

TheQCCer

The Newsletter of the Quarter
Century Club

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What time is it?

BUTCH SAYS; "TIME TO GET A FREE WATCH!"

From the Corner Pocket

Good news for QCC members on two counts and a challenge!! First the Good News with a growing list of new members joining for the initial 5-year membership. It shows that there is interest in the free watch option with a prepaid 5 year membership. It should also be a boost for any District Leaders in recruiting new members to get involved in the QCC. New younger members might be flattered to step up to take on a responsible role in assisting with your District events. More members also makes for bigger and better social events when you gather with your friends.

The second Good News item is a chance for all existing members to earn a Custom Logo watch of their choice, (Division of Highways – Quarter Century Club – Caltrans) for participating in inviting a new member to join up for that initial 5-year membership. That's right, existing members earn a watch in addition to the new member with a prepaid 5 year membership. This offer is limited to the remaining watches on hand which is down to the last several hundred. If you are interested, talk to a prospective member soon. Styles and logos may not always match your first choice so don't waste time.

The challenge is for anyone to come up with a better idea to recruit new members than the free watch with a 5 year paid membership. As State President I took this action with the intent of gaining new members. I welcome your ideas and feedback.

In addition, if you are interested in any of the QCC Statewide offices; President, Vice President, etc., send me your name, address, phone number, and e-mail. I'll give your interest my top priority in consultation with your District QCC Director and the other Statewide officers.

Butch Biendara, QCC President

History of California Missions
By Historian **George E. Gray**

In the September/October 1944 Issue of the *California Highway and Public Works Magazine* [CH&PW] then editor Kenneth C. Adams published the first of eleven articles titled "California Missions." These were quite comprehensive and covered all 21 of the Franciscan missions in the state. The articles included the condition of the missions at that time.

Perhaps it is best to quote from the "Mission Meccas" presented as an introductory sidebar to all eleven articles.



“California’s famous old missions with their historical and romantic background annually attract thousands of visitors. Twenty-one Franciscan missions were founded by the Reverend Fray Junipero Serra and his colleagues, extending from San Diego to Sonoma. On his way north from San Diego, Father Serra and the mission padres who came after him followed a course which became known as El Camino Real, “The King’s Highway.” El Camino Real retains to this day its original name and is designated U.S. 101. Along this highway and short distances from it, the founding padres established their missions. U.S. 101, the old “King’s Highway,” now extends from the Mexican border into northern Washington.

Present day State highways lead to all the mission sites. When the war is ended and California again welcomes tourists from all over the world and there are no longer restrictions on automobile travel, it is believed that the missions will be popular meccas for visitors to the Golden State.

Anticipating this traffic, the Division of Highways will publish in California Highways and Public Works brief histories of the missions with direction on how to reach them over State highways.” - Excerpt from **CH&PW**, September/October 1944 Issue

The issues involved go up to May/June 1946. They can be found at many of the major libraries in the state as well as the Caltrans HQ Library. I have a set of the eleven articles and can share individual reports on particular missions upon receipt of any requests.

- **George E. Gray**

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**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION
FOUNDATION**
By Kathy Freeman

The California Transportation Foundation's (CTF) **Transportation Awards Ceremony** was held on May 25th and was a great success in recognizing California's transportation achievements of 2015. Winners from all modes, public and private sectors, and from all regions of the state were recognized at this annual event.

The **Project of the Year Award** went to the Doyle Drive/Presidio Parkway Safety Project, a **District 4 project**.

Other project award winners that were presented at the ceremony included:

- Pedestrian/Bicycle Project of the Year: **District 7's** Ventura/Santa Barbara U.S. 101 HOV and Bike Path;
- Interchange Project of the Year: **District 5's** U.S. 101 San Juan Road Interchange Project;
- Structure Project of the Year: **District 8's** Colorado River Bridge;
- Sustainable Transportation/ Environmental Enhancement Project of the Year: **District 4's** Transportation Art;
- Operational Efficiency Project of the Year: **District 11's** San Diego I-15 Integrated Corridor Management System (ICMS);
- Freeway/Expressway Project of the Year: **District 8's** I-215 Bi-County High Occupancy Vehicle Lane Project; and
- Transit Services Project of the Year: **Headquarters'** Solano Mobility Management Systems.

Congratulations and a "job well done" to all of the above for their winning projects and for making a positive difference in California's transportation community. More information, photos, and additional listings of those agencies (public and private) that shared in the awards above can be found on CTF's website (www.transportationfoundation.org) or at [Twitter@CTFCharity](https://twitter.com/CTFCharity). Interested in viewing the introductory videos of the winning projects that were shown at the Awards Program, check out CTF's new YouTube Channel (<https://goo.gl/OH8X5O>).

The Foundation also wishes to congratulate those Caltrans managers that were presented with this year’s Caltrans Outstanding Management and Engineering in Transportation Awards at the above ceremony: **Kristina Assouri, Deputy Attorney IV, Legal Division** won the Emerson Rhyner Award; **Scott McGowen, Chief Environmental Engineer, Stormwater Management Program, Division of Environmental Analysis** won the Charles H. Purcell Award; **David J. Wells, Senior Transportation Electrical Engineer (Specialist), Division of Traffic Operations** won the Karl Moskowitz Award; and **Mark Yashinski, Senior Bridge Engineer, Division of Engineering Services** won the James E. Roberts Award. Congratulations!

The Foundation is pleased to announce the latest winner of **the Bimla Rhinehart Memorial Scholarship** is **Ashley Kim**, a Civil Engineering/Transportation Engineering student at Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo. Congratulations Ashley.

If you are interested in making direct donations to any of the Foundation’s programs or assistance funds, you are now able to download the specific form that you need, complete it and send it directly to Executive Director **Sarah West** via email; or if you prefer, for your convenience, online donations can be processed with CTF’s PayPal account from a convenient drop down menu with automatic receipts.

CTF’s newsletter, “*Headways*” was recently distributed to you. Hope you have had the opportunity to read the information included. If not, that issue and more information can be found on the Foundation’s website (www.transportationfoundation.org). Thank you for your continued support and interest.

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
Myron Cramer	01	Mar 12, 2016
Tom Georgeson	01	May 07, 2016
John Bradley	01	Mar 22, 2016
Gerry Scott	01	2015
Carol S Wada	03	Apr 07, 2016
Walter (Bud) Ferguson	03	Mar 17, 2016
Felix H Castro	03	Apr 17, 2016
Charlie (Dan) Winona	03	Apr 20, 2016
William (Bill) Rossiter	03	May 03, 2016
Edna Taylor	05	Nov 12, 2015
William (Bill) Roberts	05	Jan 30, 2016
Jerry Evans	05	May 30 2015
John K Fisher	05	May 14, 2016
Merton B Parlier	06	Mar 31, 2016
Tom Bamford	06	Apr 17, 2016
Michael (Mike) Kay	07	Apr 08, 2016
Rodney Carlos Leidy	07	Apr 12, 2016
Jean Amster	07	Apr 13, 2016
Richard Haight	08	Feb 2016
John Fredendall	08	Feb 2016
Clyde Brandt	10	May 07, 2016
Al Cech	11	May 17, 2016
Barbara Lundy	11	May 12, 2016
Bob Datel	C	Mar 16, 2016
Jack Kassel	C	Apr 08, 2016
Dave Crane	C	Apr 19, 2016

The Haps in District 1

District 1 retirees are still enjoying our quarterly breakfasts at the Pantry in Eureka. We had one on January 21, 2016 and one on April 21. Around 35 attend these enjoyable times.

D-1 had two recent retirees. **Karol Petsch** from Ukiah Maintenance retired with 40 years of service and enjoyed a BBQ party on April 14 at the Ukiah Maintenance yard. His last work day was April 21 where he got to participate in placing a cone at the District’s Workers Memorial. This Memorial has become an annual

event to honor our District employees who lost their lives on the job. After the ceremony, a cone is placed for each person.

Glenn Hurlburt, D1 Engineer, retired after 34 years and enjoyed a party at the Wharfinger building in Eureka on April 22. After working on many projects and attending lots of meetings, he can now kick back and enjoy retirement.

Our best wishes to **Karol** and **Glenn** for a long, healthy and happy retirement.

One of the recent highlights in the District was the dedication of the bridge near the Humboldt-Mendocino Co. line of Hwy. 101 as the **Lowell C. Allen Memorial Bridge** on April 29. He was a Ferndale native with a 40 year career as a Bridge Construction Engineer, serving the north coast area. His innovative work was known throughout California. The dedication was hosted by Senator **Mike McGuire**, with CT remarks by District Director **Charlie Fielder**, and remarks by local officials, **Rex Bohn** and **Estelle Fennell**, family members, daughter **Joan Allen** and Granddaughter, **Elizabeth Allen**. **Jerry Scott**, who was a good friend of **Lowell's**, shared some of **Lowell's** history and engineering accomplishments. After the dedication, his lovely wife, **Esther**, hosted lunch at the Benbow Inn.

On June 1, I was able to attend the annual District State Service Award luncheon at the Red Lion. District Director, **Charlie Fielder**, was the Master of Ceremonies. **Matthew Brady**, **Charles W. Capaldi**, **David M. Carstensen**, **Brett J. Santos**, **Mauricio R. Serrano**, **Martin L. Sills**, and **Wesley G. Vanderhorst** received their 25 year awards. **Jack E. Martin** and **Deborah S. Meredith** received awards for 30 years. Others who were not able to attend were **Lena R. Ashley**, **Mark R. Cather**, **Robert S. Freeman**, **Kathi J. Griepentrog**, **Randy G. Haralson**, **Charlene A. Kave**, **Grant M. Krueger**, **Brennan L. Ladao**, **Mark J. Larson**,

Glenn P. McMahon, **Bijan Samrod**, **Michael D. Vina** for 25 years, **Tonia G. Gerard**, **Gerald E. King, Jr.** and **Steven S. Werner** for 30 years, and **Laura L. Fields** for 35 years. Congratulations go to all these employees for their great service.

Sadly, we lost more of our District 1 family. **Myron Cramer**, who retired as an Associate Highway Electrical Engineer after 40 years, all in our District, passed away on 3/12/2016. He is survived by his wife **Nova** and family. His son **Edward** is currently an engineer with D1. I was able to attend his service at Goble's Mortuary in Fortuna and get to visit everyone at the reception at the Wharfinger in Eureka.

Tom Georgeson passed away on May 7 after a courageous battle with Lymphoma. After 4 years in the Air Force, he attended Humboldt State College (now University), graduating with his BA in Business Admin. He retired from D1 after 35 years as a Right of Way Agent. He enjoyed his family, travelling, and many cars, esp. restoring his 1936 Cord Westchester. He drove it to many Cord events. A celebration of life will be held in August.

Our District office received a call from retiree **John Bradley's** daughter, informing us that **John** passed away on Tuesday, 3/22 in Texas just short of his 83rd birthday. He had worked for Ukiah Maintenance as a Caltrans Equipment Operator.

We also received word that retiree **Gerry Scott**, had passed away in late 2015. She was a great help to everyone in her position in the reproduction dept. and mail room.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Myron, Tom, John, and Gerry. We will miss them.

- Arlene Hartin

The Haps in District 2

District 2 did not submit an entry for this edition. Current news will be included in the next edition.

The Haps in District 3

Retired Caltrans employees **Jan Agesen** and her mother, **June Otto**, just returned from a weeklong vacation in Puerto Vallarta, staying at the luxurious Grand Mayan Resort. They enjoyed strolling through beautifully landscaped grounds, relaxing on the beach under palm leaf covered umbrellas and indulging in many water activities. **Jan's** favorite was the swim up bars, while **June** enjoyed floating in inner tubes down the resorts "lazy river". Not bad for a women turning 90 years old on June 11th!! Birthday greetings may be sent to June Otto at 2814 Coy Dr., Yuba City, CA. 95993.

District 3 lost some great people. **Carol S. Wada** passed away on April 7, 2016. The following is a short story on Carol.

On February 1, 1958 a young lady by the name of **Carol S. Wada** came to work at the Division of Highway, District 3 Marysville. Among the positions she held were, Stenographer, Word Processing Technician, and Office Technician until her retirement in March 2013 at the wonderful age of 75.

Carol's time with Division of Highways/Caltrans totaled 667 months or over **55 years**. We were unable to obtain the information on all the positions she held but at the time of her retirement, **Carol** worked in North Region Project Development.

From **Jan Johnson** - Carol was well known in District 3 and well liked. When I asked her,

"**Carol**, when are you going to retire?" "I'm not sure", she said. "I like working and I really don't know what I would do with myself if I did". I've been told once she finally did retire she kept busy, going to lunch with friends like **Ramona Guy** and others. Following her passing away, the following people posted comments: **Jan Otto Agesen, Joe Caputo, Janis Siewert Anderson, Pat Dilling, Heidi Sykes, Wendy Wilson, Elaine Chesini Price, Michael Langley, Katrina Pierce, and Lori Kemp Marino.**

And the wonderful comments go on and on. **Carol** was an icon in District 3. Well-loved and enjoyed by all. We will miss her greatly.

Walter (Bud) Ferguson of Oroville CA: Bud Ferguson passed away on March 17, 2016. He was a civil engineer with Caltrans from 1956 to 1991. Bud worked in various facets of highway construction before retiring.

Felix H. Castro, age 73, passed away peacefully on Sunday April 17, 2016. Felix retired from Caltrans following a career working in District 3, Division of Maintenance.

Charlie (Dan) Winona of Marysville, passed away on April 20, 2016 at the age of 88. Dan worked in the field for Construction and Permits before retiring.

William (Bill) Rossiter of Marysville, age 80, passed away on May 3, 2016. Bill worked in Maintenance in District 3 for 30 years and the last 20 years as a Maintenance Supervisor.

- **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

Summer on the Central Coast...cool and foggy at the beach and hot inland. The bright green hills we enjoyed in the spring are now turning brown, and only a few wildflowers remain.

Our local agencies are proposing a sales tax increase to help fund transportation projects which are being postponed due to a shortage in gas tax revenue. Hope this will not have an adverse effect on Caltrans staff, as happened many times during our time there.

I'm afraid my news is limited to our local newspaper, and unfortunately it concerns more old friends who have left us.

Mrs. **Edna Taylor**, widow of **Ken** and a **QCC member**, passed away on November 12, 2015. She had worked as a senior secretary for several local and state agencies and was involved in her church, Easter Star, and Sweet Adelines. She is survived by three children and six grandchildren.

William "Bill" Roberts passed away on January 30 at age 89. Bill was a fifth generation native of San Luis Obispo. He served in the Navy Air Corp during WWII, and graduated from Cal Poly with a degree in Ag Engineering. He worked at Caltrans for 42 years and continued to consult after he retired. Bill loved to fly and spent many hours in his Cessna.

John K. Fisher passed away on May 14 at age 88. John was born in St. Louis, Missouri and served in the Navy during WWII. He and his wife **Dolores** first settled in Fresno and then moved to Pismo Beach. He was employed by CT Right of Way and retired in the early 90s. John volunteered with many local organizations, especially the American Cancer Society. He and **Howard Bentzinger** spoke to hundreds of middle and high school students on the hazards

of smoking. John also enjoyed helping the BBQ crew at our annual holiday lunch.

- **Kathleen Copeland**

The Haps in District 6

Jim Means bought a cabin at Shaver Lake. I bet I know where he'll be this summer with the temperatures we're getting.

From **Bill Bastian**: "What goes around comes around."

As a child I spent several summers with my Grandparents in the high mountains of California. **Jack Nelson** was a fireman on a donkey engine some miles up the Tuolumne River working for the Westside Lumber Co. with the mill at Tuolumne City. Our only access to the logging camp was by narrow gauge railroad on a logging car or sometimes by caboose. We lived alongside the tracks in a portable cabin which was moved on a logging car whenever the camp site was moved. The engine was a narrow gauge Shay, articulated and geared for mountain work.

These summer visits ceased before 1930 as I had reached school age and things changed. Soon High School, UC, War, Military Service and Marriage, kids and the California Division of Highways. My highway career began in District 3 and ended 30 years later in District 6. My Shay Railroad Engine had never missed my absence and continued hauling logs until the war stopped the logging and the steel rails were sent to Japan who made good use of them. With no rails to run on my engine languished in a Stockton junk yard until an entrepreneur decided to start a mountain resort train ride near Sugarpine on State Highway 41 near Yosemite National Park. Among the obstacles he then faced was the size and weight of moving this locomotive to the new site over California highways. I at the time supervised the District 6 permit section, so got involved in the

permit to allow the move. I now live in Ahwahnee about 15 miles from Sugarpine and frequently visit my old friend from 1925!"

Road Last Traveled:

Merton B. Parlier, 88, of Kingsburg died March 31. He was an engineer for the State of California highway division for many years.

A lot of people remember **Mert** as you can see by the following comments:

From **Bob Dubel**: "Sorry to learn of Mert's passing. He was my boss and mentor when I worked in what was known as "Advance Planning" in those days. He always had my back. I am sure that many other people have good memories of him also."

From **Tim Lowrey**: "Wow, He was our Senior when I first started at Caltrans"

From **Kim Anderson**: "Thanks for letting us know. Another loss to the old group."

From **Virgle Ray** in memory of **Tom Bamford**: "James Dean wrote a song in 1961 which he named Big Bad John only because he did not know how to spell **Tom Bamford**. So when you think of the song change the name to **Big Tom** and you will speak of a friend we in Division of Highways' just lost. (April 17th, 2016 In Elko, Nevada at his nieces' home.) Now Tom wasn't big nor was he bad, however wherever he went he cast a huge shadow.

That wasn't his real attribute, those that knew **Tom**, knew he could walk into a hive of bees and all involved would come out smiling and feel they were treated fairly without feeling the sting. It is that ability along with his knowledge and understanding of Highways that developed a cadre of employees that 20 years later still revere him.

Tom is a second generation Division of Highways Superintendent from Delano in District 6. His Father the first generation was a sweeper operator in District 7, where Tom got his

start with Highways. Tom's son, **T.J.** still works in Taft, a third generation employee; what a tribute.

It isn't manly to say that so many of us love you, **Tom**, but you were and are such an inspiration to us, and the list is so long of your friends in Porterville, Delano, Taft, Bakersfield and throughout the state, even Arkansas, that a little tear is OK. As James Dean stated "here lays a big big man." From **Virgle Ray**, Highway Superintendent Lemoore, Tom's neighbor in District 6.

Steve Mason, Tom's, Senior Superintendent added this statement: "I've heard **Don Phillips**, **Chuck Walrath**, **Ralph Tritch** and **Ray Montecino** all state how they would rank Tom as number 1 Superintendent they have worked for and I would have to agree with them. One of Tom's attributes that impressed me was his coolness under pressure. Tom would cause a de-escalation and calming atmosphere with a "let's get this job done, and move on" attitude. In addition, **Tom** would MAKE you laugh!

He was true to the Department, in the last photo I saw of him, as ill as he was, he was wearing his Caltrans jacket.

Hope everyone has a great summer!

- Terry Littleton

The Haps in District 7

A little bit of humor goes a long way to make life more enjoyable. Although it is thought that positive people actually live longer, I can't confirm this. I do believe if you are a sour puss, it will just seem like you live longer...

Marie Martin sent this example of how we can enjoy the moment in everyday or even dreary activities: [While stuck in traffic,] "I got behind

a little Toyota with a bumper sticker 'Support the Troops' ...it had a picture of a Star Wars Imperial Storm Trooper! I was still laughing at that when I also noticed that the manufacturer's emblem had big ears added to it, and the name underneath was 'Toyoda'!"

Whether this is a little "bit of humor" or a "little" bit of humor, is all in your perspective. BTW, have a nice day! Some people may find that greeting offensive; too bad for them! They can be in a perpetual state of irritation, and it will just seem like they live longer... As for me, I'd rather be in a perpetual state of amusement!

Monthly Reunion

Three reunions await your presence. The second Wednesday of the month is the **Tom Fera** Lunch Group which meets on the second Wednesday of each month, except December. See below.

RESTAURANTS AND PROPOSED LUNCHEON DATES FOR 2016

July 13, 2016 - Joselito's West
 August 10, 2016 - Steer N' Ale
 September 14, 2016 - China Olive
 October 12, 2016 - Joselito's West
 November 9, 2016 - Steer N' Ale
 December 3, 2016 - QCC luncheon at Taix

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.

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.

San Gabriel Monthly Meeting

A third Caltrans retiree luncheon meets on the Third Thursday of each month at 11:30 AM, in San Gabriel at:

The **Golden Soup**, 1039 E. Valley Blvd., San Gabriel, CA, between San Gabriel Blvd. and Walnut Grove Ave.

Steve Leung encourages anyone who's interested, retired or not. For more information, e-mail **Steve Leung** <skingleung@yahoo.com

Pass on the Cheese Please?

Tom Gildersleeve writes, "I did not get a lot of comments regarding [the Tom Fera Lunch Group] merging with other luncheon groups, but the ones I did get generally were of the opinion that I'm doing a bang-up job as the chronicler of the group and should continue in that capacity until I drop. It is one of the few times I have ever received such accolades regarding my achievements at Caltrans. Of course the fact that I'm doing a job nobody wants probably helps. We had a lot of humorous banter at the last luncheon, one of the better conversational exchanges I have had since I achieved high office in this group. **Dick Huntwork** had the audacity to suggest that I only worked four hours a day when I was under his supervision back in the early seventies. I reflected on that and responded that actually it was only three! Of course that left me well rested so I could handle my luncheon duties in later life! It was a great exchange with a lot of kidding around. Those who were not there missed a lot. Due to dietary concerns at Joselito's -they put melted cheese on everything -

it's pretty much off my list, so I won't be attending any further luncheons at that location for the foreseeable future. You'll have to provide your own humor there. It can be had if you want it. We are getting ever fewer in number all the time, so go to these events and enjoy each other while you can." **Tom**

Bowled over, and then some...

Carol Huntwork writes, "Recently [**I**], **Dick**, and **Fran** and **Alex Blanco** traveled to Las Vegas for the weekend of April 14th thru 18th to bowl in the USBC Woman's National tournament at South Point Resort. The bowling wasn't great, but the weather was good, and we enjoyed the **Elton John** concert at Caesar's Palace. Between **Alex**, **Fran** and myself we have bowled over 100 years together in the national tournaments. This was our last tournament and our shirts said 'Adios Nationals, 100 years'.

"We returned in time for **Carol** and **Rita Even** to attend the 60th San Gabriel Valley District woman's club convention in Ontario. Our club participated in a spirit award skit, where we let members know what happened in 1956. A pound of coffee was \$1.29 and you could buy a house for \$2,200, while the husband earned \$3,600 a year. Ah, the good old days.

"**Dick** and **I** are off to our grandsons wedding in Santa Rosa. The wedding couple are Star Wars fans, so the wedding will be held on May 4th (May the force be with you). Our granddaughter will return from Japan for the wedding. We will have a family gathering and celebrate Mothers' Day there.

"**Rita** and **I** are off to the California State Woman's Club convention May 19th thru 21st in Irvine. Any 1st place award that our club received at the District convention will be forwarded to this convention and we will be in competition with all other clubs in the state.

"We will travel to Plummer, Idaho to celebrate "Plummer Days" and visit our brother-in-law. Plummer is located near the city of Coeur d'Alene. I will ride in the parade with him in a beautiful white carriage with dark green seats. He has a pair of blond mules that pull the carriage. I get to give the Queens wave and throw candy to the parade watchers.

"That will be extent of our travels until Xmas, when we will celebrate with the family in Napa."

Not for Sissies

Bob Walter will probably think twice before he gets up on the roof anytime in the future. **Marie Martin** shares some of the horrifying events, "Monday night, [April 11] **Bob** was coming down the ladder from the roof of the cabin. The ladder telescoped in on itself and **Bob** took about a 12-foot fall. He was a horrifying bloody crumbled sight. 911 ambulance took **Bob** to the local Hospital, and they called in a Helicopter medevac to take him to Portland. **Bob** has a broken neck in two places, broken ribs, broken wrist and a big bloody gash on his head. Despite all this he is in amazingly good spirits, totally lucid. The head gash has been stapled, wrist is in cast, and the ribs take care of themselves. Doctors are still debating about surgery on his neck. I'll keep you posted on his condition..."

Two weeks after his accident, **Bob** told his doctor that he wanted to walk around the block as he healed faster when he walked; she read him the riot act about how he was going to end up with one of those halo braces if anything more happened. The doctors decided to keep him in a neck brace for 12-weeks, which will be approx. mid-August. When **Marie** went to visit him in the rehab center about an hour from the cabin, she reported that "**Bob** scooted [around in the] wheelchair (accompanied by **Bismarck** and me) outside for some fresh air." So he is motivated to walk, but not allowed much right now.

One month after his accident, **Marie** wrote, “**Bob** is now walking around the parking lot and enjoying the sunny weather. Many of you have sent cards and good wishes, we appreciate them.”

At six weeks, **Marie** reported, “Good news - cast came off **Bob's** broken arm today. Bad news - he's down to 155 pounds. He's getting real showers and walking (wobbly) around the halls. Progress is slow.”

Best wishes to **Bob** for his progressive recovery, and to **Marie** for fortitude as she provides ground support for his on-going needs!

Contacts and Recent Sightings

In early April, **Rich Tomlin**, at the Ace Hardware in San Dimas. **Rich** retired in 1996, after 30+ years as a Materials Testing guru. **Rich** had moved out of the District to the California coast for several years, and is now back, living with his daughter and grandchildren within walking distance of Old Town San Dimas.

In late April, **Bob Sassaman** at “Justice: an Urban Café”, across from the DO, conducting Cal Bear Credit Union duties with the other members of the CU Board of Directors, spotted **Debbie Wong** and **Kirsten Stahl** who were meeting with a group of engineers from Louisiana, Connecticut and the FHWA. The engineers were visiting District 7 to see precast pavement in action, prior to using it in their respective projects.

In mid-May, the 18-Million-year old large mollusk shell “excavated in the early 1970’s at Gypsum Canyon during the construction of the Route 91 Freeway,” donated by **Dale Neumen** to the District 7 Museum back in 2007, in the elevator of the District Office Building – aka the Mighty Fortress. **Patrick Chandler**, District Public Information Officer, heard about the shell while attending a Construction meeting, and was curious about its background. **Dale** wrote, “A geologist at the job site when the shells were

uncovered determined they are about 18 million years old.”

Moving On...

Dan Duarte, Construction Inspector, celebrated 28 years of Caltrans service at a luncheon in his honor at [the appropriately named] “Geezers” restaurant in Santa Fe Springs, on April 18, 2016.

Terry Chapman, District 8 Construction, after 36 years of Caltrans service, retired May 2, 2016. Terry worked in District 7 from 1980 to 2004, when he transferred to District 8’s Independent Assurance Testing Unit. **Terry’s** party planners at the Southern Regional Lab in Fontana had the right idea to host a BBQ and charge a whopping \$10, so many of his old bosses and co-workers came out of the wood work to wish him well and happy RV-ing in his future.

Mary Guzman, in Design Administration, for a promotion to Associate Government Analyst at another state facility in early May. She has “been busy in training... but wanted to [say] it has been a pleasure to work with you... Thank you for the support you ha[ve] given.”

Sam Esquenazi, Chief, Office of District Traffic Manager at the Los Angeles Regional Traffic Management Center, retires at the end of May after 35 years, without any fanfare. We may not have known this except for a quick good-by expressed in an elevator ride. **Sam** reports that his father, **Joe Esquenazi**, who also worked in Traffic until his retirement, is doing well, is in his 90’s now, and living with his son.

Rick Harrison, District 7 Safety Officer, will celebrate 37 years with Caltrans, at a retirement luncheon in his honor on June 14, 2016.

The Road Last Traveled

Michael “Mike” Kay passed away on April 8, 2016. **Mike** worked through the ranks to perform the duties of Highway Maintenance Lead Worker, and served in many locations, including

the District 7 Metro Night Crew, the Diamond Bar Maintenance Crew, the District 12 Brea Maintenance Crew, the Orange Maintenance Graffiti crew, and the Storm Water Crew. **Mike's** last assignment was with the District 12 Culvert Inspection Program from September 2013 until his retirement on April 17, 2015. **Mike** is survived by his wife, **Pam Kay**, who works in District 7 Right of Way.

Dick Stewart reported **Rodney Carlos Leidy** died peacefully on April 12, 2016, in Fillmore, CA. Born November 21, 1932, **Rod** spent his entire career working for the State of California as a civil engineer, and served on the Ventura County Grand Jury in the 1980's, helping to propose better solutions for teenage offenders. He and his wife have traveled the world and have been to every state in the union.

Bob Sassaman wrote "I received the following [information] from **Gloria Sanchez** on the passing of **Jean Amster**". **Jean**, a **QCC Honorary member**, is remembered fondly by many people who knew him as a fun and adventurous fellow. His recent contributions included a fascination with the new bridge being built at Hoover Dam. **Jean** was born on February 2, 1934 and passed away at the age of 84, on April 13, 2016.

Be like Marie, Tom, Carol, Bob and Dick!

Thanks to the many contributions that flesh out these reports! Everyone tells me how much they enjoy reading about you, so make them happy and send me a note! 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, III 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**.

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 summer luncheon will be held at Hannah's for the last time on July 16, 2016. This is the third Saturday in July.

It will start at 12:00. Notices will go out at the end of June. Please plan on attending and please feel free to bring guests.

We have added several new members since before the end of last year. We want to welcome **Bob Jeannotte, Syed Raza** and our newest members **Linda Bingham** and **Andrew Machen**. Several other District 8 employees have expressed interest and have been sent the paperwork to join. We'd like to thank **Al Hudgens** and **Sybille Phillips** for recruiting these new members.

Yours truly received the following notes from **William (Bill) Hudson** and didn't make the last edition. **Taylor Smith** recently mentioned his World War II experiences. In the 1950's almost all the Division of Highway's male employees over 25 years old had been in the military during WW II. So we didn't talk about it. Only about ten years later, did our experiences become items of public interest to everyone.

William was taking civil engineering at the University of Minnesota in early 1943 when he thought “What will I say when they ask me (in 20 years) “What did you do in WW II”?

So I volunteered, became a parachute engineer, survived, and spent an interesting one and a half years in Europe (Rome, the French Riviera, Biarritz and Berlin).

The December 2015 issue of the “QCCer” brings back many memories of my years in District 8 which was less than 1/5 of the time from my start there in 1950.

As I remember it, San Bernardino was a railroad town set in a vast area of orange groves that covered the valley floor.

Two people mentioned in the “QCCer” were **Bob Redden** and **Frenchy Loge**. I worked under Bob for about six months, but never asked him about Admiral Rickover.

“**Frenchy**” **Loge** (in Traffic I think) appropriately played the French horn. He also was known for taking vacations during Easter Break to work on a ferry boat at Newport Beach. His Dad was the captain.

The younger bunch may not remember that all the pre 1961 design work was done without the use of computers. Those 8 digit “sin/cos” and “tangent” books were necessary but real drudgery. I called it “Mental pick-and-shovel” work.

We sold our home in Santa Cruz in June, 2015 and moved back to a retirement complex in Monterey (40 miles south of Santa Cruz).

We’re settling in, but the adjustment to a somewhat more communal and structured life is slow. My wife, Gloria, is doing better than I, but I’m coming along! Our daughter lives only ten miles away, so she can help us.

- From **William (Bill) Hudson**, District 8 from 1950-61
(Contact Secretary, **Marsha Lotze** for **Bill’s** current address)

Heard About Town:

Al and **Judi Hudgens** took a road trip to the Midwest, visiting family and friends... **Gil** and **Jan Daab** went on a Mexican Cruise with their families, celebrating Jan’s milestone birthday. . . **Gerald** and **Judie Brown** keeping watch over their great grandson, still receiving hospital care in Oklahoma . . . **Ray Robles** finished work on the Perris Metro-link extension for HDR Company, taking a southwest USA road trip, and visited Paris, London, and parts of Spain, France and Portugal . . .

Taylor Smith’s Tuesday Troop recently met for dinner at Taylor’s favorite restaurant, ‘The Asia Buffet’ in Rialto... Always a good group of family and friends...

The Construction and friends group continues meeting for coffee at the family ‘Home Style Café’ on Redland Boulevard in Loma Linda on Wednesdays... All welcome. This week’s topic was the closing of bowling alleys and golf courses in San Bernardino.

Tom and **Bonnie Powell** bought a new Toyota, **Linda** and **Wes Grimes** bought a new Chevrolet, **Les Franz** bought a new Nissan . . . so the car dealers must be happy... **Dick Longstreet** attended his 70th high school reunion... **Doug Hogue** and **Morgan Choate** meet when possible to play golf in the San Bernardino area.

The San Bernardino County Museum recently featured a display of slide rules, hand crank calculators, a Marchant, and various other items well known to old time engineering personnel.

Taylor Smith recently spoke with **Stan Martin**, Right of Way, recalling Stan’s exploits as a fighter pilot in World War II... **Stan** had flown

Spitfire's over Africa early in the war as no American built planes were available. Stan shot down three enemy planes; an ME-109, a Stuka dive bomber, and a cargo plane!

We would like to congratulate **Martin Hess** on his retirement from District 8 in April. He is retiring after 38 years of hard work and dedication in Design... It's time to take a permanent vacation! He plans to do a lot of fishing... A farewell luncheon was held at Lotus Garden on April 21, 2016 and an Open House Reception at the District Office on April 27, 2016. Good food and good friends.

We wish **Martin** a long, happy and prosperous retirement and hope to have him as a QCC member in the near future.

Aches, Pains, and Passings:

Gil Daab is being treated at home for breathing problems, utilizing a vest that stimulates the lungs . . . **Jim Balcom's** wife, Joanne, fell and broke her shoulder, then spent two months in assisted living. Gratefully she is recovered and home now . . . **Morgan Choate's** wife, Glenna, had eye surgery requiring lying face down in a special bed for over a week . . . She too is much better . . . **Linda Grimes** had a severe bursitis attack in her legs and is getting along ok.

Richard Haight passed away in mid-February, and had worked for Caltrans from 1954 until his retirement as Deputy District Director in 1995. **Richard**, a **QCC Honorary member**, was involved in the design of projects on Interstate Route 10, 15, 40, and 215.

He was in the Navy during the Korean War serving on a minesweeper. He was married to **Louise** for over 63 years, raising son, Alan, and daughter, Karen.

Richard was an avid lover of cars, old and new. The family enjoyed many camping trips to Colorado and towed a trailer to Alaska. He and

Louise cruised regularly and he had collected cash registers, Clocks, coins, and all manner of items.

He had written this to Louise: "Grieve not, nor speak of me with tears, but laugh and talk of me as if I were there beside you . . ." in 1994. He felt that way through his lengthy illnesses and will be remembered with fondness by family and friends.

John Fredendall passed away in late February at home in San Dimas, CA. He was 90 years old and was married 65 years to wife, Meredith, who passed away in 2014. Together they raised three sons in Rialto, CA.

He spent 34 years working in the Right of Way Appraisal and Property Management section of the CA Division of Highways, retiring as Chief for the Right of Way Division. In 1985 **John** was instrumental in property acquisitions of every freeway in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties during his career.

Our thoughts and prayers are with both families and friends.

- **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

District 10 Caltrans retirees meet for breakfast on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30 am at U.J's restaurant in Stockton.

From **Brian Young**- **Clyde Brandt** passed away on May 7, 2016 at the age of 90. I met **Clyde** for the first time in the summer of 1958, (before I went to work for the State in Sept. 15, 1958) when I accompanied my dad **Donald Young**, a Senior Engineer in District 3 Marysville, up Hwy 50 across Echo summit. We met a survey party chief **Charlie Vierra** and later north of Lake Tahoe party chief **Clyde Brandt** who showed me where to go fishing. Over the years I would see Clyde. He was my Sargent in the Army Corps of Engineers reserves meetings and summer camp along with another District 3 engineer, **Frank Fournier**, a Captain in the reserves and a safety officer for the state.

In the fall of 1968 I ran into **Clyde** again when I went to work for Water Resources in Castaic. I remember Clyde bought my 1966 Mustang and my wife and I went to a party at Clyde's house. Clyde was a Construction Inspector in the tunnels and if I remember right, he had built up so much CTO he had to quit to get paid for it or lose it after a year because they wouldn't give him the time off. In 1979 or afterwards, when I transferred to the Stockton office with Cal Osha I ran into Clyde again in Isleton at St Therese church BBQ. He and his wife were living nearby in a mobile home and he was an inspector for the City of Isleton and eventually retired in Lodi where I live.

- **Brian Young**

The Haps in District 11

District 11 will hold our annual picnic on November 5, 2016 at Sweetwater Summit County Park. More information will be sent in September. Please start thinking about what you can donate for the picnic raffle. Thank you to all who participated last time, I know I had fun! - **Leslie Franklin**

From **Tarbell Martin** - This has been my first day since open heart surgery on May 23 that I have been able to breathe sans hiccups. Hiccups began on the day of surgery. It sure feels better!!! Some of those hiccups lasted for a count of 10, stopped my breathing, and scared me. Hiccups sure interfere with a conversation when I cannot get a word out until the spasm stops. I have had this problem with hiccups for 60 years, on and off. I came home from the hospital late Tuesday May 31, on the 9th day.

Today I have been catching up with the TV news recorded since surgery. Barely managed to vote absentee last night due to medications. So all is well including two friends scheduling **Vina's** next two gym trips, and **Heidi** will take us to see the cardiologist Tuesday appointment, i.e. the first post-surgery follow up. He will start working with us to get my INR in balance. It was 3.8 Thursday so I just have laid back vs taking any more warfarin. Blood too thin.

Our thanks to the entire family and circle of Hot Flash friends for all the support being provided to us. Vina gave up driving a year or so ago and I cannot drive until the heart surgeon oks it, June 30th. With my medicated thinking process that is an excellent idea! - **Tarbell**

Road Last Traveled

D-11 lost two **Honorary QCCers** recently. **Al Cech**, long time fixture in Program and Budgets, passed away on May 17th. **Al** was known for many great things but also because each year he had a different "system" of how he was going to bet on the horses at Del Mar. Thanks to **John Buechner** for letting us know.

Barbara Lundy, passed away on May 12 from pancreatic cancer at age 90. Barbara had worked in the D-11 Accounting Office and then promoted to Right of Way. She retired in the mid 90's as a Right of Way Agent after 40 years of state service.

Barbara's daughter **Karen Knight**, now **Karen Miller**, also a District 11 retiree, informed **Cathryne Bruce-Johnson** that condolences for the family may be sent through Barbara's son, **Rick Andrews** via email to RicksFla@aol.com.

Our thoughts and prayers are with family and friends of **Al** and **Barbara** in their time of grief and sorrow.

The Haps in Central

Another great luncheon at the Dante club was held on April 28th to welcome in Spring. And now it is June and the temps have again return to the 100's!

Jim and **Earlene Borden** just returned from a trip to Hawaii- how wonderful is that? Beautiful flowers, good weather and all. A wonderful time. So happy to have my sister and brother-in-law here with us today at the luncheon. They live in Arizona. Always good to see everyone at the luncheon and get caught up.

Wayne and **Gloria Luney** are enjoying their first Grandson, born 02/20/16!

Gary and **Julie Bush** welcomed their first Great-Grand Daughter, Emma Leigh Bush, on April 16, 2016. Emma is the daughter of our eldest grandson, Josh. He and his wife, Hollie, (Yup, Hollie Bush) live in North Carolina. Emma was Gary's grandmother's name. It is nice to have another Emma in the family. In addition to Emma, we have two step Great- Grandsons who live in South Carolina.

A week in Norway had been enjoyed by **Allen Wrenn** when the call went out for input to the QCCer. In that week he had visited Oslo and Bergen. Yet to come was a 2-week cruise, mainly along Norway's coast to view the fjords and visit several small towns. His is on Viking Cruises, a

line that has just recently gotten into ocean cruising. The cruise will also include stops in the Shetland and Orkney Islands of Scotland, as well as Edinburgh. The ship will continue on to Harwich for the cruise ending. **Allen** will then visit London for 4 nights.

We have recently lost three of our members: **Bob Datel** began a career with the Division of Highways which lasted more than 38 years. **Bob** was instrumental in transforming the Division of Highways into the Department of Transportation 1973. He was the last State Highway Engineer for the Division of Highways and the first Chief Engineer for Caltrans. He retired in 1986.

Information on the other two, **Jack Kassel** and **Dave Crane** will be supplied in the next edition.

Hope you all enjoy a relaxing, fun-filled summer. Our next luncheon is August 18th. Stay cool!

- **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 9:30 am at the Pantry on Broadway in Eureka. 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 in LA. See **D-7 Haps** for dates, addresses and phone numbers.

Ventura Monthly Meeting

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.

San Gabriel Monthly Meeting

Caltrans retiree meets on the Third Thursday of each month at 11:30 AM, in San Gabriel at: The **Golden Soup**, 1039 E. Valley Blvd., San Gabriel, CA.

Steve Leung encourages anyone who's interested, retired or not. For more information, e-mail **Steve Leung** <skingleung@yahoo.com

District 8 -

Every Wednesday morning at 9:00 Construction Retirees and anyone else interested meet at the Family Home Style Café on Redlands Boulevard near Tippecanoe 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, November 5, 2016
Sweetwater Summit County Park in Sunnyside
Contact: **Gary Darr** 619-479-0549 (h) or e-mail
Fatdog261@cox.net

D-11 Retirees meet 3rd Wednesday at 8am every month at Denny's at Fletcher Parkway and Navajo Road.
Call **Butch Biendara** for more info

Central District -

Holiday Luncheon at the Dante Club at 11am
April 28th, Aug. 18th and Dec. 7th.
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 paying the dues would be a hardship for you, you may be able to get your dues waived. Contact your QCC District Director and if they approve, send the request to the QCC Secretary/Treasurer. See Renewal Form on next page.