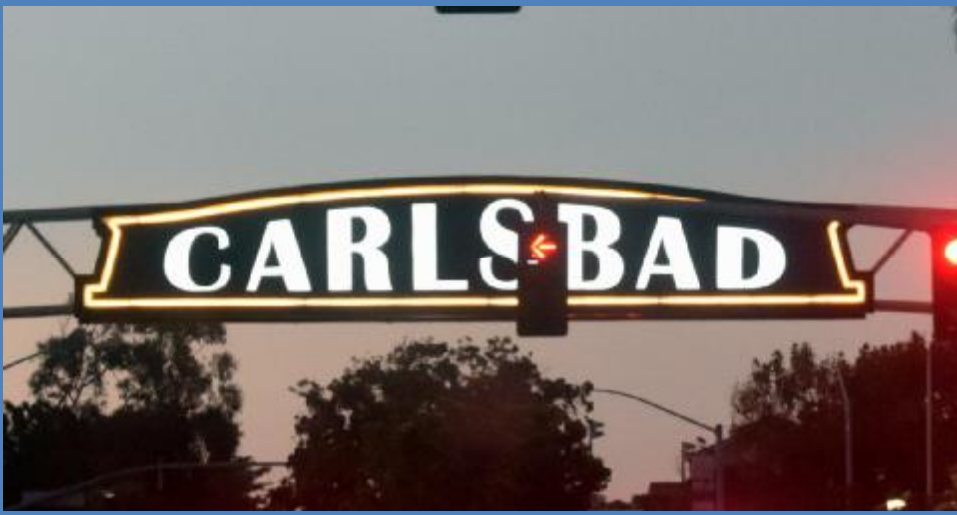




# In Search of Eldorado

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



## Hello to Family & Friends

When I awoke I found I was right next to a Discount Tires store, so I drove over and had them find the leak in the front passenger tire. The culprit was a screw. They fixed it for no charge. Great!

Across the street a gas station had LP, and since the gauge just went to  $\frac{1}{4}$  I decided to get it filled – 4.5 gallons. Goofy. I called Winnebago about the LP situation the other day, they had no explanation either, and advised me to call or visit a propane dealer/expert and see what they have to say.

After I left Joshua Tree I visited a place called Pioneertown and told you to remember the picture I took of the Cisco Kid poster. Today is why I told you to keep it in mind.

Pancho, aka Leo Carrillo, bought land outside of Carlsbad which he then proceeded to build a ranch on. A hacienda, cabana with pool, stable, blacksmith's barn, regular barn, a cantina, tack room, etc. It was his second home where he would go to get away from the Hollywood lights.

I had no idea from watching reruns that Leo was 71 when the CISCO KID started production in 1950 and almost 80 when the series ended. He did not appear that old, at least to my memory.

Day 43  
Friday,  
February 14th

Happy Valentine's  
Day  
In  
Carlsbad

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!'

He named it 'The Flying LC' (Leo Carrillo), and below is his cattle brand.



### LEO CARRILLO 1880-1961



Leopoldo Antonio Carrillo—pronounced *Cay-reel-yo* in Castilian—comes from one of California's early founding Spanish families. Three of Leo's ancestors arrived in San Diego in 1769. The Carrillos were prominent families in Spanish and Mexican California.

### ACTOR



Leo is best known for playing Pancho in the 1950s TV series *The Cisco Kid*. Leo has two stars—one each for film and television—on Hollywood's Walk of Fame. He performed in Broadway plays before appearing in many Hollywood films from 1929 to 1950.



### RANCHER



Leo's sprawling 1,750-acre ranch was home to cattle and horses, turkeys, chickens, peafowl and dogs. The Carrillo family, the ranch foreman and several ranch hands cared for hundreds of heads of livestock and acres of crops.

As you will see later, I, as most people, knew him only from THE CISCO KID. I had no idea he was a Broadway actor and appeared in seventy movies.

# MR. California

He was given the title “Mr. California” due to his California heritage (7<sup>th</sup> generation), 18 years serving on the public lands and beaches board, and traveled the world promoting California. He appeared in many parades and was in demand for other personal appearances.

We are grateful for the cultural legacies Leo Carrillo passed on to us. Leo loved California, history and beautiful places. He cultivated the dedication of public lands and beaches for future generations. Today, his work is carried on by the City of Carlsbad and The Friends of Carrillo Ranch, Inc., and you, as a supporting visitor. Leo Carrillo Ranch is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

## The Foundry

This was a noisy place when the blacksmith was at work. Across the fields you could hear the banging and shaping of hot iron into customized door hinges, gates, horse shoes, cattle brands and light fixtures. The hissing sound of glowing metal sliding into the cool water meant another fine piece of metalwork was fashioned.



## Look for Leo's Touches

Leo was an artist, too, and appreciated the finer details. Look around the ranch and see how he adorned his buildings with rustic touches of ironwork.

I looked but I couldn't find any.

I looked but I couldn't find any.



## Hand Stamped Approval

When stable construction was complete, Leo and his adobe building expert, Cruz Mendoza, gave their work a permanent *high five!*



The stable

This is the part I was referring to earlier

Leo Carrillo was very proud of his Spanish ancestry, and came from one of the twelve founding families of San Diego. In 1769 his great-great grandfather, Jose Raimundo Carrillo, had traveled north with Fr. Junipero Serra on his journey to found the first missions in Alta California.

For many of our visitors today, Leo Carrillo was best known for his role as "Pancho" in The Cisco Kid television series in the 1950s. The series was one of the most popular television shows of its day, and Cisco and Pancho became role models to kids worldwide. Duncan Renaldo played Cisco, the dashing, cultured hero, and Leo Carrillo starred as Pancho, his easy-going, joke-cracking sidekick.

Obviously, I was not old enough to have seen the first run of the series, my experience is all from reruns, but I remember even in the early 60's that I had a Cisco Kid gun belt or hat or something.



The Cisco Kid's outfit and Pancho's shirt from the TV series



The Cisco Kid filmed from 1950 - 1956, but TV wasn't the only place to see Cisco and Pancho.



The Hacienda



Above is the Cabana with pool. It was a swimming pool back in the day, now it's a reflecting pool. How about the outdoor BBQ on the left? Nice! I sat for awhile on the bench beside the pool. I was alone there. It was very quiet and peaceful, bright blue skies, a gentle breeze, temp about 64. I could see why Leo chose this spot as a place to unwind.

## Making a Splash

Leo described in his hand-illustrated fiesta party invitation: "*Lots of fun! Lots of eats! One hell of a good time!*" You are in the center of Leo's place for entertainment and relaxation. Guests dipped into the cool pool filled with well water pumped by the windmill. Musicians with trumpets, guitars and accordions played long after sunset.



Besides cattle and chickens, Leo also had orange, lemon and grapefruit trees



## The *Old* Way In

### Country Road

The Carrillos and their guests entered *Ranch of the Spanish Daggers* from a back road in Carlsbad, known today as Palomar Airport Road. They motored over a wooden bridge and as they crested the hills, views of the ranch unfolded. If you look underneath the modern bridge, parts of the historic bridge are preserved.

The old bridge beneath the new





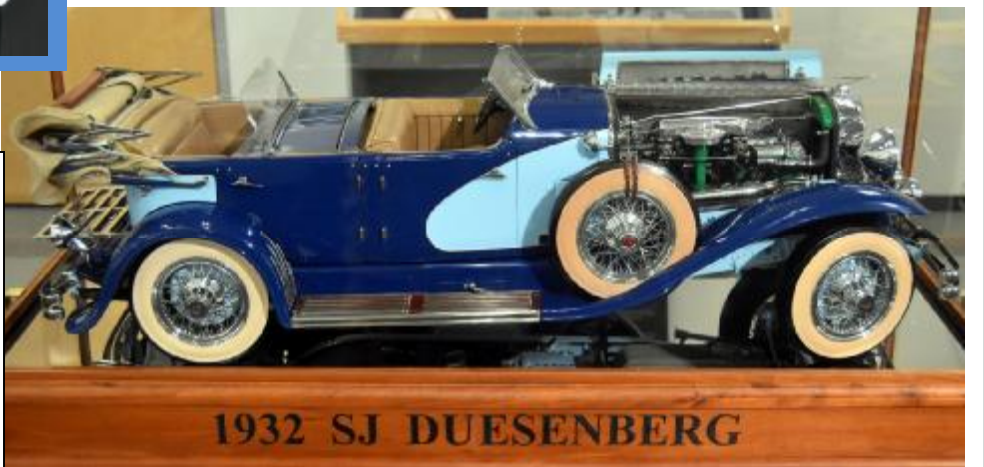
The Old entrance over the New bridge.

Spring is starting to blossom here in So Cal.



**The Joe Martin Foundation  
for Exceptional Craftsmanship**  
MIINIATURE ENGINEERING  
*Craftsmanship Museum*

When I entered the museum I was informed that every scale engine on display actually runs. There was display case after display case of all sorts of engines. Not really my thing. But...





The model, truly a miniature automobile, replicates all visible parts and most hidden ones in order for it to function. Its engine cylinders have a 5/8 in. bore, resulting in 1/6 scale or size. It weighs 60 lb. and is 35 in. long.

Attempting to follow full size practice, it is built from raw materials. Hence, the engine block and head are cast iron with aluminum pistons; the crankshaft is 4130 alloy steel as are the camshafts that have hardened followers. The engine has 32 valves, 1/4 in. diameter with 4 per cylinder. The centrifugal supercharger is non-functional.

The engine runs on gasoline. Its polished aluminum and stainless steel external parts are prototypical, a beautiful power plant.

...there was also the fact that almost every item on display had a placard like this (only 1 of 5 for the model above) with a lot more info than was of interest, at least to me. Reading them all would have taken hours. So I'll just show you a couple that DID interest me.



This 1932 SJ model Duesenberg was built by Louis A. Chenot. He estimates the project consisted of approximately 10 years and 20,000 hours. Considerable time was spent on research with travel across the country in locating parts to photograph and measure. Several thousands pictures were taken.

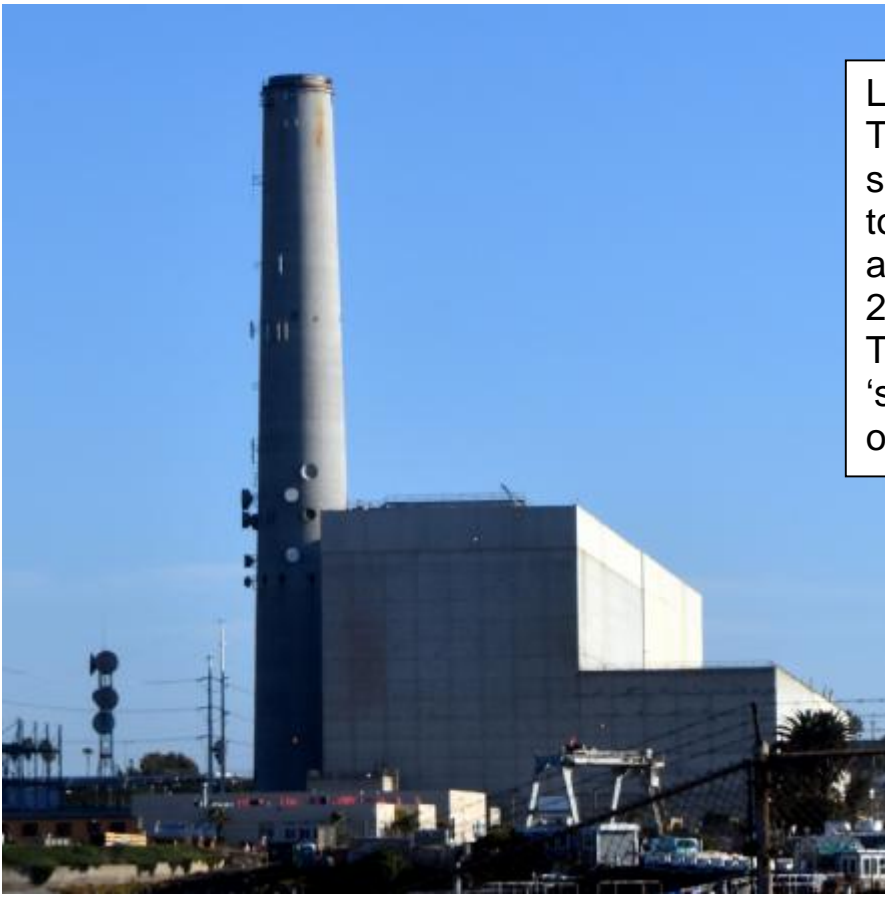


There were a couple nice wooden boats.

The copper pipe along the back supplies steam to these engines. You can't tell in a photo, but they are all running. Then an engineer gave a little demonstration of how things are made, without a computer.



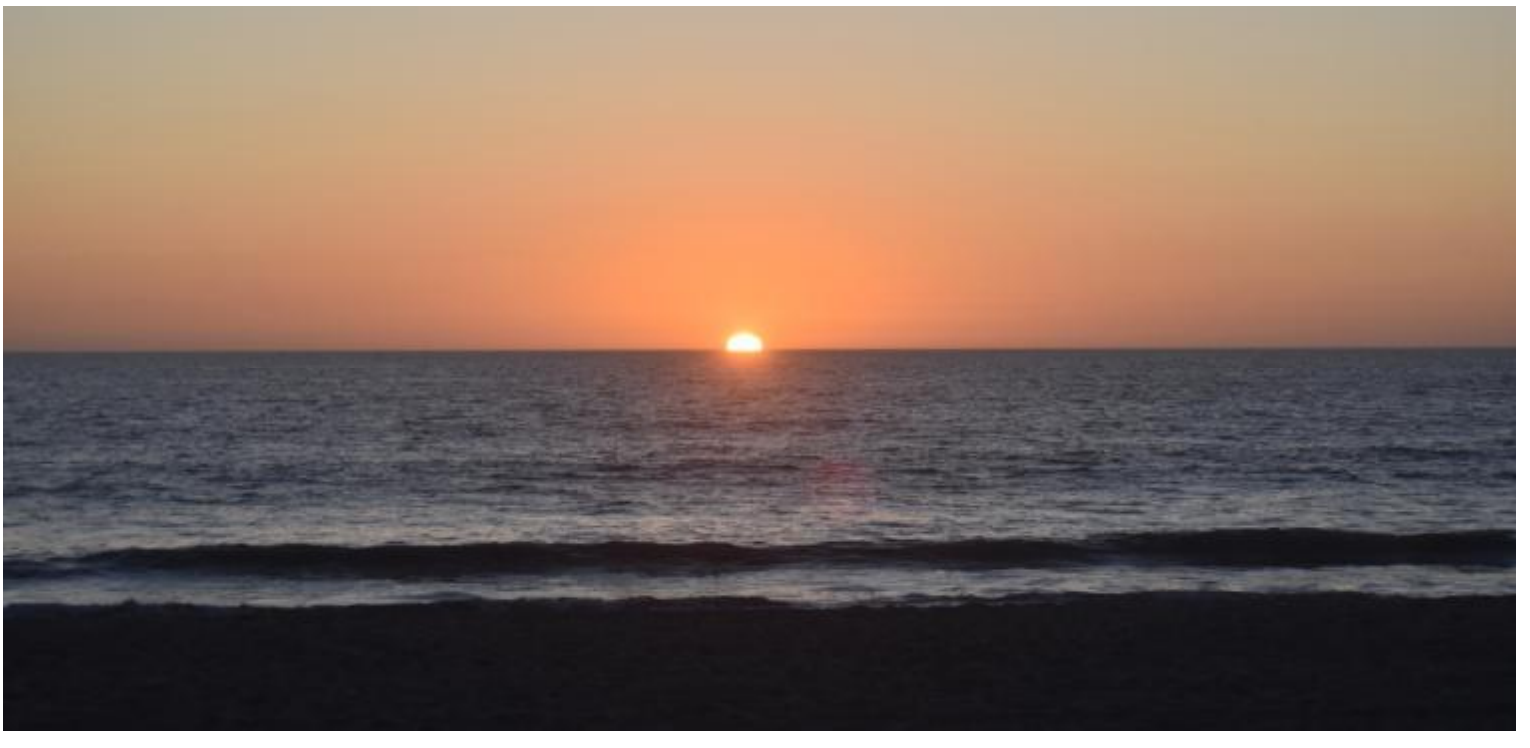
This is a full size replica of a Danish windmill, the blades are rotating. At one time it was the Anderson's Pea Soup building, then a TGIF, and now a food court



Left is the Encina Power Station of NRG. The plant opened in 1954 and the smokestack was added in 1978. It's hard to research but the 400 foot tall stack and the entire plant stopped operating in 2014 and was slated for demolition. There has been an ongoing effort to 'save the stack' as an icon of Carlsbad or repurpose the plant.



Just another walk on the beach



A so-so sunset. No cluds and the water was a little rough.

One of the items in the area I skipped is LegoLand. They want \$100 for 1 day, and unless you're a kid the reviews say it's not worth it.

I am close to a rest area on I-5 this time, only six miles up the road, so that's where I'm typing (even though this one, which is yesterdays is being typed today and tomorrows will be typed in the same location, both locations are the same rest area). Did you get all that?

I'm starting to get bored with cities and longing for mountains and scenery again. Unfortunately it will be awhile before that happens.

Until next time....