



## The Revised Vault of Walt

*Jim Korkis , Bob McLain (Editor) , Diane Disney Miller (Foreword)*

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In 2010, Jim Korkis wrote his best-selling book *The Vault of Walt*. Now Jim has returned to the Vault, and in this revised edition of his classic book, you'll find your favorite tales plus five brand-new stories, including:

The perilous four-month stint of famed Warner Bros. animator Chuck Jones at the Disney Studios. Why two women you've never heard of were among Walt's most important influences. Walt's admiration for and brief collaboration with legendary artist Salvador Dali. Walt and Lillian Disney's raucous 30th wedding anniversary celebration in Frontierland. How Walt's early infatuation with polo led to an injury that plagued him for the rest of his life. The story of Cinderella's Golden Carrousel and the Disney craftswoman who tended it for decades. Walt's fondness for chili and cold weenies, with authentic recipes to create his favorite dishes. And over twenty more!

With a foreword by Walt's daughter Diane Disney Miller, *The Revised Vault of Walt* is your chance to roam the nooks and crannies of Disney culture in the capable hands of Disney historian, master storyteller, and former Cast Member Jim Korkis. As Diane Disney Miller herself writes, Jim's stories are ..".authentic, so true to my dad's spirit, so unprejudiced and non-judgmental, that I ... could see the twinkle in dad's eye, hear his laugh."

*The Revised Vault of Walt* consists of four parts, each with seven memorable tales about Walt, Disney films, Disney theme parks, and the many other worlds of Disney. In addition, there's a bonus section about Disney's controversial film *Song of the South* to herald Jim's new book, *Who's Afraid of the Song of the South? And Other Forbidden Disney Stories*, also from Theme Park Press and now available on Amazon.

Note to readers of the old edition: *The Revised Vault of Walt* omits several of Jim's stories and replaces them with new tales. The book has been professionally copy edited and features a brand-new layout - not to mention a much lower price. But please do remember that most of the content here was also present in the old edition.

Jim Korkis is the best-selling author of *Vault of Walt*, and has been researching and writing about Disney for over three decades. The Disney Company itself uses his expertise for special projects. Korkis resides in Orlando, Florida.

## The Revised Vault of Walt Details

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# From Reader Review The Revised Vault of Walt for online ebook

## Joshua says

NOTE: I forgot to do a review on this book due to being away from the site for a few months.

This author seems to deliver up a lot of great information of Disney lore. He does his research really well and he's not doing it to demonize Walt Disney or the company. He does it to point out the most well-kept secrets of the Disney legacy. The secrets range from Walt's childhood, Disneyland, and of course, the classic films.

There were some parts that I wanted to skim (mainly the Disneyland segment), but I kept on and it just made me want to read more. I would definitely recommend this to Disney historians or film buffs in general.

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## Craig says

These bite sized stories of Disney history are well worth the time if anyone even vaguely interested in the history of Disney movies, parks or the man himself.

Jim Korkis, as always, has provided a well researched and well structured book, with each story never outstaying its welcome and is always interesting and entertaining.

Can't wait to dig into further entries in this series.

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## JT says

### Disney intel

A nice look at all things Disney. A good little peek behind the curtain. I will certainly read the other Vaults.

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## Garrett says

aside from the figure of Walt Disney himself, there's no theme to tie the short stories together. The author dances between short biographical snippets to short stories tied to the park and then back to Walt's personal life. But treated as easy-to-digest biographical nuggets, each story is well researched and addressed with a respectful sterility. Part of the motivation for publishing these stories out of all the possible content to select from is these facts and folks are under researched and under appreciated in the Disney fandom. I had never heard his name before, but Korkis appears to be deeply entrenched in Disney history, and has a great deal of primary source material to draw on. For example, one of my favorite stories followed the famous Disneyland Carousel, and its history from construction/assembly to modern modifications. For many decades there was one woman in charge of painting and refurbishing the horses, and from her Korkis collected a substantial collection of information about this little micro-history. I'm looking forward to Korkis' other works, and feel better prepared for my annual pilgrimage to Anaheim after taking in this lovely dose of Disney history.

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## **Jason Vargo says**

A nice, diverse grouping of stories centered on Walt and the Disney company. These are short stories which allow a reader to digest one fairly quickly without being rushed through. There are no major revelations for fans in these pages, yet the stories help to fill in pieces of Disney history.

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## **Tania says**

Jim Korkis shares an incredible amount of information in this modestly sized book. It reads as a book of short stories, categorized into 4 sections: Walt Disney himself, Movies/TV, the Parks, and everything else. Not every story is specifically about Walt Disney, the man, but they are all interesting stories that relate to Disney's involvement in everything his company did during his lifetime, and how that has bled into what the company has done since. To be fair, though, the book doesn't advertise itself as a Disney biography, but rather as uncovering Disney history that most people wouldn't otherwise know.

Many of the stories had minute details that would be omitted from more comprehensive biographies about Walt's life or the books on the Disney company and its rich heritage. Here they work because of the format of the book. I found this a fascinating book to read, and I discovered many new tidbits of Disney trivia that I'd not heard before. Some of my favorite stories were Tom Sawyer Island and Cinderella's Golden Carousel, which both shared the process behind putting together these iconic attractions.

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## **Katherine says**

This is a great book for the Disney fan - or someone who wants to know more about the behind the scenes of Disney and his films. It is written in a "fireside chat" manner, which means a bunch of short stories that don't necessarily connect to each other - don't expect a fluid story from beginning to end, but rather a stream of conscious about tales that deserved to be shared. It is a great opportunity to hear from some of the people that actually worked with Walt and what their impressions of him were - as well as what it was like to work at and for Disney "back in the day". Good and easy read and if you enjoy all things Disney, this one will fit in with your collection.

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## **Chrissy says**

I'm a huge Disney fan and former cast member, so this book seemed right up my alley. Unfortunately, the first section was pretty dull, repetitive and boring. I'm hoping that the second section gets better.

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## **Sarah says**

Very fun, fast read. I liked the episodic nature of the book. Some of the stories were, of course, more interesting to me than others, but they all had the fun and adventurous spirit of Disney. The writing did feel a little amateur to me, which is why I only gave it 4 stars. Nice vacation read or weekend book if you want

something easy and light.

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### **Sesana says**

Yes, this is indeed a book entirely about semi-random bits of relatively obscure Disney history, specifically relating to Walt himself. The well-read Disneyphile has probably encountered bits and pieces of this information, but not in quite so much depth. And yes, you will need to be quite a Disneyphile to even make it through the book. The one thing that I found slightly annoying is that Korkis tended to repeat information too much. So he might include a lengthy quote from a first hand source, and then repeat what that source said a page later. At the end of the book, there's a short section focused on the movie *Song of the South*. I'm saving up my thoughts on his take until after I've read his longer treatment in *Who's Afraid of the Song of the South?*, but it really doesn't look like we're going to see eye to eye there.

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### **Deborah says**

Very enjoyable collection of stories for Walt admirers and Disney fans.

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### **Becky Ginther says**

A few months ago I wrote a review of the book *The Vault of Walt*, by Jim Korkis. Since that time I was lucky enough to get a copy of the revised *Vault of Walt*, and I would love to share that review with you now.

For the most part the revised version of this book is similar to the original. The major differences are that the new version has some stories that have been added, and others that were removed. Of those that have remained in both editions, I noticed very few changes and I believe that for the most part they remain the same. Because I've reviewed much of the old material previously, in this post I thought I'd give you my thoughts on some of the new sections.

Overall the new book is excellent, just like the old one. The stories have been narrowed down to the best ones, and they are well written and chock full of information. Jim Korkis is a great storyteller, and one that has some very unique information and insights into the Disney company. If you're looking for fun Disney stories or information that you almost certainly haven't heard before, this is where you'll find them.

There are five new stories in this book: *Eating Like Walt*, *And the Oscar Goes to... Walt Disney*, *The Carousel of Progress*, *The Man Who Shot Walt Disney*, and *Song of the South Frequently Asked Questions*.

The first, 'Eating Like Walt,' is a rather unique chapter. It starts out by describing what his favorite foods were and what he liked to eat. It turns out that he was a fan of homestyle foods, and a bit of a picky eater at that! It's an interesting chapter, but what makes it really original is the fact that it also includes some recipes based on Walt's favorites. These have been gathered from various sources and are presented here so you can try to make some of Walt's favorites at home.

'And the Oscar Goes to... Walt Disney' does have some good information in it, but for me it was probably the weakest of the new chapters. It describes many of the Oscars that Walt received, as well as times he was

a presenter or received a special award. The small anecdotes in here are cute, though the chapter ends up feeling more like a “list” than stories at times.

My favorite of all the new sections was ‘The Carousel of Progress.’ This is what I wish every story in this book was like. It’s something that I know a bit about and can relate to, but it’s not something so obscure that I don’t have any context for it. The Carousel of Progress has been through many changes since it was started, and this chapter details how it has been grown and adjusted throughout the years.

Another new section was ‘The Man Who Shot Walt Disney.’ I didn’t love the title of this story, as I felt it was a little too sensationalist and just trying to get attention, but the actual content (it’s really about a photographer) was interesting. This man worked for Disneyland photography for a number of years, and the chapter details some of the famous and unique shots he captured and how he “rigged” some of those photos, as well as some personal stories of his interactions with Walt. As someone interested in photography I really enjoyed this new chapter.

Finally, the back of the book has ‘Song of the South Frequently Asked Questions.’ Many Disney fans are intrigued by this film that is almost impossible to get a hold of. Despite the fact that the movie hasn’t been released in the US in decades, it remains a prevalent part of the Disney culture thanks to the extremely popular Splash Mountain ride. I loved reading some of the basics on Song of the South, and this FAQ made me excited to read Korkis’s new book, *Who’s Afraid of the Song of the South?*

The stories that were removed from the original were “Santa Walt,” “Walt and DeMolay,” “Return to Marceline 1956,” “Song of the South Premiere,” “Toby Tyler,” “Lt. Robin Crusoe U.S.N.,” “Blackbeard’s Ghost,” “The Story of Storybook Land,” “Sleeping Beauty Castle Walk Through,” “Epcot Fountain,” “Captain EO,” “Mickey Mouse Theater of the Air,” “Golden Oak Ranch,” and “Disney Goes to Macy’s”. To be honest, I don’t think the book is missing much by removing those stories. For one thing, it makes the novel slimmer, more portable, and more easily handled. I brought the revised version to read on my flight to Disney World and it was the perfect size for travel. Most of the stories that were removed were the ones that I found a bit too obscure last time, so I definitely think their removal improves the book and makes it more manageable and interesting. The only story I really enjoyed from the original that didn’t appear here was “Sleeping Beauty Castle Walk Through.”

Although most of the duplicate stories are the same, I did re-read them. As someone who was on her way to Disney World, I found the story about the carousel particularly interesting upon reading it the second time, and made sure to check out some of the details while I was down there. It’s those sorts of things that make this a really worthwhile book.

At the end of the day, I would recommend the revised Vault of Walt for two types of people: those that never read the original should definitely check it out, and those that read the original and loved it. If you read the original version and liked it but didn’t love it, I don’t believe the revised version adds so much more that it would be worth it to you. All in all I feel that the revised Vault of Walt is definitely an improvement over the first one, and something all Disney fans should read if you haven’t read any of these stories already!

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## **Kelsey says**

This book was beyond amazing. There were chapters that made me tear up and want to literally hug the child that grew up to be Walt Disney. Jim Korkis is blessed with the gift of telling stories that need to be read (and

heard on the WDW Radio podcast with Lou Mongello) by anyone fascinated by the Disney company. We are a special breed!

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### **Diane says**

Not bad. I don't find the person of Walt Disney to be all that interesting, but I did enjoy the stories about the history of several of the park's rides. There seems to be a fair amount of repetition at a few points in the book. Would probably be a great read for those truly into Walt Disney, the person and the company. However, I wouldn't recommend it for others.

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### **Wendy says**

Written as a collection of stand-alone stories, this book carries tidbits of Disney trivia and Disney charm. The stories cover the Disney parks, Disney movies, and Walt's life. Also included are celebrity interactions. Each account is delivered in a report-type telling, so information-packed. In all, it's a heavier read if attempted front to back, so may be more suited to a coffee-table-book approach where you savor chapters at random.

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