



## Cherchez Les Membres . . . .

### WHERE'D EVERYBODY GO?

### From the Corner Pocket

Let's consider some issues of interest to every QCCer (that's you!). Last month we touched on the idea of your helping to recruit Caltrans employees hired after the layoffs in 1975 and who are now reaching QCC eligibility.

You may have noticed the "Return Service Requested" that Secretary-Treasurer **Kim Yarbrough** has added to the cover of your QCCer. It costs a few cents for each return, but he found that nearly 100 members were no longer at their address of record. Some had moved without giving a new address. Others had passed away as much as 20 years ago. We were still sending them their QCCer after all those years. The savings from not sending to those names will be a plus. Take a look at **Kim's** new column, which he calls **The Milk Carton**, on page 3; he lists members with whom the QCC has lost contact. Can you help locate them?

One problem is that members over 80 who have been paid up for at least five years are not required to pay dues. That means we don't get an annual response from them. If they move to be near family or to a warmer (or cheaper) location, we don't get address changes and lose track of them. With the QCC mailing just four times a year, a few

skips and the post office has no forwarding address. Thankfully **Kim** did get some forwarding addresses in the returns. Their records will be updated.

Your eyes and ears are much more effective than anything that can be done by the QCC HQ organization. The district rosters range from 35 to 365 members; I encourage each of you in your districts to help track and keep current with 'who is where' via your local networking.

Districts host regular events for members to reconnect. If you have golf games, coffee klatches, or poker parties you certainly know more about our members than ever we could. Two dollars of your QCC dues are returned to your district each year to support the club's objective as stated in our constitution, ". . . to **establish a closer bond of friendship cementing 25 years or more employment . . .**"

Each district may decide how it uses those funds. My district, District II, has an annual winter dinner banquet as well as a summer picnic for members and friends, plus a monthly informal breakfast and periodic email news distributions. Is your district keeping up with the QCC's objective?

If you and your district don't currently have a convenient time and place for you to plug into, rally some friends and get something going. It doesn't have to cost anything or be elaborate. "Dutch treat" coffee at Denny's or Starbucks, or a lunch at ????



works just fine. We're an all-volunteer organization and welcome anything you have to contribute. When you find some news about a member, pass it along.

I'm thankful to the officers and members of Districts 2 and 3 for inviting me to their social events. I trust that other districts have gatherings as well even—if I didn't get an invitation. Maybe next year.

If you're interested in enlarging your district's efforts with more get-togethers, **Dean Burns**, a key organizer of many great District 11 events, has extensive experience serving in many capacities the QCC, CSEA, RPEA and his Alumni group. Most significantly, he organizes monthly, annual, and 10-year events. **Dean** has offered to help anyone who contacts him by phone at 619-448-6728 or via email at [Dean.Burns@cox.net](mailto:Dean.Burns@cox.net).

Call or write your local District QCC officers listed in this issue and find how you can help support the QCC objective of **closer friendship**. It may be by regular participation in QCC gatherings or helping us keep current on who is doing what

and where. Remember that **ALL OF US** is way more effective than **ANY OF US** and **you** are a very important part of **ALL**.

Would it help if I sent a letter from the QCC State President to each District Director of Caltrans seeking a closer connection with their staff? Can we ask them to send a response to the District QCC officers? And finally, can we look to the district officers for a careful review of their district membership and to give an update of where the missing members may have moved?

Thanks for taking the time to listen (read).

## Secretary Treasure's Report

I apologize for not putting the amount of yearly dues for in last issue's report. It is \$10 per year—and thanks to all our readers who seemed to remember.

I also forgot to mention that my wife **Pat** and I had the pleasure of attending the District 03 get-together in late October in Marysville. It was great to meet all the people there; **John Pennebaker** put on a great gathering. We also were able to attend the District 10 breakfast the following Tuesday on our way home. That gave us a chance to meet **Stan Randolph** and **Brian Young** and other members who attended. One of the joys of this job is getting to meet the people. In the "small world" category, Brian and I worked on adjacent freeway projects in San Diego several years ago, but never met (at least that we can recall).

We attended a luncheon and retirement dinner in Fresno where several QCC members were present, and the District 11 annual dinner in January, always a great event.

We also attended the District 02 meeting in Redding a couple of weeks ago, and had the pleasure



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of meeting **Dan Cherry**, the QCC Director and his lovely wife (and right hand), **Vivian**, as well as many members of that district.

You may have noticed that the last issue of the *Cue See Seer* was sent out with a "Return Service Requested" notation. This was done to try to check the addresses that we had on record. About 100 were returned. Of these, 16 addressees were deceased. Another 52 had new addresses. And 27 were undeliverable because forwarding addresses had expired or the USPS was unable to locate them. Please see *The Milk Carton* column for more information regarding this. Eight members were temporarily away. I guess they were on a tropical cruise somewhere and didn't invite us along. Or those who live in the cold areas headed for the warmer dimates. If you fall into this category, and you let me know (card, e-mail, etc.) when you'll be gone, I can change your address temporarily so you can receive the *Cue See Seer* while lounging around the pool or whatever.

I have reviewed the membership list and have discovered an additional 35 members have passed away in the past few years. I use the Social Security Death Index on the Internet to check the possibility of a member's passing.

The dues are coming in, but about half are still outstanding. The date on your QCCer mailing label will show you the date through which you are paid. Please remember to get your dues in either to me or to your district director so that we don't have to send out reminders. Still only \$10.00 per year!

Until the next time, stay healthy, wealthy, and wise ... well, two out of three aren't bad. Just concentrate on that first one.

"Mr. Clark, I have reviewed this case very carefully," the divorce court judge said, "and I've decided to give your wife \$775 a week."

"That's fair, your honor," the husband said. "and every now and then I'll try to send her a few bucks myself."

## The Milk Carton

Make sure you all know how milk cartons are used to find missing children. We have a lot of missing "children."

The last issue of the QCCer was sent out with a "Return Service Requested" notation in an attempt to find out if the addresses we had for members were correct. Many came back with new addresses, and several with addresses unknown. I researched the Social Security Death Index on members with unknown addresses and found 17 members who had passed away over the past several years. Here is a list of missing members by name and district:

Josephine A. Randolph	02
Mrs. Pearl Salvador	02
Josephine G. Ramsey-Cooper	03
Loma D. Richards	03
Will F. Bruning	04
Norris W. Hollon	04
Mrs. Meyer Hyman	04
Keith Marolt	04
Theodore J. Nicou	04
Melvin C. McAllister	05
Steven S. Pavitt	05
Pilip Pugnier	05
Ralph C. Bywater	07
Raymond P. Duffin	07
John Iwasaki	07
Fayette H. Morgan	07
Georgia A. Schneider	07
Gerald L. Shue	07
Mrs. Abner J. Stripling	09
John G. Engman	10
Frances A. Snyder	10
A. H. Green	Central
Glydus Gregory	Central
Richard W. Robinson	Central
Thomas N. Tamburri	Central

We hope you can help locate the remaining missing members. You may have had contact with someone, or know of their moving or of their passing. If someone has moved and you know just the town, that will help. Our goal is to keep members

informed of what is happening to others. We can't do this if we don't know where they are.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of any of these members, please contact me.

Quarter Century Club

Kim A. Yarbrough, Secretary/Treasurer

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## History of District 11

by George E. Gray

The San Diego District of what is now known as Caltrans was formed on August 21, 1933 from portions of District 7 (Los Angeles) and District 8 (San Bernardino). The first permanent District Office was at 1365 Harbor Street near what is now part of the San Diego Passenger Ship Terminal. In the spring of 1953 the district office moved to larger quarters on Juan Street near San Diego's Old Town. An olive cannery previously had graced the site.

A new district office is now under construction across Taylor Street from the outgrown facility.

The first District Director was **E. E. Wallace**, who started work with the division in District 5

(San Luis Obispo). In District 5 he worked on the location of State Route 1 (the Carmel-San Simeon highway)

among other assignments. In 1926 he was appointed District Engineer in District 6 (Fresno), where he stayed until he was transferred to San Diego. Mr. Wallace retired September 1, 1955, after 42 years



with the Department and 22 as District Engineer in San Diego.

**Jacob "Jake" Dekema** was appointed as his successor. Mr. Dekema began his career with the Division of Highways in the summer of 1936 in Fresno. After graduating from USC in 1937, he worked for a short time in the Los Angeles office. This was followed by a stint with Los Angeles County. In 1938 he reestablished his connection with the division by employment with the Bridge Department. Except for a three-year service in the U.S. Navy during WWII, he was with the department until his 1980 retirement. The intervening years included assignments as District Construction Engineer in District 9 (Bishop); Assistant Construction Engineer out of the Division Headquarters; Assistant District Engineer of District 8 (San Bernardino), and in September 1955, District Engineer in San Diego.

District 11 has adopted the slogan, "the can-do district," and the 25-year stewardship under the leadership of Jake Dekema is, in my opinion, what fostered that slogan. He strongly supported delegation to his staff and focused much of his energy on community support through a variety of organizations. As he said in 1988, "The transportation of people and goods from place to place is an essential human need that must be balanced against other needs, socially and economically. What we are doing is creating better living conditions for the people of California."

Acting District Director William "Bill" Dotson succeeded Jake for a few months and then by **Russell Lightcap** from April 1981 to January 1983. Mr. Lightcap had a 42-year long career with the organization, including serving as director of three districts (6, 11, and 12) and chief of four headquarters offices (Equipment, Local Assistance, Office Engineer, and Project Development). He also served with the Bridge Department and the Division of Bay Toll Crossings.

In February 1983 Bill Dotson was appointed District Director and served until his retirement in August 1988. He spent his entire 41-year career in District 11 except for a two-year stint in the headquarters think tank, the Office of Planning and Policy. He was especially involved in efforts to make

the highways under his responsibility aesthetically pleasing.

In September 1988 **Jesus Garcia** transferred from the Director's position in District 5 (San Luis Obispo) to District 11, where he served for the last five years of his distinguished career, retiring in October 1993. He was very people oriented and was especially focused on staff development.

In September 1993 **Gary Gallegos** was appointed as the District Director. He continued the emphasis on border transportation issues, which was a feature of the Garcia era. In June of 2001, Mr. Gallegos accepted the Executive Director position of the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), where his responsibilities for transportation development have expanded.

As a replacement for Gallegos, **Jack Boda** from Headquarters was appointed as Acting District Director until December of 2001. He then accepted the position of Chief Deputy Director of District 4, which covers the San Francisco area.

In January 2002 **Pedro Orso-Delgado** moved into the corner office as the District 11 Director, a title he continues to hold. He has a strong commitment to the concept of managed lanes and integrated transportation.

### TOUGH TEACHER

A schoolteacher injured his back and had to wear a plaster cast around the upper part of his body. It fit under his shirt and was not noticeable.

On the first day of the term, still with the cast under his shirt, he found himself assigned to the toughest students in school. Walking confidently into the rowdy classroom, he opened the window as wide as possible and then busied himself with desk work. When a strong breeze made his tie flap, he took the desk stapler and stapled the tie to his chest.

Discipline was not a problem after that.

## The Haps in District 1

I hope everyone who reads this made it through the storms OK. As it happened, my sister and I went to a history conference in Palm Desert in mid-February and managed to stay out of the worst of it most of the time. I drove from Eureka to Stockton, down Interstate 5 to Route 138 to Route 14, and Interstate 10. When we left Palm Desert we headed east on 10 on February 20 to Mesa, Arizona to visit my son. We came back via Laughlin, Needles, Barstow, Bakersfield, up 99 back to Stockton. The heaviest rain for us was between Needles and Barstow and between Barstow and Bakersfield.

Watching the news, my heart really went out to the people in Southern California who have suffered so much from these storms, and to our maintenance crews who really had their hands full in so much of our state. We spoke with several people who were not used to this much water all at once. We saw the effects of a lot of flooded areas.

I found out something new and interesting at the Coachella Valley Museum and Cultural Center. The museum has a special exhibit honoring **Dr. June McCarroll**. Quite a lady, she came up with the idea for the centerline on highways. If you want to get the full story, just check her name on Google.

I am the District 1 representative for the California Transportation Foundation and was privileged present a \$1,000 scholarship from them to Traffic student **Greg Wisecaver** at the January staff meeting. It was great getting to see so many of my co-workers.



**Tom and Eileen Quigley** sent a great note at Christmas. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in December of 2003. They kept busy last year traveling with the Elks RV Roamer, volunteering at the St. Joseph Hospital, catching

abalone during the season and spending two weeks in Hawaii. They also had a chance to visit their son, Tom, and later attend grandson Thomas's graduation from high school and grandson Trevor's graduation from college. In October, Tom went on his yearly elk hunt in Colorado and brought back one. That's a quick summary of part of a very busy year. Their family is in both California and Oregon so a lot of travel was involved. Thank you, Tom and Eileen. You are an inspiration. I hope to hear from others about their activities.

Sadly, we lost two more of our District 1 family. **Howard Laws** passed away January 18, 2005. He had retired as a Caltrans Maintenance Supervisor.

**Emery Blomquist** passed away on January 30 at age 92. He had retired as the District 1 Maintenance Engineer. He started with the Division of Highways in 1936. I enjoyed working with him for many years. He enjoyed a long and healthy retirement, which we all aspire to. I was able to make it to Emery's service and saw several of his friends and Caltrans co-workers. His son, Len, who also worked for our district, is now retired. I see him out and about as we both enjoy these retired years.

—Arlene Hartin

## The Haps in District 2

About 30 people attended the recent District 2 Quarter Century meeting at our usual spot, Upper Crust Pizza, Redding. Guest speakers were **Brian Crane**, District 2 Director, and retiree **Burt Brockett**. Brian gave an update on what is going on and what is planned in District 2 and statewide. It sounds like he goes from one meeting to another all of the time. Wonder how he can keep everything straight in his mind. He is one smart cookie!

Burt Brockett spoke on Plus One Mentors. He has become involved with the organization as a mentor. A four-hour training session is available to anyone who is interested. At its conclusion, participants are asked to give four hours a month to the person they're mentoring. Those being

mentored are from second grade to 14 or 15 years old and from a single parent family. There is a waiting list of kids to get mentors. They match boys with men and girls with women. If anyone is interested, they are located in the YMCA building in Redding.

### Kim Yarbrough,

Quarter Century Club State Secretary/Treasurer, and his wife Pat, came up from Mariposa for the meeting. He brought an honorary membership for **Dan Cherry** to present to **H. Kirk Ludington, Jr.** Kirk, who turned 80 on January 29, 2005, now stays with his daughter in Penn Valley.

We have reservations for our Annual District 2 QC Picnic. It will be held in the Gazebo at Anderson River Park, Anderson, on Wednesday, June 15, 2005. Be sure to save that date for good eats and meeting old friends. It is also the first night of the Mosquito Serenade. Enterprise Lions Club will cater this function again. They set up, cook, serve, and clean up. All we have to do is show up. Great, isn't it?

New members to our group are **Retha Rubiec** and **William B. Belcher**. Retha started work in 1968 in District 8 and transferred later to District 2. Retha works in the Administration section in the District 2 office. Bill, who works in Maintenance, began his state service in 1974 as a TAU and transferred to District 2. Welcome to Retha and Bill!

The **Towers, Bob** and **Ada**, are still traveling after seeing most of the USA, Mexico, Europe, and Asia. They were in Mazatlan in January. In March they will be in a timeshare on the beach in Southern California and in August they will take an 11-day trip down the Amazon (river cruise with a stop in the rain forest). Then there'll be a five-day post trip to Machu Picchu and Cuzco, Peru.

We lost **Chris Hultz**, who passed away on December 9. She had been retired for many years from the district office steno pool. Survivors include daughters **Nancy Siegfried** and **Rosemary**, both of Sebastopol, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her many



friends will miss her greatly. She was the glue to the ladies' "Retirees Lunch Bunch." Memorial contributions can be made to Haven Humane Society, 7449 Eastside Road, Anderson, CA 96007 or to Shasta County Library, 1855 Placer Street, Redding, CA 96001.

**Harry Ewing**, 82, died Saturday, December 25, at Sierra Oaks in Redding. Harry was a retired Shop 2 employee. Survivors include wife **Eleanor**, daughter **Shelia Kively**, brothers **Bud** and **Bill**, sister **Ethel Cain**, and several grandchildren. Memorial contributions can be made to VFW, 1251, Oregon Street, Redding, California, 96001.

We're still looking for replacements for director and secretary. Come on you guys, it's time for someone else to run the show! Really, it doesn't take that much effort or time. And Dan and I will always be available for advice and help.

—Janet Briggs

## The Haps in District 3



As the winter weather winds down, the residents eagerly await the spring. With the first of March approaching and the rainfall totals exceeding that of a normal season already,

many are making ravel pans. Here are some of the items overheard at a recent breakfast outing.

**Doug** and **Grace Becker** have plans to motor to the coast in their RV to try their luck in the upcoming abalone season. Doug enjoys hunting and fishing and is eager to get started as the new season approaches.

**Jerry** and **Luanne Hamm** are enjoying their new home off Mosquito Road and are now planning some traveling in their RV. Jerry enjoys

keeping rainfall totals while Luanne enjoys gardening.

**Stan** and **Nancy Freeman** report that the Mount Aukum area is fast becoming a major wine producing area, with new vineyards appearing overnight.

**Keith** and **Barbara Maggini** recently spent a day visiting with the Freemans and enjoyed an afternoon playing pinodhle. Keith and Barbara also plan on joining their son in March for the annual NASCAR races in Las Vegas, if it hasn't washed away by then.

**John Krek** is busy helping his son, John, complete his new house in the Diamond Springs area. John reports that the project has been slowed by the wet weather.

**Max Dodson** reports he is doing well after his knee replacement surgery last year and is ready to get back to his normal routine.

**Keith Maggini** reports that the Placerville area's annual spring luncheon dine-out will be Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Sportsman's Hall in Pollock Pines. While the lunch starts at 1 pm, the restaurant has an enjoyable "watering hole" should participants want to arrive earlier and participate in an attitude adjustment period. The luncheon is planned for outdoors on the patio, if weather permits. Participants will order off the menu and get individual checks.

To get to the Sportsman's Club, take Highway 50 to about 11 miles east of Placerville and exit at Exit 57. Go north about 100 yards to Pony Express Trail, turn right



and the restaurant will be about a quarter mile on the right. Contact **Doug Becker** at (530) 622-1665, or **Jerry Hamm** at (530) 622-8030 for information.

— Steve Maginni

## The Haps in District 4

**Cliff Anderson** dropped a note with his dues payment to say that he was doing fine! On July 30<sup>th</sup> of this year he is looking forward to celebrating his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday should his health continue to be good. At this age, his first start with Caltrans seems so far away.

Speaking of 80<sup>th</sup> birthdays, **Jim Bouler** is looking so much forward to his on June 16, 2008 that he's paid his dues up until then. He also wants to remind all District 4 Quarter Century Club members that there's a group of North Bay Caltrans retirees who meet for lunch on the second Tuesday of every month. He wants everyone to know they're welcome to attend. Its pretty informal and they alternate their lunches between Marin and Sonoma Counties. If you're interested contact **Kearn Lee** at (707) 538-3484, E-mail: [kearnlee@aol.com](mailto:kearnlee@aol.com).

**Lloyd Wood** sends word he is just retired and enjoying it. His son, James, will be a freshman at Cal State-Hayward this fall. He sent me this note before they changed the name of the university to Cal State-East Bay.

**Frank McGovern** sends word he is still alive and kicking in Marin County but he spends a lot of time in Palm Springs. Looking out the window now at the Bay Area wet weather I envy him, but after watching TV and seeing the deluge descending on Southern California, I'm beginning to have second thoughts. Frank says he's still trying to master the game of golf.

**George and Artemis Samoulides** will go to Hawaii to stay at their son's condominium on Maui in May. In October they will take a golf cruise from San Francisco to Mexico, with stops at Cabo San Lucas and San Diego on the way back.

**Vern Waight** celebrated his 80th birthday earlier this year and promised to send me an update on his and **Betty's** activities for the last couple years. He enjoys the QCCer in its new format, particularly, the interesting "pictorials" that adorn it. I think it must be the train illustrations that do it, since Vern is a railroad enthusiast.

Betty and Vern report that they are still around but not traveling so much. Vern had a cataract operation at the end of January and is enjoying his improved vision.

In 2003 Vern joined the Southern Pacific Historical and Technical Society in keeping with his and Caltrans' dedication to transportation. He attended his first convention of the SPH&T in 2003 in Sacramento. Among the field trips offered to convention attendees was a visit to the former Southern Pacific Shops, which will become part of the California State Railroad Museum. In 2004 the convention was held in Tempe, Arizona. They are looking forward to attending the 2005 convention in San Diego.

Last December, Betty and Vern made their annual pilgrimage to Honolulu, staying at the Hale Koa military hotel near Waikiki.



Vern made his usual inspection of the Island's grade crossings signals and gates and found them to be the same as before: non-existent. He rode on the remains of the Oahu Railroad and Land Company equipment, now a tourist facility of the Hawaiian Railroad Museum at Ewa. Ewa, Vern says, was the ancient capital of Oahu. Those familiar with Oahu and its irregular shape may recall that Oahuans do not use the usual compass directions. Instead, roughly north is "Ewa or towards Ewa", south is "Diamond Head." Inland or toward the mountains is "mauka". Towards the sea is "makai". Vern says this works fine in the business district and the Waikiki sections, but Honolulu covers the entire island of Oahu. On the North Shore



(Haleiwa and Waimea area) only mauka and makai make sense. But, he says, why worry about it when Hawaii is such a great place to vacation. He says that in front of "Ewa" is a Hawaiian inflection he can't explain. Also, it is more correctly pronounced O'ahu, Hawai'i and Waikiki. The last word has accent marks on the i's. Vern says don't ask him how to pronounce the words with the correct accents but he says just pronounce them naturally. He or I will probably have to ask **Harry Yahata** when we see him next for an explanation of pronunciations, Hawaiian directions and whether or not the people of Oahu refer to themselves as Oahuans.

Vern says there are three Interstate highways: H-1, H-2 and H-3. While they are definitely not interstate highways, they are defense highways. H-1 not only serves downtown Honolulu but also Hickam Air Force Base and Pearl Harbor. H-2 connects to H-1 and terminates at Scofield Barracks and Wheeler Army Air Field. The newest freeway, H-3, connects the Marine Corps Base Hawaii Kaneohe Bay on the windward side of the Oahu with Pearl Harbor and Hickam Field on the leeward side via H-1. H-3 also has several miles of virgin flora on the western end. Some state highways or portions on Oahu are maintained by the State of Hawaii while the City and County of Oahu maintain others, even though they're signed as state highways. All of the major Hawaiian islands, incidentally, have city/county governments. At this point Vern ends his discussion of Hawaiian road and highway trivia.

— Paul Hensley

### A Survival Tip

Next time you are too drunk to drive home,  
Walk to the nearest pizza shop,  
Place an order,  
And when they deliver it,  
Catch a ride home with them.

## The Haps in District 5

Hope you're enjoying spring weather as you read this article. Thanks to Mother Nature's generosity this winter, we have an abundance of wildflowers and potholes. District 5 had some notable damage from the January and February storms, mostly in the southern part of the district. There were a few days when Santa Barbara was almost isolated because of dosures on Routes 101 and 154. The damage in Ventura County also affected our employees who commute from there to Santa Barbara each day.

We've lost contact with some of our QCC members, and Secretary **Kim Yarbrough** has asked for help in trying to find them. If you have an address for **Mel McAllister**, **Steven Pavitt**, or **Phil Pugnier**, please forward it to Kim or me.

Folks now enjoying the retired life: **Dale Gray**, **Phil Readyhough**, and **Julian Romero** from Maintenance, **Shirley Hanrion** from R/W, and **Terry Hobson** from Traffic. Soon to join them will be **Mike Grantham** from Project Management and **Jill Beitler** from Administration.

The annual Caltrans golf tournament returns to Rancho Canada in Carmel Valley on May 19-20. If you're interested, contact **Jacques van Zeventer** in Traffic or **Don Webster** in Maintenance.

Those with Internet access may enjoy an article in the January issue of the Caltrans News. Environmental Engineer **Wayne Mills** and Archaeologist **Thomas Wheeler** were recognized for their contributions in preserving the Dana Adobe in Nipomo. The address is:  
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/ctnews/jan05>.



This year's District 5 holiday party was held at the San Luis Obispo Elks Lodge instead of our usual outdoor location at the District Office. It was comfortable sitting indoors, and the BBQ crew headed by **Bill Fieldhouse** adjusted to the new facilities and provided their always-delicious meal. A ladies' "barbershop" chorus entertained us, and several guests were the lucky winners of gift baskets provided by our deputy directors. We had to limit seating to 300 this year, but otherwise the party was a success.

Thanks to those who sent a note with their annual dues. **Bick Moe** says that life has been good, but trips are shorter. From Paso Robles, anything east of Shandon, south of Atascadero, or north of San Miguel is too far away—except their journey to Hume Lake. Oh yes, they stop at the ocean.

**Masa Muraoka** wrote in January to say all's well in snowy Montana. He will be 80 this year and is still enjoying golf. Masa travels regularly between Montana and California, and **Pat Vernon** told us her daughter had bumped into him at a recent Lakers game.

Last year **John Tuohy** suffered a heart attack and a stroke that affected his speech. He is also facing knee surgery to repair years of wear and tear. Let's hope John has a healthier 2005.

Please think good thoughts for **Doug Friend**, who may soon be undergoing treatment for cancer.

We're sorry to report that **Frank Lentz** passed away on January 2. Frank, who had been our Deputy Director for Right of Way, came from Southern California where he had been active in youth soccer. After he retired, he and wife **Pat** moved to Kauai and enjoyed the beaches and spectacular views around the island. They had returned to California in 2003 to be closer to their grandchildren. We extend our sympathies to his family.

— Kathy Copeland

## The Haps in District 6

Some retirees and QCC members got together for lunch at the Santa Fe Basque at 3110 N. Maroa in Fresno on January 20<sup>th</sup> and really had a great time. The next luncheon will be March 24<sup>th</sup>; we'd like to do this every couple of months. Just get there before 12:30 pm, pay the bartender for the borders table and they will ring the bell at 12:30 pm for lunch.

The May QCC luncheon will be at Piccadilly Inn at the Airport at 11:30 am, so plan to attend. More to follow on this because I will need RSVPs.

**Dick** and **Barbara Beck** had a beautiful time reminiscing with **Ed** and **Mary Ann Hokokian** recently when they ran into each other in the line for lunch at the Chukchansi Casino. They spent a couple of hours talking about old times. Dick and Ed were on a survey party in 1958 on Route 152 in Madera County. Ed later continued his career in Administration and Dick pursued his in Engineering and Maintenance.

**Kim** and **Pat Yarbrough** attended the District 02 meeting in Redding recently and enjoyed meeting the members there. They also report dues are coming in, but rather slowly, so maybe we can get into motion with the dues in District 6.

**Virgle Ray** writes: "A reminder to fellow retirees: Ralph Tritch's semi annual breakfast is Wednesday, March 16 at 0900, at the Green Valley Restaurant in Porterville. It's a fun event, sharing stories with kindred souls."

I've just enjoyed a week in Honolulu with my son, who is with the Honolulu Police Department. I had a ride-along with him on the night shift on a three-day weekend in downtown Waikiki. I must



say it really was just like the television show Cops; arresting drunks (very funny), catching spear fishermen fishing with flashlights at night in the

sanctuary, domestic fights, smashing out a plate glass window off the balcony of a fancy hotel, etc. etc. Very exciting! I'm just glad it's not MY night job.

On a sadder note, **Will Stewart** passed away recently.

Anyone who would like to see more events and at different locations, please contact me at (559) 974-3885 or e-mail [tlittleton@comcast.net](mailto:tlittleton@comcast.net). For those of you who didn't get your name in here, please get hold of me with some news. It's interesting to us even if you don't think it will be.

— Terry Littleton

*District 7 did not contribute a report to this issue*

## The Haps in District 8

Congratulations to **Taylor Smith** and **Marsha Lotze**, reelected Director and Secretary-Treasurer at District 8's Christmas dinner in December. Sixty-seven members and guests attended. Taylor has been retired 20 years and wonders where they went! He and Katie marked their 58<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

After discussion, we decided to hold our 2005 Christmas Party at noon rather than in the evening.

Taylor advises that **Larry Wieman** is working on a scholarship in the name of **John Cowgill** and that more information on the scholarship will be furnished to members at a later date. Marsha Lotze shared a letter from **Martha Quade** who now lives in Galesburg, Illinois.

New Quarter Century Club members **Ron Wane** now living in San Diego and **Diana Barich** were welcomed. **Lyman Rich** of Rancho Dominguez was a guest. We haven't had the chance to visit with Lyman for many years.

**Tom Dwiggin** (DDD- Right of Way) noted he is the oldest active D8 QCC member at age 92

and all present congratulated Tom and wife Barbara and wished them continued blessings. **Ted Sheld** (Mtce) received his Honorary QCC membership certificate, albeit three years late! **George Gary**, retired Surveys, is still in the survey business in Desert Hot Springs, plugging away at 88! **Tess Dill** reports from Bethell, Washington that she continues to enjoy reading the QCC news.

**Jean Griffith** (widow of Stan, retired Construction) has moved to Santa Clarita to be near family and may not be able to make future meetings. Her new address is 21422 Tumbleweed Way, Santa Clarita, CA 91350. She'll be missed. **Linda Salmond** (Planning) still enjoys retirement and traveling in her RV, plus visiting with **Barney** and **Sue Chapman**. **Johnnie** (Mtce) and **Mary Hughes** have moved to Victorville where he is dealing with health problems.

**Roy** and **Wanda Smoot** drove down from St. George, Utah for the dinner. **Wes** and **Linda Grimes** stopped traveling long enough to attend, but are on their way AGAIN soon.

Others not present who sent greetings were **Tom Brannick** (PS&E) celebrating his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday, **Lloyd Patterson** (R/W) off on an RV trip and **Don Weaver** (DDD-Consulting Services).

### One Liners

"I was so naïve as a kid I used to sneak behind the barn to do nothing."

"According to statistics, it's easier to get hit by lightning than to win a Lotto jackpot. The good side: You don't hear from your relatives."

"Happiness is seeing the lifeguard all the girls were admiring leave the beach hand in hand with another muscular lifeguard."

"If God didn't want man to hunt, He wouldn't have given us plaid shirts."

"There's a new invention: snap-on acne for people who want to look younger."

"What's all the fuss about plutonium? What could dangerous about something named after a dog?"

**Dick Haight** (DDD-Traffic) and **Louise Haight, Wes** (Design) and **Linda** (Planning) **Grimes, Frances Jacques** (Admin) and new friends and relatives of **Taylor** and **Katie Smith** took a Mexican Riviera cruise in January. They enjoyed visiting Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan, and Cabo San Lucas. Dick hired a local panga boat, taking an excursion to climb Goat Mountain in the bay at Mazatlan... a difficult climb but worth it according to Dick.

Taylor and Katie Smith had organized the group and



planned to go but Katie's illness caused them to cancel. Katie meanwhile is responding to treatments and is expecting a full recovery. Wes and Linda have signed for another cruise in May, heading up the west coast to Vancouver.

**Carolina Gonzales** reports that she and a church group are also taking the Mexican Riviera cruise in late February and we are sure she will enjoy the trip.

Received a note from **Duane Sharp** (Const) and wife **Carol**, still living in Utah and shocked to view the damage caused by winter storms near St. George. He notes that after I finally realized that I had retired (although I retired at 58), Carol and I took a three month trip to Europe which we will always remember and kinda wish we could go back and revisit some of the places we enjoyed so. But the old age problems have crept up on us and, with some other things, make it impossible for that international travel. We have had a few physical problems the last few years but really we're O.K. I go back in the hospital in February for a total hip replacement which is no big deal and other than that we are anxious to do a little traveling and visit many of our friends. We hope to go east and stop by and see **Pete** (Traffic) and **Peggy Kames** in Colorado and

I really would like to see **Ralph Wheeler** (Design) in Baltimore, and we have a lot of family in Washington State and Northern California. Best to all.

Speaking of Pete Karnes, Peggy sends a short note to let you all know that Pete had his eye surgery Monday. Everything went great. He was the sixth eye surgery at our new Kaiser Hospital. Next surgery is set for January 26.

**John** and **Doris Estrada** recently moved from San Bernardino to Calimesa. Their new address is 10961-450 Desert Lawn Drive, Calimesa, CA 92320.

**Archie Smith** who worked in District 8 for many years, and his wife **Arlic** have recently moved from Los Osos, CA to an Assisted Living Facility in Morro Bay. Their address is Casa de Flores, 1495 Teresa Drive, #227, Morro Bay, CA 93442.

We are saddened to report on the loss of a number of retired D-8 employees.

**Frank Kramer** passed away in January. Frank worked mainly in the Construction Department as a Resident Engineer.

**Leon Humphries**, retired Maintenance, passed away in February. He was a well-liked and respected employee for almost 20 years. His wife Elaine and an extended family survive him, including four great-grandchildren.

**Mike Dominguez**, retired Construction and Shop 8, passed away in February. He was a well-liked and respected employee for almost 20 years and before that the U.S. Marines. His wife Micaela and an extended family survive him.


**Kathy Miller**, retired Administration, also passed away in February. She worked for the Bank of America before joining Caltrans, where she met and married **Jim Miller** (retired Construction). Kathy, who retired a number of years ago with health issues, was a much-loved coworker. She is survived by her husband Jim as well as an extended family. Many friends have sent memorial contributions to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in her honor.

## The Haps in District 9

**W**e had lunch at Whisky Creek in Bishop with **Bob Ripley, Chuck Carter, Mike Carrington, and Bob Marsh**. We had some good discussions about how to transfer our estates, high cost of houses, and environmentalists dosing down access to public lands.

From **Harold Jones**: "Nothing much going on up here right now. Haven't been very far from home since around Thanksgiving. Been lots of frozen fog—"Pogonip"—lately (and the roads get pretty slick from this sometimes). Saw a TV dip on Lee Vining's Snow and 'Pogonip' (Channel 8, Reno) the other day—it showed Marty Strelneck (Former two-time Sheriff Of Mono County) talking to John Tyson on 'John Tyson's Journal'—reminded me of my days down that way when Mono Basin was fogged in for weeks sometimes. I don't miss all that fog, that's for sure!

"We see various people from Bridgeport and other places up this way now and then (mostly at Wal-Mart or Raley's), but not too many from Caltrans lately. We did hear from **Jim and Ruby Strait** via their cell phone awhile back—they live in a motor home, so are pretty mobile. They were at their granddaughter's in Pine Grove at that time. Jim worked as an HMEO at Crestview and Sonora Junction yards many years ago, but has been retired for a long time (he's around 80+ now!) Their son, **Jimmy**, is Maintenance Supervisor in District 8 (Videll Junction, maybe?) He worked at Shoshone yard and elsewhere when he was an HMEO some years ago. He's got over 25 years with Caltrans now, and we need to get him into the Quarter Century Club. I sent him the info on joining some time ago, but not sure if he signed up or not. Say 'Hello' for me to the CT folks down that way."



My wife and I had lunch at the General Meeting for the Retired Public Employees Association Chapter 95 in Carson City today. We met a lady there who has quite a bunch of old documents that she would like to donate to Caltrans for the archives in Sacramento or elsewhere. The items date back to when old U. S. Highway 40 was built over Donner Summit. Apparently her father-in-law was an engineer for the Division of Highways, working out of the "Marysville" District. The items include handwritten notes, etc. during various construction projects he worked on. She seemed interested in preserving this stuff, rather than throwing it away.

She told me her father-in-law's name was **John Lacey Piper**—he worked for the Division of Highways from around 1913 to 1947 out of Sacramento and Marysville. Anne said that her husband (**Don Piper**—John's son, now deceased) had gone to nine different grade schools as he was growing up, because his dad moved on up the hill as Highway 40 was being built. Apparently John also worked on the "Lincoln Highway" (Highway 50?). Anne said John was born in 1882 and died in 1965 at age 83. Anne also has some old pictures of the various equipment used back then. Kind of an interesting bit of history!!

**P.S. I Saw Roy Brown** at Wal-Mart in Carson City today (he was Maintenance Supervisor at Crestview, Sonora Junction and Bridgeport many years ago). He's been retired quite awhile and now lives in Bridgeport. Also, I forgot to mention in my note to you the other day—I ran into **Bob Lunbeck**, formerly Maintenance Supervisor at Crestview and elsewhere, at the Raley's store here about a month ago. He's retired now, and lives in Gardnerville too. Small world!!

We were out for a ride to Wellington/Smith Valley/Yerington area yesterday. We stopped for lunch at the Heyday Inn at Wellington and ran into **Mike Carrington**. He and his wife know the owners of the place, so they stop by as they travel through on their way to or from Big Pine. Mike likes

to take the Sweetwater road out of Bridgeport to avoid Walker Canyon on 395.

From **Jay Smart: All In the family**— Instead of telling of my recent travels to South America and Alaska I want to write a few words about my family's relationship to the Division of Highways. I'm confident that many readers will recognize my name as well as those of my kin who worked in Districts 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, & Central.

My father, **Elwin J. (Al) Smart**, after riding the rails from Alabama to California, went to work as a highway laborer for his uncle, **Jay H. Gates**, Highway Superintendent at Altaville. Al, AKA "Wild," with his pal and coworker **R.C. (Bob) Warriner**, initially worked for highways at Altaville and Cabbage Patch. They also worked pretty hard at the bars and dance halls of Alpine, Amador, and Calaveras Counties. Al and Bob found the Groves sisters, **Myrle** and **Vivian**, working summers at Lake Alpine on Route 4 and ended up marrying them. Al retired in 1969 as Superintendent in Ukiah. Bob retired in 1972 as Senior Superintendent at San Jose.

The Smart-Warriner-Groves relationship brought a third generation to highways. Dad twisted my arm until it hurt so much that I took the test for Highway Maintenance Man I. Somehow I ended up working for highways for 38 years. Bob's son—my cousin—**Phil Warriner** went to work for the Bridge Department after working summers for District 4 and obtaining a degree from University of California at Berkeley. Another cousin, **Dave Vierra**, came to Highways when he was hired to a Maintenance position in San Jose. Phil, Dave and I prospered in our careers with highways and retired from responsible positions. I reckon that Phil, Dave and I would encourage any of our children to accept a career with Caltrans, but to date the fourth generation has chosen employment elsewhere.

Funeral services were held at the United Methodist Church in Big Pine on Jan. 22, 2005 for 37-year resident **Linda Elaine Pool-Thompson-Kemp**. Linda was the wife of **Jim Kemp**. They were married in 1963 in Eureka and moved to District 09 in 1967. Jim retired in 2000. Our condolences to their family and friends.

Funeral services were held at the Mt. Whitney Hatchery, Independence on Wednesday, February 9 for 45-year Bishop resident, **Robert L. Bay**, 71. Bob worked in District 09 for 45 years in Design, Surveys and Construction. Our condolences to his family and friends.

— Lance Hinek

### Shades of Percy Kilbride!

*A state trooper pulls an old farmer over for speeding.*

*The trooper starts to lecture the farmer about his speed and in general begins to throw his weight around.*

*Finally, the trooper gets around to writing the ticket. As he's doing it, he has to keep swatting at some flies buzzing around his head.*

*The farmer says, "Havin' some problems with them circle flies there, are ya, boy?"*

*The trooper stops writing the ticket and says, "Well, yeah, if that's what they're called . . . Never heard of circle flies, though."*

*"Well, circle flies are common on farms," the old farmer says. "See, they're called cirde flies 'cause they're almost always found circlin' around the back end of a horse."*

*The trooper says, "Oh," and goes back to writing the ticket. A few moments later he stops and frowns. "Hey. . . wait a minute, are you trying to call me a horse's ass?"*

*"Oh no, officer," the farmer says. "I have way too much respect for law enforcement and police officers to even think about calling you a horse's ass."*

*The trooper growls, "Well, that's a good thing." He goes back to writing the ticket.*

*After a long pause, the farmer grins. "Hard to fool them flies, though".*

## The Haps in District 10

**T**hirty-two guests were present at our meeting on December 28, a surprisingly large turnout between the holidays.

**John (Cap) Richards** "Spent Turkey day in Arizona with sons of grandkids " Should have stayed home. It was colder then a welders - - -" Otherwise, had a good time and enjoyed.

**Bernie Whitcomb** visited Vermont in October to join sisters from Daytona, Florida in celebrating his mother's birthday. "Visited Florida and North Carolina again family in May. Will again spend a couple months wintering in Hawaii (big island) from January to March."

**Judy Ogata** is back on the mainland for the holidays. "Going back to the big island on Jan 12, 2005. Will stay there until the end of March. In September I took my first Elder Hostel trip to Sedona, Arizona. **Bernie** and I drove there, stopping in Reno, then Scotty's castle on our way down. Judy's sister and their spouses joined us and we went to a golf seminar. It was lots of fun and we met lots of nice people."

New members: **Bob Young**, who started in July 1957 and retired in July 1993, and **Wilbur Elias** who started in 1950 and retired in 1978.

Thirty guests were present at our meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Don Burns** brought a picture taken at the District 10 office in 1963 and circulated in order to identify the folks in it. There were a few we couldn't identify. Hope he brings it back again. Incidentally the District 10 office, at 1976 E. Charter Way Stockton, cafeteria in the basement has a 50's motif.



Photos of Elvis and others adorn the walls along with 45 records strung along the walls and gourmet food served up. Try it out. Also some display cases with pictures

and memorabilia from days gone by. You *might* even find your picture there.

Twenty-nine were present at the huddle at Lenny's on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Those attending were **Bob Biffle, Judy Burke, Mike Ciccone, Vern Dorsch, Elton Fletcher, Bob Giese, Bill Gillespie, George Guy, Rick Hilderman, Bob Ikeda, Henry Lauchland, Bill Lamascus, Don Lane, Roy Littlefield, Tom McDougal, Dick Mesa, Bob Price, Stan Randolph, Cappy Richards, Tony Segovia, Paul Sigwart, Dennis Smith, Claude and Sharon Stewart, Paul Plinski, Al Wells, Douglas Worley, and Tom Wright.**

**Rick Hilderman** says, "Life is good. Old cars & young girls (50 to 60). Went to New York City on Columbus Day and to Puerto Vallarta Mexico over the holidays".

— Brian Young

## The Haps in District 11

**Gloria Alexanderson**, newly retired and a new member of the QCC, was born in Hammond, Indiana near Chicago where she lived just at the edge of 'downtown' and was able to walk just a few doors to both of her grandparents' homes. Her dad ran a window and car washing business. When Gloria was five the family moved 20 miles away to a new home at the edge of nearby Highland. There were cornfields across the road.

Early on, Gloria enjoyed trips to Chicago to see the Christmas store windows and was drawn to art and drawing as a possible step to interior decorating. She also took mechanical drawing in high school. Her last name and her talent put her above the rest of the 'shop guys' and at the head of the class. Her skills allowed her to pick up extra cash doing drawings for guys who couldn't keep their projects or their grades up.

Gloria got her start doing hand drawn ink 'drafting' after graduation when her drawing teacher

called to say that the local power company was interviewing. Often in the field for studies and notes, she advanced as far as the company allowed women to go at that time. At 25 and on her own, she bought her own carwash as a family sort of thing to have something to fall back on.

Gloria's younger brother had moved to San Diego with the Navy, married and settled here. In 1979 her parents retired and, on a trip to meet their son's new bride, decided they didn't have to suffer through the hard winters any more. They bought a home that was to have been finished within six months in University City. They returned to Indiana and started packing for the move. Gloria had recently divorced and decided that a change would be good for her too so she gave notice at her job and brought a load of furniture west to San Diego. She flew back and stayed a few months to get a vacation payout, then relocated here in January 1980

when her parent's house was finished.

Unfortunately it took five-and-a-half years to sell her parents' home back in Highland so they lived as snowbirds in San Diego during the winters, leaving Gloria as house sitter when they



went east for the summers.

Although she had anticipated a job with San Diego Gas & Electric, she saw an ad for a delineator position at Caltrans in June of 1980. When she could find no listing for Caltrans in the phone book she thought that it might be some 'dippy little business'. When she finally went to the address in the ad she found 'State of California Department of Transportation' where the building sign hadn't caught up with the name change.

After a review of the types of work she might expect and filling out an application, she returned for an interview and was hired in R/W engineering. It was a good thing too as SDG&E wasn't hiring at that time.

In her early years as a single gal living in her parents' home in sunny San Diego, Gloria enjoyed the fun days and nights of Friday night volleyball games, Wednesday night boogie boarding, Thursday night B100 happy hours and an occasional weekend fishing trip with the landscaping department.

Gloria's Caltrans career advanced her to Senior Delineator in 1984 and took her to Design in 1990, to the Drafting Pool in 1995 and to Traffic Safety in 2002.

In August of 1986 her parents finally made it to San Diego. The free rent ended, so Gloria bought her own home in north Clairemont. In 1993, her father died at the same time she was remodeling her home; Gloria reoriented her remodel to make space for her mom, who began to share her home in 1995. Gloria had planned to give her mom more of her time in retirement, but unfortunately, she died just a few days before the retirement party.

Some of Gloria's great memories were of family trips to Europe in 1967 and 1969 that visited 12 countries, and a three-and-a-half week trip of the Orient in 1984 with Honolulu as the last stop.

Gloria has some deferred maintenance to do on her home, but plans to travel back to the Indiana of her younger days to see the fall colors. In her free time during the Indiana winters, she did oil painting and stained glass crafts that she sold at craft fairs when she wasn't out dancing in the evenings. She'd like to renew her painting and stained glass interests for fun and profit.

**Tar and Vina Martin's** travels this year have included Indiana and Ohio, Arizona, California and Nevada, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland to search for information about their families: Martin, Rich, Sanders, Heaton, Helton, Hilton, Clevenger, Pittman, Peake, Tarbell; Stubblefield, DeFord, and Hoskins.

Two guys are discussing popular trends on sex, marriage, and values.

"I didn't sleep with my wife before we got married," Stu says. "Did you?"

"I'm not sure," Chad replies. "What was her maiden name?"



"In March we landed in Cincinnati, (30°F), drove to French Lick, Indiana, (20°), and enjoyed visiting friends from Bowling Green, Kentucky. We made our second visit to the American Quilter's Society Museum in Paducah. At Bloomington, Indiana, we met cousin Sarah Clevenger, PhD. We enjoyed getting better acquainted with the Healton family in the Kokomo area and attended Mildred Healton's 80th birthday celebration. We visited with Vina's high school pal, Ee Richardson in Maple Heights, Ohio, and discovered her husband, Niel, is a family cousin of Tar's!



"We traveled with 24 of our neighbors on rafts through the Grand Canyon in May/June (50° water) and in late July we joined some of the same group to cruise the Inside Passage from Vancouver, BC to Seward, Alaska. We visited with George (a Clevenger cousin) and Eberta Griffiths in Mesa, and Phyllis (Martin) Lynch in Tucson on our way home from the Colorado River. We took an Elderhostel tour of the National Parks of Northern California in June, led by Vina's sister-in-law, Marvey Mueller.

"During a stopover in Carson City Tar took leave of the tour group to visit the Nevada State Library/Archives where he learned more about his great-great-grandfather John Tarbell who was there in 1862-64, and by pure luck, found on microfilm, that Tar's great-grandfather had been there in 1864. Heretofore all we had known was that 'he went west for the gold rush.' Vina's brother Charles met the tour group in Redding, California. We met Jim and Judy Tarbell in Fort Bragg; and visited Donna (Martin) and Ralph McArthur and twins, and Janet (Martin) and Scott Howard and daughters, in Los Altos. Donna and Tar visited Gene Tarbell in San Mateo. Lois (Martin) and Allan Crawford were our hosts in San Luis Obispo in late June.

"In late July the Tarbell and David Martin families gathered for our annual picnic at Mission Bay Park in San Diego. We helped celebrate Uncle Lorin

Healton's 94th birthday August 20th in Riverside. October found us visiting Helen Lawler and Joni (Wood/Clevenger cousins) in Richmond, Virginia, and Francie (Tarbell) and Bob Fleek in Lawrenceville, Georgia. We met another of Tar's Healton cousins, Amy Lynn Hedrick, in Waynesville, Georgia, and visited Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and Wilderness Area just to the south.

"We ferried to Fort Sumpter, South Carolina, stopped by the Wright Brothers National Memorial at Kill Devil Hills near Kitty Hawk and the Cape Hatteras lighthouse in North Carolina. We visited the Luray Caverns in the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia and the Civil War NP in Richmond. Friends from our 1986 Colorado River rafting trip hosted lunch in Lynchburg. We toured the United States Capitol building, stood in the well of the House of Representatives and sat in the front row facing the rostrum. Then we toured the Air and Space Museum and the new Indian Museum. D.C. security was very tight everywhere, including the museums!

Thanksgiving was in San Clemente with Vina's sister-in-law's family. Vina continued to make quilts all year, between trips that is!

You can contact Tarbell and Vina Martin at 4526 Shade Road, La Mesa, CA 91941-6954, phone 619-447-0252, or email tarbell600bc@cs.com

## *The Haps in Central*

Our most recent gathering of Central District friends was a holiday dinner on December 8 at the Dante Club. The holiday spirit was enhanced by three very talented Sacramento State University students playing traditional Christmas music and selections from the Nutcracker ballet on the violin, viola, and cello.

Outgoing Director **Dick Petrie** presided over the election of **Gary Bush**, Director, and re-election of **Treasurer John Hebner** and

**Secretary Nancy Benjamin.** Lucky attendees with the right numbers went home with many great raffle prizes selected and beautifully wrapped by **Ann and Dick Petrie.** Thank you, **Dick and Ann** for all your hard work the past two years!!

Incoming Director **Gary Bush says:** "Hello everyone, I'm the new Director of the Central District Quarter Century Club. I was born in Los Angeles and eventually graduated from Cal Poly Pomona in June 1962 with a degree in Landscape Architecture. Moved to San Francisco and started working with the Division of Highways in July 1962 as a Junior Landscape Architect. My Uncle **Joe Sinclair** was then the District Director (no nepotism!). Worked in San Francisco/Oakland until my promotion to Chief Landscape Architect in HQ in 1993 working with a great guy, **Don Benjamin.**

"In 1963 I married my beautiful wife, Julie. We have two biological children, a boy, Erik, and a girl, Caryn. Eventually we adopted two girls from Korea, Katie and Lauren. When we moved from San Carlos in the Bay Area in 1993, we found a place near Placerville in the Sierra foothills and just love the country life with the deer, wild turkeys, skunks and raccoons paying us almost a daily visit.

"Since retirement in September 2002, we have been doing quite a bit of traveling. Our most recent trip was a cruise leaving Ft. Lauderdale on December 28<sup>th</sup> for Costa Rica, three locks of the Panama Canal, a train trip from Cristobel, Panama to Panama City on the Pacific Ocean side and back, then off to Grand Cayman, Cozumel and Belize. We celebrated the arrival of 2005 aboard ship, which was spectacular. Future trips this year are Nashville, North Carolina, State of Washington and, of

course, the Big Island of Hawaii in the fall.



"I look forward to this year as your new director and to meeting you at the various functions. **Nancy Benjamin, John Hebner** and I met recently to discuss this year's activities which will include a luncheon on Wednesday, May 18, at the Dante Club and a late summer BBQ and a holiday season get-together."



The following messages are from friends attending the holiday dinner:

**Derwin Davis** – "On November 1, 2004 I retired again after 2-3/4 years of full-time, in-office employment as a Right of Way consultant to the firm constructing the Lower Northwest Interceptor Sewer Line in Sacramento and Yolo Counties."

**Jim and Earlene Borden** – "So good to see all our good friends to begin the Holiday Season. We spent over two weeks at the end of September touring Oregon and Washington and a few days visiting family and friends. Just got back from a trip to Branson, Missouri. Among those with us were the **Larrabees, Rosanders, and Kassels.** Had a marvelous time and saw wonderful holiday shows—nine in four days. The only thing better would have been 10."

**Jack and Ellen Derby** – "The Christmas dinner at the Dante Club was a very nice party. Lots of old buddies to visit with, a good dinner and nice entertainment arranged for by **Nancy, Ellen** and I have been busy getting ready for Christmas – cards are all addressed and presents purchased. We cut the tree but haven't decorated it yet. We have been doing a lot of golfing and are starting duck hunting. Skiing is about to start too. Merry Christmas."

**Peggy Sweet** – "I enjoyed my evening here with many old friends. A special thanks to **Dick Ginsberg** for getting me off to a good start. **Charlie** would have loved this evening."

### Golf Stuff

Here are some of the more notable chapters from the new book, "How to Line up Your 4th Putt" by Bobby Rusher

*How to hit a Top Flite from the rough when you hit a Titleist from the tee.*

*How to avoid the water when you lie 8 in the bunker.*

*How to get more distance out of a shank.*

*Using your shadow on the greens to maximize earnings*

*Proper etiquette when you are playing with a complete jerk.*

*Crying and how to handle it.*

*How to rationalize a seven-hour round.*

*How to find the ball that everyone else saw go in the water.*

*How to make hitting short of the ladies tee sexy.*

*How to let a foursome play through your twosome without getting embarrassed.*

*How to relax when you're hitting five off the tee.*

*When to suggest swing corrections to your opponent*

*God and the meaning of the double bogey.*

**Doris Fowler** – "I'm moving into my new mobile home in a couple of days and I'm as anxious as a new bride!"

**Ileen Jellison** – "Have another grandchild – Ella Rose born October 22."

**Irene Francies** – "My daughter joined me for the Xmas dinner and it was great to see everyone. I have been coping with arthritis; otherwise I get along just fine. My son and his wife live in San Diego now so I get to see them more often."

**Merle and Adele Larrabee and Glen and Sharon Rosander** – "Just returned December 7 from a group tour to Branson Missouri. We had a

great time and thoroughly enjoyed the musical presentations. Eight shows in four days – all different and very good. Would highly recommend going there at Christmas time. A very Merry Christmas to all."

**Darwin and Marilyn Spartz** – "We enjoyed a fall trip to Williamsburg, Virginia. So much wonderful history in that area. We also visited Jamestown, Yorktown and Norfolk. Beautiful countryside. This year we also traveled to Hawaii and Lake Tahoe."

**The Hollises** – "Wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. 2004 has been an exciting year for us as we ventured to Europe for three months without any flying. Crossing the Atlantic on the Queen Elisabeth 2 and Queen Mary 2 is recommended over flying. Traveling in Europe by train is not necessarily recommended but still fun if you can overcome reading train schedules in all the different languages. To top off the year, while we were in Europe two more grandsons were added to the family. Our first pictures came via the Internet. Looking forward to seeing all our Central District friends in 2005."

**Mac and Betty McKenney** – "We made it through another year. See you next year. Merry Christmas."

**Bill and Hazel Warren** – "So wonderful to see so many old friends at Xmas time. I have been a Quarter Century member for over a quarter of a century and have enjoyed it all. We're both active and enjoying life. The four new great-grandchildren sure keep us on the move. What a great life."



**Ron and Rosanna Lutz** – "Guests of Dick and Louise Ginsburg – really nice to get back here every so often and see so many familiar faces and to visit again."

**Bill and Lola Altus** – "Always great to see old friends at our annual party. We are managing to

get along OK with aches and pains and visiting with friends. We had a fine trip, although short, to the Alpine countries last spring and are planning another to the 'Empire' cities of Europe. Hope all is well with you and yours. See you next year.

**Jeanne and Dave Theobald** – "Just returned from Portland, Oregon where their granddaughter was on the Oregon State Championship team that competed in the Nike National Championship 5k cross country race for high school students. Nike flew teams from all over the US – NY, Florida, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, etc. – to Portland and put them up at the Embassy Suites for four days and supplied them with sweat shirts, track suits, two pairs of running shoes,



room and board, and a dance. Participants had a 'ball'."

**The Kiffs** – "Spent six weeks in Oregon fishing, clamming, crabbing and generally partying. Weather was great. Good time with great friends **Beckwiths**,

**Smith, Salmons**, etc. Also **Marty** has been fishing with pals in Amador and the river – so far all that's caught are colds."

**Dick and Ann Petrie** – "Recently returned from Mexico where the rumor was that **Ann** fell while dancing on the tables and broke her foot. The story is much better than the truth—she fell walking on the sidewalk! **Dick** has enjoyed his reign as Director for the past two years but is happy to pass the gavel to **Gary Bush**. After his return to work on the California Performance Review this year, he realizes how much he quickly has adapted to retirement."

**The Beckwiths** – "We're enjoying our RV vacation trips in between **Debra's** work schedule." They plan on taking three weeks in September 2005 to Coos Bay, Oregon with the Caltrans RV group."

**John Canfield** – "It's great to see so many familiar faces even if the names don't come to mind immediately. Our two sons and I had the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C. this past

## ACTUAL HEADLINES

*Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says*  
*Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers*  
*Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over*  
*Miners Refuse to Work after Death*  
*Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant*  
*War Dims Hope for Peace*  
*If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile*  
*Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures*  
*Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide*  
*Red Tape Holds Up New Bridge*  
*Man Struck By Lightning Faces Battery Charge*  
*New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group*  
*Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft*  
*Kids Make Nutritious Snacks*  
*Chef Throws His Heart into Helping Feed Needy*  
*Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half*  
*Hospitals are Sued by Seven Foot Doctors*

### And the winner is....

*Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead*

summer. I was impressed with the World War II Memorial. It is simple, yet memorable. The high point of the trip was our visit to the Nurses' Memorial in Arlington Cemetery. We were able to input Neva's name on the keyboard and saw her history on the monitor. Thanks to the officers of the Quarter Century Club for organizing the dinner."

**Dave and Elizabeth Crane** – "Merry Christmas!! We haven't done a whole lot this year. Went up to Washington State to my old stomping grounds. Then we went to Bishop for Elizabeth's class reunion. (Don't know which one and she's not telling.) Then went deer hunting up by Mt. Shasta and got a buck. Not a real big one, but legal."

**Jim Gordon** – "Merry Christmas and everyone have a Happy New Year!!!"

**T. George Smith** – “Nothing new from the **Smiths**. No travels, but it’s great to be with old friends tonight.”

**Joe and Marge Dobrowolski** – “A great year! Not at Caltrans\*#! We backpacked into the Trinity Alps, visited Machu Picchu in Peru and, lastly, made it to the Christmas dinner with the Quarter Century Club.”

**Don and Nancy Benjamin** – “At the dinner, we reported our plans to leave on January 2, 2005 for Antarctica and South America. Since I’m preparing the Central District’s news, I can now report that we experienced seven of the most exciting weeks of our lives in January and February that included an 18-day Antarctic cruise and land explorations in the Falkland, South Georgia and Shetland Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula; hiking around the spectacular Iguazu Falls and in the Iguazu National Forest from the remote Yucatinga Lodge; trekking for 12 days over 100 miles in Patagonia, both in Argentina and Chile; and visiting sights in Buenos Aires and Santiago. We’ll stay flying high from this trip for a long time to come.”

I received a nice letter from **Ann Glover** saying “I’m now living in Warner Robins, Georgia, near my son, **John**, and his wife. I have integrated with the community and spend my time enjoying a Newcomer’s club of about two hundred members. They put me to work as their treasurer when they heard about my background and that keeps me busy part time. I play bridge at least once a week in various groups. Also canasta (hand and foot) and I’ve started a class in pinochle that is growing fast. Organized a singles group for Saturday night dinners out and I’m writing biographies for the members. I do miss dancing, which is scarce in this Baptist-dominated area, but enjoy the Baptist church attend. Took part in our annual Christmas event that hosts over ten thousand people each year.

“Just before I moved out here I bought a cabin on the shore of Lake Sinclair, which is close by. The fishing is quite good right from the dock or in the bass boat **John** acquired, so we eat a lot of fresh fish. My health remains very good. Still don’t have to

take any prescription drugs and seldom even a Tylenol for aches and pains. I feel that I’m blessed.”

**Ann’s** internet address is: [annglover@cox.net](mailto:annglover@cox.net).

I sadly report that **Marian Smith-Langsner** passed away on December 14, 2004 at age 84.

**Marian** graduated from Sacramento High in 1937 and began work with the California Division of Highways after graduating from Stanford University in 1941. She joined the Navy WAVES when World War II interrupted her career. She returned to the Division of Highways in 1946 after being discharged from the 19<sup>th</sup> Fleet. Marian continued her distinguished career culminating in becoming the Personnel Officer for the Division of Highways, the highest ranking woman at the time. After retiring in 1978 she continued to be an active volunteer for many groups, including the Quarter Century Club. I worked for Marian the year before she retired and recall she handed me an application to join the Quarter Century Club when I received my 25 Year award. Our sympathies go to Marian’s brother, **T. George Smith** and her family. She will be missed.

I hope to see many of you on Wednesday, May 18, 2005, at the Dante Club.

**The California Transportation Foundation, each year, sends a funding appeal to the members of the QCC. About 10 percent of the membership responds annually, contributing about \$7,000 to support the work of the foundation. We urge members to consider contributing to CTF and its programs. Gifts can be designated for special programs or as a memorial. Donations can be mailed anytime to CTF’s mailing address: PO Box 163453, Sacramento CA 95816. All donations are tax deductible.**

## Events

**District 3 -** *No Contact*

Breakfast at Perko's Yuba City at 7 am on the third Wednesday of every month

**District 4** *10 YR*  
 Contact: Ed Coble, (650) 941-5156

Email: edcoble49@worldnet.att.net

The **Caltrans Lunch Bunch** meets on the second Tuesday of every month—contact Ed Coble.

The **North Bay Caltrans Retirees** meet on the second Tuesday of every month—contact Kearn Lee at (707) 538-3484 *10 YR*

**District 6** *12 YR*  
 Contact: Ralph Tritch, (559) 535-4295

The **Caltrans Retiree Breakfast** meets at 9 am on the third Wednesdays in March and September at Green Valley Restaurant at Olive & J Street Porterville *TERRABELLA*

**District 7** *10 YR*  
 Contact: Tom Fera, (818) 896-9377

The **Monthly Luncheon Club** meets on the second Wednesday of the month in Los Angeles—contact Tom Fera for information.

**District 9** *10 YR*  
 Contact: Lance Hinek, (619) 873-3885

**Lunch at Whiskey Creek** meets on the first Friday of the month in Bishop—contact Lance Hinek for information

**District 10** *No Contact*

**Lenny's Huddle** meets on the last Tuesday of the month at Denny's, I-5 and March Lane, in Stockton

**District 11** *No Contact*

**ROMEOS** (Retired Old Men Eating Out) meets at Denny's, Navajo road, at 8:30 the third Wednesday of every month

## Deadlines

Deadline for material for the QCCer is the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month in which it is published. The next issue will be published in March. Therefore, the deadline for published material will be March 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Check the Mailing Label on your QCCer to find the date on which your membership expires. Please remit your membership dues as soon as possible.**

### In Memoriam

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

Name	District	Date
Howard Laws	1	January 18, 2005
Emery Blomquist	1	January 30, 2005
Harry Ewing	2	December 25, 2004
Chris Hultz	2	December 9, 2004
Roy A. Johnson	4	March 12, 2004
Karla Ruiz	4	January 28, 2004
Norman Torgerson	5	October 10, 2003
Wil Stewart	6	December 2004
R. Charles Cano	7	August 3, 2004
Musa P. Sneddon	7	January 11, 2004
Paul O. Waggoner	7	July 8, 2004
Mike Dominguez	8	February, 2004
Frank Kramer	8	January, 2005
Kathy Miller	8	February, 2005
Leon Humphries	8	February, 2005
Robert Bay	9	February 9, 2005
Linda Thompson-Kemp	9	January 22, 2005
Marian Smith-Langner	Central	December 14, 2005
Paul B. Wiley	Central	February 11, 2004

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