

1996: Betsy's journal entries for our time in San Francisco

June 9 (Sunday)

The weather got better & better as we crossed the country. We saw beautiful snowy mountains from the plane window. San Francisco was sunny & blue skied—about 70° —and very windy. What a surprise!

Bill was waiting for us at the airport. We stowed our stuff in his car & headed into town. As we parked in front of his place, a fire across the street caused major excitement.

After putting away our luggage we hit the pavement. We hiked up to a place with a great view. It was so windy, my sunglasses almost blew off my face.

We stopped for ears, sushi, and beer, then headed back to Bill's to pig out. Mike got a little carried away buying sushi. We ended up with sushi for 6--\$41.00.

We went to bed early. The last highlight of the day was me having a nightmare. I thought a street person was chasing me in our house in Uniontown. I actually yelled "Help!" Bill asked if I was OK. The rest of the night I dreamed about identifying bobolinks!

June 10 (Monday)

We got our bikes together without too much trouble and left Bill's apartment shortly after 10:00 a.m. Our first stop was Kate's Café for breakfast. I had California oatmeal—7 grains with lots of fruit and nuts—it was delicious and kept me from getting hungry until late afternoon.

We biked to Golden Gate park and toured the Japanese tea garden.

An older couple stopped us to ask about our bikes & Mike hit them with his sales pitch.

We rode out to the Pacific and the Cliff House/Ocean Beach area.

It was incredibly windy and we were glad to pull out our jackets. The pictures & descriptions of the Sutra Baths were very interesting—I would have loved to see them. The "vending machine player piano" was great.

Later in the afternoon we dropped the bikes off at the Valencia bike shop right next to We Be Sushi! Mike's bike needed to have the wheel \_\_\_\_\_. We walked to La Victoria Bakery (2937 24th Street) and found that ears cost the same there as the first place we bought them. The owner told us that they had owned the business for 25 years & now the sons had taken it over.

In the evening we took the bus to North Beach and ate at Pasta Pomodoro. It was delicious. I had green wide noodles with grilled vegetables and goat cheese in tomato basil sauce.

It was a fairly early night. We were bushed!—We went to bed around 9:30.

June 11 (Tuesday)

We set out on our bike tour this morning shortly after 9:00. We had bagels & cream cheese for breakfast at a little outside café right on the water (on Embarcadero near the ferry building). A hungry pigeon spotted us and landed on our table. Then we pedaled on to Fisherman's Wharf where we saw hoards of barking sea lions. We wandered through the shops & bought some post cards. By that time the tourists were getting pretty thick and we were ready to leave.

We rode along the ocean and to the Presidio and Golden Gate Bridge. Once when I tried to stop, I couldn't get my feet out of the toe-clips & crashed—another nice big wound on my almost healed knee. Finally we arrived back at Bill's around 2:30. After napping and showering, we went to pick up the rental car & loaded the trunk with most of our stuff except the bikes. Then Mike & Bill & I walked to Pancho Villa's Tacherita. I had a super vegetarian burrito. It was good but so huge I could only eat half of it, so we wrapped it in foil & on the way home Bill gave it to a homeless person.

June 12 (Wednesday)

We got up at 5:00 a.m., packed up our stuff and headed out to Yosemite shortly after 6:00.

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June 27 (Thursday)

We left Port Orford with its beautiful views around 10:00 a.m.

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June 28 (Friday)

We got an early start, a little before 8:00 a.m. We enjoyed some more glorious scenery along the coast & finally arrived in San Fran shortly after 11:00. It took us quite a few trips to get everything back into Bill's apartment. We relaxed awhile and Mike bathed & shaved & we headed out to return the car, then on to Pasta Pomodoro for, you guessed it, more food. It was delicious. We sat in the window, enjoying watching the beautiful day & the tourists. As we walked home we stopped to listen to some street music. The streets were becoming packed with people, not just the regular tourist crowd, but people in town for the gay & lesbian celebration.

In the evening we dropped Bill off at his "female perversion" movie & walked on to the market at 16th and Valencia to get some "ears."

Only 4 left & we bought them all.

June 29 (Saturday)

We biked to Kates for Breakfast, but were both too tired to do anything very energetic after that. We rode to the park, left our bikes & walked. We watched people doing Tai Chi on the Music Concourse, then walked around a lake, watching ducks & turtles.