



In Search of Eldorado

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



Day 34
Wednesday,
February 5th

San Diego
All Over

Weather
40's to 60's and Sunny

Hello to Family & Friends

I had time before my cruise of the South Bay, but I also knew I would have a hard time finding parking for the RV, so I left early. After a little driving around I ran across a police officer who called a buddy of his in the parking department and recommended the pier right next to the Midway. Normally \$10 for cars but they charged me \$20 for 12 hours, I used about 9 of them.

Below is my ride putting into dock (notice how I'm using the correct nautical terms here, I think).



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.

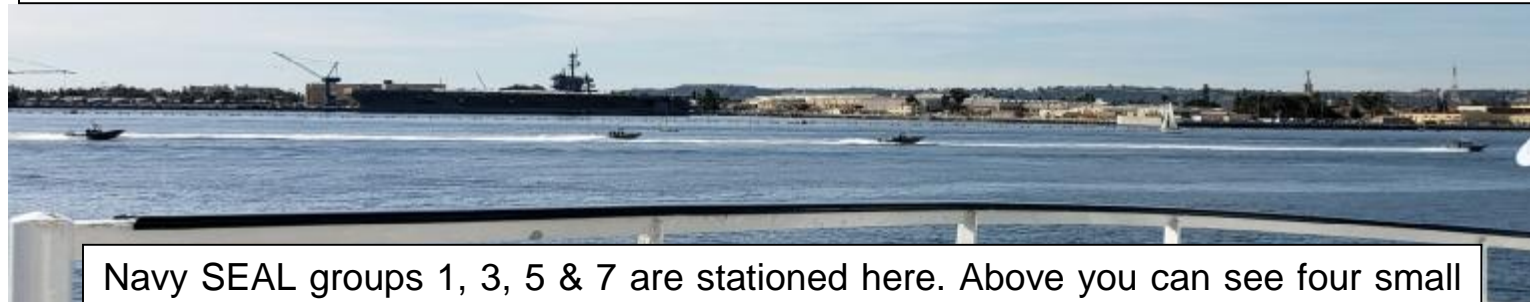
But he grew old—
This knight so bold—
And o'er his heart a shadow—
Fell as he found
No spot of ground
That looked like Eldorado.

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!'



San Diego Bay is extremely large and shaped kind of like a comma, with the top portion curling around Coronado Island to the Pacific. The bay is 12 miles long and 1-3 miles wide. Much of the shoreline is active military. Navy ships are built, commissioned, repaired and retired right here. The Captain had his list of almost every naval vessel we could see, what it was and what it does/did.



Navy SEAL groups 1, 3, 5 & 7 are stationed here. Above you can see four small boats speeding along, those are SEALS heading out for training exercises. Seventy-six percent of the trainees drop out because of how tough it is. Below is the active duty aircraft carrier the USS Abraham Lincoln.





The Coronado Bridge. A bridge has to be at least two miles long to qualify for federal funding. This bridge was going to fall short, so they changed the angle and added an eighty degree curve to make it 2.12 miles. I will be crossing that bridge Saturday to spend the day biking around Coronado Island.



Here's a ship in drydock being refurbished



This is a new ship under construction



This is extremely interesting. That is the newest destroyer. Crazy right? It looks nothing like the destroyers we are used to seeing. It has been active for only three months, and the one behind it is still under construction. Look what you get for \$4.4 billion each. And there's a third one ordered.



The Captain made everyone aboard take a selfie with the curve of the Coronado Bridge in the background, or we'd have to walk the plank.



Above is Seaport Village. It's a neat area with a lot of restaurants and shops. I visited it yesterday on the bike. I wasn't hungry and the only interesting finds were some artwork in a gallery. I didn't even ask the price.



I walked down to Seaport Village this time to catch the Hop On Hop Off Trolley that is part of the Go Card package. I get three days which cost \$110 normally. This trip I only rode it two stops to the Chinese Museum.

They had several scale models like this inside. Keep in mind that each floor is only about seven inches high.



Front View of Model of Woo Chee Chong and Gim Wing Companys

This model depicts the front of the *Woo Chee Chong and Gim Wing Companys*. Pictures are of actual residents, and documents are of real people from the Chinese Historical Museum. The placement of items such as jade, ivory, cinnabar, and silk are remembered by Felix Hom and Jimmy Hom, residents of the buildings as children and consultants on the project.

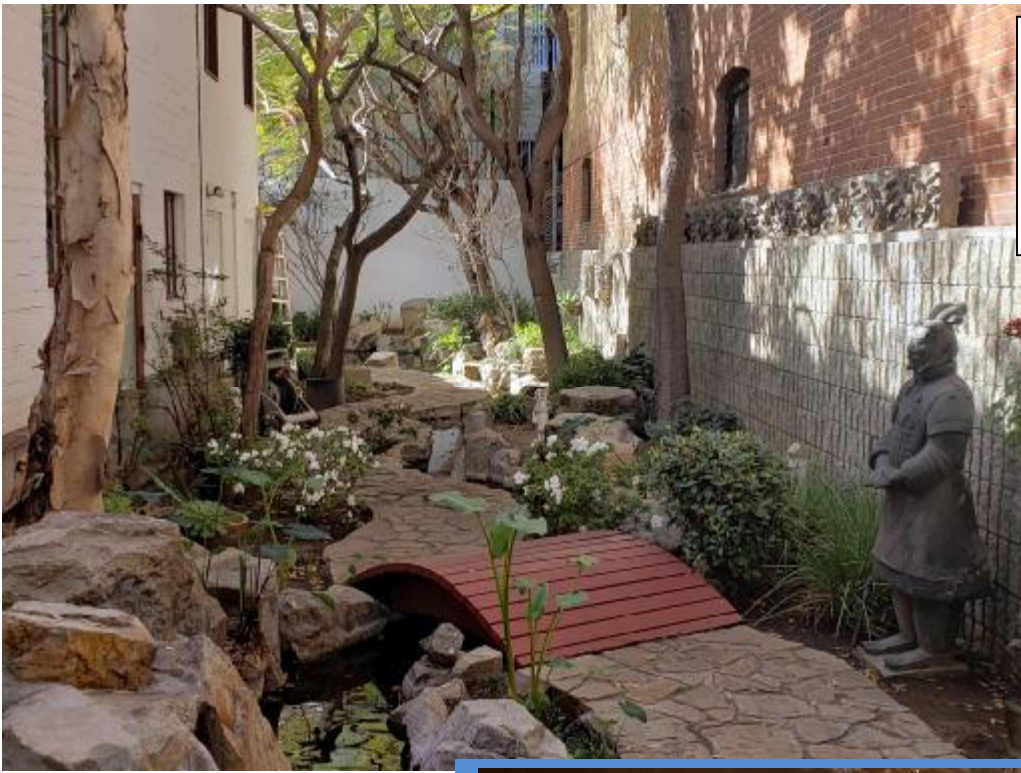
There was no note as to how many hours it took to build and stock this model.



The bed of some famous Chinaman who defied Chiang Kai-Shek's communism after visiting America.

Docent intern Kiki told me her grandparents had one, but not nearly as elaborate.





This time it's a Chinese garden, squeezed right between the museum and its neighbor in the heart of the city.

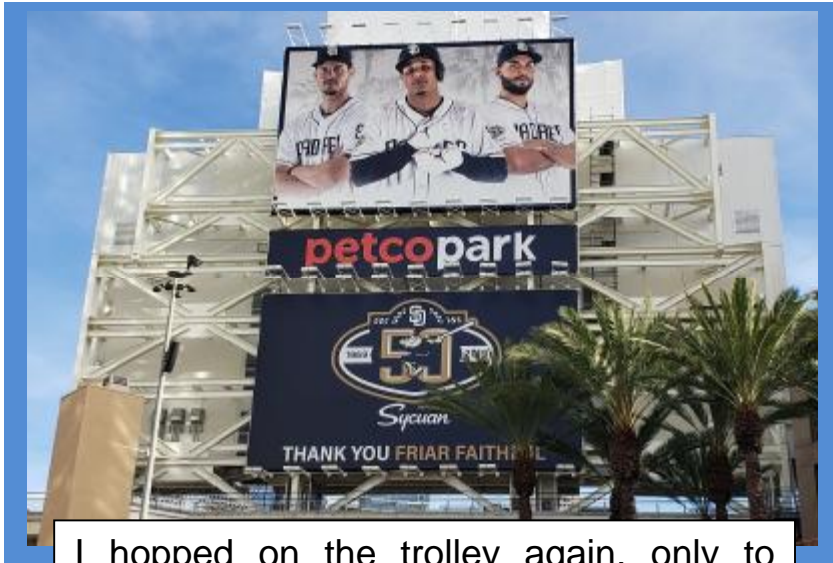


I get the impression these Koi are hungry

CONFUCIUS 551-479 BC

K'ung Fu Tzu was born in the state of Lu, Shandong Province. Known more commonly by his Romanized name, Confucius is honored in China, Korea and other parts of Asia as a teacher of the proper way of life. Confucius' desire was for people to realize their potential of wisdom and virtue; to become the perfect gentleman. His most famous saying, "Do not do unto others what you do not want done to yourself," is the predecessor of the Golden Rule. Confucius' birthday, September 28th is celebrated as teacher's day in China.

The wise Confucius



I hopped on the trolley again, only to detrolley (just made that one up) a stop later at PETCO Park, home of the San Diego Padres.

Below – Just look at that nice green....dirt? Yup, they're having a monster truck show this weekend. All that dirt is on top of the grass which will be completely re-sodded after the shows are done.



From the ballpark you can see the San Diego Convention Center, home of Comic-Con. The Padres have to have an extended road trip every July due to the nerd convention. I'd like to go at least once. The guide told us that people walking around in costumes are everywhere downtown throughout.



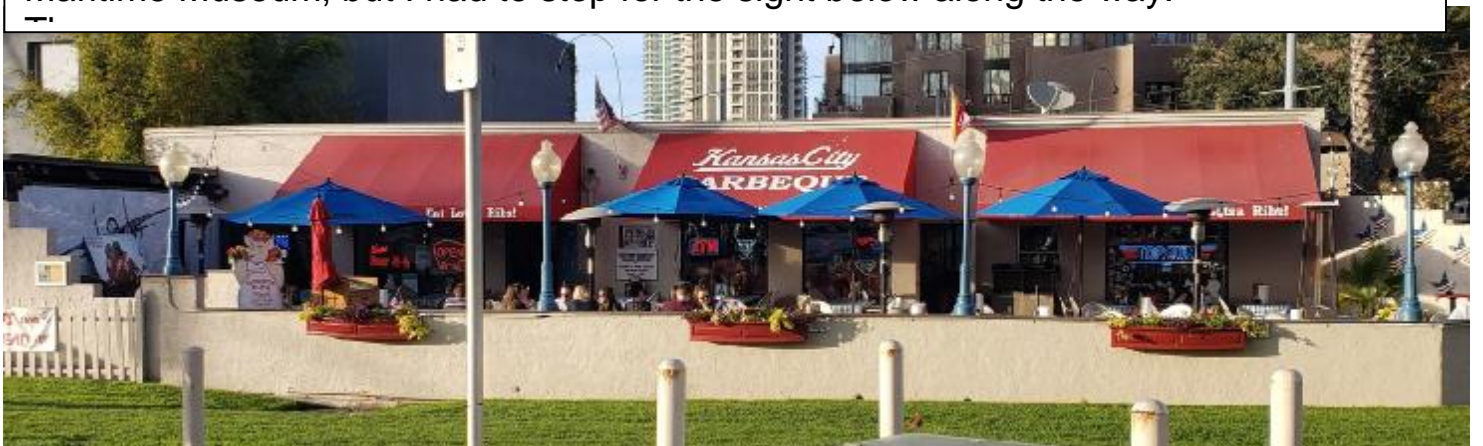
Above is the press and media area.

Below is the TV and Radio broadcast booths.





Because there are so many areas of the normal tour inaccessible at this time, we were able to see some areas that are not normally on the tour, like the owner's suite. Even our tour guide had not been in here before. Then I hiked 1.7 miles back to the Maritime Museum, but I had to stop for the sight below along the way.





You guys all remember TOP GUN right? From 1986. Great aerial dogfight scenes.



I'm sure, if they really tried, they could have found a sleazy bar in LA that would have worked just as well.



The Star of India



Really nice woodwork in here



Standing at the wheel





Heading east with the sun at my back.



A couple of 'sunset through the rigging' photos



This is the forward torpedo room of the B-39 Soviet Sub. It told a very interesting story of how it was one of four subs sent to Cuba in 1962 with nuclear warheads to be installed only 90 miles off the coast of Florida. The captain, once surrounded by US warships, being bombarded by depth charges, and out of communication with Moscow for two days, wanted to fire the nuclear torpedo. But the commander talked him out of it and into surfacing to face the Americans. The nuclear torpedo had a purple nose like the one below. I guess we all know the torpedo was not fired and WW III did not start.





How could anybody possible know what all these levers, dials, pipes, gauges and wheels are for? Amazing.

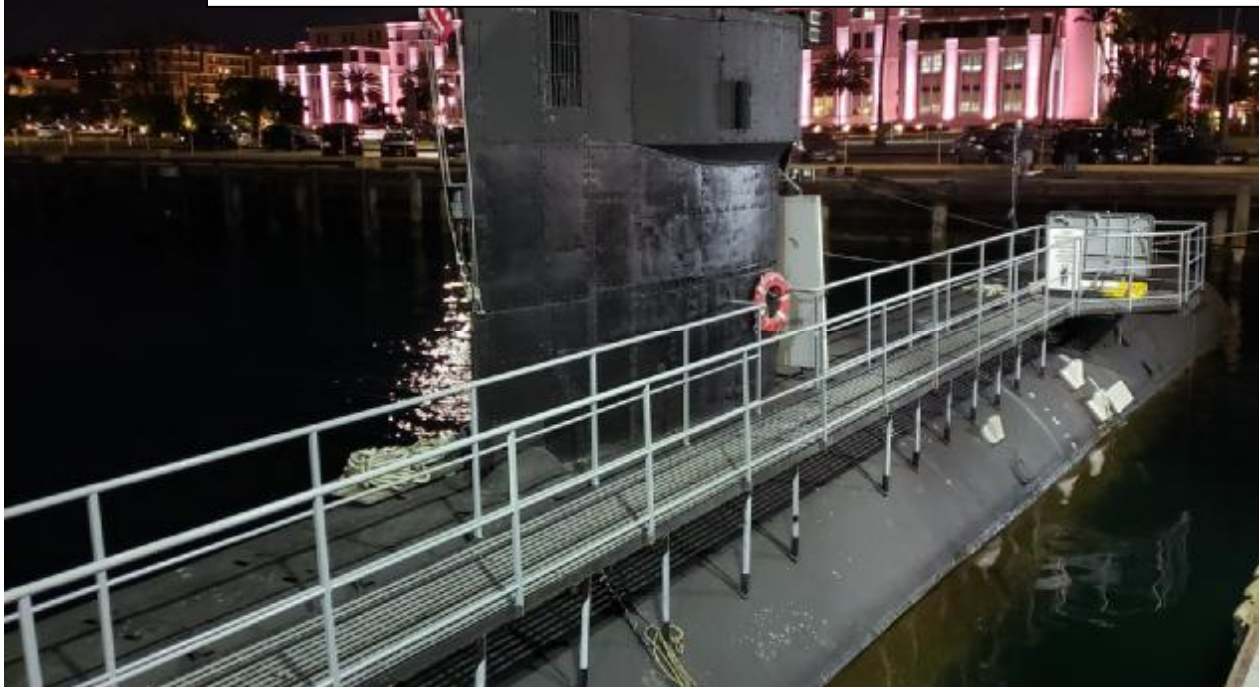


A Record-Breaking Submarine

On November 24, 1968, barely two months after commissioning, the *USS Dolphin* dove to a depth in excess of three thousand feet to become the world's deepest diving submarine.

United States Navy sources confirm that this record still stands today.

The following year, in August 1969, the *Dolphin* achieved another world record by launching a torpedo from a depth never equaled by another submarine.





I leave you with a final sunset photo, and these thoughts....

My sorta brother Jim....

Although it wasn't often enough, it was a pleasure when we would see each other: at his brother Bob's house for SuperBowl parties; weekends at golf and gulp for the past twenty years; March Madness at the cabin in the winter; weddings and other family occasions; several times a year when we would get together with the other Marquardt boys for what was dubbed 'The Marquardt Open' or just a friendly round of golf; sometimes just Jim and I for a round of 54. He took the kidding that he was only invited along so the rest of us would have a designated driver. Jim gave me a place to spend the night a few times when I had claims in Chicago the next day, saving me the hassle of navigating the Chicago traffic, then we would get together for lunch. Now and then we would talk on the phone, sometimes just a text was enough to say 'Hi, how ya doin?'

Just after Christmas Jim was diagnosed with lung and brain cancer. Jim is five days younger than me, both born in September of 1959.

Yesterday I learned the chemo is not helping and Jim will soon be placed in hospice and may only have weeks to live.

It is unlikely I will get the chance to see Jim before he's gone. I'm not sure if it's a good thing or not, but maybe I will be able to remember Jim as I last saw him, facing left at a 45 degree angle on the tee box so that his slicing drive would stay out of the right rough.

We shared a lot of good times together, and I will miss having Jim there beside me in the golf cart for a round of 18.

So long brother....