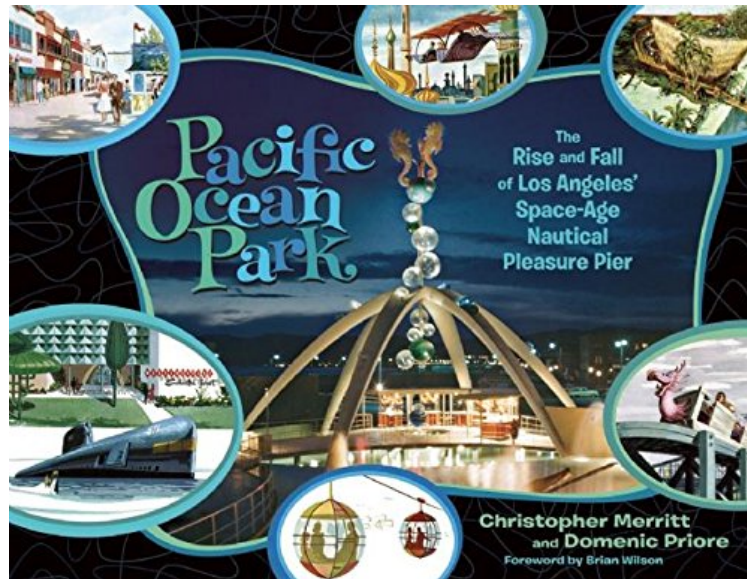


(Ebook free) Pacific Ocean Park: The Rise and Fall of Los Angeles' Space Age Nautical Pleasure Pier

Pacific Ocean Park: The Rise and Fall of Los Angeles' Space Age Nautical Pleasure Pier

Christopher Merritt, Domenic Priore
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Christopher Merritt, Domenic Priore : Pacific Ocean Park: The Rise and Fall of Los Angeles' Space Age Nautical Pleasure Pier before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pacific Ocean Park: The Rise and Fall of Los Angeles' Space Age Nautical Pleasure Pier:

21 of 21 people found the following review helpful. A total success. Buy it.By Winston SmithPre-ordered this back in December and just received today. Everything you would hope for in a book on the mythic Pacific Ocean Park is contained in this beautiful hardback... from the early pre-P-O-P days of the boardwalk, through the park's construction and operational heyday, to its ultimate destruction, gets coverage here. EVERY PAGE is loaded with photos: extensive concept sketches and paintings, behind-the-scenes and promotional photos of the park itself, brochures, ads, ticket books, signage, maps, screen-caps from TV shows and films that were shot at the park, wreckage and graffiti from after its demise, all presented in beautiful layouts. But its not MERELY a handsome coffee-table book for browsing pictures because the text is exhaustive and thorough, covering every aspect of the park in detail. This book could not be improved!10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. PACIFIC OCEAN PARK Rises From Its Watery Grave One Last Time.By Douglas Keith McEwanThis lovely book far exceeded my hopes and expectations for it. POP is such a long-gone, forgotten bit of my childhood that it's hard now to believe it ever was real except when one sees it in an old TV show or movie on METV or ANNTENNAE TV (The final confrontation between Richard Kimble and the one-armed man in THE FUGATIVE took place in POP), but as a kid I loved its "Flight to Mars," its Magic Flying Carpet dark ride, it silly Tub dark ride, its great mirror maze (Immortalized in a classic TWILIGHT ZONE episode), it's wacky banana train ride, and its super rollercoaster. I have vivid memories of riding in the sky ride bubbles out over the sea with my dad and my brother. Dad, my brother and POP are all long gone now, but this book has brought it and them back.The story the book tells (Because the text is as wonderful as the hundreds of

pictures) is a fascinating one of greed, stupidity, red-tape, government ineptitude, and more greed. I'd always wondered why POP only survived for 9 years while Disneyland and Knott's Berry Farm go on and on, seemingly immortal. After reading this book (And I devoured every word in it), I now wonder how it stayed open for as long as it managed. (Just reading the hilarious paragraph describing the hideous cost-saving practices in the food courts during its waning days will turn your stomach. "Don't eat the cold slaw, it was black this morning. He's colored it." Watered-down ketchup, rancid mayonnaise, the cheapest legal hot dogs fillings, an employee disciplined for throwing out pizza dough covered in mold.) The idiotic idea to fire all the designers and art directors two years after opening because it was "All designed now" was particularly hilariously stupid. It's like Walt Disney firing all his Imagineers in 1958, because, you know, Disneyland is finished now. Because when the Turf Club and CBS sold it after it became clear that it could never be profitable, the park went into the hands of non-creative businessmen, men for whom "Creativity" was turning a profit on a parcel of land three times over, and the creativity that a place like POP needs to thrive was replaced by greedy, rapacious money-men. Disaster was inevitable. The lengthy final chapter, describing the park's withering, its ultimate failure, and the long slow rotting-in-public that it endured for years, as businessmen wrangled to try to squeeze out more profit where none was ever to be had while a veritable parade of inept government agencies for two cities (The park straddled a city border, half in Santa Monica, half in Venice), the state and the Feds made its demolition increasingly impossible, even as its rotting hulk became ever-more-dangerous, is a sobering and fascinating read. When I was young, I loved POP. Now I'm old, and I love this book. 13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful - Surpassed all my expectations. By K. Martinez Very detailed account of the legendary Southern California amusement park. A place I never visited during my early trips to Disneyland, but wish I had. Fantastic photos and plenty of them as well as lots of historical information to enjoy reading. Between this book and "Knott's Preserved", I'm quickly becoming a fan of Christopher Merritt's work. Now if only someone would do a Freedomland book on this level.

Pacific Ocean Park--or as it was commonly known in Los Angeles from the '50s through the '70s, P.O.P.--was extraordinary in both its glamorous rise and spectacular fall. As a family-oriented attraction in the '50s with modernist-styled rides designed by Hollywood's best, P.O.P.'s attendance briefly surpassed that of Disneyland. Christopher Merritt and Domenic Priore's spectacular history includes hundreds of images, most of them unseen elsewhere, including original ride designs and illustrations, including Tiki-ride, space age, and nautical rides. P.O.P. was often widely seen in movies and television shows throughout the '60s. Its Cheetah auditorium hosted important early rock shows, including those by Ritchie Valens, The Doors, and Pink Floyd. P.O.P. was located at the dividing line between Santa Monica and Venice, the only spot during Prohibition-era Los Angeles where residents were allowed to dance and consort in a carnival-like atmosphere. The book also backgrounds the infamous "Dogtown" of the '70s in which surfers took advantage of big waves that rolled through P.O.P.'s rotting piers near homeless junkies. Buyers will be able to download audio files heard from all P.O.P. attractions. Christopher Merritt currently designs amusement parks in Asia and also co-wrote Knott's Preserved. Domenic Priore also co-wrote the celebrated volumes Riot on Sunset Strip, Pop Surf Culture, and Smile: The Story of Brian Wilson's Lost Masterpiece.