



Budget Crisis Eases

THANKS TO THE GOOD GUYS

From the Corner Pocket

You are holding a small miracle in your hand, the revived and enlarged version of the QCCer, back from the brink.

Thanks to some very generous members we feel confident that we can keep the next three editions of this year's QCCer at an appropriate size. Thanks to **Paul Hensley**, District 4 has returned its unused funds, giving us a much-needed and appreciated windfall.

Generous contributions came from members like **Donald Belden**, who sent along an extra "Cleveland." He worked in Districts 3, 8, and 10, and retired from District 9, (23 years now) as a Superintendent after 31 years.

Robert Myers of District 1 and **Alan Rordorf** of District 4 sent extra "Franklins" to help support the QCC through these tough times. Thanks to these outstanding gentlemen for stepping up to fill the need without being asked. Do we have a roster in the "QCC Hall Of Fame" for heroes such as these?

Positive actions by such outstanding people give me hope in these trials. Trying to estimate what changes might be needed and the effects that the changes would have on our membership and finances was a bit shaky.

Would the membership support the dues increase, or reject it? Would any drop out?



How many might choose an E-Newsletter? How would the changes affect our budget? All we could do was to make some 'best guesses' and hope for the best outcome.

I failed to give a date for the end of balloting on the proposed changes to the QCC constitution, so let's make it July 1, 2010. It still gives you more time to talk it over, send in your vote and for our Secretary, **Ron Lesan**, to pull together a ballot-counting team to make the results clear before next year when it will take effect, if approved.

If you use email and are looking to recruit new members, the web page – <http://www.dot.ca.gov/ctnews/jan10/retirements.shtml> – will get you to the Caltrans State newsletter listing of those earning their 25-year awards and the 120 employees who retired in December of last year. If you change the month and year you can look at any edition for the past several years. When you see an old friend listed, give them a call and sign up a new member. For confidentiality, no contact info is provided, but if the person is still working, you can connect to –

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/cgi-bin/addrbook.pl> and enter the name of any employee and get their email address to send them congratulations with an application to join.

And if you had received this newsletter as email, those addresses would be active links.

— Butch Biendara, your QCC President

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Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Thanks, everyone—it has been helpful that most people now make checks payable to Quarter Century Club. So far the bank hasn't refused QCC, but it does when checks are made to my or one of the directors' names—B of A's policy doesn't allow deposit of two-party checks.

It has been a struggle for me this past year to learn the duties of the secretary/treasurer, mostly because of lack of experience with data processing on the computer, but also I'm older, slower, and beginning to experience failing eyesight. I'm being scheduled for a stress test and maybe various other analyses by my cardiologist - - - I'm careful to heed his advice, he's been keeping me alive since my first heart attack 26 years ago.

Further, my wife has been laid low by devastating illness. She underwent surgery for colon cancer last June and has had to fight through several episodes of chemotherapy

since October. She still must have surgery and then radiation treatments.

In spare moments between posting dues checks, making deposits at the bank and updating the QCCer mailing list, I've been giving some thought to the need for organizing the club's materials that are in my hands and preparing some instructions for the next person who will take this job. It occurs to me that if I were to drop dead, things would be in an awful mess.

The duties are sketchily laid out in our constitution but I hope to prepare a guide to explain the "what," "how" and "when" of the job, the equipment to do the chores, and organized files to provide a paper trail at least for the period when I've kept the records.

Take it from me, the first or second quarter of the year is no proper time for a secretary/ treasurer to break in—we can thank the lousy weather for the fact that I've been as productive as I have. We've had the greatest number of continuous stormy, rainy, foggy, nasty days since 1939. I couldn't do yard work or spade the garden or clip the dogs or paint the trim or mow the lawn or ride my Harley—so I've stayed in my cellar office and tended to QCC business. I'm slow and inefficient. It would go much faster for a typist.

The constitution requires among other things that the secretary prepare ballots and later make the count for "annual" elections of club officers. There's been some talk about "getting back in agreement with requirements in the constitution."

O.K., so now maybe you get the drift of this belabored column. I'm vacating this position soon. If, in the June newsletter some progress is reported about going forward with elections this year, then ballots must be included with the September QCCer. The count will be reported in the December issue. As secretary I feel obligated to see the process to the end of this year, and even hold over until the new officers select a new secretary/treasurer.

However, if a nominating committee isn't

formed, or if nobody is willing to run for office, then I will ask to be relieved of my position by the end of September. The current ballot measure is moving along apace. I have a bushel basket of ballots and more coming in each week. A sneak peek indicates easy passage of all proposals—I'll report the actual count in June.

*Respectfully submitted, Ron Lesan,
Secretary/Treasurer*

In Memoriam

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

Name	District	Date
Lloyd Norman	01	January 27, 2010
Edward Nott	02	2010
Jack Adkisson	03	February 22, 2010
Bob Scamara	05	February 27, 2010
Mike Lofstrom	06	December 24, 2009
Richard Hovsepian	06	December 3, 2009
Dick DeRosa	07	February 17, 2010
Mary White	07	December 26, 2009
Melody Keefer	08	February 10, 2010
James Winter	08	November 26, 2009
Thomas Meacham	09	December 11, 2009
Evdyn Stepler	09	January 18, 2010
Evdyn Taylor	09	January 22, 2010
Manuel "Taki" Saiz	10	February 7, 2010
Albert "Bert" Claik	10	February 13, 2010
Robert Kreidt	11	2010

Voted?

Have you sent your ballot regarding the currently proposed constitutional changes to Ron Lesan? Better do so before the July 1.

The Haps in District 1

I have to start with the strong earthquake here in Eureka in January that knocked stuff off shelves in businesses, broke lots of chimneys and some windows, and knocked a few houses off foundations. We felt lucky that our house came through ok, with only a few things broken even though a lot hit the floor.

That happened the same day we had the funeral service and a family gathering for my nephew, who died in December. My sister (his mother) was here from Stockton, my son from Arizona and my nephew's daughter from Sacramento. What an end to a very sad day.

With the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile, we feel very fortunate. Our hearts go out to the people of both countries as they struggle to get their lives back.

On January 25, I attended the district supervisors' staff meeting and had a chance to update them on the California Transportation Foundation, encourage membership in QCC, and let them know that we have district and statewide history committees seeking items no longer used but of historic importance.

Jim and Linda Boyd made it over the mountains from Redding in February. We had a nice visit and lunch at Gonsea. They were also here over the New Year to help celebrate friends' 50th wedding anniversary.

We have a new District QCC member. **Ed Scott**, one of our retired engineers, recently joined. I see him at our Pioneer group and the Aviation Society. Welcome aboard, Ed.

Rick Knapp keeps busy. We often see him riding his bike. He is the contact person for the Humboldt Bay Bicycle Commuters Association. As District Director, he encouraged bicycling and helped get bike lanes. It is a wonderful means of transportation. It saves money and makes for good exercise. That can't be beat.

I got a call from **Larry Bowermaster** informing me that **Lloyd Norman** passed away January 27. He had retired from District I as an engineer. The notices do not always make the papers, so thank you, Larry, for letting us know. Our deep condolences go out to Lloyd's family and friends.

Our District Director, **Charlie Fielder**, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the United Way of Humboldt County. Our employees have been generous contributors to the United Way right from the start. Congratulations, Charlie.

George Otterbeck stays busy. He traveled to visit family over Christmas and moved a family member out of Sacramento State to home, then to Pomona to attend UC Pomona. I am sure several of us can relate to those days of helping young people move, but when it comes to their education it's worth it.

I do appreciate getting news to share. My email is ahartin@suddenlink.net.

—Arlene Hartin

The Haps in District 2

Shirley Shoup and **June McLean** have been off to Nevada once again on a bingo excursion. Unfortunately, they returned without the gold ring this trip, but insist they had a "GREAT" time!

Bill and **Michelle Belcher** were greeted with bad news over the holidays. Michelle (formerly Curler) was diagnosed with Stage 5 renal failure. They are now dealing with the regimen of dialysis treatments and going through the process of gaining acceptance into the transplant recipient list for a new kidney. They hope you will all think positive thoughts for her during this journey.

—Bill Belcher

The Haps in District 3

Brad and **Jolene Owens** took a 13-day Panama Canal cruise on the Celebrity Infinity in late November. **Chuck** and **Pat Miller** joined them on an itinerary that took them from San Diego to Fort Lauderdale with stops at Cabo San Lucas, Puerto Vallarta, and Puerto Caldera, and Costa Rica, Cristobal, Panama and Cartagena, Colombia. Interesting side trips included the Scarlet Macaw Sanctuary in Costa Rica; the port, fortress and Old City of Cartagena and tours of the city and canals of Fort Lauderdale and the Panama Canal—the highlight of the trip. Brad says the ship and crew were great and the food and entertainment first class. "The weather was perfect and we really had a fun cruise with the Millers."

Betty Emmons writes, "We're eager to get back to Washington, although we're enjoying our winter in Parker, Arizona. We've made three two-night trips Laughlin. No big wins on the machines though. One time we met friends from our high school days who were heading to Washington to their home in the mountains there.

"I enjoy pool aerobics Monday, Wednesday and Friday unless the weather is bad. line dance Tuesday and Thursdays here at our resort. Everett and play bingo and we go to Blue Water Casino at least once/week. Everett is also working on his carving of animals. Looks like we're going to miss the spring get-together this year. We will probably be in Yuba City March 28 or 29 as we pass through going north. Hope to see many of you on our way north."

Dan Johnson is offering a new jalapeno hot sauce in addition to his award-winning gourmet barbeque sauce. The sauce will be introduced officially to the public at the Annual Home and Garden Show at the Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds on March 26-28. Dan invites

members to stop by his booth for a free sample.

We are sorry to hear of the passing of **Edward Nott**, who worked for the Division of Highways/Caltrans in Marysville for many years before retiring as an Associate Environmental Planner. Ed was instrumental in the environmental clearance of the Sacramento Light Rail system and was personally invited to take the first ride on the train. Attempts to contact members of his surviving family have been unsuccessful.

With regret we announce the passing of **Jack Adkisson** on February 22. He worked as a Civil Engineer with Caltrans for 39 years. Jack was a veteran of the United States Army 82nd Airborne, serving his country from 1948 to 1952.

Jack loved the water and built his own houseboat. He was an avid water skier, teaching many adults and children the sport. In addition to his expertise in water skiing he also loved to snow ski. Jack also liked to hunt.

He is survived by **Sharon**, his wife of 57 years, and two daughters, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Make your plans for District 3's Spring Party, which will be held at the Peach Tree Country Club on April 11th starting with a social hour at 1 pm, a business meeting at 2 pm with lunch served at 2:15. Invitations will arrive in your mailbox the first part of March. We hope to see you there.

The annual Placerville Area Spring Luncheon will be held Tuesday, April 13th at 2:30 pm at the Train Station Cafe in Shingle Springs, same as last fall. Guests may choose from (1) hot roast beef sandwich, (2) spaghetti, or (3) chicken and dumplings, each \$6.95 per plate with drink, tax and tip extra. Individual checks will be issued at the luncheon, so no advance money will be required. The cafe is located on Mother Lode Drive (Old Route 50). 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 railroad tracks and you'll see the café about 300 yards on the right, adjoining the community park.

New attendees may make reservations by calling **Doug Becker** (530) 622-1665 or **Gerry Hamm** (530) 622-8030. Prior attendees will be contacted a week in advance for an attendance estimate for the café. The luncheon is open to all Caltrans retirees and guests.

Everyone enjoys a chance to talk over old times, so come out and join us.

— Dan Johnson, Sr. and Susanna Ford

The Haps in District 4

Don Barreau dropped me a note to let everyone know that he's still alive and kicking and enjoying the QCCer every quarter. He enjoys reading about the doings of his old friends mentioned in each issue.

Speaking of which, I am fully up to date now in this digital age! I'm on line finally. My e-mail address is hphensley@gmail.com. so if there's any news you like to have included in the quarterly QCCer, please e-mail me. I'm sure there are others like Don who would enjoy hearing what everyone is doing.

The only thing is you'll have to be a little patient with me while I reacquire my computer skills. I don't have a computer technician on hand as I did at the district office to correct my errors and set me back on the right path when I've gotten lost in Cyberspace. I'm trying to setup a wireless network in my house so I'm not sure yet where everything will end up and in what shape!

Anne Hohener and my wife, **Niki**

Hensley, went to a Christmas Boutique at **Bob and Pat Jacobs' Church**. There they ran into **Wynn Halligan** and her friends from Marin County. They enjoyed lunch together at the boutique. My wife particularly enjoyed herself since the Boutique featured handcrafted items for sale and she proceeded to empty her wallet.

On a personal note our oldest daughter has announced she will be getting married in October.

Ed Coble hosted his annual Christmas luncheon at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco. It was nice to see **Bob** and **Barbra Jahrling** up and about again. The Caltrans ladies were glad to see **Karen Coble** again. Karen has been missing the Ladies' monthly luncheons because she is spending a lot of time with her granddaughter, Kathryn.

—Paul Hensley

The Haps in District 5

Happy Spring. Hope you made it through the winter weather without harm. Thanks to everyone who renewed their QCC membership, and a special thanks to those who made an extra contribution to help our financial situation. Your gifts are much appreciated.

All retirees should be on the lookout for three initiatives being circulated for signature and urge your friends and family not to sign. These potential ballot measures wouldn't affect current pensions and benefits, but they could reduce pension and health care benefits for future retirees. Also, they open the door for more aggressive attacks in. Two measures are sponsored by the California Foundation for Fiscal Responsibility, founded by former Assemblyman Keith Richman. The third is being circulated by pension critic John Romano.

The Caltrans District 5 Holiday BBQ in December was a big success. Although fewer attended than in previous years, Trinity Hall echoed with conversation as attendees visited with friends and coworkers. We enjoyed a wonderful meal prepared by **Bill Fieldhouse** and his able assistants **Fred Brebes, Alex Woolworth, John Fischer, Dick Foge, Herb Filipponi, John Maddux, Richard Gonzales, Forrest Robertson, and Vince Zorn**. Most of this group has been cooking together for 25 years!! District Director **Rich Krumholz** recognized the 40+ retirees who attended. He also congratulated district employee **Brandon Akers** who had received the Silver Medal of Valor for providing emergency assistance to a Fish and Game employee last June. Several gift baskets provided by the Deputy Directors were raffled, along with BBQ steak.

We haven't acquired much news from members in the last few months. Guess we have been staying closer to home, between doctor visits. We did get a chance to visit with some of Bob's former coworkers at a recent lunch in Morro Bay. I shared a sunny window seat with **Mrs. Linda (RJ) Brown and Virginia Bieber**, who was a guest. Virginia looks great, and she keeps in touch with **Betty and Pink Strampe** and occasionally sees **Betty Hohensee**. We reminisced about the stray dog named "CT" that Virginia rescued years ago during the big flood.

We found ourselves across the aisle from **Dick and Sandy Elliott** one morning at the Budget Café, a favorite local eatery. I highly recommend the baked oatmeal with fresh fruit.

Bill and Faith Fieldhouse are looking forward to a Panama Canal Cruise with family and friends later in March.

Shirley and Larry Kathary are traveling in their RV for a few months, along with their dog Missy. Last we heard, they were in New Mexico and would be heading east. The first two weeks were spent enjoying

the warm weather down in Mexico with their camper club.

Mike Thompson will retire soon from Information Services, and we hope to attend the festivities at the SLO Veterans Building on March 30.

Please think good thoughts for **Joan McGrath's** husband **John** and for **Marilyn Ross**, both of them recovering from surgery. Also, please remember **Myrt Bullock** who has been fighting cancer and is under Hospice care.

As I was writing this, we received a call from **RJ Brown**, saying that **Robert "Bob" Scamara** had passed away February 27. Our thoughts are with his wife **Lois** and family. We will tell you more about Bob in the next issue.

—Kathleen Copeland

The Haps in District 6

Many of us meet the first Monday of every month at the Santa Fe Restaurant at 3110 N Maroa Ave, south of Shields. It's \$11 and you pay at the bar for the Borders Table before they ring the bell for family style at 12:30. All are welcome to join us.

"Mike" Lofstrom died December 24, 2009, with his wife and daughters at his side.

He was born July 12, 1920 to Swedish immigrants John and Ingrid Lofstrom. He graduated from the University of Minnesota as a civil engineer before



serving three years in the Pacific during WW II as a Naval Ordinance Officer.

In 1948 Mike moved to Fresno to work for the Division of Highways on a survey party in the Kettleman Hills and later became a project and design engineer. He designed Route 99 through Bakersfield and later designed and was a resident engineer for Highway 152 in Los Banos area.

Mike met his soulmate **Beverly Gilliam** in 1949, and they were married 60 wonderful years. He loved golf, bowling and horse racing. He adopted Fresno State sports with a passion, but his biggest love and passion was his family. He operated a Baskin Robbins franchise from 1966 to 1981. He loved to travel on cruises, tours...anywhere!

We'll miss Mike's sense of humor and happy nature. A joy to live with, he was a loving husband and father.

He is survived by his wife **Beverly**; his son, Michael; his daughters, **Loralyn** and **Janice**; granddaughters **Emily Knutinen** and **Jennifer Innocenti** and her husband **Aldo** and many other family members and nieces and nephews.

Richard Hovsepian was born in

Chicago August 12, 1922, to **Alice** and **Harry Hovsepian**, moving to Fresno after high school. His college education was interrupted for three years by service in World War II - Intelligence Unit attached to the U.S.



Army Air Corps in the Pacific Theater.

After the war, Mr. Hovsepian returned to Fresno State College where he was a starting third baseman on the Bulldog varsity baseball team. He graduated with a degree in civil engineering. He married **Ann Mooradian** in 1951. He worked for the U.S. Bureau of

Reclamation, and was later employed by Caltrans for 31 years before retiring in 1984.

A longtime member of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church, he was a past president of the Men's Forum and member of the Board of Trustees. Retirement years were spent traveling and ballroom dancing with his wife, enjoying his involvement in the SIRS organization, and working with animal welfare groups to help homeless cats and dogs.

Richard was a gentle, generous man with a great sense of humor. He died December 3, 2009, survived by his devoted wife **Ann** of 58 years; daughters **Beverly Hovsepian** and **Linda Biggers**.

— Terry Littleton

The Haps in District 7

Reunited . . . Feels so good . . . Shrimp Tempura or sushi anyone?! **Doris Nakamura** picked a great venue at the Miyako Inn in Downtown Los Angeles' Little Tokyo area for our Annual Holiday Luncheon in December. **Frank Quan**, Traffic Division Chief, did a great job as guest speaker. **Butch Biendra**, Statewide QCC Director, was on hand to encourage our membership and offer QCC commemorative watches for purchase. Our gift exchange and centerpieces of pine cone and red velvet were a hit. About 50 attended, including **Tom and Linda Almany, Jean and Julia Amster, Fred and Irene Bonilla, Walt Bowman, Maria and John Buntrock, Fred Cubillas, Millie Goble, Mack and Betty Hunter, Paul and Maxine In, Mary and Carlos Jaramillo, Marie Martin, Chuck Mathews, Ken Miller, Doris Nakamura, George and Larry Ornay, Al Reece, Judy and Dennis Reynolds, Bob Sassaman, Carol Schumaker, Marie and Jim Smiley, Dick Smith,**

Kirsten and Stewart Stahl, Gus and Judy Sulaitus, and Bob Walters.

Apologies to anyone I missed...

More than a reunion: If an annual reunion is not enough for you, then the monthly meeting of the **Tom Fera Lunch Group** may be just what you need. The group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month except December. The calendar for the next several months is below:

March 10, China Olive Restaurant:
9224 Reseda Boulevard, Northridge, CA 91324; (818) 998-3688

April 14: Joselito's West Mexican Restaurant; 7308 Foothill Boulevard, Tujunga, CA 91042; (818) 951-2275

May 12, 2010 Steer N' Ale Restaurant; 3644 E. Foothill Boulevard, Pasadena, CA 91107; (626) 796-2278

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

The Only Thing Constant Is... If you answered, "CHANGE", you'd be right! New director, new acting deputies: here's the news for now:

Mike Miles is the our new District Director, replacing **Rick Land**, who returns to Sacramento as Chief Engineer and Deputy Director, Project Delivery.

Duncan McIntosh, Deputy District Director Administration, introduced our new director this way: "Mike, who has been the Deputy Director for the Maintenance and Operations Program for the past four years, started with the Department in 1989. **Mike** has experience in most major program areas in the department. His previous assignments include District 7 Maintenance Division Chief, Division Chief of Planning, and District Permits Engineer and Project Manager in District 8, as well as Acting Division Chief of Maintenance, in Sacramento."

Raja Mitwasi, formerly Chief Deputy Director for District 7, is the newly appointed

Chief of the Southern Regional Laboratory. **Rick Land** writes of **Raja**, "I am pleased to announce the appointment of **Raja Mitwasi** as the Southern Regional Laboratory (SRL), in Fontana, part of Project Delivery's Division of Engineering Services, Materials Engineering and Testing Services. The SRL will provide regional materials engineering and testing services to Districts 7, 8 and 12 starting in 2010/2011."

Replacing **Raja** as Interim Chief Deputy for District 7 effective March 1, 2010, is **Terry Abbott**. **Mike Miles** writes, "**Terry** has more than 25 years of varied Caltrans experience [and] has also served as the Division Chief for Local Assistance for more than eight years. He holds a Civil Engineering degree from California State University, Sacramento. Terry will serve as Interim Chief Deputy Director for a period of three to four months."

ASCE Commissions Plaque for District Museum . . . A plaque to commemorate the Marilyn Jorgenson Reece Memorial Interchange will soon hang in the District 7 Museum.

Andy Machen, P.E. Chair of the ASCE-LA History and Heritage Committee and District 8 Caltrans Engineer, writes, "I received the Marilyn Jorgenson Reece plaque from the plaque-maker and it's a masterpiece! I delivered it to **Carmen Roberts**, District 7 Facilities Director, and she will have DGS hang it on the Transportation Museum wall. It weighs about 110 pounds, and will be sure it doesn't topple the wall."

Speakers at the March 4 dedication ceremony were **Michael Miles**, Director, Caltrans District 7, **Kathy Caldwell**, P.E.,



President-Elect American Society of Civil Engineers and **Sutida Bergquist**, P.E., President, Professional Engineers in California Government Los Angeles Section. Reece family members, including **Alvin Reece**, **Kirsten Stahl** and **Anne Bartolotti**, assisted with the unveiling. The ceremony was timely for **Al Reece**, who celebrated his 86th birthday on Friday; since Friday was a furlough day, and the Office was closed, Thursday would have to do.

Many thanks go to **Andy Machen** for his perseverance, the History and Heritage committee for its dedication to the effort, and **Chuck O'Connell** who tracked the progress, each step of the way.

More Marie Alaska Adventure. . .

Because **Marie Martin's** adventures in Alaska were extensive and space for publication was limited, here is the second installment... Since we recently enjoyed the winter Olympics, here is Marie's personal take on the sport of curling, "Curling is sort of bocce on ice. You grab a "stone" that is made of marble and has a handle like a teapot, and attempt to hit someone else's stone with it. When the team members asked if anyone would like to try, naturally I raised my hand. You step out on the ice; they put one shoe on you that has a Teflon sole, then you put your other foot onto a little rubber ramp. By now the Teflon foot is sliding out in all directions and the other foot is skidding off the ramp, then you crouch down, grab the stone, launch yourself forward with the ramp foot, flatten yourself down on the ice as far as you can, and skid along until you run out of momentum at which point you push the stone away... then you fall over."

"We saw the Alaska Pipeline, which is huge and sits on H-shaped supports that separate the hot pipe from the permafrost and allow it to slide around in earthquakes. We went to the Poker Flat Missile Range. Since the Range was established, more than 1,500 meteorological rockets and 236 major high-

altitude sounding rocket experiments have been launched to conduct atmospheric research on the aurora, solar protons and electronics, magnetic fields, and infrared, ultraviolet and X-rays."

"When I lunched with the Astrophysicist **Rosaly** and our Fearless Leader **Nansen**, (great-great-grandnephew of **Fridjof Nansen** who, along with Roald Amundsen in the ship Fram, was the first man to go to both north and south poles) she told us about her son, now 14, progeny of two Jet Propulsion Lab scientists and a predictable techie. He's been on computers since he could walk. One day when his mom took him into a pet shop and was exclaiming over a cute white mouse, he asked, "Is that called a mouse too?" On another occasion, his mom was telling him that we didn't always have computers. The son asked, "Then how did you get on the Internet?" Boggles the mind doesn't it?

Birthday Bash for Bob Pauly at 90. . . Victor Zengler, Senior Transportation Engineer in Materials attended a 90th birthday bash in San Dimas for his longtime friend and former co-worker, Bob Pauly.



In the group picture, Bob Pauly, 90, front and center, is the guest of honor.

Recent Sightings and Retirements . . . Despite furloughs and layoff of most annuitants, **Ed Nahabedian** is still in the thick of legal work for the State – he was spotted in the District Office, but can't reveal any more details.

Pat and **Mike Perovich** were enjoying some fish on Sunday at **Al Reece's** favorite haunt, the Sea Fare Inn, in East Whittier.

Oscar Janeway was spotted a few hours

earlier. Proprietor **Gary**, of Milhouse fame, was amazed at how many of "us" there are.

Maria Quinonez, Office Chief of Design C, reported that **Bob Branch**, another former Materials employee, was recently recognized for his volunteer service with the Upland Police Department.

Doña Sukhmandan of West Region Maintenance, announced the retirement celebration for **Kit Flom** after 42 Years of State Service on February 26 at Joe's Crab Shack. Congratulations Kit!

Alan Kato raced off to his retirement celebration after 39 years of State Service on December 17 at the Acapulco Restaurant in Downey.

Joseph Brazil of Governmental Affairs, celebrated his retirement December 30 after 29+ years of service, with coffee, cake and jazzy music. Other retirees present included **Cheryl Powell, Roy Dilworth, Stewart Stahl, and Sim Green.**

Be like Marie, Marie, Cheryl and Chuck . . . Do stay in touch. Send 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.

The Road Last Traveled . . . Marie Smiley reports the passing of **Dick DeRosa**. The short writeup in the Los Angeles Times indicated, "Former Caltrans engineer passes away, born December 28, 1931 and passed away February 17, 2010."

Cheryl Powell reports the passing of retired Planning employee, **Mary White**, on December 26 after a long illness. "Mary was a sweet person and a dear friend." She is survived by her daughter, **Yolanda White. Sharon Haywood**, of South Region reports on the passing of **Lonzie Douglas**. Services were held at the Inglewood Cemetery Chapel on December 23, 2009.

While we figure out who will become our QCC Director, **please send DUES (checks), membership applications and honorary member status**

information, to Statewide QCC Secretary/Treasurer **Ron Lesan**, P.O. Box 215, Victor, CA 95253-2548. You can still reach **Tom Almany** directly at 17200 South Stark Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90701-1822.

Wake up . . . Don't be shy! We want to hear your happy news - send items to **Kirsten**, or all you will get is sad news.

— Kirsten Stahl

The Haps in District 8

Sixty-eight members and guests attended District 8's annual Christmas Luncheon, our largest in many years, at the Gourmet in San Bernardino December 5. Those attending included **Erma Aldape, Clara Aldape, Andy and Kay Anderson, Evie Anderson and Kirk Otteson, Jim Balcom, Loren and Margaret Barnett, Mary Bermudez, Melba Berry, Dennis Blakkolb, Morgan Choae, Gil and Jeanette Daab, Hal Durian, Barbara Duggins, John and Doris Estrada, Les Franz, Carolina Gonzales, Angela Hall, Hal and Pat Herring, Steven Harte and Lyn Killian, Paul and Mary Kirst, Jim and Pam Landfried, Frank Lehr, Stan and Ina Lisiewicz, Dick and Hazel Longstreet, Marsha Lotze, Phosie Lotze, Gerry Lunt, Jim Moore, Les and Barbara Nolte, Ernie and Kay Parke, Tom and Bonnie Powell, Lloyd and Alice Patterson, Bob Redden, Virginia Reed, Mary Reeder, Donna Rodriguez, Bill and Ann Rogers, Melba Saucier, Taylor and Katie Smith, Don and Eudene Troy, Roy Smoot and Marjorie**

Bruhn, Ken Steele, Grace Vinzens, Robert and Hannah Viveros, Gilbert and Sheryl Wilcox, and Don Weaver. Jim and Jan Geller cancelled because of a death in the family and **Beverly Swilley** had a family member ill.

Winners of the \$25 cash drawings were **Sheryl Wilcox, Mary Kirst, Kay Parke and Stan Lisiewicz**, who donated his winnings back to QCC.

We hope those not able to attend will note the friends they missed visiting with if they'd been able to attend. Please plan to attend our December, 2010 Christmas Luncheon at the end of this year. Currently it is planned for the first Saturday in December if all goes well.

Our current President, **Taylor Smith** and Secretary/Treasurer **Marsha Lotze**, were reelected.

Joe Potwardowski has returned from his home in Michigan in time to enjoy our California weather.

Bob Pond reports that all is well in Novato and that he would enjoy hearing from his District 8 friends.

Taylor and Katie Smith spent Christmas with their daughter and family in Manassas, Virginia. When they landed at Dulles Airport there was 30 inches of snow on the ground so they enjoyed a White Christmas. On February 10th their daughter reported 54 inches of snow on the ground – an all time record for Washington, D.C.

Unfortunately, due to budget issues, present Caltrans employees are taking three furlough Fridays a month, which has had a drastic affect on the monthly paycheck.

We're sorry to report that long time QCC member **Connie Keefer's** daughter **Melody** passed away in her sleep on February 10, following a short illness. She is survived by two sons, **Timothy** and **Steven**. Many years ago Melody was very active with her mother and father in the Caltrans Bowling League. All our thoughts and

prayers are with **Connie and Carl** in this time of great sorrow and sadness.

Retired Caltrans Transportation Engineer (District Sign Coordinator) **James Winter**, 64, passed away Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2009. Jim's career began in Surveys; he transferred to the Division of Traffic Operations in 1994 and worked there until retiring in 2007. Services were held at Desert View Memorial Park and Mortuary in Victorville. A gravesite military 21 Gun Salute Service was also held.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Jim's family.

— Marsha Lotze

The Haps in District 9

Because winter is in full swing, we aren't venturing out much. We did attend our grandson's college graduation ceremonies in Sacramento on December 19. The weather cooperated, so we made it "over the hill" and back home again without any problems. Sacramento State uses Arco Arena, as they require quite a large facility to handle all the students and their families.

We attended the Coleville High School's playoff football game in Reno last November for Nevada State champions -- they had won all their league games, but unfortunately they lost in the playoff.

Clint Hershey and **Joe Sam**, also retired CT folks, attended the game.

From **Chuck Carter** – "**Penny** and had a terrific, six-week, 4,500-mile, motorhome trip this past summer. Traveled through northern California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, and on into Canada. We visited Banff and Lake Louise national parks, both very beautiful. Then we traveled through British Columbia and back into Washington to

spend some time with our daughter in Vancouver. We then spent several days on the beautiful Oregon coast, then on home in Bishop."

Chuck says he is enjoying another great year of skiing on Mammoth Mountain, looking forward to a "free pass" next year, as he will turn 80 in May of this year. He is also getting in some golf in Bishop.

I got a letter from **Bob Watkins**, District 09 Director in the 1980s: "All is well with us. **Janet** and have been married 56 years on the recent Groundhog Day and will be 80 on my next birthday. We took two weeks off from our volunteer work to attend a grandson's wedding in Denver two days before Christmas. Our travels to visit grandkids, great-grandkids and friends took us 5000 miles through nine states in the face of December Midwestern storms, all without any mishaps. But it did convince me that summer traveling is better for old folks. I still ride my bike on 50-mile runs and hiked 20 miles on my most recent birthday. As always, life is good."

From **Harold Jones**: "Pretty good winter so far -- glad we've had quite a bit of moisture, but need a lot more yet before winter ends. We still have some snow in the shady areas of our yard -- sort of a "timed release" form of moisture now!!

Guess you may have heard, we lost three retirees recently. **Becky Turner** (widow of **Ralph Turner**, retired Lead Worker at Conway Summit Yard, passed away in Fernley on December 18, 2009. **Evelyn Stepler** (widow of **Fred Stepler**, retired Assistant Superintendent at Bridgeport Field Office) died in Bishop January 18. **Evelyn (Davis) Taylor** (Mother of Frances Fortney and Mother In-Law of **Ed Fortney** – both living in Big Pine--passed away in Carson City, January 22. Time surely takes its toll. We extend our sympathy to the families of these three fine people.

Thomas Meacham died in Bishop December 11, 2009 at 80 years old. He had worked in District 9 for 38 years, mostly as a

draftsman. Tom had an engaging personality with a wide range of interests. Our condolences to his family and friends.

—Lance Hinek

The Haps in District 10

Bruce Leavitt has been found in Sequim, Washington, where he volunteers on radio KSQM seven days a week from 7 to 9 am. He plays music from the 40's, 50's and 60's and reports local news. An article in the station's newsletter <http://www.ksqmfam.com/media/pdf/KSQMnewsletterdec2009-issue3.pdf> newsletter features Bruce. Listen to him live at <http://ksqmfam.com/listenlive.html>.

Bruce has had many endeavors, and back in the 1960s at Highway 1 Stockton he bred racing pigeons as a hobby. I bought some that



Bruce had culled, and on Father's Day, according to Bruce's recipe, I put the wild rice-stuffed

squabs on a bed of lettuce in a large covered pot filled with asparagus and cooked them in the oven at 500 degrees for an hour. My father exclaimed, "I'm glad I had you," after partaking of the meal.

Manuel "Taki" Saiz, dedicated family man, raconteur and decorated veteran passed away peacefully February 7 at age 89. He was born in 1921 in Colorado, became a mainstay of the San Joaquin region from the time of the Great Depression until his death. Manuel served his country honorably as an

infantryman of the 115th Infantry regiment in the European theatre of Operations during World War II.

After the war, Taki returned to the Central Valley, where he married Lena Chacon Portillio. With the help of the GI Bill, he attended college in San Francisco, receiving a degree in engineering. His diverse hobbies included photography, mechanical engineering, automobiles, model-making, multimedia, quality time with his family, and lively conversation. Lena, his beloved wife of more than 50 years, preceded him into the afterlife.

Jim Shultz notes that Manuel changed his name from Taki Manuel Miasaki to Manuel Taki Saiz, using his mother's maiden name after spending a week in the guardhouse following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Funeral services were held February 19 in Jackson for **Albert "Bert" Clark**, who passed away February 13 in Folsom at age 90. He was born March 30, 1929 in Stockton and attended school in Quincy. He enlisted in the US Army at age 24 and served in the 82nd Airborne Division, serving in Africa, Italy, England and the Netherlands.

In 1944, while in England, he met **Kathleen Farndon** at a dance and they fell in love. Bert was discharged from the army when his tour of duty ended and returned to England to marry Kathleen.

Bert joined the Division of Highways in 1948, retiring after 34 years in 1982 as a Maintenance Superintendent. In Amador County, to which he and Kathleen returned in 1988, he was active in the Masonic Lodge, VFW, American Legion, Wranglers Trailer Club and CSEA. He enjoyed dancing, fishing, photography, gardening, and was in a friendly competition with relatives in England to see who had the tallest redwood tree. He loved his wife, family and especially his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was known for his kindness, generosity and strong opinions.

Bert is survived by his wife Kathleen, of Sutter Creek, daughter **Kathleen**

DeGiobbi of Pacheco, sister **Jackie Sweet** of Portland, and a number of grandchildren. He was interred in the Garden of Valor at Sunset View Cemetery in Jackson.

Twenty-four QCCers attended the breakfast meeting at Denny's on December 29. Thirty-seven were at the January 26 meeting, including some old faces not normally in attendance. They included **Dean Alexander, Joy Greenlee, Frank and Linda Orozco, Tom Rasmussen, Hubert and Jim Schultz, and Ed Traube.**

Forty attended the February 23rd meeting, including **Lee Wyant**, who was much welcomed.

Tom Rasmussen says, "Best wishes to all." He says he's doing great and that it is good to recall and exchange stories of the good old days "when ships were made of wood and Caltrans men and women were made of steel."

Bob Hargis says, "Where's my breakfast?"

— Brian Young

The Haps in District 11

Several members of District 11 QCC and the California Transportation Foundation met with new District 11 Caltrans Director, **Laurie Berman**, for an informal introductory session. Obviously with the pay cuts, employee moral is a challenge and there are many other issues that suffer as well.

We addressed an extensive agenda to review how to find ways to recruit and connect with those still working and eligible for QCC membership. And yes, we did get a paid application from Laurie. We also came away with encouraging vibes on some 'action items' for us to share our talents.

The historic Caltrans building beside the new district office has been renovated with federal funds to serve as a Transportation Museum, but plans for this are not set.

George Gray (e-mail gray850b@aol.com) and **Dean Burns** (619) 448-6728 or e-mail Dean.burns@cox.net) have volunteered to work with the district to develop a policy on the museum. Anyone with interest in transportation history is invited to contact George or Dean to present his or her ideas to support the project.

Another item toward building moral and QCC recognition is a proposal for "The People's Choice Award" whereby employees would nominate candidates for awards and then also get to vote for the winners.

Caltrans has several administrative level recognitions but there is no way for the 'Average Joe' to have a say in how winners are chosen. Currently there is no likelihood of anything new coming from within, but it could be a means for the QCC to step out and be recognized as a 'friend of the people'. Any proposal will need to have Caltrans review and approval, but Laurie did give a warm smile to the concept. If you have some time to help work out ideas in forming this new policy or award criteria, contact Butch Biendara, Ph 858-279-5054 or email butchbiendara1944@hotmail.com

Robert Kreidt, 1919 – 2009 -- Bob went to work for The Division of Highways in District 4 following his graduation from the University of California at Berkley. It was at Berkley where he met his wife, **Ruth**, to whom he was married for nearly 60 years. They had three children, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Bob and his family moved to San Diego in 1963 when Bob was transferred to District 11 to accept a job in traffic. Physically active, Bob spent much of his leisure time golfing, bicycling, camping, and hiking. He made several bicycling tours in Baja California. He was also a gifted singer and used that talent in amateur productions around San Diego and as part of the annual

Christmas carol singers in the district office buildings.

Once, while traveling in Milan, he burst into song from the balcony of the then empty La Scala opera House. Thereafter, he could always say truthfully that he once sang at La Scala.

After retirement in 1987, he and Ruth traveled extensively. Their travels ranged from sailing on a private sailboat in the Adriatic, the Caribbean, and the South Pacific to traveling on their own in Italy, England, Spain, Portugal, France, Kenya, Australia, and New Zealand. While in France they visited the site of the Normandy beach landings of World War II. While serving in the army during that time Bob was engaged in the building of the large bulkheads that would later be towed to Omaha Beach and sunk to form a barrier that allowed the development of an artificial harbor. This served the thousands of troops with tons of material needed for the advancement of allied troops across France and Germany.

In addition to D-11s ROMEO meetings, a group of retirees from D-7, 11 and 12 meets on occasion to try and straighten out what's wrong in the world. This month's get together was at Dana Point. Former D-11 attendees were **Phil Olivares, John Hasaguchi, Sully Reallon, Marc Campo, Benny Herrera, Lanny Chronert, Marc Campo, Jeff Morgan, Leonard Zink** and **Jack Gottwig**. Hot topics were the drop in sales at Dudley's Bakery after Leonard's weekly deliveries stopped with his retirement, and figuring out a way to file TECs for future get togethers.

The eternally youthful **Tom Culver**, had a huge number of guests to his FABULOUS party on December 12, a beautiful sunny day. It could have been his 77th birthday party, or just another time to connect with friends he has built in his life.

With the cooperation of many friends and family he rented the park clubhouse and hired caterers for a bar-b-que feast with friends from

his days at Caltrans as well as those from his time spent out in the hills of Descanso, later in Santee and where Tom now lives at the Stone Ridge Mobile Estates beyond Warner Springs. He looks to be getting younger with his thick dark hair tipped in blonde spikes that any young punk rocker would be proud of, (yes, it does make us baldies jealous.)

True to his nature, when we arrived, Tom was off on errands picking up his neighbors in his golf cart. And when we finally had to say our goodbyes, we had to wait again as Tom was shuttling them back to their homes. He was the guest of honor and was still the helpful host to take care of any who had needs.

Leslie Franklin, long-time manager of the motor pool, had a fun-filled retirement party in Old Town's Acapulco Restaurant on March 3. Butch Biendara handled the emcee duties very well and got some good laughs. Leslie wants to thank all of the friends and associates who attended.

—Butch Biendara and Jack Gottwig

The Haps in Central

Happy New Year everyone! We are sending you the submissions from our BBQ and Holiday Luncheon that didn't make it into the latest QCCer Newsletter. According to Gene Berthelsen, our events take place past his newsletter deadline. Since our next luncheon will be April 15th at the Dante Club, this AGAIN will be an issue. May we suggest that if you would like to submit your news, email Gene at catsnjam@comcast.net or mail to: 941 Fremont Way, Sacramento, CA 95818-2135. Hope you enjoy our newsletter!

John Mieras – My first time here with a guest, **Kay Nelson**. Great to see old friends! District 04 has had NO events in the last 11 years, so I came here thanks to **Pete Doljanin** who comes to S.F. lunches!

Marilyn Lambeth enjoyed seeing everyone. The food was great and the setting so pretty!

Louise Ginsberg – Still hanging in there! Lots of things are going on in the development where live and take advantage of everything can. I don't go on the long trips as the flights do me in. I enjoy the Caltrans related functions.

George Smith – As always, great to see old friends from the Division!

EG Pomeroy – The food was good at the fall BBQ and old friends were good to see!

Joe and LaRena Hannon stayed close to home this summer and didn't travel much. They enjoyed their cabin on Donner Summit. They also celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in September!

Bob Nelson – Not doing much other than golf and staying close to home. Just happy to be still on my feet and see all the familiar faces here tonight.

Hope and Heinz Heckeroth – We're trying to spend more time at our place in Caspar near Mendocino with kids, grandkids and now great-grandkids! Heinz continues to volunteer as Executive Officer with CTF. Thanks to all of you for your support.

Judi and Omar Pertel – We went to the British Isles for a 16-day tour with Trafalgar Tours. We started in London, went to Oxford, Stratford on Avon, Leeds and then to Edinburgh, Scotland. The Lakes District back in England was next and we had an excellent trip through Liverpool. Then we went to the best part of the trip, Ireland. Dublin, Galway and Blarney Castle come to mind. Our sons, **Gus and Roman**, thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Hugh and Kay Griffin – Last summer we attended two weddings. On June 27th, our nephew, **John Perovich**, was married in

Brea. John's parents, **Pat** (Kay's sister) and **Mike**, are both retired Caltrans engineers. Our six year old twin granddaughters were flower girls so after the wedding nine of us spent four days in Disneyland. Then on August 1, our oldest son, **Scott**, got married in Santa Cruz. Our granddaughters were flower girls again! Our family spent a week at a beach house, enjoying the beach, boardwalk, and cool weather.

Gerri and Ken Wigglesworth – We took a great trip to Peru where we saw zillions of fabulous birds and spent a wonderful day at Machu Picchu.

Peggy Sweet – Hi, Everyone! I'm glad I gave up a day of bridge to come to this wonderful picnic! Wonderful to see so many good friends. Hope I get to the next one.

Vern Leseman – On August 17th, my lady friend, **Marcy Steele**, and boarded Lufthansa flight #455 bound for Vienna, Austria. We changed planes in Frankfurt and arrived in Vienna on a beautiful sunny day. In Vienna, where we stayed for two days we attended a classical music performance of Mozart and Strauss in the beautiful Vienna Concert Hall. We then cruised down the Danube through the Wachau Valley in our 130-passenger riverboat that would take us, in 14 days, to the French border through Germany. We sailed toward Frankfurt, stopping at all the "Bergs" (Regensburg, Nuremberg, Bamberg, Wurzburg, Rothenburg and Miltenberg).

We traveled on the Danube, Main, Rhine and Moselle rivers. We went through over 100 locks, some quite deep and narrow. After passing Frankfurt, we turned south and headed for Trier, Germany. This city was Roman built and is the oldest city in Germany. The Basilica was built in 306 AD, but all that remains is the throne room. From Trier, we were bused to Paris where we stayed for two nights and toured the city via tour bus, visited the Eiffel Tower, saw amazing architecture, and cruised the Seine after dark, enjoying dinner while cruising by the "City of Lights" now

illuminated allowing us to see all the sites we had seen on the city bus tour earlier that day. The trip was exciting, but had all walking tours in Germany. If we ever to do it again, we'd choose a trip that has bus tours with little or no walking as have bad legs!

Chuck and Margie Paulsen – We made two trips in 2009. One was up the Rhine from Amsterdam and down the Danube to Budapest. The other was a flight to Tahiti and a small cruise around the Island of French Polynesia. Our happy but brief life together ended in November when Margie died of a complicated combination of rheumatoid arthritis which affected her lungs and lung disease, probably related to smoking in her earlier years. She had quit in the late 80's, but her lungs gave out on November 5th. We had a wonderful and fun life together while it lasted.

Shirley Weber –The QCEER get-togethers are an opportunity to renew past friendships and there's a raffle every time!! I had a great time in Canada this year with my brother, **Glen**, in North Vancouver. His wife, **Sharon**, washed all my clothes and gave me a lot of cold water! The weather was HOT!

Glen and I drove north to Prince George and stayed with our brother, **Roy**. Roy's wife, **Terry**, makes fantastic green salads for all occasions. Then we went about 300 miles north to Stewart Lake where we put my brother Ray's ashes (he passed in 1976) and his wife, Margret's ashes in the water at their favorite camp spot. It was a wonderful experience and we traveled all the way in a 2009 Honda Civic – 1600 miles at 47 MPG.

Dorothy Ferra – So good to be here and see a lot of my friends from long ago. I like the Dante Club so much. Hope everyone had a lovely Christmas!

Elwin McKenney – Great to see old friends!

Jack Cropper – Hope to see some of you on Maui from January – April. Aloha!

Addi and Ray Forsythe – Ray and I flew to Minnesota in August for my 60th class

reunion. Ray learned a few new Olle and Olga jokes!

Jan and Dave Nelson – Well, Jan retired and we immediately went to Kona, Hawaii, for the month of January. We then traveled to Vancouver, B.C. in the spring stopping by to see my son, daughter-in-law and new granddaughter in the Portland area. Played a little golf this summer with the SIRS.

Elizabeth Abersold – I enjoyed my first trip to Europe! Flew to Nuremberg, Germany. My son, **Mike**, is stationed at Camp Hoenfels, Germany. We toured a castle in Bavaria, saw the beautiful Alps in Innsbruck, Austria, and toured Northern Italy. I'm looking forward to my next trip.

Allen Wrenn – Joyce and I returned Sunday from three weeks in Egypt and Jordan. It was a great trip, but tiring. I was surprised at the security provided to our group—an armed guard on each bus.

Pat and Ed Kress – We are still RVing about seven months a year. We just returned from the Midwest. We are heading to Arizona next month for the rest of the winter.

Doug and Gloria Moore -- We sold our home in Rancho Murieta this past year and fled the State of California for the Sonoran Desert of Arizona. We are northeast of Scottsdale and love our new digs that border the McDowell Mountain Regional Park. Yes it's hot, but "it's a dry heat." We love the Valley of the Sun. The sights, culture, food and sports of the valley made it an easy decision to relocate. Spring training is starting up soon and this is the home of 12 major league teams.

Gloria and I did several major road trips this past year. We spent time crossing the heartland from Illinois west. We visited family in Colorado and crossed the Rockies into Utah before heading south to return home. really enjoyed the drive from Denver to Grand Junction across the Rockies on I-70. The mountains are amazingly beautiful and I-70 is a engineering marvel.

Moab, Utah was also one of my favorite

stops. We spent time exploring Arches Canyonlands National Park and Canyon De Chelle. The later stop was because missed my turn to Monument Valley and Antelope Canyon. That's okay because it's all just a few hours away. All this and the endless beauty and sights of Arizona and the Four Corners region are great fodder for my photography hobby. It's also great that every day is Saturday.

We look forward to increased freedom of movement in 2010 as our youngest daughter graduates from high school and heads for college. We will miss her while we are having all that fun. Alaska beckons us and it's been far too long since we have been to Hawaii. Also hope to do a trans-Sierra crossing this year from Lone Pine to Mineral King.

Earlene and Jim Borden – On a cruise with Jack and Ann Kassel to Alaska, we had 10 wonderful days in good weather. In August, we spent a week in Santa Cruz on the beach with our two children, their spouses and five grandchildren.

Roger and Rae Cook - Rae and I have had a busy travel schedule this last year (actually, we traveled quite a bit before; I retired six years ago but we can do even more now that Rae has retired from the Attorney General's Office).

We started off in French Polynesia for three weeks last February and March. We went on a four-masted sailing ship (Star Flyer) and also spent a week on Huahine in a beachfront bungalow (Relais Mahana). This was our fourth time but we love the island beauty and people more each time we visit.

Last October, we flew to Athens for a few days before boarding another four-masted sailing ship (Star Clipper) for a 37-night cruise (Greek islands, Egypt, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Hong Kong). We sailed from Athens to Thailand--quite an adventure. We spent more than a week off the coast of Somalia when the ocean currents and winds were against us (the ship could only make two nautical miles an hour—not good in this area!).

We had our own gunboat trailing along with eight British marines (they looked a bit like action figures) and our ship was ringed with razor wire and high voltage lines. We saw pirates on radar but weren't attacked. Three other ships in the area were.

For some reason, the cruise line has decided to discontinue the route through this area.

This spring we're headed back to Europe (Portugal, Spain, Italy, England and Scotland) for seven weeks. We're meeting up with my daughter, son-in-law, and grandkids in London. This is a fairly complicated trip involving six separate plane flights, four train trips, two transatlantic cruises (Noordam eastbound, Norwegian Epic westbound) and myriad buses and taxis. Should be fun if we can remember where we are and where we're going!

Hope your travel schedule is busy too. Ain't retirement grand!

Kay and Hugh Griffin – We had a great trip to Oklahoma City over the Thanksgiving holiday to visit our youngest son and his family including our six year old twin granddaughters. In addition to some babysitting, we toured the University of Oklahoma, the State Capitol and the Oklahoma History Museum.

Jack and Ellen Derby: On February 13th, we returned from Big Sky, Montana, after a week of great skiing with our 49er Ski Club (you have to be 49 or older to belong). The first three days were clear and beautiful and the last three days gave us about eight inches of new powder. Jack was the oldest member of the club to attend (he's 83 now) and he did well—kept up with the gang for the most part. Ellen hasn't skied since she broke an ankle in Crested Butte two years ago, but she shared in the other activities (we socialized with a tiddy party every night).

"We took a day off in the middle of the week and toured Yellowstone in a ski coach. Saw lots of geysers, aquamarine pools, fumaroles and mud pots and lots of birds and animals. Jack wrapped up duck season on January 31st. The hunting was slow this year

but he managed to store a lot of birds in the family freezer. Both of us are enjoying good health."

Gene Berthelsen – Quite a busy February. My wife, Donna Springer and I traveled with the rest of the Catsnjammer Jazz Band to Mazatlan, where we played three concerts and didn't drink the water but had a touch of the ague anyway. We traveled on a mountain road that had all kinds of potholes about 18 inches wide. Instead of filling them, the Mexican Highway Department had drawn white circles around them.

Then later, I went to New York City where I attended a play that my daughter, Maren, has produced, "Yank, the Musical." Saw three musicals, and survived a seven-block walk in a howling blizzard and had to stay an extra day because of the big snowstorm back there.

Good news on the myeloma front – abnormal cells down by eleven hundred points to about 700. Still cheating the reaper.

Luann and Ron Hollis—The Hollis' journeyed to the Northwest and British Columbia this fall with our travel trailer. We also explored Whistler to see the pre-Olympics preparations - very nice place to ski. British Columbia seems to be prosperous and growing despite the economic conditions.

Gary and Julie Bush – Greetings from the Busharosa! Spring is creeping in slowly and winter still brings us some much needed rain and snow. **Julie** and I spent 10 nights at sea, leaving Ft. Lauderdale, January 19, and sailing for Aruba, Cartagena, Panama, Limon, Costa Rica and Ocho Rios, Jamaica. Truly a great cruise. At Panama, we went up three locks to Lake Gatun then back out again. The Canal is an amazing engineering marvel. Our ship, the Island Princess, had about 12 inches to spare on either side of the lock. Coming out of the locks, we looked back and there were three other ships behind us all at different levels depending on where they were in the locks. Wow, what a sight.

Our next luncheon is at the Dante Club on Thursday, April 15 starting at am. **Dale Schornack** of Channel 10 news will be our luncheon speaker! Hoping to see a good turn out as Dale is an entertaining newscaster.

—Gary and Julie Bush

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION FOUNDATION

Interested in keeping in-the-know with Caltrans? Whether you are retired or still working, you can support the Foundation in meeting its goals through a **"Gift of Time"**. You could assist with registrations at various activities, stuff envelopes, serve on a more regular basis on special tasks, share information about CTF through regular visits to Caltrans offices, judge annual TRANNY Awards, volunteer and play at the annual Charity Golf Tournament, prepare CTF correspondence, provide financial record assistance, or participate in Caltrans sponsored activities as a CTF representative.

And speaking of volunteers, a very special thank you goes to **Nancy Benjamin and Peggy Sweet** for their efforts in getting you February's copy of the Foundation's newsletter **"Headways"** along with our annual appeal for your financial assistance. We depend on your contributions to keep our programs going.

Also our appreciation is being sent to volunteers **Jim Richards and Dan McElhinney (District 4), Aileen Loe (District 5), Roy Fisher (District 7) and Brenda Schimpf (Hq's)** for their work at the Education Symposium last November. It was a great opportunity for the 35 college and university students to meet with these and other transportation professionals to increase their understanding of the fields of engineering and planning.

Over \$61,000 in scholarship grants were processed in 2009 to help 63 students reach their career goals. CTF also partnered with the California Land Surveyors Association to conduct 13 TrigStar Contests throughout the state to introduce almost 600 students to Caltrans surveyors. Nearly \$16,000 was provided to 11 Caltrans employees and their families in need through the Workers Assistance and Memorial Program.

This year's Caltrans annual Workers Memorial Tribute will be held on April 29 on the grounds of the State Capitol. This year's tribute will honor **Donald Lichliter**, D-10 Tree Maintenance Leadworker and **Deborah Ross**, D-4 Toll Collector. Mr. Lichliter was struck and killed on July 23, 2009 by a motorist as he was working next to his vehicle and Ms. Ross was shot to death as she worked at the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge on August 1, 2009.

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

Events

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

District 1 -

Ret'd Highwaymen and Road Agents meets on the 3rd Thursday in 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*

District 3 Annual Spring Party

Sunday, April 11th
Peach Tree Golf and Country Club, Marysville.

District 4

The **Caltrans Lunch Bunch** meets on the second Tuesday of every month.

Contact: Ed Coble 925 465-4219, edcoble49@astound.net

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 -

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, Thursday, May 6 at Yosemite Falls Café, 4278 West Ashlan Avenue, Fresno.

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

An informal District 6 bunch meets at Santa Fe Basque Restaurant at 3110 N Maroa Ave, south of Shields in Fresno the first Monday of the month.

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

Tom Fera Lunch Group 2nd Wednesday of each month

April 14: Joselito's West Mexican Restaurant; 7308 Foothill Boulevard, Tujunga

May 12, 2010 Steer N' Ale; 3644 E. Foothill Boulevard, Pasadena, CA 91107

District 8 -

Contact: Marsha Lotze, 760-247-2119, motze12@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.

Central District -

Dante Club Spring Luncheon

Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd, Sacramento April 15 11 am

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

Barbecue September 9th

College Greens Swim and Tennis Club

Holiday Luncheon

Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd, Sacramento Dec. 8

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