



## Award Party

*DISTRICT 11 SHOWS HOW TO DO IT*

### *From the Corner Pocket*

The weather cooperated with a beautiful day for a lunch in District 11's courtyard, and with a huge effort of those involved, our first "Annual?" Employee Awards Luncheon was an outstanding success enjoyed by more than 400 people.

Thanks to PEGC for providing a subsidy and allowing each guest to pay a reduced fee. The District 11 Employee committee got off to a good start with a lunch at no cost to the committee that surprisingly generated more than \$1,000 in net income. A good deal of credit goes to the committee members' last-minute efforts to deal with the more than 100 meal tickets sold on the day of the event, even while doing the setup and organization for all the participants.

Some things that made the District 11 event a success were a silent auction of treasures donated by employees, the QCC, and the CTF. (I got a steal on a bronze-age, hand-crafted pot from the Middle East.) District 11 also has an on-site day-care operator with connections to vendors who brought in extra support and sales tables as well.

More than 200 people were recognized for their individual or team accomplishments in the past year. And yes, QCC officers were there to assist in presenting 25-year and other awards as well as handing out QCC flyers and applications.

For a group just getting off the ground with their first big event, you have to say that they are off to a great start. A small 'glitch' was having to feed so many more than were planned for, that's a 'lesson learned' and something to work on for next year. Time limited the presentation of all the awards, a mixed blessing that allowed for the remaining awards to be brought out on a later 'make-up' date when Director **Will Kempton** was in town. Several hundred employees were there for his short visit.

A related item is that District 11 QCC has signed five new members this year. That's not an overwhelming number, or even a replacement for those who have been lost, but at least it is positive, compared to no new members at all. How is your recruiting effort going? Have you added a significant number of people to the roll? Our mission of "A closer bond of friendship" has to be based in the districts and recruitment must come from them as well.

In my role of 'termed-out-but-still-acting' QCC Pres, I see a statewide need for more recruiting and am willing to put my money where my mouth is. I'm proposing a statewide contest to see which district can enroll the most new members by the end of next year, (12/31/08). I will likely be replaced by then, but since the award/prize will be off-budget (from my wallet) it shouldn't make any difference who has the title then, and will not be a burden on them. (I didn't ask for board approval either.)

Some simple rules are that the tally will be by a percentage of members added, based on the number on board as of January 1, 2007. Yes, it is

a two-year plan that is already underway. Yes, it will use the base count before delinquent members were dropped this year. And no, those who were dropped for lack of renewals this year or next will not be an offsetting negative. ie: 100 members as of 1/1/07 – 10 lost + 10 gained = 100 members on 12/31/08 = 10% **new** members. It's the recruiting that counts, with no penalty for drops. And the reward, besides having a larger and more talented district, is that I will personally buy dinner for the district director and spouse, plus their top recruiter (if different), and spouse, at the best place in town, (\$50/person max), for the district recruiting the highest percentage of **new** QCC'ers.

To help the effort, I have drafted two tri-fold color flyers that can be printed on both sides of an 8.5 x 11 sheet as an easy 'silent salesman' for handing out or dropping off in your recruitment efforts. The QCC Board OK'd printing a large number of them to be shipped to each district, but I'm not sure if they would be used. So I will email an (MSWord) electronic version to anyone who wishes to have them, (see state officer contacts), and you can print and use them as you see fit. If there is enough interest, and if they are effective, we may do a large print run on glossy paper in the future. The QCC application is available on line, (see the web link).

Recruiters, pick up your pens!

— 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>

Check the current haps at Caltrans at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/ctnews>

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**Secretary/Treasurer's Report**

**K**im Yarbrough reports that he has purged the membership list of those who have not been paying dues, dropping the roll to 1292 members. Kim reported this to your editor on August 16, accompanying it with the news that he had to do his report early and in a hurry because he was headed for open heart surgery at 7:40 the following morning in Oakland. Let's keep a good thought there, members (Actually Kim called a few days ago and informs me that he came through a three-way bypass with flying colors. Yeah, Kim!

— Kim Yarbrough

**Honorary Members**

Honorary members must notify the Secretary-Treasurer if they wish to continue their dues-free status. See officer list for Secretary-Treasurer address.

## Rescue at Rocky Creek

Originally told by Duane Smith  
Now retold by Norman Root

In the spring of 1971, severe storm undercut the cliff supporting Monterey Coast State Highway I, causing a landslide that damaged the highway above and threatened the south abutment of the picturesque concrete arch Rocky Creek Bridge, 13 miles north of Big Sur. Because a concrete seawall hastily constructed on the beach at the base of the slide lasted only a couple of years, the Division of Highways proposed an experimental project to raise the beach behind a wall of 5 by 10 foot nylon sandbags permanently to stop waves from crashing against the seawall and cliff.

During May, June and July of 1974, the Engineering Geology Group from the Materials and Research lab in Sacramento constructed the experimental sand trap. Crewmembers were **Chuck Armstrong, Paul Salinas, Ralph Fitzpatrick, Bob Mortensen,** and **Duane Smith**. Eight surfers from the Ecology Corps augmented the Translab crew.

Access to the project was limited. A narrow dirt road departed from the north end of the bridge, traversed the canyon wall, and finally terminated beneath the bridge. Vehicles had to ford the creek at three crossings. Leaving the truck, it was necessary to scale a 35-foot high rocky ridge, descend to the top of the concrete seawall, walk the length of the wall and then drop an 20 feet to the sandy beach work site.

On the morning of June 16, 1974, at 1:30 am, the crew was approaching the turn-off from the coastal highway when Paul Salinas, driving the lead truck, missed the turnoff and was forced to cross the bridge before turning around. South of the bridge, he and Chuck Armstrong noticed a shattered highway sign lying in the roadway. Fearful that northbound traffic would hit it, they stopped to remove it, and noticed skid marks and tracks leading to the edge of a near-vertical 150-foot high cliff. Using flashlights, they scanned

the beach below but could not see anything unusual. Still, returning to the work site, Paul had a nagging feeling that a car had gone over the cliff and that there were people still alive and in need of help.

Paul convinced a small party to check it out.

Paul, Ralph and Duane, dressed in wet suits and armed with flashlights, worked their way around a rocky point and in a short time spotted a wrecked car at the base of the cliff, 300 yards south of the project site.

"Out of the darkness, two-thirds of the way up the cliff, came a man's voice asking if we could help. We identified ourselves and assured him that we would help. He thought he had a broken ankle and some fractured ribs and indicated his wife was lying by the car. Flooding the wreckage with light, we could see a motionless form on the sand covered by a sleeping bag and foam rubber mattress. With trepidation, we approached the site. A quick examination suggested the semi-conscious young woman probably had a broken back, wrist, and nose with possible fractured ribs and internal injuries."

Paul was able to converse with the woman in her native Spanish during the short intervals that she was conscious. Ralph ran to call an ambulance and the Highway Patrol. After assessing the apparent extent of injuries and inaccessible location, it was decided that a helicopter would be necessary to evacuate the injured. Thirty minutes after the radio call, a helicopter arrived on the beach and transported the couple to the hospital.

What are the odds that a crew would be working in the middle of the night on a lonely stretch of beach in the rugged Big Sur area? Why did Paul miss the turnoff he had made so many times previously? Why did he feel that someone was alive and needed help when such an accident would most probably be fatal?

—Norm Root

## The Haps in District 1

I cannot believe how fast this summer has gone. Our travel adventure in June was to a history conference in Solvang. On the way we spent time with friends at a 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary party in Novato and my great niece's graduation party in Santa Cruz. We also saw my sister's new granddaughter in Stockton and on the way back walked the Sun Dial Bridge in Redding. For those who live in the Solvang area, you really have a treasure. We enjoyed all the sights and watched for places that we had seen in the movie, "Sideways."

The museum at the Anderson Pea Soup Restaurant in Buellton even had information on the state highway going through Buellton in the 1950's. We toured Solvang and enjoyed seeing the Mission and some museums. A real plus was the motorcycle museum. You can find it by googling Solvang Motorcycle Museum. Working for Caltrans, we have to check out all forms of transportation. We also continue to appreciate how good our state highways are when we spend as much time on them as we did with this trip.

Another big event for this summer was the District 1 service awards lunch. We honored employees with 25, 30 and 35 years of service. It was held on July 31 at the Red Lion Inn in Eureka. Our District Director, **Charlie Fielder**, was the Master of Ceremonies. This year we were honored to have our Director, Will Kempton, as our special guest. He also helped hand out the awards and greeted all the honorees that were in attendance. They included, for 25 years, **Greg Bushta, Jeffrey Troxell, Patrick Joyce, Thomas Gonzalez, and Glenn Hurlburt**; and for 30 years, **Helene Demling, Tim Bywater, Karol Petsch, Don Puzin, Mike Yancheff, and Leota Lovelace**. Others honored but not able to attend were, for 25 years, **Mel Crawford, Jr., James Jones, William Wolf, and Dave**

**Woodson**; for 30 years, **Lorene Enos** and **Steve Bowles**; and for 35 years, **Kendra Douglass** and **John Moore**. It was great to see everyone there, including several fellow retirees. Those included fellow QCCers, **Tom Georgeson, Bob Trice, Marty Van Zandt** and **Rick Knapp**, as well as **Bernie Lee, Bruce Marshall, George Eitzen, James Boyett, Ray Sweet, Steve Ruonavaara, and Tim Fisher**. I had my packets of CTF and QCC information and applications and was able to give some out. I also had an opportunity to speak about both CTF and QCC and the need to support them.

On June 29, the district had a fund raising BBQ lunch in the parking lot to help defray costs for the service award lunches. It was a fun event and a great way to help out and get something good to eat.

On July 19, I had the chance to attend **Joe Aguilar's** retirement lunch at the Bra Cut Maintenance station between Eureka and Arcata. It was a potluck picnic style and offered a great chance for everyone to visit and congratulate Joe for his many years of service. I saw fellow retirees, **Louise Oliver, Bamie Hauger, and Bernie Lee**. Maintenance and Operations, DDD, **Mark Suchanek**, Superintendent, **Mike Cossolotto**, and his supervisor, **Roy Spivey**, gave Joe several awards and certificates in honor of his service. He held several positions and retired as an Assistant CT Administrator, taking care of the supply needs for the Maintenance Branch. He is going from a hectic, demanding pace to relaxing at their new home in Trinity County. We wish Joe and his family many years of fun and relaxation. Joe, you have earned it.

Our fellow QCCer, **Vi Truby**, has been enjoying lots of traveling. She did a Mackinac Island tour, which included the tulip festival in Holland, Michigan and touring through rural Wisconsin and Chicago. In June, she went up to Washington to visit family and enjoy Idaho and Montana. She had a great visit up in Athol, Idaho, with **Jack Bonzey**, one of our retired engineers and **Gary** and **Elizabeth Alkire**.

Jack and his wife built and run a beautiful bed and breakfast there. Gary, who had regional responsibility toward the end of his career in Surveys, retired as the head of our Surveys Department. Elizabeth also worked in the District I RMW office for several years. They are all thoroughly enjoying retirement.

**Linda Boyd** sent me an update on their activities. **Jim and Linda** and **Jerry and Sharon Severson** traveled to LaPine to visit **Judy** and **Norm Eri**, whom they met in Yuma. The girls attended the Sisters Quilt show and the guys went through the High Desert Museum in Bend. They understand that **Larry Bowermaster** and his wife were also there.

They stopped at the Living Memorial Sculpture Garden just outside of Weed, which is dedicated to all veterans. It is well worth seeing. After LaPine, they went to McMinnville, Oregon and the Evergreen Aviation Museum. (That is on my list, too.) They then went to Tillamook and took the self-guided tour of the Tillamook Air Museum. It was previously a blimp hangar. Both places are very interesting.

Jim and Linda's next travels were to the Fortuna car show and in August to Fort Bragg to attend "Arts in the Garden" at the Botanical Gardens. They also planned to see the **Seversons**, the **Beckmans** the **SeCoys** and **Pat SeCoy's** sister, **Becky**.

I reported last quarter that one of our retired engineers, **Al Toland**, had passed away. He had worked for Caltrans more than 40 years, retiring as an Associate Transportation Engineer. He was also an active volunteer firefighter for Humboldt Fire District I for 25 years and received Fireman of the Year award in 1967. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, **Darla**, his sons **Jeffrey**, **Douglas** and **Darren**, their wives and 4 grandchildren. On June 10, they had a celebration of his life at the Wharfinger building in Eureka. It was a wonderful turnout of his family, friends, and coworkers. Some attendees included his friends from the Fire Dept; **Chuck** and **Pat SeCoy** and **Jim** and **Linda Boyd** from the Redding

area, **Stan** and **Judy Murdock**, **Pete** and **Heidi Pettersen**, **Bob** and **Mary Kay**, **Rick Knapp**, **Bob Trice**, **Burt Wythe**, **Mark Suchanek**, **Jim Martin**, **Kenny Vaughan**, **Lowell Allen**, **Glenn Hoffman**, **Dennis** and **Mary Grinsell**, **Don** and **Nancy Quintrell**, and **Tom Georgeson**. People shared wonderful stories of his life and enjoyed visiting and remembering a really great person. That is the way he wanted it. He will be missed.

Retired engineer **Dennis Grinsell's** father passed away on August 28 at age 88. He was born and raised in Humboldt County and had a long and interesting life here. We used to see him and his wife at different functions. After she passed away in 2004, he still got around. We saw him at Historical Society meetings and church breakfasts. Just two weeks before he died, he attended his 70<sup>th</sup> class reunion of the Fortuna High class of 1937. He is also survived by another son and a daughter and their families. We will miss his bright smile, but his was a life well lived.

The saddest news that we received recently was the passing of **Judi Irwin** on August 6. She was only 63 and died after a courageous battle with cancer. She was the one who taught me personnel work when I first went to work at Caltrans in 1966. We worked together over the years and had many happy memories. She retired as an Associate Caltrans Administrator in 1997 with 32 years of service and we continued to see each other at the CT retired ladies lunches. Her husband, **Drew**, also retired from Caltrans as a Senior Transportation Engineer after a long career. She leaves a son and other family members.

Our sympathies go to the families and friends of Al Toland, Paul Grinsell, and Judi Irwin.

Don't forget to keep the news coming. My email address is [ahartin@suddenlink.com](mailto:ahartin@suddenlink.com).

—Arlene Hartin

## The Haps in District 2

**Lew** and **Sandy Wood** write "Hi all, we are having a great summer, visits with children and grandchildren. We have had several trips through the "State of Jefferson," Ashland and Dunsmuir among them. We are starting new remodeling projects –new deck and kitchen cabinets. Have a great fall season!"

**Jerry Drennan** says, "Great to see **Gene Knaebel** back at our monthly breakfast meetings after several operations on his leg for bone cancer."

**Gene Wahl**, a member of the Shasta Woodworkers Club and the Redding Senior Citizens Wood Carvers, has been busy with "Readersaurus Rex" banks, in the shape of a dinosaur for coins to be used to buy new children's books. He got his idea after seeing a similar one in a library in Alliance, Nevada. In 2002, he delivered his first to the Shasta County Public Library in Redding. As of 2006, there were 13 of these banks in Northern California.

The phone calling of Jack Ennis and a helper produced good results. Sixteen bods showed up to reminisce, including **Jack Abraham, Russ Azevedo, Jim Ceragioli, Jerry Drennen, Jack Ennis, Harley Gough, Ralph Harkness, Jack Haner, Gene Knaebel, Charles McKee, Gene Poch, Floyd Slack, Diane Tomicich, Bob Towers, Gene Wahl, and Robert Wenham.**

— Cam Garbutt

### 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.

## The Haps in District 3

**O**ur District 03 QCC luncheon in April was very much a success. More than 115 retirees and spouses and friends attended. We placed pictures from last year's luncheon on the tables and urged all attendees to take them. We also had pictures on the walls taken in the 1960s of employees of the Right of Way, Central Design, Resident Engineers, and Administrative Sections.

Special guests included: QCC Secretary/Treasurer **Kim Yarbrough** and his wife **Pat**; Former Director **Leo Trombatore** and wife **Shirley**; former District Director **John Allison** and wife **Marie**; and **Richard Von Tersch** who flew from San Diego to attend. **Rich** is a former District 03 Accounting Officer who retired from District 11.

**Frank Mascovich**, Deputy District Director of Administration, gave an overview of how the work is proceeding on the new District 03 district office building. We certainly thank Frank for his time and good information.

If you have the computer program Java, you can go to [www.caltrans3.com](http://www.caltrans3.com) for a look in real time at the district office building project. Go to the left side of the page and click web cam.

District 03 QCC has a new President, **Dan Johnson**. Dan, who served as president several years ago, has elected to take over this position once again. He is active in other organizations and continues to give many hours of service to the Yuba City Loyal Order of Moose.

Dan recently started a new business, making and selling **Diamond J Ranch Bar B Que Sauce and Marinade**. This endeavor is keeping him busy traveling over the country to advertise his product. Wednesday evenings Dan, who has been cooking ribs at Ruthe's Grill and Bar in Yuba City, has broken all records for the turnout of fans. The first week 62 people came and the second found 126 diners. The best to

Dan and his new business—and welcome as our new District President.

**John Pennybaker** has led our club during the past four years and has spearheaded the QCC Luncheon for the past three years. **John** has done a bang-up job and all of us wish him the best as he goes through a few health problems.

District 03 lost a wonderful retiree and friend when **Virginia Winton** passed away in April. Working in Special Crews and Administration, Virginia retired after more than 20 years with the district. We will miss her. Much sympathy to her husband of 34 years, **Ray Winton**, a former District 03 deputy director.

A sad note from **June Otto** who lost her husband **Milton Otto** on August 1<sup>st</sup>. **Milt** worked in Civil Service at Beale AFB. He had Alzheimer's for about five years and had been in a nursing home for only nine days when he passed on. June and Milt belonged to Trails West, a volunteer group that researches emigrant trails and places markers and publishes books as to where to locate the old trails.

June wrote: "Milt helped to place the Bedwourth marker on 3<sup>rd</sup> and D Streets in Marysville in 1998. Our family repainted it on June 23<sup>rd</sup> of this year. Milt was only able to do a few brush strokes because of his illness but he did it with a smile. This marker was the end of the James Bedwourth Trail from Sparks, Nevada into Marysville. Our best wishes go to June.

**Wy Carter** spent time in Phoenix this summer visiting her daughter. **Wy** said goodbye to her daughter and began walking along the terminal to ride the moving sidewalk. As **Wy** puts it, as she disembarked the moving sidewalk, she fell and "broke her face" and was knocked out for a while. The emergency crew arrived, patched her up and wanted to take her to the nearest hospital. After talking with the crew and being determined to get home, **Wy** asked the crew to take her to the waiting plane and get her on. Back in Yuba City, she did seek emergency treatment and is feeling better now

and I'm sure looks great.

In Fort Bragg **Jim** and **Pat Howard** and **Bob** and **Marilyn Mulcahy** were at the "Worlds Largest Salmon Feed." Both couples spent July 4<sup>th</sup> at Green Acres with family and friends.

Other retirees in Fort Bragg for the summer are **Wilbur** and **Sandy Wright** and **Dan Winana** and his wife. I understand from Wilbur and Dan, the salmon were as difficult for them to catch as they were for most people. A very sparse year!!!

Most of my summer had been spent in Fort Bragg, fishing, eating fish, or smelling like fish. Still beats the heat in Yuba City. Next week I plan to leave for Yosemite National Park. I'll leave the park at the East entrance to travel into Nevada and Arizona. Fall being the season to visit the South, I plan to take advantage of it. I hope to fly into Nashville, visit my family, and travel through the Southern States.

Most of our members either traveled during the summer or plan to in the fall. Be sure to let me know about your travels or how you braved the heat this summer in your back yard.

### From Placerville:

**LaRoy Carroll** took a two-week trip to Ireland to try to trace his family roots. He reports he didn't have much luck locating history, as information was hard to come by unless you had names and dates, but said it was an enjoyable trip seeing sights and items new to his group. His brother and other family members accompanied him on the trip.

The Annual Fall Luncheon of Retired State Employees is scheduled for Thursday, September 20 at 2:30 pm at the Green House Café in Raley's Shopping Center near the Fair Grounds in West Placerville. Guests will order from the menu and receive individual checks, eliminating the need for advance payment. All retired state employees and guests are welcome. Visiting with people you worked with during your career is always enjoyable. Use

Ramp 44B and follow the signs to Placerville Drive, turn right on Ray Lawyer Drive and the Shopping Center will be the first driveway about 50 yards on the right—same location as our spring luncheon. The Café will close to the public at 2 pm and we will have the café for ourselves. People on our mailing list will be contacted about two weeks in advance for an attendance count. New people should call **Doug Becker** (530) 622-1665 or **Jerry Hamm** (530) 622-8030 for reservations.

**Darrell** and **Joann Hansen** made their annual trip to the Dakota-Minnesota area where Darrell grew up, to assist in harvest and visit with family and friends. Darrell reports the crops were good and assisting was enjoyable. He says he didn't enjoy the task of filling the fuel tank on his motor home with the price of fuel as it is. Everyone shares his concerns in this area. All in all, he reports they had a good time.

— Susanna Ford and Keith Maggini

## *The Haps in District 4*

**Ed** and **Karen Coble** have moved, sort of, into their new house in Walnut Creek. They are sleeping in the new house on air mattresses while the renovation work is being finished. Ed says it gives new meaning to getting up in the morning.

Ed and Karen have moved to Walnut Creek to be close to their daughter, **Alette**, and their adopted granddaughter, **Kathryn**. Alette and her husband, **Bob Temple**, were mentioned in an article on phony adoption schemes in August 2008 Reader's Digest. After covering the many adoption scams now taking place, the article concluded with the Temples' case and their ultimate happy ending.

On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Quarter Century Club members **Harry Yahata**, **Ann Hansen**

and I attended a thank you barbeque graciously hosted by **Jack** and **Ruth Maltester** of San Leandro for past and present leaders of Caltrans District 4. Also present were **Leo Trombatore**, former District 4 (and Caltrans) director, and his son, **Mike**.

**Ruby Louie**, District 4 deputy director of external affairs asked me to pass on to everyone that **Dave Paulson** of District 4 and **Bill Bassett** of Headquarters legal were retiring. I worked with both for many years. In working with Bill, I learned that the first words he ever spoke were, "That's a gift of public funds."

As promised in the previous issue of the QCCer, **Norm Waight** has given me the first installment of his memoirs titled "Memories of an Old S. I." Here is Vern's career prior to World War II.

"For those who don't recognize it, "SI" is a term used by some of the old surveyors who spelled "civil engineer" as "sivil injineer." I do not claim to be of that vintage but I did do some civil engineering for the California Division of Highways before settling down as an electrical engineer.

"It all started in 1936. (**Editor's Note:** Vern is referring to his first job with the Division of Highways, not his birth, although I could be wrong!) One of our neighbors in Sacramento was **Clarence Bovey**, with whose son I attended grammar and high school. Mr. Bovey worked for the Division of Highways and I guess my father was talking to him one day and the matter of summer work for me came up. So I went to the Division for summer employment, not to personnel but to one **Tony Saldine** in the old headquarters building on 11<sup>th</sup> and P Streets. I believe Mr. Saldine was a deputy or an assistant state highway engineer—does anyone recall? I was only 17 but my father was a lodge brother of Governor Frank Merriam and he managed to get me an exemption from the state's minimum hiring age.



"I was sent to Fresno and first worked on a project just north of Fresno on Route 99. I was then sent up to Coarsegold on Route 41. I do not recall our RE's name but I do recall he was an astrologer. I was a student aide and an under aide with me on the survey crew was **Jake Dekema**, who subsequently went up the ranks to have an illustrious career as District Engineer and director in District 11. He remembered me when I visited him in San Diego 30 years later! There wasn't much to Coarsegold in 1936 but I understand that now there is a casino nearby.

"In 1938, I first worked in District 4 on a project on what is now Interstate 580. The RE was **Fred Montell** and the other members of Fred's crew that I recall were **Herb Deardorf** and **Don Young**. The spot where the house that was used as Fred's office is now gone due to the future improvements to Interstate 580. Then I was sent to the District 4 office, which as I recall took up a floor or two in the State Building on MacAllister Street in San Francisco. I was placed with a location map group and all I recall of that is my working on AAA maps and laying out proposed alignments for a connection for US 101 between the Golden Gate Bridge and the Bayshore Highway. Most of this was to be constructed underground—and that was before the later freeway revolt in San Francisco! I recall that one of the routes went along the alignment of Broderick Street. Even in 1938, there were some great planners in District 4! However, the underground proposal never got very far.

"In 1939 I went over to the US Bureau of Public Roads, which was to be, or had been, the Public Roads Administration; it's now the FHWA. The project was in a National Forest north of Truckee on what was and is still Route 49. The section of roadway started at a former lumber town called Calpine and went several miles north. The sawmill had shut down and Calpine was on the verge of

becoming a resort with the millpond becoming a swimming pool.

"The Bureau of Public Roads had some unusual ideas on building roads: all curves of 1,000 feet or less radius were spiraled and all cut slopes were tapered, starting out flat and going to a maximum of 1:1. That made slope staking a real challenge! I was selected to punch survey stakes and mark the stakes because the local boy hired as a brushman and appointed rodman couldn't write. After a while I got so I could figure out the catch points in my head. The old-school chief of party had to do it on paper. We used the Rhodes Arc, which had been designed by a Division of Highways employee. The Bureau of Public Roads only built the subgrade and it was left to the Division of Highways to come along later and pave it. I often wonder if the Division of Highways aligned the paving they later placed to the spirals laid out by the Bureau of Public Roads. Does anyone know?

"In 1940 I spent a rather warm summer in Red Bluff. It was almost as warm at night as it was in the daytime. I recall that the resident engineer was **R. R. Norton**, who later moved to Headquarters. I inspected a sacked rip rock placement project. It was so hot that the contractor worked only from 4 am to noon. My job was to count the sacks of cement gong into the mixer and staying awake to do so. When that job was completed I moved up to doing compaction tests. The problem I encountered there was the large rubber "condom" that I had to fill with water to measure the size of the sample hole. It would break when I removed it from the hole, destroying the test and requiring a patch job on the "condom."

"In 1941 I was fortunate to get a job in District 4, this time on US 101 north of the Golden Gate Bridge. The project consisted of widening Route 101 all the way to San Rafael. I recall some of the other civil engineering types on the survey crew: **Will Bruning** and **Bruno Dentino**. I also

recall the RE was possibly **Bill Rice**. His office was in San Rafael alongside Route 101, which wasn't a freeway then. One of the other crewmembers used to get up early and go diving for abalone. He would get to the job still shivering from his morning dive.

"I returned to attend UC Berkeley after that project and was at Berkeley on December 7. I graduated on a Friday in 1942 and enlisted the following Monday, but that begins another saga." (To be continued)

— Paul Hensley

## The Haps in District 5

August went out with a BANG as Mother Nature treated us to a Midwest summer night filled with frequent lightning, crashes of thunder, and cloud bursts. WOW!

The delay in passing this year's state budget caused problems with our vendors and suppliers. The office had stocked up on "TP", but we were starting to get low on bond paper, and the striping/stencil crew was starting to worry about their supply of beads and thermoplastic. Also, the \$986 million voted by the Transportation Commission in July could not be used until the budget passed, and some projects were delayed. State employees received their regular salary on time, but the July 1 raise was withheld until the budget was signed near the end of August.

The new budget provides \$6.4 billion for Capital Outlay, \$3.5 billion for Local Assistance, and \$1.2 billion for Maintenance. It also provides \$4.2 billion for Prop 1B projects.

Our DDD-Project Management, **Tim Gubbins**, tells me that the District 5 program for the 07/08 fiscal year will exceed \$200 million—pretty impressive!! Notable highway improvements starting this year: Replacing the Huer Huer Creek Bridge on Route 58; realigning curves on Route 166 in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties; widening Route 41 and adding a new onramp at the 41/101

intersection; adding a truck lane on Route 101 between Avila and Shell Beach; paving portions of Santa Rosa Street (Route 1) in San Luis Obispo—this is sure to start phones ringing in the district office. In 2008 we will begin widening Route 46 from Airport to Geneseo Road and adding medians to Broad and South Streets (Route 227).

Another District 5 accomplishment was the \$12,000+ raised by Caltrans folks at the recent Relay for Life in San Luis Obispo. Our team of 20 employees, family and friends walked the track for 24 hours to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. Caltrans was the number one team in fund-raising, and **Paul Halliburton** from construction brought in more donations than any other individual participant. **Tamara Gonzales**, our team leader, is already planning next year's event. If you'd like to join us in 2008, let me know.

Our scholarship fund has had another successful year; the income from beverage and pastry sales enabled us to award seven \$500 scholarships to high school students who expressed an interest in transportation.

2007 is becoming a popular year for retirements. Recent retirees include **Ron** and **Carolyn Belben** (special crews and construction), **Judie Beck** (project management), **Randy Blythe** (King City), **Paul Collins** (special crews), **Joe Ortega** (Santa Barbara), and **Bill Robinson** (construction). I hear another seven or eight folks also will retire before year's end.

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, December 5, for the annual Caltrans Holiday Barbecue. The festivities will be at a new location this year, the Trinity Hall on Edna Road. We enjoyed the convenience of the Elks Club, but the increased cost would have driven up ticket prices, and the committee decided to try this venue instead. Hope to see you there.

We just read in the LA Times that two cornerstones of our daily lives will be no more. In September, AT&T will stop providing Time of Day information service. We will no longer be able to dial "popcorn" to hear a woman's

recorded voice say, "At the tone, the time will be..." The phone company says we have many other ways to get this information now, and freeing up the 767 and 853 prefixes used for time service will enable the creation of about 300,000 new phone numbers in California.

And as of October 20, Interstate Bakeries will no longer be making Wonder Bread, a lunchtime staple in Southern California since the 1940s. It seems consumers in our state are more partial to whole grain breads these days. Wonder Bread will still be available in the Las Vegas area; we may have to buy a case on our next visit for **Bob's PB&J** sandwiches.

In June, **Giff and Shirley Bland** hosted a barbecue dinner for a group of friends at their lovely home in Atascadero. We enjoyed sitting under the trees in the backyard and catching up on all the news. **RJ and Linda Brown** helped organize the get-together, and we enjoyed a great meal prepared by **Robert Bonilla**, a Construction employee from Santa Maria.

**Dyer Campbell** has recovered from recent surgery and is once again able to swing a club with the Tuesday group at our local nine-hole course.

After 20 years and 210,000 miles, the **Copelands** have retired their faithful Acura and are enjoying the new car smell of a Honda Accord.

**Faith and Bill Fieldhouse** have been on the go this summer; we enjoyed their postcards from British Columbia, Montana and Texas.

**Jackie Salamanca** has completed her round of treatments and is feeling much better. Unfortunately, her husband **John** suffered a stroke in the midst of her recovery and had arterial surgery. Happily, Jackie and John are on the mend.

**Betty Strampe** has been housebound with painful shingles for a few months. She has tried a variety of medications and treatments but hasn't gotten much relief. Betty said she would love to hear from anyone who knows of a way to help her feel better.

Betty also told us that **Harriet and Bill Grove** have purchased a second home near Anderson Island, Washington, but will return to Avila Beach in the winter.

We received a news article from **John Maes** reporting the passing of **Wilbur Tank** on February 17; he was 85. Wilbur was born in North Dakota and served in the Navy during WWII as an aviation radioman. After moving to California, he married **Audrey** and lived in Alameda before moving to Salinas. Wilbur worked for Caltrans for many years prior to retiring in 1986. He and Audrey enjoyed 10 years of traveling, golfing, fishing, and babysitting grandchildren before his stroke in 1996. The past few years were spent at a care center, but he still sported a twinkle in his eye. Wilbur is survived by Audrey, his wife of 53 years, three children, and several grandchildren.

**Henry O. Case** passed away on July 11 at the age of 84. He was born and raised in Texas and graduated from Texas A&M. His studies were interrupted for a time by World War II, when he served as a tank mechanic for the 12<sup>th</sup> Armored Division in Europe. Henry started his Highways career in San Bernardino, where he met a draftsperson named **Doreen Post**. They married in 1949 and saved money for Henry to obtain his masters degree in 1952. Henry spent 36 years working for Caltrans; during that time he was invited to teach engineering at Cal Poly, where he organized a computer-assisted design program. He volunteered for many years as a scoutmaster and was active in his church and the community. Henry is survived by his wife Doreen, three children and two grandchildren.

**James W. "Bill" Reynolds** passed away on August 4 at the age of 89. Bill was born in Billings, Montana in 1918 and served in the army in World War II. He worked in District 3 Marysville before transferring to District 5; he was a 30-year resident of the area. Following retirement, he was a tireless volunteer with many organizations including the Salvation Army, Lions Club and the Senior Center. Bill was

preceded in death by his wife **Rosemary** and son **John**. He is survived by four children, 15 grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

**Marty Nicholson** passed away on August 19 after a battle with cancer; he was 71. Marty was born in Massachusetts and graduated from Notre Dame in 1958. He accepted a job in District 5, but his career was interrupted by service in the army. He was stationed in Greenland during 1959-60. He returned to San Luis with his wife **Betty**, and worked in many branches of Caltrans during his 38-year career. Marty and Betty enjoyed vacationing with family on the East Coast, visiting the thoroughbred tracks and handicapping. He also enjoyed reading about a wide variety of topics, especially the Civil War. Marty stayed active as long as possible following surgery and treatments, and he and Betty were an inspiration to our Relay team as they circled the track with us.

Marty is survived by Betty, their four children and six grandchildren.

— Kathy Copeland

## *The Haps in District 6*

**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  
(866) 780-5370  
or (916) 263-2222

— Terry Littleton

### **Deadlines**

**The deadline for material for the QCCer is the last day of the month before the one 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 December 31.**

## *The Haps in District 7*

### **Just Around the Corner**

Is it holiday time, so soon? As mentioned last year (has it been a year already??), the **Annual District 7 Holiday Luncheon** will be at the **New Otani Hotel** once again; the cost is expected to be about \$26, as last year. Put **December 8, 2007**, the second Saturday, 11 am, on your calendar and plan to attend!

The holiday luncheon (and dues) announcement will probably arrive before the December QCC newsletter does, so keep your eyes peeled for the mailing from **Leonard Thompson**.

The **New Otani Hotel and Gardens** is at 120 South Los Angeles Street, between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in downtown L.A. For more information about the hotel, please view their web site at <http://www.newotani.com/facts.htm>. Don't forget to bring the customary wrapped gift for the "prize event". Of course the real prize will

be to see all of your smiling faces as you meet and greet your longtime friends and co-workers.

**Note:** attire is holiday dressy-casual for those of you unaccustomed to the L.A. atmosphere. Layering is always recommended due to unpredictable seasonal weather. It does actually rain here in Southern California.

### Like Clockwork

Call it a sixth sense, but what may seem like a premonition is actually the Post Office delivering other QCC members' newsletters before mine, and how I find out I'll get mine any day now... This time the call came from **Bill Minter**, another Utah resident (like **Larry Louden**), and **Bill's** wife **JoAnn** (nee Miller), a former Landscape employee, who live in Linden, between Provo and Salt Lake City, just off Route 15. The area is growing by leaps and bounds, the way the San Fernando Valley was 50 years ago. **Bill** mentioned his three tours in design, traffic operations, minor contracts, and ultimately environmental engineering. He's a World War II and Korean War Veteran with the 160<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, and the 40<sup>th</sup> Division of the National Guard.

**Bill's** second son **Dave** is keeping the tradition as a reservist master sergeant in the Combat Engineers, and is going for his second tour in Iraq as the Battalion Sergeant Major in a new Arkansas Civil Affairs Unit. His grandson and grandnephew have also served two tours there.

### Of an Age— The Computer Age That is

**Tom Gildersleeve** reported a bit of good news: **Bob and Myra Joe** have joined the computer age and now have e-mail. Their address is: [bobandmyraj@att.net](mailto:bobandmyraj@att.net) in case you care to contact them via e-mail.

### Recent Sightings

Sighted once again at the Autry Center for Western Heritage in Griffith Park, CA—**Stan Lisiewicz** and his wife **Hendrina**, aka **Ina**, for the 100<sup>th</sup> celebration of Gene Autry's birth. After last quarter's sighting, **Stan** sent a note on the correct spelling of his last name. *Mea culpa, Stan*, I hope this time I got it correct. After 40 years, the phonetic spelling habit is hard to break.

**Bob Houle** announced that **William "Bill" Stewart** has had a serious illness involving pressure on the brain. Bill was hospitalized in early July, had been in a coma, and at last word, was in a rehabilitation center in Oxnard. **Bob** encouraged those who lived in the Oxnard area to visit **Bill**, and to offer prayers for his recovery.

On a happier note, **Wally Rothbart** made a grand appearance as the Official Parliamentarian at the two-day Toastmasters International Region II Conference in San Diego, in early June.

### Bridge Collapses

While we have all been in shock about the recent bridge Interstate 35 collapse in Minnesota, **Tom Gildersleeve** reports, "There was another famous bridge collapse in the United States 40 years ago, when the Silver Bridge, as it was called, collapsed into the Ohio River, daiming 46 lives. It held a lot of personal interest for me because I spent 1960-63 in the Air Force in Ohio and had driven across that bridge many times on photographic junkets. One rather interesting coincidence is that the bridge carried US 35 over the Ohio River, as opposed to the current collapse which carried Interstate 35. They actually made a Sci-Fi movie about that incident called, **The Mothman Prophecies**.

*"The Silver Bridge was a unique eye-bar suspension bridge, one of only three in the western hemisphere at the time. It was later*

*determined that one of the eye-bars failed, which brought the whole bridge down."*

Tom cites two web sites; "The first shows the best picture I can find of the bridge before its collapse: <http://abcdpittsburgh.org/>", the other, "Wikipedia," has a good write-up on it at: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silver\\_Bridge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silver_Bridge)"

On the topic of U.S. infrastructure, a recent edition of the British publication **The Economist** cited the California road network of the 1960s as "almost miraculous", and of great surprise to this reader, quoted **Reyner Banham**, a British Architecture Critic, who judged the intersection of the 10 and the 405 freeways in Los Angeles to be "one of the greater works of Man". Those of us who are familiar with the history of the recently honored **Marilyn Jorgenson Reece** Interchange, had a good chuckle, as it is actually "one of the greater works of Woman."

As one item of interest leads to another, the fund raising efforts of the District and CTF to sign the **Marilyn Jorgenson Reece** Interchange is nearing the \$9000 raised mark. Only \$1100 more to go...

### **Ancient Artifact and the Mighty Fortress**

**Dale Neumen**, retired Resident Engineer, stopped in for a visit and to share some Caltrans history in late August, and discovered that the new District 7 Office building is indeed a "mighty fortress."

"It's not like you can just walk in anymore," he says he discovered to his chagrin. Despite these obstacles, he was able to call later to make sure his artifacts got into the right hands. The items of interest are large mollusk shells "excavated in the early 1970's at Gypsum Canyon during the construction of the Route 91 Freeway." According to Dale, "a geologist at the job site when the shells were uncovered determined they are about 18 million years old." (Wow! That is OLD!) It is Dale's wish that the shells be "on loan" to construction and

materials, until they can be placed on public display at the eagerly anticipated District 7 Museum, which is currently in "mothballs."

A North Dakota native (like Marilyn Reece), Dale is a regular at the **Tom Fera** Luncheon Group, which meets the second Wednesday of each month at three alternating restaurants, except in December. The next three meetings will be: September 12 at **China Olive** Chinese Restaurant in Reseda, October 10 at **Joselito's West** Mexican Restaurant in Tujunga, and November 14, at **Steer N' Ale** Restaurant in Pasadena.

To avoid disappointment or delays, visitors to the now three-year-old "Mighty Fortress" are advised to take a few moments to make an "appointment" with an existing employee, to arrange for parking and so the Security desk can be notified in advance to expect them.

### **Be like Bill, Tom and Dale!**

PLEASE stay in touch. YES! We do want to know what you are doing and where you are doing it! Don't be shy. 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).

Don't forget to send DUES and honorary member status information, i.e. checks, to **Leonard Thompson** directly... His address is: 3711 W. 64<sup>th</sup> St. Los Angeles, CA 90043. If you send it to Kirsten, it will be delayed while she re-routes it to Len.

### **The Road Last Traveled**

A kindly note from **Lois Loomis** in late June, reported the passing of her husband, **Joe** from a lengthy illness on February 4, 2007. **Lois** will move back to Port Hueneme in southern California to be closer to two of their daughters. **Lois and Joe** retired from District 7 in 1997, and moved to Pine Grove, California;

they would have celebrated their 49th year of marriage on April 19.

**Tom Gildersleeve** reported to the members of the **Tom Fera** Luncheon group the passing on May 16, of **Richard G. Turk**, and the passing on July 17, of **Don Benjamin**.

No Caltrans information was available on **Richard**, who was survived by his children, **Michael, Deborah** and **Susan**, and numerous grandchildren.

**Don Benjamin** spent most of his 43-year career in Sacramento with some time in District 7, before retiring in 1996. A memorial luncheon was held on August 5 in Auburn, California. He preferred that donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 520 Bercut Dr, Suite A, Sacramento, CA 95814.

**Bob Murfin**, retired Senior RW Agent, District 7, reported that former Associate RW Agent **Duane Johnson**, a long time employee of District 7, died. While he was not a member of the Quarter Century Club, **Bob**, felt a notice of his passing in the QCCer would inform his many friends.

**Bob Jordan** reported that **Frank Zizda**, a Project Engineer in Design for many years until he retired, passed away on August 15. He died in his sleep at home. **Frank** was 87 and worked for Caltrans for 38 years. His service was on Wednesday, August 22.

### WAKE UP!

Make a note of your activities, and them to **Kirsten**; your QCC friends will thank you! PLEEZE keep sending those cards and letters!

Many thanks to the multitudes who forwarded information and who were not otherwise mentioned above: **Tom Almany III, Chuck O'Connell, Heinz Hedkeroth, Carol Huntwork**, and **Al Reece**.

— *Kirsten Stahl*

## The Haps in District 8

A total of 55 members attended District 8's QCC midsummer luncheon at the Gourmet Restaurant in San Bernardino on July 14. Those present and having a good time were **John and Kay Anderson, Evie Anderson and friend, Kirk Otteson, Dan and Beverly Armstrong, Loren and Margaret Barnett, Mary Bermudez, Gil and Jeanette Daab, Eleanor Campbell, John and Doris Estrada, Janice Feenstra, Bill and Shirley Feenstra, Les Franz, Bill and Marlene Gartman, Ed and Clarice Gritters**, new members **Pat and Loretta Hennessey, Carolyn Johns, Frances Jacques, Jim Landfried** and his new bride, **Pam, Dick and Hazel Longstreet, Marsha Lotze**, guest **Dick Massaro, Jim Miller** and his fiancée, **Linda Corrado, Maxine Nelson, Les and Barbara Nolte, Lloyd and Alice Patterson, Tom and Bonnie Powell, Virginia Reed, Taylor and Katie Smith, Roy Smoot** and his guest **Marjorie Bruhn**, guests **Nick and Margaret Soffa, Richard and Judy Standley, Grace Vinzens, Don Weaver**, guest **Paul Welch** and guest **Ethel (Gallwas) Nichols**.

**Ernie Parke's** wife, **Kay**, suffered a fall at home in April and spent nearly 12 weeks in hospitals and rehabilitation centers. She is now home with 24/7 live-in assistance for Ernie and herself. For the first time since Ernie joined QCC they were unable to attend the summer luncheon. Kay is up and about able to join friends at social functions.

**Meribah Small** received a letter from former District 8 member **Bob Findlay's** daughter, **Janice Wainright** in Albuquerque, saying that Bob, suffering from dementia, now resides in a care facility in Albuquerque. He has

had several strokes since January. He would enjoy hearing from his friends in District 8. Cards should be addressed in care of **Janice Wainright, 9715 Pebble Beach Drive, NE Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87111.**

**Stan Martin** had surgery on his neck in mid June to repair vertebrae injured in a fall last December. The prognosis is for a full recovery.

Former Maintenance Superintendent **Warren Harvey** is still employed by the Baseline Mutual Water Company. His wife passed away last year and he is living alone. He recently moved to Redlands.

**Bob Redden** is still suffering from back complications.

In late June **Taylor** and **Katie Smith** attended Taylor's 68<sup>th</sup> high school reunion in Ireton, Iowa. Of the 110 high school graduates attending, Taylor was the only member representing his Class of 1939.

**Pat Gardia** has had a complete hip replacement. After a five-day hospital stay and three weeks at a rehabilitation center, she is recuperating nicely at home.

**Jean Griffith, Stan Griffith's** widow, is contemplating a move from her home in Fernly, Nevada to Longview, Washington, to be closer to her children.

**Don Benjamin**, a former District 8 employee, passed away in Sacramento on July 17. In 1971 Don volunteered for the storm damage repair in Northern California and never left there. He completed his career in Sacramento. He retired in 1996 as Division Chief of Project Development.

Last July, **Dick** and **Louise Haight** spent a week houseboating with their son **Alan**, daughter **Karen**, and their families on Lake McClure on the Merced River east of Stockton.

World travelers **Wes** and **Linda Grimes** are enjoying another vacation in Oceanside with **Jim Miller** and his fiancée, **Linda Corrado**. They're relaxing playing some golf and just enjoying the ocean breezes. **Terry** and **Betty Hobson** were down from San Luis Obispo for a few days visit with them. **Hazel** and **Dick Longstreet**, who have a

summer home at Carlsbad, also stopped by for a visit. Jim, Linda and Wes enjoyed playing golf on this "Lazy Men/Women's Vacation at the beach.

In January, **Frances Jacques** enjoyed a 21-day Grand Circle Tour of Australia, New Zealand and Fiji.

**Grace Vinzens** has learned through CSEA records of the death of **Frank Du Bois** in San Luis Obispo in April and of **Charles Bye** in Yuma Arizona also in April. We have no further details of their passing. Both were Honorary QCC members.

—Marsha Lotze

## The Haps in District 9

I had a couple of beers with **Jim** and **Margaret Kemp** at the Tri County fair. Jim still golfs three days a week and enjoys the exercise.

**John** and **Shirley Nakken** are still running the Wednesday night bowling league. And I know **Chuck Carter** is up and about because I saw him at the grocery store. I am still building kitchen cabinets, but have had to stop progress to recover from a medical problem (prostate removal) earlier this year.

**Terri Lee**, wife of **Howard Lee**, visited us in Bishop for five days at the end of August. We had a good time reminiscing about the good old days. Howard, who had worked in District 12, had passed away three years ago.

From **Harold** and **Lois Jones** — "**Don** and **Joyce Belden** were up this way and stopped by for a few minutes (and we quickly "solved" all the Caltrans problems [especially the old ones!!]), then he and Joyce headed out to see another Caltrans retiree in Walker. Haven't seen him for a long time, and he seems to be hanging in there pretty well.

"We have a new e-mail address -- it's [lbjandhej@verizon.net](mailto:lbjandhej@verizon.net). We finally sold the



horse and buggy dial-up), and replaced it with a "2007 High Speed Model" (DSL) -- so hope we can keep up with it!!!"

From Don Belden and Joyce - "We have been traveling some and enjoying seeing different parts of our country. In June, we went to Oahu and just kicked back for a week. Then July 20-22, Joyce hosted her family reunion in Minden. We were pleased that 28 people attended from all over the country. At that same time, we stopped by to spend a lovely afternoon with **Harold Jones** and his wife in Gardnerville. It was good to see them and catch up on the news of the Caltrans bunch.

"On August 9, we will leave for a 10-day cruise to Alaska from San Francisco. Both of us are looking forward to that as neither one of us has been there before."

From **Nancy** and **Chuck Gillem**—"We had planned a trip to Michigan for Chuck's 55th high school reunion in August, but I had an emergency gall bladder removal operation. They couldn't do the laparoscopic method, so I have a big incision—very painful. Never had any warning signs. But Chuck is a good nurse, and I'm on the mend."

**Vada Buck** died Aug 21, 2007 in Gardnerville, Nevada. Vada worked in District 09 Clerical Pool from 1973 to 1985. There are people we have worked with in Caltrans who have great people skills and do their job with class and efficiency. These coworkers make an indelible impression on us. Vada Buck was one on those. Our condolences to her family and friends.

— Lance Hinek

## The Haps in District 10

**D**istrict 10 QCCers and friends continue to meet for breakfast before 8 am at Denny's on March Lane at I-5 in Stockton on the last Tuesday of the month.

**Sharon Stewart** arrived in a wheel chair

pushed by her husband **Claude**. Apparently Sharon on returning home after a PEGC meeting that ended at noon on June 2nd ran her van into an oak tree while traveling south on Route 99 near Liberty Road north of Lodi. She suffered broken ribs and a broken hip and is now home after spending two weeks in U.C. Davis Medical center.

**7-31-07 35 present Don Lane** won a bottle of wine for the door prize.

Sharon Stewart's condition has improved and she arrived at the breakfast with her husband Claude. She has graduated from the wheelchair and is now using a walker.

**Al Wells and Dennis Smith** just returned from their annual fishing trip to Alaska. Lots of king salmon and three halibut. "We had a great time brought home two 50-pound boxes of fish each."

**Bob and Ardyth Biffel** returned to Alaska to complete the cruise that they started back in May. The May cruise ended when their cruise ship hit a rock on the way to Glacier Bay.

"This time we made it all the way, in fact it was a nice sunny day at Glacier Bay. We saw a lot of humpback whales in Fredrick Sound. The South Sawyer Glacier near Wrangel is breaking up, filling the fjord full of icebergs. We also stopped at Petersburg and Ketchikan. As usual the flight home was an adventure of late and missed flights; however it was made easier by being upgraded to first class."

**Bill Zieker** suffered a mild heart attack July 15 His right aortic artery was clogged in two places. "Felt fine after spending five days in the hospital."

### E-mail from Bill Selling

"Hi Y'all:

"Well it is that time again for us to hit the road with our 5th wheel trailer. Our plan is to leave Lodi on June 25th and spend three weeks working our way up the Oregon and Washington coast to Fort Lewis. We will spend a few days in the Seattle area and then on to Idaho. From there we will head north to Canada and across to International Falls Minnesota, then

head south to Kansas City and then to see my brother in Saint Louis. From there we will work our way east to Lancaster, Pennsylvania for a few days.

"We plan on being at our daughter's in Fredericksburg Virginia the first week in August for our son-in-law's homecoming sometime in August from a year in Iraq. After a week or so, we will take our three grandkids camping so they can have some time to themselves. Due to my shoulder surgery in April, I am not sure I will be doing any major projects as I have in the past.

"We plan on heading home in mid-September by way of North and South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and Nevada to see friends and family. Then north to Utah to see friends and head home by way of Routes 50 and 88. We should be home by early October.

**August 28th** (30 present) - **Bob Giess** won the door prize of a free breakfast

Sharon Stewart arrived today using a cane. She has continued to improve since her accident on June 2nd. Her hip is doing better and she hopes to go on a vacation the end of September for a week and a half to Southern California.

**Ron Lesan** reports he overslept last night and missed the eclipse.

**Elton Fletcher** has written a report, "California State Highways Revisited" that has been submitted by the Quarter Century Club to the Caltrans monthly newsletter for current employees at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/ctnews/>. In his report, Elton describes his travels with his wife after he retired, on every State and Interstate Highway in California in numerical order starting with Route 1. It took them seven years to travel the 85,000 miles in order to traverse the highways in numerical order. Elton in writing this report wanted to encourage the young engineers to develop a positive feeling for our State Highway system. In addition they traveled to ever state in the continental United States including Alaska.

— Brian Young

## The Haps in District 11

**B**y the time you read this, many will have enjoyed the fall District 11 QCC picnic that was planned and coordinated by **Dean Burns** for the last time. Yes, the venerable Dean, who has carried the load on a wide range of efforts—far more than I can list here—has decided to end his planning and coordinating of the picnic each year. That means we will need to find a replacement, (or two or three or?), to take over the details of getting the picnic off the ground, or on the table next year.

None of it is "ROCKET SURGERY" (sic), but there are several steps or tasks that must dovetail to make it work.

1. First and earliest is to get a reservation in for use of the space. It's a minor thing, and it's helpful if you live in Santee. (Or find another place?)
2. Next is getting a mailing out to all the members, with the details of date, time and location.
3. As the date nears, and the mail comes in, the total number expected needs to be applied to a food list for buying groceries.
4. The crew of **Denny Paquin, Leslie Franklin, and Marty Phillips** will do the actual cooking of the meats, so that is covered, but a bunch of other supplies must be hauled in and set up.
5. Part of the package is buying and bringing the drawing prizes, which generate extra funds to cover costs.
6. On the date, another person is needed to check people in, collect unpaid fees, hand out name tags, tally up drawing donations, and determine what cash prizes are to be awarded.
7. And of course, there is the cleanup and stowage of the gear after the day is over.

This list has seven different items, many of which might be combined, (Dean did it ALL for many years), but it could be fun for a bunch of friends to work together, (a committee?) And

the "team" does not have to become an 'institution' carved in stone, but rather a few people could plug in as they have free time, or hand over tasks to others as fitting. Who knows, maybe some fresh talent and ideas could bring an infusion of more fun to build on the heritage that Dean has given us.

And of course, we all owe Mr. Dean Burns our hearty THANK YOU for all he has done over the years in his dedicated, philanthropic service to us.

### A note from Dean

About 20 years ago the new officers of the District II QCC, Director **Jim Larson**, Correspondent **Shirley Weber** and I decided to add another annual activity to the dinner. It would be a pot luck picnic and we would invite the retired employees to join the QCC members for this event. It turned out to be quite a success and over the years has seen as many as 100 turn up for the picnic.

As time passed, Jim retired and gave up his job as director and Shirley moved off to Sacramento. I've been planning and coordinating the picnic during this time and have been blessed with fine cooks and many helpers setting up the location and cleaning up after it was over.

Now it's my turn to become one of these helpers. Thank you all for your help by attending the picnic and to those who could not attend but sent donations and or words of encouragement.

— Dean Burns and Butch Biendara

## The Haps in Central

It saddens me to report the passing of one of our Central District members, **Donald H. Benjamin**, who passed away on July 17. Don was born in Redlands, CA September 21, 1936. He is survived by **Nancy**, his wife of

nearly 25 years, three children from his first marriage, and Nancy's daughter. He is also survived by his six grandchildren and one great grandson.

Don started his 43-year career with Caltrans as an Under Engineering Aid in District 8. When he retired in 1996 he was the Division Chief of Project Development. Over the years he worked in a number of areas in Sacramento, including Design and Local Programs, Highways and Transportation Planning. He also was loaned in 1965 to District I to work on flood damage repair projects.

Don was quite the guy when it came to doing things. His garage in his home in Auburn was filled with tools of all kinds and he enjoyed making things from welding to carpentry projects. He also enjoyed photography. His office walls had many photographs of underwater scenes from his scuba diving adventures as well of the many travels he and Nancy took to Europe, Asia, Russia, Antarctica, South America and many of the National Parks in the USA. He and Nancy shared amazing times together whether it was gold dredging, flying sail planes, scuba diving, kayaking, backpacking, hiking, 4-wheeling (the only kind of vehicle he would own) rock hounding, star gazing, and reading.

Don loved the time he spent with his grandchildren, always creating ways to share his love of life and nature with them. They would often accompany Donald and Nancy on their adventures.

A memorial service and luncheon, at which I presided, was held August 5 at the Ridge Golf Club and Event Center in Auburn. Many of the more than 150 guests who attended conveyed memories of Don. **Chuck Pivetti** put together a very emotional slide show with slides provided by Nancy as part of the service. There wasn't a dry eye in the place afterward.

Don treasured his friendships and enriched the lives of all who knew him. I had the pleasure of working for him as the Chief Landscape Architect in Sacramento. The memories we all

have of Donald Harold Benjamin will live with us forever. He was a great man, a wonderful husband and father and a very good friend.

I also have received late word that we also lost another member of the Central District Club. **Edward J. Connor, Jr.** passed away on October 10, 2005. Ed graduated from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor's Degree in 1950 and received a *Juris Doctor* Degree from the University of Illinois in 1953. Ed completed a 28-year career as an attorney with the Legal Division. He retired from state service in 1985 and went to work with the Pacific Legal Foundation in 1986.

After staying close to home during the summer months because of the high fire danger in the foothills of Placerville where we live, **Julie** and I will venture out in September for 10 days in Kauai to celebrate 44 years of marriage. In October will take a 10-day cruise from New York City up the Eastern seaboard with stops in Newport, Rhode Island, Bar Harbor, Maine, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and then Quebec. In November it is back to Oahu for our youngest daughter **Lauren's** wedding.

Julie and I also did some fun volunteer work for the California Transportation Foundation in August at the annual fundraiser Charity Gold Golf Tournament at the Winchester Country Club near Auburn.

On September 6<sup>th</sup> in Capitol Park in Sacramento at the Headquarters' 25-year award ceremony, I will make a presentation about the Central District Quarter Century Club in hopes of attracting new members.

**Gene Berthelsen** has taken over as the Executive Director of the Sacramento Jazz Jubilee, an event that draws about 70 thousand people annually. Busy guy.

Since we forgot to gather the happenings and travels of the Central District members at our April 25<sup>th</sup> luncheon I have nothing to report from our membership. Our next get-together will be a barbeque/luau on September 26<sup>th</sup> at the College Greens Swim and Tennis Club in Sacramento. This is always a well-attended event with an "all you can eat/drink dinner". This

year we will have a Hawaiian theme with a prize for the best Hawaiian attire.

Let's all welcome **Joyce Rosenberg** to the Central District Club. Joyce entered State service in 1968 in District 3, Marysville. She retired June 30, 2000 after working in the Headquarters Director's Office, Divisions of Personnel, Accounting and Computer Systems, Mass Transportation and Rail.

Enjoy the rest of the year and mark your calendar for the Central District's Holiday Luncheon at the **Buggy Whip Restaurant** in Sacramento on December 12, 2007.

— Gary and Julie Bush

## Foundation Matters

### Connect with the Community

Interested in keeping in touch and in the know with Caltrans and the transportation community? If you are, the opportunities offered by the California Transportation Foundation's to support Caltrans people and programs provides a place for you. The foundation depends on volunteers to staff and support its activities. It offers the opportunity for you to keep your connection with the Caltrans community.

Whether retired or still working, you can support the foundation in promoting and recognizing excellence in transportation through a "gift of time." We are always looking for volunteers throughout the year, either in Sacramento or the districts. Your skills and interests could help in many ways throughout the year, such as assisting with registration for an upcoming conference in your area, stuffing envelopes for annual solicitations, or serving regularly on special tasks.

Things you could do in the coming year include:

- Sharing information about CTF through regular visits to Caltrans offices as an Area Representative
- Helping to register participants in the Caltrans-hosted AASHTO Maintenance Conference
- Judging the annual TRANNY Awards and assisting with the luncheon
- Helping with the annual donor solicitation mail-out
- Volunteering and playing at the annual charity golf tournament
- Preparing CTF correspondence and providing financial record assistance
- Participating in Caltrans sponsored activities as a CTF representative.

So if you are interested in staying in touch and being a part of the Caltrans community, let us know and we'll be glad to add your name to our list of volunteers.

Reach the foundation at [ctf@transportationfoundation.org](mailto:ctf@transportationfoundation.org)

Or write  
 California Transportation Foundation  
 581 La Sierra Drive  
 Sacramento CA 95864

Or call  
 (916) 453-1767

Or log onto  
<http://www.transportationfoundation.org>

Still another way to stay in touch is to log onto the Caltrans monthly newsletter at [www.dot.ca.gov/ctnews](http://www.dot.ca.gov/ctnews)

The Quarter Century Club— for application or newsletters go to <http://ctqcc.150m.com/qc.html>

## In Memoriam

*We extend our sympathy to family members and loved ones of our fallen colleagues*

Name	District	Date
Jud Irwin	01	August 6
Milton Otto	03	August 1
Virginia Winton	03	April, 2007
Daniel A. Fogliasso	04	May 11, 2007
Henry O. Case	05	July 11, 2007
Matty Nicholson	05	August 19, 2007
Phyllis Prosser	05	July 3, 2005
James W. "Bill" Reynolds	05	August 4, 2007
Wilbur Tank	05	February 17, 2007
Duane Johnson	07	Unknown
Fred Sabin	07	March 3, 2005
Richard G. Turk	07	May 16, 2007
Frank Zizda	07	August 15, 2007
Frank DuBois	08	April, 2007
Charles Bye	08	Unknown
Vada Buck	09	Aug 21, 2007
John W. Richards	10	May 25, 2007
Donald H. Benjamin	C	July 17, 2007
Edward J. Connor	C	October 10, 2005
Arthur Domonoske	C	November 24, 2002
Helen Samarzich	C	October 8, 2005

## Events

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

**District I - *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)

**Ret'd 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

**District 4** *Contact: Jim Bouler 707-546-3097*

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 am on Thursdays at Country Waffles at the NW corner of Herndon and Cedar.

**District 7** *Contact: Tom Gildersleeve (661)*

259-6226 [tgilders@pacbell.net](mailto:tgilders@pacbell.net), or Chuck O'Connell, (661)253-3428  
[chuckoconnell@prodigy.net](mailto: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***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** *Contact Gary Bush— (530) 642-8208*

Annual Fall Barbecue, September 25 from 4-9 pm at College Greens Clubhouse

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