

TheQCCer

The Newsletter of the Quarter
Century Club

VOLUME 25, No. 3

SEPTEMBER 2016



What Website??

BUTCH SAYS; "WEB WIZARDS WANTED!"

From the Corner Pocket

The QCC needs help from any who may have experience and/or knowledge on web design. Or maybe even advice as to where to go to find help. You may or may not have heard that the QCC website built and managed by **Peggy Veeder** many years ago has gone bust with no means to find out what happened. Peggy, our Sec/Treas, **Mike Ogilvie** and I have tried email and phone messages to contact the host site but have gotten no response. It was a free site at the start and that may be why it was a weak outfit.

Peggy volunteered to put it together and managed it in a manner that cost us nothing for many years. As I know nothing about web design, I gave her free license to do whatever she thought best, and I **THANK her for doing a great job**. Over the years there were additions, revisions, and updates and at some date it grew larger than what was allowed for free, and they started charging us a small annual fee. Since it was gaining viewers I thought it a worthy expense.

That brings up the current quest for help. There are many new web-builder tools today and I'd like to hear from a few members who might serve as an advisory panel to determine the best one.

Then I'd hope for a few, (2 or 3?) to take on the task of putting something up on the web for the QCC. It would be nice if a few volunteers could share the work of building and maintaining the site. And if anyone has ideas of just what might be posted on it, by all means let us know. Today's technology can allow for photos, videos, etc. Does your District have its own web page? How about Facebook links? Peggy says she would help and our Sec/Treas Mike Ogilvie has some experience to share.



I wanted to share the following for two reasons. One it shows an example of an informative and easy to use website by Caltrans and two it is a good way to keep in touch with what is happening at Caltrans. Of course, the QCC website would not need to include all of these features, but it can give us some ideas. This Caltrans

Newsletter website has been redesigned in a more user-friendly format, making it easier to navigate and share online. It can be accessed at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/ctnews/>.

Just a note to discuss recruiting efforts, as you know a few years ago we worked out an approval with Caltrans to send email invitations to employees work sites, (dot.ca.gov). We now have a list of thousands of candidates with 25 years of service who get an occasional Evite. We are having some success with new applications from that. It's safe to say that most of the QCC

members are retired and the new rules of engagement make it very difficult for any contact both into and out of any office, so this email recruiting has been our most productive effort. (Of course you are always encouraged to contact your friends and invite them to your next event.)

Butch Biendara, QCC President

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CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION FOUNDATION

By Kathy Freeman

The California Transportation Foundation (CTF) supports California's transportation community through scholarships, career development grants, Injured & Fallen Workers accounts and so much more. During 2015 CTF was able to award over \$85,000 in scholarships and over \$125,000 in grants to Injured & Fallen Workers Funds. The Foundation is only able to do this through the support and donations received throughout the year. At this time of the year, those of you that are still a part of Caltrans' workforce have an additional opportunity to designate automatic monthly paycheck deductions to CTF through **Caltrans's Our Promise Charitable Campaign. The Foundation's "Our Promise" campaign code is #16017.** We thank you for your support in the past and look forward to your continued support.



A Memorial Fund has been established in the name of Jorge Lopez, a District 7 Electrician who lost his life on September 1st while working on State Route 14 north of Red Rover Mine Road when he was hit by a big rig tanker. If you would like to make a donation online to the Lopez

Memorial Fund, you may do so at www.transportationfoundation.org/donate, or by mailing a check made payable to "CTF" with "Lopez" in the memo line to the California Transportation Foundation, 581 La Sierra Drive, Sacramento CA 95864. The Foundation will match donations dollar for dollar up to \$5,000.

The 22nd Annual CTF Transportation Education Symposium will be held in Santa Cruz on November 3-4 and is an opportunity for current leaders to mentor the next generation of transportation leaders (undergraduate students from California's universities) and an opportunity to give back to the transportation profession.

A blast was had by all at the **July 25th CTF annual northern California charity golf tournament.** Take a look through the photos on our website to see why. The very popular event raised almost \$47,000 to help support the Foundation's Scholarship and Injured & Fallen Worker Support programs. A special thank you to all our sponsors, golfers, and especially the volunteers from the Concrete Preservation Institute and Chico State College.

The Foundation is pleased to announce its new **YouTube Channel** (<https://goo.gl/0H8X3O>). We're looking forward to adding more information to this site.

Check out CTF's website (www.transportationfoundation.org) for more information on the above events and more. Again, thank you for your participation and support.

HISTORY CORNER

By George E. Gray, Historian

Recently a member asked me about the founding of the QCC. The QCC Logo says it was established in 1939. However, I'm afraid I don't have good documentation to back that up. The organization doesn't have any extensive files to supplement personal memories, but we can do some theorizing.

The State Highway organization was founded in 1912, so 25 years gives a minimum date of 1937 for the first employees to accumulate the required quarter century of service. Shortly after I retired, I spent a number of days in the District 11 library

where my wife was doing volunteer work, among other things reviewing and organizing the *Public Works and Division of Highways* magazine collection. One of the items I found and printed was an article of about 1938 about the QCC. However, I can't locate that copy now. I may have included it in the five boxes of materials donated for the future District 11 proposed museum.

Perhaps one of you have old issues at home and can look for the item. I will keep looking here at home and may be able to get into the presently little used District 11 library.

In Memoriam

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

Name	District	Date
Bobby Pelascini	01	2016
Bert Wythe	01	2016
Dan Cherry	02	May 08, 2016
Robert (Bob) Atkinson	03	July 30, 2016
Marie E Nelson	03	June 27, 2016
Walter (Walt) Flanary	03	May 27, 2016
Eileen Newton	03	July 25, 2016
Hugh Pope Jr	05	Mar 21, 2016
Donald Cross	05	June 24, 2016
Richard Nielsen	05	July 07, 2016
Owen R Helm Jr	06	June 13, 2016
Bob Ferguson	06	2016
Henry (Hank) Hardy	08	Aug 2016
Barbara Dwiggin	08	June 26, 2016
Connie Sanford	08	Apr 16, 2016
Mary Indvik	08	July , 2016
Glenn Mills	08	2014
Marilyn Bettencourt	10	Aug 31, 2016
Judy Carol Bohannon	10	Aug 16, 2016
Tommie (Tom) W Mayo	10	Aug 19, 2016
Larry Stevens	11	Aug 16, 2016
Jim Roy	11	July 24, 2016
Kim Yarbrough	11	Aug 04, 2016
Steve Threlkeld	11	July 06, 2016
Regis Kitzmiller	11	Apr 13, 2016
Victor (Vic) A Lindamood	11	July 08, 2016
Ruth Gill	C	July 27, 2016
Dorothy Ferra	C	June 17, 2016
Kirk West	C	June 04, 2016

The Haps in District 1

The summer weather has been great this year. A lot has happened. The sad part is terrible forest fires in Eastern Humboldt and Lake County. Too many people have lost homes and livelihoods.

On the brighter side, our QCCers and retirees had a great breakfast at the Pantry in Eureka on July 21, with 29 in attendance, down a little with summer vacations.

Our retiree, **Douglas Moorehead**, Christ Church organist emeritus, performed with two others at a July summer concert at the Christ Episcopal Church in Eureka. Their picture and notice was in the local paper. Congrats, Doug.

I was able to attend **Royal McCarthy's** retirement celebration in the District 1 cafeteria on June 30. He is looking forward to many fun days.

Our District Director, **Charlie Fielder**, will be having a retirement reception on 9/29/2016 at the Morris Graves Museum from 6-9 pm. Contact **Sheila Holt** by 9/16.

A big treat this summer is the exhibit currently at the Trinidad Museum of photos taken of the building of the new State highway from McKinleyville to Trinidad in 1921-22. Our retiree, **James Siebert**, graciously loaned them to the Humboldt County Historical Society to scan, then to the Trinidad Museum for the exhibit. Each photo was identified to its proper location. His Mother's cousin had taken the pictures while she was with her husband who had the contract and Jim had shared them with us when we celebrated the 100th anniversary of Caltrans. It is great that many people can still see them. Part of the old highway is still there and a

beautiful but somewhat rough drive. The freeway bypasses it now.

In last quarter's QCC, I notified you of **Tom Georgeson's** passing. I was able to attend a celebration of life on 8/7 at the Eureka Women's Club. This was chosen since his Dad was the architect for the building. The refreshments included a birthday cake in Tom's honor being close to his birthday. His beloved 1936 Cord Westchester was parked out front for all to visit. Family and friends shared many happy stories. Those attending from Caltrans included **Vi Truby, Jim Boyd, Ray Thomsen, Davy O'Brien, Royal McCarthy, Dave McCanless, Georgia Hannel** and **George Eitzen**.

I also attended a memorial service at Ocean View for **Bobby Pelascini**, husband of **Nancy Pelascini**, CT retiree. I worked with her for several years and also enjoyed times with Bobby, wonderful person.

We also received word the **Bert Wythe**, one of our retired engineers, recently passed away.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends of **Tom Georgeson, Bobby Pelascini** and **Bert Wythe**.

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer.

- **Arlene Hartin**

The Haps in District 2

Jerry Severson reports that he has moved to Auburn CA, and married **Nancy Benjamin** (Caltrans HQ Division of Aeronautics). In July, they went on a two week tour of Ireland. A beautiful place, full of friendly people, castles, rock walls, cattle, sheep, goats, rivers, streams and gentle rolling open hills. It rains a lot there, so everything is always green. No forest fires in Ireland.

From Jim and Sandy Ceragioli - Sandy and I have done more traveling. In May we went to Baja and spent 2 weeks with two other couples at our timeshare in San Jose Del Cabo. It is about twenty miles east of Cabo San Lucas which is the famous one that most people go to. The beaches are really great, but the rest of the landscape is Sonoran Desert with not much of interest. We did one really interesting thing though, we went on a camel ride. I now know that I would not want to travel a long distance on the back of a camel. Our timeshare is very nice and we had a comfortable unit big enough for the six of us. We had many good meals but the ones that really stood out were at a small restaurant just on the outside of the timeshare right on Highway One. It is called Cantina Santana and has a maximum capacity of about 36 which includes 18 seats outside along the highway. We had two dinners there and two breakfasts. The most fabulous was the imperial prawns which were about 4 inches long, almost an inch in diameter, and were wrapped in bacon and broiled.

The ladies had a wonderful time shopping of course. In San Jose Del Cabo there is a silver shop by the name of "Bla Bla Bla". High quality silver at a good price and it is on the Plaza. We ate lunch at a sidewalk café three times. It was very good but not like Santana. We also had an interesting dinner at another café. The fish was cooked in a rock bowl and served in the hot bowl. It was also very good.

Other than that, we have been to the Clearlake area twice this summer for family affairs. Nothing else to speak of.

From Bobbie Henry - Well I've survived two accidents in one month towing my trailers, yes plural. In one I got mildly rear ended and acted just like an attenuator. It happened in Spokane on my way home from a Yellowstone to Glacier to Cove Palisades National Parks trek and the trailer is now for sale as is... In the other, the trailer was not touched but the tow truck got

sideswiped bringing my new Casita beauty home. Successful trips to Trinidad and Graeagle since then, so two with incidents, two without, keeping my fingers and toes crossed! On my way to Crescent City tomorrow, will come back via Ashland for Buenaventura Vista Boys concert, then Hot town (Redding) again. Praying no more accidents!?

On a sad note, **Dan Cherry**, 88, passed away on May 8, 2016. Dan had 39 years with Caltrans and was an **Honorary QCC Member**. He began his career in Design but later became the Public Information Officer. **Dan** served in the US Army from 1945 to 1946.

From Bill Belcher - Hello all you QCC'ers. I have moved to Oregon to help out with some lingering family matters. I shall be up here for an extended duration tending to details. You can still reach me by e-mail (though I don't check it as often now). The weather is a plus as it's quite a bit cooler on average than the Redding/Red Bluff area. The residents are quite courteous, however, the percentage of bad drivers is just about the same as in California. They just do their antics at a slower speed (55 limit on most highways).

I also spent a week up at the church choir conductors' seminar at Lake Tahoe, and even got to do some conducting this time. A very exciting and informative experience again. The air in the basin was rather smoky due to the fires around the State, but eventually cleared enough so we could see the surrounding mountains.

- **Bill Belcher**

The Haps in District 3

The annual Pre-Holiday party will be held on Sunday, November 13, 2016 at the Peach Tree Country Club in Marysville. No host cocktails and social hour from

1:00 P.M. to 1:45 P.M. with a buffet dinner to follow. Invitation flyers will be sent out prior to event. All are welcome.

The Fall Luncheon was held on Thursday, Sept. 15th at 1:00 pm at the Sportsman's Hall in Pollock Pines. Next edition will give the highlights.

From Janet Johnson - Two friends and I took a short vacation to Fort Bragg the last weekend of July. It was so nice to get out of the valley heat of 100+ to the wonderful cooler weather of 65/70. We are quilters so of course we had to stop at a shop in Kelseyville on our way. Once in Fort Bragg we checked into our hotel and enjoyed our view of Noyo Harbor from our balcony. Watching the evening fog come in and around the highway 1 bridge. Then dinner at Silvers and to top it off, ice cream from Cowlicks.

On Saturday we attended a quilt meeting, had a wonderful salad luncheon served by the local quilt guild members and then listened to their speaker. Following the meeting we headed to (of course) the local quilt shop. Then off we went to Mendicino, what a lovely town. We then visited several shops including one that sold various jams and jellies that went perfect with the French bread we found at another stop. Back to Fort Bragg for dinner at a small Mexican restaurant north of town called the Purple Rose. Good food and great service.

We then ventured into MacKerricher State Park. This is a lovely state park, clean and the view is, well of the Pacific Ocean, what more could you ask for? Sunday morning we had breakfast at Eggheads in downtown Fort Bragg. Nice little restaurant on the highway with about a 25 minute wait. We visited a local artist shop and one of my friends bought a print of Noyo Harbor. Our mini vacation came to an end returning to Yuba City later in the day.

HISTORY ROOM UPDATE

The 03 History Center has two old proposed roadway models on display in the lobby of the DO. One model depicts a proposed routing of US-50 through Placerville and the other depicts YUB-70 and the Railroad Bridge, near the Marysville High School. The July issue of UPDATE 03 has a write up on the making of such models. Another larger model of US-50 Placerville has been left in the room, we're in the process of finding out who left it and where it has been all these years! We would like to get it displayed in the lobby with the other models.

The Placerville models had been displayed in the old DO. These models were used to help determine if the highway designs were practical or aesthetically acceptable. Every visible detail of the project and surrounding area was duplicated. Many of the models were built to 1" equals 100' scale.

Records were not kept on the models and finding one is rare and getting rarer! The District now has 3 which, while in pretty good shape, still needed some TLC. **Quincy Wong**, Senior Architect, Branch Chief, Bridge Architecture and Aesthetics, Office of Transportation Architecture, Division of Engineering Services, actually came to the District, with staff to clean and repair these 3 models.

Tom Sawyer, 03 drafting, was loaned to the model shop in 1966 and never came back to the District. He became an Assistant Bridge Aesthetic Consultant! The Sacramento Bee (March 1988) ran an article on him and these models. Tom said he used whatever he could scrounge, develop or invent - wood plastic foam, Masonite for highway surface, and tape for lane markers and striping. Strands of wire woven together to create tree trucks. Steel wool or chenille created the foliage. Dirt surfaces were from fabrics, rubber or sandpaper. Plastic pearls were street light globes. Cases of toothpicks were used!

Both **Tom** and his wife have since passed away. We can't locate his son, who might like to read about his father's time at Caltrans! If anyone knows how to reach him, please let us know.

The History Room would welcome volunteers, so if you are interested please contact **Libby Haraughty**, 530-673-5587, libbyanneh2@aol.com or **Carleen Hagen**, 530-674-9026 hcdhagen@aol.com.

Road Last Traveled

Robert (Bob) Atkinson passed away peacefully after a lengthy illness on July 30, 2016. Bob worked for the Bureau of Reclamation and later with Caltrans as a Right of Way Agent until his retirement in December 10, 1995. **Bob** was a **QCC Honorary Member** and he and his wife Della enjoyed many social activities together.

Marie E. Nelson, an **Associate Honorary QCC Member**, passed away on June 27, 2016. Her daughter, **Kristin Taylor Lloyd**, reported that she appreciated all your [QCC] work which brought her much enjoyment.

Walter (Walt) Flanary passed away in Napa, CA. on May 27, 2016. Walt was a graduate of Yuba City high school in 1948 and enlisted in the US Navy. He was a veteran of the Korean War. As an electrical engineer, Walt worked for Caltrans during the highway building boom and retired in 1982 after serving for 34 years. **Walt** enjoyed sailing and restoring sports cars. In retirement Walt and his wife enjoyed years of traveling in their 5th wheel, cruises and wintering in Tucson and Yuma Arizona.

Eileen Newton passed away on Monday July 25, 2016 following a battle with cancer. Eileen worked for Caltrans District 3 working in Maintenance as a Regional Administrative Officer in Valley Region with **Bob Mulcahy** as her Region Manager and then in the District Office as Executive Assistant working under the

District Directors, including **Jody Jones** before retiring in September 2010.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family and friends of **Bob, Marie, Walt** and **Eileen**.

- Dan Johnson Sr.

The Haps in District 4

On July 28th, QCC President **Butch Biendara** met for lunch with District 4 Quarter Century Club members **Kathy Freeman, Ed Coble, Adrien Levy, and Jim Boulter**. Unfortunately **Paul Hensley**, QCC Director for the District 4, was unable to attend.



Those in the photo: Left side of table: **Kathy Freeman** and **Ed Coble**. Right side of table: **Adrien Levy, Butch Biendara, Jim Boulter**

Although quite a few issues were discussed, the need for recruitment of new club members was probably the most talked about item from passing out applications/newsletters at already scheduled monthly luncheons of retirees to holding special invitational group meetings with those staff completing 25-years of service at the D.O. and various field offices throughout the district. **Kathy Freeman** noted that the more ideas we could hear about, the better. They would be a great help in getting District 4's club back on

track. Any ideas out there from the QCC readers please send them to Kathy Freeman. Kathy's email address is: kathy.freeman1@att.net.

The Haps in District 5

It's been a hot, smoky summer on the Central Coast. As of today (Sept 1) the Chimney fire near Nacimiento Lake is nearing containment, and Hearst Castle is unharmed. We heard from two D-5 folks **Gary Schultz** and **Jack Neal** who have lake properties that thankfully were not damaged.

D-5 staff will be moving this month from the Atoll building on Laurel Lane to a newly remodeled facility at the corner of Higuera Street and Fontana Avenue. This building, a moving and storage company for many years, is located about two blocks south of the District Office. If you plan to visit, watch for a Caltrans sign at the driveway entrance off Higuera.

We have had a quiet summer, watching the Giants struggle out of their post-All Star Game slump and keeping an eye on that team in LA. We did enjoy a pleasant evening in June thanks to **RJ** and **Linda Brown** who hosted a BBQ at their home. **Robert Bonilla** assisted by **Charlie Hench** provided a delicious meal, and we enjoyed visiting with old friends.

I'm sorry to report the loss of three D-5 friends. **Hugh Pope, Jr.** passed away March 21 at age 84. Hugh was my supervisor for a few years in Permits, at a time when smoking was allowed. I can still see him sitting near the open window, puffing his cigar.

Donald Cross passed away June 24 at age 85. He was a long-time R/W agent and was active in CSEA. Don enjoyed golf and played on the D-5

team in tournaments. He is survived by his wife and son.

Richard Nielsen passed away July 7 at age 85. No other information is available at this time.

- **Kathleen Copeland**

The Haps in District 6

Terry Littleton reports that she spent some time at Huntington Lake this summer and it was a pleasure to have water in the lake after the last few years of drought. This winter it may be necessary to do one of those Indian rain dances to fill the lake.

Road Last Traveled

Owen R. Helm Jr., was born on December 19, 1929 in Fresno California and passed away on Monday June 13, 2016 in Fresno. He was retired from the California Army National Guard after 30 years of service with the rank of Major. His time in the California Army National Guard included many tours of Active Duty.



He also retired from CALTRANS as a Senior Right Of Way Agent, after 42 years of service. **Owen** was an **Honorary QCC Member**, a Senior Member of the International Right of Way Association holding the SR/WA designation and a Senior Certified Engineering Technician.

Major Helm was the officer in charge and coach of the All National Guard (National) Pistol Squad and trained many individuals who won many National and International Pistol marksmanship awards. He was a Lifetime Pistol Master Shooter, was awarded the Distinguished Marksmanship

Badge and the President's Hundred award at the National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio. He was a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Ft Leavenworth, KS.

Owen is survived by his sons Rick, Frank, John, Scott, daughter Linda and 13 grandchildren.

He is also remembered by his many friends at Caltrans, including 12 years at Bishop, CA.

From **Bob Dubel** - "I first got to know **Owen** when we both were on a survey crew back in the early 1950's when we shared a motel room while on location. We both later ended up in Caltrans Fresno office on separate assignments. Although we never worked on the same projects in the Fresno office, we remained friends over the years."

Steve Mason reported on the passing of **Bob Ferguson**, a retired Maintenance Supervisor from the Glenville Maintenance Station. Bob was 90 years old.

From **Virgle Ray**- "...it's another notch on the stick of time, the passing of **Bob Ferguson**. Our hearts go out to the family."

- **Terry Littleton**

The Haps in District 7

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

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>

The Haps in District 8

Welcome to the coming fall and cooler temperatures. Here in Southern CA we've been having unusual warm weather and have been dealing with some wildfires in our local mountains and desert areas. Thank goodness they are all out and I'm

sure all the prayers really helped our fire fighters and volunteers during this horrible time.

Other than that we had a great summer luncheon on July 16th at Hannah's Restaurant in San Bernardino. Just about everyone that signed up was able to have an afternoon of good food and visiting with friends. Everyone enjoyed a delicious Chef Salad or Teriyaki Chicken with all the trimmings and dessert.

Those in attendance were: **John & Kay Anderson, Dan Armstrong, Naidu & Padmini Athuluru, Jim Balcom, Gerald & Judie Brown, Morgan & Glenna Choate, Christy Conners** and her husband **Joe Walsh, Gil & Jeanette Daab, John & Doris Estrada, Bill Feenstra, Wanda Gernux, Wes & Linda Grimes, Joe Gomez, Al & Judi Hudgens, Frances Jacques, Stan & Ina Lisiewicz, Shelli Lombardo, Marsha Lotze, Andy Machen** and guest **Julie Griffin, Ernie Parke**, his niece, **Connie Young & Evie Anderson, Maxine Nelson, Sybille Phillips, Tom & Bonnie Powell, Ann Rogers, Taylor Smith** and his son **Paul, Bob Sassaman, Linda Supernaw, and Bob & Hannah Viveros**, and their daughter **Rosannah**.

We were very glad to have several new members and their family members join us; **Naidu Athuluru** and his wife, **Christy Conners** and her husband, and **Andy Machen**.

We gave away two Caltrans watches in a drawing to **Judie Brown** and **Bob Sassaman**. They were donated by our Statewide President **Butch Biendara**.

Several members sent their regrets and it was good to hear from them. **Dick Longstreet** was going to his great granddaughter's first birthday party in Carlsbad, **Janice Feenstra** had knee surgery on July 14, 2016, and **Jim and Pam Landfried** will be cruising down the Rhine River from Basel Switzerland to Amsterdam, Netherlands. He said to say "Hi" to everyone.

Linda Salmond had planned on attending but had a scheduling conflict and also said to tell everyone "Hello". **Rensselaer (Bud) Smith** sent his regrets as he and his wife were also enjoying their vacation at the beach. Here's hoping that they all are able to attend our Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, December 10, 2016, at The Elks Club on Highland Avenue, San Bernardino. Please put this date on your calendar and plan on attending.

Heard About Town:

Sybille Phillips attended the Toastmasters International Convention in Washington, D.C. where she learned and shared. Of course, the flight was delayed in Dallas, causing grief!

Janice Feenstra is still recovering from her latest surgery and using a walker, and just sold her home in Redlands and is planning her next move.

"Missing" **Jerry Lunt** has been found. He gets up early, goes across town to prepare his grandkids for high school, gets them for lunch, and takes them to track and field practice or meets (Jerry was a high jumper in school years ago), then gets them dinner. He reports that the grandkids are great at track and field meets. Jerry gets home around 8:00 p.m., then gets ready to do it again the next day! Hang in, **Jerry**.

Larry Wearne reports he went to Lake Tahoe for a family reunion, then back home to Utah. Larry also reports **Marv Fuller**, who lives nearby in Utah, is now 80 and is also doing well in retirement.

Karen Swinney retired in August, 2016 after 38 years at Caltrans, District 8. She worked in Maintenance and Construction and was well known for her cheerful attitude and good work. Happy Trails, Karen.

Our President, **Wes Grimes**, was the victim of an assault recently. As he was driving his new Chevrolet, he was hailed over to the curb, where a complete stranger jumped on the hood of his car, kicked through the windshield, and jumped on the roof of the car. It took eight police officers to subdue the assailant, who was said to be under the influence of drugs. Wes still wears a wrist brace and the car has been in the body shop six weeks. Hope **Wes** gets his car back before this goes to print!!!

Aches, Pains and Passings:

Wes and **Linda Grimes** recently received a note from **Diane Plagman**. Diane retired from Planning several years ago and moved to her native Canada. She was well liked for her work in Planning. She is doing fairly well but is dealing with several health issues. She thanks God everyday that she is alive. She is planning on selling her condo and will be moving to an assisted living facility in the near future.

She hopes all of her friends are well and will keep us in her prayers. She misses her Caltrans friends and hopes if all goes well, she will be visiting here in November.

Marsha Lotze has had two surgeries for skin cancer on her forehead and is doing well.

Taylor Smith has recovered nicely from a fall when he broke his hip. Taylor went through surgery and weeks of rehabilitation, but is now home and cheerful as ever.

Stella Zavala (retired Administration and Right of Way) reports that **Henry (Hank) Hardy** from Design, passed away in August. He was in his 90's and had telephoned Stella every day for the last 12 years. Hank had retired many years ago, and for those who knew him, you will never forget him. For those that didn't, too bad...

Al Hudgens sent me a note about **Barbara Dwiggin**s passing away on Sunday, June 26, 2016. She was the wife of former Deputy District Director, Right of Way, **Tom Dwiggin**s and a **QCC Surviving Spouse Member**. Tom passed away about a decade ago. Barbara was born July 30, 1917, making her almost 99 years old! All our condolences and prayers are with her family.

I'm sorry to say that I received a nice note from **Connie Sanford's** Granddaughter, **Cortney Wheeler**, that **Connie** passed away on April 16, 2016, from Alzheimer's and surrounded by loved ones, passed peacefully. She thanked me for always sending Connie updates about when the next event was. She also thanked us for making her feel involved even when she moved to Utah over 12 years ago. **Cortney** took care of her the last 18 months of her life. We all thank Cortney for taking such good care of her. **Connie** was the Cashier for our Accounting Department for many years before she retired and always had a smile no matter what and was an **Honorary QCC Member**.

Mary Indvik passed away in July, age 93. She was the widow of **Ed Indvik**, who had retired from Construction many years ago.

Glenn Mills, former District 8er and District 6er passed away in late 2014. We received word of his passing only recently. Glenn was well known in Construction and transferred to District 6 for a promotion. He was a friend to all who knew him. He is survived by his wife, **Rita**, and two children.

Again, all our thoughts and prayers are with everyone who has lost a loved one and all those that may not be feeling well. Seems like the aches and pains are with us more as we get older.

- **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. At the last meeting on August 30, 2016 there were 24 members present including newest District 10 retiree **Curtis Beitz**, Transportation Engineer Civil who was the District's Construction Safety Engineer and also the Chair of the Safety committee for PECG. Welcome aboard **Curtis**.

From **Chris Wendland** - The search for my biological family has been amazing, I located my sister **Sharon Zanin** about seven years ago, who knew about me and had been searching for me for sixty years.



On left sister Sharon Zanin and Chris Wendland

This is also an amazing story about our biological father, whom I never knew. Our father was in the US Army during WWII when I was born. He

was a paratrooper in Britain and made his first jump on June 6, 1944, D Day for which he earned a medal of honor. Recently a young man in Britain was going through items which belonged to his great grandfather. Among the items were our father's dog tags which were found in the gentlemen's movie theatre seventy years ago, unbelievable that they were found and not tossed aside. The search for my biological family has been amazing, I am so very blessed.

From **Bob and Ardyth Biffel** - Yes, we did it again. 3rd time through the Panama. 2nd time for our daughter, **Bonny**. We went back as we heard the new locks were up and going, and wanted to see it moving those huge ships through.

But alas, it was not ready yet. And for the most part, you can barely or not even, see either one. But never fear; the ships are going through now, so do not be afraid to go.

We had a first class plane flight out of Sacramento. First time to fly in style. NICE. Got off the plane in Phoenix to find our continuing flight to Florida was loading right next to our entering the terminal? Wow. What a surprise. A change of time and location with no notice for us?? But we hopped right on, you can be sure and were treated royally the rest of the way. It was a fast trip for us and so did not stop at a lot of Islands or ports. We took a horse and carriage drive through Cartagena, as none of us do good at a long walk any longer. And a good thing as it was so hot and humid.

Ardyth caught a bug in the muggy weather and was so sick going through the Canal, she barely saw any of it. She did get up to take 1 picture of a tree full of howling monkeys doing their best to scare us out of our minds.

At Cabo we took a boat cruise around the Arch area with lots of birds, boats and a few seals. And a sky full of people dangling from their parachutes pulled by speeding crazy boat drivers.

All in all, it was a fun trip as usual. This time, thanks to our daughter using her perks from the Princess Cruise Line, we had a full Suite too. Whew. Lots of room and a balcony and even had a tub with water jets!

Our next cruise is booked for January. Oh oh --- New Year's traffic problems, maybe? We will fly to Rio de Janeiro to spend a day before boarding another Princess ship to go down and around the Cape Horn area again. Third time for that but going backwards this time. Bonny really wants to go visit a penguin colony. She was sick the first time she went around it.

Both of us are having some health problems but hopefully will be able to control them and be healthy by the New Year and the cruise. Have a very pleasant fall, be safe and have FUN.

- **Bob and Ardyth** (the Traveling) **Biffel**

Road Last Traveled

Marilyn Bettencourt, wife of retired **QCC Member Gordon Bettencourt**, lost her life in a vehicle accident on Wednesday morning August 31, 2016 at the age of 84 in Stockton, CA.

Judy Carol Bohannon, Jan 1, 1943 to August 16, 2016, age 73 of Stockton passed away on Tuesday, August 16, 2016. Judy retired from Caltrans District 10. Her services were held on Monday, August 22, 2016 at 10 a.m. at Parkview Cemetery Chapel in Manteca.

On August 19, 2016, **Tommie (Tom) Wade Mayo** peacefully passed into the arms of our Lord Jesus Christ. After an honorable discharge from the Navy in 1953, he returned to school and received a degree in engineering from Stockton College. In 1956 he began his career as an engineer with the California Division of Highways. In 1980 Tom started Tom Mayo Construction where he worked until retiring in 2000.

- **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**

It is reported that **Heidi Martin** is now one of the top three, "The Trio", for over 3000 Toastmasters in San Diego and Imperial Counties and Yuma, AZ. Congratulations Heidi!

The monthly Romeo (Retired Old Men "and ladies" Eating Ot) 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.

Road Last Traveled

Ed Anderson reported that **Larry Stevens** passed away on 8/16/2016. Larry spent about 35 years with Caltrans Maintenance Department in various locations and capacities throughout southern California and was an **Honorary QCC Member**. Larry spent time in El Centro, Brawley and Indio. **Larry** was Maintenance Supervisor in El Centro then Brawley until 1988 when he was promoted to superintendent in Region I. His latest assignment was superintendent in Indio. He remained there until 1994 when he retired from Caltrans. After retirement he marketed various pavement treatments, e.g. penetrating oils and chip-seals, etc. He spent the last couple years battling throat cancer.

Jim Roy passed away on July 24 in a care facility in Escondido. Jim spent his entire Caltrans career in District 11 beginning in Construction in 1971 and then in Traffic Analysis making long

term traffic predictions. He eventually became chief of that group and then moved to Local Assistance in the mid-1980s focusing on Cooperative Agreements. Jim is credited with creating the district's first listing of Cooperative Agreements and was instrumental in the transition to electronic record keeping. He was described as a "brilliant man" and was a key player in the success of the local funded program of the 1990s.

Pat Yarbrough, Kim's wife, called to say that Kim passed away of brain cancer at his home on August 4, 2016, age 82. Kim had survived several serious health problems but for some time had been pronounced incurable and on hospice care. **Kim** worked at the Division of Hwys/Caltrans for 37 years and retired in 1992. He later took the job of **QCC Secretary / Treasurer** when **George Ellis** could no longer carry the load and Kim made a number of improvements to tracking members.

Steve Threlkeld passed away peacefully on July 6 after a lengthy illness. Steve had worked as a District Transportation Engineer in Construction and Environmental before retiring from the Planning's Modeling and Forecasting Branch. Steve was someone who lived life to its fullest. He taught by example and inspired those around him. He was known for being an innovative thinker and having a "do it yourself" way of getting the job done. **Steve** had a great love for family, church, and singing and participated in the District Christmas choir for many years.

Regis Kitzmiller passed away in his home on April 13, 2016 at the age of 62. Regis worked at the District 11 Construction Carmel Valley Field Office as a Materials Tester. He began his career with Caltrans in the late 1970s working for the Maintenance Division in Blythe before moving to San Diego about 15 years ago.

Victor A. Lindamood (Vic Lind) passed away on July 8, 2016. Victor met the love of his life

Teresa, and they were married in 1962. In 1967 they moved to Escondido and **Vic** began working for the Division of Highways/Caltrans. He became an engineer and worked in District 11 Construction for many years. He had a hand in many of the freeway projects in the District. He really enjoyed his work and was always willing to help out others.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of **Larry, Jim, Kim, Steve, Regis, and Vic**.

The Haps in Central

Can't believe summer is almost over with the first day of Autumn on September 22nd. But with temperatures in the 90's here in the Sacramento area you would never know it.

The Central District (HQ) held its' summer luncheon on August 18th with 48 members in attendance at the Dante Club. After the lunch, a raffle of wines and chocolates was held with "J" girls calling out the numbers. The "J" girls our own **Judy Saxby** and **Julie Bush**. Great job girls!

We had two guests at the luncheon, **Gene Poch** of District 2 and **Ron Lutz** of District 4, who enjoyed seeing old friends of the Central District. At one time **Gene Poch** was my boss while I was in District 4. Great seeing them.

In addition, the following members provided some notes while at the luncheon: **Marilyn Lambeth** said it was good to see old friends at a good luncheon. **Connie Felton** said it was great to be at the luncheon and **Jane Russell** said it was nice to be with old familiar friends.

Allen Wrenn's Travels

When our last issue was going to press **Allen Wrenn** was just starting his adventure in Norway, and he promised a report on that trip for this issue.

He reports that he had an excellent visit to Norway and some other places.

His trip began with three days in Oslo where he visited several museums, most of which focused on Norway's maritime history. While there he learned Norway is a very expensive place to visit and to live. A few years ago Oslo was officially designated as the second-most-expensive place in the world to live, with Tokyo being first. An example of their high costs is what a 0.5 liter glass of beer costs. Allen paid the equivalent of \$12 US for enjoying that glass of beer.

After Oslo he traveled by train to Bergen. This line is considered by rail enthusiasts to be one of the most beautiful lines in the world. Allen found the scenery to be beautiful.

While visiting in Bergen for three days he enjoyed several more museums and ate a lot of seafood, while also enjoying more of that expensive beer, and also some wine.

Then he boarded a Viking Cruises ship for a cruise along the coast of Norway, with a stop almost every day. Viking Cruises has historically been a river cruise company, but in 2015 they launched their first ocean-going ship. The ship was brand new, with design and décor being very Scandinavian in nature. The cruise went all the way to the port that serves the North Cape, a very windy and desolate place. **Allen** found it interesting that the North Cape, even though it has been called the northernmost point in Europe does not really meet that criteria. Another point close by is actually further north, but maybe a publicist had something to do with that.

On the way north the cruise went into Geirangerfjord, a long twisting fjord that leads to the small town of Geiranger. The scenery along the fjord was magnificent, with the sheer cliffs soaring as much as 3,000 feet above the water. A shore excursion from Geiranger took a group high up to a summer ski area, but just to see the site. Summer

skiing is done here for only a short period, with the snow being on top of a glacier.

After returning south the cruise went to the Shetland and Orkney Islands of Scotland. This provided an opportunity to learn the importance these islands played during WW II, with them being a jumping-off place for many of the Norwegian Resistance fighters who returned to their homeland to oppose the Nazi occupation forces.

The next stop was in Edinburgh, where Allen had visited just a year before. This time he took a shore excursion that included a visit to Stirling Castle, a place that played an important part in Scottish history.

The cruise ended in Harwich, England, about an hour's drive from London and Allen visited there for three days. During this time he enjoyed a visit to Windsor Castle, Stonehenge and Oxford.

After his time in London it was time to head home to prepare for his next adventure. He is off as this issue is being published for a month in Europe, with most of his time being in Germany. A couple highlights of this trip will be a week in Stuttgart with the Mercedes-Benz Club during which the members will be hosted by officials from the Mercedes-Benz Company. Another highlight will be a cruise on the Rhine, from Basel to Amsterdam. **Allen** promises a full report on this trip for next issue.

On a sad note, **Ruth Gill** passed away on July 27, 2016. Ruth was born August 2, 1930. Ruth had a 40 year career with Highways. In 1989, she received a Superior Accomplishment Award for her project development work. Per Ruth's request there was no service. Contributions in Ruth's memory can be made payable to the UC Davis Foundation. Mail to UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, P.O. Box 1167, Davis, CA 95617.

Carol Kwolek reported that **Dorothy Ferra** (Central District) passed away June 17, 2016.

Last issue, it was reported that **Jack Kassel** and **Dave Crane** passed away. Next issue will include more on these **Honorary QCC Members**.

Hope you all enjoy a relaxing, fun-filled summer.
- 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

Central District -

Holiday Luncheon at the Dante Club at 11am
 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.

New Members

Name	District
Athuluru, Naidu	8
Carson, John	1
Connors, Christy	8
Drago, Jim	C
Gladden, Angela	C
Hamamoto, Hiroyoshi	C
Kevorkian, Gary	7
Levy, Adrian	4
Machen, Andy	8
Martin, Heidi	11
Murdock, Joan	7
Peck, Kenneth	3
Raza, Syed	8
Sanchez, Rosalba	7
Stinger, Rob	2
Wallace, Karen	11