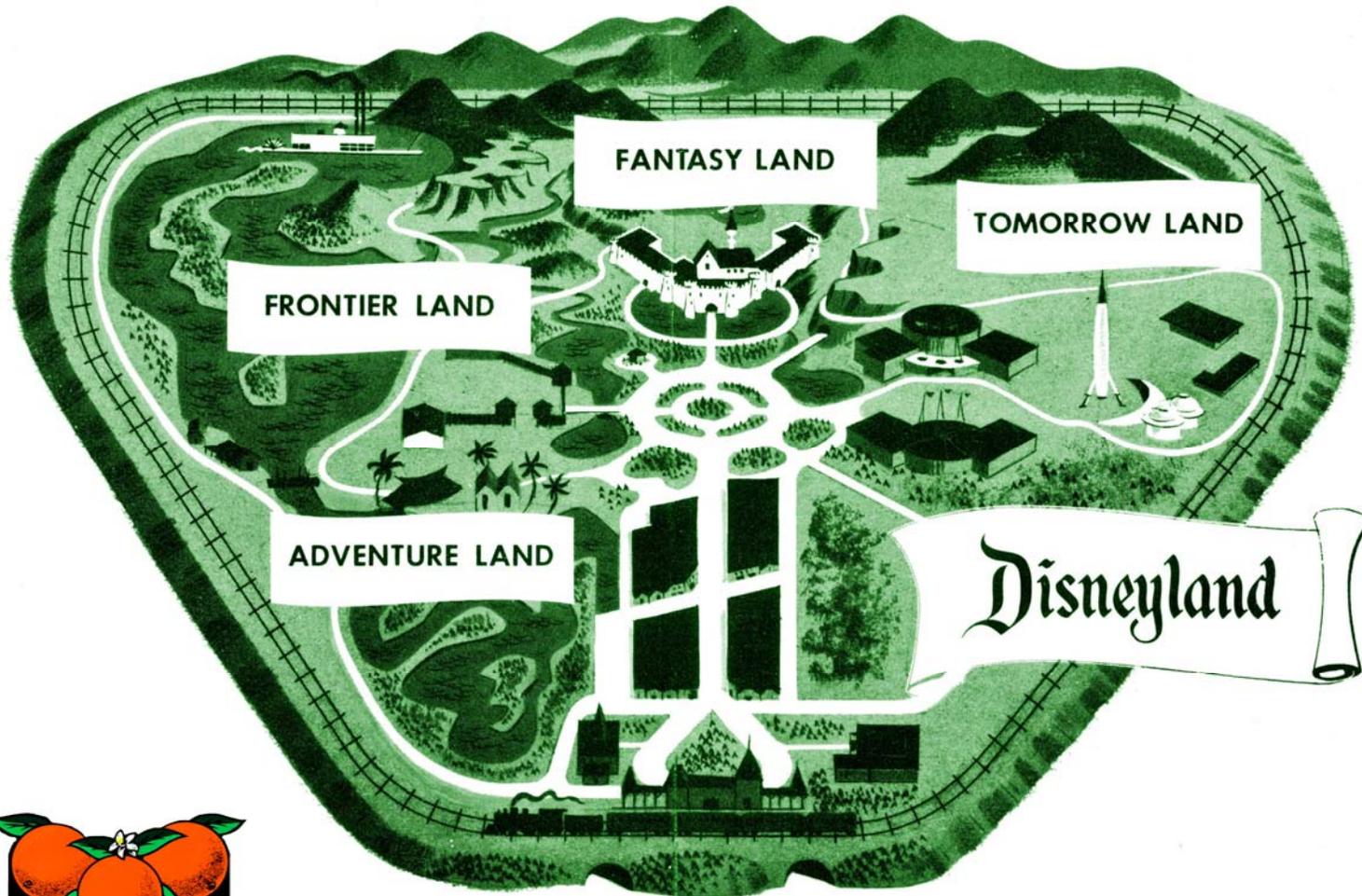
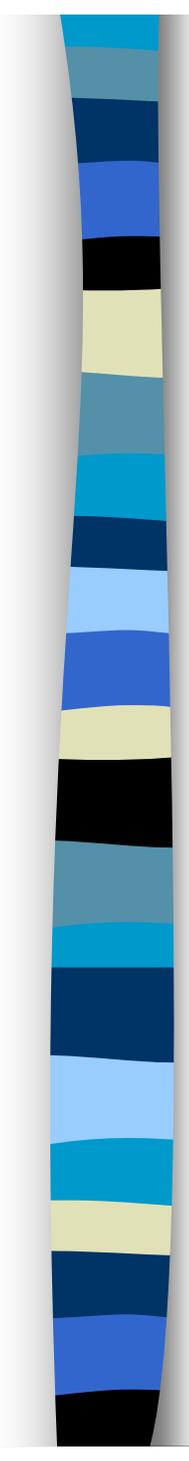


A GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY



The Orange County Archives



**Presented by Archivist Phil Brigandi
to the Orange County Board of Supervisors
May 24, 2005
The Orange County Archives**

- On May 1, 1954, Walt Disney first announced that Disneyland was coming to Anaheim.
- You may know the story . . . since the 1930s, Walt had been thinking about creating a different type of amusement park – a better sort of amusement park. He originally considered building it right out back at the Disney Studios in Burbank.
- In 1953, Disney finally decided to get serious. He hired the Stanford Research Institute to study possible sites around Southern California. They looked at 70 different sites, considering things like freeway access, what else was happening in the area, and – of course – what the land would cost.

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- The Disney folks looked at parcels all around, including a spot over by the County Fairgrounds, and even one up in Carbon Canyon. They finally narrowed the list down to four possible sites. One was in La Mirada, and the other three were right here in Orange County.
 - One was over on the west side of Buena Park, near the county line. Another was at the Willowick Golf Course in Santa Ana. And the third was what they called the “Ball Road” site – 160 acres south of Anaheim.
 - Well, as we now know, they picked Anaheim. There were 17 parcels in all, owned by 17 different owners. And Disney paid about \$5,300 an acre.
 - Here’s the very first deed they filed with the County Recorder in 1954. What’s interesting is that this deed was not even signed until two days *after* the public announcement that Disneyland was coming to Anaheim—and it wasn’t recorded with the county until more than five weeks later.

SPACE ABOVE THIS LINE FOR RECORDER'S USE

STAMPS IN THIS SPACE

GRANT DEED 43042

Form 1993 Affix R. S. 31.35 Order No. 273882-JL

FOR A VALUABLE CONSIDERATION, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged,
ELBERT L. SMITH and LIDA L. SMITH, husband and wife,
do hereby
GRANT to DISNEYLAND, INC., a corporation,

the real property in the RANCHO SAN JUAN CAJON DE SANTA ANA, County of Orange,
State of California, described as:

That portion of the Southwest quarter of the Northeast quarter of
Section 22, Township 4 South, Range 10 West, S.B.B.C.M., described as follows:

Beginning at the Southwest corner of land described in Torrens Title
Certificate No. 47 on file in the office of Registrar of Titles of Orange
County, California, said point being on the North and South quarter section
line of said Section 22 and distant North 0° 16' 25" West 42.93 feet from the
intersection of said line with the center line of Cerritos Avenue, as described
in Deed to the County of Orange, recorded July 15, 1926 in Book 662, page 272
of Deeds; thence North 0° 16' 25" West along said North and South quarter
section line a distance of 410.73 feet; thence North 89° 57' 00" East 660.00
feet to the East line of land described in said Torrens Title Certificate
No. 47; thence South 0° 16' 25" East 411.03 feet to the Southeast corner of
land described in said Certificate No. 47; thence South 89° 58' 35" West 660.00
feet to the point of beginning.

Subject to taxes for the fiscal year 1954-55, not yet payable.

Subject also to covenants, conditions, reservations, restrictions and
rights of way of record.

Dated: May 3, 1954

Elbert L. Smith
Lida L. Smith

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF ORANGE

On June 2, 1954
before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for
said County and State, personally appeared
Elbert L. Smith and
Lida L. Smith

known to me to be the person(s) whose name(s) are
subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged
that they executed the same
WITNESS my hand and official seal

Seal *John L. [Signature]*
Notary Public in and for said County and State

When Recorded Mail to
Disneyland, Inc.,
2400 West Alameda Avenue
Burbank, California

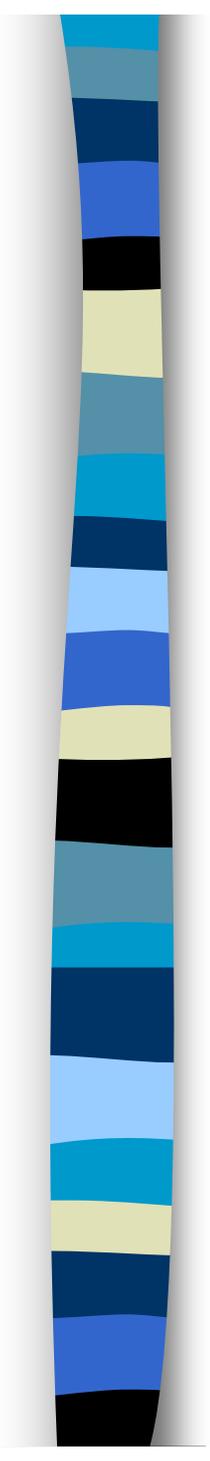
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RECORDED AT REQUEST OF

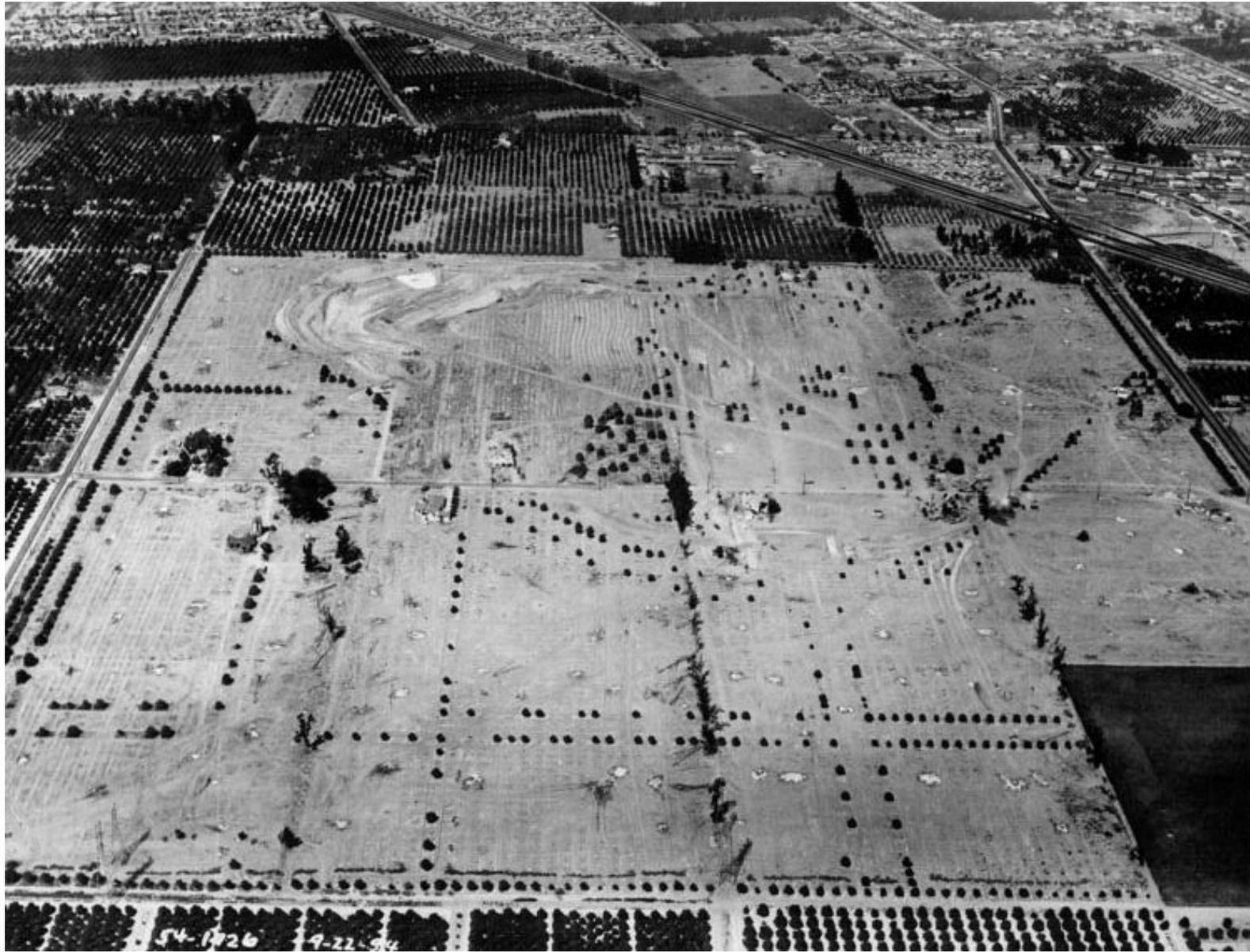
JUN 10 1954 9:00 A.M.
BOOK 2744 PAGE 322
OFFICIAL RECORDS
Orange County California

John W. [Signature]
County Recorder

The first deed for the purchase of Disneyland, dated May 3, 1954, two days after the first public announcement that Disneyland was coming to Anaheim.

The original 160 acres was purchased from 17 different owners at roughly \$5,300 an acre.

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- The next slide shows the site after they began clearing it in 1954. The area had mostly been planted to citrus.
 -
 - The northern part of it was already annexed to Anaheim, but the southern end was still county territory. So construction of Disneyland took cooperation between the City of Anaheim and the County of Orange.



Looking north across the site of Disneyland, shortly after the orange trees had been cleared, September, 1954.

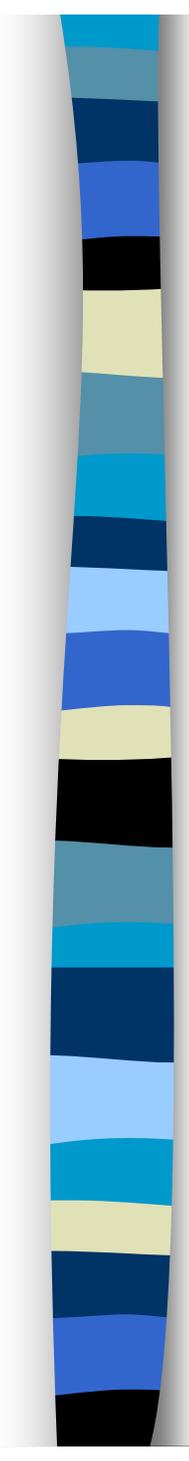
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- Both the City of Anaheim and the Board of Supervisors had to approve the original construction permits for Disneyland – there were quite a few variances involved.
 - One of the other big contributions the county made was improving the roads around Disneyland. Harbor and Katella were just little two-lane country roads in 1954 – there wasn't even a four-way stop at Harbor and Katella until 1955!
 - It took nearly a year, and 17 million dollars to build Disneyland.
 - Here's Walt meeting with Willis Warner, the chairman of the Board of Supervisors, and some of the other local civic leaders.

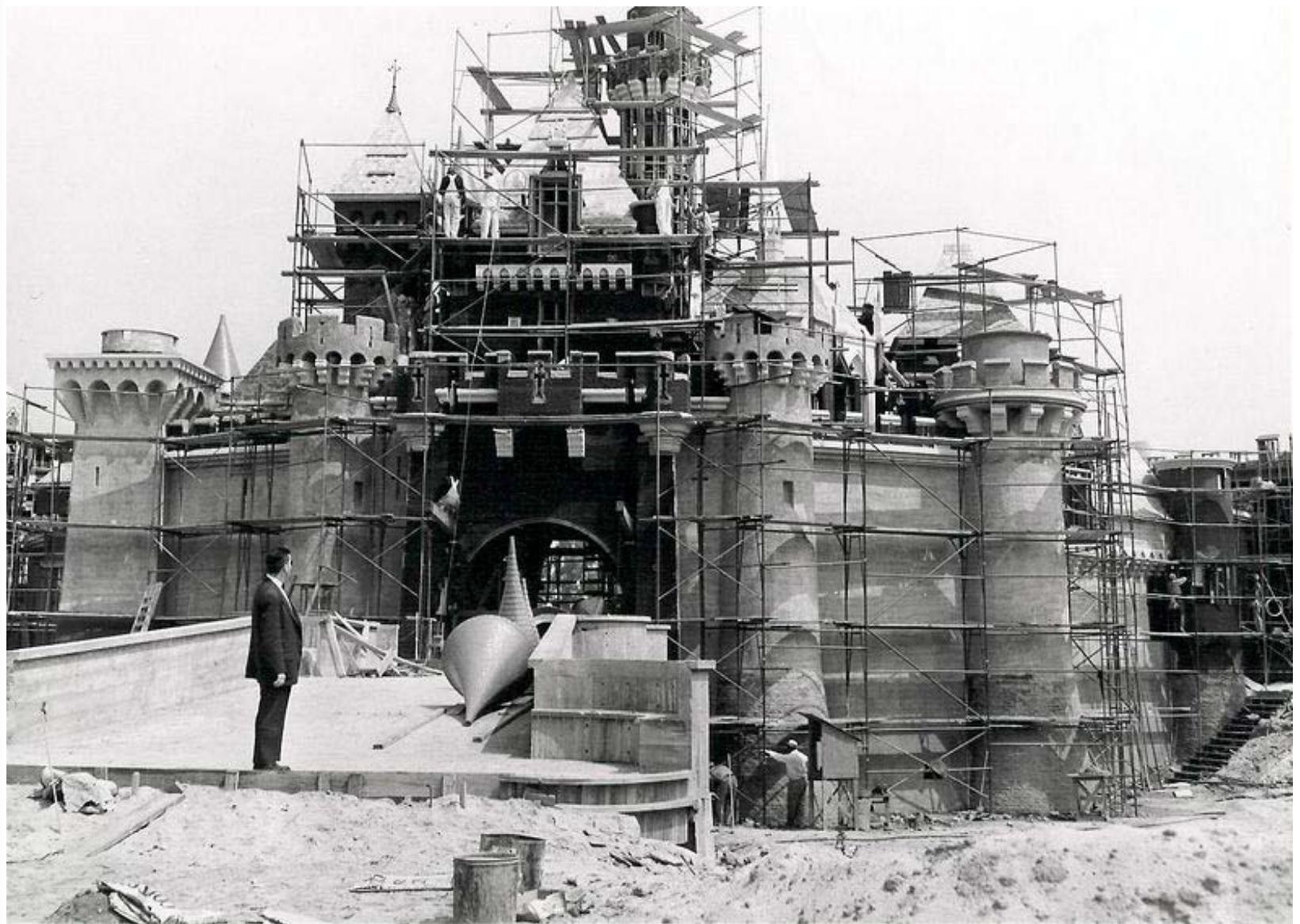


Walt Disney meets with Willis Warner (left), the Chairman of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, and other civic leaders to discuss his plans for Disneyland.



In 1954, Harbor Blvd. and Katella Ave. were both two-lane country roads, without even a four-way stop where they crossed. The county had to improve both roads to provide better access to Disneyland.

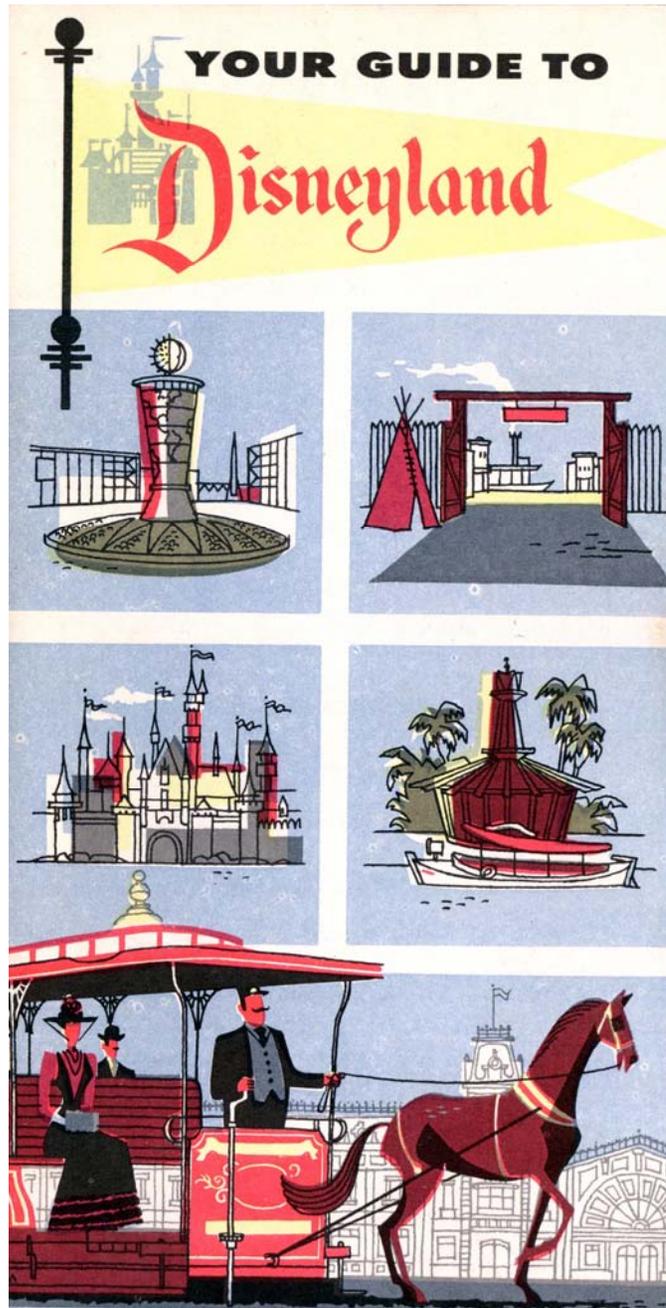
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- You see two different dates for the opening of Disneyland. July 17, 1955, was press day – open by invitation only. Of course there were still 5,000 reporters, and 25,000 guests – and a nationwide TV hook up that included guest hosts like Ronald Reagan.
 - July 18, 1955 was when the park opened up for the rest of us, and another 30,000 people showed up.
 - Once again, Walt Disney had a hit on his hands.
 - In the first six weeks, one million people visited the park. 50 years later, more than half a billion people have been to Disneyland.
 - Business in Anaheim jumped 22% that first summer, and Disney and his concessionaires created nearly 2,000 new jobs. Today, Disney is the largest single employer in the county, with 21,000 people on the payroll.



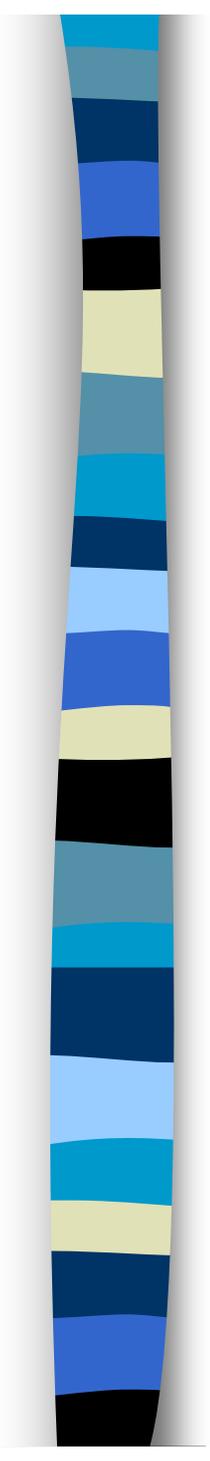
Construction underway on Sleeping Beauty's castle, 1955.

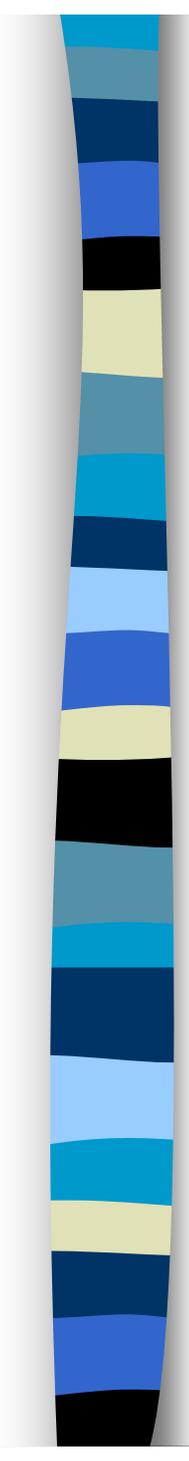


The press preview day for Disneyland on July 17, 1955 featured a nationwide TV broadcast featuring celebrity hosts – including Ronald Reagan.



Disneyland tour guide, 1955.

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- Then there are the tourist dollars. Disneyland estimates they bring about \$3.6 billion dollars into Southern California's economy each year, with about 45% of that going to Orange County. They also pay almost \$30 million dollars in property taxes each year.
 - There's no denying the impact Disneyland has had on Orange County. On our economy, our visibility, and our identity.
 - But there's something more . . .

- 
- Disneyland is a different place if you grew up here.
 - You use it as a landmark to explain to people where you're from. Or how you know it's 9:30 at night when you hear the fireworks – or better yet, see them. And you remember the people who worked there at all of those summer jobs.
 - When you grew up with Disneyland, you know all the little secrets – places you can peak around back, holes you can slip through on Tom Sawyer's Island, and of course what used to be where.
 - From the earliest days of Disneyland, many folks remember the old rides that are gone now, like the Rocket to the Moon (even before it was Mission to Mars), the Monsanto Ride (we never called it Adventure Through Inner Space), Bear Country Jamboree, and of course, the Carousel of Progress.



The Carousel of Progress, which operated from 1967 to 1973, is one of many Disneyland attractions that are now gone. Today the building houses Innoventions.



Flying over Disneyland on the Skyway in 1959, the year the Matterhorn opened.



On the Jungle Cruise, 1959.

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- Seriously, those of us who've grown up with Disneyland feel a little more attached to the park. We've seen it change and grow – and we've seen the area around it change and grow as well.
 - And through it all, the County of Orange has been there – playing a vital role in making Disneyland a success.
 - Disneyland has been a part of Orange County for 50 years now. We've grown up together – and who knows what changes the next 50 years will bring.



Orange County Clerk-Recorder Dept.
Tom Daly, Clerk-Recorder

www.ocarchives.com