



**California: San Luis Obispo Marathon, Santa Barbara and LA Trip Notes**  
**April 4 – 17, 2013**

***First is the marathon – yet it was not the trip's priority***

I came to see friends, a long-lost cousin, re-visit San Luis Obispo, and learn about Santa Barbara with Tom. I'm mostly OFF marathons but I'd committed and it was a way to see Judy, Marv, Maryanne, Sharon and Ellen along with a few additional nice treats for coming to the area.

***Why run SLO (San Luis Obispo)?***

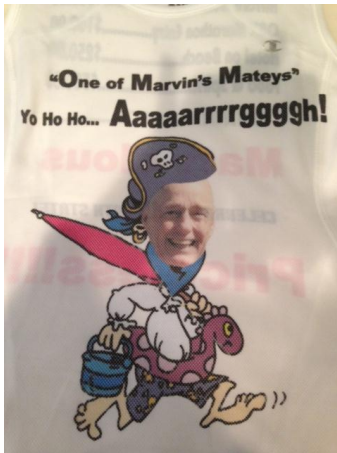
- Easy registration though only online and a bit pricey at \$130 plus \$7 for bus cost
- SLO airport is small and usually requires a plane connection; we'd used LAX and drove 4 hours
- Tourist opportunities abound from Hearst Castle to the historical towns and the many missions not to mention the many more vineyards with a seaside view
- Big under-the-tent expo at the famously-silly Madonna Inn conveniently located off Highway 101
- Medal is pretty much okay but it won't win any awards
- T-shirt is long sleeve and high tech and the SLO logo is neat; it matches the nice quality zippered cinch bag
- No host hotel though Best Western and Embassy Suites are close enough to the Madonna Inn where there's the Expo plus the bus to the start
- Bus to the start was at 4:30am: it was cold, more distance than we realized, extremely windy, and basically hard to think of starting out at 4am so Hero Tom drove four of us to the start at 5am for a 6am start
- Finish line is at the Madonna Inn and Expo area and within a mile or two of the hotels
- First half of the marathon is interesting and full of spectators; second half is vineyards and a bit mundane and repetitious; more hills in second half and some say they are steep (I liked them)
- Fluid stations are every 1 ½ mile with water and some odd-type hydration; no food except GU; ask volunteers and they will feed you well; I surely gained weight
- Course stays open for 8 hours officially and they accommodated folks up to 8:40
- Finish line food is smoothies, hot oatmeal with toppings, chips and miscellaneous goodies; food was available for the 7 hour finishers; within a quarter mile is my favorite McDonalds anyway



***Results?***

I'd say that I was grateful to want to stay with Marv and have an excuse to go slow. Marv is a bit older than I am and hadn't run a marathon for a very long time so we clearly needed and tried to take all the time we were given. At 7:02 we both were just grateful to be out there and finish at all. We stopped, chatted up fluid stations, had multiple pit stops, danced, took a lot of pictures, etc. and still managed to finish before they closed down the finish line. The finish line even had food, workers, and a photographer when we finished, as well as still being there for Judy and Sharon's finish at 8:40.

Speaking of Marv – it was an honor to run with him again as I'd taken part in his 50-state quest. Here's a picture of his 50-state commemoration shirt and some of the group who showed up for him. I wore that shirt for this SLO marathon.



I'd met Marv in Mobile 2009, was with Marv and Maryanne in Hartford plus Cape May 2010, for Marv's OBX finish in NC, in Tulsa 2011 and finally this reunion at SLO. We have booked another reunion for November in NM. For the Tulsa marathon Marv and Maryanne were residing there at the time and they kindly toured Judy and me around the town and museums as well as fed us very well. Maryanne is one fine chef.

Judy I'd met in Albuquerque also in 2009 but I think she was shy then and we scared her off only to meet her a multitude of times thereafter to include on her home turf of Atlanta for the hugely big and hot and famous Peachtree run when she toured me during my stay too.

### ***No longer marathon virgins***

Congratulations to Cousin Cheryl and her daughter Jenny for their first marathon. Cheryl then promptly booked a hike to Glacier. Judy, Maryanne and Sharon all completed their goals too though not without comment that this was a very difficult hilly course with 25mph headwinds. Here they are with Cheryl's son Sean. I'd say Cheryl is holding up very well: she'll be hiking Glacier with Beverly and me in August in celebration of her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. Perhaps all my family is slated to begin life anew at age 60?



## Scenes from the marathon



It was very dark when we started at 6am; this is Judy hiding behind Marv as they kidded around all morning. San Luis Obispo (SLO) uses the initials to their advantage; here's SLOTIQUE. Even a Chinese dragon dance and drummers were out so early for us and they stayed until the last runners/walkers were through.



Lots of sweet old houses on the course; this little gal had curled up in her dog's bed; the dog looks lost outside the bed; wonder if the dog finds as many snakes as we did? All were dead.



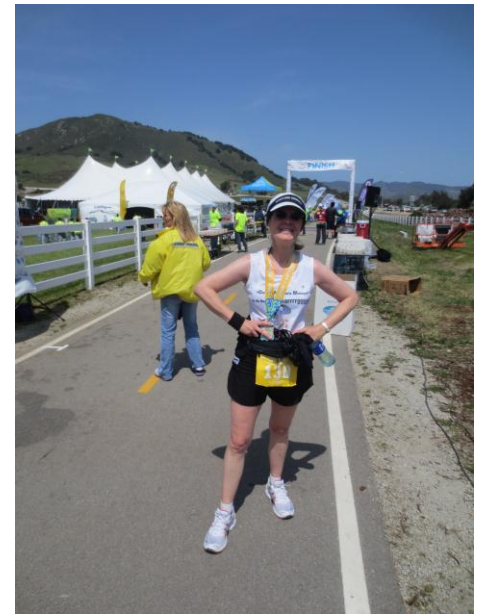
This sign was almost lost in meaning to us: 26.2 miles! Because 26.3 is just plain crazy! A porta potty on wheels? I made lots of stops but refused to use this one. It takes a real man to wear a pink tutu and all these boys must be real men. I hope they won for the best fluid station.



The sign in the background says Dead End; this is a new way to spectate and puts new meaning to Tail-Gating. Does Frank Sinatra live down this street called "MY Way" or what? Lots of open space and vineyards so good thing there were some fun spectators and signs. I thought they said RUM!!



We are happily at the finish line and I say happily because neither of us had any business on a full marathon course with the few amount of miles we'd been doing, but doing we did. We put new meaning to "Doing Good" as in just DOING is GOOD. But now I'm off to revert to half marathons.



### **Tragedy at Boston**

This was such an upheaval for many: whether disastrous or emotional or sympathetic. I probably wasn't the only one obsessed with looking for friends and counting heads this day and the two runners who remained elusive for the longest were in fact the two with the greater and more personal stories. One crossed the finish line at 3:59 just before the 4:09 bombs struck and the other was just behind at mile 26. Of thirteen I knew of who were participating most had a story and a strong lingering emotion but fortunately no physical injuries. Here's a story about one young gal which reminds us how many were affected in different ways:

*Found a pub and recalled so much of the events of the day with a young girl who was working the first aid tent ... at the FINISH LINE! She was shaken and downing the beer rapidly apologizing that I did not get to finish my race! She encountered blood and body parts, smelled flesh burning and applied pressure on limbs. She was apologizing and I realized the depth of her turmoil when she simply said, "I did the best I could...I did all that I could do!" as she wept. She couldn't have been older than 28. Just a kid herself I can't imagine all she did and saw. After all she simply thought she was going to be icing knees and taking care of blisters. I'm still raw in emotions.*

*I actually find myself now feeling the impact of yesterday's tragedy. I continue to hear police sirens that are not really there.*

Thank you Diane. Your life has changed, our lives have changed, and I hope those sirens you kept hearing days later are abating.

And my 'thank you' to the multitude that came in via phone, text, email or message asking and hoping that I wasn't at Boston. I was flattered that you thought I might be at Boston (smile) as it's been since 2006 and 2007 that I was qualified enough to participate. Yet having been there made the tragedy all the more emotional for me and having been in Israel the month before with their marathon threat came to mind. I was proud of my friends who proved to be survivors and also importantly made no complaint about not being able to cross the finish line. Can you imagine that some did complain?

### ***Onto better things - shopping***

Now why do we shop outside of the tax-free clothing advantage of New Jersey? Tom bought this super Tommy Bahama shirt to add to his collection and it's a perfect memento since it was purchased in wine country. If you're not a wine person, note those 'legs' on the glass which are a sign of a good wine. Everyone on the Hearst Castle tour of the wine cellar got it, but some shoppers did not and thought it crass.



While in Santa Barbara I bought practically a whole wardrobe at SAKS. My last big purchase was another near-wardrobe of French designer Anne Fontaine which Tom had encouraged me into and I still haven't worn them all.

### ***It's a small world***

Since my employer owned a company headquartered in the area, I'd spent time here about ten years earlier, first for scouting out the area and then to bring analysts for a plant tour as well as vineyards, meal and tour. One of the officers of that company was a trail runner who I admired but was hesitant to contact after I left the company. Imagine my surprise to find him in the line immediately next to me! He'd once been the race director too. As we talked and reminisced someone snatched my bib number (probably by mistake) so I got to know the SLO marathon staff better too and they handled the loss efficiently. It was in all a delightful afternoon despite needing to ask Tom to wait around a bit longer for me.

### ***San Luis Obispo touring***



We had fortunately reserved the Hearst Castle tours ahead of time as they were sold out for at least a few days which I find amazing since they are \$25 per tour and there are four tours. We took three: main castle, cottages, upper rooms and missed the night tour. The garden tour is self-guided. Its reputation as the most glorious home/castle in America is probably well deserved but it's a dark old medieval look that we are not so fond of. It was well worth seeing anyway and the views from atop the hill can only be viewed by taking a tour. Of all crazy things, I bought a jacket at the gift shop and of course it was in the only allowable colors: black and white.

One day we had a private tour guide of my cousin Cheryl (smile) and we toured the vineyards of Paso Robles with its own magnificent terrain and views. Cheryl declared that she saw some tasting rooms she had missed before but it's no wonder as there are so many. We bought enough wine to be sure we'd have some left over to give to friend Ellen on our way home but darned if we didn't drink every bit of it.



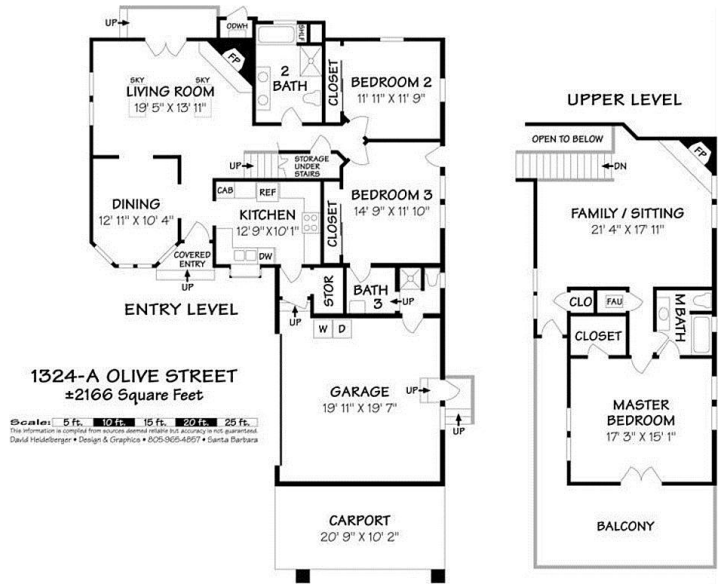
At least twice Tom and I had walked the quaint little streets of SLO; we toured the History Museum which was an old Carnegie Library, took the first of many mission tours, and had a picnic then drinks

along the edge of the lovely flower strewn canal. The oldest house and gardens were another tour, which was located near to a Frank Lloyd Wright home. Flowers in bloom as well as unique trees throughout town are most enjoyable.

As most of these visits will be featured in Tom's photo show at [www.TomsKoi.com](http://www.TomsKoi.com), I'll spare you here.

### Santa Barbara for Seven Nights

*Historic Downtown Retreat (from their website) - Tradition and Comfort in the heart of Santa Barbara: Contemporary comfort meets classic Santa Barbara in this fabulous home in the historic Bungalow District. Completely remodeled in 2008, no detail was left untouched in this gracious property. Each room has been finished with attention to style. The master suite with 4-poster King bed boasts a large deck overlooking the city. The other 2 guest rooms are also tastefully furnished with King beds. All bathrooms have been thoroughly updated with new tile, floors, and fixtures. The home is owned by successful film producers. Much attention was given to the large and beautiful Media Room. A 58" flat screen TV w/DVD and Surround Sound are enjoyed from brand new comfortable seating. Included is a daybed for extra lounging. A warm and cozy fireplace is the finishing touch on this special area of the home. A second fireplace adds atmosphere to the family/living room. Reading and conversation are made easy with the quality furniture and lighting. The living room couch converts to a queen bed for extra guests. The kitchen has new stainless steel appliances and is fully stocked with everything a discriminating chef would need. New cabinetry, in the classic bungalow style, creates an environment for slowing down and relaxing while in the kitchen. The property is centrally located. It is an easy 4-5 blocks to State Street with all the wonderful shopping, dining and attractions of Downtown Santa Barbara. It is a 5 minute drive to the historic Santa Barbara Mission, the Natural History Museum, and Mission Canyon; the gateway to our beautiful mountains. The Santa Barbara Bowl, just a short walk, offers concerts under the stars. In addition, there are fun parks for the kids close by and a neighborhood market 1/2 block away.*



Welcome to Historic Downtown Retreat



Master suite with city view deck



**Living Room**



**Bedroom #3 w/ private bathroom**



**Dining Room with Bay Window**



**Media room w/58" flat screen TV (not shown)**



**Bedroom #2**



**Kitchen**





**Bedroom #2 bathroom**



**Classic style in Santa Barbara**



**Upper deck lounge area - left half**



**The beautiful Santa Barbara coast**



**Santa Barbara Courthouse at twilight**



**Stearns Wharf - where State St. meets the Sea**

## ***We like an overview tour early in our stay***



**Stearns Wharf and the Dolphin Fountain:** Stearns Wharf offers great views, wine-tasting, shops, restaurants, seafood market and a bait and tackle shop for fishing. Stearns Wharf and the famous Dolphin Fountain stand today as Santa Barbara's most visited landmarks.



**East Beach:** East Beach is a favorite spot for locals for volleyball (including pro tournaments), skating, paddle sports, art shows and just plain relaxing. It also has a great panoramic view of the Santa Barbara mountains.



**Andrea Clark Bird Refuge and Santa Barbara Zoo:** A scenic lagoon wildlife preserve with water birds, gardens, footpath and a bikeway. The Santa Barbara Zoo is home to 160 species of mammals, reptiles, birds and insects. More than 400 animals are exhibited in open, naturalistic habitats.



**The Harbor:** At Santa Barbara Harbor you will find interesting stores, delicious seafood restaurants and the occasional celebrity yacht. Naturally sheltered by mountains and islands on a southward facing coastline, it is one of the best harbors in the world.



**Museum of Natural History:** The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History has a rich history dating back to 1876. Exhibits and collections change throughout the year to educate and entertain children and adults alike. Make sure to check out the iconic 73-foot Blue Whale skeleton displayed out front!



**Old Santa Barbara Mission:** Founded in December 4, 1786, the Santa Barbara Mission is open to the public with a museum, gardens, chapel and historic cemetery. Portions of its extensive water works are preserved in this park.

***Eating is everything!***



We went from one restaurant to another – just like the white heads in Palm Beach who get up in the morning, walk to the deli for breakfast, discuss where to lunch and over lunch discuss where to have dinner. That was US! And life is tough: there are so many choices with over 500 restaurants in Santa Barbara and many good Mexican choices too. Surely I gained . . . .

***If you like beaches – this is said to be the American Riviera***



Found on the web: *Sunsets are spectacular in Santa Barbara. A favorite spot under a beautiful Cypress tree at Butterfly Beach in Montecito, the lights across the water are in downtown Santa*

*Barbara. When the tide is low you can walk all the way along the beach from this spot to Stearns Wharf, but the tide was definitely not low in this picture.*

### ***Tourism is not unlimited in Santa Barbara***

To fill a full week one would need to like beaches, take a water tour out to the Channel Islands (not at all convenient and starts from forever down the road in Oxnard) and spend more time in museums. Those we didn't do. After going to the Botanical Gardens, driving the upper mountains and cliffs, visiting the old Dutch Village called Solvang, wandering Montecito and being on the look-out for Oprah again, walking the shopping and restaurant streets, going through another Old Mission, their old Presidio fort which included an exhibit on the now extinct Japanese community of early 1900s, enjoying a multitude of roses in multiple parks, partaking of their long wharf and seafood, taking an overall city tour, visiting an old Spanish hacienda, sitting on our deck in the sun for all of 20 minutes, etc., we got saturated. We do after all have our own beaches and one can't take in all 500 restaurants though we gave it our best. We did appreciate their mild weather and it was nearly perfect for all of our stay at each location.

### ***Spanish versus French***

It's my belief that we've made the effort yet we've not been successful at learning to appreciate Spanish design, living conditions and homes. What the wealthiest of Spanish lived in during the 1800s and early 1900s was worse than camping out and downright primitive while the French knew and employed delicate and elegant materials and workmanship. Living and traveling in France is probably not conducive to appreciating Spanish style. Even current living needs and conditions are felt to be a world apart as evidenced by the plethora of apartments we've turned down in our quest for a place to stay in Barcelona for an upcoming holiday.

### ***The Hilltop Clark Estate***

This was an interesting situation: a 104-year old had a huge hilltop beach front estate filled with museum pieces that she left to the city for use as a public museum. She hadn't been there for 50 years but lived in NYC with a caretaker. She had no living relatives but the kids of a first husband have sued the estate for their share and thus no one has the estate and might not for many years.

Other big mansions were open to the public with one called Lotus land that was once owned by a Polish woman opera singer; tours were \$35 each. Maybe she got the big dollar idea from the Hearst castle?

### ***Update on San Luis Obispo from Tom to Ann***

*We've just checked in to our hotel in San Luis Obispo, CA where Diana will do a marathon on Sunday with several of her running buddies from the east and Midwest. We'll be here for five nights then go south again to Santa Barbara for a week. I've rented a house there and even though I lived in San Francisco in the early 60s, this is my first time to this part of the state. So far so good. We arrived in LA around 2 and got our rental car and because I am one of the Avis preferred customers, asked for an upgrade and got a lovely luxury car called the Genesis from Hyundai. This is their top of the line and I've wanted to drive one ever since they came out with it last year. Really a nice car. We drove all along the coast and stopped off on the way in Santa Barbara. Lovely town. Had a bite to eat and a drink and a bit of a walk around then came the next 140 miles to SLO.*

### ***Update on Santa Barbara from Tom to Pat***

- 1. We've just had a Paso Robles regional wine tour with Diana's first cousin who lives here. We hadn't seen her in many years but Diana convinced her to run the half marathon and she and her 22 year old daughter did and enjoyed it. Now Diana's working on her to hike with her in Glacier National Park in August and I think she's seriously considering it (she's very persuasive as you know).*
- 2. We just finished a nice brunch in our very nice house. We slept in late for a change, got up and had coffee in front our gas fireplace in the living room with the sun coming in the skylights, had a few minutes on the*

*terrace outside the master bedroom on the second floor but the sun got a bit hot. Three bedrooms with lovely king sized beds, three baths, lots of room everywhere. I'm obviously happy. Also on the second floor is the screening room with a 52" flat screen with nice lazy soft sofas, surround sound and plenty of movies available. We walked out to the end of the pier last night so I could satisfy my fried oyster craving. Really an old-fashioned fish house doing a booming business. Good and that took care of it.*

*Our Hyundai Genesis is a great car and did very well the day before yesterday for an all-day wine tour - through the hills and mountains on twisty roads with more vineyards and vines than I've ever see anywhere. We'll be hard pressed to drink up what we bought before getting on a plane. Had a great time and was guided by Diana's first cousin who lives in San Luis Obispo. Now single with grown girl and boy.*

### **Los Angeles with Ellen**

We met Ellen at the Getty Center Museum for a noon delightful meal in their elegant restaurant known for good food and amazing views. Champagne was followed by a 2pm guided architectural tour then a 3:30pm guided garden tour. We'd done much of this before and would readily do it again. After a few exhibits including illuminated manuscripts which Ellen understands more than any docent, impressionists, Reuben's flit with Asian art and of course the gift shop, two outdoor sculpture gardens, we were off to still another repeat – a Westwood cemetery of the rich and famous such as Marilyn Monroe, the Odd Couple, and Dean Martin. For some reason it sounds like Hugh Hefner is soon to be moved and buried next to Marilyn Monroe. Wonder what that's about? Ellen was certain the Monroe crypt had been changed and sure enough . . . .

From the web:

*Pierce Bros Westwood Village Memorial Park is hidden behind the towering high-rises that line busy Wilshire Boulevard; you could easily drive right past the park without even realizing it was there. Yet at this tiny cemetery near UCLA, you will find the final resting places of some of the most famous stars in Hollywood, including **Marilyn Monroe, Donna Reed, Dean Martin, Natalie Wood, Roy Orbison, Carroll O'Connor, Jack Lemmon, Walter Matthau, Don Knotts, Eddie Albert, Peggy Lee, Mel Torme, George C. Scott, Burt Lancaster, Eve Arden, Carl Wilson, Eva Gabor and Truman Capote.***



This tiny cemetery is so much easier to see stars than the huge Forest Lawn Cemetery though I'd gone there to see Rudolph Valentino and others. If you'd like to read more, see the end of this document.

This walk was before we headed to another but local eatery called Soleil off Wilshire. That's a story in itself but I'll save it for another time or for the foodies. It was a long but great day and we didn't get the car turned in and checked into our hotel until nearly midnight. We still managed to get up at 7:30am for a breakfast on the concierge floor and then our flight home.

### **This was like a senior trip –lazy and easy**

*AND THEN IT IS WINTER (anonymous) -- You know, time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams. But, here it is... the winter of my life and it catches me by surprise...How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go?*

*I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like. But, here it is...my friends are retired and getting grey...they move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in*

*better and some worse shape than me but I see the great change. Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be.*

*Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore: it's mandatory! Cause if I don't on my own free will I just fall asleep where I sit! And so now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!!*

*Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done. Things I should have done. But indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.*

*So, if you're not in your winter yet let me remind you that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long!! Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not! You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life so live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!! "Life" is a gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one. REMEMBER - "It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver.*

*TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN, YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE SO - ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS.*

### **And to that, a Good Night**

Or until we meet again as we're next to Vancouver, then I'm hiking Canyonlands out of Durango and into Moab, followed by Tom and I off to Naples, Amalfi Coast, Capri, a few extra days in Sorrento then Rome. Someone's gotta' do it!

## ***Itinerary***

### **Thu Apr 4 – Day 1**

10:31am Depart Newark EWR via UA#1735  
1:47pm Arrive Los Angeles

Avis Rental Car - Drive to San Luis Obispo about 4 hour drive

Hotel Embassy Suites San Luis Obispo  
333 Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo, CA 93405 Tele 805 549 0800

Participants: Judy at Embassy Suites 5-8<sup>th</sup>  
Marv and Maryanne at Embassy Suites 5-8<sup>th</sup>  
Sharon at Best Western next to Madonna Inn 5-8<sup>th</sup>

### **Fri Apr 5 – Day 2**

Marv and Maryanne driving and arriving Friday pm and leaving on Monday.  
Judy departing 11:36am ATL thru PHX via USA#2183 to SBP at 3:37pm

Noon Expo at Madonna Inn field under tent until 5pm

Dinner With Cheryl and daughter Jenny

### **Sat Apr 6 – Day 3**

10:00am at latest – depart hotel for Hearst Castle and collect tickets at Will Call Desk

11:15am Film for 40 minutes

12:00noon Bus to Castle

12:20pm Grand Tour #1 for 45 minutes

1:20pm Upstairs Tour for 45 minutes

2:20pm Cottages Tour for 45 minutes

Stay for garden and pool tour on own

11:00am Expo at Madonna Inn field under tent until 7pm

3:00pm Happy Hour by Michelob - at Expo

### **Sun Apr 7 – Day 4**

4:30am Bus from Madonna Inn field

6:00am Marathon start at San Luis Drive and California Street near to SLO high school

6:30am Half Marathon start

[www.slomarathon.com](http://www.slomarathon.com) - with extra time given – registered 9/03/12 – sells out

3:00pm Close of finish line

### **Mon Apr 8 – Day 5**

Judy departs SBP via USA#2936 at 12:20pm thru PHX arriving ATL 9:52pm

Winery area tour with Cheryl

### **Tue Apr 9 – Day 6**

Depart to Santa Barbara

House 1324 B Olive St between Sola and Victoria, Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
4 blocks walk to State Street with restaurant and shops

[www.ParadiseRetreats.com](http://www.ParadiseRetreats.com) - "Historic Downtown Retreat"  
Paradise Retreats: 805 275 1851

**Tue Apr 16**

Depart Santa Barbara via car to Los Angeles

Hotel Renaissance Los Angeles Airport  
9620 Airport Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90045 Tele: 310 337 2800

Dinner with Ellen who suggests coming by Santa Monica first before the hotel check in.

**Wed Apr 17**

12:31pm Depart Los Angeles LAX via UA#1422

9:00pm Arrive Newark EWR



From <http://www.seeing-stars.com/Buried2/PierceBros.shtml> where there's lots more info:

Pierce Bros Westwood Village Memorial Park is hidden behind the towering high-rises that line busy Wilshire Boulevard; you could easily drive right past the park without even realizing it was there. Yet at this tiny cemetery near [UCLA](#), you will find the final resting places of some of the most famous stars in Hollywood, including [Marilyn Monroe](#), [Donna Reed](#), [Dean Martin](#), [Natalie Wood](#), [Roy Orbison](#), [Carroll O'Connor](#), [Jack Lemmon](#), [Walter Matthau](#), [Don Knotts](#), [Eddie Albert](#), [Peggy Lee](#), [Mel Torme](#), George C. Scott, [Burt Lancaster](#), [Eve Arden](#), [Carl Wilson](#), [Eva Gabor](#) and [Truman Capote](#).



If you had to choose only one Hollywood cemetery to visit, Pierce Brothers Westwood Village Memorial Park would be your best bet. It is a small, intimate park, where the stars' graves are fairly easily located (unlike the massive [Forest Lawns](#)), yet there are numerous major celebrities buried here.

It is also noted as the final resting place of many of Hollywood's young actresses who died tragically before their time.

Popular with the show biz crowd (especially since Marilyn was buried here), Pierce Brothers is tucked away on the south side of Wilshire Boulevard in [Westwood](#), and it's almost impossible to find without specific [directions](#). It can't be reached from either the north, south or east sides - the only entrance is on the west side, from *Glendon Avenue*.

Ironically, this final resting place for Hollywood stars is located just a few steps away from the popular Avco movie theatre complex on Wilshire Boulevard. Movie-goers at the Avco wait patiently in long lines to see the newest summer blockbusters on the silver screen, most unaware that they are only a few yards away from some of the most famous stars in the history of Hollywood.

The Westwood Village Memorial Park is a very small, quiet, well-kept cemetery, with a single circular road which allows visitors to drive directly into the park. This road circles a grassy oval lawn where most of the stars are buried. To the south side of this grassy oval are offices; the northern and eastern borders of the park are lined by walls of outdoor crypts. (Refer to the [map](#) for exact locations.)

Since it's a small park, it's much easier to find a grave here than in a larger cemetery such as one of the Forest Lawns. But even so, you'd be surprised just how long you can wander around trying to locate a particular name if you don't know where to look.

Look around you here on any given day, and you'll see people doing just that - wandering about, heads down, trying to spot that one particular star's marker. Fortunately, you've come to the right website. I've put in the long hours needed to track down the stars for you. Here, you'll find a [map of the park](#) I've drawn up for you, as well as detailed directions to most of the stars' graves.

The grave of one of the most famous people buried at Westwood is also probably the easiest grave to find here: that of actress **Natalie Wood** (1938-1981). It is located just a bit northwest of the center of the main lawn, three or four rows south of a large tree. You can spot it easily enough, since several sizable flower pots and planters rest on and around the grave. People also tend to leave coins on her marker.



Natalie Wood, was the star of "*Rebel Without a Cause*," "*West Side Story*," "*Miracle on 34th Street*," "*Splendor in the Grass*" and "*Marjorie Morningstar*."

She was twice nominated for the Academy Award for Best Actress. Natalie also has her footprints immortalized outside of [Grauman's Chinese Theatre](#). She accidentally drowned in 1981 at age 43, at Catalina Island, off the yacht owned by her husband, Robert Wagner.

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Just one row down (south) from Natalie Wood's grave, and about three or four spaces the right (east), you'll find the grave of Col. Hogan himself of TV's "*Hogan's Heroes*," **Bob Crane** (1928-1978). He was murdered back in 1978 in Scottsdale, Arizona. His controversial private life and that unsolved murder, were dramatized in a 2002 movie called "*Auto-Focus*".

Originally buried out at Oakwood in the Valley, Bob was moved to Westwood in 1999. His grave was unmarked until 2003, but it now has a beautiful marker, black & white stone, with photos of Bob and his wife, Sigrid Valdis, the blonde actress who played Col. Klink's secretary 'Hilda' on "*Hogan's Heroes*". The two were married on the set of the TV show back in 1970. The marker reads "*Hogan and Hilda - Together Forever*."



In the center of the marker is a tall, black ceramic vase which makes it easy to spot the grave from a distance.

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Three rows below (south of) Natalie Wood's grave, and about three spaces to the left (west) is the grave of actor **Eddie Albert** (1906-2005).

Eddie is probably best remembered today as 'Oliver Wendell Douglas' on the popular TV sitcom "*Green Acres*". In the show, New York lawyer 'Oliver' decided he wanted to be a gentleman farmer, and dragged his spoiled wife, 'Lisa' (played by Eva Gabor), out to a ramshackle farm in the boondocks of Hooterville. (And who could forget his neighbor, 'Arnold' the pig?)

Created by the same team that gave us "The Beverly Hillbillies" and "Petticoat Junction", the hit sitcom was a clever spin on the old "Egg & I" plot - it ran for seven years (1965-1971).

Earlier in his career, Eddie had been a trapeze performer and later a Broadway actor. In the movies, he was nominated for an Oscar for his role as Gregory Peck's friend in 1953's "Roman Holiday". (His son is actor Edward Albert.)



It's not well known, but Eddie was a war hero during WW2, a Navy man who was awarded the Bronze Star for finding & rescuing wounded Marines who'd been abandoned on a beach - under heavy fire.

A feisty environmentalist, some say the date for Earth Day (April 22) was chosen because it was Eddie's birthday. Eddie lived to the ripe age of 99. He out-lived his younger TV wife, Eva Gabor (who is also buried here at Pierce Bros) by 10 years.



Also a few spaces to the left (west) of Natalie Wood are the graves of famed producer **Darryl F. Zanuck (1902-1979)**, and his wife.

Zanuck began his career writing scripts for Rin Tin Tin as an employee for [Warners](#), and ended up as the second most powerful man at the studio; in 1933, Zanuck left Warners and founded his own studio: [20th Century Fox](#).



On the lawn to the west (left) of Daryl Zanuck, immediately to the left of a white bench, is the grave of **Cornel Wilde (1915-1989)**. This romantic leading man got his big break playing Chopin in "A Song To Remember" in 1945, and went on to star in such movies as "Forever Amber," "Leave Her to Heaven," "The Greatest Show on Earth," and "The Naked Prey."



Actor **Richard Conte (1910-1975)** is buried here too, just to the right of Natalie Wood (with a *question mark* next to the



date on his unusual marker, as well as pyramids at the corners). You may remember him as 'Barzini' in "*The Godfather*," or for his role in "*A Bell For Adano*."



Go a few rows south of Natalie Wood (and a little to the west) and you'll find the modest grave of actress **Donna Reed** (1921-1986). Donna won an Oscar in 1955 for her supporting role in "*From Here to Eternity*," and is famous as Jimmy Stewart's wife, Mary, in the 1946 Christmas classic, "*It's a Wonderful Life*." But she may be best known as



Donna Stone on her long-running TV sitcom, "*The Donna Reed Show*," and more recently as Miss Ellie on "*Dallas*."



A few yards to the right (east) of Donna Reed is a cluster of small square markers. Go to the second cluster of markers, (south of the white wall between the first two sanctuaries, four rows down from the north curb). Along the east edge of this cluster, you'll find the small, square bronze marker of **Richard Basehart** (1914-1984), probably best remembered for his role as Admiral Nelson in the 60's TV sci-fi series "*Voyage To The Bottom Of The Sea*."



Just to the left (west) of Donna Reed, in the same row of graves, is famed songwriter **Sammy Cahn** (1913-1993), who wrote the lyrics to such memorable songs as "*Love and Marriage*," "*High Hopes*," and "*Magic*."



(Also buried at Pierce Bros. is Oscar-winning composer [Harry Warren](#).)



"It's

Then there are lots more on the website . . . .