

ROARSHOCK PAGE

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Volume 2, Number 9

San Francisco

September 19, 2000

September comes, and California's Indian Summer obscures the fast approaching fall of the year. The year 2000, a great year of transition between the ages, has reached its final quarter. ROARSHOCK PAGE takes this moment to reflect back on the excitement and trepidation of New Year's last, to think about how much has changed, how much has been accomplished, but how much remains undone, how many other great changes and transformations still await completion and fulfillment. September is a time to harvest the labors of the spring and summer, a time of new beginnings among the endings of the old, and here we take a look at other times when life seemed stuck and at perplexing and uncertain crossroads.

DAILY RECORD OF ITEM ACTIVITY

Abdication in favor of drowsiness
-Hello-Hello-Hello-
We seem to be having some communication difficulties
You don't say
"All I really want to do...
Is baby be friends with you." - Dylan
Smiles and frowns
& altogether too much garbage
Games! Games! God damn fucking Games!!!
I'd like to cry
But what's the point?
You're a nice guy with an honest face
No less lonely, maybe more so
Everybody's married or engaged
What's wrong with me?
Maybe if I were a mean guy with a dishonest face...
Welcome to the Zoo
Nobody here but us apes!!!
Sometimes I wonder
Why I can't rise above
The bullshit
And get back to where
I once belonged
(I never belonged).

Walnut Creek, CA
September 19, 1981

A DESPERATE INSPIRATION

This useless exercise in poetry.
Feeling September fog
seeping through
my grandfather's coat.
Mists and ships
of the Red and White Fleet
circling around
the Alcatraz rocks.
Excellent view
from the Art Institute Cafe
where students and teachers
have entered and returned
for the Fall Semester.
Two blocks away
my daughter started kindergarten
at Yick Wo Alternative Elementary School.
Everyone has purpose
vision and goals
ways to fill their time,
but I don't.
With rare real luck
or desperate inspiration
I might write a few lines
of poetry.
Damp gray line
like the fog hugging
the Marin and Sonoma shores,
all burned off by noon.
Clear blue daylight
appropriate for prose
or writing checks for bills,
but the subtlty of poetry
forgotten
closed in the morning book,
and the poet man
beset by reasonable demands:
Make money! Be strong!
Take care of the family,
and pay those damn bills!
The poet man must live on
empty amidst those empty
forms of the day.

San Francisco
September 1988

LABOR DAY IN BERKELEY

On Labor Day
I felt myself a stranger
in the city I hold dear.
I felt my long hanging hair
pull at the edges of my face,
dark circles and lines
etched against my eyes.
On the Avenue
the holiday crowd
buzzed about and hung-out.
I began to dissolve on a street corner,
afraid a sudden wind
would blow my life away.
The cobbles on the campus
bucked and swayed
and history passed me by
in all its swirling shapes.
I saw a face that I could love or hate
a body moved with utmost subtle grace,
pink dress swirling
spinning away from me.
A mask a thousand masks
floating on my sight,
masks I drew on pages
and heard in the wind.
I'll never live the dream
I dreamed today,
perfect love brought down
by truth and doubt.
Does this path have a heart?
No, it does not,
and all I want is out.

*Berkeley, CA,
September 1980*



*ROARSHOCK PAGE is available.
Market Street, San Francisco, 2000*

SEPTEMBER ALMANAC

- 9/2 1666 The Great Fire of London broke out.
1945 Japan formally surrendered in ceremonies
aboard USS Missouri, ending World War II.
1945 Ho Chi Minh declared Vietnam independent.
1969 No. Vietnamese president Ho Chi Minh died.
9/5 1992 Fritz Reuter Leiber Jr. died in San Francisco.
1997 Mother Teresa died in Calcutta, India.
1997 Conductor Sir Georg Solti died in France.
9/8 1952 "The Old Man and the Sea," by Ernest
Hemingway, was published.
1998 Mark McGwire broke Roger Maris' record
for single season home runs, hitting No. 62.
9/9 1850 California admitted as 31st United State.
1956 First television appearance of Elvis Presley
on "The Ed Sullivan Show."
1976 Mao Tse-tung died.
1979 Founding of the Troll Empire, Berkeley, CA.
(Troll Empire now old enough to drink)
9/10 1608 John Smith was elected president of the
Jamestown colony council in Virginia.
1907 Actress Fay Wray was born.
9/14 1959 The Soviet space probe Luna 2 became the
first man-made object to reach the moon.
9/19 1676 Jamestown, Virginia, attacked and burned
during a rebellion led by Nathaniel Bacon
against governor, Sir William Berkeley.
1956 Jackie Farley was born in St Joseph, MO.
9/24 1898 George Gershwin was born in Brooklyn, NY.
9/27 1840 American political cartoonist Thomas Nast
was born in Landau, Germany.
9/28 1066 The Norman conquest of England began.

ROARSHOCK PAGE, Volume 2, Number 10 will be
available October 9.

D. A. Wilson's chapbook, *First Hours of a Rainy Day
and Other Poems*, is available from Golden Land, \$10.00.

ROARSHOCK PAGE

<http://www.roarshock.com>

Subscriptions, \$10 per year.

Published by:

Golden Land Information Services

North Beach Station

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San Francisco, CA 94133-0108

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