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grinned his grizzled yellow teeth and me sitting froze-like and white knuckled and feeling sick "these ole' innernationals 'ere do awright straight out, eh?"

captain america incognito

at first i thought he looked like captain america not because he was big and bold and beautiful with a dazzling uniform to match but ironic-like in his u.s. air force blue jacket with one lonely stripe and a set of bulky ear phones hanging about his neck and scrubby unshaven face (he looked lean and hungry) and spectacles with snap on shades and one of those skinny western neckties with a turquoise Indian clasp and as he prodded about the patio chairs he asked to see a chaise rocker and continued prodding with this strange looking extendable aluminum cane that i just wouldn't trust (thinking of a hidden collapsable sword) and he fiddled with an old am-fm-short-band (his fingers moved rapidly in quick nervous jerks) radio that hung over his neck down to his hip and had what looked like a microphone attached so i wondered if he was tape recording too as i showed him the two rockers we sold and he kicked at them with his penny loafers to make them rock while pointing out with his cane that wooden rockers are better and last longer than aluminum and i began to feel uncomfortable and so left him standing there and soon got busy and never noticed him leave.

alpha beta peach

i ate it again each time the last one lingering always picking the softest and giving it a deep sniff and firm rub between my hands before biting into its sweet flesh and enjoying the fuzzy skin too and sucking the stone until only sticky fingers remained so i'd toss it into the alpha beta grocery bag that i used for trash and go and rinse my fingers off.

-- leo mailman

Long Beach, CA

sometimes a man must be in one place long enough to plant himself in to take root and grow and know where he is

San Francisco From a Cable Car

on the san francisco cable cars i sat next to a man and a woman who pressed their mouths together to keep each other from the san francisco night

while in the corner of the car a girl stood with the dark staring out of herself and for a moment our eyes met and i thought maybe she was looking for san francisco too

but just then this guy walks right up to her and puts his arm around