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Judy:

After writing the note on 8 1/2, I found this quotation from Fellini's Comments on Film. It seems so apt (and touching) that I thought you might like to consider including it--even though it will take us far over the word-limit. Apparently, Fellini had indeed experienced a creative impasse with this very film and had started a letter to the producer to cancel the project. Before he finished, a technician invited him to celebrate the beginning of the shoot with a glass of champagne. Fellini wrote:

The glasses were emptied, everybody applauded, and I felt overwhelmed by shame. I felt myself the least of men, the captain who abandons his crew. I didn't go back to the office where my half-written copout letter was waiting for me, but instead sat down, blank and emptied, on a little bench in the garden in the middle of a great coming and going of workers, technicians, actors belonging to other working troupes. I told myself I was in a no exit situation. I was a director who wanted to make a film he no longer remembers. And lo and behold, at that very moment everything fell into place. I got straight to the heart of the film. I would narrate everything that had been happening to me. I would make film telling the story of a director who no longer knows what film he wanted to make.