

# TheQCCer

The Newsletter of the Quarter  
Century Club

VOLUME 23, No. 4

DECEMBER 2014



## Merry Christmas...

*BUTCH SAYS; "AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!"*

### *From the Corner Pocket*

**M**erry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and yours with thanks to all for another good year. I'm happy to report that our Email recruiting campaign to 25-year employees, (QCC Candidates), who are still working, has begun to show some positive results. We have only sent out a few and only a one email invitation each month, not wanting to look like junk mail or spam at their worksites. My thoughts are that we need to coax potential candidates with a subtle persuasion rather than trying to beat or shame them into submission.

For most of them, our Email recruiting ads are the first time they have heard of the QCC and some education / information is needed. There may be some new faces at your next get-together so be sure to give them a good warm welcome. They can bring new energy into your local QCC District.

If you care to invite "Candidate / Non-Members" to your next event, contact Mike Ogilvie for a list of (.dot.ca.gov) Email addresses for your District. Email invitations cost nothing to send, and if you are collecting a fee for your event, the Candidates will help cover the cost and boost the ranks of the

fellow participants.

Again I appeal for your talent in putting together a short eye-catching piece for the next email blast going out to nearly a thousand potential QCC candidates. It grows each month with the added names of the 25-year award winners listed in the CT newsletter. My approach so far has been to have a colorful graphic to catch their eye with some following text commenting on the good stuff we have for them. Two to three hundred words is a rough estimate of what will hold the interest of a candidate scanning an email.



We must allow for, and have had a few responses to "Unsubscribe", from our 'broadcasts, but an amazing item is that several candidates have opened their invitation many times. That tells me that they are thinking about it.

The ad agency gives us a very thorough report on each month's effort that includes any 'unsubscribes' as well as any email addresses that are no longer valid, (retired), and a report of who has opened the note and how many times they did so.

Beyond the 'business' side of the QCC, we hope that you all have the best of times with your fellow QCC'ers and enjoy the events you share in together.

Some people have recently inquired as to why the QCC does not have a D-12. (It has no correlation with the Hunger Games by the way) There is no QCC in D-12 (Orange County) due to the first QCC employees who were split off from D-7 chose to keep the connection with D-7. If there are now enough D-12 QCC'ers who would like to set up a local QCC District, please contact me. It doesn't take a lot of work and the rules allow for local variations. Anyone interested?

**Butch Biendara**  
**QCC President**

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(530) 671-3889 [boots3@syix.com](mailto:boots3@syix.com)

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 -**

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

**District 6 -**

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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 -**

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The Tom Fera Monthly Luncheon Club meets on the second Wednesday of the month (except Dec.) in LA.  
 See **D-7 Haps** for dates, addresses and phone numbers.

**District 8 -**

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

**District 9 -**

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Contact: **Lance Hinek**, 760-873-3885,  
[hinek@suddenlink.net](mailto:hinek@suddenlink.net)

**District 10 -**

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

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Annual Banquet Luncheon - January 15, 2015  
 The Barra Barra Saloon  
 11:30AM Buffet Lunch  
 To donate prizes or to help contact:  
**Gary Darr** at 619-479-0549 (h) or e-mail  
[Fatdog261@cox.net](mailto:Fatdog261@cox.net)

ROMEOs meets at Denny's, Navajo Road and Fletcher Parkway at 8:30am the 3rd Wed each month

**Central District -**

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Luncheon at the Dante Club  
 April 9, 2015  
 Contact **Gary** or **Julie Bush** (530-642-8208)  
[zbusharosa@wildblue.net](mailto:zbusharosa@wildblue.net)

**Ramblings of a Retired Mind**

Sent in by Dale R Schmoltdt

I found this timely, because today I was in a store that sells sunglasses, and only sunglasses. A young lady walks over to me and asks, "what brings you in today?" I looked at her, and said, I'm interested in buying a refrigerator. She didn't quite know how to respond. Am I getting to be that age?

I was thinking about old age and decided that old age is when you still have something on the ball but you are just too tired to bounce it.

I thought about making a fitness movie for folks my age and calling it 'Pumping Rust'.

When people see a cat's litter box they always say, 'Oh, have you got a cat?' Just once I want to say, 'No, it's for company!'

employees and family members experiencing misfortune and hardship; and help fund memorials to remember deceased employees or the signing of facilities names by the legislature to honor individuals. We depend on the efforts of volunteers, many of which are retired, former or current Caltrans employees, to carry out this mission.

One such group of volunteers is the CTF Area Representatives and is very important to the operation of our organization. Their most important role is the sharing of information between CTF and Caltrans employees in their designated areas. They help the Foundation to spread the word and serve as CTF's eyes and ears to ensure the Foundation knows when it is needed. Our appreciation and thanks go out to each of these very special people: **Arlene Hartin** (North Coast District 1), **Bill Belcher** (North Inland District 2), **Frank Maskovich** (Sacramento District 3), **Jim McCrank** (San Francisco District 4), **Richard Krumholz** (Central Coast District 5), **Christine Cox-Kovacevich** (Central Valley District 6), **Michael Miles** (Los Angeles District 7), **Wesley Grimes** (Inland Empire District 8), **Jerry Gabriel** (Eastern Sierras District 9), **Stan Randolph** (Stockton District 10), **Charles "Muggs" Stoll** (San Diego District 11) and **Jason Osman** (Santa Ana District 12). Again, thank you for your efforts and keep up the good work.

The Foundation held its 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Transportation Education Symposium early in November in Santa Cruz. Attendees at this two-day, one-of-a-kind gathering of top California university undergraduate students and selected high level transportation executives say this is their favorite transportation event of the year. Our thanks to **District 5 Director Tim Gubbins**, **District 6 Central Region Environmental Division Chief Christine Cox-Kovacevich** and **District 11 Interstate 5/State Route 76 Corridor Project Manager Allan Kosup** for their participation this year.

From all of us here at the Foundation, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued interest and support and wish you a very safe and happy holiday season and new year.

### Rather read the QCCer on-line?

Go to

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

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>

## In Memoriam

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

Name	District	Date
Edward J. Hill	01	Sep 22, 2014
Manny Binotapa	07	Jul 2014
Nick Christopoulos	07	Sep 10, 2014
Wally Rothbart	07	Oct , 2014
John J (Jack) Christie	07	Nov 8, 2014
Marty Leis	07	Nov 15, 2014
Frank Chan	07	Nov 27, 2014
Sally Corbin	08	Oct 21, 2014
Donald (Don) E Burns	10	Sep 27, 2014
Walter Elton Curtis	10	Oct 28, 2014
(Kaz) Kazuo Matsuura	10	Nov 25, 2014
James (Sam) Samuel Kemp	11	Nov 5, 2014
Richard (Dick) Coward	11	Sep 6, 2014
Derwin Harold Davis	C	Sep 29, 2014

## The Haps in District 1

 Our quarterly retiree/QCC lunch was held at the Samoa Cookhouse on October 16 with 27 attending. Everyone had a great time eating and visiting. We continue to

add retirees to our mailing list. It is a great way to keep up with everyone.

We have two more retirements. **Leota Lovelace** is retiring after 37 years with the Right of Way Dept. and **Dave McCanness** is retiring after 26 years with Right of Way. A lunch is planned for them on Dec. 17. Congratulations to you both and have a long, healthy and happy retirement.

I was able to make it to the retirement lunch for **Kathleen Sartorius**, the District 1 Native American Liaison. She was with us for 27 years. We had a great lunch at Shamus T. Bones. Other retirees attending included **Linda Evans, Dave and Beverly Chang, Guy Luther, Stephanie Launer, Debbie Butler, Lanette Watkins** and **Janet Bottini**. All our best to Kathleen for a great retirement too.

**Bev Chang** also made the news, photo and all. She was a raffle winner at the Soroptimist annual fundraiser and tea at the Humboldt Botanical Gardens. Everyone wore colorful western style hats and fashion finery. She looked gorgeous. She is a past president of the Soroptimist International of the Eel River Valley.

**Bernard "Lonnie" Arney** gave me his QCC application recently. He started with Caltrans at the Garberville Maintenance yard in December, 1964, just in time for the thousand year flood. He retired in 1990 as a CT Maintenance Superintendent. Welcome aboard, **Lonnie**.

I received a delightful newsy note from **George Otterbeck**, which I am summarizing here. He and his wife, Nancy, were super busy starting in July travelling to see family. They went to Bremerton, WA to see his daughter and youngest grandchild, then flew to the Philippines to visit youngest daughter, April. They went back to Bremerton to see his son, Patrick, receive his Chief Petty Officer pin Sept. 16. Patrick's wife and mother pinned him and George did the capping and, yes, they are justifiably very proud

of him. They then went to Helena, Montana, to visit his oldest daughter's family and enjoy the area. While there, his 14 year old grandson, Zach, did some 1,000 yard competition shooting and scored 132 out of 150. At 1,000 yards, using a .308 caliber rifle, the projectile drops some 300 inches during flight. Lots to consider. He got mentioned in the Oct. 2 Independence Record. Pretty good for a 14 year old. Thank you, **George**.

#### Road Last Traveled

Sadly, we lost another retiree, **Edward J. Hill** on 9/22/2014 at age 87. He was a lifelong resident of Humboldt County, became a licensed Land Surveyor in 1964 and surveyed throughout the County. He then went to work for Division of Highways/Caltrans, working in Construction and Right of Way Engineering, retiring as a Land Surveyor Supervisor in 1995. He was also interested in local and highway history and helped me a lot with our District highway history. Our sympathy goes out to Ed's family and friends. We will miss him.

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

- Arlene Hartin

### *The Haps in District 2*

**Burt & Jan Brockett** keep the grass from growing under themselves. Burt continues to volunteer by driving a truck for Shasta Senior Nutrition Programs, picking up donated food and also making distributions in outlying communities. Jan still manages the Shasta Co. AARP tax aid program.

In May they helped daughter Ruth and family pack up their belongings in Roseville in preparation to move to near Boise (Star), Idaho. Then Burt and Jan traveled to the new Idaho home over the full week of June 29 to July 8,

transporting one each grandchild between Roseville and Idaho.

**Jan** decided they are not moving to Idaho anytime soon as they have lots of puncture vine invading their newer trails and she has worked hard here in Redding to eradicate them from our trails.

They did go back east in late May and spent some time in Virginia with daughter, Gayle and family. George, her husband, has taken up bike riding and is training for his third 100-mile ride in August; and Gayle is now training for the metric century (62 miles) at the same time. Their proud news is that George III has graduated with honors from high school and will be attending Virginia Tech starting in August in engineering. Then they headed to western PA to Meadville and Allegheny College to attend Jan's 50th reunion.

Then they headed through NY State, visiting a close high school friend of Jan's who lives near the Finger Lakes. Her husband works on a nearby dairy cow farm but they only raise 3000 heifers for others, so no milking. They also went on to Hatfield, Mass. where they had a lovely visit with Eli (Burt's sister) and Dave, her husband.

They uncovered their swimming pool in June when they returned from the east. It has been very hot here so they've thoroughly enjoyed swimming laps in the pool. They try to get out for nice bike rides (roughly 10 miles together) and then Burt takes off for a longer one every once in a while. The other day he did 30 miles including up to and across Shasta Dam using the rails-to-trail system.

They celebrated their 50th anniversary in October, and are planning a two week trip to the mid-part of Italy, to end in Rome on our anniversary. They'll catch us up on that trip later in the year. – from **Burt and Jan Brockett**

The last half of 2014 has been busy for **Gene Poch**. He was in Denver late in June for his sister-in-law's funeral.

Later he travelled to Cheyenne, Wyoming early in August for his 60th high school reunion. This was the 5th reunion that he has attended. He said it was disappointing in that fewer people whom he wanted to see attended. Poor health and death is a reality at this stage in our lives. The Sunday after the HS reunion, they held a Poch family reunion in Cheyenne, which 65 people attended. Most were from Wyoming and Colorado, but his whole family was there. It was great to reconnect with family and to meet the new and younger additions. The questions asked by the younger folks has inspired him to start a newsletter where he shares family history and genealogy.

He is the youngest of seven brothers, no sisters. There are still four of the seven surviving. Health problems prevented their 87 year old brother in Oregon from attending the Cheyenne reunion. Their 93 year old brother, who lost his wife of 64 years in Denver, moved to Seattle right after their family reunion. That left only their 89 year old brother in Wyoming, and the other three of them on the west coast. The 87 year old in Oregon was cleared for travel early in October. He drove to Woodburn, Oregon, picked **Gene** up, picked up the Wyoming brother at the Portland Airport and drove to Seattle for a four day reunion of the surviving brothers.

Gene, his wife and daughter spent Thanksgiving with their son and his family in Loomis. His wife really appreciates someone else doing the Thanksgiving feasts after many years of doing it for the family. – from **Gene Poch**

**Kathy Nolan** and **Retha Rubiec** were on a 14-day guided tour of the east coast and Canada, covering more than 2500 miles in September and October, 2014. Cities on the tour included New York City, Philadelphia, Washington DC, Amish country in Pennsylvania, Corning in New York, Niagara Falls, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal,

Quebec, and through Vermont and Franconia Notch in New Hampshire, Boston in Massachusetts, Newport in Rhode Island, thru Connecticut and back to New York City. 50 people on the tour, and only 10 were Americans. Others were from Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Korea, England and others. They saw lots of fall color, many points of interest, and had a good time with all the rest of the group. Those Aussies know how to have fun!



Retha and Kathy (pictured above)

Congratulations to **Burt** and **Jan** on their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

- **Bill Belcher**

*The Haps in District 3*

The Annual Pre-Holiday Party was held on November 9<sup>th</sup> at the Peach Tree Country Club in Marysville and was a huge success.

We had 89 in attendance and introduced two new members, **Steve Kirkpatrick** and **Amarjett Benipal**. Steve recently retired from Caltrans and is enjoying the retirement life. **Amarjett** is the new District Director for District 3. He was elevated to the top position when **Jody Jones** retired recently. **Jan Johnson** was the lucky winner for the mystery guest and she will receive

a free buffet. Our last mystery guest was **Joy Hammons**. Joy has also volunteered to take over as the Club photographer, replacing **Bill Malott**. Bill will still be assisting when needed.

The next Party will be held on April 12, 2015. Please watch for the flyer and invitation a couple months prior to the party.

**Dan Johnson, Sr.** is looking for two volunteers who would like to get involved with the planning and business side of the District 3 Quarter Century Club. Both positions will be for the Social Committee and will require attendance at two or three meetings each year. Also, Social Committee members assist with the set up and door responsibilities twice a year at the parties. Anyone interested in one of these positions is asked to please call **Dan Johnson, Sr.** at (530) 671-3889 or email him at [boots3@syix.com](mailto:boots3@syix.com).

**Susanna Ford** spoke to **Betty Emmons**. Betty retired from Administration and after retirement she and husband Everett traveled throughout the United States in their fifth wheel (several fifth wheels) for 12 years. Winters were spent in Arizona with summers in Oregon, Washington and Canada.

Several years ago Betty and Everett sold their place in Arizona, sold the fifth wheel and purchased a home in Vancouver Washington.

We were sorry to learn of Everett's passing. He passed away this fall. **Betty** is adjusting to her new life with the help of family and friends. Betty is planning a trip to Colorado to visit her daughter Jill for the Christmas Holidays. Jill is teaching at a college in Western Colorado and will have time to be with Betty while school is in recess for the winter vacation.

We are looking for more Caltrans employees, retired or still on the job, who have reached the 25 year level of service to join the District 3 Quarter Century Club. Please contact **Carleen**

**Hagen** at (530) 674-9026 or email her at [hcdhagen@aol.com](mailto:hcdhagen@aol.com) for more information and applications.

Peace and contentment be with you and your family this Holiday Season. May your dreams come true, your plans be successful and you enjoy a healthy, warm and wonderful Christmas and New Year.

- **Dan Johnson Sr.**

### *The Haps in District 4*

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

### *The Haps in District 5*

**B**est wishes for a happy holiday season, and all the best in the New Year. Sorry we don't have much news for this issue. As usual, the annual D-5 Holiday BBQ occurred after deadline, and I hope to report on it in the next edition.

I can tell you that there will be at least three people enjoying retirement soon. DDD-Maintenance **Steve Price, David Fry, and David Ybarra** have announced their departure in December.

We happened to meet **David Chesebro** in our doctor's waiting room. He and **Sarah** are both enjoying retirement. I recalled when they came to interview in D-5, bringing their little boy in a stroller. David said that little boy is now married and working as a chef. How time flies!

Please write or e-mail me if you have news to share. Thanks!

- **Kathleen Copeland**

### *The Haps in District 6*

**V**irgle Ray writes: Sandy and I now belong to two RV clubs, one a retired CHP group and the other just friends whom get together. So you can see two RV outings a month keeps one busy. Last month we had to rent a cabin as the RV was in for repairs.

We are now responsible for my 93 year mother. While having lunch with her last week, we found ourselves sharing a table with the widow of Shop 9 Superintendent **Harvey Smith** (small world); if I got the name right. The other lady, was a widow of a Corcoran Judge. Sitting amongst three widows it dawned on me, us men wear out sooner so we need to keep moving. Wishing you one and all a great New Year!

**Sandy and Virgle Ray**

There's not much news this time. So how about some of you guys giving me a call with some good news; travel, vacations, etc. I'm still looking for someone to take over this position. It would be nice to get a younger employee that is still working and could hustle some of the younger Caltrans employees to join. It's a great way to stay connected!!!

-**Terry Littleton**

### *The Haps in District 7*

**T**he holiday season got started with a marvelous luncheon at a long-time favorite of many, at **Taix**, the famous French Restaurant and LA landmark, on Saturday December 6.

Attendees included: **Tom and Linda Almany, Walt Bowman, Fred Cubillas, Bill and Rita Even, Tom Gildersleeve, Heinz Heckerroth, Mack Hunter** and guest **Jan Knolhoff, Carol and Dick Huntwork, Oscar Janeway, Mary**



and **Carlos Jaramillo**, **Stan** and **Ina Lisiewicz**, **Mike** and **Susan Miles**, **Dale Neumen**, **Doug Richter**, **Bob Sassaman**, **Carol Schumaker**, **Dick Smith**, **Kirsten** and **Stewart Stahl**, **Ken Steele**, **Gus** and son **Vince Sulitis**, and **Milly Yamada**.

**Mike Miles** spoke about the new people in District 7 Management, the proliferation of toll roads on 10, 105, 110, 210, and 605, pending mileage based vehicle registrations, and on-going construction projects and right-of-way utility intrigues. **Tom Almany** introduced a holiday game to the entertainment called “Majority Rules”. Holiday questions such as favorite Christmas song, favorite Christmas singer, the warmest State at Christmas, most popular Christmas meat, most popular Christmas dessert, tallest mountain before the discovery of Everest, the most popular color of Christmas light, and most served holiday fruit, were among the questions. The team matching the majority response earned a point for each question. Ultimately, Table 4 had the most correct responses, White Christmas, Bing Crosby, Hawaii, ham, fruitcake, K2, red, and cranberries. You didn’t have to be right, only agree with most of your fellow participants, thus the name – Majority Rules!

Merriment is about the food for some – with tender pot roast and potatoes, or chicken marsala and rice – both were excellent – a squash and pepper medley, green salad and bread, and pineapple ice cream for dessert. It seems that a few of the salads were served “honeymoon style” (lettuce alone, with no dressing). A beverage bar of coffee, tea, and iced tea allowed people to serve themselves, or each other. The table center piece, a mini wreath of greens, pine cones, and ribbon, and other gifts brought for that purpose, were distributed by luck of the draw.

We learned **Heinz** will be 90 soon, **Fred** will be 80, **Gus** is a new grandfather, and **Carol Schumaker**, 85, still skis with the Sierra Club!

Thank you to **Carol Huntwork** and **Tom Almany** who picked the venue, and made it possible for us all to have a delightful afternoon catching up. Note to all – keep the **FIRST SATURDAY**, December 5, 2015 open, so we can all get together again for this special time of year!

Tom Fera Monthly Group

This section may be jumping the gun, however for those of you who have faith in consistency, until **Tom Gildersleeve’s** official calendar is sent, please use this extrapolation of last year’s calendar. The **Tom Fera** Lunch Group meets on the second Wednesday of each month, except December. The next several meetings are: **January 14, 2015** at the Steer N’ Ale; **February 11, 2015** at the China Olive; **March 11, 2015** at Joselito’s West; and. **April 8, 2015** will be back at the Steer N’ Ale. The 2015 dates and addresses follow below.

**RESTAURANTS AND PROPOSED LUNCHEON DATES FOR 2015**

[Second Wednesday of every month except December]

January 14, 2015	Steer N’ Ale
February 11, 2015	China Olive
March 11, 2015	Joselito’s West
April 8, 2015	Steer N’ Ale
May 13, 2015	China Olive
June 10, 2015	Joselito’s West
July 8, 2015	Steer N’ Ale
August 12, 2015	China Olive
September 9, 2015	Joselito’s West
October 14, 2015	Steer N’ Ale
November 11, 2015	China Olive
December 5, 2015	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).

Ventura Monthly Meeting

Another Caltrans retiree luncheon, is held the third Monday of each month at 11:30 AM, in Oxnard, at:

**BJ's Restaurant & Brewery**, 461 Esplanade Drive, Oxnard, CA.

For more information, e-mail Dick Stewart at [dick@jps.net](mailto:dick@jps.net).

Tom's Book Deal

**Tom Gildersleeve** has been photographing trains and railroads in Southern California for years, and his work has been published many times. Now, he has been offered a book deal! It will feature his work, and that of longtime friends **Gordon Glattenberg** and **Hank Mills**. **Tom** writes, "We shared many adventures and photographic experiences over the years. The book would present our collective body of work covering Southern California in the time frame from the fifties to the seventies. It seems that not very many people did what we did during those years, which makes it ideal for us in not having much in the way of competition. Although **Hank** passed away in 1980 at the young age of 52, **Gordon** and **I** are still around and will coauthor the book featuring the work of all three of us. The tentative working title for the book will be 'Southland'. It's an interesting observation that I have been at it photographically for over six decades now, and much of that early railroad work shows up in publications from time to time."

**Tom** adds, "The publishing company will be White River Productions, and the owner drafted a proposed contract for us. Both **Gordon** and **I**, being the fine curmudgeons that we are, reviewed it and found a lot of things needing revision. I took it one step further and, using a standard Caltrans cooperative agreement template, completely rewrote the proposed contract in that format. It's part of my hobby of practicing law without a license. The owner has been in the middle of acquiring another publishing company, so thus far there has been no response to my cooperative agreement version of the contract. It will likely be a couple of years at least before it's actually out there."

More than Trains!

**Tom Gildersleeve** writes, "My wife and I took a brief trip up Route 1 along the Central Coast last week, and we encountered a rather innovative solution to a rock slide problem."



It has to be relatively new; it wasn't there the last time I drove that road several years ago. I was totally impressed, and thinking that back in my days in Maintenance I would love to have put some of these in along PCH in the Malibu area. There were several residential areas I dealt with that could have benefited from something like this."

Drink Up, Be Water Wise!

**Milly Yamada** recently sent a reminder to drink more water and advice on when is the best time to drink water. Her friend, stated, “Well of course if you don't care about your health, then don't bother to read this.”

How many folks do you know who say they don't want to drink anything before going to bed because they'll have to get up during the night?? Heart Attack and Water - I never knew all of this!

I asked my Doctor why do people need to urinate so much at night time? Answer from my Cardiac Doctor: Gravity holds water in the lower part of your body when you are standing (legs swell). When you lie down and the lower body (legs, etc.) seeks level with the kidneys, it is then that the kidneys remove the water because it is easier. This ties in with the previous statement! I knew you need your minimum water to help flush the toxins out of your body, but this was news to me.

Correct time to drink water - Very Important, from A Cardiac Specialist! Drinking water at a certain time, maximizes its effectiveness on the body: 2 glasses of water after waking up helps activate internal organs, 1 glass of water 30 minutes before a meal helps digestion, 1 glass of water before taking a bath helps lower blood pressure, 1 glass of water before going to bed - avoids stroke or heart attack.

My Physician told me that water at bed time will also help prevent night time leg cramps. Your leg muscles are seeking hydration when they cramp and wake you up with Charlie Horse.

One more health curiosity, you can tell how well hydrated you are by the color of your urine. The darker it is, the more severely dehydrated you are, so drink UP, and lighten UP! [BTW, dehydration kills many people each day. If you

recall this is what lead to the demise of John and Betty Burris a few years ago.]

A Cardiologist has stated that if each person after receiving this e-mail, sends it to 10 people, probably one life could be saved! I have already shared this information. What about you?

"Life is a one-time gift"!!

When It Rains It Pours

**Kirsten Stahl** writes, “I went in for a mammogram, and before ‘breast cancer awareness month’ (October) was over I was on an operating table having a lumpectomy. The films had shown a cluster of white spots - calcifications, which looked suspicious to the doctor, so having more films, and a needle biopsy, Kaiser wasted no time, and I was scheduled for surgery.” The lump, a “ductile carcinoma in situ” could not be felt through a normal breast exam. “I’m amazed it all happened so quick and feel lucky they found it so early”. For now, her surgeon says they got it all, and keep having those annual mammograms!

**Stew Stahl**, fed up with his “bum knee”, requested a knee replacement, due to his bone-on-bone arthritis. His doctor added him to the three-month waiting list. When he got a call a few weeks later that they had a cancellation, and would he want it, he figuratively “jumped” at the chance. “I never thought it would be so painful!” he exclaimed during the recovery process, which is on-going. **Kirsten** took off two weeks of work to be his 24/7 caregiver, a requirement for these types of operations. Months of physical therapy are in store, but he says, “Every day it is getting ever so slightly better.”

And, if that were not enough excitement for one family, **Al Reece** took a tumble on his stairs, two days before **Stew’s** knee replacement. “**Stew** and **Dad** were in the hospital at the same time”, **Kirsten** exclaims! The good news for **Al**, was no heart attack, no stroke, nothing broken, BUT he

had deep vein thrombosis, a condition where inactivity and dehydration causes blood clots in the legs, which can cause a heart attack, stroke or other organ damage. Since he had not been taking his other medications, and now he had to take warfarin, a blood thinner regularly, **Kirsten** and her sister, **Anne**, made the tough choice of having him with a 24/7 caregiver, and then move him to assisted living, so he could be in a safer, cleaner environment, and get his meals and meds on time. “Thankfully, Mom and Dad had the foresight to sign-up for long term care insurance in 1995.” Hopefully now **Al** can take advantage of the plan he has paid into all these years, make some new friends, and enjoy the company of his companion dog, “**Sammy**”.

#### Contacts and Recent Sightings

**Carol** and **Dick Huntwork** recently visited **Art Van Rhyn** at Cambria, “While in Cambria we visited with **Art Van Rhyn**. He still has his wonderful sense of humor and his art studio. We had a great visit reminiscing about the old days at Division of Highways. His goal now is to live as long as he worked, and he has 2 years to go. He appreciates anyone who visits him.”

**Stan Lisiewicz** also wrote **Tom Gildersleeve** about a recent visit to see **Sid Elicks**, who is doing okay. **Tom** asked **Stan** for more info of this type in the future, since he seems to be one who does visit a number of our retired members.

Halloween in Tujunga had a Sherlockian Twist, at **Marie Martin’s** abode. In addition to Mr. Holmes and Dr. Watson, there were several fairy princesses, pirates, a gypsy fortune teller, a couple of witches, and Indiana Jones brought his favorite mummy. Food included spaghetti and meat balls (I sure hope they were meat balls), tamale pie, chip and dip, and pumpkin spice cupcakes. **Bob Walters**, **Daria Smolke**, **Stewart** and **Kirsten Stahl** were among the costumed guests.

While shuffling the walker brigade from one doctor’s appointment or physical therapy session to the next, **Kirsten Stahl**, saw **Jerry Shue** at the Kaiser West Covina Office, his wife and granddaughter in tow. **Jerry** indicated he has been retired nearly 20 years now.

#### Moving on...

After 33 years, **Ed Toledo**, Maintenance Superintendent out of the Altadena yard, is hanging up his spurs! A luncheon in his honor will be Friday, December 19, 2014, from 12pm to 3pm, at the **Quiet Cannon**, 901 Via San Clemente, Montebello, CA 90640. The cost is \$40 per person, and includes a buffet, beverage, tax, tip, and gift. Tickets must be purchased by close of business Friday, December 12, 2014. To purchase tickets, please contact: **Hugo Guzman** (213) 400-1454, **Fred Isaac** (818) 261-6624, **Maria Carmody** (562) 692-0823, or **Lisa Banda** (213) 897-1913.

**Safwat Salahieh** is retiring after 35 years of state service! Please join us for cake and coffee as we wish him the very best, on Wednesday, December 17 between 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM, in the D7 Office Building, Conference room 01.040B.

Caught in the elevator, turning in his badge and parking decal, **Said Jalleo**, Project Development Brach B admitted he is also retiring. His last day at work will be December 12, 2014.

#### The Road Last Traveled

**Manny Binotapa**, long time engineer in the hydraulics section passed away in July. He retired a year ago spring, due to an extended leave of absence, which drained his leave balances.

**Nick Christopulos** passed away on September 10, 2014. **Dave Roper** reminisces, “**Nick** had battled cancer and other health issues for a long time. His services were held at the VA cemetery in Boulder City, Nevada. **Nick** came to District

7 from District 5 to head up the Accounting Branch in the early 1960's. He worked his way up the ladder to (I think) DDD Administration, and then left Caltrans to accept the position of Executive Director of the Credit Union somewhere around the mid 1980's. He maintained his membership in the QCC... he and his wife **Angie** frequently attended the Annual QCC luncheons. A real fan of Jazz... not the best golfer in the world, but how he loved the game... A regular attendee at the Caltrans golf tournaments. I enjoyed many a game of golf with him. 'One of the guys' ...he shall be missed. May he RIP...", **Dave**.

**Alex Beanum** writes, "**Nick** was D-5 personnel officer in 1958 and signed my Junior Civil employment papers. As the first black engineer to be hired in D-5, **Nick** was very helpful to me (young, fresh out of college, etc.) and over the years he was a good administrator. RIP **Nick**." **Alex**

**Wally Rothbart** passed away after being in declining health for some time. His memorial service was held on Oct. 28 at the Miramar National Cemetery near San Diego.

**Wes Johnson** got a call from **Jack Christie's** daughter informing that **Jack** passed away on November 8, 2014. The obituary ran in the LA Times on Sunday, November 16. Born, February 12, 1927, **John J. "Jack" Christie, P.E.**, passed away at the age of 87 in Santa Cruz, California, with his loving family at his bedside.

A memorial mass was held for **Jack Christie** on Saturday, March 21st, 2015 at 11:00 AM on the campus of Loyola Marymount University in the Sacred Heart Chapel located at 1 Loyola Marymount University Drive in Los Angeles, California. In lieu of flowers, any kind acts of charity can be directed to the Covenant House of Los Angeles. To express your condolences and

prayers with his family, please visit [www.pacificgardenschapel.com](http://www.pacificgardenschapel.com)

**Jack** was born in Flint, MI, and was a resident of Los Angeles for 66 years. He graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering from Loyola University in 1951. His career with Caltrans spanned over 40 years, including two major projects that he led as a Senior Bridge Engineer; the 210 Freeways through Pasadena and the 105 Freeway through South Los Angeles.

A founder of the Big Irish Fair in 1976, and served as President of the Los Angeles Ancient Order of Hibernians and President of the St. Andrew's Society, **Jack** shared his passion for nature, taking his children into the Sierra Nevada Mountains, teaching them to backpack and hike. He was a Boy Scout leader for many years. An epicurean, he had a heart for hosting and feasting with his family and friends. Jack was a devout Catholic, sending his children to Catholic school. His family will forever remember his charitable spirit and civic-minded nature.

He is survived by his beloved wife, **Lucille M. Christie**, 5 children, 10 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

**Judy Reynolds, Marie Martin, Jim Fowler, Jackie Nicols, and Joyce Minzy** were all in touch regarding the passing on November 15, of **Marty Leis**. **Marty** had worked in traffic for many years and is fondly remembered by all who knew him. If you want to send condolences to **Marty's** family, you may do so at: Mrs. **Jean Larsen**, 114 Old Meadow Way, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33418

**Kathy Goshi**, daughter of **Frank Chan**, wrote, "Dear Family & Close Friends, As many of you already know, our father, **Frank Chan**, passed away on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 27, 2014. He was playing tennis in the late afternoon with family members. He experienced some

discomfort, loss of balance, and collapsed on the tennis court. He did not hit or injure his head. A call was made to 911. He was conscious and mumbling. When the ambulance and paramedics arrived, his communication was a little clearer. He was taken to Pomona Valley Hospital, [where he] went into full cardiac arrest (a massive heart attack). The medical team performed CPR for over 30 minutes, however they could not resuscitate him.”

“We appreciate all your prayers, support, and condolences. We know how much you love and care for our family. Should you need to contact us, please call/text **Michelle** at (213) 507-3097, email michellekchan@yahoo.com or **Kathy** at (213)760-3809 or livebetterkcgoshi@gmail.com by e-mail.” **Rosie, Michelle** and **Kathy**

**Frank’s** funeral services were held on Saturday, December 13th, at 11 AM at Rose Hills in the Memorial Chapel, Rose Hills Memorial Park, 3888 S. Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601, (562) 699-0921.

Be like **Carol, Tom, Milly, and Stan!**

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](mailto: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...

WAKE UP!

Count your blessings, or better yet, share them with us. Many thanks to those who forwarded

information and who was not otherwise mentioned above.

- **Kirsten Stahl**

## *The Haps in District 8*

**W**e’d like to wish everyone in the Caltrans family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Our District 8 Christmas Luncheon is coming up soon and we hope to have a good group of retirees, employees, friends and families in attendance. We will report on how the festivities went in the next QCCer.

**Taylor** (Design) and **Kate Smith’s** Tuesday Chinese Buffet group continues meeting for dinner on occasion...including **Dick** (Traffic) and **Louise Haight, Gil** (Design) and **Jeanette Daab, Wes** (Design) and **Linda** (Planning) **Grimes**, and **Mary** (Delineation) **Bermudez** recently attended as well. Taylor is planning a New Year’s Eve dinner as is his custom...

**Doug** (Planning) **Hogue** and his wife are signed up to Marshall a major golf tourney at Torrey Pines in the spring...this will be his third time as Marshall and they are looking forward to the occasion.

**Morgan** (Planning) and **Glenna Choate** finished painting the inside of their Redlands home in time for Thanksgiving.

**Richard** (Materials Lab) **Longstreet** recently visited **Nick** (Const) **Davies’** in Carlsbad, enjoying breakfast at a favorite haunt. The Davies’ sold their home in Highland and are now living along a golf course in the Carlsbad area. Dick Longstreet splits his time between his home in East Highland and his condo in Carlsbad...it’s a tough life but someone has to enjoy it!

**Tom** (Const) **Powell** recently ran for a City Councilman in Yucaipa, getting lots of help from his wife, Bonnie...he did not get elected but says he learned a lot and will run again!

**Judie** (Admin) and **Gerald** (Mtce) **Brown** hosted their Bunco Club for the annual Christmas Dinner... They put on a fancy, beautiful dinner. During our QCC Christmas Luncheon they volunteer to put on a petting zoo at a major gathering for abused women and children, so they always miss the QCC Luncheon. Their volunteering is appreciated so much by the many that have little else during the holiday season.

**Ernie** (Design) **Parke** has settled into an assisted living facility in Redlands, enjoying First class surroundings and service!

**Jim** (Const) and wife, Linda, took time out from motor home trips by taking a trip to Hawaii.

**Marsha** (Admin) **Lotze** had a grand time at her niece's wedding held across the street from Mission San Juan Capistrano at The Villa and the bells rang out just as the Bride was coming out for the ceremony. They were beautiful to hear. Marsha's two sisters and her family were among those present. All had a great time catching up on news and celebrating the marriage of her niece.

Roses to those on the sick list, including **Craig** (Budgets) **Lotze**, who continues to recover from major back surgery to redo screws and rods in his back...lost count on the amount of surgeries...

**Wes** (Design) **Grimes** came down with a difficult bacterial infection, but after lots of different antibiotics, is on the mend... **Les** (Const) **Franz'** wife, Vera, was recently hospitalized but is home and is doing much better...recovering enough to travel to the Reno area for her brother's funeral. All our condolences go to the family.

**Jo** (Planning) and **Judy Sanford** sold their home and have moved to northern Utah where they will live near their son and daughter, as well as their grandchildren. Enjoy!

**Diane** (Planning) **Plagman** who retired several years ago to her native Canada, visited Caltrans friends at a luncheon at the Mexico Café in San Bernardino. **Diane** has recovered from a lengthy battle with cancer; including chemo and radiation and is a survivor. Her hair has grown back. Diane hosted **Tony Calvillo**, **Sybille Phillips**, **Julie Griffin**, **Greg Ramirez**, and **Linda** and **Wes Grimes**... Diane raves about health care in Canada and continues to enjoy living in Ottawa with family and friends there.

**Jim** (Const) and **Pam Landfried** joined the "ex-Californians" selling their homes in Redlands and moving to Colorado. They arrived just in time for a hard snow and took a little ribbing via text messages from sunny Southern California. Jim, a Redlands native and lifetime resident says he likes it in Colorado. Pam Landfried's daughter lives nearby. They join the **Dick** (Const) **Althouse's** who moved to Colorado several years ago.

Due for presentation of Honorary QCC Member Certificates at the Luncheon were **John Estrada** (37 Years), **Leo Haynes** (38 years), **Gerald Lunt** (over 25 years), **Gil Wilcox** (over 25 years), **Stan Lisiewicz** (over 43 years), and **Al Hudgens** (over 25 years). We'll report years of service later on those not listed. Our records are incomplete and kept by volunteers. (Wanna help... volunteer)?

We were saddened to hear that Sally Corbin, wife of **Ken Corbin**, passed away peacefully at 81 on October 21, 2014. Ken was the long time Supervisor of Drafting Services. Sally was a registered nurse for 35 years. All our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

As noted earlier, this newsletter goes to press just before the District 8 Christmas Luncheon...a success no doubt, with great food served at Hannah's Restaurant. News from the event will be in the next issue.

Be sure to pay your dues and **send in your news** as your Caltrans family is interested in reading about your travels and exploits.

- Marsha Lotze

## *The Haps in District 9*

**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*

**D**istrict 10 retirees continue to meet on the last Tuesday of the month for breakfast at Denny's in Stockton at March Lane and I-5. We will meet next on Tuesday December 30th.

From the **Biffels**: We recently got back from a most "different" trip to Las Vegas. **Ardyth** won (\$10,000) along with an all expense trip for 2 for 5 days to be at the Wynn / Encore Casino in Las Vegas. The Slot tournament was held at the Jackson Rancheria Casino the end of June for the National Slot Tournament Finals to be held in Las Vegas Oct. 1st.

Thousands tried to qualify but both **Ardyth** and **Bob** made it to the Finals held at the Rancheria and Ardyth beat them all. Wow. What a surprise.

We flew to Las Vegas and to the Wynn /Encore Casino Resort. Had a most wonderful time.

Surprisingly **Bob** lasted till the end round too. Both were trying to beat out each other. LOL 400 people were trying for the BIG WIN. And our Suite had all food and drinks free too. Their Buffet at the Wynn is something to behold. And the butterfly decor was awesome.

Sadly **Ardyth** only came in at 80th out of 123 for a prize of \$1,000. Plus another \$100 she won while there at the Encore. The prizes were not evened out to well. The low ones only got \$500 and the winner received \$200,000. Only the top 10 people really won anything. Now I feel that is way too much difference from low to high as we all worked just as hard to get up to that point. Multi-Media Games have decided next year to make the top winner a millionaire? Yup.

They had a Charity Slot Tournament just ahead of us, and we saw Rick and Mark (the Museum expert) from the Pawn Stars, Robin Leach, a runner up for Miss America, and many others we did not know.

All in all, **Bob** and **Ardyth** both were happy to get back home to peace and quiet. It was super fun, but very chaotic with all the "go here, go there", and at what time. Oh my, could not hear anything for the screaming and yelling, during the 3 hours it took to play to the end. LOL> We are so Blessed to have had the chance to win a trip, money, and to experience all that glamor in such a lovely setting. But I think one time was enough.

Next trip is a cruise around Australia and possibly another transit of the Panama Canal.

So now is the time to say Happy Holidays to all our friends reading about our exciting trip of a lifetime. Hope you can go and visit the Wynn and Encore someday too. Cheers for the NEW YEAR coming soon! **Bob** and **Ardyth Biffel**.



Just a short note from **Laine Sevy** - I celebrated my 90th birthday in Sept. with all my family- Total of 33 offspring.

**Ron Lesan** recently underwent a 5-year checkup after surgery for colon cancer in June of '09 and reports that all's well.

Road Last Traveled

**Donald "Don" E. Burns**, born on July 7, 1928, passed away September 27, 2014 at his home in Lodi at the age of 86. He was born in Stockton and worked for many years as a Planning Engineer for CALTRANS. He enjoyed traveling and was a Harley Davidson Motorcycle enthusiast. **Don** is survived by his wife of 66 years Marilyn Burns of Lodi; children Robert Burns of Stockton and Kathy Burns-Hemmer of Stockton; 2 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren; and his sister Carolyn Luevano of San Jose. There was a Celebration of Life on October 16, 2014 in Stockton attended by family and friends.

**Walter Elton Curtis**, an honorary QCC member, was born in Santa Cruz, CA, May 2, 1929, the only child of Arthur C. and Edna May Curtis. He went to be with the Lord, Tuesday, October 28, 2014, in Lakeport, CA. Walter's early years were spent in Salinas, CA, and then in 1945, he moved with his parents to Lodi, CA. He graduated from Lodi Union High school in 1947 and from UC Berkeley in 1952 with a degree in Civil Engineering. He married Evelyn L. Thompson on May 14, 1954. Walter was employed by CalTrans for 35 years, retiring in 1987. He later was self-employed doing soil studies for people wanting to do lot splits where a septic system would be needed. The family first lived in Stockton, then Sacramento for two years, and then to Lodi where they lived until 2004 before moving to Lakeport to be near their daughter, Kathy Medlin. **Walter** was a member of Temple Baptist Church of Lodi and an active deacon and Sunday school teacher. He also worked as a referee for baseball games for the local Lodi City League. In Lakeport, Walter was

active at Grace Evangelical Church of Kelseyville, the Lakeport Gideon Camp, and Chapter 12 of the Retired Public Employees Association. Walter is survived by his wife of 60 years, Evelyn; daughter, Kathy (Paul) Medlin of Kelseyville; sons, David (Esther) of Pacifica and Daniel (Linda) of Martinez. He is also survived by six grandchildren, Andrew Medlin, Michael (Stacey) Medlin, Rachael (Adrian) Avila, Kerrie (Dustin) Nichols, Rebecca (Dalton) Martin, and Christopher Curtis; and five great-granddaughters. A memorial service was held on October 30, 2014 at the Grace Evangelical Free Church of Kelseyville.

**"Kaz" Kazuo Matsuura**, born on Nov 14, 1935, died on Nov 25, 2014 at the age of 78 in Lodi.

- **Brian Young**

*The Haps in District 11*

**T**he D-11 QCC Annual Potluck Picnic was held on Saturday, October 11, 2014 at the Sweetwater Summit County Park in Bonita from 11am to 2pm. This was a beautiful location and everyone seemed to like it. There were about 70 people who attended and everyone had a great time. The winner of the 50/50 pot was one of our long time volunteers, **Jorge Berardi**. Below are pictures from the big event.





Our next event is the Annual QCC Banquet Luncheon at the Barra Saloon in Old Town. You should have already received a notice in the mail. The buffet lunch will start at 11:30AM, followed by drawings for some great gifts and 50/50 drawing. This is a great opportunity to invite guests and/or prospective QCC members.

The monthly Romeo meetings continue 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. ROMEO = Retired Old Men (and women) Eating Out.

From **Butch Biendara**: We are home from watching grandson Justin playing 3 soccer games. Saturday's was the season league final with the Apple Valley Storm winning 5 – 2 and Justin scoring 2 of the goals. Today, Sunday, was the start of tournament playoffs with the Apple Valley Storm winning the morning game 5 – 0 and Justin scoring 2 of the goals, (against strong headwinds), followed by the afternoon game winning 3 - 0 and Justin scoring one of them. Yes I am a proud Grampa!

From **Fleet Palmer**: We have moved to Vancouver, WA, about 20 miles, but we still have the same mailing address. Now we are 1.5 miles from WinCo, and 2 miles from Trader Joe's and 2.5 miles from Kaiser. We moved from 5 acres in the woods to 0.27 of an acre in town. Getting older and moving before we were

forced to. Lots of work here too, but I need something to do.

I appreciated the story by **Ray Ruggles** in last year's QCCer about **Slim Harpham**, the rockhound. I knew Slim but didn't realize that he was a rock nut like me. Last year the Imperial Valley Desert Museum let me display some of my rocks in one of their display cases. I only included rocks and fossils that I had found in the Ocotillo area or the nearby desert. Some I collected while working out of town at an asphalt plant at Salton Sea Beach and on the grade and local quarry sites in Winterhaven. I also included rocks from Pinto Mountain which is just across the border in the Ocotillo area. I have asked the Border Patrol if I could cross and collect there now. They said that if I crossed into Mexico near Pinto that I would have to go to a controlled border crossing like at Calexico (about 30 miles) if I wanted to come back to the USA. I first collected at Pinto when I was about 16 years old with the Convair rockhounds. Now I can look out from my backyard in Ocotillo and see Pinto Mountain. - **Fleet**

[Editor's note: **Dorothy** and **Fleet Palmer** live in Ocotillo, a small community in the Yuha Desert about half way between San Diego and Yuma. For shopping, they travel to El Centro, about 28 miles to the east. They live there in the winter when it is warm during the day. They live in Vancouver, WA in the summer months.]

From the Archives

**Gary "Fat Dog" Darr** sent in an article from 1986 from the D-11 Newsletter. The Title is: **"Darr Takes Over Sign Shop – Mills is Computer Coordinator"**

...Darr is now manager of the Sign Shop and Construction Services, taking over from Ed Rodenberg, who recently retired. "I always liked the Sign Shop, and every time I could, I was over here giving Ed a hand", says Gary. **Gary**, also

known as “**Fat Dog**”, came to work for us (CT D11) in October 1962 and has worked on every major freeway project in the District, most of it in the Construction field. “I’ve just gotten the best job in the District”, he said.

#### Road Last Traveled

The District received sad news that retiree **James (Sam) Samuel Kemp**, father of District 11 Transportation Engineer **Lauren Kemp**, passed away Wednesday morning, November 5, 2014 in the company of his family after an unexpected illness. He was 83 years old. He is survived by his wife Judy, children, step-children, and numerous grandchildren.

Mr. Kemp began his career with the Division of Highways in 1956 in the Bay Area and moved to District 11 in 1961. He worked in Construction and Design and retired as a Senior Transportation Engineer from the Encroachment Permits Office in 1992.

Considered a workaholic by those close to him, Mr. Kemp continued sharing his engineering expertise as a consultant during much of his retirement. His passion for all things Caltrans influenced several family members to join the ranks in Caltrans Districts 1, 2 and 11.

Anyone wishing to make a donation may go to the California Transportation Foundation (CTF) website to support Caltrans families in need. Please add “In memory of **Sam Kemp**” in the comments section.

Our heartfelt sympathies go out to Lauren, family, friends and co-workers.

The District received more sad news that retiree **Richard “Dick” Coward** passed away peacefully in his Citrus Heights home on September 6, 2014 at the age of 76.

Dick was a long-time Branch Chief in District 11 Traffic Operations before he retired in 2000 and

moved to Citrus Heights with his wife Maria. His 42-year career with Caltrans brought him to Lake Tahoe, Marysville, Sacramento and 24 years in San Diego.

Outside of Caltrans, Dick enjoyed fine wood working and made beautiful tables, jewelry boxes and even wooden rocking horses for his grandchildren. He also had a generous nature and supported several charities.

More information about **Dick** can be found at the following link:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/appealdemocr/obituary.aspx?pid=172421643>

- **Leslie Franklin**

## *The Haps in Central*

**W**ow, the year has flown by like no other. Happy Holidays to fellow Quarter Century Club members. On December 10<sup>th</sup>, we will be having the Central District (HQs) Holiday Luncheon at the Dante Club in Sacramento. At the luncheon I will be presenting 3 Honorary Memberships to the following Club members: **Edie Darknell Taylor** (24 years of service), **Peter Doljanin** (38 years of service) and **Jerry Laumer** (47 years of service). Congratulations! Mark your calendars for our next event the Spring Fling on April 9<sup>th</sup>!

**Julie** and I hope 2015 will bring good health filled with great adventures and lots of fun times for you and yours! Cheers!!!

- **Julie and Gary Bush**

The entire month of September saw **Allen Wrenn** in Italy. He enjoyed three small-group tours, with the number of people ranging from only seven to fourteen. His first tour was on the

island of Sicily. The other two ranged from Venice in the north to Lecce, way south on the Heel of The Boot. Stops in between included the well-known places like Verona, Pisa, Florence, Rome, Sorrento and Pompeii, as well as several lesser-known places. One highlight was his Ferrari Experience when he got behind the wheel of a bright red roadster and took off down the road with a co-pilot along to make sure he didn't stress the car too much.

Another highlight was the opportunity to savor a lot of really good Italian food and wines. In some respects, Allen says he ate his way across Italy. The elaborate lunches usually ran two hours, with dinner starting about 8:30 and lasting for three hours.

Having taken more than 5,000 photos, Allen is still busy dealing with those as he posts his adventures on Shutterfly for others to enjoy.

In July, **Allen** was in the Canadian Maritimes, a first time for him to visit Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. He came home with about 2,000 photos from that trip. He enjoyed the food there also, with the specialty being really fresh seafood.

From **Howard Posner**: As of the end of the year, after 17 years of service, I will be retired from the SMUD Board of Directors. Having left my day job at the State Assembly two years ago, I am now officially over the hill. All things considered, it's not a bad place to be.

#### Road Last Traveled

**Gary Bush** sent this notice in. **Derwin Davis** was also retired from Caltrans in the Central District.

"It is with deepest sympathy that I announce the death of Brigadier General (CA) **Derwin Harold Davis** (Retired), age 82, on 29 September 2014 in Los Angeles, California. He is survived by his

wife, Barda; daughter, Lollie; son, Laurance and two grandchildren."

"Brigadier General (CA) Davis served in the United States Army from 23 November 1954 through 3 November 1956 and in the United States Army Reserves from 4 November 1956 through 17 February 1957. He served in the California Army National Guard from 18 February 1957 until 30 January 1989 when he transferred into the USAR Control Group (Retired). Brigadier General (CA) Davis had accrued over 34 years of service for pay."

- 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 -**