



# In Search of Eldorado

Link to the Eldorado Song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VczD1olutQ8>



## Hello to Family & Friends

It was a strange night. The tops of my feet hurt and itched. It's possible the laundry detergent is to blame (I've had that happen before). It's also possible my hiking boots are to blame. I rubbed in a little cortisone and just wore my slippers for awhile.

When I opened the shades this morning I noticed a safety cone in the middle of the road across from the RV. Strange. Maybe a ranger placed it there when he noticed I was camped at the pull-out? But that doesn't really make sense (obviously I made it through the night without a knock on my door). As I was eating breakfast I started hearing some loud motorized noises. Eventually a couple tractors with weed whackers came along, mowing the sides of the road. The sign man out in front would move the cone as needed, then slow or stop traffic according to how he slept last night. LOL

I gained another full day today. All day long I thought it was Friday, then when I set up camp I realized it was only Thursday. That's a plus.

On the way back into Julian I pulled over at Vista Point, which turned out to be the Desert View Park above.

From this vantage point I took the photo below.

Day 28  
Thursday,  
January 30th

*Julian, California*

Weather  
*40's to 60's and Sunny*

## In Search of Eldorado

By Edgar Allan Poe

Gaily bedight,  
A gallant knight,  
In sunshine and in shadow,  
Had journeyed long,  
Singing a song,  
In search of Eldorado.

But he grew old—  
This knight so bold—  
And o'er his heart a shadow—  
Fell as he found  
No spot of ground  
That looked like Eldorado.

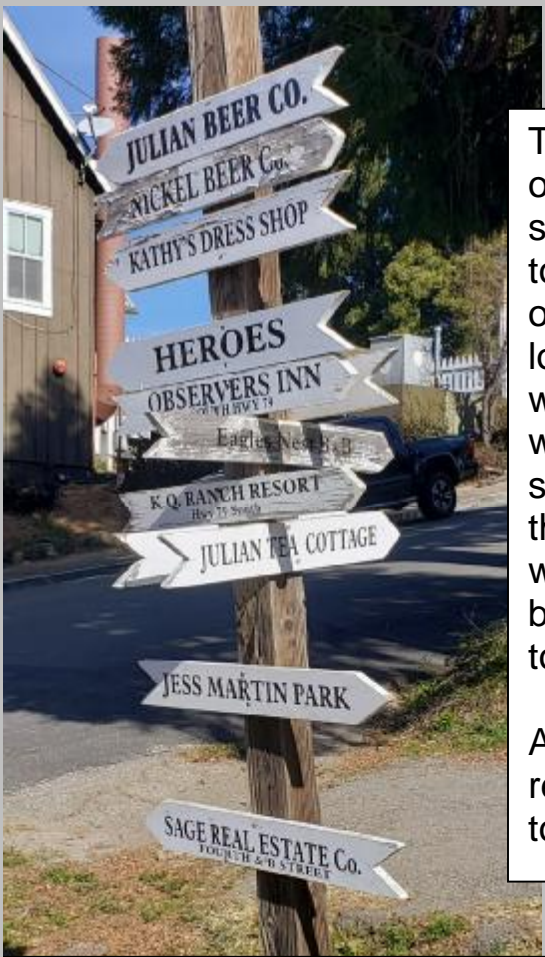
And, as his strength  
Failed him at length,  
He met a pilgrim shadow—  
'Shadow,' said he,  
'Where can it be—  
This land of Eldorado?'

'Over the Mountains  
Of the Moon,  
Down the Valley of the Shadow,  
Ride, boldly ride,'  
The shade replied,—  
'If you seek for Eldorado!'



According to my itinerary, there are many things to see and do here in Julian, so I might spend the entire day. Julian started as a general store for homesteaders in the area. Just after the Civil War, Julian was starting to disappear. Then in 1869 gold was discovered. This was the third gold rush in California and Julian profited as a center for miners until the 1930's. When the gold started to disappear, Julian made itself over again into a tourist town. Below is Main St.





They had several of these type signposts all over town, which is only 5 or 6 blocks long and 8-10 wide, but there were a lot of little shops to visit. I think I once had a walk-in closet bigger than the toy store.

Anybody recognize the guy to the right?



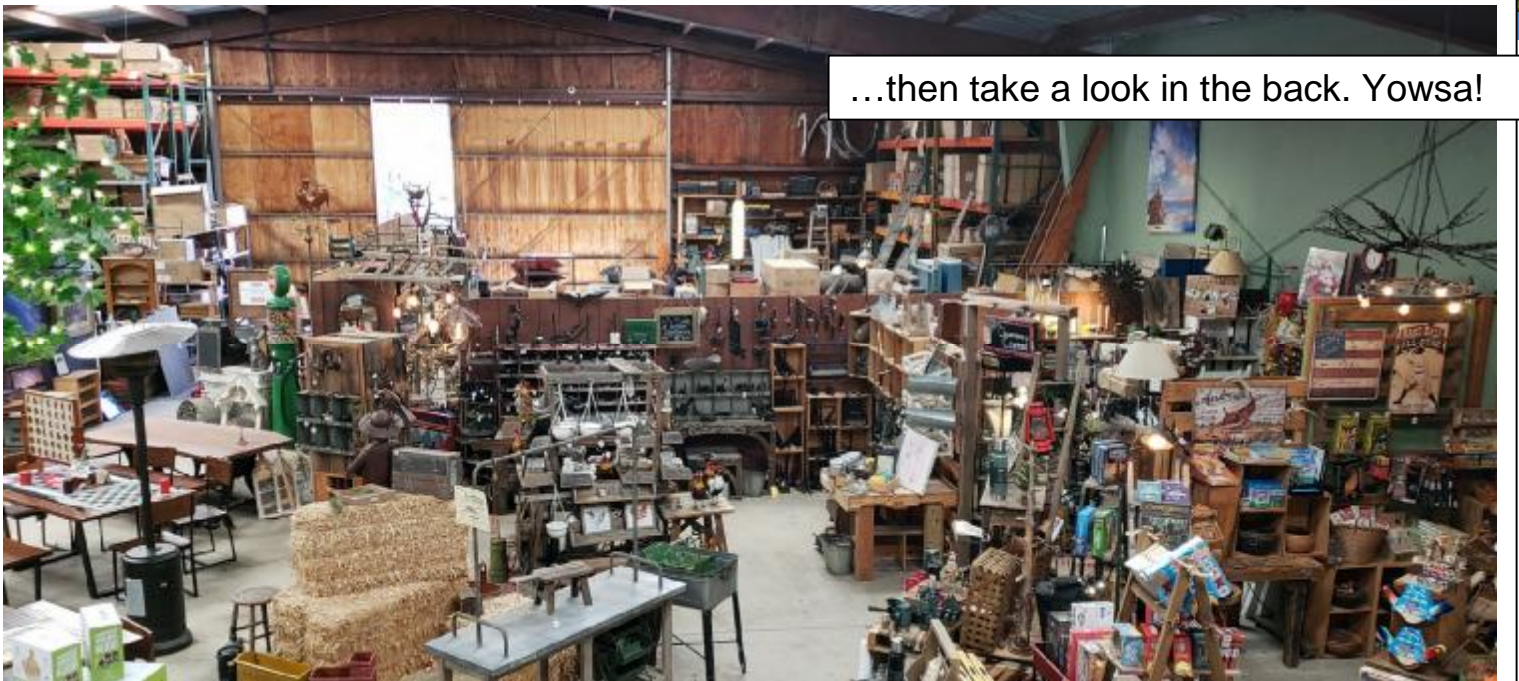
I found a good share of the stores didn't open until 11:00 or not at all on a Thursday. The storefront above looks rather unassuming, until you walk inside.



Walk in the door and look to the left....



...then look straight ahead...



...then take a look in the back. Yowsa!



Whoever sets up the displays has a real artistic flair. Small areas artfully cordoned off by decorative walls with toys, figurines, clearance items, indoor waterfalls, guns, cards, clothing, the list goes on and on.

Speaking of indoor waterfalls (which I love), this one is six feet tall and three feet wide.

I have been in shops that offer unique items for sale all across the U.S., probably in more than thirty different states. The Warm Hearth has to rate in the top one or two, and that includes Wall Drug. I loved this place, especially the back room, and went back a second time for another gander. I took pictures of items I hope to find online for a cheaper price, and I bought another item (can't tell the girls, it's a surprise).





I wanted to visit the Pioneer Museum, but it's run by volunteers only, and even though the sign said 10-4, I checked back several times with no luck. But outside the museum in a small park was this plaque, I found it interesting.

America Newton....Ya gotta love that name.



Julian is a big apple center. Lots of orchards, wineries, and every little restaurant in town sells homemade apple pies or cider. As I was leaving The Warm Hearth I quietly asked the cashier "Who really has the best pie in town?" Back Alley Pies she told me, just across the street. So after a little more walking and seeing all the signs for apple pie and all the specials for apple pie and all the people eating apple pie, I took her advice and had an early lunch at Back Alley. Ham & cheese on wheat, a cup of homemade chicken noodle soup, chips and a pickle. And on the advice again of the cashier, a slice of warm (just out of the oven) Caramel Apple Pie with cinnamon ice cream. As Andy would say, "Mmmm mmm good!"

This was in a different store. I'm trying.



Next is a tour of a couple gold mines. I forget the name of the man who was walking across the top of the hill and discovered a vein of quartz and filed a claim, the Eagle Mine. Another gentleman who heard him bragging discovered three more veins and filed a claim adjacent to Eagle as the High Peak Mine. Both mines were worked into the 1930's, with only a 40 foot wall left between them.

**EAGLE  
MINING CO.**



The Eagle mine adit (entrance). The mountain the mines access is mostly shist rock, making little need for timbers to shore up the roof and walls, the mines tunnel right through the rock.



Looking back at the entrance



A rough map of the mines. From the bottom is the single level Eagle; from the right is the 11 level High Peak.

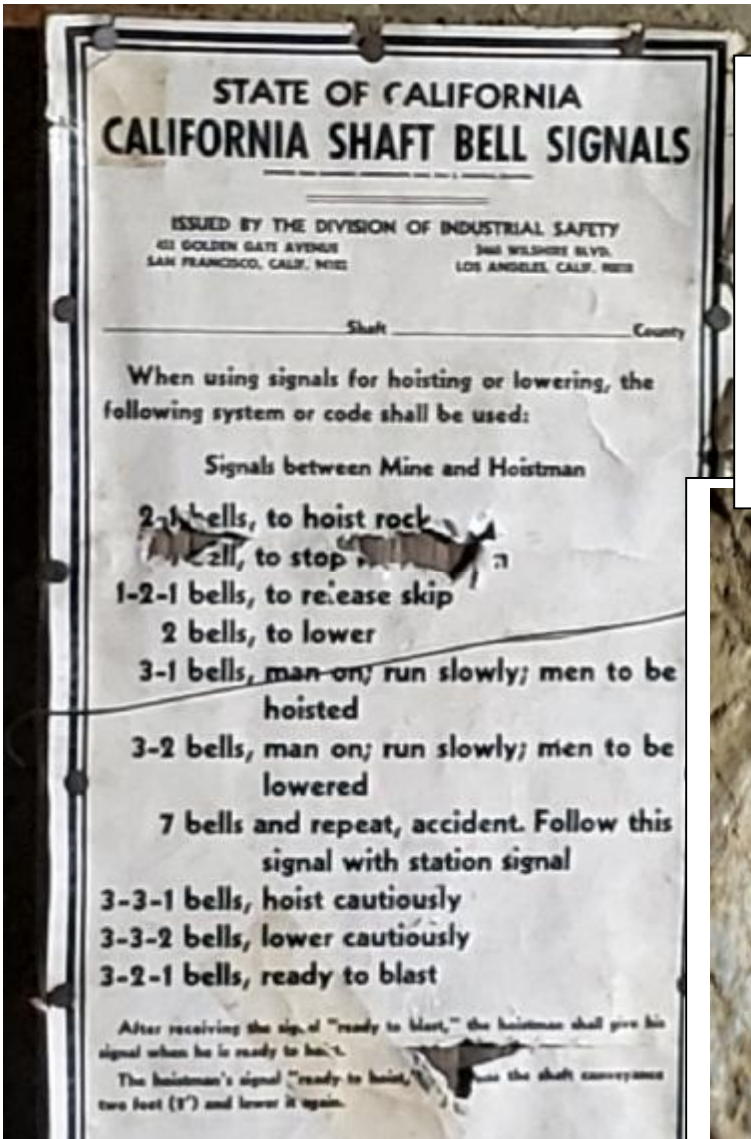


This is a stope, a vertical shaft, which connects the different levels to each other. How are they connected? You ask?





The hoist room contains a gas powered hoist used to raise men and rock from one level to the next.



Right are the bell signals. California actually legislated the shaft bell signals.

I should mention that I was the only one on this tour, except for the tour guide Jerry, who was very knowledgeable about his subject.

Below – We make our way towards the exit





Not uncommon, but not the norm either, was a blacksmith with his own space right in the tunnels, to keep the miners tools in working order.

We entered through the Eagle mine and are exiting from the High Peak Mine, what's up with that? I thought there was a 40 foot wide rock wall between them? There was, but in the 1940's when Uncle Sam needed iron for the war effort, he blasted a hole through that wall making removal of the High Peak rails much easier through the Eagle mine adit.



I wanted to spend the night at Kwaaymii Point in the Cleveland National Forest. freecampsite had it marked as a good spot with trail access to the Pacific Crest Trail. But as I pulled in I thought the idea of spending the night at an overlook might not be so good, so I took the picture above and drove off.



I was in need of fuel and research told me there were three stations at the intersection of I-8 and the Scenic Sunrise Highway, which is the road I was on. But I wanted to spend time in the National Forest and do some hiking. There are a lot of trails here amongst the tall pines. But I needed gas and the stations were only 16 miles away. I decided to drive the sixteen miles, fill up, spend the night at a lower, warmer elevation, then drive back in to hike tomorrow. There's a visitor center along the way and I can grab a trail map and plan my hikes. 1) You guessed it, the VC was closed, only open on the weekends 2) there were no stations at the intersection and I had to drive another 13 miles to get gas.

The good thing is the gas was at a Casino where I am now spending the night.

I was also able to get the sunset photos above from the casino parking lot.

Until next time.....