

TheQCCer

The Newsletter of the Quarter
Century Club

VOLUME 21, No. 3

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More Stories, More Fun...

BUTCH SAYS; 'KEEP SENDING THEM IN !'

From the Corner Pocket

Last edition I challenged you to send in your own stories and several of you did. However, I want to continue this request as I know there are many QCC members that have interesting stories, hobbies, etc. that have not participated yet.

I would like to thank **Allen Wrenn, Bob Watkins, Mike Ogilvie** and **Jack Blackburn** for submitting some great stories. I even submitted one, to set an example, about 'Cold Minnesota Winters' (for next edition).

There are many QCC members with a lot of great stories about their careers, adventures and travels. In conversations with members I hear of retirees achieving fantastic feats of courage and stamina in their quest for more zestful lives in their golden years. I'll not mention names to keep the suspense for the day you read the stories, but some topics you may see in coming editions are:

- A member with a successful mission of sending ambassadors to all the missions in California on a mission to officially document their historic commemorations,
- Another member completing a mission of 500 miles of pedal power around the mountains of northeastern California,

- Another member's quest to track down hidden treasures across many states using space age clues to find sites from the beginning of an era.

And there are likely many more that I haven't yet heard about. What story do you keep in your memories?

Be careful to read through all District sections so as not to miss any stories from other parts of the state and who knows, if and when we get your story included,

we may find that the QCC'er becomes a very sought-after publication. And be encouraged by the words of Mark Twain who said, "Never let the truth get in the way of a great story."

For any with bigger stories to write for potential profit, an organization called Arcadia Publishing looks for historical topics on any theme that may wrap around

a local feature. They like to have lots of pictures, (like 2/3 the space), with a bit of narration and explanation of the photos. Their mission is to make history accessible and meaningful by publishing books to celebrate and preserve the heritage of America's people and places. They are a traditional publisher, covering all the costs involved in publishing, marketing, distributing, and selling each title and are always searching for new book ideas.

Potential authors should be knowledgeable about their local history, have access to archival images, and the permission to publish them. Recently published San Diego titles include: *San Diego's Little Italy, The Navy*



in San Diego, Mission Beach, and Poway. Do you have a book idea? Can you tell the story of your town, county, or city neighborhood? Arcadia Publishing’s editorial department would be thrilled to hear from you. To discuss the possibility of authoring a new title or to request information, contact Arcadia Publishing’s acquisitions editor, Elizabeth Bray at (843) 853-2070 (x102) or ebray@arcadiapublishing.com.

Butch Biendara
QCC President

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Rather read the QCCer on-line?

Go to
<http://ctqcc.150m.com/qccnewsletter.html>

A membership application and a wealth of information about QCC officers, history, and constitution are available at
<http://ctqcc.150m.com/qcc.html>

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

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION FOUNDATION

By **Kathy Freeman**

A special note for those of you reading this that are currently working for Caltrans – the **California State Employees Charitable Campaign (CSECC)** is still in progress. Each year the CSECC gives state employees an opportunity to designate automatic monthly paycheck deductions to charities and allows them to give their donation to any IRS approved 501(c) (3) non-affiliate organization eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions such as the California Transportation Foundation. Designating that donation to CTF is like keeping it in the family! Look for CTF's United Way number – 16017 – when making your United Way contribution. We hope you will consider a donation to the Foundation to help CTF continue its work on behalf of all Caltrans employees.

In June CTF established two new memorial accounts to assist Caltrans families. The first supports the family of **Tan Truong, a District 4 Engineer**, who lost his battle with cancer. The second helps **three District 10 employees, Jaswinder Gill, Bonnie Curiel and Donald Hicks**, who were injured on the job when their vehicle went over an embankment and rolled over several times. If you would like to assist either of these families in their time of need, you may send your donation to CTF at 581 La Sierra Drive, Sacramento CA 95864. The check should be made out to CTF with either *Truong Family* or *Gill, Curiel, Hicks*, on the memo line of the check.

The Foundation's annual Charity Golf Tournament was a huge success this year with 116 players, 16 volunteers and 34 corporate sponsors. Everyone had a great time at dinner with more than 40 raffle prizes awarded. More games and "hole-in-one" contest holes made the tournament even more enjoyable. It was a real pleasure to have former Caltrans **Directors Randy Iwasaki, Cindy McKim, and Will Kempton** join the group along with current **Director Malcolm Dougherty**. A special thanks goes out to all who participated, especially the Caltrans-associated volunteers: **Ed Anderson, Carol Colleen, Carolyn**

Ewing, Linda Buckhammer, Heinz Heckeroth, Randy Iwasaki, Cindy McKim and Norma Ortega. CTF will be adding a Southern California tournament next year on April 29 in Irvine. We will continue to hold one in the Sacramento Area in August and we hope you can join us for either one as a player or a volunteer!

CTF's Scholarship Grant program has been providing scholarships since 1988 in cooperation with co-sponsoring districts or divisions. Through June of this year, we have continued this tradition and have been able to provide **54 grants** totaling approximately **\$40,000**. Special recognition goes to the following for actively participating (raising money for or awarding a scholarship) this year: **Transportation Lab, Land Surveyors, Division of Planning, Division of Equipment, Division of Accounting, Division of Human Resources, Audits and Investigations, and Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11 and 12.**

Remember that CTF is now on Facebook. Keep up with what is happening by joining us at www.facebook.com/#/pages/California-Transportation-Foundation-CTF/111235832303745 and click on "like" CTF. You can also get more information on the activities and programs we have to offer on our website: www.transportationfoundation.org.

Thank you for all your support and participation. It is truly appreciated.

In Memoriam

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

Name	District	Date
Fred Keeler	01	May 12, 2012
James R. Brown	01	May 27, 2012
Larry Brewer	01	2012
Michelle M (Curler)Belcher	02	June 6, 2012
Shirley Rasmussen	05	Aug 17, 2012
Kenneth (Kenny) Finch	05	Aug 15, 2012
Barbara Ann Milburn	06	June 11, 2012
Millard M (Chub) Gann, Jr	06	July 17, 2012
Dan Eckland	06	June 17, 2012

Roy Cole	07	May 2, 2012
William (Bill) Bailey	08	Aug 12, 2012
Hal S. Lee	08	June 17, 2012
Thomas (Tom) Brannick	08	May 24, 2012
Graldine (Geri) E. Zieker	10	Aug 12, 2012
Richard Mattox	11	July 26, 2012
Doc Cheatwood	11	Aug 18, 2012

The North End of a Southbound District Engineer

By Bob Watkins, July 2002

In the winter of 1979-80 Adriana Gianturco called the District Directors to a meeting in Orange County. I arrived late because the Bishop Airport was snowed-in overnight and the airport's snowplow wouldn't start. I headed my little red Datsun pickup down Hwy 395 and got there in plenty of time for the happy hour. (Did you know that Bishop is as far north as San Jose?)

A delightful older gentleman joined the group that I had never met. I knew Edward Thomas Telford by reputation because he had been the District Engineer in District 7 during the Los Angeles freeway-building era from February 1956 to October 1967. When we were introduced Mr. Telford started reminiscing about District 9. Like Jake Dekema, Carl Forbes, George Gray, Stan Lesneski, Gordon Martz, Allan Hendrix, Jesus Garcia and several others that became well known on the west side of the mountain, Ed had worked in District 9. Anyone who spends much time in District 9 will leave with a bag full of stories and Ed was no exception. Most of Ed's stories have slipped from my fading memory but his OHA story stuck.

Young Ed Telford was on a survey crew for SR 108, a new alignment for the state highway east of Sonora, over the Sierra. When the crew reached Highway 395 they were transferred to District 9 and worked as far south as Mojave. When the crew was setting the alignment for SR 395 through a low pass in Mono County, the District Engineer, Frances Somner, drove up in his new Dodge to look over the alignment. (Frances was the District Engineer from 1923 until 1932.) Mr. Somner didn't like what he saw and started

pulling up the survey stakes to shift the road a few rods to the west. Then he changed his mind and set the line back to the crew's alignment. With the stakes pulled and the damage done, Mr. Somner got back in his new Dodge touring sedan and drove back down the steep grade to Bishop. As he drove away one of the crew remarked "that old horse's ass" and so the pass through the low hills of the high country of southern Mono County was named OHA pass. Now the state highway is a freeway realigned to the east of the pass but the county road still follows the Telford alignment. The US Forest Service maps showed OHA pass as late as 1970. I hope they still do. Telford's crew deserves the recognition.

The Haps in District 1

This has been an interesting quarter. Congratulations go to **Bob Trice**, who received an award from the Henderson Center Kiwanis Club for 25 years of service.

District 1 employees who retired in May included **Martin Adams**, CEO II, **Doreen Barton**, CEO II, **David Hayes**, Materials & Research Engineer Assoc./Spec., and **Dennis McBride**, Senior Transportation Engineer, CT.

Tom Georgeson sent me a nice note about his and wife, Murlene's, recent vacation. They spent 17 days, including 3 days visiting family in Idaho, then on to Yellowstone and the Geysers. From there they went to see the Devils Tower. They felt an almost mystical experience there. It is fascinating and he recommends that if we ever get in the northeast corner of Wyoming, we visit there. They went on to Deadwood, South Dakota, where they stayed two nights on their visit to Mt. Rushmore. It was wonderful to see the Presidents in that setting. Murlene took lots of pictures. Thank you, Tom for sharing that with us.

I got to attend a wonderful BBQ lunch on 6/28/12, in honor of **Dennis Dickensheet's** retirement from Maintenance. It was a delightful lunch, nice visiting,

awards to Dennis, and great band music. I was delighted to see **Marci Schreiber** there. She had returned to Caltrans late last year.

July 19 was a busy day. We had our quarterly CT retiree lunch at the Samoa cookhouse, then I headed to the Red Lion to try to catch some of the CT service awards program. Unfortunately, I just got there in time to get final photos of the awardees. We will be coordinating better next year so we will not have this conflict. Several of us like to attend both events.

We were saddened to lose our retired Engineer, **Fred Keeler**, a 30 year CT employee, who passed away on 5/12/2012. He was given a proper Masonic service and **Arlon Sauls**, who made a long trip, was among several of us CT retirees who attended the service.

We also lost **James R. Brown**, a 36 year CT Heavy Equipment Operator, who passed away on 5/27/2012.

I received confirmation from **Jeff Bowser** that **Larry Brewer's** daughter let him know about Larry's passing away. Larry was a retired Ct. maintenance Superintendent with many years in District 1. I enjoyed working with him over the years and saw him several times after he retired.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the families and friends of Fred Keeler, James Brown, and Larry Brewer.

I appreciate any news you can send me. My email address is ahartin@suddenlink.net.

- **Arlene Hartin**

The Haps in District 2

We lost a long time Caltrans Quarter Century Club member since our last issue. **Michelle Marie (Curler) Belcher** went to be with her father peacefully on the afternoon of June 6th. She was born in Oakland, and was a lifelong California resident. The majority of her working time

was with the personnel division of Caltrans, serving as a Personnel Specialist and Supervisor. She worked in Eureka, Redding and eventually Sacramento before disability brought about retirement. I know she touched many lives and will be remembered fondly.



Her hobbies included card making and scrapbooking, for which she developed a real talent. Possibly she inherited some inspiration from her father, who was a renowned artist. She was a very giving and loving friend and mother. Her spirit was strong, and she fought the good fight to the very end. She will always be remembered as being a loving wife and spiritual partner during our years together. She is survived by her husband, mother, sister, brother, two sons, and seven grandchildren.

Respectfully and sentimentally,

- **Bill Belcher**

The Haps in District 3

The annual spring party was a huge success with over 100 members in attendance. Awards of appreciation were presented by District 3 QCC Director **Dan Johnson, Sr.** for outstanding work in the development of the new history center located in the new District 3 Caltrans office in Marysville. Awards were presented to **Lib Haraughty, Palmer Haug, Carleen Hagen** and **Bob Mulcahy**.

Director Dan also presented 80 year awards to **Gorden Bordsen, Ray Winton, Ralph Sandler** and **Bob Tyler**.

A regular meeting was held and nominations were brought before the floor for District 3 QCC Director. A unanimous vote of the members present decided to retain **Dan Johnson, Sr.** as Director for another year.

A huge thank you goes out to **Leo Trombatore**, who is a member of the Peach Tree Golf and Country Club, which will allow us to continue to have our festivities at the Country Club.

The District 3 QCC Fall party will take place in November. Please watch for the announcement in your mailbox. As of this writing it will take place either on Sunday, November 4th or Sunday November 11th. The schedule will be the same with Socializing at 1:00 P.M. and Lunch served at 2 P.M. Please call **Dan** at (530) 671-3889 with any questions.

We are still in the membership drive mode and are looking for new members to join with us and enjoy the fellowship and social functions. Anyone who wishes to join can contact membership Chairperson **Carleen Hagen** at (530) 674-9026 or email her at hcdhagen@aol.com.

The Board of Officers and the Social Committee are looking forward to our next meeting in November so we can enjoy the company of all members in a social environment and beautiful setting at the Peach Tree Golf and Country Club. Hope to see you there.

For questions or comments, contact **Dan Johnson, Sr.** at (530) 671-3889, or (530) 300-3738 or by email at boots3@syix.com.

- Dan Johnson Sr.

The Haps in District 4

District 4 did not submit an entry for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

The Haps in District 5

Whew.... We've had record heat this summer in the Central Coast. We're hoping the fall will bring cooler days.

Congratulations to the newest Director of Caltrans District 5, our own **Tim Gubbins**. Tim was appointed in July, following the retirement of **Rich Krumholz**. Tim began his career as a Civil Engineer in District 5, and he has 20 years of experience in Construction, Design, Special Studies, and Project Management.

A former D-5 Director, **Jay Walter**, has recently retired from his position as Public Works Director for the City of San Luis Obispo. He will be moving to the Willdan Group, Inc., a nationwide technical consulting service.

A recent article in our local paper featured **Pearl Cole** and her dedication to the Central Coast Senior Center in Oceano. Pearl is president of the board and has been overseeing the facility, managing its activities, and even doing maintenance work on weekends. Kudos to Pearl for all her efforts to keep the Center and its many programs functioning. If you'd like more information, call 805-481-7886.

Please think good thoughts for **Shirley Kathary**, who has been battling serious health issues the past few months. She and Larry have not been able to enjoy their camping club and other activities this summer.

Linda and RJ Brown hosted a get-together at their home in Atascadero in June, featuring a delicious BBQ by **Robert Bonilla**. The guests included **Virginia Bieber, Dyer Campbell, Giff and Shirley Bland, Bob and Arlene Chapman, Pete Hom, Al Jorge, Ken Jones, Betty Nicholson, Gary & Jean Schultz, and Lois Scamara**. It was nice to see everyone and catch up on the news.

In memoriam: Mrs. **Shirley Rasmussen**, widow of **Brooke**, passed away on August 17. She is survived

by her son Mike, daughter Kim, and three grandchildren.

We received email stating that **Kenneth "Kenny" Finch** passed away on August 15. No other information is available at this time.

- **Kathleen Copeland**

The Haps in District 6

From **Irwin Rosa**: I don't have anything exciting but I am sending the first item in case I had not sent it to you before. I lead tours at the Bishop Museum in Honolulu which is dedicated to the Hawaiian culture. I invite those visiting Hawaii to join me in gaining an insight into the history, legends and skills of this resourceful people who settled these islands before Captain Cook arrived.

I also hiked to Picture Canyon near Flagstaff AZ in July to view petroglyphs left by ancient Native Americans.

(I don't know: sounds pretty exciting to me.- Terry)

From **Barney Deeter**: For your info I have been waiting since March for the Doctor to recover from his shoulder surgery so we could go ahead and have my right hip replaced. Finally on July 26th, I had a 3 hour surgery to replace my right hip at St Agnes Hospital. All went well and what surprised me the most was that after 3 days, very little pain. On Sunday, July 29th, I was transferred to San Joaquin Rehabilitation Hospital where I underwent both physical and occupational therapy. These therapy sessions were generally twice a day. On Wednesday, August 8th, I was released and immediately had an appointment with the surgeon, Dr. M. Oberto. The staples were removed at which time additional x-rays were taken. I am now home and hope to get rid of the walker soon. I do have to be very careful as well as doing my exercises to strengthen the groin muscles. Initially, I was skeptical as there are so many horror stories about both knee and

hip surgeries. After about 3 to 4 days after surgery, all my pain was gone. I'm still restricted, but will see what the Doctor says in six weeks. Hopefully he will allow me more latitude.

On a sad note:

Barbara Ann Milburn, age 77, passed away quietly at home on Monday, June 11, 2012. She was born on July 20, 1934, in Alva, Oklahoma. She moved with her first husband, **Clint J. Wagner**, to California. Barbara worked for the Division of Highways, State of California and retired in 1993 after 32 years of service.

Millard M. "Chub" Gann, Jr. passed away on Tuesday, July 17, 2012, at the age of 78. He was born in Sudan, Texas, on July 19, 1933. In January of 1955, Chub started working for the State of California Division of Highways, which later became Caltrans. During his 38-1/2 years at Caltrans, he worked in the Design, Construction, and Maintenance Departments. He retired as the North Region Manager of Maintenance and Operations.

Several QCC members (**Cynthia Binger, Steve Mason, Richard Beck, and Corinne Cathcart**) expressed similar thoughts that Chub was one of the good guys, a good friend, and nice to work with.

Dan Eckland, died on Sunday, June 17, 2012 at St. Agnes Medical Center, surrounded by his family. He attended San Diego State College, Fresno State College and went on to work as an engineer at CalTrans until he retired in 1994.

-**Terry Littleton**

The Haps in District 7

Ready, set, go..... To the QCC Holiday Luncheon. Saturday December 1, is the agreed-upon date for the District 7 QCC Holiday Luncheon at the lovely **Miyako Inn**, 328 East 1st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012, (213)-330-2800, located two blocks south of the "new" District 7

Office. If you are web oriented, take a virtual tour and get directions, at the hotel website, www.miyakoinn.com.

Last year was a delightful luncheon with Salmon in Cream Sauce, Spaghetti Bolognese, green salad, and for the exotic palate, tempura, teriyaki and sushi.

Districts 7 and 8 have coordinated their efforts this year, so please plan to add this to your social calendar.

Monthly Lunch Group

Three more days this year to get together with the **Tom Fera** Lunch Group! Choose to be among the in crowd and meet on the second Wednesday of each month (except December). Upcoming meetings are: **October 10, 2012** at the Steer N’ Ale, **November 14, 2012** at the China Olive, and **December 1, 2012** at the Miyako Inn Downtown. These remaining 2012 dates and addresses follow below.

RESTAURANTS AND PROPOSED LUNCHEON DATES FOR 2012

[Second Wednesday of every month except December]

October 10, 2012	Steer N’ Ale
November 14, 2012	China Olive
December 1, 2012	Miyako Inn for the QCC luncheon

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

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

Miyako Inn; 328 East 1st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012; (213)-330-2800.

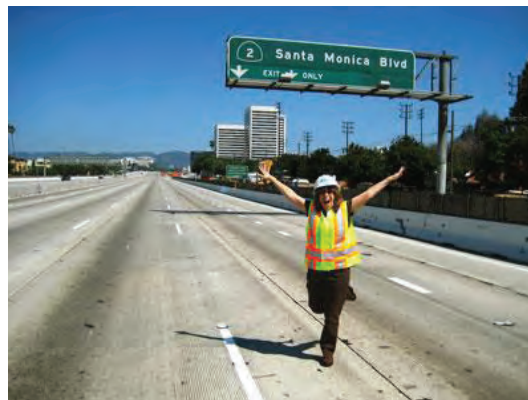
For more information about meetings, etc., contact: **Chuck O’Connell** at (661) 253-3428 or chuckoconnell@prodigy.net, or **Tom Gildersleeve** at (661) 259-6226 or tgilders@pacbell.net.

Carmageddon the Sequel

The event was enjoyed by so many last year (ha, ha), it will be repeated again in 2012! Carmageddon II is the moniker given to the 53-hour closure of the I-405 to remove the north half of the Mulholland Bridge. As occurred last August, the outreach for the September 28th weekend, to commuters and travelers will reach national audiences, and local, regional, and statewide stakeholders.

The recently reconstructed south half is expected to keep access across the bridge and utilities in service. For those with enquiring minds, see the project website: www.metro.net/405, the project’s social media sites: twitter.com/I_405 or www.facebook.com/405project, or the District 7 Blog about Carmageddon at, http://caltransd7info.blogspot.com/2012/07/blog-post_19.html. You may also call Jennifer Gill at 213.922.4224 for a referral to your regional lead. Gish Makes Good

At least one person enjoyed Carmageddon I, also known as the “I-405 Sepulveda Pass Closure Alert”, and that is Public Information Officer **Judy Gish**, who was instrumental in mobilizing and leading communication efforts on behalf of Caltrans. Her efforts won her the Communicator of the Year award from the National Association of Government Communicators (NAGC), to recognize the government communicator who most exemplified instilling the public trust and effectively presenting accurate, timely, and meaningful information, often under exceptional circumstances.



The complete closure of the I-405 through the Sepulveda Pass is colloquially known as Carmegeddon. The 2012, 53-hour event will occur over the weekend of September 28. **Judy** advises motorists to avoid the area, and “eat, shop and play close to home”, instead.

The Long Yellow Line

The “Yellow Line”, an art exhibit that will make any Traffic Engineer’s heart flutter, is a visual reflection on the function and meaning of road striping and its by-products. Artist and French Film maker, **Simon Rouby** shadowed Caltrans striping trucks for several years to document their daily activities, including stenciling and striping several of District 7’s freeways and highways.

“This exhibit takes part of what Caltrans does every day and makes art of out it,” said Deputy District 7 Director **Lindy Lee**. “We hope everyone enjoys the exhibit and we are excited to host such an event that we felt would be fitting for our building and department at no cost to taxpayers.”

The exhibit continues through September 28, at Caltrans District 7 Headquarters at 100 South Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 (across the street from City Hall and LAPD Headquarters), during normal office hours. For more information, go to yellowline.com, or District 7 Blog at, <http://caltransd7info.blogspot.com/2012/07/caltrans-hosts-yellow-line-art-exhibit.html>

Tom Writes of Early Rail in “the O.C.”

Published author and photographer (who knew?), **Tom Gildersleeve**, is rather unassuming about his accomplishments. Tom wrote to **Chuck O’Connell**, “I really don’t know who among the Caltrans bunch would find this interesting, but I thought [some] of you might.” A recent article, “Early Days in the O.C.” is featured in “Classic Trains Magazine” Fall 2012 • Volume 13 Number 3, pages 46–53. Tom adds, “I know that 1950 to 1952 might not be thought of as early days for most of you, but it was early for me; I

had barely entered my teens and was very new to photography. And for sure the Orange County of 1950 bears almost no resemblance to that area as it exists today. Anyhow, I just wanted to give all of you the info so you can make haste to get your copy and avoid the stampede at hobby shops and magazine stores.”

Tom’s biography reads, in part, “[he] has been photographing railroads exclusively in color for over 60 years. His work has been published in books, calendars, magazines, and on cards and video jackets. He is also known for his spectacular synchronized night shots of the *American Freedom Train* taken in 1975-76, and for the slide sets he produced in the 1970s and ’80s. He has coauthored one book on the Rio Grande narrow-gauge and written several magazine articles, including one previously for *Classic Trains*, “Cab-Forward Curtain Call,” Winter 2007. He was also the Hall of Fame recipient at Winterail for 2012. Tom has a degree in civil engineering from Stanford University and worked for the California DOT for 40 years before retiring in 2000. He lives in Santa Clarita, Calif., with his wife of 47 years, **Elizabeth**.”

The autobiographic article includes many of Tom’s childhood train observations “BC”, “before camera”, as an adolescent shooting black and white film at the Santa Fe Depot with his father’s WWI Kodak Autograph folding camera, and a “Baby Brownie Special”, until the Christmas of 1950 brought a new Argus C-3, and shooting in Kodachrome, sans light meter. Additionally, he reflects upon his return from the Airforce, and resumed train shooting with a Leica M3, capturing more of the history of O.C. rail. In closing, he wonders at the providence of a 13-year-old kid riding his bicycle to the tracks in 1950, and by showing up with a camera, created an irreplaceable record of the era of Steam and more, now appreciated anew, 60 years later.

My apologies for not “reprinting” the article here due to copyright issues.

Every Dog has its Day...

At Fort Clatsop, 17 Newfoundland dogs and their handlers, celebrated the 19th annual “Seaman’s Day”, commemorating the dog of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Among them, the intrepid **Marie Martin**, and **Bismarck**, one of her canine companions. Two-hundred and some years ago, 33 people of the “Corps of Discovery” wintered at Fort Clatsop. The 34th “member” was **Seaman, Meriwether Lewis’** dog - the only animal on the expedition to complete the entire trip.

Over the years, **Marie** has owned three great danes, three mastiffs, and 2-year-old Bismarck is her third Newfie. She and her human companion, **Bob Walters**, recently took Bismarck on a trip across the country in their camper, and the dog proudly swam in the same rivers the Corps of Discovery explored on their journey.

“He’s really followed in Seaman’s footsteps,” she stated for the “The Daily Astorian”, a local newspaper near her northwest digs.

Contacts and Recent Sightings

Chuck O’Connell reports a call from **Earl Fritcher** June 26. Earl relates that he had a heart attack in December and a pace maker "installed". After Earl lost his wife about a year and a half ago, he decided to move to Carson City, NV to be closer to his kids and grand-kids.

In the garage of the house that he bought, was an old Certificate of Appreciate to all who had worked on the 105 Century Freeway. It was signed by **Leo Trombatore** and **Don Watson**. He wasn't sure of the date on it. He has no idea how he found it, since the prior owner knew nothing about it! Earl sounded great.

In case anyone wants to say “hi” or just contact him, Chuck offers the following info... Address- 1903 Teal Dr., Carson City, NV 89701-5599, Telephone: 775-883-2836.

Sighted at the Member opening of the “Designing Women” exhibit at the Autry National Center of the

American West in Griffith Park, CA, **Stan** and **Ina Lisiewicz**. This catered event included crudite’, a selection of cheeses, hummus, olive tapenade, and sangria. Highlights of the exhibit included textiles, weavings, clothing, furniture, pottery, and graphic design, but the only “freeway” interchanges were verbal.

Stan and **Ina Lisiewicz** report on taking that veteran marathoner, **Wally Rothbart**, to a recent Tom Fera Lunch Bunch meeting. Apparently, Wally’s marathon days are behind him.

After **Kirsten** and **Stewart Stahl** attended the retirement luncheon for **Bob Sugar** in Sacramento, catching up with pavement legends, **Jim Woodstrom** and **Leo Ferroni**, they circled back to see **Ernie Stahl** in his idyllic Nevada retreat. Kirsten says, “Every trip to Nevada is a “learning experience”. While looking for Ernie’s lost “toy shed”, a place for RV storage, etc., a stop in Virginia City, lunch at the historic Gold Hill Hotel, and a candy spree at the Chocolate Nugget, she realized they’d taken a “wrong” turn, when they stumbled upon the adult-themed traffic devices for the “Bunny Ranch”. Yes, Nevada is full of surprises.

Retirements

With more than 32 years of State Service, **Patricio Stumpf’s** celebrated his retirement plans on Thursday, July 19, 2012 at 9:30 am in Room 7.037. Patricio regaled the group with his state service in District 7 Surveys, District 12, and his final assignment in Project Development A. Fortunately for him, he rejoined District 7, several years before **Rick Camp** and **John Amsler** got their 15 minutes of Fame in District 12 Suveys, courtesy of News Reporter David Goldstein...

Angel Ortiz, a Caltrans Maintenance Supervisor in West Region, will enjoy a BBQ in his honor, for his many [undisclosed] years leading up to his retirement.

The Road Last Traveled

Bob Akin, 87+ and proud of it, reported the passing of **Roy Cole**, former District 07 PE up in Design some 20 years ago, on May 2nd in Los Olivos, California. Roy had transferred to District 05, San Louis Obispo [due]

to his wife's health. Some of the old timers might remember Roy. He was very hearing impaired but was a talented Engineer. Roy's funeral was May 12, in Santa Barbara. Should anyone care to communicate with Roy's wife, here is her address and phone no., **Annie Cole**, 3135 Box Canyon, Santa Ynez, CA. 93460, 805-688-3559.

Be like Chuck, Tom, Bob and Marie!

Support your local post office and send a card or letter. An e-mail would do too! Stay in touch! Please send your items, to: **Caltrans, attn: Kirsten Stahl, 100 S. Main St. Suite 100 MS 13, Los Angeles, CA 90012.** Phone 213-897-0470, or e-mail: kirsten.stahl@dot.ca.gov.

Tom Almany reminds you that the District 7 QCC Director and Treasurer are available, and you can reach him at 17200 So. Stark Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90701-1822.

Please send **DUES (checks), membership applications and honorary member status information**, to Statewide QCC Secretary/Treasurer **Mike Ogilvie** directly (See page 2).

WAKE UP!

Your fun is our fun. Share the fun with the rest us. It's got to be more interesting than a TV "reality" show.

Many thanks to those who forwarded information and who were not otherwise mentioned above.

- **Kirsten Stahl**

The Haps in District 8

The District 8 Summer Luncheon was a smashing success. It was held on Saturday, July 14, 2012, at Hannah's Restaurant in San Bernardino. We almost had 100% participation. **Jeanette Daab** took **Evie Anderson's** home to her, **Marsha Lotze**,

took her husband, **Craig's**, home to him and **Phil Holdaway's** wife came and got theirs as he'd just been released from the hospital. More on his ordeal later.

All our other members that had reservations were able to come. What a great lunch. Those in attendance were: **Jim & Joanne Balcom, Diana Barich** & her guest, **Linda Wilford, Loren & Margaret Barnett, Dick Barrett, Mary Bermudez, Gerald & Judie Brown** were able to make it even though Gerald had a medical procedure earlier in the week, **Gil & Jeanette Daab, John & Doris Estrada, Bill Feenstra, Les Franz, Wes & Linda Grimes, Ed & Clarice Gritters, Dick & Louise Haight, Hal & Pat Herring, Frances Jacques, Carolyn Johns, Allan & Jane Kirst** (Jane was recovering from shoulder surgery), **Bob & Linda Pester**, (Bob has since joined QCC as our newest member) Hooray!!! Others in attendance were **Frank Lehr, Stan & Ina Lisiewicz, Dick Longstreet**, and his guest **Don Troy, Jim & Pam Landfried, Marsha Lotze, Gerald Lunt, Maxine Nelson, Ernie Parke** and guest **Barbara Rocha, Sybille Phillips, Tom & Bonnie Powell, Virginia Reed, Melba Saucier** and daughters **Connie & Becky McKenna, Roy Smoot & Marge Bruhn, Taylor & Katie Smith**, and their guest **Jim Moore, Ken Steele**, and **Linda Supernaw**, another new member.

Jeanette Daab opened the luncheon with prayer. After a delicious lunch that everyone enjoyed, President, **Wes Grimes**, was the Master of Ceremonies with **Linda** cheering him on, **Taylor Smith** gave a news update on members not able to attend and miscellaneous anecdotes while **Katie** cheered him on. **Marsha Lotze** handled the reservations, tickets and last but not least, the money.

At the end of the luncheon **Sybille Phillips** requested that members plan on bringing their printed Qccer's to the Christmas Lunch and she'll post them in the break rooms at the District 8 building. Maybe get some more members this way. All in all, the District 8 Summer Luncheon was a great success with over 60 in attendance trading stories of the "good old days" as

well as news updates. **Wes Grimes** got a nice note from **Duane Sharp** living in St. George, Utah and also **Al & Judi Hudgens** expressed regrets that they were unable to attend.

Other Happenings Around District 8:

Allan & Jane Kirst enjoyed whale watching on August 15th with their son and daughter in law.

Sybill Phillips is in Orlando, Florida, attending the Toastmasters International Convention. She hopes to visit Harry Potter at Universal Studios, Epcot Center and maybe an alligator farm. Wow!

Taylor Smith reported that **Barbara Dwiggin's** celebrated her 95th birthday on July 30th and sends everyone her best regards and **Virginia Reed** was celebrating her 86th. Happy Belated Birthday wishes to these two long-time members of QCC.

Evie Anderson is now a published author with her book "Jetcetera" now in print. Congratulations to you Evie from all of your Highways and QCC friends.

Doug Hogue's son, Tom, was injured in a fall from a high storage tank in Seattle. He was rescued by the fire department's Hook and Ladder Truck and had a broken leg in two places, as well as a broken arm and assorted lumps and bumps. He spent time in a hospital as well as recuperating at Doug's home in Norco. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Wes and Linda Grime's distant relative, Josh Nowlan, was injured in the Colorado Aurora shooting. A Navy veteran of two tours in Afghanistan, he rushed the shooter in an attempt to stop him, but sustained bullet wounds in his arm and neck. He was interviewed on CNN and is expected to fully recover. We're all glad he was able to assist in that tragic shooting.

Dick Longstreet took a lengthy trip to Oregon for a class reunion; followed by a road trip south to visit friends and relatives along the way home. Dick says it was a great trip.

Bob Pond reports that all is well in Vallejo. He has given up driving and finds transportation without a car is rather difficult.

Taylor and **Katie Smith** had the pleasure of unexpectedly meeting **Rob and Barbara Karns** at the Kaiser Clinic in Redlands a few weeks ago. Following Rob's retirement in 1991, the Karns moved to Big Bear where they still reside. They had planned on attending the QCC Luncheon in July but couldn't make it. They do plan on attending our Christmas Luncheon in December.

Seven years ago **Barbara Dwiggin** had hip replacement surgery that worked well until mid-April of this year when she returned home from a shopping trip, parked in her driveway and started walking to her front door. Her hip gave way and she fell. Her neighbor tried to help her, but was unsuccessful and telephoned 911. She was taken to Redlands Community Hospital by ambulance. Oddly enough the same surgeon that performed the original replacement seven years earlier was on duty and determined that the ball of the hip joint installed seven years ago had broken off the shaft holding it to the leg bone. No explanation was given or how or what had caused the separation.

Surgery was performed to reconstruct the failed installation and she was moved to Brookside Manor in Redlands where she spent three months recuperating. She returned home in early July and is mobile with the use of a walker. She has a lady assisting her from 9:00 in the morning until 9:00 in the evening. Congratulations to you Barbara and hope you're feeling better each and every day. We're all thinking of you.

Janice Feenstra has been providing child care for grandchildren while **Sarah Feenstra** underwent cancer surgery.

Her daughter-in-law, Sarah, has been battling cancer for several months and recently had more surgery. Sarah is Janice's son, Marlin Feenstra's wife. She recently had additional issues and the oncologist gave

the family good news. The doctors got a clear margin in the surgery, which is very encouraging. One surgeon didn't agree, but tests showed they had gotten that clear margin. It's really hard with conflicting answers. We're glad doctors finally agreed. Now the next step is radiation. They are waiting for an opinion from the City of Hope. The treatment is very extensive with treatment every day and Sarah will be going to Ontario for them. She is recovering very well from her last surgery, still gets very tired, but mostly feels very well. Janice wants to thank everyone for all their thoughts and prayers. Everybody has been such a comfort.

We've recently heard from **Tom Miles** that **Paul Lambert** has also been battling cancer. Tom took him to a recent appointment and the oncologist told him they now know the DNA of his cancer and are going to give him some tablets next week so they can target his cancer. Good news, no more chemotherapy. Paul appeared to be happy and told Tom to let all of his friends know. Keep Paul in your prayers and keep sending those positive thoughts his way. Let's make sure Paul feels all the love and support we all have for him.

You read earlier that **Phillip Holdaway** couldn't make the summer luncheon. He awoke with a severe headache on July 2 and enrolled in the St. Bernardines' Emergency Clinic for treatment. It turned out he had meningitis, an inflammation of the meninges caused by a viral or bacterial infection and marked by intense headaches with a fever, sensitivity to light and muscular rigidity leading (in severe cases) to convulsions, delirium and death. Luckily Phillip didn't have the bacterial or viral type, just the aseptic variety.

He is now home and taking antibiotics in pill form, as well as the liquid type through a "PICC", a peripherally inserted central catheter. An IV device was inserted into a vein and runs up to his heart so the antibiotics can get to his brain. He was told the pill wouldn't reach his brain. He's had 22 needle punctures and 19 jabs. He kept count and did not include the small ones for blood sugar testing. He did

that for a week in order to wipe out the infection. He'd been suffering from headaches for about four years and no one knew why. He's now on the road to recovery. All the best to Phillip a former weed puller, road repairer and Environmental Planner as noted in his e-mail to me.

William "Bill" Bailey age 81 passed away on August 12, 2012. He was born in Portland, Oregon and was a resident of the San Bernardino area for 35 years and Riverside for the last seven years. Bill worked for the CA Department of Transportation for many years until retiring in 1988. He served in the U.S. Army from 1945-1988. He was buried at Montecito Memorial Park in Colton.

Roses to **Darla Matthews** whose mother recently passed away.

We were all saddened to hear of the passing of **Hal S. Lee**. Hal was one of our longtime members of QCC and also with the Division of Highways/Caltrans for over 34 years. Hal Lee, best friend and husband of Marihelen Lee for nearly 65 years passed away at the age of 86 on Sunday, June 17, 2012. His wife preceded him death in August, 2011.

He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from the University of Southern CA in 1951. With CA Division of Highways (Caltrans), Hal held upper level management positions in design, construction and maintenance. Hal loved engineering and building highways, freeways, overpasses and bridges throughout San Bernardino and Riverside counties during the years when CA's infrastructure was a top state priority. It was an era of tremendous growth, intellectual stimulation, and change as they designed, built and maintained the primary transportation system for the Inland Empire. He retired from Caltrans in 1985.

Thomas "Tom" Brannick, age 99, passed away on May 24, 2012, at the Vista Cove Care Center in Rialto, CA. He started his employment with the California Division of Highways in 1948 and retired in 1976 with 28 years of State Service.

All our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Bill Bailey, Hal Lee, and Tom Brannick.

REMEMBER: Please plan on attending our Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, December 8, 12:00 noon at The Gourmet on Highland Avenue in San Bernardino. Information and dues notices will be mailed around the middle of November. Please plan to attend and invite your friends and family members. The more the merrier.

- Marsha Lotze

The Haps in District 9

District 9 did not submit an entry for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

The Haps in District 10

QCC District 10 retirees continue to meet on the last Tuesday of the month for breakfast at Denny's at March Lane and I-5 in Stockton. In July there were 31 present.

In early October the District 10 retirees bi-yearly lunch will be held at the U.J. restaurant in Stockton. Date and program forthcoming.

From Ardyth and Bob Biffel.

We have had two major events happen to us this summer. The first occurred on July 17th. We went to purchase a new battery for the car and when we returned, we were greeted by an assortment of Policeman, broken glass, blood all over the patio and throughout the house, and the house turned upside down. They (four boys age 13 -15) had taken TVs, computers, monitors, camera and other things.

A man working for the Department of Agriculture was checking the "Bug" catchers and saw four boys carrying TV's, etc. from the house. He called the Police and an Officer on his way to work was right by the corner, so he turned into our road and the boys dropped what they were doing and took off when they spotted him. After a long run, and with Police back up, they were pulled over in Lodi. We were taken to the pickup to identify our belongings. Fortunately we were able to get most of our belongings back in good condition. However, the house needed major work. The blood on the carpet and everywhere else is a contaminant and everything has to be sterilized. Not to mention new windows, etc.

We even made it on the Channel 13 news from Sacramento as they came and did a long interview. Steve was very nice and I guess did a good job of it, as **Merle Larrabee** said he saw the interview on TV.

We were still recovering from this when, on August 27th at 12:45 AM, we heard what I thought was knocking on the walls. Then the big bursts of gun fire told me otherwise. It sounded like fireworks going off, over and over. Almost right away the Police helicopter and then the Traffic plane were overhead, for about an hour. The spotlight was looking all over. Then I saw something move and duck right below the window I was looking out of. We still do not know if it was an animal or a person, as too dark, and going too fast. Bob and I spent most of night checking the windows and doors, as the new motion alarms kept going off scaring us. After a sleepless night we watched the early morning news, to find it was an escaped felon, with his pregnant girlfriend in the car, having spent almost an hour being chased by Police and crashing into them right at our corner. We are second house from corner. So no wonder the noise was so bad. Bushes and trees stopped us from seeing what was going on. The man was killed, his girlfriend wounded and sent to the hospital. The Police came and checked out our information, and looked to see if they could find shoe prints outside window, which they did. But they also found a paw print so that could mean anything. The road was blocked for the whole day. The bullet riddled stolen car finally carried away, the

over a hundred markers from bullet shells on road were cleaned up, the TV people and cars, and all the Police finally left our poor bedraggled neighborhood in peace late in the day.

And now we are thinking --- WHAT NEXT ??? This has been quite a summer. So stay tuned people, who knows. ?? Maybe next month you will see us here again. In a better story though, I hope. But we are fine and hope you all are too. **Bob and Ardyth**

From **Chris Wendland**: Recently was a tourist in the wonderful "City by the Bay" San Francisco. A highlight was a tour of the "U.S.S. Pampanito" World War II submarine. This gave me a true respect for those that have served and currently serve to protect our freedom. I also attended a stage presentation of "Beach Blanket Babylon", a musical spoof on current political issues and Hollywood Musical entertainment. This show has been entertaining for 45 years, a must see Musical.

Bill Zieker's widow, **Graldine (Geri) E. Zieker**, passed away on August 12th. Geri was an Associate and Honorary Member of the QCC. Geri married the love of her life, Bill Zieker in the late 50's. Bill and Geri moved to Stockton in 1962. Geri enjoyed many years of being a homemaker while Bill pursued his Civil Engineering career with Cal Trans. Even though Geri relocated to California 50 years ago, she remained enamored with her home and loved vacationing yearly back in the "Copper Country" and picnicking on Lake Superior. Geri also enjoyed folk music watching a good movie and dancing with her beloved Bill. Geri was a member of Michigan Tech Wives Club and the Manteca chapter of the Red Hat Society. Prior to Bill's death in 2008, Geri's devotion to Bill was once again illustrated by her unyielding efforts as Bill's caretaker. Donations can be made in honor of Geri's name to the hospice of San Joaquin or your local Hospice chapters.

- **Brian Young**

The Haps in District 11

We had our Annual BBQ at Santee Lakes on Saturday September 8th and will have an update for the next edition.

Save the date; for our Annual Luncheon on Thursday January 17, 2013 at 11:30 AM at the Barra Barra Restaurant in Old Town. More details to follow.

From **Butch Biendara**:

You may remember **Ray 'The Runner' Archibald** who worked most of his career in D-11 before taking a promotion to D-7 for his last ten years before retiring. Born with very poor vision and hearing that made his social life challenging, Ray had some different behaviors, but he avidly read (with his thick lenses), the news and sports pages to stay up on his interests. One of them was his long and fervent interest in running.

Ray enjoyed some triumphs in the senior track events that took him to many distant, and international events where he proudly won a great number of racing medals. He was savvy to keep up on his competition and would mostly compete in events where he was one of the younger ones in any age category. With his stamina he would often compete and win in several events on any one day. His limited eyesight had him get lost a few times and also had him in some accidental bumps with obstacles he didn't see.

Still quite physically fit at age 79, Ray lives in an assisted living home at the Plaza Village, 950 'L' Ave. National City. He is totally blind and one of his running buddies is a conservator to manage his affairs. On August 19th his running buddy took Ray by the hand and lead him on the course of the 35th annual "America's Finest City Half Marathon". That was a big event for Ray as he still has his running jersey from the first "America's Finest City Half Marathon" 35 years ago and he also ran it in '01, and '03 when he could still see.

At the Plaza Village he has measured the fence boards around the patio courtyard and poked sticks and plastic cups into the cracks to tally his route. He walks with his hand on the fence checking the markers dozens of times a day to keep his mind alert, kill the time and to stay in shape.

He gets fairly good care at the home but without outside connections his world has become smaller. With his limited hearing, conversation with Ray is not smooth but he has lots of memories of the many people and projects he worked with over the years. For any who may remember Ray and have some time to drop by to chat, it makes a big difference in his day and is greatly appreciated.

Road Last Traveled:

Richard Mattox passed away at his home in El Cajon, California on July 26, 2012. He was 74 and had bravely fought a long battle with cancer. Richard was born on February 12, 1938 in Jacksonville, Florida. He had a long career at Caltrans as well as running his own engineering business.

Doc Cheatwood passed away on August 18, 2012. He was a long time Caltrans Maintenance Supervisor in Blythe.

Please send me your stories, notes or updates so I can include in the next edition.

- Jösan Feathers

The Haps in Central

Hello from Central District! We had a well-attended Luau Luncheon at the Dante Club on August 30th. It was great seeing everyone and catching up on what's new. We welcomed new member, **Greg Chalpin**, and his wife. We would like to thank **David** and **Judy Saxby** for their hard work and help before and during the festivities. Our Holiday Luncheon will be December 12th at the Dante Club. Circle your calendar!

The following are notes gathered from our members at the August luncheon:

Jack Cropper: I hope to be in Maui, Hawaii, again next year.

Ron Hollis: We are still here and doing well. We are about to embark on another cross country trip to greet our number 9 grandchild! We are advised that it is a boy which will make 7 grandsons and not one a Hollis!

Ann and Jack Kassel: We're not doing much travelling anymore, just short trips to Santa Cruz and Lake Tahoe. We still have lots of house and yard maintenance. We enjoy seeing all the QCC members at these meetings.

Elizabeth Abersold: I enjoyed seeing all my friends at our summer luncheon! I've had a wonderful summer enjoying family birthday parties and granddaughter's college graduations from colleges adjacent to Nashville. I am active in the Widowed Persons Assn. We are going to Solvang in October. I'm planning a trip to Colorado Springs Thanksgiving week to visit relatives and friends. Happy Holidays!

Howard Posner: I'm finishing up a twelve-year tenure with the Assembly Transportation Committee, the last six years of which have been as a retired annuitant. It's been great working part-time, but enough is enough!

Dave Crane: We have gone on a couple trips since our last get-together. We took the whole family to Hawaii for a couple weeks in May. Jane stayed and played on Maui. Then we went to the Seattle area to visit friends and relatives for ten days in July and August.

Marilyn Lambeth: I am happy to have two grandsons living with me. They are a great help and lots of fun.

Wes Lum: I caught an 80 pound Halibut in Alaska!

From **Gary and Julie Bush:**

We have had a busy year with fun get-togethers with family and some travelling. We have found a great place in Pacific Grove called the Lighthouse Inn and Suites. It's within walking distance of the ocean and includes a late afternoon wine and munchies time as well as a delish breakfast. On February 14th, we adopted a rescue pooch, Tino, short for Valentino. He is part Terrier, Dachshund and Schnauzer! He's blond and a real cutie pie, but has curtailed some of our travelling. In May, we went to Lake Chelan, Washington, Tahoe in August, and we are headed to Hawaii to celebrate our 49th wedding anniversary on September 21st!

From **Ann Glover:**

This has been an exciting year for me. After a two-week Mediterranean cruise visiting Barcelona, Italy, Greece, Turkey and Malta, another cruise to the Bahamas, I got to spend my 83rd birthday in Paris.



April in Paris! Paris was on my bucket list and was really special. We had dinner one night in the Eiffel Tower and my birthday at the Paradis Latin Cabaret. To me that's living high! From there we went to Giverny where Monet painted the water lilies and it was gorgeous. Then on to Belgium and Amsterdam to take in the Floriade and Keukenhof Gardens. I was most impressed with Keukenhof with its windmills

and beautiful tulips on display everywhere. A real dream vacation.

A side light was that **Chuck Paulsen** who had worked with me in City and County Projects in Caltrans almost 50 years ago was in Amsterdam on a separate tour with his daughter. We missed getting together by only ten minutes. Cest la vie!

From **Kay and Hugh Griffin:** In April and May, we visited France and Great Britain. The trip started in Paris with a cruise on the Seine River from Paris to Rouen and return. In Paris we toured the city and then spent a day in the Louvre. Shore excursions from the Avalon "Creativity" included Monet's gardens in Giverny, Chateau Gaillard at Les Andeleys, and the beaches and American Cemetery at Normandy. We then took the "Chunnel" to London for a couple of free days before starting a Celtic tour through England, a tiny portion of Scotland, and Wales. Memorable stops on the tour included York Minster, the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, Edinburgh Castle, Chester with its Roman walls, Caernarfon Castle, St. David's Cathedral, Swansea, Bath, Stonehenge, Stratford, and Oxford.

In early June we drove to Williams, Arizona where we met our sons and their families for a train ride to and from the Grand Canyon. We all spent two nights at the Canyon enjoying hikes and especially dinner at the El Tovar hotel. We then left Williams with our 9 year old twin granddaughters to drive back to Sacramento. After a week of enjoying the activities in Sacramento and our pool, the four of us flew to Oklahoma City to return the girls to their parents.

From **Elizabeth Abersold:** August 10th and 11th, I attended my two granddaughters' college graduations near Nashville. Flo graduated from Austin Peay University in Clarksville with an art major, and Jordan graduated from Middle Tennessee Tech with a Mass Communication Major. I was delighted the graduations were back to back. We had a family reunion, as well, and enjoyed by all.

My son, Michael, returned safely from Afghanistan in mid-June. He will remain at the base in Germany for another year.

- Gary and Julie Bush

GeoCaching

By Jack Blackburn

After I retired I had to find a hobby to keep me active. Fishing worked for a while but after a year or so I felt like I was getting stuck in a rut.

Then in Sept 2003 I discovered GeoCaching. GeoCaching started in May 2000 when the "Bug" was removed from the system of satellite signals and then allowed everyone access to the means of locating themselves on the surface of the earth, (your car GPS navigator), and their destination, (motel or GeoCache).

There are GeoCaches all over the world, even on the space shuttle. Each cache is uniquely named and is rated at from 1 to 5 stars for the identifying difficulty, and from 1 to 5 stars for the terrain to the 'cache'. This allows you to seek caches in your comfort Zone. For instance, a 1-1 would have very simple clues and be wheelchair accessible, and a 5-5 might have complex clues and have you hanging onto the side of a cliff 100' in the air looking for something as large as an ammo box or as small as your little fingernail.

Once you have found a cache, you sign the log and re-hide the cache for the next guy. You then go back to the web and post your success on the "find". It's a modern-day, high-tech version of the old "Scavenger Hunt" but it's not so important "what" you find but rather that you "found it."

Some caches are large enough to contain "swag" that you can exchange for something you leave and/or they may contain travel bugs, (TB's), items that are traveling around with specific "missions". They each have a unique number and can be tracked as they are moved around by GeoCachers. I personally have a coin, presently in Germany with over 25,000 miles on it and another that accumulated 21,000 miles traveling

around New Zealand before it finally disappeared, (into someone's pocket?). I have moved or discovered over 1000 TB's.

Recently a friend and I traveled to Kansas to log into "Mingo" the oldest active cache in the world to celebrate my 11,000th caching milestone. We followed that by getting to the oldest cache in Colorado, "Tarryall" and then a few more caches on Pikes Peak.

To date I have found caches in 11 states and 4 countries. I have found more than 10 caches for every day of the year and carry a 1.77 difficulty average and a 2.02 terrain average. That shows that a lot of my geocaching has been on the many trails in the area and is keeping me fit and busy.

There is also another type of cache called a 'Puzzle Cache' where you can really stretch your mind trying to solve for the correct latitude/longitude or other coordinates. I know some folks that just solve those and never hike out to find the cache. Caches are placed everywhere and are often in little known but interesting areas. All in all GeoCaching seems to have something for everybody and has brought me a lot of adventure, exercise and contentment.

Events

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

District 1 -

Caltrans retirees and QCC members meet on the 3rd Thursday of the months of January, April, July and October at 11:30 am at the Samoa Cookhouse.

Contact **John Sherman** at jsherman1@Humboldt1.com or call (707) 498-2629 for details.

District 2 -

Retired Caltrans Ladies Lunch Bunch meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 11:30 AM, location varies.

Contact **Judy Tucker** at
linedancerjudyt@citlink.net

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 -

Save the Date for the Fall Party
Either Nov 4th or Nov 11th at 1pm
Call **Dan Johnson, Sr** for more info.

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

Contact: **Doug Becker** 530-622-1665,
doug.becker@att.net

District 4 -

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

Contact: **Ed Coble** 925-645-4219,
edcoble49@astound.net

Administration Retirees Lunch meets on the third Wednesday of each month at the Mexicali Rose Restaurant in downtown Oakland at 11:30am.
Contact **Anita Appiano** (aappiano@pacbell.net) or **Kathy Freeman** (kathy.freeman1@att.net).

The North Bay Caltrans Retirees meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

Contact: **Jim Bouler** 707-546-3097,
jbouler@comcast.net

District 5 -

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

District 6 -

The Caltrans Retiree Breakfast meets at 9 am on the third Wednesday in March and September at the

Waffle House on Route 68 in Lindsay. Contact:
Don Phillips 559-781-2057

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.

Christmas Party
Tuesday, December 4, 2012
Save the date

District 7 -

Annual Holiday Celebration
December 1, 2012
At the **Miyako Inn**
328 East 1st Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213)-330-2800

The Tom Fera Monthly Luncheon Club meets on the second Wednesday of the month (except December) in Los Angeles.

Contact: **Chuck O'Connell** at (661) 253-3428 or chuckoconnell@prodigy.net, or **Tom Gildersleeve** at (661) 259-6226 or tgilders@pacbell.net.

10-10-12 Steer N' Ale, 3644 E. Foothill Blvd, Pasadena (626) 796-2278

11-14-12 China Olive, 9224 Reseda Blvd Northridge (818) 998-3688

District 8 -

Christmas Luncheon Saturday, December 8th
12:00 noon at The Gourmet
Highland Avenue, San Bernardino
Information will be mailed in November.

Every Wednesday morning at 9:00 Construction Retirees and anyone else interested meet at Coco's Restaurant in San Bernardino.

District 9 -

Contact: **Lance Hinek**, 760-873-3885,
hinek@suddenlink.net

District 10 -

In October the District 10 bi-yearly lunch
 At the U.J. restaurant in Stockton
 Date and program forthcoming

For details on events contact **Brian Young**
 209-329-3445 cell or byoung@lodinet.com.

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
EagleAyerie@hotmail.com

Save the date: Annual Luncheon
 Thursday January 17, 2013, 11:30 AM
 At the Barra Barra Restaurant in Old Town
 More details to follow

Central District -

Holiday Luncheon is December 12, 2012
 at the Dante Club starting at 11am.

Contact **Gary or Julie Bush**
 530-642-8208
zbusharosa@wildblue.net

**Bicycle Tour of the Eastern Sierras and
 Southern Cascades**

By Mike Ogilvie

Three friends and I traveled by bicycle 480 miles from Mammoth Lakes to Mount Shasta during the last two weeks of July this year. We wanted to follow the Pacific Crest Trail, but since our bikes are not suited for dirt or rough terrain, we had to stick to a paved alternate. Without many choices we decided on the obvious and most direct route, north on US 395 and then on Hwy 89 all the way to Mount Shasta. This would take us through a portion of Districts 9, 10, 3 and 2.

We each had a small tent and sleeping bag and we camped in USFS campgrounds, state parks, private RV campgrounds and even the county fairgrounds in Quincy, whatever was conveniently located to balance out the cycling effort. Most camping spots had a stream, pond or lake nearby, so the lack of showers in many cases was compensated for with a swim. The old mill pond in Graeagle was especially nice. We did put up in a motel in Truckee where we stayed an extra day to do some sightseeing and visit the Donner Memorial park. It was rare that we knew there would be groceries and food available where we planned to camp, so the usual dilemma was figuring out where to buy food for dinner and tomorrow's breakfast so that we didn't have to carry it very far to camp that day.

We passed by numerous Caltrans yards and cautiously rode through a few Caltrans improvement projects. I had to stop and take a photo of the Sierraville maintenance yard as they still had their old Division of



Highways sign on display. One nice downhill section between Conway Summit and Bridgeport

was being paved as we rode through, with flagman-controlled one way traffic. That was really smooth fresh pavement.

The temperatures were hot (mid 90s) in the lower elevations and moderate in the uppers, as we expected. It was 37 degrees first thing in the morning at Summit Lake (elev 6700) in Lassen NP. We experienced a few sprinkles between Meeks Bay and the Truckee River, but it didn't hold us back. Those logging trucks north of Truckee really kept us on our toes. Several times we were obliged to quickly get off the pavement when they were approaching from behind and there was little to no shoulder on a blind curve.

Although we knew we would be climbing up and over several high elevations, we were surprised when we listed them all after the ride. They were Deadman Pass, Conway Pass, Monitor Pass, Luther Pass, Devil's Gate Summit, Lee Summit, Morgan Summit, Lassen Summit, Eskimo Hill Summit, Dead Horse Summit and Snowman's Hill Summit. The places we camped at were Mono Vista RV in Lee Vining, Bootleg CG near Walker, Carson River Resort near Markleeville, Meeks Bay CG, Movin' West RV in Graeagle, the Plumas County Fairgrounds in Quincy, Lake Almanor, Summit Lake in Lassen NP, Burney Falls and Dance Country RV in McCloud. I highly recommend the Coyote Bar and Grill in Graeagle for their margaritas, Ali's in Markleeville for her breakfast, and the White Mountain Café in McCloud for their breakfast. We averaged 40 miles per day with a total elevation gain of 28,000 vertical feet. And, only one flat tire to repair. The people we met were friendly and helpful and the scenery the entire way was spectacular.

L-R: Dave Miller (D11), Bruce, Mike Ogilvie, and Curtis.



To Honorary Members

Have you seen this option-

FREE PRINTED COPIES

on the membership renewal form? Many of you have and didn't know exactly what it was for, or thought it was just a free subscription if you checked the box. Well, here is the rest of the story.

If you are at least 80 years of age, you are classified as an Honorary member of the QCC. Being an Honorary member qualifies you for a discounted rate for the printed QCCer, or the electronic version of the QCCer for free (if you have a working email address). These dues rates are less than our cost of producing and sending the QCCer to you, so it's a pretty good deal. The other free option is for Honorary members who cannot afford the \$5 or \$10 rate and do not have a working email account. In other words, paying the dues would be a hardship for them. In this case, the QCC Constitution allows for the free delivery of the printed QCCer, IF the Honorary member makes a confidential request to their QCC District Director, AND the Director provides written approval. This written approval is best sent along with the completed renewal form to the QCC Secretary/Treasurer.

So, if you think this may apply to you, don't hesitate to contact your QCC District Director. We don't want any QCC members to be left out.

New Members

Welcome

- D-2 James Moore
- D-2 Dennis Pollock
- D-8 Robert Pester
- D-8 Linda Supernaw
- C John Gizinos
- C O. J. Solander