

Father Long To Remember Vacation Trip To Disneyland With Two Small Children

By VERNON BAKER
United Press Correspondent
San Francisco — (U.P.) — There was the usual dissent in my household this year over where we were to spend our annual vacation—the children won. I took them to Disneyland.

Mother had planned to take the baby to the Midwest to visit relatives, so after seeing her off, the other children, Cynthia, 5, and Cheryl, 3, and I packed up and headed down the Coast of California for Disneyland park.

Although I dreamed about giving up a trout rod for a toy town, I must admit that I had the time of my life.

I had never ventured farther than the next town with my two offspring in my lone charge, so the trip was a new experience for me. (It also gave me stature in the neighborhood, for the fathers in the block now consider me a brave man.) I learned many things, not all of them useful, about the care and feeding of little girls.

Hotel A Haven
After 450 miles of driving, the Disneyland Hotel, which we made our headquarters, since it sits at the very edge of Disneyland, appeared like a traveler's haven of rest and relaxation. The television set kept the girls busy while I unpacked. They wouldn't consent to bed, however, until we took a ride to Disneyland and back aboard the hotel's free tram service.

Incidentally, the hotel has excellent facilities for eating, afternoon naps and children's needs in general, including beds that lock into the wall away from inquisitive hands.

The real joy of the trip came when we got our first good look at Disneyland, with its town of the 1890s, its castle and its rocket ship.

Cindy, her eyes wide with excitement looked up at me and asked unbelievably, "Daddy, is this really Disneyland?" Cheryl, the family politician at the tender age of three, was equally excited. Her first words were, however, "I want to meet Walt Disney."

All In A Whirl
Then we were off in a whirl of kids having the time of their lives on chugging engines, whirling tea cups and horse drawn vehicles.

Cindy's favorite ride was the jungle boat, although she voted the moon trip a close second. She was awed and sometimes close to frightened by the mechanical wonders of the man-made jungle and the mock trip to the moon.

Cheryl was interested and impressed by the physical plant. After the jungle boat trip she looked at me and stated flatly, "Daddy, I saw a giraffe eating and he had grass in his mouth."

Somewhat taken aback by this wisdom I replied, "Why, yes that's right, I guess he did." I was looking over my shoulder at

the time to make certain the life-like cannibals were not measuring my head for their shrinking pot.

Cheryl's excitement bubbled over in Fantasyland. We took more rides on King Arthur's carousel and the Mad Hatters tea cups than I like to remember. One bright spot was the Mickey Mouse theater where we sat and watched the same showing of cartoons for three sessions. It was a great place to sit and rest, as was Slew Foot Sue's golden Horseshoe Saloon in Frontierland where we casually drank cola-on-the-rocks.

Here We Go Again
There have been many additions since we visited Disneyland. The painted desert, then unpainted, now has a fresh coat of colors. You can take a "sky-way" trip across the park, visit rainbow caverns or ride down the mouth of a whale into his tummy and out the mouth again. I have a feeling the children will want to go back and see those things next summer.

I'll put up my usual argument for a nice spot beside a cool stream, but I know who'll win. As a matter of fact, I'm looking forward to a return engagement, but don't breathe a word of it to my family. I understand a father is supposed to be stern about these things.

Michigan State University was the first college to build a student union building.

Death Car Driver Placed on Probation

Lakeview — (U.P.) — Earl Graham, 31-year-old Malin ranch worker, has been placed on five years probation here by Circuit Judge Charles Foster. Graham was the driver of a car that hit and fatally injured nine-year-old Sheryl Kay Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Smith of Merrill July 8.

The accident occurred one mile east of Malin. An 11-year-old companion of the victim was injured.

1956 Headed for Worst Traffic Year

Chicago — (U.P.) — The National Safety Council yesterday said 1956 was halfway down the road to becoming the worst year of traffic deaths in the nation's motoring history.

Ned H. Dearborn, council president, said "almost a miracle" was needed to prevent a greater toll than in 1941 when highway slaughter cut down 39,969 victims. The old record will be eclipsed by about 2,000 deaths if the present rate continues, he warned.

The council's grim outlook came after fatalities during the first half of the year broke a record standing since 1937. In the initial six months of 1956, 18,120 persons died compared with 17,320 during the same period 19 years ago.

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