



# In Search of Eldorado

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



Day 57  
Friday,  
February 28th

Dodger  
Stadium

Weather  
60's to 90's Sunny

## Hello to Family & Friends

Once I finished yesterday's newsletter I drove back up to Burbank and parked in an industrial park.

Since my itinerary is running low I decided to use the GoCard for Universal Studios.

I thought it was just for the theme park, but after reading the notes realized it also included the studio tour.

The last Universal Studios Tour I took was in the 60's and I'm sure things have changed since then.

But first I needed water. About three blocks up the street in the industrial park is an RV repair center, so I drove in and was able to fill the tank.

The next challenge? Parking near Universal. Ha ha ha. They make it very tough. The studio is high on a hill making biking to it a real chore and the closest street parking would be at least a mile away.

I broke down and paid \$35 for RV parking.

I entered through City Walk and since things seemed poorly marked it took awhile to get oriented, then Security, then the gate to scan my card. Oh, oh. Go see Guest Services.

I forgot that my seven day card, which can be used over 14 days, has already been used seven of the last eight days. I can't get in. Not upset, it's my own fault, but disappointed.

The good news? I can get a refund for my parking.

## 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?'

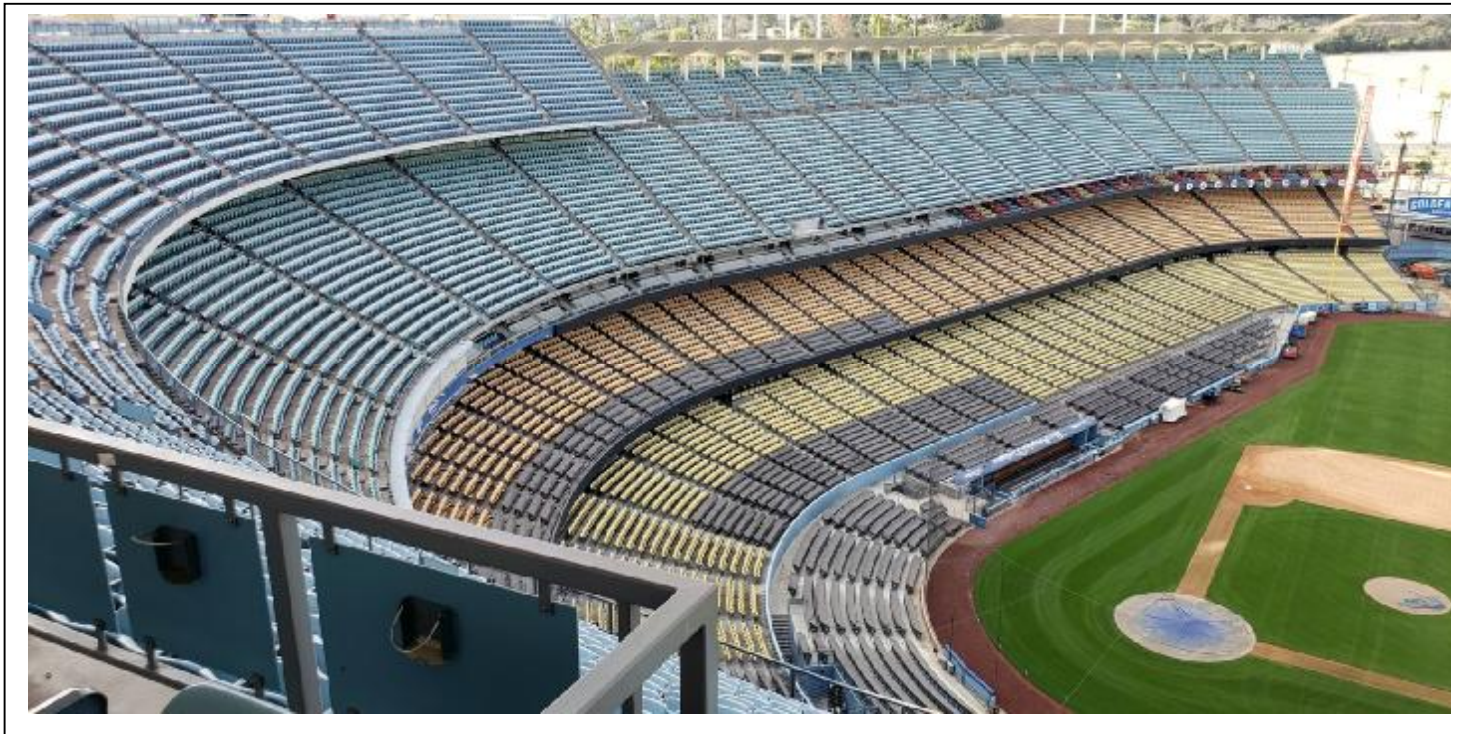
'Over the Mountains  
Of the Moon,  
Down the Valley of the Shadow,  
Ride, boldly ride,'  
The shade replied,—  
'If you seek for Eldorado!'



I had to retrieve my parking receipt from the RV and then visit the administration office. After a bit of searching I find the doors, use the elevator and am told the girl with access to the till is at lunch. So I wander City Walk and took a picture of Iron Man.



Ok, what to do next. That's right, on Sunday the guard told me to come back during the week, this is the perfect opportunity.



April 8, 1974  
Dodgers vs. Braves  
Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium

This was on the outside wall of the team shop.

# Vin Scully's Call of Hank Aaron's -715th Homerun

I remember this. I was watching this game on TV, on Monday Night Baseball, but this is from the Dodger radio broadcast.

And once again, a standing ovation for Henry Aaron.

*[Scully stopped talking for 11 seconds, letting the crowd noise fill the void]*

So the confrontation for the second time. Aaron walked in the second inning. He means the tying run at the plate now. We'll see what Downing does. Al at the belt, delivers, and he's low; ball one.

*[Crowd boos]*

And that just adds to the pressure. The crowd booing. Downing has to ignore the sound effects and stay a professional and pitch his game.

One ball and no strikes. Aaron waiting.  
The outfield deep and straightaway. Fastball.

*[Scully's voice rises in excitement]*

There's a high drive into deep left-center field.  
Buckner goes back to the fence. It is ... gone!

*[Scully stopped talking for 1:45, so listeners could hear the cheering crowd and fireworks, the first sign for listeners Aaron had just broken the record]*

What a great moment

What a marvelous moment for baseball. What a marvelous moment for Atlanta and the state of Georgia. What a marvelous moment for the country and the world. A black man is getting a standing ovation in the Deep South for breaking a record of an all-time baseball idol.

And it is a great moment for all of us, and particularly for Henry Aaron, who was met at home plate, not only by every member of the Braves, but by his father and mother. He threw his arms around his father, and as he left the home-plate area, his mother came running across the grass, threw her arms around his neck, kissed him for all she was worth.

As Aaron circled the bases, the Dodgers on the infield shook his hand.  
And that was a memorable moment.



Just one of several, but probably the most significant

**42**  
**JACKIE ROBINSON**  
Number Retired on June 4, 1972

**Jack Roosevelt Robinson made a historic entrance into Major League Baseball in 1947 as the first African-American player in the history of the game. His outstanding debut season netted him the inaugural Rookie of the Year award, which now bears his name, and spring-boarded him to a stellar 10-season career in which he was part of six Brooklyn Dodger pennant-winners, among them the World Championship club of 1955. In 1949, the six-time all-star won the National League batting title (.342) en route to earning MVP honors. Robinson, a first baseman as a rookie, starred as a second baseman for the next five seasons, before moving on to play third base and the outfield. He was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962.**

According to Roadside America, the island in the Echo Park lagoon served as the opening island shot for *Gilligan's Island*. Of course I'm sure much has changed in the last 53 years.

But *Echo Lake* is also the title of another Michael Connelly Harry Bosch novel. I'm not sure if this one was portrayed on Amazon or not, but that made it doubly worth the visit. Unfortunately, Echo Park looks a lot like Venice. I parked illegally (just like twenty other RV's) and spent only 10 minutes or so in the park.



The Beverly Hills Bermuda Triangle - This simple, nondescript intersection, in one of the richest neighborhoods in the United States, has been home to a series of strange events. In 2010, publicist to the stars Ronni Chasen was killed by a hit and run driver; in 1966 Jan Berry, of Jan & Dean, was in a near fatal accident here, resulting in



a months-long coma. Ironically, Dead Man's Curve is right down the street (more on this below); in 1947, mobster Bugsy Siegel was assassinated in his girlfriend's home just across the street, the gunman was never found; and in 1947 Howard Hughes lost control of his brand new XF-11 airplane in the skies above, he tried to land at the nearby country club but crashed into a house at this intersection instead. Hughes survived, but suffered lasting and severe injuries. Thank you Atlas Obscura.

In regards to Jan & Dean mentioned above. I believe sometime last week or so I talked about Jan & Dean and their surf music. Of course Jan & Dean were born and raised near Los Angeles and must have known it pretty well to use it in so many of the lyrics to their songs. *Dead Man's Curve* was released in 1963, the story of a drag race on Sunset Blvd.

Since I'm in Hollywood and Beverly Hills, I decided to make my own little homage to Jan & Dean and *Dead Man's Curve*. I added my own flair. After all, I am in Hollywood. Just to set the stage – It is Friday night when I take the pictures, but it's not very late. Obviously Sunset Blvd and the Sunset Strip were a lot different in 1963. I had a grand time coming up with the script and filming (photos) the action. I hope you enjoy it too.

## Dead Man's Curve

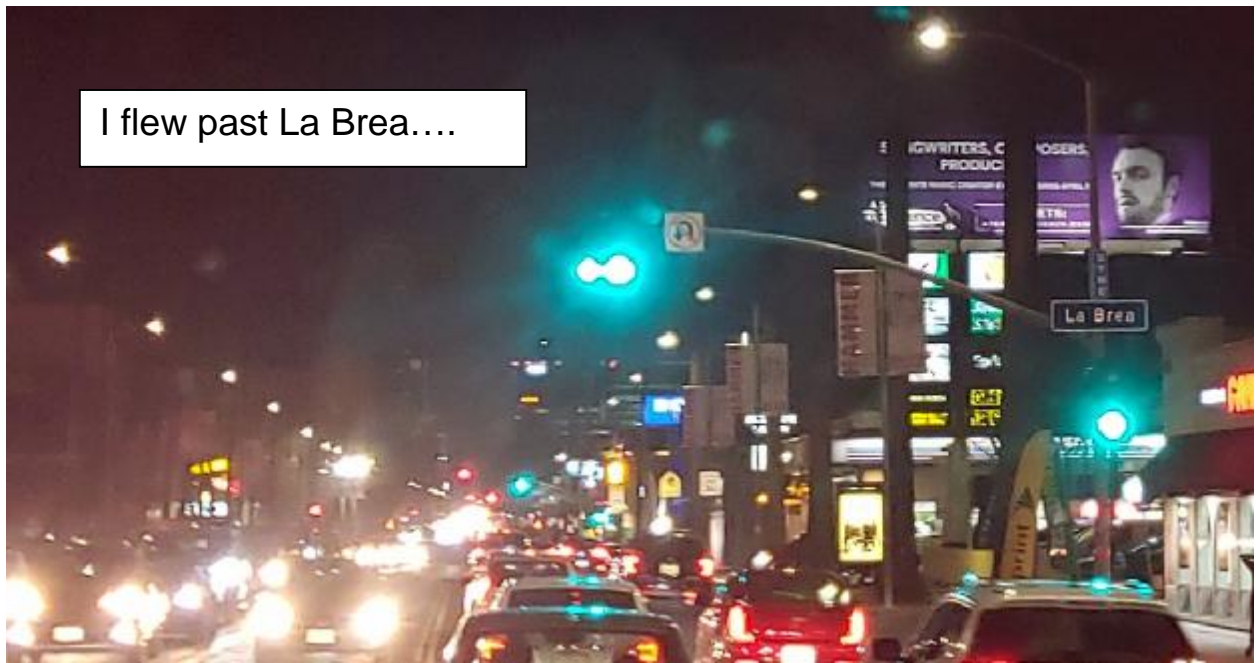
I was cruisin' in my ArrVee late  
one night  
When an XKE pulled up on the  
right  
He rolled down the window of his  
shiny new Jag  
And challenged me then and there  
to a drag

I said "You're on buddy, my mill's  
runnin' fine  
Let's come off the line now at  
Sunset & Vine  
But I'll go you one better if you've  
got the nerve  
Let's race all the way – to Dead  
Man's Curve"



The street was deserted late Friday night  
We were buggin' each other while we sat out the light  
We both popped our clutch when the light turned green  
You shoulda heard the whine from my diesel machine!

I flew past La Brea....



....Schwab's....(replaced in the 80's by this mini-mall)





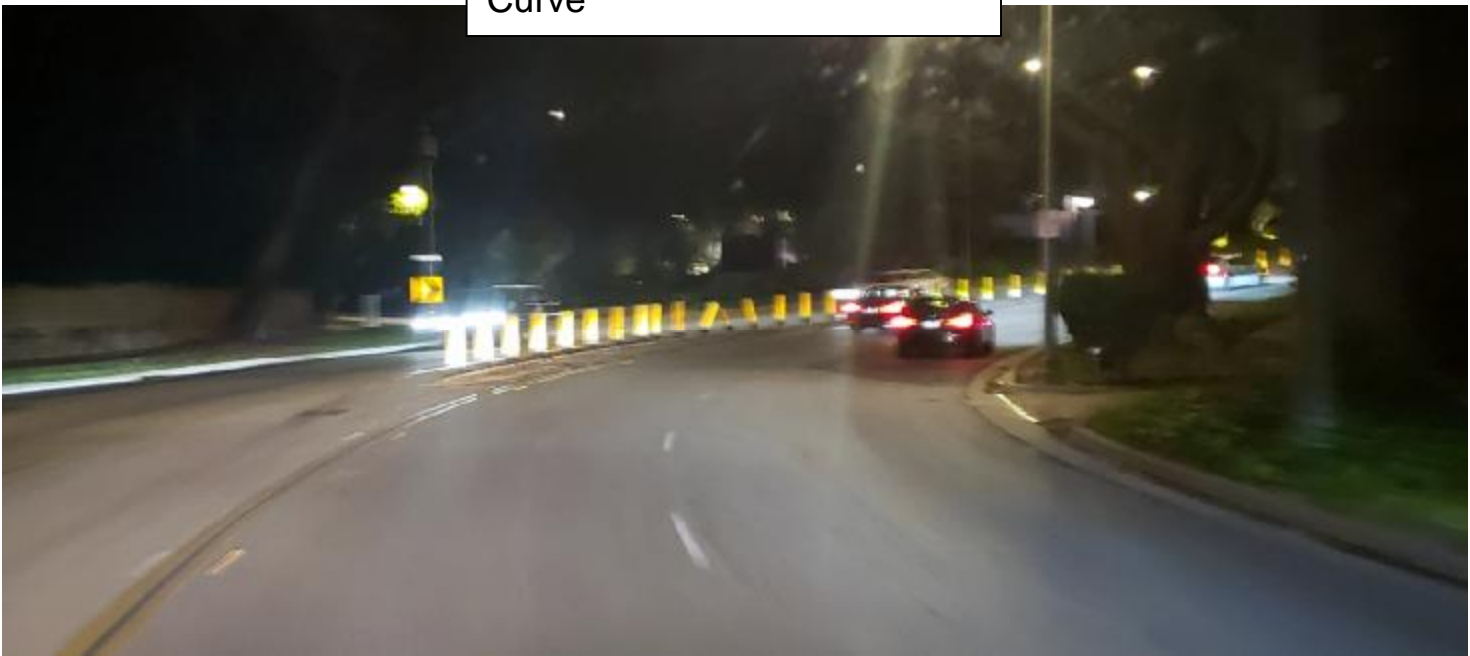
...and Crescent Heights  
And all the Jag could see were my  
six taillights



He passed me at Doheny then I  
started to swerve



But I pulled her out and there we were – at Dead Man's Curve



Until next time.....