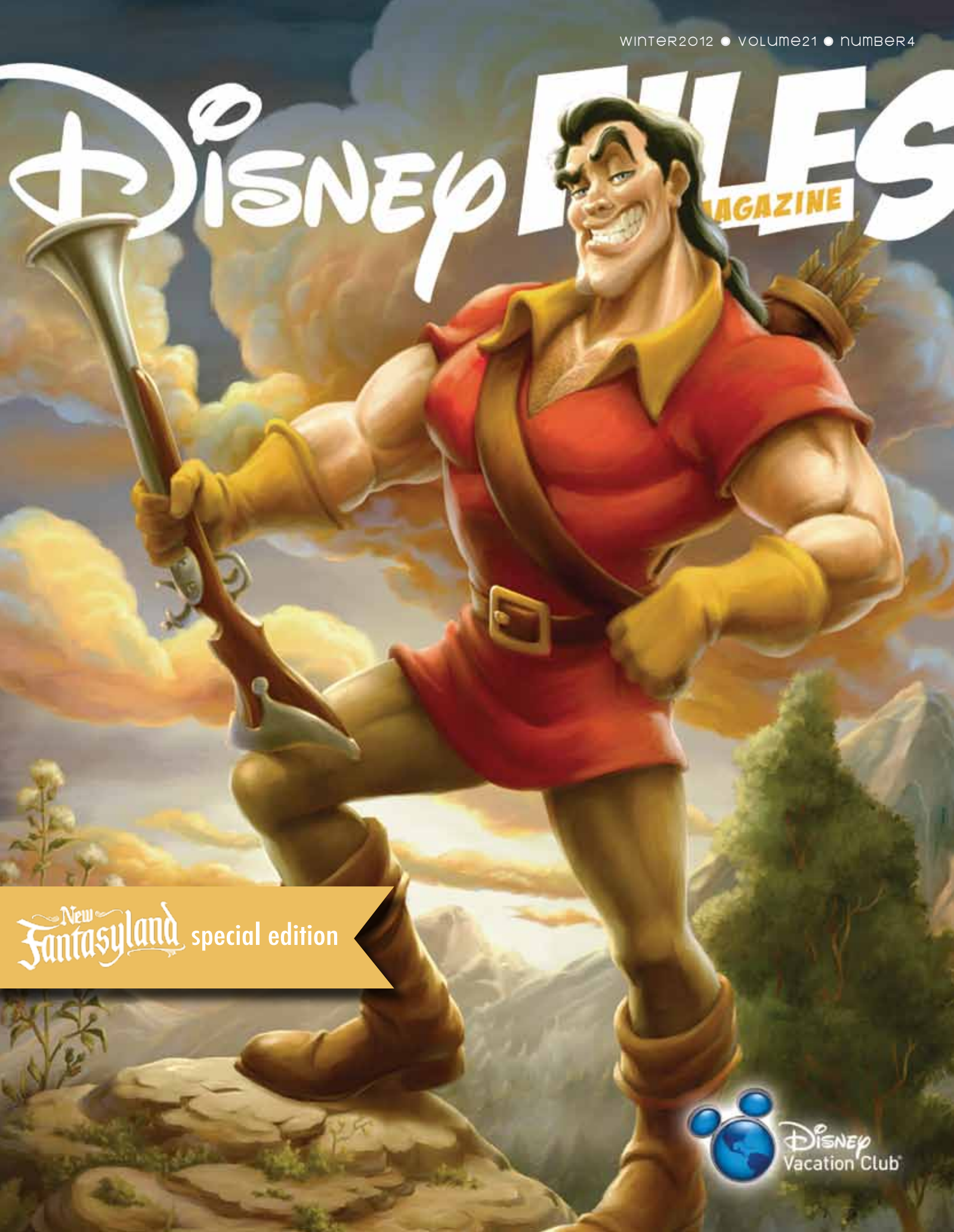


Disney FILES

MAGAZINE



New Fantasyland special edition



Disney FILES MAGAZINE

I write my column today with a bit more kick in my keystroke, as one of my longest-held Disney dreams has finally come true!

For more than 20 years, the "tale as old as time" has had me dreaming of a "bigger" life. Closing my eyes and forgetting the frail frame that gives even my most structured shirt the appearance of still being on the hanger, I've at least *imagined* being burly and brawny. In my dreams, I have biceps to spare. Not a bit of me scraggly or scrawny. And every last inch of me covered with hair!

Of course, I know I can't actually *be* Gaston. After all, no one's slick as Gaston, no one's quick as Gaston and no one's neck's as incredibly thick as Gaston's. But as I developed this edition of your magazine, something amazing happened here at the place where dreams come true.

I, a guy whose physical appearance better resembles that of Jack Skellington than Jack Sparrow, had the extraordinary opportunity to live like Gaston (or at least belly up to the bar like Gaston). Gaston's Tavern (scheduled to have opened to Guests by the time you read this) is more than just a place to relax and refresh in the heart of Florida's New Fantasyland. It's a magical monument to masculinity. Rugged finishes. Foaming beverages. And yes, plenty of antlers in its decorating.

With a new mug in my hand and new hair on my face (for which I raise my manly mug to those who recently updated our Cast-appearance guidelines), I felt as if I could eat four dozen eggs every morning to help me get large (or five dozen, should I ever wish to be roughly the size of a barge).

Now lest you think I'm alone in my delusion, it's worth noting that this kind of dreaming is becoming something of an epidemic around here. Families are dining like beasts in an enchanted ballroom, venturing under the sea with a familiar little mermaid and spending quality time with a girl who thinks for once it might be grand...to have someone understand...she wants so much more than they've got planned.

You'll read all about the new Fantasyland additions in this edition of *Disney Files Magazine*, which also includes a bunch of other stuff I'm just too distracted to remember. (See, even my brain is becoming more like Gaston's.)



Illustration of Ryan by Keelan Parham

Welcome home,

Ryan March
Disney Files Editor

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Disney Vacation Club
P.O. Box 10350
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When work feels like play

By Claire Bilby, Senior Vice President and General Manager, Disney Vacation Club



There's an old adage that says, "when you do what you love, you'll never work a day." That saying carries a lot of weight here at Disney, where some of the greatest Member and Guest experiences happen when Cast Members have fun with their work.

Take, for example, a wonderful Member moment that recently became an Internet sensation. It was 2008 when an adorable 5-year-old girl named Alli – granddaughter of Barbara Bunchuk of Florida, Member since 2003 – entered the Magic Kingdom Park in her favorite Disney Princess dress and was approached by Security Host Freddie Wieczorek.

"Excuse me, Princess," Freddie said to Alli. "Can I have your autograph?"

After taking a few moments to accept her surprising role as the star in this scenario, young Alli smiled and signed her name, exhibiting the kind of grace one typically sees in animated fairytales or on Buckingham balconies.

"She was so taken by that moment," Barbara said when contacted recently by *Disney Files Magazine*. "All day, she just kept saying, 'I can't believe he thought I was a real princess!'"

Earlier this year, proud grandmother Barbara posted this treasured memory along with other Disney Vacation Club photos to the popular file-sharing site Pinterest, and the story caught fire. From blogs and fan sites to NBCNews.com to *The Huffington Post* and seemingly everywhere in between, this simple – but enormously impactful – moment has grabbed headlines and turned Princess Alli into online royalty.

Moments like these happen every day, and they reinforce what Cast Members love most about their jobs. Here at Disney Vacation Club, the opportunity to connect



Princess Alli meets her fan.

Member families to the places and people they love is what makes our work so often feel like play.

That line between work and play became particularly blurry for me this past summer, when I joined Member families for the memorable conclusion of a special Adventures by Disney guided vacation through Jackson Hole, Yellowstone National Park and Brooks Lake Lodge.

I pulled on my boots, grabbed a cowboy hat and jumped into the action, even trying my hand at fly fishing and horseback riding. But the most memorable part of the trip was getting to know more Member families. The wide open spaces and rugged landscapes of Wyoming are truly breathtaking, but nothing compares with the laughs and "ah-ha moments" we shared as a group.

These and other memories I make whenever I interact with Members propel me through even the longest workdays back at the office, where I sadly don't wear cowboy boots and where the only fishing I do is for ideas. When we keep Members in mind, our purpose is clear, and there's an extra spring in our collective step.

All of us at Disney Vacation Club thank you for supplying us with endless sources of inspiration. Without you, our work would feel a lot more like work.



Claire toasts Members in Wyoming.

one on one



with walt disney imagineer
chris beatty

As this edition of *Disney Files Magazine* hits the press, Members at the Walt Disney World Resort are stepping beyond the castle wall and into an Enchanted Forest. (Soft openings and sneak previews preceded the Dec. 6 Grand Opening.) It's there, deep in the woods, that families are enjoying the next wave of additions to a "New Fantasyland," including Enchanted Tales with Belle, Gaston's Tavern, the Be Our Guest Restaurant and the Under the Sea ~ Journey of The Little Mermaid attraction. *Disney Files Magazine* Editor Ryan March sat down with Walt Disney Imagineer Chris Beatty to get an insider's perspective about the envelope-pushing Magic Kingdom expansion project, which ranks as the largest in the Park's storied history.

Ryan: Let's start at the beginning, when your team first sat down to talk about expanding one of the most visited areas of the world's most visited Theme Park. What was the discussion?

Chris: What we were essentially asked to do is double the size of Fantasyland – a challenge that was both daunting and thrilling. As we do with all projects, we began asking ourselves what stories we wanted to tell and where we wanted to take our Guests. We quickly fell in love with the idea of a forest. From *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* and *Sleeping Beauty* to *Beauty and the Beast* and *Tangled*, so many great Disney films involve a princess venturing out into the woods. That's where the real adventure happens before the stories get wrapped up at the castle ... We just loved that story thread, and that proved to be our most critical creative decision. As much as we love the regal, Renaissance environment of the Fantasyland we know today, the creation of a forest gave us a new palette to work with and a new world to explore beyond the castle wall.

Ryan: That decision also literally changes the Magic Kingdom landscape.

Chris: Absolutely. Guest comfort was an equally important consideration. Let's face it. Florida – particularly in the summer – is hot. A forest is a cool place with lots of trees and shade and water. It's a very organic environment without a lot of hard surfaces. So that excited us too and became another key driver for us. Here's an opportunity to not only immerse Guests in great stories, but to do so in a cooler, more calming place that we hope parents will enjoy as much as the kids.

Ryan: Speaking of parents enjoying the place as much as the kids, it's interesting to note that the source material for this next wave of openings – *The Little Mermaid* and *Beauty and the Beast* – are for many parents today, the iconic films of their childhood. So Mom and Dad know these worlds every bit as much as their kids do. With that in mind, how much time did your team spend studying the films to make sure you got it right?

Chris: A LOT! Early in our "blue-sky" brainstorming phase, we scheduled a series of "movie lunches." We'd gather with our lunches in a conference room and study one of the films we were bringing to life through the project. We may watch the same film every day for a week, but we'd watch it from a different perspective, focusing on different nuances. During one viewing, we'd study color and pull paint chips to try to match the mood of a particular scene. On another, we'd focus just on the music, discussing which pieces would play well in a Park environment; or the development of a character's personality, which would spur conversations about representing those personalities through architecture.

We also enjoyed the great advantage of being able to visit our Animation Research Library in California, where we could pull the films' original background plates and see in great detail what the artists were really trying to capture – from the quality of the light to the color of the trees. We even spent time with some of the films' original animators, who offered their very personal perspectives on these stories and characters.

All of that research was invaluable as we worked to turn those very familiar *film* worlds into immediately recognizable *physical* worlds. Disney is known for layering in the detail, and that begins with research. With so many layers of visual storytelling in the forest, our goal

has been to blow away not only casual fans of the films, but also the die-hard fans who know those films forward and backward, and who notice even the most subtle details. That challenge is really exciting for an Imagineer.

Ryan: Of course, the *most* exciting moment comes next, when Guests finally get to experience what you've created. Many of your colleagues have described attraction openings as being like Christmas for them. I'm guessing this is going to be a very happy holiday season for you.

Chris: That moment is kind of tear-jerking. To finally see Guests experience something you've helped bring to life is absolutely like Christmas. It's the ultimate payoff for all the hard work. For me on this project, it's been a four-year labor of love. The Guest experience is our singular focus throughout the design process. We aren't just trying to create worlds; we're trying to create feelings and reactions. So the emotion we feel the first time we see Guests exit a new attraction and react to the experience is really hard to describe.

And it's not just an Imagineering emotion. Imagineers usually get branded as the storytellers for Disney Parks and Resorts, but really, everyone in this company is a storyteller. One of the greatest things about being an Imagineer is the opportunity to lead brainstorm sessions with our partners in Food and Beverage, Costuming, Entertainment, Merchandise, Horticulture and other areas that share this goal of delivering truly immersive Guest experiences. We get to work with some incredibly talented people throughout the company. Seeing Guests enjoy that work is – for all of us – the pinnacle.

Scan this black-and-white box with your smart phone's QR code scanner for a video sneak peek into Maurice's Cottage with Chris and his fellow Imagineers. If you don't have a smart phone, visit www.youtube.com/disneyparks and search for "Maurice" within the "search channel" box.





New Fantasyland

An Imagineer's guide to the details

Walt Disney World Resort: The "New Fantasyland" at the Magic Kingdom Park is something of a creative onion, with layer upon layer of detail just waiting to be unpeeled (hopefully with fewer tears).

"Over the years, we just continue to get better and better at creating immersive environments, which raises the bar for each new project," Walt Disney Imagineer Chris Beatty told *Disney Files Magazine*. "The team behind this project has an amazing eye for detail, and you can see it everywhere in New Fantasyland."

Chris lent *Disney Files Magazine* his own keen eye for detail (figuratively) to help Members peel back those layers and maintain their status as the most informed Guests in the Park. Let's take a look.



Casey Jr. Splash 'n' Soak Station

"What I love most about the Casey Jr. Splash 'n' Soak Station isn't something you physically see, but rather a great memory I have from the research that went into the project," Chris said as we began our tour. "We took a trip up to a circus museum in Baraboo, Wis., which has an amazing collection of old circus wagons. It was so much fun to be able to climb over, underneath and inside those incredible old wagons. We took thousands of photos and made countless sketches that influenced the colors, textures and details of our water-play area. That research trip was one of my favorite days on the entire project."



In the details: The "71" on this circus wagon is a nod to 1971, the Theme Park's opening year.

Dumbo the Flying Elephant

"My favorite details at the expanded Dumbo the Flying Elephant attraction have to be the sculptures of the storks carrying the little baby Dumbos atop the attraction. If you have a zoom lens on your camera, zoom in on little Dumbo's toenails ... Our artists really did a great job, not only creating those details, but also capturing that wonderful moment in the film when the stork delivers baby Dumbo. It's very cute."



In the details: Look for peanut shells among the details embedded in Storybook Circus walkways.



Under the Sea ~ Journey of The Little Mermaid

"The queue of this attraction is incredible. The sound of the waterfalls as you travel down into the grottos, coupled with the sea-shanty music and the rich vegetation and detailed rockwork and the dramatic lighting – it all comes together to really transport you. We're taking you down into the foundation of Prince Eric's castle. It's truly the first scene in this story."



In the details: Evidence of a shipwreck throughout the attraction's queue helps set the scene.

Maurice's Cottage (home to Enchanted Tales with Belle)

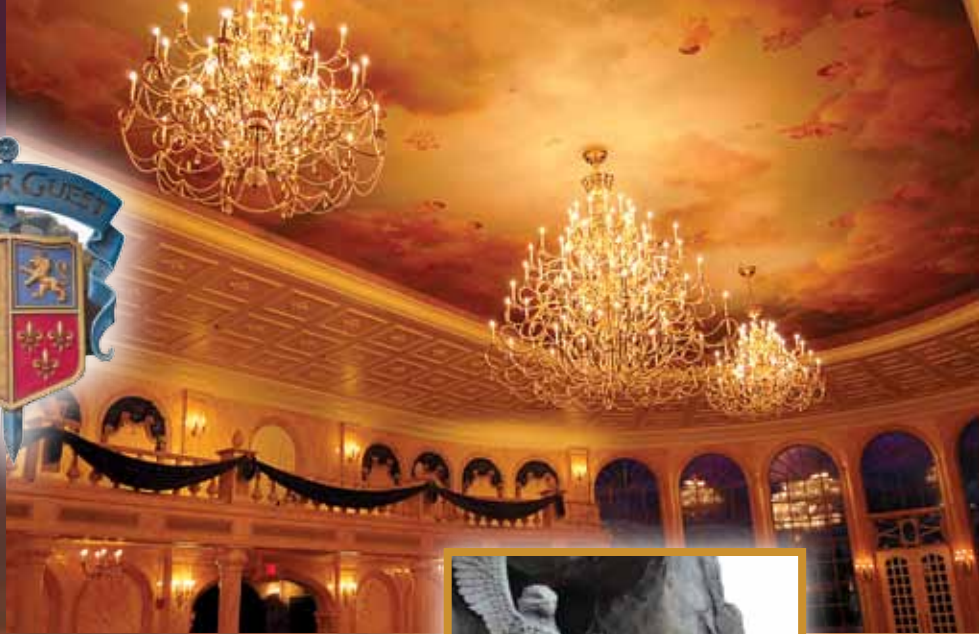
"Walking up to this place is like walking through a storybook. It's that little cottage nestled in that idyllic grove of trees and flowers. There's a great little journey that happens as you approach the cottage, which sets you up perfectly for your incredible meeting with Belle and Lumiere once you get inside. So once again, the approach and the queue are part of the story."



In the details: Light fixtures in and around the cottage appear to be Maurice's handiwork.

Be Our Guest Restaurant

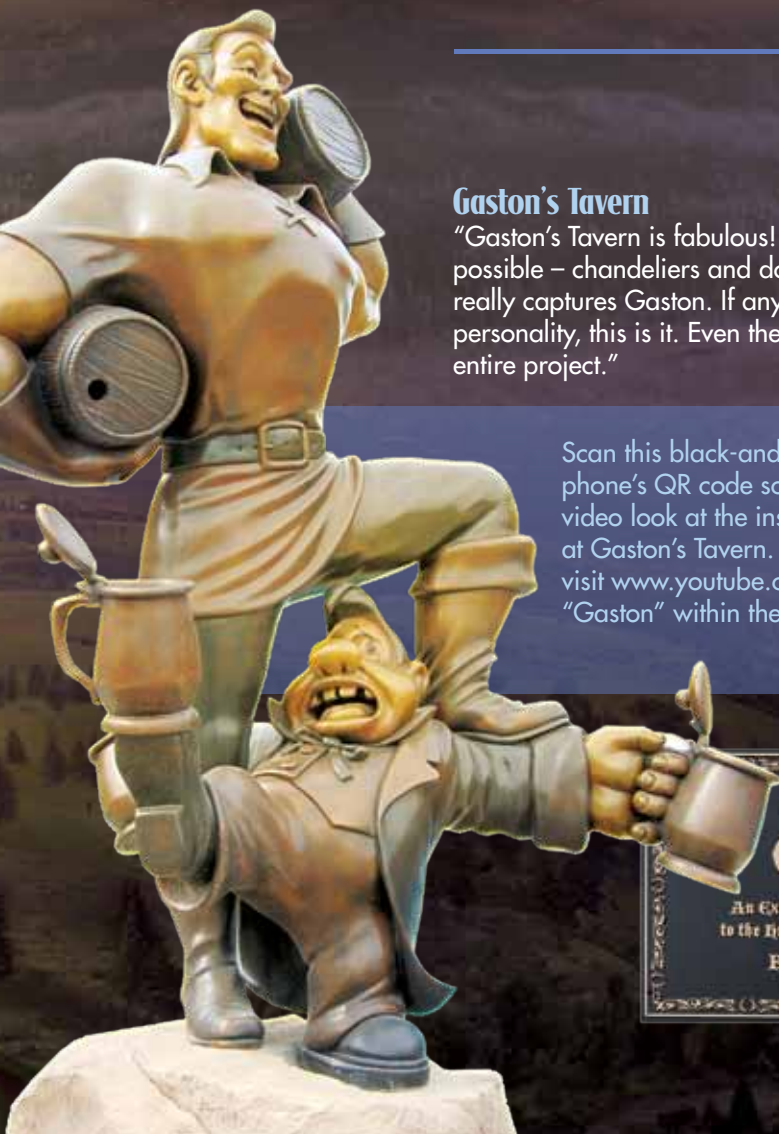
"Where do you even begin with details in the Be Our Guest Restaurant? My favorite part of that restaurant is just the transformation that happens to you as a Guest when you walk through it. It's something that most of our Guests won't be able to pick up on, but as Walt used to say, sometimes it's the details you don't notice that are the most important. As a Guest, you may not know why you're feeling what you're feeling, but you're definitely feeling it. The rockwork as you approach the castle isn't our usual soft rockwork. It appears to have a razor's edge to it – like the claws of a beast. It gives you pause. It's a little foreboding. And as you enter the lobby of the restaurant, there are no soft surfaces there either. It's all stone. Even the color palette is cold. It's deliberately uncomfortable. But then, as you walk down the suits-of-armor hallway, we introduce wood for the first time. Then you turn a corner, and there's a fireplace and carpet and draperies. By the time you get to the ballroom, it's gold and beautiful and awe-inspiring. There's a linear transformation that happens, much like the transformation of the Beast."



Gaston's Tavern

"Gaston's Tavern is fabulous! The team has made things out of antlers I never thought possible – chandeliers and door pulls and window locks, you name it. The place really captures Gaston. If any space we've created is a representation of a character's personality, this is it. Even the marquee is incredible. This may be the sleeper hit of the entire project."

Scan this black-and-white box with your smart phone's QR code scanner for a behind-the-scenes video look at the installation of the bronze fountain at Gaston's Tavern. If you don't have a smart phone, visit www.youtube.com/disneyarks and search for "Gaston" within the "search channel" box.



In the details: Even the border pattern on his fountain's dedication plaque reflects Gaston's commitment to using antlers in all of his decorating.

D23 creates exclusive membership offer

Registration for special, complimentary membership level begins early 2013

Since 2009, many of Disney's biggest fans have gained insider access to Disney news, entertainment, events, collectibles, discounts and more by joining D23 – The Official Disney Fan Club.

Now, Disney Vacation Club is teaming up with D23 to extend those benefits to all Disney Vacation Club Members beginning in early 2013. Announced on the Sept. 16 Disney Vacation Club Member Cruise, this exclusive, complimentary D23 Membership level marks the latest evolution of a storybook relationship between the two Disney communities.

"It's no secret that D23 and Disney Vacation Club Members are perhaps the most passionate Disney fans of all," said Steven Clark, head of D23. "So it seems fitting to offer Disney Vacation Club Members access to an exclusive membership level that brings them into the fun of Disney's official fan club."

Disney Vacation Club Members who register for their complimentary D23 Membership level will receive a D23 membership card that enables them to access special discounts, events, merchandise and more.

Among the upcoming events for which D23 Members may purchase discounted tickets is the 2013 D23 Expo: The Ultimate Disney Fan Event. This massive, star-studded gathering of all things Disney is slated to once again take over the Anaheim Convention Center (located adjacent to the Disneyland Resort, it's the largest center of its kind on the West Coast) Aug. 9-11. While the Expo may be the definitive D23 event, it's not alone on the calendar. D23 produces an ever-expanding collection of member events and experiences, which to date have included insider tours of the Walt Disney Studios lot, Walt Disney Animation Studios and Walt Disney Archives in Burbank, Calif., a trip to Walt Disney's beloved Smoke Tree Ranch retreat in Palm Springs, an unforgettable tour of Walt's boyhood hometown of Marceline, Mo., preview screenings throughout the country of soon-to-be-released Disney films, a touring "Disney Fanniversary Celebration" honoring Disney milestones in key cities across the U.S., and a variety of events at the Disneyland and Walt Disney World Resorts.

To further serve all its members, D23 has plans to expand the treasure trove of Disney news and entertainment features on its already-robust website (www.D23.com). Much of the planned content will explore Disney history – from the early days of Walt Disney himself to the more "modern history" of the 1970s, '80s and '90s. Also planned are online glimpses of things to come, featuring some of Disney's biggest stars and most important luminaries; rarely seen archival film and television clips; and original and expanded features and galleries that'll take fans behind the magic of Disney Parks, movies and even the Walt Disney Archives. While all fans will have an opportunity to preview this content when it launches early in 2013, only registered D23 Members will be able to enjoy it when these sections of the site become "gated" later in the year.

Future editions of *Disney Files Magazine* will share the latest news and offerings from D23 on a re-imagined "Page 23," helping you make the most of this latest enhancement to the magic of Membership.

Watch DVCMember.com in January for details about how to register online for this special, complimentary D23 Membership level.



Men(ehune) at work

New waves of magic rolling into paradise

The picturesque Waikolohe Valley – the central oasis of Aulani, a Disney Resort & Spa, Ko Olina, Hawai‘i – is among several areas of this 21-acre oceanfront paradise now expanding to serve more families than ever.

“Aulani has been exceptionally well received by our Members and Guests, and we are excited to be expanding our offerings,” said Elliot Mills, vice president and general manager of Aulani. “Aulani has one of the most expansive arrays of recreational offerings for families in Hawai‘i. Our Waikolohe Valley pool area, from its winding streams and interactive play features to a private snorkeling lagoon, offers something to delight every member of the family, and we’re thrilled that soon, there will be even more to enjoy.”

Crews (perhaps aided by the island’s crafty little menehune) began work on the project in September, and plans call for the expansion to be completed by mid-2013. While this timeline coincides with the already scheduled build-out of the resort’s final phase, these new additions to those original plans are designed to expand the capacity of the property’s most popular features.

Families’ enthusiastic response to the Waikolohe Valley’s inviting (and sometimes mischievous) waterways, for example, have inspired the creation of additional water features and 18,500 square feet of additional pool-deck space. Among the new water features is a family

pool and kids’ splash zone designed to resemble coral and lava – sea and earth – in the surrounding rockwork.

A highlight of the family pool will be a misty grotto that, after dark, will display a magical starscape of glimmering lights. The kids’ splash zone, meanwhile, will draw inspiration from tidal pools, with rainbow water jets, images of tidal pool creatures and hidden menehune among the surprises awaiting the younger set.

Popularity also has prompted the move of the resort’s nighttime Starlit Hui show, which is shifting to a larger lawn space to meet demand.

Other expansion plans call for the installation of a trellis that will grow the all-weather capacity of the Makahiki – The Bounty of the Islands restaurant by covering its outdoor seating area; the creation of two new quick-service dining locations (an ocean-view, poolside eatery offering breakfast, lunch and dinner items; and a beachside grab-and-go snack location); a new retail space and two additional beach-access points.

Project managers are scheduling work to minimize its impact on the Member and Guest experience, and nearly all of the resort’s most popular features will remain available throughout the expansion process.

Watch *Disney Files Magazine* for updates about the expansion project as new details become available.



Member adventures planned for 2013

Member Services booking special itineraries now

Adventures by Disney: Disney Vacation Club and Adventures by Disney have teamed up once again to create special trips for Disney Vacation Club Members in 2013. Booked through Member Services, these unique itineraries are designed to give Members more opportunities to make memories with their families and connect with other Members. Here's a look at the three Member trips on tap for next summer.

Cowboys and Canyons: This 8-day, 7-night journey through Arizona and Utah departs June 5, 2013. Families will veer off the beaten path at the Grand Canyon, climb aboard an off-road vehicle for an excursion in Monument Valley, raft down the Colorado River and step into the surreal landscape of Arches National Park.

Quest for the West (pictured above): Departing June 17, 2013, this 7-day, 6-night adventure through Jackson Hole, Yellowstone, Grand Teton National Park and the Brooks Lake Lodge will teach Member families to ride, raft, fish and rope like true wranglers against some of the world's most magnificent backdrops.

Cities of Knights and Lights: This 8-day, 7-night adventure through London, the English countryside and Paris departs July 12, 2013, guiding families to such iconic destinations as Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, Stonehenge, the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame Cathedral.

Call Member Services to learn more about these special itineraries or to book your adventure.

Lights...Camera...Magic!

Members among groups touring Tinseltown

Adventures by Disney: Disney Vacation Club Members are among those adding silver-screen glitz to their Golden State vacation, thanks to the Lights...Camera...Magic! tour available through Adventures by Disney.

The daylong guided adventure through some of Southern California's most famous sites departs Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa at the Disneyland Resort at 8:30 a.m. and returns to the hotel at approximately 7 p.m. that same day. Along the way, adventurers visit one of Tinseltown's most iconic theaters, travel along Hollywood's legendary Sunset Strip and Beverly Hills' Rodeo Drive, explore the famed Farmers Market and, perhaps best of all, enjoy the rare opportunity to tour The Walt Disney Studios in Burbank.

Carol Reneski of Michigan, Member since 2009, is among the many Members who have added the tour to their Disneyland vacation.

"There's so much to see, and the tour was a great way

to not just see the sights, but to do things we couldn't have done on our own," Carol told *Disney Files Magazine*. "We definitely got our money's worth ... Visiting the Disney studio was a thrill, particularly for the kids, who I don't think really understood what goes into producing a movie or TV show until we toured one of the soundstages on the lot.* They loved that. Our tour guides were so friendly and knowledgeable, and we got to meet some other really nice families in our group. All in all, it was just a great day."

Call Member Services to book your adventure.



The Reneski family

*Note that soundstage tours may not always be available, based on production schedules.

New 'Territory'

Lounge's new menu celebrates Pacific Northwest

Disney's Wilderness Lodge: Some Disney stories are told with ink and paint. Others are told with smoked cheese and venison sausage.

These and other new menu items at the Territory Lounge – a rustic retreat that's long served as an appetizing "first act" to the adjacent Artist Point restaurant – are quickly turning this pioneering pub into the culinary equivalent of a "headliner." *Disney Files* Magazine trekked like Lewis and Clark to the welcoming lounge, where we sampled the re-imagined menu with Food and Beverage Manager Alvin Burrill and Chef Marco Chaves.

The first items on our tasty tour were the lounge's featured seasonal offering: Asian-style buns served with crispy pork and a chili drizzle. Steamed instead of baked, the soft bread is a tip of the Territory's culinary cap to the vibrant Asian population of the Pacific Northwest.

Next up was the "Northwest Charcuterie and Artisan Cheese Platter with Mustard and Sweet Pickles," the lounge's most popular new offering and a great example of the team's commitment to savory storytelling. Anchored by such cheeses as a Rogue River Blue (smoked over Oregon hazelnut shells) from a famed Southern Oregon creamery, paired with Pacific Northwest venison and buffalo sausages, and served on a plank of Oregon Sitka spruce, the platter reflects a belief that every detail should build on the lounge's story. Even the platter's house-made sweet pickles (created in the resort's kitchen using a recipe borrowed from a chef's grandmother) and cranberry mustard serve a secondary purpose – in this case celebrating a rich history of pickling and preserving homegrown foods in the rugged Northwest.

Rounding out our tour was the beer-cheese fondue, blending an Oregon sharp cheddar with a handcrafted beer from Portland, Ore.-based Widmer Brothers Brewing. Paired with a house-made sourdough, dried fruit and fresh Washington state apples, the fondue is served in cast iron over candlelight.

Among the new items we were too stuffed to sample were the "Togarashi Spiced Tuna Tataki with Wakame Salad and Soy Sauce," the "House-made Northwest Potato Chips with Smokey Blue Cheese, Truffle Aioli and Huckleberry Honey Dips," the "Cognac-glazed Chicken Lollipops with Lemon Spritz and Cilantro," and the "Steamed Edamame with Shaved Sea Salt" (not to mention the mushroom flatbread, fresh doughnuts and other items in the works at the time of our visit).

"Our vision was to bring the Artist Point tradition of culinary excellence to the Territory Lounge," Chef Marco said. "Both Alvin and I came [to Disney's Wilderness Lodge] from Epcot, where food really drives the experience. So for us, this is what it's all about."

Add an expansive list of Pacific Northwest beer and wine at the lounge's full bar, a second flat-screen TV displaying an expanded lineup of networks to help diners follow their favorite team (the thematically appropriate Oregon Ducks*, perhaps?), and you have a place that's no longer an opening act.

*The Oregon Ducks reference reflects the fact that *Disney Files* Magazine Editor Ryan March graduated from the University of Oregon. It's annoying, but we indulge him.



Member Perks the icing on the cake

Premium Perk

Special Annual Pass offer available through Dec. 31, 2012

Walt Disney World Resort: Disney Vacation Club Members have a limited-time opportunity to save \$300 on the purchase of an adult Walt Disney World Premium Annual Pass.

Available through Dec. 31, 2012, this special offer allows Members to purchase the passes for \$399 each plus tax (regularly \$699 each plus tax for non-Florida residents)*. Premium Annual Passholders enjoy 365 days of access to Walt Disney World Theme Parks with no block-out dates, along with park-hopping privileges, complimentary parking at the Theme Parks, and unlimited access to the Disney Water Parks, Disney's Oak Trail Golf Course, the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex and the

DisneyQuest indoor interactive theme park at Downtown Disney West Side.

To take advantage of this special offer, call Member Services or visit a Walt Disney World Guest Relations or Resort Concierge location by Dec. 31, 2012.

*Passes are non-transferable and non-refundable, are only valid during regularly scheduled operating hours and exclude activities/events priced separately. No additional discounts apply. Passes do not include admission to theme park activities/events that are separately priced. Each of the water parks is refurbished annually. These routine maintenance periods are often staggered, enabling our Guests to enjoy at least one water park experience year-round. Water parks are also subject to weather closure. Disney's Oak Trail Golf Course tee times are required and subject to availability. ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex days of operation depend on event schedule.

Shop 'til you drop

(prices)

Walt Disney Parks and Resorts Merchandise: The joy of collecting tangible memories has become even more joyous with an unprecedented perk that has the Disney Vacation Club neighborhood buzzing.

All Disney-owned-and-operated merchandise shops at the Disneyland Resort; Walt Disney World Resort; Disney's Hilton Head Island Resort; Disney's Vero Beach Resort and Aulani, a Disney Resort & Spa, Ko Olina, Hawai'i; now offer Disney Vacation Club Members a 10 percent discount*.

"We're committed to finding new ways to enhance the magic of Membership," said Claire Bilby, Senior Vice President and General Manager of Disney Vacation Club. "Members have told us how greatly they'd value a merchandise discount, and we're thrilled to make that happen. We hope every treasure Members take home conjures up fond memories from their travels."

Remember to present your Disney Vacation Club Member ID card at checkout to receive your discount.

*Discount is not valid on previous purchases or on purchases of ticket media, gift certificates, Disney Gift Cards, Park Admission, Arcades, Disney Dollars, tobacco, alcohol, Outdoor Vending (e.g., in-Park balloon vendors, glow vendors), Add-a-Dollar (Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund), postage stamps, rentals (e.g., strollers, ECV), personalization, Disney's PhotoPass Online, framed Disney Dollars, Artist Sketch Program (original art), one-of-a-kind art (consignment), shipping or taxes. A valid Disney Vacation Club Member ID must be presented at time of purchase to receive discount. May not be combined with any other discount, offer or promotion.



The road to good eats

Disney California Adventure cafés serve up discounts

Disneyland Resort: From the most 'Practical' café on Buena Vista Street to the most popular diner in Carburetor County, two of Disney California Adventure Park's newest eateries are serving up 10 percent Disney Vacation Club Member discounts (excluding alcohol, tax and gratuities).

Let's begin our culinary tour on Buena Vista Street, the nostalgic thoroughfare that now transports Guests to a romanticized Los Angeles as it may have appeared to a young visionary named Walt Disney when he traveled by train to the Golden State to begin his own California adventure. It's here that you'll find Fiddler, Fifer & Practical Café, a charming establishment in which Guests choose from indoor seating surrounded by the music-themed décor and open-air seating with a view of the Carthay Circle fountain as they enjoy breakfast, lunch or dinner.

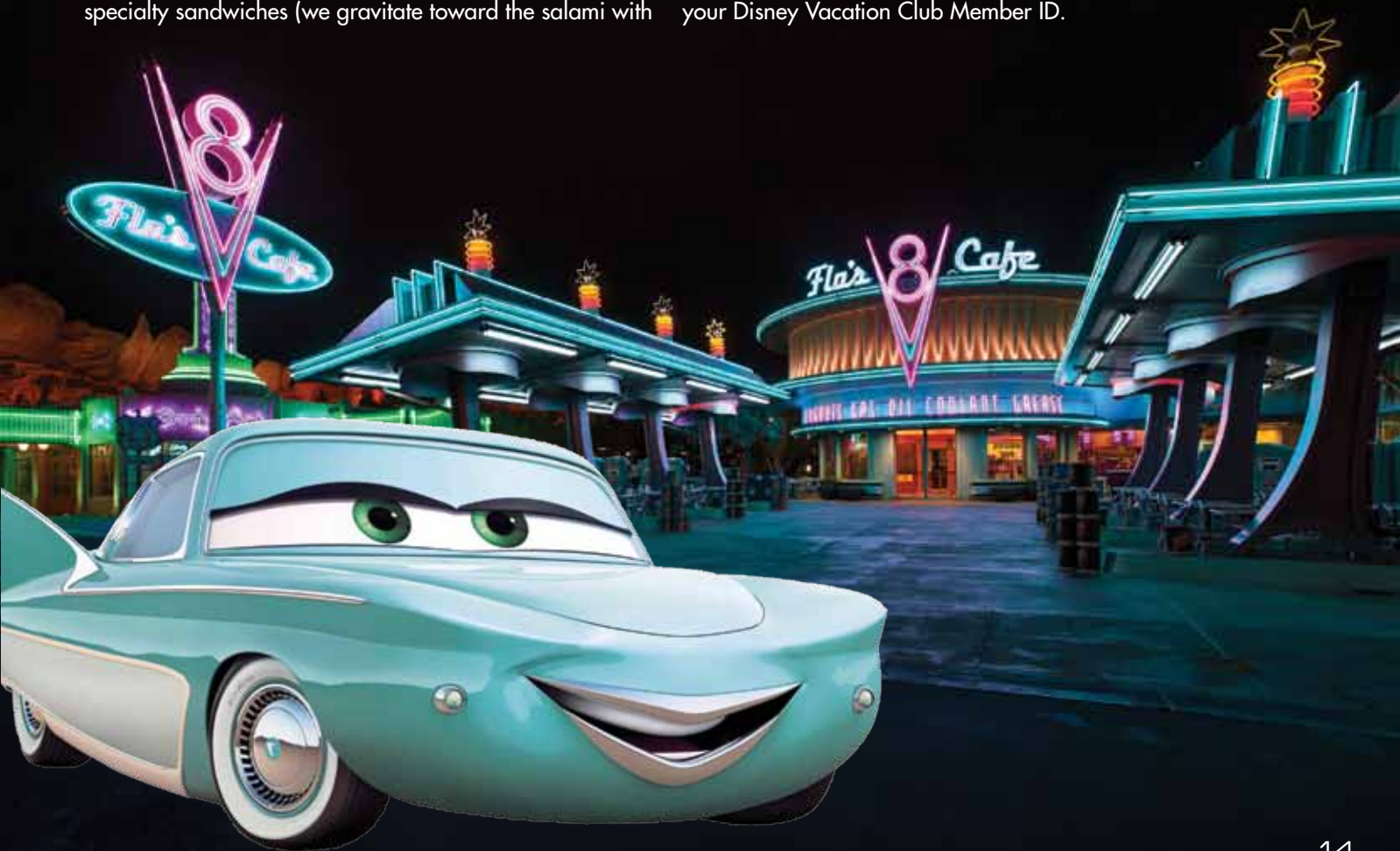
Among the menu highlights are pastries (the cinnamon rolls will grab you at first smell), house-made soups (the cheesy enchilada soup is a standout) and specialty sandwiches (we gravitate toward the salami with

olive tapenade), along with signature food and beverage offerings from Starbucks (a first for a Disney Park).

Our next stop is just up ahead in Cars Land, where Flo's V8 Café puts a new "spin" on American classics and celebrates the pioneering spirit of the open road. Inspired by the iconic drive-in diners of historic Route 66, this nirvana of neon fuels hungry Guests with hearty breakfasts (from chicken tamales with scrambled eggs to French toast served with salted caramel and bananas), lunches and dinners (home-style rotisserie fare includes pork loin, citrus turkey and New York strip loin), and "tops off their tanks" with single-serve fruit pies (look for the café's recipe for strawberry-rhubarb pie on page 16).

Guests' eyes enjoy a feast of their own, with picturesque views of Ornament Valley, mementos from Flo's singing career and museum exhibits honoring Doc Hudson's racing career offering plenty of eye candy.

Make these culinary adventures part of your next Disneyland Resort vacation, and remember to present your Disney Vacation Club Member ID.



picture this

Disney Vacation Club Members have a sharp eye for detail. Put that skill to the test by spotting the seven things we've altered in this photo of London, one of the many Member Getaways destinations available through the magic of Membership.



original



altered

ANSWERS: (1) the London Eye observation wheel is missing, (2) a new cloud has appeared in the sky, (3) the time has changed on the clock tower, (4) the building between the phone booth and clock tower has grown taller, (5) the sign on the left side of the phone booth has changed from "TELEPHONE" to "CELLPHONE", (6) the crown on the top of the phone booth is missing, (7) a pane of glass has broken on the right side of the phone booth.



Disney Dish

Strawberry-Rhubarb Pie

The Strawberry-Rhubarb Pie we mentioned on page 13 is too good to keep from readers who can't immediately make it to Radiator Springs. It's with that deep belief in pie for the people that *Disney Files Magazine* presents the secret to preparing this delightful dish at home, courtesy of our friends at Flo's V8 Café in Cars Land at Disney California Adventure Park.

Yield: one 9-inch pie

Streusel Topping ingredients:

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup light brown sugar, lightly packed
- 5 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 5 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Pie ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups sliced frozen rhubarb
- Your favorite pre-prepared pie crust or dough for a two-crust pie
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon water
- 2 cups fresh sliced strawberries
- 1/2 cup light brown sugar, lightly packed
- 1/2 cup sugar
- Zest of 1 orange
- 2 tablespoons fresh orange juice
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon

Streusel steps:

1. Combine sugar, brown sugar, flour, salt and cinnamon in a medium bowl.
2. Mix in softened butter with a fork (or your fingers) until mixture resembles coarse crumbs.
3. Stir in vanilla extract. Set aside while you make your pie.

Pie steps:

1. Place rhubarb on towel or layers of paper towels to thaw and drain, removing as much liquid as possible.
2. Preheat oven to 425 degrees (Fahrenheit).
3. Roll out crust for two 9-inch crusts. (Or use your store-bought version.) Place one crust in bottom of pie pan and chill in the refrigerator for 30 minutes.
4. Whisk together egg and water in a small bowl to make an egg wash. Set aside.
5. Mix thawed and drained rhubarb, strawberries, brown sugar, sugar, orange zest and orange juice in a large mixing bowl, and set aside for 10 minutes.
6. Stir flour and cinnamon into rhubarb-strawberry mixture.
7. Pour filling into the chilled pie crust (the part that's in the pan) and brush the exposed crust edges with your egg wash.
8. Add your top crust and seal the edges with a fork.
9. Use a sharp knife to slice a cross into center of top crust. Using your fingers, pull back all four points of the cross until the dough can be pressed into edges of crust. (Make sure your cross is just large enough to accomplish this step.) Egg wash top of pie and sprinkle streusel topping onto the exposed pie filling.
10. Collar pie (covering edges) with foil and bake for 10 minutes.
11. Decrease temperature to 375 degrees (Fahrenheit) and bake for an additional 30-40 minutes or until pie is golden brown, removing the foil for the last 15 minutes in the oven.
12. Cool before serving and enjoying!

This recipe has been converted from a larger quantity in the restaurant kitchens. The flavor profile may vary from the restaurant's version. All recipes are the property of Walt Disney Parks and Resorts U.S., Inc., and may not be reproduced without express permission.

Editor's Note: While the risotto recipe in our fall edition called for wine, the ingredient list was missing the necessary 1/2 cup of dry white wine. We regret the error (particularly since it involved delicious wine).



neighborhood notes

new and newsworthy in our magical community

Disney Vacation Club Resorts: As Disney Parks and Resorts reflect the spirit of the season with a winter wonderland of holiday decorations, many Disney Vacation Club Members are decorating their villas in similarly festive fashion. While Disney Vacation Club welcomes the use of safe decorations that don't damage the finishes of the villa, resort leaders are reminding Members that all decorations should be contained within the villa interiors and therefore shouldn't extend to the balcony or other exterior areas. This policy, included in Members' condominium documents, is designed to help preserve the carefully crafted architectural stories and visual themes for which Disney Parks and Resorts are famous.



Disney Vacation Club Resorts: Disney Vacation Club has received questions as to whether or not Members and Guests may send and receive packages at Disney Resorts. While this service is indeed available, note that a resort can accept packages only for recipients who are staying at that particular resort (either when the package arrives or in the very near future). A fee applies at some resorts.

Disneyland Resort: Sleeping Beauty Pavilion at the Disneyland Hotel now welcomes Members "home" to a "Royal Member Gathering" on Mondays at 8 a.m. Members who attend this new weekly event play games and enjoy light refreshments before meeting a Disney character and walking away with a Disney Vacation Club gift in hand (or on their heads). While Members are welcome to bring friends and family to the gathering, note that the party must present at least one Disney Vacation Club Member ID card to gain admittance.

Disney Doorway to Dreams: The Disney Doorway to Dreams stores in Schaumburg, Illinois and on Long Island, New York recently closed for business. As the business grows and evolves, the company regularly evaluates and adjusts its offerings and has made the decision to close these locations to focus on other initiatives. Vacation Club Guides from other Disney Vacation Club locations are now serving Members who joined our magical community through these locations. Disney Vacation Club preview centers continue to operate in Florida, California, Hawai'i and Japan.

Aulani, Disney Vacation Club Villas, Ko Olina, Hawai'i: A variety of Aulani insiders are sharing their expertise and highlighting the latest offerings available both at the resort and throughout the island during "Mahalo Member Mingle," a new weekly "coffee talk" open to Disney Vacation Club Members most Mondays at 8 a.m. Attendees also have the option of touring model villas following the presentation. Space is limited, so be sure to visit the Disney Vacation Club Preview Center near the resort's front desk for more details and to reserve your spot.

Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge: Among the many ways Member families are celebrating the holiday season at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge is a festive, paid activity in which Guests create their own mosaic holiday ornament out of crushed ostrich egg shells, with proceeds benefiting the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund. Also on the horizon this holiday season is a family-friendly New Year's Eve party that'll ring in 2013, not only at midnight, but also at 5 p.m., when Africa enters the new year.

Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge: Kids may string together memories – quite literally – through a progressive activity at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge. The complimentary "Children's String of Memories" experience lets young Members and Guests collect African-inspired beads at each of eight unique cultural- and conservation-themed activities throughout the resort, stringing them together to capture tangible memories of their adventure. For more details about this and other activities taking place during your stay, contact the Front Desk or check the Guest-activities calendar you receive upon check-in.



Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort: As part of its commitment to continuous improvement, Disney Vacation Club has created a new check-in desk to allow Members staying at Bay Lake Tower to check in at the Bay Lake Tower lobby. This new service is available from 7 a.m.-10 p.m. daily until further notice. Members arriving by Disney's Magical Express will continue to check-in next door at Disney's Contemporary Resort (where the Front Desk operates 24 hours a day). The check-in desk in the Bay Lake Tower lobby also provides a variety of services for all Bay Lake Tower Members and Guests to enjoy throughout their stay, including check-out, ticket sales, dining reservations, recreation and spa reservations, and more.

Disney's BoardWalk Resort: Work is scheduled to begin in January 2013 (and end later in the spring) on a refurbishment project that will bring new, state-of-the-art games to the arcade at ESPN Club. The space will continue to double as a merchandise shop for sports fans, carrying a selection of apparel and novelty items celebrating professional and collegiate teams and, of course, ESPN.

Disney's Contemporary Resort: California Grill, the signature restaurant atop Disney's Contemporary Resort, is scheduled to close on Jan. 6, 2013, to undergo a sweeping refurbishment project that will bring enhancements to its interactive kitchen, menu items and more. Plans call for the refurbishment work to continue through summer 2013. Guests will continue to find table-service dining during this time downstairs at The Wave...of American Flavors, which is rolling out its new winter menu featuring sustainable, locally grown items.

Disney's Hilton Head Island Resort: Crews have made a variety of enhancements to "Shadow's Point" at Disney's Hilton Head Island Resort, adding new seating, lighting, groundcover and more. Located near the playground and named in celebration of the resort's legendary canine character, this welcoming area is home to everything from naturalist programs to outdoor movies.



Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa: The Artist's Palette has added a colorful array of new items to its menu for all meals, including freshly made flatbreads, sandwiches and salads. With the Turf Club restaurant now open exclusively for dinner, both The Artist's Palette (where Cast Members deliver food to your table after you order and pay) and Paddock Grill (a poolside counter-service location) have become lunch hotspots.

Disney's Vero Beach Resort: Lunch options at this Treasure Coast seaside retreat now include an expanded menu of offerings at The Green Cabin Room and a range of selections poolside at Bleachers Bar and Grill. Shutters, the casual, table-service restaurant at Disney's Vero Beach Resort, now focuses on dinner only. Note that room service is no longer available.

Annual Dues tip: Mailing a check isn't the only way to pay Annual Dues. Members may pay by credit card online at DVCMember.com, and additional payment methods are valid when paying by phone (reach Member Accounting at 800-800-9800 and select option 3), including Disney Gift Cards and Disney Visa Reward Cards (just remember to call Visa to transfer your reward points to your Reward Card prior to calling Member Accounting). Annual Dues statements mail at the end of the year, and payment is due on Jan. 15, with late fees incurred after Feb. 14. Monthly payment options also are available through direct debits from U.S. checking or savings accounts. Call Member Accounting to learn more about this option.

Pool hopping: Whenever you're using your Membership to stay at a Disney Vacation Club Resort at the Walt Disney World Resort or at Disney's Vero Beach Resort, you and any Guests staying with you are permitted to pool hop to other eligible pools if they're not at capacity. Due to expected high occupancy, pool hopping isn't available Nov. 19-25, and Dec. 16, 2012-Jan. 5, 2013. Pool hopping is never available at Bay Cove Pool at Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort, the pools at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge, Stormalong Bay at Disney's Yacht & Beach Club Resorts, the pool at Disney's Beach Club Villas, the pools at Disney's Art of Animation Resort or at the Disneyland Resort in California. Further block-out dates may be added based on capacity issues. Full details are available in *Portable Perks* and online at www.dvcmember.com.



Up to the 'Test'?

Guests drive 'suped-up' Epcot attraction

Walt Disney World Resort: While designing cars in the real world takes an extraordinary amount of expertise, doing so at Epcot just takes a little imagination.

That's the spirit behind the suped-up Test Track presented by Chevrolet, where Guests are designing and engineering their own custom concept vehicles before putting their creations to the test.

"The world of automotive design is something that evolves continuously," Walt Disney Imagineer Melissa Jeselnick told *Disney Files Magazine*. "In its original conceit, Test Track was all about physical testing in the proving-ground space. Since the attraction opened, so much of General Motors' design – and Walt Disney Imagineering's design, for that matter – has moved into the digital space. So the new Test Track really focuses on digital design and testing in performance areas that drive today's automotive world."

The attraction's new pre-show area showcases Chevrolet's design process, from rough sketching to refined modeling to final execution. From there, Guests enter the design studio and create their custom vehicle by making critical decisions in the areas of Capability, Efficiency, Responsiveness and Power.

With their designs locked and loaded, it's on to the next scene and into what *appears* to be a digital world, where cutting-edge tests, challenging hills, hairpin turns

and high-speed straightaways measure the performance of the attraction's physical ride vehicles against that of the virtual concept cars created by Guests.

While the attraction's sleek new interior may *look and feel* digital, this is no simulator.

"We've retained the Test Track attraction's previous track and ride profile," Melissa confirmed. "We've just given it a sleek new look, modernized the story and given Guests a more immersive experience."

The experience concludes in a new post-show area, where Guests continue interacting with their custom creations, from an "augmented reality driving table" to an opportunity to produce and share a TV commercial featuring their dream ride.

"What I love most about the new attraction is how it immerses Guests in the design process, whether you're an automotive expert or a novice," said Melissa, who despite having an engineering background, admits to shopping for cars based more on the *shape* of its hood than what lies beneath it. "When I shop for a car, my criteria are that I want it to be curvy, and I want it to be gold. So if you want a pink car that's cute, you can do that. If you want a ton of power and giant wheels, that's an option too."

The official grand opening of the new Test Track is scheduled for Dec. 6.



SENSES

A Disney SPA

Relaxation re-imagined New Disney spas to engage the 'Senses'

Walt Disney World Resort: Two re-imagined Disney spas – one opening in December and another slated for summer 2013 – are about to change the way Members and Guests relax in the Disney Vacation Club neighborhood.

At Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa, where Disney Vacation Club villas are in development, the December re-opening of a now-Disney-owned-and-operated spa will mark the Walt Disney World debut of the "Senses" brand that's already familiar to the pampered passengers of Disney Cruise Line. The brand is a nod to the new spa's commitment

to engaging all five senses. In addition to *feeling* relaxed during massage treatments, Members and Guests at this relaxing retreat will see soothing green tones inspired by natural botanicals, *smell* the indulgent scents of aromatherapy, *hear* the gentle sounds of flowing water and even *taste* light refreshments.

Elsewhere in the neighborhood, The Spa at Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort is scheduled to undergo a similar transformation, closing sometime in January and reopening under the Disney-owned "Senses" brand in summer 2013. Watch *Disney Files Magazine* for updates about that location as new details emerge.

Visit DVCMember.com for details about Member discounts available at the new spa.

Women's Lounge at Senses, A Disney Spa
Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa
Artist rendering – proposed

Welcome to Splitsville

New Downtown Disney hotspot combines bowling, dining, nightlife

Walt Disney World Resort: One step into Splitsville is about all it takes to realize that this isn't your father's bowling alley (unless Dad used to roll with the Rat Pack).

Disney Files Magazine took that first step (and many more) through the spectacular new luxury lanes and dinner lounge opening in December at Downtown Disney West Side with Splitsville's Guy Revelle and Mark Gibson.

"We want your first word when you walk in here to be 'wow,'" Revelle said as we entered the dramatically transformed, 50,000-square-foot space that once housed Virgin Megastore.

From the multi-level bars that expanded the building's footprint to the open kitchens that feed the senses to the custom finishes that turn everything from light fixtures to railings into eye-catching works of art, it's easy to forget you're in a bowling venue.

Out are the stale nachos and convenience store fare typically associated with one of America's favorite pastimes. In is more upscale cuisine, from steaks to hand-tossed pizzas to fresh-rolled sushi. Gone is the traditional shoe-rental counter, replaced by a fashionable "welcome center" and a "lane concierge" service that allows Guests to eat, drink, dance or just admire the towering bowling-pin light fixture in the window until their lanes are ready and their shoes are delivered.

"It's all about delivering an unexpected experience," Revelle said.

Equally unexpected from a place called Splitsville

is an artistic marriage, harmoniously uniting trendiness and nostalgia. The facility's 30 bowling lanes, for example, feature fashion-forward seating at one end and meticulously restored 1970s Brunswick "retro star shields" above the pins at the other.

Add high-end billiards tables, flat-screen TVs (more than 60 if our counting skills are solid) and chart-topping music, and you have a pop-culture playground that deliberately blurs the line between bowling alley, restaurant, sports bar and ultra-lounge.

Further blurring lines are subtle tricks of the architectural trade, using changes in sightlines and elevations to create a variety of seemingly intimate spaces while still maintaining an open feel that doesn't force Guests to choose one activity over the other. In fact, the only real "split" you find at Splitsville (aside from the 7-10 variety) are the floors themselves, with bars, sushi, dining and 10 lanes on the first floor, and 20 more lanes on the second floor with more bars and a dance floor.

"One of the things we love most about this building is the opportunity it gives us to provide an adult night out on one floor while still serving entire families on another," Revelle said.

While this marks Splitsville's fifth U.S. location, its uniqueness is a source of pride for Gibson, who said, "From the building to the setting, this place is special. We believe we've created an entertainment venue that's as unique as its location."





Deck the halls with bows of hardware

Unique holiday décor hits Cars Land, Buena Vista Street

Disneyland Resort: With the opening of Buena Vista Street and Cars Land at Disney California Adventure Park making the Happiest Place on Earth even happier, the biggest smiles may be on the faces of those tasked with decorating these immersive new worlds for the holidays.

"Both Buena Vista Street and Cars Land epitomize the attention to detail Guests expect from Disney," Resort Enhancement Manager David Caranci told *Disney Files Magazine*. "To have those incredible new landscapes as a canvas has been a decorator's dream."

We began our visit with a look at Buena Vista Street, the nostalgic thoroughfare inspired by Los Angeles as it may have appeared to a young Walt Disney when he first arrived in the Golden State.

"The style of holiday décor in the 1920s and 1930s allowed us to create a vintage look for Buena Vista Street that's quite different from what we have on Main Street, U.S.A., at Disneyland Park," David said.

The street's traditional cedar garland supports larger-than-life ornamentation reminiscent of the oversized décor that was popular in that bygone era, from exaggerated holly leaves to eye-catching (and internally illuminated) mission bells.

Equally inspired by the era are the custom ornaments found on the street's 50-foot-tall Christmas tree, from illuminated Santa heads to vintage Disney-character bells to what David called the "hero ornament" – a faithful representation of the Red Car Trolley that traverses the street. (A smaller version of that ornament is available in Buena Vista Street merchandise shops.) The transit theme continues beneath the tree, where a miniature train inspired by the one that carried Walt to California waits patiently for its passengers around vintage gifts and even a miniature

version of Walt's legendary Carolwood Barn.

Further down the road is Cars Land, where designers faced an intriguing question.

"We asked ourselves how cars would decorate for the holidays," David explained. "We had so much fun answering that question and working with Pixar to bring these ideas to life."

The result of that collaboration are countless decorating details that warrant a "second read," revealing automotive roots that may be less than obvious at first glance. Cars Land's iconic billboard for example, now wishes Guests "Season's Speedings," while the seemingly traditional garland above Route 66 is actually comprised of air filters and tire wreaths.

A 20-foot Christmas tree near the iconic Stanley sculpture (now sporting a Santa hat that appears to have been there all along) is one of many holiday trees in Cars Land, with others including stacked-cone varieties at the Cozy Cone Motel, oil-can versions at Flo's V-8 Café and those built from junked tires and topped by sparkplugs at Mater's Junkyard Jamboree.

Additional elements come to life after dark, including an illuminating red-white-and-blue salute to America at Sarge's Surplus Hut. Even the Cars Land soundtrack now reflects good tidings of comfort and joy, filling the air with traditional roadside holiday tunes of the 1950s.

See page 23 for more details about holiday happenings at the Disneyland Resort.





BUZZWORTHY

13 stories • 2 pages • 1 space ranger

Disneyland Resort: While taking in all of the new live entertainment at the expanded Disney California Adventure Park – from the upbeat Red Car News Boys to the eccentric Mad T Party – be sure to look for the latest artistic endeavor from our old pal Goofy. Dubbed “Instant Concert!...just add water” (even the punctuation is goofy), these 5-minute mini-concerts are narrated in the style of Goofy’s classic “How To” animated shorts and are presented several times daily along the shores of Paradise Bay near The Little Mermaid ~ Ariel’s Undersea Adventure attraction. Maestro Goofy conducts the Paradise Bay fountains as only a Goof can, putting a unique spin on such classic compositions as “Holiday for Strings” and “Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2.”



Disneyland Resort: Look for appearances by characters from Disney’s hit holiday-TV specials “Prep & Landing” in the “World of Color” nighttime spectacular through Jan. 6, 2013, at Disney California Adventure Park.



Disneyland Resort: Among the holly-jolly happenings this season at Disneyland Park are glistening lights on Sleeping Beauty Castle, A Christmas Fantasy Parade, the “Believe...In Holiday Magic” fireworks show, Haunted Mansion Holiday (a dramatic takeover of the New Orleans Square attraction by characters and themes from Tim Burton’s classic film *The Nightmare Before Christmas*); “it’s a small world holiday” (a festive overlay to the happiest cruise that ever sailed) and the Frontierland return of Santa’s Reindeer Roundup, all through Jan. 6, 2013. New this year is the expansion of the Park’s Candlelight Processional – a Disneyland tradition since 1958 – to an unprecedented 20 nights, with two scheduled performances each night. For more details, visit www.disneyland.com/holidays.

Disneyland Resort: Ever wonder what happened to those towering CALIFORNIA letters that once welcomed Guests to Disney California Adventure Park? They’ve found a second life at the California Exposition & State Fairgrounds in Sacramento. Among the Park’s other gifted icons are the former Sunshine Plaza’s golden sun (now owned by the City of Anaheim) and the California Zephyr train cab that once housed Bur-r-r Bank Ice Cream and Bakers Field Bakery (now part of the Western Pacific Railroad Museum in Portola).

Walt Disney World Resort: Mickey’s Very Merry Christmas Party at the Magic Kingdom Park has kicked off its longest-ever run, celebrating the season on 20 special nights from Nov. 9-Dec. 21. The “after hours” party features the spectacular Castle Dream Lights, Mickey’s Once Upon a Christmastime parade, the “Holiday Wishes: Celebrate the Spirit of the Season” fireworks spectacular and more. Visit DVCMember.com for details about Member discounts available on select nights through Dec. 11, and visit disneyworld.com/holidays for other party dates and prices.

Walt Disney World Resort: Gary Sinise (“CSI: NY”) and Neil Patrick Harris (“How I Met Your Mother”) are among the stage and screen stars scheduled to narrate this year’s Candlelight Processional, a nightly retelling of the Christmas story backed by a mass choir and 50-piece orchestra in the America Gardens Theatre at Epcot. Look for the entire lineup of celebrity narrators online at disneyworld.com/holidays, and call Member Services to book a Candlelight Dining Package that includes guaranteed seating for the Candlelight Processional and VIP viewing of IllumiNations: Reflections of Earth. The Candlelight Processional, as well as the “Holidays Around the World” celebration, is scheduled to run through Dec. 30.

Walt Disney World Resort: Millions of lights blanket the Streets of America and dance to an “electrifying” holiday beat during the Osborne Family Spectacle of Lights at Disney’s Hollywood Studios through Jan. 6, 2013. Adding to the spectacle are magical “snow flurries,” delightful Guests and confounding meteorologists.

Walt Disney World Resort: Even elephants get excited about Christmas. For proof, check out Mickey's Jingle Jungle Parade, a festive re-imagination of Mickey's Jammin' Jungle Parade at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park. This holly-jolly processional is jingling the jungle daily through Jan. 2, 2013.

Walt Disney World Resort: "Celebrate the Magic," a new nightly projection show on Cinderella Castle at the Magic Kingdom Park, recently replaced "The Magic, The Memories and You!" The new show blends favorite elements from the previous show with new music, storytelling and special effects.

Tokyo Disney Resort: A "Christmas Fantasy" is underway at Tokyo Disneyland Park, where through Dec. 25, "Disney's Santa Village Parade" takes to the streets, Cinderella Castle becomes the "Twinkling Christmas Castle," the Tokyo Disneyland Electrical Parade "Dreamlights" celebrates the season with holiday music and fireworks light up the night sky for a "Starbright Christmas." Also through Dec. 25, Tokyo DisneySea Park presents a wonderland of winter shows, including the "Colors of Christmas" on the waters of Mediterranean Harbor, the "Big Band Beat Christmas Special" in the Park's Broadway Music Theatre and a Christmas version of the food-inspired show "A Table is Waiting" on the Dockside Stage.

Tokyo Disney Resort: Goofy's Paint 'n' Play House, the new attraction concept announced in the spring 2012 edition of *Disney Files Magazine*, has now opened at Tokyo Disneyland Park. The inventively interactive attraction lets Guests use "Toontone Splat Masters" to "paint" and magically transform the floor, walls and furnishings of Goofy's house in irreverently toony fashion.

Walt Disney World Resort: While Cast Member appearance guidelines call for beards to be no longer than a quarter-inch, no such restrictions apply to visiting celebrities. That's great news for Santa Claus, who's meeting Guests and taking mental note of their holiday wishes through Christmas Eve at Downtown Disney Marketplace as part of the "Festival of the Seasons," which runs through Dec. 27.

Walt Disney World Resort: Guests entering Grizzly Hall at the Magic Kingdom Park since the classic attraction reopened in October are enjoying a new version of the original Country Bear Jamboree show, with changes designed to shorten wait times and allow more Guests than ever to clap their hands and stomp their feet with the Bear Band. Stagehand Rufus used the brief downtime to put some "Teddi loving care" into enhancements to the venerable performance hall, "bearly" staying on schedule as he made scenic backdrops more vivid, gave gold leafing more shimmer and made the plush velvet curtains, well, plushier.





Disney
diversions

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3D

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Screaming into a third dimension

Monsters, Inc. goes 3D on Dec. 19

Scream-collecting monsters are re-entering the human world this holiday season...in 3D! *Monsters, Inc.*, one of Disney•Pixar's most beloved and visually imaginative films, is scheduled to burst through children's doors and into U.S. theaters in Disney Digital 3D on Dec. 19.

This now-classic comedy adventure (raise your hand if seeing the word "classic" attached to a film released in 2001 made you feel old) is set in Monstropolis, a thriving company town that is home to monsters of all shapes and sizes. At the heart of the town is Monsters, Inc., where an elite team of scarers carefully enter the human world to capture the screams of children – the main power source in Monstropolis. It's dangerous work, as monsters believe human children are toxic.

When Monsters, Inc.'s top scare team, Sulley (voiced by John Goodman) and his wise-cracking best friend Mike Wazowski (voiced by Billy Crystal), accidentally let a little girl named Boo (voiced by Mary Gibbs) into the monster world, they must rectify their mistake and return Boo to her home.

The Academy Award-winning film has inspired a wide range of popular Disney Park attractions and experiences, from the irreverent "*Monsters, Inc. Laugh Floor*" comedy show at the Magic Kingdom Park in Florida to the immersive "*Monsters, Inc. Mike & Sulley to*

the Rescue" ride at Disney California Adventure Park to the interactive "*Monsters, Inc. Ride & Go Seek*" attraction at Tokyo Disneyland Park.

Here are a few *Monsters, Inc.* fun facts to help ensure that you have plenty of place-appropriate insights to share with your fellow humans as you wait in line at the theater or at the aforementioned attractions:

- Songwriter Randy Newman, who prior to working on *Monsters, Inc.* had earned 15 Academy Award nominations, won his first Oscar for the original song "If I Didn't Have You."
- In the film, Mike Wazowski takes his date, Celia (voiced by Jennifer Tilly) to a sushi restaurant called Harry Hausen's, which is an affectionate nod to legendary filmmaker Ray Harryhausen, whose innovative special effects brought some of Hollywood's most iconic monster scenes to life.
- Director Pete Docter went on to direct *Up*, which earned the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature and was the first Pixar feature film to be nominated in the Best Picture category.

Back to school: *Monsters, Inc.* fans will travel back in time to discover that Mike and Sulley weren't always an inseparable pair when the new Disney•Pixar movie *Monsters University* opens in U.S. theaters on June 21, 2013. As it turns out, these two mismatched monsters couldn't stand each other when they first met on campus as college students, and the new film (which reunites John Goodman and Billy Crystal in their starring roles) will reveal how Mike and Sulley overcame their differences to become best friends and top scarers at Monsters, Inc. Take an in-depth look at the characters' fabled university online at www.monstersuniversity.com/edu.



Tinker Bell's Flight Through Fantasyland History

By Jim Korkis

Think of a wonderful thought. Any happy little thought. Think of Christmas. Think of snow. Think of sleigh bells and off you go, like reindeer in the sky. Just be careful not to get pixie dust in your eye as we mark this holiday season by flying with Tinker Bell through a half-century of Fantasyland history!

It's a return to a tour guide role that the plucky pixie first assumed in a 1958 television special titled "An Adventure in the Magic Kingdom," taking over Walt Disney's hosting duties and leading viewers on a trip to see all the wonderful changes unfolding at Disneyland Park.

With so many new Fantasyland experiences debuting at the Magic Kingdom Park in Florida, I thought it would be fun to ask Tink to take us on a magical flight through time. We begin in Southern California in 1954!

Walt envisioned the Fantasyland area as a beautiful village inspired by illustrations in the classic fairytale storybooks. As budgets dwindled and deadlines approached, a creative shift led the team instead to a festive "tournament tent" theme. It was a theme that built on the presence of the Park's iconic castle, described simply as a "medieval castle" on the earliest blueprints. At one point on television, Walt called it "Snow White's Castle," while on revised maps it was dubbed "Robin Hood's Castle." The name "Sleeping Beauty Castle" wouldn't emerge until later in the creative process.

Other early Fantasyland proposals called for Mr. Toad's Wild Ride to be a mini roller coaster and for the Storybook Land Canal Boats to be a thrilling water-flume ride through Monstro the Whale. Walt's desire to create attractions for everyone in the family led to the eventual taming of those concepts.

Early concept art for the *Dumbo*-inspired attraction

was labeled the "Pink Elephants Ride" and consisted of a parade of dizzying pink elephants inspired by *Dumbo's* nightmare in the film. While Walt soon decided to transform those frightening hallucinations into *Dumbo* himself, little Timothy Q. Mouse didn't enter the plans until much later.



Okay, hang on tightly to your *Disney Files Magazine!* We may experience a little turbulence ahead, as Tink is taking us at supersonic speed across the country to the Magic Kingdom Park in Florida. The year is 1969, and the Park's opening day is just two years away.

The space that would ultimately house Florida's *Snow White's Scary Adventures* attraction originally was earmarked for a *Sleeping Beauty* dark ride. Guests would've confronted

Maleficent's goons and traversed the deadly thorn forest surrounding the castle. The climax, of course, was to include a massive fire-breathing dragon!

Where *Peter Pan's Flight* sits today, Imagineers once envisioned a *Mary Poppins* ride. One plan called for Guests to float above scenes aboard modified ski-lift vehicles topped by Mary's magical umbrella. A later version placed Guests on carousel horses that would leap into Bert's living chalk paintings.

Original concepts for the current home of *The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh* (and former home of *Mr. Toad's Wild Ride*) included a "Wizard's Duel" dark ride centered around a duel between Merlin and Madam Mim from *Sword in the Stone*.

It was Walt's older brother, Roy O. Disney, who decided to go with some of the more traditional Disneyland attractions to remain truer to Walt's original vision. Even then, *Mr. Toad's Wild Ride* was expanded with a double track and *Peter Pan's Flight* was made longer and given larger rooms.



To maintain the uniqueness of each Park, some Disneyland attractions didn't make the trip east, and the Florida Park added such all-new concepts as Mickey Mouse Revue, a theater musical starring a familiar cast of Audio-Animatronics characters.

Uh oh! Time to dash back to Southern California. Hold onto your hats, kids!

The popularity of the new Fantasyland in Florida inspired Imagineers to expand the Disneyland original. By 1976, the team had dreamed up an expansion project dubbed Dumbo's Circusland. The new area would've relocated the Dumbo the Flying Elephant attraction to a raised platform atop a tower and added a *Pinocchio* dark ride telling the story of the puppet's journey to becoming a real boy.

The concept artwork reflected another dark ride called Mickey's Mad House, which was to draw inspiration from classic 1930s black-and-white Mickey Mouse cartoons, and an Audio-Animatronics spectacular called Circus Disney, in which Disney characters would perform circus acts like those daredevils, the Flying Goofys! Reflecting the company's belief in never throwing away a good idea, unused concepts can find new life even decades after they were conceived. For example, while Dumbo's Circusland and the Circus Disney attraction never materialized, Walt Disney World Guests are now discovering Storybook Circus as part of Florida's New Fantasyland.

No, Tink, we're not going to Florida. I was just making a point. There's more to talk about right here in California. (Pixies can be so impatient.)

Okay, we're now in 1983, and Fantasyland is being reborn at Disneyland Park with a bold new look, and one that's very different from those 1976 concepts. Tink can rest her wings as we board a Tomorrowland Skyway vehicle for a round-trip flight above the site, just as many Guests did to catch a sneak peek over the wall during construction.

Among the land's enhancements were Snow White's first appearance in her namesake attraction (the original

version cast Guests in the role of Snow White, so you never actually saw the fairest one of all unless you had a mirror), a magnificent new Toad Hall to house Mr. Toad's Wild Ride, a new "Unbirthday Party" finale scene for the Alice In Wonderland attraction and, perhaps best of all, new three-dimensional characters, refreshed set pieces and improved lighting throughout these classic attractions. Entirely new to the land was the never-realized concept for a *Pinocchio* dark ride, ultimately named *Pinocchio's Daring Journey*.

Part of the fun of the official Grand Opening festivities for "New Fantasyland" on May 23, 1983, was the lowering of Sleeping Beauty Castle's drawbridge, allowing the children of the original kids who crossed that same bridge back in 1955 to be the first Guests to experience the new attractions.

Okay, Tink. We can go back to Florida now. Friends, please keep your hands and arms inside this magazine at all times.

Back in the Sunshine State, Imagineers continue to shape that proverbial ball of clay with the latest evolution of the Fantasyland experience. Some of the new additions breathe new life into great ideas from the past, while others draw inspiration from later generations of beloved Disney films. What they all have in common is a commitment to Walt's vision for places that will never be completed, as long as there is imagination left in the world.

Yes, Tink, I know there's also plenty of pixie dust left in the world. But let's not use any more now. That last flight was a little rough, and I almost lost my Dole Whip. Yes, I know Dole Whips are from Adventureland and not Fantasyland. No, I'm not rolling my eyes. Can we have this conversation later?

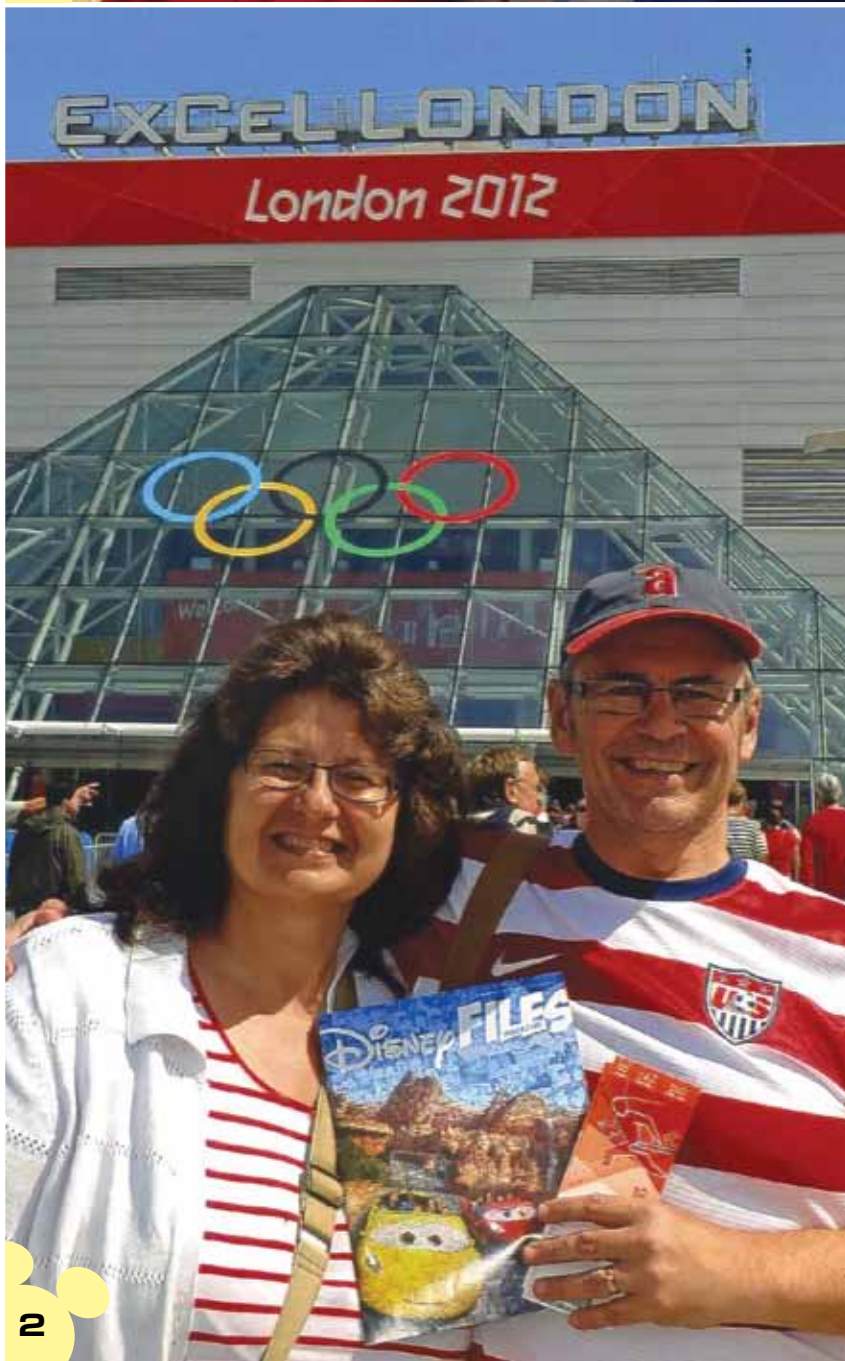
Sorry folks. You know how she can get. Now where was I? Oh yes. We hope you've enjoyed our little flight through Fantasyland history and that the new Florida attractions will help you make new memories for generations to come. Happy travels!

Did you know? There's more to Disney's circus history than the concepts referenced in this story. From Nov. 24, 1955-Jan. 8, 1956, Mouseketeers welcomed Disneyland Guests to the Mickey Mouse Club Circus, an actual circus under a big-top tent.



photofinish

1. Young Porter, part of the Farmer family of Virginia, Members since 2000, shares a holiday moment – but not his cookie – with Santa on Castaway Cay.
2. Lynne and John Swaby of England, Members since 2001, appear to support Team Great Britain, Team USA, Team *Disney Files* and the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim at the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London.

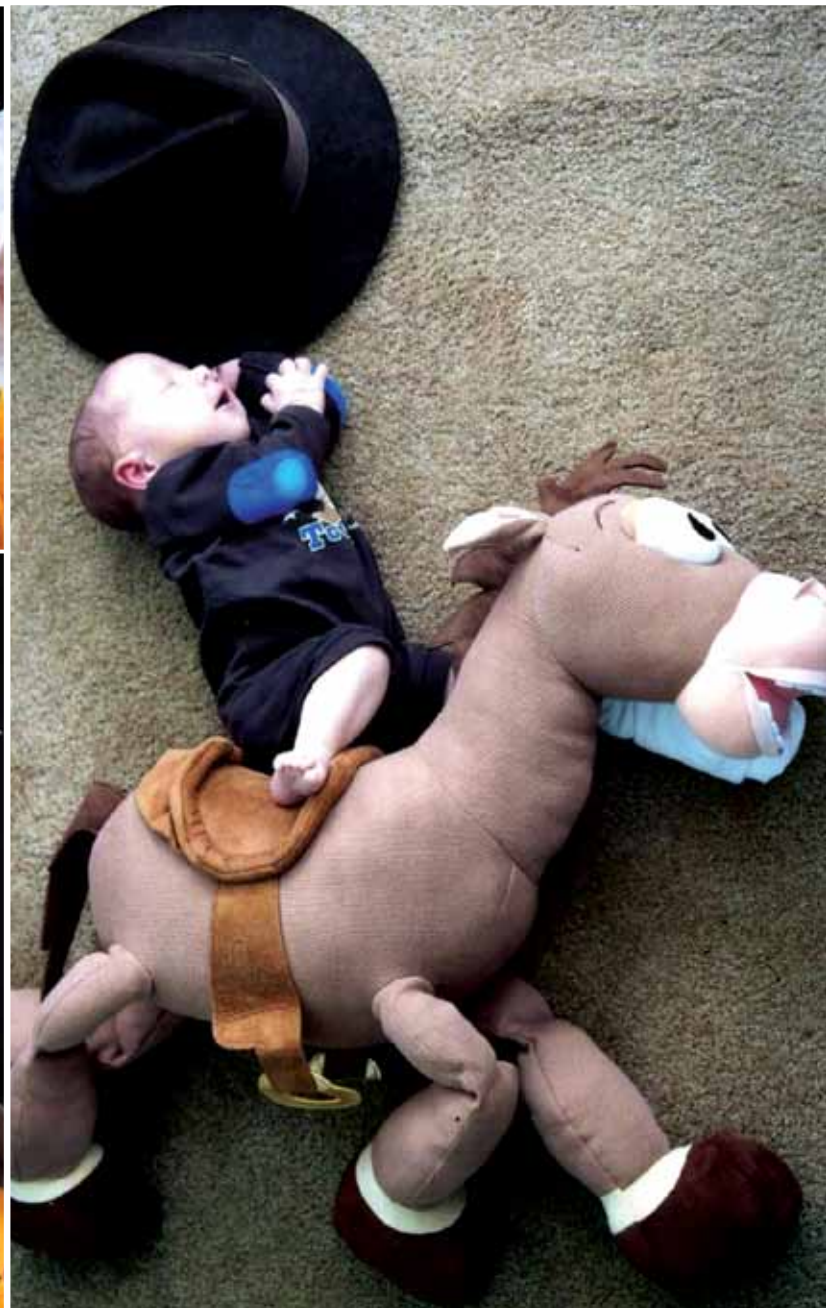
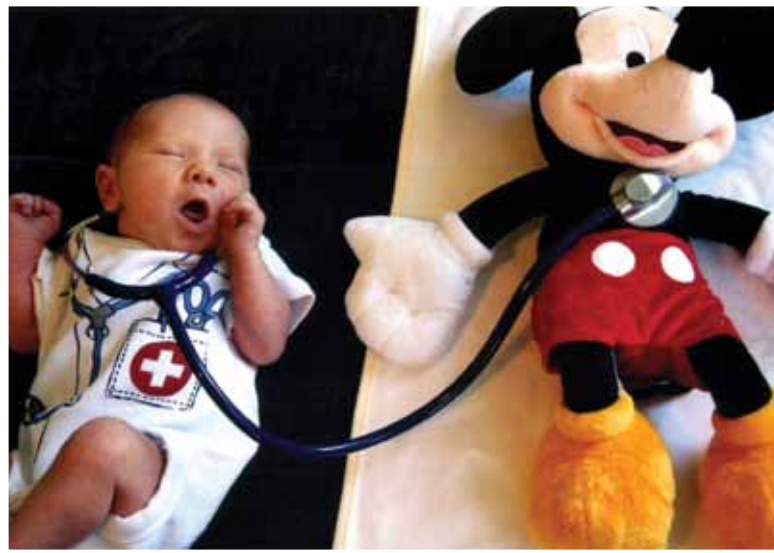


Send your photos (keeping copies for yourself as we won't return ours) to Disney Files Magazine, Disney Vacation Club, 1390 Celebration Blvd., Celebration, FL 34747. Remember to include your name, hometown and "Member Since" year, along with a signed release form for each person pictured. The form is available online at www.dvcmember.com/releaseform.

Better your chances of seeing your family in the magazine by capturing compelling, candid moments, which almost always beat posed photos. We do, however, enjoy when you pose with the magazine, particularly when you do so in exotic locations beyond the Disney Parks.

Just Jak

Big props to the Kayla family of Pennsylvania, Members since 2006, for using baby Jak as, well, a prop. From riding Bullseye and exploring the galaxy with WALL-E to surfing with Stitch and monitoring Mickey's heartbeat, little Jak accomplished more in his first week than the *Disney Files* staff has all year. We dedicate this page to the multi-talented tyke and his very creative parents.



road files

As the Walt Disney World Resort celebrates the latest milestones in the Fantasyland expansion project, Disney Vacation Club and D23 celebrate the attention to detail that has fueled the area's rich history of visual storytelling. This behind-the-scenes Cinderella Castle photo from the Walt Disney Archives finds crews engaged in the painstaking process of installing the intricate mosaic tiles that tell Cinderella's story within the castle walls. One of the most photographed buildings on the planet, Cinderella Castle draws inspiration, not only from the classic 1950 animated film, but also from famous European castles and palaces, including Fontainebleau, Versailles, and the chateaus of Chenonceau, Chambord and Chaumont.

D23

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