

## **PETER, PAN & MERRY #51**

A zine for SFPA # 235

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Come and Tarry on SFPA 234

Southerner – I know I’ll miss you as OE – having you in Seattle certainly makes for shorter lag time on getting my zine delivered.// Re Rule #8: You’ve been making up silly rules?! Would that one about paying dues be part of that group?

Steve Hughes – Is 12 sheep for every person something like “Two cars in every garage”? / While I don’t pay a lot of attention to such things, I have a vague recollection of seeing lots of New Zealand woolen products floating around. / Sound like the sheep population is self-selecting for docility/non-cleverness if the ones that can figure out how to escape become dinner. // I hand’t really thought about it, but there’s a Biblical item regarding Jacob’s flocks that would indicate that he was breeding his own variety to allow that same “these are mine” determination to be made at a glance. // Which “remote island” did the pre-Maori New Zealanders escape to? Are there any left? // Yeah, I was thinking that “First through a door” means the women were more likely to trip any ambush. Speaking of which, I was sent a joke that people may or may not have seen:

Beware the Bacon Tree

Back in the cowboy days, a westbound wagon train was lost and low on food. No other humans had been seen for days... and then they saw an old Rabbi, sitting beneath a tree. The leader rushed to him and said, "We're lost and running out of food. Is there someplace ahead where we can get food?"

"Vell, I tink so," the old man said, "But I vouldn't go up dat hill, und down de udder side. Somevun tole me you'd run into a big bacon tree."

"A bacon tree?" asked the wagon train leader.

"Yah, ah bacon tree. Vould I lie? ..... Trust me, I vouldn't go dere.

The leader goes back and tells his people what the Rabbi said. "So why did he say not to go there?" some pioneers asked. "Oh, you know those Jewish people -- they don't eat bacon." So the wagon train goes up the hill and down the other side.

Suddenly, Indians are attacking from everywhere and they massacre all except the leader who manages to escape back to the old Jewish man. The near-dead man starts shouting, "You fool! You sent us to our deaths! We followed your instructions, but there was no bacon tree. Just hundreds of Indians, who killed everyone but me."

The old Jewish man holds up his hañd and says, "Oy..... vait a minute."

He then gets out an English-Yiddish dictionary, and begins thumbing through. "Oy Gevalt, I made myself such ah big mishtake! It vuzn't a bacon tree."

"It vuz a ham bush

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Ned Brooks - Ct Tom: After several years of using a push mower, we just this year got an electric one. The exercise isn't as good, but it does do a rather better job of getting all the grass cut evenly. Not to mention taking the burden of doing the work and spreading it more evenly around since I'm the one who got to do all the work before. // Ct me: Whatever I may think of tobacco use, it is a legal product and Cuba does grow the stuff and make cigars. Sound like an economic resource to me. / And some varieties of Chihuahuas do have hair. Just not bunches of it. // "...figure we call a "circle". Not generally useful in political redistricting." You mean they aren't running in circles all the time? // While I'm sure the ability to make combined power/manual windows is there, I have to doubt the demand for it. // "Your p.3 has two half-inch wide vertical lacunae" I was just trying to restart the fad for streaking. // Ct Jeff: Quite correct, the line "Play it again, Sam" is never actually spoken (although I suppose it could have been in the original script). // Ct Guy: I understand there were a few options for checking on potential damage to Columbia's wing the issue would have been repairing it. At a guess I'd wonder if, even w/o docking ability, it would have been possible to transfer the crew to the ISS pending the launch of something else to bring them down in. // Ct Gary R: Would you care to make a citation for there being "concentration camps" in Iraq. In any case I suspect that "internment camps" would be a better phrasing for any such establishment. / In any case, I agree that we've been led down the road and are now in a place where neither going back nor forward are palatable options.

Richard Dengrove – Condolences on your mother-in-law's death – particularly to Heidi. I have noticed that sometimes this stuff comes in lumps until you just want the year to be done with. // Ct Ned: Which brings up the question of whether photographs are considered "graven images" by various of the more "fanatical" sects of different religions. // Ct Arthur: Heidi named here stoma Madame. As in that Phyllis Dilleresque puppet character? // Ct Tom: How do we know that modern people have no traces of Neanderthal DNA? What do we have to make comparisons with? For that matter, some of the genetic material we have may have been shared between the two groups from the beginning. // Ct me: More fully, rishathra is sex between different sentient species rather than just species from different planets. / How do we know that Jar-Jar isn't still alive and couldn't have sex with Luke? / Still, I don't know that anyone has coined a term for sex between people from different times. The field is wide open for you. Or maybe it just never happens. "Not tonight dear, time travel gives me a headache."

While the original Partition under UNR 181 may have planned for as little commerce as possible between Jewish and Arab areas, I'm sure that there was the hope that relations would normalize over the years. // If the biographer is honest then flaws are considered flaws. Not to say that what's a flaw in one situation can't be turned to advantage in a different one. // My problem with having an outer shell on the comet is that I'd expect it to burn off first so there would never be a situation where there is superheated steam inside a shell and thus be able to cause an explosion. // I wasn't saying that Steve doesn't lose interest when paying quarterly estimated taxes, just that everyone pays taxes up front and thus we all lose potential interest on that money – and those of who draw paychecks have the money withheld biweekly, not quarterly. // I thought "underw're" was the cables you used to keep your peripherals from sagging. // Ct Toni: Well, no. There really isn't anything in the Bible with regard to masturbation although there are instructions about how to purify one's self after "nocturnal emission". ((I almost typoed the penultimate word as "nocturantal")) / And there are restrictions on fighting wars of aggression – they are clearly only for when God says to do so.

DenGrove of Trees – Ct Gary: I don't see any further military interventions around the world (barring being attacked). The troops and money just aren't there to cover that many areas. And as for who the next target would be, I would just be careful lest someone decide to pick on the Grand Duchy of Fenwick. // Ct Jeff: What's to forget? Of course the Gulf War was about kicking Saddam out of Kuwait. That's why, IMO, it was a much more supportable action both morally and legally. // How big an estate did your dad have? Unless it was pretty large it's unlikely that you would get much benefit from eliminating the Inheritance Tax. // Bush, et al are more than welcome to take credit for their successes. I just don't see any there to take credit for yet. (I'll give partial credit on various "homeland" security issues but those have a variety of associated negatives.)

Arthur Hlavaty – However lucky it was, I'm glad you came through your accident better than Guy did.

Rich Lynch – Ct Dengrove: While there were a reasonable number of telescopes looking upward, it's nothing like the number in more recent years. The Tunguska object could have been coming at an odd angle and (clearly) aimed at a remote region. Still I suspect that we'll not know for sure any time soon. // Ct Sheila: It's not just around there that computer-type jobs are scarce. A friend of mine lives near Portland and was let go about a year ago in an out-sourcing move. So far barely an interview and hardly any even vaguely fitting jobs being advertised (this with 20+ years experience). // Ct Gary B: I agree that a membership <20 would still allow SFPA to be a viable proposition. LASFAPA has been below that number for some years now and is maintaining itself pretty decently. / Giving a 50:50 chance of reaching 300 is going a bit out on a limb as that's 11 years off but I can see your reasoning for the prediction vis-à-vis #400 – 28 years is a long way off. /// So Gov. Owens doesn't think that dot-com retailers benefit from infrastructures like roads and utility access? They don't ship? They don't use utilities? As a practical matter, how do they differ from a mail-order company? As for variable tax rates, it seems that ordering on line would make that easy to deal with ("Zip Code? Your tax is X.XX%"). Certainly easier than on mail-order forms.

Sheila Strickland – Ct Ned: I think you have the Patriot Act provision re booksellers reversed. The FBI wouldn't come to seize records based on having sold a given book to a given person, the records would be seized to find out if said person had acquired a suspect book. // Ct me: My reaction exactly regarding the anti-drug commercial using the auto accident track. // While I never had trouble losing sticks of butter to critters, our old dog once gobbled down a block of cheese when I had to run to the store to get some additional supplies.

Mike weber – Anyone for a chorus of Rubber Duckie?

Guy Lillian III – Yeah, I have a question. What idiots would think you'd embezzle from the DUFF to print Challenger? They must think you're a piker. Anyone who knows you would realize that if you were going to embezzle the \$, you'd do it up right and replace your car. // Ct OO: I'm going to take a wild guess and say that the first class postage saves you 4-7 days each issue. Of course some of that will vary depending on where the disty is being sent from. // Ct Don: Of course if people confuse democracy with "capitalist imperialism" that would be no real difference from confusing communism with "Stalinism". It's not the ideals of a system that win converts, it's how the thing plays out in the real world.

Lillian's Spirit – Ct Sheila: "...disappointed in Terminator 3 – nothing new, and such a downer ending." Yeah, this recall election in California is a real bummer. // Ct Jeff: So no comes the question. How does the school then, go about praising a really gifted student if they have to worry about "insulting" the other students or parents? (I know, I'm sure that you can construct a proper wording that does that.) // I don't know about anyone else, but Enterprise has certainly been growing on me. It may be a bit before there's another movie in the series (TNGs done, DS9 wasn't intended to spin into theatres and Voyager is now a closed loop) but it seems to still have some life on the small screen. // From what I've read about TR, W is no more his reincarnation than a pot of petunias is the reincarnation of a sperm whale. (Heck, just this year I've seen or been quoted a couple TR quotes that are completely at odds with Bush's foreign policies.) / Dean continues to make inroads although now the Clark question seems to be rising up again. // Ct Janet: "Can mares be steeds?" Generally mares would have to be peels. // Ct Janice: In short, Sarandon and Robbins were uninvited to the Hall of Fame event that (featured? Included?) honoring the film Bull Durham because they were afraid the two of them would use the occasion for political purposes.

Ct me: I can equate 007 and Trek in that for both types of movies you know what to expect and have a known base of fans. Besides, "Trekkies" are a phenomenon of the TV show (even if the movies have nourished it). // If the Republicans want to make fun of the Vermonter that's their look out. Right not he's got Dean Drive going for him. // Ct Toni: Much of the Koran – like part of the Bible – are designed as legal codes.

Randy Cleary – While we also got a chunk of change back from our escrow/impound account when we refinanced, I'm not considering that as "profit" since we no longer have those accounts and will have to cover insurance and property tax directly. That's not a problem, just something I'll have to pay attention to. // Ct Dengrove: I've played Devil's Advocate as well. Not to play with people's heads but because I can sometimes see the other argument (even if I disagree) and want people to think about their position rather than just parrot agreement (although just voting against Bush next year is OK by me. No reason needed.). // Ct Don: I'd agree. We shouldn't have gone into Iraq, but now that we're there we have certain obligations that need to be fulfilled. // Ct me: If he does have to pay estimated taxes for the upcoming quarter that would certainly increase the upfront burden and change my reaction to that issue. Hadn't thought about that. // I don't want the occupation to go badly or there to me more terrorism because of it, but having the linchpins of the reasoning for going into Iraq fall out seems not a bad idea. // I don't think we'll get that big a refund very often, but last year with the expense of Kay starting her side business there was rather more to deduct than usual. Maybe this year too with a write-off she'll be getting.

Tom Feller – We had a letter to the editor castigating Disney for Pirates because it was so scary. All I could think of was "Doesn't this person so much as look at the ratings for the movies she takes her kids/grandkids to see?" She must just go Gee, Disney, Little Kids cartoon stuff. // Ct Dengrove: Of course Turtledoves alternate WWI also runs backwards to a 2<sup>nd</sup> Civil War sequence in the 1880's and is moving ahead through the 1920s. This is truly an epic bit of rewriting. // OK that sequence of how to deal with found needles and hypodermics sounds reasonable, if not ideal. After all you can get small sharps containers to keep on the housekeeping carts.

Self – Well the massage gig at the County Health and Human Services dept has fallen through. The Risk Manager thinks it's too risky (we'll ignore that I carry my own insurance) and the CAO thinks it's "inappropriate" (whatever that means). So by way of getting around this I've arranged it so that my job at the local Home Health agency (which is across the street from HHS) will let me invite HHS workers over when there are open time slots. Now I just have to get this all coordinated so its possible to let the right people know at the right time.

Jeff Copeland – I can imagine that it would have been an interesting experience for the pilots to be talking with someone who'd ridden the plane in actual conditions. // Ct me: Yeah, the more I read about TR (which isn't all that much yet) the more I think we could use someone like him again. / Mike Resnick's TR stories? // Ct Dengrove: As the more right wing types are pro-Bush I doubt there would be any cheering from them if something happened and I like to think that us folk on the left aren't that vicious. From the other side however I can imagine certain conservative elements that would have been openly pleased with Clinton's demise (let's just cite certain remarks with regard to the WTC into evidence). // ct mike: Mayhap Timothy Dalton's Bond was leaning to the mean side, but that seems clearly closer to the books than the Roger Moore version. Brosnan does nicely slide between the suave, slightly wise-ass and the cold, hard aspects // Ct Arthur: If they only checked out the Lower 48, then it was probably a sigmoidoscopy rather than a colonoscopy. The former is much easier than the latter which, I think, is almost always done under anesthesia.

Janice Gelb – Ct Ned: Well Dean seems to be forging himself into a pretty credible Democratic candidate and it begins to look like Wesley Clark may decide to toss his hat in (although it'll take a little time before he can show if he really has any traction. // Ct Tom: True. They treated X-Men 2 as less of a sequel and more of second installment. In many ways not significantly different from not getting backstories in the Trek films, or rehashes in Back to the Future, etc. // Ct me: Of course. Fail-Safe, as written, works in its time and place – as well as provoking discussion about that time and place – to rework it for modern times would require a whole different set of assumptions (although in some ways Hunt for Red October makes an effort at that). // Oh I don't know. I think ongoing pointing out of the erroneous, misleading and outright wrong statements that have come out of the Administration will do their damage. And truly, I'd rather it were that than that there are lots of attacks, injuries and deaths in Iraq. // Now comes the question of who has the rights to given songs. If it's the artist and they want to make some or all available on the net, that's fine. But if (for any period) it's the record company then the decision should be theirs. // I'll be interested in what I have to say about teaching at the Religious School too. // Ct Jeff: Just as you're not bitter about the non-criteria of "extracurricular activities" counting against you, I'm not annoyed about my college English teacher who – at the end of the year – showed us her grading scale that included the "extra credit" points in so you HAD to have done some to get an "A". // Ct Gary R: I thing both music and scents trigger memory paths with no real conscious component. // Well, Issa (who bankrolled the recall drive) is OUT. Schwarzenegger is IN. Only Bustamente (among mJOR Democrats) is IN. And now the recall may be postponed until March unless the Appeals panel ruling is overturned quickly. What A Mess. And it's not even silly enough to be amusing.

Eve Ackerman – Congrats and condolences on the good and bad news about local soldiers of your acquaintance. // The three of us agree about Pirates. Not only was it very enjoyable, per Kay it was very surprisingly so. Certainly it wasn't first on our priority list of summer films (although on the list it clearly was). // Considering the use to which you put Micah's trip to the ER, are you going to write that off as research? // Did you give Micah Jeff and Liz's #? // Ct Toni: The most recent reference I have says that the literal translation for what Eve was is "a helper corresponding to him" and there are surely ways and ways to define that. Although for me "complement" strikes about the right chord. / In any event the subtleties of this sort of translation is a good point to bring up.

TKFWR – We've shown we'll go in and take over a country if we suspect USE of WMDs? We've shown we'll do it for suspicion of wanting to have them. But the obvious question is when do we invade France, Britain, Russia, India, China and Pakistan – all of whom are acknowledged owners of nuclear weapons? Or will we only go in if it's suspicion rather than fact? /// Hank: What "interesting change in the MidEast" are you talking about? /// Ct Jeff: Seabiscuit (the movie) isn't really slow. It just needed to have the background of the key players spelled out so you could see how the threads spun together. // Cuts in gov't spending usually result in babies and bathwater getting thrown out indiscriminately. It may not be what we meant by smaller gov't, but it's often what we get. // Ct me: Thanks. I can yell when I want to but generally find that (even if I'm initially upset – which I wasn't in this case anyway) letting the calm flow in before the fingers start to fly is a rather useful plan. / As to whether the non-distinction between citizens and non- is an ambiguity or whatever I would point out that – Biblically – the law is the same for the Israelites and for the stranger among them. I'd think that would have had some level of influence. // No con until LosCon in November (and only Friday then). // Ron Bennett: Sorry ANY comparison between sending Jews back to Nazi Germany and sending Elian back with his father to Cuba just churns by stomach.

Gary Brown – Ct Lynch: I think you'll enjoy Seabiscuit. It's better'n the movie. // Ct me: I must not feel vulnerable enough since I don't think much of the job our leaders are doing. From a purely domestic security point I guess they're doing OK since nothing major has happened in two years but on other fronts... // The point is that Democrats need to stand up for their traditional positions and constituents. You don't want to alienate that middle ground but neither do you want to ignore your base. Be something other than Republicans. // Ct Janice: Like I said about having some background information about sports one is interested in. The Bambino as the "Greatest Living Baseball Player".

**APAC = NC<sup>2</sup> (Natter x Comments)**

And, even more finally, from a couple weeks later. We went to see Seabiscuit. Having read the book we can see where they trimmed the tale, but it really is a wonderfully done film and – well – unlikely story. Being of the extreme youth that I am, the only real reference point I had for this racehorse was from a reference or two in some of the old Warner Brothers cartoons (this is a surprise?). It's a (semi-) true to life feel good story. Buy the book. See the movie.

One more thing even though most of you won't be able to fully appreciate it. I've been playing golf now for 34 years. Over the early part of July my game started to come together (again) and I started to feel like something was going to happen. Actually two things happened.

1) I won my first two matches in the club tournament (one in which I got 8 strokes and one in which I gave up 11 strokes) and 2) By far more important to me, I finally shot a score in the 70s. I've had rounds in the low 80s now a few times but always missed out a chance here or there to trim a couple of strokes. Suffice to say it's one of those major milestones and I was (and am) a bit giddy over it. ((Yeah, yeah, how can you tell the difference?))

Since I was talking golf above I should at least update things there first now that I'm adding on to my natter. It's taken almost a month, but I'm finally going to play my third round match in the club tournament. First I left my name and # there for my opponent. About a week later he called and left a message but the signal dropped out at the exact wrong time and I lost the last three digits of his phone number. Checking at the course was not help – it wasn't even listed in the men's club computer – so I left another note and waited. About a week later I finally found someone at the course who could help – he didn't know the guy's number but did know who his father in law was and looked up his number for me. Call and leave message, get another call back and this time get the number. When I called it was just before we were leaving for a short vacation and he couldn't make the one time I had. So I asked him to reserve a time for the following Saturday and let me know when to be there. Get back from trip and there are two messages from him that we need to agree on a time?? Call him back. They were going to be away Saturday and not back until Sunday afternoon. I had no open evenings all week (at least not early enough) and so we agreed on the next Saturday (ie tomorrow as I type). It's time to get on with this thing.

The abovementioned vacation. Again just a short visit to the Bay Area, staying with Elizabeth Jenkins and Phillip Saunders. We'd originally arranged to take Quincy to the kennel, but I realized a few weeks earlier that I did know a possible house-sitter. When that worked out I cancelled the reservation. This time around was bit weirder from the home perspective. With all of the closer neighbors not really in a position to help out if we hadn't had a sitter – one is getting on enough that he's not as active as he used to be: the usual neighbor was recovering from heart surgery (albeit doing quite well) and his wife was on her back with a bad sciatica attack; and the other usual neighbors were on "death watch" for her mother (who is still hanging in despite several "this is it"s). Very odd summer on that level.

We opted for an easy day's drive with stops as we felt the urge. First stop was "Bear Meadow" (near Richardson Grove about 10 miles south of Garberville) (OK, about 80 miles south of Eureka) for a light bite of breakfast, the usual restroom / "enough of the windy road" rest stop before getting to Willits and a quick visit to the Willits park for some leg stretching. It's clearly an easier drive this time of year than it is in the Winter since we had no landslides or road closures to contend with and only minimal road work issues (although that may be a budget issue). As we rarely have the opportunity, I offered everyone lunch at the Fresh Choice (soup/salad/bread/pasta/dessert bar) just after Santa Rosa and we all sated ourselves comfortably before taking off once again. A bit further on we decided to go visit a place we had driven by often – Oolompoli State Park. We now know why we drove by. While there are some hiking trails, they appear rather unshaded and hilly (not a major issue but not something you want to do on the fly either) with rather little to do or see near the parking lot. Yeah that could be a deceptive perspective but there you have it. Maybe some time when we're a bit more prepared for that sort of thing.

Made it into Oakland easily that afternoon with no traffic issues until – as usual – that last little bit as 80 & 580 merge before 80 heads over the Bay Bridge into San Francisco. Dinner that evening (and semi-theme for the week) was a tortilla casserole – enjoyed while watching the Dodgers pull out a victory over the Cubs (note that I'm a Dodger fan and Phillip is a Cub fan).

Sunday I attempted to repeat my successful effort of two years ago with the PacBell ticket lottery. Take an early BART run to SF and train to the park, get a number and wait. When the opening # was picked, I was rather far back in the sequence but took the gamble since I was there anyway. No bleacher seats available and no sets of three anywhere. Oh well. At least I had some pleasant company – I ended up acting as “native guide” for someone who didn't quite follow the system and wasn't sure about the transit lines either. While not exactly a reward, she did offer to make a jaunt for donuts while we were waiting in line. So back across the Bay I went and the three guys spent the afternoon in a rousing game of Solarquest (interplanetary Monopoly) that Phillip won despite having the worst situation half way into the game (something about him missing all our properties and us landing on his often).

Dinner that evening was planned as a ferry ride to Fisherman's Wharf and a stroll over to the Buena Vista (a pub) but we cut it too close and missed the ferry. So it was over to BART for a train ride across the bay and a bumpy, slow, crowded trolley ride to the wharf followed by a bit more of a stroll than had been originally anticipated – albeit not of the historic proportions of the Ron Bounds Death March. A brief detour was made through the Cannery building to check out some of the shops (and to hear Phillip play impressively on the Alpenhorn on display in the rather diverse music store). Finally to the Buena Vista (U.S. popularizer of Irish Coffee) for dinner. (I was somewhat surprised to find that a table was open considering the fairly large crowds we'd been working out way through all the way from the trolley stop.) After dinner a tour through Ghirardelli Square prior to attempting to walk back for the trolley. When the first trolley we found didn't even stop because it was so full, Miss Elizabeth took matters into her own hands (or feet) and declared we were heading to the taxi stand for a lift back to the BART. A good plan that, as it would have taken two empty trolleys to pick up all the folk waiting at the stop.

Monday, the three of us headed out for another try at the ferry ride across the bay with rather more success. We caught the 9:00 ferry from Jack London Square and had a lovely ride - via Alameda and the ferry terminal – to Pier 41 at Fisherman's Wharf. The water was smooth, the sky was clear and the view was just fine. Definitely a civilized mode of transportation.

First things first, on arrival we checked on the available tours: Alcatraz tours were booked to the end of the week so we opted for a more general Bay Tour. While we didn't get to hear a much of the narration was I'd have liked over the engine noises, it was still a good tour with some history of the city, the Golden Gate, Alcatraz and the Bay Bridge. I hadn't realized just how much of the city is landfill – they found sunken ships when building the TransAmerica building which is a noticeable ways in from the current waterline. And of course we got good views of all the harbor seals hanging out on the floats.



Following that we opted for playing tourist and gawking at various of the shops on Pier 39. Perhaps not surprisingly the place that got the most attention (and virtually all the business) was a store called the Sock Market which was loaded with all sorts of weird, colorful and gaudy socks the likes that someone like me could not ignore (for that matter, neither could my son or my wife). Random got the toe-socks he's been looking for and my personal favorite is the set that comes as a threesome of multicolored socks. (We decided that a good name for a slightly expanded version of the store would be "Our Socks, Necks and old Laces") We also waited a good-while to get Random's name painted by one of the vendors that does that. Each letter is also a picture (dolphins, whales, dragons, birds, etc) and it was quite fun to watch. Maybe we didn't explore the length and breadth of the wharf area but there's just too many folk there to want to do that anyhow. So we caught the mid-afternoon ferry back to Oakland thus avoiding the commuter crowd in both directions.

We got home early enough for Phillip, Random and I to engage in a lively game of Iron Dragon. I won't go into the rules except that it's an Empire Builder variant. In any case it lasted quite some time and Phillip barely squeaked out a victory with a hair more cash as we both reached the monetary goals on his last turn.

Tuesday we made a slightly longer drive and headed for Santa Clara and the Winchester Mystery House. I'd been there once before (albeit I can't recall when or with whom, 20years ago seems about right) but Kay and Random hadn't seen it. Despite fairly good directions, I missed the place the first time by because the sign for it is hidden by the sign for the Cineplex that is just across the driveway.

For the unfamiliar, Sarah Winchester was the widow of the Winchester Rifle man. She had the advice of a spiritualist that the spirits would leave her be so long as her house was not finished, so she kept adding on, changing and rearranging the place until – by the time of her death – the place had scores of rooms, halls, stairs, doors, windows, etc. Some of which were of practical use and some of which weren't. It really is quite an amazing (and amusing) place to go through and it occurred to me that it would be a cool venue for a contra or regency dance if you could actually get access. (Even better, for you old-timers, it would be really, really great to have a plonker hunt in there.) No whine or complaints from the 12 year-old kid so it must have been an interesting tour.

Wednesday it was time to take Random to the bus for camp. I gave myself plenty of time as the pick-up place was near Daly City (on Brotherhood Way) and it turned out that the traffic was rather light so we got there early and first. The synagogue, while technically on Brotherhood Way, is on a drive that is separated from the main road so I had to double back to get there. I also mistook several other houses of worship for my destination before it struck me just why the named the street what they did. Despite my initial concern, several people and the bus did show up and I sent him on his way.

Per my plan, I swung around Lake Merced to see if Harding Park golf course was open yet (post renovation). Unhappily it wasn't so I headed back to Oakland and my back up plan of playing the other renovated course (Metropolitan Golf Links) by the airport. Nice course. My walking it was a bit more tiring than usual as the two people I played with each had a cart and thus I was moving a bit faster than usual to keep from hold them up too much. Afterwards, somewhat tired, I tried to find Carrie's place from my memorized address. I think I was close but having forgotten to write it down before I left in the morning...

Next morning was my second personal day and I went up into the hills to play Lake Chabot golf course. A rather interesting drive in as the entry road crosses four fairways and you have to watch out for flying golf balls. The course is also nicely set into the natural contours of the area – which is to say there's a lot of up and down hill to it. Oddly the walking this time felt far easier than from the previous day. Maybe the extra view helped as we were high enough up that from some places on the course you could see all the way across the bay to SF (a bit less haze and it may have been possible to see the Golden Gate Bridge).

After getting home and having some lunch, Kay and I took her usual trip over to wander around in Berkeley for a few hours. We did make to it Cody's on Telegraph, but Eric was off that day. Kay was a bit disappointed in the lack of variety in the street vendors this time around but other than that it was a pleasant stroll and way to spend the afternoon.

Friday we headed home via Santa Rosa. We'd discovered that Random had forgotten both his sweatshirt and his toothpaste and arranged to swing by the camp (only about 6-8 miles off our route) to drop them off. Turns out the office staff all already knew just who he was. What a surprise. As always, we made our Trader Joe's supply run (including an interestingly –shaped bottle of Ginger Beer).

Continuing on our way, we stopped at Real Goods in Hopland, the BlueBird Café (an ostrich burger for me as well as admiring their soft drink selection (Bubble Up, Moxie, Grape NeHi, etc)) and Bear Meadows, near Garberville, for a refreshing cold drink, before arriving at home.

Moving right along, the next day we went to a good-bye party for a synagogue family that is moving to Monterey (I think I've mentioned this) and found out from our neighbors that, while her mom was hanging on, they'd had to put their dog to sleep. It was getting weird.

Right now it's Labor Day and that about wraps it up for Ghod. And, as you can see, I've had no time to update since then.