



Constitution Changes

CALPERS READY TO PROVIDE INFO

From the Corner Pocket

The item in the last issue regarding other politically active groups of California State Retirees and the Retired Public Employees' Association brought a nice reply from the Assistant Executive Officer of CalPERS. Under the topic of "... potential changes to CalPERS—what can be done ..." came the suggestion that two high-level CalPERS officers, **Robert Carlson** and **Chuck Valdez** are available to speak to any QCC group that may be interested.

Remember, the mission statement of the Quarter Century Club is "...to establish a closer bond of friendship..." I am not suggesting that we as the QCC organization do any more, but if you are looking for a topic that is of interest. I pass this along as it could be worth the effort.

Robert Carlson is a Caltrans retiree and a VP on the CalPERS Board of Administration and Chuck Valdez currently works for Caltrans and is the CalPERS Investment Committee Chair, both of them are in a position to see the inside processes going on at CalPERS.

As your 'lame-duck' State QCC president the only group I chair is the small board of QCC officers on an irregular basis, but those of you

out in the districts have many more opportunities to meet with a vastly greater number of people.

My guess is that the staff at CalPERS sees some of the Governor's and others' proposals as having potentially serious impacts on our pensions and have insights to share with you. If your district QCC group would like one of these distinguished gentlemen to come to your meeting, contact Patricia K. Macht, Assistant Executive Officer at the Office of Public Affairs, P. O. Box 1802 – Sacramento, CA 95812-1802, 916-795-3991. The letter to me included the bios of both, if you should have some preference or choice in either's area of expertise.

My thanks go out to all who supported the changes in the QCC Constitution to bring us to a stronger financial position. My special thanks go to **Kim Yarbrough** who, with **Kathy**

Freeman (QCC D04) and **Kathi Andreasen** (QCC Cen D) made the effort to count the ballots in spite of Kim's having to move his household and recover from a stroke. The final count is - Total ballots received: 307; Yes - 303; No - 3; Blank - 1, so while the number voting could have been higher, the 99% approval is pretty close to unanimous and the proposed revision to the Constitution and dues

structure is approved. And please accept my apologies for not getting the revised constitution and the ballot into the same issue.



As approved, effective, August 1, 2006, the main change is that dues will be \$15/year. The revision also has a 60-day grace period to pay dues for any number of years (minimum 3) (delinquent or advance) at the former \$10/year rate. Effective October 1, 2006 all dues payments will be at the new \$15/year rate. Those joining after August 1 will have to pay the new rate.

Also, if the annual dues payment is not received by the end of February, you will be dropped from the mailing list and will not receive the next QCC'er. No more two-year grace period.

Honorary members over age 80 may request to be exempt from paying dues rather than the previous automatic exemption. And even non-paying members must send a card each year to indicate their desire to continue the QCC'er.

Now we must appeal to **Peggy Veeder**, the QCC Webmaster to update the web page in her spare time or before she goes back to work as a Caltrans annuitant. (On a visit with her in Florida we found that to prevent her mobile home park from being sold to developers, the tenants had to buy the entire park. So it's back to

work to raise some extra cash for unexpected expenses.) If you haven't done so yet, check out <http://ctqcc.150m.com/qcc.html>, and send her your Email address if you use one.

Peggy and **Kim** are working on a new member roster and will post a list on the web of those with an Email address that they choose to list.

— Butch Biendara

Secretary Treasurer's Report

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT:

As you have read in the president's message, the amendment to the constitution has been approved. In addition to the increase in annual dues to \$15, there were a couple of **very important** changes on which I would like to elaborate.

The deadline for dues payments now becomes the end of January. If dues are not paid by the end of February they will be considered as delinquent and the member will not receive the next issue of the *Cue See Seer*, which will come out in mid- or late-March or any additional issue until dues are paid. I will notify everyone by mail by the end of February, but it is most probable that the March issue will not be mailed to you. After a period of two years of non-payment of dues, the member will be dropped from the roster. So **please** get your dues in by the end of January.

1. The revised dues amount, \$15 for all members, will become effective August 1, 2006. **Prior to that**, members may pay current or delinquent dues in advance (for a minimum of three years) at the current rate of \$10 per year.
2. Those who qualify for honorary life membership **must** request that they receive that status. They **also must request annually** that they retain that status. The primary reason for this is that after the member qualifies for honorary status we no longer have contact.

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Addresses change, people pass away, etc. and the *Cue See Seer* continues to be mailed. All we are asking is that the honorary member contact us (drop us a card, letter, e-mail, etc.) to verify their address and state that they would like to continue receiving the *Cue See Seer*.

DUES: Thanks again to those who have sent in donations. **They are greatly appreciated.** There are still many out there who not have paid their dues for 2006, and there are also some who are still delinquent for 2005. **Please check the date in the upper right corner of your mail label for your dues expiration date.**

RELOCATION: We did complete our move. However, as most of you living in California know, the weather in March was really miserable. We attended the District 3 spring luncheon in Yuba City in mid-March. I never have had that many people gather on my birthday before ... it was great! By that time we had already gotten a big snow and lots of rain. And with a 350-foot long drive, it was **not** fun shoveling!! It snowed, rained, hailed, etc. almost every day. And the day before the moving van was to arrive, another 1' + of snow blessed us. So that part of the move was delayed a day. We finally got everything to our new home in Vacaville on the 31st of March. And three days later, I had a stroke on my left side. Spent a couple of days in the hospital. Needless to say, it is delaying all the unpacking. (Is that all bad??) Recovery is coming along quite well, about 90% in the arm, 80% in the leg, but still working on it. This **IS** the last move!

ROSTER: I lied. Didn't get the roster completed for the reasons listed above. I WILL get it done in time for the next *Cue See Seer* issue.

— Kim Yarbrough

Rather read the QCCer on-line? Go to <http://ctqcc.150m.com/qccnewsletter.html>

A membership application and a wealth of information about QCC officers, history, and constitution are available at <http://ctqcc.150m.com/qcc.html>

The Milk Carton

Here are names of members with whom we have lost contact. If you know of their whereabouts, please contact the Secretary, Kim Yarbrough, at the address shown elsewhere in this issue.

Pearl M. Meyers	01
Edward M. Nott Sr.	06

Although this list is very short, it doesn't mean we have found all the persons listed earlier. Unfortunately we received no information for several members after listing a name three times in this column. Those names will be dropped from the roster unless we receive more information.

The Haps in District 1

Spring is a great time of year up here in the northwest corner. In March we enjoyed the jazz festival and in May the rhododendron festival with a great parade and many activities. This was also a great time for the head of our computer unit, **George Eitzen**. He retired April 1 and had a nice retirement lunch on March 29 at the Cafe Marina. I got to attend and enjoyed seeing co-workers again. I even knew nearly all of them. George's wife joined him for the lunch and we all had a great visit.

Several of us made it to **Norm Worley's** 95th birthday party at the Elk's club on May 7 with plenty of food and dancing. We are looking forward to doing it again next year.

The **Boyd**s and **Severson**s were in Eureka at the right time. **Jim Boyd** and **Jerry Severson** attended the Caltrans men's lunch and enjoyed visiting with everyone. Jim and **Linda** have been busy this year. They took a trip to Arkansas, then to Fort Bragg (great for abalone), and, most recently, to Idaho and Wyoming. They will be visiting their daughter and her family and seeing the sights.

I was the speaker at the quarterly CSEA retirees meeting on May 25. I shared information and a Caltrans video on the 1964 flood that was so devastating to this area. There is still a lot of interest even after all this time. The attendees included the **Truttmans**, **Bertelinis**, the **Turnells**, **Bob Myers**, and **Ben Stebbins**.

Bob McClary is now home. He is continuing to improve and will be much happier in his own home. He and **Sonja** attended the Memorial Day service at Ocean View Cemetery in Eureka and we got a chance to visit with them there.

I had a nice note from **George Otterbeck**. His second granddaughter and 11th grandchild, **Rebekah Claire Walker** was born March 19 in Helena, Montana. He is still an active volunteer for AARP, doing taxes and teaching their senior driving class. He was asked to come back to Caltrans for the construction season so other things will be on hold for awhile.

James McClure retired April 8th and **James Hall**, Senior Right of Way Agent, retired on May 4th.

Charles Edwards, Senior Right of Way Agent, who retired 12/29/04, passed away recently. **Georgia Hannel** was very saddened to hear about it as she worked with him in District 1 Right of Way. Our deepest sympathy goes to his family and friends.

Vi Truby is enjoying her retirement by traveling. She cruised through the Panama Canal and made it to the Kentucky Derby. Her next plans include seeing her brother in Lake County and family in Sacramento, then off to Mississippi, back to Sacramento and up to Lake Tahoe, then home to recoup.

Bob Trice has been wintering in Arizona, but had some health setbacks. I hope things are better now.

I was able to stop by **Dean** and **Mary Ann Bottini's** home recently and presented Dean with his QCC Honorary certificate and lifetime membership. We had a great visit, going back over old times. He was the district personnel officer when I started work in personnel in 1966 and I replaced him when he retired in 1984 so we shared a lot of memories.

I hope to hear from more members. My email is ahartin@cox.net>ahartin@cox.net. Have a great summer.

—Arlene Hartin

The Haps in District 2

The QCCer did not receive a report from District 2.

"Next!"

A man is walking by an insane asylum and hears all the residents chanting, "Thirteen! Thirteen! Thirteen!"

Quite curious about all this, he finds a hole in the fence, looks in and someone pokes him in the eye.

Everyone in the asylum starts chanting "Fourteen! Fourteen! Fourteen!"

The Haps in District 3

District 3 held a wonderful spring get-together in Yuba City on March 19. Joining the more than 120 people who attended were President **Butch Biendara** and his wife **Saye** and Security/Treasurer **Kim Yarbrough** and his wife **Pat**.

Leo Trombatore, former Director of Transportation and of District 03 attended with his lovely wife **Shirley**. Also attending were former District 03 Directors **John Allison** with wife **Marie** and **Irene Itamura**. We do thank Mr. T for his up to date information concerning the bridges in the San Francisco Area.

What a fun afternoon, filled with good friends, fellowship and much talk about the good times and hard work at Caltrans. I did take pictures of most everyone in attendance. After asking several people, I concluded that neither they nor I had a way to make them available over the Internet. The pictures remain on my camera chip. If anyone would like to set up a web site for access to these pictures please call me.

John Sanger is back in action after a stroke. Take that dancing easy, John.

The Moose Lodge in Yuba City recently recognized **Ralph Sandler** as an outstanding cook and a great help in the kitchen. Just keep those steaks coming Ralph.

Charles (Dan) Winona and **Wilbur Wright** have been working on Dan's boat, getting it shipshape for an ocean cruise. Both families will soon head for Fort Bragg for the summer. Wilbur is also president of the Chapter 60 Retired Public Employees Association. This organization has a membership of 230 retired public employees from all sectors of government. Wilbur does stay busy with community activities.

Recently I spoke with **Sam Johnson**. This is a man who travels!! He leaves soon for his fourth of eight trips during this year. This one is to Isle Royale National Park near Houghton Michigan. He will also stay on Beaver Island during this two-week adventure. Sam's previous trip was to Alaska. Flying southwest from Anchorage he spent a total of 27 hours before he found something few people see, a wolverine in the wild. Talk about tenacious. In July Sam and **Herb Puckett** will drive to Alaska for a two-week sight seeing trip. When home for a short time, Sam works as a volunteer for the Sutter County Sheriff's Office.

Bill Stenzel is another man whose life takes him in many directions. Singing in a barbershop quartet and traveling to venues along with coaching other singers takes a lot of time. Labor Day Weekend is spent in Fort Bragg with his Quartet singing for their supper. Yes, they do get paid with free meals. Bill's grandchildren along with one great grandson help to keep him young. His granddaughter will be attending Mills Collage in the fall on a full scholarship. Bill also attends get-togethers at the Elks Lodge with the RV group.

Hope to see you in Fort Bragg this summer where I'll be spending a great deal of time. Have a wonderful summer and keep the news coming in.

—Susanna Ford

(District 3 from Placerville) A service honoring the late **John Mabry's** Caltrans and military service was held in Woodland at the VFW's Post Home on March 4. The military service, performed by the Woodland VFW post, included a flag presentation to John's wife. Locals attending were **Doug Becker**, **Darrell Hansen** and **Keith** and **Barbara Maggini**.

Some local folks attending the NASCAR races in Las Vegas on March 13 were **Keith** and **Barbara Maggini**. Their son

Donald, and granddaughter **Courtney**, who flew in from Napa, joined them. The weather didn't cooperate and resulted in very cold afternoons with occasional rain and snow, but a good time was reported in spite of the weather, with coffee or cocoa being the popular beverage.

Doug and **Grace Becker**, **Stan** and **Nancy Freeman** and **Keith** and **Barbara Maggini** from the local area attended the District 3 Marysville Retirees spring get-together at the Moose Lodge in Yuba City on March 19. A delicious buffet was served, with socializing being enjoyed by all. Susanna Ford and Leita Wells hosted the event. Great job ladies, hope you have more planned in the future.

Spring weather has finally arrived in Central California after a cold and wet March and April. local weather specialist **Gerry Hamm** reports that the rainfall total in the local area approached 60 inches, more than 150 percent of the season average of 40 inches. Active gardeners are busy preparing for planting and hoping they won't have the usual late frost to ruin their efforts.

The Placerville Area Spring Luncheon was held on April 20th at the Moose Lodge in the 8 Mile House Area with a delicious buffet dinner being served. Forty-two guests attended, representing the following communities, Auburn, Camino, Diamond Springs, El Dorado, Grass Valley, Lone, Markleeville, Marysville, Mt. Aukum, Placerville, Plymouth, Pollock Pines and Sacramento. **Doug Becker** hosted the event. Those attending included **Dale Bourne**, **Larry Burroughs**, **Bill** and **Barbara Byer**, **LaRoy Carrol**, **Marty** and **Lucinda Cookman**, **Leno Cruz**, **Max** and **Delores Dodson**, **Rich Elliot**, **Darrell** and **JoAnn Hansen**, **Buck** and **Wanda Ingram**, **Al** and **Delores Lara**, **Keith** and **Barbara Maggini**, **Dan Mainwaring**, **Kurt** and

Corky Mellow, **J.C.** and **Barbara Moore**, **Bill** and **LaQuita Nello**, **Loren Pollock**, **John Qualls**, **Bob Robertson**, **Bill** and **Barbara Shields**, **John Teresi**, **Martin Urevich**, **Bob** and **Sally Walker**, **Lee** and **Laura Weldy**, and **Wally Yager**. Some mighty tall stories were heard during the event as everyone had a great time.

May 21st will find **Keith** and **Barbara Maggini** at the Silver Legacy Hotel/Casino in Reno, attending Keith's Army Unit, 9th bi-annual reunion. The unit served with the 40th Division in Korea during 1951 and 1952 campaign.

— Keith Maggini

Dues Due!

Check the mailing label on your QCCer to find the date of your membership expiration. Please remit your membership dues as soon as possible.

The Haps in District 4

It has been a busy spring for my family and me and it will be an even busier summer. But more on that later.

Bob and **Camille Graham** are back from a Princess Cruise around the horn of South America. They encountered only about two hours of slightly rough seas. Because of this their ship was able to make all of its port stops. They started in Buenos Aires, stopped in Montevideo and then proceeded to sail around the horn. They were treated to sights of South American sheep ranches and the spectacle

of more than a million penguins on the march. They ran into very few winds and the temperature even went into the 80s. They shared the fun of the cruise with their son and his wife, their grandson, and his son's mother-in-law. At the port stops they were able to take walks, hikes and tours of the ports. In the evenings at dinner, they enjoyed discussing the day's experiences and looking forward to the next day.

Hearing of their experience of going around the horn, something didn't sound right to me. So I went back to where I had first heard about going around the horn—that is, to my copies of "Two Years Before the Mast" by Richard Henry Dana, Jr. and "Mutiny on the Bounty."

I reread the tales of tremendous winds and seas, ice storms, ships almost keeling over, sailors lost at sea and days of no progress. I read how Captain Bligh of the Bounty gave up going around the horn and reversed direction to go around Africa's Cape of Good Hope to reach the South Seas. This didn't sound at all like the Grahams' cruise. Who was telling the truth, or is a calm trip around Cape Horn a consequence of global warming?

Ken Takahashi dropped a line to say he was doing fine. He was saddened to learn that **Dick Giegling** had passed away last year. Dick as a Senior Engineer had been his supervisor for several years.

Ken had just got back in April from a two-week Holland America cruise. It began in Hong Kong, with stops along the way at different ports with opportunities to tour Shanghai, Dalian (Manchuria), Busan (Korea), Nagasaki, and with the last stop in Osaka. Ken said it took a 14 1/2-hour nonstop flight to get to Hong Kong to begin the cruise. He said it was a

challenge for him to read the Chinese characters he encountered everywhere.

Most of the street signs and restrooms (with symbols) had English translations posted, but the names of most of the local stores were in Chinese only. He found that most of the Chinese he met couldn't speak English but those involved with tourism could speak some. He found the same in Japan. In Korea, Ken said their written characters looked like Greek to him. No matter how hard he tried, he couldn't figure them out.

Last July Ken took Amtrak from the Bay Area Emeryville Station to Portland to attend the National Railway Historical Society's annual convention. For five days he was able to ride different local trans set up especially for the railroad fans.

During the spring Ken works as a volunteer for AARP doing tax returns via computer and E-filing for senior citizens and low-income households. During the year he takes classes at San Francisco City College on the Chinese language as well as piano lessons.

Ken keeps in touch with a few retired Caltrans engineers: **Jim Spinello**, **Mike Church**, **Bill Lo**, **Larry Yip**, and **Peter Lim**. He also visits friends still working at the Oakland district office a couple times a month. The security guards know him by sight.

I attended **Jack** and **Ruthie Maltester's** annual "Thank You Barbeque for Past and Present Leaders of Caltrans District 4" with Quarter Century Club members **Harry Yahata**, **Ann Hansen**, **Tom Lammers**, and **Bob Macpherson**. Also in attendance were **Leo** and **Shirley Trombatore**. It was nice to see them again; they were looking very well. I talked with **Ann Hansen** about our daughters. Ann's

daughter, **Jennifer Reiner**, is doing well, living in Alameda and working for an architectural firm, MBH. Jennifer is learning about working on historical buildings in San Francisco and preserving their facades.

I talked with **Ruby Louie**, the District 4 director of external affairs and asked when we might see the Chinese New Year Dinner reinstated. Ruby looked at me and rolled her eyes to say "With all I've got to do now, I just don't have the time.

With regard to my family, it has been a very hectic time. Our youngest daughter, who has been eyeing Texas for many years, finally pulled the trigger. She accepted a job in the town of Garland, a northern suburb of Dallas, as a first grade teacher. Not only did she find a job but she also bought a four bedroom, two-and-a-half bath house for \$169,000. She said there was no way she could ever afford to buy property in California.

So my wife has been flying down to Huntington Beach to help her pack for her move to Texas. At the end of June, she will caravan with my daughter and her two dogs and a cat from California to Texas. However, we did tell my daughter that the Hensley Moving Company had gone out of business and she would have to use a regular mover for the big stuff. I'll let you know next quarter if my wife survives the trip.

On a somber note, I was saddened to hear of the passing of **Jack Watson**, **Kurt Kamai** and **Ted Oatman**. My oldest daughter, during one of her summer internships in the district office, worked for Kurt and had nothing but praise for him as a mentor and teacher. He was one of the top geometricians ever to work for Caltrans.

— Paul Hensley

The Haps in District 5

Summer is coming, but you wouldn't know it by our weather. The winds kept the flags blowing straight out on Memorial Day, and we had two inches of rain the weekend before—the weeds and grasses are growing taller.

This will be a shorter report than usual, because we haven't had much news from our District 5 members. Please drop me a note or postcard and let us know what's up.

The May 2006 edition of the Caltrans News is full of news about the Bay Bridge project, Workers Memorial Day in various districts, the \$19.9 billion general obligation bond for transportation (hooray!!), accolades for Caltrans employees who have gone out of their way to aid travelers, and even tips for good health. You'll find the News at www.dot.ca.gov/ctnews/may06.

Our facilities staff continues their efforts to keep the district office in good repair. Currently we're getting a new roof on the Lab building and a new chiller for the air conditioning system. The office is almost 50 years old now, and the corner of Higuera Street and Madonna Road gets busier every day. Someday there may be a Caltrans office at another location, but for now, we're patching and painting.

Congratulations to the District 5 golf team for winning second place in the annual State tournament in May. Team members were **Jacques Van Zeventer** (captain), **Mike Giuliano**, **Mike Perham**, **Don Webster**, **Diane Dostalek**, **Vicci Messer**, **Don McGray**, **Greg Mahoric**, **Patrick Stimson** and **Mike Thompson**. Jacques says the goal next year is first place. Way to go, guys and gals!

Congratulations to some retirees from Maintenance: **David Terry** from the Salinas

area, **Paul Richardson** from Santa Barbara, and **Charles Lund** from Santa Cruz area.

Those of us still working are following the negotiations between our bargaining units and the governor's representatives. As of mid-May, they were at an impasse, and SEIU was asking members to consider a strike. We hope this will be a last resort.

In honor of local residents who served in WWII, a Cal Poly student named Thomas Sanders photographed several of them for an exhibit titled "The Greatest Generation". The photos were displayed at The Oaks, a senior living facility, and a few were shown in *The Tribune*. I looked at the on-line version of the paper to see all the photos (www.sanluisobispo.com), and discovered one of **Ted Reinhardt**, looking very distinguished in his uniform.

Del Hollinger stopped by the office in April to pay his dues for the last time, as he reaches the big 80 this year. Del says he still sails occasionally, and he had been caring for his wife following her recent surgery.

We're sorry to report the recent loss of two District 5 retirees. **Doug Friend** passed away at his home in Atascadero on March 24, following a prolonged bout with cancer. Doug retired from Caltrans with 25 years of service, mostly in Right of Way. He was an avid golfer and loved sports of all kinds, and enjoyed exploring new places in the US and around the world. He is survived by his wife **Phyllis** and sons **Scotty** and **Tim** and their families.

Gene Peterson of Aromas passed away on April 24. Gene was first hired by the Division of Highways in 1956, then took a break to serve in the US Army in the artillery. He returned to Caltrans and worked as an inspector in Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz. He is survived by his wife **Myrna**, son **Ronald** and daughter **Christine** and their families.

— Kathy Copeland

Deadlines

The deadline for material for the QCCer is the 5th of the month in which it is published, although we prefer to get it earlier if we can. The next issue will be published in March. The final deadline for the next issue will be June 5th.

The Haps in District 6

Twenty-eight of us enjoyed our spring luncheon at Richard's on May 16th. Attendees were **Roy Anderson** and his wife, **Barbara** and **Richard Beck**, **Mary Berg**, **Alma** and **Ken Cartwright**, **Kay Chessman**, **Georgia Cordova**, **June** and **Barney Deeter**, **Jerry Fay**, **Ray Freeman**, **Terry Littleton**, **Barbara** and **Don Peaslee**, **Barbara** and **Don Peterson**, **Thelma** and **Chester Sohm**, **Jan St. Louis**, **Martin Tressider** and his wife, **Bob Voss**, **Ted Winter** and his wife, and last but not least, our statewide Secretary/Treasurer **Kim Yarbrough** and his wife, **Pat**.

Honorary Life Memberships in the Quarter Century Club were given to **Barney Deeter**, **Martin Tressider** and **Ted Winter**.

Steve Mason and his wife, **Linda** moved to Fayetteville, Arkansas, after Steve retired in December 2005. Steve had worked in Districts 1, 8, and 10 and finished his 36-year career with Caltrans in District 6. His last position was Maintenance Manager II, where he had responsibility for the entire district.

Friends, family and co-workers attended a retirement dinner in Bakersfield. Steve was very happy to see so many present and retired Caltrans employees, including QCC members from several districts and headquarters. He was honored by Bakersfield's Mayor Hall who presented him with the key to the city.

Steve and Linda are looking forward to living closer to their two sons, their wives and three grandchildren—plus one on the way! Both of their sons went to the University of Arkansas, met and married girls from Fayetteville, started their families and, as they say, "The rest is history."

Steve and Linda are inviting their Caltrans friends to stop by if they are traveling through northwest Arkansas. Telephone: (479) 756-9189.

Congratulations, Steve!

Here is an adventure that **Barney Deeter** experienced in April of this year.

After having served three years in the Air Force many years ago, I, along with about 93 other souls, joined the Navy for the weekend aboard the Aircraft Carrier USS Midway, docked in San Diego. We were called the "Midway Marauders". This group consisted of fathers and sons and daughters from the St Phillips Church in Bakersfield. Wives and mothers were not invited on this adventure. Twenty-six of the young Marauders were the officers and leaders in the respective battle groups. The adults were just along for the ride and had no responsibilities. There were eight battle groups

My son-in-law, Jack LaRochelle, along with his three sons, Sean, Michael and Mark and me, were in the same battle group, USS Nimitz. The battle groups were named after US Navy ships. Enroute to the Midway, everyone was asked their age, their job, why they come along on this adventure and whether the individual had been in any branch of the military.

After a short briefing on Saturday morning, we boarded one of two buses and started on our merry way to the tune of 'Anchors Aweigh' with flags flying. We arrived in San Diego around 2 pm and spent some time at the Maritime Museum. The old ferry

boat "Berkeley" (which carried passengers between Oakland and San Francisco before the Bay Bridge was built) was moored there, restored and in excellent condition. I'm sure I was a passenger on it when I was little. It was docked alongside a Russian submarine, not nuclear, but powered by diesel and battery. There were 73 crewmen on this sub when it was active. Not much room to turn around in.

Also docked alongside the sub was a sailing ship featured in a movie that starred Russell Crowe. Another sailing ship there was the "Star of India". While we were there, another small sailing ship in the bay sailed in and shot off its cannons at the other docked sailing ships. At that point our adventure was taking shape and becoming more interesting as we walked to where the U.S.S Midway was docked—about a mile.

Upon arriving at the Midway, we were given our respective arm ID, after which we boarded the ship. Our entire group assembled in the hanger deck where we were briefed about the ship, what we could expect, and the few terms used in the Navy. The walls are "bulkheads"; floors are "decks"; ceilings are "overheads"; bathrooms are "heads" and believe it or not, water fountains are called "scuttlebutts". My definition of scuttlebutt has always been a "rumor". Boy was I wrong!!

It's Important to Know

- Percentage of Americans who eat at McDonald's each day: 7
- Percentage of bird species that are monogamous: 90%
- Percentage of mammal species that are: 3%
- Number of US states that claim test scores in their elementary schools are above national average: 50%
- Portion of Harvard students who graduate with honors: 4/5
- Chances that a burglary in the US will be solved: 1 in 7.
- Portion of land in the US owned by the government: 1/3

After we were briefed, we were taken to the area where our "fantastic" sleeping accommodations awaited us—three tiered bunks. We were told not to use the top bunk, so rather than climb to the second bunk, I chose the bottom one. What a mistake, as I had to crawl on my hands and knees to get into bed. That bunk was about six or eight inches off the deck.

After dinner, we were able to take computerized flight simulations and view the displays in the hanger deck; visit the engine room, take the steep stairway up to the Admiral's cabin, the ready room and go up on the flight deck where approximately 16 different types of Navy aircraft were tied down. Two were poised to be catapulted off the deck and one, an F-4 Phantom, was displayed with its tail hook engaged with the arresting cable.

The view of San Diego at night from the flight deck was great. It had been a long day so I tried and finally succeeded in getting into my bunk. At 11 pm, the lights were out. Of course we had the option of staying up late to watch one of two movies, "The Battle of Midway" and "Final Countdown". My grandsons, Sean and Michael, decided to watch. Michael pooped out early but Sean rolled into bed about 1:30 am.

The next morning, we were up and at 'em by 7:15. No time to do much of anything as we assembled in the hanger deck with all our gear. After breakfast, we were briefed on the catapulting mechanism and the recovery of aircraft on the flight deck. The steam catapult launches aircraft at a speed of 170 mph. The catapult is set for the weight of each aircraft, including fuel and weaponry. Sometimes the catapult is set too high and the plane doesn't move but the nose gear goes flying off the carrier. We were told that when landing, the pilot goes full throttle so that he can go around in the event the tail hook doesn't catch the arresting cable.

Our final briefing was held in the forecastle. The mechanism used to hoist the two anchors is in the forecastle. During this final briefing many of us sat on the two anchor chains. We left the ship and boarded the two buses and had lunch in Old Town. After lunch we headed back to Bakersfield and arrived there about 6:30 pm. When we arrived, the wives and

mothers of St Phillips Church had prepared a wonderful potluck dinner. Each of the young officers in the battle groups then gave a short speech about their experiences on board the Midway.

After all the speeches, each veteran was given a badge of their respective service (Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines) along with a certificate of recognition in appreciation of their service and allegiance to our country. I believe 12 veterans went on this trip.

I have to say that **June** had a great time with her daughter and granddaughter in Bakersfield while we were on our great adventure. They did a lot of shopping as June's college class reunion is in April and my high school's 62nd reunion is in May. She now has some great looking outfits for both reunions.

All in all, it was a great experience, but I'm glad I was in the Air Force even though we lived in barracks and lived out of footlockers. The crowded sleeping accommodations, going up and down very steep ladders (stairs) on the Midway may have been okay when I was 17 or 18 but not now at my age.

Barbara and **Don Peterson** spent their 56th wedding anniversary in Calistoga at their favorite spa, which included the whole treatment, compliments of their daughter, **Karen**. They enjoyed walking through St Helena with its expensive shops but decided it can be a real tourist trap. They have been meeting with fellow retiree, **Ken Oliphant** and his wife, **Laudine**, in Reedley for lunch. There are two great places there: Main Street Café and Uncle Harry's. The rest of their time is spent trying to keep up with weeds on their five acres in Madera.

From Virgle Ray on March 19, 2006:

Hi, Terry, you're probably off to some exotic adventure. We're cozy around a wood stove as the hail whitens the ground outside.

Called **Kim Yarbrough** inviting him to the breakfast in Lindsay, but discovered he was moving to Vacaville area. So sad to lose him here in the

mountains. We would like to have someone from the QCC attend.

The Retiree Breakfast in Porterville was changed when the Green Gables restaurant closed. Meetings are now held at the **Olive Tree** in Lindsay at the intersection of Route 65 and Hermosa. Breakfast is at 0900 on the third Wednesday of March and September. If you're interested contact **Ralph Tritch** at (559) 535-4295.

Fifteen retirees traveled from as far as Nippanawasee in the north, and Bakersfield to the south. Two regulars are **Mutt Gregory** and **Charlie Wilson**, each 87 and enjoying retirement. Our retirees signed a card for **Tom Bamford**, who is having problems with his new heart. So I hope everyone can send notes to fill his quiet time. Send them in care of **Tom and Betty Bamford**, PO Box 971, Troy, Mt. 59935.

Note received from **Ed Anderson, Perry Anderson's** brother:

For several months Perry has had a stomach/digestive problem. They have been trying to identify it, trying and testing for one thing, then another.

They did an internal x-ray and other exams and diagnosed cancer of the pancreas (we now know he does not have cancer of the pancreas) and could not treat him at the hospital in Grants Pass, Oregon. They moved him to Portland where they have one of the best cancer research hospitals in the country. It is a university but I do not remember the name.

They did extensive testing and various MRIs and other X-rays both internal and external and have diagnosed a tumor where the stomach and intestine connect. They have taken a biopsy, which is now being analyzed to determine the type of cancer and other information. A lymph node also is being studied because of its appearance. When this information is developed a team of doctors, radiologist and other specialists will meet, study and determine the best course of action to deal with the situation.

This is a very serious condition for an 81 year old who is not in tip-top health to begin with and of course we are very concerned.

When there is additional news I will send another email. Please share this with other family members and close friends to Perry.

Ed Anderson, (760) 788-6060, or E-mail edanderso@cox.net

From Virgle 3/30/06

Info received from Ed Anderson (**Perry Anderson's** Brother)

Hello everyone, here is an update on what we know about Perry's condition and what is planned. Surgery is planned for Monday, April 3rd. They are spending a few days to build Perry's system so he can be as strong as possible for the surgery. The surgery is expected to take about seven hours and they anticipate 10 days in the hospital for recovery. The doctor says he does not want him to leave before he is satisfied with a complete recovery. His pacemaker and defibrillator must be turned off during surgery. They have done a test on that procedure and believe there is no problem.

All indications from tests and exams are that there is cancer in the tube that connects the stomach and the small intestine. The pancreas is also attached to that tube. The tube will be completely removed and the small intestine and pancreas reattached. The doctor says he will probably remove a small portion of the pancreas (I think to make sure he does not leave any cells on the pancreas) and some lymph nodes.

The doctor says this is a major surgery, about as major as they get, but that is what he does and he is good at it. The doctor has a very positive outlook and says he believes he can get all the cancer and give Perry the quality of life he had before he became ill.

Don Massa's lung cancer is in remission, according to his wife, Betty. Hope all is well now, Don.

Richard A. Yaeger passed away in Fresno on Wednesday, March 8, 2006, at the age of 73. He was a retired civil engineer. His wife, **Lydia**, survives him.

Sonny Dimmock died in February 2006.

— Terry Littleton

The Haps in District 7

Archie Smith, Caltrans District 7 Design Chief, passed away while hospitalized from a fall, on March 22, 2006. He had been living at an assisted living facility in Morro Bay, California. **Chuck O'Connell**, former deputy director, remembers him being in charge of Design D in the '70s. **Marie Smiley** remembers him as "a wonderful guy to work with". He is survived by his daughter **Leslie**. Private funeral arrangements were for family members only.

Recently sighted: District 7 QCC director, **Tom Almany**, former Chief of District Maintenance, who attended a pavement preservation conference in Diamond Bar, California. He was looking for ways that his new assignment as Project Development Engineer at the Western Pavement Maintenance Association might help Caltrans engineers and maintenance professionals find solutions for recalcitrant pavements.

Four Caltrans Women Recognized in Recent ASCE Publication

Caltrans engineers **Lois Cooper**, **Ethel Ann Hansen**, **Marilyn Reece** and **Carol Schumaker** grace the pages of "Changing Our World—True Stories of Women Engineers" a new book from the American Society of Civil Engineers by Sybil E. Hatch. The publication highlights the accomplishments of women in all realms of engineering, including bioengineering, agriculture, medicine, telecommunications, transportation, power, flight, space and defense.

When she saw it, **Carol Schumaker** exclaimed, "Did you see the cover? I was flabbergasted when I saw it!" And rightly so, it is not every day one appears on the cover of a national publication - she and Marilyn, in skirts

and heels, with the 405/10 interchange construction in the background, appear in the upper left corner of the cover leaf.

A reception held on February 21, 2006 at the Washington Press Club in Washington, D.C. brought many of the nominated women together.

Representatives of **Marilyn Reece's** family were present to accept a book on her behalf. **Alvin Reece**, who flew back east for the reception stated, "I had to attend. This was a once in a lifetime experience." **Kirsten Stahl** recalls, "Everyone was autographing each other's books; it was really fun to meet all of these amazing women!" Kirsten is a 26-year veteran of Caltrans and mentioned in the book as being Marilyn's daughter. "Changing Our World - True Stories of Women Engineers" is available on-line at www.pubs.asce.org

Shoplifter

A woman was arrested for shoplifting. When she went before the judge he asked her, "What did you steal?"

She replied: "A can of peaches."

When the judge asked her why she had stolen them, she replied that she was hungry.

"How many peaches were in the can?" the judge asked.

"Six" she replied,

The judge said, "Then I will give you 6 days in jail."

Before the judge could actually pronounce the punishment the woman's husband spoke up and asked if he could say something.

"What is it?" the judge asked,

The husband said, "She also stole a can of peas."

Catalina Here We Come!

Open the dictionary to the word "adventurous" and you will see a picture of **Marie Martin**, who celebrated the New Year at a dinner dance at Catalina Island's picturesque casino with her significant other, **Bob Walters**.

During the day, it appeared that a thunderstorm might put a damper on the evening's festivities, but when the sun went down, the night sky was clear and bright and full of stars.

New Year's eve is a special day for Marie, as that is also her birthday, and she usually manages to be somewhere interesting.

Heyday Women Meet in Old Scotland

Round up the usual suspects and you will find **Marie Martin, Marie Smiley, Carol Schumaker, Merle Trobee** and **Kirsten Stahl**, who met at the Tam 'O'Shanter (at least it felt like Old Scotland) in Loz Feliz for an annual lunch reunion of the "Heyday Women", a dozen or so of mostly retired women who worked in District 7 during the building heyday of the 1950s, '60s and '70s.

The women, who include the likes of **Lois Cooper, Pat Perovich, Henrietta Moreno, Phyllis Staple, Judy Reynolds, Helen Wong, Susie Lim**, and **Pat Williamson**, usually meet in mid-May to catch up on what's new.

Highlights were Marie Martin's trip to jolly old England on her frequent flyer miles, Carol's and Lois's recognition in the ASCE book about women engineers, and Carol's many ski trips! She delighted the group by sharing how she shocked a fellow skier by saying she had been skiing for more than 70 years! She sure does not look it! **Marie Smiley** bemoaned that her vintage Mustang is torn apart while her husband does repairs. Lois, who is as active as ever, was MIA due to a class she was teaching, as was **Pat Williamson** who is recovering from an injury.

The women's reunions began in the mid-'80's when many of them began retiring from Caltrans.

No News is NOT Good News!

We'd love to hear from District 7 QCC'ers - Send those interesting cards and letters to: kirsten.stahl@dot.ca.gov, or Caltrans, 100 S. Main St. Suite 100, Mailstop 13, Los Angeles, CA 90012, Attn: Kirsten Stahl, District 7 QCC Secretary.

— Kirsten Stahl

The Haps in District 8

Katie and **Taylor Smith** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on March 8th with an overnight trip to Catalina Island. Their last trip to Catalina many years ago was on the GREAT WHITE STEAMER that many of you may remember. The trip then took two hours each way. Now the Jet Express makes the trip in one hour! They also took a trip to the Washington D.C. area for their grandson's college graduation.

Other travels we know of include those of **Dick** and **Louise Haight**, who cruised the Mexican Riviera with family, and **Wes** and **Linda Grimes** taking a cruise from Miami through the Panama Canal to San Diego. Wes reports the canal and improvements under construction were extremely interesting.

Wes and Linda Grimes also had their first grandchild, **Eve** Grimes, on May 15th. Of course they say Eve is the cutest, smartest, most talented "_____." What a great homecoming from their cruise!

Roses to **Barbara Dwiggin**, wife of **Tom** (R/W). She suffered a heart attack and underwent angioplasty and had one stent

installed. The "Stent Club" membership continues to increase.

The District 8 Retired Ladies met for lunch recently. Those in attendance enjoyed the get-together. The ladies met for lunch at Nena's Restaurant in San Bernardino on May 17th.

Donna Rodriguez sent out the notices; there were 21 attendees.

A brief summary of everyone's activities follows: Donna Rodriguez went to Hawaii with her son and family in March; **Angela Hall** has spent some time settling her mother-in-law's estate and plans a Greek tour next year.

Sharon Phillips has been retired for eight months and has two daughters 13 and 14 at home and two grandchildren. **Clarice Richards** has been touring Europe and has a great grandchild.

Vivian Govan enjoys her three-year old great granddaughter (who sings in church). Linda Grimes brought **Beverly Hines**, whose grandson is marrying soon. **Rachel Roldan** is into growing plants. **Beverly Both** will visit Washington State in July; **Dee Parra**, a three-year breast cancer survivor, has been traveling in the western states with her husband, **Dave**, also a retired Caltrans employee. **Erma Aldape** and **Carolina Gonzales** are enjoying retirement. Carolina says she visits Kaiser regularly. **Carolyn Johns** has cruised recently and is a CSEA delegate.

Judi Hudgens, who retired eight years ago, volunteers with her church, while **Al**, a retired Caltrans deputy works part-time. **Frances Jacques** flew out of Mississippi one week before Katrina. **Pat Leatherberry** spent 11 days in the hospital in December, but is better now. She retired in 1980. **Grace Vinzens**, retired 29 years ago, has been the Sunshine Chairman for CSEA and active in AARP since 1984. **Betty Ordway** was in Australia and New Zealand in March and will visit her daughter in Northern California soon. **Eleanor Campbell** is busy with CSEA recruiting new members. **Janice Feenstra** is busy with her 20 and (plus on the way) grandchildren. Her

husband **Don**, also a Caltrans retiree, had a slight stroke and is doing fine now.

Marsha Lotze and her husband **Craig**, also a Caltrans retiree, flew out of New Orleans on one of the last flights out, the day before Katrina. She also enjoys stamping with Linda Grimes.

Eleanor brought cookies for dessert. It was noted that Beverly Hines started the Retired Ladies lunches with **Hope Sandoval**. Everyone had a good time and the next lunch will be in September or October at Nena's Restaurant.

Another great luncheon was held on March 24 when 33 retired Caltrans friends met at Nena's Restaurant to reminisce with **Roy Smoot** who came from Santa Clara, Utah, to attend the horse races and to celebrate Pat Leatherberry's 81st birthday.

Among the missing were **Tom** and **Barbara Diggins**, **Beverly Hines**, **Stan Martin**, who had a knee replacement, **Pat** and **Alice Patterson** (she is recuperating from a broken neck), **Paul Kirst**, **Roy Hayes**, **Donna Rodriguez**, **Bob Redden**, **Les Franz**, and **Hal Lee**, who wanted to see the World Series.

Loren Barnett told various stories about his and Smoot's time together in Idyllwild. **Dick Longstreet**, in his usual manner, added to the hilarity with various and sundry stories. We were sorry to hear of the passing of **Archie Smith**, former District 8 employee.

In attendance were **Marsha Lotze**, **Eleanor Campbell**, **Pat Leatherberry**, **Kan** and **Ernie Parks**, **Grace Vinzens**, **Donna Rodriguez**, **Roy Smoot**, **Tek Tenaka**, **Janice** and **Don Feenstra** (Janet recuperating from a knee replacement), **Loren Barnett**, **Dick** and **Hazel Longstreet**, **Dick** and **Louise Haight**, **Dutch Miller**, **Maxine Nelson**, **Wes** and **Linda Grimes**, **Gil** and **Jeanette Daab**, **Ed Gritters**,

Taylor and **Katie Smith**, (Taylor hosted the party) and others.

We lost a few of our Caltrans family since the last issue: **Doris Ferar** 79, longtime District 8 director's secretary, who passed away in mid-March. **John Williams** 77, passed away in Sacramento in mid-April. John came to District 8 in the mid '70s from Headquarters and returned there in the mid 8'0s.

The Riverside Press/Enterprise recently contained **Tom Hodgson's** obituary. Tom was a counter maintenance mechanic with Shop 8. **Hank Mohle** passed away in mid April. He had worked in traffic and later had his own traffic oriented consulting firm.

Dave Lahti 67, passed away April 20. Dave retired with 37 years and served most of his career with Caltrans as a Resident Engineer in the Construction Department. Dave was an avid golfer, an expert racehorse handicapper, and a regular for coffee at Coco's on Wednesday mornings.

Fred Will passed away in mid-April in Yucaipa. He was responsible for the colorful "Retirement" buttons with the red and white streamers pinned on all Caltrans retirees on their last day of work or at their retirement festivities. Sadly we have no details on his passing.

Roy Hayes, who left the Division of Highways in 1956 to work for Matich Corp. passed away in late March. Roy remained with the Matich Corporation for the rest of his career and was well liked and held in high esteem by those in the construction industry.

Archie Smith, a District 8 employee in the 1950s, passed away in early March. Archie transferred to District 7 in the late 50's and remained there until he retired. He and his wife, **Archie**, lived in Los Osos and later in an assisted living facility in Morro Bay.

John Tosetti, a District 8 employee for more than 46 years. John, a long-time, well-

known surveyor, passed away April 14. John spent 1952-1954 in the Army Corps of Engineers with the 29th Engineering Battalion, a topographic unit. During this time he saw duty both in the Philippines and in Korea. Resuming his Caltrans career, John worked on several major projects, including construction of I-215 from Mill Street to Route 247; construction of I-15 from Baker to Stateline; construction of I-60 from the LA county line to Eudid Avenue; the widening of Route 91 from Van Buren to Corona, and many more. His career in surveys saw the evolution of the surveying profession from transits and chains to total stations and GPS.

We will miss all of these retirees dearly. Our condolences go out to all their friends and relatives.

Morgan Park High School

If you've ever been guilty of looking at someone your own age and thinking "Surely I can't be that old," you'll love this one:

A middle-aged lady enters the waiting room for her first appointment with a new dentist and notices his diploma, which bears his full name, Robert Charles Ransom. She remembers a tall, handsome, dark-haired boy with that name who had been in her high school class some 40-odd years ago. Could he be the same guy she'd had a secret crush on, way back when?

Upon seeing him, however, she quickly discards any such thought. This balding, gray-haired man with the deeply lined face was way too old to have been her classmate – or could he be?

She waits until after he examines her teeth, but can no longer contain her curiosity. "Did you attend Morgan Park High School?" she asks.

"Yes, he says, gleaming with pride. "I did. I'm a Mustang."

"When did you graduate?" she asks.

"In 1959," he says. "Why do you ask?"

"You were in my class," she exclaims.

"Oh really. What did you teach?" he asks.

The Haps in District 9

Hello from Bishop. Not much info from the group here. I see **Bob Marsh** on a regular basis. He had major shoulder surgery a couple of months ago and is doing well. The first weekend in May, at a home show and swap meet at the Bishop Fairgrounds, we saw **John** and **Mary Ritter** who live in Atascadero, **Link Stanley**, **Larry Paglia**, and **Mike Alstead**. The Caltrans people who were at the annual bowling banquet were **John** and **Shirley Nakken** and **Jim Kemp**. **Jim** and **Miki Strong** are moving Miki's mother from Bishop to Livingston MT; we had a long discussion about the good old days. **Chuck** and **Nancy Gillem** visited their son **Andy** and family in Bishop during Mule Days. **Bud** and **Jerri Moody's** daughter, **Marjorie** got married in May. It has been some time since I have been around so many young people; times are changing. **Jim** and **Sharon West** came from Fresno for the wedding. I had a meniscus repair on one knee, but am doing fine. Building a house is hard on old people.

From **Harold Jones** – "Really don't have anything for the June QC Newsletter—been pretty quiet up here. Will try to do better next time. Hope all is going well down in Bishop. We didn't make it to **Steve Sronce's** party (but bet it was a good one—especially the BBQ!)"

From **Arden** and **Pat Houser**—"Hi, Lance and Barbara, We hear from time to time about how you are doing from the **Allens**. If you need a filler for the quarterly, we've settled permanently on 10 acres in Pahrump, NV. We have become interested in Nevada's history, and we have helped put on one history conference that featured Death Valley and southern Nevada. We are deep into the preparation for our second conference. This one will be about Tonopah, Goldfield, and other Central Nevada

boomtowns. Our conferences are held in Amargosa, Nevada; those interested in attending can reach us at (775) 751-2250, or email aphouser@aol.com.

"We still RV a little; we've also joined the Death Valley 49ers and look forward to our first encampment this fall.

— Lance Hinek

The Haps in District 10

Sharon & Claude Stewart went to the Classic Chevy Show in Santa Maria last week. Afterwards they spent two days in Pismo Beach. "Weather wasn't too bad most of the time except it was cool and a few showers. Nice to get out of town after the long winter."

Paul Plinski: "I was here."

Bill and **Geri Zieker:** We went to an Oak Ridge boys concert last month."

John "Cappy" Richards' on his most recent trip to Ireland:

I acted as tour guide for my nieces and their spouses.

We went to Blarney Castle the first day out They all kissed the stone (rain! rain!) then we shopped at the Wool Mill there in Blarney (great deals to be had) and they all dried out a bit I then returned and stayed overnight in Kenmare, a nice village where I know the hotel people. It's a good place for a pint and very good food.

The next morning we went up the mountain to Mol's Gap on the way to Killarney Town. This is a beautiful drive on a narrow road and a view of the highest mountain range in Ireland, the Macgilllicuddy Reeks, and also the upper Lakes of Killarney. We arrived at MusCross House just before Killarney. This is

an old estate, pre-1800+/-, which shows how the Brit lived in days gone by. It was donated to the Irish government by the heirs, who were Canadian, but who retained the top apartment for themselves and heirs.

After a day's shopping in Kilarney we returned to the cottage in Balybunion. I needed a wee pint so I went to my hangout—the Railway Inn in town (to much young blood for this old boy)

The next place we visited was Bun-Ruddy, another castle on the way to Galway. They have villages here at various stages in years gone by, very interesting. I think one would like checking this place out. We then arrived at one of my kind of village—Clairbridge Gal Co. I have another spot I stay on the Dublin Road, just about a mile from a roundabout, across from a water tower. We spent the next day shopping crystal and Tara-China. We then returned via Clare Co. Cliffs of Morre and the ferry back to cottage.

The last night I set up a dinner at the Lanterans, a big roadside Bistro adjacent to the Shannon River, where the nieces met all the relations and a good time was had by all. They left the next morning early.

4-25-2006 meeting—34 present

Virginia Evinger: "Short week down in Kern County looking for wild flowers—best ones were in Madera County in the Route 99 highway median. Lake Isabella flowers are just showing up. Not all out yet."

Don Burns circulated a picture of supervisors taken in April 1968 at the district office. Everyone took turns trying to identify folks in the picture.

Bill Seiji—"Just a short note to let you know that **Bill Gillispie** was discharged from the hospital in Oakdale yesterday. He didn't feel capable of being on his own but yet he was discharged. He said he knows that he won't be able to make the BREAKFAST for this month. He gives his regards to all. See you people soon."

E-mail from **Laine Sevy** to **Bill Seiji**:
"This past winter has passed ever so quickly—although time seems to pass quicker as the years get older. We both survived. We are

planning to move back to Panguitch on the 16th [next Tuesday]. The temperature hit 100 here today -time to move to cooler climes. Take Care—Laine"

5-30-06 meeting

Bob & Ardyth Biffel took son **Brad** and daughter **Bonny** on a cruise through the Panama Canal with stops at Aruba, Panama City, Costa Rica and three in Mexico. "Bonny got to go on her desired Costa Rica side trip and Brad got to parasail at Cabo San Lucas. We celebrated our 55th wedding anniversary and Bonny celebrated her 50th birthday."

On June 19th **Mike Ciccone**, his wife, daughter and 40 classmates from the California School of Italian Language and Culture (night class taken for two years at St. Mary's High School in Stockton) are going to Italy for three weeks.

"We plan to visit Rome, Florence, Assisi, Genoa, Bologna, Venice, Parma, and Cinque Terre etc. Our teacher will team up with a guide in Italy. After two weeks we will travel alone by car or train to compo basso area to visit relatives that I have never seen. This will give me a chance to practice my Italian on the family."

Paul Sigwart reports that he attended his 50th class reunion in a small town in Nebraska. He hadn't been there in all that time. His great grandfather resided there in the 1880s.

George Eugene Byrd passed away April 28 in Stockton at the age of 62 He was born May 24, 1943, in San Francisco. He retired from Caltrans in 2003 after 35 years of service. George retired as a Naval Reserve SEABEE Chief Petty Officer in 1992 after 28 years of military service. George pursued myriad interests. He was a past member of the Sea Scouts, and sailed aboard the Wandia for the filming of the movie Hawaii and aboard the Te Vega Stanford biological research ship. He was a member of The Knights of Columbus and St. Michael's Catholic Church and the Italian Catholic Federation. He also volunteered on the Fox Theater organ at the Bob Hope Theatre and

recently completed docent training for the San Joaquin Historical Society. George is survived by his wife of 38 years, **Ruth**, daughters **Dana** and **Erin Byrd**.

Richard Shanklin Minnick died May 6, 2006 after a 32-year engineering career with the Division of Highways and Caltrans.

Mr. Minnick was born in Gary, McDowell County, West Virginia to W. Britton Minnick and Eva Opal Strong. Richard was an alumnus of University of Arizona School of Mining and Engineering. During WWII he was part of the engineering staff that built Davis-Monthan Air Base. He then worked for the Arizona Highway Department before starting his career with the Division of Highways. Richard spent many years on Stockton's Building Board of Appeals and the Community Block Grant Committee.

He is survived by **Sylvia Sun Minnick**, his wife of 36 years; sons, **Richard Jr.** of Portland, Oregon, **Lance** (Tanya) of Parma, **Majorca**, D. Thor (Diane) of Honolulu; daughter, **Darcelle Chan Markley** (Michael) of Hauula, Hawaii, and the late **Donna Chan Forsch** (Michael of Sacramento). He was grandfather to **Noraya**, **Violeta** and **Evan Minnick** and great grandfather to **Ava**.

— Brian Young

The Haps in District 11

Possibly the biggest single event to happen for Caltrans people in District 11 in many decades is the completion of the new district office building and its dedication as the Waddie P. Dedah building on April 5. There has been talk of it for nearly 30 years as finances and politics ebbed and flowed but many QCC'ers were there for the festive ceremonies.

The day started with some trepidation but the sky brightened for awhile before getting

darker and finally raining on some of the main speakers. It wasn't bad enough to send many of the hundreds of people away and most stayed for a tour of the building and refreshments later. The Caltrans administration invited all former employees to join the occasion and there were far too many familiar faces of active and retired QCCers to remember or count and list here. If I did list a hundred names it would still leave many out. A few dozen did take some extra time for lunch following the ceremony and chat with old friends inside, warm and dry.

Those who are retired will appreciate the ordeal of moving people into the building on a program that has a small group pack up all their equipment and records on a Friday night, and then on Monday to find them moved into a new location with phone lines and computers reconnected there.

Not surprisingly, facilities and computer services were the first to be moved in before May 1. Since then, everyone in the Interstate building and the planning group in the Frazee Building were moved by mid-May, (as I write this). The remainder of the Frazee Building occupants and the Viewridge people will be back in Old Town by July 1, and finally those in the existing building will be relocated across the street by the end of August. Emptying the outlying buildings will bring a savings of \$3.4 million a year in lease costs.

The buildings provide 304,000 square feet, (nearly 7 acres) with space for 1,000 employees, (currently at the 870 mark) and have 800 parking spaces for employees and visitors on the 12-acre site (some will carpool or use public transit.) The complex consists of three separate buildings of varying heights with several elevators and upper level walkways joining them. The 250-foot long plaza between the buildings features a "Grand Trellis" covering, a waterfall, an interesting artwork of branching and joining eucalyptus sections suspended overhead that invokes an image of a roadmap, and randomly placed foot-high boulders imbedded in the walk

area to trip on as you walk along looking up at the artwork.

Many have asked, "What will become of the former building?" The answer is that it will first be offered as excess property to any other public agency, state or local, that may make the best use of it. Unfortunately it comes rated as "poor and unsafe" so that once Caltrans has vacated it, a seismic renovation will be needed, (at an estimated cost of \$37 million) before it can be occupied again. If no public agency has sufficient funds or a workable plan it will then be auctioned off to the highest bidder in the public arena. In that scenario, it will likely be demolished and a new "_____?" built on the site. Does anyone have a guess at what the value of it might be then? Remember the three most important items in real estate value – "location, location, and location."

Caltrans' fact-sheet flyer advises that for more info or a tour of the complex, please contact the Public Information Office at (619) 688-6670.

The D-I-I summer picnic at Santee lakes has been rescheduled to the second Saturday in September. This year that will be September 9, 2006. Mark that date on your calendar now so as not to miss it.

The R.O.M.E.O.'s breakfast bunch continues to nearly fill all the tables with some arriving before 8 and some still chatting after 10. Some are regulars while others come only occasionally. At the May breakfast **Bob Young** brought a newspaper clipping of **Bill Dillon's** obit, which gave **Bill** a chuckle to start his day. **Dave Moody** still has plans for more skiing this year but at age 70 he has cut back the number of ski-days by half to only 35 so far this season.

And we are sad to report the passing of retirees **Joe Malandrini** on Mar. 1st, **Tony Singer** on March 4th, **Dave Walcott**, a 36-year active employee, on May 12 and retiree **Amos Lowder** on May 14.

— Butch Biendara

The Haps in Central

It was great seeing 90 Central District friends at our annual spring luncheon on May 3 at the Dante Club. We shared experiences, enjoyed a good lunch and were brought up to date on **CALPERS** issues by Board Member **Chuck Valdez**. It's good to hear that our retirement funds and benefits are being well managed.

Heinz Heckeroth reported on the status of the California Transportation Foundation and accepted a belated Honorary Membership certificate from Director **Gary Bush**. **Heinz** also announced the establishment of a CTF memorial fund honoring **Lyman Gillis**. The Central District will donate \$250 to the fund. **Lyman** died in Carmel Valley on April 5 at the age of 91. He grew up in Sacramento and attended McClatchy High School before entering the University of California at Berkeley. Before retiring from Caltrans in 1975, he held several important engineering positions including Deputy Director. His career with the then Division of Highways was interrupted twice for military service. He served in the South Pacific during World War II and was called for active duty during the Korean conflict.

Lyman served as the National Vice President of the American Society of Civil Engineers and was active in the Society of American Military Engineers. He was a member of the American Road Builders Association, the American Association of State Highway Officials and the Naval Reserve Association. He is survived by his wife, **Burris**, their daughters **Carol** and **Marti**, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Treasurer **John Hebner** reported that dues revenues are decreasing as more members become eligible for honorary membership. We still have money in the bank, though.

Thanks to those who shared the following news:

Vince and Dorothy Paul—"Talked at their table about their new life in Santa Rosa; they enjoy it. Also, **Dorothy** extolled their recent cruise to Hawaii (not really). It was a long planned cruise to the four islands on a nice ship. The only problem was that it was in March when storms had swamped the islands. On Kauai a dam had broken that flooded out many of the highways. Also roads were flooded in Honolulu."

Bob Felton—"Am keeping busy with projects around the house and yard. Electrical work in the garage, mostly new lights, etc. Still a lot of yard work to do updating of sprinkler systems on our one-half acre lot, trees to be removed, re-grading to improve drainage, etc. Enjoyed meeting and talking with friends of many years."

David and Judy Saxby—"On May 15 we fly to Copenhagen, Denmark. Then to Oslo. We will spend eight days exploring Norway and visiting with friends and family in Voss, Oslo and Jondall. On the 23rd we fly back to Copenhagen and board our ship for a 10-day Baltic cruise that includes Stockholm, Helsinki, Estonia, St. Petersburg, Germany and Denmark. We also went to Maui in February and watched the whales spouting and jumping out of the water from the beach! Great trip."

Jim Gordon - "Have a great summer!"

Joe and LaRena Hannon - "Spent a week in February in Scottsdale, Arizona visiting Joe's brother, a snowbird from Wisconsin." They will also have a newly adopted granddaughter from China. Their son, **Shawn** and wife, **Candy**, will go to China May 5, spend two weeks and return with **Taylor Elaine**

Ron and Margaret Lemmon—"With all the rain we've had since the last get-together, **Margaret** and I have curtailed our travels. Now we have cabin fever and are itching to go. We're going on a four-day cruise to the Mexican Riviera this month. We are going to South Dakota for Margaret's 'All Class' reunion over the fourth of

July. This will be immediately followed by a trip to Portland for the Sons of Norway International Convention. We expect to have more to write about at the summer BBQ."

Ken and Gerri Wigglesworth—"Took a terrific bird-watching trip to Panama in March (yes, we did go look at the canal!). Saw 250-plus species of birds. Enjoyed it so much we're already planning the return trip. In June we'll head to Maine with the American Birding Association."

Gary and Julie Bush—"Wow, great turnout at our spring luncheon. Julie and I recently returned from a cruise starting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, St. John, Antigua, St. Lucia and Barbados and back to San Juan. Perfect weather, calm seas and clear blue water. Great trip. Our next adventure is Ixtapa, Mexico. Meanwhile we became step-great grandparents in April thanks to Son **Erik** and family who live in North Carolina."

Jack and Ellen Derby—"We just got back from five days on a houseboat on Shasta Lake with the **Benjamins, Pivettis, Jerry Severson, Peggy Sweet and the Hoeffners**. We enjoyed great weather, good fishing, wonderful food, nice hikes, cards and fellowship. It was great! Went skiing at Crested Butte in January. **Ellen** skied but Jack wouldn't because it was too soon after heart surgery. **Ellen** did great until she broke a bone in her right ankle. From then on we ate wonderful food, drank free drinks and played bridge and dominos. It was a lot of fun. Jack had an artificial sphincter installed on March 15 and is looking forward to a great improvement in his lifestyle after it is activated on May 8. The May 3 luncheon was excellent - sure were a lot of good friends there. Congratulations to the officers. They did well."

Jim and Florine Rae—"Both doing well and glad to see old friends from Caltrans. **Jim** is a politician now, having been appointed to the Carmichael Community Council. The arguments

about smart growth vs. dumb sprawl are very familiar.”

Elizabeth Abersold—“I enjoyed the May 3 luncheon. It was great to visit with so many friends again! I miss **Vance** so much. I feel so blessed that we were together for 24 years. I have so many treasured memories, especially all the years that we enjoyed our ‘Alaska Adventure.’ In January 2005 Vance and I adopted ‘**Lucy**,’ our 3-year old black lab. She was devoted to Vance. Lucy traveled to Alaska with us last summer. As soon as we arrived at our home in Soldotna, Lucy jumped into the Kenai River in pursuit of a duck! Vance was able to take her duck hunting on Opening Day shortly before he passed away. Vance was truly the ‘Kenai King.’ My family and I will return to Alaska one last time this summer.”

Dave and Jan Nelson—“Enjoyed a month on Kauai this winter. How it has developed! Plan to take the Alaska cruise in September. Good to see all my old co-workers.”

Don Tueller—“We have started paying rent at the Med Clinic and Mercy Hospitals. We think it will be cheaper than paying one day at a time.”

Ray and Addi Forsyth—“Glad to see so many old friends. We missed the Xmas party because of a family excursion to the Hawaiian Islands. We are keeping busy and having fun going to San Juan Islands in August.”

Shirley Weber—“It’s great to see old friends.”

Les and Myrna-Kay Robison—“Hello from Jackson, CA”

T. George Smith—“A great meeting. Good to see people. Impressed how well PERS is doing per our speaker.”

Jeanne and Dave Theobald—“On her return from work, our daughter asked our five-year old grandson ‘**Erik**, how was your day?’ His response was ‘exhilarating.’ We are going to Bellevue, WA next week for **Erik’s** eight-year old brother’s First Communion. We were in

Long Beach last week for the Fighting 69th Infantry Western Division Roundup. It might be the last since ‘numbers’ are dwindling.”

Dave Crane—“Not much happening in the Crane family since the last meeting. Just trying to stay out of the rain. Did go to the quarterly meeting of the Northern California Chapter of the 101st Air Borne Division Association meeting in San Mateo in March. Unlike **Dave Theobald’s** 69th Division, the 101st AB is still active. See you in three months.”

Larry Barnard—“It was nice to see and visit with retirees.”

Rudy and Liz Hendriks—*During the night of February 3 and 4, Liz and I drove from LA. through the cold desert to Las Vegas, beneath a black-velvet sky filled with thousands of silver stars. We arrived at our motel at 3 am on the 4th. We were tired, planned to sleep first and then get married later that day. But we couldn’t wait and decided to tie the knot right then and there. We quickly dressed in our wedding clothes, Liz in a pretty blue dress, I in a charcoal gray suit. In the city that never sleeps, the downtown Clark County Courthouse was open 24 hours a day. After we got our marriage license, we waked across the street to the courthouse chapel and knocked on the door to wake up the chapel owners who hastily phoned a minister. He arrived on a bicycle around 5:30 am. Shortly after, we were married. God and the chapel owners were our only witnesses.*

Most people would say that a marriage begun at the spur-of-the-moment and under such Spartan conditions would not have much chance to survive. Liz was 19 and I was 27. The odds were certainly against us. But after 40 years our love has stood the test of time and has triumphed. It has withstood storms and bloomed through calms. It has given us two fine sons and four grandchildren.

This year, Liz and I decided to celebrate our 40th anniversary back in Las Vegas, visit the chapel where we got married, and renew our vows. This time we brought 19 witnesses, including our sons and our best friends who brought Liz and me together in 1965. Alas, the Courthouse Chapel did not survive the 40 years and was condemned just a few months ago

after the roof collapsed during a series of storms. Bad timing, but we shrugged it off as the **Hendriks' luck** (a family joke). Fortunately, the current Courthouse Chapel owners also owned the Little White Wedding Chapel on the Vegas strip where many celebrities were married (Frank Sinatra and Michael Jordan to name just two), and managed to transfer our arrangements to that chapel. Our sons, **Rick** – we call him by his middle name **Todd** (39) – and **Brian** (36) walked Liz down the aisle and 'gave' her away to me. Our friends **Walter** and **Alice**, who 41 years ago introduced us, were standing next to us. The minister delivered a perfect service that was tailored to the renewal of vows. In addition to material we had downloaded from the Internet for such occasions, Liz and I had written our own vows, which we kept secret from each other until we read them during the ceremony. While we exchanged new rings, the minister couldn't resist saying 'Wow!!' when he noticed the rock on Liz's ring.

"Afterwards, the 21 of us had a fabulous dinner at Fiore's Steak House in the Rio Hotel where most of us were staying. Unbeknownst to most of our friends that this was going to happen, our youngest son **Brian** pulled a ring out of his pocket, got on his knees and proposed to his girl friend **Shelly**, just before dessert was served. Shelly's parents, **Liz** and I were the only ones besides Brian who knew this was going to happen. Brian had timed it with a toast to us. Sort of like: 'While I have everybody's attention...' Needless to say pandemonium broke out. Oh yes, Shelly accepted. We all partied late that night. February 4, 2006 will be engraved in our memory banks, just like the same date 40 years ago. Where does the time go?

After watching the Super Bowl on TV with big-time hangovers the next day, Liz and I prepared for a trip by ourselves. The itinerary included Zion National Park, Lake Powell, Grand Canyon NP. Monument Valley, Arches N.P. and Canyon Lands NP. near Moab, Utah

The incredible beauty of the southwest desert was enhanced by the lack of people. We practically had the place to ourselves. The weather cooperated with sunshine every day but, as expected, the February temperatures were freezing. We took some light hikes

through Arches and Canyon Lands with 20-degree daytime temperatures and—fortunately one day only—60 mph wind gusts! Go figure the wind chill under those conditions! We met a Canadian couple from Manitoba that day and said to them: 'You must be used to this cold coming from Canada, but we're from California.' Their answer: 'Are you kidding? We're freezing!' All in all, the whole trip was a fantastic experience from many different aspects, including romance, nostalgia, laughter and adventure. Liz and I are looking forward to the next 40 years together..."

On a sadder note, **Harriet Spratt** passed away on March 23, 2006 after a valiant battle with cancer. **Harriet** was a 30-year employee of Caltrans with a zest for life appreciated by all who knew her. She loved animals, RVing with her family and friends, and cooking. **Harriet** is survived by her husband **Wayne**.

We also received a note from **Marilyn Fullerton** informing us that **Bill Fullerton** passed away in June 2004.

Central District's next meeting will be the Annual Picnic Barbecue on Wednesday, September 27, 2006. The good news is it will be at **the College Greens Swim and Racquet Club again this year.** In the meantime, have a wonderful summer!!

— Nancy Benjamin

Ten Commandments: The reason we can't have the Ten Commandments in a Courthouse: You cannot post "Thou Shalt Not Steal," "Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery" and "Thou Shall Not Lie" in a building full of lawyers, judges and politicians! It creates a hostile work environment!

Foundation Matters

SPECIAL CALTRANS MANAGER AWARDS
PRESENTED AT
THE "TRANNNY" AWARDS
JUNE 7, 2006

Caltrans Director **Will Kempton** presented special awards to five Caltrans Managers at this year's Annual TRANNNY Awards hosted by the California Transportation Foundation on June 7, 2006 at the Sacramento Convention Center. Congratulations to the five awardees on their success.

The Charles Purcell Award recognizes valued contributions by Caltrans engineering managers to the field of transportation engineering and transportation program management. This year's recipient, **Robert (Bob) Buckley**, Division Chief, Division of Engineering Services, has spent the past 26 years of his career with Caltrans. His current assignment is management of the engineering services division. Prior to this, he was the chief design engineer responsible for setting highway and bicycle geometric standards for both state and local agency facilities.

Dennis R. Jagoda, District 3 Hydraulic Engineer, was awarded the *Karl Moskowitz Award* for pioneering the use of remote controlled camera surveillance to assess the condition of existing culverts, which greatly affects how the district tracks the condition of its culvert inventory while improving personal safety. The remote camera system is a model throughout the state. Jagoda also assisted local law enforcement by using the remote camera system to help investigators check abandoned wells for evidence in a capital murder case. This award recognizes outstanding contributions by a registered engineer in the field of transportation engineering.

The James E. Roberts Award, recognizing outstanding contributions by Caltrans engineers to the field of transportation structures, this year is being awarded to two Caltrans' engineers: **Peter Siegenthaler**, Principal Transportation Engineer, District 4, East Span SFOBB Construction Manager and **Susan E. Hida**, Senior Bridge Engineer, Division of Engineering Services, Structure Design.

Siegenthaler is currently construction manager for the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge East Span replacement projects, by far the largest Caltrans has ever taken on, at a total estimated value of \$4.5 billion. Siegenthaler brings his technical expertise to bear in resolving difficult technical problems and contract administration issues that are singular to the project's construction, retrofit strategy, traffic, and location.

Hida currently is the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials Coordinator for the Division of Engineering Services. She also represents California on two critical AASHTO subcommittees on bridges and structures: T-5 loads and load distribution and T-10 concrete design. In this capacity, she is responsible for helping shape the future of AASHTO bridge design standards. She has developed expertise in a wide range of bridge analysis, design, and performance issues. She has successfully communicated California issues nationally, earning the respect of transportation leaders across the nation.

Cindy McKim, Chief Financial Officer, has been awarded the *Emerson Rhyner Award* this year. This award recognizes contributions to the field of transportation by non-engineering Caltrans managers. Cindy has devoted nearly all of her professional career to Caltrans, serving 20 years in an executive capacity in many key non-registered engineering positions. She currently serves as the department's chief financial officer and is responsible for financial management and policy, including oversight of an annual operating budget of \$12 billion and programming state and federal transportation

funds. She has energized the effort to replace TRAMS, the old mainframe accounting system, with a new integrated financial management system, with support from the Department of Finance.

In Memoriam

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

Name	District	Date
Earl V. Snook	1	June 24, 2002
Edward Jankowicz	4	July 23, 2005
Kurt Kamai	4	2006
Bill Mellish	4	Nov 14, 2005
Ted Oatman	4	2006
Jack Watson	4	2006
Doug Friend	5	March 24, 2006
Gene Peterson	5	April 24, 2006
Sonny Dimmock	6	February, 2006
Richard A. Yaeger	6	March 8, 2006
Evelyn Lane	7	June 13, 2006
Archie Smith	7	March 22, 2006
Dois Ferrar	8	March, 2006
Roy Hayes	8	March, 2006
Tom Hodgson	8	2006
Dave Lahti	8	April 20, 2006
Hank Mohle	8	April 2006
John Tosetti	8	April 14, 2006
Fred Will	8	April, 2006
John Williams	8	April 2006
George Eugene Byrd	10	April 28, 2006
Richard Shanklin Minnick	10	May 6, 2006
Amos Lowder on	11	May 14, 2005
Joe Malandrini	11	March 1, 2006
Tony Singer	11	March 4, 2006
Dave Walcott	11	May 12, 2006
Howard Winn	11	February 2006
Bill Fullerton	Central	June 2004
Lyman Gillis	Central	April 5, 2006
Harriet Spratt	Central	March 23, 2006

Computers and Cars

At a recent computer expo (COMDEX), Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated, "If GM had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25.00 cars that got 1,000 miles to the gallon." In response to Mr. Gates' comments, General Motors issued a press release stating: If GM had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics (and I just love this part.):

- A. For no reason whatsoever, your car would crash twice a day.
- B. Every time they repainted the lines in the road, you would have to buy a new car.
- C. Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason. You would have to pull to the side of the road, close all of the windows, shut off the car, restart it, and reopen the windows before you could continue. For some reason you would simply accept this.
- D. Occasionally, executing a maneuver such as a left turn would cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine.
- E. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast and twice as easy to drive - but would run on only five percent of the roads.
- F. The oil, water temperature, and alternator warning lights would all be replaced by a single "This Car Has Performed an Illegal Operation" warning light.
- G. The airbag system would ask, "Are you sure?" before deploying.
- H. Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lifted the door handle, turned the key and grabbed hold of the radio antenna.
- I. Every time a new car was introduced car buyers would have to learn how to drive all over again because none of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old car.
- J. You'd have to press the "Start" button to turn the engine off.

Events

**Got a group that meets regularly?
Let your editor know and we'll add
it to the event calendar.**

District 1 - *No Contact*

CT retired ladies, second Thursday of each month at 12:30 pm at various locations. Call Marilyn Hernandez at (707) 442-1135 or E-mail ahartin@cox.net.

Retired Highwaymen and Road

Agents meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 11:35 a.m. at the Hometown Buffet at the Bayshore Mall in Eureka

District 3 - *No Contact*

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

Annual Placerville Spring

Luncheon is scheduled for April 20, 2006

Spring Get Together Sunday, March 19th at the Family Moose Lodge

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

E-mail: 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

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

The **Caltrans Retiree Breakfast** meets at noon on the third Wednesday in March and September at the Olive Tree Restaurant at the intersection of Route 65 and Hermosa in Lindsay.

Informal Coffee at 8:30 am at Country Waffles at the NW corner of Herndon and Cedar.

District 7 *Contact: Tom Gildersleeve (661) 259-6226*
tgilders@pacbell.net, or Chuck O'Connell,
(661)253-3428 chuckoconnell@prodigy.net

The **Monthly Luncheon Club** meets on the second Wednesday of the month in Los Angeles

District 9 *Contact: Lance Hinek, (619) 873-3885*
Lunch at Whiskey Creek meets on the first Friday

District 10 *Contact: Stan Randolph (209) 957-1278*

Lenny's Huddle meets at 7:30 am 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

Summer Picnic, Santee lakes, 2nd Saturday in September—September 9, 2006.

Central *Gary Bush—(530) 642-8208*

Annual Picnic Barbecue, September 27, 2006 at **College Greens Swim and Racquet Club.**

As a man and wife dine in a plush restaurant, the husband keeps staring at a drunken lady sitting alone at a nearby table and swigging gin.

The wife asks, "Do you know her?"

"Yes," sighs the husband, "She's my ex-wife. She took to drinking right after we divorced seven years ago, and I hear she hasn't drawn a sober breath since."

"My God!" says the wife, "Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?"

Here's a good trick: Next time you have an event, take a pad and pencil with you. Pass it around among the guests and ask them to write a squib about what they've been up to lately, then E-mail it to the QCCer. Great way to let us know what's going on.

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