



# In Search of Eldorado

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



## Hello to Family & Friends

My last night at Liberty Station was undisturbed, so I spent seven nights in San Diego at no charge. This makes my average lodging cost so far .97 per night. Not bad at all.

Raining, misting, windy and cold this morning. High temp is supposed to be 53. I have long pants, polo shirt, long sleeved shirt and my rain jacket along with my stocking cap. It's still cold.

This is the first time in 36 days I have felt rain. There were a couple times it rained overnight, but other than that not since I was driving through Iowa on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Bali Hai Tiki Restaurant shown above is on Shelter Island which, again, is not an island. From Roadside America:

One of the world's largest original tiki restaurants. Built in 1953 as a Christian's Hut (I have no idea what that is), it became the Bali Hai the following year. Built with more than 15 types of wood, some very rare. The circular building is topped by a quasi-Polynesian head named "The Goof", and a large carved head outside the front door named "Mr. Bali Hai."

Day 38  
Sunday,  
February 9th

San Diego  
Cabrillo  
National  
Monument

Weather  
40's to 50's Rain and Sun

## 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!'

Shelter Island looks like a pretty nice spot to spend half a day. It's small enough to hike the entire island with shops, parks, boats, restaurants and sculptures. I'll keep it in mind for the next trip.

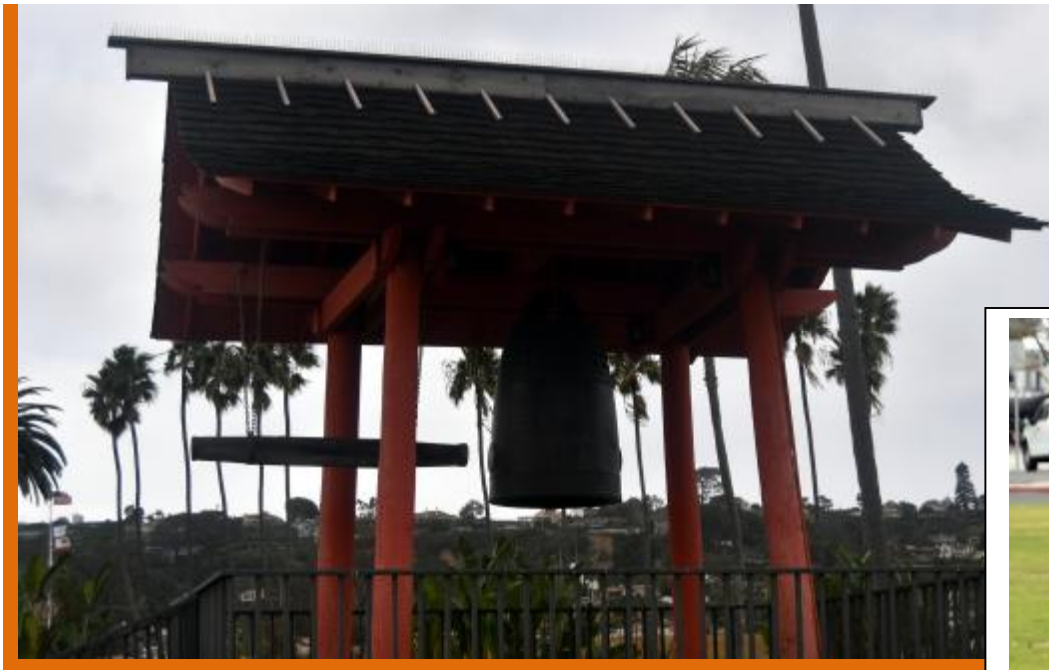


The Japanese Friendship Bell was presented by the City of Yokohama to the people of San Diego in 1958 as a symbol of eternal friendship. This magnificent bell was cast by the artist Masahiko Katori who has been designated as a living National Treasurer by the Government of Japan.

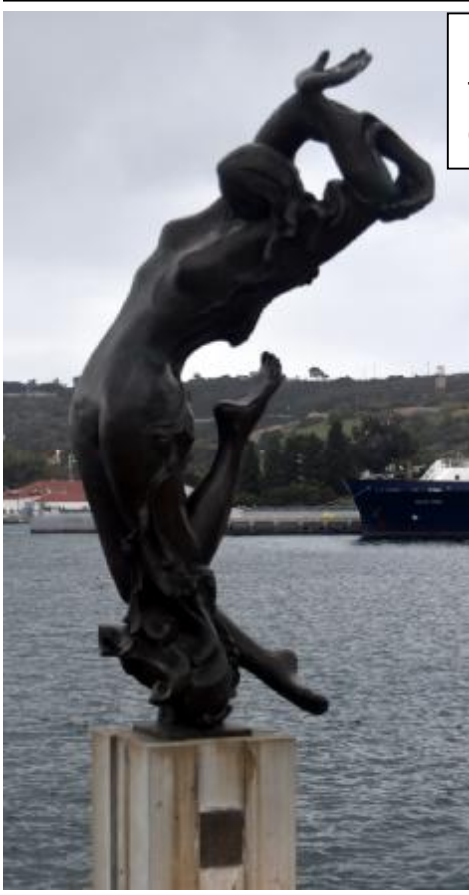
The San Diego-Yokohama Sister City Society was established in 1957 and was the first Sister City organization on the West Coast.

Its objective is to promote mutual understanding, respect, and friendship through cultural, economic, and other exchanges on People to People and City to City relationships.

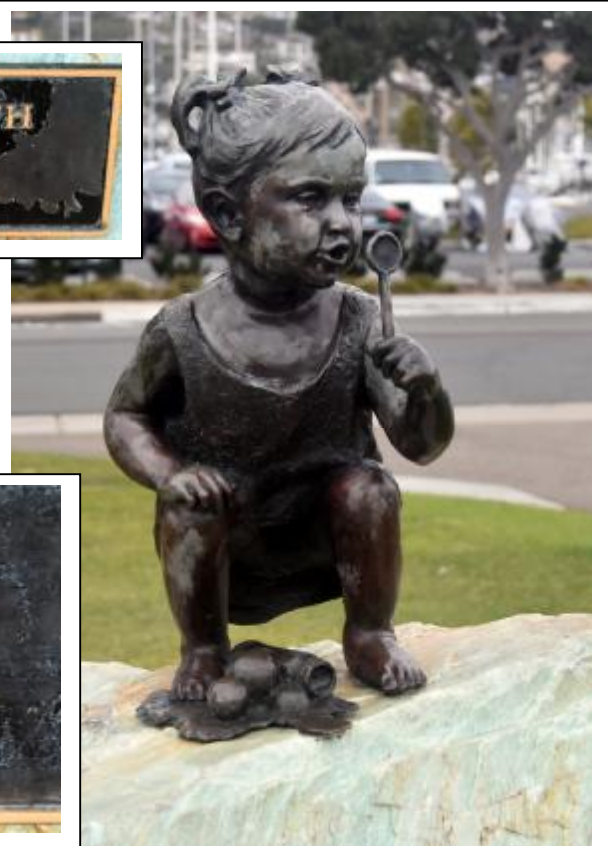
Dedicated December 10, 1960



The sculpture below symbolizes the many decades of friendship between sister ports, San Diego and Yokohama. This is considered a very intimate gesture by the Japanese.



I couldn't even read the plaque on this one.





It says: TUNAMAN'S MEMORIAL

-Honoring those that built an industry and remembering those that  
Departed this harbor in the sun – and did not return - Anthony Mascarenhas



The tuna were so large that it was necessary for the three poles to be hooked to one lure, and it took all three men to toss the tuna over their shoulders and into the boat.

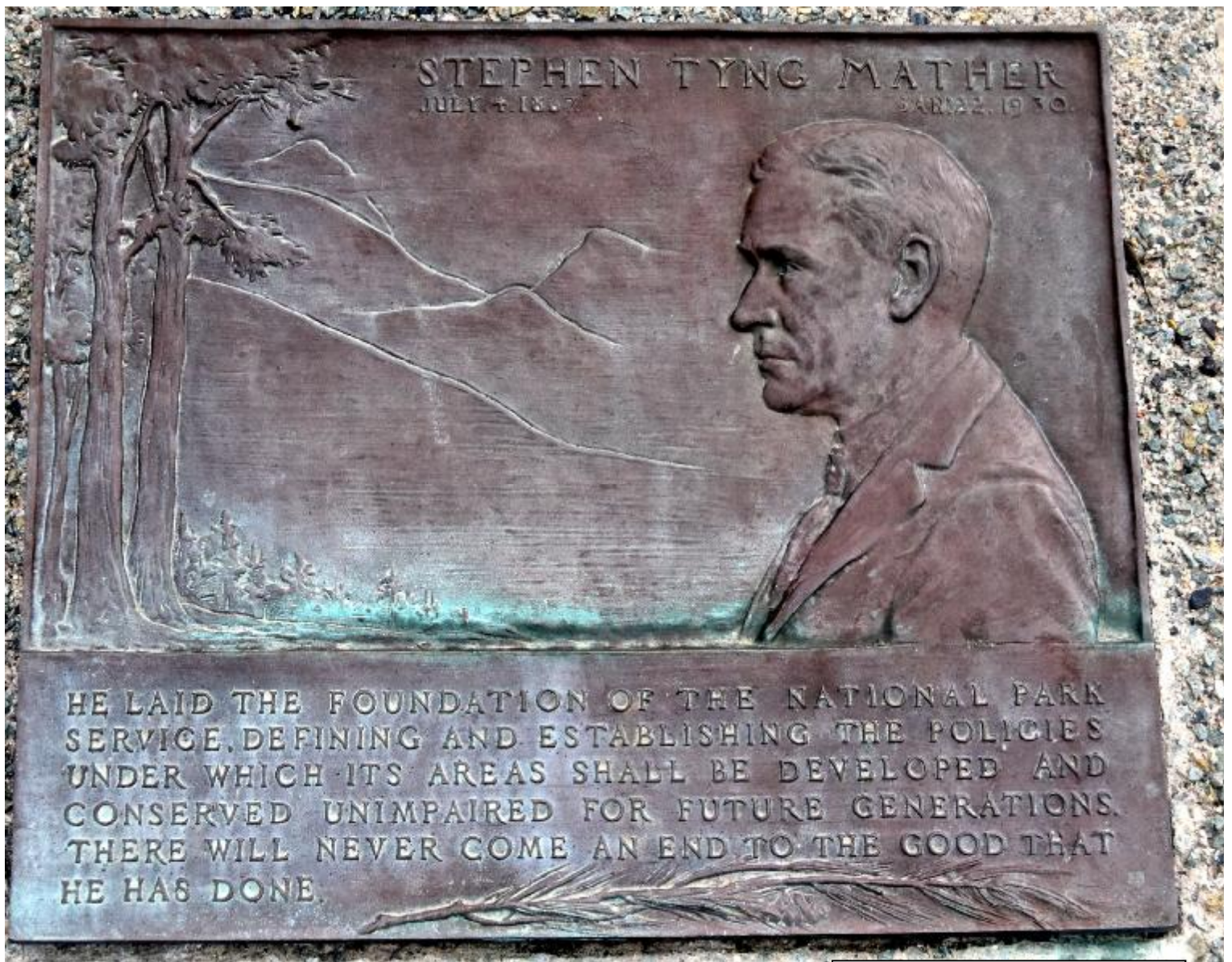


Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery. I was surprised by the size of this sacred ground. It filled both sides of the road for a good half mile.



Another notch on the National Park/National Monument visitation sheet.



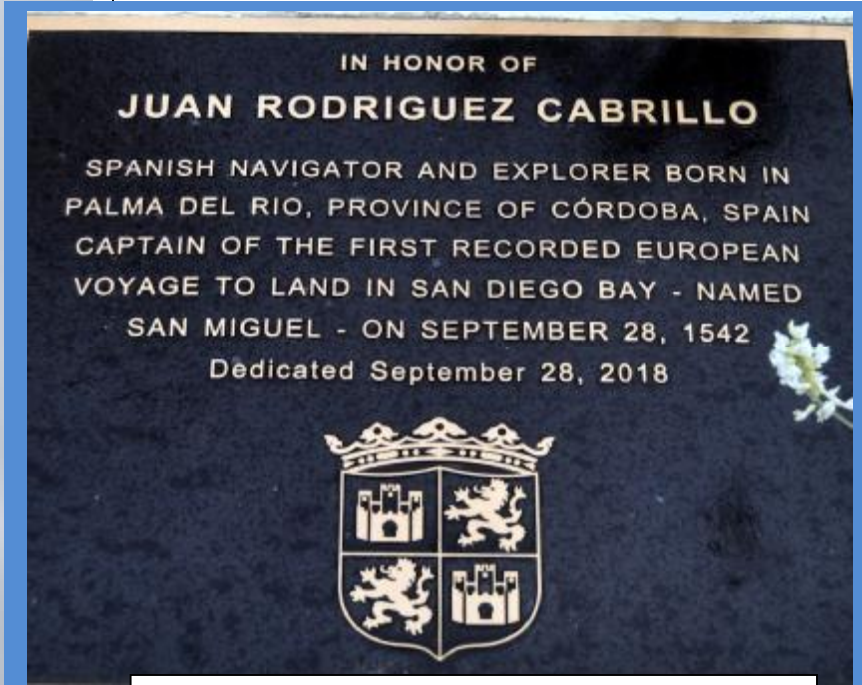
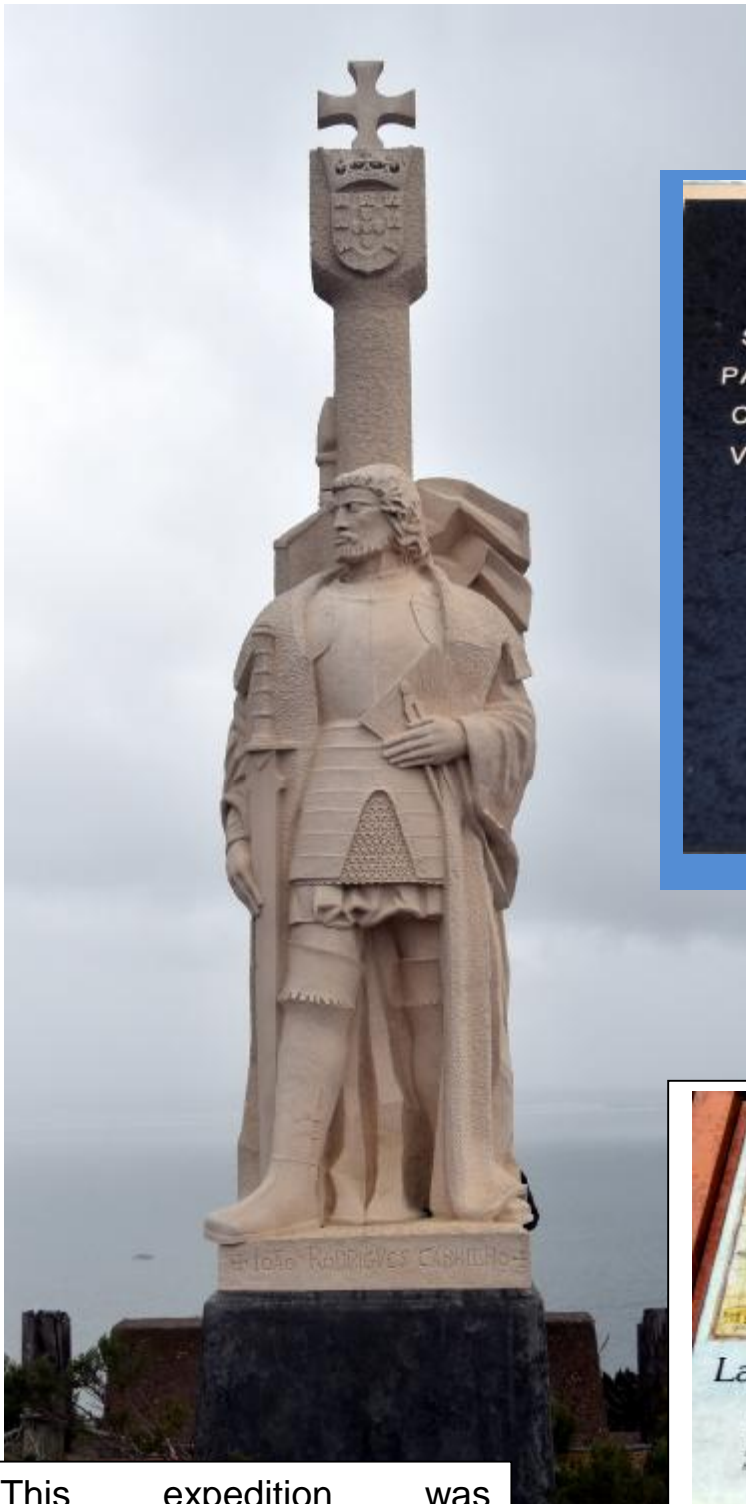


I'm certainly glad he did what he did.

## Voyage of Discovery

In 1542 on these very shores, Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo stepped out of his boat and into history. He was the first European to set foot on what is now the West Coast of the United States. It was just 50 years after Christopher Columbus first landed in the Americas.

Here, you can explore Cabrillo's story and find other adventures in history and nature. Join us for your own voyage of discovery at Cabrillo National Monument.



All this hoopla, his own National Monument, you would think Cabrillo is really important. But he died on this trip and was buried somewhere on one of the Channel Islands.



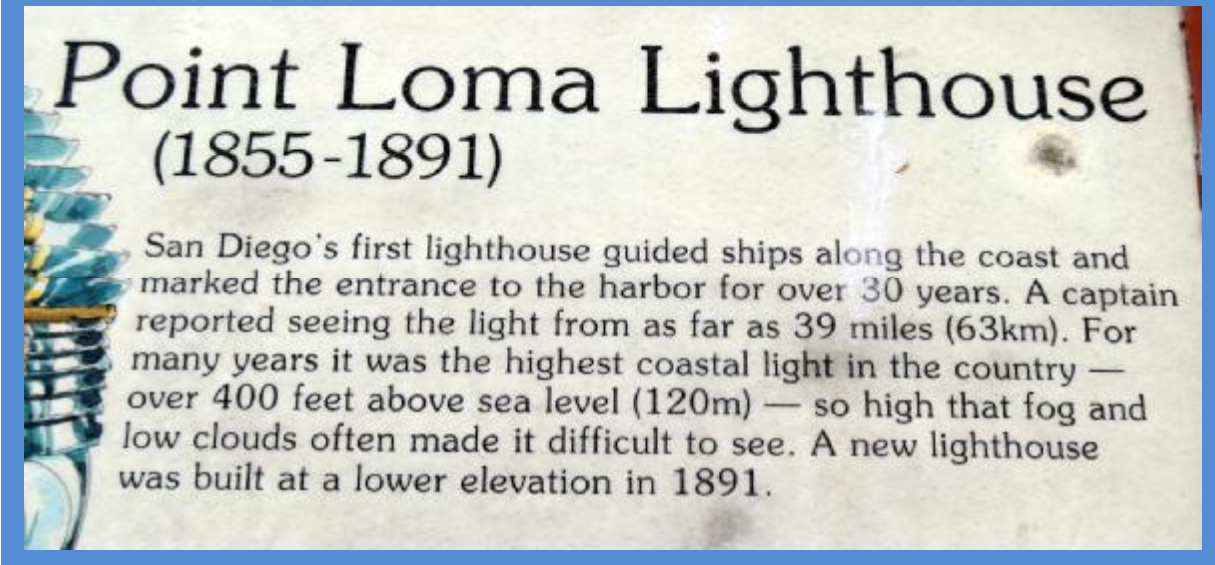
This expedition was considered a failure by Spain. In 1602-1603 Sebastian Vizcaino, born six years after Cabrillo died, sailed the coast of Baja California and the southern coast of California and renamed every rock and inlet that Cabrillo had named 60 years earlier. San Miguel became San Diego.

## Landing of Cabrillo

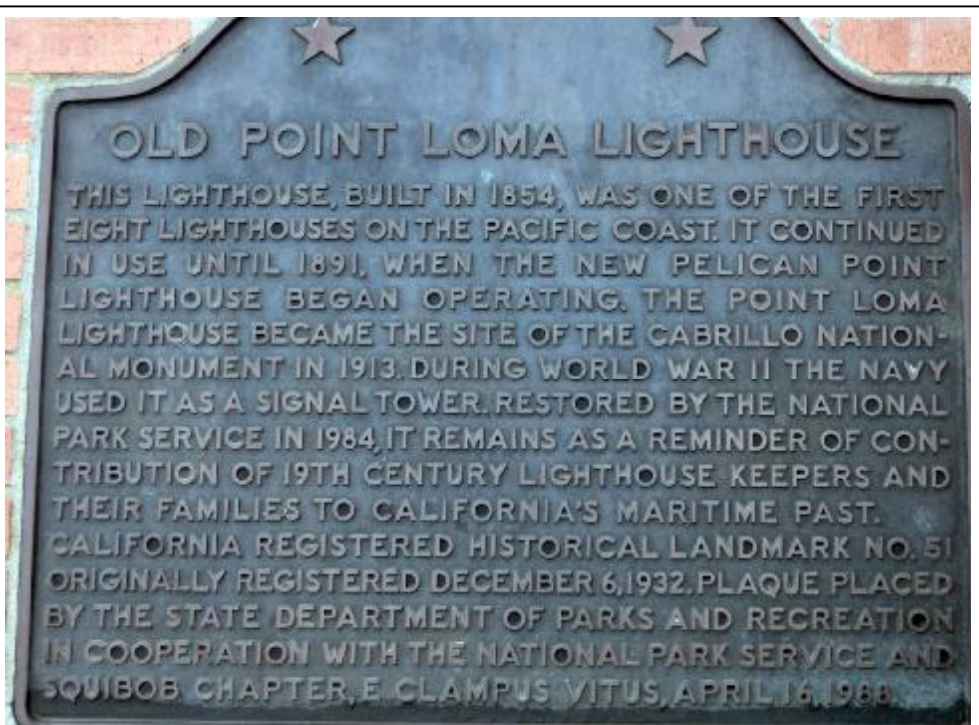
On September 28, 1542, Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo and his crew sailed into this harbor and became the first Europeans to set foot on what would later become the west coast of the United States. The exact landing area is not known, but many believe that Cabrillo came ashore on Ballast Point, the small finger of land below you.



Pretty cool that this old time schooner was plying the bay, the same day I was where Cabrillo became the first European to set foot upon California



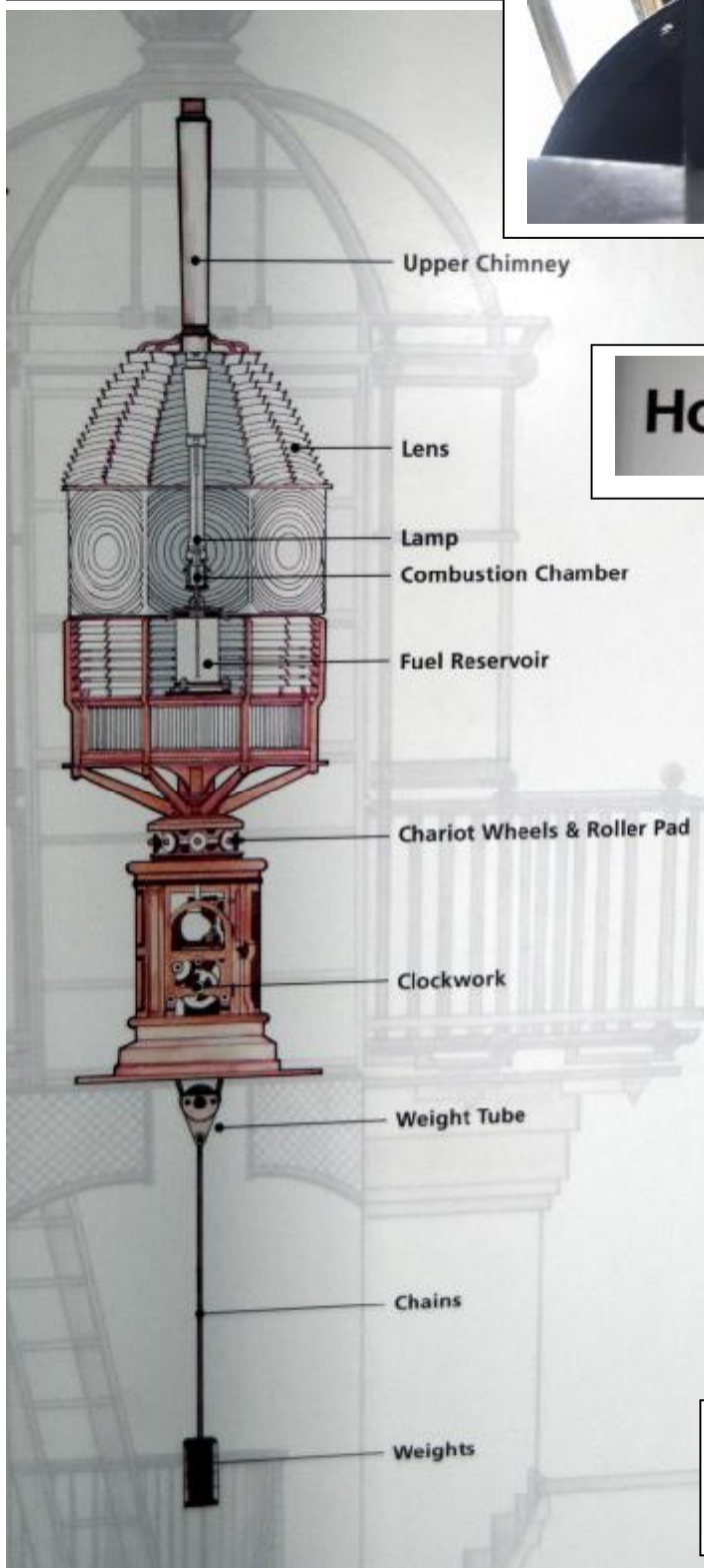




The interior was pretty typical two bedrooms up, living room and kitchen/dinette down. The exception is the ladder to the light.



Looking up at the existing light from the access ladder. I could go no farther.



## How a Lighthouse Works

Although they vary greatly in appearance, a lighthouse is essentially a bright light on top of a tower. Together with fog signals, buoys, channel markers and other navigational aids, its purpose is to guide mariners along the coast or into a port, or warn them of submerged dangers.

A protective lantern tops the tower. Inside is the lens, or a modern acrylic beacon, and inside of that is the lamp.

The lens may be fixed (non-rotating) or flashing (rotating). Once turned by clockwork and weights, flashing lenses are now driven by electric motors. Before lighthouses were automated, a keeper would have required living quarters, a storehouse and a workshop.

I have never seen a real explanation before, so I found it interesting. I hope you do too.

I never realized the intricacy of the glass work on a lighthouse bulb. But I guess it does have to be special to be seen 30 miles out to sea.



Looking west. Next stop, Miyazaki, Japan, 6123 miles away.



I just really liked this view. It looks more like a painting than a photograph.



## Low Profile, High Impact

Embedded in the ridge in front of you was one of San Diego's most important defenses during World War II. Well-hidden from approaching ships, Battery Ashburn housed two 16-inch guns. These guns were the largest projectile weapon type used in the nation's harbor defenses and the only ones in San Diego to be fortified. The battery was massive enough to sustain direct hits from enemy guns.

Workers finished building the battery in March of 1944. Artillerymen tested the guns in July. Vibrations from the blast were so intense that they were rumored to have cracked windows in Hotel del Coronado across the harbor. Battery Ashburn served until the war's end in September of 1945. By 1948, it was slated for surplus, and its guns were cut up for scrap soon after.

It was on my itinerary to visit a couple of these Battery's, but they're all still on gated government property. I think the guns were at the end of the arrow.



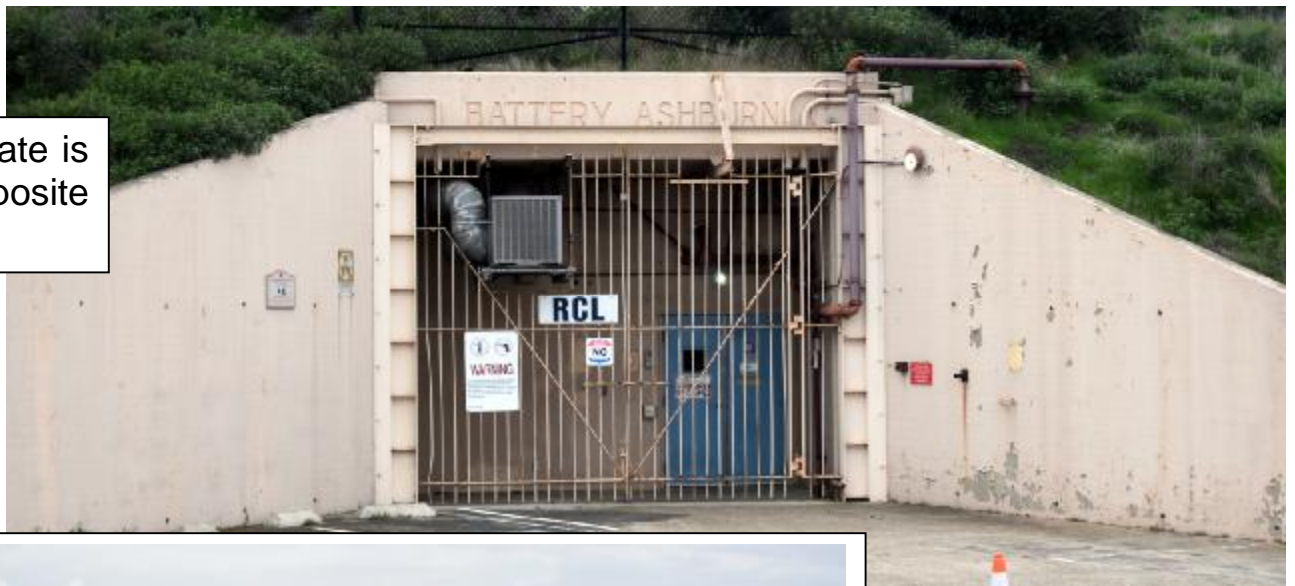


September of 1915. By 1917, they were cut up for scrap soon after.

The barrels were almost 67 feet long. The shells were 16 inches in diameter and weighed more than a ton.

Los cañones median 20.3 metros de largo. Los proyectiles 40 centímetros de diámetro y pesaban más de una tonelada.

This access gate is on the opposite side of the hill.



The tidal rocks of Cabrillo NM. I was about an hour early for low tide.





Very interesting formations and layers



These were not quite how I remember the tide pools of California the last time I was here, but that was farther north, so maybe things will get better.



Luscomb's Point, I think. There are no signs.



This is near Belmont Park, a Coney Island type amusement park. It looked pretty small to me. I wanted to get some twilight photos with the rides lit up, but I didn't feel it was worth the time to sit and wait.



I continued north into La Jolla as darkness came on. No sunset photos tonight with those clouds. I don't think I saw the sun all day.

It took some searching on Google maps and driving around, but I found an industrial park for the night. It must be a good spot because there was a trailer a hundred feet in front of me and another fifty feet behind me. A popular spot for boondocking.

Tomorrow is yet to be determined. I feel a little bit of a letdown now after leaving San Diego. There was so much to see and do and I was busy both day and night. Between San Diego and LA are a bunch of small coastal towns, probably all the same, probably all look just like Florida along the coasts, beaches, tide pools, sunsets, etc, etc. Ho hum. LOL

There is also a dearth of legal overnight spots. Maybe a rest stop on the interstate, and there is one Boondockers Welcome host near Oceanside, but the WalMarts, Home Depots and casinos don't allow overnight parking at all, mostly due to city ordinances. I have not seen a Cracker Barrel since Nebraska. Kali, call all the Sam's in the LA area and let them know your old man is in town.

You have to look at it as a challenge. How am I going to outwit (place name of city here) tonight. Google maps and Google earth get you into possible areas, but you still have to do a drive-by to make sure it looks right and that you're not in a bad part of town.

Until next time....