

IT STARTED AS A MELLOW BALMY AUTUMN EVENING IN SAN FRANCISCO,
...BUT SOON TURNED INTO

DESCENT INTO THE

ATOMIC CAFE



WHAT COULD
WE BE IN
FOR?

MEETING AT 7TH @ LINCOLN, BEING THE
MEETING PLACE FOR THE EVENT, WERE A
GATHERING OF ECCENTRIC CHARACTERS.

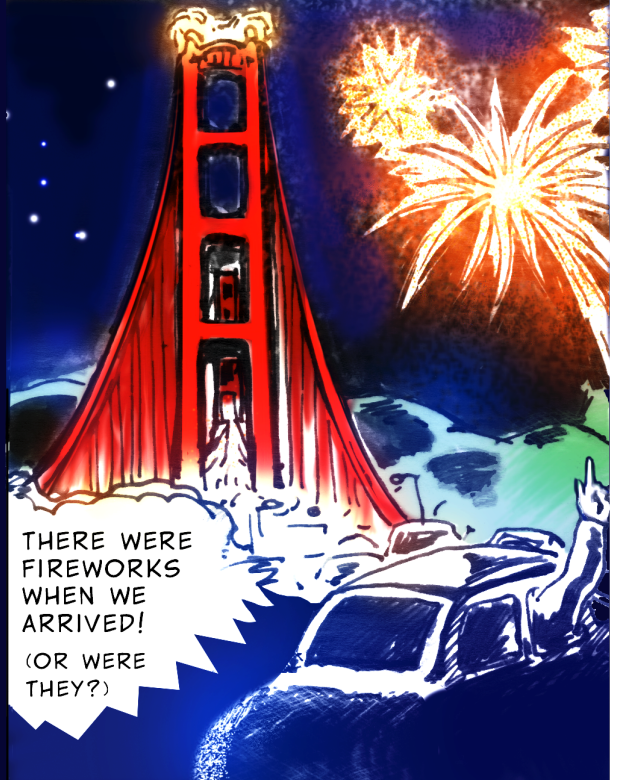


I WENT WITH UNCERTAIN EXPECTATIONS. THE
NEWSLETTER TOLD OF A POST-APOCALYPTIC
PARTY. SO I WAS INTERESTED ON HOW IT
WOULD GO DOWN, AND SHOWED UP..

IT'S
TIME TO
DEPART

WE WERE INSTRUCTED ON WHERE TO GO BY OUR EVENT
ORGANIZERS. SO WE LOADED INTO OUR CARS AND HEADED
OFF, TO THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE PARKING LOT.

THERE WERE
FIREWORKS
WHEN WE
ARRIVED!
(OR WERE
THEY?)





...OR WAS IT?. DID THE DOOMSDAY BOMBS GO OFF? AND IT IS NOW THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNEW IT! NOTHING LEFT TO DO BUT FIND SHELTER FROM THE DANGEROUS RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT THAT WAS SPREADING ACROSS THE AREA, AND PROBABLY THE ENTIRE EARTH! OUR GROUP SNUCK OFF ONTO THE DARK PATH NEARBY....



WE TOOK A PATH THROUGH THE DARKNESS THAT LED TO AN OPENING IN THE BUNKER, SERVING AS OUR BOMB SHELTER.

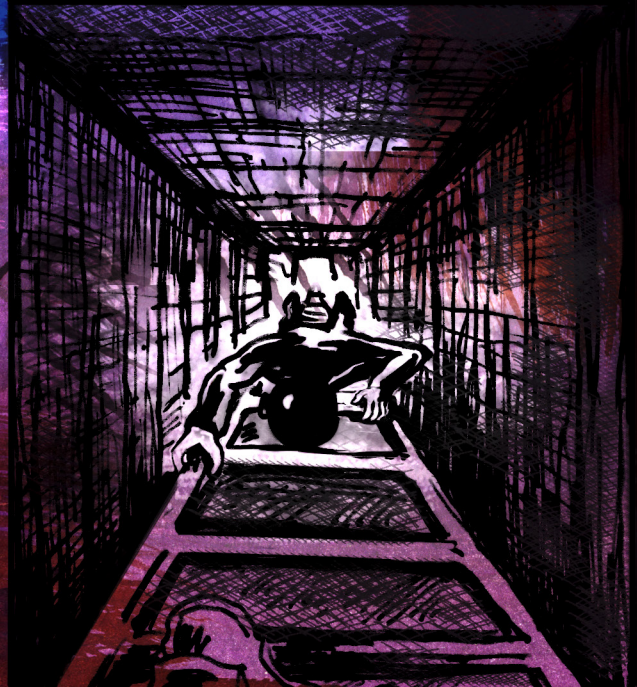


IN THE DARK CORNER OF THE BUNKER... THE DOORWAY TO THE ATOMIC CAFE!

WE CAREFULLY ENTERED THE SMALL HATCHWAY, ONE AT A TIME.



DOWN, DOWN WE DESCENDED, TO A DARK UNDERWORLD BENEATH...



SURVIVAL MAY OR MAY NOT BE FOUND BENEATH. MINIMAL SUPPLIES WERE BROUGHT IN. GAS MASKS, CANNED FOOD, LIGHTS, ROPE BATTERIES AND CABLES. -- WILL WE SURVIVE? --

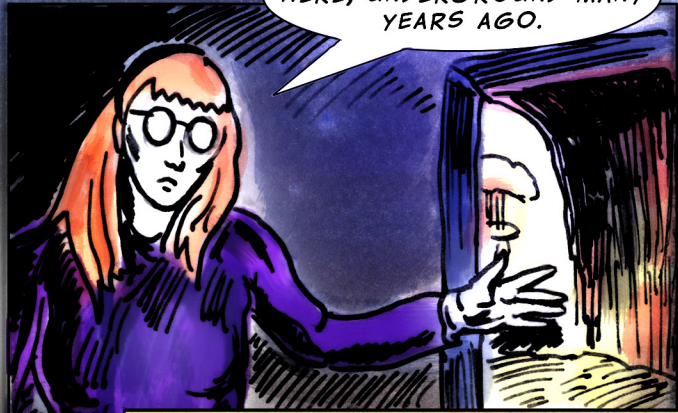


WELCOME TO THE ATOMIC CAFE!

WE WERE GREETED BY THE NUCLEAR FAMILY, WITH PALE SKIN AND IN VINTAGE CLOTHING.

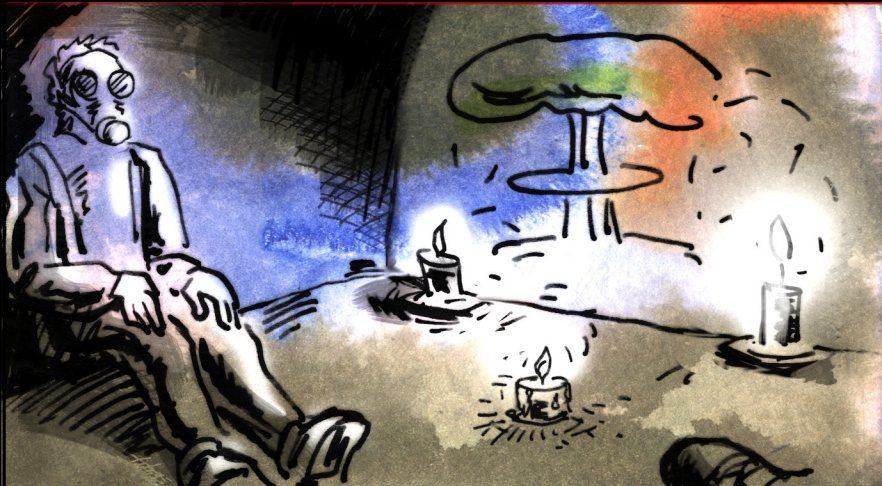
THE SURVIVORS GATHERED...

I WAS BORN HERE, UNDERGROUND MANY YEARS AGO.



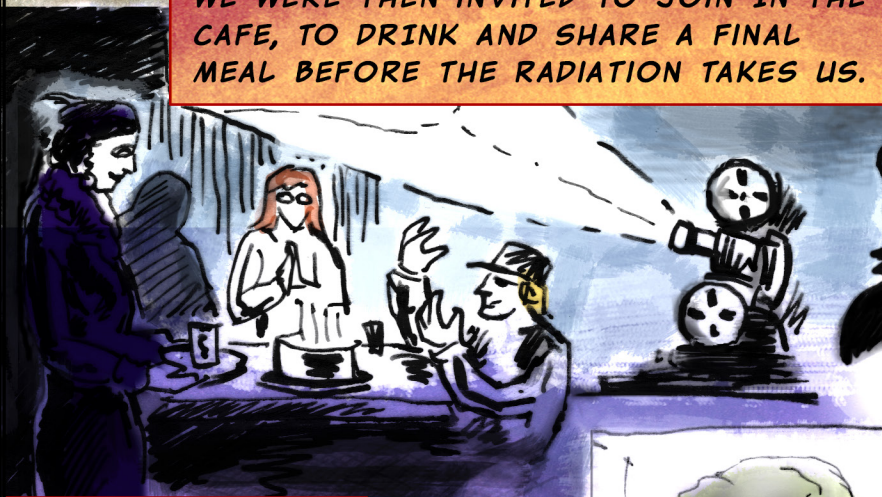
WE WERE INSTANTLY LED INTO SOME KIND OF TEMPLE FOR A SESSION OF ATOMIC DEVOTION AND MEDITATION.





WE WERE THEN INVITED TO JOIN IN THE CAFE, TO DRINK AND SHARE A FINAL MEAL BEFORE THE RADIATION TAKES US.

THE DECONTAMINATION RITUAL



A FEW SKETCHBOOKS CAME OUT.

WILL WE SURVIVE?
HOW MANY OF THE UNFORTUNATE REMAINING HUMANS WANDER IN THE WASTELANDS ABOVE GROUND?



THIS BUD'S FOR YOU!

BRIGID READ HER POETRY, SCENES OF NUCLEAR MUSHROOM CLOUDS WERE SHOWN IN 8MM FILM. WHILE THE FINAL PARTY ON EARTH CONTINUED ON.



THE RITUALS
CONTINUED...

NOW ITS TIME TO REMEMBER THE
REALITY WE ONCE KNEW IN OUR
EVERYDAY EXISTENCE ABOVE
GROUND.

I REMEMBER GREEN
FIELDS AND BLUE
SKIES!

I REMEMBER
AUTOMOBILES AND
TRAFFIC
JAMS!

I REMEMBER
TELEVISION!

I REMEMBER
GROUCHO MARX!

AIRPLANES!

I REMEMBER..
TANKS!

I REMEMBER
FRESH AIR!

I REMEMBER
CIVILIZATION!

MANY LONG GONE THINGS WERE
CHANTED OUT BY EACH OF US.

THEY'RE
STILL
PLAYING!

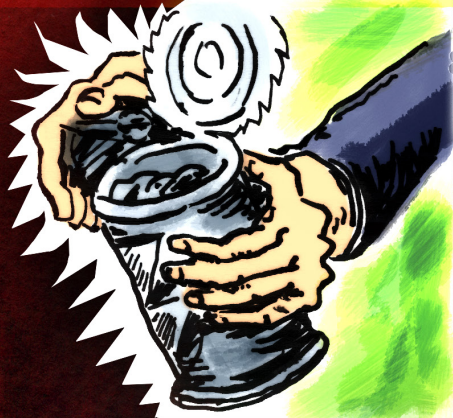
I REMEMBER
THE
GRATEFUL DEAD!

I REMEMBER
GOLDEN GATE
PARK!

I REMEMBER
VEGETATION!

I REMEMBER
TOOTHPASTE!

WE TOASTED THE MEMORIES OF BYGONE
CENTURIES OF HUMAN CIVILIZATION AND NATURE,
NOW WIPED OUT BY DEADLY NUCLEAR FALLOUT.

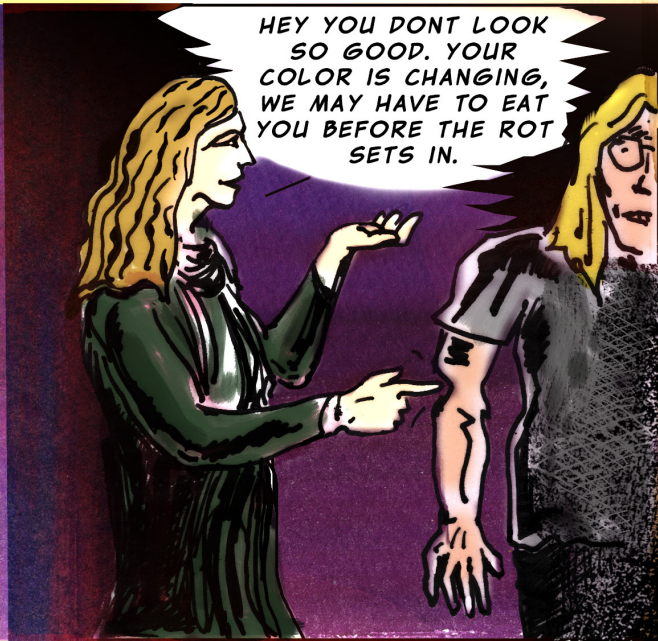


THE LAST CANS OF 20TH CENTURY FOOD WERE OPENED.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO AMELIA...

A BIRTHDAY CAKE FOR THE GIRL WHO WAS RAISED IN THIS FALLOUT SHELTER. WHO HAD NEVER ONCE BEEN ABOVE GROUND!

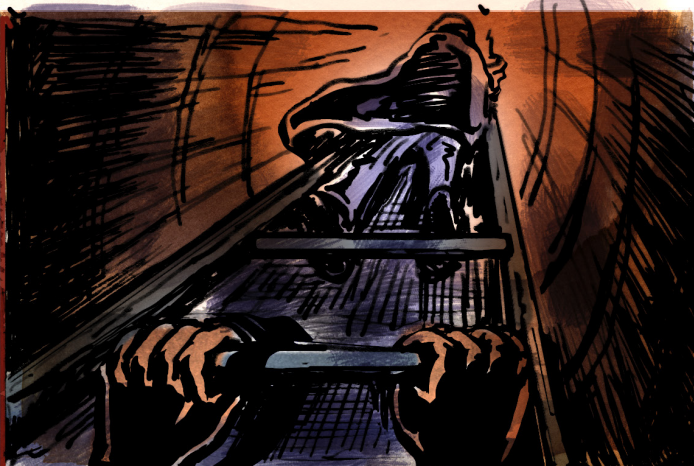


HEY YOU DONT LOOK SO GOOD. YOUR COLOR IS CHANGING, WE MAY HAVE TO EAT YOU BEFORE THE ROT SETS IN.



IT BECAME TIME TO TEST THE AIR ABOVE. RISKING INSTANT DEATH BY FALLOUT AND PARTICULATE MATTER IN WHATEVER WAS LEFT OF THE REMAINING ATMOSPHERE, A SUPERHERO WAS SENT FIRST, DONNING A GAS MASK.

THE ASCENT PROVED TO BE ARELIEF. THE AIR SEEMED OK. OXYGEN LEVELS READ AS NORMAL.



"WATCH OUT FOR THE MORLOCKS"



MELMOTH GAVE A WARNING TO TAKE SERIOUS HEED OF.

WE MARCHED THROUGH THE TUNNEL BENEATH HWY 1. SINGING AND WHISTLING OUR WAY TO THE WORLD ABOVE.



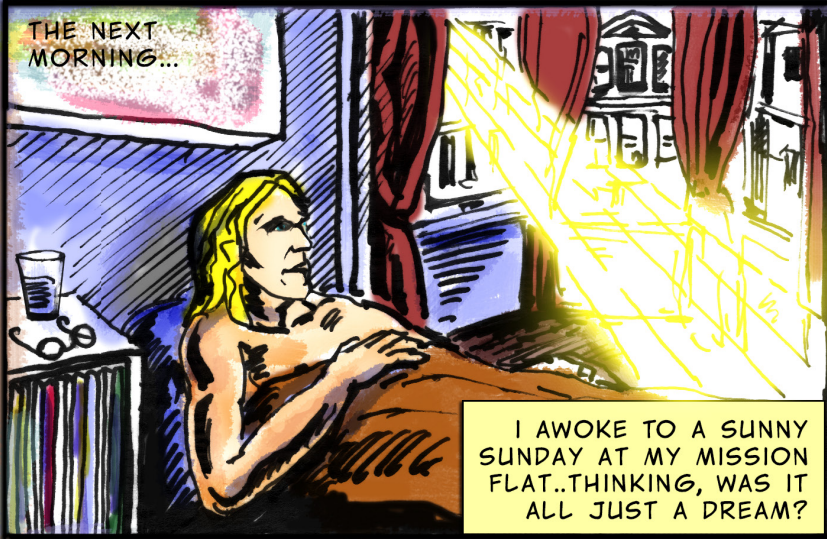
ALL WAS INTACT AND OPERATING LIKE NORMAL ABOVE GROUND!



A GROUP PHOTO WAS TAKEN OF THE SURVIVORS

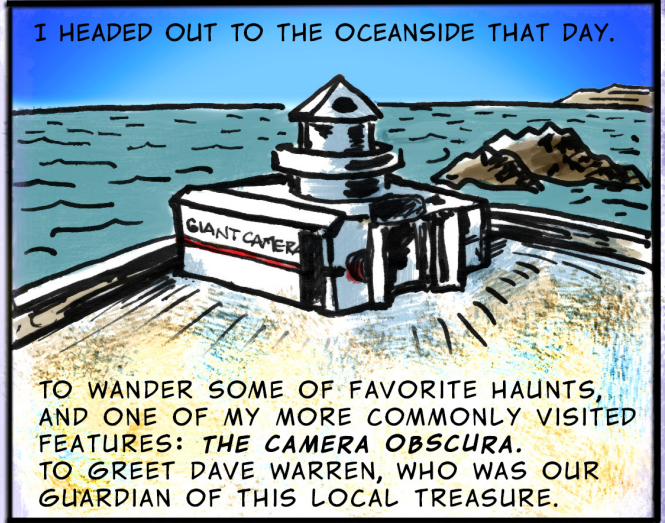
HOW MUCH TIME HAD PASSED?

10/7/89



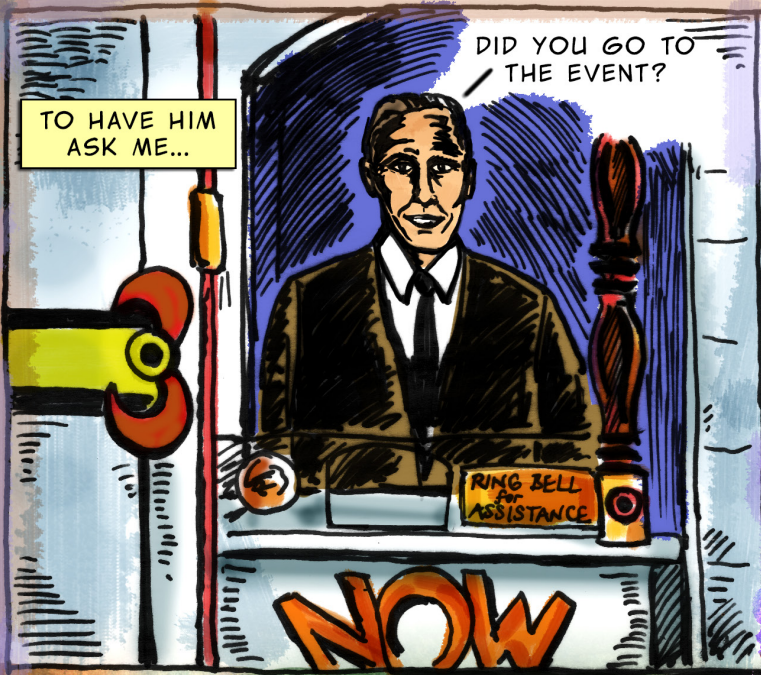
THE NEXT MORNING...

I AWOKE TO A SUNNY SUNDAY AT MY MISSION FLAT..THINKING, WAS IT ALL JUST A DREAM?



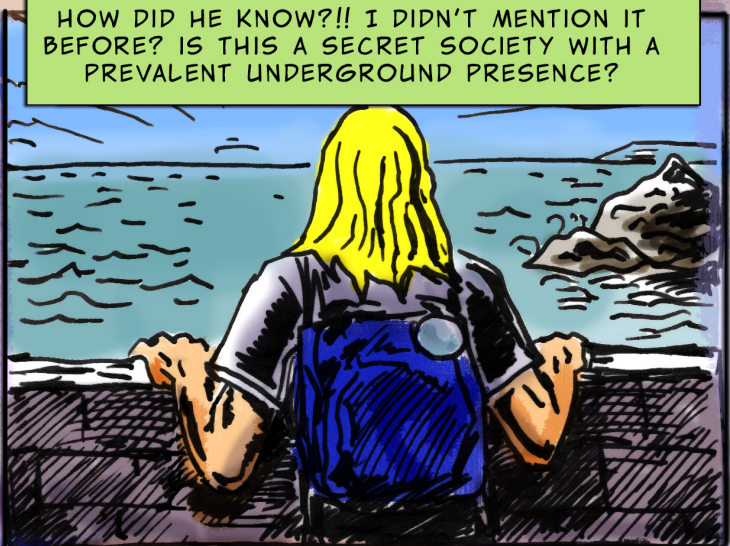
I HEADED OUT TO THE OCEANSIDE THAT DAY.

TO WANDER SOME OF FAVORITE HAUNTS, AND ONE OF MY MORE COMMONLY VISITED FEATURES: *THE CAMERA OBSCURA*. TO GREET DAVE WARREN, WHO WAS OUR GUARDIAN OF THIS LOCAL TREASURE.



TO HAVE HIM ASK ME...

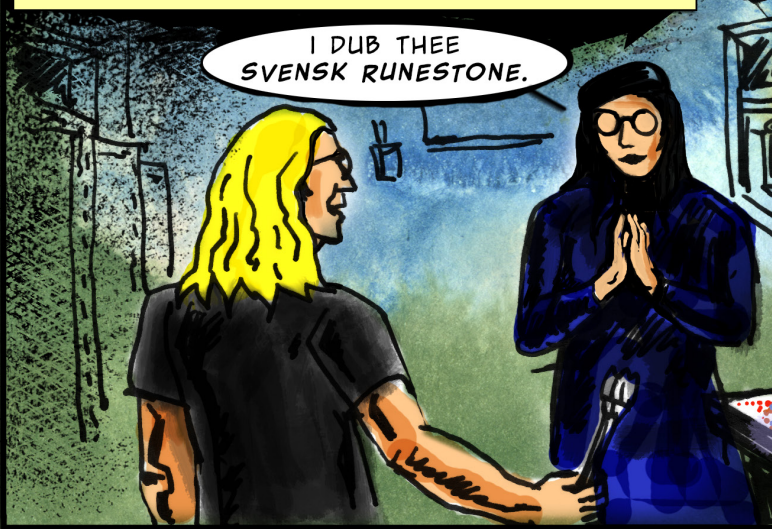
DID YOU GO TO THE EVENT?



HOW DID HE KNOW?! I DIDN'T MENTION IT BEFORE? IS THIS A SECRET SOCIETY WITH A PREVALENT UNDERGROUND PRESENCE?

A COUPLE OF WEEKS FOLLOWING, WE HAD THE GREAT LOMA PRIETA EARTHQUAKE HIT THE BAY AREA. ALTERING OUR PERCEPTIONS OF WHAT A NATURAL DISASTER IS.

ONE NIGHT THE ACADEMY PAINTING STUDIOS THAT AUTUMN, ETHYL KETONE CHRISTENED ME WITH A NOM DE PLUME THAT STUCK.



I DUB THEE SVENSK RUNESTONE.

