



# In Search of Eldorado

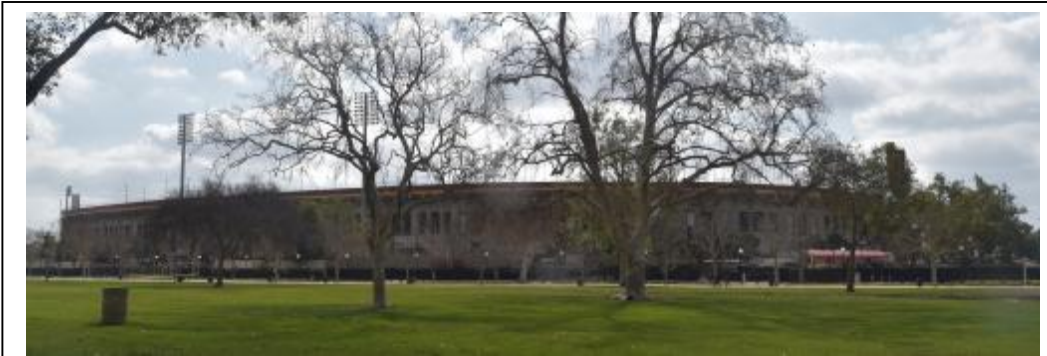
Link to the Eldorado Song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VczD1olutQ8>



## Hello to Family & Friends

First stop today is Exposition Park. My GoCard includes an IMAX movie at the California Science Center. Once again admission is free but parking is \$15, so I parked on the street nearby and walked over.

I didn't realize til I arrived that Exposition Park is the home of The Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.



Commissioned in 1921 as a memorial to L.A. veterans of WW I and completed in 1923. Home of the USC Trojans and the Los Angeles Rams; host of the Summer Olympics in 1932, 1984 and 2028; site of the Granddaddy of them all, The Rose Bowl, where the Wisconsin Badgers have had their share of crushing defeats and stunning victories; and the Packers won the first ever Super Bowl here in 1967.

No tours on Sundays.

Day 52  
Sunday,  
February 23rd

Downtown  
Los Angeles

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.

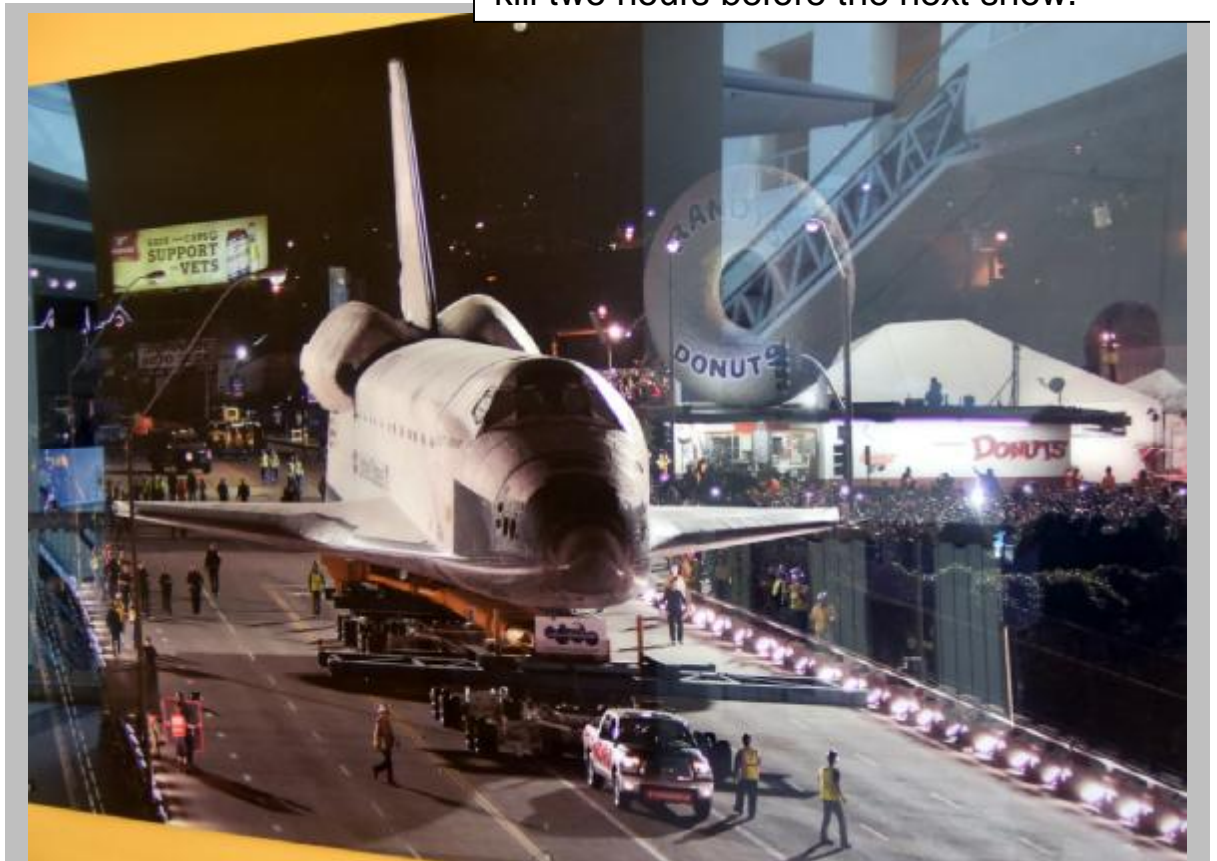
But he grew old—  
This knight so bold—  
And o'er his heart a shadow—  
Fell as he found  
No spot of ground  
That looked like Eldorado.

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!'



My intent was to visit the center for awhile, see the movie, and move on. However, finding parking took me past the first showing of *Touch the Stars* and I had to kill two hours before the next show.



I remember recommendations to see the Endeavour in my research, but for some reason I left it off the itinerary. I was pleasantly surprised to find out it was included with my IMAX ticket. I also found that there's one heck of a lot of stuff to see in this science center. Eighty percent of it is hands on for kids, but I killed the first ninety minutes with no problem. They had a whole wall full of photos of the shuttle being driven through the streets of L.A.; barely missing trees; people sitting on their roofs to watch; crowds and crowds of people cheering it on. Then there was a short movie about the whole trip also, no voices, just music and the video. Very cool.

# TOUCH THE TIRES!

These tires flew into space on *Endeavour's* final flight, STS-134. Notice the rubber, worn from the landing at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

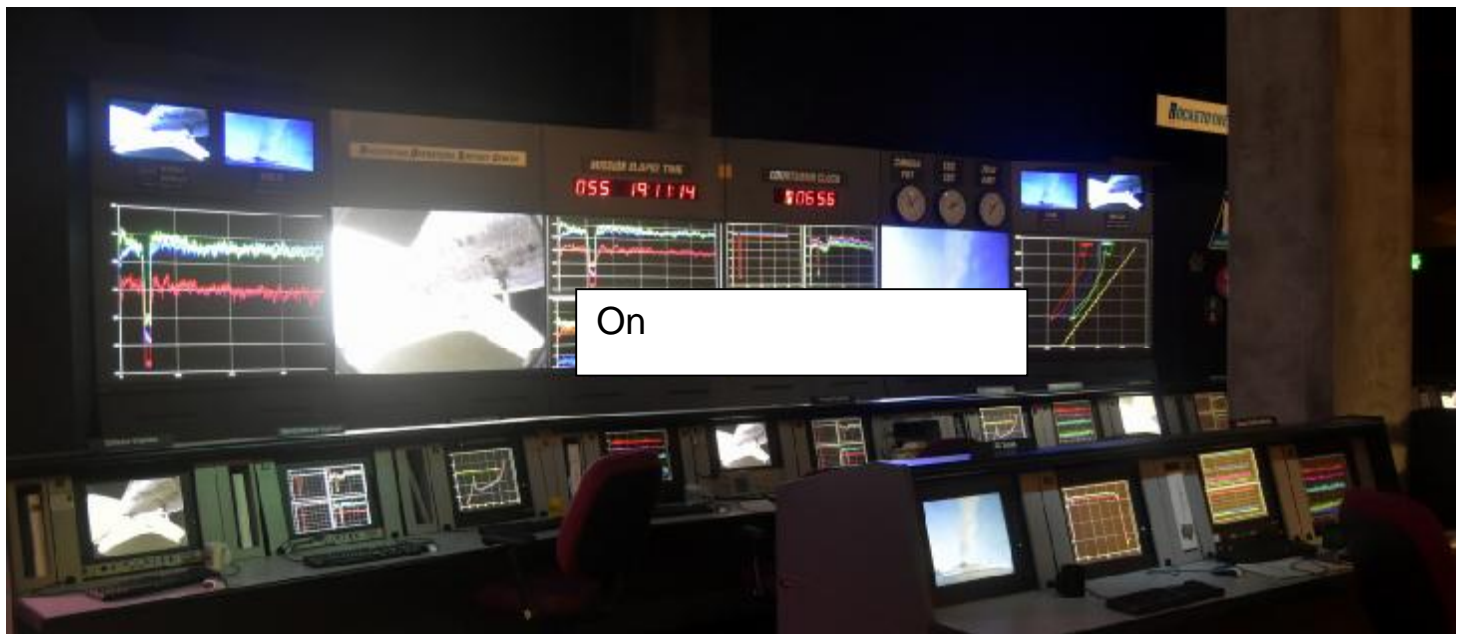
There was an informational area before entering the building with the shuttle



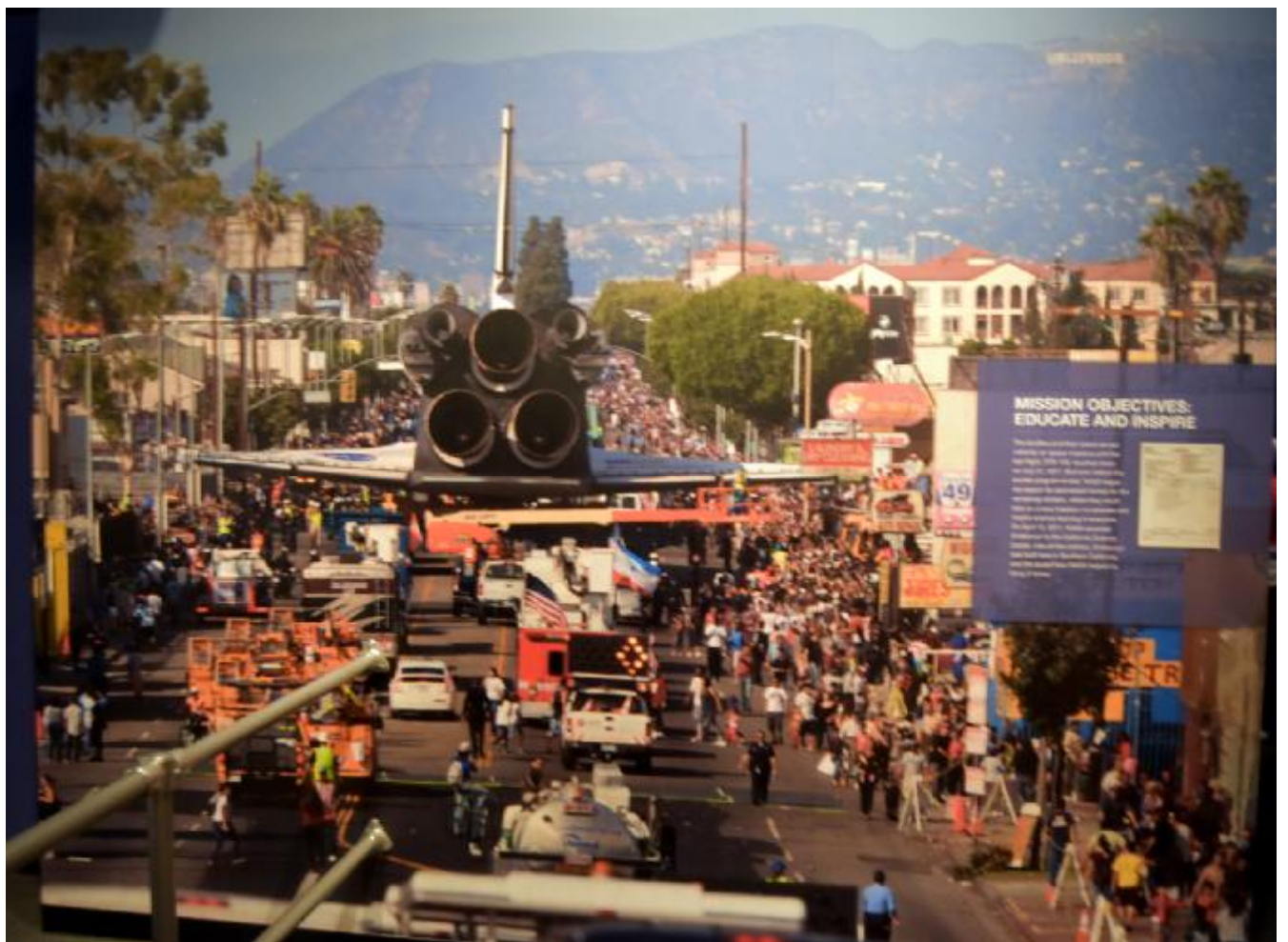
Mike Massimino was one of the astronauts who explained how to use the 'space potty' in a short video.

GOTTA GO! POTTY BREAKS IN SPACE

This assembly, donated by Rocketdyne, features the actual ROSC equipment used to monitor every shuttle launch, from the first in 1981 to the last in 2011.



Another great photo of moving the space shuttle through L.A. I ate lunch in the food court, a pretty good burger, and then took in the 3D IMAX movie about all of the robotic spacecraft we have sent into the galaxy and what they learned. Very well done.





And here she is – The Space Shuttle Endeavour





These engines are used to get the shuttle into orbit only, then not until the next launch.





This is the external fuel tank (ET) which supplies the engines with liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen creating 1.2 million pounds of thrust. Then the two solid rocket boosters provide an additional 6.6 million pounds of thrust. All this power is needed to get the shuttle out of the Earth's atmosphere. Compare it to the people and the truck outside the fence, it's huge.



It was a great place to spend a day, if you're a kid. So I walked through but did not participate in most of it. They have a Lego art show starting Saturday, so I may come back. My card also gets me in the Natural History Museum which I skipped here due to visiting the one in San Diego. On the way to my next stop I noticed the blimp I saw the other day at the airfield, up in the air. Just kind of stare at it for a few seconds, from this angle it almost looks like a saucer.

I knew parking would be difficult right downtown. I finally found a spot on Broadway with a small, red painted curb (never park here) which the RV covers completely. I then moved the traffic cone about five feet in front of the RV. Ya gotta do what ya gotta do.

According to several sources, it's possible to access the tunnels below Los Angeles. Once used to move people, money and illegal booze around the city, there are old speakeasy fronts that are right out of prohibition. This elevator is an access point, but even though the button would light up, the doors never opened. It's supposed to be a sight that you don't leave L.A. without seeing, if you have the guts to venture down there.



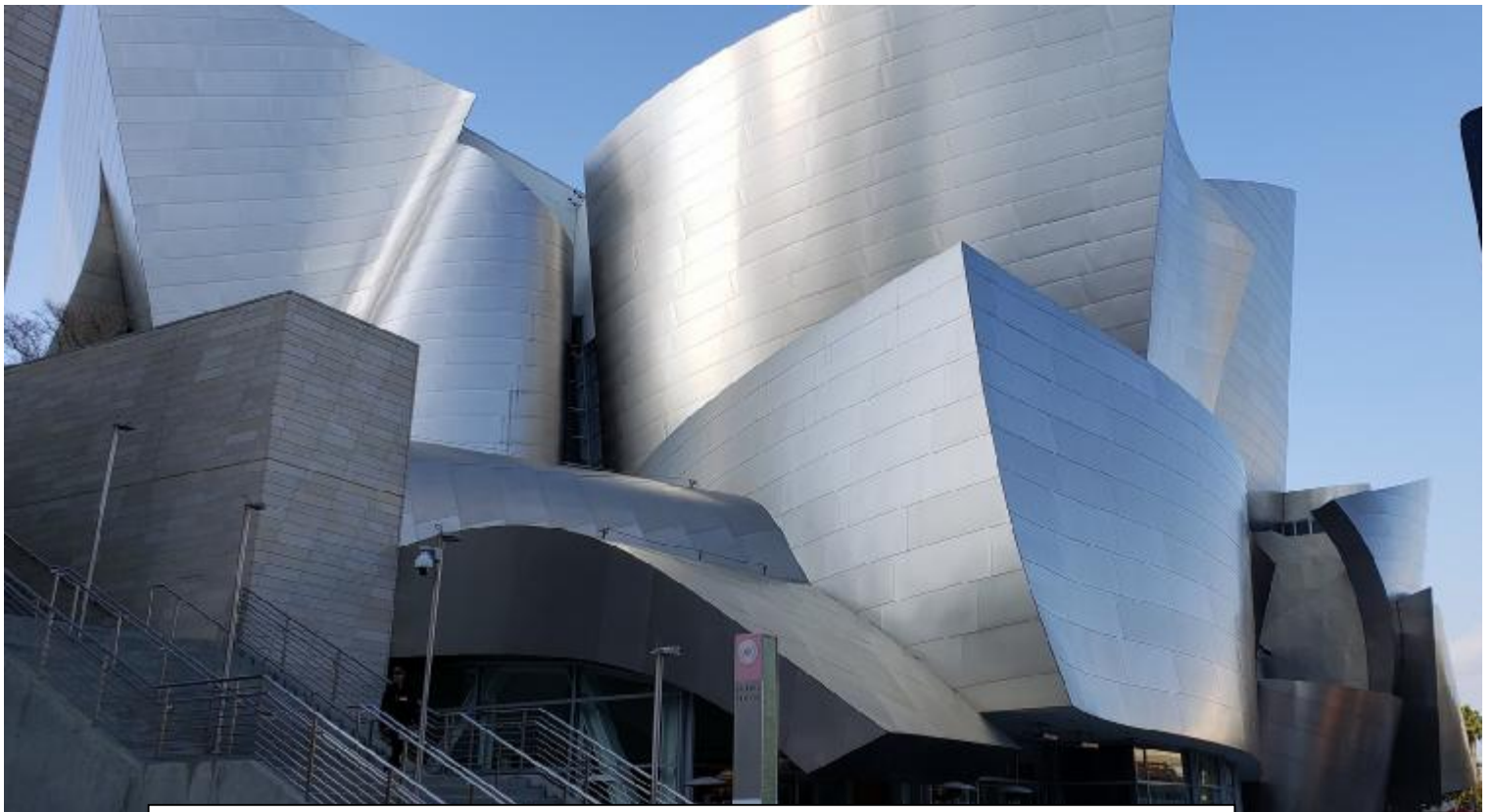
I had thoughts of taking the bike, but with the hassle of locking it up every stop I decided to walk. Next stop - The Walt Disney Concert Hall.





Above - The Walt Disney Concert Hall form the north

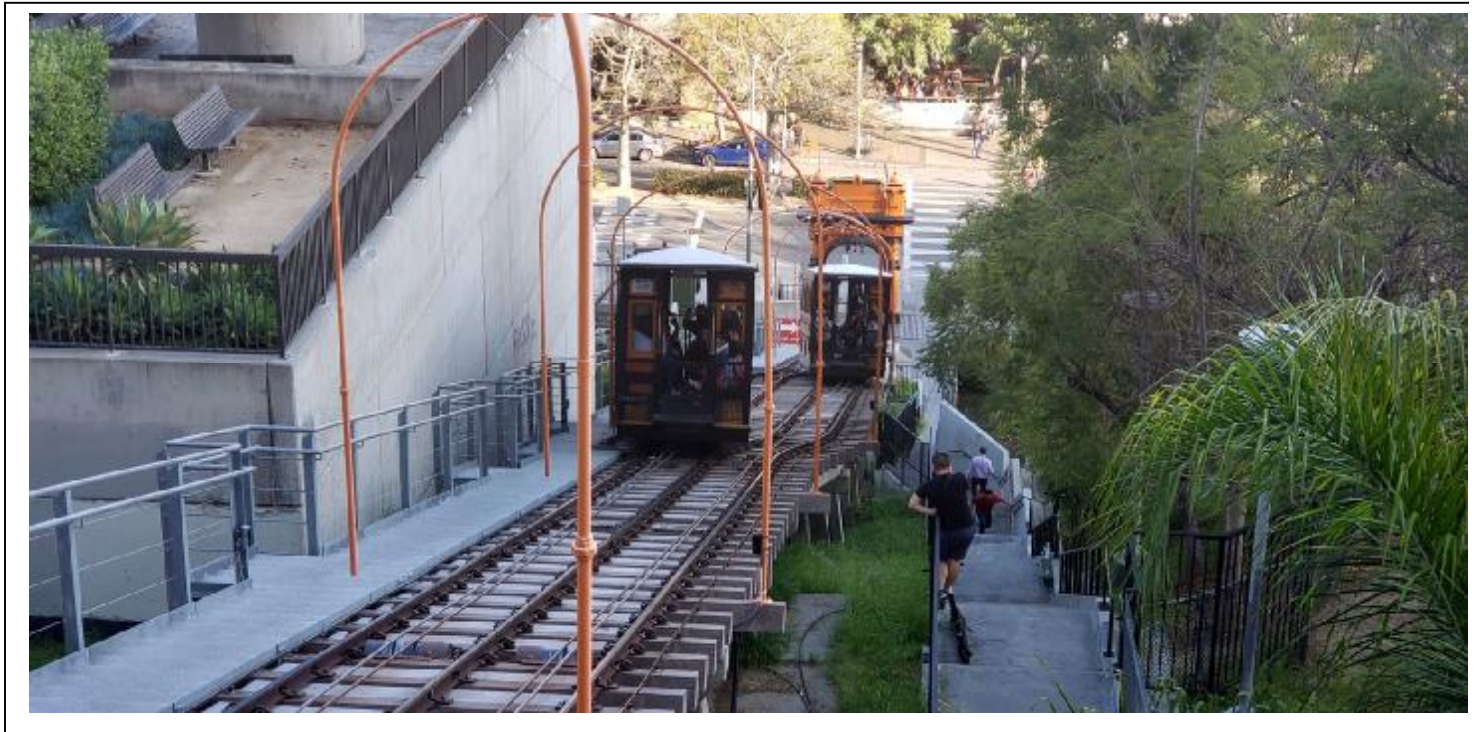
Below - From the south. A concert was just getting out.



Quite impressive. I was not allowed to go inside without a ticket.



I'm a fan of author Michael Connelly, especially the Bosch books, and every April I binge watch the TV series on Amazon. One of his books is titled *Angel's Flight* in which a prominent citizen is murdered on this railway. He describes it in the book, a whole season on TV was devoted to it, and here I am taking a ride on it. How cool is that.





**ANGELS FLIGHT**

BUILT IN 1901 BY COLONEL J. W. EDDY, LAWYER, ENGINEER AND FRIEND OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN. ANGELS FLIGHT IS SAID TO BE THE WORLD'S SHORTEST INCORPORATED RAILWAY. THE COUNTERBALANCED CARS, CONTROLLED BY CABLES, TRAVEL A 33 PERCENT GRADE FOR 315 FEET. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ANGELS FLIGHT HAS CARRIED MORE PASSENGERS PER MILE THAN ANY OTHER RAILWAY IN THE WORLD, OVER A HUNDRED MILLION IN ITS FIRST FIFTY YEARS. THIS INCLINE RAILWAY IS A PUBLIC UTILITY OPERATING UNDER A FRANCHISE GRANTED BY THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES.

MARKED BY BEVERLY HILLS PARLOR #266  
NATIVE DAUGHTERS OF THE GOLDEN WEST  
NOVEMBER 1952

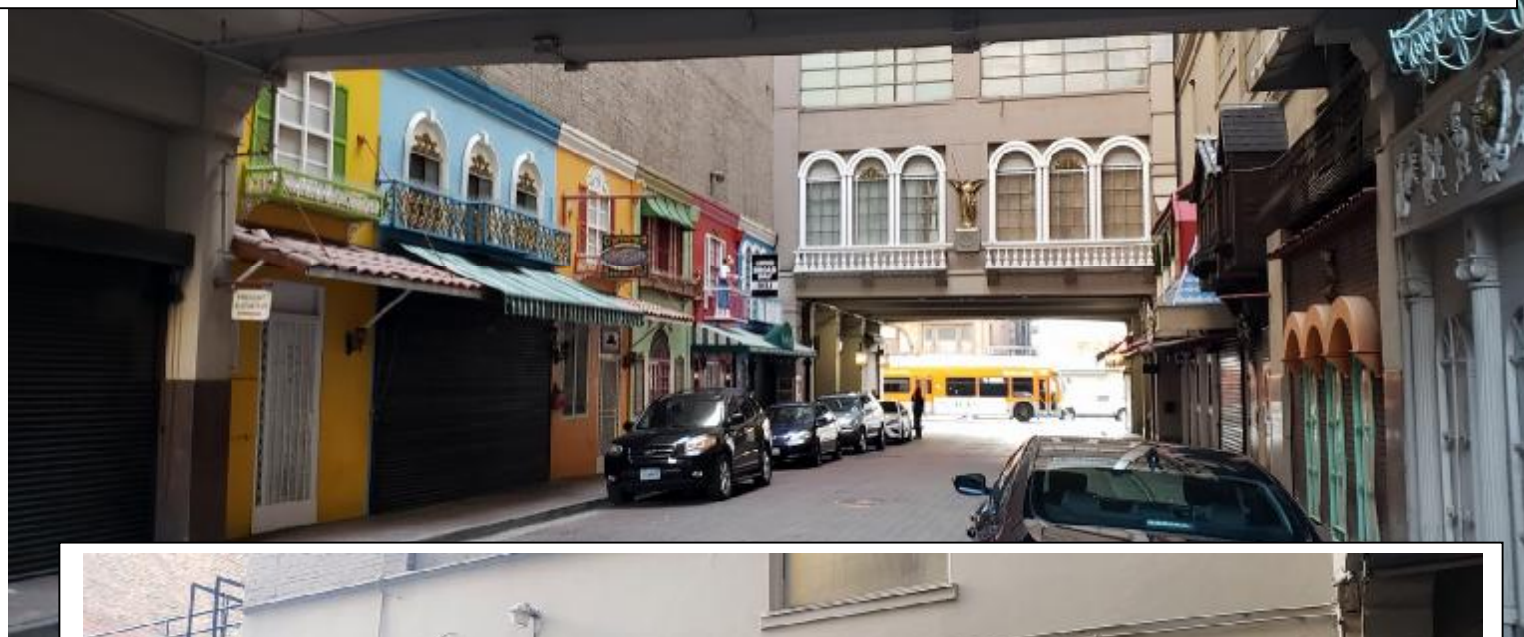


I survived my trip



From Atlas Obscura - To visit St. Vincent Court is to feel oneself whisked from the hustle and bustle of downtown L.A to the center of an old European city. The small square is named for its original owner, St. Vincent's College (now Loyola University), which enjoyed the unique privilege of being the first institution of higher learning in southern California back in 1868. The little alley became useful when the massive Bullock's department store opened beside it. Over the decades the alleyway became such a popular congregating spot that Bullock's let it out to small businesses. Italian restaurants and espresso bars populated St. Vincent's Court. In 1957 the plain alleyway was decorated like an ancient European lane, with plaster facades and a brick-paved street. Now home to mostly Middle Eastern restaurants, this quaint little alleyway still looks like it belongs in Rome or Florence rather than downtown Los Angeles. During the day, with ample umbrella-covered fresco dining, the scene is a lively and welcoming respite from the world around it.

Atlas Obscura does not give a date written on the web page, but the pictures they have are a lot different from mine, and it was 3 p.m. on a Sunday afternoon, not a soul in sight.



Now we're getting somewhere. I love to read, and I love those quirky bookstores you see in movies like *You've Got Mail* or *Crossing Delancey*, usually in New York, so to find one here is a pleasure, and it truly was. Housed in an old bank building, they created a second floor called 'The Maze' I think it was, where damaged or overstock books are used to create artistic touches like those below.





It's called the maze because the bookshelves are placed every which way creating unique pathways and hidden nooks to explore. Very cool. One side of the upper area was little shops with more unique items for sale, then there was the artwork. You already know how I feel.

HIGH HOPES  
Walter Mazzarella

Acrylic on Canvas  
64" x 48"  
2019

\$2900

What a snob I am. I guess it's called *High Hopes* because that's what it will take to get \$2900 for it. I suppose if that's what you're into, go for it.





The checkout counter

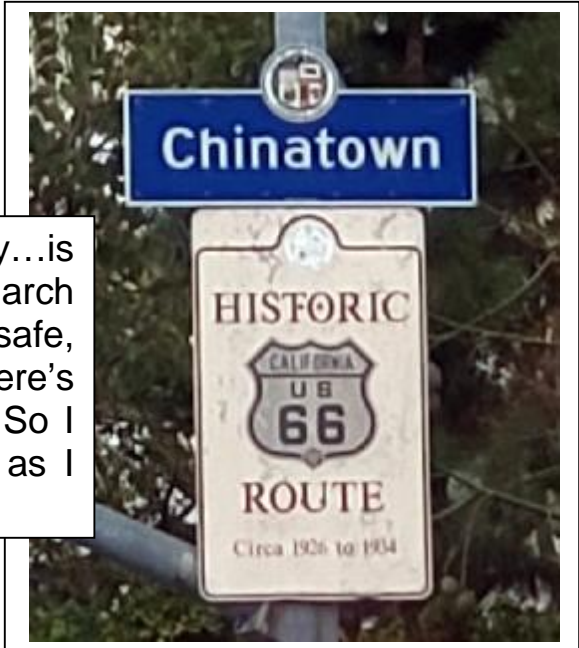


What a great place, but they specialize in used books and just walking through was an overwhelming feeling of 'how would I ever find what I wanted in this place?' But that's part of the allure, searching for one thing and finding ten others.



A sign of the times I guess. Every phone on my walk back to the RV looked the same.

Next stop...ah drive by...is Chinatown. A quick search told me Chinatown was safe, 'park and walk it. But, there's not really much to see.' So I just grabbed some pics as I drove through.







I drove over to Dodger Stadium, the guard said they were closed, but open 9-5 during the week with access to the team store which offers views of the field. Sounds good to me, I'll be back in a few days.

Then it was over to the Brown Derby. I'm sure everyone who ever watched an episode of *The Lucy Show* or read/seen anything about the history of Hollywood has heard of the Brown Derby. I pulled up in front of a building with the Philippine Consulate General's office and a couple of restaurants. Hmmmm.....I guess the 'save the derby' effort didn't get a feather in their cap (ha ha). The large derby is gone.

It was dark by now and I had one more stop, the OUE Skyspace on the 72<sup>nd</sup> floor of the US Bank Tower. They're open until 10:00 p.m., but most of the nighttime GoCard sights can't be used after 5. Yup, must be used before 5:30 on this one. I will try it another night.

I found some likely overnight spots in Burbank where I'll either do the Warner Studios tour and other Burbank sights or Griffith Park, I haven't decided yet.

Until next time.....