



In Search of Eldorado

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



Hello to Family & Friends

Another undisturbed night.

I left Del Mar for Solana Beach to do a little hiking. Annie's Canyon Trail is a bit of an oddity. You start out down a sandy path, a hill with trees and bushes to the right and the San Elijo Lagoon State Marine Conservation Area to the left. It's the same scenery until you get to the sign below.



Hmmm.....which way to go? The difficult way is a slot canyon, and you know how I love slot canyons. The difficult way it is.

Day 42
Thursday,
February 13th

Encinitas

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!'



A few steps down the trail and you come to this. What the hey? Where did these rocks and canyons come from? Not that I really care, I'm just glad I get to weave my way through.



It certainly narrowed to a tight squeeze. You have to turn sideways to get through between the arrows and it climbs steeply with a loose sandy floor until you reach a ladder bolted into the rock walls. About ten steps up, you reach the top. The AllTrails description was a little misleading, as was the sign. The only thing that makes this difficult is the loose sand on top of the rocks you want to set foot on, very easy for your foot to slip off. I was glad I had a hiking pole.



This is from the top looking back down the way I climbed up.



A view of the conservation area below



A had to go around the block a couple times and I still ended up parking in a no parking zone with my flashers on. I was under the impression it was just a statue of Bobby Riggs. Not that it's a large building, there are two walls of the tennis club office (nowadays it's pickleball) devoted to Bobby, but it was worth the trip.



BOBBY RIGGS
WORLD CHAMPION

For those of you not in the know, Bobby Riggs was a tennis champion and number one ranked player in the world in the 40's and 50's. In the 60's and 70's he became the ultimate male chauvinist pig when he stated publicly that no woman could ever beat a man in a tennis match. He did go on to back his claim up for several years against top female players, until Billie Jean King agreed to a match, which she won. I also remember Riggs taking over 400 vitamins per day before the match. The movie RACQUET from 2017 is about this match.

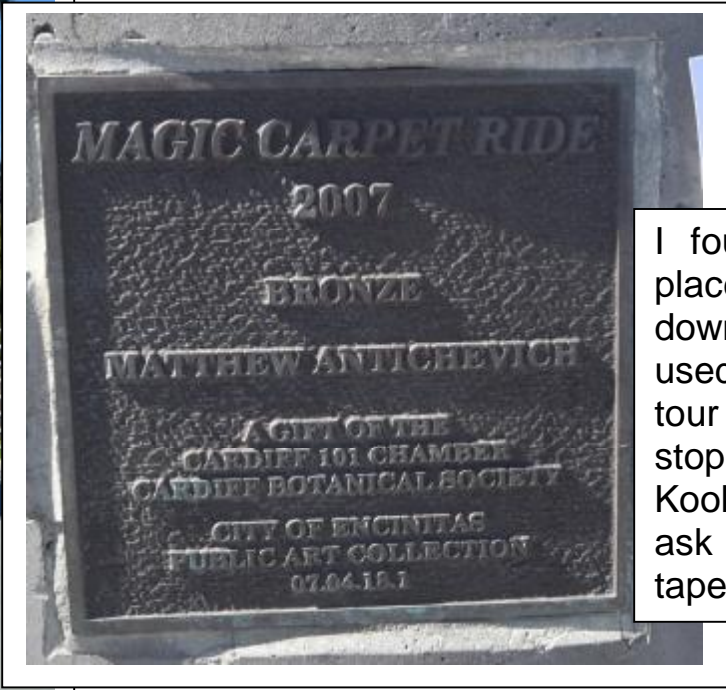
These are the actual outfits they each wore during the match.



If you get the chance, there's also an original ODD COUPLE episode where Felix and Oscar take on Bobby Riggs in ping pong. It's hilarious, and Billie Jean shows up at the end.



The trophy cases



I found a parking place near downtown and used the bike to tour the city. First stop is the 'Surfer Kook' statue. Don't ask me why all the taped up signs.



Boathouses are houses for boats, houseboats are boats for living in. It's unusual but not eccentric to live in a boat, unless the boat is made of plaster and plywood and built solidly on dry land. S.S. Encinitas and S.S. Moon Light are neither boathouses, or houseboats; they are houses built in the shape of boats, moored on Third St. in Encinitas, CA, with the blue Pacific beating on the beach behind the hill like a bad child, heard but not seen. The closest they come to water is when it rains.

Miles Minor Kellogg was undoubtedly one of Encinitas' most noted recyclers, certainly within that period when he lived here in the 1920's and 1930's. He was a versatile builder with a talent for taking scrap material and incorporating it into new structures. When the third story of Mr. Hammond's 1883 hotel became infested with bats in the late 1910's, Mr. Kellogg, who owned the building at the time, removed the top floor and used the wood to build a small silent movie theater next door. Mr. Kellogg was a builder, inventor and businessman who picked up additional materials at a bargain in this case, wood from the bathhouse at Moonlight beach in 1925. Since the building had a low ceiling, the wood wasn't long enough to use in an ordinary house. Mr. Kellogg had a lingering interest in the sea, so the idea came to him to use the material for boat houses.

His ultimate recycling triumph was the boathouses on the west side of Third Street. What a stir they created back in the late twenties. The editor of the local paper poked fun of Mr. Kellogg's creation and Mr. Kellogg retaliated with a major tongue-lashing! His young son, Miles Justin Kellogg, helped every day after school until they were completed. In 1928 the boat houses could be seen from Highway 101 and people passing through town began to turn west for a better look at the structures. Down through the years the boathouses probably have been the most photographed buildings downtown and are a unique symbol of our surfing, beach, and Hwy 101 culture. [Larry E Gundersen, 07/11/2005] **From Roadside America**





It is California after all.

A dark green sign with white and red text. The top part says "Cal Pacific ORCHID" in a cursive font, with "Loy" written in white on a red heart-shaped background. Below that is "Room & Board" For Your Orchid with "5 Plant Minimum" underneath. A table lists prices: "MONTHLY HOTEL RATES" at \$2.00, "REPOTTING FEE" at \$3.00 PER PLANT, and "SPA TREATMENT" as FREE. It also states "ALL MEALS INCLUDED" and "Check-In Time Mon.-Fri. 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Sat. 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM".

MONTHLY HOTEL RATES	\$ 2.00
REPOTTING FEE	\$ 3.00 PER PLANT
SPA TREATMENT	FREE



One of the ladies gave me a tour of the non-public area. The orchids above are grown for sale, but there are hundreds there for room and board. What follows are some of the best. Enjoy!









I sat on a bench at the Orchid Farm and ate my lunch, then headed back into town.



Paint Encinitas Mural Arts Program presents the artist

Skye Walker

Skye Walker's 'Remember California' mural is a visual ode to the state and its natural surroundings, amongst them being the Pacific Ocean, endless sunsets, and golden poppies. The woman figure represents Mother Nature in all her beauty, reminding us that we are responsible for protecting and nurturing her delicate, life-giving abundance. Walker hopes people are inspired by the mural not just to appreciate the natural, but also to witness the need for humans to be in balance with nature, each other, and ourselves.

This is kinda funny. I've mentioned about the lack of truck stops in So Cal, so when I spotted a semi making a delivery I pulled over to ask him about it. Just as I pulled up he went inside the store. While I was waiting I noticed this mural and plaque on the side of the building. I waited about 5 minutes but he never showed.

The building, originally called Ruby's Bar, was once part of Leucadia's early, colorful business district. Owner Ruby Nelson was known for staging dancing girls without a license, selling hamburgers to Marines, and smoking cigars soaked in Cook's Rum. The property where the mural is located has been owned by the Georges family since 1987.

Back in the KV I realized I had missed a couple sights. This is the Derby House. The best angle I could get without finding a parking place.



The 128-year-old Derby House has served as a private home, hospital, religious retreat and hotel. About the only constant over the years has been the sound of trains zooming past. It's reportedly the oldest Encinitas house that's been continuously lived in. In 1883, when Edward Hammond and his family of 11 arrived in Encinitas, they doubled the population in one fell swoop. Hammond, an English cabinetmaker, notably built the old schoolhouse that stands on the Pacific View property, the landmark Encinitas Hotel and, of course, the Derby House, which contains 14 rooms. (Encinitas Advocate archives)



'The Surfing Madonna', a mosaic of the Virgen de Guadalupe created by artist Mark Patterson. It was covertly installed in Encinitas, California by Patterson and his friend Bob Nichols, who posed as construction workers during the installation. The city declared that the artwork was graffiti because of the illegality of its installation. Patterson came forward to accept responsibility for it, and was fined \$500 and ordered to pay approximately \$6,000 for the art's removal. It was removed in 90 minutes, and Patterson was allowed to keep the art. Criticism for and against allowed the mosaic to be reinstalled in a different location and Patterson started a charitable non-profit to raise funds for the community. (Wikipedia) However, I will read in the local paper tomorrow morning that another request was made to remove it, the reason: Patterson and his wife are skimming funds from the non-profit.



Oops, this one was supposed to be at the beginning, I forgot about it.



JOSEPH BEBAR
"NATURE'S LIGHT"

- RECLAIMED • REPURPOSED • FUNCTIONAL
- ARTISTICALLY LIGHTING UP NATURE

BORN IN ENGLAND AND GREW UP IN THE EASTERN SIERRAS. AT AGE 10, THE FAMILY MOVED TO THE COACHELLA VALLEY. FOR OVER 40 YEARS HE HAS CALLED IT HOME. FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE DESERTS OF CALIFORNIA, AN ABUNDANCE OF VARIOUS NATURAL RESOURCES PROVIDES A UNIQUENESS TO EACH ONE OF A KIND ART PIECE.

I parked by Moonlight Beach and walked back to Historic HWY 101 (the road I have been following up the coast for the most part) and glanced into some shops before having some ice cream. I love this table lamp, but I don't love it \$2400 worth.



From Moonlight Beach I took a couple of sunset shots.



I parked at a Ralph's grocery store again for the night. I was kind of concealed by construction tarps on a chain link fence.

I have been asked how I come up with all the sights I find. It's a long process. It started about six years ago one night when I was bored and looking at the west from Google Earth, that's when I first remembered Monument Valley and wound up going on horseback adventures with GAA. The trip down Route 66 before 'acting' in the GAA western movie made me want an RV to travel around in. I have been saving clippings of places to see for the last forty years, so I thought about where I would go, looking state to state for things to see. That's where I came across Roadside America (RA).

My research for California, or any state, starts with the National Parks and Monuments, those are first on my list. I plan everything else around them. Once I realized winter weather would not allow me to visit northern California in warm temperatures, part of the reason for going south and west to begin with, I concentrated on So Cal.

There would be 10-15 tabs open on the top of my laptop; Google Maps, Roadside America, Atlas Obscura (AO), Free camping sites, harvest hosts, boondockers welcome, AllStays, national parks, AllTrails, Trip Advisors, sometimes a hidden desert site and a ghost town site and a gravesite site (and there are plenty of others for whatever peaks your interest), and 2 or 3 for searching things out. RA and AO have maps with pins for the sights. As I put together an economical route for the NP's & NM's using Google maps, I switch back and forth to RA, AO, the city/town/village on the map, any sites that appear interesting on Google Maps (you have to really zoom in here and slowly move down your route and back and forth, it does get tedious). If something sounds interesting, I will add it to the list.

Once I have my list, which constantly changes, I go back and research hiking trails, addresses, open hours, costs, sometimes phone numbers, and whatever else I think is necessary. I also make the best route in cities by address and small, day long groups.

I do this because I want to see and do the most that I can, but without driving back and forth over the same route again and again (especially with gas here at \$4/gal). Changes are constant. I started research for California last April after I arrived back home from Arizona. I wasn't sure I would be going, but it gave me something to do, that I enjoy, in my evenings. I didn't change it to only So Cal, until November. Nothing is set in stone, well, almost nothing. There are some activities that need reservations, but not many.

I learned from my dad that some things where you plan 3 days might end up as one and vice versa. Like Death Valley, Joshua Tree and La Jolla, I spent longer in all three than I planned on. I spent less time in the Mojave Preserve, Salton Sea area and Anza Borega parks than planned on. Some things I skip because I've done something similar before, like the Palomar Observatory here. I visited that one in Arizona last year so I skipped it.

And that's how I plan my itinerary, 13 pages this trip.

Until next time....