

TheQCCer



Volunteering...

BUTCH SAYS; "WAY TO GO, CATHY!"

From the Corner Pocket

The inscription in the plaque below might be seen in the D-11 section, but this sterling QCC'er has earned the right to make the front page. This is a surprise story jumping up after a long hidden secret. Please give a listen to the story of a true Heroine from our ranks.

Recently, on visiting a friend at our local San Diego Sharp Memorial Hospital, a plaque in the visitors room, by a door to a private "Consultation Room # 2", read –

**Donated by
Cathy Groben**

First let me WOW you and say that the newly renovated San Diego Sharp Memorial Hospital, completed in 2008, cost \$135 M, is a 7-story building, with 315,600 sf, (7.5 Ac for surveyors), that serves 2,600 doctors with 10 operating rooms. Something any community would be proud of.

The Star of this story is a small but mighty Lady weighing less than most teenagers, not over 5' tall who served the people of California in her role at Caltrans for many years. If you were not part of D-11 Construction you may never have heard of

her. Her quiet and humble manner did more good than headlines. But as one of the fortunate few who knew her, I saw **Cathy** with the amazing talent to help those who needed help, whenever and wherever. Her wisdom and gentle encouragement was an awesome help to so many needing to learn the processes and get their work done right.

On retirement in 1994, her abounding talent needed to find another outlet. Cathy had several



family members involved in healthcare and found her way to volunteer at local hospitals, (four of them). Cathy served in positions from Reception Desk, Lobby Concierge, Gift shop, Outpatient Pavilion and the Sharp Memorial Auxiliary Board of Directors to interface with family members, staff, patients and physicians. She attended Statewide

Volunteer Conferences representing the Sharp Auxiliary program and in April, 2006 was awarded "Employee-Of-The-Month", the first time a volunteer ever won the award normally given to paid staff. She usually worked two days a week to tally up over 5,900 hours (nearly 3 years of full-time work) of service and was awarded the prestigious "**Sharp Memorial Gift of Time**" by the CEO's of Sharp Hospital.

Near the completion date of the new hospital building in 2008, with advancing age and health issues, Cathy sold her home in San Diego and

moved east to live near family in Indiana. After her years of service she had the means to offer one more generous gift to others by making a donation to the hospital from the sale proceeds of her home. Now her legacy of service to others will live on for many years to come.

If you remember Cathy, and would care to contact her, here is her contact information:

Cathy Grobin
 1200 Buena Vista Rd., Apt. 243
 Evansville, IN 47710
 (812) 471- 9319

I had the pleasure of a nice chat with her to be filled in on how her name came to be posted on the wall at the Sharp Memorial Hospital. Two letters of commendation from Sharp Memorial Hospital gave many of the details reported here. Cathy, you are what we would like to be.

Butch Biendara
QCC President

Index

President’s Remarks.....Page 1
 State and District Officers.....Page 2
 CTFPage 4
 In MemoriamPage 4
 District 1 Report.....Page 5
 District 2 Report.....Page 6
 District 3 Report.....Page 7
 District 4 Report.....Page 8
 District 5 Report.....Page 8
 District 6 Report.....Page 9
 District 7 Report.....Page 11
 District 8 Report.....Page 16
 District 9 Report.....Page 19
 District 10 Report.....Page 19
 District 11 Report.....Page 20
 Central District Report.....Page 20
 EventsPage 21
 Honorary / New MembersPage 22
 2014 Financial ReportPage 22
 Membership Renewal Form.....Page 23

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CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION FOUNDATION

By Kathy Freeman

Congratulations to Caltrans on winning **AASHTO's People's Choice Award** for the Bay Bridge Project. A record 73 transportation projects from three states and the District of Columbia were nominated in this 7th annual competition. The Grand Prize (\$10,000) was to be used to support a charity or transportation-related scholarship program of the winner's choosing. Caltrans chose the **California Transportation Foundation (CTF)** as its recipient and we thank you. The donation will be used to support the annual Workers Memorial Ceremony to be held on the steps of the State Capitol on April 16th and to create a new workers memorial plaque in the lobby of the Caltrans Headquarters building honoring those employees that have died in the line of duty.

Starting off 2015, CTF is proud to again co-sponsor the annual **Workers Memorial Ceremony to be held on April 16th on the steps of the State's Capitol.** The ceremony remembers and honors those employees who have lost their lives while working for the safety of the traveling public with the placement of a wreath in the center of a large diamond of orange cones. Each cone bears the name of one of the 183 Caltrans employees that have been lost. It is a tribute that must be seen to be appreciated. We hope that you will be able to join us this year at any of the tributes being held, either in Sacramento on April 16th or in your own area.

The Foundation welcomes three new Directors to the CTF's Board. These new directors are **Ryan Chamberlain, Caltrans District 12 Director; Michael Miles, former Caltrans District 7 Director; Andre Boutros, former Executive Director, CTC; and Eric Shen, Director of Transportation, Port of Long Beach.** A special thanks goes to the outgoing Directors **Ann**

Olson, MRO Engineers; and Jody Jones, former District 3 Director.

2014 was a banner year for CTF. We awarded almost \$79,000 in scholarship grants. We also endowed two new scholarships, including one exclusively for children of transportation workers killed on the job, and we increased the endowment of the **Bimla Rhinehart Memorial Scholarship** to \$55,000. We helped fund three memorial signs honoring fallen Caltrans workers: **Stephen Palmer, District 11; Dean Patton, District 3; and Shawn Baker and Robert Jones, District 2.** We also established a fund to support a memorial plaque honoring **Dick Murphy**, a long time **District 7** employee.

For more information on the foundation's projects or programs or if you are interested in any of CTF's upcoming activities, check out www.transportationfoundation.org or join us on Facebook.

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 |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Lowell Allen | 01 | Dec 2, 2014 |
| Dave Tedrow | 01 | Jan 9, 2015 |
| Fred Matsui | 03 | Dec 19, 2014 |
| Randy Evans | 03 | Dec 29, 2014 |

| | | |
|-----------------------|----|--------------|
| Margaret Morrill | 03 | Dec 23, 2014 |
| Robert M. Manji | 03 | Dec 31, 2014 |
| Phillip 'Phil' Corbin | 03 | Feb 28, 2015 |
| James 'Jim' Corley | 05 | Jan 30, 2015 |
| Glenn Mills | 06 | Dec 29, 2014 |
| Ed Olmstead | 06 | Dec 15, 2014 |
| Paul Jones | 06 | |
| Howard Ray McDonell | 06 | Feb 16, 2015 |
| Mel Nester | 06 | Jan 27, 2015 |
| Sus Ishigo | 07 | Sep 20, 2014 |
| Martha Gaza | 07 | Dec 17, 2014 |
| Samuel Gaza | 07 | Dec 17, 2014 |
| Kenny W. Price | 07 | Dec 18, 2014 |
| Earl Thomas | 07 | Jan 4, 2015 |
| Robert Arthur Houle | 07 | Jan 6, 2015 |
| Robert Aaron | 07 | Nov 18, 2013 |
| Tracy Scott | 07 | Oct 8, 2014 |
| Mary Williams | 07 | 2015 |
| Garland Cole | 07 | Feb 23, 2015 |
| Leroy 'Roy' Smoot | 08 | Dec 25, 2014 |
| Vera Franz | 08 | Feb 2015 |
| Gene Terry | 08 | Jan 2015 |
| Kenneth Corbin | 08 | Feb 8, 2015 |
| Judi Reed Britton | 08 | Feb 20, 2015 |
| Harry Krueper | 08 | Feb 26, 2015 |
| Patricia Fletcher | 10 | Mar 1, 2015 |
| Ralph Loveland | 11 | Nov 10, 2014 |
| Ada Loveland | 11 | Nov 11, 2014 |
| Evelyn Goetz | C | Jan 18, 2015 |

The Haps in District 1

Two new retirees from D-1. **Stephanie Launer**, our Office Technician, who greeted everyone so well at the entry to our main office, retired on September 29, 2014.

David Wire, CT Highway Maintenance Leadworker also retired on 10/1/14.

We had our Administration Christmas lunch and ornament exchange on December 16th at the Samoa Cookhouse. Retirees there included, besides me, **Rick Knapp, Ted Cook, George Eitzen, Stephanie Launer, Bev Chang, Tim Fisher** and **Janet Bottini**. It was fun to see everyone.

I recently sent out Honorary QCC Membership certificates to **Jerry Haynes** and **Don Comstock**.

This was the 50th anniversary of the 1964 flood that did such an incredible amount of damage in northern California. I took part in some of the commemorative activities by supplying material for display cases at both Caltrans and the Humboldt County Historical Society. Then I took part in a seminar in Rio Dell that included many local groups including a representative from our Caltrans District. In addition, I also gave a talk at the Clarke Museum in Eureka, which included a showing of the Caltrans flood film. I also attended a memorial service at our Coast Guard station in memory of the men killed in a helicopter crash while rescuing people from the flooded areas. It was very moving. They have a permanent display there to honor these men who gave their lives trying to save others.

We lost a long time Bridge engineer and friend, **Lowell Allen**, 86, on December 2, 2014. Many of his fellow retirees attended his memorial service on 12/20/14 at St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Eureka. He was involved with many local bridges but is best remembered for his work and interest in the maintenance and preservation of our beloved Fernbridge, see photo below.



Photo by USGS

Lowell and his wife, **Esther**, were both from Ferndale so this bridge had special meaning. He was honored at the 100th anniversary celebration of the Bridge in 2011.

Dave Tedrow, retired engineer from District 1, passed away on 1/9/2015 at age 84. He spent much of his Caltrans career in Construction working on the highways and freeways in Humboldt and Mendocino Counties. He loved his vacation trips to Hawaii.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to family and friends of **Lowell Allen** and **Dave Tedrow**.

On January 22nd, we had our quarterly retiree/QCC lunch at the Samoa Cookhouse. We had a good group there and I was able to give **Rita Coleman** her QCC honorary Certificate.

- **Arlene Hartin**

The Haps in District 2

Jim and Sandy Ceragioli tell us of a trip on a cruise ship in December:

We flew to San Diego and boarded the MS Amsterdam on December 8th. This started a 2 week cruise to Ft. Lauderdale Florida. Our first two days were at sea as we cruised down the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, otherwise known as Lower California. Our first port of call was Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. We, along with our travel companions Carol and Lynn, had decided prior to departure that we were going to do the ZIP LINE and so the opportunity presented itself here. We were taken to the jungle to an elevation of about 5500 feet in a Unimog which was an experience in itself. Open seating in the back with an unmaintained diesel engine able to go no more than 40MPH. It was a real jungle car. We were greeted by a group of young men and women who described what we were about to do. Then we were outfitted with harnesses that would

secure us to the line. Off we trekked to the first tele of 11 platforms. Since none of us had ever done this before, there was a bit of hesitancy to make that first zip. Our group consisted of 7 people and I was the last to go. It was interesting to note that all you do is sit down in your harness with your right hand holding the upper line behind that pulley and use that as a brake. Off you go zipping down the line to the next platform. On one zip, we were asked if we wanted to do it upside down, and Lynn and I said yes, but the girls said no. Twice, we rappelled to the ground and walked to the next platform. A fun trip to talk about many times.

Our next stop was in Huatulco, Mexico where we just spent the time in the village where the girls shopped for jewelry. **Sandy** expressed interest in a silver bracelet and then had to put up with the salesman for the rest of the day. He followed her around the village trying to get her to buy it, but she had told him what we would pay and he never came down to that price.

Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala was our next port of call. Here we went to Antigua to see a jade factory and learn about jade. I was always of the impression that jade was green. Well, come to find out that pure jade is white and only because of impurities does it get its green color. On our way back to the ship, we got caught in a local festival parade and had to wait for it to clear before progressing on. It took about 30 minutes for the parade to turn onto another street. All the people in the parade were dressed in their finest. Even the children were wearing dresses and suits.

Our next stop was in Corinto, Nicaragua where we went to see how rum was made. One very interesting thing there was that all the rum barrels came from the US whiskey manufacturers when they got rid of them. We saw barrels from Jack Daniels and Wild Turkey. We also got to taste 18 year old rum which I must say was fabulous. The company Flor de Cana is very

concerned about the welfare of their employees and their families. They pay for complete medical care and schooling for all of the children through college. I have no idea what they pay their employees but with this covered, I would guess it is low.

Next came Puerto Caldera, Costa Rica. It seems this country is rife with volcanos that are erupting all the time. There were 7 active ones when we were there. A village we went through had a church that had collapsed so many times that they decided to rebuild it with iron. It has been up for over ten years now. We went to an ox cart factory where the entire factory operates with water power. Very quiet manufacturing.

We then traveled to Panama where we entered the canal. Very impressive construction for that facility. When we went through, the lock next to us had a container ship in it and I swear there was no more than six inches freeboard on either side of that ship. They have a very interesting method of keeping the ships from rubbing the sides. They tether the ship front and rear to donkey engines that do nothing more than keep the ship centered in the lock and into and out of the lock while the ship moves under its own power. We saw one monstrous crocodile as we exited into the Atlantic. The new sets of locks are still under construction and won't be completed until next year.

The last stop was Cartagena, Columbia. We did not get off the ship as I was suffering from an old man's disease called gout. My right big toe was so sore I could not walk and had to go see the ship doctor who gave me a shot in the butt and said I would be good in 24 hours. Then it was on to Ft. Lauderdale where we flew home to Sacramento. From **Jim and Sandy Ceragioli**

Russ Huntington reports that last summer they had two of their grandchildren get married and welcomed a new great grandchild into the family. All are doing well.

Ed Delano tells us he is still riding 5000 miles a year. He rode from San Diego to Florida (3000 miles) last year. His wife passed away 2 years ago so he is by himself more frequently now. He still rides his bike with the Sacramento Wheelmen and goes to the QCC lunches. He laments that attendance numbers are dwindling.

- **Bill Belcher**

The Haps in District 3

The Annual Spring Party will be held on April 12th at the Peach Tree Country Club in Marysville. Everyone should have received an invitation flyer. The deadline for tickets is April 2nd. Anyone who did not receive an invitation by mail should contact **Carleen Hagen** at (530) 674-9026. There is an increase in the ticket price this year due to new price sheets on the buffet and other items we need for the party.

Libby and Ed Haraughty and family spent a wonderful Christmas last year in Kauai, Hawaii. The Kent Family joined them. Present was Kathi, Alan (daughter and hubby), grandkids Trevor (about to graduate from CalPoly) and Kristen (freshman at CalPoly) helped Ed recover from foot surgery and gimping around Kauai was much better than doing it in Yuba City. A belated Mele Kalikimaska and Hau'oli to all!

Fred Matsui passed away on December 19, 2014. Fred started working for Caltrans in 1961 as a draftsman and retired after 34 years of state service as a Landscape Architect.

Randy Evans passed away on December 29, 2014. He attended Marysville High School and graduated in 1967. Randy started his career with Caltrans working for Maintenance at Central Region as an equipment operator before

transferring to the District Office and retired after 32 years as a Transportation Planner in District 3.

Margaret Morrill passed away on December 23, 2014. Margaret worked in Maintenance at the Central Region and transferred to the District Office and retired after 23 years of service

Robert M. Manji passed away suddenly on December 31, 2014. Robert worked for Caltrans from 1960 to 1996. After retiring, he continued working as a consultant.

Phillip “Phil” Corbin passed away on February 28, 2015. Phil worked for District 3 for many years and retired as a Construction Engineer and Supervisor.

Dan Johnson, Sr. will be going on the usual vacation to Lake Tahoe this June. Joining him and his Fiancé’ Valerie will be his son Ted and wife Holly. This is an early trip for the Johnson’s who usually go in October to observe the kokanee salmon as they move up Taylor Creek to spawn and also to fish for the mackinaw lake trout. In June they will be enjoying the summer days, probably making a trip to Virginia City, basking in the sun and winning lots of money across the line. Of course they will be fishing on the lake, but in June they will be catching brown and rainbow trout along with those big mackinaws.

Director **Dan Johnson, Sr.** is looking for a Publicity Chairperson and one more member of the Social Committee. Anyone interested in getting involved is asked to contact Dan at (530) 671-3889 or email at boots3@syix.com. In addition, nominations for District 3 Quarter Century Director will be brought to the floor at the general meeting prior to the buffet on April 12th. Anyone interested in leading the club should bring their name to the floor with a nomination.

Thanks to all who contributed to this report. A special thank you to Social Committee Chair **Jan Johnson** for her assistance.

- **Dan Johnson Sr.**

The Haps in District 4

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

The Haps in District 5

The calendar says Spring is just around the corner, but our recent weather pattern has left me wondering. Flowers and trees bloomed early, then lost their blossoms to the hail. Will we have more surprises from Mother Nature in the coming months?

We enjoyed the annual District 5 Holiday BBQ in December. Not as many attendees this year, but the BBQ was delicious, thanks to **Richard Gonzales, Bill Fieldhouse**, and their experienced BBQ gang. Among the retirees present were two former D-5 Directors **Gregg Albright** and **Rich Krumholz**. **Pearl Cole** was the longest-retired attendee, having left in 1985...WOW. We learned that a number of engineers had decided to “pull the pin” including **Charlie Hench, Jim Alessi, and Jim Tkach**.

Landscape improvements are being made around the District Office, including the installation of irrigation which will use recycled water.

The Gaviota Roadside Rest reopened to travelers in late February after a ten-month closure. A major improvement project there included upgrading plumbing and electrical systems, new tile and paint, low flow toilets and automatic

shut-off valves. The rest area serves approximately one million visitors each year.

Herb & Diane Filippini are keeping an eye on construction at Filippini Ranch Cellars in San Luis Obispo. An old home on the property is being remodeled for a tasting room to open later this year. However, visitors are welcome now to taste their fine wines.

We learned from **Pete Hom** that **Ken Jones** and his wife have moved to assisted living in San Marcos to be near family. We have Ken's address if you'd like to send him a note.

Please think good thoughts for **Marilyn Ross** and **John Ritter** who are dealing with serious health issues.

James "Jim" Corley passed away on January 30. Jim supervised our custodial staff at the District Office for many years. He was a wonderful gentleman with a sense of humor, and he was always willing to help when we had special requests. Jim is survived by his two sons, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife of 51 years Esmon Lee Corley.

- Kathleen Copeland

The Haps in District 6

Bob Tsubota was perusing through his memory book that he received from his retirement. Bob said, "The photos and signature sheets really brought back the enjoyable times I had with Caltrans. I'm sure you had help from **Annabelle** and **Judy** to put it together. I can't thank you enough for all the hard work you put into making the memory book. I am now ninety years old and still in fairly good health. I play golf twice a week -- I mean I play at it. Cassie is also fine."

From **Virgle Ray** – "Wondering if the D-6 Caltrans Retiree Breakfast still shows in the QCCer magazine. It's been a source of new members. Occasionally I bring old issues of the QCCer to share with folks at the Caltrans Retiree Breakfast, which meets at 9:00 AM on the third Wednesday in March and September at the Waffle house on Route 68 in Lindsay. Contact **Don Phillips** @ 559-781-2057. Hopefully it still shows; it's a good gathering of dwindling folks. (Yes, that's twice a year)"

From **Nora Lutrell to Terry** – "I can't believe how fast the years are now coming. I hope you are well and happy. I hope you are enjoying every minute of every day. I have been thinking of going to go have lunch with **Vickie Warner** someday during the spring. Maybe we could get a chance to see you and catch up. Take care sweetie and I will let you know a week in advance before I go visit Vickie. God Bless."

Bill Bastian sent a message around December; "A few weeks ago had a so called mini-stroke and was referred to a heart specialist in Fresno. Several visits and many tests cumulated in an evaluation by the doctor that nothing points to any surgery or change in pills. This of course was good news on my 93rd birthday. Hope you are well but can't be happy as we are falling by the wayside at a fast clip!"

Road Last Traveled

Glenn Mills passed away Dec 29, 2014. He had been recovering from extensive esophageal cancer treatments and surgery and had a temporary feeding tube resulting from those operations. Prior to this he was home in Morro Bay recovering from the three surgeries at Stanford last month along with six weeks of radiation and chemo prior to that. He returned to a hospital in San Luis Obispo for continuing problems associated with pneumonia and congestive heart failure (new problems). On September 19, 2014 Glenn decided he would not recover and asked to be placed into

hospice with no further medical treatment and the feeding tube removed.

Remembering **Glenn** -

Christine Mitchell – “Thanks so much Terry. And for the news of **Paul Jones** also. Loved those guys!”

Nora Luttrell – “So sorry to hear the sad news. RIP Glenn.”

Bob Waddington – “Glen was one of my favorite RE's. One of the first people I met when I came over the hill in 1984. I feel sad for Glenn in that condition. He had been through a lot. I wish him Godspeed.”

Irwin Rosa – “Aloha”

Bina Brown – “I will say a prayer for him and his family.”

Virgle Ray - “So sad. Boy the good guys are disappearing. Glenn was one of those people that left a lasting good impression on you. I always enjoyed his laugh and dedication to what he was doing!!!! He continues as a hero and mentor.”

From **Terry** – “It is with deep sadness I inform you that **Ed Olmstead** suddenly passed away on Monday, December 15, 2014. He went peacefully in his sleep. Ed worked in our IT Division as the “‘Telephone guy’ for more than 17 years. He retired from State Service in 2013 to spend time with his wife, Val, his four adult children and five grandchildren. Ed will be greatly missed.”

Remembering **Ed** -

Bina Brown – “Thanks for letting me know about **Ed Olmstead**. He was a sweetheart. I knew him since the 80s.”

Tim Lowrey - “Now that is sad news. Ed was a really nice guy.”

From **Virgle Ray** - “Sadly another star has been added to the night sky. **Paul Jones**, Tree Maintenance Supervisor from Visalia area has passed away.”

Howard Ray McDonell, age 80, of Porterville, passed away on February 16, 2015. He was a Civil Engineer with Caltrans for many years.

Remembering **Howard** -

Virgle Ray - “Howard was one of those people you never forget. He always had a smile and exuded confidence in his knowledge of his job. Even my parents knew him from the Elks. It will be necessary to plant a Rose to be named after him. He's that important in our history. Howard we wish you bon voyage, your special in our memory.”

From **Nora Luttrell**- “That was really sad news to read. Howard was a very good friend. What a great guy. I remember he loved the Rams. **Randy Iwasaki** and I would always give him heck about the Rams..... Yes, Howard was one of the best guys I worked with. He was always kind and helpful... May he Rest in Peace.”

From **Bob Dubel** - “I worked with **Howard McDonell**'s brother, **Bob McDonell**, whom I enjoyed sailing with at the High Sierra regatta at Huntington Lake. I believe you had a cabin there at the time. I did meet Howard when he was working in the office for a short time. Howard spent most of his time in the field on construction projects. Bob came from construction to work in the office where he spent several years in design. He sat at a drafting table by the windows in front of me. As our office was often stuffy, even though it had an air conditioning system, he would often open the window next to him (as would others) get fresh air, often to the dismay of **Angelo Zito**, our maintenance man.”

From **Steve Mason** – “He was a good friend and a great engineer.”

From **Joe Kosko** – “I went to the service with **Elias Mahfoud** and **Mike Weber**, saw **Jim Means** and **Jim Exum** there as well as **Raul Lopez**. Raul and I worked with Howard on the Hwy 65 expressway together with **Terry Ogle** and **Elias Mahfoud**. Of course, **Howard** was retired from Caltrans and working for Jerry Menefee at that time. Real nice (service), I'm sure Howard would have liked it.”

“Mel Nester, QCC Honorary Member, passed away peacefully on January 27, 2015, of multiple causes. There have been and will be no memorials, which was his wish. He enjoyed his relationships with you all, and spoke of you often. Our best wishes to you and your families.” From the Nester Family - Frieda, Junella, Russ, and Candy

Remembering Mel –

From **Virgle Ray**: "Sandy and I want to wish the family our sympathy. Mel, my first boss in Fresno, was always fun to work with. He drove a Z car and so did I, so we always had something to talk about. What car today has two carburetors? I only have good memories of him!!!!"

-Terry Littleton

The Haps in District 7

Before I know it, it is time to submit the QCC newsletter to Chris Thomas again! In one of our staff meetings recently, someone mentioned that if you want something to get done, assign it to a busy person... Here’s hoping you are busy, so you can send in items for our next QCC newsletter! If you are not busy, then you have no excuse – send something in also!

In light of many of our people who succumb to illness, old age, or horror of horrors, misadventure, I’m very glad people submit happy items, too...

Monthly Reunion

Time flies, and before you know it, it is the second Wednesday of the month... Hungry for food or for thought, then the **Tom Fera** Lunch Group is up your ally! Meet with them on the second Wednesday of each month, except December. The remaining 2015 dates and addresses follow below.

RESTAURANTS AND PROPOSED LUNCHEON DATES FOR 2015

[Second Wednesday of every month except December]

- 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, or **Tom Gildersleeve** at (661) 259-6226 or tgilders@pacbell.net.

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.

The Purple Heart Trail

In celebration of Veterans Day, and in honor of the men and women who have been wounded or given their lives in combat while serving in the U.S. armed forces, Caltrans partnered with the Military Order of the Purple Heart - Chapter 750, State Senator **Hannah-Beth Jackson**, and

Ventura County Supervisor **Kathy Long**, to install Purple Heart Trail signs along US Highway 101 in Ventura. This segment is part of a larger network across the nation, and covers the length of Ventura County on US Highway 101. A 36-mile segment in Santa Barbara County was designated in 2010.

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 27 (**Jackson**, Resolution Chapter 88, Statutes of 2013) established specified portions of US Highway 101 in the counties of Santa Barbara and Ventura for inclusion in the National Purple Heart Trail. “The Purple Heart Trail is a visual reminder of the long road that these soldiers traveled to preserve our freedom and way of life. [We] honor them with [these] designations along our highways,” said Caltrans District 7 Director **Carrie Bowen**. Private donations organized by Military Order of the Purple Heart - Chapter 750, funded the cost for the signs.

The Purple Heart Trail was established in 1992 by the Congressionally-sanctioned Military Order of the Purple Heart to be a symbolic trail throughout all 50 states to commemorate and honor all men and women who have been wounded or given their lives in combat while serving in the U.S. armed forces. The Purple Heart Trail originates in Mount Vernon, Virginia, and traverses the United States to California.

A Caltrans News Flash video documenting this installation is available on YouTube. (http://youtu.be/4nL11cV_4eM)

Caltrans had an Air Force?

This requires some long-term memory... Remember back to 1983... That is 32 years ago... The Olympic games were in the planning stages, dire predictions of massive gridlock and tax payer bailout ran rampant. To assist with gridlock Caltrans undertook an unusual strategy – they’d actually put Caltrans employees in helicopters as traffic observers! **Marie Martin**

was one of those lucky few, and she shares some of her long term memories of that time with us.

Marie shares, “About a year prior to the 1984 Olympics Games, during the period in which Caltrans’ involvement was being widely discussed, a rumor began to circulate that CT employees might serve as traffic observers in helicopters. This did materialize and I was fortunate to be one of those observers. It was a highly innovative and very successful group effort!”

“Rumors circulated wildly that we might be unpaid volunteers, paid straight time, or overtime, or be on our own time, etc. Other rumors included, that each observer would fly only once, only Seniors would be chosen, various life and medical insurances would be null and void if we flew, we would all have to be commercial pilots wearing Nomex flight retardant suits, and the helicopters would all be from the Army! Ultimately, none of them turned out to be the case, we were paid overtime, and the day’s work often ran 12 hours or more.”

“While 100+ Caltrans employees turned out for the initial meetings, it became clear that we would be ‘on call’ 24 hours a day, have essentially no time off - including weekends - for a month or more, and we would need permission from our supervisors to be away from our regular duties, [at this point, many candidates dropped like flies]. Eleven of us were finally selected. **Tom Almany, Sr.**, was pressed back into service from retirement; he was to work longer and harder than all the rest of us put together, and credit for much of our success goes to his tireless work and endless patience.”

“[**Tom’s**] ‘right hand man’ was **Jerry Lata**; along with **Terry Wong**, they did the complex scheduling of our duties, and managed to get our radios working so we could do our thing for traffic control. The [other] enthusiastic [volunteers] came from Traffic Operations’

Branch: **Earl Fritcher** (who had been a navigator in WWII), **Nick Jones**, **Bob Masuda**, **Randy Ronning**, **Marty Stevens**, and **Ralph Thunstrom** (whose son **George** worked full time in the TOC while his wife **Gail** served as a ground observer – making them a total Caltrans’ Olympics family!) Three of us were pilots: **Ed Anderson** from R/W Utilities, **Alex DeVorkin** from Legal, and [me] from Project Development.”

“We would fly for two days and spend one day on the ground in the TOC as dispatchers for our colleagues in the air. Our Helicopters were civilian aircraft under contract to the Department of Defense. The base of operations was Los Alamitos Armed Forces Reserve Center. We would not wear the fire retardant suits unless we wanted to... I had my own flight suit, and I sewed Caltrans patches on it. It was fun to watch military personnel on the base scan my ‘insignia’ before deciding whether to salute.”

“On our first day, we met with people from Hillcrest Helicopters of Lewiston, Idaho - **Jerry** and **Gale Wilson** were the father and son owners/pilots of the company. The [other] pilots were **Sam Barnes**, **Bob Bartels**, **Hal Kolb**, **Steve Rowe**, **Bob LaPrarie**, **Tom Springston**, and **Mike Fergione**. For two weeks we practiced our routes and incident reporting procedures while the radio communications bugs were worked out. [I found it] fascinating to watch the Freeways progress from morning congestion to afternoon free-flow, mixed with truck accidents, and back to the evening snarls. [For] those of us who had taken the excellent traffic classes at the Materials Lab, it was like watching the manuals come to life.”

“In those weeks before the games began, our preparations were diligent, [and] we became a dedicated team. Pilots from other localities [also] took a lively interest in the freeway system and how it did - and sometimes didn’t - function. When the games began, the training and effort

paid off. Every one of the observers has stories to tell. Most of them revolve around hairy accidents and dealing with other agencies in the complicated and constantly changing airspace regulations [above L.A.]. In addition, we all had the occasional satisfaction of being able to report in a motorist in trouble and summon aid.”

“We sometimes flew with observers from the City of L.A. Traffic Department, and gained insight into the interaction of State Highways and City Streets. As [most] everyone will remember, the projected gridlock and massive traffic jams predicted for the 1984 Olympics never materialized. The most interesting day was when Route 91 was closed to accommodate the bicycle races. Seeing that normally-hectic route totally deserted was amazing. When the games were over, all the observers agreed that their experiences brought increased knowledge back to their jobs. Many of the friendships formed that summer have lasted over time. Sadly, **Bob Bartels**, one of [our] pilots, was killed while crop dusting the following year.”

“As for me, the experience was so ‘addictive’, I went on to learn how to fly helicopters and ultimately got a Commercial Helicopter Pilots License. For years I hoped that someday I might use those skills to help Caltrans in some way. It would have been a way to repay Caltrans for a rewarding and educational experience. Now I’m retired, as are most of the other observers. [Although it has been many decades since] the 1984 Games, the Caltrans’ Air Force will be [fondly remembered] and perhaps become a more widely known part of Caltrans’ history.”

Topsy Turvy

With new management, comes new ways of thinking... As you may have heard in this or other publications, there has been a large turnover in District 7 Management - a new Director, **Carrie Bowen**, a new Chief Deputy, **Shirley Choate**, new Division Chiefs in Construction, Maintenance and Design, **Mark**

Archuletta, Deborah Wong, and Jerrel Kam, respectively, plus many acting chiefs. In part, because of concerns about “entrenchment”, type-casting, need for cross-training, improving upward mobility for some, and as an aid to succession planning – thwarting the anticipated “silver tsunami” due to much of the management work force nearing retirement age, a “grand” rotation on a large scale will be fully implemented by the end of March. That means, nearly all engineering-function Office Chiefs will be moving to new assignments – Project Management Chiefs are moving to Traffic and Design, several Design Chiefs are moving to Project Management, and at least one Traffic Manager is moving to Planning. As expected, this sort of upheaval has resulted in some earlier than anticipated retirements, or, moves to other agencies. Most engineering staff, local contacts, politicians, retirees, and the rest of us, will likely find their “go-to-person” is now “up-and-gone”. However trite the cliché, we must agree that the only thing constant in life is change.

A Lost Opportunity Found

“Dear Friends,” writes **Bill Minter**, “The name of **Buckmaster** popped up in book I read on WWII in the Pacific. An **Eliot Buckmaster** was Captain of the USS Yorktown in the Battle of Midway. That intrigued me, so I tried to track down any relation of **Stan** to that captain. I did have an inkling that **Stan** had a Navy background and I heard his dad of the Navy christened him **Stanley O.**, hence his initials of S. O. B. ‘No,’ **Stan** said, ‘That was not accidental.’ This is best I can remember of that conversation going back to 1956/7 or so. I was not able to get anywhere on the Internet myself, so I repaired to our local library. They did much better. Here is what I found out:”

“**Stan** was born in 1925 and passed away six years ago, at the age of 84, (same as I am now), up in Bellingham, Washington. Bellingham is north and east of Seattle. From the book, I had guessed, for the purpose of tracking, that this

Eliot B. was born in 1890. Records showed him as born in 1889. This **Eliot** was not **Stan's** dad, but his uncle. **Stan's** dad was named **David**. Along the way [I] found out that **Stan** was a seaman and served on BB53. That is the Navy designation for Battleship. I even got a copy of a 'muster log' showing at the top: USS Washington, **Stan's** name, his rank, his serial number, date of enlistment, and Des Moines as place of enlistment. Two librarians helped me, [as] they both got interested in my quest.”

“**Stan** had an acerbic wit and I got to see it in action from time to time in our lunch time bridge game. **Betty Burris** was a regular and **John Burris** sat in occasionally. Others, **Carol Schumaker**, Tom (?) ... That bridge game, in some form or other, lasted from the time I joined [the] Division of highways ‘till I retired. There were others in that game, but memory isn't serving me well anymore. But this ole' guy likes to travel memory's trail.”

“**Stan**, gosh! I wish I knew more about him in those days. But since almost all guys in those times were vets of some sort, we just never got around to talking of those experiences. Regards, **Bill**”

“P.S. **Marie, JoAnn** says send this on to **Judy**. She might like it.” - **Bill Minter**

Contacts and Recent Sightings

Arnie Ludwig and his wife **Marilynn** who moved back to Santa Clarita about a year ago to be closer to their daughters and grandchildren. **Arnie** also had recent knee replacement surgery.

Tony Harris, Former District 7 Director, at a meeting for the improvements to SR-138 between I-5 and SR-14. While **Tony** has two offices with Point C Partners, one in Elk Grove and another in Pasadena, he and his family still live in the Sacramento area. **Tony** does not appear to have aged at all in the past 10 years since he went “Private”.

Marie Martin and **Bob Walters** at two very different venues – one in Altadena to celebrate the birthday of Scots Poet Robert Burns, amongst the kilt-and-tartan-clad clan folk, and the other at a trendy sidewalk café in Montrose. Lounging on the sidewalk, was **Bismarck**, Marie’s elephantine-sized New Foundland dog. Most passers-by took a double take and a “selfie” with him. I’m surprised he wasn’t “trending” on social media that day!

Stewart Stahl, at both of the Altadena and Montrose venues, and several times in the District Office for various holiday celebrations. Three months post-surgery, he is pain free, unassisted, and has resumed his pre-arthritis activity level, except for mowing and edging the lawn...

Ken Johnson bearer of some sad news, called in late February. He has been retired since 1995, after working 39 years, living in the community of West Covina. He recalled his work in Traffic conducting speed studies, in Construction and Design B, working for Stan Dick, Don Higuchi, and Jess Guerra, not necessarily in that order.

Moving On...

After 27 years of State Service, **Loretta Crum**, retired from the Department of Transportation, District 7, Administration, and leapt onto her next chapter at a celebration at the District Office on September 25, 2014.

A retirement celebration for **Dennis Stubblefield**, in honor of his 40 years of State Service, was held on January 9, 2015 at the Lebec Maintenance Yard.

The Road Last Traveled

Akira “Andy” Shigenaga reported to **Milt Watanabe** in September that **Sus Ishigo** had passed away on September 20, 2014, due to pneumonia, and had suffered from dementia for 3 years. No other details were available. **Paul**

Perez added, “Sorry to hear that of our Otomodachi. [Please] keep us informed of services. Our prayers [are] for him and family.” **Sus** had worked in Materials and Hydraulics for many years. His family owned and operated **Ishigo Bakery** in Gardena, and was known for its heavenly Haupia Cake.

Carol Huntwork reported hearing from **Marlene Ratzlaff** that **Dale** passed away on 12/5. There was no service.

It is with a heavy heart that **Angel Aguilar**, of Construction Division, informed us of the funeral service for his daughter and grandson, **Martha** and **Samuel Gaza**, held on January 10, 2015 at Saint James Catholic Church in Redondo Beach, CA. On Wednesday night, December 17, 2014, after a school Christmas Concert, a person ran a red light and drove through a crosswalk filled with pedestrians leaving the Concert. Three adults and one child were killed, including **Martha** and **Samuel**. Several others were injured and remain hospitalized. The **Gaza Family**, was especially hard hit; all five members of their family were impacted. **Martha Gaza**, mother, and her six year-old son, **Samuel**, died from their injuries. **Glenn Gaza**, father, remained hospitalized. Their two daughters, in grades 2 and 5, were treated and released. The Archdiocese set up an official donation site (link) for any person from the Caltrans family wishing to make a financial donation to **Angel’s** family and the others affected by this tragedy. <https://donations.la-archdiocese.org/sjvf/>

Silvester Wilson, reported the passing of **Kenny W. Price**, a Caltrans employee of 35 years in District 7 and Headquarters, on December 18, 2014. Services were held for **Mr. Price** on December 31, 2014 at the Inglewood Park Cemetery located at 3801 W. Manchester Blvd. Inglewood CA 90305.

Cheryl Laughlin, daughter of **Earl Thomas**, reported his passing on January 4, 2015, after a

long struggle with Parkinson's disease. No funeral information was provided. **Earl** rode in a carpool for several years with the likes of **Paul Pritiken, Marilyn Reece, Bob Wallin, Dan Goble,** and **Bill Weldele.** Earl is also survived by his wife, **Anne.** **Earl** was a **QCC** Honorary Member.

Dick Stewart forwarded the obituary of **Robert Arthur Houle,** who passed away on January 6, 2015 with his family by his side after a long illness. **Bob** leaves behind his wife **Marian,** Daughters **Karen Sanchez** and **Vikki Murillo,** older brother **Eddie,** numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren. **Bob** was born on June 30, 1936 in New Hampshire to **Edward** and **Lillian Houle.** **Bob** was preceded in death by his younger brother **Ray,** and both his sons, also after long illnesses.

Robert Aaron, born on November 6, 1959, passed away on November 18, 2013, and had no children.

Tracy Scott, born May 31, 1962, passed away October 8, 2014, and leaves behind four children, **Anthony, Paul, Christina,** and **Tracy Jr.** The family would like to thank all their great friends who have been very supportive in their time of grief.

Ken Johnson and **Darryl Mays** reported the passing of **Mary Williams.** **Mary** worked in Right-of-Way as an assistant engineer, for **Virgil Archambault.** After a funeral service on March 2, 2015, at Prosperity Missionary Baptist Church, Los Angeles, CA, **Mary** was laid to rest at Inglewood Park Cemetery, Inglewood, CA. **Mary** is survived by her daughter **Karen.** **Darryl** requests that anyone that knew **Mary,** should please pass on this information.

Guillermo Hermosillo, a Safety Specialist in Maintenance sent notice of the passing of **Garland Cole,** a 42 year Caltrans employee.

Garland passed away on Monday February 23rd, and had worked at the North Region San Fernando maintenance station as an Equipment Operator 1. **Garland** first started working for Caltrans at the Sheldon maintenance yard. His graveside service and burial was on Wednesday March 4, 2015, at Pierce Brothers Valhalla Memorial Park, in North Hollywood, CA.

Be like **Marie, Bill, Ken, Darryl, Andy, Milt** and **Carol!**

Busy or not, take a few moments to tell us what you're up to! We want the opportunity to get to know you better - share your dreams, and past adventures! Please send your items, to: **Caltrans, attn: Kirsten Stahl, 100 S. Main St. Suite 100 MS 13, Los Angeles, CA 90012.** Phone 213-897-0470, or e-mail: kirsten.stahl@dot.ca.gov.

Tom Almany, Jr. 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 information,** to Statewide QCC Secretary/Treasurer **Mike Ogilvie** directly.


WAKE UP

Send those cards, and letters, or just make a call!

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

- **Kirsten Stahl**

The Haps in District 8

 Our annual Christmas Luncheon was held on Saturday, December 13, 2014, at Hannah's Restaurant in San Bernardino, CA. We all enjoyed the delicious food

and had a great time visiting with old friends. **Taylor Smith** presented updates from folks far and wide.

Those in attendance were: **John & Kay Anderson, Mary Bermudez, Gil & Jeanette Daab, John & Doris Estrada, Janice Feenstra, William Feenstra, Les Franz, Jim & Janice Geller, Wanda Gernux, Linda & Wes Grimes, Dick & Louise Haight, Angela Hall, Al & Judi Hudgens, Allan & Jane Kirst, Frank Lehr, Stan & Ina Lisiewicz, Dick Longstreet, Marsha Lotze, Phosie Lotze, Dick Longstreet, Gerald Lunt, Jim & Linda Miller, Ernie Parke & Connie Young, Bob & Linda Pester, Sybille Phillips, Joe Potwardowski, Tom & Bonnie Powell, Bob Sassaman, Taylor & Katie Smith, Ken Steele, Linda Supernaw, and Gil & Cheryl Wilcox. Bob Redden** and his wife, **Libby**, and their son, **Robbie Redden** were to attend, but at the last minute couldn't make it. .

We had a very successful raffle with many members donating prizes and also winning! Our five QCC money prizes were won by **Jim Miller, John Estrada, Dick Longstreet, Jan Geller** and **Wanda Gernux**. One of our members donated \$25.00 along with our usual \$100.00.

See you next December, the second Saturday of the month, at Hannah's Restaurant in San Bernardino.

Gerald and **Judie Brown** participated in a Christmas celebration for abused women and children again. They have been doing this for many years by bringing a Petting Zoo to the event. We really miss them at our Christmas Luncheon but they are doing a great service for the women and children in the local Fontana area.

The Adventures of Taylor and Katie Smith:

Right after our Christmas Luncheon, **Taylor** and **Katie Smith** flew to Washington, D.C. to spend Christmas with their daughter, **Patty**, her husband and grandchildren. Their son, **Paul**, also was

with them. Their plans drastically changed as on the airplane flight **Katie** got sick, had a difficult time and "almost died" during the flight. The on board crew and a doctor on board went to her aid. The flight was going to be diverted to Indianapolis but the pilot decided to go on to Washington.

No one was allowed off the plane as paramedics came on board immediately and worked on **Katie** before anyone was allowed to leave the plane. She was taken by ambulance to the hospital, where she remained until flying back home days later. It was good that **Paul**, as well as daughter **Patty** and family were with **Taylor** and **Katie** for support. There were also grandsons, their wives and their great granddaughter.

While in Washington, D.C., **Taylor's** annual New Year's Eve dinner was cancelled, but they returned home in time to reschedule the dinner, and **Taylor's** Tuesday Troop (often found at the Asian Buffet on Tuesdays) augmented by others, enjoyed a New Year's dinner together.

Most recently **Taylor** had a swelling in his elbow drained, and bleeding in his arm was stopped. **Katie** continues outings with **Taylor**, and they just had their Toyota Avalon T-boned. After major repairs (covered by insurance) they are happy to get their car back!— From **Taylor Smith**

Went to a retirement sendoff for **Dr. Paul Fagan** in December...we seldom get notices of retirements these days...but learned of the recent retirements of **Wanda Gernux, Bill Wasser,** and **Bruce Lutton**.

Dale and **Linda Supernaw** enjoyed their Australia Cruise, but found the flight there to be a bit grueling...too long on a plane. **Cliff** and **Karen Jessen** also recently visited down under along with **Gerald** and **Judie Brown** who took a similar trip last spring. All said their vacations were great and they had a marvelous time.

Janice Feenstra is recovering from recent cancer surgery and doing well...**Gil Daab** has been down with the flu...**Wes Grimes** got some new “ears” and doesn’t say “What?” to **Linda** as often...**Ernie Parke** is enjoying living at the Orange Grove Retirement Home, 11116 New Jersey, Redlands, CA 92373...send him a note or stop by!

Taylor Smith bumped into **Connie** and **Carl Keefer** recently at a drug store on Highland Avenue and enjoyed a brief visit. They are well and happy in their retirement although **Connie** is recovering from a broken shoulder resulting from a fall before Christmas. **Carl** is also retired from his career in automotive parts sales.

Road Last Traveled

Unfortunately our District has had quite a few deaths in our Caltrans family. Some were QCC members and many others worked and retired from the State with many years of service. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all the grieving family members and friends.

We received notice just after Christmas that one of our oldest and faithful QCC members, **Roy Smoot**, passed away on Christmas Day. **Roy** was always in attendance at our Christmas and Summer Luncheons with his companion **Marge Bruhn**. **Marge** had been keeping us informed on **Roy's** health. He passed away from the complications of Alzheimer's and will be sorely missed. He always had a smile and a hug for us and generously donated money for all our functions. **Roy** was a Supervising Transportation Engineer and retired in June 1983. A memorial service was held in February.

Vera Franz, the loving wife of **Les Franz** passed away in February. She had been ill for some time, hospitalized, released, and back in the hospital last week. **Les** said she passed away without regaining consciousness. She leaves behind a loving family and will be greatly missed. Her services were held at the Montecito

Chapel in Colton and many family members spoke. Many Caltrans retirees were able to attend and comfort **Les** and his family.

Sybille Phillips informed me that Tree Supervisor, **Gene Terry** passed away. **Gene** retired in 1986 and a graveside service was held on January 28, 2015, at Hillside Cemetery in Redlands.

Kenneth Corbin, 83, passed away Sunday, February 8, 2015. He was born in Sugar Creek, Pennsylvania and moved to Fontana, where he met and married the love of his life, **Sally**. He earned an Associate Degree in Drafting at Chaffey College and served in the Army during the Korean War. After returning home, he embarked on his career of 42 years with Caltrans and retired as a Supervisor of Drafting/Delineating Services in August, 1993. Sadly his wife **Sally** passed away on October 21, 2014. He enjoyed his family, church, woodworking, golf and time with friends and family. Services were held on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 in Victorville, CA.

Bruce Lutton, who retired from District 8 Electrical Design on December 1, 2014, passed away on February 10, 2015, with 41 years of State service. He is survived by his sister, **Gay E. Lutton**. No further information is available.

Virgil Lovingfoss, age 92, passed away on Sunday, February 24, 2015, following a stroke. A Celebration of Life was held at the Country Cowboy Church in Sonora, CA. **Virgil** retired from Maintenance in July, 1980, and moved to Sonora shortly after his retirement.

Sybille Phillips also informed me with great regret, the passing of another Maintenance family member, **Judi Reed Britton**, a 24 year Caltrans employee who passed away on February 20, 2015. **Judi** started her Caltrans career as a Landscape Worker in Riverside in 1991, promoted to Equipment Operator there and

transferred to Banning in 1997. She promoted again to Leadworker at Cajon on January 1, 2005. She leaves behind husband, **Craig**, and numerous rescued pets. Memorial services were held on February 28, 2015.

Harry Krueper, 85, passed away on Feb. 26th in Loma Linda, CA. He worked for the State as an assistant engineer for about 5 years in the Traffic Department and then started his own business in the early 1960's.

SUMMER LUNCHEON

Please plan on attending our Summer Luncheon on the second Saturday of July (July 11, 2015), at Hannah's Restaurant at 12:00 noon in San Bernardino.

- **Marsha Lotze**

The Haps in District 9

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

The Haps in District 10

From **Stan Randolph**, President QCC District 10, Stockton:

After approximately 40 years, the QCC D-10 Retirees breakfast is being changed to U.J.'s Restaurant located at Hammer Ranch Center, 7628 Pacific Ave. in Stockton. (209-957-2081). It will still be the last Tuesday of the month and at 7:30 a.m. It will be in the back room that's accessed from the outside side door. Please spread the word.

Note from **Brian Young**:

Thanks to **Ken Steele** and **Dick Mesa** I was able to locate and pay a visit during dinner on Sunday March 8, 2015 to **Elton Fletcher**, retired Senior Transportation Engineer, who is residing at Brookdale Senior Living at 2150 West Kettleman Lane Lodi, CA 95242. (209-333-8033).

Patricia Fletcher passed away peacefully on March 1, 2015 at age 87 with her husband **Elton** present. She was born in Stockton, California to Ray S. Britton and Wilma Margason. She graduated from Stockton High School and married **Elton Fletcher** in 1948. She worked several years with developmentally disabled adults. She was an avid reader, hiker, and also enjoyed many family gatherings and traveled with Elton for many years. She is survived by her husband of 66 years; one child, Mary Fletcher, two grandchildren, and five great grandchildren, and her sister Marilyn Evers.

Kazuso (Kaz) Matsuura, a life-long resident of Lodi, passed away on November 25, 2014. He was born in Acampo, CA on November 14, 1935. Survived by nephew, Eugene (Suzanne) Matsuura; nieces, Peggy (John) Takahashi and Elaine (Roy) Tanabe and three grand nephews and two grand nieces. **Kaz** attended grammar school in Acampo and graduated from Lodi High School and Stockton Jr. College (Delta College) earning his Associate of Arts degree. He was employed by California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in the Right of Way Department for 38 years, before retiring. Kaz was an avid golfer who traveled to many golf courses within the United States and also a great sport enthusiast in golf, college and pro basketball, football and baseball. He belonged to various Golf Clubs and was an active member of the Lodi Buddhist Church.

- **Brian Young**

The Haps in District 11

District 11 QCC celebrated our January luncheon at Barra Barra Saloon in Old Town San Diego. 55 people attended.

Many donated some cool handmade items for the raffle. Thanks to **Tom Culver** for his beautiful birdhouses (a crowd favorite). Thanks also to **Alma Garcia** for her handmade stationary (maybe next time I'll win some), **Fleet Palmer** for his geodes and fossils (a girl can never have too many rocks), **John** and **Sunny Hashiguchi** for the fortune cookies (a big hit), **Josan Feathers** for her homemade soap (good stuff) and **Butch Biendara** for the collectable plates.

And, a special THANKS to everyone else who donated for the raffle... THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU. You made the raffle fun! **Larry Smith** won the 50/50 raffle (again!). Go Larry *:) happy

As always we all had a great time. So **Save the Date** for our next event that will be Saturday, October 10, 2015 at Sweetwater Summit County Park in Sunnyside. We will send out more information later this year.

Road Last Traveled

Ralph Loveland passed away on November 10, 2014 and his wife of 67 years, **Ada**, passed away the next day on November 11, 2014. Ada picked Ralph out at age 13 from friends of her brother, Dennis. **Ralph** served as a pilot 1st Lieutenant in the Air Force during WWII and after in the reserves. Following the end of the war, they were married; a union lasting 67 years. In La Mesa, they raised sons, Mark and Keith. They lived life fully: sailing, skiing, bicycling and traveling. In the years following retirement, **Ralph** became highly skilled at wood-working and customizing their house. **Ada** provided artistic input to Ralph's work, and became adept at computer graphics, creating calendars and cards for friends

and family. Ada retired as a secretary for IBEW Local 569 and **Ralph** retired as a Senior Construction engineer from Caltrans having worked on many of the regions important freeway projects over the years, including the I-8/SR-125 interchange. Ralph, 89, passed due to cancer and Ada, 87, due to stroke complications.

Ralph was a great teacher and will be greatly missed as his influence touched many young engineers. In a way it is fitting that he and his wife **Ada** died at practically the same time as they both loved each other so much. Ralph was a QCC Honorary Member.

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.

- Leslie Franklin

The Haps in Central

Happy 2015 to all! The Central District (HQs) held their Holiday luncheon at the Dante Club in Sacramento on Dec. 10, 2014. A wonderful time was had by all. Here are some comments from the event:

Elizabeth Abersold: It's wonderful seeing everyone at the Christmas Party! It's been a good year for me. I've been to Yosemite, Reno, Tahoe and Nashville! I am still very active with the Widowed Persons Association. Merry Christmas everyone!

Addi Forsyth: Great to see familiar friends. Let us keep it going. Guess I'll try to climb the tower bridge before the rains come! Four young men

climbed to the top last night! Cal Trans was not happy. Hope everyone has a great Christmastide. See you in 2015!

Joe Thomas: Hi, everyone! All I can say is I'm still here!

Jack Cropper: The South will rise again!

Dick Pryor: It was great seeing everyone! I'm still in good health and plan on skiing for another 5 plus years! A skier ran into me at Heavenly Ski Resort in March and broke my hip which is now completely healed! My wife, **Jacki**, and I had a nice trip to Ireland in April. Our next trip will be to Paris in April 2015!

Road Last Traveled

Sadly, we lost another QCC member, **Evelyn Goetz**, who passed away on January 18th, 2015.

The **Bush Duo** are up and running again this year with a trip to Pacific Grove in February. Wow! We had great weather and a fun time. We enjoyed lots of beautiful flowers and frolicking sea life!

Mark your calendar: Our Spring Fling Luncheon will be April 30th at the Dante Club. Hope to see you there! Also set aside August 20th and December 9th! Let the good times roll!

- 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 or call (707) 498-2629 for details.

District 2 -

Retired Caltrans Ladies Lunch Bunch meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 11:30 AM, location varies. Contact **Judy Tucker** at linedancerjudyt@citlink.net

Retired folks meet on the 3rd Monday of each month between 7:30 and 9 am at the District Office snack bar at 1657 Riverside Drive, Redding.

District 3 -

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

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

District 4 -

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

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

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

The North Bay Caltrans Retirees meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Contact: **Jim Boulter** 707-546-3097, jboulter@comcast.net

District 5 -

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

District 6 -

The Caltrans Retiree Breakfast meets at 9 am on the third Wednesday in March and September at the Waffle House on Route 68 in Lindsay. Contact: **Don Phillips** 559-781-2057

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

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

District 7 -

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 -

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

District 9 -

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

District 10 -

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 U.J.'s Restaurant located at Hammer Ranch Center, 7628 Pacific Ave. in Stockton. (209-957-2081).

Contact: **Stan Randolph**, 209-957-1278, stanran3672@aol.com

District 11 -

Annual BBQ Picnic
Saturday, October 10, 2015
Sweetwater Summit County Park in Sunnyside
Contact: **Gary Darr** 619-479-0549 (h) or e-mail Fatdog261@cox.net

Central District -

Luncheon at the Dante Club
April 30, 2015
Contact **Gary** or **Julie Bush** (530-642-8208) zbusharosa@wildblue.net

To Honorary Members

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.

2014 Year-end Financial Report

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|------------------------|
| Beginning Balance, 1/1/2014 | | \$24,788 |
| Income: | | |
| Dues* | 10,232 | |
| New member fees** | 46 | |
| Donations | 213 | |
| Total Income | | 10,491 |
| Expenses: | | |
| QCCer newsletters & rosters | 4,815 | |
| Email recruiting campaign | 734 | |
| Postage | 52 | |
| Editor | 947 | |
| Sec/Treas | 1,410 | |
| Secretary expenses | 173 | |
| Dist expenses reimbursed | 672 | |
| QCC web site | 69 | |
| Total expenses | | -9,152 |
| Ending Balance, 12/31/14 | | <u>\$26,127</u> |
| Less Future Obligations** | | -13,674 |
| Excess of cash on hand | | <u>\$12,453</u> |

* Contains dues paid for years beyond 2012

** 23 new members in 2014

** 963 membership years paid in advance