



CEAC Newsletter

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WINTER 2007

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE COUNTY ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

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**2007
PUBLIC WORKS
OFFICERS INSTITUTE**

CEAC Annual Spring Conference

*Wednesday, March 14 - Friday, March 16, 2007
Hyatt Regency, Monterey*

Who Should Attend:

- Public Works Directors and Assistant Directors
- Public Works Staff
- CEAC Members and Affiliates
- CEAC Retired Members
- Caltrans Staff
- City Engineers and Assistant City Engineers

This Institute will be held in conjunction with the League of California Cities and offers a great opportunity to network with your city engineers.

> Exciting Guest Program

ACT NOW!

**Hotel and Registration Deadline:
Wednesday, February 21, 2007**

You can easily register online at www.ceaccounties.org.

For further information or questions please contact Katrina Thompson or Patti Hughes in the CSAC/CEAC office at (916) 327-7500.

All Materials Submitted Subject to the "3 Rs" - Review, Revision, Rejection

CEAC - ENGINEER OF THE YEAR - 2006



2006 President Maurice Shiu presents Pat DeChellis (Los Angeles County) with a most deserved award for his outstanding contributions to CEAC and County Engineering at the Fall Conference in Anaheim, CA.

Congratulations Pat!!

A PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

BY

MIKE CRUMP

Ready, Set, Go! That is what I have felt like since taking over the CEAC Presidential duties last November in Anaheim. A lot is going on in several different arenas and the best way to keep track of the ever changing current events and contribute to the process is to come to Monterey on March 14 – 16 and join us at the 2007 Public Works Offices Institute Conference.

In the meantime, I would like to provide you with a brief update on several significant issues. On February 1, 2007, the CEAC Transportation Committee met in Sacramento with CSAC, the League of California Cities, and representatives from the Office of Senate Pro tem Perata, Speaker Nunez's Office, Senator Dutton's office as well as the Department of Finance and Caltrans. The meeting was to discuss the implementation of the \$2 billion in Proposition 1B for local streets and roads and the need to develop accountability measures "similar" to the Governor's Executive Order S-02-07 which include: Front-End Accountability, In-Progress Accountability and Follow-Up Accountability. CSAC staff and the Transportation Committee, led by Pat DeChellis-LA County and Pat Minturn-Shasta County, are fully engaged in the development of this parallel process with the goal of ensuring that the Governor's proposed budget allocation of \$6 million in bond funds for local streets and roads can be approved and directed to both cities and counties next year.

The statewide Local Streets and Roads Pavement Needs Assessment is going forward. We had a great response to our request to match Los Angeles Counties' generous offer of \$250,000. We are still looking for pledges from any city or county that has not yet done so; however, we are at the point where we can begin the work of finalizing the RFP as well as developing the necessary agreements and MOU's between CSAC, CEAC and the League of California Cities. As soon as we work out the details of the MOU, we will be sending out invoices to those agencies who submitted pledges.

In order for the Local Streets and Roads Pavement Needs Assessment process to be successful, we need the support and buy-in from all our Federal, State and local transportation partners which is why CSAC, CEAC and the League of California Cities gave a presentation to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) on January 31 regarding the status and future needs of the local roadway system and to ask for the Commission's support of our statewide pavement needs assessment proposal. George Johnson – Riverside County and Brian McDermott – Siskiyou County, along with 2 city representatives gave a great presentation which was well received by the Commission who saw the local streets and roads pavement needs assessment proposal as an integral part of a seamless transportation system in California. The CTC invited us back in June to give them an update.



COUNTY ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA



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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ~ IGNACIO OCHOA
Assistant Director Public Works/Chief Engineer
County of Orange

January 23, 2007

CEAC STATE AFFILIATE REPORT/NACE ANNUAL STATE REPORT

State Association Name: County Engineers Association of California for year of 2006

Number of Counties: 58

Number of State Association Members: 58 (100% membership)

Number NACE Members: 58

State Annual Meeting/Conferences held at:

- Anaheim, California: November 28 to December 1, 2006 (Fall Conference with County Supervisors)
- San Diego, California: February 28 to March 3, 2006 (Spring Conference with Public Works Officers of the League of California Cities)

Notable achievements of State Association and/or Individual Members:

- 1) Pat DeChellis, Deputy Director, Los Angeles County, was selected as CEAC County Engineer of the year for 2006. CEAC has submitted a nomination for Pat as the NACE Urban County Engineer of the Year.
- 2) Peter Rei, Director, Tuolumne County, and Pat DeChellis, Deputy Director, Los Angeles County, were selected for the Circle of Service Award by the California State Association of Counties.

Important Events in which State Association participated during year:

- 1) First Annual CEAC Policy Conference held in Sacramento, California on September 28 and 29, 2006 to establish statewide legislative priorities for 2007.
- 2) CEAC continues to participate in the City/County/State/Federal Cooperative Committee. The committee meets every two months to address important transportation issues.

Issues and topics of particular importance for which action and efforts of State Association were directed during the year:

STATE ISSUES

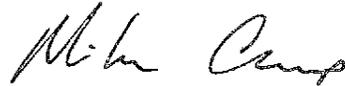
- We were successful in getting paid back all of the Proposition 42 funds (sales tax on gasoline) that were owed to counties by the State for local streets and roads maintenance.
- Voters approved Proposition 1A that stabilized Proposition 42 funding to counties and made it more difficult for the State to borrow these local funds in the future.
- Voters approved \$20 billion transportation infrastructure bond package that included \$1 billion for counties for the local streets and road system.
- We sponsored legislation in an effort to capture a portion of the SAFETEA-LU Equity Bonus monies for the local county road system; unfortunately, we were not successful in getting the bill passed.

- We sponsored legislation to ensure local rehabilitation projects remain eligible for State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funding and successfully placed this measure on the Governor's desk; however, the bill was vetoed.
- We are continuing to partner with State Department of Fish and Game to streamline the regulatory process.
- We developed partnerships with the League of California Cities and the Regional Transportation Planning Agencies on the concept of developing a comprehensive statewide pavement needs assessment study to accurately determine pavement and funding needs to preserve the existing local streets and roads system.
- We partnered with State on development of California's first Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) in compliance with SAFETEA-LU

NATIONAL ISSUES

- We are engaged in efforts to determine the allocation of nearly \$140 million in federal safety revenues
- We are continuing efforts to resolve the Federal (FHWA) delegation of CEQA/NEPA to the State of California
- We are initiating the development of consensus principals for the next federal transportation bill reauthorization due in 2009.

Sincerely,



Mike Crump, Butte County
CEAC President



"I'm your new leader."



*"Hmmm...How many items are on this hat?
I'd better let Dave know how many and what
they are."*

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

By

Tom Bolich, Chair (Santa Cruz Co.)

Prior to 2005, all applications for CEAC Memorial Fund Scholarships first had to be endorsed by the local county public works director in which the applicant resided or attended a college or university . The scholarship awards to the successful applicants were then routed back through the respective public works director for presentation to the successful applicant. Requiring the applicants to route their applications in this manner sometimes delayed receipt of the application by the Scholarship Committee and also was found to result in delay in the applicant receiving the much deserved scholarship award.

To reduce such delay time, in 2005, the procedure was changed to allow the applications to be sent directly to the Scholarship Committee for review and the scholarship awards to be made to the successful applicants directly by the CEAC Treasurer. Tom Flinn, noted in a recent meeting that although the new procedures insure that the review and subsequent distribution of awards to the successful applicants, that the connection and relationship between the applicant and the local public works directors has been lost. Accordingly, it would seem that there should be an effort to continue to employ these more streamlined procedures, while still allowing local public works directors to be involved in the process. I would suggest that at the time the Scholarship Committee sends out its letter announcing the annual scholarship winners, we could also send a letter to the local county public works director (with a copy to each scholarship recipient) suggesting that he/she invite their scholarship recipient to attend a presentation of the award at a Board of Supervisors' meeting. This would also provide CEAC with more publicity about its scholarship program, while not slowing down the award process.

Our Treasurer, Mehdi Sadjadi, pointed out at our last CEAC Board of Directors meeting that our scholarship fund was dwindling as a result of our giving out more money than we were currently bringing into the account. Since the fund was established back in 1974, CEAC has awarded over 50 scholarships totaling \$82,000. Initially one \$500 scholarship was given out each year for the first 12 years before the amount was raised to \$1,000 in 1988. In 1991 the number annual scholarships was increased to two and eventually raised to three \$2,000 scholarships per year in 1999. However, until we can increase the contributions to this account, rather than continuing to award three \$2,000 scholarships per year, the Board of Directors, in approving the current year budget, was forced to make a reduction to two \$1,500 scholarships. During the current year it is imperative that the Scholarship Committee look into various ways to raise more money for our scholarship program and I would encourage our membership to consider donations to the fund as an excellent way to honor our former members and public works directors who have passed away.

I look forward to hearing from the membership and my fellow Scholarship Committee members as to how they would like to see our scholarship awards promoted and any ideas that they might have about fund raising to help replace our depleted funding base for this valuable program.

CALIFORNIA CITY-COUNTY STREET LIGHT ASSN. APPOINTS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Medhi “Mike” Sadjadi, CEAC Treasurer and former Public Works Director for the County of Marin, was recently appointed as the Executive Director of the California City-County Street Light Association (CAL-SLA).

CAL-SLA was organized in 1981 to represent cities and counties before the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on street light rates and to provide information to cities and counties on lighting issues. It now addresses both street lights and traffic control signals.

CAL-SLA’s first rate case involved Pacific Gas & Electric and the setting of electric rates for street lighting in 1984. The next general rate case pertained to Southern California Edison, and the Dan Diego Gas & Electric. CAL-SLA has intervened and actively worked on every mahor rate case concerning the three utilities since 1984.

Street lighting is a unique public service. The CPUC treats street lighting as a separate customer class. CAL-SLA is the only organization that speaks solely for street light customers - cities and counties in California.

CAL-SLA is currently active in the general rate case for Pacific Gas & Electric and has intervened in last year’s general rate case for Southern California Edison. It anticipates intervening in the San Diego Gas & Electric’s general rate case that should be filed later in 2007.

For further information and any questions regarding street light rates, go to the CAL-SLA website, www.cal-sla.org or you may contact Mr. Sadjadi as follows:

Medhi Sadjadi
(415) 250-3551 or
CALSLA@yahoo.com

NEW DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

San Bernardino County announced the appointment of Vana Olson as Director of Public Works on January 23rd. Mrs. Olson replaces Pat Mead who retired as Director in January after 21 years of exemplary service to the County and its residents.

Vana has served as an Assistant Director of Public Works for the past six years and has been with the Department a total of 28 years.

Congratulations and best wishes to Pat in his retirement and Vana on her promotion.

IN MEMORIAM

DONALD A. PORATH

1922 - 2007

Donald A. Porath, retired Public Works Director for Santa Cruz County and a Life Member of CEAC, passed away Sunday February 4th after a lengthy stay at a local care facility in Santa Cruz.

Current Director of Public Works, Tom Bolich, advised that Don was a mentor to many throughout his long career. "We all remember Don for setting high standards for our County's Public Works Department and for his many years of excellent service to the community of Santa Cruz County. As an ex Navy Sea Bee (Construction Battalion) during WW II, Don was a stickler for detail and getting the job done right the first time. Don always said that Civil Engineering schools should all include political science and public speaking in their curriculums so graduates would be better prepared for public service. **We will all miss him.**"

Don's friends at CEAC will miss him as well and we send our condolences to his family.

*Nature's intelligence functions with effortless
ease...with carefreeness, harmony, and love,*

*And when we harness the forces of harmony, joy
and love, we create success and good
fortune with effortless ease.*

~D. Chopra

Beverly Steward, spouse of Lee Steward, CLOD and 1981 CEAC President from Santa Barbara County, passed away this past May. The following article about her lifelong struggle with Parkinson's disease and her inspiration to others was published in the Fall 2006 edition of "PARKINSON Report."

In Memoriam **A VICTOR, NOT A VICTIM**

BY: **MAGGIE GODWIN STEWARD**

The life of Beverly May Kirk Steward should offer hope to Parkinson patients everywhere, but most particularly to young-onset patients.

Beverly was a professional writer (writing a column for this magazine in the 90's with travel hints for Parkinson patients), a poet and gifted artist. She was also active in hosting international foreign exchange students. But I will always remember her as everything I had ever hoped for in a mother-in-law.

She was 24 when she noticed the first symptoms of the disease, which was finally properly diagnosed when she was 30. She died of complications from a stroke on May 9, 2006, at the age of 82, with her beloved husband and caregiver, Lee, and other family members at her side. Beverly was the mother of three, giving birth to her last child, Craig, in 1954, after her diagnosis. She was the grandmother of eight. Two of her children, one daughter-in-law and a grandchild now work in medical fields, inspired by her.

An author and poet, in one of her books, Beverly describes her approach to the disease - "Because of years of misdiagnosis, I decided never again to rely completely on a doctor's opinion, but to educate myself, so that I could judge any advice offered. I suddenly had taken charge of my life, and though I could not always control my symptoms, I was no longer a victim but a victor." Many a time she would come away from a medical appointment, reporting cheerfully

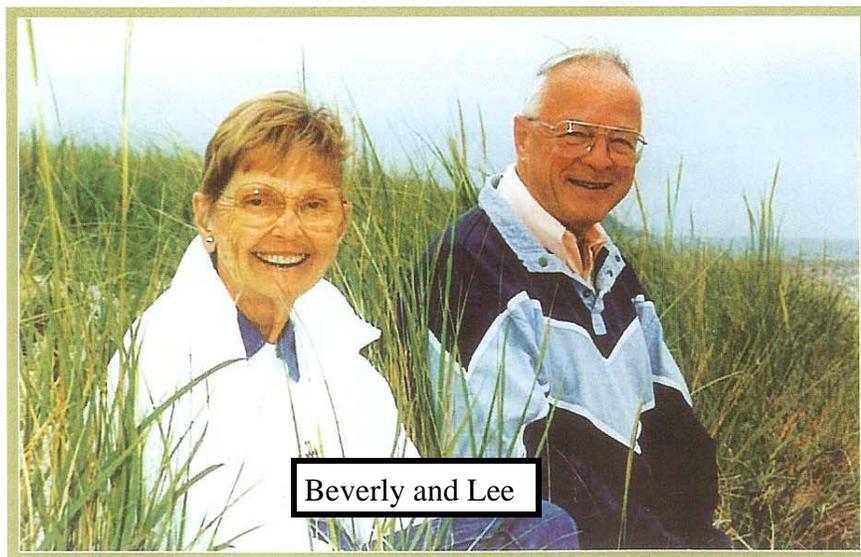
that, although the doctor could not offer her help with a symptom, the doctor was now much better educated about Parkinson after their interaction!

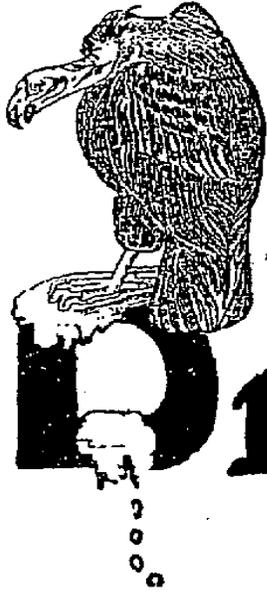
Supporting and informing others with this disease was her inspiration to found the Parkinson Association of Santa Barbara (PASB) in 1978, the first Parkinson support group in California. She continued her leadership role until recently and was a life-long advocate for Parkinson research and funding.

She volunteered as a subject for experimental treatment in 1974 which led to the approval of L-Dopa and described the effect this experience had upon her - "My life changed forever after being part of an experimental medication program at Brookhaven National Labs Hospital on Long Island (1974-75). There the enormous potential each of us has that is unprobed because of fear of the unknown became evident. From then on I was willing to dare the unknown."

Beverly refused to let the disease define her. She completed a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Redlands just before she turned 50. She was a world traveler, taking her last trip less than a year ago to fulfill her desire to see Alaska.

Beverly expressed her faith in many of her poems (including two volumes of poetry about what it is like to have Parkinson) as follows - "Life is a vital, profoundly rewarding experience because of my faith in a loving God who holds me in the hollow of His hand." ■





Droppings

from out of the past

Buffalo Bull 101

by

Dave Gravenkamp, CEAC Historian

You may recall (I seriously doubt that you do) that several years ago I did a story about the first Buffalo Bull award which was presented to Los Angeles County Road Commissioner Irv Morhar at the Spring Conference in Santa Cruz in 1972. Seems as though Irv “planted” plastic trees on Jefferson Boulevard for which he caught all kinds of hell not to mention receipt of the First BB. Bill McIntosh tells me that the BB actually started 12 years earlier in 1960. The following is Bill’s recount of the 1960 events which lead up to the award.

HISTORY OF THE BUFFALO BULL AWARD

The Buffalo Bull Award was created in 1972 by the immortal ED HANNA, Road Commissioner of San Benito County. President of CEAC in 1956-57 and co-founder of the CLODS (with Bill McIntosh, CEAC President 1963-64). To really appreciate the Buffalo Bull Award however, we must go back to 1960 and the story of the “BUFFALO HIDE SACHEL”.

Sometime in late 1959 or early 1960, VIC SAUER, Director of Public Works

Droppings (Cont.)

of Contra Costa County and the CEAC President in 1967-68, lost his briefcase in Los Angeles while attending a meeting of the SCR 26 Committee (which established the California Freeway and Expressway System). The briefcase mysteriously fell into the hands of ED HANNA who “treated” it to conform to the details of a paper he wrote that was to become a genuine classic. When VIC next saw his briefcase, it arrived in the “treated” condition, AIRMAIL COLLECT. In a letter to DAVE Speer, then Road Commissioner of San Diego County, dated April 7, 1960, ED told the origin of VIC’s briefcase...the story of the BUFFALO HIDE SATCHEL. This classic must be read before moving on with the story. It is quoted below:

COPY COPY COPY COPY COPY COPY COPY COPY

***PUBLIC WORKS OFFICER
San Benito County***

Hollister, California

Original dated 4/7/60

*D. K. Speer, Road Commissioner
Civic Center
San Diego, California*

Re: The Buffalo

Hide Satchel

Dear Mr. Speer:

Before we indulge in name calling and casting aspersions on any County as being “cheap”, it might be well if you clearly understood certain historical facts, to-wit: (as reported by LA County Counsel).

- 1. At the 1825 Rendezvous in Brown’s Hole on the Green River, Jim Bridger traded a drunken Sioux Indian out of a weather beaten old buffalo bull hide. The hide wasn’t worth much, but was remarkable for its toughness and large number of arrow scars. Bridger subsequently traded the hide to Jed Smith for a tin cup of cut-back Taos Lightning.*
- 2. In the Spring of 1825 Jedediah Smith had the hide made in to a pair of Alforjas (packsaddle bags) for his forthcoming scouting trip to the west on behalf of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company.*
- 3. In 1827, at San Juan Bautista, Smith traded the Alforjas to Juan Pablo Garces, an itinerant pack contractor, for a sack of acorns. For the next four years Garces used the Alforjas to transport cinnabar ore to the retorts at the Nueva Idria Mine. For the next 30 years Garces roamed the southwest doing odd jobs of packing.*
- 4. In 1860 the Wells Fargo Company foreclosed on Garces for a postage due bill, took the*

Droppings (Cont.)

alforjas and then resold them to the Pony Empress Company, which in turn had them cut up and made in to Mochillas (saddlebags) for the Pony Express Mail between San Francisco and St. Louis.

5. When the Pony Express Company went defunct, the U. S. Government took over the Mochillas for non-refund of subsidy overpayments, cut them in half and used them as carpet bags during the reconstruction period in the South.

6. When the reconstruction finally ended, the Administration (Republican) turned the buffalo hide carpet bags over to the military for use as map cases, where they were used throughout the Indian Wars. Soon after the Spanish-American War, the buffalo hide map cases were sent back from the Philippines and sold as War Surplus. The County of Contra Costa purchased one of these half-mochillas-carpetbag-map cases for their County Surveyor to use as a brief case.

7. The Buffalo Hide Brief Case was inherited by Mr. Sauer when he went to work for Contra Costa County, and he was carrying this so-called brief case when he attended a meeting in Los Angeles in 1956. The LA Health Department condemned the satchel as a menace to the public health and safety. The LA County Board of Supervisors were so ashamed at the penury of those responsible that they ordered their Road Commissioner, Sam Kennedy, to refurbish the satchel at the expense of Los Angeles County and to then return it to Contra Costa County.

9. After weeks of cleaning off layer after layer of blood, sweat, grime, manure, grease, etc., they finally got down to the original leather, still showing the original arrow marks, but now with an addition of bullet holes, carved initials, and burned in messages and slogans, such as "FIFTY-FOUR FORTY OR FIGHT", "REMEMBER THE ALAMO", SURROUNDED BY REDSKINS - SITUATION HOPELESS", (Signed) G. A. CUSTER, cmndg."

10. Apparently somewhere down through the years, the so-called brief case had done a tour of duty with the Navy, for inscribed on one side in carved letters were the entire list of instructions for enlisted personnel in the old Navy, to-wit: "IF IT MOVES, SALUTE IT - IF IT DOESN'T MOVE, PAINT IT." (Signed Dewey, Adm, cmndg.)."

11. The brief case was given 11 coats of stain and rebuffed and polished repeatedly, but the carvings and inscriptions still showed through. Nevertheless, Mr. Kennedy complied with the instructions of his Board and returned the case to Contra Costa - postage collect.

12. After only two months of use, the Board of Supervisors in Contra Costa County gave up. They could stand it no longer. Janitors and Errand Boys around the Courthouse were being saluted and two Supervisors and three engineers had been painted - the DPW had been painted twice.

Now I don't want to be snide about this, but when the Board called for bids on a new brief case, they took the lowest bid. Have you noticed that little flimsy brief case carried by the CC

Droppings (Cont.)

Co. DPW? You can even see where the gilt lettering put on by the advertiser has been rubbed off.

Very truly yours,

*E. R. HANNA
Road Commissioner*

cc: Buffalo Vic

Now that you have read the story, we will proceed.

Sometime after the return of the briefcase (satchel) to Vic Sauer, he and Bill McIntosh put their heads together and devised the “next step”. It was well known throughout the State that Ed Hanna rolled his own cigarettes using Bull Durham tobacco. Vic shipped the satchel to Bill, who together with his Deputy, Dick Uptegrove, added genuine bullet holes to complete the effect, and pieced together a “Do-it-yourself Bull Durham Kit”. The kit was placed in the satchel. It contained items such as (1) a dried cow pie for the raw product which contained a “hint of pine”, (2) a cutting board, (3) a quartering knife, (4) a nose pin to protect against offensive odor, (5) rubber gloves to ensure complete sanitation, and (6) a hand-powered grater to insure uniform size and quality of the finished product.

The kit was then transported to Palm Springs where CSAC was holding its annual meeting. On November 18, 1960 at the CSAC (note, *not* CEAC) banquet, held at the El Mirador Hotel, Alameda County Supervisor Francis Dunn called on Bill McIntosh, who, assisted by Dave Speer, presented the do-it-yourself Bull Durham kit to Ed Hanna. As if by destiny, it had been reported the day before the meeting that Ed was having trouble finding Bull Durham in Palm Springs. This situation played right into the hands of the presenters because Bill had brought with him a large cardboard box FULL of “raw product” (cow pies)...and at the end of the presentation of the kit, Ed was also presented with a “lifetime supply” of raw product. That action would stop most any person. Ed, however, simply thanked the County Engineers for the kit and took the huge box of cow pies, stating, “I’ve been coming to these meetings for years and have seen a lot of this stuff. This, however, is the first time I’ve ever seen it boxed!”

Ed kept the cow pies with the do-it-yourself kit in his office for several years. After the formation of the CLODS in 1965, Ed put his fertile mind to work on a scheme to preserve the cow pie as a permanent memento. In 1971 he had the cow pie encased in plastic, placed a wooden base and had a brass plate inscribed as follows:

**THE BUFFALO BULL AWARD
(A By-Product of Grass Roots Government)**

**Awarded Annually by the CLODS For The Most Inexplicable
And Incomprehensible Contribution To
County Engineering in California**

Droppings (Cont.)

The first award went to IRV MORHAR, then Road Commissioner of Los Angeles County. Irv had planted plastic trees and shrubs along a .16 mile stretch of center divider on Jefferson Boulevard in Los Angeles...an idea that was not accepted by the public *or* the Board of Supervisors. It has been awarded annually since that time. The 34 awards have gone to 20 counties (five counties have received it twice, one county, Plumas, received it three times, and one person, Tom Hunter of Plumas County, received it two years in a row.) The list of recipients is as follows:

1972 - IRV MORHAR, Los Angeles Co.
1973 - CLAY CASTLEBERRY, Butte Co.
1974 - DICK CURRY, Shasta Co.
1975 - CLINT BEERY, Fresno
1976 - SID CANTWELL, San Mateo
1977 - BUZZ STOKES, Ventura Co.
1978 - BILL McINTOSH, Lassen Co.
1979 - VIC POTTORFF, CSAC
1980 - BUDGE CAMPBELL, Mendocino
1981 - DON HEAD, Sonoma Co.
1982 - DEE McKINZIE, Sacramento Co.
1983 - TOM TIDEMANSON, L.A. Co.
1984 - VERNE DAVIS, Merced Co.
1985 - GENE KNAPP, Solano Co.
1986 - BRUCE McLAIN, Monterey Co.
1987 - DON PORATH, Santa Cruz Co.
1988 - MIKE WALFORD, Contra Costa
1989 - BILL CHEFF, Butte Co.
1990 - DAVE GRAVENKAMP, Siskiyou
1991 - JIM BROCK, Plumas Co.
1992 - RICHARD WELTON, Fresno
1993 - BOB SANS, San Mateo Co.
1994 - JOHN MITCHELL, Lassen Co.
1995 - JOHN MURRAY, Humboldt Co.
1996 - MAX BRIDGES, San Benito Co.
1997 - TOM HUNTER, Plumas Co.
1998 - TOM HUNTER, Plumas Co.
1999 - NEIL CULLEN, San Mateo Co.
2000 - HENRY HIRATA, San Joaquin Co.
2001 - PETER REI, Tuolumne Co.
2002 - Not Awarded due to NACE Conference in San Diego
2003 - GERRY SHAUL, Lake Co.
2004 - PHIL DEMERY, Santa Barbara
2005 - GERRY SHAUL, Lake Co.
2006 - CARL BONOMINI, Trinity Co.
2007 - ??????

Droppings (Cont.)

The satchel appeared again in June 25, 1998. None other than the original owner of the briefcase (satchel), VIC SAUER (Contra Costa County, President of CEAC in 1968), presented it to the Old Crow at the dedication ceremony of the "ED HANNA MEMORIAL BRIDGE" in San Benito County. It is now in safe keeping.

And now you know the rest of the story.



"45 RPM" vs "CD"

Would you trust our esteemed "Droppings" columnist and CEAC Historian with your clock?



Dave's Clocks

DAVE GRAVENKAMP
105 4TH STREET
YREKA, CA 96097
PH/FAX: (530) 842-4590

If it doesn't tick
tock to Dave!

Member:
American Watchmakers
Institute No. 14422
Natl. Assn. of Watch
& Clock Collectors
No. 063959

Max,

Thanks for the record
of the 2006 CLODS BBQ.
Sorry that I missed it
but hear that it was good.
Only one problem with
the record - it doesn't
fit on my 45 rpm record
player. But thanks anyway.

RETIRED MEMBER PROFILE

RICHARD BARHITE -STANISLAUS COUNTY

Richard recently sent the following biography to the Newsletter Editor, which is being passed on to the membership and old friends. Not only does it offer a glimpse into the Richard's career, but also provides reflection and insight on several tenets that guided him through his professional life.

“ I hope this is not my obit, but here it goes:

Born in 1923 in Pasadena, California. *(Apparently not much happened that Richard is willing to talk about over the next 20 years)*

I was drafted by the US Army in 1943 for a three year stint at two forts, two camps, and two campuses (Stanford and Oregon State College), where an attempt was made to make me into an electrical engineer. It was not successful, but I can do house wiring. While at Stanford, our electrical engineering professor took us on a tour of early day “electronic” shops. One place we visited was the Hewlett & Packard ‘garage’ in Palo Alto. It was open, but no one was present. Interestingly, it was about three blocks from one of my future wife’s family, whose descendents are still there.

In 1946 I returned to UC Berkeley (from where I had been drafted three years earlier). I majored in civil engineering, but minored in meeting and marrying my current wife (Joyce) or 58 years. We have a son and daughter, with but one granddaughter, age 10.

Following graduation in 1949, I returned to Southern California and went to work for the Los Angeles County Road Department. During this time I had occasion to work directly under Newt Templin, who instilled in me a credo that served me well during my working years. Simply stated: ‘Do what is right and treat people with respect.’ Irv Mohar was another mentor during this time. I recall his leadership could best be described as ‘Get it done.’ During this time Irv, Dave Pierson and I served in an army reserve Engineer Aviation Group, taking summer camps, usually at Camp Roberts.

A few years later in 1956, I became the City of Downey’s first Public Works Director. The City had just incorporated. I had occasion to meet with Jack Lambie, who instilled in me another credo that worked well. Simply stated, ‘when the Board of Supervisors wants a more lenient solution for a constituent, comply as long as it is legal and the funds are available.’ I did not take the political solution as a new standard, but rather would always reiterate my original stand, when a similar matter arose again.’

In 1961, I became Stanislaus County’s first Public Works Director, which combined the positions of road commissioner, county engineer and surveyor, etc. It was here that for the next twenty one years I plied my trade as a civil engineer. Fortunately, we had a

great staff and I did very little engineering. Rather my 'BS' degree was utilized more often than my civil engineering registration number.

I retired in 1983 and for the last twenty odd years, my wife and I have traveled, and also enjoyed our mountain cabin at Pinecrest in the Stanislaus National Forest, some fifteen air miles north of Yosemite."

Richard can be contacted at rgb23@sbcglobal.net.

Please note that three of the engineers that Richard mentioned above are CLODS and CEAC Past Presidents.

Dave Pierson - Imperial County , President in 1965

Jack Lambie - Los Angeles County, President in 1967

Irv Mohar -Los Angeles County, President in 1977

Similar profiles or any articles with information that may be of interest to our CEAC membership are always welcome!

For the next Newsletter, please submit your information to the Editor before April 30th by mail at the address on the front cover or by e-mail to sandramiller455@aol.com.

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY REGION NEWS

At the **San Joaquin Valley Region's** January meeting, President Frank Fowler (Fresno County) presented the Region's Employee of The Year Award to Richard Gilbert, also of Fresno County for his efforts that led to the successful implementation of AB939 in Fresno County. **Congratulations Richard!** The regional group meets monthly on a rotating basis at counties throughout the region to discuss current issues and activities affecting public works. For information on future meetings contact Frank.

San Joaquin County has volunteered to host CEAC's Annual Public Works Secretarial Seminar for 2007. This seminar is a great opportunity for key administrative assistants in your counties to learn more about public works and to meet and dialogue with peers from other counties. If you have any questions on seminar specifics, please contact Nancy Estoll, Seminar Chairperson, at San Joaquin County Public Works Department. **Thanks to Tom Flinn and San Joaquin County for their willingness to host this worthwhile event!**

FALL CONFERENCE



Clay Castleberry Installs CEAC Board for 2007



Dee Dee Bridges presents the 2006 "Buddy Award" to Esther Shiu

CLODS BARBECUE 2006



“The CLODS”

The CLODS wish to thank Herb Nakasone and the staff at Orange County for the first class accommodations for this years’ barbecue. The park setting, the cooking, serving, dining and program facilities were all superb...and the weather was the perfect.

We also wish to thank CLOD Gerry Shaul for all his coordination and program arrangements, which made for a very successful event.

You Done Good !!!!



Maurice Shiu, Mike Crump, Peter Rei, and George Johnson



Max "Sonny" Bridges, Phil "Elvis" Demery, and Clay "Johnny" Castleberry

2006 FALL CONFERENCE SPONSORS



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Compliments of the following
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COUNTY ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
COUNCIL NO. 1

“CEAC wishes to thank each of the above sponsors for their continued support of conference activities. Your efforts contribute so much to the success of our gatherings.”

CONDOR “CHICS” HATCHED IN ORANGE COUNTY

An absolute miracle of nature occurred on November 30, 2006 when ten (that’s right 10) condor chics hatched simultaneously at Santiago Park in Orange County. When you consider that the California Condor has been near extinction for many years, to have such a “freak” event is of monumental proportions.

They seemed to have two traits in common, their sex and their pink coloring, except for one chic of the brood which came into the world with all her black adult plumage (See Photo Below). They came in all sizes, shapes and even, if you would believe, ages.

Soon after the hatch, all of the chics began their characteristic circling, overhead at the CLODS BBQ, looking for dead carrion. Eventually they had to settle for beef tri-tip, chicken, pork sausage and a few even pecked away at the pinto beans (or were they potty beans?). Several were actually observed scavenging on mountain oysters. Later the chicks were observed shrieking, squawking, and hopping around pretending to be American Idols and bragging that “they would survive.”



“The Chics”

SPORTS DEPARTMENT

Fall 2006 Conference Golf Event:

Under beautiful blue skies with just a touch of breeze following a rainstorm the previous day, 23 hardy souls showed up on Tuesday, November 28, 2006, at the Anaheim Hills Golf Course located some 30 miles away from the Disneyland Hotel, site of the CEAC 2006 Fall Conference. Promptly at 10 am our intrepid group mounted their GPS equipped golf carts and took to the fairways. At the end of the day the following folks were determined to have won an \$80 prize with the results being announced at the Friday morning breakfast.

Men's

Low Gross – Ken Miller (Retired - CLOD)

Low Net – Mark Bernas (Riverside County)

Long Drive – Dave Pearson (Kleinfelder)

Closet to the Pin – Rich Olson (San Bernardino County)

Women's

Low Gross – Susan Pearson

Low Net – Nancy Brogan

Spring 2007 Conference Golf Event:

The Spring Conference finds us back at the Laguna Seca Golf Ranch where we played two years ago. Tee off will be at 10 am on Tuesday, March 13, 2007. Entrance fee will be \$90 and we will be playing once again with the City Engineer/DPW group, so sign up early to insure a spot. For more information contact Mort August, Willdan, at 530-244-8500 or MAugust@WILLDAN.com.

National Football League:

The answer is an emphatic “**NO !**” to your numerous recent inquiries to this column.

The NFL player, Number 85, Vernon Davis, who plays tight end for the San Francisco 49ers, is not our Old, Retired CEAC Newsletter Editor, Verne Davis.

The only “drawbacks” keeping our Old Editor from playing for the team is the fact that he cannot see, run, throw, catch, kick a football, or remember the plays. Otherwise Verne has the spirit and is ready to go!

The Golf Widow:

The local police department receives a phone call from a woman who, in a very calm voice, says, “My husband is dead. He’s lying in bed, and he’s been clubbed to death.”

When an investigating police officer arrives, the woman takes him to the bedroom where the victim is lying in a pool of blood on the bed. The officer walks over to the body, and notices a bloody golf club lying on the bed next to the victim.

He inspects the scene, then turns to the woman and says, “Ma’am, it looks to me like he’s been hit eight or nine times with that 5-iron.

“Put me down for a five.” the woman calmly replies.

DISPUTE OVER ROAD TURNS VIOLENT

By *Dana M. Nichols*
Record Staff Writer
January 09, 2007 6:00 AM

SAN ANDREAS - A dispute over a county road that passes through Indian Trust land is getting violent, and needs to be resolved soon, say residents and Calaveras County's top law enforcement officer.

Several people who live along the road near West Point came to the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors meeting Monday to say they don't support the posting of signs and the painting of a white line intended to discourage people from driving on the road. And they said that threats and rocks thrown at the cars of both whites and other Indians who try to drive the road make it more than just a bureaucratic dispute.

"We feel the ongoing and random acts of violence allegedly perpetrated against members of our community by these individuals is tragic and, in our opinion, illegal," said Joyce Rummerfield, a Miwuk Indian, reading from a statement signed by 35 people who live in the area.

Charlie Wilson, tribal chairman of the Calaveras County Miwuk Tribe, said his group posted signs and took control of the road in order to reduce the speed limit to 25 mph and improve safety.

"A lot of people are upset about the speed limit set," Wilson said. "That is what this whole thing is about. We have kids running around on this trust land."

Wilson acknowledged that his tribe's action to take control of the road has created tension. But he said the relatively small group with legal right to live on the trust land was not the source of any violence.

Calaveras County Sheriff Dennis Downum told supervisors that the signs, the line across the road and the rift among Miwuks living along Bald Mountain are big problems.

"We think it is absolutely ridiculous that that road be shut down in any fashion," Downum said. "We need to get this issue resolved. It is going to lead to significant violence up there."

Supervisor Steve Wilensky, who represents that West Point Area, said he and other county officials have been meeting with Wilson and others to resolve questions over the road. But Wilensky said time is passing without any answer from the tribe, or from the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs, which some say has told the Indians that they had sovereignty over the road.

No one responded Monday to a message left at the BIA's media office in Washington.

Wilson said his group was still preparing a response to the county's most recent proposal for the road. And he said his group has no intention of shutting off access to the road.

"Nothing has changed except that (county government) quit sanding it," he said of the county road operations usually done this time of year to reduce the hazard from road ice.

The fact that snow plows, sanding trucks and possibly even emergency vehicles like ambulances no longer travel the upper sections of the road worries Vanessa Geto, 35, a Miwuk who lives there. "That road needs to stay open for our elders," Geto said.

Wilensky asked that county officials draft an ordinance that would assert the county's right to resume enforcing laws and maintaining Bald Mountain Road. He asked that it be placed on an agenda in two weeks if by then the Bureau of Indian Affairs still has not explained whether the tribe has the legal authority to close the road.

Contact reporter Dana M. Nichols at (209) 754-9534 or dnichols@recordnet.com.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

The Tres Pinos Committee, in an effort to avoid last quarter's debacle when they traveled all the way to San Benito County to review the submittals for the Summer 2006 Quiz, which turned out to be non-existent, this time met concurrently at Starbucks cafes around the State through a conference call to review and evaluate the responses to Quiz No. 2 from the Fall 2006 Newsletter.

As you may recall, if you had read the Newsletter, the Quiz asked to **"List as many ways that you can think of to say zero in the English language."**

The Committee again found the membership to be true to previous form and right in line with the nature of the quiz question as **zero** responses were submitted. The gift card that was up for grabs to the successful responder, however, was put to good use in covering the cost of Grande Mocha Latte Espresso Cappuccinos and a slice of day old banana walnut bread for each of the committee members.

After two failed Quiz attempts centered on math and verbal skills, *The Committee* has come to the conclusions that (1) 8th grade level math is too difficult and (2) our membership does not know how to say no (zero). They also concluded to allow the membership another opportunity to shine with a visual exam this time.

Quiz No. 3 - Winter 2007

Name the person shown in the photo to the right. Identify the location for extra credit.

Best answer earns a CEAC polo shirt.

Send your responses to the Newsletter Editor anytime before May 30, 2007.



THIS AND THAT....

A Man Sped down the highway, feeling secure in a group of cars all traveling at the same speed. However, when he passed a patrol car, it pulled out behind him, lights flashing. The police officer handed him a citation, took the driver's signature and was starting to walk away when the man said, "Officer, I know I was speeding, but I don't think it's fair. Plenty of other drivers around me were going just as fast. Why did I get a ticket?" "Ever go fishing?" the policeman asked. "um, yeah...." the startled man replied. "Ever catch all the fish?"

A Woman Walked By a shriveled old man rocking in a chair on his front porch. "I can't help but notice how happy you look," she said. "What's your secret for a long and happy life?" "I smoke three packs of cigarettes a day," he said. "I also drink a case of whiskey a week, eat fatty foods and never exercise!" "That's amazing. How old are you?" The old man thought for a moment, and then replied, "thirty-six".

CLODS BBQ Talk: Two CEAC members were heard chatting at the recent BBQ. One says, "Did you know that lions have sex several times a night?" "Damn," says the friend, "And I just joined the Elks!"



A Bottle of Wine For all of us who are married, were married, wish you were married or wish you weren't married, this is something to smile about the next time you see a bottle of wine. Sally was driving home from one of her business trips in Northern Arizona when she saw an elderly Navajo woman walking on the side of the road. As the trip was a long and quiet one, she stopped the car and asked the Navajo woman if she would like a ride. With a silent nod of thanks, the woman got into the car. Resuming the journey, Sally tried in vain to make a bit of small talk with the Navajo woman. The old woman just sat silently, looking intently at everything she saw studying every little detail, until she noticed a brown bag on the seat next to Sally. "What in bag?" asked the old woman. Sally looked down at the brown bag and said, "It's a bottle of wine. I got it for my husband." The Navajo woman was silent for another moment or two. Then speaking with the quiet wisdom of an elder, she said, "Good trade....."