

Disney's world of fantasy

By Suchita Malik

DISNEYLAND — the word has become synonymous with fun,

the fantastic world of fun.

As one enters through the main entrance, you are welcomed by a flower-decked motif of Mickey Mouse. Not

Tiki Room', 'Indiana Jones Adventure', 'Jungle Cruise' and 'Swiss Family freehouse'. 'Jungle Cruise' is — as it should be — serene, peaceful,

exotic — a journey in the dark forests surrounded by tall trees with stars twinkling overhead. The crowd-puller thrilling 'Indiana Jones Adventure' ride, said to be one of the lat-

est additions, nearly crosses the fine distinction between fright and fun. One has to wait for his turn in a long queue for this spine-chilling ride. You, have to be at least 4 ft 6 inches tall to qualify for this ride.

You are taken inside the 'Indiana Jones' in high-speed jeeps and then starts a journey into the horrors of the world. At one step, you are nearly engulfed by a fire-spitting dragon but get saved only because your jeep takes an immediate left turn only to land into the erotic, mystical, black magic world of the Indian *tantriks*. 'Pirates of the

In 'Fantasy land' there are many fantasy rides such as 'It's a Small World', 'Alice in Wonderland', 'Dumbo the Flying Elephant', 'Peter Pan's Flight', 'Sleeping Beauty Castle', 'Pinocchio's Daring Journey's and 'Snow White's Scary Adventures' to name a few. A journey through these rides takes you back in your childhood fantasies. However, the most soothing fantasy is created in

Travel

'It's a Small World'. Here, you sail through a small but beautiful

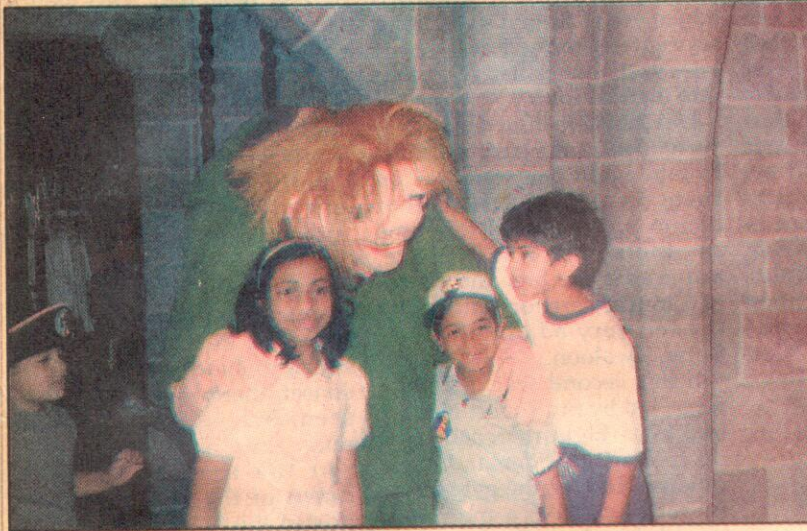
world consisting of dolls from different continents who dance and sing to very sweet and melodious music.

Come to the 'Critter Country' and you find one of the major star attractions: the 'Splash Mountain'. This immensely popular ride sails you up in an antique wooden boat, brings you to a standstill for a few seconds before it lands almost at 45° angle splashing you headlong into a pool of water from a considerable height. Just before the fall, your spontaneous reflexes are caught in a

hidden camera and as you come out all, drenched from head to toe, you can't even boast of being brave as your 'sacred-to-death' look in the photograph smiles at you in your face at the front door. enchanting, indeed!

In 'Tomorrowland' there are some exciting and educational rides such as the 'Submarine Voyage', 'Star

Tours', 'Rocket Jets', 'Circle-Vision' and the 'Space Mountain'. The 'Circle-Vision' is like a theatre where you get to see a film on the USA, its early aborigines in a continuous 360° mode. While 'Submarine Voyage' opens before you the exquisite wonders of the marine life and the world of the lobsters, oysters and octopus dilly-dallying



'Hunchback of Notre Dame' with children

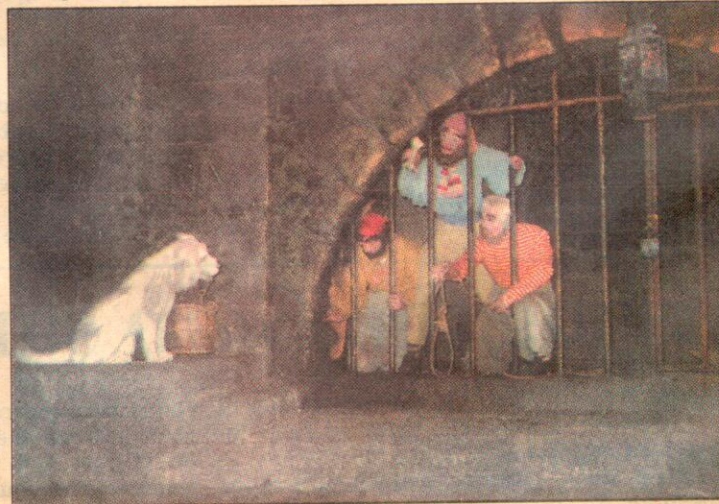
Photos by the writer

adventure, excitement and dare-devilry. It, sure, is a dream for everyone to be in Walt Disney's exquisite Disneyland. For me also, it was a dream come true the day we started off from Bakersfield to Los Angeles. We were there holidaying and staying with my sister-in-law who was playing the complete hostess to us — a family of four. It was a Wednesday, and we started at 6 am from this small town with the intentions of touching the Disneyland by 8.30 am i.e. before the LA traffic became impossible. And we did. My 10-year old nephew, for whom it was the ninth visit to this dreamland, used the driving time in mentally preparing us for the different rides. The traffic parking area was huge and probably the biggest so far we had seen.

We got our first shock when we learnt that the entry ticket to this dreamland was an average of \$30 per head. But the shock remained only for moments as our tickets were being paid for by my sister-in-law. But I was still feeling bizarre in some corner — such an expensive stuff. Once we entered, I realised that it is indeed a dreamland not only for children but for people from all age-groups and all walks of life. Day in or day out. Disneyland sizzles with

far from there stands triumphant the statue of Walt Disney, the master creator. The rush of people, the magnificent layout of the theme park, the excitement all around, the nearly-possessed voices of children in a terrible hurry and the leisurely walks of the smiling larger-than-life projections of the cartoon characters like the Hunchback of Notre Dame, Donald Duck, Mickey Mouse, Peter Pan etc. lend glamour and an air of mystique to the hulla-bulla around.

A close look at the guide map would reveal that this dream-world is actually planned and designed through various lands and towns. The major sectors are christened as 'Adventureland', 'Frontierland', 'Fantasyland', 'Critter Country', 'New Orleans Square', 'Mickey's Toon Town and 'Tomorrowland'. Each one of these lands of sectors consists of various attractions and



'Pirates of the Carribbean'

Caribbean' is a smooth sailing ride in a boat which takes you inside a cave-like-den of the sea-pirates, shows their lifestyle and how they would conduct their raids. They clay figures of the sea-pirates, their dogs, prisoners, liquor bottles and the seemingly dilapidated condition of the walls around and their living area make you

Every moment is reeled with laughter, thrill and incredulous excitement. What Disney, the wonder wizard couldn't have imagined that his highly innovative and wonderful creation would, one day, be the happiest place on earth. Fun galore, Disneyland offers a soothing oasis from the painful realities of the day-to-day world where to find peace or happiness is but a mirage. In Shakespearean terms, Disneyland is the creator's Utopian Forest of Arden.

Disneyland, a spectacular theme park in Anaheim, California, on the most favoured West Coast of the USA, marked the culmination of Walt Disney's creativity in 1955. He had first become known in the 1920s and 1930s for creating such cartoon film characters as 'Mickey Mouse' and 'Donald Duck'. Most of the exhibits, rides and shows at the park are based on Disney film characters. When Disneyland opened in 1955, much of Disney's disposition towards nostalgic sentiment and fantasy was evident in its design and construction. His imagination and energy, his whimsical humour and his gift for being attuned to the vagaries of popular taste inspired him to develop endearing amusements for "children of all ages" throughout the world.

Regarded as his landmark contribution, Disneyland soon became a Mecca for tourists from all over the world. A second Disney park, Walt Disney World, a mega size replica of the original Disneyland was under construction near Orlando in Florida at the time of his death on December 15, 1966. It was opened to the public in 1971. His achievement as a creator of entertainment for an almost unlimited public remains unparalleled in

is a roller-coaster ride.

One comes out of the Disneyland reluctantly as if

one walks out of a dreamland.
One can't help exclaiming:
Kudos to the master creator,

master entrepreneur and master entertainer! May he create one of Heaven, too! As you

come out, you are most likely to say: What a bonanza! I saw so much for so less.