



The Parker Press

Back to printing after a year of laziness

August, 1992

Strike Resolved!!

S. PARKER, EDITOR-BY-FORCE

The strike and other problems which have cropped up at the Parker Press have finally been resolved to the benefit of all parties concerned. It's been a year since the last issue, and our owners figured it was about time to do something about it. We've repaired the printing press that was shorted out by a lightning storm; fixed the roof that was broken from grapefruit size hail; rebuilt the foundation that was sinking into a swamp; fixed the main road that disappeared in a mudslide; defoliated an entire for-

See STRIKE page 3

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New Address

Steve has moved (see related story *Steve has moved* on page 1). In the interest of keeping his life as static as possible, he will maintain his current State Street address for mail, but don't try to stop by this address. It would be a short visit. Steve's mailing address on State Street will remain the same as before:

Some address
Santa Barbara, CA 99999

See ADDRESS, page 4

Steve has moved

S. BUDY ELSE, STAFF ALIAS

In a move sure to surprise the entire world, Steve Parker and Gary Pasky have finally packed it all in, and moved from the apartment on Bath Street (see the related story *New House on the Mesa* on page 2). Steve had lived in the apartment for almost eight years, and Gary for three, so it was a fairly traumatic experience for the two.

See MOVED page 5

New Additions

VARIOUS SOURCES

Alexander James Campbell, of the Rob and Shari clan. Born on October 19th, 1991.

Heather Brook Roberts, of the Dave and Lisa clan. Born on October 24th, 1991.

See ADDITIONS, page 5

New House on the Mesa

Steve and Gary have moved from downtown

a fairly nice view of the harbor and the islands, and a spectacular view of the moon-rise. The house has a fairly nice front lawn, a huge 2 car garage with another



Santa Barbara into a house on in the Mesa area of Santa Barbara, just above Santa Barbara City College. For those of you unfamiliar with Santa Barbara, a map is shown to the right. San Francisco would be to the "right" and Los Angeles to the "left".

Joining them in the three-bedroom house is a new roommate, Kevin Cubba. Kevin worked at Softool with Steve and Gary until just recently, and is actively looking for a new job at this time.

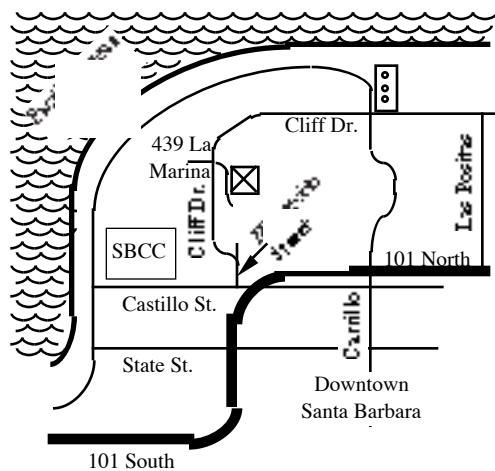
The house sits about 300 vertical feet above the ocean, about a half mile from Ledbetter Beach. From the front window, we have

15 feet of room in front of the cars, a massive kitchen/dining room, a large front room, a large "entertainment room" (elevated about three feet above the rest of the house) and three bedrooms. In the entertainment room, we have a TV, a large love-chair, a fount, and a hammock, where you can sit and rest, watching the ocean

through the front windows of the house.

For those of you who can't quite picture what I'm talking about, I guess you

See NEW HOUSE page 3

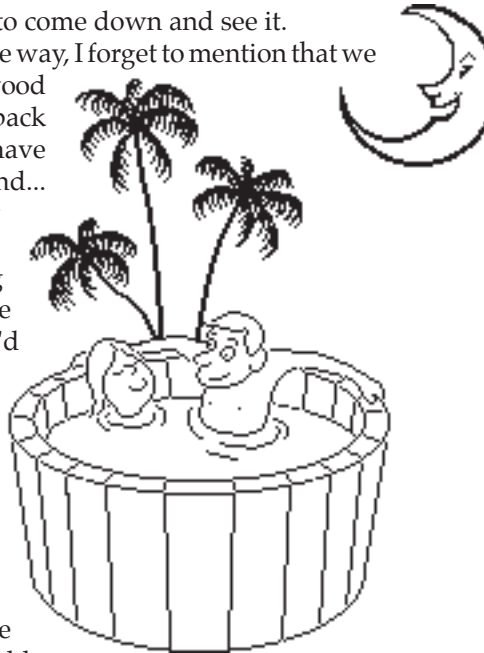


NEW HOUSE, from page 2

will just have to come down and see it.

Oh, by the way, I forgot to mention that we have a big redwood hot-tub in the backyard. Must have slipped my mind...

When we saw this during the house hunting process, we knew that we'd reached Nirvana, and didn't even bother looking for other places. Now you have an even better excuse to come visit our humble little abode.



STRIKE, from page 1

est for new paper after the fire; resolved the delivery conflict between ourselves and the postal service, (they hate these fluorescent dots), and re-hired the entire staff (after he got finished with a few business trips).

What this means is that Parker Press is back in business for at least this issue, and hopefully more. There are no guarantees that it will be a predictable event, so don't sit outside and watch your mailbox. You'll probably freeze your keister off before the next issue arrives (since winter is only a few short months off...)

Scott Parker spotted in DC

A. NONOMOUS, STAFF WRITER

Scott Parker was spotted in late April, roaming around the Mall in Washington, D.C. He was on a vacation that he won after years of hard work at the "Y". It was simply a coincidence that Steve Parker happened to be working at the International Softool User's Group in the same town at the same time,

and the two paired up for an unforgettable time (at least for everybody they pestered).

They were spotted at Beni Hana's in Bethesda, MD, Neptune's in Alexandria, VA, the Crab Shack somewhere in Maryland, and numerous places around downtown DC.

"All in all, it was a very

fun," Steve said afterwards, "but in all honesty, I'm glad it's over". "It's not as easy as it used to be, working all day, and then playing all night."

Although Scott was unavailable for comment, his probable response would be "Quit yer whinin...".

Still Flyin'

PHINEAS J. WHOOPIE, STAFF CARTOONIST

Since August, 1991 (the last time the Parker Press was printed) Steve has travelled to a number of places, both new and old. The new position as Support Services Manager didn't work out as well as it should have, and he's back on the road again, doing what he loves best. See page 4 for travel details.

(Shift to first party typing mode ...) When I left off, I had just come back home after spending quite a bit of time in Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio (during July, no less). So I guess that means I'll start with August, 1991:

August 12-15, 1991 : Lockheed, Burbank, CA : Talk about HOT! and SMOGGY! I still remember this trip because it took me most of the next week to recover. I met Cathy, Janine, and about three other people (I can't remember who) for dinner one night. It was nice to see them again after quite a while (Rachel's wedding??)

September 15 - 20, 1991 : EDS, Plano, TX : This was a presales trip to one of the biggest computer companies in the world. I remember that they have a policy that you must wear a suit, in blue, grey or black, and must have your jacket on whenever you leave your desk. I also remember getting a tour of their control center. Remember War Games, the movie. That huge room with the 30 foot computer screens at the front and all the people and computers on the floor. That's what it looked like. It was pretty amazing.

October 14-16, 1991 : Medtronics, St. Paul, MN : Onsite at the headquarters for a company that makes some of the best pacemakers in the world. Talk about a slight amount of pressure! Imaging making a typo in a program that's helping somebody stay alive. This is an ideal site for a software and change control package like the one we sell. It was an interesting experience.

See FLYIN' page 6

ADDRESS from page 1

The new physical house address is:

Address

Santa Barbara, CA 99999

The phone number is still:

(805)999-99999

Steve can also be reached at work, through a voice mail system, either by calling Softool directly at (805)683-5777, or dialing the voice mail system directly at (805)683-8100. My voice mail number is 141.

Steve is also carrying a pager, that can find him in any city over 50,000 people in the United States! This pager is used by Softool Corporation, but can be used by others, when necessary.

To use the pager, dial (800)946-4646. My pager PIN number is 000-0000. When asked to leave a message, enter the phone number I can reach you (use "*" for spaces, "***" for hyphens), then hit the "#" key and hang up. The pager will be triggered within a couple minutes, but it may be awhile before I can get back to you, due to meetings, etc.

MOVED from page 1

The move took place for three weeks, between May 1st and June 1st, 1992.

"I never knew I had this much useless junk", Steve said, while packing items away for goodwill. "I just know that I'll use it, so I can't throw it away" was a plea heard quite often during the packing phase.

After a considerable amount of coaching (and, to be fair, complaining) the apartment was completely cleaned out, with a large pickup load going to the Alpha thrift store, an even larger load going to the dump, and about forty trips of remaining materials to be delivered to the new address.

A brief review of the load of items destined for good-will included diverse items, from books and old computer magazines, to high school uniforms, courderouy pants, terry cloth shirts, furniture, lamps and more. The items given to good-will were picked up in a large pickup truck, and the dump load was destined to be even larger, as it included things like old, mechanical adding machines, wire tape recorders (with about 75

pounds of wire spools), bent ski poles, and a cracked, 55-gallon fish tank.

To make the move a little easier, Steve borrowed an "old truck" from Ben and Mary Wiener. It was an interesting experience, driving this truck. There was no muffler present, and the truck bed had been battle scarred to the point that the wooden bed had rotted through (it had large holes in it). To solve this problem, it was covered by a sheet of plywood. Nevertheless, it saved a couple hundred dollars for a rental, and did the job just fine (although there are rumors that neighbors are still trying to pacify their pets who thought a jet had landed on nearby streets).

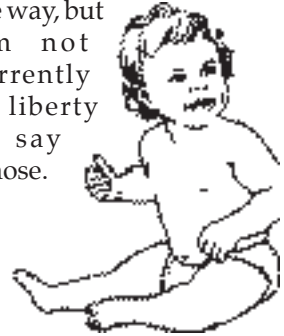
ADDITIONS from page 1

Milana Natalie Vachuska and Michaela Nikol Vachuska, of the Tom and Carole clan. Identical twins born minutes apart on February 21st, 1992.

Catherine Elizabeth Hogge, of the Mark and Linda clan. Born on March 5th, 1992.

William Everett Holden, of the Chris and Vicky clan. Born on June 23rd, 1992.

Other babies are on the way, but I'm not currently at liberty to say whose.



Springsteen Is Back

D. MARSH - GENERAL CONFIDANT

Los Angeles - Bruce is back on tour through the United States to promote both of his new albums. It's been assumed that Chuck Broslawsky will be attending any and all shows within a 100 mile radius of his house, and may even turn little two-year-old Alan into a Bruce Fanatic like his dad. Steve will be flying back from the east coast to attend at least one of the shows as well. As usual, the show should prove again that Bruce is one of the top performers in the world today.

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October 16 - 18, 1991 : Grumman, Springfield, VA (DC) : Helping somebody debug a problem at their site. Kind of a very fast trip, as I flew there on Wednesday night, and left Friday afternoon.

October 28 - November 8, 1991 : Pentagon and Grumman : Helping some people in the Pentagon get up and running. I got to do my first "briefing" in front of some fairly high powered people in the government. It was a little unnerving, but a good experience overall. During a couple days during this two week period, I was driving back and forth between the Pentagon and Grumman in Springfield, as they were still having problems.

November 28 - December 1, 1991 : Mom and Dad's house in Pollock Pines : At home for a relaxing time at Thanksgiving.

December 3 - 6, 1991 : Allied Signal, Teterboro, NJ : Kevin Cubba (the new roommate) and I were helping Allied get things running, and teaching a product class. This was a unique trip, as I've never been in Jersey before, and learned a hard lesson in driving : 1 - Don't try to turn left from the left turn lane. They don't exist. They have these stupid things called "Jug Handles" which exit from the right lane, and loop around to cross the road from a side road (hence the name jug handle). We ended up in the boondocks before we finally figured out how to do what in California would have been called a "U-Turn". Not to mention the fact that it was starting to snow, and people were getting rather psychotic.

December 7 - 8, 1991 : Vacation in Manhattan, staying at Pam Parker's : We spent a moderately cold couple days walking around Manhattan with Pam. We went to the Empire State Building, Washington Square, Central Park, and walked up and down 5th Avenue. I also went to a planetarium show (I couldn't tell you where, except that it was on the west side of Central Park).

December 9 - 13, 1991 : ECC, Orlando, FL : From New Jersey to Manhattan, then off to Florida, staying right on the outskirts of all the theme parks in a really nice hotel. Talk about contrasting weather. It was hot and humid in Orlando. To think it was snowing when I left Manhattan. Three other people from Softool were in Orlando during this week, and we spent most every night out running around town, and a couple down at Church Street Station in downtown. We had a pretty good time on this trip, as the work side of it wasn't really that hard, and we had time after work to just "play".

December 27, 1991 - January 5, 1992 : Softool, UK, London, England : I finally got a trip to England worked into my schedule. Our representative in London had committed to delivering a customization to to our product, and was having problems complet-

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ing it, so your's truly got to go help. It turns out that I was there over the New Year, but the place I was staying (a Hilton Hotel) was pretty much shut down, and I had no car, so I ended up spending the evening in my room watching TV. The following day, Ric Basanese (one of our local tech reps) picked me up in his company car for a tour of southern England. We drove (on the wrong side of the road) over to Stonehenge, and walked around the oldest place in the world I've ever been. We then thought we would drive up to the college in Oxford to have lunch and meet the college women, but Stonehenge interrupted, and we blew the head gasket on the car about four miles outside Oxford. I did get a ride in an English Lorrie (glorified name for a Tow-Truck), and we finally got Ric's car back to his apartment in Richmond (southwest London) in time for me to catch a train back to the Hilton for two more days of work.

Friday night I took the train in from the Hilton to stay with Ric, and we met Lorin (from Softool) and her sister for dinner at a great little Indian restaurant, and spent the next day touring around downtown, and the Tower of London. The Tower was a great place. It's kind of wierd when they point out that some of the structures inside the Tower walls were from three digit centuries (yes, that's before the year 1000). And I thought the mission in Santa Barbara was old! After all it was built in the 1700's. We went into the basement and saw the crown



Lawson

"No! No! Not that! Not the pit!"

(crowned?) jewels. They weren't more than a couple baubles and bits of glass, NOT! But I do have to admit that the two women were much more interested in them than Ric and I. After all, once you've seen one crown, you've seen them all.

One thing I did learn about Jolly Olé England is that they drink too much beer. It wasn't unusual at all for the people I'd go to lunch with wouldn't even hesitate at putting down two or three pints of rather strong beer. Dinner was even worse. I'd have a single pint, and be fairly close to non-functional for the afternoon. They were

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all amused, because I wasn't really used to being called a lightweight.

I stayed in Goleta for almost a month and a half, which was quite a nice break, and then started travelling sporadically until the June/July timeframe.

February 17 - 21, 1992, Allied Signal, South Bend, IN : This trip was to a depressed area of the midwest. The only thing I did that was really any fun here was to walk through Notre Dame University. I was too cold to really want to stay outside very long.

Another break at home, this time for almost a month and a half, then

March 30 - April 2, 1992, Grumman (F14), Long Island, NY : I turned around again, and headed back to Long Island (writing this, I think this coast-to-coast stuff reminds me of ping-pong). This was kind of neat, since the people here are responsible for the electronics in the cockpit of an F14, and I got to see some of the mock-ups.

April 19 - 24, 1992, Pentagon, DC : Back to the same Pentagon site that I had been to before, for another week of follow up work. I actually spend the time working in an area called Tysons Corner (next to Falls Church) on the northwest side of DC. This is one of the few places I've been where I could actually see living.

April 27 - 30, 1992, Softool User Group, Bethesda, MD : After the Pentagon trip, I stayed on the East Coast and started working at our International User Group meeting. Scott flew out to visit me (see related *Scott Parker* story on page 3)

May 16 - 17, 1992, Santa Barbara, CA : Spent the weeks in the last half of May moving junk into the new house.

May 19, 1992, JPL, Pasadena, CA : Working with the people who do the software to receive data from Magellan and a couple other interstellar probes. Some of the pictures I got to see were pretty neat.

June 14 - 19, 1992, Pentagon, DC : Back for another week at the Pentagon, just to make sure they keep moving on schedule.

June 22 - 24, 1992, JPL, Pasadena, CA : And back to the JPL site to do some formal training for their users.

July 6 - 10, 1992, Alliant Techsystems, Minneapolis, MN : Up to Minneapolis to get this government contractor up and running. This trip was kind of fun, as an ex-Softool employee named James now lives there, and we spent four of the six evenings I was there playing sand volleyball on the shores of a lake next to his house. It was quite a bit warmer than I'm used to, but it was still fun. James and I are average to good volleyball players, and we had two women walk up and challenge us. We started the game

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by winning the first point, and they won the next 15. Nothing we could do seemed to work. The second game went a little better, and we only lost by 6 points (15 - 9). In our conversations with them after the game, we found out that one of them plays on the pro-women's tour, and the other is rated as a double A player. We felt a little better when we found this out.

July 20 - 31, 1992, GTE Directories, Dallas, TX : This trip was a little unusual since this company had not actually purchased any software from us, but wanted to see if we'd be able to work in their environment. Their office is actually between the runway's at DFW airport, so things were a little noisy, but it wasn't too bad. Anyway, another ex-Softool employee lives in Dallas, and Tom Burton (a current Softool employee) was out there for some other training, so we went out quite a bit after work. But Dallas is still as hot and humid as I remember from last year.

July 31 - August 2, 1992, SB, CA : I flew back to Santa Barbara for a day and a half, basically to do laundry, and host a bachelor party at our new house. The next morning, I turned around and flew right back to El Paso, and then drove to ...

August 3 - 7, 1992, Lockheed, Las Cruces, NM : This Lockheed site was actually at the Goddard Space Flight Center, right next to the White Sands Missile Range in southeast New Mexico. It was very hot there, but not humid (at least according to Dallas standards) so it wasn't too bad. The city itself was pretty nice, and the mountains around the high desert were beautiful, but there really wasn't anything to do. One afternoon after work (we got out of work at 3pm) I took off and drove to White Sands National Park. This is like a giant bleached beach right in the middle of the desert. It was really surreal, with tens of miles of white dunes stretching as far as the eye can see, and desert mountains rising all around. On my way out I saw a Stealth Fighter for the first time, doing touch and go landings at a local air force base. They really are as wierd looking as they say, and seem to defy the laws of physics just to be up in the air at all. Not to mention the fact that with the power these machines require just to stay aloft were louder than anything I've ever heard. Seems kind of "anti-stealthy", doesn't it.

Future Plans in the Life of Steve

August 31 - September 4, 1992, Abbot Labs, Waukegan, IL : I'm on my way to Illinois (just north of Chicago) for a couple weeks. I don't know much about this company, but will have to tell you more in the future.

September 5 - 8, 1992 Aunt Diane's, Kansas City, MO : After the Chicago trip, I'll fly down to Aunt Diane's for a couple days. I've been trying to stop by there for years, and finally got the chance and took it.

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September 14 - 18, 1992, Pentagon, DC : Back again to the Pentagon. After this week, they'll have one more, but I've heard rumors that they are considering buying even more time from us.

September 19 - 20, 1992, Vacation, Chicago, IL : I'll be spending the weekend in downtown Chicago, staying at a hotel right on the shore of Lake Michigan. I've never been there before, so this should be lots of fun.

September 21 - 25, 1992, Abbott Labs, Waukegan, IL : The second week of two at Abbot Labs.

September 26 - 28, 1992, Los Angeles, CA : Vicky and Chris are in town for something, and I'll be down to see that new baby of theirs. Bruce Springsteen is also in town on Monday night, so I'll be having a dinner party for him, Patty, and the two kids. Then it's off to see his show.

October 5 - 9, 1992, Grumman (F14), Bethpage, NY : I'll be flying off to Long Island, back to see the people who do the F14 mock-ups for their second week of two.

October 10 - 11, 1992, Vacation, Manhattan, NY : After the Grumman trip, I'll be swinging back through Manhattan to see Pam and Ross again. I'll be spending the weekend there, and then flying back home.

That seems to be about the extent of my travels that you haven't heard about yet. It sounds a little crazy, and you know... I think you may be right. I'll be able to continue doing this type of "running around" the country for a while longer, and then will probably burn out on it. I figure I've got a year or two left before I reach that stage.



Miscellaneous

Rambling

VARIOUS SOURCES

This will be a "story" to fill up space so I can get this out before the next round of trips. It will consist of various quotes and sayings gathered from a number of places including

quotation books, National Lampoon's daily calendar and more:

- From the *Telegraph Herald* of Dubuque, Iowa: "John Reilly, 26, of Urbana, Ill., was not injured when his car was struck by a train at 4:35am on Sunday. Police said Reilly was eastbound

on Hawthorne Street from Rhomberg Avenue when a northbound Sooline freight train hit his vehicle. Reilly told officers the train swerved to hit him, according to the report."

- "Children rarely misquote you. They usually See RAMBLING page 10

RAMBLING from page 10

repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said."

- A great many people think they are thinking when they are merely rearranging their prejudices. - William James

- From the *Washington Times*: "Four large people tried to make 16th-century astrologer Nostradamus's prediction of an earthquake this month come true, courtesy of a Phoenix radio station. The group's members, each weighing more than 300 pounds, tried jumping up and down by the sea at Venice Beach, CA, in an effort to start an earthquake. They trained for the event by eating pizza and hamburgers."

- "Duct tape is like the force. It has a light side, a dark side, and it holds the Universe together."

- From Letter's to the Editor in the *Modesto Bee* with a headline "Terrible Experience": "I read in your paper that during the water shortage, we should put a brick in the toilet to save water. I want to be a good person. I want to help save water too, so I followed your suggestion."

The only thing I can say about that little experiment is, don't try it. The first time I used the toilet after the brick was in, the paper and the other stuff got all clogged up around it, the toilet overflowed all over the place. I had to reach down there and fish that brick out with my bare hands. Then it took me about an hour to mop the place up.

Why do you do these things to your readers? Is this your idea of a joke? Goodness knows, I try. I try to do the right thing, but this kind of stuff has to go. I demand a retraction so that the rest of the people out there don't have to endure the same kind of terrible experience I did."

The letter was followed by this editor's note: "The brick should be placed in the water tank."

- *Abstract Art*: A product of the untalented sold by the unprincipled to the utterly bewildered. - Al Capp

- All progress is based upon a universal innate desire on the part of every organism to live beyond its income. - Samuel Butler

- From the *Toronto Star*: In the *Journal of the American*

Medical Association, two heart specialists reported that six weeks after undergoing surgery to implant a pacemaker, a 43-year-old Brooklyn woman refused a second operation to fix an electrode lead which had become displaced.

The following week, the woman's husband told Drs. Lawrence Gould and Robert Betzu that he had fixed the problem himself. "The husband turned his 5-foot, 90-pound wife upside down, grasped her by the feet, and shook her violently up and down. Five minutes of this had apparently repositioned the lead."

Tests confirmed that the problem had indeed been fixed.

- So little time, so little to do. - Oscar Levant

- And on the painful front: A man repairing a typewriter in Etobicoke, Ontario, was rescued by firefighters and ambulance attendants when one end of a high tension spring on the machine sprang free and shot up his nose, connecting him firmly to the roller. - *Etobicoke Life*

Steve Parker
Some address
Santa Barbara, CA 99999