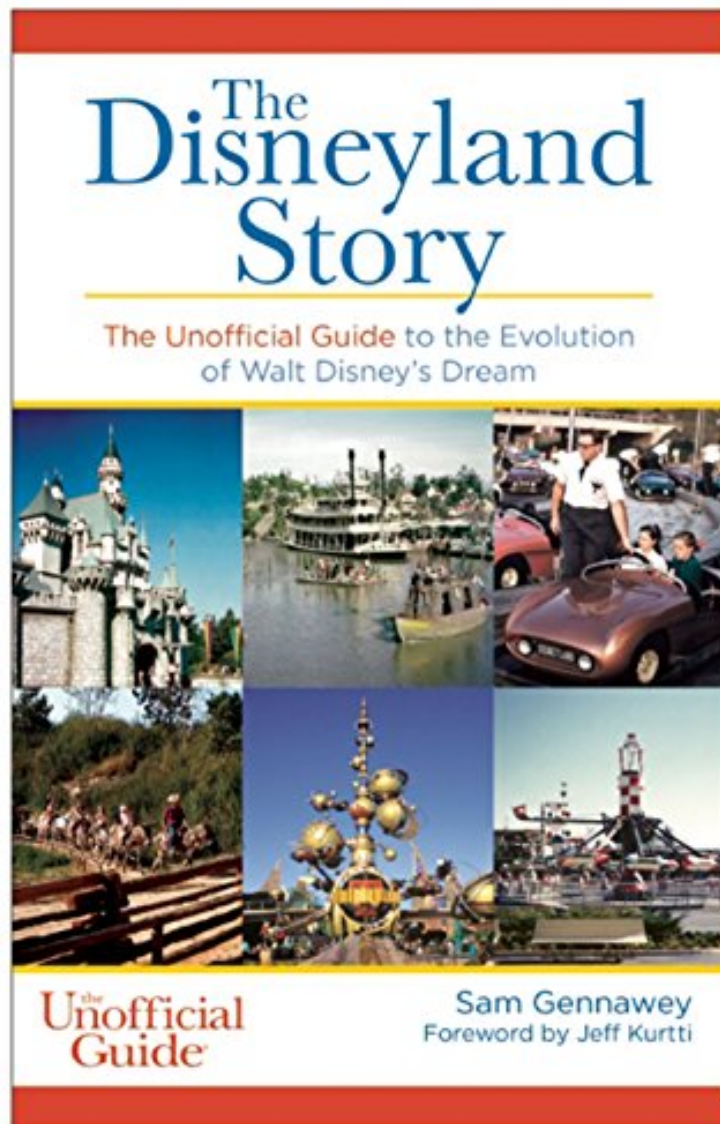


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The Disneyland Story: The Unofficial Guide to the Evolution of Walt Disney's Dream

Sam Gennawey

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Sam Gennawey : The Disneyland Story: The Unofficial Guide to the Evolution of Walt Disney's Dream before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Disneyland Story: The Unofficial Guide to the Evolution of Walt Disney's Dream:

15 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Excellent comprehensive Disneyland historyBy WulfstanThis book, by part of The Un-official Guide to Disneyland team(and it's in the same format) is a solid and readable history

of Disneyland. Not a hagiography, nor a tell-all, it's a simple and honest tale of the Happiest Place on Earth by a person who clearly loves the parks and knows the subject. It's marred only by its format- due to the book size, it can't have all the wonderful color pictures you would like to see. So, if you can find a copy, get "Disneyland, the Nickel Tour" (which has not much text, but great pictures) and read *The Disneyland Story: The Unofficial Guide to the Evolution of Walt Disney's Dream* while paging thru *The Nickel Tour* to see what Sam Gennaway is talking about. This book even had stuff I didn't know! Very readable, and a MUST for any Disney history buff or fan of the park. 11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Maps would have been great. By oz reader This is a very interesting and informative history of Disneyland but I don't understand how he could have thought it was complete without maps showing the various stages of the park. This is a very detailed, step-by-step inventory of what went up and what came down and where but without maps or a photographic memory you get lost in where he's talking about. The photos of the early years of the park bunched together in the beginning were good but he should have gone much further. Lost opportunities and disservice to the reader. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A True Biography of Disneyland. Entertaining and Informative. By Lance Falk This book REMARKABLY has never been written before. A true event-by-event 'Biography' of The Happiest Place on Earth. How was this missed before now? Author Gennaway tells the story of Disneyland from the very beginning in interesting detail. Many facts have not been volunteered by official sources, so, even the jaded Disneyland expert will learn all kinds of things. It's nice to have a more objective view instead of the usual Company Line. Sam's love of the park is sincere and not part of a corporate agenda. The chapters are bite-size allowing the book to be read in bits or devoured in a single sitting. Gennaway's knowledge on the subject is impressive and his background as a professional city planner enables him to give real world context that helps the reader to understand all the complex logistical decisions that go into a project of this scale and scope. Yet, he manages to keep a compelling, fascinating narrative throughout. It truly is a STORY and far from a dry, technical tome. If you are into Disneyland, this is a must-read. I have gifted this book about a dozen times as the perfect thing for the Park-Lovers in my life....and they have all enjoyed it. Lastly, the enjoyment of this book led me to read Sam Gennaway's other two Disney books, which were also excellent. One on Walt's original plan for EPCOT (MUCH different than the Theme Park resort they have now) and another about the intense Disney / Universal Studios rivalry. If either of those subjects interest you, you would do yourself a favor by picking up those as well. I'll be following this author in any future endeavors.

The Disneyland Story: The Unofficial Guide to the Evolution of Walt Disney's Dream is the story of how Walt Disney's greatest creation was conceived, nurtured, and how it grew into a source of joy and inspiration for generations of visitors. Despite his successors' battles with the whims of history and their own doubts and egos, Walt's vision maintained momentum, thrived, and taught future generations how to do it Walt Disney's way.

"With hand scribbles from Walt Disney and original drawings of the theme park, Gennaway lays out a comprehensive description of the life and history of Disneyland."--Rachel Young, Pasadena Now "The book [*The Disneyland Story*] relies heavily on quotations, which adds to its credibility and readability. Many of the quotations, but not all of them, include endnote numbers. So the book has an answer for you if you wonder, Where and when did that person say or write that?"--Werner Weiss, Yesterland.com "...Gennaway's book is 'unofficial' in its content (but it's not a travel guide). There's nothing [that] should embarrass anyone, but it includes people and stories that you would not read about in Disney publications. For example, C.V. Wood, Disneyland's first general manager, has been all but erased from official Disney history. There are great descriptions of attractions that were announced but never built. And the story of how the land was chosen and acquired for Disneyland has never been published in this detail."--Werner Weiss, Yesterland.com "Don't let the title 'unofficial' deter you in the least. This work exceeds anything Disney has ever formally put out. For that matter, in its total form it may exceed everything Disney has put out. There's just so much."--J. Jeff Kober, DisneyatWork.com "The great thing about this book [*The Disneyland Story*] is the mix of technical details about things like specs on the locomotive engines, Autopia cars, and Monorail designs, blended with anecdotal stories and quotes from many different sources, so there is something for everyone here. The book is peppered with 'tips' and trivia along the way as well."--Susie Prendergast, The Mouse Castle "The book [*The Disneyland Story*] is incredibly exhaustive and takes us through Disneyland's history through the growth of the beloved park. It's laid out in large blocks of years that showcase the development of the park through major attractions and shows. What's fascinating is that Sam was able to delve into the political machinations with the city councils of Burbank and Anaheim to show how Walt's ideas were stymied as well as passed unanimously. The larger civic and community roles that Disneyland has played are usually not recounted, which makes this book so valuable. Kudos to Sam for including an almost rapacious bibliography and for having the decency to cite his references. Not many authors do that. This one is a must have for Disneyland fans!"--George Taylor, MiceChat.com