

And in fact just making it to a high school reunion is probably not possible since my condition is why I am retired; up until I was 30 I was an avid cyclist and did most of my trips touring by bicycle before it became popular. I cycled on older-style bicycles on washboard roads, up mountains with simple clips, and thought nothing of cycling 100 miles a day for a few days before resting. I injured my knees when I was 30 and stopped cycling for a while, but between cycling, sitting all day at a terminal, and some stupid mistakes, my hips developed bursitis to the point where now I can only sit on an inflatable cushion, and even then for only 20 minutes. My ideas on physical therapy began as a set of slides but will become the last story, since physical therapy, like medical care in general, is a business of hidden profit, not unlike a car dealership, and the main focus is not to teach you how to prevent injury.

So this story has come full circle, I thought I had left Hampton for good, but in one flashing moment realized I had never left. One of the best books about the (short-lived) age of pirates is *The Republic of Pirates* by Colin Woodard. After Blackbeard was killed in NC, his head was retained and stuck on a pike on a pier in Hampton, which back then was the major port in Hampton Roads. This place was subsequently called Blackbeard's Point, and this is right across the creek from the (long-gone) yellow house. Judy's Mom has asked if I wish to be buried in their family plot in Smithfield, and it would be easy to find, since it is only 100 feet from Ava Gardner. But like her, I realize I must go back to where I started. I'll probably ask that I be cremated and my ashes scattered at Blackbeard's Point. I'm sure by now it's the storefront of some high-end hotel chain where they all look the same, but the water and place haven't changed, even if everything around it has. In the meantime I have more stories to write, and I am not even 20% finished. So just to go back to Technical Writing mode, here are the short stories to come:

1. Hampton Institute: a Time and Place
2. Perugia: La Dolce Vita
3. Life as College Boy on a Fishing Boat
4. Peace Corps and the old Expat World
5. Saudi Arabia in Transition
6. The South in Transition
7. Myself in Transition