

# TheQCCer

The Newsletter of the Quarter  
Century Club

VOLUME 22, No. 2

JUNE 2013



## Golden State shines...

*'SUMMER IS HERE !'*

### From the Corner Pocket

Summer should have officially arrived for all of us, with the small exception of any who may live in Alaska. Retirees have left the Golden State to be near family or their former homeland and if you are one who moved to almost anywhere other than California, you have my sympathy for your suffering this past winter. In San Diego I had lunch on an outdoor beach patio on December 31 and my 'Home State' of Minnesota had 17" of new snow in May.

June is the official start of summer and for many that means travel plans, or picnics and outdoor Bar-B-Q's. Does your District QCC have a summer event planned? If not, why not call a few friends and put something on the calendar. You don't have to include everyone, although inviting them all would be nice. Remember that no matter what or when the event might be there are always some who have other plans and can't make it. Are there a handful of friends who might find a common date and location for a get together? Go for it and tell us how it went.

The D-11 R.O.M.E.O.'s, *Retired Old Men Eating Out*, has a 'roster' of over 100 names with an average monthly attendance of about one fourth of

that. At the May breakfast, the question of "When did it start?" had no one able to say for sure. But given the age of the people there, they could all have been too young, or they have too short of memories. The best guess is that this monthly breakfast has been going on for 'about' 50 years, with a life of its own. No one has to do any planning, people just show up for breakfast and share their joys and stories.



And if you invite some of your friends who are not QCC members, you might convince your Director that it was a recruiting event and be reimbursed for your effort. Remember that Districts have a budgeted amount that can be spent on recruiting efforts. Last year, District's underspent their budgeted amount. For a recruiting event, contact your Director who needs to approve and submit the claim for the event.

I'm happy to say that I have sent logo watches to several new members who have signed up for at least five years in their initial membership. Our Secretary/Treasurer Mike Ogilvie tells me that we have fifteen new members so far this year. I'm also encouraged to see more members making their contribution of stories from their experiences. Thanks for your participation and vote of confidence!

**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>

**Correction:** The QCCer made a mistake in the March edition by putting **Albert (Al) Phillips** name in the “In Memoriam” Section. We are sorry, but are happy to say we made a mistake. **Chuck O’Connell** received a call from Al who said, “the report of his demise was premature.” He wants to say hello to everyone and that he lives in Reno with his wife and is currently recovering from some recent operations.

## CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION FOUNDATION

By **Kathy Freeman**

The California Transportation Foundation (CTF) was proud to continue its support of Caltrans' annual Workers Memorial Ceremony held in May at the State Capitol. Although there were no Caltrans' employees lost in the line of duty during 2012, the event honored two members of a special rock-scaling crew out of Yreka Maintenance Yard (District 2), **Shawn Baker and Joseph "Robert" Jones**, both **Caltrans Equipment Operator IIs**, that lost their lives just eight days prior to the event. The Foundation has established a Workers Memorial Grant in each of the names of these fallen workers.

Another Workers Memorial Grant was recently established in the name of **Dean Patton, D3 Caltrans Highway Maintenance Worker**, who died in a tragic accident on May 2, 2013 while on his way to attend the Workers Memorial Ceremony in Sacramento.

A Memorial Scholarship was recently been created in honor of **Bimla Rhinehart** and her contributions to transportation in California. She had more than 20 years of experience with Caltrans in both Headquarters and the Districts, served as Executive Director of the California Transportation Commission, was an active member of the Sacramento Chapter of the Women in Transportation Seminar (WTS), and was also an active board member of the California Transportation Foundation.

If you wish to make a donation to any of these memorial accounts, you may send a check made out to "CTF" with the last name of the individual designated in the memo line and mail it to the California Transportation Foundation, 581 La Sierra Drive, Sacramento CA 95864.

The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual **CTF Transportation Awards** ceremony was held on May 23<sup>rd</sup> in Sacramento.

These awards recognize excellence in California transportation, all modes, public and private sector and from all regions of the state. Be sure to check out CTF's website for more information and photos of the 18 winners. Congratulations to all those involved in the winning projects with special recognition to those Caltrans Districts sharing in these awards:

**District 3** -- Freeway/Expressway Project of the Year, SR 65 Lincoln Bypass;

**District 4** -- Project of the Year Award, SR 237 Express Lanes; Structures Project of the Year -- Presidio Parkway, Southbound Battery Tunnel and Temporary Bypass; and Interchange Project of the Year, Doyle Drive Contract 3;

**District 5** -- Safety Project of the Year, SR 101 Wildlife Corridor;

**District 7** -- Operations Efficiency Program of the Year, I-110 Express Lanes;

**District 8** -- Sustainable Environmental Enhancement Project of the Year, SR 330 Mountain Yellow Legged Frog Recovery; and,

**District 11**-- Conventional Highway Project of the Year, SR 76 Middle Section.

And our special thanks to the following retirees for their valuable assistance at the event: **Bob Giess, Joyce Rosenberg, and Heinz Heckerroth.**

The Foundation would also like to congratulate and recognize each of the following Caltrans' managers for their special contributions to the field of transportation and for winning this year's Caltrans Outstanding Management and Engineering in Transportation Awards: **Raymond Tritt, Chief of the Office of Special Projects, Division of Design** won the Charles Purcell Award (engineering managers in the field of transportation engineering and transportation program management); **Paul McClintic, District Traffic Operations Engineer in District 5** won the Karl Moskowitz Award (registered engineers in the field of transportation engineering); **Mark Mahan, Senior Bridge Engineer in the Division of Engineering Services, Structure Policy and Innovation**, won the James E. Roberts Award (registered engineers in the field

of transportation structures); with both **Andrew P. Nierenberg, Deputy District Director in District 7's Division of Right of Way** and **Norma Ortega, Chief Financial Officer in the Division of Finance** winning the Emerson Rhyner Award (non-engineering managers). These awards were presented during the Foundation's annual Transportation Awards ceremony on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The first CTF Southern California Charity Golf Tournament was held in Irvine recently. It was deemed a total success thanks to the participation of 122 people representing both public and private sectors. Congratulations to the Caltrans D11 team of **Rob Hillman, Cory Binns, Ross Cather, and Mark Phelan** for coming in 3<sup>rd</sup> place of the 30 teams participating.

You recently should have received your copy of "Headways", CTF's newsletter. We hope you enjoyed the information and encourage your continued support. We depend on your contributions to keep CTF's programs going. If you haven't yet seen a copy, check out CTF's website ([www.transportationfoundation.org](http://www.transportationfoundation.org)).

**Editor's Note:**

The following "In Memoriam" Section lists 37 retired Caltrans employees or their spouses. As a point of interest, only 10 were QCC members at the time of their death.

***In Memoriam***

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

Name	District	Date
Ralph Fullmer	01	May 12, 2013
Alton R (Bob) Kay	01	May 20, 2013
Margaret Blumer	01	May 1, 2013
Art Krygier	03	Feb 3, 2012
Josephine (Jo) Lofgren	03	Dec 11, 2012
Art Nelson	03	Apr 23, 2013
Robert (Bob) Tyler	03	May 25, 2013
Albert (Al) Jorge	05	May 20, 2013

Ken Cartwright	06	Mar 16, 2013
Albert(Al)John Zimmerman	06	Mar 21, 2013
George Shamshoian	06	Jan 4, 2013
William J. Schultz	06	Jan 7, 2013
Paul Bogosian	06	Feb 9, 2013
Dorothy Combs	06	Mar 12, 2013
Billy Gene Holpp	06	Feb 21, 2013
Charlie Wilson	06	Mar 14, 2013
Hazel Juanita Jorgensen	06	Mar 29, 2013
William (Bill) Leonard	07	May 4, 2013
Francisco E. Recalde	08	Jan 15, 2013
J. Frank Cordova, Jr	08	Feb 20, 2013
Jay L. Gwie	08	Jan 6, 2013
Juan C. Ramirez	08	Apr 7, 2013
Jane Grant	08	Apr 6, 2013
Carolina G. Gonzales	08	Apr 7, 2013
Les Nolte	08	Apr 15, 2013
Martha Rosenberg Quade	08	Apr 22, 2013
Richard (Dick) Slater	08	May 16, 2013
Earnest (Ernie) F. Smith, Jr	10	Apr 13, 2013
Vaughn Johnson	11	2013
Darryl (Skip) D. De Silva	11	Feb 24, 2013
Kelly Swift Wier	11	2013
Robert (Bob) Moses	11	Mar 16, 2013
Leonard Zink	11	Mar 2013
Ray Forsyth	C	Mar 7, 2013
Elmer A. Jenkins, Jr	C	Apr 3, 2013
Robert (Bob) J. Felton	C	Apr 8, 2013
Louise Ginsberg	C	2013

**The Interstate 40 Story  
(Ludlow to Needles)**

By Fred L. Jackson, P.E.

Remember "Get your kicks, on Route 66"! Well here is a story of how 76 desert miles of Route 66 were relocated and became Interstate 40.

In 1973 I was the Advance Planning Engineer in District 8 for the State Department of Transportation involved in adopting a new highway route reducing the travel distance from Ludlow to Needles by 16 miles. The route stayed above 2000-foot elevation, which meant a cooler travel for motorists and vehicles compared to old Route 66 at 600-foot elevation. The 60-mile relocation involved four construction contracts. One 20-mile project did not have a single interchange.

The new route went through General Patton's artillery range. We had to negotiate a contract with the Army to sweep the excavation sections to remove unexploded artillery shells because about ten percent of the shells did not explode on impact.

Santa Fe Railroad wanted a joint route with the new highway through the Marble Mountains. They wanted to use a nuclear blast to make a large slot through the mountains. The Federal Energy Department had been seeking a peaceful project for nuclear bombs. President Johnson nullified the production of the bombs so the railroad abandoned their plan. We went forward with the freeway project on our routing without the railroad.

I had eight flat tires on my state vehicle on my trips along the routing. The State was using cheap Pacific tires, and they were no good in rough terrain. On two occasions I had two flat tires in a single day. A highway maintenance crew helped us out by grading a trail for use by surveyors, design and construction staff.

A great amount of wildlife was encountered along the route. We encountered wild burros, coyotes, jack rabbits, mountain quail, desert tortoises, and rattle snakes. The quail were very curious about humans. I saw eight tortoises in one day. One afternoon I sent Joe Walsh back to bring the car ahead. A big cloud passed overhead and the temperature really dropped. I thought the coolness could bring out the snakes. As I looked down, there was a large black diamondback rattler with a cardinal-red colored head three steps ahead of me. If I had not looked down when I did, I would have stepped on it.

But the Desert Bighorn Sheep turned out to be the biggest problem. In 1969, the state Department of Fish and Game did an aerial survey and discovered a herd of about 200 Bighorn Sheep. The Fish and Game experts knew that the freeway would block the sheep trails and access to water holes and lambing areas.

So special measures were incorporated into the project; special design fences so the rams would not get trapped in the fence, enlarged drainage culverts so the sheep could cross the freeway safely, and new watering holes to replace ones destroyed by the freeway. This probably was one of the first projects to use these measures to protect wildlife from construction impacts.

I ended up as design engineer for the four construction contracts, and that was a great experience also.

(Information on Bighorn Sheep came from a San Diego Union newspaper article by Homer Clance from 1973.)

## *The Haps in District 1*

Upcoming event: Caltrans, District 1 plans to have our Service Awards lunch on July 10, 11:30am to 2pm. More details to come.

The Jazz Festival was held in March with a lot of great music. It was nice to see fellow retirees; **Bruce Miner** and his wife, **Vi Truby**, and **Dean Bottini's** widow, **Mary Ann**.

On April 18, the District retirees had our quarterly lunch at the Samoa Cookhouse. We all had a great time eating and visiting. **Arlon Sauls** travelled the farthest, from Nevada; **Alan Radford** is retiring soon and joined our group; and **Stan** and **Joanne Bellatti** were able to join us. We had about 37 attend. We are continuing to add more retirees. A special treat was to see **Ray Thomsen's** new classic car. Watch for it at the upcoming local car shows.

**Rick Knapp** made the local news again. The Humboldt Bay Bicycle Commuters Association put on their annual Ride-to-Work Day and the group, including Rick, was pictured in the Times-Standard. The Tri-City Weekly wrote a great article about the organization, including a photo of Rick

demonstrating bike safety gear. This group is a great asset to our community.

**Doug and Rita Coleman** have been busy with their family. They are travelling to see their youngest grandson graduate from high school and next month will see their oldest great-grandson graduate from high school in Fortuna. Time does go fast.

Another retiree, **Gordon Johnson**, has been appointed to the Rio Dell City Council to fill a seat vacated in March. He had served on the City's Planning Commission for the last two years.

Sadly, we lost two more of our retired engineers, **Ralph Fullmer** on May 12 and **Bob Kay** on May 20.

**Bob's Dad, Alton F. Kay**, was the Bridge engineer stationed in District 1 prior to his retirement. Like his father, Bob served over 36 years prior to his retirement. Bob was one of our special Senior Transportation Engineers and an honorary QCC Member. He was great to work with and one of the nicest people I knew. We enjoyed seeing him and his family at a lot of activities after retirement. He enjoyed his family, travel, camping, fishing and other outdoor activities. In the 1970's, he even rebuilt a 30' fishing boat.

**Ralph Fullmer** served many years in District 1 and retired in 1984. He passed away after a 12 year battle with cancer.

**Margaret Blumer**, wife of deceased retired Senior Trans. Engineer, **Howard Blumer**, passed away in Surprise, Arizona at age 92 on May 1, 2013. She was a school teacher in Eureka prior to her retirement in 1970.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends of **Ralph, Bob and Margaret**.

- Arlene Hartin

## *The Haps in District 2*

We had very little correspondence for this issue, so either our District 2 members were busy and preoccupied, or they are all saving the news of their travels until after summer for the fall issue of the QCC'er.

Occasionally we are glad to print a retraction to a previous article. In the case of **Albert (Al) Phillips**, the reporting of his demise was greatly exaggerated (in his own words). Due to circumstances, he had relocated to Reno, Nevada, however, no trail to follow had been left behind (think bread crumbs?). Sincere thanks to **Gene Poch** for his superior sleuthing in tracking him down. I know everyone is relieved and grateful for his outstanding work. Here is the update for the **Phillips** family:

The Phillips moved from Shingletown to Reno in 2008 to be closer to a daughter, shopping and medical facilities. They also have 2 daughters still in Folsom and 1 in Yuba City who alternate in providing care for them. At the time of our last luncheon, **Al** had only been home for a couple of weeks following 2 surgeries for a broken femur and hip replacement. His physical therapy is going well. He also had knee replacement surgery in 2007, and cataract surgery for both eyes. Eileen has to rely on a wheelchair for mobility, and oxygen assistance. Glad you're still with us Al and Eileen! We wish you the very best.

**Dan McPherson** (previously a D-2 employee, now retired from D-10) and his wife Cheryl were proud to give away the bride at a wedding ceremony for their daughter Jessica to Mr. Darin Liedtke in Jamestown this May. Congratulations!

Mark your calendars for September 7<sup>th</sup>! That Saturday will be our annual QCC picnic at Anderson River Park. We once again have the gazebo reserved. Details will be sent out prior to

the event. As always, all past and present Caltrans employees and their families are invited to attend.

- **Bill Belcher**

### *The Haps in District 3*

Our Spring Party was well attended in April and we will be having our “Pre-Holiday Party” in November at the Peach Tree Golf and Country Club. Announcement flyers will be sent to all members prior to November.

**Dan Johnson, Sr.** has proposed to Valerie Otten and she has accepted. Dan gave her an engagement ring when the big event took place several weeks ago just prior to their trip to Hawaii. They spent nine days on Maui taking in all the excitement in Paradise. Dan’s son Dan, Jr. and his wife Terese joined them mid-way through the week to celebrate. Dan was introduced to Valerie by a close friend of both early last year. Valerie has three grown children and three grandchildren.

Our sympathy goes out to the following families who have lost a loved one.

We have received word from **Jan Johnson** that **Emily Krygier’s** husband **Art** passed away on February 3, 2012 last year. Art was a former District 3 Caltrans Employee who had worked at Central Region as a Landscape Worker, then transferring into the office as an Office Assistant. Emily also worked for Caltrans and following their retirement moved to Kingman Arizona to be close to their daughter and her family.

**Jan** also advised she received word from the daughters of **Josephine (Jo) Lofgren** that Jo passed away on December 11, 2012. Jo worked at Central Region as a CMOST. She previously worked at Chico Maintenance as an HFOA and later transferred to Central Region in Marysville. Jo

retired in 1986, returning to Chico, then to Porterville to be near her Daughter Betty and family.

**Carol Hislop Nelson** has advised the passing of **Art Nelson**. Art passed away on April 23, 2013. Art had a long career with Caltrans. Carol wants to continue getting QCC notices and hopes to be able to attend the luncheons.

We have received word from **Duane Frink** and **Roger Stillwell** of the passing of **Robert (Bob) Tyler**, who passed away on May 25, 2013. Bob was an honorary QCC Member. Bob had been ill for some time. He passed away at home peacefully with family at his side. There will be a memorial service on June 30 in Grass Valley at 2 PM at the Sierra Presbyterian Church, 175 Ridge Road, Nevada City, CA.

**Carleen Hagen** is doing much better after her heart problem. She now has a pacemaker and everything is going well.

Please send any information for this publication to Dan Johnson, Sr. at email [boots3@syix.com](mailto:boots3@syix.com) or by phone at (530) 671-3889. In addition, he can be reached on his cell at (530) 300-3738.

- **Dan Johnson Sr.**

### *The Haps in District 4*

Here's more on **Jerry Hauke** being honored by the Statewide Association of Resource Conservation Districts as Volunteer of the Year that I promised you in the last issue of the QCCer.

He's persistent. He looks for any opportunity to move good projects forward. He's big on building partnerships wherever there are shared goals. This approach of persistence, opportunity and



partnerships sums up the successful strategy of Trinity outdoorsman **Jerry Hauke**, who has been named Volunteer of the Year by the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts.

Jerry was one of several who early on recognized the possible benefits of forming a community-based forest on the public lands surrounding Weaverville. He worked thoughtfully to build coalitions to move the idea forward with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Residents liked the notion of protecting their viewshed and enhancing recreational opportunities close to town. In 2005 his approach paid off with the founding of the Weaverville Community Forest (WCF) on nearly 1,000 acres of BLM land through a stewardship agreement. More of Hauke's approach led to an expansion of the community forest onto 12,000 acres of USFS land.

Hauke is an advocate of community-led conservation. He serves on the Weaverville Community Forest Steering Committee that guides the stewardship of the WCF and is a member of the Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee that considers and recommends projects to the USFS. Jerry also volunteers with the Northwest California Resource Conservation and Development Council. The Council promotes an array of projects to help develop economic, natural and social resources in Trinity, Humboldt and Del Norte counties in ways that improve our quality of life.

Hauke volunteered countless days during the past 13 years to recreational trail development and maintenance. He promotes the Weaverville Basin Trail System and all trails in Trinity County as a regional resource attracting tourism. For more than a decade Hauke has organized monthly trail hikes in various Trinity locales, sometimes with the goal of highlighting a conservation project or at other times just for the sheer beauty of the destination.

Kudos to **Kathy Freeman** and **Beth Rogers** for following up on Beth's suggestions to get more

retirees in our group (and some that are still working for the State) to sign up for membership in the Quarter Century Club. They mailed applications for membership to all eligible people. With the applications, they told the candidates that membership is an easy and fun way to find out who is doing what, when and where. In addition, they mentioned that there is a lot of information in the QCCer that is shared on a statewide basis and which probably wouldn't be found anywhere else.

**Jim Boulter** of the North Bay Retirees Lunch Group dropped an e-mail to me to say that the Group for their April meeting did something different. They took a tour of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge East Span Replacement Projects.

The group met at 9:30 AM at the Richmond Marina. The group included several wives, family members, and friends. There the group boarded the "Caltrans", a boat used by the Caltrans Bridge Maintenance crews to inspect and maintain portions of the State owned bridges that are accessible only by water. The boat had a three man crew.

Upon leaving the Richmond Marina, they headed north for the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge and passed under the Bridge inspecting the underside. After that they headed west, skirting around Belvedere, Tiburon and Sausalito and then passed under the Golden Gate Bridge. Joining them in viewing the bridge were a seal and several porpoises. Then they headed east to Alcatraz and enjoyed a spectacular view of the San Francisco skyline. Then they headed to the SFOBB. They passed underneath the west suspension span near the center pier.

At this bridge they were treated to an encounter with one of the America's Cup sailing ships practicing for the upcoming America Races. Then they headed east and passed south of Yerba Buena Island and passed under the new eastern span construction.

Then they headed back to the Richmond Marina where they had a fabulous lunch at the Hotel Mac Restaurant.

Overall they had a sparkling day for their trip with no fog or clouds at all to spoil their views. They did encounter some wind but the boat created its own wind and a little spray.

- Paul Hensley

## *The Haps in District 5*

**H**ope you are all enjoying the summer season. Don't have much news to share this time...haven't been in contact with many folks lately.

We did attend a recent meeting of the California State Retirees Chapter 10. We always come home with information of interest to retirees. We shared a table with **Don & Donna Cross, Ranell & FJ Bailey, and Joan McGrath.**

The July 25 meeting will be the annual BBQ at Rancho El Chorro Park, starting at 10:30 a.m. You may contact **Pearl Cole** for more information.

We're sorry to report that **Albert (Al) Jorge** passed away May 20 at the age of 85. Al served in the Navy and was a graduate of Cal Poly. He worked for Division of Highways and Caltrans from 1950 to 1982. Al was an honorary QCC Member. He was a long-time resident of Morro Bay and was involved in many community activities there. He is survived by his wife Delores, children Zoe, Gloria, Frank and Dorene, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

- Kathleen Copeland

## *The Haps in District 6*

**D**istrict 6 news is filled with many retirees on the road last traveled. As **Dick Beck** said: *"Our Caltrans retirees are dropping like flies. **George Shamshoian and Bill Schultz** in January, **Paul Boghosian and Bill Holpp** in February and now **Kenny and Dottie** in March. I hope that it stops with this or we won't have many left."*

I agree with **Dick Beck**. Too many lost as of late. I lost my dad in January and my uncle Kenny in March. I have spent a lot of time in Oregon because of my dad and haven't really had time to do QCC jobs. I really need someone to step up and take this over. I will help in any way I can but I just won't be in CA that much for some time. Call me at 559-974-3885 if you can help or you have any suggestions. Thanks, **Terry Littleton.**

### Road Last Traveled

My uncle, **Ken Cartwright** 87, of Fresno passed away March 16. He was a civil engineer for Caltrans (formerly Division of Highways) for many years before retiring.

*From **Richard Schumacher**: "I am sorry to hear of your uncles passing. I had occasion to work with him when he was in R/W. He will be missed."*

*From **George Meyers**. "I'm sorry to hear of Ken's passing. He is the last of my old Caltrans hunting buddies. We went hunting in Utah with **Bob Larsen and Bill Allenslager**."*

*From **Virge Ray**: "Terry, Sandy and I are in Orville, so won't be at the memorial. Our thoughts are with you; the thought of no more hugs, laughter and all the good things we enjoyed with our loved one is overwhelming. So we trudge on realizing how precious each moment is we spend with others."*

*From **Bob Tsubota**: "Very sorry to hear of Ken's passing. Our deepest sympathy to you and his family. He was such a fun person to be around. He will be missed by all who knew him."*

*From Betty Simmons: "So sorry to hear of your loss. He was such a great guy. I remember how sweet he was at your mom's funeral."*

*From Glenn Mills: "Sorry to hear about your uncle. He was a good man. Take care."*

*From John Wright - "Sorry to hear this. Ken was one of the good guys."*

*From Corinne Cathcart: "So sorry to hear about Ken. Bob played poker with him until Bob had his back surgery. Very sad."*

*From Cynthia Binger: "I'm so sorry, Terry. I've always liked Ken. My sympathy to you and the family."*

*From Imogene Ryder: "So sorry re Ken's passing. He was a very nice, kind person. My heartfelt sympathies to you and his family during these difficult times."*

*From Georgia Cordova: "I am SO sorry to learn of Ken's death. He is one of my very favorite people. Had he been ill? He looked terrific last time I saw him, just a few months ago."*



**Albert John Zimmerman**, of Fresno and Redding, California, died on March 21, 2013, at Mercy Hospital in Redding, CA at age 88. Al was born to Albert H. and Margaret W. Zimmerman in Fresno, Ca. on April 1, 1924. He graduated Hamilton and Fresno High School. After one semester at Fresno State College, he volunteered for the United States Navy in April of 1942. He served in the Pacific Theatre and was honorably discharged at the end of World War II. Upon graduating from the University of Utah in Civil Engineering, his career as a Civil Engineer spanned 40 years. He served the Division of Highways, now Caltrans and was an honorary QCC member. After retiring as a Resident Engineer from Caltrans, he served as a Principal Engineer for Parsons De Leuw, Inc. As Division of Highways Resident Engineer for the State Route 99 "Grapevine" Project, he met Louise in 1960 in Kern County. She was a teacher at Bakersfield High School and knew from the first moment of meeting

that he was the one for her. They were married and there began 51 years of marriage.

*From Lewis Wagoner - "WOW!!!! Al John was one of the guys. Thanks for keeping us informed. They are going fast."*

*From Joe Kosko - "Al was the Senior who gave me my first permanent assignment at Caltrans in the hydraulic section with John Wright, one of the best places and boss I have worked with at the State. John, what a great mentor and friend, not unlike you my friend."*

**George Shamshoian** was born on October 28, 1927 in Clovis, California and passed away on January 4, 2013 in Visalia, Calif. George graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1945, and attended Fresno State, when he was drafted into the army. He served in the United States Army during the Korean War. He then worked for Caltrans for about 27 years.

**William J. Shultz** passed away Jan 7, 2013. He was born in St. Cloud, MN. At the age of 14, he rode the rails to California to get away from the cold. He graduated from Tranquility High School and served in the United States Navy. In 1951, he became the first person in the family to earn a college degree, graduating from Fresno State with a degree in physical science. He taught school for a short time, but then switched careers and became a highway engineer for Caltrans.

**Paul Bogosian**, 96, of Fresno died February 9, 2013. He was a civil engineer for the State of California.

**Dorothy Combs**, 84, of Arkansas City, Kansas, formerly of Fresno, died March 12, 2013. She was an employee with the California Department of Transportation.

**Billy Gene Holpp** passed away on February 21, 2013 at the age of 81. Billy was born in Ohio and a resident of Fresno, CA for 57 years. He was a

veteran of the U.S. Navy, having served his country in the Korean Conflict. Billy worked as an engineer for Caltrans in the District Materials Lab for 10 years.

**Charlie Wilson**, 94, a retired Highway Foreman from Porterville was laid to rest on March 14th in Visalia. Charlie retired in 1980, and has been active with friends at the Semiannual CT breakfast in Porterville. Charlie was in the Army during WWII. and was honored with a military funeral by AMVETS Post # 56.

**Hazel Juanita Jorgensen**, 88, of Fresno died March 29, 2013. She was a supervisor for Caltrans for many years before retiring.

From **Bob Dubel**: *"Thank you Terry. So many of us knew Hazel from the old days. She was head of the reproduction department. Her department printed, assembled, and bound all reports prepared in the District 6 office, printed all blueprints and later drawings and plans using a large zerox printer. When a photographic process for reproducing drawings on the plastic mylar was available she supervised this process. She was indispensable to getting all the work done."*

#### Other News

From **Georgia Cordova**: *"Mary Berg is in an Alzheimer's facility.....Somerset Place at Marks and Shaw. She has been there about eight months by now."*

In closing, I will repeat my request for someone to step up and take over preparing the District 6 QCC article for the quarterly newsletter. I will help in any way I can but I just won't be in CA that much for some time. Call me at 559-974-3885 if you can help or you have any suggestions. Thanks!

- Terry Littleton

## *The Haps in District 7*

**S**aved by a bear! NOT the bear you might be thinking of... It is a bear in **Marie Martin's** neck of the woods, which averted another scanty submittal; if you don't write 'em, we can't print 'em... your mundane, might be our adventure. We need to hear from your neck of the woods too, even if it is a post card or e-mail.

#### Get to your Monthly Group

For those who are looking for lunch and some hot topics, the **Tom Fera Lunch Group** is your kind of crowd! These thought-full retirees meet on the second Wednesday of each month, except December. Upcoming meetings are: **June 12, 2013** China Olive, **July 10, 2013** at Joselito's West; **August 14, 2013** at the Steer N' Ale, and **September 11, 2013** at the China Olive. The remaining 2013 dates and addresses follow below.

#### **RESTAURANTS AND PROPOSED LUNCHEON DATES FOR 2013**

[Second Wednesday of every month except December]

June 12, 2013 China Olive  
 July 10, 2013 Joselito's West  
 August 14, 2013 Steer N' Ale  
 September 11, 2013 China Olive  
 October 9, 2013 Joselito's West  
 November 13, 2013 Steer N' Ale  
 December 7, 2013 QCC luncheon

**China Olive Chinese Restaurant**; 9224 Reseda Boulevard, Northridge, CA 91324; (818) 998-3688  
**Joselito's West Mexican Restaurant**; 7308 Foothill Boulevard, Tujunga, CA 91042; (818) 951-2275  
**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](mailto:chuckoconnell@prodigy.net), or **Tom Gildersleeve** at (661) 259-6226 or [tgilders@pacbell.net](mailto:tgilders@pacbell.net).

### The Bear in the Woods

[Reader Alert: If you are of a squeamish inclination, you may want to skip to the next entry...]

Some of you may know that **Marie Martin** lives on a wooded peninsula in Washington State, between the ocean and a lake. In late May, she and **Bob Walters** “were walking the dogs down to the beach. **Lefty** [a small terrier mix] ran around the back of the last house on the road [to the beach], and emerged a few moments later looking very happy and excited. She kept looking behind the house and then at us. When we got to where **Lefty** was standing, we saw a HUGE bear. He was about 30 feet away from us and not the least perturbed or threatening. **Lefty** looked like she had just found a new friend.”

“We grabbed both dogs’ collars and spent a long time looking at the bear before he moved on. **Bismarck** [a pure Newfoundland, and as big as a small bear] only barked after the bear was gone, and then he started acting macho, like he scared the bear [off].”

“When we came back from the beach, we walked over to where the bear [had been] to let the dogs have a sniff, [and found] a big pile of scat.” Being a good dog owner, **Marie** carries baggies to pick-up after any doggy “scat”, so she was already prepared for what she relates next, “I put my hand in a plastic bag and touched it... it was still warm! We [had] just missed seeing a bear actually s[\*\*]t in the woods!”

### More Woods

On a trip last summer to Yosemite NP, **Kirsten** and **Stewart Stahl** agreed that the trip would not be complete without a hike. Since the excursion desk

at the Yosemite Lodge “at the falls” had a one-way option to Glacier Point, the 7.5 mile Panorama Trail to the valley floor seemed “just the ticket”. “The ranger said the average time for this hike is 4 to 6 hours; we figured we’d take about 8. That would leave some day light, time to catch the shuttle back to the lodge, a shower and perhaps a nice dinner.” Kirsten thought they were prepared, as she carried 4 liters of water, a change of clothes, wind breaker, “space” blankets, rain poncho, a sewing kit, and a few other survival tools. Stew carried two sandwiches, trail mix, two oranges, more water, three knee braces, and a flash light. “What we didn’t count on was being out after dark,” recalls Kirsten. They stopped occasionally to split an orange or share a sandwich, Stew waited patiently for Kirsten to catch up to him.

“Downhill looks easy, until you slip on the trail or have to step over high granite blocks,” **Kirsten** explained, the blocks were installed by the CCC who built the trail, to prevent trail erosion. “I did not remember the trail being so rugged when we did this 25 years ago”. When they reached Nevada Falls at approx. 5:30 PM, with only 2 hours of day light left, and approximately 3.5 more miles to go, “we realized we were going run out of light, my boot heels were separating from the sole, and **Stew’s** knees were locking up,” Kirsten relates, “I was at the point where I was shaking with fatigue, and the hike was only half-over.” Various other hikers offered water and encouragement, but neither she nor Stew considered calling it quits, yet. “When it got dark, we knew that Stew’s light was going to run out of juice, so we sat on a rock and considered our options. It was a warm night, a full moon, we had plenty of almost everything, we could settle in and wait for the day, or see if we could go a little farther”. They both opted for the latter. At another point, when sleeping off the trail seemed a more serious option, Kirsten remembered she had a small “toy” light in her sewing kit. This “science museum” souvenir lit up the rocky trail just enough to begin making progress again.

At the bridge near Vernal Falls the trail changed again, this time for the better. “The last mile was completely paved, and mostly level,” **Kirsten** exclaimed. “We were stiff and sore, but feeling great.” Then they reached “happy isles”. “We knew from several previous trips, there was a bridge crossing the river at the gauging station. We found the gauging station, but where was the bridge?” (The next day we learned it was washed out in the Flood of '97.) Forging the river was not an option, and the trail fanned out. “Our meager lights were too murky in the darkness to see the trail. We found a picnic table and sat to consider our new options.” It was almost midnight, and the bus receipt and the lodge extension number, might allow them to call the front desk, but only if they called before their pre-paid cell phone ran out of juice and money. Then three hikers with head lamps walked by, “They looked like they knew where to go, so we followed them... and they seemed to be crossing a bridge. We knew we were back in ‘civilization’ when we saw a trash can,” smiled Kirsten, “but our ordeal was not yet over.”

On the “right side” of the river, they faced the prospect of another 2.5 miles walk back to the lodge. “Could we call the front desk? The card with the room key did say, ‘please let us know how we can make your stay more pleasant’; I thought this must qualify”. After several partial and dropped calls to the desk clerk, a van was sent, the two were delivered to their room, the remaining sandwich was eaten, and the dust washed away. “We went to Camp Curry later that day, enjoyed a pizza and some soda, and then hobbled over to the mountain shop and acquired hiking poles and headlamps. Recent publications show the hike as 9 miles long. We’ve since used the poles for shorter hikes in Death Valley, and the lamps during several power outages last winter.” **Kirsten** relates, “Most of our friends thought we were nuts, but one awed friend exclaimed ‘you really pushed your selves beyond your limits!’, and another saw the humor in it.” Two excursion tickets, \$30, cell phone calls, \$1.70, van ride no charge, repairing shredded hiking boots, \$85, living to hike another day, priceless!

### Why are some of us Engineers?

[Reader Alert 2: Skip this item if you dislike word puzzles or venerate congress...]

**Tom Gildersleeve** shared an interesting thought about career choices, when he related this story, “As a young man, I considered going to medical school, but I was confused by the entrance exam, in particular the following question: ‘Can you re-arrange the letters *P N E S I* to spell out an important part of the human body that is more useful when erect?’ Those who spelled *SPINE* became doctors. The rest are in Congress.”

### Free Dell to Good Home

**Tom Gildersleeve** also reported that he, “recently bought a new computer and my wife fell heir to one of my older ones. That leaves one of my computers as surplus, and I'm offering it free of charge to anybody who wants it. It is about six or seven years old but works fine. I recently reinstalled Windows XP Home Edition on it, so it's good to go. It is not a super powerful machine, but it is more than adequate if your goal is to deal with the internet, e-mail, and word processing. It has a 160GB hard drive on it.”

He states, “[It does not include] a monitor [nor any anti-virus software], but I can probably come up with a keyboard and possibly a mouse if you need it. Delivery is not included in the offer, [but] I can bring it to one of our [**Tom Fera**] luncheons or you can get it from me at my house if that is easier.” If you are interested, he can provide more info. Please contact **Tom Gildersleeve** at (661) 259-6226 or [tgilders@pacbell.net](mailto:tgilders@pacbell.net).

### Recent Sightings

**Henrietta** and **Monica Moreno** at the Millie’s restaurant in Covina, enjoying a late lunch.

**Tom Albany** on one of his regular forays downtown, keeping a finger on the pulse of Caltrans Maintenance.

**Chuck O'Connell** received word that the widow of **Stan Buckmaster, Dora**, will be relocated by her son, **Brian**, to Texas, near Sun City. **Chuck** writes, "Those of you who knew **Stan Buckmaster** are no doubt aware that **Stan** passed away several years ago. In tribute, his ashes were spread over the Pacific Ocean by the US Navy. His wonderful wife **Dora** has continued to live in Bellingham, WA. The email from her son notes that it is time for Dora to move closer to him in [Texas]."

"All, this is **Dora's** son, **Brian**, writing in her behalf. Mom has become increasingly frail and is suffering from symptoms of dementia to the point that she can no longer remain alone in [her] house. So I am making arrangements to relocate Mom to Texas where she can be near me, in an Assisted Living facility just outside Sun City. I don't yet know when the move will take place as this facility is brand new with construction to be completed in May, certification in June and move-in begins in July."

"After I get Mom relocated, I will return to Bellingham to dispose the contents of the house and sell [it]. Mom is having trouble seeing - I have an eye exam appointment for her tomorrow. She can no longer use the computer, which is pretty old anyway, so I will archive her files and get rid of it; I will keep her email account open, and if you like, I will print out any emails you wish to send - I'm sure that she would like to hear from you. If you would like to reach me, here is my contact info: 500 Independence Creek Lane, Georgetown, Texas 78633"

### Retirements

A barbeque was held May 9, 2013, at South Region, in honor of **Gary Maston**, after 32 years of hard work, and dedication.

**Joe Cheatham** will celebrate his 41 years of service with an evening of dancing, music, photos, fun and surprises, June 29, 2013, 6 PM at the Double Tree

Hotel (formerly the New Otani), 120 Los Angeles St. Los Angeles, CA. For reservations, please contact Sharon Haywood at 310-342-6161, or for other inquiries, call 213-321-1259.

### The Road Last Traveled

**Lauren Wonder**, Chief of Public Information, reported a call from **Dawn Schmidt**, daughter of **William "Bill" Leonard** who worked in Right of Way as a Utility relocation specialist and retired in 1994. She wanted to inform anyone who knew him that he passed away May 4, at the age of 78, after a three-year struggle with Parkinson's disease. **Bill** worked for Caltrans for 38 years, starting as an Aide II in surveys, after a stint in the Army as a surveyor. While in the Army, he was stationed in Germany, where he met and married his wife **Hella**. Some of you may know **Dawn**, who worked in District 7 for several years, and is now a Road Crew Supervisor in District 12. She related several humorous and touching stories about her father; one included sneaking into the Desi Arnez studios to see a special screening of the Wizard of Oz, flying monkeys and all.

### Be like Marie, Chuck, Tom and Lauren!

If you're retired or not, you can pick-up a pen, a piece of paper, write a few notes, fold it in thirds, and address it to Caltrans and then mail it. YES? Forever stamps are only 46 cents even if you don't have e-mail! How hard could it be? Take a few minutes to let us know how you are. 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](mailto:kirsten.stahl@dot.ca.gov).

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

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

### WAKE UP!

It's time to get in touch, and forever stamps are only 46 cents! You'd make at least one of us happy to hear from you. Honest engine(er)!

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

- **Kirsten Stahl**

## *The Haps in District 8*

**O**ur Annual Summer Luncheon will be held on the **THIRD** Saturday of July this year, July 20, 2013, 12 noon at Hannah's Restaurant in San Bernardino. Notices will be mailed out the end of June. Please plan to attend and bring a guest or two. **ALL** are welcome.

Donna Rodriguez's Bunco Club (11 Caltrans folks) now many years running, continues their fun dinner and monthly "Bunco Fest" most recently hosted by **Darla Matthews...** **Gerald Brown** recuperating from knee replacement surgery... **Mary Bermudez** and friends including **Charlotte Sheehan, Sybille Phillips,** and **Linda Grimes** attending a Mother's Day Tea to benefit the Etiwanda Historical Society... **Theresa Sasis, Julie Griffin, Sybille Phillips, Linda Grimes, Janice Feenstra,** and **Mary Bermudez** met for lunch at Nena's Restaurant, a regular gathering of Caltrans Ladies...

**Taylor** and **Katie Smith** headed to Phoenix to attend to his sister's home there... **Richard Haight** still trying to fight off an infection suffered in hip replacement surgery. Operated on a second time, he is still on medication and hoping to avoid a third surgery... heard from **Stella Zavala** who spends a

lot of time at home with **Arnold...** **Duane Sharp** living in Utah and dealing with back pain and going up to Salt Lake City for specialized treatments...

**Marsha Lotze** still caring for an ailing **Craig... Taylor** and **Katie Smith** still gathering for dinner visits with **Ernie Parke, Gil** and **Jan Daab, Wes** and **Linda Grimes,** and **Richard** and **Louise Haight.** The last dinner was at Mitla's Mexican Restaurant, a legendary eatery in the Inland Empire. Kudos to "Steve", a waiter there who gave extraordinary service to Ernie...

**Sylvia Gonzalez** and **Donna Rodriguez** showed up at Coco's in San Bernardino as the Wednesday Coffee group was leaving. Nice to see them both... **Gil Daab** having trouble getting over a chest ailment, let's trust the doctors find the right medications. **Taylor** and **Katie** will be attending his 74<sup>th</sup> high school reunion in Ireton, Iowa, on June 7, 2013.

Sympathies to friends and families of:

**Francisco E. Recalde** passed away on January 15, 2013 at home. He was born in Guayaquil, Ecuador and was a resident of San Bernardino for 24 years. He worked as a Design Engineer for Caltrans for over 20 years. He was a member of the Disabled American Veterans. While in the army Francisco received two Purple Hearts, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry Medal with Palm, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star, Army of Occupation Medal, Overseas Bar, Air Medal (2<sup>nd</sup> Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Commendation Drill Sergeant Medal with Service.

**J. Frank Cordova, Jr.,** 77 passed away February 20, 2013. Frank was born June 28, 1935 in Walsenburg, Colorado. Frank enlisted in the United States Marine Corps after graduating high school and later became a civil engineer and land surveyor.



Frank worked for Caltrans from 1991 to 1994 before moving back to Colorado to care for his ill father.

**Jay L. Gwie** passed away on January 6, 2013. Jay was part of our Caltrans family for the last 20 years, retiring from Caltrans on February 2, 2011 as a Transportation Engineer in Maintenance Design.

**Juan C. Ramirez** passed away on April 7, 2013. Juan was born in San Bernardino, CA on September 3, 1923. He was a Radio Operator in the Army Air Corps (Airborne Troop Carrier) and served in Europe during World War II. After the war, Juan was a Delineator in the Drafting Services Unit of Design and was known for his excellent work.

**Jane Grant**, widow of **Allyn Grant** (deceased QCC member), with sons Bradford Grant and Randy Grant, passed away on April 6, 2013. She lived in Rialto for the last 58 years.

**Carolina G. Gonzales**, 87, passed away on April 7, 2013. She was born in San Bernardino, CA and was a resident of Colton for 58 years. She retired from Caltrans with over 35 years of service and was a mainstay in the Accounting/ Property Division and was an honorary QCC member. Prior to that, she worked for the Pacific Fruit Express for ten years and Norton Air Force Base for two years. She is survived by her son Patrick, six sisters, two grandchildren, and was preceded in death by her husband, Chon Gonzales.

**Les Nolte**, 94, passed away on April 15, 2013, at the Waterman Convalescent Hospital. Lester worked in Construction for most of his Caltrans career and retired in the late 1970's. Among the many projects he worked on as Resident Engineer was the "Blood Alley" project converting Route 10 to a freeway between Fontana and Ontario, the "Box Springs Grade" project on Route 60 and the "Big Interchange" on Route 10 near Colton.

We received late word that **Martha Rosenberg Quade**, an honorary QCC member, passed away on April 22, 2013. No further information was available at press time.

We were also saddened to hear of the passing of **Richard (Dick) Slater**, an honorary QCC member, on May 16, 2013. Dick will be interred at Riverside National Cemetery on June 13, 2013.

All of our thoughts and prayers go to the family members and friends.

The following poem was in **Francisco Recaldes'** notice and is very appropriate for all of us.

**Remember Me**  
(Unknown Source)

To the living I am gone, and to the sad I  
will never return. To the happy I am at  
peace and to the angry I was cheated.  
But to the faithful, I have never left.  
I cannot speak, but I can listen. I cannot be  
seen, but my presence can be felt. I can  
no longer lead, but I can walk beside you.  
So as you stand gazing at a beautiful  
Sunset or the moon in its endless sky,  
REMEMBER ME. As you look in  
wonder at the colors of a rose or listen to  
the song of a bird, REMEMBER ME.  
REMEMBER ME in your heart, your  
thoughts and in your memories.  
Remember the times we loved and the  
times we fought, the times we laughed  
and the times we cried, the times we  
teased and the times we shared. For if you  
think of me, I will not have died.  
I have only gone with Jesus.

- **Marsha Lotze**

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

## *The Haps in District 10*

**A**t the breakfast meeting March 26, 2013, there were 39 present. **Stan Randolph** (President Dist 10 Chapter) says he will be traveling to Philadelphia in May to attend his granddaughter's husband's graduation from Wharton business school at the University of Pennsylvania.

Some of the attendees at the breakfast:

Lo and behold, **Dean Alexander** appeared at the breakfast.

**Bob Giess** from Sacramento, Central District, blessed us with his presence.

Was good to see **Dana Willard** who is recovering from hip surgery and still full of great humor. He was not at the May 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Allan Wells** brought his wife **Anne** (another Dist 10 retiree). It was good to see them.

**Claude Stewart** came alone and reported that his wife Sharon had a stroke the first part of March. Per Claude on May 28<sup>th</sup>, Sharon is recuperating, and able to use a walker. She's doing fine and able to get three squares a day at a Stockton Care facility. He expects her home by mid-June.

On April 4, 2013, the Caltrans District 10 Retirees bi-annual lunch put on by **Dick Mesa** was held at UJ's Restaurant in Stockton. Thirty nine retirees were present. The guest speaker was **Ric Maggenti** a San Francisco Bay Bridge Project Representative. He gave a power point presentation on the Construction project that was tentatively scheduled for completion on Labor Day this year.

At the breakfast meeting April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013, there were 23 present. **Ardyth Biffel** said that she and **Bob** would be celebrating their 62<sup>nd</sup> wedding

anniversary on May 6<sup>th</sup>. At the May 28<sup>th</sup> breakfast **Ardyth** reports that they bought a new Ford Edge SUV to celebrate the event.

At the breakfast meeting May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013, there were 30 present. A new face at the meeting was **Cecil Kramer**, a retiree from Maintenance and a P-38 Historian. Cecil sat with **Bob Ikeda** and **Virginia Evinger**. Welcome aboard Cecil.

### Road Last Traveled

**Earnest (Ernie) F. Smith Jr.**, born April 17, 1928 and went home Saturday, April 13, 2013, to be with his Lord. Ernie entered the Army in 1945, served with the 82nd Airborne and his active duty ended after 8 years. Then he continued his Army tour as a Sergeant Major in the Reserves until he retired in 1985. Ernie earned a degree from UOP in 1959 from Civil Engineering School and was employed by the California Division of Highways for 28 years in District 10.

### Chris Wendland's Road Trip

I recently was on a two week road trip to meet family members for the first time, reunite with family, attend a family celebration, visit my soul mate's family, and visit with former staff members and family.

First stop was in Carson, CA to attend my niece's college graduation at CSU Dominguez Hills. She graduated with Magna Cum Laud honors, and I am the proudest Auntie.

The next leg of my trip took me to El Cajon and San Diego to visit with my sister-in-laws (mother of graduating niece) family. Then I traveled to Los Angeles to see the Los Angeles County General Hospital, which I had never seen. Then I visited the cemetery in Glendora, CA to honor my adoptive family, including parents, grand and great grandparents and numerous family members.

After this, I ventured to Barstow, CA for the most special part of my trip; a visit with my beloved sister and family. She is such a special part of my

life, as we found each other three years ago. I never knew that I had a sister until then, what a blessing!! We took a day trip to visit her adoptive mother who is now at peace in her resting place. We then traveled to Riverside National Cemetery, where I met my biological father for the first time. My sister and I are now at peace knowing that our father is in a better place. While visiting with my sister I met her granddaughter, so now I have met three of my biological family members.

Then I traveled to Apple Valley, CA to reunite with my daughter, with whom there has been no communication for twenty years. I am truly proud of how she has turned her life around and is so very into family.

My final destination was Paso Robles, CA to spend time at Morro Bay and Cambria with soul mates family; they are a very special family to me. Of course we had scrumptious sea food and wonderful walks on the beaches.

This trip was very emotional and fulfilling for me, full of once in a lifetime events. Stay tuned for my next adventure!! - **Chris Wendland**

- **Brian Young**

### *The Haps in District 11*

**T**he annual BBQ at Santee Lakes will be held on Saturday September 14<sup>th</sup> so save the date! We will meet in Area D at Lake 1, a different location than the last few years. Keep your eyes open for the flyer which we will mail in July. As usual, we will have great food, a wonderful group of people to visit with and fabulous raffle prizes so bring your \$! This is **Gary Darr's (Fatdog's)** last year as BBQ Chair so don't miss out!

Our monthly Romeo meeting continues to be well attended with anywhere from 30 to 40 attendees. Come join us on the third Wednesday of every month. We start gathering at 8 AM and place our orders by 8:30 AM at the Denny's at the corner of Fletcher Parkway and Navajo Road.

#### Road Last Traveled:

Recently retired Permit Inspector **Vaughn Johnson** lost his battle with cancer recently. Vaughn was a native San Diegan who graduated from Lincoln High School, then studied civil engineering while in the Air Force from 1965 to 1969. He returned to San Diego after his years in the service and worked at few local civil engineering firms before landing a job at Caltrans in 1991. Vaughn worked in the Permit Office from 1999 until he retired earlier this year.

Senior Transportation Planner **Darryl "Skip" Daniel De Silva** passed away peacefully in his home on Feb. 24 at age 69. Skip worked for Caltrans for 37 years. A Celebration of Life was held at Shelter Island at the Tunaman's Memorial on March 16. While in D-11, Skip worked in Transportation Planning and was a Caltrans loaned staff person to the San Diego Association of Governments for many years. He later worked in the Headquarters GIS unit.

**Kelly "KMAN" Swift Wier**, 63, of San Diego, passed away suddenly. Kelly was born in Phoenix, AZ, and moved to San Diego, CA, where he worked for S.D. County and Caltrans, Land Surveying.

**Robert (Bob) Moses** was born January 20, 1924 in Louisiana and died March 16, 2013 in La Mesa, CA. Bob served in the US Navy from 1943 to 1946 during WWII and was stationed in San Diego. After attending San Diego State College, Bob began his career at Caltrans in 1958 when it was still the Division of Highways. Bob retired in 1998, after over 40 years at Caltrans, as a Materials and Research Engineer. Bob continued as a material

inspector until 2003 as a Retired Annuitant working in the Materials Lab.

**Leonard Zink** passed away in March 2013. Leonard was the Landscape Specialist for D-11 for many years and had many great stories about the history of Landscape projects in D-11.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of **Vaughn, Skip, Kelly, Bob, and Leonard**.

- **Jösan Feathers**

## *The Haps in Central*

**H**appy Spring and Summer to all. Boy is this year moving quickly? When the newsletter comes out in June we will be half way through the year.

The Central District held its' Spring luncheon at the Dante Club in Sacramento on April 25th. Some 55 hearty souls showed up and enjoyed a great luncheon and raffle.

In February, **Julie** and I left on a cruise from Los Angeles to Hawaii. A 14 day cruise of which 4 days were at sea, that is a long time at sea. And, of course, we had 4 days at sea coming home. First night at sea we had 18 foot waves and gale force winds. Even with the stabilizers we were really rockin' and a rollin'. Fortunately, the seas smoothed out and life aboard ship got back to normal.

Once in Hawaii we enjoyed the islands of Oahu, Maui, Kauai and the Big Island. The whale watching in Maui was the best we have ever seen.

On May 20th we leave out of San Francisco on a 10 day cruise to Alaska. The ship goes as far north as Juneau with four stops on the way home. This will be our third trip to Alaska. -**Gary and Julie Bush**

From **Elizabeth Abersold**: My son, Mike, retires from the U.S. Army in July after 30 years of dedicated service to our country. I look forward to meeting my new Great-Granddaughter in Nashville this summer.

From **Omar John Pertel**: The Pertel household has not done much in the way of travel, but we have been busy. Roman graduated May 25th from Jesuit High School and is planning on attending Chico State University in the fall in a major of Kinestheology. Gus is finishing up at Cosumnes River College and has not yet decided where he will go next, plus he is working part time. Judi is as always busy teaching at Cosumnes River College and at home. Judi is also a Board member of California Music Teachers Association and she leads a Chime Choir and plays piano at Church. I am busy keeping up with things at home like fixing the back yard fence. Kind of anti-climactic, isn't it?

From **Darwin Spartz**: When I retired from Caltrans in 1992, **Terry Abbott** took over as the leader of the Value Engineering/Management branch in Caltrans. Over the last 20+ years Terry has held various management positions in Caltrans & in April he retired from Caltrans while serving as chief of the Division of Design. Darwin & his wife Marilyn had the opportunity to witness Terry's retirement at his luncheon on April 3rd. "You're too young to retire" was my comment to Terry!

On a sad note, we recently lost 4 of our fellow retirees. **Addi Forsyth** reported that **Ray Forsyth** passed away March 7, 2013 at home. We were on Hospice for a year and had help in the house. Ray didn't go without a fight. He was proud to be a Division of Highways Engineer and an honorary QCC Member. Memories of our many trips are precious. Suggestion: go when you're able.

On April 3rd, **Elmer A. Jenkins, Jr.**, age 82, passed away, and on April 8th, QCC honorary Member **Robert (Bob) J. Felton**, age 89, also passed away. We just received word that **Louise Ginsberg**, also an honorary QCC member, has

died. Our sympathies go out to their families and friends.

Have a great summer! The Central District's next luncheon is August 22nd at the Dante Club in Sacramento starting at 11AM. Hope to see you there!

- Gary and Julie Bush

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 -

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](mailto:doug.becker@att.net)

### District 4 -

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

Contact: **Ed Coble** 925-465-4219, [edcoble49@astound.net](mailto: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](mailto:aappiano@pacbell.net)) or **Kathy Freeman** ([kathy.freeman1@att.net](mailto:kathy.freeman1@att.net)).

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

Contact: **Jim Boulter** 707-546-3097, [jboulter@comcast.net](mailto:jboulter@comcast.net)

### District 5 -

Contact **Kathy Copeland**: 805-544-1834 [bcopel4674@aol.com](mailto: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.

### District 7 -

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](mailto:chuckoconnell@prodigy.net), or **Tom Gildersleeve** at (661) 259-6226 or [tgilders@pacbell.net](mailto:tgilders@pacbell.net).

July 10, 2013  
Aug 14, 2013  
Sept 11, 2013

Joselito's West  
Steer N' Ale  
China Olive

See **D-7 Haps** for addresses and phone numbers

**District 8 -**

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](mailto:hinek@suddenlink.net)

**District 10 -**

For details on events contact **Brian Young**  
209-329-3445 cell or blyoung365@gmail.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](mailto: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](mailto:EagleAyerie@hotmail.com)

Annual Picnic  
Saturday September 14, 2013  
At Santee Lakes  
More details to follow

**Central District -**

Contact **Gary or Julie Bush**  
530-642-8208  
[zbusharosa@wildblue.net](mailto:zbusharosa@wildblue.net)

**New Members for 2013 to date:**

	District
Arlon Sauls	1
Steve Elkins	2
Bobbie Shaw	2
Myrlane Wederbrook	2
Jerry Antonetti	3
David Schroeder	6

Wanda Gernux	8
Rob Karns	8
Sienna Norman	10
Sharon Parsons	10
Cliff Rice	10
Chuck Brownyard	11
Fred Hunemuller	11
Roy Riesgo	11
David Saia	C

**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.