

9620 AIRPORT BLVD. PHONE 213-670-1600  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90009

JAN 3 77

LA NO SMOG HOT CLEAR  
FULL MOON

ED CATMULL, DICK SHOUP, & I

MET with DAVE SNYDER @ DISNEY

- director of audio-animatronics  
(or at least the computer systems  
behind them)
- they animate the hydraulically-driven  
robots in frames (or film feet) & do  
straight-line animatronic interpolation  
of the motion (he claimed this was  
sufficient - I disagree - as did a  
young fellow who uses the system)
- has kludgy computer (Honeywell 516) - he & 2 others  
wrote ~~his~~ own operating system!  
everything in assembly language  
(8000 lines of code)
- used to work directly under Ub Iwerks  
whom he openly admired
- thought Disney was now losing its  
initiative because of old folks (like  
Don Duckwall & Eustis (sp? somebody)  
at the top)
- claimed ~~the~~ Disney has \$100M in the  
bank & no debts
- was very in favor of our stuff but

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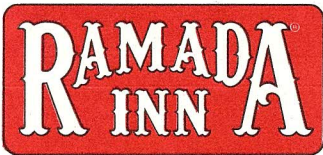
figured his higher ups wouldn't back  
its development (but should!)  
"Ub would have"

- had ~~an~~ Imai 8080 in the back room  
& expressed intent to start using many  
processors
- Disneyland animatronics done with cams!  
(except for most recent 3 shows)  
None of Disneyworld however - its computer  
is under the castle (dungeon!)

We presented our videotape & slides; Dick  
presented videotape of "super paint" - at a  
seminar that Dave Snyder organized.

- we were surprised & pleased that Don  
Duckwall (& Eustis & ) showed up  
and expressed positive (but not overwhelmingly  
so) reactions: "I believe you can  
now do bubbles" Suggested he might  
be interested in us for special effects
- a large group (~30) people showed up  
for the seminar - most were young  
eager guys who loved what they saw  
- especially the 3-D stuff
- many questions afterwards
- Duckwall spoke further with Ed - everybody  
at Disney, he said, gets 50% raises over  
next 3-4 years - if we can save him money,  
he's interested
- Eustis (head of Special Effects) made remark  
which suggested (to Ed) that he thought ~~we~~ were  
a service (in which he was not interested)  
hence that he might be interested in having us





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come set up a system in house

Skipped lunch & went to meet Frank Thomas  
at the animation studio

- were joined by Eric Martin - now living in Hollywood - will teach animation at Harvard next summer - is teaching a course (in art, about media ~~7/8~~ - not animation) at Cal Arts
- Frank introduced us to Jim McDonald, an old sound man at Disney ("excuse <sup>me</sup> while I go be a tomtom for the orchestra") - Frank had a very old movieola & typewriter in his office (30's vintage) - his mirror was hidden in a wardrobe! - walls covered with Sir His development sketches & "Rescuers" model sheets
- claimed Walt himself had dampened out animation with interest in the theme parks & that only the giant success of "Jungle Book" (highest return ever at that time) revived interest in animation
- claimed the young animators were more nostalgic than the old
- We re-presented the demos (in the old Mickey Mouse Club offices) to

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Frank Thomas  
Ollie Johnston  
Art Hansen

Ken Stevens ← has a son in computer science (AI) at MIT

— They seemed to like what they saw —  
asked lots of questions — but didn't know what to do with the info

— Frank walked us down the hall lined with backgrounds (e.g. signed Tenggrens)  
— reacquainted me with highest quality work: Jimmy Cricket had 27 colors!  
the evil "witch" in Snow White had 5 colors in just her eyes!

Had a wonderful LA mexican dinner with Laurie & Eric

Dick, Ed, & I then went to IIT and met with Gary Demos and John Whitney (Jr.)

↑ had lived in Las Cruces for some obscure reason

- very high quality work & machines
- saw lots of film footage
- they weren't interested (apparently) in animation just special effects
- Ed Fredkin owns IIT — Minsky & Papert are on the board
- Gary had taken signed pictures off P S
- using Eclair  $\bar{c}$  synchronous motor synched to line freq. and using  $183^\circ$  shutter for 35mm or  $187^\circ$  for 16mm