

San Francisco

May 1-8, 2010

Saturday, May 1 - After a nice lunch at the Shipyard in the Portland Jetport, we boarded our flight to Washington Dulles. The flight was uneventful as was our flight from Dulles to SFO. One surprise was that we were given seats in Economy Plus (thanks United). We also arrived in San Francisco about forty minutes early. We picked up the rental car at Dollar, which was the Ford Fusion we had requested. Even though I had forgotten to bring the directions, I was able to recall how to get to the apartment. Steve met us at the door and helped us carry our bags up the two steep flights of stairs. Boy, was it worth it. The view was spectacular, even at night. From the front balcony was the 180° view of the bay, with [Alcatraz](#) right in the middle.

Downtown was fully visible from the back balcony. The other wonderful thing was that Steve had obtained a temporary parking permit (only thirty-three dollars) so that we could park anywhere in the neighborhood. He explained what we needed to



know about the apartment (lights, TV, etc.). We also learned that he was an



actor and that his wife was a professor who had a new job in Houston. So, they were planning to leave soon and we had been fortunate to be able to stay in the apartment before it was no longer available.

Steve and I went back to the car, which I had parked in Steve's

driveway while we got settled. We noticed that someone had pulled out of a metered parking space on Green and Steve explained that I could park there free until nine o'clock Monday morning. So, I hustled down and grabbed it.

When I returned, Cindy and I drank the bottle of wine that had been left for us and then crashed around midnight.

Sunday, May 2 - Since I was still on East coast time, I couldn't sleep so I went out to explore the neighborhood around six o'clock. I found a bakery we had read about in the Zagat guide, [La Boulangerie](#), but it didn't open until seven. I decided to walk to the Safeway across from [Jackson Square](#) to get some supplies (milk, V8, newspaper, etc.) and return later to get some ham and cheese sandwiches for breakfast.

Later, we walked to the [Ferry Terminal](#) building on the [Embarcadero](#) where we had oysters on the half-shell and oyster stew at [Hog Island](#) for lunch.



Afterwards, we went to [Bay Crossings](#) in the Ferry Terminal building where we bought our seven day Muni passports which would allow us to ride buses, trolleys, and cable cars during our visit.

Since we were fairly close to Jackson Square, we walked to the Safeway there for more supplies. We didn't think to use our new passports to get back to the apartment and made the mistake of walking all the way back, carrying everything and fighting

the crowds of Chinese people doing their Sunday shopping in [Chinatown](#). We were exhausted by the time we returned.

After a relaxing afternoon and a couple of drinks, we wanted to have a small-plates dinner so decided to try a local tapas restaurant, Iluna Basque (now closed). We shared Baby Shrimp & Potato Croquettes with Aioli, Serrano Ham, Lomo Embuchada & Chorizo, Piquillos Pepper Stuffed with Bacalao and Pears Poached in Red Wine & Brie. Unfortunately, it closed in December 2010.

Monday, May 3 - Once again I couldn't sleep past six o'clock so I drove to the Marina Safeway for yet more supplies. This time I got enough to provide breakfast for the rest of the week. When I returned, I found a parking space on Green Street just one and a half blocks away from the apartment. That temporary parking permit was beginning to pay for itself.

As we had planned, we took the cable car (which stopped right at Green and Mason) to Market Street where we walked to [Yank Sing](#) to have dim sum for lunch. After lunch, we walked to Macy's at Union Square to buy a new blazer for me since my old one had started coming apart. We got a great deal on just the one I wanted that happened to be on sale.

By dinnertime, I was still pretty full of all the dim sum we had for lunch but Cindy wanted something substantial. She had seen a little place on Columbus Avenue called [Il Pollaio](#) that had good roast chicken. I ordered a Rocket Arugula pizza from Calzone's (now closed) on Columbus. We walked to Coit Liquor (corner of Union and Columbus) for a bottle of wine, then to Il Pollaio where we got a half-chicken, and finally, to Calzone's to pick up my pizza. Neither of us could finish so we put it in the refrigerator for Cindy's lunch on Thursday, when I planned to meet my FFIC friends for lunch in [Novato](#).

Tuesday, May 4 - We took the cable car to the Ferry Terminal building where we planned to have lunch with the Lazy Men. We ordered some lunch at Mijita (now closed) and Cindy waited while I met everyone at the entrance.

Dave and Kay were the first to arrive followed by Howard then Pete. We all had lunch at a Mijita bayside table. Unfortunately, Pete had a meeting at one o'clock so we had to break it up too early. I could have spent the whole afternoon there with those guys.

After lunch, we went to [Golden Gate Meat Company](#) in the Ferry Terminal building where we bought some lamb chops. We also bought a beautiful heirloom tomato at the [Farmer's Market](#) and some lentil salad at Boulette's Larder (now closed). We

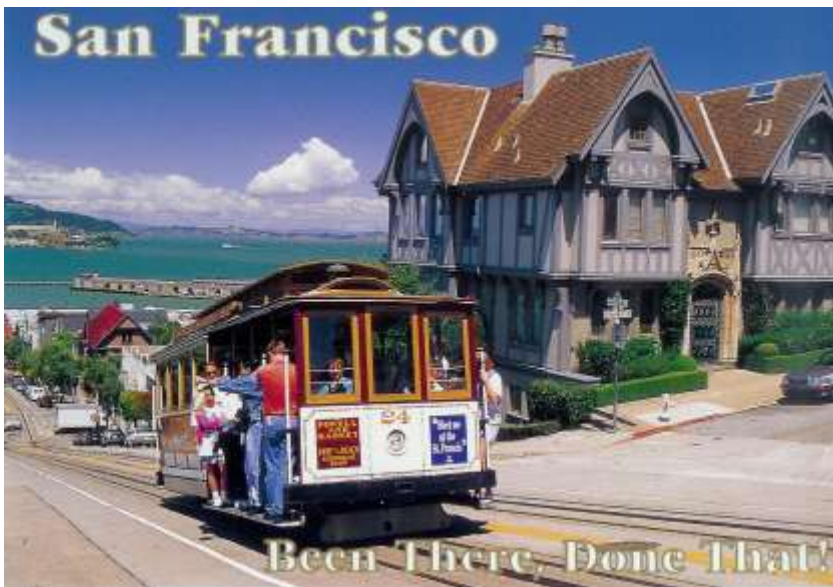
were set for Thursday dinner at the apartment.

For dinner, we took the cable car to [Tadich Grill](#) where I had their fabulous, deep-fried prawns and Cindy had their famous cioppino. As a special surprise, the vegetable that was usually served with the shrimp happened to be creamed spinach. Yum!

Wednesday, May 5 - We decided to have a relaxing morning then go out and find something local for lunch. We were fortunate to find a tiny place on



Columbus called L'Osteria del Forno (now closed). Cindy had read about it in Zagat and they recommended the roast pork, which was on the menu. Additionally, it was offered on a sandwich made simply with home-made focaccia, lettuce, and tomato. It was amazing, probably the best sandwich I've ever tasted. With a glass of red wine, the perfect lunch. Afterwards, we took a long walk around [Washington Square](#) on another beautiful day. Our planned dinner at [The Slanted Door](#) (moved) was almost ruined because the [California Street cable car](#), to which we transferred from the [Powell Street cable car](#), had not arrived by our reservation time. I phoned the restaurant and they said they would hold our reservation for ten minutes. When the cable car still had not arrived five minutes later, I decided to flag down a cab. I phoned the restaurant again and asked them if they could



make the reservation for a few more minutes. The reservationist told me she would have to check with the manager. Fortunately, they told us they would hold it. We almost lost the reservation since that place is so popular. There was

a large crowd waiting for a chance to get a table when we arrived. Anyway, we had a terrific dinner. We shared an appetizer of yellowtail sashimi and lamb sausage & kusshi oysters. Cindy also had an unusual asparagus soup which consisted of a thin broth with thin slices of asparagus and fresh Dungeness crab. For our entrees, Cindy had the famous Shaking Beef and I had cellophane noodles with Dungeness crab. After dinner, we had planned to take the California Street cable car again but it wasn't there so we took one of the trolleys on Market Street (whose conductor had an attitude) and caught the cable car at Powell.

Thursday, May 6 - When I went out for a paper, I was pleased to find an open parking space just outside the apartment so I rushed over to get the car and move it there.

Dave picked me up at eleven o'clock in his resilient Oldsmobile (it's been wrecked three times) and we headed to Novato for lunch with Steve, Bill, and Ted. We were able to sit at a table outside at [La Hacienda](#). With the great weather, such great company, chorizo con huevos, and a couple of Negra Modelos, it was another great lunch. When we got back to The City, Ranger Dave took me on a tour of his station at [Fort Point](#) and [Crissy Field](#). In all the years I lived in the Bay Area, which was the first time I'd ever been there. I even got to watch as the surfers rode the waves coming under the [Golden Gate bridge](#) at Fort Point.

As planned, I began preparing to grill the lamb chops for dinner but soon realized that the grill wasn't quite up to par. I guess it must have been low on propane but I eventually got it working enough to finish the chops and we had a nice, but late, dinner.

Friday, May 7 - Cindy and I drove to [Tiburon](#) for lunch with Pat. We had a nice visit sitting outside at Guyamas (now closed) overlooking [Angel Island](#). Afterwards, we went to [Sausalito](#) and Kinko's to check-in and print our boarding passes for our flight tomorrow.

Dinner at [Chapeau](#). I ordered escargots and sweetbreads. Cindy ordered the salmon trio and poussin. To end our meal, we had a great cheese plate. All-in-all, it wasn't as memorable as Clementine (now closed).

I was extremely fortunate to find a parking space on Mason Street right around the corner from the apartment. That was a tremendous help since we had to leave early for the airport.

Saturday, May 8 - Awakened at five-thirty to begin preparing for the trip home. Everything went as planned and we boarded the plane right on time. We arrived in Chicago a little early so we were able to get a bite to eat and watch some of the Player's tournament at the bar. The tailwind we experienced on the flight from San Francisco also got us to Portland a little early as well. We're missing San Francisco already.

