



## Lesan Named 2<sup>nd</sup> Veep

25-YEAR CO-OP PLAN BETWEEN QCC AND CT

### From the Corner Pocket

I'm happy to announce the unanimous QCC board decision to welcome **Ron Lesan** of District 6 as our new second Vice President. After retiring in 1996 after 40 years of service, he has kept busy helping various cities and teaching construction inspectors as part of the Technology Transfer Program at the Institute of Transportation Studies with UC Berkeley. He still does income tax preparation, and among his many hobbies he includes computers. We can use his talents. We will call on him for help with direction in some of the pending issues the board may have to address soon. (*Now, do I hear any nominations for a new state Pres?*)

A reminder to all "honorary" members: you can continue to receive the QCC at no cost, but we must hear from you each year to know that you are still interested. Write if you care to continue.

A three-way meeting of your QCC President and a California Transportation Foundation representative with five Caltrans people—district directors, a division chief, an HQ deputy and a representative of Director **Will Kempton's** office—provided a resounding echo of last issue's item on the cooperation between the QCC, CT and the CTF. Kempton's office called the meeting and while we were outnumbered we were also

outstanding in the ideas and talent QCC has to offer, and that's where I'm counting on you to deliver the goods in your special areas.

The main focus of the meeting was on Caltrans-HQ organization of course, but I had to advise that although the QCC is a statewide organization, the real power and potential is in the districts, where the people meet and interact. I could only offer encouragement and ideas to consider. A big plus from Caltrans was a commitment to making the 25-year award more significant than just an email to pick up your pin. There is hope that they will invite the District QCC officers to be a part of the award ceremony and CT Director **Kempton** will do his best to support the recognitions.

Much credit goes to **Heinz Heckeroth** of the CTF with its willingness to share in the cost of awards and recognition when we establish merit for doing so. Much can also be said for the extended hand of Kempton's office toward encouraging the cooperative effort

extending beyond the high walls of officialdom. We have a rare opportunity for involvement that is more broadly inclusive than the traditional 'top-down' director's policies from the 'Sacred Meadows'.

District 11 will be the testing ground for an expansion of the District 1 annual awards program and with Kempton's approval we plan to include a series of "People's Choice" awards where the nominations and the voting selection comes



from the rank and file employees in the district, not administration's executive directives.

Several details still need polishing, like fundraising and decision-making authority but District II QCC & CT have started a significant employee fund with the CTF and have plans to make it grow bigger with ideas I'll report later with their success.

Most importantly, the confidentiality and anonymity that have kept the QCC outside the CT firewall and security may be crumbling. Various districts may also have other employee-sponsored benevolent groups that have much to offer in recognition and appreciation. Let's be more "Inclusive than Exclusive."

To recap on the new logo idea - letters came incorporating the CT logo and pleading to keep the old 'tomato'. So here is an idea that keeps the 'tomato' and includes the 'CT'. In this



publication it can be printed only in black and white, but I trust that you can imagine it

in color as appropriate.

Think of this as a target and tell me what's wrong or how it can be made better. It is not intended to be final—just an example for consideration. The current QCC logo has 136 letters in the three rings of text around the graphic symbol. If they are unreadable, what merit do they have? Here is a cleaned up graphic of: the "flying donut" which in color would still be gold on red, the center would use the blue of the old outer ring for the "Q", the yellow of the second ring for the bigger "C", and the green of the "CT" for the inner "C", and finally the "CT" in it's normal colors. In color it looks great, and yes, the QCC is larger than the other symbols. If our webmaster **Peggy Veeder** can find time to update the web page, you should be able to see it in color at <http://ctqcc.150m.com/qcc.html>

— Butch Biendara

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>

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Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Dues—The revised constitution now requires that all dues be paid by the end of February or the member will be dropped from the mail list. That time has come and gone and 260 members have not paid their dues for 2007, 55 members have not paid for 2006 and 2007. Don't forget that yearly dues are now \$15.00. Check the upper right hand corner of your mailing label for your dues

expiration date. I will be sending out reminder notices shortly.

**Honorary Members**—Remember that the revised Constitution now requires honorary members to request **in writing** each year that they continue to be exempt from paying dues. There are still **365 honorary or associate honorary members who have not requested an exemption. PLEASE** do this as soon as possible as we don't want you to miss an issue. Check the upper right hand corner of your mailing label. If no date is shown, you have not requested an exemption.

**Dues payments may be made to your district QCC Secretary or directly to me at:**

PO BOX 2548  
VACAVILLE CA 95696-2548

— Kim Yarbrough

## The Milk Carton

**H**ere 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.

Le Nelden Henderson	11
Joseph J Seale	06
Wesley H Takara	04

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

## The Haps in District 1

**T**his has been a quarter of highs and lows. One of the highlights was a retirement party for **Michael Eagan**. We don't have too many retirement dinners anymore so this was special. It was also held at the Ingomar Club in Eureka, which gave us a chance to really dress up and we did. We also had fellow retirees that traveled from other areas. **Arlon Sauls** came up from the Bishop area, **George Beckman** and his wife, and **Virgil** and **Wanda Muncton** came over from the Redding area, and **Jerry Haynes** came down from Washington. Among the other retirees, I saw fellow QCCers, **Rick Knapp, Bob Myers, Dennis** and **Mary Grinsell, John and Jackie Sherman, and Don Comstock**. Bob brought his daughter and I enjoyed seeing her again. Other retirees included **Ray** and **Dottie Sweet, Jim Boyett, Jim** and **Judy Martin, Ray** and **Marlene Thomsen, Stan** and **Judy Murdock, Len** and **Julie Blomquist, Pete** and **Heidi Pettersen, and Dennis McBride**. I apologize for any retirees and/or wives that I missed.

It was a big party. **Cheryl Willis** made the introductions and **Ilene Poindexter** was the Master of Ceremonies. District 1 Director Charlie Fielder and District 2 Director Brian Crane made special presentations. We enjoyed seeing **Mike** through the years thanks to power point, his fellow employees, his wife, **Kat** and son, **Scott**. Several of his co-workers, most now retired, shared their stories. These included **Jim Martin, Dennis McBride, Jerry Haynes, John Sherman and Rick Knapp** and me. He got roasted, but, talking to him later, he said that he thought he got off easier than he expected. Darn.

Caltrans, District 1 had their annual Christmas party in December. Regretfully, I had a conflict and could not be there. They had a

great photo page in the District I news and I noticed fellow QCCer, **Rick Knapp** and his wife enjoying the party. The organizers are very good about inviting us retirees.

The Clarke Historical Museum in Eureka recently hosted a party for the Retired Teachers Association in appreciation of their support to the museum. At that time, the Association also honored **Nancy Quintrell**, now retired teacher of 25 years, as a longtime volunteer. She is the wife of retired Caltrans employee and QCCer **Donald Quintrell**.

We lost a good District I friend and longtime QCCer, **Joe McDonough**. He passed away on January 7, 2007, at age 84, after several years of retirement, which were good until the last year, which he spent recovering from a badly broken leg and then a stroke in December. I enjoyed working with him, especially after he became our Deputy District Director for Administration. I also remember him as our Traffic Engineer. After retirement, he would keep in touch with me with questions or information relating to QCC or retirement business. I will really miss him. His memorial service was at the Elks Club, of which he had been a long time member. There was a huge turnout of friends, family, fellow Elks, and Caltrans employees and retirees. Some of the QCCers and retirees included **Ben and Alice Van Zandt, Don Comstock, Bob Myers, Tom Quigley, Dennis and Mary Grinsell, Lowell Allen, Dave Brekke, Ed Scott, Jim Lyon, Norm Worley, Tom Georgeson, Bert and Janice Bertolini, Bruce Marshall, Ray Sweet, Vi Truby, Kenny Vaughan, Ruby Brown, Barry Jacobsen, and Harold Webster**. **Joe** leaves behind his wife of 31 years, **Lynda**, and seven children with wife, **Shirley**, who passed away in 1974, three stepchildren, and several grandchildren.

We also suffered another loss with the unexpected passing of one of our retired engineers, **David Brekke**, on February 1, 2007. I believe I last saw him at **Joe McDonough's** service. He had only been

retired since 2000 and was still active in the community. We enjoyed seeing him at Caltrans events. He and his wife, **Joann**, were also involved in a square dancing club and with the Norwegian Lodge and their church. He leaves behind his wife, three daughters, and five grandchildren. We attended his memorial service at the church, which was packed to the rafters, including many of our Caltrans retirees. **Mike Eagan** was an attendee and it was good to see **George Otterbeck**, here from Redding. Special memories were shared by good friend, **Dennis Grinsell** and several others, who remembered this wonderful, caring man.

Some family members are lost at far too young an age.

**Gerald Loffelbein**, retired from District I Shop and his wife, **Corrine**, lost their son **Lee** on December 13, 2006 at the age of 55. He served in the Navy, then worked for Caltrans, District I as a Heavy Equipment Mechanic for 31 years. He also left behind a wife, daughter and son, among other family members.

**Bert Bertolini**, also retired from D-I Shop and his wife, Janice, recently lost their daughter **Lori**, to cancer, on February 18, 2007, at age 44. She was a longtime resident of Brisbane. She had many scholarly achievements, including a Master's Degree in library and Information Studies at Berkeley. While at Carlyle Systems, she developed software for University Libraries, one of many achievements in her working career. She also enjoyed travel and being with her family.

**Frank Woodman**, retired District I Maintenance Supervisor, lost his grandson, **Shawn Dale Woodman**, age 31, on February 23, 2007, due to an auto accident. Shawn was also current District I Maintenance Manager **Stan Woodman's** nephew. He also left behind a wife and two daughters, and other family members. He worked for the U.S. Forest Service and recently received a promotion and permanent position.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Joe, David, Lee, Laura and Shawn at this sad time. It is particularly heartbreaking to lose children and grandchildren.

If you have any news for us, love the good stuff, but will accept the sad also, please contact me at [ahartin@suddenlink.net](mailto:ahartin@suddenlink.net).

— Arlene Martin

**NOTICE**

**This Could Be Your Last Issue!!**

Please check your mailing label ... the date in the upper right hand corner is your dues "paid to" date. The Constitution now provides that members whose dues are not current by the end of February shall be dropped immediately from the Cue See Seer mailing list. Check it out! We wouldn't want you to miss a single issue.

**Honorary Members**

Please don't forget that the revised Constitution now states that all HONORARY members must notify the Secretary-Treasurer if they wish to continue their "dues-free" status. See officer list for Secretary-Treasurer address.

*The Haps in District 2*

**John Strode** - (returning from China) "I came back from China a wee bit early. It seems that one of our renters poured gasoline on another renter. Since my wife lives in a trailer on the same property I decided to come home forthwith and much haste already yet.

"I spent December with two of our Chinese daughters and their husbands. I was successful in helping their individual marriages."

**Gene Wahl** presented one of his wooden toys to **Gene Knaebel**.

Other persons at today's C/T breakfast included **J. Abraham, R. Azevedo, J. Ennis, L. Farley, H. Gough, P. Haigh, B. Melton, F. Slack, R. Towers, R. Wenham, and H. Yoshizuka**.

— Cam Garbutt

*The Haps in District 3*

**W**elcome to what we hope will be a wonderful spring. And speaking of spring, District 3 is planning another Spring Get-Together for April 22, 2007 at 1 pm at the Moose Lodge, 205 South Walton Avenue, Yuba City. Flyers will be mailed in a few weeks. The plans are to have the same type of gathering as we had last year.

As you may have heard, District 3 employees are very busy with snow removal activities and a major slide that has closed Route 50. As a Contracts Officer in the early '80s, I have fond memories of working with **C. J. Kelly** to rush contracts to contractors to help with the opening of Route 50.

**Dee Yager**, wife of Maintenance Engineer **Wally Yager**, reports that Wally passed away last December. He started his Caltrans career at Echo Summit as an equipment operator. He was promoted to leadworker and later to foreman in the Sacramento Maintenance Territory, where he retired in the late eighties. A memorial was held in February in Citrus Heights to honor his state service.

I had a short chat with **Sakaye Takabayashi**, who was on her way to Ft. Lauderdale to take a jazz cruise. I'm sure that, as a lover of jazz, she had a great time.

**Mahnelle Finley** spent Christmas with her daughter. They watched movies made by her husband when the children

were small. The International Quilt Show, which is held in a different city each year, has become a yearly event for Mahrnelle and her daughter. This show, in Houston, Texas, was Mahrnelle's fifth. The Houston Rockets stadium was within walking distance so off she went to purchase souvenirs.

After celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in Yuba City with a surprise visit from family who live out of state, **Don** and **Bev Knipping** took a two-week trip by train, part of it up the West Coast. They also take trips to Reno. In June there will be a family get-together in LaVerne, California. You'll find Don, a great cook, doing the honors on Thursday birthday evenings and Saturday evenings at the Moose Lodge.

From **Chuck** and **Mary Dossey**: Early January found some Caltrans folks in caravan to Yuma, Arizona for warmth and sunshine. Those in the group were **Jim** and **Margaret Strain**, **Bob** and **Marilyn Mulcahy**, **Ralph Sandler** and **Chuck** and **Mary**. They enjoyed a four-week stay at an RV park not far from shopping and lots of eateries, which were frequented often. Several trips were made to Algodones, Mexico for shopping and lunch. "We took in festivals in downtown Yuma, eating at the famous Lute's Casino, a unique restaurant. Also made our annual visit to the Yuma Proving Grounds to watch the Army Golden Knights parachute team perform jumps out of perfectly good airplanes. They practice in Yuma ever year. We returned home February 7 to much-needed rain here in the valley. There's a good chance we'll do this again next year. The group returned home by way of the Palm Springs area."

**Jim** and **Pat Howard** usually travel with this group each year but remained home because of Jim's recent surgery. Jim is doing well and will soon be seen dancing at the Moose Lodge.

**Barbara McBurney** is staying at The Courtyard, an assisted care facility in Yuba City. The apartment belongs to her

husband **Mac**, who is currently in the hospital. Barbara wanted to be closer to the hospital to visit Mac and this works for her. She will move back to their home when Mac leaves the hospital.

**Mardell McClain** also had surgery recently. She fell while having lunch with daughter **Stacy** in Chico last November. After several weeks the doctors determined that her neck was broken, so, in January, she went to San Francisco to become the Bionic Woman with implants of nuts, bolts and a metal plate. She is doing well and is looking forward to being out and about soon.

**Wilbur** and **Sandy Wright** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a family barbeque in Chico, hosted by their son. Wilbur says that medical appointments keep him and Sandy busy but I know he is active in the Retired Public Employees Association; he is president of our local organization. He is active in other organizations as well. He is also busy making his motor home and his boat ready for a summer move to Fort Bragg.

**Joan Hanson-Prouty** took off to Alaska with her husband **Robert** to meet her three brothers and to celebrate the birthday of the youngest of the three. The trip to Anchorage and then to Cordova, which she describes as a snowy wonderland with ice hanging on the trees, was lovely. Joan has a 20-month old grandson, **Alex**, who has blond hair and blue eyes. She will travel to Carmel in April with friends for a four-day stay and plans to head to Sun Valley, Idaho, in May with six lady friends for fun in the sun. Husband Robert has recently opened a millwork business in Sacramento, which keeps him busy while Joan travels.

**Lita Wells** has kept busy volunteering in Fremont Hospital and assisting friends who are ill while husband **Bill** has been recovering from surgery. Son **Kevin** was a welcome visitor while Bill was housebound.

**Dan Winona** has been busy working on his fifth wheel and getting his boat

shipshape for a summer trip to Fort Bragg.

**Duane Myers** continues to work for Summit and Associates after retiring from Caltrans. One of his projects was to update the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge between Marysville and Yuba City. He plays golf on Saturdays but does rest on Sunday. **Jane** has also retired and is in charge of remodeling their home. She has been working on the project for a year and says completion is near. Jane also volunteers to cook for parties at Plumas Lake Golf Club when needed and spends time going to their grandson's sporting events.

**George** and **Joann Ellis** are said to be doing well.

The Placerville Spring Luncheon will be held on Thursday, April 12, starting at 2 pm at the Green House Café in the Raley's Shopping Center in West Placerville. The luncheon is open to all retired Caltrans employees and spouses or dates. Ordering is from the menu with individual checks, eliminating the need for advance payment. The café requires a head count by April 4. Members on the Placerville mailing list will be contacted one to two weeks in advance of that date. New attendees need to contact one of the members listed at the end of this article for reservations.

Driving Instructions: Take Route 50 and turn off at the Forni Road Exit (44B). Use Placerville Drive (old Route 50) past the fairgrounds to Ray Lawyer Center. Turn right and use the first driveway on the right to the café. Parking is available anywhere in the shopping center. The café will close to the public at 2 pm and will be open only for our luncheon. Please call committee members **Doug Becker** at (530) 622-8030 or **Jerry Ham** at (530) 622-1665.

Please continue to report your great works and activities to **Keith Maggini** and **Susanna Ford**.

— Susanna Ford and 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*

**T**his has been a slow quarter for news with most people still making plans for summer vacations, including a lot of cruises. **Frank** and **Jean Pappa** are planning a May Mediterranean cruise.

I need to make a couple corrections to last quarter's December 2006 Quarter Century Club Notes. First, I misspelled **Ron Maasberg's** name. It is Maasberg, not Mossberg. Second, the board in which he was involved was the Dispute Review Board, which deals with disputes on construction projects between the state and the contractor.

**Ed Coble** hosted his annual Christmas luncheon at the South San Francisco Basque Cultural Center; 26 people attended. The attendance was held down by a flu outbreak, but all who came had a good time. We're looking forward to the next luncheon.

Quarter Century Club member **John Sant** called me to say that **William "Ray" Duncan**, a former Chief of Toll Services, died on September 11, 2006 at the age of 93. Mr. Duncan had retired from state service in the 1970s and

moved to Tucson, Arizona for his wife's health.

Quarter Century Club member **Harry Yahata** told me that **Don Reidt** had died and so had **Ralph Birdsall's** wife, who worked in the dispatch center when the District Office was located at 150 Oak Street.

Speaking of sad notes, **Glen Behm** has been discussing with other retirees the San Francisco 49ers and their prospects for the upcoming year. The prospects being discussed were not the team's performance but how high they were going to raise their ticket prices. A lot of avid fans are considering forgoing the joy or pain of attending the games if the price of season tickets goes too high. However I don't see Glen giving up his longtime season tickets and his personalized vehicle license plates.

**Rich Monroe** has cut back on the number of federal aid classes he has been teaching from five to two. He recently had undergone successful cataract surgery and was amazed at the results.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and is looking forward to a happy New Year.

— Paul Hensley

## The Haps in District 5

**H**appy Spring! District 5 survived the "Big Chill" of January, and the rains of February have brought forth little patches of green on the frostbitten trees and landscaping.

In February, Traffic and Maintenance were busy with the Tour of California. The racers once again made their way down Route 1 from Seaside to San Luis Obispo, with an exciting finish on Monterey Street. They then moved to Solvang for a day of time trials. It was fun to

watch the coverage on TV and see familiar sights. As the peloton made the turn from Foothill Blvd and raced toward downtown, we caught a glimpse of the roof of **Marty Nicholson's** home.

Other sports related news: The annual Caltrans golf tournament is scheduled on May 17-18 at the Chardonnay Club in the Napa area. For information, contact **Mike Giuliano** or **Jacques Van Zeverter** in D-5, or Chairperson **Cliff Rice** in D-10 Stockton.

Our facilities folks continue their efforts to keep our aging district office in good repair. They have been chasing plumbing leaks (and unpleasant smells) and will soon refurbish the Executive Suite. After contracting out the janitorial work for many years, we again have custodians who are state employees. We're hoping they will keep the district office buildings sparkling clean.

At this time, the district is waiting for the CTC to make its final decisions on projects to be funded from the Proposition 1B transportation bond approved by voters last year. It appears the widening of a 4.6-mile section of Route 46 east of Paso Robles and widening the Santa Maria River Bridge on Route 101 have been approved. Two other projects that would have improved travel on these routes did not make the list. In other parts of the district, three congestion relief projects are proposed: Route 1 at Salinas Road Interchange in Monterey County; auxiliary lanes on Route 1 in Santa Cruz County; and HOV lanes on Route 101 in Santa Barbara/Ventura Counties.

**Late-breaking news (March 1):**  
**The CTC removed funding for the Santa Maria Bridge widening project. The other D-5 projects mentioned above will go forward.**

The **Copelands** had planned to be mailing postcards from the Panama Canal in March, but our cruise was cancelled a week before departure. The ship was having problems and could not meet us in San Juan as scheduled. So we will stay home and look for another trip later on.



**Jerry** and **Pat Laumer** stopped by the office for a few minutes to say hello. They decided to sell their Los Osos home and were packing boxes, scheduling the cleaners, etc. Their family gave them the gift of an Alaska cruise/tour in May, and they are looking forward to seeing the beautiful country there.

I had a phone call from **Vern Leseman** in February. He is still bothered by circulation problems in his leg and may have one more arterial graft. He mentioned that another former D-5'er, **Dave Crane**, may be having heart surgery soon. Vern also said he has kept in touch with **Bob Horton** who is living in Arizona with family but not doing well.

**George Phebus** e-mailed from snowy Tennessee in January. At the time it was beautiful but cold, only 27 degrees. They'd had a mild winter up to then, but he was hoping they'd get at least one good snow. George said he and **Bob Smith** had not done much traveling from the new home because they hadn't found a sitter for their favorite pet Quattro. We've enjoyed many stories about Quattro, a bird that thinks it's a human and rules the roost.

**Gil Rivera** stopped by to tell us that he and his wife are leaving the Nipomo area. After many years of being "river rats", they are moving permanently to a home on the lake near Hoover Dam. They will travel across country in their camper.

**Louise** and **Alex Woolworth** continue to be world travelers. Last fall they flew across the Pacific for a cruise that took them to Japan, Korea and China. Away from the office, Louise keeps busy with their herd of miniature donkeys, traveling to competitions and hosting a big show every summer at the fairgrounds in Paso Robles.

Please think good thoughts for Special Crews Superintendent **Ron Belben** and **Marty Nicholson**, who are both recovering from recent surgeries, and for **Jackie Salamanca** who is beginning cancer treatment.

The last few months have brought us sad news. In December, **John Maes** sent word that **Jim Sturgeon** had passed away on September 19. Jim was born in Colorado and had served in the army in WWI in the South Pacific. Later he became a registered engineer and worked for Division of Highways for 32 years, much of that time as the head of our Materials Lab. He retired in 1978 and moved to Monterey. He is survived by wife **Marjorie**, son **John**, and sister Dr. **Jane A. Edises**.

John also told us that **Wilbur Tank** has been in a care facility for the past seven years. John, **Galen Bergquist** and **Jerry Collison** are still "holding down the fort" as the remaining Construction retirees in Monterey County.

**Bruce Langford** passed away at home on December 22. Bruce was a long-time resident here, having graduated from San Luis High. He served in the Air Force and graduated from Cal Poly with a degree in aero-engineering. He worked for the Division of Highways for 33 years. In retirement, Bruce greatly enjoyed playing golf with the Tuesday gang at Laguna Lake course, and he continued to host the "Bruce Langford Invitational" even after his health kept him from participating. Bruce is survived by his wife **Donna**, daughters **Barbara** and **Bonnie**, and three grandchildren.

We received a lovely note later from Donna, who has moved to Boone, NC to be closer to family. She says it will take some time to adjust to the cold weather, southern accents and cooking, but she is looking forward to the beauty of spring.

**Eddie Devens** passed away at her daughter's home on February 11, one week before her 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Eddie had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's and recently suffered a stroke. She is survived by her daughters **Kathie** and **Sharon** and granddaughter **Diane**. Eddie worked for many years as secretary to **Ralph Lejonhud** in Project Development, and later transferred to Administration. She loved to travel and grow

orchids when living in Arroyo Grande, and I had fun house-sitting for her little Yorkshire Dukey when she was away.

Mrs. **Patricia Montoya**, widow of **George**, also passed away in February. She was born in Cleveland and lived in San Luis Obispo from 1971 to 2005 when she moved to Bullhead City. (George passed away in 2000.) She is survived by her daughter **Doreen**, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**J. B. Popnoe** has asked us to send more happy news, and I'd like to oblige him. If you have any news you'd like to share, please drop me a note or e-mail [BCOPEL4674@aol.com](mailto:BCOPEL4674@aol.com).

— *Kathy Copeland*

## The Haps in District 6

**Sandra and Virgle Ray** just hosted 38 RVers at Laguna Seca, a lovely campground overlooking the race track. Four days of watching cars and motorcycles race with a side adventure to the aquarium in Monterey. The weather cooperated for three of the four days, even got a sunburn. If you're a camper, the Laguna Seca campground is worthy a stay, great vistas especially if you like race cars.

**Steve Mason** is hinting at a visit to California haunts, would love to share stories of his adventures in Arkansas. Maybe at the breakfast in Lindsay on March 21<sup>st</sup>, jury duty permitting.

**Kim and Pat Yarbrough** are headed to Hawaii on March 5—17 days on Oahu and Maui seeing all the beautiful and historic places. They have been planning this trip for some time, but are just now getting it done. Aloha!

Before they left, Pat threw a big party for Kim's 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday at the Home Town Buffet in Vacaville. (Kim's actual birthday isn't until the 19<sup>th</sup>, but as they won't be in town, it all went down on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. About 75 people attended, coming from all stages of Kim's life. There were several people from his high school class in

Merced, fellow workers from District 6 including **Gene Cripe** and his wife **Irma**, **Bill Barrett** and his wife **Phyllis**; QCC members **Don** and **Nancy Benjamin** from Central District, **Charlie Maloon** and his wife **Yvonne** from District 04, and QCC President **Butch Biendara**, who drove all the way up from San Diego to attend. There were friends from the Castle Air Museum; from the church in Oakhurst; and new friends and neighbors from Vacaville; and of course, his children and their spouses and the grandkids. Entertainment was furnished by a barbershop quartet. There were some special guests, the **Herb Henry** Family, a great gospel singing family from Modesto who graciously stopped by on their way to a concert; and a VERY SPECIAL guest from Wendover Utah, **Susan Claridge**, Kim's sister whom he had never met until the day before the party.

"This was the best birthday party I've ever had," Kim says. And with Pat having put together some pretty spectacular shindigs previously, that says a lot.

**June and Barney Deeter** had a hectic week from February 4 to 11. "On the 4th we went to Roger Rocka's to see the King and I. Then on Monday, we headed for Bakersfield where we stayed overnight with our daughter. On Tuesday we went on to Palm Springs to see the Palm Spring Follies. It was great and I recommend it highly. The performers are all over 60 and one of the female performers at age 83 claims to be the oldest woman in show business. The costumes were right out of the Ziegfeld Follies of the '30s.

"When we returned to Fresno, we went to the 2nd Space Theater in the Tower District to see the Last of the Red Hot Lovers. Great show.

"We are planning to go to Hawaii in April."

**Irwin Rosa** sends best wishes to all the Dist 6 Quarter Century gang. "In December I attended the Pearl Harbor Survivors' Symposium commemorating the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the December 7, 1941 attack. I was only a school kid then, not a member of the armed forces, but I got to view the attack on our

fleet—planes, fires, explosions and smoke from 12 miles away. In that sense I too am a Pearl Harbor survivor. The program provided some good insights and a lot of hindsight on the events of that day. The consensus was that we could not have prevented the attack but were unprepared and put up a poor defense. Aloha friends, Irwin”

I too have been busy. Just got back from Honolulu where I visited my son, **William**. He is going to Afghanistan next month so I didn't want to miss visiting with him before he left. Other than a little rain the weather was beautiful. Of course, compared to Fresno, what can I say?

Plan on the Spring Luncheon on Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at the Yosemite Falls Restaurant on Clinton. More on a flyer.

— Terry Littleton

**Attention Engineers:** The California Board of Registration is making a new exam site available to the Central Valley. It is tentatively set for October 2008 in Visalia. Proctors are needed, especially those who have previously worked at a test site. The Board also indicated that they might ask for active and retired members in the Central Valley to see if they're interested in becoming proctors for the test. Contact:

**Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors**  
**2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 300**  
**Sacramento, CA 95833-2944**  
**1-866-780-5370**  
**or (916) 263-2222**

**Deadlines**

**The deadline for material for the QCCer is the 5<sup>th</sup> 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 March 5<sup>th</sup>.**

*The Haps in District 7*

**Tamale Feast**

**W**hile District 7 was holding its “Toymales” event in December, which included a tamale sale to pay for the green and white freeway signs that designate the Marilyn Jorgenson Reece Memorial Interchange, and a toy drive to benefit the children at the Union Rescue Mission, an adventurous QCC member, **Fred Bonilla** and his wife **Irene**, traveled to Palm Springs for the annual Tamale Festival.

“The streets are dosed off and lined with booths. The vendors sell many kinds of tamales”, Irene recalled. While most vendors sell traditional flavors of pork, beef, chicken, or cheese, some sell fruit tamales with fillings of strawberry or pineapple. Yum

**Train Fest**

**Tom Gildersleeve** writes about a must see train website: “Most of you know that I am into trains, and while searching through my material for something [else], I came across this article from True, The Man's Magazine, dated November 1968.” Tom supplied a pdf of the article, discolored after 40 years, and thought several of his contacts would “find it to be an interesting article anyhow. The Warther family still operates a museum in Dover, Ohio, displaying his work. The web site is: <http://www.warthers.com/>.”

**Recent Sightings**

Sighted in Whittier at Polly's Pies enjoying early morning breakfast – **Andy Bott** and his wife. Again in Whittier, CA at the Seafarer Inn - **Oscar Janeway**. In Downtown Los Angeles, still sleuthing for State defense team - **Ed**

**Nahabedian**, and **Quint Alfafara**, who just dropped in to say he is back to work in Maintenance.

### Travels of Larry

As promised, here is the next installation in the travels of **Larry Louden**. As you may recall, he currently resides in Utah with his wife Roz...

"Two years ago for our 44<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary we decided to cruise from Vancouver, Canada up the Alaskan coast [with] my best man, his wife and Roz's bridesmaid and her husband... We had a marvelous time visiting Hubbard Glacier, Juneau, Misty Fiord, other cities, and a train ride from the coast up to the Canadian border. It was a beautiful trip.

"We took a three-day cruise around the various Galapagos Islands. We stopped twice a day at least and got off the ship to hike and snorkel. The animals on the islands were absolutely unafraid of people; birds would land on your hat, peck in the dirt at your feet; sea lions ignored you most of the time; the giant turtles would approach and beg. The hikes were very interesting geologically, botanically and biotically. The snorkeling was most interesting because the fish, turtles and sea lions mostly ignored you. The plant life was beautiful and the water was very comfortable.

"I was snorkeling one time, thoroughly enjoying myself, when a baby sea lion decided he wanted to play with me. There was no question who was the better swimmer. We chased each other, dove, twisted, spun and in general had a lot of fun. I noticed his mother would swim by every once in a while to see that everything was OK. I got tired and started to head for the shore. The lion was not done; he swam around in front of me and stopped about six inches from my face and opened his mouth letting me know he wanted to play some more so I did. I finally had to signal that I needed to be pulled from the water and the tender came over and the guys laughed and teased me that the lion pup was not ready to quit. That was a fantastic swim.

It was certainly more fun and interesting than swimming with the dolphins.

"Four years ago, we took our children and grandchildren on a seven-day cruise of the Western Caribbean. Had a great time. One night about 1:30 am we were watching the ships monitoring TV and saw our seven- and 11-year old grandsons coming out of a bar with the pineapple drink of the day. They had drink cards for soft drinks. We also saw them dancing with several ladies on the promenade. We called their parents (2 sets) and asked them if they knew where their sons were. They said they were in bed so we told them to tune to Channel xx on the TV. We soon saw them rounding up the kids. We had a great deal of fun watching our kids spend their inheritance. While on that cruise, [the two of us] booked a repositioning 15-day cruise from San Diego thru the Panama Canal, [although] I just wonder what the attraction is to go to Aruba. Take 25 square miles of the Mojave Desert and plop it in the ocean and you have Aruba.

"Last December we boarded a Celebrity Cruise ship in San Diego and cruised the Mexican Riviera. Although we enjoyed the cruise, it was the worst we have taken. Many of the passengers were rich retired people from New York via Florida. About a third of them would get lost going across the hall. There were some really nice people on board but there were many real nasties. One guy paid \$5 for a drink on Tuesday and when he found out the same drink was \$4.50 on Wednesday he started yelling at a waiter about being cheated and would not listen to reason [that] it was the drink of the day on Wednesday. He began threatening the poor guy and said he was going to get him fired. After the after-dinner show, I went down to the customer service desk and filed a report about this obnoxious individual and his threats. The next day at lunch, a steward made a point to address me by name and ask me if there was anything he could get for me - I was stunned and passed it off as a quirk. That night the [same] guy began his tirade all over again with a different waiter. If I had had 50 cents, I

would have given it to him and told him to put it with his other \$10 million and to shut up. The [following] night at the show two waiters came up to me and thanked me for what I had done. Come to find out all customer reports are reviewed by the staff and pictures accompany the discussion. I got everything I wanted the rest of the trip. However, I really like Royal Caribbean Cruise Line best of any we have taken."

- Larry

This is not the last you have heard from Larry... There is more about his experiences in Mexico. I know you can't wait for the next QCC newsletter to find out more.

**Be like Tom and Larry**

Keep those cards and letters coming! No event is too trivial; we DO want to hear about it! Don't be shy. Send me a note! We'd like to hear from YOU! The address is: **Caltrans, attn: Kirsten Stahl, 100 S. Main St. Suite 100 MS 13, Los Angeles, CA 90012.** Phone 213-897-0470, or e-mail: [kirsten.stahl@dot.ca.gov](mailto:kirsten.stahl@dot.ca.gov).

**The Road Last Traveled**

**Michael Miles**, Deputy Director, Maintenance and Operations, sent the following message: "It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of **Robert (Bob) Thompson** on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006. Bob was a Caltrans alumnus of 35 years who served in Districts 7 and District 8. He retired 10 years ago and fulfilled his dreams of world travel and ultimately his dream of building a custom home in Grants Pass Oregon where he lived with his wife for the past year. Bob was a good friend and mentor for many of us and will be greatly missed." His funeral was held December 29, at Rose Hills, off the 605 Freeway.

**Marvin Lim** reports the sad news from the Los Angeles Times obituary section

regarding **Tom Fera**: Thomas W. Fera, 83, was born in Rhode Island September 19 1923. He passed away January 16, 2007 in Woodland Hills. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, **Mary**; sons, **Thomas (Patte)**, and **Daniel Fera** and daughter, **Linda Fera**; grandchildren, **Nick, Alex, Brittany, Bret, Manooch, Molly** and **McGuire**. Visitation held at Mission Hills Catholic Mortuary on January 22, 2007. A Funeral Mass was scheduled for January 23 at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, 10828 Moorpark St., North Hollywood, CA 91602. Interment was at the San Fernando Mission Cemetery. "Tom was a true friend and we will miss him."

**Chuck O'Connell** provides additional information: The Tom Fera Luncheon Club has sent a wreath/flowers to the mortuary and will also send the club's condolences to Tom's wife and family. Tom died at Kaiser Woodland Hills Hospital after over two weeks of being on a life-support breathing machine. Many visited Tom in the hospital but he was not conscious—like in a deep sleep or coma. He showed no signs of improving or recovering consciousness, so apparently they stopped the extraordinary life support system and he passed away on the 16th of January. I was able to attend the visitation on Monday night and met a few "old timers", but was under the weather and couldn't make the funeral at St. Charles Borromeo Church on Tuesday. He'll truly be missed! A great guy and a fine CT engineer. Any other questions... "give us an email"... Take care... Chuck. Chuck's e-mail is: [chuckoconnell@prodigy.net](mailto:chuckoconnell@prodigy.net)

**Carol Hunwork** sends the following: "Just found out that **Noby Adachi** passed away while in Las Vegas. Her memorial service was to be held on February 26 at the Fukui Mortuary located at 707 E. Temple St. (Vignes and Temple). Take care, Love Carol"

**WAKE UP!**

Unless your name was mentioned above, it is past time for you to tell about your exploits

while you are having more fun than any of the rest of us—so send those cards and letters!

Many thanks to others who forwarded this information who were not otherwise mentioned above: **Tom Almany III** and **Heinz Heckeroth**.

— Kirsten Stahl

## The Haps in District 8

**Bob Ponds** reports that he has moved into the house next door to his son in Novato, CA and they share a common driveway. Bob has another son in San Diego. He hopes to get back to San Bernardino for a visit in the near future.

**Tess Dill** was surprised to see an article of **Grace Vinzen's** in the Reminisce Magazine. Tess lives with her son **Bethell**, Washington. Her husband, **Robie Dill**, passed away in 1984.

Retired Right of Way Agent **Robert Espy** passed away on January 4, 2007, in Mission Viejo. He had been in failing health for several years and fell and broke his hip on December 28th. He survived the surgery to repair his hip but passed away later the same evening. Bob and **Louise** attended our midsummer luncheon last July and we all enjoyed visiting with them.

Honorary Membership Certificates were recently mailed to **Alvin Brown**, **Floyd Salazar**, and the family of **Bob Espy**.

**Larry Heasley** is retiring from his position as Maintenance Manager I on April 18, 2007, with 38 years of service. Larry is a second generation Division of Highways employee. His father, **Bill Heasley**, retired in 1985.

A group of about 20 friends enjoyed lunch with **Roy Smoot** at Nena's Cafe in mid February. Roy reports that he is getting settled in his new condo and acquainted with new friends.

—Marsha Lotze

## The Haps in District 9

I got some newsletter info via email from the members. Thank you. **Barbara** and I finally moved into our new house in December.

The new house was only a mile from the old one and the weather cooperated so it went fairly smoothly, just a sore back. I still need to organize my manly stuff in the computer room.

Oh, the slings and arrows of life when we get old. In my case it is an enlarged prostate so had a rotor rooter job with a couple days stay in the hospital. It became painfully obvious what are the most important boldly functions.

I see **Jim Kemp** at bowling every week and he is doing OK. We talk about our common health problems.

**Jim and Mikki Strong** stopped by the end of January. They live in Livingston, Montana and brought Mikki's mother for a Bishop visit with her friends. Jim and Mikki visited kids in Reno, Navajo, and Los Molinos on the way to Bishop. They are looking good and holding up well.

From **Harold Jones**: "Happy 2007. About all I have for the QCC'er is the item below (about **Jim Strait**). Other than that, there's not much going on right now up this way. I do see **Joe Sam** and **Ed Reilly** quite often at our Korean War Vets Assn. monthly meetings in Carson City. Also, I ran into **Clint Hershey** at our local Raley's store today, and we "shot the breeze" for a few minutes. Nothing very exciting so that's about it.

Thought you might be able to pass this info around to anyone who may have known **Jim Strait** who passed away in Ventura in January. He worked at Crestview Yard from about mid-1956 to 1958 or 59 then transferred to Sonora Junction Yard when P. A. Goforth was foreman there. I was Jim's foreman from 1967 to 1970. Jim retired in about 1972 or 73. His son **Jim** ("**Jimmy**," as I know him) worked in District 9 for several years and is now supervisor at the Blythe Yard in District 8. Jimmy lives in Parker,

Arizona, which is where Jim Sr. and wife **Ruby** (Jimmy's mom) stayed during the winter months in a large motor home. They used to live in Walker, California, but decided to sell out and live in a motor home and travel all around the country (their present motor home is about the 3rd or 4th one they've had since they sold their home in Walker many years ago).

"He was one tough guy, as I remember in about 1964 he and I rode down to Bishop together to take the Lead man written test, and he was hurting some that day (he later found out that he'd had a heart attack then). We saw him one day by Long's Drugs in Carson City when he was having problems with his gall bladder (I think that was what it turned out to be.) He was in misery that day too, but kept going anyway.

"Sooner or later something is bound to happen to us all, but Jim sure gave that "something" a helluva run for the money! He was a good friend that I first met back in about 1956 at Crestview (when a bunch of what looked like "Okies" moved into the state yard in a house trailer with three small kids). I found out real quick, that if they were "Okies" they were damned good ones, and they soon became a part of the little community there at the State yard and Lodge across the road!

Lots of good memories from those days, which I'll cherish for the rest of my time. Jim and Ruby had a lot of happy memories from those days too, and we talked about them during their visits with us in recent years."

"Please pass the word around if you can -- **Paul Duncan** (Superintendent in Mojave now) might like to know about this (as I'm pretty sure he knew Jim while working at Sonora Jct. Yard). **Lloyd Hopper**, and several others will remember Jim too. Thanks a bunch.

From Jimmy Strait to Harold Jones: "Thanks Harold, he enjoyed his visits and talks with you and Lois, my mother also. Bottom line is his heart was too weak to pump blood to his legs and feet and this caused him excruciating pain. Nothing they could do for him. But he is not

suffering anymore. He passed away around 5 am this morning. He was laid to rest at Ivy Lawn Cemetery in Oxnard next to Sharon.

— Lance Hnek

## *The Haps in District 10*

**S**pecial Notice: At our meeting on 2-27-07 our member **Ron Lesan** made known that he had received a call from Butch Biendara, QCC President. Saying that Ron had been selected for the 2nd Vice President position for the Quarter Century Club. Congratulations Ron!!!

From the breakfast meeting on January 30, 7:30 am Denny's, I-5 and March Lane, Stockton (36 present):

**Mike Ciccone:** On Jan 3, 2007, **Bonnie** and I took an 11-day cruise down the Mexican Riviera on the Dawn Princess round trip from San Francisco to Acapulco stopping at Zihuatanejo, Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan and Cabo San Lucas. One evening while at sea, we were having dinner in one of the dining rooms when the ship's alarms went off, and over the loud speaker the captain said, "this is not a drill, there is a fire in the engine room". All the ship's personnel including chefs, waiters, wine stewards came running out of the dining room with life jackets in hand. While we sat wondering what we were supposed to do as there wasn't any word about going to our boat stations. Most of the people sat calmly while my wife and some others turned white. The Captain announced for everyone to stay in place and be calm. The fire was extinguished shortly. It reminded me of my old Navy days. After that, we didn't need anymore excitement."

**Chris Swayze** just retired from Shop 10 after 35 years at the end of 2006. She had a party catered by the fellows in the shop. Had a great party.

**Bill Zieker** was the winner of a bottle of wine at the now monthly door prize drawing. Last meeting **Vern Dorsch** won his breakfast.

From **Bob and Ardyth Biffel**: We sold our RV and called Segale Travel the next day to see if any cruises were available. Ardyth was excited to learn if we booked that day, and paid for it too, gulp!!—There went the RV money, LOL, we could have one of two cabins left with a balcony.

“So off we’ll go on March 19<sup>th</sup> flying all over the country (there was a glitch in connections so we’ll be in four different airports on three different carriers and take more than 24 hours to get to Santiago, Chile. After that, we’ll be bused to Valpariso, Chile) to make the connections to board the Golden Princess, and come back 24 days later to San Francisco, via the western coast of the Americas. We have been from there south, all around Cape Horn, and back up to Buenos Aires. So the northern route will be new to us until we get to the Panama area.

“Last year we came back that way to S.F. from Florida, via the Panama Canal. This time we have a few more stops so it will make for a nice cruise. Should be warm, but not too hot. Hope you all have a good time while we are gone too. Adios Amigos!”

From the breakfast meeting on February 27, 7:30 am Denny’s, I-5 and March Lane, Stockton (34 present):

**Virginia Earinger** says Grandson **Shay** and great grandson **Cian** from North Carolina and grandson **Joe** from Seattle arrived for a Tahoe get together with sons **Denis** and **Patrick** from Lake Isabella and Tucson.

**Darrell Merritt** says, “First breakfast in a long time. Great to see everyone. We stay busy and travel a lot.”

**Vern Dorsch’s** house was broken into and robbed—big loss. He says he now has a security alarm. Be alert. Times are changing.

**Dick Mesa** won the door prize. Dick says the bottle of wine is for his wife.

Note from Laine Sevy relayed by **Bill Seigi**:

“My summer was about the same old same. Did get to Lancaster in June for a grandson’s high school graduation and Northern Utah for a granddaughter’s college graduation and other than catching a four-pound rainbow trout the summer was quite uneventful.”

**Peter Daniels**, a retired Camp Connell/Cabbage Patch Caltrans lead worker, died on December 18, 2006. Mr. Daniels was born March 29, 1938 in San Francisco. He was a life member of the NRA, and also a member of the Mountain Ranch Muzzleloaders. In addition, he was involved with the American Legion. He was a former Ebbetts Pass Fire Commissioner and taught hunter safety to three generations of Ebbetts Pass youth. He was a lead worker for Caltrans for 30 years, working mainly at Cabbage Patch and Camp Connell maintenance stations. He spent the last 43 years living in Camp Connell. He is survived by his wife, **Kathy Daniels**. A memorial service was held December 21 at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church in Angles Camp.

**George Thomas “Bud” Guy** died on January 8, 2007. Mr. Guy was born in Modesto October 22, 1925. He served in the U. S. Navy during World War II. An engineer for the State of California for more than 35 years, he loved working with long-time colleagues. He continued to work as an engineering consultant for the state and various counties after his retirement from Caltrans in 1987. In his spare time, he enjoyed golfing with friends and traveling with his wife. He is survived by his wife, **Jane**. Services were held January 11 at San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery in Santa Nella.

Lifelong Angels Camp resident **Alfred Nicholas Sola** died February 25, 2007 at the age of 92. His parents, James, Sr. and Felicita Nora Sola, were immigrants from Fornoloza, Italy. Three months after arriving in the USA, Mr. Sola’s father drowned in the Stanislaus River at Melones, leaving his wife and five children.

Mr. Sola’s mother supported her family as a cook at lumber camps and boarding houses in the Mother Lode. He grew up in the Purdyville



area of Angels Camp, attending Angels Camp Grammar School and Bret Harte High School where he graduated in 1933. He married **Marjorie Jean Blazer** of Copperopolis on September 5, 1937. During World War II he served in the U.S. Navy on the U.S.S. Ariel, a supply and transport ship assigned to the Atlantic Fleet. In 1948 Mr. Sola became an employee of Caltrans in Angels Camp, retiring in 1975 as Special Projects Assistant Superintendent in Stockton. He was a life member of the Angels Gun Club and Angels Camp Volunteer Fire Department. He was also a member of the California State Employees Association, Foothill Singers, Sonora *Figli D'Italia* Club, Sonora Elks Lodge, and Meadowmont Golf Club. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, gardening, woodworking, trailering, golf and music. He is survived by Marjorie, his wife of 68 years.

— Brian Young

## The Haps in District 11

**W**e had 73 members, spouses and guests attend the annual dinner. Four of the members were new during the past year and six attended for the first time. Lots of compliments on the dinner and everyone had a good time. Included in the response to the dinner invitation were two notes from some who could not attend.

**Don Gray** wrote: Sorry Dean, can't make it. Keep me on the mailing list. In October I enjoyed a three-week bus trip through Portugal, Spain, France and Italy. Good roads and great Scenery!

**Carl Timms** writes: "**Shirley** (his wife) is recovering from neck fusion surgery, and I am the chief cook and bottle washer for now. Shirley is doing quite well. The operation has improved the use of her legs and she has gained strength in them."

A reminder that our annual picnic for QCC members and retirees will be held on September 8, 2007. This will mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the QCC picnic in the district. **Dean Burns** has served as coordinator for these 20 years and is calling it quits after this year. If you're interested in serving as coordinator, please contact **Butch Biendara**, 858-279-5054.

On a sad note, **Dennis Paquin**, retired Construction Division Employee and one of our picnic chiefs, had a fire that destroyed his home. He was able to get his wife and himself out without any injury, but they lost all their personal possessions and irreplaceable family heirlooms. The damage is estimated to be approximately a half million dollars. The California Transportation Foundation (CTF) has established a fund to assist Dennis and his wife during this time of need. Your tax-deductible contribution should be by check made out to "CTF Assistance Fund" with notation "Paquin" in the memo portion. Please mail to: California Transportation Foundation CTF, 581 La Sierra Dr., Sacramento, CA 95864.

**Robert Patee** passed away three days after his 79<sup>th</sup> birthday on June 8, 2006. He was respected and well liked at Caltrans where he was employed for 32 years. Before that, he was with the US Navy. Full military services were held at the Rosecrans National Cemetery. He is survived by his wife **Eleanor** as well as children and grandchildren who will miss him greatly.

— Dean Burns

First, my public apology to **Leslie Franklin** for slighting her and her great contributions to the QCC and the annual QCC picnic. In introducing **Marty Phillips**, who will replace **Gary Darr** to assist **Denny Paquin**, I overlooked the petite Leslie who began assisting with the picnic even before she qualified for membership. I recall in the wind-down after a picnic where she said that in just 'N?' months she would have her 25 years and be a full member. Here's to a great QCC'er who

helps in promotions as well as the cooking. Sorry Marty, you are next in rank after Denny and Leslie.

Our outstanding District QCC Director, **Dean Burns** added another campaign ribbon to his impressive array of trophies by being selected to serve a three year term on the state budget committee of the Retired Public Employees Association, RPEA, a large organization encompassing any and all who are part of CalPERS. So he is off to Sacred Meadows to help set some solid priorities.

The employee awards and recognition idea is gaining strength with support from Director **Will Kempton** that brought about a meeting, (see President's message.) Some issues need to be worked out in the district on funding and responsibilities, but stay tuned for some great things to come soon.

The February ROMEO's breakfast brought out a few romantics bringing their wives along with a line-up that included **Glen Berry, Joe Bramante, Earl Brydon, John Buechner, Gene Calman, Ernie Danjou, Bill Dillon, Bill Dotson, Bob Gibbs, Tom Hardison, Tom Killens, Ralph Loveland, Robin Mallak, Tarbell Martin, Don Nothdurft, Howard Pray, John Reeder, Roy Riesgo, John Rising, Jerry Van Ert, Dave and Ruth Weiss, Carl and Deanne West,** and the ever youthful **Bob Young**.

Another fun group that gathers periodically is the Past and Present Local Assistance lunch bunch where **Mario Balestrieri, Butch Biendara, Christine Carrington, Bob Gibbs, Tom Hardison, Carol Jefferies, Fleet and Dorothy Palmer, Kathryne Phillips, Don Pope, Al Raymond (HQ), Ray and Flo Richardson, Jim Roy, Tony Tomera,** and **Bob Young** enjoyed lunch and catching up with who is doing what these days.

Some dearly departed friends for listing in the memorials for D-I I are **Elmer Nienow**, January 8, 2006, **Judy Patchell**, September 7,

2006, **Sue (Norlander) Carver**, December 27, 2006, **Bob Hayhurst**, January 12, 2007, and **Jimmy Wiggins**, January 22, 2007.

— Butch Biendara

## The Haps in Central

Central District's most recent official gathering was the annual Holiday Luncheon on December 13 at the Buggy Whip. About 80 of us enjoyed a great lunch and the opportunity to exchange stories and good wishes for the coming year –

**Jim and Florine Ray:** "Good to see old friends. Here's a humorous Christmas story: Two brothers were saying their evening prayers. The younger brother said, in a loud voice, 'God, please bring me a new iPod or a Play station 2 or a Wii.' 'Why are you shouting?' the older brother said. 'God is not deaf.' Younger brother replied, 'God is not deaf but Grandma is'."

**Jack and Ellen Derby:** "Congrats to the board for another great luncheon. **Ellen** and **Jack** head to Colorado (Snowmass) with our ski club in January. **Ellen** has eight grandchildren and **Jack** has three. They give us much happiness. **Jack** still does a lot of fishing. **Ellen** travels with girlfriends. Happy Holidays."

**Gene Berthelsen:** "Just back from Hong Kong where, walking down the sidewalk, I found I was above average in height. If I'd been above average in height at Caltrans I might have gone further. Heightism, you know."

**Don and Wilma Watson:** "Will spend New Years in Las Vegas. We're planning two trips for 2007: one with friends in Philadelphia in May and one with family, cruising the Caribbean in July."

**Ray and Addi Forsyth:** "We spent a great week with Ray's four daughters at Puget Sound in August. We celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup>

wedding anniversary last month (My, time flies when you're having fun.)"

**Jack Cropper:** "I'm sorry to say I'm off to Maui tomorrow. With any luck I'll hit the waves tomorrow before dinner."

**Dave Nelson:** "It's great to be among friends and old co-workers. **Jan** and I just finished an Alaskan cruise. We had our fill of salmon and halibut and recommend it highly."

**Pat Mooney:** "We have been busy remodeling our kitchen and raising our grandchildren, now 15 and 16. The girls are in volleyball so we keep busy going to tournaments."

**Bob and Button Grout:** "Our last year was not too eventful. Just our annual visit to the Legion of Honor and I still can't get 'She who must be obeyed to call me *Sir*'."

**George Smith:** "A great party. No more trips for us so these gatherings are nice things to do. People are great."

**Dave Crane:** "We haven't done a whole lot this year. We did get up to Washington and visited family and friends from the old days. Went deer hunting in October with no luck. We'll be leaving Monday, December 18 for Colorado for Christmas with daughter **Lori** and family. Be back next year."

**Shirley Weber:** "Just got back from Florence, Sienna and Rome, Italy. It was a long walk to the top of St. Peters in the Vatican – a great view, though."

**Charles Chenu:** "Took two wonderful trips to Italy this last year."

**Vern Leseman:** "Just returned from a cruise to Acapulco where the weather was wonderful. We traveled with a group from Caltrans put together by **Art and Pat Naylor** (56 people including friends)."

**Allen and Joyce Wrenn:** "Good to be here and to see everyone. We just completed our 50<sup>th</sup> cruise through the Panama Canal with all but two of those being since retiring. Allen serves as guest lecturer on Holland America Cruise Line."

**Irene Francies:** "Good to see everyone. This year has been hectic with disabilities – arthritis has been a problem but I manage to get around with a walker. My daughter moved to Henderson, Nevada and my son is now in Tampa, Florida so I don't see them as often as I would like."

In addition to the luncheon fun, some business was conducted. **Director Gary Bush** was "overwhelmed" with the number of nominations for 2007 officers. Here are the results after the dust settled: **Gary** continues as **Director**; **John Hebner** gives the **Treasurer** reigns to **David Saxby**; and **Nancy Benjamin** continues as **Secretary** until **Julie Bush** takes over in the spring. **Gary** will give a status report on all this at the **Spring Luncheon at the Dante Club on Wednesday, April 25, 2007.**

I am sorry to report that we have lost some dear friends recently.

**Jim McManus** passed away in Sahuarita, Arizona on December 2, 2006. **Jim** worked at Caltrans for 38 years, ending his career as Deputy Chief Engineer in 1992. He had many accomplishments, including 11 years leading a division of the Civil Air Patrol in Northern California. After retiring from Caltrans, **Jim** and his wife **Pat** moved to Washington State where he joined the engineering faculty of the University of Washington for 13 years.

**John Kozak** passed away on January 25, 2007. **John** was a bridge engineer with Caltrans for 37 years. Since retiring in 1984 he served on expert bridge panels in Saudi Arabia, New York and California. He is survived by **Margaret**, his wife of 57 years.

**Joe "Skip" Loomis** passed away on February 4, 2007. **Joe** was born July 9, 1931 in Okmulgee, Oklahoma. He attended Oklahoma A&M before serving in the U. S. Army Signal Corps. After discharge, **Joe** earned a degree in Business Administration and Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. He worked for Caltrans for 46 years, retiring in 1997. **Joe** is survived by his wife, **Lois**.

On a lighter note, I received a note from **Don and Dorothy Alden** saying, "We continue to keep busy with a variety of activities. **Dorothy** is involved in many things including managing the Sacramento Community Concerts Association. They bring great classical and semi-classical music from all over the world to Sacramento. We are glad to see many old Caltrans friends at these concerts. The number of details she has to take care of is mind-boggling just ask her. She is also active in the ASCE Ladies Auxiliary and the Chautauqua Theater. **Don** keeps busy with yard, pool and house maintenance and in his spare time still rows racing shells with the Lake Natoma Rowing Club. He has also teamed up with a great collection of older rowers from around the U.S. for racing in World's Championships. The sports writers have dubbed us 'The Golden Eight' because we generally bring home the gold medal for our age group."

**Don and Dorothy** have traveled all over the world for **Don** to compete in seven of these annual World's Masters (that's older, not better) Rowing Championships. "It was a great way to visit other countries that we probably would never have visited. As a member of the Lake Natoma Club he has also won many regattas on the west coast, including the famous San Diego Crew Classic. But **Don** has slowed down after having knee replacement surgery a couple of years ago."

That's about it for Central District news.

**Happy Spring – be sure to mark Wednesday, April 25 on your calendar for the spring luncheon at the Dante Club!**

— Nancy Benjamin

## Foundation Matters

### Partnership Efforts Pay Off

As part of effort among the QCC, Caltrans, and the California Transportation Foundation to involve members of the Quarter Century Club in more of the activities of the CTF, you recently were sent a copy of the annual newsletter *HEADWAYS*. This issue covered many of the activities and programs sponsored by CTF in support of the goals and objectives of California's transportation infrastructure. We hope you enjoyed reading the information and look forward to your future participation in these activities and programs. Your participation and contributions to the foundation make a difference!

The foundation's success over past years has depended on the volunteer efforts of many different people. A special "thank you" to both **Nancy Benjamin** and **Peggy Sweet** for taking on the task of the mailing of this year's annual newsletter and appeal for contributions. A big job well done!

Here are a couple of the activities that are coming up:

- **Tranny Awards Luncheon**—June 6 at the Sacramento Convention Center. This will be the 18<sup>th</sup> year in which outstanding transportation persons, projects, programs and organizations are recognized.
- **Charity Gold Tournament**—August 7 at the Winchester Country Club near Auburn. Proceeds help fund the Worker's Assistance and Memorial Fund. Have fun while enjoying the sun and camaraderie of others working in transportation.
- **Education Symposium**—November 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>. A unique and rewarding event that allows you to share your experiences with senior college students about to enter various transportation fields.

For more information on these and other activities and programs, check out CTF's website at [www.transportationfoundation.org](http://www.transportationfoundation.org). You may also reach CTF by mail at 581 La Sierra Drive, Sacramento CA 95864 or by telephone at (916) 453-1767.

And here's a reminder that contributions to CTF are tax deductible. CTF is a non-profit, 501c(3) organization.

**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.**

### Hidden Funeral Expenses

An affluent fellow dies, leaving a will that provides \$30 thousand for an elaborate funeral. The funeral is held at the local funeral chapel, but while it doesn't seem quite as lavish as \$30 thousand ought to provide, it is fancy enough.

As the last guests depart the service, the wife turns to her oldest friend and says, "Well, I'm sure Harry would be pleased."

"I'm sure you're right," replies her friend, who lowers her voice and leans in close. "How much did this really cost?"

"All of it," says the widow. "Thirty thousand."

"No!" the friend exclaims. "I mean, it was very nice, but really, thirty thousand?"

"The funeral was \$6,500," says the widow. "I donated \$500 to the church. The wake, food and drinks were another \$500. The rest went for the memorial stone."

The friend computes quickly. "Twenty two thousand five hundred for a memorial stone? My gosh, how big is it?!"

"Two and a half carats."

## 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](mailto:ahartin@cox.net)

### **Retired Highwaymen and Road**

**Agents** meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the months of January, April, July, and October at 11:35 a.m. at the Hometown Buffet at the Bayshore Mall in Eureka

### District 2 - *No Contact*

Retired folks meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month between 7:30 and 9 am at the district office snack bar, 1657 Riverside Drive, Redding

### District 3 - *No Contact*

**Weekly Tuesday Coffee/Breakfast** at 8:30 am at the "Green House" in the Raley's Shopping Center in Placerville.

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

**Annual Placerville Spring Luncheon** is scheduled for April 12

**Spring Get Together** Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Family Moose Lodge

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

E-mail: [edcoble49@worldnet.att.net](mailto: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 9 am 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 of the month in Bishop—contact Lance Hinek for information

**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

**Central** *Gary Bush— (530) 642-8208*

**Annual Spring Luncheon**, April 25, 2007 at The Dante Club.

*In Memoriam*

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

Name	District	Date
Charles D. Bonar	01	2005
David Bekke	01	February 1, 2007
Lee Loeffelbein	01	December 13, 2006
John D. Tyler	01	October 2005
Shawn Dale Woodman	01	February 23, 2007
Larry D. Luby	02	February 28, 2007
Ruth Miles	02	October 29, 2005
Michael J. Baker	03	January 4, 2007
Frank Fournier	03	January 6, 2007
Shirley Fuci	03	February 2007
Wally Yager	03	December 6, 2006
William "Ray" Duncan	04	September 11, 2006
Don Reid	04	2006
Jim Sturgeon	05	September 19, 2006
Bruce Langford	05	December 22, 2006
Eddie Devens	05	February 11, 2007
Patricia Montoya	05	February, 2007
Robert "Bob" Thompson	07	December 22, 2006
Tom Fera	07	January 16, 2007
William Palmer	07	July 8, 2006
Bob Espy	08	January 4, 2007
Margaret Lynn	08	Unknown
Fred Midin	08	Unknown
Milton Redifer	08	August 16, 2006
Jim Strait	08	January 2007, 2006
George "Bud" Guy	10	January 8, 2007
Alfred Nicholas Sola	10	February 25, 2007
Peter Daniels	10	December 18, 2006
Sue (Norlander) Carver	11	December 27, 2006
Bob Hayhurst	11	January 12, 2007
Elmer Nienow	11	January 8, 2006,
Judy Patchell	11	September 7, 2006
Robert Patee	11	June 8, 2006
Jimmy Wiggins	11	January 22, 2007
Herbert Gee	Central	January 21, 2007
John Kozak	Central	January 25, 2007
Norman Lambeth	Central	December 12, 2006
Joe "Skip" Loomis	Central	February 4, 2007
James McManus	Central	December 2, 2006

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