

# Disney's Diamond Celebration

National theme park celebrates 60 years of entertainment success

Gabriel Scalzo  
Reporter

**F**or 60 years, Disneyland has been entertaining guests with quality attractions and spot-on theming. That's right, on July 17, 2015, the Disneyland Resort celebrated its 60th anniversary, so I HAD to pay a visit.

Last year I attended the Rock Your Disney Side 24-hour Party and wrote about that (see "Teen takes 'Disney Side' on family vacation" March 27, 2015). This year, Disney Parks held another 24-hour party on May 22 to kick off the celebration, and it was a pleasure to participate. The celebration is being called the Diamond Celebration, similar to the way the

50th anniversary had golden themes.

When my group got through the gates and into Main Street U.S.A., we were ready to explore the new experiences that were being offered for the Diamond Celebration. The changes that most people noticed first were the blue decorations all down Main Street. Sleeping Beauty Castle also had a diamond makeover, which was gorgeous.

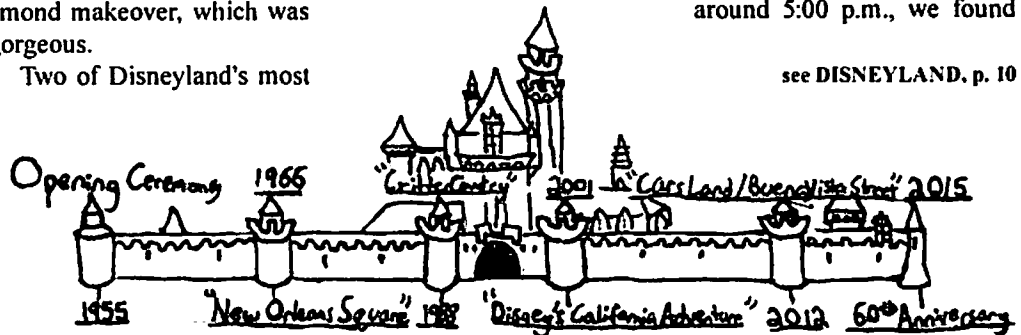
Two of Disneyland's most

beloved rides also got some changes. Because the lines were unbelievably long all day, I was not able to enjoy the newly refurbished Matterhorn Bobsled ride. It got all new animatronics for the Abominable Snowman and some new props. What I did get to enjoy was the Haunted Mansion. We needed to use a Fastpass to get past the line, but once we got in, I was

astonished by the new high-tech character, the Hatbox Ghost. He is presented as a skeleton holding a hatbox. When his head disappeared and reappeared inside the box, it looked amazing!

After that, I explored some attractions that were new to me personally. Rides like Ariel's Undersea Adventure and Big Thunder Mountain Railroad really made my day. At around 5:00 p.m., we found

see DISNEYLAND, p. 10



## Disneyland celebrates 60 years

continued from 9

After that, I explored some attractions that were new to me personally. Rides like Ariel's Undersea Adventure and Big Thunder Mountain Railroad really made my day. At around 5:00 p.m., we found our waiting spot for what everybody had been anticipating, the new parade and firework show.

The new parade is called Paint the Night and it happens right after the sun goes down. It's lit up with jaw-dropping

LED lights and has great music.

The new firework show is called Disneyland Forever and features, for the first time, projections on many places around the park. It is a heartwarming celebration of classic Disney movies and Disneyland.

There was also a third piece of new nighttime entertainment called "World of Color: Celebrate the Wonderful World of Walt

Disney." It is a new version of the popular World of Color show. It takes place over a lake and tributes Walt Disney with fountains, projections, lasers and fire. I have to admit, I nearly cried.

At 6:00 a.m., 24 hours after the park opened, I lazily made my way back to the hotel. Although I was unhealthily exhausted, my life has been enlightened even more by Disneyland and its spectacular celebrations.