

A town changes yet remains the same

MIRANDA was happy as she walked down California Avenue. Her two months back in Palo Alto had been remarkable.

The town had changed; but it had also stayed the same. The matrix of creativity and intellect she experienced here appealed to her.

She also felt that the people she knew in Palo Alto were, by and large, good people. Sometimes you had to dig for it, but it was there.



MIRANDA

She realized this is what she had liked about growing up here; though she had not always understood that when she was younger.

From her present perspective, Miranda saw that her upbringing and education in Palo Alto were a great gift, and in her heart she thanked her troubled parents for that; even though she understood that they had suffered, and that she and her brother often had difficult paths.

With her parents and brother deceased, Miranda saw that she and

Editor's note: The Post has decided to continue the fictionalized serial Palo Alto Odyssey for another month. We've received many comments from readers who didn't want the series to end. And the author, John Angell Grant, has a number of plot lines he still wants to tie up. We're glad so many of you are enjoying this series and we thank you for your interest. Here's episode No. 48 in what is now a 72-part series.

Christi were the last ones left in her family. Beyond that family, however, was her community of Palo Alto. She felt connected to the town, and loved it.

Miranda thought about her retirement. To retire or not retire, that was the question. Did she have enough money? Would she need to continue to work?

She'd read recently of a 91-year old woman who was still working. Miranda knew that the happiest people were

those who loved their work and who kept working.

When people retired, she had observed, they often declined rapidly — mentally, physically and emotionally. Like her father.

If she returned to live in Palo Alto, Miranda was considering applying for the Master of Liberal Arts program at Stanford. Or, alternatively, learning Mandarin.

She had taken a trip to China a few

years earlier; and was fascinated by the country, the culture, the people, the wide variety of landscape, the politics, the history.

Her Chinese history class, as an undergrad decades earlier with a terrific Stanford professor, had kindled an interest that was still alive.

Miranda thought about the friends she had in Palo Alto: Valerie, Jeremy, Toby, Taylor, Eddie and others. Such a diverse bunch; and so many interesting young people, she thought.

Yes, she had decided. She was going to move back to Palo Alto, for the time being at any rate, and continue the next chapter of her life here.

It looked like her ex-boyfriend, Guy, who had left her when he acknowledged that he was gay; was ready for a life change also, and that he too was interested in coming to Palo Alto and living with her — platonically, of course.

The two would be a non-romantic odd couple.

Miranda was happy.

More tomorrow.