



Diamond Anniversary

BUTCH SAYS: GET STARTED EARLY!

From the Corner Pocket

With elections behind us and a new year before us, let's hear about your plans to celebrate the 75th and diamond anniversary of the Quarter Century Club, now only about five years away. Do you have a group working on it? Have you contacted your founding fathers? Is there a local historical event or project that could be used as a tie-in for your shindig? Five years may seem like a lot of time, but we older guys know how fast the time goes by. And it does take some coordinated effort to put a good gig together.

The RPEA, mentioned here previously, celebrated its 50th anniversary at its recent bi-annual general assembly with a new logo. The event was well attended and resulted in some pluses (CalPERS says our pensions are secure), and minuses. While the RPEA's has broader membership and more local chapters, members and dues than the QCC does, I believe that while the QCC has no statewide events, our members have stronger bonds resulting from our common work history.

With some advance planning, each QCC district can create a sparkling future for the QCC. But you may recall the old cliché, "To fail to plan is to plan to fail."

Those who started the QCC in 1939 (with 25 years of service then) have gone on to smoother roadways; they have passed the baton in a many-legged relay through the years. Is the baton now in your hands? Is it time to step up and offer some help on the next lap? Growth in membership in some districts is promising. Can we enroll new members with fresh talent to add more depth and strength to the team? Contact your QCC district director to find out where you can be of the most service.

The new District 2 QCC in Redding had the good fortune that district director John Bulinski attended their luncheon. It was a bright day after a fresh breeze had cleared the smoke of many fires; the members strongly encouraged the district's recruitment effort. Rebuilding always has some dilemmas as people find their niche, but we look for better days ahead.

Dan Johnson, of District 3, reports a strong recruiting effort and wants more of the tri-fold fliers. Have you been putting yours to good use?

For those who know QCC State Secretary/Treasurer Kim Yarbrough, keep him in your prayers for renewed health. After suffering a stroke while on a cruise, he was able to get home for care but has since found that he needs surgery for cancer lest he risk the loss of sight in an eye. Be patient as he updates memberships for dues and account for the renewals soon to come in.

— 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/dnews>

Index

President's Remarks.....Page 1
 Secretary Treasurer's Report.....Page 2
 District 1 Report.....Page 3
 District 2 Report.....Page 4
 District 3 Report.....Page 6
 District 4 Report.....Page 8
 District 5 Report.....Page 8
 District 6 Report.....Page 9
 District 7 Report.....Page 10
 District 8 Report.....Page 13
 District 9 Report.....Page 15
 District 10 Report.....Page 16
 District 11 Report.....Page 19
 Central District Report.....Page 19
 Foundation Matters.....Page 22
 In Memoriam.....Page 23
 EventsPage 24
 Officers.....Page 25

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Dues: It's that time again. Dues are to be paid by the end of February. After that, non-paying members will be dropped. We will send out reminders but they will only be good until the June issue comes out.

New Members: This was a good year! We picked up 57 new members! Efforts by District 2 with 11 new members and District

3 with 21 really helped. Keep up the good work, as the fees are only \$15.00 per year!!

NEW MEMBERS: not listed in the new roster

Name:	District
John Bulinski	2
Howard S Johnstone	2
Norman D Lee	2
Jeff Pulverman	3
David Parra	8
Beverly Swilley	8
John Grisafi	11
Bernard Moscoso	11
Debra Stout	11
Howard Posner	Cen

ERRORS IN ROSTER:

Add	District
Burt Walker	1
Robert West	1
Carl Zander	1
Thomas Sudeck	7
Judith Heyer	11
John LaBar	11
Chad Lambirth	11
Jack Lamott	11
Dan Lane	11
Jim Larson	11
Vic Lindamood	11
Jesse Long Jr.	11
Ralph Loveland	11
Barbara Lundy	11
William Bethel	Cen

Move:

Joyce Rosenberg 3 to Cen

Correction:

E-mail address for District 3:
boots3@syix.com

Other Errors: **William (Bill) Bethell is alive and kicking!! Information I received prior to the last issue indicated that he**

had passed away, but that was in error. My apologies to Bill.

Other Info:

A friend of mine, Conrad Barber, passed away in November. He had been ill for a few months. He was not a member of the QCC (despite my nagging him for a couple of years) but was a long time CT employee who ended his career in District 7. My wife and I rented a home in Mariposa County from him (and his wife, June) for a couple of years prior to moving to Vacaville in 2006. We will miss him.

I hope this holiday season will be a happy one for all of you. Bless you all!!

—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.

The Haps in District 1

We got our road trip in this last quarter. The first day, October 1, we went from home to spend the night in Stockton with my sister and her family. It was great to see everyone and how fast her grandkids are growing.

The next day we headed for Bakersfield for my history conference. We stayed at the Crystal Palace Hotel and had dinner and a show at Buck Owens' Crystal Palace. That was one on our bucket list.

That weekend included a visit to the Kern County Museum, a Basque lunch, the Windmill Towers and the Mohave airport. We do follow the Rutan space efforts, so this was a real treat. If you get a chance to see the Kern County

Museum, do it. There are many buildings to see. You can spend a whole day or more there.

Sunday morning, we headed for our son's place in Gilbert, Arizona. We enjoyed visiting for four nights, including a run down to Tucson to go through the Pima Air Museum. It was one of the best.

Heading home, we stopped in Lake Havasu City to visit the London Bridge, another one off my bucket list. We had a nice overnight in Laughlin, and then headed straight for Williams. We spent the night there and got to see the grand reopening of Granzella's, one of our favorite stops between Eureka and Sacramento for snacks, lunch, dinner and more. It had burned on October 11 last year so they picked October 11 this year for the grand reopening. It looked just like nothing had happened.

Jim and Linda Boyd made it here to Eureka for her 50th Eureka High class reunion; also to the 50th St. Bernard's High School class reunion, her first in 50 years. Time sure does fly. Mine will be next year. They also have their classic car just about finished. We are looking forward to seeing it in car shows. On one of their previous trips here recently, I had a chance to join them and another couple for lunch in Old Town, Eureka. Then the men headed home and we three ladies spent the afternoon shopping and visiting. We had a great time.

District 1 just lost another person to District 2. **John Bulinski** accepted a promotion to District Director there. Congratulations, John. We will miss you but wish you all the best in your new position.

December is a big month for retirements. **Wayne Ingle**, Caltrans Maintenance Supervisor, retires December 1. **Mel Brim**, CEO II, retires December 5, **Julian Barbash**, TE, Civil, retires December 27, and **Linda Dennon**, delineator, retires December 31. We wish you all a long and happy retirement.

We lost some of our district family this quarter. **Fred Keeler's** wife, **Jolene**, passed away August 30. Fred was a long time District 1 employee and we got to see Jolene with him quite often. I attended her service along with several other District 1 employees and retirees.

I've received notice that **Charly Ludwig** passed away in Roseville, on September 21. We remember the years he worked in District 1 along with his wife, **Georgeen**.

I attended two other services, one for **Ellen Coppin**, who passed away October 28 at age 96. I remember her working in the mailroom when I started at Caltrans back in 1966. She was a delightful lady who enjoyed many happy years of retirement. She was part of our retired ladies lunch group and I later found out that her dad's brother was married to my mother's cousin. Small world. We enjoyed having that connection.

It was great to also see fellow D-1 retiree **Sara Hines**, there. She had an even closer family connection to Ellen.

The other service was for **Allen Nail**, who passed away November 8 at age 75. He worked for 27 years as an equipment operator for Caltrans. He also enjoyed tending his family farm. **John Sherman** was a pallbearer. I also had a chance to see **Dan House** and **Ray Truttman**, fellow retirees. Allen was always a hardworking and caring man. We will miss him and the others we recently lost. Our deepest sympathy goes out to their families and friends.

I wish all of you Happy Holidays and don't put off doing all those things on your bucket list. In case you missed the movie, that is your list of all those things you want to do but have not done yet. It does not just have to be travel. Just a reminder, in case you have done some things you wish to share with the rest of us, my email address is ahartin@suddenlink.net.

See you next year.

—Arlene Hartin

The Haps in District 2

Our fall luncheon was held October 9 at Lulu's Restaurant. **Butch Biendara**, State QCC President, made a marathon trip from San Diego to Redding to be our guest speaker. He encouraged the group to recruit eligible present and past employees to join the club. Scheduling different events creates opportunities people to meet and enjoy each others' company while sharing common backgrounds. Butch described what other districts are doing to expand their membership.

We also had the pleasure of meeting **John Bulinski**, new District 2 Director. John has 19 years of state service, is a 1985 graduate of Humboldt State University, has a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering, is a Registered Civil Engineer and has his Project Management Professional credential. **John** and his wife **Jan** have three children, **Rachael, William and Logan**.

Retha and **Nick Rubiec** traveled from home in northern California to Los Angeles and Sequoia National Park in May and to Washington State and Victoria, Canada in July. They experienced the largest fireworks display on the west coast on July 4th from a boat on Elliot Bay in Seattle. Retha also traveled to San Diego and Carlsbad in July and August with family.

Burt Brockett writes "Jan and I flew east on October 10. We had a unique way to celebrate our 44th anniversary. We landed at Dulles and drove a rented car the half hour north to our daughter's home in Leesburg, Virginia. We had a nice visit with **Gayle, George the 2nd** and **George the 3rd**. We drove down to Burt's brother's place in Yorktown for a visit also. We then flew from Dulles to Hartford, Connecticut and attended Burt's 50th high school reunion. Had a good chance to catch up with the careers of about half the remaining grads. Then we drove an hour north to Burt's sister's home

in Massachusetts. Had a good visit there and then retraced our flying to arrive home at 1:30 am."

On July 22, 2008, **June McLean** and granddaughter, **Kari**, flew from Sacramento to Cordova, Alaska to visit her son, **Jesse** and family. While there, they saw the calving of glaciers with the 100th anniversary of Cordova. There was a picnic for all. They saw the "million dollar bridge to nowhere" and many moose, bear and mountain goats. Cordova is a small town on Copper River famous for Copper River Red Salmon. June was busy with her four grandchildren, whom she had not seen a year. They returned to Anderson July 30th after a great trip.

Gene Knaebel writes "This August I went back to my hometown in upper Michigan for my mother-in-law's 100-year birthday party. We come from a small town and for the previous six months my mother-in-law was inviting everyone she met in the street to her birthday party. Add in a whole bunch of relatives and it turned out to be a great series of events. It was wonderful to revisit some of the favorite places of my youth and to meet old friends."

Jim Ceragioli writes "I joined my son, **James**, sister, brother-in-law and two of their friends for a little trip this autumn. We headed to New York on September 18. Manhattan is a very busy and expensive place. We visited Ground Zero, rode the Staten Island Ferry and walked the streets of Manhattan. We toured the Empire State Building and Rockefeller and went to see a performance of "Mama Mia". Then it was off to Rome to start a 12-day cruise. Got on board and headed for Napoli.

"James and I went to the top of Vesuvius and it was a bit chilly. Pompeii is unbelievable. Next, off to Venetia for an overnigher and saw Saint Mark's Square and many churches. Also took in Murano Island. On to Dubrovnik, Croatia, which is an amazing story in of itself. In 1989 the upheaval in Yugoslavia almost destroyed the city. Now mostly rebuilt in original materials. On to

Messina in old Sicily where James and I went to Mount Etna, which last erupted in 2002. Then on to Barcelona but had a detour around the Island of Stromboli which was erupting at night and was quite a site.

"Barcelona is a very interesting city. Beautiful country and worth a return trip as is Dubrovnik. Our next stop was to be Cannes but that night a wind storm came up with winds up to 90 mph so the port was closed to all cruise ships. We didn't get to go to Monte Carlo and lose our money. Next and last port of call was Livorno from which we went to Florence and all agreed we should have gone elsewhere on a field trip as there were about eleven cruise ships in port and that equates to about 30,000 tourists which is a lot of extra people!

"We headed home on Sunday the 5th of October. Got up at 5:30 am and left Da Vinci Airport at 10 am and headed to Cincinnati, Salt Lake City and got to Reno at 10 pm Sunday night which means we'd been awake for about 26 _ hours by the time we got to my son's house. Long trip and jet lag until Friday the 10th."

We are sorry to report we lost several of our friends these last few months. Our sympathy goes to their families: **Agnes H. Woodford** passed away September 15 at age 86. She had been a draftsman for the State Division of Highways/ Caltrans from 1961 to 1982 where she drafted many of the plans for construction of Interstate 5 from Redding to the Oregon border. She is survived by five children, **Robert, Jessie, Lorraine, George and Margaret** and five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Harold S. Johnstone passed away on October 25 at his home in Ukiah at age 85. He worked for State Division of Highways/Caltrans for 32 years. He held positions in a number of locations including Gibson, Susanville and Quincy. He retired in 1988 in Quincy as Superintendent I. Harold is survived by three children, **Harold Johnstone, Jr.** of Millsap,

TX, **Lawrence Johnstone** of Ukiah, CA and **Katherine England** of Maui, HI and a grandson **Jason Johnstone** of Petaluma.

Art "Mac" McLean passed away November 9 at his home at age 79. Art began working at State Division of Highways as an Under Engineering Aid in 1954. He promoted within the engineering series and worked in the construction office for 24 years. He retired as an Assistant Transportation Engineer in 1992 with 39 years of service. He is survived by wife **June**, and children **Janet Heath** of Anderson, **Kimberly Eaton-Waterworth** of Pinole, **Layne Mdean** of Redding and stepchildren, **Steve Burns** of Anderson, **Jesse Carter** of Cordova, Alaska, and **Kim Carter-Hickey** of Redding. He is survived by 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Our next luncheon will be January 9, 2009, flyers to follow. Keep the news items coming, we all enjoy hearing what's happening. Have a wonderful holiday season.

— *Diane Tomicich and Shirley Shoup*

The Haps in District 3

Pat Howard reports that **Jim** is doing well. He is still taking chemo shots and does get out of the house to run around.

Charlotte Maddox has worked part-time in District 3 helping with to move people into the new building. Charlotte is active in the QCC and travels in her RV when possible. Charlotte, along with other QCC members, will help to set up the History Center in District 3.

While out shopping, I visited with **Jack Parker**. Jack has come through several medical problems in the past year and is back on track and doing well.

Recently **Mardell McClain** and I were perspective members at a Red Hat Society

dinner. Also attending were **June Otto** and **Chico Nakagawa**. This dinner was held at the Moose Lodge; one of the people cooking for us that evening was **Ralph Sander**, who is very active in the Moose and helps with the cooking on many occasions.

Don and Beverly Kipping are also active in the Moose organization. Don also helps with the cooking and oversees the Moose Adopt-a-Hwy Program. Bev is the recorder for the WOTM, which is a full time job. She also heads the Red Hat Society.

Bill Malott has become active in the QCC for District 3. His expertise will be appreciated in setting up the History Center. Bill also is busy with yardwork and traveling. He spent last New Years in Branson Missouri. He has his big campout and family and friend reunion in June. He also traveled to North Carolina in the early fall to learn how to tie flies for fishing. Bill enjoyed the east coast and the friends he met at the conference. This fall Bill will be elk hunting.

Betty and Everett Emmons have headed back to their winter home in Southern California. They have a fifth wheel that they leave in a park on the Colorado River and will stay until April. While driving through Yuba City on their way south Betty and Everett visited with many friends, and report they always have a good time meeting with friends for breakfast, lunch or dinner. In April, the Emmons will travel north to their home in Vancouver Washington.

Ethelmae Waller is active in our QCC. **Dan** introduced Ethelmae to the board of directors and asked her to be chairperson of last year's spring luncheon. Ethelmae has taken on the task again and will call for people to assist.

Harriet Ferns writes that **Nile** had open-heart mitral valve replacement surgery September 19 at the Rogue Valley Medical Center in Medford, Oregon. He's had a couple of setbacks with fluid accumulations on both lungs but seems to be recovering fairly well at this time. If anyone wants to send him a note, his address is hwsf@charter.net.

Marty Cookman and I have been playing telephone tag. He did leave me a short message to say he was keeping busy and that he and his wife had recently returned from a great vacation in Hawaii.

Susanna: "I had a great summer and now, with the fall, things have not slowed for me. Part of September and October were spent in Fort Bragg where I stay with a friend. At the end of September my friend and I took a road trip starting with Yosemite National Park. We drove to Death Valley National Park, through Death Valley, then through Boulder City for a tour of the dam and up to St. George Utah where we watched another friend cross the finish line after running a 26-mile race.

I leave on November 18 for Nashville, where I was born and raised. My father lives in Nashville as well as my aunt and twelve cousins. I also have family in west Tennessee whom I plan to visit. I have tickets to the Grand Old Opry. Off on another road trip to visit Savannah Georgia and national parks in the area before heading up the Carolina coast and back to Nashville driving through Kentucky.

Shirley Leskie, who worked in District 3 and headquarters and retired from Caltrans, passed in late September. I flew to Casa Grand for the memorial service. Shirley and Ron have many friends in the Arizona area, and many from their RV travels and their Air Force days. A very nice service.

Placerville News for the December Issue of the QCCer. Forty-one people attended the annual fall luncheon on September 18 at the Green House Cafe with. Lots of tales were told and memories shared, with everyone enjoying good food and socializing with people they worked with in the past.

The luncheon committee, consisting of **Doug and Grace Becker** and **Jerry and LuAnna Hamm**, are working out the final details for the spring luncheon, which is planned for April 16 at the Green House Cafe in Raley's

Shopping Center in West Placerville, starting at 2:30 pm with the guests ordering from the menu with individual checks to avoid collecting money in advance. The cafe closes at 2 pm and reopens at 2:30 for our luncheon. The event is open to all retired state employees. New attendees can make reservations by calling either Doug Becker (622-1665) or Gerry Hamm (622-8030). Returning people will be contacted by the phone prior to the luncheon. This notice will be repeated in the March Issue.

Word has been received from **Bob and Marj Johnson**, who now live in Thayne, Wyoming, that they are enjoying normal fall weather with cold mornings, but comfortable daytime temperatures. Both enjoy the area very much and appreciate the leisure atmosphere that goes with the rural setting.

Many of the locals have made trips to the high country to enjoy the fall colors. They report that the Markleville, Hope Valley and The Iron Mountain areas provided the best scenery.

We are sorry to report the passing of **Mike Vinsonhaler**. Mike passed away November 9 with his family close by. Mike has been fighting cancer for the past year and a half. He was 68 years old.

Mike graduated from Chico State with a Bachelor's degree in 1962 and went to work for the California Division of Highways in Marysville as a Right of Way Agent. He stayed with the state for 13 years and then went into the building business in addition to many other fields.

Mike is survived by **Shirley**, his wife of 42 years, their daughter **Jill**, a son, **Jeff**, four grandchildren and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

The new District 3 office complex will be occupied by January of next year. Personnel will start moving in in December, with the folks from the existing building moving first. Other outlying building personnel will follow one at a time.

Carol Nelson, who was the District 3

Executive Secretary for many years prior to her retirement, has moved from her home on 7th Street in Marysville to the "Courtyard" assisted Living in Yuba City. She tells us her apartment is lovely and she is surrounded her possessions. She says she has taken her gardening tools with her and will be giving the many rose bushes on the grounds her own TLC. Carol's phone is the same (530) 743-1966 and her new address is: 1240 Williams Way, #36, Yuba City, CA. 95991.

The annual Caltrans awards luncheon was held October 20 at the Refuge Restaurant in Yuba City. The luncheon honored employees who had put in 25, 30, 35, and 40 years of service. Eighty awardees, their families and friends, Caltrans Executive Staff and three of our Quarter Century Officers attended.

Twenty-one employees received their 25-year awards, 13 received 30-year awards, three received 35-year awards and one employee received a 40-year award.

Libby Haraughty, District 3 QCC Secretary, filled in for director **Dan Johnson, Sr.**, who could not make the luncheon due to a previous family commitment.

Libby and **Ed** have been very involved in remodeling their home on Lincoln Road in Yuba City. Their plans involve both inside and outside renovations.

The officers of the District 3 Quarter Century Club wish everyone a joyous, healthy happy holiday.

— Dan Johnson, Sr. Susanna Ford and Keith Maggini

The Haps in District 4

The QCCer did not receive a report from District 4 this quarter.

— Contact Paul Hensley

The Haps in District 5

Happy New Year! We wish you good health and happiness in 2009. Hope you all enjoyed the holidays.

Is your QCC membership expiring? Check the date on the mailing label and send your dues (\$15) to me or to our Secretary-Treasurer **Kim Yarbrough**. If you have reached the wonderful age of 80, there is no fee, but you must contact Kim to continue your honorary membership.

Welcome to two new QCC members: **Ranell Bailey** and **Gregg Albright**. Ranell retired from Construction in 2003 but has continued to work in the field as a consultant. Gregg was our District 5 Director before transferring to Sacramento in 2006.

Not a lot of news to share in this edition. I'm writing this before the annual Caltrans Holiday Barbecue (December 9), and will give you a report in the next edition.

We attended another Retired CSEA employees meeting in October, and heard a presentation by the Statewide President on issues of interest to retirees. He also introduced **Yolanda Solari**, whom you may recall was a long-time CSEA activist and president. In the audience with us were **Pearl Cole, Monte Vernon, Bill Cotnam, Joan McGrath, Bob Newby**, and **Henry** and **Melba Valencia**. Our local chapter president **Jerry Evans** could not attend because of health problems; we hope he is on the mend.

We had a call from **Pearl Cole** regarding former Maintenance employee **Harold Buss**, who now lives in Iowa. His wife of 60 years passed away in December. Harold still lives in his home and is doing OK, other than having some problems with his eyes. His daughter **Carol** lives nearby and lends a hand. Harold says hello to all his friends in the Santa Maria territory.

Since he retired from Right of Way, **John Burke** has been keeping busy as the project manager on the Foxen Winery expansion project near Santa Maria. John says the construction is pretty much on schedule, although there have been some change orders along the way.

We received our first Christmas letter from **Bill Cotnam**. He has had to give up running competitively because of foot and back problems, but he continues to enjoy traveling, photography, local sports, and visiting with old friends at the local Moose, Eagles, and Elks lodges.

Sally Jester called to say hello. Her daughter recently took her to stay at the Chumash casino in celebration of Sally's birthday. Sally is somewhat limited in her ability to get around, but still enjoys bridge. Her husband **Ralph** now lives in a care facility.

Masa Muraoka called in October on his way to Southern California for the winter, where he enjoys attending Clippers games and of course, lots of golf. Masa said it was starting to get colder in Montana, but they were still playing golf in 40-degree weather when he left. Brrrrrrr.....

Dyer Campbell tells us that **Gordon West** has not yet returned to San Luis Obispo, but he is continuing to improve and hopes to be back soon.

If all goes well, the **Copelands** should be cruising with friends in January on the Island Princess, heading for the Panama Canal.

In memoriam: **Mrs. Gwenyth Philbrick**, wife of **Clyde**, passed away on September 29 following a series of strokes. **William "Bill" Grove**, husband of **Harriett**, passed away on September 27. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

If you have news of Caltrans folks, please drop me a note or e-mail. We'd love to hear from you.

— Kathleen Copeland

The Haps in District 6

Virgle Ray's latest news came along with an invitation:

"This year included six weeks on the road in the midwest, hosting a family reunion in June in Arkansas, getting a Razorback's hat from **Steve Mason**, who we passed in the night. In October we hosted a Navy reunion (USS Union) at our house in Yosemite. Now giving an open invitation to any wanting to visit, we have two spare beds, and **Sandra** is a great cook, so give a call at (559) 683 5812. Our house is small but we know and love Yosemite. Wishing all a Merry Christmas and Happy and healthy New Year from Sandra and Virgle."

Our Christmas luncheon was held December 9 at noon at Pilgrim Armenian Church, 3673 N 1st St, Fresno. More in the Spring edition of the QCCer.

Barney Deeter's daughter **Diane** and her family moved from Bakersfield to Napa where her husband, **Jack LaRoche**, will be the City of Napa's Director of Public Works December 1st, 2008. His son, **Bruce**, will retire from the City of Bakersfield at the end of the year. He has been asked by several engineering firms to be a consultant. The city's director asked him to be its Traffic Engineer but he declined. He says he's ready for retirement.

Barney is part of his Legion Post's Honor Guard. They have a seven-man rifle team, a chaplain and a ritual team that folds the flag, and Barney is the bugler. He plays "Taps" at veteran's funerals and tells me that it is very satisfying to honor our deceased veterans with three rifle volleys followed by "Taps". There sure are a lot of things that we don't know about our fellow QCC members.

Message from **Ted Winter**: "We know we are getting old when our son will retire from the Air National Guard in March of next year. Even though the Air Force has spent millions of dollars in training, at age 55, out you go. At least, he won't miss all of those 10 to 17 hour days starting at 5 am. You may edit or delete all of this message; if you choose not to accept this assignment, it will self destruct in 30 seconds."

A lot of you guys sure have kids retiring.

Thank you to those of you that responded with news and that don't mind having your name in print. Maybe some more of you will get me some news next time.

I was at a Traders Expo in Las Vegas in November and went to see the Bodies Exhibition at the Luxor Hotel. It was a fabulous exhibition if you are at all interested in seeing cadavers from the skeleton up and including every body part, ligament, muscle and nerve. It really was worth the trip for the price of \$34 plus Allegiant Air on certain days is only \$29 one way from Fresno. Hotels are cheap over there now, so I guess having a bad economy can do something for us. I think I'd better quit; I'm sounding like an ad for Las Vegas.

Take care,

— Terry Littleton

The Haps in District 7

New Talent Sought . . . Multi-talented District 7 QCC Director **Tom Almany** has stepped in to assume the treasurer duties in the wake of **Len Thomson's** stepping down from that

office. Please send financial correspondence to Tom until a new volunteer can assume the treasurer duties. Tom, AKA William Almany III, can be reached by e-mail at talmany@earthlink.net. His other contact information is listed in the back of this newsletter. Updates will be posted on the QCC webpage, <http://ctqcc.150m.com/qcc.html>

On a similar topic, Tom has indicated he wants someone else to take up the reins of District 7 QCC Director, PLEEESE! And, let him know if you are interested in taking over as the District 7 QCC Treasurer.

Annual Holiday Celebration at the Mayfair . . . December 6 was a beautiful fall day for a holiday luncheon and QCC reunion at the Historic Mayfair Hotel. Thanks to **Doris Nakamura**, who arranged the sumptuous buffet in the Regency Ballroom. More details on who, what, and so forth will be detailed in the next issue.

Once a month, whether you need it or not . . . The **Tom Fera** Lunch Group meets on the second Wednesday of each month, except December. The calendar for the next several months is:

January 14, 2009 - Steer N' Ale
February 11, 2009 - China Olive
March 11, 2009 - Joselito's West
April 8, 2009 - Steer N' Ale

For more information contact Chuck O'Connell at (661) 253-3428 or chuckoconnell@prodigy.net, or Tom Gildersleeve at (661) 259-6226 or tgilders@pacbell.net.

Ridge Route honored . . . In October, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) designated the "Ridge Route" as an official Historic Civil Engineering Landmark, ". . . the first highway crossing of a major mountain range by the newly-formed California State Department of Highways."

Jeanne Bonfilio, former Public Information Officer (PIO) for District 7, writes, "[Once] a two-lane, gravel, partially paved

narrow and winding roadway, back when Pyramid Lake was just a river and [California's highway] engineers and surveyors, made their way on foot", it was carved out "through the Tehachapis over the Tejon Pass and down the 'Grapevine' grade, primarily by pick and shovel."

Dick Murphy, a surveyor in the early days, described it as a daunting challenge, as he and other engineers and surveyors walked from Castaic to the Kern County line, 30 miles one-way to map the alignment. As Jeanne eloquently writes, "... eventually transforming a huge mountain into what is now the eight-lane Interstate 5, the famous Golden State Freeway – the backbone of [California's] highway system."

Jeanne, a 25-year Caltrans veteran in her own right, recently was promoted to Chief PIO at the Department of Veterans Affairs. To read Jeanne's entire article, go to the link to the November issue of the Inside Seven employee newsletter at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist07/Publications/Inside7>

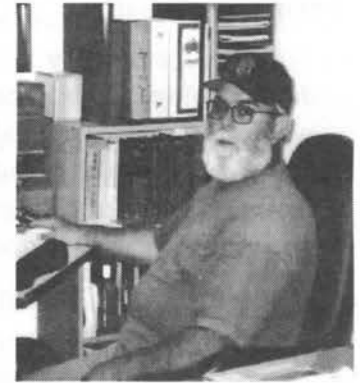
Recent Sightings . . . Tom Almany and **Chuck Webster** were spotted in November in Sacramento at a recent Asphalt Pavement Conference. Tom reminisced on his climb to Office Chief in the Maintenance Division, and said that when he retired, they replaced him with three new Office Chiefs.

Another Sacramento sighting was of **Don Roberts**, who was flying to Ontario California to celebrate his wedding anniversary with his new wife, **Marcia**. Don worked as a man of many hats at Translab and is another example of someone who worked too hard – they replaced his old senior position with 5 new seniors when he retired!

Carl Nelson, who regularly attends the Tom Fera Luncheon, was enjoying the recent exhibit, "Bold Caballeros y Noble Bandidas" at the Museum of the American West (aka Autry National Center of the American West).

Richard (Dick) Paul's retirement luncheon at the Odyssey Restaurant in Granada Hills was an excellent place to spot retirees. First, he regaled us with surveying stories from the early days of his 42-year career. You could see the eyes of his co-workers from the Thousand Oaks Field Office widen in amazement when he shared the antics of his early days on the I18 Freeway Construction.

Then who to all our wondering eyes should appear, all the way from Cambria to here, with a little goatee, so lively and quick, we knew in a moment it must be **Art Van Rhyn!** Dick's stories paled in comparison to Art's... Other attendees included **Red**



Seidenkranz, who drove from his home near Bend, Oregon, **Gary Laurent**, **Otis Thomson**, **Henry Figueroa**, **Larry Whiting**, **Jay Steel**, **Jim Renshaw**, **Bob Hess**, and "wild man" **Wayne Pierce**, who lives close by in Valencia.

Wayne reminisced on his own past and gave a few updates on some other retirees, **Carl Mastro**, **Paul Cuomo**, **Virgil Archambault**, "Shorty from Del Norte" **Bob Houle**, **Jerry Tourtelotte**, **Bob Kerberg**, **Ray Gallagher**, and what kind of survey "party" would it be without **Dick** and **Bill Stewart**, who regularly attend the Philippe's Reunion in November and May.

A Halloween party at **Linda Wright's** house included **Marie Martin**, whose great Dane, **Fenwick**, donned black bat wings, and "...looked like some mythological creature," she writes. "All pets were invited, so the dogs got to hang out around the pool."

At the party, I talked with Linda's dad—a test pilot for Lockheed, who also flew for TWA, before going corporate. He flew lots of DC3s and also got to fly the C130 and the C5-A! (Marie is so jealous!). Linda was dressed as a werewolf. She has lots of her own hair, which she teased up into a big ratty mane, and her hands and feet had big claws on them. The kids that came to trick-or-treat usually screamed when she answered the door! How was Halloween at your house?" Marie gives new meaning to the term, "party animal."

Fuel Economy . . . Marie Martin also sent the following clip: "A recent study found the average American walks about 900 miles in one year. Another study found Americans drink, on average, 22 gallons of alcohol a year. That means, on average, Americans get about 41 miles to the gallon. Kind of makes you proud to be American!"



Another one about to join the ranks of retirees is **Dan Sanchez** of Maintenance Special Crews, who will celebrate his 33 years

of service on December 12, at the Quiet Cannon in Montebello.

Copper Canyon Train Trip . . . Here is the highly anticipated account by **Dale Neumen** of his recent train travel to Copper Canyon in late May. "The tour group met in El Paso, Texas, and spent the night there. Early the next morning, we boarded a bus and crossed the boarder at Juarez, Mexico. You need a passport and to fill out Mexican immigration papers. Shortly after crossing the border, you transfer to a bus that is licensed in Mexico. You later stop at a military checkpoint, but no formal inspection for the bus takes place.

"The highway consists of two lanes each way with a wide median. They provide a lot of box culverts for drainage even though the rainfall is only 12" a year. This is a long bus ride and you stop every two hours for a rest and to buy a snack. Along the way, you see apple and peach trees. The Mennonites have settled here and [have] transformed a desert into fertile farmland. The Mennonites do not socialize with other people and marry within their group. The water is from wells 60' deep.

"Our first night in Mexico was in Creel at elevation 7700'. You spend the night in log cabins and, due to the altitude, it is quite cool, so you use the wall heater to keep warm. You have a leisurely morning and board the train here. You have lunch and dinner on the train. You need "sea legs" to walk to the dining car as walking between train cars is a chore — one man fell down walking between train cars. You stop a couple of times for about 15 minutes and can get off the train and look at the view and buy trinkets from the Indians. The railroad was designed in 1907, but due to the Mexican Revolution in 1910, it was not built until 1941 to 1961. It is an engineering feat as there are 86 tunnels (varying in length from 220' to 2690'). There are also 38 bridges (varying from 275' to 1637'). Ties for the railroad are made from wood or concrete. The bridges were the first to use reinforced concrete beams in Mexico.

"You transfer to a bus to drive to El Fuerte, a distance of about four miles from the train station. Here you spend two nights. In the morning you take a float trip on the El Fuerte River for about an hour. The rubber boat has elevated seats with room for 8 people. You see various small birds, black hawks and blue herons. The mosquitoes are plentiful, so you use insect spray on your exposed body. The Jesuits settled in the area in 1590. A church was built here in 1750. At dinner, we saw a Mexican folklore ballet. The recently-built new fort replaces one that was built in 1750.

"We left in the morning for our return train trip. Five major canyons make up Copper

Canyon. After lunch on the train, we took a short bus ride to Barrancas, at 2500', where you stay in a hotel built on the rim of the canyon. From your room you have a spectacular view. You can hike down 340 steps to where some Indians live. The hike back is quite exhausting. We traveled by bus to Chihuahua and spent two nights there. There are a lot of monuments here including one for Anthony Quinn (he was born here). Pancho Villa, hero of the Mexican Revolution, has a large house here and had 25 wives with no divorces. We left here and traveled to the El Paso [Texas] Airport to end the tour.

"The tour group consisted of 45 people from all over the U.S., plus one from Australia. Bottled water was furnished on the bus, train, and in the hotels. All meals were furnished. The view in Barrancas was the best of the trip. In my opinion, the Grand Canyon is more colorful and has more spectacular views. It was an enjoyable vacation."

Be like Tom, Marie, Dave, Chuck and Wayne . . . Our members enjoy hearing of your recent escapades, so do stay in touch. Please send your items, to: 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.

Don't forget to send DUES (checks) and honorary member status information, to Tom Almany directly... His address is: 17200 South Stark Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90701-1822.

The Road Last Traveled . . . Ralph Thunstrom reports with great sadness the loss of **Tom McGinn**, **Sue McGinn's** husband, who passed away on the evening of September 2. Tom, who had retired from LADOT 10



months ago, often volunteered as Santa at Christmas for Caltrans and disadvantaged children. He will be greatly missed and our heartfelt condolences go to the McGinn family.

Maria Carmody, of East Region Maintenance, reports that **Frank Valenzuela's** daughter, **Roberta**, wanted the Caltrans employees who knew and worked with him to know of his passing. Frank, who had worked for the Metro and Foothill regions, had retired as a Caltrans superintendent. Maria writes, "His stature and character definitely left an indelible impression on those who knew and dealt with him and I will miss him greatly.

From all who remember Frank, we extend our condolences to his family. His services were held September 22 at St. Joseph Chapel (in the Santa Teresita Hospital), in Duarte.

Frank Weidler reports that his son, **Jim**, was lost in an airplane accident November 3. "We may take some solace in knowing that there was no suffering in his passing. If anyone wants more information here is a link: <http://www.weidlerfamily.com>". Jim Weidler's Memorial Service was held on November 8 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, in Placentia. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Jim's honor to the ASPCA. Please send your check to: ASPCA Tributes, 520 8th Ave., 7th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

Pam Dennis reports the passing of **Charles Goff** on October 31. Services were held November 10 at Shield of Faith Christian Center in Pasadena.

Calling all "bridge-loving angels . . . They now have a fourth, to play. The sad news for us came from Chuck O'Connell, that **Betty Burris** passed away last week, in Montana. Since the unfortunate passing of **John** in August, she had been living with her son, **Skip**. Condolences to the family may be sent to Skip Willmuth, 2155 Bridges, Bozeman, MT 59715.

Wake up . . . This article is only as interesting as the items you send in! So please,

don't be shy, report on your activities or those of your QCC friends, and send them to Kirsten; without your news and updates, our section would be empty! Many thanks to the multitudes who forwarded information and who were not otherwise mentioned above: **Tom Gildersleeve, Al Reece, and Andy Machen** of District 8.

—Kirsten Stahl

The Haps in District 8

Raymond Wolfe was appointed District 08 Director as of October 1. Ray began his career with Caltrans in 1991 as a Transportation Engineer. In 1998 he was promoted to Senior Bridge Engineer. In 2001 he took on the responsibility to open a new bridge design office in Southern California as a Supervising Bridge Engineer.

Mr. Wolfe received his Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Southern California, a Masters of Science in Civil Engineering from California State Polytechnic University in Pomona and his Doctorate in Civil Engineering from the University of Southern California. He is a registered Civil Engineer and a registered Mechanical Engineer in the state of California. He, his wife and three children live in Diamond Bar.

Russ Hall, who presently lives in Douglas City, just west of Redding, reports that all is well and he has received his Z.C.C. Honorary Certificate. Russ started work in Surveys in 1950 and retired in 1985, having spent his entire career in the Surveys Department, which he thoroughly enjoyed. Following his retirement he and his family moved to Douglas City. His wife passed

away in 1993. He married his present wife in 1995. He served as a volunteer on the Douglas City Fire Department and retired after 15 years service. He and his wife live about 12 miles from **Ben Riley**, another District 08 retired surveyor. They are planning to relocate to Redding.

Jim and Evelyn Irwin have moved from the Mission Commons in Redlands to their mobile home in Cherry Valley.

Connie Sanford reports that she is happy and that all is well in Kanab, Utah where she moved in 2003 to be near her son. She started her state service at Patton State Hospital in 1965. She transferred to Caltrans in 1967, starting in Accounting and transferring to Right of Way in 1981. She retired from the Property Management Section in 1989 with **John Fredendall** as her supervisor. She urges all of her Caltrans friends who pass through Kanab to give her a call.

Following his hip replacement surgery in September, **Bob Redden** and wife **Libby** have moved to the Sterling Inn Assisted Living Facility in Victorville to be near their son, **Robbie**. Bob reports that he has recovered well from the hip surgery and is able to walk unassisted, but is still having problems with his back.

Kay Parke had cataract surgery on one eye in November and will have the other corrected in about two months.

Judie and Gerald Brown completed a 7,000-mile trip in their new motor home through 19 of the central and western states where they visited 19 cousins and six brothers and sisters in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Upper Michigan, Indiana, and Texas. Judie and Gerald both said they had a great time.

Following the publication of the most recent QCC'er, yours truly received a nice telephone call from one of our very proud members. **Robert "Gordo" Viveros**

called to let me know that he was finally a "Grandpa."

He was so proud as he never thought he'd reach such an important milestone in his life! His son **Robert** and his wife **Karem** had a daughter, **Marie Lindsey Viveros**, on April 12. He wanted to let all his Caltrans friends know how proud and happy he is. The new family is also doing great.

On a sadder note we lost a few members and nonmembers this past quarter.

Dave Cooper, 69, passed away on October 5. Dave moved to San Bernardino from North Hampton, Massachusetts and started work with the Division of Highways in 1963. He worked for the state for 40 years, mainly in Programs and Budgets. He was a First Lieutenant in the Army before starting work for the Division of Highways and a Captain in the Army Reserves. His services were held on October 12, and he was laid to rest at Our Lady of the Desert in Apple Valley, CA. Our sincere sympathies go to his family and friends.

Thomas E. Rich, 88, a 50-year resident of Highland, California, passed away on September 9, 2008. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II and retired from Caltrans after 30 years of state service as a Right of Way Agent. We extend our condolences to all his family and friends.

Eric "Leroy" Nelson passed away at home on October 15, 2008. He had been a civil engineer with Caltrans for 37 years. He had lived in Rialto with his late wife, **Sally**, for 29 years, prior to moving to Chandler, Arizona. Leroy had been a QCC member for many years and returned for many of our annual lunches at Christmas time. He is survived by his four daughters, **Pat**, **Mike**, **Teresa** and **Jennifer**; his brother **Norman**; sister **Donna**; and six grandchildren. Leroy loved a good time and after his services there was a toast in his honor at the Greenbrier on Lynwood Avenue in San

Bernardino. He'll be sorely missed and fondly remembered by family and his many friends.

Former state employee **George Hodges** passed away in late September. George left the state in the late 1950s for employment with Match Brothers and later with TRW, from which he retired. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II and was a resident of Grand Terrace for over 35 years. Our prayers go out to his family and friends.

Bernie Meelker, 72, passed away from cancer on November 20. Bernie had worked in Utility Relocations in Right of Way Engineering for many years and was a lifelong resident of Redlands. His widow, **Anna Mae Meelker**, says that Bernie worked for the Santa Fe Railroad for a short time before joining the Division of Highways in 1956. She also related that she was unsure of his retirement date, but probably around 1994. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all his family and friends.

Another of our long time QCC members, **Gerry Lunt**, lost his wife of 50 years, **Aida**. Aida went to be with her Lord on November 16, 2008, after a valiant battle with pulmonary fibrosis. She was surrounded by her loving husband **Gerald** and three children, **Gary**, **John**, and **Karen** and their families and many loving relatives, family and friends. Aida or "Wita," as she was known by her grandchildren, was born on September 10, 1935, in Coatepeque, Guatemala and spent her early years on a beautiful ranch near the city.

She went through school and graduated at age 21 from the University *Mercantil Antiguena* of Antigua, Guatemala, with a degree as a CPA. She worked as an accountant with Mercedes Benz Corporation in Guatemala City. She immigrated with her adopted family to the United States in September 1956. She resided in Winkleman, Arizona for a short time, and then relocated to Tucson to continue her studies while working full time and honing her English skills. She studied and learned to speak fluent French, along with

her native language, Castilian Spanish. In Tucson she met her future husband **Gerry** in early 1957. After receiving his degree in civil engineering at the University of Arizona, Aida and Gerry married and moved to San Bernardino.

During most of her life, Aida devoted her energies and loving personality toward raising her family and helping others. She was active in wives of Engineers, L.D.S. Relief Society, loved gardening, growing all varieties of roses – she truly had a “green thumb” from early childhood through adulthood--and she thoroughly enjoyed her cats and parrots.

Aida was the No. 1 Laker fan in the world since 1971, from West to Kobe. She continued using her accounting skills in running the family's boarding house in Guatemala for many years and in managing rental homes that she and Gerald owned.

These are just some of her many talents and activities throughout a lifetime of service to her family, friends and church. Aida led a long line of relatives and friends who emigrated from Guatemala, who all have led successful and productive lives in the United States. She was very proud to be a U.S. citizen and loved our country. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Lunt family.

District 08 has lost several QCC members, but we welcome two new ones: current employee of Caltrans **Beverly Swilley**, and retirees **David Parra** and his wife, **Dee**. Between the two Parras are many years of service to Caltrans.

Welcome All!!!

By the time this article goes to press, our annual Christmas Luncheon will have come and gone. We'll report on the annual affair in our next publication. As of this date over 45 retirees and friends have made reservations and we hope to have many more by our December 6, luncheon. Wishing all members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

My, where has this year gone?

— Marsha Lotze

The Haps in District 9

We had a few visitors this past summer in Bishop. **Tony Hamamoto** and wife (didn't write her name down--sorry) were camping near Bridgeport so came to town for her birthday and stopped in. I had not seen Tony since retiring from Dist 12. Tony has not changed and is looking fine. In September **Clarence and Ann O'Hara** stopped by on their vacation to Mammoth. They are both doing well.

Also in September **Dean Grenier** stopped by while his daughter was running in a race in Lee Vining. While she was running, Dean was talking. Dean is doing fine. Dean's wife passed away about two years ago, a classy lady.

Ken Cozad, Headquarters district coordinator, stopped by in October on his annual visit to District 9. Ken is doing OK also.

John and Mary Ritter visited while they were at the Choo-Choo swap meet at the end of October. They are also doing fine.

I got an email from **Allen Wrenn** this summer asking about retired employees and acquaintances. I met Allen during the early years of collective bargaining at several PEEG meetings. Some other names that came to mind during this time were **Don Benjamin, Jack Hallin, and Jerry Haynes. Leo (Les?) Scritchfield's** name came up also. Leo was a personable fellow who worked in Surveys in District 09. A nice guy. Leo's good friend from District 11 was Ed **Panabaker**. Leo passed away about 20 years ago or so in a Veterans Home. Ed Panabaker lives in Emmet, Idaho. **Ron Paquin** was in District 9 for a couple of years and went back to District 11. I got this info from **Bob Ripley** here in Bishop. Allen Wrenn is busy as a guest lecturer on the Holland America Line ships going through the Panama Canal.

— Lance Hinek

The Haps in District 10

Elton Fletcher won the breakfast drawing at the District 10 breakfast dub on September 30. On a recent trip to the great northwest, Elton and his wife, **Patricia**, stayed at a number of old lodges, including the Crater Lake Timberline Lodge (Mt. Hood) Paradise Inn (Mt. Rainier) and Lake Crescent in Olympic National Park. The old lodges think that they have to compete with the modern Waldorf-Astoria etc. The back roads were excellent but the freeways in Portland and Seattle were worse than California's.

Brian Young took a 15-day, nine-passenger van tour of Scotland between August 24 and September 9 with **John** and **Trina Mize** of Stockton, **Linda Baker** of Dixon, **George Young** of Washington State, **Roy Young** of West Virginia and **Linda Hickey** of Virginia. The van driver was **Peter Young** of Falkirk, Scotland and his brother, **Brian Young** as tour guide (no relation to the above—he's 37 years old and six feet, five inches tall and wore kilts). What the group had in common was they had the same ancestor,



Andrew Lamont Young, born at Toward Castle near Dunoon, Scotland in 1644. The group visited many of Scotland's historic sites including; Stirling

Castle, Doune Castle, Edinburgh Castle, Rosslyn Chapel (depicted in The DaVinci Code), Inchmahome Priory, Eilean Donan Castle (Made of Honor movie), Urquhart Castle, Fort George, Culloden battlefield, Dunstaffnage Castle, Iona Abbey, and Bonawe Iron Furnace among others.

"We also rode on the Falkirk Wheel, a one-of-a-kind engineering marvel that takes the place of 11 locks on the canals between Glasgow and Edinburgh and elevates boats more than 90 feet. The wheel uses Archimedes' principle, so that when a boat enters one of the two gondolas that are 180 degrees apart on the wheel the boat displaces its weight in water so both gondolas weigh the same and it only takes the energy of about six toasters to turn the wheel. At night you can have dinner on a boat as the wheel goes round and round. They call this "meal on wheels."

Brian's group took a boat ride in the Hebrides to visit the island of Staffa, a geologic wonder similar to the Devil's Postpile, with 100-foot tall vertical parallel hexagonal columns of basalt jutting out of the water with a cap resembling a giant mushroom. "We scampered along a cable to enter a cave at one end.

"We stayed at bed and breakfast facilities the whole trip. One was on a 5,000-acre property that had its own castle where the proprietor, **Andrew Malcom's** father lived. Andrew is a gourmet cook and the first dinner was venison and chicken. Of course the deer was shot on the property. The group tried the traditional *haggis*, which was served with neeps and tatties (turnips and potatoes) and whiskey sauce, on the trip.

"The trip ended on the last weekend with the 113th gathering of the Lamont Clan at Knockdow House near Dunoon on the Cowal Peninsula. All clan functions were accompanied by the clan's bagpipe band. Our group is a part of a larger group "The Andrew Lamont Young Society" which will meet in Virginia next year."

Nineteen attended the October 28 breakfast, which **Bill Lamascus** won.

On November 25, with 20 in attendance, **Tom Wright** won the breakfast

Ed Cova passed away September 13 at the age of 77. He had been a winter permanent intermittent Caltrans Equipment Operator at the Caples Lake Maintenance Station for 24 years until his retirement in 2001.

Willard A. Meredith, who had retired from Caltrans after 40 years, died October 17 in an automobile accident. He was born October 5, 1936 in Arkansas. He is survived by his sister **Billie Wilson** and brother **Donald Meredith**.

Robert Alfred Young, age 78, of Lodi, who had retired from Caltrans in 1993, passed away October 19. He was born January 17, 1930 in Brentwood, the son of **Inez** and **Ortez Young**. He was employed as a cabinetmaker at Union and Alpine Planing Mills in Stockton until his induction into the US Army in 1951. He received his medical discharge in 1953 because of severe wounds received in the Korean War. He received the combat infantry badge, the Purple Heart and other medals.

He then attended University of Pacific, graduating with a degree in Civil Engineering. He obtained a Professional Engineering license and began his employment at Caltrans in 1957. He also worked as a consulting engineer in a private practice of surveying and sanitary engineering until his retirement.

After retirement, Robert enjoyed working in wholesale book sales and assisting his wife, **Dolores**, in retail sales at Delta College Flea Market and property management. He enjoyed reading, garage sales and flea markets.

Robert was a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and Professional Engineers in California Government. He was a past member of American Society of Civil Engineers, and the National Society of Professional

Engineers.

Robert is survived by his wife of nearly 14 years, Dolores Young, his three sisters: **Laura Wilborn (Richard Banos)**, **Shirley Stroh (Pat Patterson)** and **Faye (Bill) Hamby**. He is also survived by three stepsons: **Choya (Georgia) Steiger**, **Kevin (Kelly) Steiger** and **Tanen (Jodi) Steiger**. He was preceded in death by his first wife, **Julia M. Young**, and his son, **Richard Young**.

William (Bill) Zieker, employed for 36 years with Caltrans, passed away November 10.

Mr. Zieker was born on March 14, 1937 in Fairbanks, Alaska to **Bill** and **Eleanor (Siler) Zieker**. He attended public schools in Hancock, Michigan and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Michigan Tech. He a member of Chi Epsilon, honor society for Civil Engineering. He also was a member of American Society of Civil Engineers, Toastmaster International, Professional Engineers in California Government, Quarter Century Club. He served for eight years in the U.S. Naval Reserves. He played city league softball, tournament billiards. He was an ardent card player (blackjack & poker). Bill was a 30-year participant in home poker parties with a group from Caltrans. He loved playing his mandolin.

Mr. Zieker is survived by his wife, **Geri** and two daughters, **Penny (Joe) Rocha** and **Lianne (Steve) Vea**, grandchildren **Joey** and **Jeffrey Rocha**, **Andrew Lepe**, a total of seven grandchildren, a sister **Betty (Jim) Hamilton**, a niece and two nephews.

—Brian Young

The Haps in District 11

The annual picnic was a great success, with 61 members in attendance. As a result of their generosity the annual picnic will now be self-supporting. First timers included

Josan Feathers and **Dave Ortman** and **Joe** and **Mallie Odle**. In my last report I neglected to include our newest cook, **Guy Granfors**. Guy has been helping for a couple of years and now is official member of the cooking staff.

Congratulations to **Gary** and **Kathy** for a job well done!

You may receive this issue of the QCCer before the annual membership dinner on January 15, 2009. Be sure to watch your mail in December for your invitation and dues status.

We've had four retirement luncheons in November all of which were for members: **Sandy Johnson**, **Renee Krolikowski**, **Debbie Stout** all of Planning, and **Paul Von Normann**, Acting Region Manager in Maintenance.

On the down side, we've had the death of **Vince Wirkus** and the passing of **Howard Winn's** wife **Mary**. In addition Allan Johnson, husband of retiree Doris Johnson, passed away in September.

On the upside, four new members have joined us: **John Grisafi** – R/W Engineering, **Bernie Moscoso** – Maintenance Retiree, **Diane Valdez** - Maintenance and **Debbie Stout** – Planning Retiree.

— Dean Burns

The Haps in Central

We held our 2nd Annual Luau Barbeque on September 11th at the College Greens Swim and Racquet Club. Yummy JR grub, perfect weather and a great group of people made it a big success.

Our Holiday Luncheon on December 3rd was also a well-attended fun event. We missed seeing **Kim** and **Pat Yarborough**. Kim has been having some serious health issues, but he'll be having a couple tune-up procedures soon. Hopefully we'll see them on April 23rd when we will be holding our Spring Luncheon at the Dante Club. Our 3rd Annual Luau Barbeque will be on Thursday, September 10th and we'll meet again at the Dante Club for our 2009 Holiday luncheon on December 9th. Mark your calendars!

We received a newsy note from **Vince Paul**, who lives in Santa Rosa, saying he misses the get-togethers and hopes he and his wife, **Dorothy**, will make the summer picnic.

I am combining the following updates on member's travels and happenings because we missed the last deadline for the September newsletter!

David and **Judy Saxby**: Just returned from 30 days in Europe. The first two weeks was a Rick Steve's Tour starting in Paris, France, and Germany, hiking in the Alps in Switzerland and going to the top of the Eiger. Next we visited Austria, Venice, and Florence, ending in Rome. Fabulous trip! Then off to Athens for five days with four friends; Samos for five days, Turkey for one day (Ephesus), and finally five days on Lesbos. Good to get home again, but we had a great time.

Ken and **Gerri Wigglesworth**: We are headed to Madagascar tomorrow (9/12)! Expect to see lots of birds and animals. We'll report on our trip later.

Jim and Earlene Borden: Great Barbeque! It is so good to see everyone since we missed the last get-together. We spent two weeks touring the mid-west in June prompted by our attending a wedding in Nebraska. Really enjoyed it all, even the challenge of dodging tornados and floods. Went to Memphis and to Graceland and found that "Elvis still lives!" Then we headed to Nashville, Madison, Wisconsin, Minneapolis and back to Nebraska - a big circle.

In August, we spent a week in Santa Cruz at a house on the beach with all eleven of our family! Don't very often get all of us together for more than a day or two, so it was enjoyed by all. Proof five grandchildren, ages 4-16, can still get along after a whole week of togetherness.

Jack and Ellen Derby: It was a beautiful evening when we picnicked in the park at the College Greens Swim and Racquet Club. The temperature was in the 80's with a nice cool breeze. Julie and Gary Bush organized an excellent party with beer, wine, soft drinks, food, etc.

Ellen missed this party because of a trip to Arizona. Her golfing buddy, **Miriam**, moved to a spot near Phoenix to be near her son and Ellen visits her once a year.

Jack has been busy fishing and golfing this summer. The Kokanee Salmon have been good to him. It was nice to see many friends at the party. Best wishes to all who were unable to attend.

Don and Wilma Watson: We will travel to Palm Desert in mid-September; then to Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania in October to visit relatives. We are enjoying our first great-grandson, who is now two months old. Two of our seven grandchildren are now married and doing well.

Harry Valentine: Doing some traveling with Sports Leisure Travel.

Bob Coleman: Enjoyed seeing everyone. It has been seven years since we retired and

moved away. We now have a place in Sacramento and spend part of the year here.

Jerry and Pat Laumer: After a few short trips around the state, we're taking a train trip to New York then by car to Montreal and Quebec. We'll drive down the East Coast and stay in New Hampshire and Boston, taking the train home.

Glen and Sharon Rosander: We enjoyed a fall cruise from New York to Halifax, Nova Scotia, and points in between. That is, we hope we will enjoy it as it is still in the future as this is being written (9/11/08)! We both attended Kingsburg High School reunions this summer: 55th for Glen and 50th for Sharon!

Kay and Hugh Griffin: We took our first cruise in April/May from Florida to San Diego through the Panama Canal. A few other Caltrans folks (active and retired) were on the same cruise: Lorraine and Ken Cozad and Richard Paine. Allen Wrenn was the Panama Canal expert from Holland America. He made three excellent presentations on canal history, construction and future developments.

In July/August we helped our youngest son and his family move from Durham, North Carolina to Oklahoma City. They will be employed by the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation and will establish their individual labs. Our five-year-old granddaughters are looking forward to starting kindergarten.

E.G. Pomeroy: Hello everyone! I'm still here and using a cane to get around.

Dick East: We've been sedentary for a while, so next month we're off to the Mid-west to visit family. It was to have been a trip to my 65th college reunion, but other things interfered and we had to change plans. It was a blast to see so many of you!

Howard Posner (Caltrans 1979-1999): Nice to see a lot of faces I haven't seen in an awfully long time. I'm not a member of this group yet, but savor the opportunity to talk about the good ole days. See you all next time.

T. George Smith: So good to see all the old friends. This getting old is no damn good, but wonderful memories from the people here.

Ron and Margaret Lemmon: We have been busy traveling this year. We started out in April with the SIRS 50th Anniversary Hawaiian Cruise. It was a real adventure. Ron forgot his medication and daughter **Susan**, spent several hours with Kaiser Pharmacy in Honolulu getting his prescription transferred before we boarded the ship. Then, once on the ship, daughter Susan ended up with sciatica, so Hawaii was not a relaxing trip.

In August, we took the whole family (son, **John**, daughter-in-law **Suzy**, grandsons **Robert** and **Charles**, daughter **Susan**) to Orlando, Florida, for our 50th wedding anniversary. We spent seven days at Walt Disney World and five days/four nights on a Disney Cruise. Hurricane/tropical storm, Faye, decided to join us. This caused the port to close and we had to dock in Port Everglades, Fort Lauderdale, and bus four hours back to Orlando Airport. All and all, it was a great trip.

Joe and La Rena Hannon: We have been busy traveling this year. In April, we flew to Kansas City for a reunion planning committee meeting for 2012. Then in late April and early May we attended an Elderhostel in San Antonio, Texas, on the history, culture and traditions of that area. San Antonio will be the sight of the 2012 reunion for the Harlan Association. In June, we were delegates to a Sons of Norway convention in San Ramon, California. In August, we flew to Chicago, picked up a rental car and traveled to Wisconsin to visit Joe's relatives, attended a niece's stepdaughter's wedding and attended a family reunion in Richland Center, Wisconsin. It gave Joe a chance to revive his Norwegian roots. In late September we will fly to Albuquerque for a family wedding on La Rena's side. It will also give us a chance to visit Santa Fe, Taos, ride the train at Chama and enjoy the balloon festival.

Omar Pertel: Our family took a trip to Europe in July and August. This was an educational tour arranged by a teacher at Jesuit High School, Gus's school. Forty-four people took the tour, which lasted 19 days.

We flew to Prague, Czech Republic, and then took a bus through Vienna and Salzburg, Austria. We got on a cruise ship in Genoa, Italy, and toured the Mediterranean, visiting Marseilles, France, Palma De Majorca, Trajier, Morocco, Gibraltar and Barcelona, Spain. We flew back from Barcelona via London, England. Everyone really enjoyed the trip. We can't wait until we go on our next trip.

Chuck and Margie Paulsen: In early May, we had a wonderful cruise along with a "not so comfortable" cross-country flight via Amsterdam, ultimately landing in Bergen, Norway. After a two-night stay, we boarded a cruise boat working north along the coast making stops all along the way. There were walking tours at the ports we hit in daylight. We crossed the Arctic Circle to the north of Norway and somewhat down the easterly side to a port close enough for a bus ride to the Russian Border. There was nothing there, but a gift shop. We were warned not to cross the border. The border crossing was nearby and well guarded. On the return trip to Bergen we had a chance to visit the ports we missed on the way north. Again, we spent two nights in Bergen. The only drawback was the 27 hours en route each way including layovers! No wonder we had two-night in Bergen to rest up.

Because of surgery and a few other discomforts during the rest of the year, we cancelled our plans to visit the Rhine and Danube. We hope to reschedule in 2009.

Elizabeth Abersold: 09/11/08 - This was a wonderful barbeque and a great visit with everyone. I had a wonderful summer. I went on a trip to Wisconsin with my family and spent a week enjoying the "Dells". Enjoyed swimming boating and great cheese!

My son, **Mike**, is returning from 15 months serving as Commander of the Stryker Division (Army) in Iraq. In December, my family is planning a reunion to welcome Mike home in Hawaii. I'm looking forward to the Christmas Luncheon.

12/03/08 - A wonderful Christmas luncheon and so good visiting with everyone. I'm leaving for Hawaii on December 6th for a reunion celebration honoring my son, **Michael**, who recently returned from Iraq. I spent Thanksgiving in Las Vegas. The highlight was seeing Bette Midler in concert! I hope everyone has a very Happy Holiday Season and a great New Year.

Gary and Julie Bush: 09/11/08 - We had a wonderful time on the Big Island of Hawaii in March celebrating Gary's birthday. We spent three days in Hilo visiting the new Imiloa Planetarium. It's really a neat place with awesome 3-D shows and exhibits about stuff like Black Holes and how the islands were formed and how they continue to grow. We were so impressed we became members! In April, we celebrated Julie's birthday with a trip to Palm Desert. The Living Desert was amazing. The cactus garden was in full bloom and all the critters were such fun to watch.

12/03/08 - We celebrated our 45th wedding anniversary in Hawaii. It was a perfect, relaxing vacation with some Kona coffee sipping, Volcano wine tasting and a romantic sunset cruise. A few weeks later, we toured the San Diego area. The weather was unusually warm. We went on a harbor cruise, visited the Wild Animal Park, their amazing zoo, Imperial Beach and a local winery. We're ready to go back because there's so much we still "must" see!

Jim and Florine Rae: 12/03/08 -A Christmas Story: A fellow was visiting his friend at Christmas when his friend gave his wife a big diamond ring as a present. The fellow asked, "I thought you said she wanted a 50" High Definition TV? His friend replied, "She does, but where can I find a fake TV?"

Imogene Ryder: 12/03/08 -This is my first time attending the Christmas luncheon. Nice to visit with people I haven't seen in quite awhile, but still remembered. What fun! **Sharon Aquila** and I have been full-time RVers since we retired in 2001; lots of places to see and things to do. It was great seeing everyone.

Cal Peterson: 12/03/08 - What a great time we're having with so many from the good ole days!

Jack Cropper: 12/03/08 - Just returned from a Mississippi River trip after my WWII ship reunion in Charleston, S.C. Off to Maui in a couple weeks.

Dave Crane: 12/03/08 - Merry Christmas everybody! Not much new with the Crane clan this year. I went to my 65th high school reunion at Castle Rock, WA in July. Only 12 out of 43 of the class of 1943 made it. Must be getting old. Happy New Year and hang in there!

Hal and Dolores Garfield: 12/03/08 - Dolores and I enjoyed train trips to Mt. Hood and Wheeler Mountain, B.C. this summer. That was followed by a 13-day cruise to Baja. Great trip.

Joe Thomas: 12/03/08 - I've had a good year. We had a family reunion in New York and did all the sites including Niagara Falls. Great for the grandkids. Best of everything to everyone.

Heinz and Hope Heckerath: 12/03/08 - Enjoyed their latest Elderhostel trip on the Columbia/Snake Rivers. Great weather and scenery. We recommend the river cruise.

Joe and Marge Dobrowski: 12/03/08 - We have been doing major renovations on our house, still. After 9 years in the house, we still have lots of work to do. We spent time on the coast of Mendocino and 3 weeks in Colorado watching our son play in a national Australian football tournament in Colorado Springs then toured through northern Colorado and the Rockies.

Gene Berthelsen: 12/03/08 - Spent a few days in Solvang in November for my nephew

Christian's wedding, then a leisurely trip back to Sacramento along the coast. Lovely. I've been busy running the Sacramento Jazz Festival and the Catsnjammer Jazz Band. This barely leaves time to deal with my sycamore, which is currently raining its bounty on my backyard! Other than that, I wish to acknowledge that **Bill Bethel** is still alive.

Ray and Addi Forsyth: 12/03/08 – A couple of trips to Bend, Oregon. Lots of twinkle lights added to our patio. Fabulous martini parties. Fun to be a part of the Quarter Century Xmas party. Great to see friends Happy New Year to all!!

Dave and Jan Nelson: 12/03/08 – Great to see all my old co-workers. Had a great summer. Got a son married. Planning a winter trip to Hawaii to celebrate my wife Jan's retirement. See you next year!

Gary and Julie Bush

Foundation Matters

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION FOUNDATION UPDATES

The Foundation is proud to have sponsored the California Transportation Commission's 30th Anniversary Dinner in September. Nearly 250 attended the event, which honored CTC's contributions to our transportation system. An Annual Endowed CTC Student Scholarship has been established in the Commission's honor and was announced at this event.

In keeping with the CTF's mission of promoting and recognizing excellence in California transportation, the annual Education Symposium was held in Santa Cruz in November. Thirty-five students were selected from nominations solicited from California's

transportation colleges and universities. These students were paired with high-level practicing professionals, including five from Caltrans, in interactive sessions exploring today's real world of transportation engineering and planning. This was a unique career opportunity for the students to increase their understanding of the transportation field, get career advice and meet some of today's transportation leaders.

The 2008 TRANNY Award nomination process is under way. If you know of any persons or projects/programs in the transportation field that have become eligible during 2008, you may want to check out CTF's website (www.transportationfoundation.org) for information and instructions.

In 2008 the Foundation was able to assist 20 Caltrans employees and/or their families during the difficult times after an emergency or death (approximately \$39,000 in grants). If you are interested in more information on how to help or set up a memorial, please go to the Workers Assistance and Memorials Fund webpage (www.transportationfoundation.org/memorials.html) for more information.

From all of us here at the Foundation, thank you for your interest and support in all our programs and activities. We wish you the happiest of holidays and a very Happy New Year.

— *Kathy Freeman*

In Memoriam

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

Name	District	Date
Ellen Coppin	01	October 28 2008
Joleen Keeler	01	August 30 2008
Charly Ludwig	01	September 21 2008
Allen Nail	01	November 8 2008
Agnes Woodford	02	September 15 2008
Maion Louise Stokely	02	October 25 2008
Art "Mac" McLean	02	November 9 2008
Shirley Leskie	03	September 2009
Mike Vinsonhaer	03	November 9 2008
William "Bill" Grove	05	September 27 2008
Gwenyth Philbrick	05	September 29 2008
Tom McGinn	07	September 2 2008
Frank Valenzuela	07	2008
Jim Weider	07	November 3 2008
Charles Goff	07	October 31 2008
Betty Burris	07	November 2008
Thomas Rich	08	September 9 2008
Eric "Leroy" Nelson	08	October 15 2008
George Hodges	08	September 2008
Ada Lunt	08	November 16 2008
Bemie Meelker	08	November 20 2008
Dave Cooper	08	October 5 2009
Ed Cova	10	September 13 2008
Willard A. Meredith	10	October 17 2008
William "Bill" Zeiker	10	November 10 2008
Robert Alfred Young	10	October 19 2008
Vince Wirkus	11	2008
Mary Winn	112008	

Events

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

District 1 -

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

Ret'd Highwaymen and Road Agents meets on the 3rd Thursday of the months of January, April, July, and October at 11:35 am at the Hometown Buffet at the Bayshore Mall in Eureka.

District 2 -

Retired folks meet on the 3rd Monday of each month between 7:30 and 9 am at the District Office snack bar at 1657 Riverside Drive Redding.

January luncheon. January 9, 2009. *Contact: Shirley Shoup, 530-365-2191, will-shirl@juno.com or Diane Tomicich, 530-243-4908, dtomicich@charter.net.*

District 3 -

Weekly Tuesday Coffee/Breakfast at 8:30 am at the "Green House" in the Raley's Shopping Center in Placerville. *Contact: Keith Maggini 530-295-1257, kmaggini@hotmail.com*

Breakfast at Perko's Yuba City at 7:00 am third Wednesday of every month.

District 4

The **Caltrans Lunch Bunch** meets on the second Tuesday of every month. *Contact: Ed Coble 925-645-4219, edcoble49@astound.net*

The **North Bay Caltrans Retirees** meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. *Contact: Jim Bouler 707-546-3097, jbouler@comcast.net*

District 5 -

Contact Kathy Copeland: 805-544-1834 bcopel4674@aol.com

District 6 -

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.

Contact: Ralph Tritch 559-535-4295

Informal Coffee at 8 am on Thursdays at Country Waffles at the NW corner of Herndon and Cedar.

District 7 -

The **Monthly Luncheon Club** meets on the second Wednesday of the month in Los Angeles. Contact: Tom Gildersleeve,

661-259-6226, tgilders@pacbell.net; or Chuck O'Connell, 661-253-3428, chuckoconnell@prodigy.net

District 8 -

Christmas Luncheon, Saturday, **Dec 6th, 2008**, 12 noon at The Gourmet on Highland Ave, San Bernardino.

Contact: Marsha Lotze, 760-247-2119, mlotze12@verizon.net

District 9 -

Contact: Lance Hinek, (619) 873-3885, hinek@usamedia.tv

District 10 -

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.

Contact: Stan Randolph, 209-957-1278, stanran3672@aol.com.

District 11 -

ROMEOS (Retired Old Men Eating Out) meets at Denny's, Navajo Road at Fletcher

Parkway at 8:30 am the third Wednesday of every month. Contact: Butch Biendara, 858-279-5054,

butchbiendara1944@hotmail.com.

Annual Dinner Thursday, Jan 15, 2009 at Tom Ham's Lighthouse, 2150 Harbor Island Drive, San Diego. Social hour 5-6 pm, with dinner to follow. Contact: Dean Burns, 619-448-6728, dean.burns@cox.net

Central District -

Spring Barbecue, April 26, 2009. College Greens Swim and Racquet Club, Sacramento. Social Hour - 5 pm, Lunch at 6.

Contact: Gary Bush, 530-642-8208, zbusharosa@wildblue.net

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