

CAROLWOOD CHRONICLE



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AROUND THE BARN

by Bill Barbe

It's been awhile since my last report. Last year was very hectic with many special guests coming out to the Barn. This year is shaping up to be even bigger.

We were honored to have Joanna Miller, Diane Disney Miller's daughter, visit the Barn. It was our opportunity to show her what we have been doing to preserve her Grandfather's love of trains. The Disney Family has always been very helpful and generous regarding the Barn over the years. If it were not for their desire to save something from Carolwood (along with Michael and Sharon Broggie's vision of how to display it) we might not have this special piece of Disney history to enjoy.

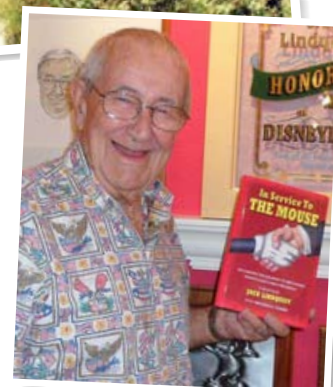
The Barn has become a place for Disney fans of all interests to meet and share Walt's love of trains. In February, Disney Legend Jack Lindquist was nice enough to stop by and sign his fantastic book, "In Service To The Mouse: My Unexpected Journey to Becoming Disneyland's First President." I had the privilege of giving Jack a tour of the Barn and combine car. Jack had some great stories and was able to answer some of my questions. Thanks to Jack, we had a record number of guests that day.

We have many other guests that are in the works for a visit so stay tuned to our web site for more information and watch your Carolwood emails. Remember, if you are a regular volunteer at Walt's Barn, you get special access to these guest events and get to participate in special Barn Crew activities.



This year marks the 15th Anniversary of Walt's Barn at Griffith Park. We are planning a special party to celebrate this great event on Saturday, July 19, 2014. Details will be released soon. And for those of you who can't attend the event on Saturday, we will have an additional ceremony on our regular Barn day, Sunday, July 20, 2014.

As always, we are looking for volunteers both at the Barn and with other projects. If you have skills in grant writing, fund raising or merchandise development, please let us know. And if you do live locally, consider coming out to help on a Barn Sunday. We always have lots of fun.



Please send your information along with a brief description of your skills and interest to: combine@carolwood.org, or you can always reach me at BillB@carolwood.org for info as well.

Thanks again to all our hardworking volunteers -- we hope to see more of you at the Barn real soon.

Thank you

WELCOME ABOARD



The Carolwood Pacific Historical Society is enriched by its many wonderful members.

New and Renewing Members since December, 2013 are:

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WHY A WALT'S WEEKEND GETAWAY?

BY FRED LACK

The Carolwood Pacific Historical Society creates lifelong friendships from its events.

December 2012, myself, Helen (now my fiancé) and four other CPHS member couples wanted to get together after enjoying The Magic Castle event and The Summer BBQ event earlier that year for a séance at The Magic Castle in Hollywood, CA. The group enjoyed the séance, and I asked, what would they like to do next? Their unanimous chorus was Smoke Tree Ranch where Walt had had two homes. (all of these couples and myself had met at previous CPHS events.)

The CPHS has had events at Smoke Tree in 2002, 2003, and 2004. The group with me, had missed those events and wanted to experience what Walt did when he lived there. This is how the idea came to be. A few days later I mentioned this request to CPHS member Gary Oakland, who I had met at the CPHS event at Smoke Tree in 2002. He couldn't wait to go back and show Smoke Tree Ranch to his new wife, Melissa.

I then talked with Cathy Perrone, President of the National Disneyana Fan Club, and senior Disney artist, Alex Maher, (who I also had met at previous CPHS events) and we decided to go to Smoke Tree Ranch over President's Day weekend in February 2013. Cathy knew Lisa Bell, General Manager of Smoke Tree Ranch and would introduce her to me. Alex said he would be happy to design artwork and a pin for the event.

Meeting Lisa was a memorable experience. She was excited to hear I wanted to put on an event at Smoke Tree Ranch. Then I mentioned I represented a Disney fan organization and her expression immediately changed to one of high skepticism. You see D23 had just canceled their weekend event for 2013 and here I came saying I wanted an event. I saw I was going to have to prove myself to her that I could do an event. I was looking to get 10 cottages. She said I would need 15 cottages by April 15 and a deposit to go with it.

We shook hands (I think I caught her counting her fingers when she took back her hand).

I had six weeks to sell 15 cottages or there was going to be no event.

This is where the power of being a CPHS member and having established friendships was going to prove itself. Alex Maher, designed a beautiful e-mail blast to go out five days later. He also started working on the pin design. I then contacted Michael Broggie Jr. to set up an e-mail blast. Then I contacted Michael Aronson, another CPHS member, to set up a web page on the Carolwood Foundation website so we could take PayPal for hotel deposits and activity packages.

The response by the CPHS membership was overwhelming! I had 25 cottages sold in just four weeks! Needless to say there was a demand for another Carolwood event! However, I then had to approach the Ranch on an ongoing quest for more cottages! The reception I was receiving at the Ranch was warming up! I went down to lunch at the Ranch and presented them a deposit for 25 cottages in a matter of six weeks with a request for five more cottages, a western night, and an Indian Camp breakfast. I was told I needed 40 cottages sold to get that. Six weeks later, I sold out Smoke Tree Ranch and was granted my western night and Indian Camp breakfast. I ended up with a waiting list of 14!

During this time fellow CPHS member Gary Oakland mentioned that he knew the Scott family who lived in Walt's first home. Would I be interested in taking our group through it? As you can imagine, he did not have to ask me twice! I said, "Yes! Let's make it happen!"

This is how the event came to be. I did not get the Indian Camp breakfast approval until one week before the event. I did not get the Scott's approval for the tour of the home until one week before the event.

During the time the event was being planned all the details began to come together.

It took one year of planning! This is why there was a Walt's weekend! I asked my group what they would like to do after Smoke Tree Ranch? Watch your e-mail blasts next year and see what they asked for!



Smoke Tree Round Up

By Fred Lack III

The Smoke Tree Ranch Event took place December 6-8, 2013 in Palm Springs, California.



The event began Friday night with a cocktail party in the living room of the Ranch House where about 100 Carolwood members came for western night after checking into their rooms and getting their "goody bags." The party allowed Carolwood members the opportunity to meet and greet each other for the first time at a Carolwood event since the previous summer's Summer BBQ event. The room felt alive with all the camaraderie the group had renewing old friendships and establishing new ones. We enjoyed piano music, hot appetizers and a no-host bar while waiting for dinner.

At 6:30 p.m. everyone adjourned to the dining room for a western dinner of prime rib, chicken, trout and ribs. Upon entering the dining room a large cake in the image of the weekend's collectable pin which everyone had received, entitled "A Walt's Weekend Getaway" stood on its own table next to the buffet table laden with appetizers, salads and other sumptuous dinner items. As is the tradition of Smoke Tree Ranch, when we were ready to select our entree we were all invited into the kitchen to hear the items available and speak with the chef about our preferences.

As dinner was winding down, I greeted everyone and explained what the weekend was all about and what they could expect over the next couple of days. I had, after all, planned and constructed the weekend. I then introduced Gary Oakland, who shared information about a friend of his whose family had lived at Smoke Tree Ranch when he was a boy. The boy was Jay Scott. Jay's family had purchased Walt's first home that he had built at the Ranch. Gary's story culminated with the surprise that we all were going to be able to tour this home the next morning! A wild round of applause went up and the energy in the room became electrified!

At the conclusion of dinner, we headed out to a roaring campfire located close to the Ranch House with the fixings for that old favorite, S'mores along with hot coffee and cocoa perfect for a cold December night. We were serenaded by one of the Ranch's singers who treated us to old familiar western songs and invited us to join in singing along and dancing. We then adjourned back to the Ranch House living room for a night cap and another singalong of Christmas music by the fireplace and the Ranch's beautifully decorated Christmas tree.

The following morning we met for breakfast and excitedly waited for the first tour of Walt's two homes. We were separated into two groups which then carpooled to Walt's second home where the Ranch's tour guide, Laura Dreger, explained all about the home and the little known fact that Walt had wanted to put a train around the home like the one he had at his home on Carolwood Drive in Holmby Hills. The Colonists at Smoke Tree voted it down. The group then headed over to Walt's first home, where Laura discussed the outside of the home and Gary

Oakland gave a tour of the inside of Walt's first home and many interesting facts connected with the home. I then gave a tour of Walt's office located at the home. The group was large so initially we were separated into two groups. This group then left and the second group was escorted to the site for their tour. Carolwood members then congregated back to the Ranch House for lunch in the dining room.

At 2 p.m. Gary Oakland and I gave a lawn bowling demonstration on the green that Walt helped to have built at Smoke Tree Ranch. Over half of the members came out and tried Walt's favorite sport. They soon discovered why Walt enjoyed the sport so much! After lawn bowling we had the rest of the afternoon to enjoy the all the Ranch has to offer.

The Ranch House dining room opened for dinner at 6:30 p.m. and again invited our members in for dinner choices of lobster tails, beef stroganoff, and/or pasta. After dinner we headed over to the Walt Disney Hall for the evening's entertainment.

The first presentation was by Smoke Tree Colonist and historian Bill Bailey. He and his family owned a home in Smoke Tree Ranch and knew the Disney family when they stayed there. Bill grew up knowing and socializing with Walt's two daughters, Sharon and Diane and he shared some entertaining stories about himself and the Disney daughters. He then showed a movie on the history of Smoke Tree Ranch that he assisted in producing. He also produced and photographed a majority of the photos in the Ranch House and in Disney Hall showing the history of Smoke Tree Ranch and its famous visitors and home owners.

The second presentation was by Michael Broggie who talked about Smoke Tree Ranch and what it meant to Walt including stories about his father's contributions to the Disney Corporation. After a question and answer period, the evening then ended after a long and enjoyable day.

Sunday morning, about 20 guests mounted up horses and rode out to Indian Canyon for a western breakfast. The rest of the group caravanned out from the Ranch and drove to the canyon.

Upon arriving, members came upon a big breakfast setup on a bluff overlooking the Coachella Valley and the City of Palm Springs where we were treated to Mickey Mouse pancakes and a plethora of other sumptuous breakfast items all cooked outdoors and waiting. As we enjoyed breakfast we were serenaded by guitar and banjo music while listening to the creek rushing by amidst a beautiful forest -- all out in the middle of the desert! We enjoyed our final breakfast of Walt's Smoke Tree Ranch weekend and returned back to the Ranch to check out at which time we were treated to an enjoyable lunch in the dining room or were given a box lunch to go before we left. Some of the members had enough energy left to head to Disneyland and enjoy the evening Candlelight Ceremony.





ONE LITTLE SPARK

BY DAVID BOGDANCHIK - CONTINUED FROM EDITION 55



Inside is candy for the eyes. Swirling colors dance along the ceiling, and a large spiraling glass staircase is situated in front of us. On our right is a mural painted in pastel colors of blue, green, pink and purple, picturing adventures we may soon encounter in our imaginations when we board the ride vehicles slowly moving below.

The small double-rowed light blue cars can fit up to three in front and four in back, and the attraction has already broken from convention by loading on a curve instead of the usual straight line. As we head into the end of the mural we soon realize that what appeared to be an OmniMover is now breaking off into four car trains.

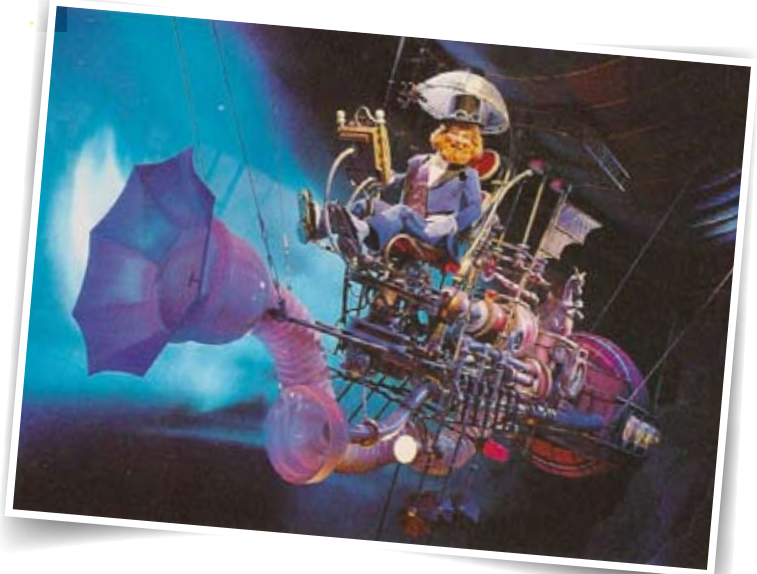
Up ahead in the darkness we see a strange looking contraption flying through the clouds. Part zeppelin, part vacuum rowboat, and very Jules Verne-ish, we encounter a contrivance that is...well...straight out of the imagination. Flying nearer the 32-foot contraption, known as the Dreamcatcher, we are welcomed by the Dreamfinder, who is "searching the universe for sounds, colors, ideas—anything that sparks the imagination." He is a wise yet friendly fellow with a jolly air about him, representing the spirit of imagination. Popping out the back of the Dreamcatcher is the Figment of the Imagination, a small purple dragon with the spontaneity of a child, fascinated and excited by all he sees. Dreamfinder's years give him the sensible experience to direct Figment's unbridled creativity in a fatherly sort of way. Their unique and rich personalities complement each other superbly. The imaginative duo sing to us the Sherman Brothers song, *One Little Spark*, and as we

travel with them on this flight into imagination for close to three minutes, we wonder what has happened to all the guests behind us? We truly are lost in a dream.

In actuality, we are in a giant rotating scene, in which there are five identical Dreamcatchers flying in perpetual circles (one of which now resides in the rafters of the Mouse Gear gift shop). Every 36 seconds a train of four vehicles enters the scene. This introduction to the characters is important, for unlike other attractions based on characters that guests know from the Disney movies, visitors to the *Journey into Imagination* pavilion have no previous experience with Dreamfinder and Figment or expectation of their personalities.

Once the Dreamcatcher's idea bag is full, Dreamfinder and Figment head off to the Dreamport to store all the ideas. This special place is symbolic of our minds, where all sorts of wild and imaginative things are kept: teacups, electricity, perfume, applause, music notes, and much, much more. On our left is a large diving bell hologram containing "deep thoughts," one of the largest in the world. A boiler known as an Imaginometer spins its dials as ideas are processed and mixed together. With sparks collected and thoughts percolating, it is now time for the imagination to create.

"A painter's brush, a work of art," Dreamfinder sings as he paints a large canvas in front of us. Colors on it move and change as we head into a very fanciful yet rather white room. Figment is using the rainbow he collected on the flight to paint in the scenery. The almost paper-like landscape comes to life in multitudinous color as a merry-go-round spins playfully about.



The mood darkens and lightning flashes as we head into the next scene. "A mystery story," sings Dreamfinder as he plays an organ with letters for keys instead of notes. His words tumble out from a volcano to fill scary and suspenseful books. Figment plays along by making a scary shadow, but soon after we see he is scared of what might pop out of the book behind him labeled Monsters.

"Some happy songs, some snappy dances, costumes and sets, spoofs and romances...the sparks ignite, a brand new show!" Figment now joins in singing with Dreamfinder as together they imagine all sorts of entertaining theatrical performances. Our little purple friend, top hat in hand, dances in front of a dressing room mirror, and Dreamfinder even conducts state of the art laser projection technology.

Next our vehicles travel into a speed tunnel with scientific shapes zooming past us. "What about science?" echoes Dreamfinder's voice. The music turns to that of awestruck wonder at the marvels of nature which telescopes and microscopes

allow us to witness: germination of seeds, the vastness of space, motion of water drops, detail of microorganisms and growth of crystals.

The music picks up tempo as we head into the finale. With imagination "we can visit worlds that were, that could be, and those of fantasy, and reality," says Dreamfinder. Our picture is taken and soon we find ourselves surrounded by video screens showing a puppet version of Figment imagining himself in many different roles and situations, including sea captain, mountain climber, weight lifter, flying super hero, tap dancer and more. Dreamfinder is glad we enjoyed our journey into imagination, and as the ride concludes he recommends that we visit the *Image Works* next.

Disembarking from our vehicles, we head up the spiraling staircase to the *Image Works*, finding ourselves inside the giant prisms! Outside, *Spaceship Earth* can be seen rising above the Park.

(Continued on Platform 5)





(Continued from Platform 4)

We are in an 18,500 square foot electronic playground, with such activities as *Bubble Music*, where pushing buttons causes unique sounds and liquid projections to appear on the wall; *Dreamfinder's School of Drama*, the opportunity for kids to act in front of a bluescreen and be placed on video in many imaginative environments from the wild west to outer space; *Kaleidoscope*, a large triangle of moving colors; *Electronic Philharmonic*, where we can conduct an orchestra with a wave of our hand; *Pin Screens*, a fun way to make shapes by sticking our hands under the table; *Magic Palette*, a computerized painting program; *Light Writer*, the ability to make patterns with lasers; and the *Sensor Maze*: "It Knows You're There." This last one begins with my absolute favorite, the *Rainbow Corridor*. As we head inside the tunnel colors pulse through the passageway. Then we realize that now the area around us is a solid color, and as we walk through this color follows us! Heading deeper into the *Sensor Maze* we pass *Image Warp*, vibrating mirrors which distort our image; and *Lumia*, representing our voice in light. Arriving at the *Stepping Tones* we are surprised as hexagonal tiles on the floor illuminate and emit sound each time we step on one. Imagineers carefully placed them in this dark corner in back of the pavilion so that adults would lose the inhibition preventing them from freely running around like children and stomping on the floor. The *Sensor Maze* concludes with the *Digital Wall*, in which we appear to be composed of many small squares, almost like we are straight out of an arcade game.

The *Magic Eye Theater* awaits us as we descend the escalator down from the second floor. An eight minute preshow, *Makin' Memories*, begins as we see slides of old photographs projected in front of us (a not-so-subtle plug for Kodak). A song of the same name written by the Sherman Brothers changes style and tempo as we progress through time. The pictures are now in color, but one thing remains constant over the years...families capturing priceless memories. Entering the close to 600-seat main theater we encounter

the wondrous and mysterious nearly 18 minute 3D film *Magic Journeys*, for which the Sherman Brothers have provided another eponymous song, which is one of their best, albeit mostly unknown today. The music carries the story which is fanciful, very stream-of-conscious and dreamlike. In this rather out of the ordinary movie things are not what they appear to be as children fly, ride horses, head to outer space, and visit the circus. Childlike imagination has been captured superbly.

Awaking from our 3D dream, we arrive back in the *Magic Garden*. We have just spent over an hour in the three-act *Journey into Imagination* pavilion. First we met the Figment of the Imagination as we had our minds opened to the process and possibilities of imagining. Then we were able to put our imaginations to work in the *Image Works*, before finally being taken on a fantastical dream of the imagination. Visiting back in this original incarnation of the pavilion has been fun—our imaginations truly can take us anywhere! Let's now take a look at what has happened to the *Journey into Imagination* pavilion since, beginning less than four years after it opened.

Change came in 1986 when Michael Jackson was brought on to film the 3D space fantasy *Captain EO*. Directed by Francis Ford Coppola, this was also executive producer George Lucas's first of many projects with Walt Disney Imagineering. The 17 minute *Captain EO* contained many special effects in the theater including lasers, fog, and a star field extending beyond the screen. Replaced in 1994, the musical film made its return to the pavilion in 2010 as a *Captain EO Tribute*.

Honey, I Shrunk the Audience debuted in the *Magic Eye Theater* in 1994, bringing a whole new direction to the pavilion that would have a lasting impact. This 13 minute 3D film invited guests into the Imagination Institute, where they would attend an awards ceremony for inventor of the year. The stuffy, analytical world of institutions was combined with that of imagination. Of course everything went wrong, mice

crawled past guests' legs, a ferocious Holo-Pet cat attacked, the attendees were of course shrunk by mistake, and the audience could feel their seats move as the miniaturized theater was dangerously lifted up, all before a giant snake slithered by! The preshow *Makin' Memories* was also replaced in 1994 with *True Colors*, a similar 6.5 minute show told in photographs with a touching and lyrical song, while advice was given on ways to be creative and use your imagination.

In 1998-1999, a major overhaul was given to the pavilion, including the new name of *Imagination!* The concept of the Imagination Institute was expanded from the *Magic Eye Theater* into the entire pavilion, where the imagination could be studied from a scientific point of view. A large portion of the original ride track was ripped out, along with the rotating scene where guests now loaded. The *Image Works* upstairs was closed, and replaced downstairs with the *Image Works—The Kodak "What-If?" Labs*, a scaled down and smaller version in the extra space the now smaller ride left behind. The new attraction, *Journey into Your Imagination*, featured vehicle stops as Dr. Nigel Channing, chairman of the Imagination Institute, conducted experiments intended to stimulate guests' imaginations. Dreamfinder was removed and Figment made only short cameo appearances in this under six minute ride which relied on sets, special effects and narration, instead of utilizing Audio-Animatronics and music as its predecessor did. This ride was not nearly as popular, and Figment was so missed, that the attraction lasted only two years.

Just eight months later, in 2002, *Journey into Imagination with Figment* was opened. Dave Goetz, voice of the Muppet's Gonzo, was chosen as the new voice of Figment, who makes numerous animated and Audio-Animatronics appearances throughout the ride. The song *One Little Spark* also returned in prominence as guests are taken on a seven minute "Imagination Institute Open House" tour through the five senses. After pestering Dr. Channing in the hearing, sight and smell labs,



Figment takes over the tour (sparring the Imagineers from having to figure out how to do touch and taste on a ride) and proceeds to take guests to his upside down house and an imaginative finale. Some small tributes paid include an institute office door labeled Dean Finder, a Dreamcatcher image on Figment's flying sheet music, and Figment's footprints which can be seen travelling all over the top and sides of a tunnel, reminiscent of the caveman footprints at the beginning of the *World of Motion*. This third incarnation of the attraction still takes guests every day on a journey into imagination, so next time you're at Epcot, why not drop in on our friend Figment.

I hope you have enjoyed travelling with me on our *Journey into Imagination*. The pavilion we visited had good reason to be among the most popular in the Park, for it had everything. In the garden were unique laminar flow leapfrog fountains which had never been done before, the *Magic Eye Theater* was the rebirth of 3D movies, the *Image Works* was years ahead of its time with sensing and gesture technology, and the ride utilized a unique rotating scene and semi-OmniMover system, along with presenting the two most lovable characters in all of EPCOT Center. Tying it all together, wherever guests went, whether courtyard, lobby, attraction, *Image Works*, or theater, they heard the music of the pavilion, all written and composed by the Sherman Brothers. This is what gave that extra spark of imagination to the whole atmosphere, the myriad variations of the wondrous *Magic Journeys*, peppy *Makin' Memories*, and imaginative banner song *One Little Spark*. Much has come and gone over the years at the pavilion, and who knows what the Imagineers will dream up for our next journey into imagination. As Walt Disney said about Disneyland, the same holds true here. The pavilion "... will never be completed. It will continue to grow as long as there is imagination left in the world."



The Mail Car

I just finished reading your "Walt Disney's Railroad Story" and just wanted to touch base with you. I've been a Disney fan all of my life, visiting Disney world every few years since I was about three years old, now enjoying taking my children there. Even now with them being teenagers we still greatly enjoy it. I remember as a kid from Philadelphia, thinking it was neat that the Magic Kingdom trains at Disney World were built in Philadelphia. Getting the full details of their story from your book was particularly interesting and entertaining.

The only downfall to the book is that it has lead to the design phases of my garden railroad and UPS is due to deliver my G scale Pennsylvania Railroad Steam Locomotive tomorrow! My sons and I are looking forward to the project but my wife is not so sure about it.

Thanks again for the wonderful book.

Pete Feeney, not a member but a fan

So nice to hear from you! Thank you for the update. Please don't worry about the delay with the bell. Whenever it is completed will be fine. Will it be shipped directly to us or go through you? If it comes to you first, could Michael possibly sign it?

Very sad to learn that Diane Disney passed away recently and that Michael lost his brother tragically the year before. Hope you and Michael are doing well and enjoying retirement. Miss seeing you at the train shows.

Randal Schultz, Irvine, CA

Saw you on TV this morning and it was terrific that you had a great section on 'The Morning Scramble'. Thanks for the plug about the club. Is there any chance I can get a copy of your book? Please let me know the price. I was first at Disneyland in CA in 1967. It was a great time and the trains were the big draw for me. I was in the Navy at the time.

Daniel M LePage, Prescott, AZ

Please go to www.carolwood.com to see pictures from the

Smoke Tree Ranch Event



Thank you for getting back to me. I wanted to add my city of Orlando, FL to the pin. I had some difficulty getting everything I wanted ordered including a hat and sign. I think everything went through ok.

I joined as a member as well. I am very happy to have joined. I am a Disney Cast Member here at WDW, Hollywood Studios, as a Guest Relations Host and a Park Operations Facilitator. I am very aware of Walt's legacy and contribution to WDW even though he had passed on previous to its opening. Plus, I got very emotional when I saw Walt's overalls hanging from the broom handle bar. I would very much appreciate being placed on the waiting list for a signed copy of the Walt Disney Railroad book. I have a copy of the original book which my nephew gave me. Would it be possible to get that autographed?

Thank you all for preserving one of the most important parts of Walt's life. As a long time model railroader, I appreciate how Walt used his hobby to "blow off some steam" as I did!

Jeff Coleman, Orlando, FL

I was so sorry to hear about Diane Disney Miller. She so understood her father's dreams and kept them alive with her work and dedication to The Walt Disney Family Museum. Also, her work to build the Concert Hall in California (sorry, the official name escapes me) and all her other work that she did in her father's memory. I hope that it rubbed off on one of her children so that both of their dreams will live on. She was a wonderful woman.

Ed Hartnett, Weymouth, MA



Magic Castle event chairperson, **Cathy Perrone** poses with **Fred Lack III** at a sponsored event at the Castle

Send your letters to: Carolwood Pacific Historical Society, 1653 Gettysvue Way, Prescott, AZ 86301 or email us at sharon@carolwood.com



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VIEW FROM THE CUPOLA

by Michael Broggie

It's hard to believe that, as of July 19th, it's been 15 years since the grand opening of Walt Disney's Carolwood Barn Museum located in Griffith Park, Los Angeles.

Most members of the Carolwood Pacific Historical Society are well versed in the story of how the late Diane Disney Miller called upon the Society to help her save her dad's barn workshop. The telephone call to Sharon and me requested urgent assistance since the property her late mother owned at 355 North Carolwood Drive in the Holmby Hills area of west Los Angeles was in escrow. Diane was sure the barn would be reduced to kindling by the new owner.

The Society quickly located a general contractor named Bill Abel, who was a specialist in restoration construction. Bill went to the Carolwood estate and determined that the building couldn't be moved as a structure and instead would have to be dismantled board-by-board. His crew spent a week numbering each board and window. The interior walls were constructed of hardwood tongue-and-groove material usually found on floors. The exterior was redwood board and batten, and the roof was cedar shake, which would have to be replaced with fireproof cement shakes due to the fire code in Griffith Park.

Because of the looming deadline to remove the 832 square foot barn from its original location before the close of escrow, it was decided to store the materials in a large temporary storage container. While being deconstructed, it was discovered that Disney Architect John Cowles, Jr. had designed several visual tricks into the structure at Walt's request. To make the barn appear old, like the one at Walt's boyhood farm in Marcelline, Missouri, John designed the frame over the barn's double doors to appear to sag four inches. The ridge of the roof received a similar treatment, requiring that truces be cut to shorter and shorter lengths from each end toward the center. The construction crew was managed by Ray Fox, head of the studio's set building department, who was quite familiar with creating vintage structures for Disney films.

With the support of Councilman Tom LaBonge, then senior advisor to LA Mayor Richard Roirdan, and City Parks Commissioner Steve Soboroff, an agreement was drafted to loan the barn structure to the City of Angels by the Disney family.

Because Walt was a charter member of the Los Angeles Live Steamers model railroad club, it was decided by the parties that the 10-acre site east of Travel Town on Zoo Drive would be an ideal location for the barn. For over four decades, the club had operated under an area use permit granted by the city. After reviewing the agreement, the club's board of directors voted to approve the use of the east meadow for the barn, which would be operated by the Carolwood Society for the pleasure of the visiting public. (This responsibility is now handled by the Carolwood Foundation, which was formed later.)

With the agreement in place, site work began. A new foundation was poured. Utilities were installed and a landscaping plan was initiated by Disney Legend Morgan "Bill" Evans, who designed the original landscaping for the Carolwood estate, and later was hired by Walt to become the prime landscaping architect for every Disney theme park from Disneyland to the park near Paris. An assistant to Bill, Imagineer Michele Sullivan was assigned to create blueprints for the plants and trees. While visiting the construction site, she noticed a commode among the barn's materials. Inquiring about it, she was informed that a small enclosure inside the barn had served as a restroom but would become a storage closet. She asked if she could have the commode to use as a planter in her home garden, which is where it now resides with lovely flowers growing in the bowl. Very likely one of the most unique "Disney collectibles."

A new frame was constructed to add to the barn's structural integrity. After all, the area is subjected to occasional earthquakes.

To install the landscaping, America's largest landscaping and maintenance firm, ValleyCrest, which is headquartered in Woodland Hills, California, volunteered to help. They sent large equipment to handle what was originally going to be done by a group of Carolwood members with shovels and picks.

Soon, the building was completed, the grounds planted with trees, plants and sod, and pathways laid with decomposed granite.



A grand opening celebration was set for July 19, 1999. It was attended by three generations of Walt's family including Diane, who told the large crowd that the barn was special because her dad built things there, including the benches. It was his "happy place."

Later, the Disney family paid to have the pathways laid with concrete and lined with Victorian light posts. A quarter-scale electric crossing gate was installed at the entrance to the area, which is shared with the LA Live Steamer's steam-powered demonstration plant.

Eventually, the Carolwood Foundation acquired Walt's vintage combine coach that had run at Disneyland when it opened in 1955. It was in the private collection of the late Bill Norred, one of the Society's charter members of its Board of Governors. His family agreed to sell the coach to the Foundation, which contracted with Society Member Tim Legally to totally restore it. It's now part of the collection at the barn that also includes a quaint gift shop and a quarter-scale depot from the home of Disney Legend Ollie Johnston.

Unlike many Disney clubs, the Carolwood Pacific Historical Society has a place. And, what a place it is, complete with fascinating displays of rare and special collectibles from Ward Kimball, Ollie Johnston, Roger Broggie, Morrie Houser, Irving Ludwig, and, of course, Walt.

Thanks to the Disney family, and many Society volunteers serving through the Carolwood Foundation, anyone can visit Walt's Barn Museum which is open every third Sunday throughout the year (weather and earthquakes permitting). It's the best deal in LA: admission and parking are free!



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**We're on
the WEB**
carolwood.com

*"We don't have
boring meetings, we
just do fun stuff!"*

*First Class Mail Address
Correction Requested*

EVENTS OF THE PAST



**SOCIETY MEMBERS T.C. PHILLIPS, JENNY & LARRY
BOONE JOIN OFFICIAL TRACK BUGLER JAY COHEN
FOR A CPHS DAY AT THE RACES IN THE
CLUBHOUSE AT SANTA ANITA PARK ON
APRIL 1, 2000.**

*Picture by
Larry Boone*

Carolwood Event Calendar

Apr 20 - Walt Disney's Barn open to the public 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

May 18 - Walt Disney's Barn open to the public 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Jun. 15 - Walt Disney's Barn open to the public 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Jul 19 - 15th Anniversary of Walt's Barn at Griffith Park

Jul 20 - Walt Disney's Barn open to the public 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Aug 17 - Walt Disney's Barn open to the public 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sep 21 - Walt Disney's Barn open to the public 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Oct 19 - Walt Disney's Barn open to the public 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Nov 16 - Walt Disney's Barn open to the public 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Dec 21 - Walt Disney's Barn open to the public 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Please check the Carolwood website (www.carolwood.com)
during the year for upcoming events.

The Carolwood Foundation is pleased to announce that the
Dick Van Dyke signing event that was postponed has been
rescheduled for **Sunday, May 11**

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!