



# In Search of Eldorado

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



## Hello to Family & Friends

Back into Dana Point and then north on the PCH to Laguna Beach.

There is a place called the Pirates Tower I wanted to hike to on Victoria Beach, but once I found the road I also found it impossible to find parking for the RV. It was a very cool narrow, hilly street, but I took one glance and said 'no way.' It is a very neat sight if you want to check it out on the web.

I also had a little trouble finding a spot in Laguna Beach proper



for just a few minutes. I walked down to the beach to check if I could see the Pirates Tower from here and saw the sign left. I couldn't resist sharing it with you guys. I wonder what you ARE allowed to do.

It was a no-go. Maybe next time.

Day 46  
Monday,  
February 17th

San Juan Capistrano  
To  
Surf City

Weather  
50's to 60's Sunny

## In Search of Eldorado

By Edgar Allen 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!'



**From Roadside America:** Eiler Larsen was a free spirit, born in Denmark, who arrived in Laguna Beach in the 1930s and liked the place so much that he settled down. He had a colorful past, he said, which included stays in New York City and Washington, DC, where he would stand outside and spontaneously wave and greet people. In New York, said Larsen, he had been known as "The Flower of Wall Street." In Washington, President Hoover had once waved back at him from his limousine.

The Greeter, as he came to be known, would stand out by the Coast Highway year-round and greet visitors to Laguna Beach with a booming "Helloo-oo, delighted to see you!"

Some local snobs tried to shut him down in 1959, so the Laguna Beach newspaper took a poll. 88 percent of respondents wanted Larsen to keep greeting, and he did. In 1963 he was granted status as the official greeter of the town.

Larsen supported himself with occasional odd jobs at a business named the Pottery Shack. Its owners built a life-size, full-color Larsen statue in the mid-1950s and set it out by the sidewalk. It still stands, although it was modified slightly in the early 2000s to make Larsen appear less frightening to children.

If you ask me he's still a little frightening.



This was a neat little hotel right on the PCH.



Pelican Point is the area where Kobe Bryant lived. I only heard yesterday about the crash while I was waiting for a haircut. Sad News. Which brings me to right now. I was parked in a park until 10:00, then moved over to a cul de sac in a semi-industrial area. Just as I was getting ready to move, one, then two squads zipped by with full lights and sirens. Then a fire truck, then another two squads, and I saw a paramedic with lights on but pulled over up the road. As I parked I heard two separate helicopters go past overhead. Something big is going down. Should keep them busy tonight and not looking for parking violators.



Hmmm...that helicopter is still buzzing around overhead.

As for the 'sculpture' to the left, your guess is as good as mine. Public sculptures at the Newport Beach Civic Center.



Roadside America calls it 'Bunnyhenge'. I think maybe it's a tribute to WATERSHIP DOWN?



Everybody wave to Ronnie Reagan



I thought this harbor was much nicer than Oceanside's.





I decided to have lunch here at the park. Not too bad a view to finish off my strawberries. In case you haven't guessed yet, John Wayne called Newport Beach home. I tried to find his yacht, THE WILD GOOSE, but couldn't find the office for Hornblower Cruises who own it now.

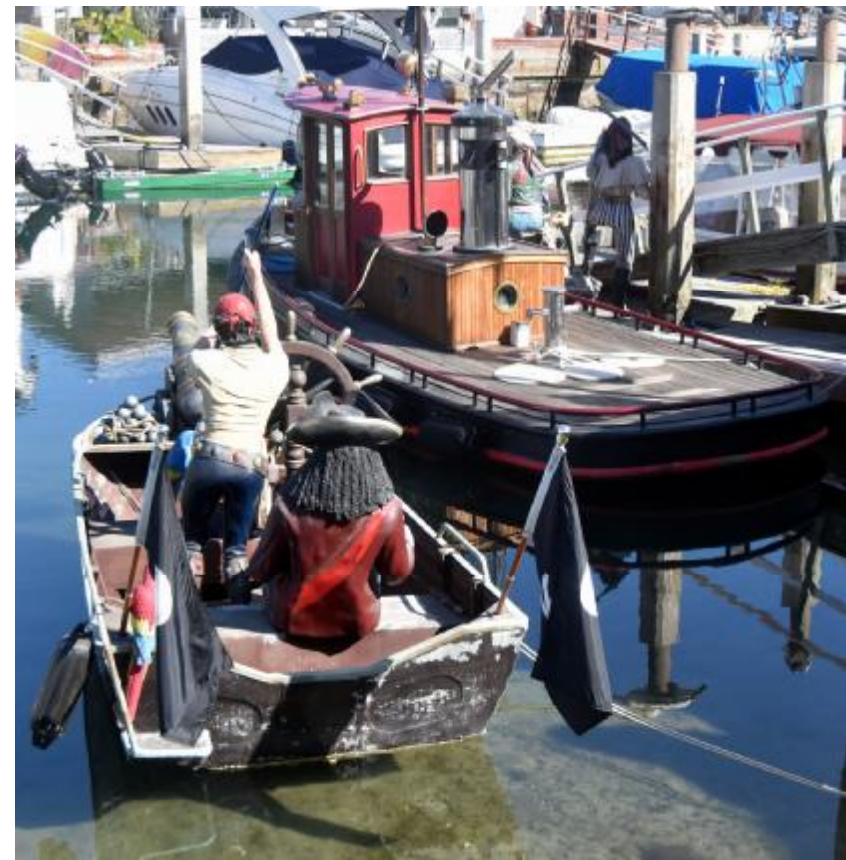
I found a parking spot at the bottom of the hill and geared up the bike. First stop was the 'Pirates Lair'. Roadside America: The Pirates of the Caribbean (a crew of buckos led by Captain Jack) have surrounded this house, bringing along other works ranging from a giant chicken to the Statue of Liberty. These pirates, both male and female, are descending on ropes or enjoying just gathering around. A fanciful collection that is as good as what you might see in that theme park up the road.

[Mulvaney, 09/28/2011]

It was pretty cool, I enjoyed it. I didn't want to get too close due to the security cameras.



Above is the front, left is the side and below left are boats in the canal. I believe that would be Captain Hook and Mr. Smee. The crocodile was on shore.



Recognize this guy?



Very neat house too. Did you notice the twisted chimney?

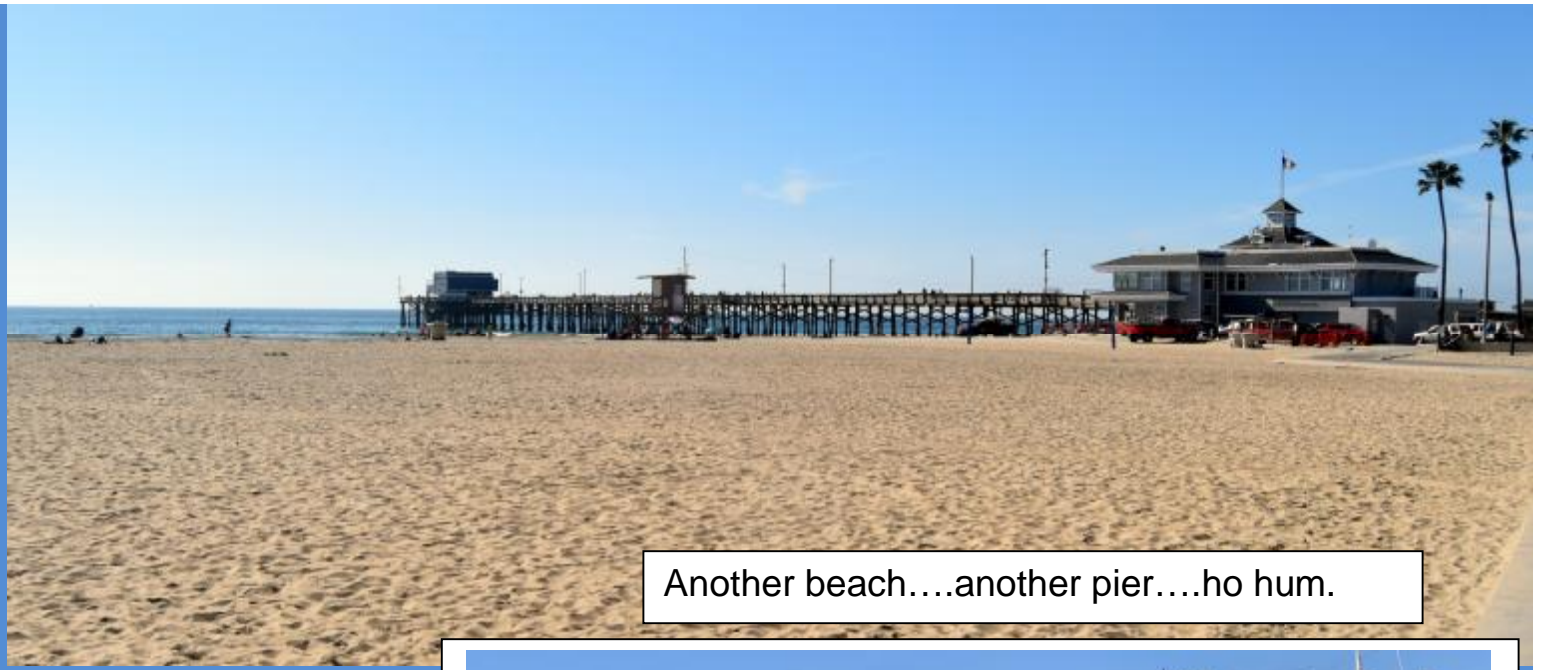


It occurred at the end of a busy 4th of July weekend that was marked by warm conditions, abnormally large and turbulent surf, and giant crowds. Newport Beach Lifeguards made 562 rescues that holiday weekend. Many of those were dramatic lifesaving events that resulted in relieved and reunited families, but the next rescue would not. At 5:15 pm, Newport Beach Lifeguards Ben Carlson and Gary Conwell were patrolling beyond the large surf in a NBLG rescue boat when they spotted a distressed swimmer. Ben jumped from the boat and after a long swim made contact with the man. As they began to make their way back out to the rescue boat, both were hit by a large wave and taken over the falls.

The distressed swimmer made it to the surface and was rescued, but Ben was missing. A 3 hour search ensued that included members from 7 agencies including Newport Beach Lifeguards, Fire, Police, Orange County Sheriff's Harbor Patrol, Huntington Beach Lifeguards, Laguna Beach Lifeguards and State Parks. Ben was eventually located more than a half a mile away from the original rescue location at 8 pm and was transported by Newport Beach Paramedics to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased. He was the first and only Newport Beach Lifeguard to die in the line of duty since the service was formed in 1923.

Ben had just turned 32 and had proudly served as a Newport Beach Lifeguard for over 15 years. <https://www.bencarlsonfoundation.org/bens-story>





Another beach....another pier....ho hum.

Taking the ferry over to Balboa Island. Let me back up a step here. I drove over to the island earlier. It reminded me of Wisconsin Dells back in the 70's – two lanes, bumper to bumper, lots of pedestrians, 20 minutes to go a quarter-mile, no parking (especially for an RV). I turned around and got off.



Nothing really worth taking a picture of on the island. I locked up and walked the main drag down and back, then rode through some of the residential streets. Very eclectic architecture here – Bungalows; ranches; English Tudor; Spanish; cottages; New England Cape Cods; Victorians; etc.

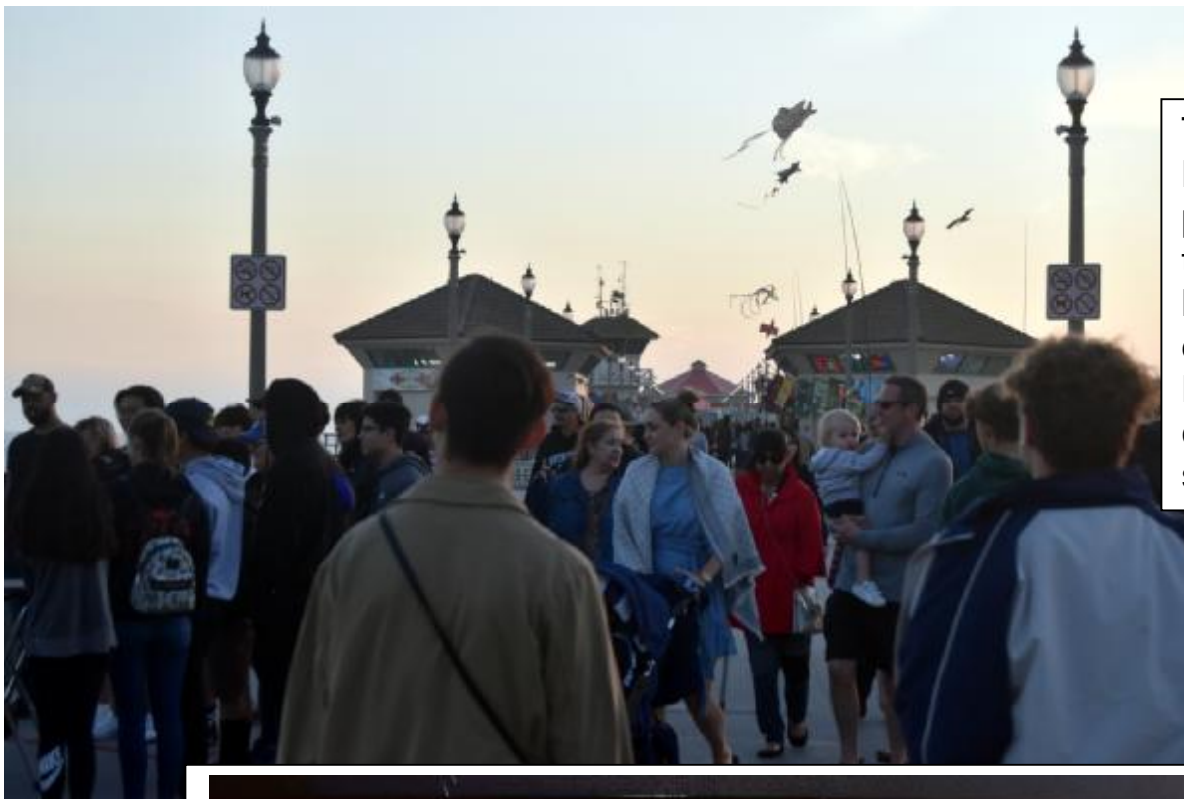


We had to wait for this ferry before we could dock. There were three of them in a constant rotation. It's a very long 800 feet across Newport Bay.

This is the Lovell Beach House. Completed in 1926, it's recognized as one of the most important works by Rudolf Schindler, who I never heard of. He was a disciple of Frank Lloyd Wright, who I have heard of.



Huntington Beach - Surf City USA, home of Jan & Dean and The Beach Boys. The song SURF CITY was written about Huntington Beach where Dean Torrence was born. In 1963 SURF CITY was the first surf song to top the Hot 100.



The Huntington Beach pier seems pretty crowded tonight, but it's the last night of a three day weekend. Hopefully the crowds will thin out starting tomorrow.

This is my reason for walking the pier. Out at the end is an eatery called Ruby's. On the second floor, opened just recently, is this Tiki Lounge.



*The Jan & Dean Story*

I mistakenly thought it said Tiki Bar and planned to sit and have a drink, but its food only.

Jan Berry & Dean Torrence were two high school buddies who grew up in West Los Angeles sharing a passion for Rock & Roll. While still in high school, they recorded their first record which soared into the Top 10 and launched their music careers as the duo Jan & Dean. Just a year later, they recorded their second Top 10 hit.

In the early sixties, Jan & Dean became good friends and collaborators with another local Southern California group -- The Beach Boys. Together the two groups wrote, arranged and recorded some of the most classic and beloved Southern California beach music of all time.

Over the course of 7 years, Jan & Dean recorded more than 30 chart topping hits with 7 of those recognized as Gold Records -- Platinum by today's digital standards. One of those songs, "Surf City," was the first surf record to reach #1 on the national charts and crossed oceans to become an international hit as well.

The city of Huntington Beach, the epicenter of the surfing and beach cultures, embraced both the spirit and legacy of the "Surf City" recording. With the help of longtime local resident Dean Torrence, the city applied for and was granted the copyright for the name Surf City which it enthusiastically adopted as it's official nickname.

*Relax, kick back, and enjoy the Surf City experience.*

There was some other memorabilia, records and guitars, hung on the walls, but I would've had to roust the patrons from their dinners to get those pics.



That was the best sunset shot I could get, the boat was moving pretty fast.

Ever since I hit San Diego I've noticed that there's a haze on the horizon of the Pacific Ocean. I've done searches a couple times and been unable to get an answer as to what it is and what's causing it. The best possible explanation I can find has to do with cooler sea water and warmer air, or maybe its warmer water and cooler air. But you can clearly see it in the photo above, and it's there all the time, day or night. It really puts a damper on sunset photos that reflect off the water because the sun disappears behind the haze. This also changes the amount of palette and time the clouds are nicely colored after sundown.

The helicopters finally went away. I made another check but could find no mention of the incident.

I may have mentioned this already, but I'll be steering clear of beaches and piers from now on; I don't think there are any missions in LA; and I will still check out train layouts.

What I thought was a quiet cul de sac for the night. It seems a couple of the businesses here work 2<sup>nd</sup> shift. It was done before midnight. There is someone else here in an older SUV for the night also.

Until next time....