



Retirement Threats

CONCERN ABOUT MCCAULEY AMENDMENT

From the Corner Pocket

The QCC is not a political organization, but all QCCers hope for a retirement from CalPERS, which is under serious political pressure from several areas. As a solid organization in these troubled times it is also the biggest target to aim at. You should be aware of some serious bombshells headed your way. Here are several items to worry about (please don't shoot the messenger).

* The McCauley initiative claims that providing pension benefits beyond taxpayer's intentions is bribery and not therefore a contractual obligation. It falsely claims that taxpayers must bear the full obligation for pensions that cut into funding for education, energy infrastructure, fire and police protection, health care, nuclear power construction, public transit systems, restoration of coastlands, wetlands and mountains and global warming. These 'excessive' financial burdens can be solved only by *cutting public employee pensions*.

It takes a constitutional change to break a state contract **for public pensions only**. McCauley supporters are now gathering the 700 thousand signatures needed and are likely to use false claims as encouragement, so if you do see a petition claiming to solve the state's

problems at your expense, **don't sign it**. If it gains enough signatures we will have a major campaign on our hands to defeat it.

* A new McCauley initiative would add an additional tax on any public retiree receiving more than \$40,000 per year - including Social Security and health benefits with a tax rate that reaches 60%.

* The Richmond organization is looking to find a sponsor for its effort to reduce pensions for future public employees to a maximum of two thirds of final pay and to increase the minimum age for retirement to 65.

* The governor has asked to have employee health insurance separated from retiree health plans to reduce the cost for younger employees. Obviously the cost for retiree health care would then go up. CalPERS has maintained that employees and retirees share a benefit by being combined in a common plan. There is a small ray of hope as that clause was removed from the final budget, but may be renewed now that the proposals in the special election were defeated.

* Orange County has gone back to court after losing a lawsuit to cut its employee's pensions. Will they find some new reason for a second attack?

* The court has ruled that for the City of Vallejo, the laws on bankruptcy outweigh labor



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Butch (cont'd)

contracts and pensions, which can be cut as needed to fix the budget.

* The Government Accounting Services Board (GASB) proposal has taken a back seat amid all the other gloom, but may very well come back to haunt us again. Why do they claim that only retirees' health benefits for the future 30 years must be carried as a liability? Why not the 30-year cost of future police and fire protection, water and sewer services, schools, parks and road maintenance? Why is retiree health care the only target? If 30 years of retiree health care liability is entered on an agency's books, it becomes a big target for the quick-fix ax.

Across the country, health benefits for retirees are available for only a third of private employees and for just two thirds of public retirees. Unfortunately, rather than working to improve benefits for those that need them, the biggest efforts are to remove the benefits from those that have them. As mentioned before - RPEA - <http://www.rpea.com/> - is your 'bargaining unit' for retirees and your support

now may help to save you from a major loss in the future.

Employers know they need a good pay and benefit packages to retain a good workforce. While we often had to forgo needed pay raises in tight budget years, we did hang in there looking at our eventual pension package. It's a crime, that now with many in retirement, the move seems to be to cut us off as expendable. Let's make sure that they hear us, and our needs.

— 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>

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Hi, Ron Lesan here - - - trying to fill a very large pair of shoes. Kim did a fabulous job in this spot. I hope I'll be able to do half as well. I haven't yet been able to sift through enough data so as to present you with an updated financial report, but if you're reading this, you at least know we were able to compile a mailing list for the newsletter. I should be able to get on top of everything else in a short time.

Some honorary members who no longer are required to pay dues are finding it difficult to understand why they need to register with

the club secretary each January. The answer is that it is required in order to keep the mailing list current, if they want to continue receiving the newsletter.

New Members

Name	District
James R. Lyon	1
Susan Lamb	2
Kelly Manring	2
Charles N. Russell	2
Jan Agesen	3
James H. Hochstragger	3
Robert L. Inman	3
Beverly Larsen	3
Annabelle Hlywa	6
Josie Rendon	6
Dan Hodges	8
Phillip W. Holdaway	8
Al Hudgens	8
Ann Irene Rogers	8
Al Herrera	11
Marsha Mason	C
Douglas Saathoff	C
Sally Yokoi	C

—Ran Lesan

The Haps in District 1

We've had another busy quarter. Our retiree lunch group had its quarterly meeting at the Home Town Buffet in Eureka. We all had a great visit. Some of the talk centered on the Fortuna car show coming up in July. **Tom Georgeson** and **Ray Thomsen** are

planning to have their cars there. Word from **Jim** and **Linda Boyd** is that they are planning to come over to show Jim's newly restored car. I know **Len Blomquist** usually enters, and **Claude** and **Sharon Stewart** come up as often as they can. It is a great time to see fellow Caltrans employees and retirees whether they are showing or admiring these beautiful cars.

Another chance to see our fellow employees will be the upcoming District 1 Service Awards lunch on Tuesday, July 21, 11:45 am, at the Red Lion in Eureka. Retirees are always welcome to attend and several do.

Bruce McIntyre, from our District Maintenance Department, retired on May 1. We wish him a long and happy retirement. I remember when he started, which was not too long after I did.

In March I had lunch and a great visit with **Norma Ackerman**. She worked in District 1 for several years, then in District 2, before starting a new life in Idaho. We keep in touch with emails and Christmas cards, but had not seen each other in years. We got caught up with our families and current activities. She was on her way to visit a good friend in Fort Bragg. As luck would have it, **Jim** and **Linda** just got back home from Arizona so she stopped to see them on her way back home to Idaho. What a treat.

I made it to the CSEA retiree lunch in May. Our concern at this time is the threats to our retirement system with petitions being circulated, which, if successful, could change the rules and/or increase the taxes we pay. We hope everyone is paying attention and make sure you fully understand the ramifications of any petitions being presented before you sign.

Butch Biendara was in District 1 recently, mainly to get together with friends to try their hand at digging Humboldt clams. I understand they did get a fair number. I had a

chance to visit with him over lunch, including a little QCC talk. I did share with him that our District I history group recently received a donation from QCCer, **Ben Van Zandt**, of engineering books and copies of the California Highways and Public Works Magazines, mostly from the 1950's and 1960's. They are still so interesting to read. We still need to review the collection and make decisions on its care.

Looking through the magazines, I ran across an interesting article in the March-April, 1951 issue of California Highways. It mentioned "presentations of certificates to state employees in recognition of 25 years of service, as authorized by the 1949 Legislature, began in March." The State Printing Office printed 2,500 certificates. The article described the efforts made to recognize employees' service and the designing of the certificate.

I recently presented a local history program at the Presbyterian Church, and enjoyed seeing **Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Minor** and **Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hallsten**. They are really enjoying their retirement.

District I employee **Glenn Hurlburt's**, wife **Jody**, recently passed away. She had been battling a rare illness for the past year. Our deepest sympathy goes to Glenn and his family during this very difficult time.

I hope to hear more from our District I members. My current email is ahartin@suddenlink.net.

—Arlene Hartin

The Haps in District 2

The District 2 Quarter Century Club held its spring luncheon at the Riverbend Golf and Country Club in Redding on April 24th. A fine showing and good time was had by all who went. **Steve Bonnett**, P.E., Cost Engineer, gave a presentation on the construction of the self-anchored suspension portion of the new San Francisco/Oakland Bay Bridge. The presentation was well delivered and appreciated by all those who attended.

R. P. Laird, 34 year veteran of Division of Highways and Caltrans, passed away on Feb 22nd, at the age of 93. Mr. Laird spent his entire career working in District 02, beginning in 1940 at the Sugar Hill Maintenance Station north of Alturas. He took time off to serve in the military, and returned to Modoc County, working his way up to Foreman and eventually Assistant Superintendent (then Senior Foreman) for the Alturas Superintendent Territory. He was born in 1915 and retired in 1974. He is survived by his son, **Lauren Laird**, and two daughters, **Lavette Laxague** and **Lea Huetteman**. Our sincere condolences have been extended to his family.

Jim Ceragioli, our QCC District Director, will head north to Cottage Grove, Oregon and Bellingham, Washington to introduce some of his family to his new lady friend **Sandy Jensen**. Sandy is 67 yrs old, widowed, and from Lake County. They met on a golf trip to Acapulco in Feb.

June McLean and **Shirley Shoup** headed to Reno for a BINGO BLOWOUT on the 22nd of May. Shirley also went to Las Vegas the end of February for another one and June went to one in Reno the end of March. They both have yet to win, but the Bingo Pots are pretty good size, and who knows, they may get

lucky one of these days.

The District 2 Quarter Century Club annual picnic will be held at Anderson River Park on June 20th beginning at 2:30 PM. All employees, both active and retired, are welcome.

Please contact **Burt Brockett** (530-246-4721) for reservations prior to June 10th.

—Bill Belcher

The Haps in District 3

District 3 QCC is still signing new members. The sad part is the loss of many of our current members, those who have been with us for a long time.

I regret to report the loss of the following co-workers: **Darrell McWhirk** passed some time ago and his death was not reported. Our apologies to Beverly and his family.

Gordon Foster passed away on May 12th of this year. Don was also known by his friends and family as "Poppy" and "Bud." Gordon had a long career with the Division of Highways and Caltrans.

Eddie Ansley passed away on April 20th of this year. Ed had worked in numerous departments for 37 years and retired in 1987.

Elizabeth "Betty" Betournay passed on May 19, 2009 with 25 years of service.

Jim Howard passed away over the Memorial Day weekend. Jim was a District 3

Superintendent for many, many years and very active in the QCC

Ralph Jensen passed away on April 9th of this year. Ralph worked for Caltrans as a civil engineer for 33 years.

Bobbie Stiles passed on April 7, 2009. She had been an accountant with Caltrans for 33 years. We send our condolences to friends and family.

Members are reminded to send dues and new applications to Membership Chair **Carleen Hagen**. She can be reached at (530) 674-9026. Her Email address is hcdhagen@aol.com. Send by mail to 1568 Oro Grande, Yuba City, Calif. 95993. Carleen will forward all correspondence to the State level.

We are in the planning process for a late summer/early fall picnic. The event, requested by many members, will happen in October. All members will be notified of the date as soon as your Board of Officers completes the planning process. Watch your mailbox for info of the event.

Jane Myers has accepted an appointment to the Social Committee board. Jane will be an asset to the club.

The District 3 Quarter Century Club is growing and planning more social events. Sign up those co-workers who don't yet belong. Applications are available from Membership Chairperson Carleen or any officer. Questions may be directed to me. Phone (530) 671-3889. My email address is boots3@syix.com.

News from the Placerville Area:

The annual Placerville Spring Luncheon was held on April 16th at the Green House Cafe in West Placerville. Forty-six people attended, including the following new faces: **Joe Cena** and wife from Marysville, **Al Weiss** from Woodland,

Freeman Rudolph from Sacramento and recent retiree **Joe Espinoza** from Placerville. A good time was had by all with guests lingering for hours talking about the "Good Old Days" when Caltrans was known as the Division of Highways.

The fall luncheon will be held September 17 at 2:30 pm at the Train Station Cafe in Shingle Springs for a change of scenery. The Cafe is located on "Old Hwy 50", now Mother Lode Drive next to the Community Park. Guests can choose from three items: 1) hot turkey sandwich, 2) small chef's salad, and 3) lasagna with salad and garlic bread. Price will be \$6.45 for the entree with drink, tax and tip extra.

New attendees can make reservations by calling either **Doug Becker** (530) 622-1665 or **Jerry Hamm** (530) 622-8030. People on our roster will be contacted prior to the luncheon for an attendance estimate. No advance money is required, as individual checks will be issued. People traveling from either direction on Route 50, use Exit 37 and proceed to Mother Lode Drive on the south side of the freeway. Head east, cross the old railroad tracks and you'll find the cafe, located on the right approximately one-tenth mile and adjoining the Community Park.

The luncheon is open to all Caltrans retirees and their guests. Come out and join in the fun and visit with people you probably haven't seen since retirement.

It seems as if our family can't escape bad news in the health area. My wife has been diagnosed with cancer in the colon and liver. Neither is a recurrence of her prior bouts with cancer, as they say these are two different strains and have to be treated differently. We are now awaiting what the treatment will be, but they say most cases like this can be treated effectively, at least we hope so. Until things ease up, I will only be reporting news on upcoming events and if someone says they will collect news for the QCCer I'll be happy to

pass it along

I am endosing information on the past and upcoming luncheons as the September issue won't be out prior to the September 17th luncheon. I hope all is well and will do my best to gather whatever I can for upcoming issues. Thanks

— Keith

— Dan Johnson, Sr. Susanna Ford and
Keith Maggini

The Haps in District 4

Jan and Joe Browne dropped me a line to bring us up to date on what they've been doing for the past couple of years.

In 2001, after 33 years in Napa, they moved to Del Webb's Lincoln Hills. They downsized into a new house and began socializing, particularly with the **Hal Chandlers**, whom they see often. From 2002 to 2006, Jan chaired the Lincoln Hills Transportation Committee, which worked to expand their one-bus and one-van Dial-a-Ride system. Joe got involved with computer classes and the Veteran's Club.

In November 2007 Jan fell and broke her left elbow and lower left leg. She spent six months in recovery and therapy at a health care home in Sacramento. In May, she returned home, where she has morning and evening caregivers to help her recover. Jan says she has been steadily regaining her strength and energy and is doing well.

Not to be outdone, Joe will need a hip replacement in a few months and is looking forward to promised relief from hip pain.

In conclusion, Jan and Joe proudly point out that they now have 14 grandchildren. They hope all of their old friends are well.

Ruby Louie retired in April and had her retirement luncheon April 30. Unfortunately I was unable to attend due to a prior family commitment. There might be a silver lining in her retirement for us; she may now have time to start up her Chinese dinners again.

Ron Maasberg and **George Samoulides** and their wives went on cruises that were affected by the swine flu outbreak in Mexico. Before they got to Mexico, the cruises were diverted to other ports. In some cases, the cruises were diverted to San Francisco! I understand that **Ann Hohener** and her daughter may also have had their cruises diverted.

Vern Waight, our Hawaiian transportation correspondent, has sent us the following report: for several years he has joked that he was going to Honolulu to check out the railroad grade crossings. Until recently, none existed, but on March 3, a new crossing, complete with flashing red lights, bells and gates, was dedicated with the passage of a Hawaiian Railway Museum train. The crossing, at Kamokila Road, is a new one on the railroad and is part of the development of Oahu's newest "city," Kapolei.

Kapolei is located across the railroad tracks from what used to be the Barbers Point Naval Air Station. Its residential and commercial areas are growing and this will require the study of two other crossings for grade crossing protection. Vern adds that the trains usually operate only on weekends, but the Hawaiian equivalent of the California PUC has ordered the other

crossings to be studied. When he and Betty visit Honolulu later this year, he will have something to study and report on.

The newly dedicated crossing is unusual in that red and green signal lights along the track control the train's movement. The signals turn from red to green when the train reaches a certain point on each approach to the crossing. If, for some reason, the green signal does not come on, the train engineer must stop the train and a flag person must precede the train across the roadway.

Speaking of Honolulu's transportation system, for a number of years there has been talk about a rail a transit system in Honolulu. The Hawaiian legislature even enacted a measure several years ago to allow the city to collect a sales tax on Oahu to fund the system. The funds collected allowed the city and county of Honolulu to hire a consultant, Parson's Brinkerhoff, to design the system and prepare a proposition for the November 2008 election. The consultant's proposal called for a "steel wheel on steel rail" mode of transit, to run from the previously mentioned new town of Kapolei to the Ala Moana Shopping Center. The city and county ran ads in the local newspapers promoting "Honolulu Rail Transit."

Then the state's governor suggested that other modes of transit needed to be considered. The mayor of Honolulu steadfastly supported the steel wheel-steel rail proposal. Shortly before the election, a female candidate for mayor proposed what was essentially a bus system, which had been suggested by a University of Hawaii professor. This system would consist of 15 miles of new highway expansion and expansion of other roadways and traffic signal synchronization. With support of a group called Go RailGo and opposition from a group called Stop Rail Now, the

proposition passed with 50.6 percent of the vote. Close!

Meanwhile, politicians at the statehouse were trying to divert funds from the transit funds to balance the state budget. (Shades of California's grab for local revenues.) In spite of this, the city and county began accepting bids on the first 6.5-mile stretch from East Kapolei to the Pearl Highlands. The winning contractor will not be announced until the fall of 2009. Planners had budgeted up to \$600 million for this stretch. A map published March 3 shows the entire system from East Kapolei to Ala Moana Center with planned extensions through Kapolei and beyond, to Salt Lake, to the University of Hawaii and finally, Waikiki.

Vern says he doesn't expect to ride the system very soon.

One of the popular modes of transportation in Honolulu is the Rubber Tire Trolley. Vern says this got started when San Francisco realtor and entrepreneur Arnold Gridley, saw a business opportunity in the 1954 demise of certain San Francisco cable car lines. When the San Francisco Municipal Railway disposed of surplus California Street cable cars, Gridley bought seven of them, removed the trucks and cable gear, placed them on a gasoline truck chassis and rented them out. MUNI itself had preceded Gridley by converting a Jones Street car for motorized operation in 1954. But even earlier than that – during the 1907 strike to be exact – streetcar bodies were placed on horse-drawn wagons for public transit. With only seven cable cars available, Gridley and others had to improvise cable cars to continue the use of these popular vehicles. To date, the design of the original cars has been greatly changed, primarily in size, to accommodate more passengers. Also, the original maroon and gold leaf livery has been replaced by various other color schemes.

Vern says, to consider another facet of Hawaiian public transit, the inter-island ferry system between Honolulu and Maui. What a headline for an article in the San Francisco Chronicle called 'The Ferry from Hell.' We'll cover that in the next issue of the QCCer.

— Paul Hensley

The Haps in District 5

Summertime in San Luis Obispo brings foggy mornings, breezy afternoons, and construction. The streets of town are full of warning signs, orange cones, and asphalt trucks—and some residents are being lulled to sleep by pavement grinders. A good deal of the disturbance is due to the reconstruction of Route 227, which includes Broad, South and Higuera Streets and Madonna Road. Two utility projects are taking place along with the highway work, and bicyclists are being asked to take alternate routes to avoid the lane closures.

The district office is also a construction zone, with the old flowering pear trees and dividers being removed from the main parking lot as part of a landscape improvement project. I'm happy to report the avocado trees lovingly tended by Denny Chandler and the giant redwood trees in Rancho Grove have been spared.

The recent election failed to improve the State's financial situation, and layoff notices are going out to five thousand State employees who are part of the General Fund workforce. At this time, Caltrans employees are not included, but management will review the department's spending activities to determine how it can continue and expand belt-tightening efforts to reduce expenditures. The two-day furlough program is continuing for State

employees in spite of SEIU's effort to have it reduced to one day per month.

The 47th annual Caltrans golf tournament was held May 14-15 at Blacklake and Cypress Ridge courses near Nipomo. I'm very pleased to report that District 5 won the tournament, beating Headquarters Team by one stroke and District 7 by two strokes. It has been 10 years since District 5 took home the trophy, which will be displayed in the District Office.

Jacques Van Zeventer led the team, which included **John Luchetta, Richard Rosales, Diane Dostalek, Vicci Messer, Patrick Stimson, Peter Christenson, Greg Mahoric, Mike Perham and Don Webster**. Two players had career rounds: Mike shot gross 76 and Don gross 72.

Bob and I attended the awards banquet at Blacklake and enjoyed visiting with old friends and golf buddies. Next year's tournament will be held in the Sacramento/Stockton area.

District 5 will again participate in the ACS Relay for Life on July 18-19 at Laguna Middle School. **Cathy Stettler** is the team captain, and she is encouraging active and retired Caltrans folks to participate. **Tamara Gonzales** is the Volunteer Event Chair this year, and she and **Richard** have been involved in a number of community events leading up to the 24-hour relay. If you would like to join the relay or make a donation, please contact Cathy at 549-3797. Richard has promised to dye his hair purple if our team reaches its goal—a sight we'd love to see.

A potluck retirement celebration for **Wayne Mills** was held on April 15 at the District Office cafeteria. I was able to visit with Wayne and also had a chat with **Frank Catherina**. Several years ago, Wayne's interest in our environment led him to inventory the many trees and plants surrounding the office, and we were amazed by

the variety of plant life that shaded the buildings and provided a haven for birds.

Please think good thoughts for **Dyer Campbell**, resting at home after a recent illness, and **Gary Saunders**, recovering from another knee surgery.

Irma and Jerry Foshee have been enjoying community activities near their home in Texas, including the Czech Polka Festival and the Bristol Opry. Irma recently completed several weeks of physical therapy following her knee surgery. They are involved with the local volunteer fire department, and planning a visit to family in Georgia later in the year.

Shirley and Larry Kathary are keeping busy with grandkids, great grandkids, and outings with their camper club. They also volunteered at the Kiwanis booth during the Arroyo Grande Strawberry Festival.

We heard that **Gordon West** was still with his son in Southern California, but he had made a trip to Hawaii with his family. Aloha, Gordon!

In memoriam: **Ralph Jester**, husband of **Sally**, lost his battle with Alzheimer's and passed away in April.

Bernard "Bick" Moe passed away on May 8 at age 83. He was a native of Paso Robles and served in the Marine Corps during WWII. He worked for Division of Highways/Caltrans for 35 years, retiring as Maintenance Superintendent in 1981. Bick is survived by his wife **Marilyn**, son **Don** and daughter **Sydney** and their families.

J. B. Popnoe passed away on April 21 at age 87. He had been a Resident Engineer for many years in Santa Barbara County, and Bob worked for him on Route 101 projects in Carpinteria and the Rincon area. A memorial service will be held June 12 at the Carpinteria Community Church. JB is survived by his wife **Betty** and their family.

If you have news of Caltrans folks, please drop me a note or e-mail. Thanks!

—Kathleen Copeland

The Haps in District 6

We had our spring luncheon May 7 at the Yosemite Falls Café on West Ashlan. In attendance were **Gloria Adam, Shirley and Roy Andersen, Sandy and Hal Avakian, Bill Bastian, Barbara and Dick Beck, Alma and Ken Cartwright, Barney Deeter, Joyce and Lee Halderman, Eva and Owen Helm, Bob Larson, Ken Oliphant** and his wife, **Barbara and Don Peaslee, Doris and Fred Rayburn, Thelma and Chester Sohm, Jane Suo, Koke Uyeno, Bob Voss, Ed Wells, John Wright** and myself. We all had a great time visiting and I managed to get some news from everyone for the QCCer Newsletter.

Note from Janet, **Larry Layton's** wife:

"Thank you for the invite to the luncheon. Larry just turned 80 a few days ago. He still drives, but I don't like to have him go so far without me. I still work full time and have a week vacation starting on 5/9/09 and I can't get off on the 7th to come to this one. Hope you all have a great time and maybe we can get up for the next one. Wish it wasn't so far, a good 6-7 hour drive. God Bless"

Barbara and **Don Peaslee** flew to Oregon recently for their granddaughters' graduation, where she received her teaching credential. Way to go.

Barney Deeters' granddaughter, **Jennifer** (Bruce's daughter), made him a great grandfather last June, when **Claire Marie**

arrived. He told me the one thing that June had wanted most of all was to meet this little one but unfortunately Barney lost June before that time. His son **Bruce** has now retired. Doesn't that make one feel old? Daughter **Diane** is married to **Jack LaRoche**, who is the Director of Public Works for the City of Napa. They have four children. Barney has been staying busy playing the bugle for the Honor Guard Legion Post 147 in Clovis. I hear he does a great job on Taps.

Sandy and Hal Avakian became new grandparents a couple of months ago when daughter **Mandy** gave birth to **Connor Michael Sullivan**. Congratulations! Hal actually make it to the Spring Luncheon and he was only 20 minutes late. That is a record for him. In the same breath I have to say Sandy made it on time, of course.

Bob Larson also has recently become a great grandfather. The new great granddaughter resides with Bob's daughter and her husband in Atascadero. I guess you'll have some traveling to do. Bob. I should also add that Bob has been a master gardener for many years now.

Sam Duncan, the "old surveyor" passed away April 4th. I don't have any other information on his death.

Note about **Del Luttrell: Georgia Cordova** had been trying to make contact with Del for some time. She eventually reached his son, **Eric**. Eric told her that Del had been unable to tolerate the chemo treatments and had stopped that therapy. He told Georgia that Del was very near being ready for hospice care. I don't know what more to say. This leaves us all very sad. Del lost his wife, **Pat** about a year and half ago.

John Hawthorne spent eight days in the hospital in February after having an allergic reaction to a shot. It's a heck of a way to lose weight but he has lost 35 pounds.

Doris and **Fred Rayburn** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on April 30, 2009. The whole family celebrated by spending

Easter week in Carmel. Also included were their adopted daughters—one from Munich, Germany and one from Adelaide, Australia.

Alma and **Ken Cartwright** celebrated 14 years of wedded bliss on May 12th. Alma's comment was they haven't killed each other yet so all is good.

Owen Helm has come back from Dist 9 to be with us in Dist 6. I'm not sure which district he spent more time in but we're glad to have him back. He also celebrated his first anniversary on May 23rd with his new bride, **Eva**. Owen and Eva both graduated from Central High School together in the class of '47 and went their separate ways only to find each other again at a time of need. Eva, after having lost her husband to cancer helped Owen after he lost **Jeannie** to cancer and thus earned the nickname "Blue Eyed Angel" from Owen.

Roy Andersen wrote the following about a trip he and his wife took in 2008:

At the end of April in 2008 we went to Canada to do the Rocky Mountain Railroad trip. Our trip started in Vancouver and the rail portion ended in Banff National Park. A city tour of Vancouver was included in the tour package but there were so many people clearing Canadian Customs that we just barely caught the last trolley of the tour. Vancouver is a rather impressive city with a large Chinatown and a really neat Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park. They also have an impressive city park called Stanley Park (over 1000 acres) with all kinds of activities and a huge rose garden but we were far too early for the roses.

"We took the Gold Leaf option so we had Vista Dome assigned seats on the train. The food was also supposed to be an upgraded menu from the Red Leaf seats. The Red Leaf seating was in regular railroad cars so I suspect that they missed out on the view of the higher mountains. The train stopped every night so we didn't miss out on any scenery. I managed to

get motion sickness the second day but it didn't really hit hard until the next morning.

"A contributing factor was probably the dinner we had the night before in Kamloops. We ate at the only restaurant near our motel. It was an Indian restaurant and the food was terrible (Indian as in Bombay).

"Our hotel in Banff was made of stone masonry and looked like a castle. A tram trip to the top of one of the higher mountains in Banff was also included and it was really cold up there but it is really a great view from the top. We had a short bus tour of Banff and then it took us to Calgary for our flight home the next day.

"Saw about a dozen mountain sheep in the park in one herd that thought the road was theirs (probably should have been) and were in no hurry to let us by. More spectacular scenery but their waterfalls do not compare with Yosemite's.

"Our bus driver pointed out the various venues used in the Winter Olympics in Calgary. Food was rather pricey by California standards but so much of it is imported from the USA or Mexico except for meat. I would definitely recommend that anyone going up there get Canadian currency because when we went the American dollar was upside down and the local businesses made their own conversions, which were not always that accurate. Use either Canadian currency or a Credit Card because the card companies use a more accurate conversion. There were a lot of Australians and New Zealanders as well as Canadians in our group and what really surprised us was how interested they were in our presidential election and how freely they expressed their opinions on who they thought was the best candidate."

Bob Voss will attend his 50th Roosevelt High School Reunion this September. Can you believe he's that old and still working? I can give him a bad time about it because we graduated

together and I also will be attending, although I retired five years ago. We showed up for work in the Division of Highways personnel office on the same day back in 1960, to each other's surprise—two nerds from high school.

After a brave two-year battle with colon cancer, **Del Luttrell** passed away May 29. Until his final hours, he was thinking of the



well being of his family rather than his own.

A true 'dust bowl Okie', Del migrated with his family from Oklahoma to Arvin in 1933.

He went on to serve his country honorably during the Korean War. Upon returning, he graduated from California State University, Sacramento and soon met the love of his life, Patricia Luttrell. They were happily married 47 years until she passed on in late 2006.

Del worked as a Right Of Way Agent with Caltrans in District 6 for decades, and coached hundreds of youngsters in Fresno Little League and Babe Ruth.

He is survived by his sons Eric and Kevin; three grandchildren, and numerous relatives.

All of us will greatly miss him. He was a great guy.

Bill L. Curnutte, born September 30, 1928 in Grants, New Mexico, passed away on May 29, 2009 in Carmichael, California.



Bill is survived by **Norma**, his loving wife of 55 years; his children **Melinda**, **David**, **Scott** and grandchildren, **Josh**, **Matthew**, **Lucas** and **Catherine**, and

sisters **Shirley** and **Sandra**. Bill was a U. S. Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War. He will be buried in Fair Oaks, California.

— Terry Littleton

The Haps in District 7

The QCCer did not receive a report from District 7 for the 2nd quarter QCCer. Hope everything is all right with Kirsten.

The Haps in District 8

Otis Clopton, owner of OJ Engineering, closed his firm in early March and joined his wife at their home in Atlanta. Otis left Caltrans in the late 1970's to join Kasler Engineers as their safety officer and later started OJ Engineering.

In late February, **Janette Daab** fell in their dimly lit garage and hit her head on their deep freezer and air compressor. Although she suffered severe bruises, no bones were broken. She spent two days in the hospital recuperating.

Melba Saucier reports that her daughter and family now live with her. She is doing well but does not see many of their Caltrans friends.

Dan Hodges reports that all is well in Temecula, but that he doesn't hear much news from the district. Dan started with the Division of Highways in Design in 1955, moved to

Claims in 1966 and retired in 1983. He and his wife, **Bobbye**, moved to Temecula after retiring to be closer to their children.

John and Meredith Fredendall of Rialto celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary in February with friends and relatives at the Sycamore Inn in Rancho Cucamonga. John was a Senior Right of Way Agent in District 08 for 34 years. He retired in 1985.

Our District 08 Quarter Century Club is pleased to have two new members, **Ann Rogers** and **Phil Holdaway**. Phil started in Landscape Maintenance in 1973 and moved to highway Maintenance in 1976. He moved to Permits in 1987 and in 1989 to Planning. He retired with a back injury on disability in August of 2000.

Ann Rogers started in the District Steno Pool in 1976. Later she served as secretary for assistant directors **Bob Redden**, **Paul Kirst** and **Loren Barnett**. She was also secretary to several of our district directors. She retired as an Assistant Caltrans Administrator in September 2008. Her husband, **Bill**, retired from the San Bernardino City Police Department that same day.

Ann Rogers reports that in March they drove up the east coast from Florida to Washington D.C. while on a two week trip.

In late May, **Pat Leatherberry** moved to Jacksonville, Arkansas, near Little Rock, to be near her son and his family. Pat started work in the district on June 1, 1959. She started in Central Files, moved through Permits, Procurement, Personnel and retired from Accounting in 1980. Her husband **Tom** worked in Shop 8 for many years. Tom passed away in December 1999. A group of friends met at Denny's in Colton for a breakfast party to bid her farewell. We'll all miss her and wish her well.

Carolyn Johns enjoyed a three-week cruise with her niece that went completely around Australia. They flew to Sydney, boarded the cruise ship "Sun Princess" and visited Sydney, Brisbane, Townville, Cape Town, Broome and Geraldton. They flew home from Melbourne.

Floyd Salazar has moved from Morongo valley to Bullhead City, Arizona. He has contact with **Hal Loudermilk** and **Gus Krug** who also live at Bullhead City.

Joe Potwardowski, who retired from the Traffic Department in 1983, returned to San Bernardino early in December for the winter. He will return to his summer home in Goetzville, Michigan in June. Joe started with the Division of Highways in 1972.

Ed Gritters, who had a knee replacement in late February, had the misfortune of tearing the leg muscles from his new kneecap in mid April. To prevent leg movement while the reattached muscles mend in his kneecap, he was in a toe to hip cast for six weeks. The cast has been removed and he is undergoing therapy prior to their summer trip to Michigan.

Grace Vinzen has received a post card from **Judie** and **Gerald Brown** while on vacation in Wisconsin. They were at the farm homesteaded by her grandfather since the late 1890s. He built the house in 1914 that Judie was born and raised in. Her brother still lives on the farm but was having an auction of his farm machinery and antique cars. She and Gerald were helping getting ready for the auction. They were heading back in May for a cruise. Gerald came home with an old truck. Hope to have more on it in our next news.

Nothing much else to report at this time. The only sad note is that **Robert Kindred**, a retired Assistant Engineer from Surveys passed away on May 26 with complications from pneumonia. He had been battling cancer that he'd beaten but in his weakened condition

he didn't make it. Services were held at Immanuel Baptist Church in Highland, CA on Friday, May 29th. Bob had been a long-time engineer in Surveys before his retirement. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and many friends.

— Marsha Lotze

The Haps in District 9

John and Mary Ritter made their annual trip to the Bishop spring Swap Meet. Mary rents a space and does a good business. She has one of the best locations at the Swap Meet. They stopped at our house and visited. They always have interesting stories to tell.

Marv Nelligan was working at the Swap Meet as usual. We also saw Marv at the Lyons pancake breakfast during Mule Days.

Bud and Jerri Moody stopped by with their daughter **Marjorie** and her family, husband **Michael** and **Elisabeth**. They are all doing fine. Jerri had back surgery a few weeks ago and will have her brace removed in two weeks.

Bud Moody reported that **Ed Panabaker** has some health problems was in the hospital last week and was back at home. Ed worked Design in District 11 and in District 09. He retired to Emmett, Idaho.

Lou Wadsworth has been in the Reno hospital and is back in Bishop.

Terri Lee, Howard's wife, came to Bishop for a short stay with us in May. We picked her up in Long Beach on our way back to Bishop. We had been visiting our grandson, who is in the Navy in San Diego. We had a good time visiting with them.

Ken Cozad and his wife, **Lorraine** stopped by in May. Ken is a Headquarters

Design Reviewer. While Ken was at work, we took Lorraine on a tour of the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest and South Lake and Lake Sabrina.

We saw **Louis** and **Evelyn Yturraspe** at the Swap Meet and also around town. They are going to Idaho for a vacation.

Jerry Gabriel is busy helping at Laws Museum. They are recreating a mill operation that processed gold ore.

— Lance Hinek

The Haps in District 10

Thirty-four were present at the March 31 breakfast meeting at Denny's Restaurant.

Douglas Worley reports that he spent one week in Hawaii at the big island in January and in March he spent a week in Solvang.

Thirty-one souls attended the April 28 breakfast meeting at Denny's Restaurant.

Bob and **Ardyth Biffel** are celebrating their 58th wedding anniversary on May 6. Their daughter **Bonnie's** birthday is the day before on Cinco De Mayo. So to celebrate, Mother and daughter are going to leave the guys behind, and go on a two week Celebrity Cruise from San Francisco to Alaska. An overnight stay in Vancouver, BC, then bus to Seattle. Then an overnight train ride in their own compartment back to Fairfield/Suisun. Hope all will enjoy their two-week vacation. Also to celebrate they are having a family BBQ on the second for birthdays, anniversary and mothers day. Happy mothers day to you all. P.S. Bob's gift is to stay home and have his shop re-roofed!

Twenty-nine were present at the May 26

breakfast meeting at Denny's. **Joy Greenlee** retiree from Central District joined us.

Vern Dorsch says he is finally facing up to old age. He is having to sell his sailboat. He says, "It's like losing my best friend." Vern will still belong to the Stockton Sailing Club. It has been said that during the summer on a Wednesday afternoon when those Delta breezes are blowing, if you show up with a six pack at the Stockton Sailing Club that you'll be



asked to crew on someone's boat.

Bill Selling plays "Taps" at the end of Memorial Day service at Lodi

Memorial Cemetery.

Paul D. Raggio, a long-time District 10 employee, passed away on Sunday, May 25, 2009. Paul was a leadworker in the Altaville area prior to his retirement in 1993.

He was born April 27, 1931 at Granny Minard's Maternity home in Angels Camp to **Dave** and **Louise Valente Raggio**. He and his brother **Peter** were the first set of twins in town. They were welcomed home by big brother **Jimmy**. Paul was the last of that generation. Paul went to work at the Division of Highways in 1948 and retired from the newly named Caltrans in 1993.

He was predeceased by his parents, **Dave** and **Louise** and brothers **Peter** and **Jim**. Survived by his wife of 52 years, **Betty**; sons, **Paul** (Heidi) of Merced and **John** (Clare) of Milton and his "Texas hold em" buddies **Clyde Seeman** and **Georgie Segale** and his wonder dog "**Tip**".

A graduate of Bret Harte High School class of 1950, he served in the Air Force from 1952-1956. In 1972 he became a Councilman for the City of Angels. Serving for 20 years, during that

period he was the Mayor during 1990-1992. After years of retirement he was re-elected in 2000 to present. He was a Board Member and Acting Chairman of the Utica Power Authority, a member of the Angels Gun Club, Native Sons, Figli d' Italia, Calaveras Cattleman's Association, Ducks Unlimited and the National Rifle Association.

He ranched on Red Hill with brother Pete for over 40 years. An avid hunter from a young age, he passed this passion to his sons and grandchildren and enjoyed many hunting trips with friends and family.

He was a small man in stature, but a large man in life. His word was better than any written contract.

— Brian Young

The Haps in District 11

May 12, 2009 was the date set aside for Employee Recognition Day at the District 11 complex. The event was hosted by PECG, CTF, QCC, the District 11 Employees Committee, and Crossroads Café (the on-site cafeteria).

Although numerous awards were given, that which may be nearest and dearest to the hearts of most QCCers is the list of those who have dedicated 25 years' service to Caltrans. Those who were newly named at this gathering for that recognition are as follows:

Siavash Akhgarnia - Engineering

Hazael F. Bagube, Jr. - Mtce.

David E. Bates - Mtce.

David Carlson - Mtce.

Robert "Bob" Corbin - Traffic Ops

Robert L. Cordero - Construction

William J. Crooks – Mtce.
Albert S. Dumas – Mtce.
Maurice Eaton – Planning
Edward Fitzgibbon - Construction
Debbie Fleming – Right of Way
Hector Gracia – Mtce.
John Grisafi – R/W Engineering
Shirley Hautanen - Planning
America Hernandez – PPM
Al Herrera – Mtce.
John Hurtzig – Construction
Aurelio Jimenez – Surveys
John Keener – Mtce.
Vern Klassen - Engineering
Jose N. Lara –Mtce.
Kelly Manring – Materials Lab
Olga L. Mares - Administration
Lydia T. Martinez - TMC
Lori L. McGill - Administration
David Medina – Construction
Hung T. Nguyen - Construction
Pedro Orso-Delgado – District Director
Rosario Ortega – R/W
Marcelo Peinado - Design
Mark Phelan – PPM
Keith Ploettner - Design
Sal Principato – Materials Lab.
Reynaldo Quiambao - Design
Carl Savage – PPM
John Tonarely - Construction
Gary L. Vettese – Engineering
Vemelle Williams – Mtce.
Jon Young – Mtce.

Those of you readers who personally know those listed, please encourage them to "join the club."

Last but not most momentous (say that 10 times quickly), let us commend **Lynn Barton** (our retiree in the spotlight) and **Gary Renfro** of Region I Maintenance for having dedicated 40 years to state service. Congratulations, gentlemen, on this rare accomplishment!

Lynn Barton, who retires July 1, was born in Columbus, Ohio in 1944, where he

and his parents lived for three years. Following that, Lynn's family moved to Fort Worth, Texas, where they lived for another three years; and his brother Mike was born. Then, Lynn's family moved here to San Diego and has been here ever since, where his two sisters, **Sunny** and **Jill**, were born. Lynn's family settled in Clairemont, which was "way out in the sticks" in 1950. He could see people moving cattle at the Genesee/Balboa area. He attended Whittier Elementary School, Marston Middle School and Clairemont High School where he graduated in 1962.



Few employees stay on board long enough to receive a 40 Years of Service Award, but Senior Transportation Engineer Lynn Barton of Traffic Operations passed that landmark last July.

April Fools Day, 1965, launched Lynn on his high adventures with the then California Division of Highways as an Engineering Aid I earning a mere \$362 a month. "No fooling," Lynn said of that time, "It was the highest paying job I'd ever had."

"I absolutely loved the work, the people were good to work with, and I was excited to be here." Lynn went on to say, "I was having so much fun I couldn't believe they were paying me to be here. I should've been paying them!"

Lynn says break times were strict. Employees were allowed 12-minute breaks in the morning and 13 minutes in the afternoon. He said that some bosses would time the breaks and watch employees closely to make sure they didn't come in late or leave early, but after awhile, the offices would loosen up.

"Management would issue an edict every year or so about the break policy and people would toe the line again," Lynn noted.

Lynn started at Caltrans while the long-forgotten Quonset huts on San Diego Avenue were in use, during the renovation of the Juan Street building. "There were no cubicles – just drafting tables or desks. Mostly seniors and up had their own offices," recalled Lynn.

Technology has changed substantially in the last 40 years. Lynn remembered having only one mainframe computer using keypunch cards for the entire office. Calculations were done by hand using a slide rule or an electric adding machine.

There were no fancy color copiers or plotters in those days. Maps had to be colored by hand – often six sets at a time. Lynn is color-blind and had to have someone write the color names or pencil numbers on the maps so that he could complete the task.

Lynn fondly remembers the long ago days of the District Golf Club when employees came together on one Saturday per month to play a round of golf. Lynn was an avid golfer and served several years as the Tournament Chairman. "I got to meet everybody plus play golf – it was pretty nice," he said.

It wasn't always smooth sailing for Lynn. He was laid off in 1976 and used that time to finish his degree in Civil Engineering at San Diego State University and get his Professional Engineers License. He was also class president of Chi Epsilon, the National Civil Engineering Honor Society. He was rehired at Caltrans and put on a two-year rotation program. In the middle of it, he was asked to go on a special assignment to the Metropolitan Transit Development Board, now known as the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), to help design transit stations for the first trolley line from downtown to the U.S.-Mexico border.

After his rotation, he took a promotion at the California Department of Parks and Recreation, where he worked on rebuilding a wooden pier at the San Buena Ventura State Beach and redoing the roof of Will Rogers' home in Will Rogers State Historic Park, with several unique design opportunities not found at Caltrans. His area was the southern third of California. During this time, he met his wife, Beth, at Parks and Recreation.

Lynn transferred back to Caltrans and somehow managed to pull in a Master's Degree in Management from the University of Redlands. He has cruised through most of the district divisions over the years, spending the last 14 in Traffic Operations.

In the mid '90s, Lynn was approached by Headquarters to coordinate a demonstration for the National Automated Highway System Consortium. He was considered the best person for the job because of his diverse background and his many contacts with people inside and outside the Department.

The program involved about a dozen construction projects on the I-15 HOV Lanes. One project was to install the first guidance system of magnets in a state highway. Another was to install the camera system used today by the TMC to monitor the corridor. While freeway construction was being performed, U.C. Berkeley staff were retrofitting cars, semi-trucks and buses under various means of automated driving – no hands and no feet. Roughly 3,000 people from around the world attended the 1997 demonstration. "The District, Caltrans Headquarters, California and the USA received accolades for the demonstration," shared Lynn. He received a Superior Accomplishment Award for his role as Project Manager.

Lynn again finds himself in a high-profile position as the American Disability Act project manager for Traffic Operations,

making sure that the district is in compliance with state and federal ADA standards. He is also the liaison between Caltrans and SANDAG for the I-15 FasTrak program.

Lynn enjoyed serving several years as Committee Chairman for a Boy Scout Troop near his home in Tierrasanta. He has enjoyed flying remote-control airplanes, golf and attending Chargers football games over the years and is looking forward to retirement and being with his wife **Beth** and three sons: **Brian**, 18; **Darren**, 16; and **Steven**, 13, along with their menagerie of pets, including their dog Cricket. He always supports their sons in their activities, including sporting events and other activities. Lynn is also looking forward to spending more time with his active 90-year-old mother, Virginia Barton.

We wish Lynn smooth sailing and clear skies on his July 1, 2009 retirement. He certainly has earned this treasure.

Kathy Phillips

The Haps in Central

Central District's annual Spring Luncheon held on April 23rd was well attended. 75 members enjoyed a delicious luncheon and an informative slideshow about the animals and plant life of the Galapagos Islands presented by **Ken** and **Gerri Wigglesworth**. Lots of colorful creatures inhabit the islands. My personal favorite was the blue-footed booby.

We also wanted to comment on the super job **David** and **Judy Saxby** did handling name tags, meal tickets and the raffle. Everything went so smoothly.

Director **Gary Bush** announced our next gathering will be our 3rd Annual Luau Bar-B-Que at College Greens Swim and Racket Club on Wednesday, September 10th. Start looking now for the perfect attire to win "The Best Hawaiian Outfit" contest!

He writes: "I had the great pleasure of participating in the 25 and 40 year awards ceremony on April 22nd held in Capitol Park. I handed out applications and as a result the Central District welcomes three more new members: **Marsha Mason**, **Sally Yokoi** and **Doug Saathoff** of Construction."

Sady, we lost three members earlier this year: **Bob Bennett**, **Lois Eckhardt** and **Bill Schaefer's** wife, **Virginia**.

The following is the latest news from members who attended our luncheon:

Judy and David Saxby: We spent David's 65th birthday in Maui with friends. His special day was celebrated at Mama's Fish House. If you haven't been there...it's a must!

Louise Ginsberg: Lots of fun things happening where I live in Rocklin. They have wine tasting, a bar-b-que, singles parties, a travel club, and other interesting activities in the next few weeks. Several of us are going on a cruise to Alaska the first part of June. My health is improving and I'm looking forward to some time at sea. I'm enjoying seeing friends at the Spring Luncheon.

Jim and Earlene Borden: In February we joined Jim's brother and wife in El Paso and took the Copper Canyon train tour. A wonderful trip. Just thankful we live in the good ole USA. The end of this month we take our annual trip to Pismo Beach to join retired supervisors from the Equipment Shops throughout the State. In June we have an eight-year-old granddaughter for two weeks. She will be busy! In August we join our whole family (kids and grandkids) for a week on the beach in Santa Cruz. Tired yet? In September we plan on joining **Jack** and **Ann Kassel** for a cruise to Alaska. A wonderful turnout for this luncheon and so glad to see everyone.

Jack and Ellen Derby: We had a great skiing trip to Whistler Mountain in British Columbia in January with our ski club. Jack skied, Ellen partied. The snow was great and the social aspects terrific. We towed the trailer to Ashland, Oregon, in March and visited Jack's niece at her ranch there. Then we drove to Portland and spent a few days with Jack's son, **Craig**. Jack and Craig took in the Master's golf Tournament in April. The course at Augusta, Georgia, is probably the most beautiful in the world. It was a great show!

Poor Kenny Perry.

Charles Chenu: Looking forward to a trip in the spring to the central states and a trip to Australia/New Zealand in the fall.

Dave Crane: Not a whole lot happening to me lately. Haven't been in the hospital for a year and a half! **Beth** and I are going to Colorado in May for our youngest granddaughter's high school graduation. I understand there has been a lot of snow out in the Utah desert, so there should be lots of wildflowers along the way.

Fred Campbell: Good to see lots of old friends. Spent a week on the Island of Kauai. Had cataract surgery on both eyes, can drive without glasses now.

Elizabeth Abersold: I had a wonderful reunion with my son, Michael, and family in Hawaii in December 2008. I am planning a trip to Germany in mid-summer where my son is stationed, near Bavaria. I'll be in Nashville in May for my granddaughter's high school graduation. Hope you all have a great summer.

Alice and Fred Jackson: Spent an overnigher in Yosemite in February. It snowed which made everything very beautiful.

Jack Cropper: Spent the winter at Kihei on Maui in the Hawaiian Islands. Glad to be home.

Gene Berthelsen: Busy, busy with the Sacramento Jazz Festival, (which ran May 22-25) and also with my band, which is gaining popularity by the minute. I've received unfortunate news that my multiple myeloma is returning. It's not serious

yet, but I will start chemotherapy shortly. Several new therapies are available, so I'm pretty confident that I'll be around for awhile yet.

My daughter, Maren, is producing a play in New York City that opens next February. Dad simply must be there for opening night! The recession has struck home: my son lost his job!

Bob Everett: I finally made it to a meeting!

Omar John Pertel: Our family went to Europe last summer on a trip sponsored by Jesuit High School. We started in Prague, Czech Republic, and then traveled through Austria, Germany, Italy, France, Morocco, Gibraltar, and Spain. It was a great trip. We even got a one-week cruise on the Mediterranean. The kids are doing great also at Jesuit High and San Brannon Middle School.

Merle and Adele Larrabee: Great to be here – good party! On the 12th of May, we will leave for a 10-day vacation with **Glen** and **Sharon Rosander**. We will visit for four days in Savannah, Georgia, and then on to St. Augustine, Florida, for three days. We finish with several days in Jacksonville, Florida before coming home.

Glen Rosander: Recently finished and erected a large metal sculpture at the entrance of Elk Grove First Baptist Church. The figure entitled, "I AM" depicts the burning bush with the flame and a cross rising from the center. When Moses encountered God in the wilderness and asked whom he should say sent him to rescue the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, God said to tell them, "I AM" sent me."

Jane and Chuck Pivetti: Alive and well. Jane plays bridge. Chuck rides his bike. We travel. Italy last winter, Southeast Asia in February.

T. George Smith: A fun day to see lots of old (old) friends. Thanks for having this great lunch.

Don Baumgartner: Going to Maui next month.

Susan Swain: Full-time caregiver for 96-year-old mother. I manage to play golf once per week, in addition to lunching with friends.

Gary and Julie Bush: We started the year off with a Mexican Riviera cruise in January. The highlight of that adventure was we were upgraded to a suite! Princess Cruises spoiled us rotten the entire trip. We visited Fort Bragg in March to celebrate Gary's birthday and do a little whale watching.

We're heading for Pacific Grove the end of April to celebrate Julie's birthday and do some more whale watching! In May, we're spending a few days at June Lake. Summer always means Sugarloaf Fine Arts Camp where Julie is the registrar and Gary assists the camp director for two weeks. Julie works on registration and assisting campers from February through July each year. It's a great job and she gets to work from home!

Gary and Julie Bush

Foundation Matters

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION
FOUNDATION

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

The California Transportation Foundation (CTF), since its founding in 1988 as a nonprofit benefit corporation in California, has developed many programs in response to needs expressed by

California transportation agencies and persons. One of these is the annual TRANNY Awards held each year in June at the Sacramento Convention Center. This year's prestigious award, *Person of the Year*, was awarded to **Roger Snoble**, Immediate Past CEO, LA Metro, with winner of *Organization of the Year* going to the San Pedro Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and *Elected Official of the Year* to The Honorable **Ellen Tauscher**, Representative of the 10th Congressional District. District 3 was honored to share the award for *Project of the Year* for the "Fix I-5 Boat Section" project.

Unfortunately at the time of this writing, the other TRANNY Award winners are not known. You may wish to check out Caltrans' Newsletter (www.dot.ca.gov/ctnews) coming out soon for more information on these award winning projects that have made a positive difference for California transportation and the Caltrans' Offices involved in each project.

Also at the June 3rd TRANNY Awards ceremony, Director Will Kempton recognized Caltrans own managers with a special presentation of the Caltrans' 2009 Outstanding Management and Engineering in Transportation Awards. These awards recognize valued contributions to the field of transportation by Caltrans registered engineers and engineering and non-engineering managers.

Ken Terpstra, Principal Transportation Engineer, Toll Bridge, District 4, received the Charles Purcell Award. Ken brings a rare mix of engineering expertise and managerial wisdom to his role as project manager for the San Francisco Oakland Bay Bridge Seismic Safety Projects. After 19 years of service as a Supervising Transportation Engineer, he directed the recent \$800 million retrofit of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge and the \$300 million retrofit of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge's west span.

While Ken has a rich and extensive history as a manager, 2008 was a defining moment for him as he shepherded to completion one of the most complex public work projects in state history. The successful seismic retrofit of the mile long West Approach to the SFOBB is a testament to his leadership. Because the West Approach runs through the heart of a thriving San Francisco commercial and residential district and has heavy traffic volumes (more than 280,000 vehicles daily), the five-year \$450 million project was an extremely complex staging and construction effort. Open communication, which is characteristic of Ken's managerial style, was essential to the project's success.

Ken has always championed communication and cooperation as a critical asset to successful project management. He can often be found on-site, chatting with construction crews and making sure their contributions are recognized and appreciated. That devotion to fostering teamwork has resulted in the successful completion of all projects under his leadership, including the West Approach, one of the most challenging projects in an urban setting ever attempted by Caltrans.

Peter Wong, Supervising Transportation Electrical Engineer, Division of Operations, District 7 received the Karl Moskowitz Award. Peter has worked his entire 31-year career in District 7's Division of Operations, most notably in the Offices of Traffic Design and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). He has been at the forefront of electrical systems design and development and is often referred to as the "chief technologist." He has been involved in hardware and software development for traffic signal controllers since the early 1970s. His software has helped improve traffic safety and travel times and conserves energy and save maintenance costs.

Mr. Wong has been a member of statewide traffic signal committees since the late 1970s

and provided many ideas that have improved California's traffic signal systems. In addition, he was a member of the National Data Dictionary Committee and served on the Caltrans Electrical Management Board.

Peter has been on the leading edge of electrical and technological systems from the start of his career. He has helped Caltrans evolve electronically and technologically to address smarter and more efficient scientific advances to improve congestion and mobility.

Ruby T. Louie, Deputy District Director, External Affairs, District 4 is this year's recipient of the Emerson Rhyner Award honoring her for the vital role she played during two transportation emergencies, the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake and the 2008 MacArthur Maze collapse.

During the Loma Prieta earthquake she was responsible for logistics and personnel support. She was resourceful in providing resources to keep staff and recovery efforts going and organized work shifts to make sure staff received much needed rest.

Ruby was also instrumental during the recovery efforts due to the MacArthur Maze collapse. She immediately coordinated a stakeholders meeting to discuss transit resources, recovery efforts, and alternate commuter routes. She directed audio-visual staff to develop maps and detour information for the public through the web and media. She then began reaching out to businesses affected along the freeway corridors and negotiated parking spaces in mall and church parking lots as well as an unused business center to serve as carpooling and ridesharing meeting spots. Throughout the 26-day recovery she made sure the public, businesses and stakeholders were informed so they could make informed decisions.

KEVIN J. HARPER, Senior Bridge Engineer, Division of Engineering Services won the James E. Roberts Award. Kevin has made

outstanding contributions to the field of bridge engineering in the areas of structural steel, concrete, segmentally constructed bridges, and earthquake engineering throughout his 23-year career. He is widely acknowledged as a leading authority in segmental bridge design.

Over the past two decades, Kevin has made notable contributions to numerous innovative bridge projects critical to the department. One of the major projects is the Marina Viaduct retrofit in San Francisco, one of the first probabilistically based retrofit Caltrans projects. This retrofit, commonplace today, was quite advanced at the time, demonstrating his leadership in advancing "state of the practice" in earthquake engineering. He also played a prominent role in the response to the Loma Prieta and Northridge earthquakes. He was a member of the first response/assessment teams after both earthquakes and served as Project Engineer for the I-5/SR-14 S.W. Connector (steel alternative), arguably the most visible reconstruction project in the aftermath of the Northridge earthquake.

Kevin also contributes to the bridge engineering profession by providing technical expertise as a subject matter expert, both on internal committees and on national issues. He was a contributor to the McGraw-Hill Standard Handbook for Civil Engineers and has presented numerous technical lectures and papers, most recent being to the American Segmental Bridge Institute 2006 convention.

Our congratulations go to Ken, Peter, Ruby, and Kevin as this year's winners of Caltrans' prestigious Manager Awards.

California Transportation Foundation Updates

Transportation Forum

This year's Transportation Forum was held February 28th at the Sacramento Convention

Center. More than 230 persons attended to hear Forum speakers **Director Will Kempton, Art Bauer** (Senate Transportation and Housing Committee), and Honorable **Mike Eng** (Chair of the Assembly Transportation Committee). Topics of the day focused on funding coming from the state budget and the federal stimulus bill, particularly the status of Infrastructure Bond funding and affected STIP projects.

Charity Golf Tournament

The **9th Annual Foundation's Charity Golf Tournament** is being held August 14th this year at the Rancho Murieta Country Club. This premier event gives you the opportunity to help members of the Caltrans community when their need is greatest as well as to have a good time playing one of California's great courses with friends and colleagues. This year's tournament will help support the Foundation's general fund. Check out CTF's website (www.transportationfoundation.org) for registration forms and more information on the Tournament.

New Caltrans CTF Liaison

Caltrans Director **Will Kempton** has formed a new Caltrans/CTF Liaison Committee to enable Caltrans and the foundation to work on future projects and events that will benefit Caltrans employees. The foundation is represented by **Heinz Heckeroth** (Executive Officer) with Board Members **Hollie Gregory** (Parsons Engrg.), **Carolyn Ewing** (The Ewing Group/former Caltrans Manager), **Martin Kiff** (Caltrans Retired) and **Don Watson** (Caltrans Retired). Caltrans representatives include: **Rick Land** (Chief Engineer), **Jody Jones** (District Director 3), **Malcolm Dougherty** (District Director 6), **Susan Hogg** (Deputy Director,

Administration), and **Tamie McGowen** (Assistant Deputy Director, Public Affairs).

The foundation's service programs that support Caltrans-sponsored conferences and events and employee activities were discussed at a recent meeting. Of special concern was the encouragement in the districts to hold 25/40-year Employee Recognition events involving participation by Caltrans, the foundation and the Quarter Century Club (QCC). These events are excellent opportunities for the QCC to recruit employees when they become eligible for membership.

Foundation Assistance Grants

During the first quarter of 2009 the Foundation was able to assist the families of five Caltrans employees with a total of approximately \$7,300 in grants from the **Workers Assistance and Memorial Program**. CTF was also pleased to assist the **Caltrans Research and Innovation Division** with a special \$500 grant to cover incidental costs of co-hosting 11 European Research Engineers. This grant comes from the **Awards and Recognition Program**.

For further information on all of the Foundation's activities and programs, you may wish to visit CTF's website at www.transportationfoundation.org.

— Kathy Freeman

In Memoriam

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

Name	District	Date
Jody Hulbutt	01	January 2009
R. P. Laird	02	February 22, 2009
Eddie Ansley	03	April 20, 2009
Elizabeth Betournay	03	May 19, 2009
Gordon Foster	03	May 12, 2009
Ralph Jensen	03	April 9, 2009
Jim Howard	03	May 30, 2009
Darell McWhirk	03	2009
Bobbie Stiles	03	April 7, 2009
Sam Duncan	05	April 4, 2009
Ralph Jester	05	April, 2009
Bernard "Bick" Moe	05	May 8, 2008
J. B Popnoe	05	April 21, 2009
Bill Cumutte	06	May 29, 2009
Del Luttrell	06	May 29, 2009
Robert Kindred	08	May 26, 2009
Paul D. Raggio	10	May 25, 2009
Bob Bennett	cen	2009
Lois Eckhardt	cen	2009
Virginia Schaefer	cen	2009

Events

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

District I -

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

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*

Annual Fall Luncheon and meeting will be held on September 17 at 2:30 pm at the Train Station Café in Shingle Springs, Social hour underway at 1:00 pm, meeting at 2:00 pm.

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 9:00 am on the third Wednesday in March and September at the Waffle House on Route 68 in Lindsay. *Contact: DonPhillips, (559) 781-2057.*

Annual Spring Luncheon will be Thursday, May 7 at Yosemite Falls Café located at 4278 West Ashlan Ave in Fresno.

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@prodgy.net*

District 8 -

Contact: Marsha Lotze, 760-247-2119, milotze12@verizon.net

District 9 -

Contact Larce 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.*

Central District -

Third Annual Luau Barbecue, Wednesday, September 10, College Greens Swim and Racket Club. Social Hour – 4 pm.

Dante Club Holiday Luncheon Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd, Sacramento December 9, 11am
 Contact: Gary Bush, 530-642-8208, zbusharosa@wildblue.net

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