



# In Search of Eldorado

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



## Hello to Family & Friends

After an undisturbed night I drove over to the library and parked across the street.

I finished yesterday's newsletter, as you already know, then walked over to the library and asked for the pass above. It's free and good at over 40 museums for 50% off. Granted, some of the museums are only five bucks or ask for a donation, but it's still a good deal.

However, I also purchased a GO San Diego card as mentioned yesterday. By this morning I still hadn't received a confirmation email, so I called them up. They couldn't find my transaction anywhere.

Back to the drawing board (or internet as the case may be). This time I went through the email I DID get for an additional 15% off the already 10% discounted price (I am keeping track to see how much money I save). Enter the correct info but cannot activate the pass. Another phone call. I made a different selection and was able to sync the pass.

I drive off to Balboa Park and get to the first museum. Neither the cashier nor I can find the barcode on the app. Another phone call. I should receive another email with the barcode after my payment has been confirmed (it's only 30 minutes since my payment). I check email periodically, and by the time I get to the second museum, 3 hours later, still no email. Another phone call.

Day 32  
Monday,  
February 3rd

San Diego  
Balboa Park  
Part I

Weather  
50's to 60's and 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!'

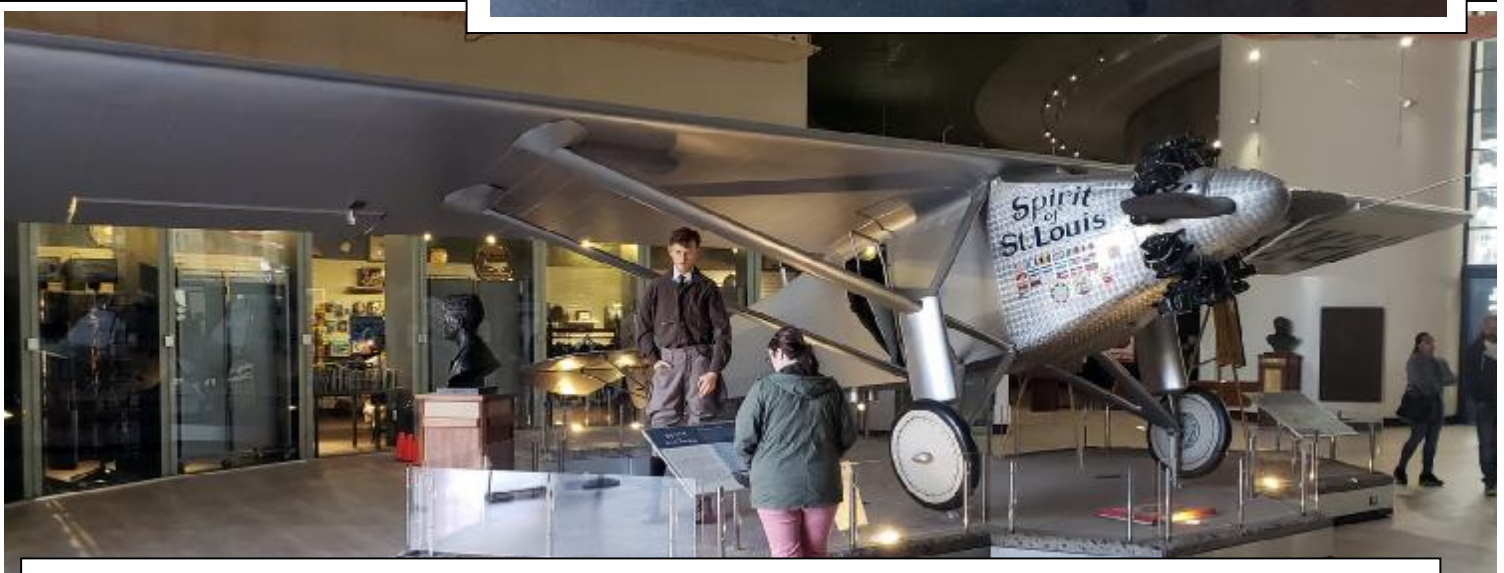


She tells me I DID get the email but I have to press 'print pass' in order to see the barcode. That works, but I tell her the email is screwed up. It says OPTION 1 – Download the app (which I did since I don't have a printer with me) or, OPTION 2 - press the button to print your pass. Why bother with option 1 at all if you have to use option 2 anyways?

## Spirit of St. Louis

### REPLICA NYP-3

The Museum's NYP-3 Spirit of St. Louis is the only flying replica of the original Spirit of St. Louis in the world. It was built in 1979 by volunteers of the San Diego Air & Space Museum, including three of the builders of the original Spirit of St. Louis, T. Claude Ryan, H. Ed Morrow and John van der Linde.



I told the cashier the problem and he gave me a guest pass. Now, on to the museum. I won't bore you with a lot of photos and plaques, I have sent back photos of better Air & Space Museums in the past, so just the interesting stuff like the one-of-a-kind replica above.



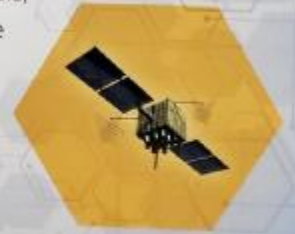
## GPS SATELLITE

(Thermal Test Version Hanging Above)

### Global Positioning System (GPS)

The *Global Positioning System (GPS)* represented a significant advancement in navigation, using a network of orbiting satellites transmitting precise microwave signals to Earth. The *GPS* system permitted identification of any location on the planet and navigation from one destination to another.

The *GPS* satellite on exhibit above you is the only one of its type on display in the world. It is just one of the many types of satellites orbiting the Earth today. The solar panels, such as the ones seen on the *GPS*, are one way to provide the power needed for the satellite to function. Satellites can also carry their power internally, sometimes using a nuclear power supply.



This is the real deal, the actual Apollo 9 Command Module



APOLLO 9 COMMAND MODULE



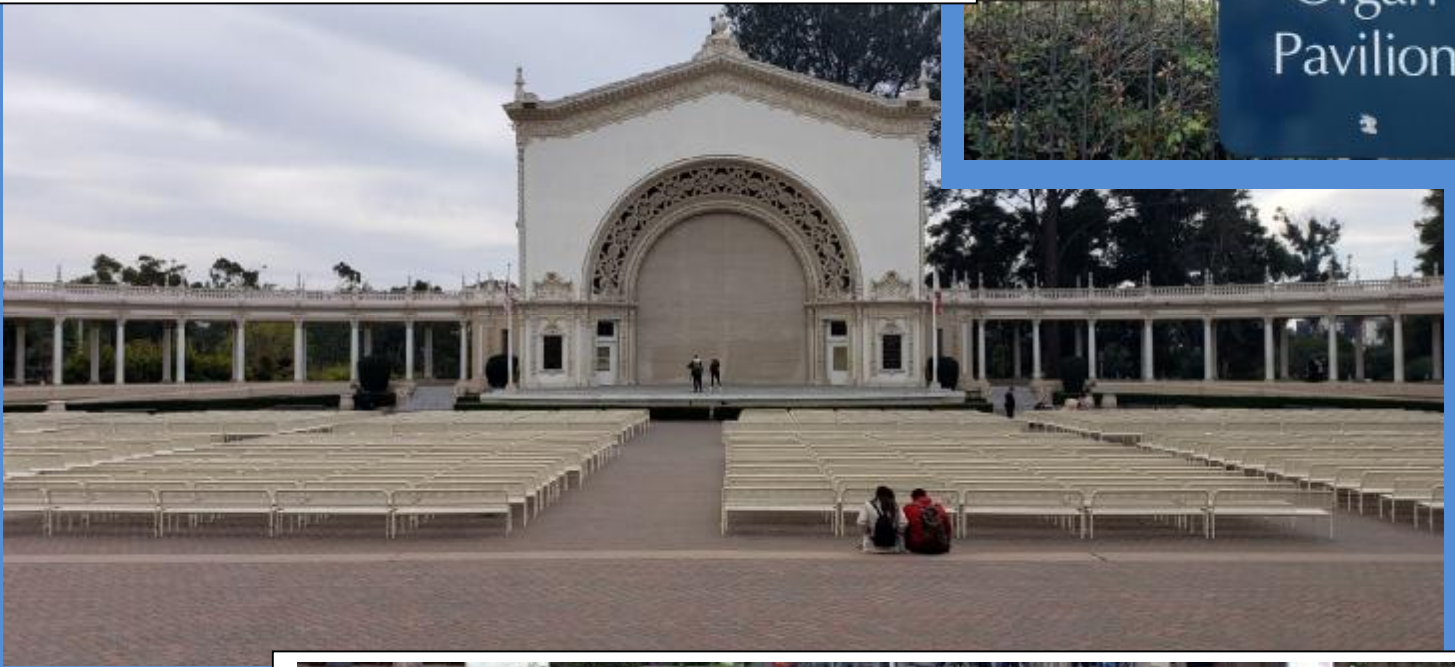
Left - Not the greatest picture of the inside, is it?

Below – The damage done to the heat shield by the re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere



It's not a big building so they really packed the planes in. Note Snoopy and the Red Baron bottom right.

This is a very large outdoor venue. Spreckels is the guy who brought the railroad to San Diego. I guess he was a sugar magnate back in the 1800's.



I have been a fan of Japanese gardens since I was a teen. I don't really remember why, but I love Bonsai trees like the one to the left. This was a very well done garden with tons of plants, neat walking paths, small pavilions, koi ponds, a rushing river and a meditation area. One thing I remember reading was to always look up when in a Japanese garden. I did that a lot here, but I never found any special items hidden among the trees.

The orange and white one right in the middle is about two and a half feet long.



The path to the meditation garden

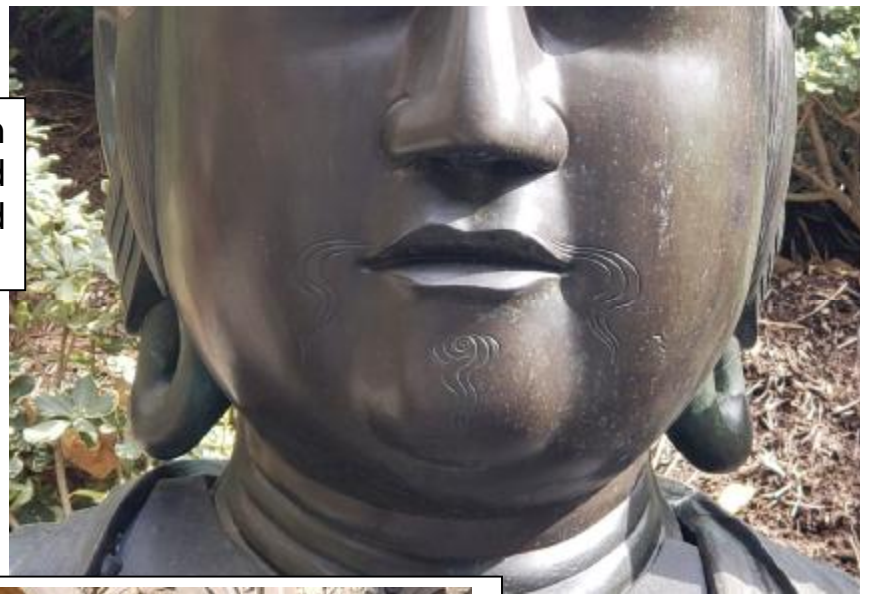




## Kannon Bosatsu Bronze Statue & The Garden of Enlightenment

ON DECEMBER 20, 2018, THE BRONZE STATUE OF KANNON BOSATSU, THE GODDESS OF MERCY AND COMPASSION, WAS DEDICATED IN THE JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN SOCIETY GARDEN IN SAN DIEGO. ACCORDING TO BUDDHIST TRADITION, KANNON WAS A BODHISATVA WHO CL

Hmmm...it does say Goddess on the plaque. I guess I never pictured Japanese Goddesses with a beard and mustache.



Just take a look at the carving on this building. See more of it below.



Most of you guys should enjoy the first exhibit



Every way they could find to spell beer throughout the world.



NIHAMANCHNIHAMANCHII

Then again, maybe you won't appreciate it.

It's the longest word for beer we could find! As you explore the exhibit, you will learn about the fascinating beer culture of the Jiva headhunters in the Amazon, who make this beer from poisonous cassava roots.



You've Got A Secret,  
And So Do Millions  
Of Other People

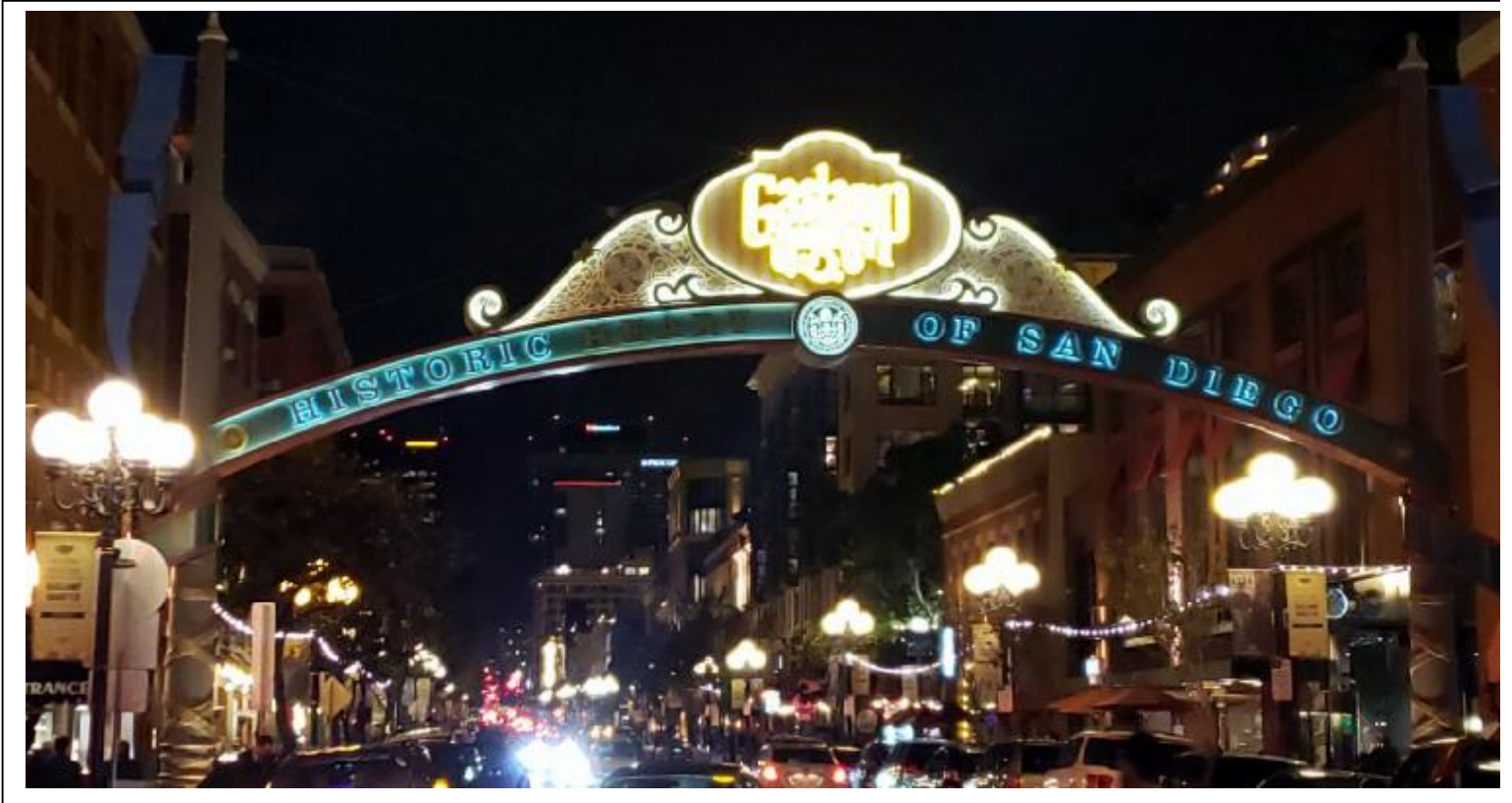
You may have heard of this project or read the books. I guess now it's a traveling exhibition.

PostSecret is an ongoing community art project where participants anonymously write and mail their never-before-shared secrets on handmade postcards. The project's creator, Frank Warren selects some to share on the PostSecret blog, in books, or in exhibits, like this one.

The project started in 2004, and so far people have contributed over a million secrets. Some may shock, but others you'll recognize as if they were your own.



I don't know if all million are here, but there's a lot.



After finishing the cannibal exhibit, no photos, it was 4:45 and the museums close at 5.

Not sure what to do next, I remembered the nighttime photos I had seen of the Gaslamp Quarter. Great, I'll head over there and walk around for a few hours, eat dinner, then look for a place to spend the night, still no reply from the Boondockers Host.

And that's exactly what I did. It took awhile to find two spots on the street together for the RV, then I sat in it for a short time until it was close to 6:00 and I wouldn't have to put any money in the meter.

I walked, probably several miles as I quartered the Quarter; up and down, back and forth. Nothing really special except for the number of restaurants maybe. Homeless, beggars, shops.

I had today's special, fish & chips, at an Irish pub where my waitress and the bartender both had Irish accents. The fish was good, the chips were good, but I couldn't finish the cole slaw. I had a nice conversation with another waitress about Disney+, then spent another hour and a half walking it off.

I decided to chance the Liberty Square area again, just not the same Corvette Diner lot. I picked one farther down that also had other cars in it.

I just might leave the RV where it is tomorrow and take the bike from here down along the Embarcadaro. There are several sights I can visit by bike, just like in Palm Springs, and there is a bike only path most of the way.

Until next time.....