

CEAC Newsletter

November 2010

Message from the 97th President
of the
County Engineers Association of California
Patrick DeChellis, Deputy Director
Department of Public Works
County of Los Angeles

My year as President of the County Engineers Association is about to come to an end. It was a remarkable year that may never have been without strong support within the Association. Since I am neither a Director of Public Works nor a County Engineer, I was not eligible to be an Officer until 2006 when the Association's By Laws were changed. It has been an amazing three years since being elected as CEAC Secretary in 2007 at our Fall Conference in Alameda County (Oakland).

CALIFORNIA
Counties

So, you ask – “What has been so remarkable about this past year?” First and foremost, we did not lose our gas tax revenues. It was truly remarkable how close we were to losing these revenues as part of the State budget solution starting with Fiscal Year (FY) 2009-10 and continuing into FY 2010-11. I still remember very vividly the remarks from our Immediate Past-President, Peter Rei, as he was completing his term as President last year – “Luckily, I dodged the title of the ‘CEAC President who let gas taxes get away’.” My only thought was, “Yeah, it wasn't you, Peter. It will be me.” But, with the continued diligent work by DeAnn Baker and Kiana Buss and the results from our joint effort with the cities to complete the first ever Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment, we were able to show the State Legislature that taking our gas taxes would have a devastating effect on city streets and county roads. The Needs Assessment showed that we don't have nearly enough revenue to adequately maintain our streets now. Just imagine what

Presidential Message (Cont.)

the loss of over 90 and 70 percent for those 2 years, respectively, would have had on us and our roads. We are not out of the woods, though; in fact, I think that we will never be truly safe from the long arms of Sacramento until the State addresses the structural deficiencies in its budget. We need to continue to work together to ensure that the Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment is always up-to-date and that our representatives in the State Legislature know what our needs are.

Another “remarkable” feat during this past year is that we were able to beat back the attempt by the private sector to reduce the statutory authority of the Road Commissioner to carry out work. I believe that as long as unemployment remains high in the State, the private sector will continue to seek ways to create more jobs without considering the loss of jobs in the public sector nor that it will not be more efficient to do so. All 58 counties must work together on this issue; otherwise, I believe that some reduction in the Road Commissioner’s authority will happen.

The third “remarkable” feat during this past year is that we held our Spring Conference without the cities. It was a very successful Conference with a very high level of participation. It afforded us time to work through the many issues that we are all facing as Public Works Directors/County Engineers. It is worthwhile to note that while we were having a successful Conference, I heard that the League of Cities’ Spring Conference with their Planning Directors was not so successful. I heard that they even missed us. Spring Conferences starting in 2011 will be jointly held once again with the League of Cities.

I was able to attend at least one Regional Meeting in each Region this past year except for the North Bay Region. Our schedules couldn’t quite match up. And, I even made it to the Bedroll Conference, as promised. I thoroughly enjoyed the conference and was very pleased with the demonstration performed by Petrochem Manufacturing on one of Plumas County’s local roads not far from the campsite. I must commend the Conference Chair, Don Ridenhour, Director of Public Works, Napa County, for putting on an excellent and very informative Conference. And, I must admit the food prepared by the

Honorable CLOD, Tom Hunter, and Mort August, Top CLOP, was also excellent. Well worth the drive to the middle of nowhere.

What I experienced everywhere I went this past year, whether it was at one of the Regional Meetings, the Bedroll Conference, or working with our Special Team of CSAC Legislative Analysts, were people working together for a common goal. It was very exciting to see this high level of energy and cooperation amongst all of the counties regardless of size or location. It made me proud to be your President.

But, as we move forward, we must be cognizant of the need to continue to work together on the many issues that will continue to face us from funding, Road Commissioner authority, water, solid waste, conversion technologies, etc. I could go on and on. The list is growing and the need to work together grows even more. We need to put aside our differences. Synergy is the ability of a group to outperform even its best individual members. We had a lot of synergy last year and I know that our President-Elect, Julie Bueren, Director of Public Works for Contra Costa County, and our Secretary, Daniel Woldesenbet, Director of Public Works for Alameda County, agree. One of the major highlights in my remarks as your new President last November in Monterey was the need to work together. We have done well, but we cannot succumb to our successes.

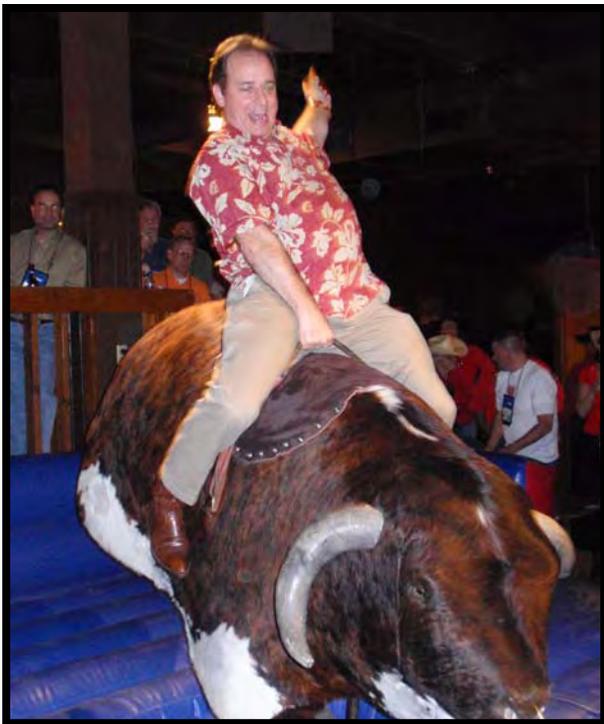
As I re-read the *Droppings from out of the Past* in the March 2010 CEAC Newsletter titled Forty-five Years of Progress? which compares our organization to that of 45 years previous when Bill McIntosh was our President, I am still inspired. Our CEAC Historian, Dave Gravenkamp, sums it up so well – although our roles in public works have expanded over the years and new legal, fiscal, and environmental obligations have complicated our jobs, we still must strive to create strong working relationships.

In closing, I must thank the Board of Directors, including the Regional Directors, and the membership for their support and efforts this past year. Without

Presidential Message (Cont.)

this support, we would not have had the synergy that we did. I must also thank Merrin Gerety whose assistance made my job so much easier. I couldn't imagine doing this job without Merrin. And, I cannot leave out thanking Patti Hughes for her conference planning and behind the scenes effort to make our conferences the past year the success that they were. And, finally, it goes without saying that we are as only good as our Legislative Analysts - Karen Keene, Cara Martinson, DeAnn Baker, and Kiana Buss. What a team!!! I look forward to serving CEAC this next year as the Immediate Past President and then however possible in the years to come.

~Patrick DeChellis



“Its been a great ride!”

“Pat....You Done Good!”



**CALIFORNIA'S
58 COUNTIES**

Member Spotlight

New Members “Congratulations”

Allen Toschi
Director of Public Works
Mariposa County
4369 Ben Hur Road
Mariposa, Ca 95338
E-mail: atoschi@mariposacounty.org
Telephone: (209) 966-5356

Richard Compton
Public Works Director
San Diego County
5555 Overland Ave., Ste. 2156
San Diego, CA 92123-1263

New Affiliate “Welcome”

Steve Hiatt
NorCal-Pacific Transportation Business Manager
HDR Engineering, Inc.
2365 Iron Point Road, Suite 300
Folsom, CA 95630

Also:
Carl Haack, CA DOT Market Sector Leader
Tim Fleming, Northern CA Area Manager

E-mail: Steven.Hiatt@hdrinc.com
Website: www.hdrinc.com

ATTENTION ALL READERS

Your contributions to the Newsletter
are always welcome!

Send c/o the Newsletter Editor, Ken Miller
11374 Oak Hill Lane, Yucaipa, CA 92399
or by e-mail to: sandramiller455@aol.com
or simply call to (909) 797-4322.

In Memoriam

Our prayers go out to the families of two of our CEAC members, one present member and one life member.

HAROLD W. McDONALD
CEAC Life Member and former Deputy Director, Butte County passed away on August 23, 2010 at the age of 90.

BOB BLAZER
Assistant Director of Public Works, Placer County passed away unexpectedly on Monday September 13, 2010 at his home. He was a great asset to the County and always the optimist. He will be greatly missed by his family and everyone at the County.

*The winds of time blow softly now
Reminded of their silent vow
To watch the sons of man grow bold
Discovering the thoughts of old*

*Return to dreams of future past
Awakening the stones of light at last
To tell the tale of days of yore
And cities on forgotten shores*

*The path of light will lead you still
Beyond the realm of simple will
To venture forth toward destiny
And free the secrets of the sea.*

CEAC Memorial Fund Scholarship Awards

Congratulations to the three CEAC Memorial Fund Scholarship Awardees for 2010.

CEAC hopes and wishes that this small token will assist you in achieving your goals in the engineering profession.

The awardees are:

Louis Johnson
Paradise, CA

Derek Huang
Irvine, CA

Carolyn Chou
Moorpark, CA

Also, thanks to Scott McGolpin, Chair of the Memorial Fund Scholarship Committee, and the rest of the committee members for a job well done again this year.

Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do.

So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails.

Explore. Dream. Discover.
~Mark Twain



Gail Farber, Director of Public Works for Los Angeles County and Pat DeChellis, Deputy Director and CEAC President, presented scholarship awards to Carolyn Chou of Moorpark CA (above) and to Derek Huang of Irvine, CA (below).



CEAC Memorial Fund

The memorial fund was established in 1972 by President Jim Pott and the CEAC Board following the deaths of Bill Jones, Solano County, and Howard Van Reyper, in a boating accident on their way home from the annual conference.

The fund and the resulting scholarships for many years were sustained by member contributions in honor of loved ones and friends. In recent years, the CEAC budget has funded the scholarships that have been awarded. Since its inception, over \$100,000 in scholarships have been awarded to deserving engineering Students.

You too may contribute to this worthy funding endeavor on behalf of the memory of someone near and dear to you. Checks may be sent directly to the CEAC Treasurer, Mehdi Sadjadi, who will in turn provide notice of your contribution to family of the individual remembered by your thoughtful donation.



CEAC Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, August 27, 2010 * 11:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.
 CEAC 5th Annual Policy Conference
 1100 K Street, 1st Floor
 Sacramento, CA 95814

1. **Call to Order** (DeChellis) Meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m.

Meeting Roster:

Officer	Office	County
Patrick DeChellis	President	Los Angeles
Julie Bueren	President Elect	Contra Costa
Daniel Woldesenbet	Secretary	Alameda
Mehdi Madjd-Sadjadi	Treasurer	Marin (Retired)
Doug Wilson	Parliamentarian	Tulare (Retired)
Ken Miller	Newsletter Editor	San Bernardino (Retired)
Peter Rei	Past President	Tuolumne
George Johnson	NACE Representative	Riverside
Bill McIntosh	Treasurer Emeritus	Lassen County (Retired)
Dave Gravenkamp	Historian	Siskiyou County (Retired)
Regional Directors	Region	County
Jim Porter	Central Coast	San Mateo
Tom Mattson	Northern California	Humboldt
Don Ridenour	North Bay	Napa
Michael Penrose	Sacramento Mother Lode	Sacramento
Matt Machado	San Joaquin Valley	Stanislaus
Paul Greenway	South Central Coast	Monterey
Ignacio Ochoa	Southern California	Orange
Committee Chairs	Committee	County
Tom Mattson	Transportation	Humboldt
Pattie McNamee	Fellowship	Contra Costa
Mitch Avalon	Flood Control/Water Resources	Contra Costa
Wes Zicker	Land Use	Placer
Jim Porter	Oversight	San Mateo
Scott McGolpin	Scholarship	Santa Barbara
Susan Klassen	Solid Waste	Sonoma
Mike Emmons	Survey	Santa Barbara
CSAC/CEAC Staff	Title	Agency/County
DeAnn Baker	Senior Legislative Representative	CSAC
Karen Keene	Senior Legislative Representative	CSAC
Kiana Buss	Legislative Analyst	CSAC
Cara Martinson	Legislative Analyst	CSAC
Merrin Gerety	CEAC Program Manager	CSAC/CEAC
Other Attendees		

All Officers, Regional Directors, Committee Chairs and Staff are listed. Those shown

shaded were not in attendance.

2. **Approval of Minutes** - Minutes for March 19th & July 9th 2010 approved without changes.
3. **Correspondence** (DeChellis) - Pat indicated he has received a letter from the Chairperson of the Women Council requesting sponsorship and donation by CEAC for the Western Women's Regional Symposium.

After extensive discussions, it was recommended that the Oversight Committee develop guidelines on sponsorship and donations by CEAC for discussions in November. The BOD also agreed to share the CEAC Affiliate distribution list with Pat DeChellis so that he can send solicitation requests (on CEAC letterhead) for the upcoming Western Women's Regional Symposium.

4. **CLODS Report** (CLODS) – Mehdi reported on the recent passing of three CLODS (Bill McIntosh; Verne Davis and Dave Pierson).

--He also indicated the CLODS BBQ in Riverside is on track with the location already secured by G. Johnson.

--Mehdi also requested recommendations from the BOD for CEAC Secretary within the next two to three weeks.

--Matt Machado indicated that he has the CLODS photo album, and is in the process of converting it into electronic files. He plans to share the album with his region and present it during the November conference in Riverside.

5. **NACE Report** (Johnson) – George discussed the attached NACE Report, primarily focusing on CEAC's interest to host NACE 2014 - letter of interest was sent by Pat DeChellis. The following agreed to volunteer for the NACE 2014 planning committee: George Johnson, Julie Bueren, Pattie McNamee, Pat DeChellis, Mike Penrose, Peter Rei and Tom Mattson.

George led discussions on NACE's strategic plan priorities as well as proposed streamlining language for the Reauthorization.

6. **CSAC Report** (CSAC Staff) – DeAnn reported on CSAC/CEAC budget issues—primarily on use of escalation clause based on CPI. She is to deliver a full report in November.

7. **Regional Directors Reports**

Jim Porter Central Coast - Had a great meeting in August.

Tom Mattson Northern California - None due to the Bedroll Conf. 2011 Bedroll Chairperson is Tom Mattson.

Don Ridenhour North Bay - None.

Michael Penrose Sacramento Mother Lode – Next meeting scheduled for 9/15/10.

Matt Machado San Joaquin Valley - Next meeting on 9/10/10.

Paul Greenway South Central Coast - None.

XXXXX Southern California - Had a great meeting in Riverside, hosted by George J.

8. Treasurers Report (Sadjadi) – Submitted and Accepted

9. Committee Reports

- a) **Flood Control and Water Resources** - A small group is to work on the impact of public land on county facilities.
- b) **Solid Waste** - The committee focused on 2010/11 priorities and guidelines.
- c) **Surveyor** - The committee focused on 2010/11 priorities and guidelines.
- d) **Land Use** - The committee discussed CEAC's relationship with Planning Directors, is to explore possibilities for joint meeting. The committee will send out a survey to find out issues of interest by the membership.
- e) **Transportation** - Presentation on "The Safety Edge " started the meeting, followed by discussion on AB 1409 and 2010/11 guidelines and priorities.
- f) **Oversight and Special Tasks Committee** - Reviewed and approved the 2010/11 priorities and guidelines.

10. Other Committee Reports

- a) **Fellowship** - Hospitality activity was very successful.
- b) **Scholarship** - Engineer and Surveyor of the Year nominations are due September 24, 2010.

CEAC President to send a letter to Regional Directors requesting nominations for Engineer and Surveyor of the Year.

--Mehdi proposed and the BOD unanimously passed a proposal to allocate \$2,000 each into the Scholarship fund in the name/memory of Bill McIntosh and Verne Davis, two of the CLODS that recently passed away.

11. Life Membership - Frank Fowler of Fresno County was nominated for Life Membership by Matt Machado and was unanimously approved by the BOD. Frank will receive the award at the October, 2010 meeting of the San Joaquin Valley Road Commissioner's.

12. Unfinished Business

- a) Policy on reimbursement for Spouses. Moved to November.
- b) NACE Conference 2014 (Johnson) – see item five, above.
- c) Vision 2012- Moved to November.
- d) CEAC Mission Statement - Moved to November.

13. New Business

- a) **CEAC Scholarship award winners (McGolpin)** - Award to the top three nominees. The CEAC President and Chair of the Scholarship Committee to figure out how best to disburse these awards.

- b) CEAC Road Report contract – Julie requested that the BOD approve the Road Report contract for Maurice Shiu. Approved by the BOD.
- c) CEAC Policy Committee Operating Procedures – moved to November.

16. Scheduled Conferences

- a) CSAC Annual Meeting, Riverside County, November 16-19, 2010
- b) NACo Legislative Conference, Washington D.C., March 5-9, 2011
- c) CEAC/League Spring Conference, San Diego County, March 23-25, 2011

17. CEAC Board of Directors 2010 Meeting Schedule

- a) November 19, 2010, 10 am (Annual Meeting)
- b) March 2011, time tbd (Spring Conference)

Meeting Adjourned at 12:46pm

Daniel Woldesenbet

Minutes Prepared by Daniel Woldesenbet, CEAC Secretary

9/2/2010

Date

Bill McIntosh - A Letter to His Family



Dear Lenore, Donna, & "FavoriteAuntMaudieWalker",

As I thought about my conversation with Mike Sadjadi, I quickly concluded that it would be just plain wrong to observe Bill's passing in silence---without even a comment to his "family" as I've been privileged to know you.

I'm sure that Mike has told you that I cannot attend Bill's services scheduled for Friday, August 27th. Traveling days are over for Lois and me---particularly since I have not yet regained required adequate mobility since my stroke in January

As we all know very well, Bill was the lynchpin for the "organized" County Engineers. And it's easy to recite his many, and continuing, activities in and for CEAC. They are too numerous to repeat in this letter but the images at the top of the page are an indicator of his value to CEAC for as long as I was privileged to know him since over these past 50 years. And his numerous awards during this time are now silent reminders of his many contributions. And he did these things and gave his creative ideas and opinions despite his being so damned inscrutable, enigmatic, and taciturn---or was it *because* he possessed these traits in a political environment whose primary pastime is *talk and palaver*? He left a significant legacy to CEAC.

In any case, he did much more than leave a legacy. He was an organizational *bridge builder* of considerable substance---with NACE representing county engineers at the national level; with his County Route Marker Program; with building our reputation with County Supervisors and their associations so that we became *partners* with them instead of mere white collar technical go-fers; with the suppliers of local government needs and equipment and the creation of the CLOPS (Peddlers) representing the private sector to the benefit of local government; and many other ideas that improved coordination in and among local government agencies and activities.

What's most important, he contributed all of his services and ideas while gathering around him a CEAC cadre for our own "tomfoolery" activities such as the Association of Big Game Hunters and Pelican Egg Stompers (ASOGHAPES) AT EAGLE LAKE; Buffalo Bull Award; Buddy Award; the McIntosh Lifetime Achievement Award (where he was the first recipient); the Tres Pinos Bedroll Conference in conjunction with the legendary Ed Hanna; and Snappy Toms at NACE breakfasts to supplement the CEAC *Drinking Team* traditions; and the CLODS Barbeque. It must have been all a part of a subliminal training program.

These brief paragraphs hardly begin to describe the stature of the man. Hopefully they are a start towards revealing some of his un-advertised traits. He, along with his deceased co-founders of the CLODS, Ed Hanna, Bruce McClain, and Bill Jones, were responsible for bringing the professional practice of county engineering in from the cold and out from under the pepper tree following passage of the Collier-Burns Act that had such a large part in the transformation of local government.

I knew him at the right time. And I already miss him.

Sincerely, /s/ Jim Pott, "The Admiral Bird", CEAC President 1971

5th Annual Policy Conference Photos



5th Annual Policy Conference Sponsors

“Thank you so very much for your continued support of CEAC programs and activities. You contribute so much to the success of our organization.”



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BEYOND ENGINEERING



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ENGINEERING, INC.**

Buffalo Bull Award - Nominations Being Accepted



(A By-Product of Grass Roots Government)

Awarded Annually by the CLODS for the Most Inexplicable
And Incomprehensible Contribution to
County Engineering in California

Once each year, each county receives a notice requesting nominations for this very special award. **This is that notice.** Your nominations, along with any explanatory material or justification for the nomination, should be sent to the Newsletter Editor , who serves only as the expediter of the selection process. The Editor will immediately make five (5) copies of the submittal and will send the original and the copies to an unknown P.O. Box in Tres Pinos, California.

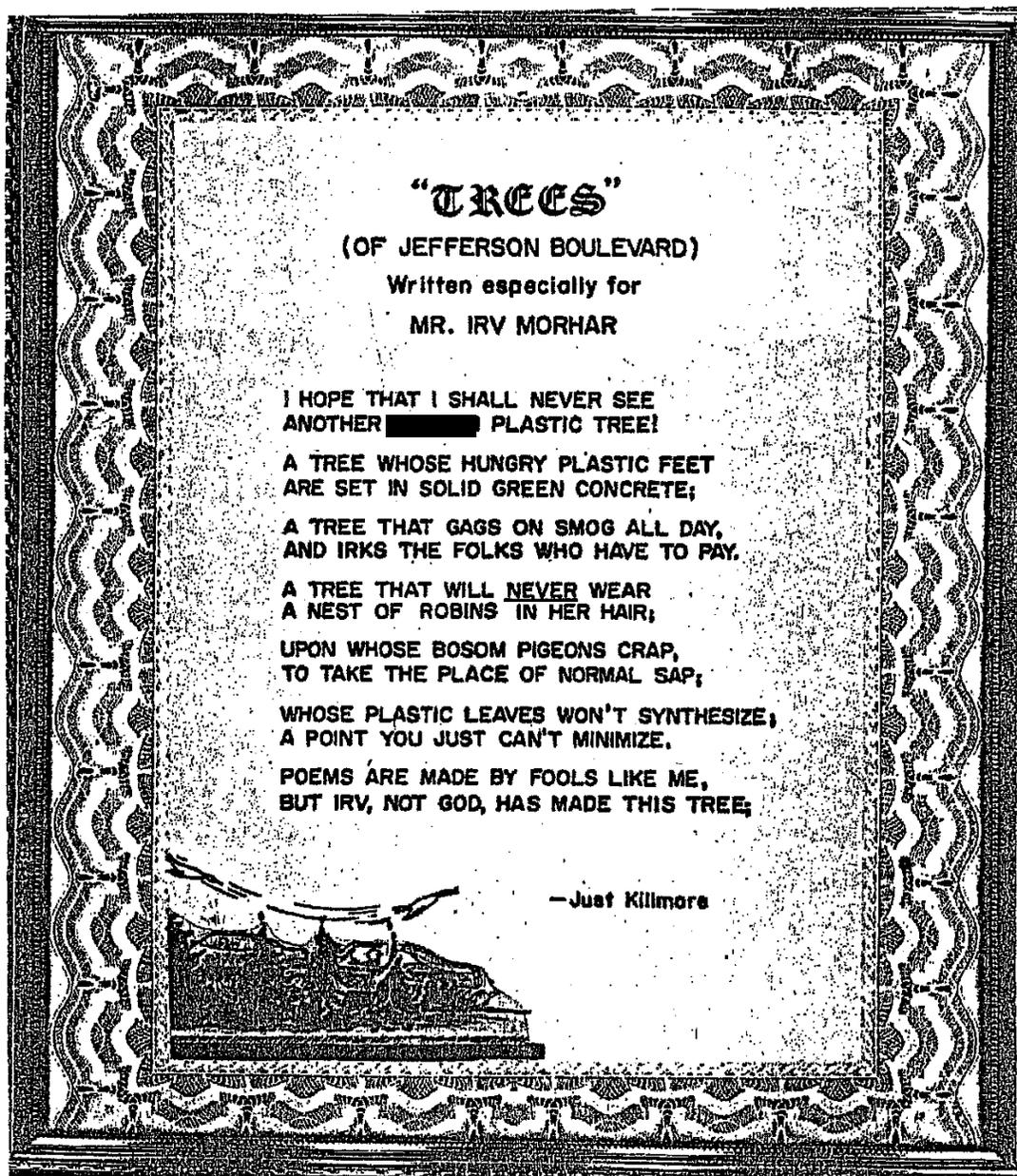
A special CLODS committee, the Tres Pinos Committee, whose members and numbers are unknown, will receive the nominations and determine the successful candidate. By the way, Tres Pinos is located in San Benito County, east of the City of Hollister, and is the site of the late CLODS' Bull Condor's (Ed Hanna) favorite watering hole, "Borovich's Irish Hacienda," and the home of the 8th Miracle of the World, "The Thermodynamic System of Waste Disposal," better known as "The Overhead Sewage Treatment System."

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR NOMINATIONS NO LATER THAN JANUARY 30, 2011.

The "Chosen One" along with two other deserving Nominees will be honored at the
2011 Spring Conference President's Banquet
at the Marriott Marina Hotel in San Diego on March 24, 2011.

REMEMBER....All Nominations will be kept completely confidential.

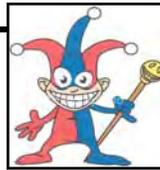
Buffalo Bull Award (cont.)



The above poem was read in honor of Irv Morhar of Los Angeles County, the very first winner of the Buffalo Bull Award, in March 1972 at the Spring Conference in Santa Cruz.

Irv was honored for his bright idea to "plant" some 900 plastic trees and shrubs along a 1.68 mile long stretch of Jefferson Blvd in Los Angeles at great cost and with considerable public protest.

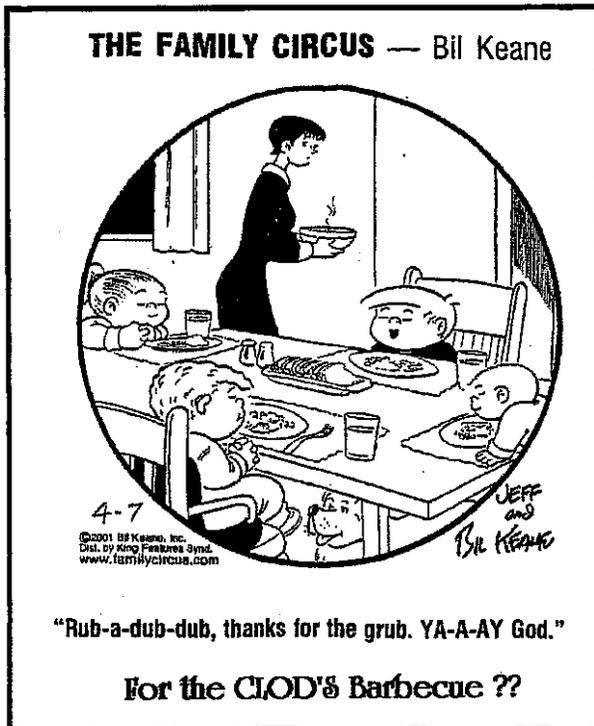
“Jest a Minute”



An employer complained in a staff meeting that he wasn't getting any respect. Later that morning, he went to a local sign shop and bought a small sign that read, "I'm the boss." He then fixed it to his office door. When her returned from lunch, he found that someone had taped a note to the sign that said, "Your wife called. She wants her sign back."

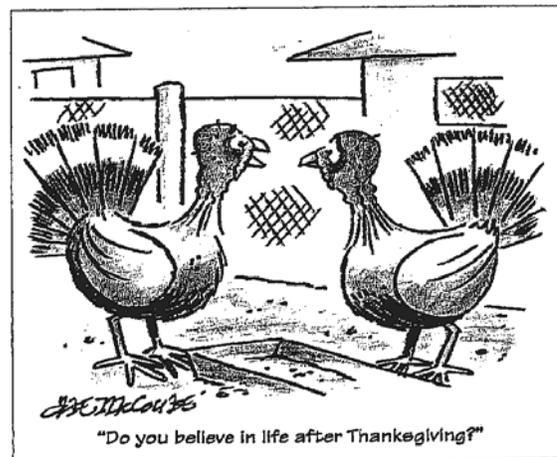


A plugger doesn't worry about his computer getting infected with an Internet virus.



Jake was on his deathbed. His wife Susan, was maintaining a vigil by his side. She held his fragile hand, and tears ran down her face. Her praying roused him from his slumber. He looked up and pale lips began to move slightly. "My darling Susan," he whispered. "Hush, my love," she said. "Rest. Don't talk." He was insistent. "Susan," he said in his tired voice. "I have something I must confess to you." "There's nothing to confess," replied the weeping Susan. "Everything's all right, go to sleep." "No, no. I must die in peace, Susan. I was involved with your sister, your best friend, and your mother." "I know," she replied. "That's why I poisoned you."

A man appears before the pearly gates. "Have you ever done anything of particular merit?" St. Peter asks. "Well, I can think of one thing," the man offers. "Once I came upon a gang of high-testosterone bikers who were threatening a young woman. I directed them to leave her alone, but they wouldn't listen. So I approached the largest and most heavily tattooed biker. I smacked him on the head, kicked his bike over, ripped out his nose ring and threw it on the ground and told him, 'Leave her alone now or you'll answer to me'." St. Peter was impressed. "When did this happen?" "A couple of minutes ago," the man replied.





Happy Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving