

OTHER PARK CHANGES

CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK



Photo by Charles R. Lypany, courtesy of Chris Taylor

Monsanto House of the Future, wrapped up for Christmas

Welcome to Yesterland park during the holiday season. Let's take a look at some of the decorations. We'll start at the Monsanto House of the Future, near the entrance to Yester-Tomorrowland.

This proves that a ribbon and bow can be festive, even if you don't use wrapping paper. Anyone who has ever tried to wrap paper around a rounded object knows how difficult that can be. Besides, wrapping paper would ruin the view from the floor-to-ceiling windows.

Let's head over to the moat in front of the Castle.

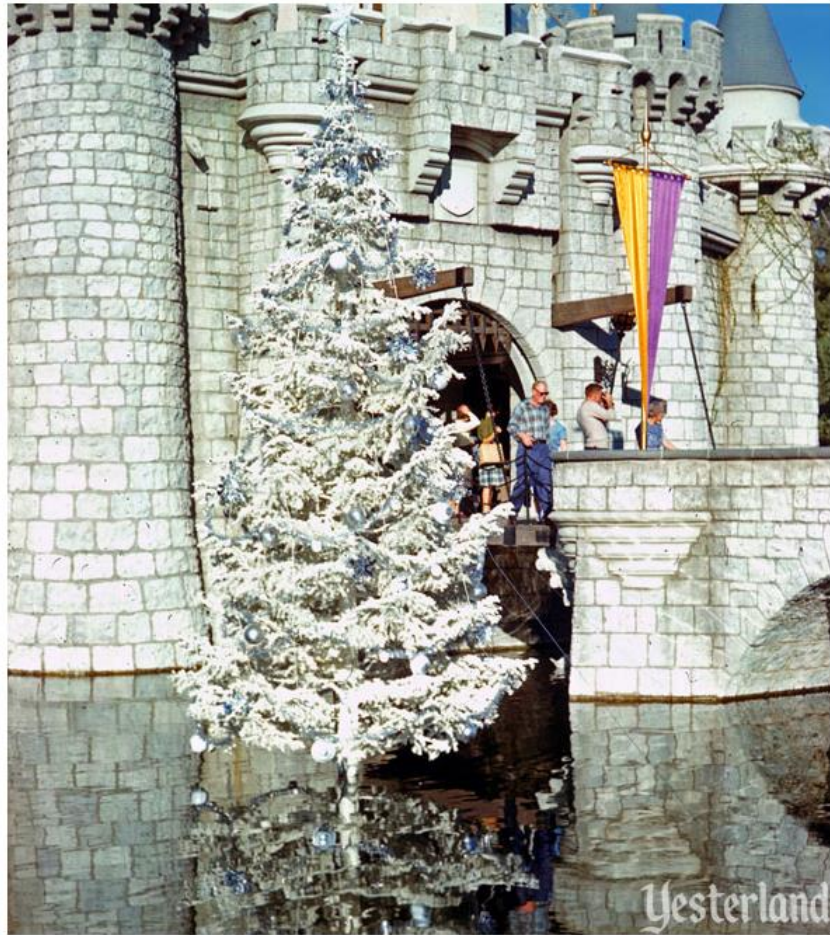


Photo by Charles R. Lympany, courtesy of Chris Taylor

White Christmas tree in the moat of the Castle

There's snow at the Castle! Well, there's really just some white flocking on the Christmas tree to simulate snow. White, flocked Christmas trees can show off brightly colored ornaments... but that's not the case here.

Maybe, someday, the Castle will have more impressive snow.



Photo by Frank Taylor / Charles R. Lympany, courtesy of Chris Taylor

A Christmas tree color you don't see every day... burnt sienna?

Returning to the Castle moat, we see different trees. and these have ornaments. Where else can you see burnt sienna-colored trees? Now aren't you glad you visited Yesterland?

Our next stop is Yester-Frontierland.



Photo by Frank Taylor / Charles R. Lympny, courtesy of Chris Taylor
Golden Horseshoe Saloon, festooned with Christmas garland

Slue-Foot Sue's Golden Horseshoe Saloon, home of the Golden Horseshoe Revue presented by Pepsi-Cola, is draped with evergreen garlands and red bows. By the way, there's a great show in there—with a live band, talented singers, can-can dancers, and a very funny young comic named Wally Boag. Sit down. Order a Pepsi and a bag of Fritos brand corn chips from the waitress.

If you prefer Coca-Cola over Pepsi-Cola, don't worry. You can buy Coca-Cola on Yester-Main Street and the east side of the park.

In fact, let's head down Yester-Main Street now.



Photo by Frank Taylor, courtesy of Chris Taylor
Main Street garland, high enough for double-decker buses

There's a double-decker omnibus passing by the yellow Wurlitzer Music Hall. Go into the store to buy an organ, piano, or player piano—a great Christmas present and a fine souvenir of your visit to the park. Maybe a player piano roll would be easier to carry.

As you look past the bus, you can see the Main Street Opera House, with its beige façade and its green awnings. Too bad the Opera House isn't open to guests. (The park's lumber mill is in there.)



Photo by Frank Taylor, courtesy of Chris Taylor

Magnificent natural tree near the Wurlitzer Music Hall

A huge, natural tree is a pleasure to look at.



Photo by Charles R. Lypany, courtesy of Chris Taylor

Toy soldiers from *Babes in Toyland* on parade at Disneyland

In the 1961 Walt Disney movie *Babes in Toyland*, Tom Piper (Tommy Sands) gets an army of toy soldiers to fight the evil Barnaby (Ray Bolger), who had tried to have Tom killed so that he could have Tom's fiancée Mary Contrary (Annette Funicello) for himself.

The toy soldiers in the parade are delightful. The movie is somewhat less delightful.

Come back to the park in the future. The holiday decorations are bound to get better every year.

Beginning with Disneyland's very first Christmas in 1955, and continuing to the present day, Disneyland has always been decorated for the Holidays.

Over the years, the decorations have become more elaborate, more creative, and more carefully matched to themed areas—such as garlands with purple and green ribbons in New Orleans Square, garlands with pine cones in outdoorsy Critter Country, and all sorts of crazy, fun decorations in Mickey's Toontown.

Two major Disneyland attractions now get extensive holiday makeovers each year—resulting in Haunted Mansion Holiday (based on the 1993 movie *The Nightmare Before Christmas*) and "it's a small world" Holiday (featuring holiday traditions around the world). Jungle Cruise becomes Jingle Cruise.

Let's return to two of the locations featured in this article—a half century or more after the earlier photos.



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2007

Golden Horseshoe, again draped with green garland (2007 photo)



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2007

No trees in the moat (2007 photo)

Instead of just having Christmas trees in the moat, Sleeping Beauty Castle now becomes Sleeping Beauty's Winter Castle, with snowdrifts and icicles. It started in 2007.

In 2008, for the first time in the history of Disneyland, the park installed a completely artificial Christmas Tree. It had more than 62,000 energy-efficient LED lights and was part of an elaborate light show that stretched down Main Street from the Castle.

At least, that's what Disneyland normally does for the Holidays. For 2015, the Castle kept its Disneyland Resort Diamond Celebration decorations, instead of becoming Sleeping Beauty's Winter Castle.

In case you're wondering about some of the things you read...

- Pepsi-Cola sponsored the Golden Horseshoe Revue until September 1982. In 1990, Coca-Cola became the exclusive soft drink provider for Disneyland and Walt Disney World.
- The Wurlitzer Music Hall operated on Main Street from Disneyland's opening in 1955 until September 1968. It was a showroom in which guests could see and hear Wurlitzer products.
- The Main Street Opera House was not open to guests until December 1961, when it became the home of the Babes in Toyland Exhibit. Guests could see the sets from Walt Disney's 1961 holiday release, Babes in Toyland.

CHRISTMAS AT it's a small world



Photo by Werner Weiss, January 1998

It's the 1997 holiday season at Yesterland.

As you approach the familiar building, you hear a familiar tune—but not the tune you expect to hear.

It's "Jingle Bells"! So where is the maddeningly catchy "it's a small world" song?

Just wait. You'll hear both songs, as well as "Deck the Halls."

The building looks different too, especially at night when 50 thousand colored bulbs outline the features of the façade.



Photo by Werner Weiss, January 1998

Façade by day, initial season (1997-1998) of *"it's a small world" Holiday*



Photo by Werner Weiss, January 1998

Façade by night, initial season (1997-1998) of *"it's a small world" Holiday*

Board your “small world” boat. There’s a white wreath on the bow. If all you expect are some Christmas lights draped over the existing sets, prepare to be delighted.

You’ll be overwhelmed by huge arches, holiday greetings in many languages, holiday props, colorful lights, and the finale featuring a massive, snowflake-covered Christmas tree.



Photo by Werner Weiss, January 1998

“Peace on Earth” during the initial season (1997-1998)

Almost every scene now celebrates Christmas traditions, New Year’s celebrations, and other global winter holidays around the world.

Disneyland’s “it’s a small world” attraction didn’t change much from its opening in 1966 until 1997. The sponsor changed from Bank of America to Mattel, with changes to signage and construction of a Mattel gift shop at the exit. The façade was given a more colorful paint scheme, inspired by the Disneyland Paris version. (Since then, the façade at Disneyland reverted back to the original colors.) And the classic soundtrack was tweaked. But it was essentially the same ride.

In October 1997, “it’s a small world” closed for more than typical annual maintenance. The Los Angeles Times ran an article about what to expect (“It’s a ‘World’ of Christmas; Theme park: Disneyland aims to boost holiday ticket sales with a Yuletide make-over of the popular ride, which will reopen Nov. 25,” by Jan Herman, October 11, 1997), which included these paragraphs:

For the first time since it opened 31 years ago, the park’s “it’s a small world” attraction will be altered extensively to celebrate the yuletide season, Disneyland officials announced Friday.

“Basically, we will be adding a Christmas overlay to the existing ride,” said Michael Maines, director of entertainment creative development.

The attraction will be closed for the alterations and general maintenance starting Sunday until the opening of the revamped version Nov. 25. It will remain through Jan. 4, Maines said.

Planned enhancements to the 12-minute ride, originally designed especially for small children, include choirs singing “Jingle Bells” and “Deck the Halls” instead of “it’s a small world” and exhibits from various countries illustrating traditional children’s games and crafts. Animal topiaries will be outfitted with Santa Claus hats and red bows. The 30-foot clock at the entrance to the ride will have a giant-sized Santa hat.

Thanksgiving week 1997, the attraction reopened as “it’s a small world” Holiday. Guests enjoyed an experience that was simultaneously familiar and brand new. Disneyland got high marks for skillfully weaving the holiday theme into the famous attraction.

The Holiday version was supposed to end January 4, 1998, along with Disneyland’s other holiday activities and decorations, to revert to its old self. But its run was extended to January 25, 1998 because of its popularity.

“it’s a small world” Holiday has become an annual tradition at Disneyland, returning every year.

Based on the response to “it’s a small world” Holiday at Disneyland, holiday overlays have also been added to Tokyo Disneyland, Disneyland Paris, and Hong Kong Disneyland. (Magic Kingdom Park at Walt Disney World keeps the same version all year.)

If you were alarmed seeing a Yesterland article about “it’s a small world,” don’t worry. The attraction has been a guest favorite since arriving in 1966 from its original home, the 1964-65 New York World’s Fair. All indications are that the singing children of “it’s a small world” will be around long after their 1964 real-life counterparts have become senior citizens.

The following photos are not from the 1997-1998 season, but they are all from the first decade of the Holiday version.



Yesterland.com

Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2001



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2001



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2007



Yesterland.com

Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005

CHRISTMAS AT HAUNTED MANSION



2001 tee shirt

It's 2001 in Yesterland. For the first time ever, the Haunted Mansion has been transformed.

It's not just decorated on the outside. It's practically a new attraction on the inside. Your Doom Buggy is now called a Black Christmas Sleigh. You'll travel on the same track, but many of the familiar show scenes are now completely different. The ballroom hosts a Christmas Ball. Weird presents fill the attic. The graveyard, where jack-o'-lanterns now sing, is bathed in snow. And Oogie Boogie's henchmen—Lock, Shock, and Barrel—have replaced the hitchhiking ghosts.

So go in and take a ride...



Welcome!



Photo by Allen Huffman, December 2001

Mansion in its Holiday attire



Photo by Allen Huffman, December 2001

Pumpkins and candles galore



Photo by Allen Huffman, December 2001

Countdown clock



Photo by Allen Huffman, December 2001

Hearse decorated with Jack-o'-lanterns

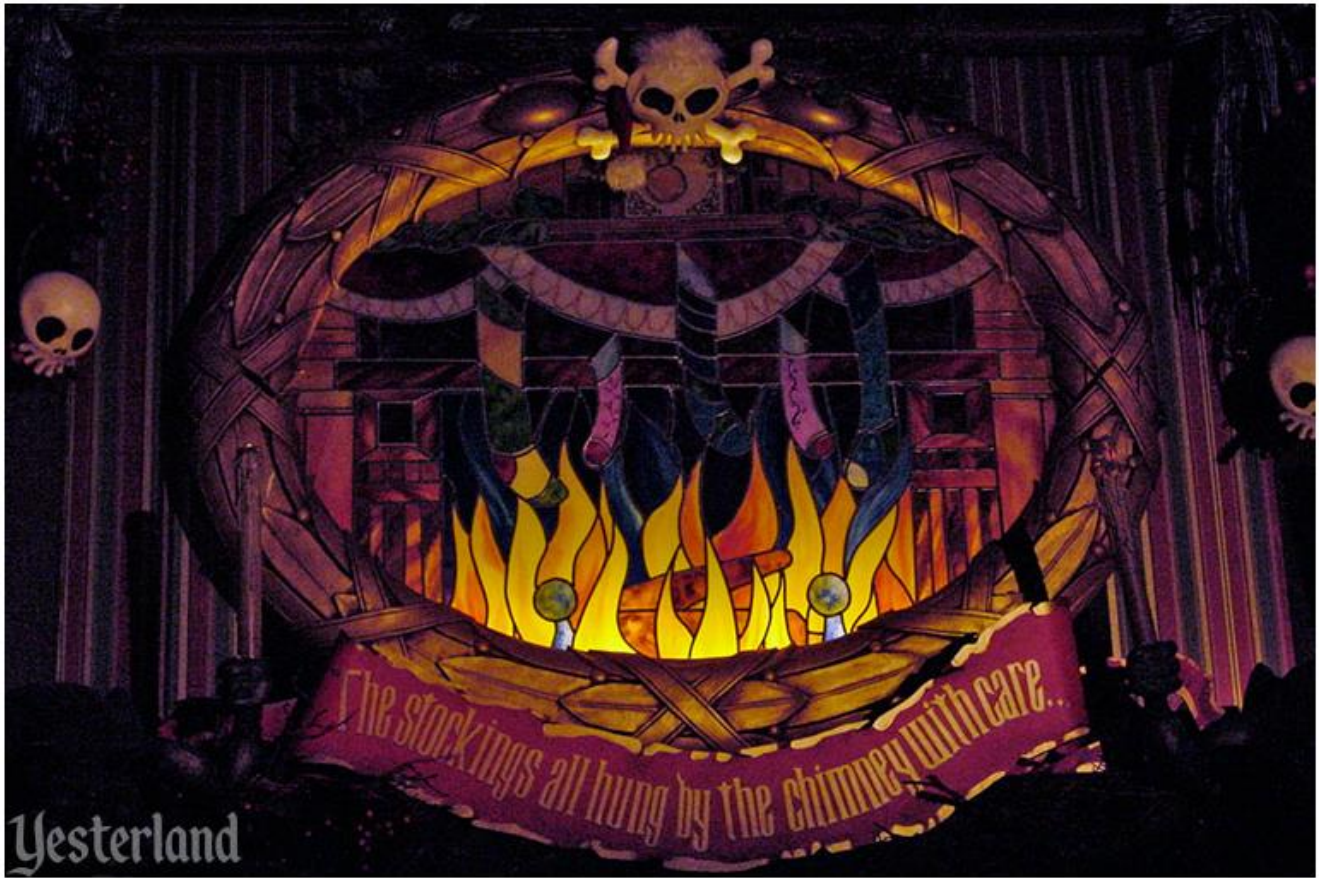


Photo by Allen Huffman, December 2001

In the stretching room



Photo by Allen Huffman, December 2001

"Scary Christmas"

Yesterland



Photos by Allen Huffman, December 2001

Painting gallery

Yesterland



Photos by Allen Huffman, December 2001

Painting gallery



Photo by Allen Huffman, December 2001

Black-light art



Photo by Allen Huffman, December 2001

Jack Skellington in his Santa suit



Photo by Allen Huffman, December 2001

Singing Jack-o'-lanterns



Merchandise hearse

Photo by Allen Huffman, December 2001



Pins, of course

Photo by Allen Huffman, December 2001

Did you like that? If so, come back a year from now. If not, wait until the ride reopens in its original form in early 2002.

The photos above are all from 2001, but the story begins in 1982. Tim Burton, who would later become a successful director of quirky live-action movies—including *Pee-wee's Big Adventure* (1985), *Beetlejuice* (1988), and *Edward Scissorhands* (1990)—was an animator at Walt Disney Productions. He wrote a poem, “The Nightmare Before Christmas”—reportedly inspired by seeing a store transform its displays from Halloween to Christmas. Burton’s poem was the seed for the unusual animated feature that The Walt Disney Company would eventually produce.

In 1993, the *Wall Street Journal* wrote about the movie before its release (“Movies: Disney’s dream is that its ‘Nightmare’ will scare up big box-office business,” by Thomas King, Oct. 1, 1993):

“Nightmare” is about pumpkin king Jack Skellington; his ghost dog, Zero; and the other weirdos—three ghouls are named Lock, Shock and Barrel—who live in a place called Halloweentown. The ghouls find Christmastown, kidnap Santa Claus and take him to a big meanie named Oogie Boogie who wants to eat him for dinner. The music was written by Danny Elfman, the lead singer of rock group Oingo Boingo, who also composed the music for the “Batman” movies.

The movie wasn't drawn by Disney's animators but instead was filmed in "stopmotion" animation, a painstaking process in which stick figures and puppets are slowly moved about on sets and shot frame by frame. A typical bit might take animators three days to shoot yet last only about five seconds on screen.

"Nightmare," which took nearly three years to produce, will be released under the Touchstone Pictures banner, not the family-oriented Walt Disney Pictures logo. Disney says the film cost just over \$20 million to produce, far less than other animated films.

By using the Touchstone brand, Disney would distance itself from the ghoulish musical with creepy characters. The Disney brand was reserved for family movies such as Aladdin (1992), The Lion King (1994), and Pocahontas (1995).

Given its production cost, The Nightmare Before Christmas was a success in its initial theatrical release, grossing a respectable \$50 million.

But that was just the beginning. Most movies fade quietly into the background after their short lives in theaters and on retail video endcaps. But the following for Nightmare grew every year. Forbes summed it up nicely in an article ("Nightmare Before Christmas' Turns 20: From Shameful Spawn To Disney's Pride," by Scott Mendelson, Oct. 13, 2013) that included this paragraph:

It is now no longer Disney's illegitimate child but their proverbial favorite son. The reissues have proudly reclaimed the Walt Disney Pictures banner, while the film itself is now a cornerstone of Disney's marketing efforts during a key shopping season. It is now considered not a potentially dangerous horror film to traumatize young children, but rather an ideal first horror film for a generation of youngsters.

Eight years after hitting movie theaters, The Nightmare Before Christmas moved into Disneyland's Haunted Mansion on October 5, 2001. It was a holiday overlay in the tradition of Country Bear Christmas Special and "it's a small world" Holiday.

In 2001, the official Disneyland website described it like this:

"Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas" teams up with Disneyland® park's Haunted Mansion on October 5, to kick off a fantastically fun holiday event and a whole new reason to make the Resort your holiday haunt this season.

"Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas" star Jack Skellington brings his vision of the holidays to the world-famous Haunted Mansion, transforming the attraction into a festival of the wild and wacky, the kooky and creepy. Complete with its own unique soundtrack, the Haunted Mansion Holiday features Jack's new take on the old favorites, from new décor on the Mansion's exterior and the transformation of the famous ballroom scene into the ultimate Christmas Ball, to the finale scene through the Mansion's graveyard, now covered in ghostly white snow, where playful ghosts are making their own unique Christmas trees. See for yourself what happens when two holidays collide, but be warned, the results are somewhat ho-ho-horrific!

The line about "its own unique soundtrack" referred to a newly composed score by Gordon Goodwin—not based on Danny Elfman's movie soundtrack. That changed in 2002, when a new score by John Debney brought the Danny Elfman music into the ride. (Both scores are terrific, but the Elfman themes tie in better with the movie.)



Giant ice angel

Yesterland
Photo by Werner Weiss, 2014



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2014

Still popular after all these years

The Holiday version of Haunted Mansion has returned the fourth quarter of every year—always with clever, new enhancements. In 2015, when Disneyland celebrated its 60 anniversary, it was the 15th year for Haunted Mansion Holiday.

No longer banished to the Touchstone Pictures realm, Jack and Sally are now Disneyland characters—just like Mickey and Minnie.



Photo by Tina Weiss, 2015

Jack and Sally greet guests in Disneyland

PARKING LOT



Photo by Chris Bales

The seldom-open Katella gate

Pay your 25-cent parking fee and drive into the park's 100-acre parking lot. It's bigger than the park itself. Friendly parking attendants will direct you to a spot. Arrive early, and you may find yourself parked in the convenient Bambi section. But if you arrive later on a busy day, you could be way back in Thumper or Winnie the Pooh.

Regardless of where you park, you can walk directly to the front gate. However, you may prefer to take a free tram to save your feet for the park itself. As you cross the lot, you'll see huge towers for high-tension electric power lines.



Photo, circa 1960, courtesy Orange County Archives

Your spot awaits



Photo, 1961, Alfred B. Osterhues Collection, courtesy Orange County Archives

Parking lot tram



Photo by Charles R. Lympny, circa 1962, courtesy of Chris Taylor

Monorail from the Yesterland Hotel



Photo by Charles R. Lypany, circa 1967, courtesy of Chris Taylor
High tension power lines



Photo by Charles R. Lypany, circa 1967, courtesy of Chris Taylor
Ticket booths at the edge of the parking lot



Photo Werner Weiss, 1997

Parking lot in its final year



Photo Werner Weiss, 1997

Incredibly convenient Donald section



Photo Werner Weiss, 1997

Cast member parking, separated by a fence

At the end of the day, it's time to walk or take a tram back to your car. You do remember where you parked, don't you? Don't you?

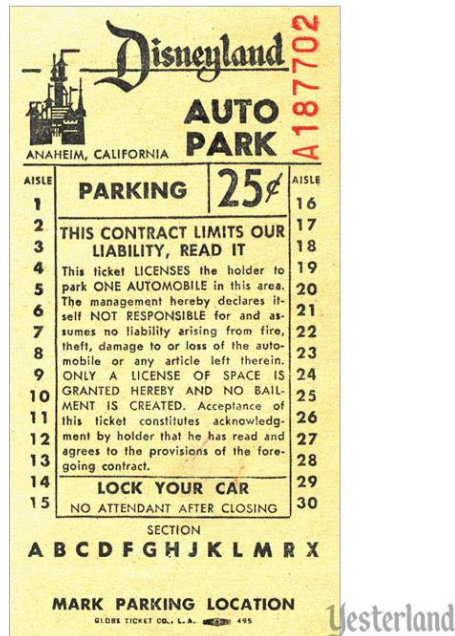
There was a huge parking lot directly in front of Disneyland's main entrance when the park opened in 1955.



Courtesy Orange County Archives

Disneyland on July 15, 1955—two days before the International Press Preview

Advertising in the Los Angeles Times on July 15, 1955, informed guests, "Disneyland's parking will accommodate 12,175 cars for the convenience of visitors driving private vehicles. A nominal charge of 25c covers all day parking."

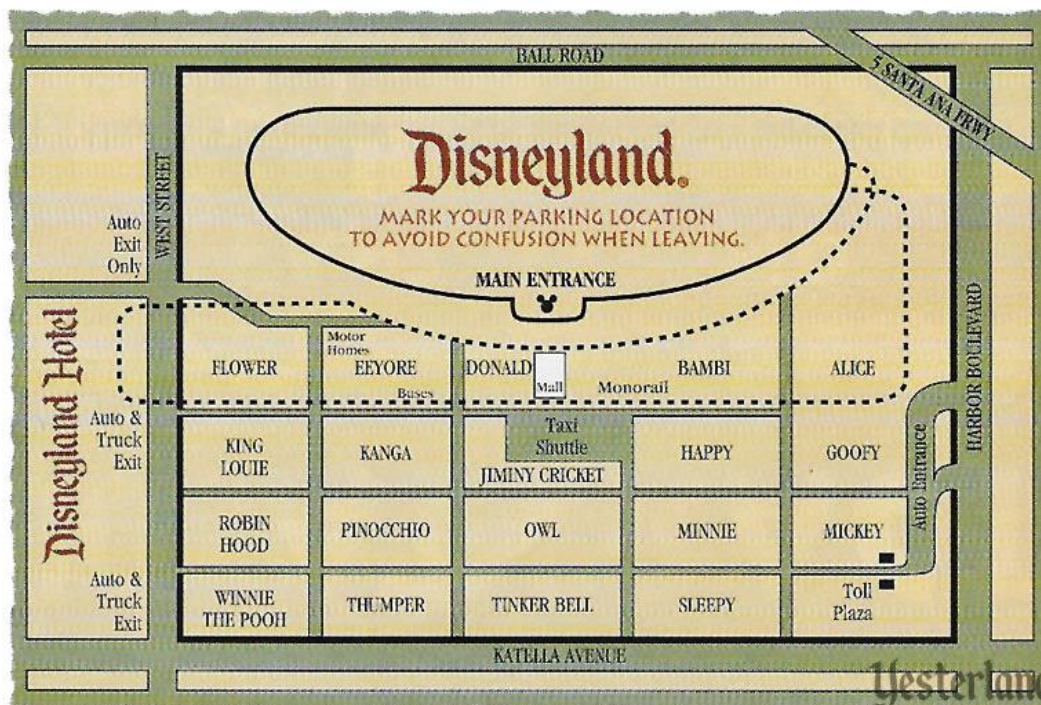


Scanned and provided courtesy of Bob Peart / © Disney
Disneyland parking receipt from 1963

Using the U.S. Government's Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation calculator, 25 cents in 1955 is equivalent to \$2.25 in 2016.

The lot grew to 15,167 spaces. The price of parking crept from 25 cents to 50 cents in the 1970s and \$2.00 in the 1980s, with larger and more frequent increases beginning in the mid-1980s. Parking sections received character names, where once they had only been identified by letters. The show building for the Indiana Jones Adventure took a bite out of the Eeyore section.

But, overall, not much changed.



Scanned image © Disney 1995

Disneyland parking lot map from *Inside Disneyland Today*, 1995

Then, the parking lot closed permanently on January 21, 1998, to make way for the Disneyland Resort expansion. Two days later, the Orange County Register marked its passing (“Say goodbye to the old parking lot as work begins in earnest on the new California Adventure at Disneyland,” by Marla Jo Fisher, January 23, 1998):

Yesterday it was a parking lot.

Today it's Hollywood, Yosemite, San Francisco and Paradise Beach.

Disney's California Adventure began construction Thursday, as people bid adieu to the familiar Disneyland parking lot that has served as entrance to the park for 42 years.

“We're standing in Hollywood right now,” said construction manager Alan Rose, pointing to pavement that still looked remarkably like the parking lot it was two days ago.

But there were already signs of things to come.

A discarded Bambi sign lay on the ground, torn from its pole.

The high-tension power lines were rerouted along the edge of the property. The new towers did not have the large footprints of the old towers, but were still (and continue to be) eyesores.



Mickey & Friends structure and escalators

Photo by Allen Huffman, 2009



Inside Mickey & Friends

Photo by Werner Weiss, 2002

Now guests park in the massive Mickey & Friends parking structure, the Simba and Pinocchio lots over by the Disneyland Hotel, the Toy Story Lot across Harbor Blvd. from the Anaheim Convention Center hotels, or wherever Disneyland directional signs and cast members direct them to park.

The cost of parking is no longer “nominal.” In 2016, all-day theme park parking is \$18.00 for cars and motorcycles, and more for larger vehicles.

High-capacity ramps to and from the Santa Ana Freeway provide improved access to the Disneyland Resort from Los Angeles, but access to the Mickey & Friends structure can be awkward from the south.

There’s nothing fun or “magical”—or even particularly efficient—about the Mickey & Friends parking structure. The structure is stark and modern. Aside from Disney characters on signs, it’s not “Disney” in any way.

Because the tram stop is outside the structure, beyond a far corner of it, many guests end up walking a substantial distance—and then they still have to wait for a tram.

Pets en route to the Disneyland Kennel Club ride the parking lot tram—the only Disneyland ride that allows pets.



Photo by Tony “WisebearAZ” Moore, 2001

Timon parking lot adjacent to Disney’s California Adventure

For a number of years after Disney’s California Adventure opened in 2001, some guests parked in the Timon lot, which occupied roughly 20% of the old Disneyland parking lot (where the Mickey and Sleepy sections once were) but that lot disappeared as the newer park expanded.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2007

Lots of lots in 2007

The 1,300-space Pumbaa parking lot across Harbor Blvd. (where Disney imploded the 10-story Grand Hotel in 1998) will become a 6,800-space parking structure. A pedestrian overpass will connect this new parking option, along with a transportation hub to its north, to the rest of the Disneyland Resort.

Encountering Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse in the parking lot—before you even buy your ticket books—is a great way to start your day at Yesterland.



Touch Mickey's nose for good luck.



You can't shake hands with Mickey. His arms just dangle.



Minnie holds a small umbrella with her immovable arm.

Don't bother to get out your autograph book. Mickey and Minnie don't have usable arms and hands. Mickey's arms just dangle at the side of his body. Minnie holds an umbrella with her left hand—although it's more accurate to say that Minnie's left hand is attached to the handle of the umbrella that's attached to Minnie's hat.

Speaking of hats, Mickey has been to the haberdasher for a formal top hat. Minnie has been to the millinery shop for a stylish pink hat, which she wears in place of the usual bow at the top of her head.

Considering that these two famous mice seldom wear hats, why are they wearing them here? Well, if these were costumes with people in them—and I'm not saying that they are—the hat would be a good place for the person's head (each hat has a cloth panel at the person's eye level).

These characters will put a smile on your face. That's good, because it will make the price of a ticket books a little easier to take. A ticket book with general admission and ten rides or attractions is \$2.75 for children (under 12), \$3.25 for juniors (12-17), and \$3.75 for adults. That's a lot of money.

The photos above are from December 1961. The ticket book prices are from summer 1961.

The monorail track across the parking lot was new. The extension of the Disneyland Alweg Monorail to the Disneyland Hotel opened in June 1961. The other new attractions of 1961 were the Snow White Grotto (April 1961), Flying Saucers (August 1961), and Babes in Toyland exhibit (December 1961).

It was the first summer that Walt Disney Productions had full control of Disneyland, Inc., after buying out the 37% stock interest owned by American Broadcasting (ABC)-Paramount Theaters, Inc. in July 1960.

Disney characters took on a major role at Disneyland for the first time in the summer of 1961. Walt Disney revealed his plans to add characters to his park in a Los Angeles Times article by Don Alpert on April 30, 1961:

Doing things in a different way—that's probably the Disney secret. For instance, this summer visitors to Disneyland will see life-size figures of 40 Disney cartoon characters roaming the park.

"I've always been conscious of the people waiting in line," Walt said. "There's not much to do and they can only handle so many people at a time. So I'll use these figures to entertain the crowds.

"A lot of people don't realize it but my entertainment budget this year was \$1.3 million. We're fighting to keep costs down, and we've yet to raise the prices—but boy, it's a tough battle."

A few months later, "New Fun for '61 at Disneyland" advertisements in the Los Angeles Times proclaimed: "New! Meet 37 of your favorite Disney characters IN PERSON!"

Spending a day at Disneyland costs far more now than 1961—at least for single-day guests. Using the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index calculator to adjust the 1961 dollars to 2012 dollars, the tickets books would be \$20.94 for children, \$24.75 for juniors, and \$28.55 for adults.

However, today's Disneyland annual passholders who visit frequently can spend less per day in inflation-adjusted dollars than frequent park visitors in 1961, when there were no annual passes.

Also it's a different Disneyland these days, with more attractions and bigger attractions—and much better character costumes.



No hats these days

HOTEL TRAM



The hotel is right across West Street from the Yesterland parking lot.

There's so much to do at Yesterland. You should come back tomorrow to see it all. Spend the night at the Yesterland Hotel. It's right across the street from the Yesterland parking lot, surrounded by orange groves. The hotel is a collection of two-story buildings with the luxury and comfort of a first-class hotel and the convenience of a motor lodge.

You can park your car for free. Then leave your car at the hotel when you visit the park. (You can have your car serviced at the Richfield service station that's right on the hotel premises.)



Climb aboard the hotel tram for a trip to the hotel.

Enjoy convenient, free hotel tram service all day. The hotel tram leaves from its own stop at the park. Don't accidentally go to the parking lot tram stop, because that tram doesn't go to the hotel.

The route between the park and the hotel is not particularly scenic—unless you enjoy looking at an asphalt parking lot. But it's a quick ride.



The hotel tram takes you right to the lobby.

The tram stop at the hotel is right at the stylish lobby. From there, it's a short walk to the Gourmet restaurant, the Coffee Shop, and the Round-the-World Lounge.



Shops are just steps from the tram.

When booking your stay at the Yesterland Hotel, just keep in mind that the park is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays most of the year.



A packed tram on its way to the park

The tram isn't the only way to go from the hotel to the park. You could walk—but you'll be doing plenty of walking at the park. You could drive from the hotel to the park's huge parking lot—but that's inconvenient; you might still end up waiting for a tram.



Tram and private VIP station wagon

There's a fourth way. If the hotel considers you to be a VIP, let a hotel chauffeur take you right to the park gate in a VIP station wagon.



Actress Shirley Temple on the tram

Even if you are a VIP—such as famous actress Shirley Temple—you may still prefer to take the tram.



Send a postcard with the tram on it.

Yesterland Park has plenty of rides. For guests visiting the park from the Yesterland Hotel, the tram is likely to be the first and last ride of each day.

Here's a sneaky trick if you want to save some money. Even if you're not staying at the hotel, park your car there when you visit the park. Hotel parking is free. Then take the free tram. You'll save the 25-cent parking fee that the park charges.

Of course, the Yesterland Hotel is really the Disneyland Hotel—or, more accurately, the original Disneyland Hotel. The present-day Disneyland Hotel—with its three towers, Convention Center, and “E” Ticket Pool—is just west of the original Disneyland Hotel. The original Disneyland Hotel was torn down to make room for Downtown Disney, surface parking, and landscaping.



The Disneyland Hotel on the 1958 Disneyland souvenir map

The tram was prominently featured on Disneyland souvenir maps. Being able to use the tram was a significant benefit of staying at the Disneyland Hotel, but it wasn't the only benefit. The hotel offered numerous shops, several restaurants and lounges, a putting green, and even a heated, Olympic-sized swimming pool.



The Disneyland Hotel before the monorail extension



The Disneyland Hotel after the monorail extension

Until June 1961, the only ways to go between the Disneyland Hotel and Disneyland Park were to take the tram, or to walk across the parking lot, or to drive your own car, or—if you were a VIP—to be driven in one of the hotel's VIP station wagons.



Disneyland Hotel tram stop before monorail service (1960 photo)



Disneyland Hotel tram stop after monorail service (1961 photo)

Then the Disneyland Alweg Monorail arrived. The monorail station was adjacent to the lobby. Tram service was still available, but the cool way to go to Disneyland was to take the monorail. Although all other guests entered Disneyland at Main Street Station, Disneyland Hotel guests who arrived by monorail train entered the park in the back corner of Tomorrowland. And that's still how it is today.

Only today the monorail station is no longer in the Disneyland Hotel. It's in the Downtown Disney shopping, dining, and entertainment complex. And it doesn't look at all like the original Disneyland Hotel Monorail Station. Guests have wondered why the station was moved to a less convenient location. In reality, the station didn't move. The hotel "shrank" when the original sections were demolished, leaving the station a surprising distance from the nearest Disneyland Hotel building. The old lobby and Monorail Lounge are gone; a Rainforest Cafe is now in that location.



Monorail and tram in 1969

The Disneyland Hotel no longer has its own tram. If you stay at the Disneyland Hotel and you really want to ride a tram to the main gate of Disneyland Park ("for old times' sake"), you can walk along surface parking lots to the tram stop at the huge Mickey & Friends parking structure. But if you're going to walk that far, you'd be better off taking a pleasant walk through Downtown Disney, right to the main gate. It's about the same distance.

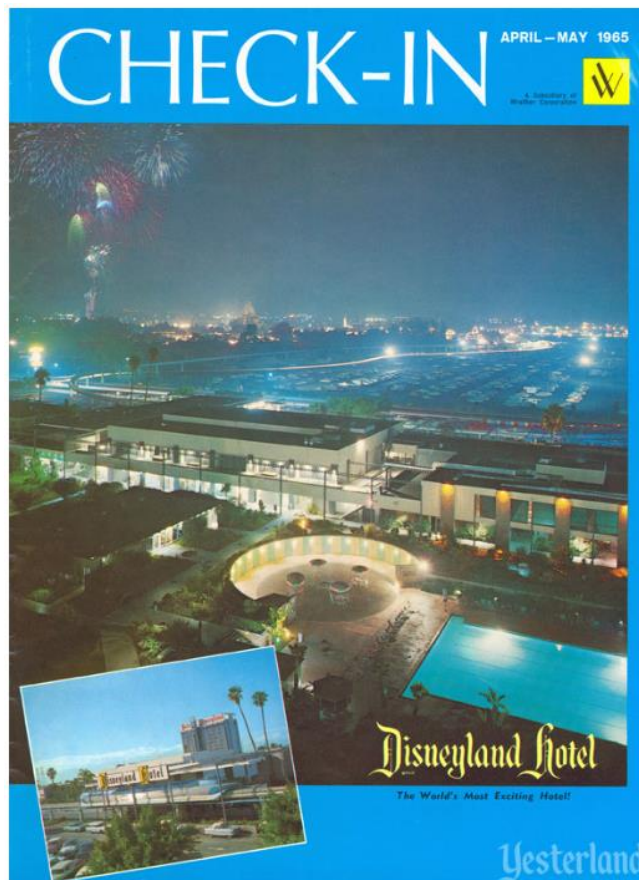
The Disneyland Hotel no longer offers ungated free parking. And parking for Disneyland Park is now far more than the 25 cent fee in this article.

DISNEYLAND HOTEL LOOKING GLASS ELEVATOR



Photo, 1962, from the collection of Don Ballard

Sure, there are a lot of rides at Yesterland Park, but there's also a ride at the Yesterland Hotel. It's called the Looking Glass elevator. It's a short ride up the side of the tallest building in the county—11 stories. The ride is non-stop. The Looking Glass elevator only has doors at the ground level and the top floor.



Check-in, April-May 1965, from the collection of Don Ballard

Check-in magazine for hotel guests, with a preview of the view

You're a guest at the Yesterland Hotel. In your room, there's a copy of Check-In, the hotel's own magazine. Its cover shows a sweeping vista. Colorful fireworks light up the sky.

But why just stare at the cover, when you can enjoy the real thing?



Historical photo from the collection of Don Ballard

At the bottom for The Top of the Park

San Francisco has The Top of the Mark, the well-known rooftop lounge at the top of the Mark Hopkins Hotel. In a play on words, the Yesterland Hotel has The Top of the Park.

On your way up in the Looking Glass elevator, you'll have a great view of the hotel's spacious grounds, its Olympic-size swimming pool, and its original two-story lodgings. Beyond the hotel, you'll see the parking lot and taller landmarks of the park.

This ride doesn't open until 4:00 p.m. But when you get to the top, you can stay for hours.



Historical photo from the collection of Don Ballard

Hostess Mary Lewis greeting guests as they arrive via the Looking Glass elevator

You'll want to dress up a bit. This is an elegant spot.



Historical photo from the collection of Don Ballard

A room with a view

Relax in high-backed booths, sipping cocktails while enjoying a performance by a vocalist, pianist, or small combo. The mood is romantic. But don't get so caught up in the cocktails, entertainment and conversation that you forget to take in the fantastic view.



Rendering, 1962, from the collection of Don Ballard

Very blue

You don't have to be a guest at the hotel to enjoy The Top of the Park.

Park guests seeking an adult beverage come here too—if they don't stop at one of the hotel's many other bars first. The Top of the Park also attracts local residents seeking a bit of nightlife.

The Looking Glass elevator makes it all possible. As a prominent architectural feature, it calls attention to The Top of the Park. It keeps the rooftop lounge patrons separate from guests going to their rooms. And it provides a fast, fun way to get to the Top.

The Tower Building at the Disneyland Hotel, with the Looking Glass elevator and The Top of the Park, opened in 1962. The hotel had opened seven years earlier with just 104 rooms and no building taller than two stories. With the opening of the Tower Building, the Disneyland Hotel grew to 450 rooms.

These days, with high-rise office towers and hotels throughout Orange County, it's hard to believe that the 11-story tower at the Disneyland Hotel was ever the county's tallest building. But in 1962, that's what it was.

As originally designed and built, the Tower Building was an elegant work of Modern Architecture. Its top was clean and simple. The glass elevator structure, asymmetrically positioned on the outside of the otherwise symmetrical tower, extended above the roofline. It was a defining vertical feature of the Tower Building—the modern equivalent of a steeple on a church or a clock tower on a traditional civic building.



Elevator cab at the bottom

Photo, 1962, from the collection of Don Ballard



Elevator cab at the top

Photo, 1962, from the collection of Don Ballard



Photo, 1963, from the collection of Don Ballard

“Hotel Disneyland”

A hotel is a business. In 1963, the Disneyland Hotel added red letters to the top of the tower. After all, the tower faced the Disneyland parking lot. Tired Disneyland guests exiting the park couldn't help but see the giant, red letters, lighted at night, spelling out “Hotel Disneyland.”

The hotel was always called the Disneyland Hotel, but the elevator sliced the front of the building into a narrower left side and a wider right side. The words were placed where they fit.



Historical postcard, from the collection of Don Ballard

After widening

The amount of space for a sign changed in 1966 with an addition to the Tower Building that doubled its width and added 150 rooms. The words of the "Hotel Disneyland" sign could finally be flipped to the correct order.



Photo, 1983, from the collection of Don Ballard

Tower on the tower



Historical photo from the collection of Don Ballard

Three towers

A second tower—without an outside glass elevator—would be opening in January 1970. The Tower Building needed a name that would differentiate the two towers. The Disneyland Hotel held a contest among its Cast Members. The winning submission was “Sierra Tower.”

The Looking Glass elevator and The Top of the Park lounge lasted through the 1970s and most of the 1980s.

In 1988, The Walt Disney Company finally acquired the Disneyland Hotel by purchasing Wrather Corporation, the company that had always owned it.

As part of a major renovation of the entire property, Disney closed The Top of the Park in 1989. Disney’s plans included converting the top three floors of the Sierra Tower into concierge rooms and providing a concierge lounge on the 11th floor for those guests.

In 1991, the exterior elevator and 11th floor lounge reopened. But now it required a concierge key card to use the elevator or access the lounge. The glass elevator wasn’t such a good thing anymore. For concierge guests, it made more sense to use an interior elevator to access the 11th floor from the 8th, 9th or 10th floor—instead of going all the way down to the ground level first. For other guests, the prominent glass elevator was a bit of an insult—despite the high prices for all Disneyland Hotel rooms, they couldn’t use it.

In 2007, Disney changed the name of the Sierra Tower to the Dreams Tower. The 45-year-old glass elevator still served concierge guests who wanted a quick trip from the ground level to their lounge.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2007

Sierra Tower in 2007—the year it was renamed Dreams Tower



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2007

Faux balconies with sliding glass doors, allowing each room to function as a balcony

In June 2009, the Disneyland Hotel announced a major renovation project. Rooms would no longer have sliding doors and faux balcony railings. The three towers would be updated with large windows, “specially designed to be energy efficient and to extensively filter outside noise.” These windows would “give the outside a sleek, radiant blue tint.”

The press release said nothing about the elevator.



More than just a simple refurbishment

Yesterland
Photo by Chris Bales, 2010

At the Sierra Tower, construction walls went up. New blue glass and blue trim began to replace the previous exterior. And, most strikingly, the former Looking Glass elevator and its track were entombed in blue material.



Dreams Tower on April 19, 2010

Yesterland
Photo by Chris Bales, 2010

Good bye, Looking Glass elevator.

The wrapped scaffolding was consistent with proper demolition when asbestos is present. Although there was no official word, the consensus was that the elevator would not be replaced. It had stopped serving its original purpose long ago.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2010

No exterior elevator

In 2010, all traces of the Looking Glass elevator disappeared. The Dreams Tower, clad in blue glass, became the Adventure Tower.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2015

Adventure Tower



Photo, circa 1970, from the collection of Don Ballard

Olympic-size swimming pool and the expanded Sierra Tower



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2015

Earl of Sandwich and Adventure Tower

VACATIONLAND RV PARK



The Recreational Vehicle Park across from DISNEYLAND

ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA

Scan from a Vacationland brochure, from the collection of Don Ballard

Recreational vehicle parks aren't always in the best location. Consider the run-down campgrounds next to train tracks at a distant edge of town.

Prepare to be delighted by Disneyland Hotel's Vacationland Recreational Vehicle Park. It's possibly the best located RV park in the world.

Well, there is a train track nearby too—but it's the track of the Santa Fe & Disneyland Railroad, and the occasional train whistle just adds to the campground's charm. That goes for the steamboat whistle from the Mark Twain sternwheeler too.



Scan from *Disneyland Hotel Check-in Magazine*, May-June 1970, from the collection of Don Ballard
Pre-opening rendering of Vacationland

The deluxe recreational vehicle park, covering ten beautifully landscaped acres, is part of the amazing Disneyland Hotel complex. There are 280 spaces, accommodating all sorts of RVs—travel trailers, motor homes, pick-up campers, and tent trailers—with full hookups. Vacationland is the largest RV park in Orange County.

The top-notch family resort was designed by Walters & Son, recreation park specialists of Newport Beach, California.



Vacationland postcard from the collection of Don Ballard

Vacationland from West Street

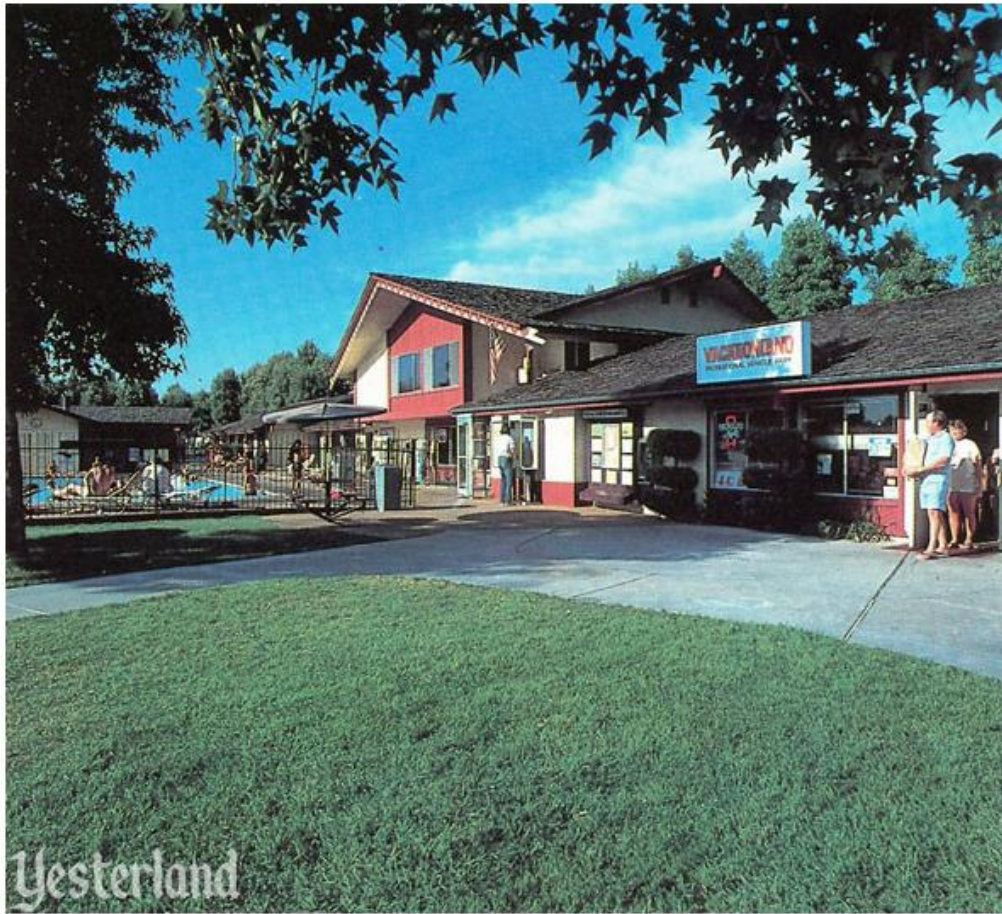


Photo from the collection of Don Ballard

Game and billiard room

Vacationland is more than just a place to park your RV.

Vacationland includes a large recreation hall with special television-viewing area, a billiard room, a card playing area and lounge; a heated and filtered swimming pool; children's playground; sanitation stations with showers, restrooms and dressing rooms, and a large laundry room with coin-operated washers and dryers.



Scan from a Vacationland brochure, from the collection of Don Ballard
Shopping at the Vacationland convenience store



Photo by Steve Lovejoy, from the collection of Don Ballard
Vacationland pool

Vacationland is its own self-contained resort. At night, you can even enjoy Disneyland's Fantasy in the Sky fireworks without leaving.

But you really should take the short walk to the Disneyland Hotel. On your walk over, you'll pass the hotel's "Minnie-a-ture" golf course, featuring Disney characters, and its 50-position golf driving range. At the hotel, you'll find five restaurants, 28 shops, a 3.5-acre marina with a picturesque wharf area, and even a fishing pond. Don't miss the Dancing Waters presentation every evening after dark.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 1974

KOA Kampground in the distance

There's another RV park next door. It's a Kampgrounds of America (KOA) location. But it's not part of the hotel. And you have to walk past Vacationland to get anywhere you'd want to go.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 1974

Fun Bus stop at Vacationland

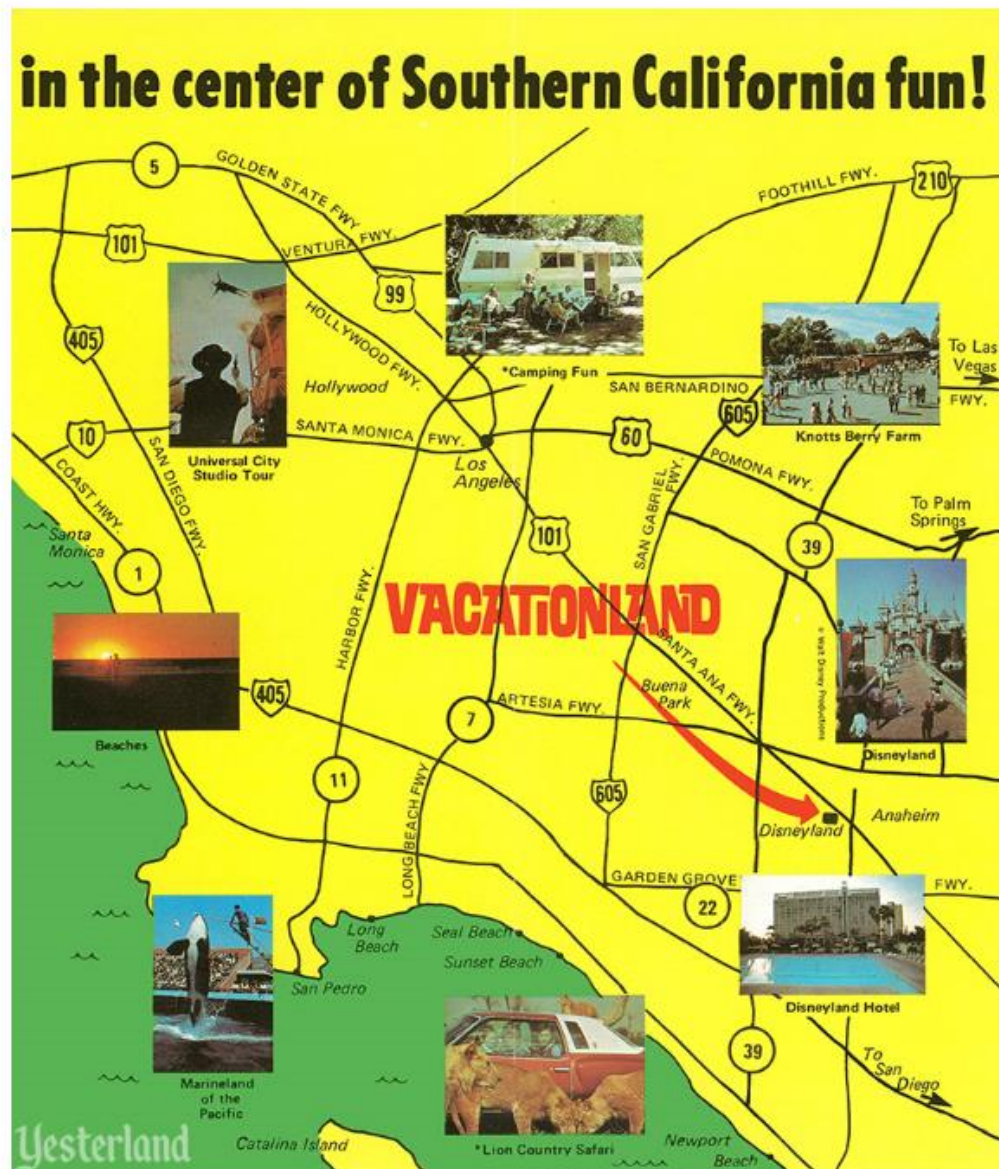
There's an easy way to get from Vacationland to area attractions. It's called the Fun Bus, and it connects Anaheim hotels and campgrounds to the top attractions of Anaheim and Buena Park:

- Knott's Berry Farm
- Movieland Wax Museum and Palace of Living Art
- Japanese Village
- Anaheim Convention Center
- Disneyland
- Movie World Cars of the Stars and Planes of Fame Museum
- Anaheim Stadium
- California Alligator Farm

But you don't need the Fun Bus for Disneyland. Just walk to the Disneyland Hotel's Disneyland-Alweg Monorail station. Take the "highway in the sky" to Walt Disney's Magic Kingdom. What other campground is part of a complex with monorail service?

There are two other ways to get to the park. You can take the hotel's free tram. Or walk to the park entrance along the edge of the parking lot.

Vacationland really is in the center of Southern California fun. Just look at the map in the brochure...

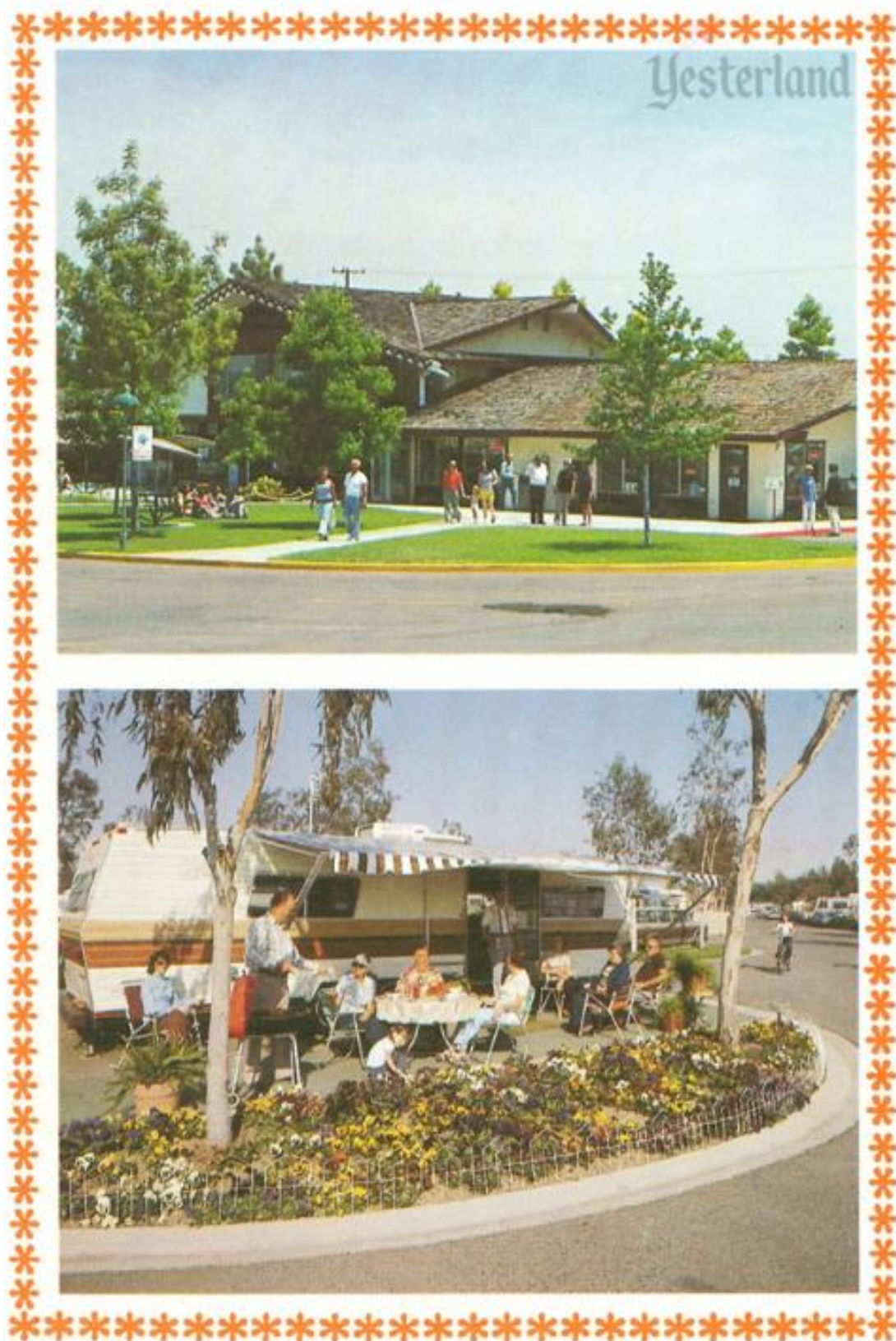


Scan from a Vacationland brochure, from the collection of Don Ballard

"in the center of Southern California fun!"

With a car, you can go places beyond the Fun Bus routes. The beaches of Orange County are just a half hour away. And you're within easy driving distance of Marineland of the Pacific, Lion Country Safari, historic missions, Hollywood, and, according to a Vacationland press release, "the big-city pleasures of Los Angeles."

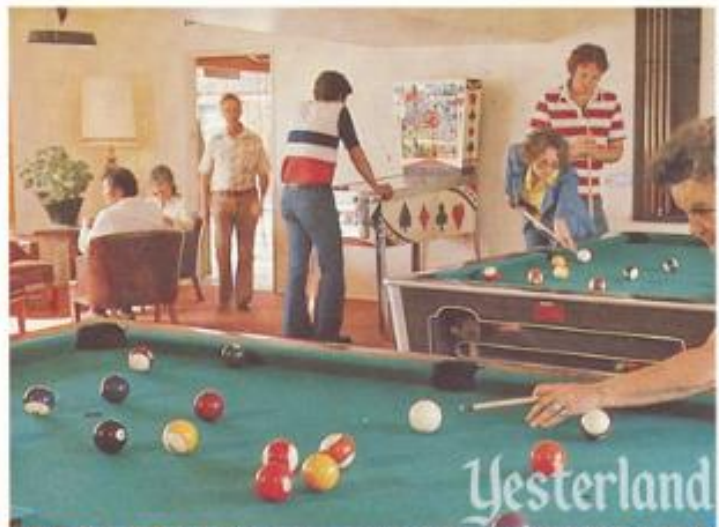
While we're looking at brochures, let's look at some more pictures in a Vacationland brochure...



Scan from a Vacationland brochure, from the collection of Don Ballard

From the cover of a Vacationland brochure

The RV Park Across From Disneyland



Scan from a Vacationland brochure, from the collection of Don Ballard

The inside of a Vacationland brochure

So how much does it cost to stay at such a wonderful RV park? Here's the 1970 pricing:

Advance reservations are made on a three-night minimum and a \$10 deposit, refundable on 24-hour notice.

Regular rates of \$4.50 per vehicle per night prevail from September 8 through May 29 with the Christmas and Easter seasons excepted. Vacation rates of \$7.50 are in effect from May 30 through September 7, and during the two-week period before and after Easter and Christmas.

All major oil credit cards are accepted by Vacationland, plus Diner's, American Express, BankAmericard and Master Charge.

Recreational vehicle travel clubs will be given special consideration.

Sounds great! Now you just need a 1970 Winnebago.

Vacationland Recreational Vehicle Park opened June 15, 1970, on the northeast corner of the Disneyland Hotel property. The Disneyland Hotel was owned by Wrather Corporation, the hotel and entertainment company run by master showman Jack Wrather. He set up a new subsidiary for the RV park: Wrather Vacationland, Inc.



Photo from the collection of Don Ballard

Disneyland Hotel owner Jack Wrather's custom "land cruiser" RV

So why did Jack Wrather add an RV park to his hotel, after almost 15 years without one?

"The Wrather family loved almost anything outdoorsy and with the entire family together," explains Disneyland Hotel historian Don Ballard. "The idea for Vacationland came about when they were traveling in their 'land cruiser,' which was their custom-made RV. They usually camped out as a family at least several times a year. Jack thought it would be a good idea, as well as attract customers to Disneyland, to build and operate a facility to accommodate campers and RVs with a full-featured RV park. Many people write to me telling me they wished Vacationland still existed."

The Walt Disney Company acquired Wrather Corporation in 1988 to obtain ownership of the Disneyland Hotel. Vacationland became Disney's Vacationland. A new sign included the Disney logo.

Disney didn't promote their RV park actively. Possibly, Vacationland had a loyal following and a limited capacity, so it didn't need much promotion. Also, Vacationland attracted long-term tenants, limiting short-term spaces.

In 1996, across the street at Disneyland, the attention was on the Main Street Electrical Parade. Disneyland announced that the beloved parade would "glow away forever" that year. Far fewer people caught the announcement that Disney's Vacationland and its neighbor, the KOA Kampground, would also not survive into 1997.

An article in the Los Angeles Times (“Trailer Parks in Disneyland’s Shadow to Close” by Greg Hernandez, October 15, 1996) described how the long-term tenants were reacting to the closure of the two RV parks:

Both trailer parks—designed for tourists visiting Disneyland, but which for many have become permanent homes—will close Dec. 31. They will be replaced by a multilevel parking structure and parking lot that are part of Walt Disney Co.’s proposal to build a second theme park in the parking lot of Disneyland.

In recent months, several of the trailer park families have packed up their rigs and moved to other parks. But many of those who remain say they aren’t sure where they will go. Those who choose to remain until closing day will not have to pay their final month’s rent.

Combined, the parks can accommodate more than 500 trailers and 74 tents. Renting a space at KOA costs \$365 to \$395 a month, depending on the size of the trailer. At Disney’s park, monthly rent starts at \$480.

The article focused on Barry and Brandy Brown, who had lived in their 25-foot-long trailer at Vacationland since 1981:

Despite the uncertainty of their future, the Browns and other residents still waxed sentimental about their lives inside a trailer park.

The Browns said they will miss all the friendly European tourists who have camped at the park for weeks or months at a time. The Browns befriended many of the Europeans, who would sometimes give them gift baskets before leaving the park. There were also “snowbird” tenants who lived at the park between September and May in order to take advantage of the warm climate.

“I never would have had the chance to meet so many interesting people,” Brandy Brown said. “During the Olympics in 1984, it seemed like the entire world was here all at the same time. That was a particularly fascinating time for us.”

Brown said she is having a hard time accepting that it is all coming to an end.

“I’m going to be clinging to the gate on the last day,” she said sadly. “We’re going to lose our little world.”

When 1996 ended on December 31, so did Disney’s Vacationland.



Commemorative poster

Photo by Bill Attwood, 2017

Yesterland reader Bill Attwood fondly remembers staying at Disney’s Vacationland in October 1996, which included watching the Main Street Electrical Parade on his son’s second birthday. During the final months of Vacationland, guests received an unexpected gift—a poster commemorating the RV park. The framed poster has been in the Attwood living room ever since.



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2009

Parking structure, where Vacationland used to be

The Mickey & Friends parking structure is located on the site of Vacationland. Disneyland Drive was formerly West Street, with some realignment.

Unlike the Main Street Electrical Parade, Vacationland is not coming back.

SAFARI ADVENTURE



Photo by Chris Bales, 2010



Photo by Werner Weiss, 1974

Jungle Cruise boats of Yesterland, with their candy-striped canopies

The Jungle Cruise is one of the best-known attractions of the park. Guests travel along the jungle rivers of Asia and Africa in explorer launches with white hulls and striped canopies. The boat's skipper narrates the tour, showing off such landmarks as "Schweitzer Falls, named after the famous humanitarian, Dr. Albert... Falls." As the boat returns to the dock, the skipper warns guests they are "now coming to the most dangerous part of the journey—the return to civilization and California freeways."



Photo by Chris Bales, 2010

Striped canopy boat at the Yesterland Hotel

There's another Jungle Cruise nearby. It's Safari Adventure over at the Yesterland Hotel—where you can be the skipper! That means you get to steer the boat. And, if you like, you can even make up your own corny narration.

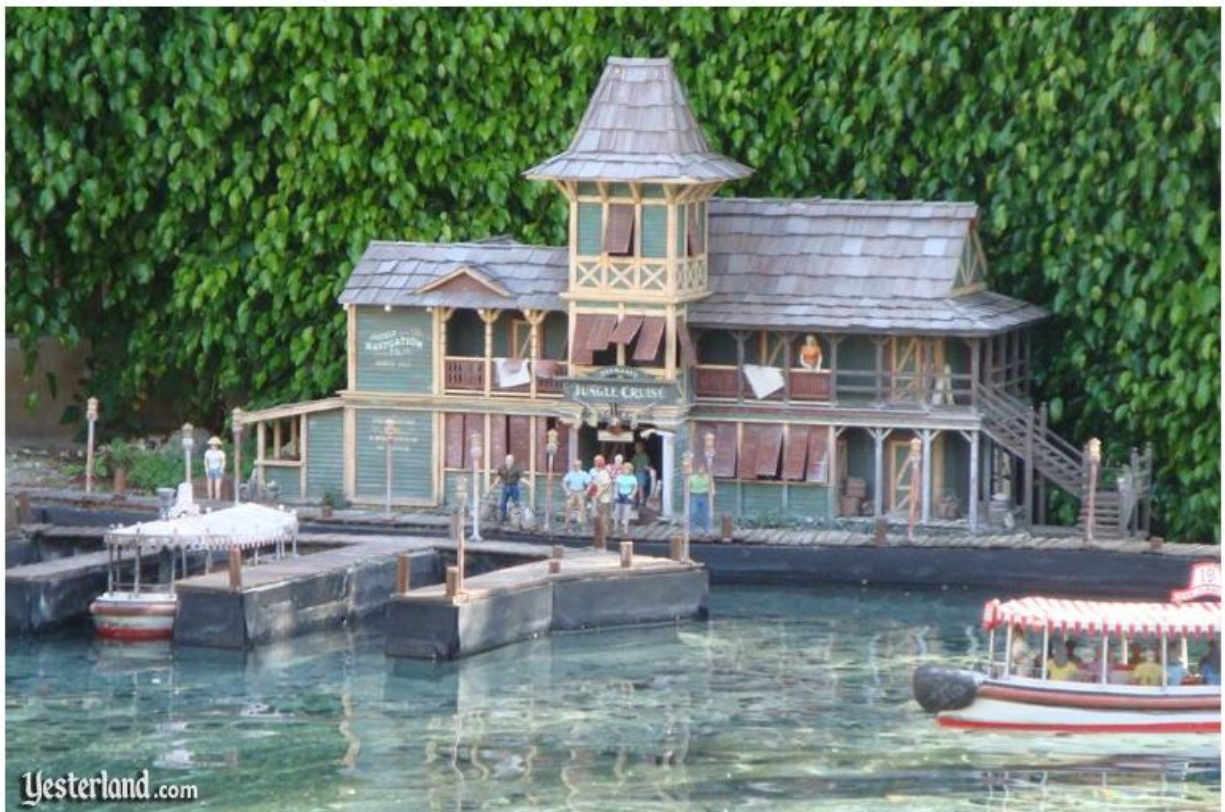


Photo by Chris Bales, 2010

Jungle Cruise dock building, Safari Adventure version

Unlike the Jungle Cruise over at the park, Safari Adventure doesn't run on a track. And the water is clean and clear, unlike the park's murky jungle rivers.



Photo by Chris Bales, 2010

Volunteer fire department elephant

Safari Adventure has animals too, although not nearly as many as the better-known Jungle Cruise.

As you successfully guide your boat past the loading dock, an empty boat in a nearby slip catches fire. The good news is that there's a barge with volunteer firefighters nearby—including a helpful elephant who promptly extinguishes the blaze by squirting water from his trunk.

You won't see that on the regular Jungle Cruise.



Photo by Chris Bales, 2010

Diswaytada Falls (“Enter at your own risk”)

Instead of Schweitzer Falls, Safari Adventure has Diswaytada Falls. It takes skill to steer your boat behind the falls. Be sure to tell your passengers that they’re seeing the “amazing, stupendous backside of water.” Add a few more adjectives to “backside of water” if you wish.



Photo by Chris Bales, 2010

Angry gorilla on the rope bridge

A rope suspension bridge connects the top of a rocky island to the top of Diswaytada Falls. As you carefully guide your boat behind Diswaytada Falls, an explorer on the bridge yells, "Hey, stop that!" That's because a gorilla on the bridge will be upset with you.

You pilot your boat behind the falls anyway. Oh no! You've made the gorilla angry. He's shaking the suspension bridge violently. The explorer is thrown off the bridge.



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2009

Forbidden Tunnel

There's another event you can trigger. The rocky island that serves as one end of the suspension bridge has a tunnel through it. A sign above the tunnel reads "BEWARE!" You decide to ignore the sign and take the short cut through the tunnel. While your boat is inside, there's lightning and an explosion; smoke billows out; your passengers scream.

Oh no! Did your boat blow up? No. Your boat emerges unscathed, ready to trigger the events again and again if you choose to.



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2009

Safari Adventure lagoon adjacent to the Lost Bar.

By now, you've undoubtedly figured out that the Safari Adventure boats at the hotel are much smaller than the Jungle Cruise boats at the park. Safari Adventure is a remote-control attraction located near the center of the rectangle formed by the hotel's three towers and its convention center.



Photo by Chris Bales, 2010

Boats in the *Safari Adventure* lagoon

Just as at the Jungle Cruise, each boat has its own name, but the names are different. Look for Bambari Bob, Great Ruaha Hideo, Katonga Kristin, Kinshasa Kathi, Kwango Joe, Limpopo Lizzie, Lulua Laura, Sehithwa Hutch, and others.



Remote control stations

Photo by Allen Huffman, 2009

Each boat has a large number above the boat's name. The number corresponds to one of the token-operated, remote-control pilot stations. One token is \$2. Or you can get four tokens for \$5. The best value is the "Super Special," which provides ten tokens for just \$10.



Boats huddled together

Photo by Allen Huffman, 2009

When you pick a remote control station, look for one that controls a boat that's not blocked by other boats. Don't be concerned if an interactive element doesn't work properly. The real fun is piloting your boat all around the lagoon and avoiding (or running into) other boats.

As you make up a corny narration for your passengers, don't be upset if your passengers don't laugh. The passengers at the real Jungle Cruise don't laugh out loud either—even though they're having a good time.

Safari Adventure opened in 1999 at the Disneyland Hotel.

1999 was a significant year in the evolution of the hotel. The Walt Disney Company, which had acquired the Disneyland Hotel in 1988, demolished the hotel's original buildings and pools from the 1950s in 1999 to clear land that would become part of Downtown Disney. That meant the hotel needed a new main pool.



Wrather Corp. photo, circa mid-1980s, from the collection of Don Ballard

Disneyland Hotel Marina, future site of the Never Land Pool and *Safari Adventure*

The former Marina became the site of the Never Land Pool, which opened in July 1999. The Lost Bar and Safari Adventure opened in December 1999.

Safari Adventure was designed and built by Thola Productions of Laguna Hills, California. With its attention to detail and its clever interactive events, Safari Adventure had true Disney quality. Remote-control tour boats, tug boats, and hovercraft from Thola can also be found at other parks, including Knott's Berry Farm and LEGOLAND California.



Wrather Corp. photo, circa mid-1980s, from the collection of Don Ballard

Queen's Berth remote-controlled tugboats, predecessor of Safari Adventure

Thola Productions' involvement with the Disneyland Hotel began back in 1984, when Disney Legend Jack Wrather was still alive and his company still owned the hotel. Thola's first remote-control tugboat attraction anywhere, Queen's Berth, featured 22 remote-control tugboats, islands with interactive events, and a scale model of the Wrather-operated (and later Disney-operated) Queen Mary as its centerpiece.

Over the years, Safari Adventure lost some of its miniature people, and the interactive events did not always function properly. But it remained fun to play and fun to watch.

As part of the largest renovation of the Disneyland Hotel ever, Safari Adventure ended operations permanently July 31, 2010. Hook's Pointe restaurant and the Wine Cellar had already been given the hook on July 25. The Video Arcade was unplugged on July 30. The Lost Bar and Croc's Bits and Bites snapped shut forever on August 1, 2010.

In 2011, Tangaroa Terrace and Trader Sam's Enchanted Tiki Bar opened as the new eating and drinking spots adjacent to the old site of Safari Adventure. New pools, water slides, sun decks, and lawns replaced their counterparts from 1999, as well as erasing remnants of older enhancements to the hotel.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2010

Safari Adventure a few days after closing permanently (photo: August 4, 2010)

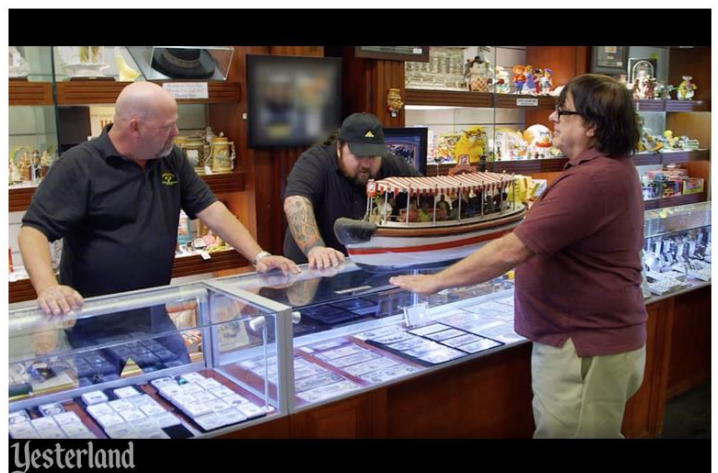
What happened to the *Safari Adventure* boats and set pieces, such as the fire department elephant raft? After their mechanical guts and electronics were removed for use elsewhere, the boats wound up in the hands of private collectors, as did the set pieces.

Nick, a former *Jungle Cruise* skipper at Disneyland, purchased number 12, *Nova Mambone Nani*. Adding back parts similar to those that had been removed, Nick made it back into a functioning radio-controlled boat.

Eight years later, Nick and his boat were on *Pawn Stars*, a series on the History cable network. Nick wanted to sell, and he hoped the pawn shop would want to buy.



Pawn Stars season 15, episode 18 © Leftfield Pictures, An ITV America Company
Rick and Chumlee of *Pawn Stars* with *Safari Adventure* boat number 12



Pawn Stars season 15, episode 18 © Leftfield Pictures, An ITV America Company
Boat owner Nick, hoping his boat is valuable

NEVER LAND POOL



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2010

Over at Yesterland park, you can enter the world of Peter Pan by visiting the Chicken of the Sea Pirate Ship and Restaurant and Skull Rock.

Here at the Yesterland Hotel, there's another world of Peter Pan. It's the Never Land Pool, a 5,000 square-foot aquatic tribute to the boy who never grows up and the magical realm he inhabits.

Peter Pan can fly. Here at the Never Land Pool, you can fly down a 100 foot-long water slide. Nearby, Captain Hook's Pirate Ship faces Tick-Tock the Crocodile. There's also Mermaid Lagoon, a secluded spa, just past eerie Skull Rock. Plenty of lounge chairs face the pool.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2010

Entrance gate to the Never Land Pool



Looking across the Never Land Pool

Photo by Werner Weiss, 2007



Enjoying the features of the Never Land Pool

Disneyland Public Relations photo, 2005



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2007

Captain Hook's pirate ship at the Never Land Pool



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2010

Skull Rock at the Never Land Pool



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2010

Skull Rock's eyes



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2010

Never Land Pool water slide

Going on rides in the parks is a lot of fun, but it can be tiring. Sometimes it's better just to relax at the Never Land Pool.

Since July 1956, the Disneyland Hotel in California had boasted an Olympic size swimming pool. The heated, rectangular pool served the hotel well as it grew from a small campus of two-story hotel buildings into a sprawling resort complex with 1,174 rooms, including three towers.

In 1988, The Walt Disney Company acquired Wrather Corp. to gain control of the Disneyland Hotel—which, despite its name, had never had the same ownership as Disneyland. At first, not much changed at the hotel. But big plans were underway.



1999 photo, from the collection of author [Don Ballard](#)

Disneyland Hotel Marina in 1999, its final year

1999 would be the end of the original Disneyland Hotel. Everything east of the first tower (the Sierra Tower) would be demolished to become part of the site for Downtown Disney. Good bye, original hotel rooms, restaurants, shops, and amenities—including the Olympic size swimming pool. That meant the Disneyland Hotel needed a new main pool.

A new pool would replace the hotel's Marina, which had been an unusual feature for a landlocked hotel. Having a pool was more important than having a place to display yachts and to rent paddle boats.

Although the Disneyland Hotel had always been a place to have a great vacation experience, it hadn't provided a strong "Disney experience." The new pool was an opportunity to make the hotel more "Disney."

The Never Land Pool opened on July 2, 1999 as the new primary pool of the Disneyland Hotel. For almost a dozen years, guests enjoyed swimming, sunning, and watersliding in the Peter Pan-themed paradise.



Photo by Chris Bales, 2011

Transforming the Never Land Pool into the E-Ticket pool

The Never Land Pool had been part of the Disneyland Hotel's first major transformation. The main purpose had been to give the hotel a smaller footprint.

In 2009, Disney embarked on another transformation. This time, the purpose was to give a hotel a new look and a new theme. The towers would be dressed in energy-efficient, sky-blue reflective glass, replacing the old sliding glass doors that opened onto balcony railings. The new theme would make the hotel "a nostalgic, family destination that pays tribute to the early days of Disneyland."

Good bye, Never Land Pool.

In late May 2011, walls went up around the Never Land Pool. The pool's surroundings, including Captain Hook's Pirate Ship and Skull Rock, were removed. The pool itself, with its distinctive shape, would be reused.



Photo by Chris Bales, 2012

The E-Ticket pool

On November 14, 2011, the former Never Land Pool reopened as the E-Ticket Pool. Back when Disneyland required guests to use attraction tickets, the highest denomination was the “E” Ticket—and those rides were the best. Replicas of “E” Tickets decorate the tiles along the pool’s waterline. New landscaping, decks, and cabanas completed the pool renovation.



Disneyland Public Relations photo, 2011

The Monorail Pool

The E-Ticket Pool joined the Monorail Pool and the D-Ticket Pool, which were already open.

The focus of the whole pool area is now on a waterslide structure based on the iconic Disneyland Alweg Monorail. After all, the Monorail premiered as one of the first “E” Ticket attractions in June 1959. The structure is topped with a replica of the Disneyland sign that was on Harbor Blvd. from 1958 to 1989—the same sign that inspired the Yesterland nameplate in 1995.



Disneyland Public Relations photo by Paul Hiffmeyer, 2012

The Disneyland Hotel pools

The Disneyland nostalgia theme of the 2009-2012 Disneyland Hotel renovation brought the end of the Never Land Pool. However, when you think about it, the Never Land Pool, with its Pirate Ship and Skull Rock, actually already had a Disneyland nostalgia theme.

The Monorails and the classic Disneyland sign are arguably a much better centerpiece for the Disneyland nostalgia theme. The Never Land Pool reflected the movie Peter Pan more than it reflected early Fantasyland. And the current main pool complex, consisting of the E-Ticket Pool, D-Ticket Pool, and Monorail Pool, offers more to Disneyland Hotel guests than the Never Land Pool.

But, somehow, some day, it seems we'll see the Pirate Ship and Skull Rock again somewhere at the Disneyland Resort.

KEN-L LAND PET MOTEL



Photo by Roger J. Runck, 1964, courtesy of Robin Runck

Ken-L Land Pet Motel

Sorry. You can't take your pet into Yesterland. So let your pet stay at the Ken-L Land Pet Motel.

Look for the wide building with Dutch doors at both ends. The doors are yellow—just like Fido, the beloved mascot of Ken-L Ration. There are plenty of windows to provide natural light.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 1967

A convenient place for humans to meet too

While you enjoy lunch inside the park at a restaurant such as the Casa de Fritos, your pet will feast on Ken-L Ration. Or choose from Ken-L Meal, Ken-L Biskit, Ken-L Treats, or Puss-N-Boots Cat Food. A trained, uniformed attendant will feed you pet according to your instructions.

“Ken-L Ration Dog Food, for All Breeds.”

The Ken-L Land Pet Motel opened at Disneyland on January 18, 1958 (according to the Disney Parks Blog). The kennel's name was sometimes spelled Ken-L Land (consistent with the usual hyphenation of the sponsor's name) and sometimes Ken-L-Land (with an extra hyphen). Disneyland nomenclature was less exact in those days.

Over the years, five different pet food brands sponsored the pet kennel. The kennel is still operational today, although without a sponsor.

Sometimes Ken-L Land showed up in Disneyland advertising:

“Man's best friend” has not been forgotten when the family visits Disneyland, thanks to Ken-L-Ration's deluxe Pet Motel, Ken-L-Land. The courteous, competent staff sees that your pet is provided with an individual “suite” and all the comforts of home. A complimentary feeding of Ken-L-Ration is served your pet, if you so desire.

— Disneyland display ad, Los Angeles Times, June 14, 1959

In 1965, the price for a full day at Ken-L Land was just 25 cents, including a can of food:

Ken-L-Land, an air-conditioned dog motel, is 100 feet outside Disneyland's main gate. Your dog will love his individual “suite.” Entrust your pet to our experienced handler whose specialty is tender, loving care. The 25c all-day fee includes a free can of Ken-L-Ration... at Ken-L-Land.

— Disneyland display ad, Los Angeles Times, June 14, 1965

The Ken-L Land Pet Motel name lasted until 1968. Then Kal Kan took over sponsorship. The name changed to the “Kennel Club.”

By 1975, the price had doubled to a still very reasonable 50 cents. According to the Disneyland Guide, Summer 1975:

PET CARE

You may leave your pet in an airy, individual enclosure at a cost of only 50¢ for the entire day. This charge includes a choice of Kal Kan pet food. This facility, sponsored by Kal Kan, is located to the right of the Main Gate Ticket Booths. Sorry, pets cannot be left overnight.

Kal Kan's sponsorship ran until 1977. From 1986 until 1991, Gaines sponsored the “Pet Care Kennel.”



Yesterland.com

Photo by Werner Weiss, 2002

The Kennel Club in 2002

On January 1, 1993, Nestlé USA Inc. and The Walt Disney Company began a multidivisional strategic alliance, which included “participation” (sponsorship) at Disneyland Park and the Walt Disney World Resort. Carnation (acquired by Nestlé in 1985) and Stouffer’s (acquired by Nestlé in 1973) already had relationships with Disneyland. These brands were joined by other Nestlé brands, including Hills Bros, Contadina, Toll House, Nestea—and Friskies.

The kennel at Disneyland once again had a sponsor. Friskies brought back the name “Kennel Club.” So what if Friskies was a cat food brand and the kennel was primarily for dogs? It was an opportunity to promote a Nestlé brand.

On December 12th, 2001: Nestlé acquired Ralston Purina. With Nestlé owning a real dog food brand, a Purina logo replaced the Friskies logo on the Disneyland Kennel Club.

The 50¢ price of 1975 was a distant memory. According to the Disneyland official web site in Summer 2002, the price was much higher:

Kennel

Indoor Kennel facilities available for a charge of \$10.00. Kennel is located to the right of the Main Entrance of Disneyland park. Sorry, there are no facilities for overnight accommodations.

By 2006, the price had risen to \$15.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2007

A guest is about to spend \$20.00.

The next price jump was to \$20. According to the Disneyland official web site, January 2008:

Do you have pet accommodations?

The Disneyland® Kennel Club is available for day use. The cost is \$20.00 per pet, per day and reservations are not necessary. No overnight accommodations are available. Please note the Hotels of the Disneyland® Resort do not permit pets.

The Disneyland® Kennel Club and County of Orange requires rabies, distemper, and hepatitis vaccination certificates from your vet in order to board dogs over four months of age. Cats over four months old need proof of vaccination for rabies, distemper, hepatitis, panleucopenia, rhinotracheitis and calicivirus.

For further information or questions, please contact Disneyland® Resort Guest Information at (714) 781-7290.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2007

A clever drawing during the Purina years suggested a rather classy club.

As you might imagine, dogs are the main occupants. Cats are number two. Number three might surprise you... pigs. Yes, pigs.

The Disneyland Kennel Club takes other pets too. If you feel a need to take your hamster, parakeet, or goldfish with you when you spend the day at Disneyland Park or Disney California Adventure, you can leave it at the Kennel Club (although why anyone would want to do so is another question). But if your pet is poisonous—forget it. And forget it if your pet is illegal in California—including ferrets, which are perfectly legal in most of the United States.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2007

No longer 25 cents

As of May 2013, the price is still \$20. Using an online U.S. Consumer Price Index calculator, 25¢ in 1965 is equivalent to \$1.85 in 2013. So the 2013 price of \$20.00 substantially exceeds inflation over that period.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2013

Disneyland Kennel Club in 2013

The kennel is still the original building from 1958—although you wouldn't know it by looking at it.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2013

Strollers & Wheelchairs (left) and Convenience Vehicles (right)

The kennel is now hidden behind by structures for stroller, ECV, and wheelchair rentals. The new rental facility opened January 12, 2010.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2013

Former Disneyland Kennel Club marquee

The left Dutch door serves as the spot to drop off and pick up pets. It hasn't been "Fido yellow" in decades.

The now-blank marquee that once held the Disneyland Kennel Club sign and Purina logo are hidden behind the Convenience Vehicle building.

The daily fee still includes a serving of pet food. The Disneyland Kennel Club serves Pedigree dry dog food, Mighty Dog canned dog food, Friskies cat food, and dog treats.

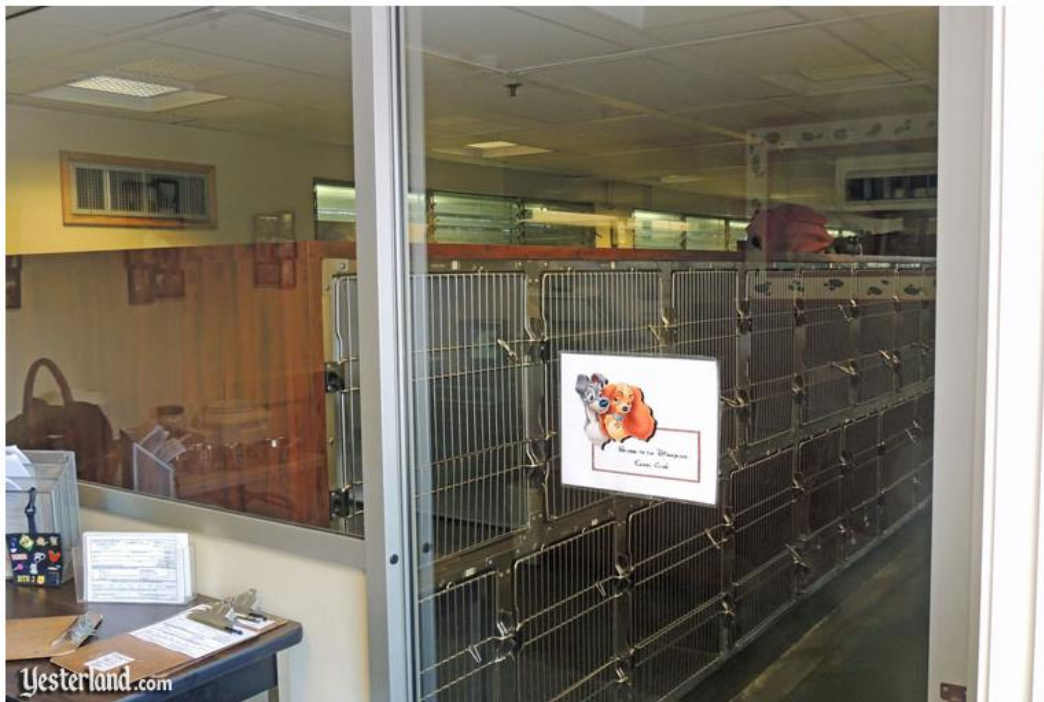


Photo by Werner Weiss, 2013

"Suites" for Fido

The occupancy level at the kennel varies widely by season. During the Holiday season, occupancy can be 100%. During the off season, it's common to have only around five pets all day.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 1974

Pluto, a dog who is always welcome inside Disneyland Park

How about taking a dog into either of the parks? Sorry. Dogs are not permitted. There are two exceptions. Service animals are welcome. And so is Pluto.

DISNEYLAND SIGNS



Photo by Werner Weiss, 1974

When you think of the Disneyland sign, what do you visualize? It probably depends on when you first visited Disneyland or became aware of its sign.

Let's look at Disneyland signs through the years.



Katella entrance to the Disneyland parking lot

Photo by Chris Bales, circa 1990

When Disneyland opened in 1955 at 1313 S. Harbor Blvd. in Anaheim, there was no landmark sign on the boulevard. Billboards along the Santa Ana Freeway directed drivers to the correct exit, but, after that, the park served as its own identifier. In the years before the Matterhorn or towering mature trees, the TWA Rocket to the Moon—80 feet tall, including its legs—was an easily visible landmark that left no doubt that this was Disneyland.

There were two parking toll plazas. (All-day parking was 25 cents.) Whether guests drove in from Harbor Blvd. or Katella Ave., widely-spaced letters spelled D I S N E Y L A N D above the toll booths—essentially the first Disneyland signs.

The main entrance on Harbor Blvd. was remodeled and expanded several times over the years, but the smaller Katella Ave. entrance remained almost unchanged (and usually closed) until it was removed in 1998 to make way for Disney's California Adventure.



Photo by Roger J. Runck, 1960, courtesy of Robin Runck

Disneyland Hotel sign across West St. from the Disneyland parking lot

The Disneyland Hotel had a big marquee sign by 1956, soon after it opened in 1955. Each letter was on an individual panel, with yellow panels for the capitalized D and H. Originally erected in front of the hotel's administration building, the sign was moved to the West Street curb in 1957.

Somebody must have noticed that the Disneyland Hotel had a big, fancy, eye-catching sign, but Disneyland Park didn't.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 1974

The older Disneyland marquee sign (1958-1989)

In 1958, Disneyland finally gained the Harbor Blvd. marquee sign that would greet visitors for more than 30 years. On each of its two sides, a huge D on a yellow panel was followed by the other letters on separate white panels. At night, the backlit panels would glow. Tall poles supported colorful, rigid banners.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 1974

Looking south

The sign included a yellow panel with “Park and Hotel - Entrance” on one side and “Entrance - Park and Hotel” on the other. Despite the reference to the hotel, it was faster to take Katella Ave. and West St. around the outside of the parking lot if your destination was the Disneyland Hotel.

Changeable marquees facing north and south could provide information about Disneyland hours, off-season days closed, special events, and new attractions.

Originally, the changeable marquees were low-tech and somewhat smaller, with plastic letters positioned on a white plastic background changed by hand (or, more accurately, by a worker with a long pole)—just as at the Disneyland Hotel or at movie theater marquees of that era. The electronic marquees in these 1974 photos replaced the originals in Spring 1971.

By the 1970s, the sign looked dated. The design and execution both screamed 1950s—and that was long before retro-1950s designs were considered something good.

When America on Parade opened in 1975, the background for the D was changed from yellow to white. The horizontal yellow “Park and Hotel” panel became a white panel emblazoned with “America on Parade” in red letters. In the years that followed, new panels read “The Happiest Place on Earth,” “The Best Has Just Begun,” and finally “The Happiest Place on Earth” again.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 1974

Looking north



Photo by Chris Bales, 1989

The original sign toward the end of its life

Toward the end, in an apparent effort to modernize the sign's appearance, the poles with the banners were eliminated.



Photo by Chris Bales, 1996

The newer Disneyland marquee sign (1989-1999)

In 1989, it was time for an entirely new sign. Here's how the Los Angeles Times described the upcoming change ("Lights Fantastic, Tomorrowland Tech to Replace Disneyland's 1959 Marquee," by Mary Ann Galante, Times staff writer, March 23, 1989):

The Disneyland marquee is changing, but the message will remain the same.

In 60 to 90 days, Disneyland will be replacing its 30-year-old sign at the front entrance. In its place will be a new marquee 30% bigger—1,761 square feet—with electronic display boards to flash messages about the park and traffic instructions.

"It's going to look great," said Bob Roth, park spokesman.

In addition to the reader board with messages, the new sign "will have fiber optics, where we can change colors and do color combinations on the letters," so colors can be switched from purple sheen to red to yellow, Roth said.

What will not change is the message. The new sign will still proclaim Disneyland to be "The Happiest Place on Earth."

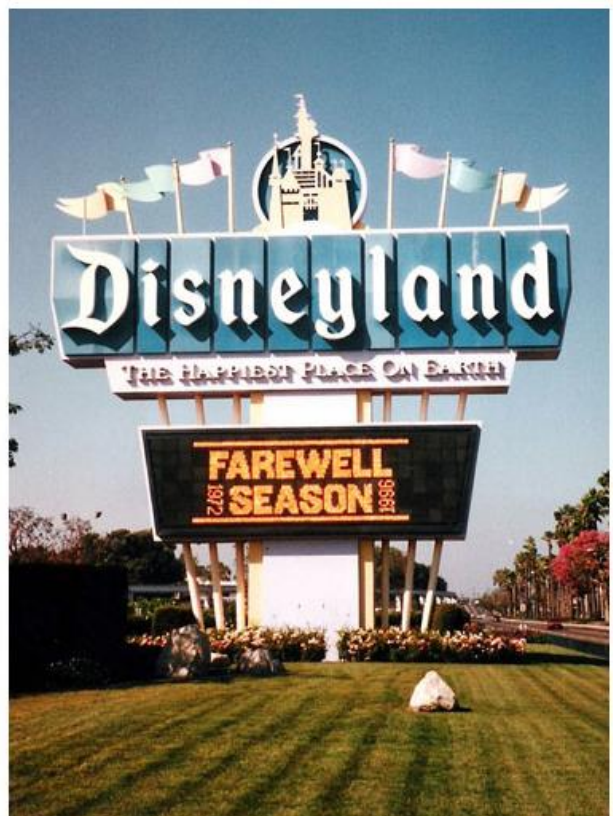
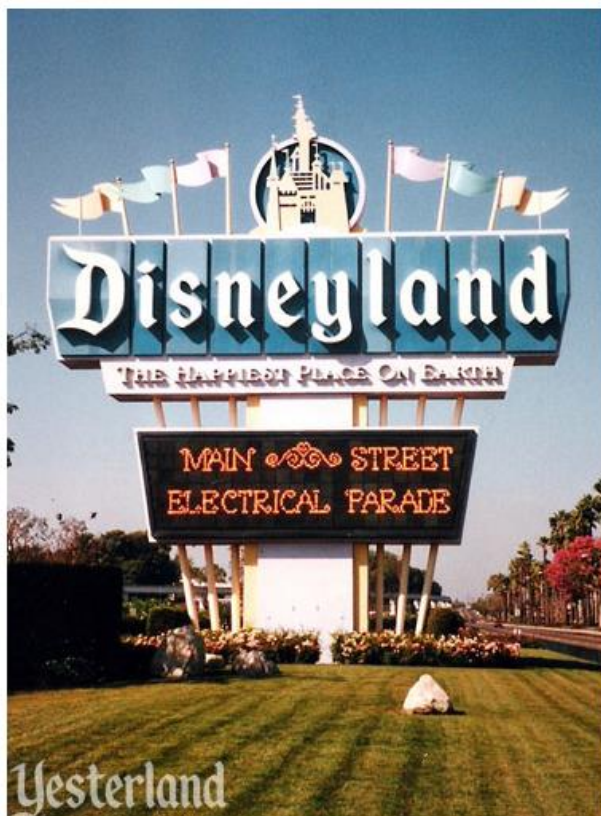
The newer sign went up right next to the original. For a short time in October 1989, both signs were up.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 1997

Computerized marquee

The marquee on the newer sign was not limited to fixed-size letters. An array of lightbulbs could be programmed with a rotation of text in various sizes and fonts, as well as animated graphics.



Photos by Chris Bales, 1996

Computerized marquee



Photo by Werner Weiss, 1997

Festival of Fools logo in transition

The second sign stood for almost ten years. It was dismantled mid-June 1999 as part of the transformation of chaotic (but vibrant) Harbor Blvd. into part of the cleaned-up Anaheim Resort—and of the Disneyland parking lot into a second theme park.

Instead of disposing of the sign, Disneyland put it up for auction on eBay. Actor John Stamos, the winning bidder, erected the giant D in the backyard of his home in the Santa Monica Mountains. The other side was purchased by superagent Richard Kraft, who eventually decided to take the giant D from the Disneyland Hotel instead.

Disneyland would need a new sign—but it would not be just for the “Park & Hotel - Entrance” or “The Happiest Place on Earth.” Now it would be for the Disneyland Resort, the umbrella name for what would be two theme parks, three resort hotels, and a shopping and dining district.



Photo by Brandon “nemofinder22,” 2005

Disneyland Resort sign

The next sign would be completely different than what it replaced. More modest in size, it sported a new logo. Presumably, the decision-makers felt the Disneyland Resort needed a separate visual identity from Disneyland Park, which would keep its iconic Gothic script logo.

The new logo had “Disney” from the corporate logo of The Walt Disney Company (loosely based on Walt Disney’s signature), followed immediately by “land” in a Futura font, with “Resort” in heavier, more-widely-spaced Futura below it. Some fans welcomed the separate identity, while others thought it looked clumsy and lacked charm and tradition.

The Disneyland Resort sign in the previous photo—positioned for pedestrians who crossed Harbor Blvd. up by the IHOP—was one of several signs along Harbor Blvd. and Katella Ave. There would also be an arch over the parking lot entrance at Harbor Blvd. and Disney Way, as well as another pedestrian entrance on Katella Ave., across from the Anaheim Convention Center.

The huge parking lot became a construction site after it closed January 21, 1998. In the years that followed, guests could be directed to a number of different parking lots, often completely bypassing the old entrance. Pedestrians could enter the grounds at various spots.

Instead of one big sign, it made sense to have a number of smaller ones. Some signs would refer to the entire complex of two parks, three hotels, and Downtown Disney shopping and dining—branded as the Disneyland Resort—while others would feature one or more of its components.



Disneyland Drive (West Street) sign in 2009

Photo by Chris Bailes, 2009



Disneyland Drive (West Street) sign in 2014

Photo by Chris Bailes, 2014

With the new moniker came the idea that the newly-branded Resort and the venerable Park should each have a separate visual identity. It didn’t work.

In 2007, the decision-makers threw in the towel on the new Disneyland Resort visual identify. Disneyland’s gothic logocript would be used for both, with “Park” or “Resort” below, as appropriate. Signs were updated. For some reason, the retired visual identity remained on the Disneyland Drive sign for several more years.

The closest thing to an old Harbor Blvd. sign—in location, scale, and purpose—was the entrance arch on Harbor Blvd. It provided access not only to the last remnant of the old Disneyland parking lot (the Timon parking lot, until that lot was eliminated to make way for Cars Land), but also indirect access to other lots by leading to Disneyland Drive.

Because it was for theme park parking, not for hotel or Downtown Disney parking, the arch featured the logos of the two parks, not the Disneyland Resort logo.

The arch and other signs lacked changeable marquees to promote events. Instead, they were dressed up. For 2007, the first year of The Year of a Million Dreams, the arch was flanked with “Where Dreams Come True” wings and decorated with squiggles and silhouettes.



Photo by Chris Bales, 2007

Automobile entrance arch at Harbor Blvd. and Disney Way



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2007

A closer look at the automobile entrance arch



Photo by Chris Bales, 2008

Arch dressed up for second year of The Year of a Million Dreams in 2008



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2009

Arch dressed up for "Celebrate Today" promotion in 2009

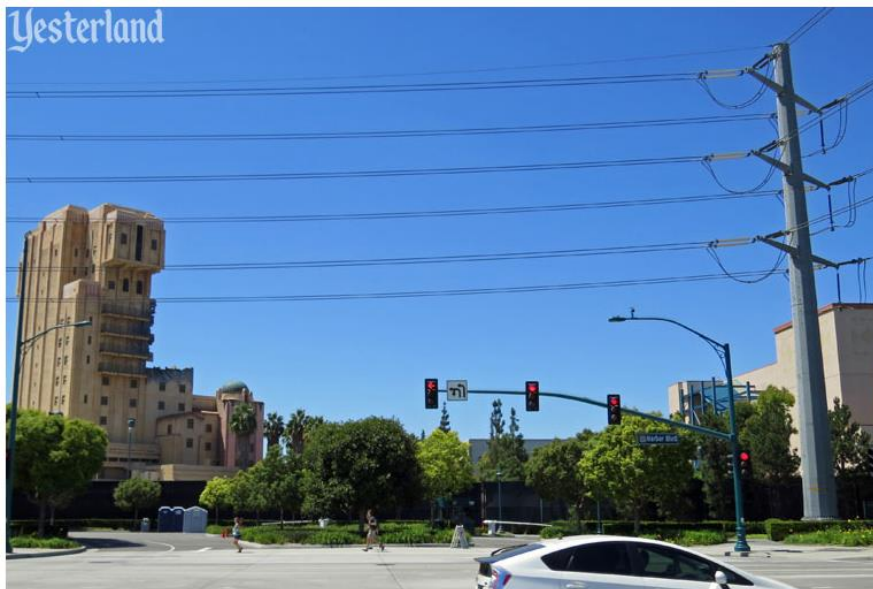


Photo by Chris Bales, 2014

No arch anymore

The arch was eliminated in 2011 because the Disney Way entrance no longer served as parking access for guests.



Photo by Brandon "nemofinder22," 2005

Pedestrian entrance at the East Shuttle Area crosswalk in 2005

A short distance north of the former arch location, pedestrians from the Pumba lot and nearby hotels cross Harbor Blvd. and are greeted by a Disneyland Resort sign.

After originally sporting the Disneyland Resort visual identity with Disney and land in two different fonts, the sign switched to the current Disneyland Resort logo in 2007.

As had been the case with the arch, the sign has been dressed up for marketing promotions over the years.



Photo by Werner Weiss, 2007

Dressed up for first year of The Year of a Million Dreams in 2007



Photo by Chris Bales, 2008

Dressed up for second year of The Year of a Million Dreams in 2008



Photo by Chris Bales, 2009

Dressed up for "Celebrate Today" promotion in 2009

The sign reached its height of gaudiness for the themes of "Celebrate Today" and "What Will You Celebrate?" in 2009, with brightly colored "permanent" balloons. The promotion featured a free ticket to a Disney theme park on your birthday.



Photo by Chris Bales, 2014

Harbor Blvd. entrance in September 2014

The sign at the crosswalk continues the tradition of a Harbor Blvd. sign.



Photo by Chris Bales, 2008

Katella Ave. sign and entrance, open

There's also a pedestrian entrance sign on Katella Ave., across from the Anaheim Convention Center. Its purpose was to allow pedestrians to enter the Timon parking lot, where they could catch a tram to the parks. As California Adventure grew, the Timon Lot shrank.



Katella Ave. sign and entrance, closed

Photo by Chris Bales, 2014



Not welcoming

Photo by Chris Bales, 2014

There's no longer a Timon parking lot, but the sign and gate are still there. Presumably, the gate can be opened for private events for Convention Center guests. Otherwise, it would make more sense to remove the sign.

The Disneyland Resort has other signs at other locations, such as at all parking lot entrances.

There was something “magical” about the original 1958 Disneyland marquee sign, with the D on a yellow background followed by the other letters—at least for guests who remember the sign from their visits long ago.

It’s back...



Disneyland Hotel water slide

Photo by Werner Weiss, 2013

In a way, the old Disneyland sign has returned to the Disneyland Resort. At the Disneyland Hotel, a sign mimicking the 1958 version topped the new water slide in 2011.



Disneyland Hotel entrance drive

Photo by Chris Bales, 2014

The retro look was extended to the Disneyland Hotel entrance road in 2013.



Photo by Chris Bales, 2014

Disneyland Hotel sign in 2014

If you like the letter D on a yellow background, the Disneyland Hotel is the place to stay.

TICKETS



Here are a couple of opportunities to use up those leftover, low-value tickets.

Today's Disneyland guests go from attraction to attraction without a care. But most guests in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s needed a ticket for each ride. Tickets came in denominations of "A," "B," "C," "D," and "E"—with "E" tickets being the best.

Let's suppose you visited Disneyland in the Summer of 1972. This page tells you what tickets were required for each attraction.

From the Disneyland Guide, Summer 1972:

A coupon or 10¢

- Main Street Horse Cars (Main Street)
- Horseless Carriage (Main Street)
- Omnibus (Main Street)
- Fire Engine (Main Street)
- King Arthur Carousel (Fantasyland)
- Sleeping Beauty Castle (Fantasyland)

B coupon or 25¢

- Main Street Cinema (Main Street)
- Motor Boat Cruise (Fantasyland)
- Swiss Family Treehouse (Adventureland)
- Casey Junior Circus Train (Fantasyland)
- Alice in Wonderland (Fantasyland)

C coupon or 40¢

- Fantasyland Theater (Fantasyland)
- Mad Tea Party (Fantasyland)
- Autopias (Fantasyland, Tomorrowland)
- Shooting Galleries (Frontierland, Adventureland)
- Peter Pan Flight (Fantasyland)
- Dumbo Flying Elephants (Fantasyland)
- Mr. Toad's Wild Ride (Fantasyland)

- Snow White's Adventures (Fantasyland)
- Mike Fink Keel Boats (Frontierland)
- Great Moments with Mr. Lincoln (Main Street)

D coupon or 70¢

- Rocket Jets (Tomorrowland)
- PeopleMover presented by Goodyear (Tomorrowland)
- Flight to the Moon presented by McDonnell Douglas (Tomorrowland)
- Storybookland Canal Boats (Fantasyland)
- Skyway (Tomorrowland, Fantasyland)
- Tom Sawyer Island Rafts (Frontierland)
- Davy Crockett's Explorer Canoes (Bear Country)
- Santa Fe & Disneyland Railroad (Main Street, New Orleans Square and Tomorrowland)
- Columbia Sailing Ship (Frontierland)
- Mark Twain Steamboat (Frontierland)

E coupon or 85¢ (adults), 75¢ (children)

- Mine Train Ride (Frontierland)
- Pack Mules (Frontierland)
- Jungle River Cruise (Adventureland)
- Disneyland-Alweg Monorail Trains (Tomorrowland)
- Matterhorn Bobsleds (Fantasyland)
- It's a Small World presented by Bank of America (Fantasyland)
- Enchanted Tiki Room presented by United Airlines (Adventureland)
- Submarine Voyage (Tomorrowland)
- Pirates of the Caribbean (New Orleans Square)
- Country Bear Jamboree (Bear Country)
- Haunted Mansion (New Orleans Square)

Free Shows and Exhibits

- Walt Disney—A Legacy for the Future (Main Street)
- GAF Photo Salon (Main Street)
- INA's Carefree Corner (Main Street)
- Frontierland Arcade Gun Collection (Frontierland)
- Pepsi Cola's Golden Horseshoe Revue (Frontierland)
- Circle-Vision 360 presented by the Bell System (Tomorrowland)
- Carousel of Progress presented by General Electric (Tomorrowland)
- Adventure Thru Inner Space presented by Monsanto (Tomorrowland)



The Submarine Voyage, the Matterhorn Bobsleds and the Disneyland-Alweg Monorail all premiered June 1959. With these attractions, the “E” ticket was born.

There were 14 attractions listed on “E” tickets in the Disneyland ticket books of 1959. However, a closer look shows that the Santa Fe & Disneyland Railroad was listed four times because guests could board the trains in four lands. So there

were really 11 “E” ticket attractions—three brand new ones and eight that had been promoted from “D” tickets, which had previously been the highest.

When Disneyland opened to the public on July 18, 1955, there were no ticket books. Guests paid one U.S. Dollar for general admission to the park and 10 to 35 cents per attraction.

Less than three months later—on October 11, 1955—Disneyland began to sell ticket books. Rides were designated as “A,” “B,” or “C” attractions. The best rides required a “C” ticket. The “D” ticket was introduced in 1956; top attractions such as the Jungle Cruise were promoted to “D” status.

In 1959, when the “E” ticket was born, a Disneyland “Big 10” Ticket Book cost \$3.50 for adults, \$3.00 for juniors, \$2.50 for children. It provided one “A” ticket, one “B” ticket, two “C” tickets, three “D” tickets, and three “E” tickets. For a dollar more, guests could buy a “Jumbo 15” Ticket Book, which provided two “A” tickets, two “B” tickets, three “C” tickets, four “D” tickets, and four “E” tickets.

Only three of these “E” ticket attractions are now completely gone: TWA Rocket To The Moon, Rainbow Ridge Pack Mules, and Rainbow Mt. Stage Coaches. The others have all changed in some way, but retain the same qualities that made them top attractions in 1959. Arguably, the Submarine Voyage (now the Finding Nemo Submarine Voyage) is the most changed.

The “E” ticket remained the top ticket until Disneyland eliminated attraction tickets completely in 1982. Well, that’s not quite true. In 1963, an “E” ticket had a face value of 60 cents but effectively cost much less when obtained as part of a ticket book. There was one attraction that was “too good” for a mere “E” ticket: Walt Disney’s Enchanted Tiki Room was so revolutionary that guests had to part with 75 cents for adult admission.

“HAPPIEST FACES ON EARTH” PROJECT



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005

Did you submit your favorite Disney photo memory for “The Happiest Faces on Earth” mosaic collages? Each collage is made up of thousands of photos submitted by guests like you. The collages are part of “The Happiest Homecoming on Earth” at Yesterland.

Based on their average color and brightness, guests’ photos are used as mosaic tiles to make collages—like pixels making images on computer displays, but more artistic. The results are impressive. The locations are well-chosen for each collage. The framing is creative. And it’s all temporary.



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005

Blue

Some photos are predominantly blue. Perhaps someone wearing a blue shirt is posing with Sulley, Genie, or Cinderella.



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005

Some photos are predominantly orange. For example, Winnie the Pooh, with his yellow fur and red shirt, averages out to a nice shade of orange from a distance. Tigger, with his black stripes, is a good start for a darker shade of orange.

There are 35 “The Happiest Faces on Earth” collages around the Yesterland Resort campus—29 in Yesterland Park and six in Yester California Adventure.

Let’s walk around and take a look at some more of them...



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005

Snow White and the Single Dwarf



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005

It's a Mary Blair World



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005

Mickey's Trailertown



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005

"Some imagination, huh?"



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005

Baloo and Mowgli floating at the Treehouse



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005

Experiment 626 in Area 714



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005

To Infinity, Tomorrowland, and Beyond!

There's even a collage made up of Cast Member photos that are themselves collages of Cast Member photos. That might not make sense... but maybe it will when you see it.



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005

Steamboat Willie on Main Street, U.S.A.



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005

Cast Members...



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005

...made up of Cast Members

The 900-square-foot mosaic Steamboat Willie collage is made up of 900 larger images of Cast Members and nearly half a million photos in total.

Now head over to Yester California Adventure where four murals at Sunshine Plaza showcase Disney-Pixar movies. As you look at them, consider that the mural honoring A Bug's Life (1998) contains 7,565 images; for The Incredibles (2004), there are 7,772 images; for Finding Nemo (2003), 7,656 images; and for Monsters, Inc. (2001), 7,565 images.



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005

Catch a Flik at California Adventure



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005

They Call Me Mr. Incredible at California Adventure



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005

Nemo has Been Found at Disney's California Adventure



Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005

Mike and Sulley Scare Because They Care at California Adventure

If you submitted a photo, you probably want to find it. It's easy to do so—but first you have to find a Photo Finder.



Photo Finder on Town Square

Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005



Photo Finder near the [California Zephyr](#) at California Adventure

Photo by Allen Huffman, 2005

Enter your name or the email address that you used to submit your image file. The display shows you your picture and its location. You can get a printout with the location, row, and column. Don't be surprised if your photo was used a dozen or even two dozen times.

It's a pity that some guests just wonder why there are weirdly grainy images all over the parks—instead of looking closely to see that they're each made up of thousands of photos.

A year before the 50th anniversary of the 1955 opening of Disneyland Park, Disney issued an invitation.

Disneyland Resort
<http://www.disneyland.com/photos>

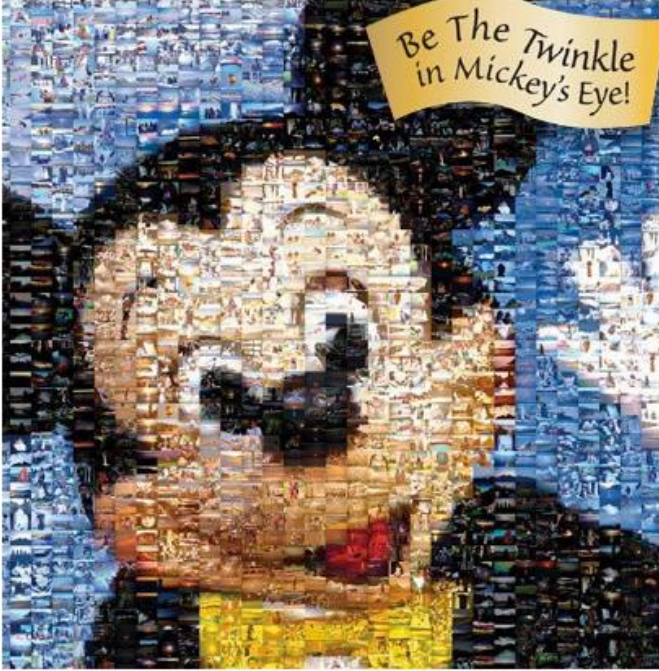
Disney Online > Disney Destinations > Disneyland Resort Search Disney

50
 Happiest Faces On Earth

Happiest Faces On Earth...

A Disney Family Album

Be a part of the biggest Disney celebration ever! Submit your favorite Disneyland® Resort photos for a chance to be a part of the once-in-a-lifetime, larger-than-life Happiest Faces On Earth... A Disney Family Album!



Disneyland® Resort needs your photos!

[Start Here!](#)

Be a part of this magnificent photo collage and you might see your smiling face at the Disneyland® Resort.

Share your memories

Join the Happiest Faces On Earth ... A Disney Family Album, a series of amazing photo collages displayed in Disneyland® park and Disney's California Adventure™ park. It's all part of the colossal celebration of the Happiest Homecoming On Earth. It's a "snap" to be a part of the magic:

- Submit your all-time favorite photos of family, friends and moments spent at the Happiest Place On Earth.
- See smiling faces at the Disneyland® Resort during the 18-month long anniversary celebration.
- Don't miss a chance to be a part of history!

From outside the United States?

Stay tuned for your opportunity to join the magic. This is a celebration so big that the whole world is welcome!

[Photo Collage en Español](#) »

Not all photos may be used. Separate theme park admission required. Subject to restrictions and change without notice.

screen capture © Disney

Yesterland

Screen capture of Happiest Faces On Earth webpage © 2004 Disney

Request for Faces webpage

A press release on July 17, 2004 began with these four paragraphs:

ANAHEIM, Calif., July 17 /PRNewswire/ -- In a visually spectacular kick-off ceremony this morning in front of Sleeping Beauty Castle at Disneyland in Southern California, Disneyland Resort President Matt Ouimet joined over 1,000 Disneyland Cast Members, plus their friends and families, in formally launching an exciting new program that will be a major part of the global celebration of the 50th anniversary of Disneyland next year.

"The Happiest Faces on Earth... A Disney Family Album" is an unprecedented invitation to people around the world to send in their cherished Disney memories (especially their favorite Disneyland memories) in the form of photographs, snapshots or digital images (both old and recent). The hundreds of thousands of anticipated submissions will be woven together to create "The Happiest Faces on Earth... A Disney Family Album," a series of extremely unique photo collages of Classic Disney characters and images from the last half century.

By contributing their favorite Disney photo memories to the oversized photo collages of "The Happiest Faces on Earth... A Disney Family Album," people the world over will become active participants in the milestone "The Happiest Homecoming on Earth" 50th anniversary celebration of Disneyland, officially launching on May 5, 2005. The collages will then be on exhibit throughout the Disneyland Resort for 18-months during the entire duration of the celebration.

“Starting today on the 49th anniversary of Disneyland and extending through December 31 of this year we invite everyone in the world to send us their most treasured and special Disney photos, especially those of their unforgettable visits to Disneyland,” said Ouimet. “This is an amazing program that will allow everybody to become part of this one-of-a-kind tapestry of memories during our upcoming milestone 50th anniversary.”

Guests were encouraged to submit color or black and white photos through the end of 2004—online; through the U.S. Postal Service, or FedEx; or at Disneyland.

How many photos did Disneyland receive? The Orange County Register quoted the woman who knew the answer (“Jackie Wong is an online kind of woman: Part nine of a 50th anniversary series on Anaheim Hills people who work for Disneyland,” by Diane Reed, Oct. 6, 2005):

Jackie Wong helps put the “magic” into the Magic Kingdoms’ online experiences.

If you’ve ever emailed a photo from the Buzz Lightyear kiosk at Disneyland, to a relative in another part of the world, the Anaheim Hills resident has had a hand in it.

She worked on the Tower of Terror game, too.

And, if you’ve found your photo in any of the “Happiest Faces on Earth” collages—celebrating the park’s 50th anniversary—Wong was involved in that project, as well.

“We received more than 60,000 photos online and 120,000 by snail mail,” she said. “It was a big job.”

For the alchemy of transforming nearly 200 thousand guest photos into mosaic collages, Disney turned to Roy Feinson, the South African-born artist, author, and graphic software engineer who pioneered “impressionist mosaics” (as such collages are called).

The collages of “The Happiest Faces on Earth... A Disney Family Album” were displayed at the Disneyland Resort for 18 months beginning May 5, 2005. In addition, the 50th anniversary added these other temporary and permanent features:

- Walt Disney’s Parade of Dreams
- Remember... Dreams Come True fireworks
- Disneyland: The First 50 Magical Years exhibit and film
- Buzz Lightyear Astro Blasters
- Sleeping Beauty Castle with “Crown Jewel” finery
- 50 “Hidden 50s”
- Golden attraction vehicles
- Block Party Bash street extravaganza (at Disney’s California Adventure)
- Re-“Imagineered” Space Mountain (officially opened July 15, 2005)
- Fresh paint and general sprucing up
- And plenty of merch (Golden Mouse Ears, anyone?)

“The Happiest Homecoming on Earth” ended September 30, 2006. Some of its features stayed, but the collages went away, as planned.

