsored an event that displayed some of Tom's pictures on the wall of Philippe's Restaurant. These pictures have been on display for the past several months. (Your secretary has seen the display, and it is impressive. There is even a good picture of Tom on the wall). Although Tom has been published extensively in books, magazines, and calendars, this is the first time he's been hung! **Secretary's Note:** If you haven't seen Tom's exhibit it is worth a trip to Philippe's to see it.

And finally, Tom and Betty are happily ensconced in their new home, which is only five minutes driving time from their old one. The address is:

Tom & Betty Gildersleeve
25322 Wood Dale Court

Santa Clarita, CA 91350.

(The telephone number and e-mail address will remain unchanged).

Tom and Betty had been at their previous address for almost 31 years, so they will miss it. However, they felt the need to get a smaller place all on one level with no pool.

Peter Hsu passed away on Friday March 5, 2004 after a long battle with cancer. Peter had recently been Chief of Design B. Burial was at Rose Hills Memorial Park, Whittier, on March 12, 2004.

Bill Sorlie passed away on Monday March 8, 2004. Bill, who was retired, had recently been diagnosed with cancer. Burial was at Forest Lawn, Hollywood Hills on March 12, 2004.

Marilyn Reese, who was retired, passed away on May 17, 2004. Burial was private.

-- Wally Rothbart

Real Serious Condition

A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor's office.

"Is it true," she wanted to know, "that the medication you prescribed has to be taken for the rest of my life?"

"Yes, I'm afraid so," the doctor told her.

There was a moment of silence before the senior lady replied, "I'm wondering, then, just how serious is my condition. This prescription is marked 'NO REFILLS'."

THE HAPS IN DISTRICT 8

Don Feenstra, R- Maintenance, was featured on a recent Animal Planet TV show. But he had to get bitten by a rattlesnake to do it! The show featured several victims of snake and spider bites being handled by Loma Linda Hospital. Don was the featured segment, showing helicopter evacuation, treatment, etc. Don survived to tell the tale, but sure looked sick for a while during the show! Anyway, best to you Don!

Janice Feenstra, R-Design is recovering from a broken ankle and we are glad to report she is doing well. She wasn't about to let Don get the upper hand!

Mary Bermudez, R-Drafting, is recovering nicely from recent surgery.

Linda Grimes, R-Planning, was honored at a retirement gala in January at the Sierra Lakes Golf Club, where friends and family enjoyed song and speech and a great dinner. **Marsha Lotze**, R-Engineering Services and **Craig Lotze**, R-Project Management, also were honored at a retirement gala in January at the Shandin Hills Golf Club. Many friends and family enjoyed a fine lunch and program.

Wes R-Design and **Linda** R-Planning **Grimes** recently enjoyed trips to Hawaii and Kansas City, where they toured the Eisenhower and Truman homes and museums. It is interesting to compare the modest beginnings of both men and their rise to the Presidency, to those of the wealthy folks now competing for the job! If ever in the neighborhood, take a look at the homes and try to imagine a modern politician starting that way.

Ray Meijer retired from Local Assistance in May following a 33-year career in Districts 7 and 8, working in Surveys, Design and Right of Way before his final stint assisting local agencies. A luncheon in his honor was held at Castaways on May 27.

Herminia G. Aldape, Frank Du Bois, Warren J. Harvey, John Hollensteiner, William Hudson, Martha Quade, Bob Redden and the late **Dick Saucier** have recently been awarded Honorary Certificates. The certificates will be presented those attending our July luncheon and mailed to those unable to attend. More on the luncheon later.



to

We are saddened to report on the loss of several of our members:

John Cowgill, R- Deputy Director-Planning, passed away in March. John recently celebrated his 100th birthday. He had started with Div of Highways in the '20's, and was respected as a fine engineer, one who treated his staff with respect, and a gentleman. He is survived by 2 children, 9

grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

J. R. "Dick" Saucier also passed away in March. Dick started in Fresno in 1950, worked in District 7, transferred to D-8, where he worked in Design, Advance Planning, R/W Engineering, Construction, Project Development, Engineering Services, Planning and Public Transportation over a 34-year career. Dick did a great deal of volunteer work during his retirement, being a major supporter of the Central City Mission here in San Bernardino. He is survived by his wife and life partner, Melba, one son, two daughters, and two grandchildren.

Jim Horton, who retired in 1978, passed away recently. Jim had a 29-year career in Surveys, Design, Programs and Budgets, and Project Development. Jim is survived by a large family.

Phil Herrin, R-Drainage, passed away in November. Phil retired in 1990 after a long career, mostly in Drainage, where he was the resident expert. He also enjoyed jazz and traveling with his wife to many events nationwide.

Early Reminder: Our yearly Christmas Dinner will be held on December 4, 2004, the first Saturday in December at The Gourmet in San Bernardino.

This from **Roy Smoot**: "Just a note to tell you how much I enjoy the QCCer. The history article by **George Gray** really pushed the nostalgia button. I'm looking forward to future articles.

"I began with District 4 in 1950 and left the Division of Highways in 1951. Started again in 1952 in District 8 as a transitman in Surveys. In 1983, when I was Deputy Director in Maintenance, I accepted a position with Riverside County as Road Commissioner and County Surveyor. During the two periods totaling more than a year during the early 1980s I was Acting District Director of District 8.

"I look back on my 31+ years with the Division of Highways/Caltrans with many fond memories."

On behalf of all District 8 Quarter Century members, I would like to thank **Wes Grimes** for his editing, composing and writing our newsletter every few months. I've gotten many "Thank you's" for him these past months from our members and wanted to thank him publicly for being so faithful. (I mainly review and correct spelling, etc. before submittal). We wish him and **Linda** happiness, good health and safe travel around the United States in the coming years.

-- Marsha Lotze

TECH SUPPORT

Take heart, anyone among you who believes he or she is technologically challenged, you "ain't seen nuthin" yet. This is an excerpt from a Wall Street Journal article:

1. Compaq is considering changing the command "Press Any Key" to "Press Return Key" because of the flood of calls asking where the "Any" key is.
2. AST technical support had a caller complaining that her mouse was hard to control with the dust cover on. The cover turned out to be the plastic bag the mouse was packaged in.
3. Another Dell customer called to say he couldn't get his computer to fax anything. After 40 minutes of troubleshooting, the technician discovered the man was trying to fax a piece of paper by holding it in front of the monitor screen and hitting the "Send" key.
4. Yet another Dell customer called to complain that his keyboard no longer worked. He had cleaned it by filling up his bathtub with soap and water and soaking the keyboard for a day, then removing all the keys and washing them individually.
5. A Dell technician received a call from a customer who was enraged because his computer had told him he was "Bad and an invalid." The tech explained that the computer's "bad command" and "invalid" responses shouldn't be taken personally.
6. A confused caller to IBM was having trouble printing documents. He told the technician that the computer had said it "couldn't find printer." The user had also tried turning the computer screen to face the printer-but that his computer still couldn't "see" the printer.
7. An exasperated caller to Dell Computer Tech Support couldn't get her new Dell Computer to turn on. After ensuring the computer was plugged in, the technician asked her what happened when she pushed the power button. Her response, "I pushed and pushed on this foot pedal and nothing happened." The "foot pedal" turned out to be the computer's mouse.
8. Another customer called Compaq tech support to say her brand new computer wouldn't work. She said she unpacked the unit, plugged it in and sat there for 20 minutes waiting for something to happen. When asked what happened when she pressed the power switch, she asked, "What power switch?"
9. Another IBM customer had trouble installing software and rang for support. "I put in the first

disk, and that was OK. It said to put in the second disk, and had some problems with the disk. When it said to put in the third disk, I couldn't even fit it in..." The user hadn't realized that "Insert Disk 2" implied removing Disk 1 first.

10. A story from a Novell NetWare SysOp:

Caller: "Hello, is this Tech Support?"

Tech: "Yes, it is. How may I help you?"

Caller: "The cup holder on my PC is broken and I am within my warranty period. How do I go about getting that fixed?"

Tech: "I'm sorry, but did you say a cup holder?"

Caller: "Yes, it's attached to the front of my computer."

Tech: "Please excuse me. If I seem a bit stumped, it's because I am. Did you receive this as part of a promotional at a trade show? How did you get this cup holder? Does it have any trademark on it?"

Caller: "It came with my computer. I don't know anything about a promotional. It just has '4X' on it. At this point, the Tech Rep had to mute the caller because he couldn't stand it. He was laughing too hard. The caller had been using the load drawer of the CD-ROM drive as a cup holder and it had snapped it off the drive.

11. A woman called the Canon help desk with a problem with her printer. The tech asked her if she was "running it under windows." The woman responded, "No, my desk is next to the door. But that is a good point. The man sitting in the cubicle next to me is under a window and his printer is working fine."

12. And last but not least:

Tech Support: "O.K. Bob, let's press the control and escape keys at the same time. That brings up a task list in the middle of the screen. Now type the letter "P" to bring up the Program Manager."

Customer: "I don't have a 'P'."

Tech Support: "On your keyboard, Bob."

Customer: "What do you mean?"

Tech Support: "'P' on your keyboard, Bob."

Customer: "I'm not going to do that!"

Webster?

QCC's website is currently down because a change in providers resulted in its loss. Anyone interested in becoming the QCC Webmaster, please call Butch Biendara, (858) 279-5054, or email at:
butchbiendara1944@hotmail.com

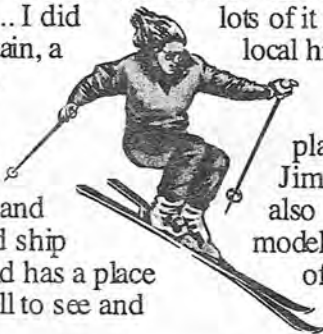
THE HAPS IN DISTRICT 9

This year seems to be flying by with alarming speed. We had our monthly luncheon the first Friday of the May. **Bob Marsh, Bob Ripley, Chuck Carter and Lance Hinek** were there. **Gordon Lammiman** did not attend because of poor health. One topic of conversation was the early days of the environmental process in Caltrans. In the early days it was straightforward, simple and effective whereas now it is convoluted, time consuming and expensive, with marginal results. It seems that Caltrans helped create a modern environmental process that established work for droves of specialists.

From **Don and Sue Kitchens** – “ We are still in Klamath Falls, Oregon, however we have purchased a RV lot in the Foothills of Yuma, Arizona and plan to spend our winters there.”

From **Chuck Carter** – “ Penny and I had a great 10-day cruise to the Mexican Riviera in April, going as far south as Acapulco. This was a followup to our 15-day cruise to Hawaii in 2003. Both were really great and we are planning on more. We will return to Winchester Bay, on the Oregon Coast, in our motor home in September for 5 weeks. We plan on salmon fishing and crabbing, and just kicking back.”

From **Jim and Kathy Passie** – “ Hi again... all's well here. We had a great winter... lots of snow and of course that means skiing... I did lots of it -- went to Brundage Mountain, a local hill, every week and had a ski trip to my old haunt, Mammoth... awesome... plan to go again next year. Jim also did lots of woodworking and finished a gorgeous wood ship model. It truly is a work of art and has a place of honor on the mantel for all to see and admire.”



“ It is now time to farm. Flowers are all blooming and it's time to plant seeds and vegetables. And golf has its place too. Jim plays whenever he can; right now it's weather dependent, but soon all the spring rains will be over and every day will be a golf day. The river is running high, so rafting and kayaking will also be on the agenda. So how in the world did we ever have time to work?”

“ We plan to be over again this summer... Kris will be working again in Mammoth so we will be over to visit. This time we may spend a bit more time Right now he is in France climbing and hiking. Actually he

is in Corsica traversing the mountains with a backpack -- and I am very jealous!!!!

“ Hope all's well with you.”

Howard Lee from District 12 has had a health setback and is in the hospital in Long Beach.

-- Lance Hinek

THE HAPS IN DISTRICT 10

Sharon and Claude Stewart, at the March 30 breakfast meeting, reported the following: “Hey Stan, when you called to remind us of the Lenny's huddle, you said we can't be that busy. We were busy taking time to smell the roses and discovered a bumper crop of aphids. Time to get the soapsuds out, anyway the roses did smell good and are looking good.”

“Talking Dog for Sale.”

One day out in the Texas panhandle, a guy sees a sign in front of a house: “Talking Dog for Sale.” He rings the bell and the owner tells him the dog is in the back yard. The guy goes into the back yard and sees a mutt just sitting there.

“You talk?” he asks.

“Yep,” the dog replies.

“So, what's your story?”

The mutt looks up and says, “Well, I discovered this gift pretty young and I wanted to help the government, so I told the CIA about my gift, and in no time they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders, because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping. I was one of their most valuable spies eight years running.”

“The jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger and I wanted to settle down. So I signed up for a job at the airport to do some undercover security work, mostly wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible dealings there and was awarded a batch of medals. Had a wife, a mess of puppies, and now I'm just retired.”

The guy is amazed. He goes back in and asks the owner what he wants for the dog.

“Ten dollars.” The guy says,

“This dog is amazing. Why on earth are you selling him, so cheap?”

“He's a liar. He didn't do any of that stuff.”

Last week at 11:30 am, we got a call from **John Sinclair** wanting to know if we were going to attend **Mike Freer's** retirement lunch. I hadn't known when it was but after a quick change of clothes, we made it in time. Mike had a good size lunch with lots of retirees attending. Mike and his wife are moving to Minden, Nevada shortly and looking forward enjoying their new house that was recently completed.

We just got back from the all-Chevy nationals and Chevy/GMC Truck Show in Santa Maria. We drove our '57 Chevy Bel Air hardtop down and came home with a second place plaque in the original '57 Chevy Class. Sunday we stopped off at Pismo Beach to get a seafood dinner and watch the fog roll in.

We are starting to get ready for a five-week trip with our travel trailer.

Claude's sister and her husband are coming down from Eureka to pickup her sister in law and meet us the end of April.

We are heading off to Las Vegas, Grand Canyon, Carlsbad caverns, visit relatives in Kansas and Nebraska, Branson Missouri and on to Mound City to Claude's Brother in laws' 55th Class reunion."

John and Peggy Sinclair have been to three funerals and one wedding this month, so nothing new.

From the April 27th breakfast meeting:

Bob & Ardyth Biffel cruised to the eastern Caribbean in early April. "We visited several of the islands including Barbados and Antigua. Ardyth really likes Antigua. She likes cruising so much, we are already signed up for a trip to the Amazon.

"I know that many of our retirees are supporting various volunteer activities such as working as docents at museums and parks, librarians, reading teachers etc. In my case, I'm in the TOPs program. Teaching Opportunities for Partners in Science. This program provides help to rural schools in San



Joaquin, Stanislaus, Calaveras, Tuolumne and Alameda Counties. We currently help 40 schools and have for more schools for which we need volunteers to cover. Anyone interested please phone me, Bob Biffel at 209-369-1819 or e-mail

bjbiffel@valleysurf.com"

Ron and Sharon Wilson are taking off for a few days camping at Lake of the Springs after the doctor gave Ron the okay to go. He's recuperating from having three heart stents put in.

Ron Lesan is trying to find a good price on a Honda powered diaphragm type trash pump – two inch would be OK. Need to pump out excavations for drainage pits. Phone (209) 365-9044 or e-mail rlesan@myway.com.

Don and Marilyn Burns took off from San Francisco Airport February 9th to Miami and then caught a flight to Santiago Chili port city Val Pariso where they boarded the Princess Line for a 16-day cruise making several stops along the Argentine Coast which included the Falkland Islands, Chili, Uruguay etc.

Walt Curtis tells us he's planning on leaving low-cost, lovable Lodi for Lake County. Rumor has it from Walt there are a lot of black bass there.

From the May 25th breakfast meeting (40 present), one humorous remembrance:

Kenny Wells, a squad leader in the specification department was very industrious and handled many projects for the district. After he had done his work he pulled out a paperback and would prop his feet up on the desk to read.

Jack Cropper was his boss and would try to load Kenny up with more and more work to stop this practice. Kenny would take on the new work, complete it in record time and get back to reading. Jack finally gave up.

Stanley Norwood Nelson, 84 years, born December 11, 1919, died in Boulder, Colorado April 10, 2004. Stan was born in Iowa City, Iowa, the youngest of three children of George and Inez Nelson. He moved to Stockton with his brother, Arthur in 1941. By 1949, Stanley began work with the State of California Division of Highways, working in highway engineering for 30 years.

In 1951 Stanley married **Eileen Ritter**. Stan and Eileen enjoyed many wonderful years together, traveling and spending time with family and friends. His hobbies included visiting people, doing kind deeds, a love of cars, motorcycles and playing card games.

Per **John Terrell**:

"Stan and I counted many cars together during my stint in traffic. He was a great guy with a good sense of humor."

Esther Pennini Vrieling, 88, died on Tuesday, April 20, 2004. She was born on September 11,

1915 and raised in Stockton and graduating from Stockton High School. She is the daughter of the late **Gian-batista** and **Antonia Boccoli** who emigrated from their native Italy.

She was employed by the State of California, Division of Highways for 20 years. In her retired years she was married to the late **John Vrieling**. They enjoyed traveling throughout the United States. She enjoyed cooking and entertaining their friends. In her later years she enjoyed the companionship of **Bob Condit** with whom she worked with at the Division of Highways.

Per **Dick Mesa** she attended **Frank Orosco's** annual luncheons since retiring.

-- *Brian Young*

THE HAPS IN DISTRICT 11

Rich Von Tersch has retired from more than 38 years of state service in several classifications and assignments in three districts. He was born in San Francisco on December 18, 1942, the eldest of three with two younger brothers coming along four and 17 years later. He grew up as an average kid in the city with a full time at-home mom and his dad was the wallpaper manager in the Dutch Boy paint store. His grade school, junior high and high schools were all within two blocks of home.

He began his work career by delivering papers when he was just 11 years old. In junior high he played the baritone horn with the San Francisco Boys Club band and that had him performing at the State Fair in Sacramento every year, plus the Rose Bowl for two years and also the Worlds Fair. In high school

Seattle he won second tennis competition.

He always liked and did well in math so when he took his final exam from San Francisco City College he was done with the three-hour final in just 20 minutes. From there he went to San Francisco State, graduating in 1968 with a Bachelor's in Accounting from Golden Gate University.

Though he was in San Francisco in the 1960s he says he was more straight-laced and not one of the flower children.

In 1963 Rich's family moved south to San Mateo county and about that time he began working for the

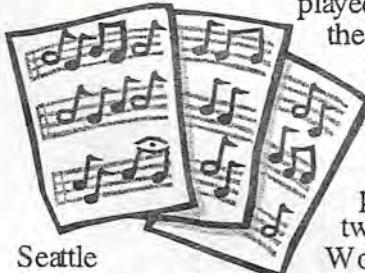
Bank of America as a tax accountant working on their clients' payrolls. He later moved to doing audits in the bank trust department for a year before the call came from the Division of Highways in 1966 to audit maintenance stations and resident engineers' offices' payments to contractors.

In 1969 Rich transferred to the State Health Care Services in San Francisco where he was the resident auditor of Blue Shield insurance payments for just six months before he got a transfer back to highways in District 4 as the supervisor in the payables and receivables Department.

In 1970 he was promoted to become one of three Assistant District Accounting Officers in District 4 and in 1971 moved to become the District Accounting officer in District 3 in Yuba City. Then in 1989 he had another promotion to the District Accounting officer in District 1 -- his last home district.

More changes came when Caltrans consolidated its accounting in 1992. Rich became a Senior Planner in the Commuter Computer section until that task was shifted to SANDAG; he then moved to Planning with the remaining tasks of the Commuter Van Pool, Park & Ride program and time sheet reporting. With those responsibilities he moved to Traffic in 1997 and finally to Administration in 2001 with the added assignments of the Motor Pool and the Cashiers Office -- five office moves in just two years. He ended up with the classification of Senior Planner, being paid out of the Traffic budget and working in Administration. With that twisted trail of responsibility he says he could hide his moves and duties nearly anywhere.

Rich has a son, 39, working for the airport in San Diego and a daughter, 35, who is married with children Tristen, 7, and Taylor, 2, and living in Browns Valley in District 3. While his son was playing Little League he volunteered to be the umpire. It turned into a second job as Rich began what has become a 28-year stint as a paid umpire for high school baseball games.



Deadlines

Deadline for material for the QCCer is the 5th of the month in which it is published. The next issue will be published in September. Therefore, the deadline for published material will be September 5th.

Away from work in Marysville, Rich was on the Caltrans bowling team with the Deputy Director of Administration as well as captain/playing on the softball team with his boss. Once when his team was short a player Rich grabbed another Caltrans employee to fill the spot; the other team lodged a protest and won. The local paper covered minor sports events in the small town and his illegal change and the protest made headlines in the local newspaper. His substitution of players had besmirched the shining integrity of the great State of California.

Rich divorced in 1990 but has a best friend in his life, **Pat Egge**, who shares his plans of a round of golf every weekend and their time-share vacations to Hawaii when he isn't working on his 'home-improvement' chores on the house he bought in El Cajon in '98. Rich will continue to use his accounting, auditing, bookkeeping and oversight skills. He also plans to stay with his part time job of umpire, calling the plays fair or foul and trying to make amends for his disaster in Marysville.

The packed house that attended his retirement party on May 4 at the Hungry Hunter sent him off with lots of roasts and best wishes for his future years.

Denny Paquin -- the Big 'D' -- wrapped up his nearly 40 years of service with a big gathering of well-wishers at a picnic bash at Santee Lakes park on Saturday May 22.

Denny was born in Chula Vista on May 24, 1946, six years younger than his one brother **Ron**. His dad was a mechanic with Guaranty Chevrolet and his mom a full time at home Mom. In 1950 they moved to a home his dad had built in the City Heights area, which was a solid middle class neighborhood back then.

He grew up enjoying outdoor adventure while camping, fishing and hunting with his dad and uncles in the nearby desert, Lake Henshaw, the Lagunas and Santa Isabel. Later, in Boy Scouts, he had more adventures at Scout Camp Hawachacush, trips down the Colorado River and other outings. His troop was instrumental in the startup of Camp Mataguay. His dad was a Scout Leader so **Denny** had an inside track.

During his high school years his family also built a cabin in the Harrison Park area near Julian, which gave him more hands-on training and more out-door time to enjoy. **Denny** also worked with his dad at the auto shop as a paying job during the summers before his Junior and Senior years of high school. His strengths were in math and he had completed algebra, geometry and trig classes when he graduated from Hoover High in 1964.

Denny took the engineering aide exam in December 1963 even before graduating and was hired in October of 1964 -- the same day as **Roy Riesgo** -- and sent to surveys under **J. J. McGrath**. **Roy** reminded him of his fateful first day when **Denny** showed up in a dress shirt and slacks with wingtip shoes and was sent directly out to the field to cut brush and on his return was a total mess of sweat and dirt from head to toe. He had just two weeks in the local area before being sent to work on I-10 from Indio to Blythe on a crew with **Ben Halstead**, **Al McLaughlin** and **Bobby Moore** for 14 months.

On December 1, 1965 he was drafted into the Army and spent his boot camp and two years of service at Fort Carson near Colorado Springs at the base of the Rocky Mountains. There he used his skills as a track mechanic working on tanks and other vehicles while assigned to the artillery unit and was discharged two years later as a Sergeant Spec 5.

In January 1968 he was back home and back to surveys with the same crew still out on I-10 but now a bit farther away and closer to Blythe for another year and a half before getting a call back to the Local Block House in mid-1969 working with **Gene McDonnell**, **Fred Hunemuller** and **Bob McGinnis**.

That left him more time to socialize and party and he met and married his lovely wife **Diana** in 1970 which brought about the blessing of son **Duane** born later that year and then daughter **Debby** in mid-1974.

Shock Treatment

An older woman went to the doctor's office where she was seen by one of the new doctors.

After about four minutes in the examination room, she burst out, screaming as she ran down the hall. Another doctor stopped her and asked what the problem was, and she told him her story.

After listening, he had her sit down in another room to relax.

Then he marched down the hallway to the back where the first doctor was and demanded, "What's the matter with you?"

Mrs. Terry is 63 years old, she has four grown children and seven grandchildren, and you told her she was pregnant?"

The new doctor continued to write on his clipboard and without looking up he said, "Does she still have the hiccups?"

In 1974 he joined his friend **Roy Riesgo** in field testing and after training for three months worked on the Escondido bypass and then the I-15 / SR-78 interchange in Escondido. When the layoff of 1975 hit he was demoted to Aide and sent back to field surveys with **Fred Hunemuller** but used his evenings to take night classes at City College under the G. I. bill and earned his AA degree in Social Science in 1978.

Also in 1976 he was back to testing for **George Smith** on the I-8/15 project until late 1978 when **Jerry Smith**, who assigned staff in Construction, called him for a promotion to Tech II to inspect the Lilac Bridge by I-15/SR-76 for **Hal Clark** and **Vic Lind**. Then in early 1980 **Milt Costello** called to ask if he would go to Plants and Materials for two or three years and he said SURE! He began inspecting batch plants and materials under **Rodger Kocher** and has been with that assignment ever since. During those 24 years of plant inspection **Denny** says he has probably driven his state truck a million miles to get to plants at various locations around the county and over to El Centro, Yuma, Indio and Blythe that were sometimes starting up operations as early as 2 am. He says it's been a great career to check out and certify batch plants in spite of the long drives through the open spaces between.

Denny's life outside Caltrans has included coaching soccer and little league for both his son and daughter and he played on the Caltrans surveys softball team.

He took his family on camping, fishing, and hunting trips to the beach to the Lagunas and high Sierras. He has a Walleye hanging on his wall from a fishing trip to Minnesota while visiting family. And since 1994 he has taken four cruises to the Mexican Riviera and the Caribbean.

Denny's wife **Diana** worked for the escrow office of Grossmont bank from 1978 until 1990, when her rheumatoid arthritis limited her ability to get around. Son **Duane** has been with Caltrans for 12 years now, starting with the toll bridge and then moving to the Keamy Mesa maintenance yard while daughter **Debby** works in an escrow office as **Diana** did as her husband **Daniel** does mortgage loans. They have children **Donevin** 10, and **Danica** 8, for **Denny** to have some fun with



his grandchildren when he isn't too busy with honey-dos around the home they bought in Allied Gardens in 1974.

As to further adventures, **Denny** says he wants to see some new places and take the inland passage to Alaska and also, to do some traveling through the deep south and along the east coast, and also more camping and fishing. **Denny** says, "I will surely miss Caltrans and all the people and friends I have made over my 40-year career. Thanks for the memories"

-- *Butch Biendera*

THE HAPS IN THE CENTRAL DISTRICT

The Central District gang had another enjoyable spring gathering at the Dante Club on May 5. Director **Dick Petrie** introduced **Don Alden**, **Irene Francies**, **Mac McKenney** and **Bill Warren** -- all members of the over-80 gang! **Dick** also had the pleasure of inducting **Bill Bethell**, **T. George Smith**, **David Theobald** and **Don Tudler** into this very special group.

In addition to sharing lively conversations, attendees heard an overview of what is happening at Caltrans from **Mike Leonardo**, Deputy for Project Development. **Heinz Heckeroth**, the Executive Director of California Transportation Foundation, talked about some of the many worthwhile accomplishments of CTF, including the TRANNY awards on May 12.

We now look forward to our Annual Barbeque at the College Greens Swim and Racquet Club on September 9, 2004.

Following are reports from members:

Derwin Davis -- "Just started my third year as a full-time consultant in one of my clients' offices. Have 10 right of way field agents at the moment, including former Caltrans staffers **Dave Denton**, **Jim Hollissy**, **Mike Lahodny** and **Clay Nystrom**."

Vern Leseman -- "Just returned from a fabulous cruise with my high school friend who lost her husband and is now single like me. We cruised on the Millennium with Celebrity Cruise Lines through the Panama Canal and then toured California from San Diego to Carmel. Everything was beautiful."

Jim Rae -- "It's good to be here to see so many old Caltrans friends. In fact, at our age it is good to be

anywhere. I'm still playing golf and just finished my year as Big SIR of our branch."

Cal Peterson – "It's been quite awhile since I was last to a meeting of this group. It's a treat to see so many old friends."

Dave Crane – "I'm here! Haven't been doing much interesting. Did go back to Colorado in April for a couple of weeks to visit our daughter and family. Had one foot of snow over Easter. No white Christmas but a white Easter. Then went down to LA also in April and had temperatures in the 100s. Interesting weather everywhere."

Jeanne and Dave Theobald – "Just returned from the Western Reunion of the 69th Infantry Division in Arroyo Grande. The ranks are thinning."

Gene Berthelsen – "I plan to spend the summer reading James Joyce's *Ulysses* and the next year reading the Harvard University Cliff Notes to figure out what it was about."

Dorothy and Vince Paul – "Are out of RVing and now into other forms of traveling. Just got back from a Mississippi steamboat cruise and are looking forward to an Alaskan cruise in September."

Louise and Dick Ginsberg – "Thoroughly enjoyed our European river cruise on the Rhine, Main and Danube Rivers from Amsterdam through Germany to Vienna. That's the way to travel. We plan to spend most of July and August in the Northwest in our 5th wheel, which has just been refurbished. \$\$\$!"

Marilyn and Norm Lambeth – "Haven't had any wild trips lately but did enjoy the Scottish Games in Woodland."

Dorothy and Don Alden – "We're about to celebrate Don's 20 years since retirement from Caltrans. Meanwhile, Dorothy continues working at an increased tempo for Sacramento's Community Concerts Association. It's great to have her support"

LaRena and Joe Hannon – "We stayed close to home the last few months since Joe had a triple bypass operation on February 14. We plan to travel to New York in July for a wedding."

Hazel and Bill Warren – "We enjoyed seeing many old friends at the May luncheon. In spite of the frailties of old age, we are living a full life and are over programmed. Our next venture is a railroad and bus trip through the Canadian Rockies in late May. We hope to see you all this fall."

Chuck Paulsen and Margie Weston – "Are enjoying visiting with old friends and fellow former workers. **Bill Warren** and I were first acquainted

Scotch and Water

A lady goes to the bar on a cruise ship and orders a Scotch with two drops of water.

The bartender gives her the drink, and she says, "I'm on this cruise to celebrate my 80th birthday and it's today."

The bartender says, "Well, since it's your birthday, this one is on me."

As the woman finishes her drink, the woman to her right says,

"I would like to buy you a drink, too."

The woman says, "Thank you. Bartender, I want a Scotch with two drops of water."

"Coming up," says the bartender.

As she finishes that drink, the man to her left says, "I would like to buy you a drink, too."

The woman says, "Thank you. Bartender, I want another Scotch with two drops of water."

"Coming right up," the bartender says.

As he gives her the drink this time, he says, "Ma'am, I'm dying of curiosity. Why the Scotch with only two drops of water?"

The old woman replies, "Sonny, when you're my age, you've learned how to hold your liquor. Water, however, is another whole issue!"

working in the dungeon of the District Office in Marysville. I think I sold everyone on the beauty of Western Canada with my last comments. We are staying close to home since then while Margie recovers from two spinal fusion operations on her lower spine. The difficulty had been evident on our Canada trip.

"We're getting close to being Mr. and Mrs. as Chuck cleans out one room at a time and gets ready for the painter before Margie brings the furniture from her condo. In the meantime, she has graduated from a walker to a cane but still wears a back brace about half time. We are eagerly looking forward to bicycle riding and dancing again without her pain as we approach the end of her one-year recovery period. Aqua therapy is the newest thing on her agenda."

Margaret and Ron Lemmon – "I'm glad to see so many of us old timers here. I'm hoping that once we get over the 'Adrianna doldrums' we will start getting some younger members. I'm tired of talking about joint surgeries, etc. In that vein, Margaret and I are traveling every chance we get. We went to Mexico last month and did the Chichen Itza and Tulum Mayan

ruins. This was a trip sponsored through SIRS, a men's retirement organization in Northern California. These are great trips available to SIRS members, family and friends. Our Mexico trip included reviewing ruins (extra) and all food and drink while at our "super" resort and traveling."

George Morrow – "Just got back from a great trip to Sicily. Next – Scout Camp again. Then, Eastern Europe or Nova Scotia."

George Smith – "No trips but really nice to see old friends at this great luncheon."

Dorothy Ferra – "Nice to see some of my friends. Quite a few of us old timers still around."

Earlene and Jim Borden – "We welcomed in a new grandson the end of February. Seems we only get granddaughters by adoption (1). Four grandsons now. Still working on the sunroom. Jim is looking forward to a fishing trip in Alaska in August."

Jane and Chuck Pivetti – Spent a week in April seeing the Everglades. Spent last week on a houseboat trip on Lake Shasta with **Don and Nancy Benjamin** and **Jerry and Sharon Severson**. Jane plays Bridge every day and is now a Bronze Master. **Chuck** can't find much time to ride his bike because of photography commitments. Also raising a very rambunctious yellow lab puppy."

Ellen and Jack Derby – "We spent our 22nd Anniversary at Mendocino. Went whale watching out of Fort Bragg. Our skipper got us behind a pod of 12 grays and they were rising all around us. Ellen is currently in South Carolina visiting her buddy, **Nancy McClellan**. Jack is home recuperating from prostate surgery. He finds it inconvenient to his fishing, hiking, golfing, etc. It was nice to see so many friends at the spring luncheon. Good job by **Dick, John and Nancy**."

Harry Valentine – "Now a docent at the Sacramento Railroad Museum and work on the Maintenance of Way crew for the Sacramento Southern Railroad."

Nancy and Don Benjamin – "Had a great time touring Costa Rica in January. One highlight was riding a 2-1/2 mile "zip line" from 18 towers in the Montverde Cloud Forest – so much fun!!! Our April houseboat trip with the **Pivettis and Seversons** was special, as always. **Ellen and Jack Derby** missed this one because of Jack's surgery – but we'll look forward to their being with us next year. We are enjoying spring flower hikes led by **Bill Bethell** and are looking forward to summer hikes in the Sierra as the snow melts."

Janel and John Hebner – "We missed the Dante Club luncheon because we were in Hawaii for 15 days on the Big Island. Had a terrific time hiking rain forests, volcanoes and ancient native religious sites. Snorkeling and lava tube exploring was great as was a plane ride around the entire island. Next time we'll be sure to rent a four-wheel drive car to do some extensive exploring."

-- Nancy Benjamin

EVENTS

District 3 - *No Contact*
Breakfast at Perko's 3rd Wednesday of every month

Yuba City
 7:00 a.m.

District 4 *Contact: Ed Cobble, (650) 941-5156*
 Email: edcoble49@worldnet.att.net

Caltrans Lunch Bunch 2nd Tuesday of every month

District 6 *Contact: Ralph Tritch, (559) 535-4295*
Caltrans Retiree Breakfast 3rd Wednesday in

March and September
 Green Valley Restaurant
 Olive & J Street Porterville
 9:00 am

District 7 *Contact: Tom Fera, (818) 896-9377*

Monthly Luncheon Club
 2nd Wednesday of the month Los Angeles

District 8 *Contact: Marsha Lotze, (760) 247-2119*

Christmas Party Saturday, December 4, 2004
 the Gourmet

District 9 *Contact: Lance Hinek, (619) 873-3885*

Lunch at Whiskey Creek 1st Friday of the month
 Bishop

District 10 *No Contact*

Lenny's Huddle Last Tuesday of the month
 Denny's, I-5 and March Lane, Stockton

District 11 *No Contact*

ROMEOS (Retired Old Men Eating Out)

3rd Wednesday of every month
 Denny's, Navajo Road
 8:30 am.

A Test for Sensitive Men

This is a test for men only and all real men will answer "C" to all of these questions.

However, women will also benefit by reviewing them, so they get to understand men and thereby enrich their own lives.

1. Alien beings from a highly advanced society visit the Earth, and you are the first human they encounter. As a token of intergalactic friendship, they present you with a small but incredibly sophisticated device that is capable of curing all disease, providing an infinite supply of clean energy, wiping out hunger and poverty, and permanently, eliminating oppression and violence all over the entire earth.

You decide to:

- A. Present it to the President of the United States.
 - B. Present it to the Secretary General of the United Nations.
 - C. Take it apart.
2. As you grow older, what lost quality of your youthful life do you miss the most?
 - A. Innocence
 - B. Idealism
 - C. Cherry bombs.
 3. When is it okay to kiss another male?
 - A. When you wish to display simple and pure affection without regard for narrow-minded social conventions.
 - B. When he is the Pope (but not on the lips)!
 - C. When he is your brother and you are Al Pacino and this is the only really sportsmanlike way to let him know that, for business reasons, you have to have him killed.
 4. In your opinion, the ideal pet is:
 - A. A cat.
 - B. A dog.
 - C. A dog that eats cats.

5. You have been seeing a woman for several years. She's attractive and intelligent, and you always enjoy being with her. One leisurely Sunday afternoon the two of you are taking it easy. You're watching a football game she's reading the papers when she suddenly, out of the clear blue sky, tells you that she thinks she really loves you, but she can no longer bear the uncertainty of not knowing where your relationship is going. She says she's not asking whether you want to get married; only whether you believe that you have some kind of future together. What do you say?
 - A. That you sincerely believe the two of you do have a future, but you don't want to rush it.
 - B. That although you also have strong feelings for her, you cannot honestly say that you'll be ready anytime soon to make a lasting commitment, and you don't want to hurt her by holding out false hope.
 - C. That you cannot believe the 49ers called a draw play on third and seventeen (which, if you know Dennis Erickson . . .)
6. Okay, so you have decided that you truly love a woman and you want to spend the rest of your life with her, sharing the joys and the sorrows the world has to offer, come what may. How do you tell her?
 - A. You take her to a nice restaurant and tell her after dinner.
 - B. You take her for a walk on a moonlit beach, and you say her name, and when she turns to you, with the sea breeze blowing through her hair and the stars in her eyes, you tell her.
 - C. Tell her what?
7. One weekday morning your wife wakes up feeling ill and asks you to get your three children ready for school. Your first question to her is:
 - A. "Do they need to eat or anything?"
 - B. "They're in school already?"
 - C. "We have *three* of them?"

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