



In Search of Eldorado

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



Hello to Family & Friends

My cul de sac was indeed quiet and undisturbed. I probably could have parked backwards on the opposite side and opened the slide, but I didn't want to risk the homeowner calling the police on me.

I want to get to the Aquarium when it opens at 9:00 to avoid any crowds and it's a 30 minute drive.

After hopping on the freeway, Google showed me the road ahead was all red, a dead stop. So I hopped off and took a side road paralleling the freeway. How was I to know the only road over the mountain was the freeway? They even had a bike lane on the other side of a barrier. I believe that's a first for me.

After my GPS took me to the wrong, closed road, I put the phone back on and arrived around 9:30. No RV parking that I could find so I backed into a spot. It was a little tight side to side, probably why both spots beside me were empty when I came back out to leave.

The sub below was at the entrance to the parking lot.

Day 40
Tuesday,
February 11th

La Jolla
And
Del Mar

Weather
50's to 60's 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.

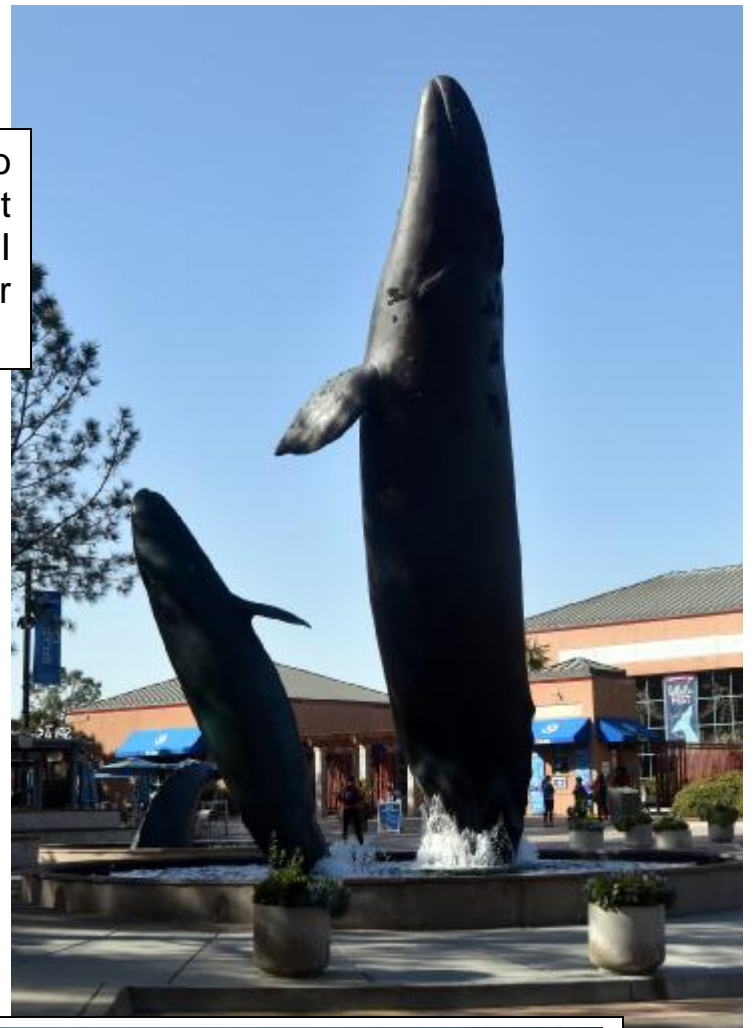
And, as his strength
Failed him at length,
He met a pilgrim shadow—
'Shadow,' said he,
'Where can it be—
This land of Eldorado?'

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



Have you noticed any difference in the photos the last couple days? I've been using the Nikon instead of the phone. There's a little better clarity and sharpness, but I now remember why I stopped using it for everyday pictures...

...the phone is a fuller landscape photo whereas the Nikon is more square. That means the shots fill more of the screen and I can't crop them as easily. This makes for larger pictures but fewer per page.



In Demand

Seahorses are heavily fished in many parts of the world. The vast majority of specimens are dried for use in traditional Asian medicine. In 2001, an estimated 25 million seahorses were harvested for the medicine trade—and demand has been skyrocketing. Seahorses were listed for regulation by CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) in 2004, but compliance with the guidelines is voluntary.



The bigger one kept hiding behind a plant. He must be shy.

That's a seahorse left, those things below that look like weeds are, in reality, sea dragons.



I have an interesting observation, nothing new I'm sure and I haven't looked it up, but you can really see the resemblance to the Chinese depiction of dragons. I bet the whole idea of dragons stems from these sea creatures. Maybe at one time they were much larger. Then when discovered by science they were named dragons because they looked like Chinese depictions of dragons. Do you get where I'm going with this? Sort of like 'what came first, the chicken or the egg?'

I believe these are called pencil fish. Much smaller than a sardine, it would take a heck of a lot to make a meal.



Strangely enough, when I read this plaque I remembered seeing some of the windmill blades in Palm Springs with bumps on the end and wondering what the heck was up with that? Now I know.

A Whale of an Idea

The blades of conventional wind turbines have smooth edges. An idea for a better blade design began with a scientist studying how Humpback Whales swim. He discovered that the bumps on the leading edge of their flippers help form small swirls of water at the trailing edge that increase lift and reduce drag.

Since lift and drag also greatly affect the performance of wind turbine blades, engineers took a cue from the whales. They developed a new bumpy-edged blade, and found that it generates more power at lower wind speeds than smooth blades. The nature-inspired design is already being used to make energy-efficient fans, and may one day appear on airplane wings and propellers.

Engineers mimic the Humpback's flippers to create a better wind turbine blade.



Source: NASA/JPL/Caltech | SepiaStock.com

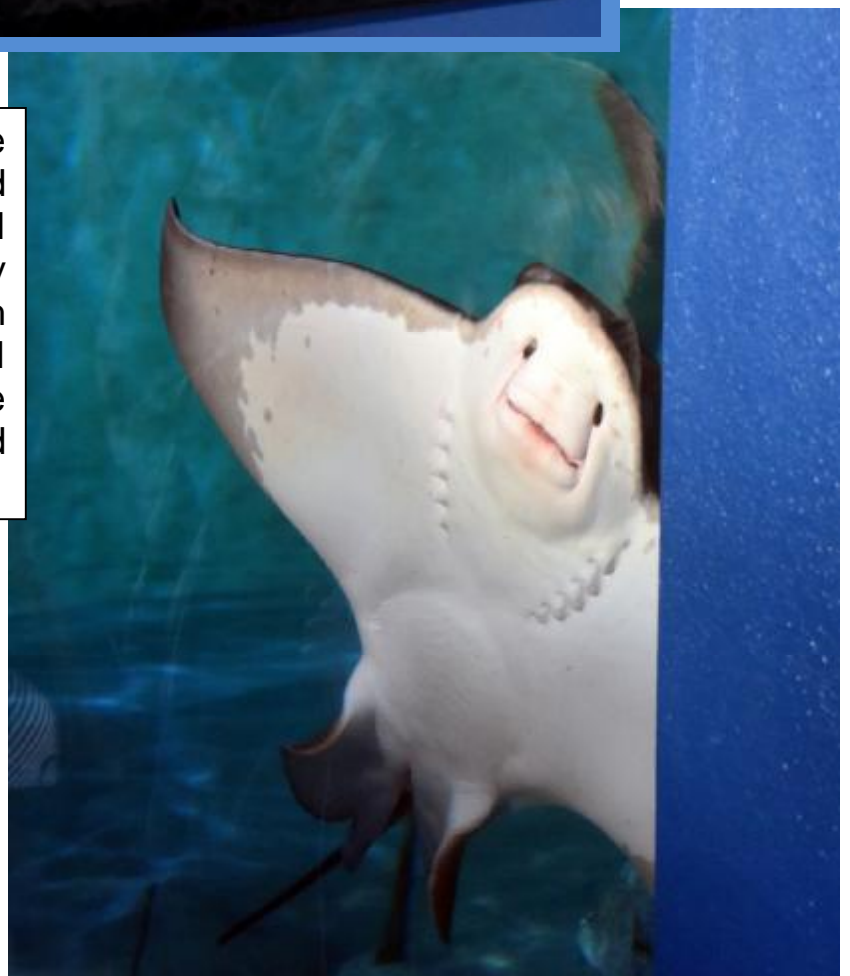
Source: WindPower Corporation | WindPower.com

SHARK Shores

Leopard sharks...



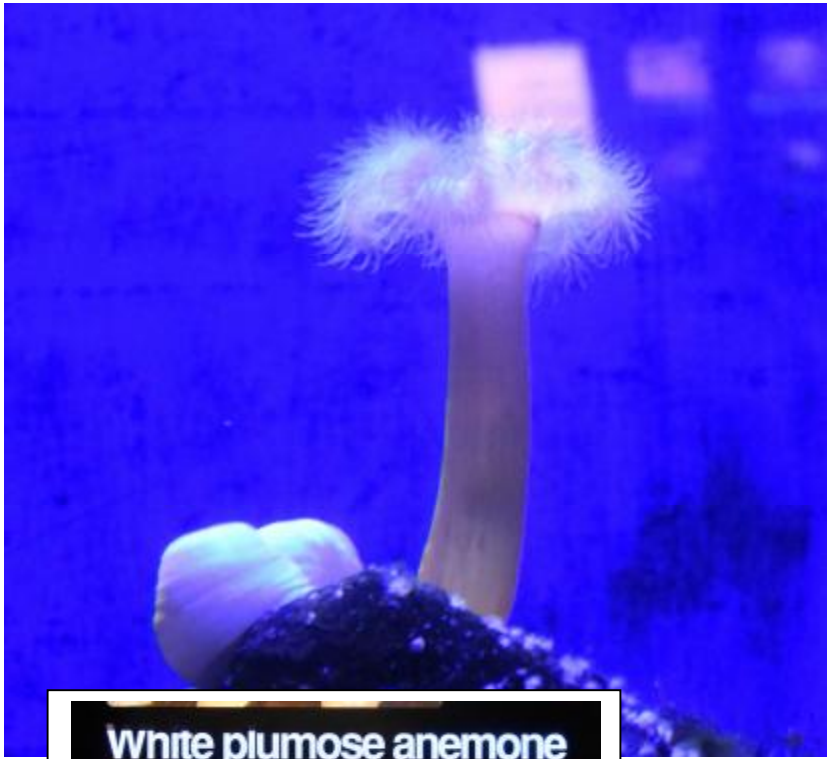
...and rays. I arrived for the 10:30 feeding of the sharks and rays. It was not as exciting as I hoped, and there were too many people trying to push through and see what was going on, so I turned and left. With everyone here, the rest of the place should be empty.



Sunflower sea star

Pycnopodia helianthoides

Of the 90 species of sea stars in the North Pacific, this species is the largest and most active.



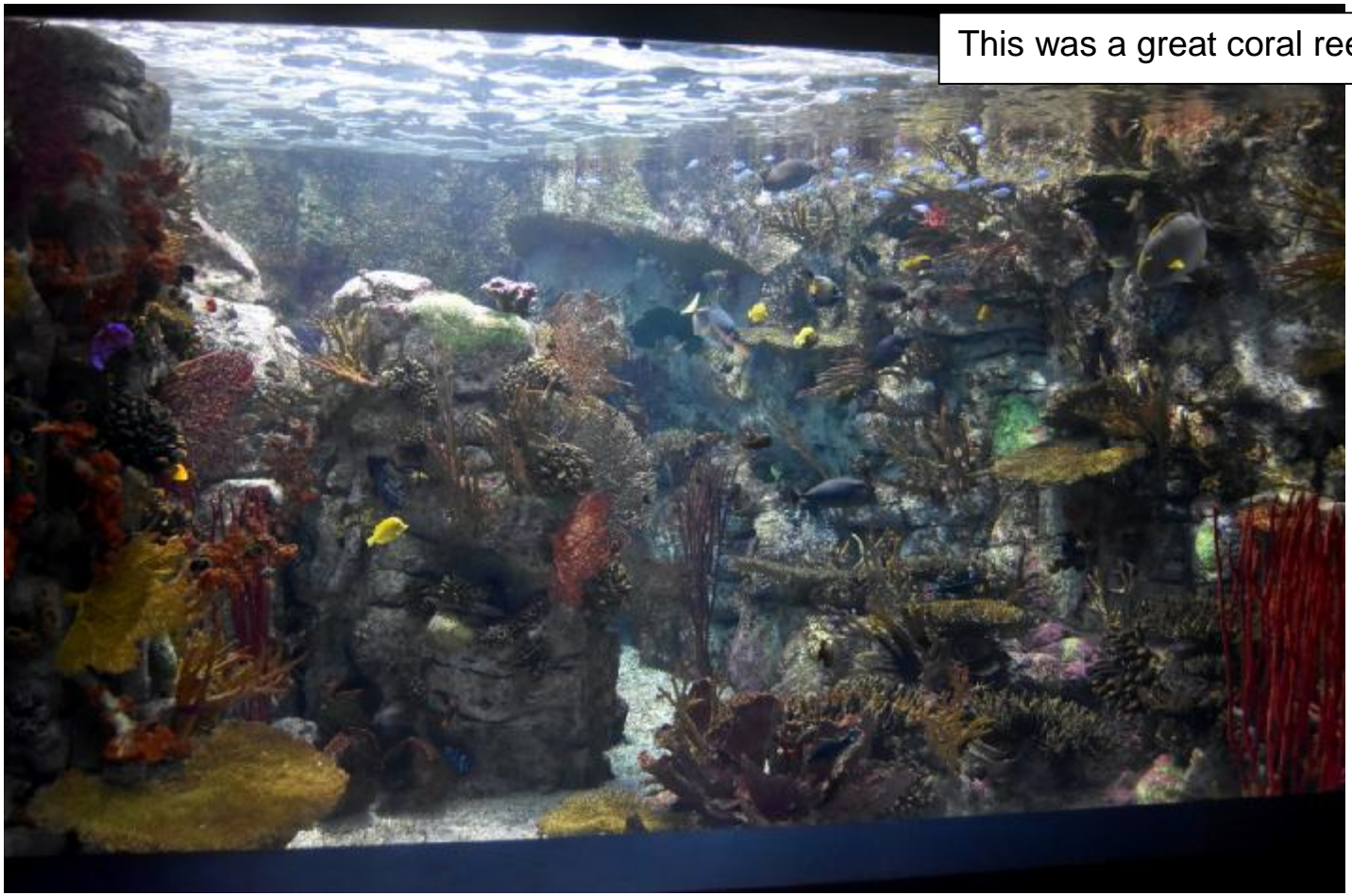
White plumose anemone

Metridium giganteum



A kelp forest. There's one that extends for miles along the California coast. This was the largest tank, note the little boy sitting down front. They did a great job of depicting the ocean current, the kelp and the fish were moving back and forth with it.

This was a great coral reef



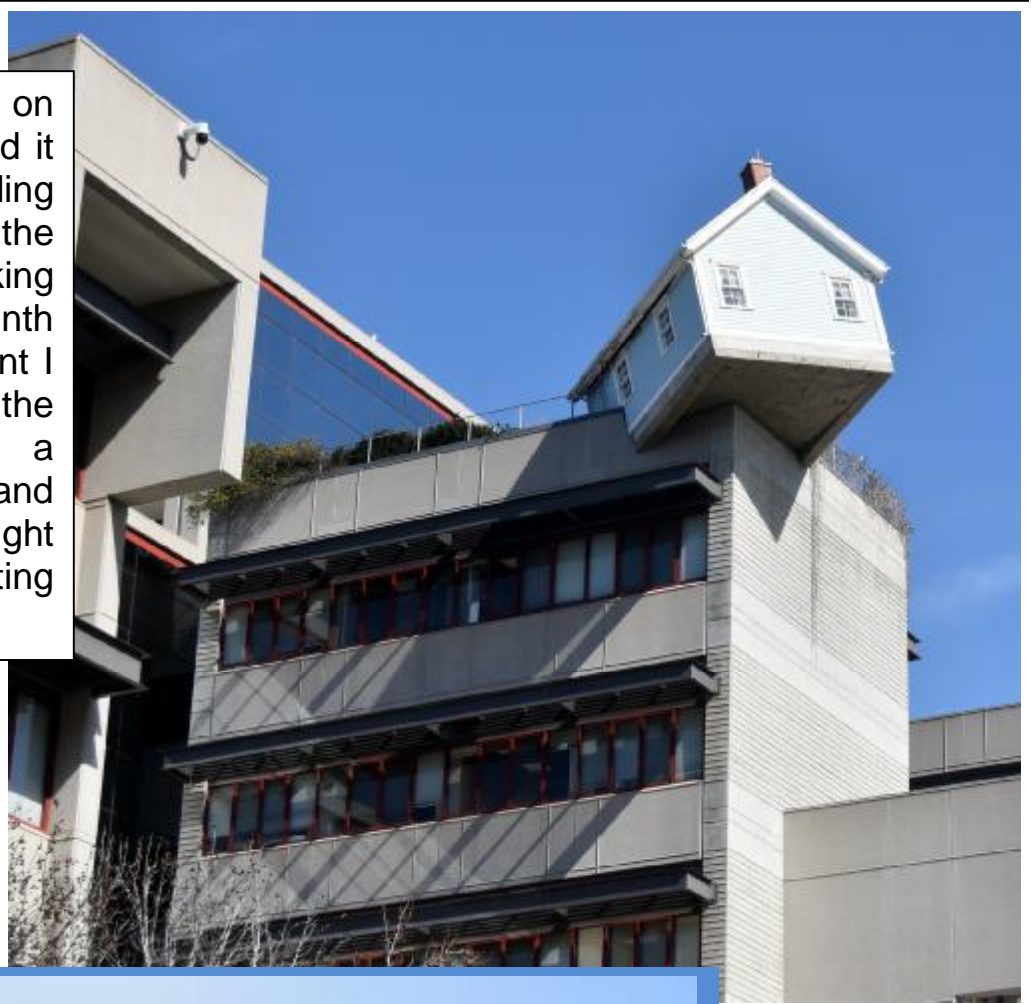
Do you see it? The house, or 'Fallen Star', is on the seventh floor of the engineering building.

Do Ho Suh
Fallen Star, 2012

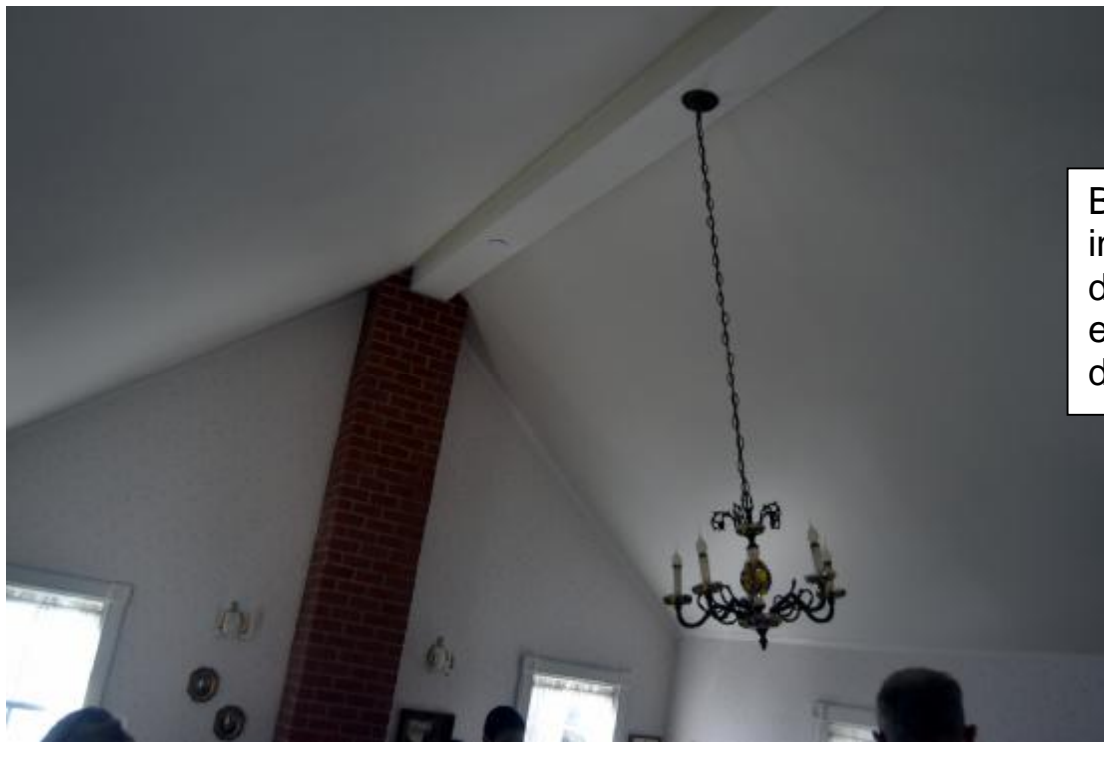
Stuart Collection
University of California San Diego



When I first read about this on Roadside America, I assumed it was on the engineering building because it had to do with the engineering of a house sticking over the side of the seventh floor. As I talked to the docent I found I was wrong, it's the sculptor's depiction of a freshman arriving at college and the disorientation he/she might experience. It's an interesting concept.



It looks somewhat normal from this perspective, like maybe something out of THE WIZARD OF OZ. You almost expect to see a pair of ruby slippers next to the door.

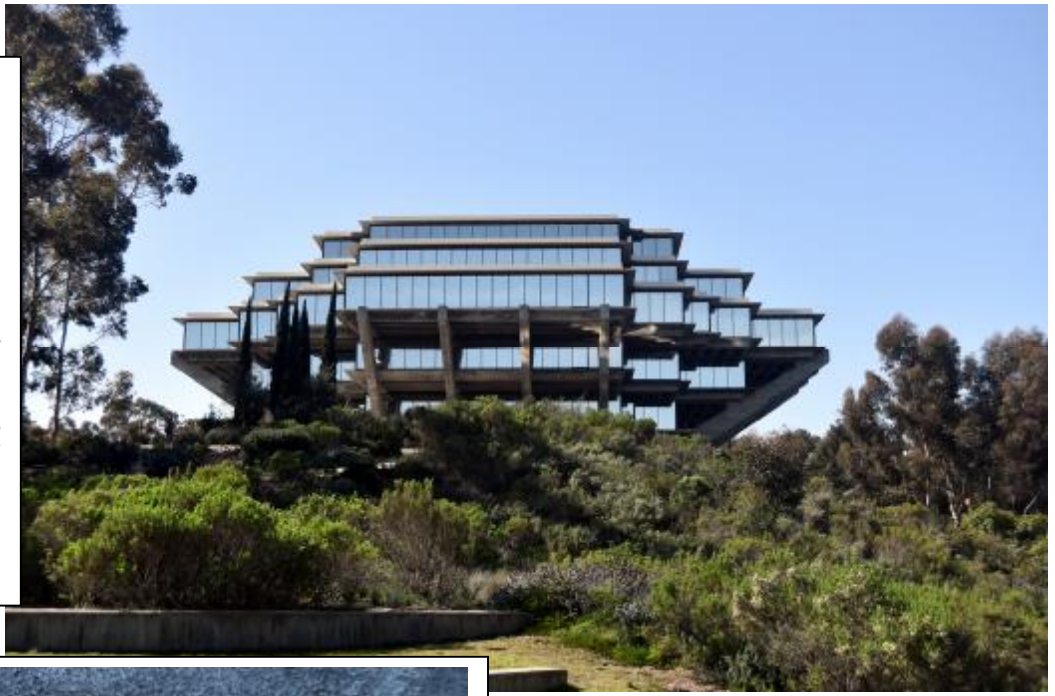


But once you step inside, the disorientation is evident. And it's all due to perspective.

I was standing in the corner straight ahead. The docent and another visitor I had been conversing with were in the corner to the left and appeared very short. As the visitor walked to the opposite corner he seemed to grow until his head was above the door frame. Very weird. The short looking corner wall is eight feet tall, where the tall looking corner wall is only six feet high, plus the floor has a 5 degree slant. Some visitors actually get nauseous for a few minutes when they first step inside.

This building is the library. It's even stranger when you hike up to the bottom of it. Almost 50% is underground.

The UC San Diego campus is extensive, a similar enrollment to Madison, and what is called the Stuart Collection are twenty works of art spread around the grounds.



THEODOR SEUSS GEISEL MEMORIAL

Dr. Seuss and The Cat in the Hat

This Memorial was dedicated at UCSD, home of the Dr. Seuss Collection, on 2 March 2004, the 100th anniversary of the birth of Theodor Seuss Geisel, known to the world as Dr. Seuss.

The original casting of this work is part of the Dr. Seuss National Memorial Sculpture Garden at the Springfield Museums' Quadrangle in Springfield, Massachusetts, the birthplace of Theodor Seuss Geisel.

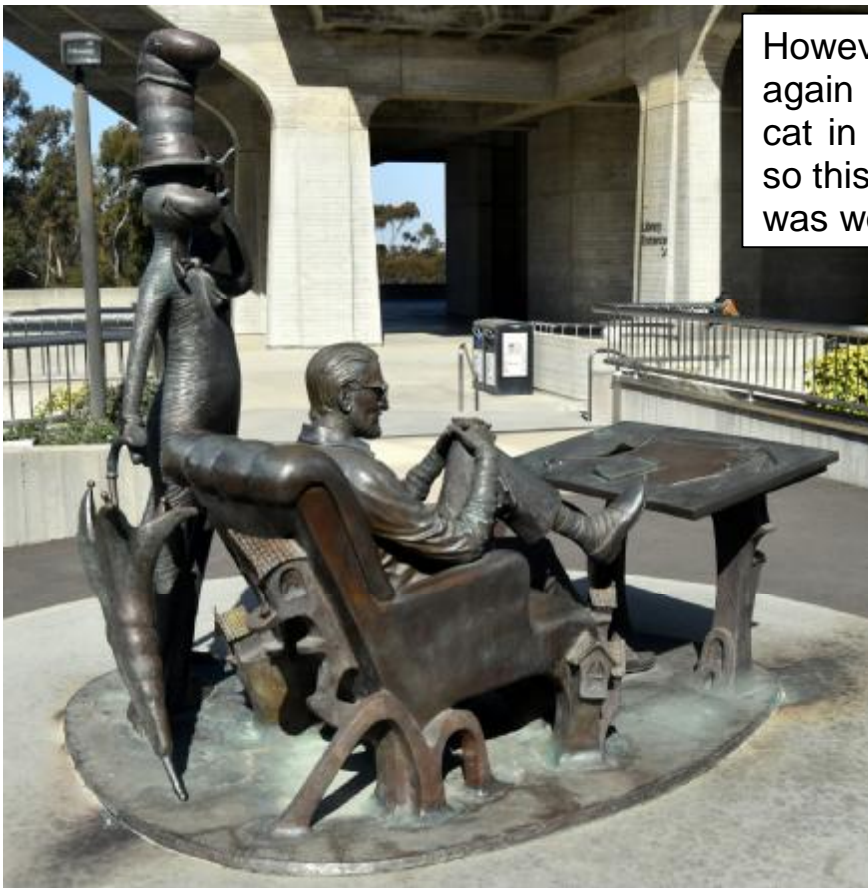
Lark Grey Dimond-Cates, Sculptor

Fallen Star is one of them, as is Dr. Seuss

In order to appreciate this sculpture you have to look at it from more than one angle. Note the little roofs by the chair legs and the umbrella below.

Ok, I was just reading the brochure and this sculpture is NOT part of the collection. I assume because it's a copy and not the original.





However, when I was reading about it, once again on Roadside America, I pictured the cat in the hat from the shoulders upwards, so this depiction of the man and his creation was worth the hike.

Speaking of hikes, if you ever tried to find parking in Madison near a college building, you can double that frustration with the RV. I was going to mention this at the end, but the roads in southern California, for the most part, SUCK! Bumpy, potholes deep enough to lose a Smart Car in, inconsiderate #\$\$%^& in their Porches, BMW's and dare I say, yes, Mercedes. The whole coast so far has been very RV unfriendly.

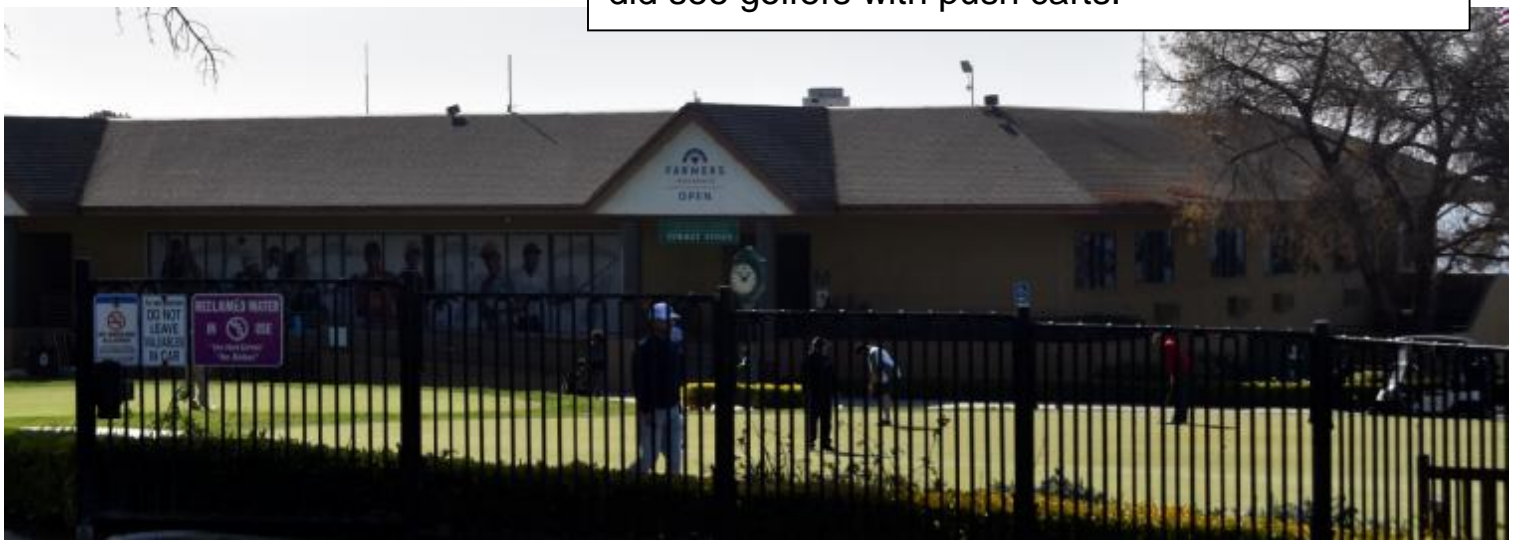
This was the path I took back to the engineering building and the RV. Designed by Alexis Smith, the winding, 560 foot long, ten foot wide, slightly crowned footpath is in the form of a serpent, obviously, whose individual scales are hexagonal pieces of colored slate.



Left - You can see where the serpent loops around a small 'Garden of Eden' that contains a fig tree, a pomegranate tree, and of course, the proverbial apple tree.



This is probably the closest I'll get to the Torrey Pines Golf Course, driving through the parking lot. I certainly can't afford \$300 a round. Although, I did see golfers with push carts.



Remember I mentioned about RV unfriendly? I drove around Del Mar awhile trying to find a parking spot. Almost got into a jam I couldn't get out of, and finally pulled over on a residential street to cook some lunch. I had just gotten everything out of the fridge when I noticed a car parked right in front of me. I thought, 'Really? With all the other spots open?' Then I noticed the light bar on top and the uniform exit the driver's door. I opened the house door and said hello. He asked me if I was aware Del Mar had a four hour limit for RV's parking on the street, and that this was my warning, my four hours starts right now. "Ah....ok...I've only been here ten minutes, I'm just eating some lunch and I'll be on my way." This seemed to take a little wind out of his sails. He was a little, just a little, apologetic. I'm guessing as soon as I parked, someone called the cops that an RV was parked on the street. I bet you can count the hairs in those noses pointed at the sky.

The first surfers I've seen





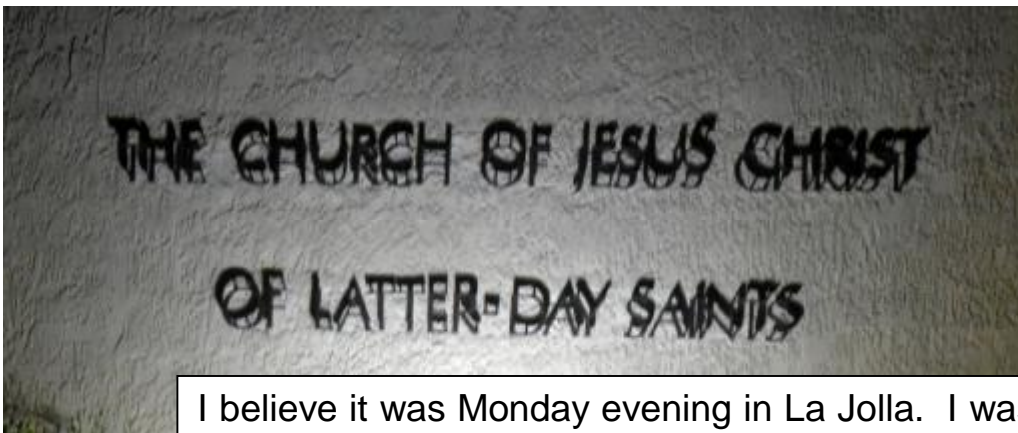
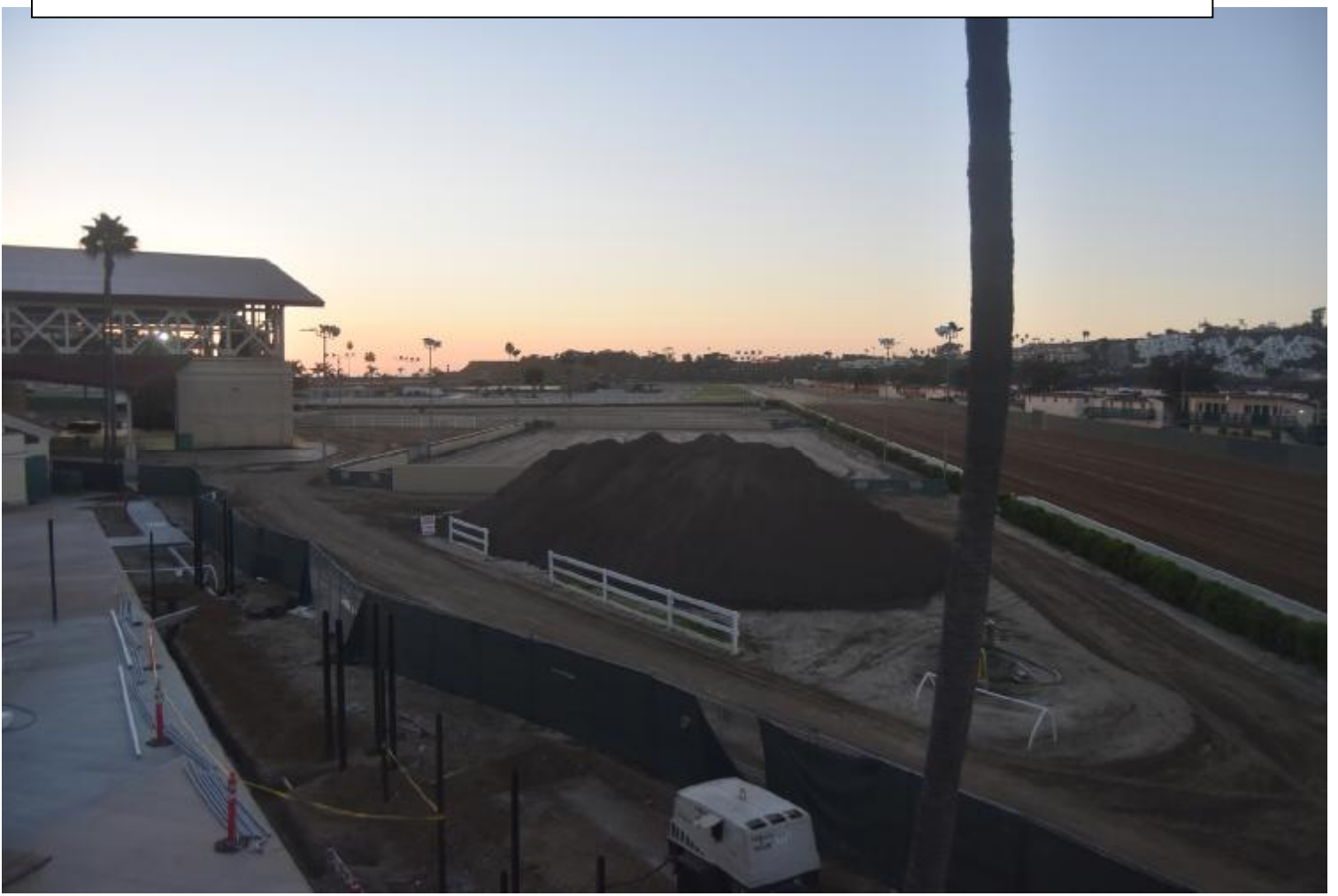
Needless to say, as soon as I finished my lunch I drove back downtown and found a parking space right on the main drag. Read between the lines.

This was the first, and only, store I wandered into in all of Del Mar. They had some nice stuff and I told the two ladies about the cowboy rides I've gone on, the western movie we made, the saloon fight, blazing six guns, that I was a bad guy killed by....nevermind. Wisconsin, my trip, a very friendly conversation. I also told them about my lunchtime visitor and asked for any ideas they might have for me to do. I enjoyed it.



I don't believe I have ever seen a horse racetrack before, so I drove up the road to the Del Mar oval. This track was started by Bing Crosby who became its first chairman with Pat O'Brien second in command. Jimmy Durante was a big enough investor that the street out front is named Jimmy Durante Blvd.

Above are the horse paddocks, empty at this time of year, no tours either, and below is the track. Tomorrow I will realize that my illegal vantage point was probably the worst spot to see and photograph the track.



I believe it was Monday evening in La Jolla. I was looking for a parking spot for the night when I noticed this bright, white, tall, steepled church. I wondered what it was, so today I decided to drive back to La Jolla and find out. I was hoping to get there at twilight for a good photo, but it took longer than expected. Still, the pic below isn't too bad.



I know southern California is making an effort to deter, I can't say homeless if they live in an RV, but unemployed? people living in RV's from camping on the streets. Unfortunately, I am also discriminated against, just because I drive an RV, not because I'm unemployed. No amount of complaining is going to change their minds, or keep you all as my friends, so I will try not to harp on the subject.

As I sat on the street in front of the Temple searching the web for a night time rest, I came across a truck parking area off I-5 southbound about 15 miles north of me. I still have some things to see in Del Mar and La Jolla so that would be a 30 mile round trip. Then I realized that Liberty Station was only 10 miles south of me. Still in a quandary, a close-up look on Google showed the truck parking area closed. That made my decision easy – back to Liberty Station.

But before that I sat there and wrote yesterday's newsletter, so it was 10 p.m. when I finally arrived. I was asleep shortly thereafter.

I have high flying plans for tomorrow, I hope they work out.

Until next time....