



In Search of Eldorado

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



Hello to Family & Friends

The rest area was noisy, yet each sound drowned out the rest, and other than the occasional loud semi, there were no distractions.

First stop is the San Luis Rey Mission. This is the 18th mission built by the Spanish in Alta California and is the largest of all twenty. Alta means “upper” California in New Spain, basically California, Nevada, Utah and Arizona north of the Gila River.

I guess my buddy Father Kino must be included in this missionary endeavor. (guess not he died before it began)



Day 44
Saturday,
February 15th

Oceanside

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!'

Does something about this seem familiar?
Keep reading.



I didn't want to disturb any of the people who were praying, so I only took the one photo and did not venture down the aisle. The docent told me the paint on the walls is original from 1896, and that the quarterly hour bell is a recording and not the real bells.

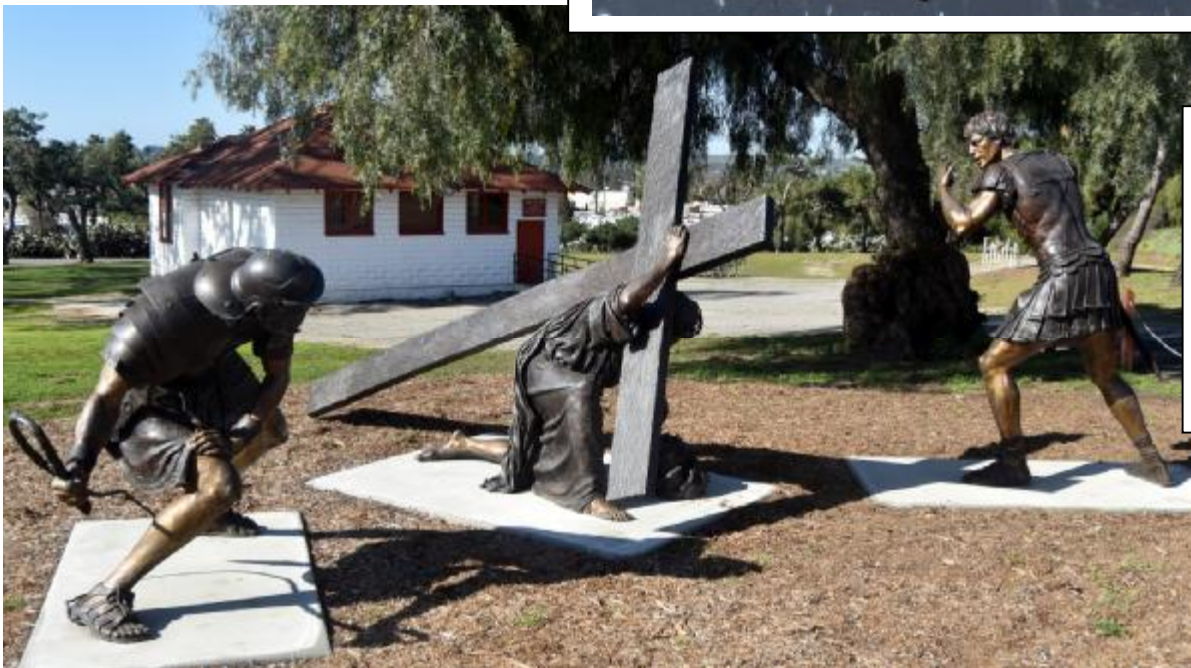
I keep bumping into him. He was born two years after Father Kino passed away



The Via Dolorosa Society was founded by Dr. Peter J. Maturro to promote and encourage the growth of spirituality.

The Society's project to create life size bronze works of art depicting the Stations of the Cross is made possible through the devotion and generosity of many donors.

Artists: Christopher Penn Slatoff and A. Wasil

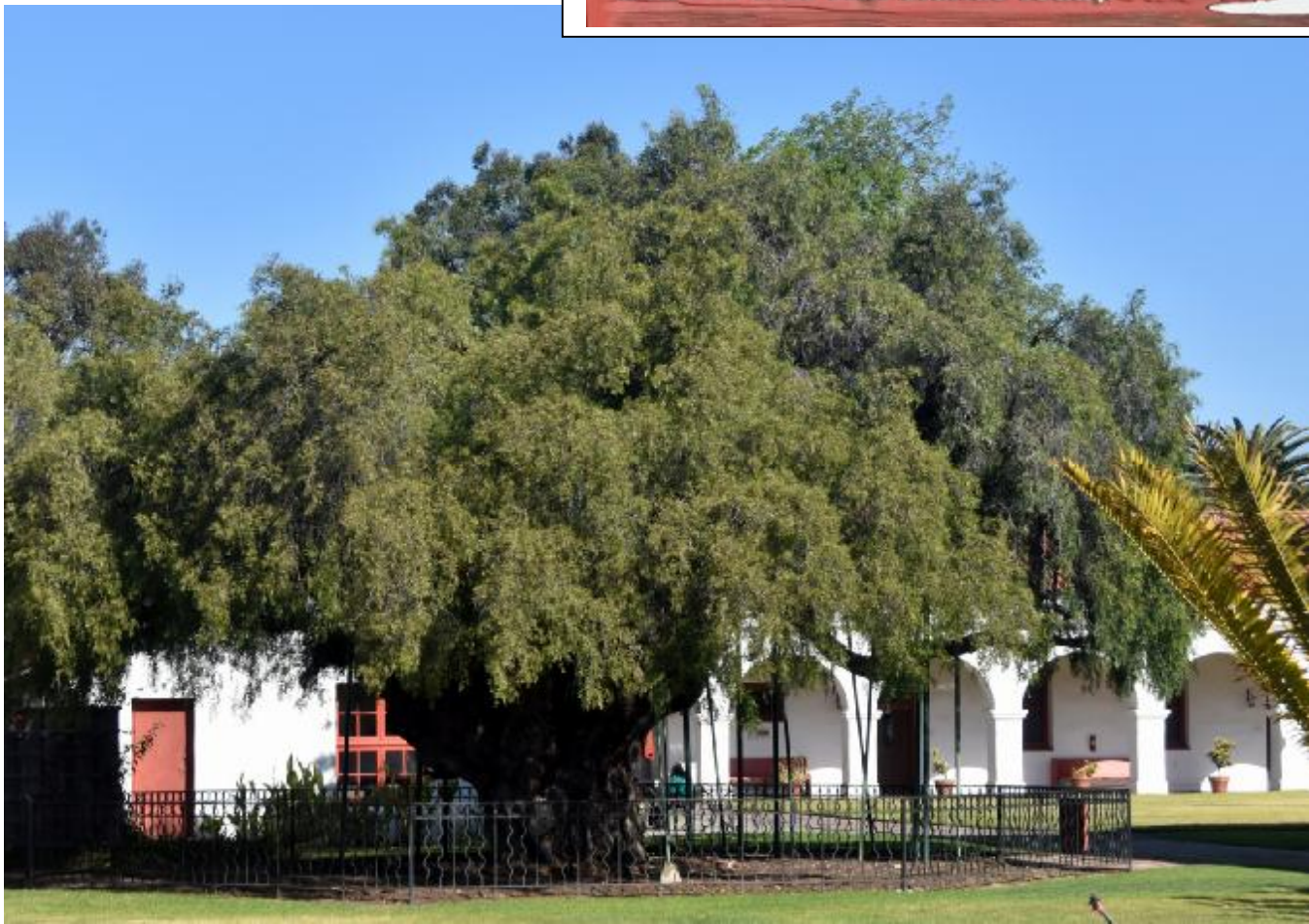


As hauntingly beautiful as these bronzes are, I could only find three of them on the grounds.



The Mormon Battalion as well as Spanish soldiers were garrisoned here. These ruins were discovered when the mission was restored.

The oldest pepper tree in California was planted by Fr. Antonio Peyri in the middle of the Mission garden. The seeds were brought to San Luis Rey in 1830 by a sailor from Peru and the tree still stands today.





The original entry arch to the garden.



My cell phone shows how thick the walls are



In the 1820's Mexico won its independence from Spain and took over all of Alta California. They kicked the padre's out, sold the land as rancheros and the missions became abandoned. In the 1840's we kicked Mexico out but did nothing with the missions until 1865 when Abraham Lincoln, three weeks before he was assassinated, ceded the missions back to the Catholic Church. Even then this mission was ravaged by locals for building materials until 1891 when Irish born, Spanish speaking Father O'Keefe took over and rebuilt the mission into what it is today.



I asked you earlier if the Mission looked familiar? This may be why.

Walt Disney filmed the 1957 Zorro Television Series here at Mission San Luis Rey

Disney installed these doors as the main Church doors for filming.

The following is the Zorro theme song by Henry Burns and Norman Foster:

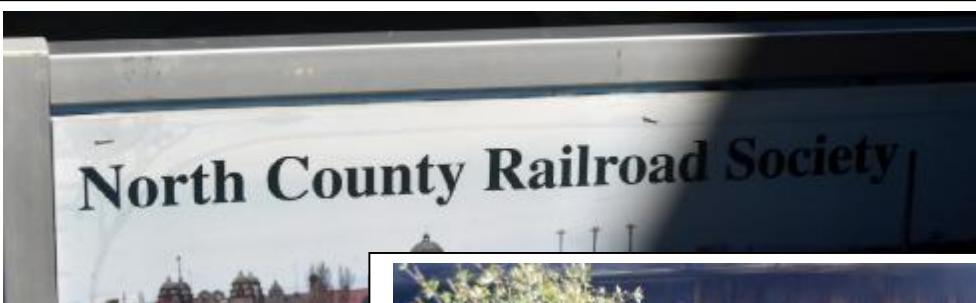
*"Out of the night when
The full moon is bright
Comes the horseman known as Zorro.*

This bold renegade carves

A 'Z' with his blade,

A 'Z' which stands for Zorro."

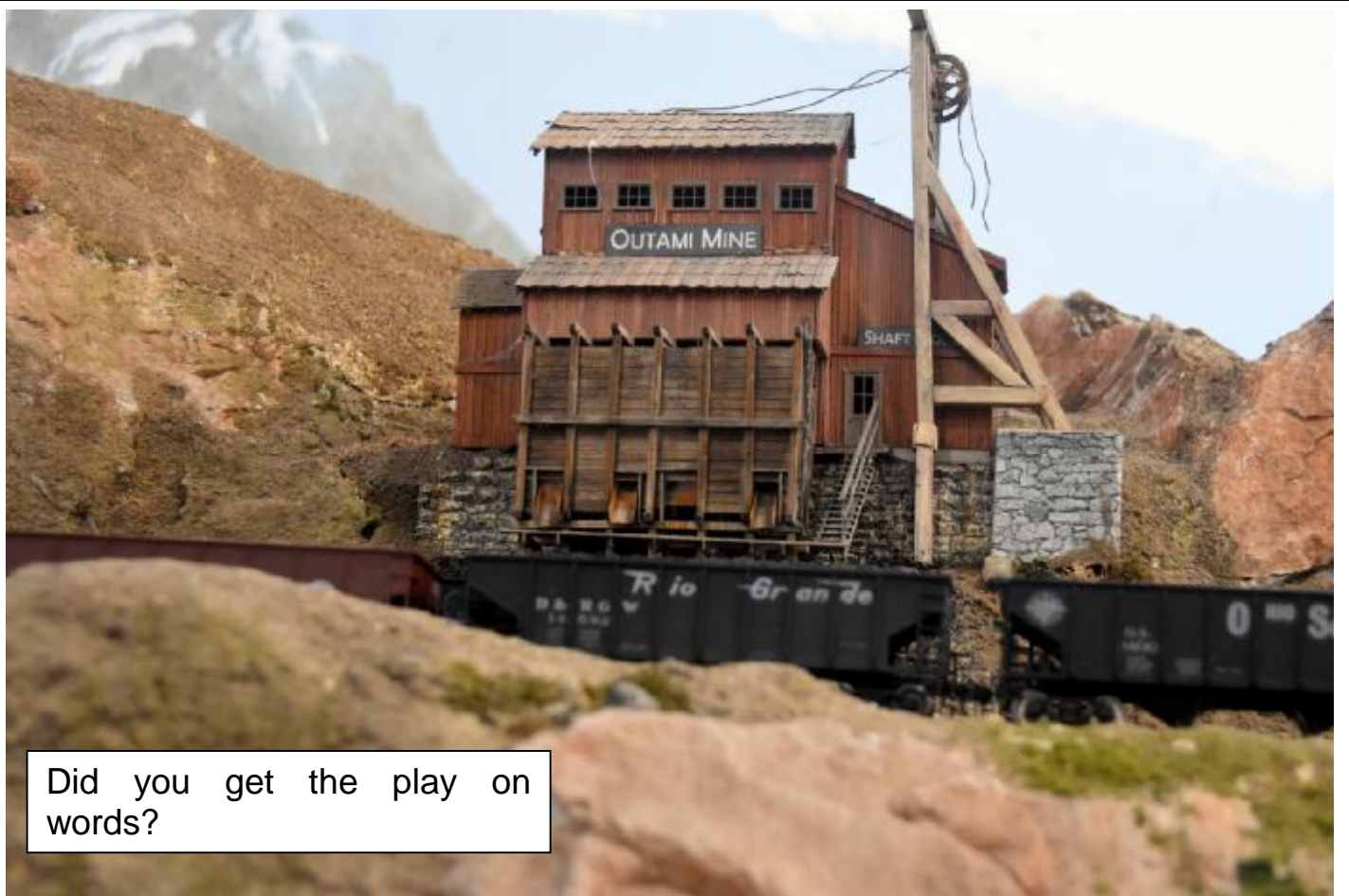
There was a scene where Zorro scaled the bell tower.



I know what you're thinking, 'Oh great, another model train layout'. Tough, I love trains. And I think you will be amazed by the detail of this layout. Keep in mind that this layout is HO scale, that's 1/87th the size of real life. It means the single story buildings you see are just slightly over one inch high.

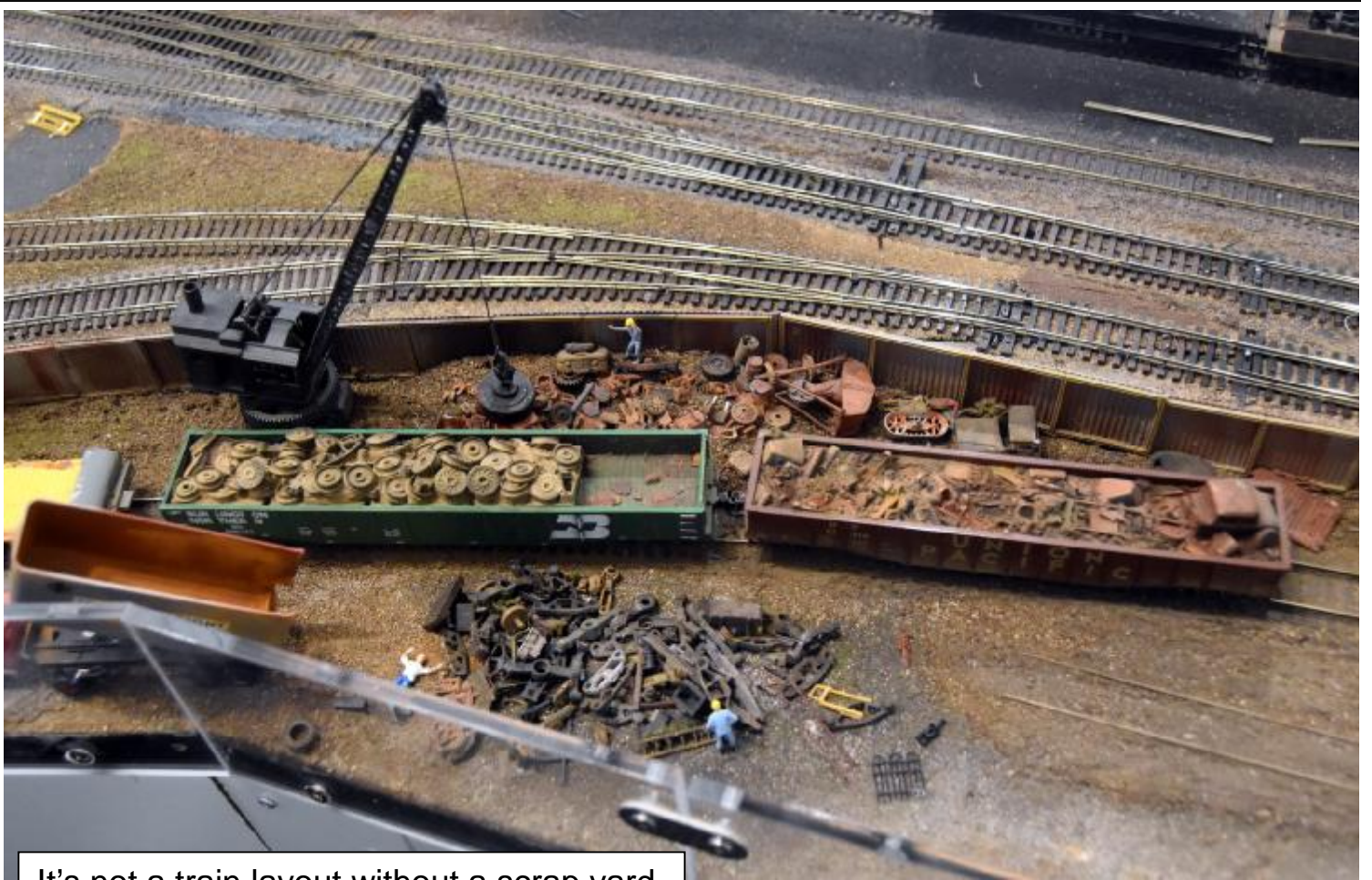






Did you get the play on words?





It's not a train layout without a scrap yard

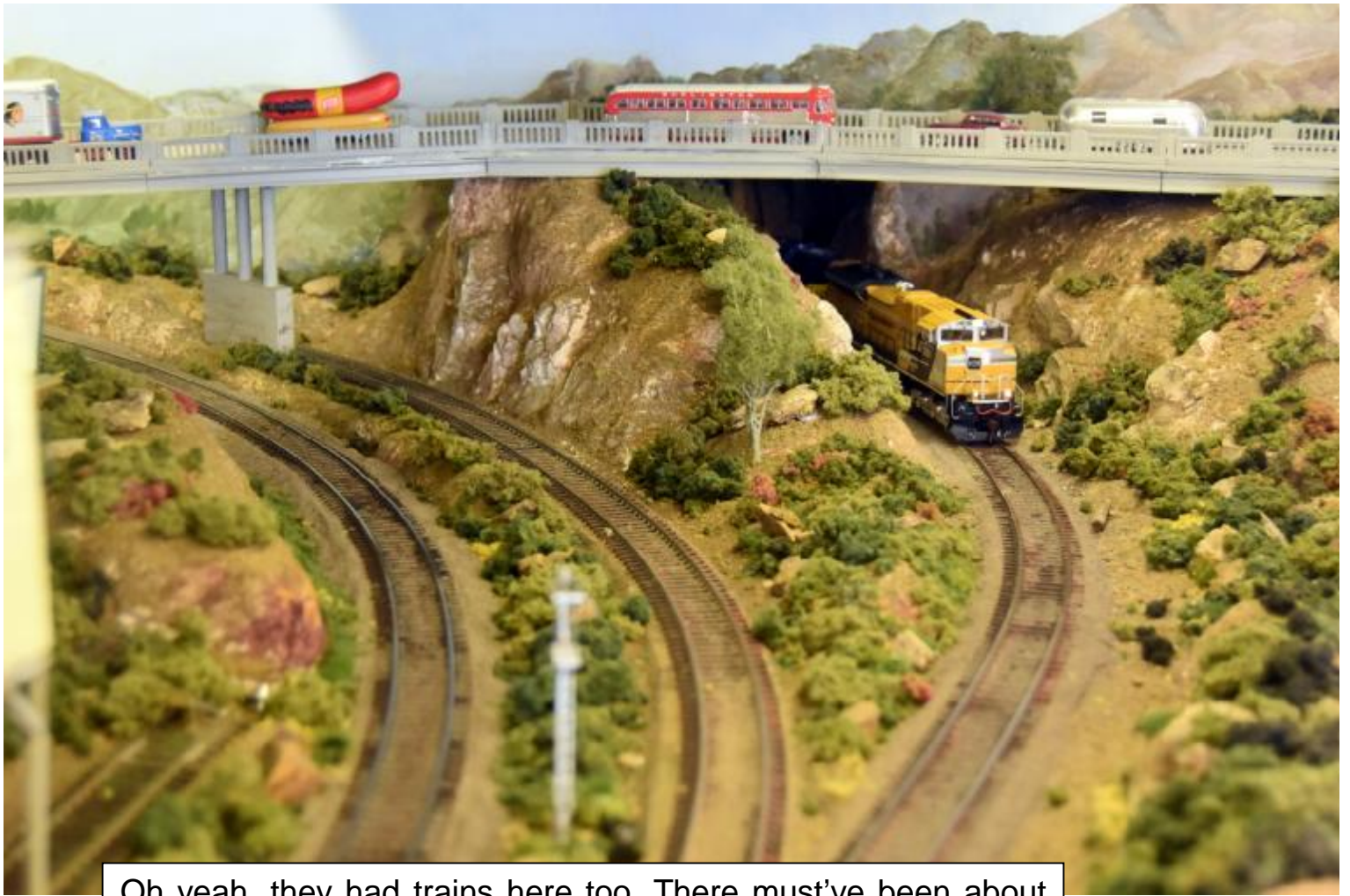




There's that Western Metal Supply building again



Here's a good example of how the scenery is created. First you lay the track, which could be on a flat surface or up on risers. Then they used strips of cardboard to create the shape they want, then cover it with various material options, here they used gauze and plaster, kind of like the old plaster casts for broken limbs. Add paint, buildings, landscaping and Voila! A train layout like the one below.



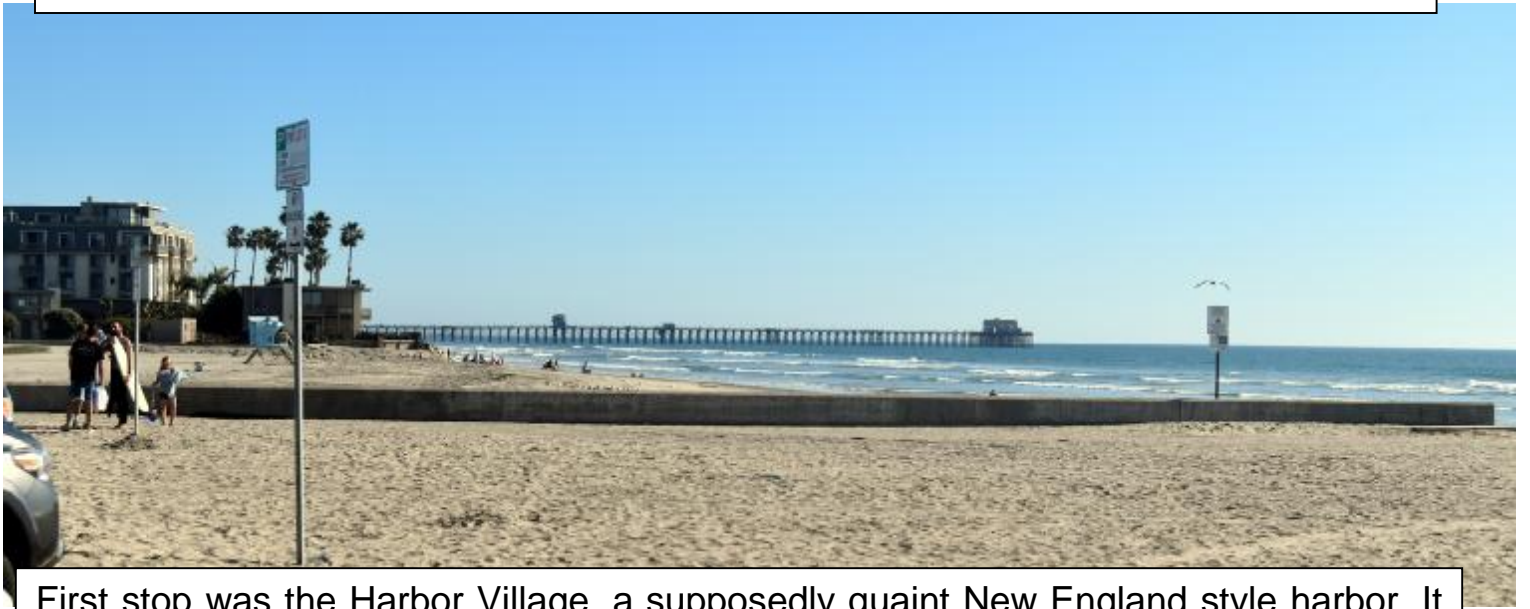
Oh yeah, they had trains here too. There must've been about seven or eight engineers, each running their own train.





First I followed the entire layout just looking at the detail. Then I followed this train a good portion of the way because he had the most cars attached and seemed to know what he was doing more than some of the others. His name is Alex and he was maybe mid-twenties. I really enjoyed this one.

The mission and the train were on the outskirts of town, so I ate lunch in the VC parking lot then went in to get a map or addresses of the numerous murals they have here in Oceanside. I had spent some time last night making a route I could follow on my bike to the sights on my itinerary, and I wanted to intersperse the murals along the way. They don't have a map, they don't have the addresses, but they make a big deal of the murals and the 'artiness' of the town. However, if I go to their website using my phone, the site will download all the murals to Google maps and all I have to do is tap an icon to get directions. Ok, but this doesn't include my other sights, still no addresses and no route. Another hour in the RV checking the phone for the business where the mural is, looking up the address of that business, creating some kind of order, then writing it all down. I parked near the first mural, geared up, and headed out.



First stop was the Harbor Village, a supposedly quaint New England style harbor. It was ok but nothing special. The shops had nothing worth looking at and my one scoop of ice cream, really only one small scoop, cost four dollars. From there I walked up to the beach and took the photo above. That's the Oceanside Pier. I walked still further to what is called the 'Clapping Circle'. You don't get a photo of that one since it was just a brick roundabout. No plaque, no signs.



Then I found my first mural in an alley (not the one to the left). It was about 6x6 and fading away and I was like, 'this is a mural?' On to Artist Alley. Another disappointing venue. I was not impressed with any of the murals in this alley, so I said, 'The heck with it, I'll just go to the surfing museum and forget the murals.' And that's what I did.



California Surf Museum

I bypassed this museum on my itinerary because...eh, what do I care about surfing? My surfing knowledge lies with The Beach Boys and Jan & Dean and the movie RIDE THE WILD SURF. But it kept popping up on Google and in conversations, so here I am.



DUKE KAHANAMOKU: THE FATHER OF MODERN SURFING

Duke was born in Honolulu in 1890. A full-blooded Hawaiian, he grew up within the sound of the surf at Waikiki. In 1900 at the age of 10, he came under the instruction of his mentor George Freeth. Freeth taught him not only the almost-lost art of Hawaiian surfboard riding, but also gave him the skills to become an Olympic Gold Medal swimmer (in 1912 and 1920).

Kahanamoku was a big man of 6 feet 1 inch. The surfboards at the time averaged between 6 to 7 feet long, 20 to 23 inches wide, and 1 inch thick. In 1910 Duke introduced a new redwood surfboard that was 10 feet long, 23 inches wide and 3 inches thick. This innovation, called the "Waikiki-style" surfboard, allowed surf riders to leave

the close-to-shore small surf for the larger, more challenging, outer-breaking Hawaiian-reef waves.

Duke Kahanamoku, in his Olympic travels during the 1910s, demonstrated surfing in Australia and on both coasts of the United States. He also helped promote the Waikiki Beach Boys, a group of watermen who took tourists out to ride the warm tropical swells in outrigger canoes and the newly designed 10-foot redwood surfboards. In the 1920s and 30s, Duke spent a lot of time in southern California pursuing a Hollywood movie career, but also spent a lot of time surfing in California and Hawaii that would establish him as "The Father of Modern Surfing."

2024 Olympics will be in France

As often happens with host cities of the Olympics, certain sports require a venue change to ensure the best possible playing field. And with regards to surfing in the Paris 2024 Games, that locational leniency will be stretched to the extreme – 9,750 miles to be exact.

Officials for the Paris 2024 Games announced Teahupo'o, Tahiti's premier slab, as the host venue for the surfing portion of competition. Being part of French Polynesia, and home to significant swell activity in the summer months, Teahupo'o beat out less reliable venue prospects including southwest France and Brittany.



This has got to be a 55-60 foot wave, that guy is nuts.

Courageous Inspiration

Bethany Hamilton Becomes a Hero



Bethany Hamilton was born on Kauai in 1990, to surfing parents who moved there from the mainland. She learned young, helped by her brothers Noah and Timmy, and won a Quiksilver "push and ride" contest at eight years old. Bethany won her age

Ok, sorry, but I was pretty sure I took a photo of the story of Bethany losing her arm, but I can't find it. At the age of 13 she had already won most competitions for girls under 18. She was ready to go pro. She was paddling on her surfboard when a shark bit her and the board. The board is to the right. She was rushed to the hospital and into emergency surgery, bumping her father, who was scheduled for knee surgery, down the list. Three weeks after surgery she was back on a board and five weeks after she was competing.



Tiger shark caught at Hanalei

By CHRIS COOK
TGI Editor

A massive, 13-foot, 6-inch tiger shark that may, or may not, be the animal that attacked North Shore surfer Bethany Hamilton was hauled in Thursday at Hanalei.

Bill Hamilton and Ralph Young, veteran Hanalei surfers and fishermen, began their hunt for the shark on Tuesday night following about a 10-day period of ongoing reports of a large tiger shark cruising surf spots in and around Hanalei Bay.

A distinguishing feature of the shark remarked about in the reports was a ragged dorsal fin.

They used a four-foot gray nurse shark as bait, tying it up on an oversized hook on a line attached to three buoys anchored about 50 feet south of the "Bowl" surf break at Hanalei Bay, about a quarter-mile outside the Hanalei Pier.

Hamilton said their motive was to protect surfers, fishermen and beachgoers on the North Shore.

"We don't hunt sharks except for large predators that enter surf breaks and harass people. We have the resources to do it, and the experience," Hamilton said. "I've been here the last 35 years, and have only fished for three sharks: one in 1978, the second about eight years ago. This shark



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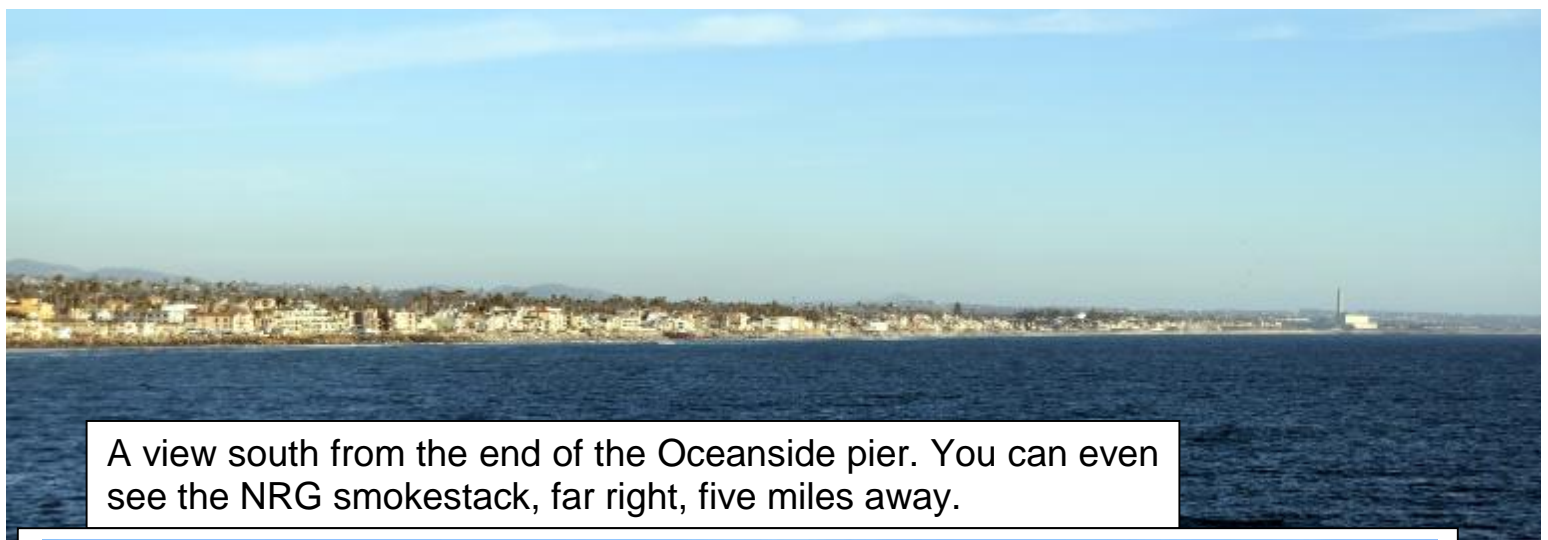


Truly an inspiration. (the dial on my camera rotated by accident to a different setting, that's why the last few photos are faded)

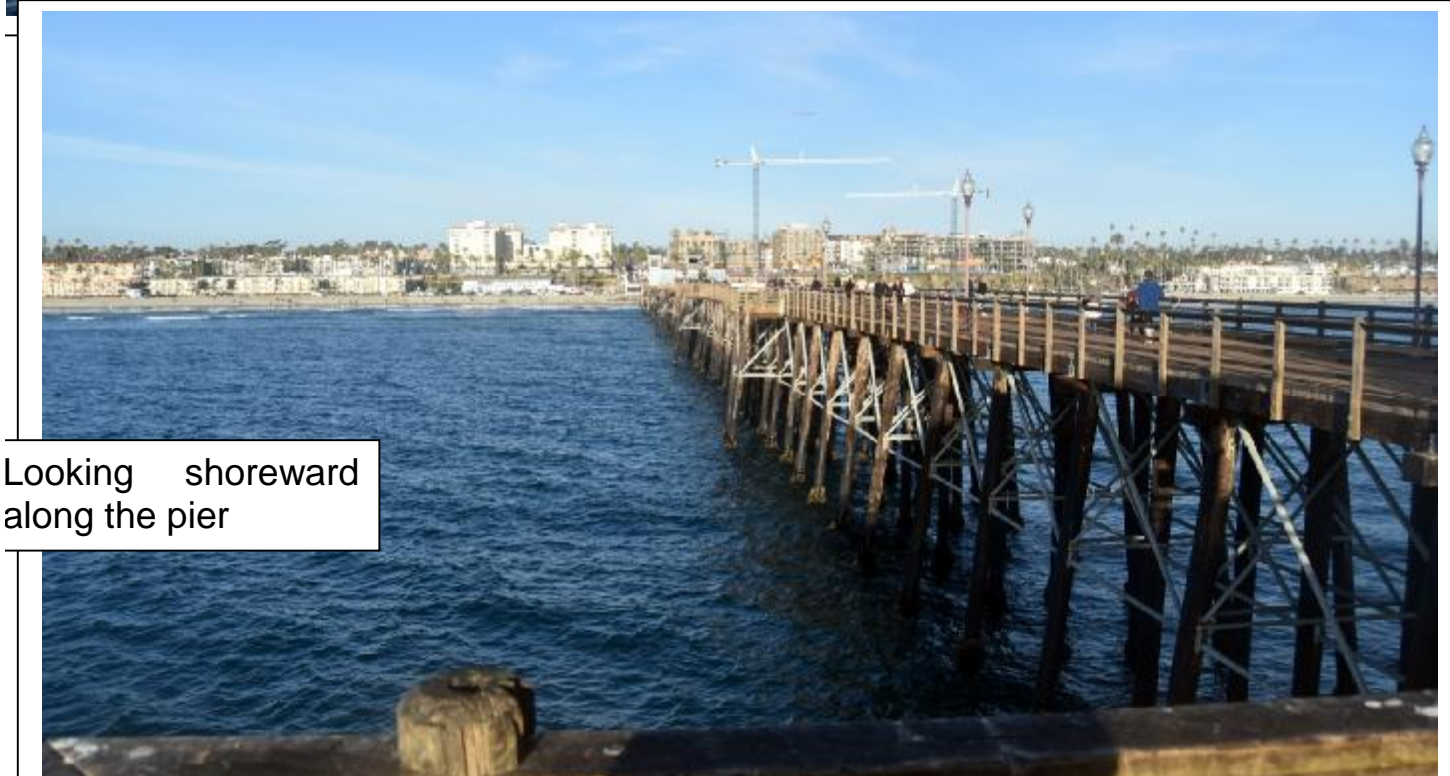


Remember in San Diego we had the TOP GUN bar? This is the TOP GUN house. Kelly McGillis lives here while lecturing at the Top Gun training facility. A hotel bought the land it was on so it's been moved here temporarily.

There is actually a lot of info on this place. It was built in 1887 for Dr. Henry Graves, a rare Victorian cottage that is one of the oldest homes in Oceanside. It will make a comeback as an ice cream parlor so that everyone can enjoy it. It's only going to cost Two million to move and renovate.



A view south from the end of the Oceanside pier. You can even see the NRG smokestack, far right, five miles away.



Looking shoreward along the pier



North to some mountains



Making sure junior doesn't get pulled in by a big one



'I know I buried that bone here somewhere, I just know it.'



Oceanside is home to the Ocean's Eleven Casino, supposedly a Rat Pack theme throughout.



The artist did a pretty nice job on this mural. That's right, this is a mural. It wasn't on the list from the VC and it's probably the most artistic one of them all. You can tell the size by the chairs lower left. It was the only 'themed' item inside other than the sign above.

Overall I think Oceanside was a little disappointing. I had a list of thirteen sights and nine or so of them were a bust. The mission was ok; the train layout was fantastic; I enjoyed the surfer museum; and I like the mural above.

I left a voice mail for Camp Pendleton and scheduling a tour, but I doubt they're open on Sunday, and I saw a flyer at the VC that Monday is President's day, so I doubt I'll be in the area if/when they call me back.

I just pulled into the rest area again since I am heading that direction anyways. I-5 is the only road through Camp Pendleton so I have no choice but to use it.

I should have stuck around the ocean front for a sunset photo. It looked like a nice one from the casino parking lot.

Until next time....