

TRAVEL with Bates

By Sandi Bates



The springboard for adventures of the imagination is Orange County. After all, Disneyland was born here and there are plenty of additional "magic carpets" to whisk you to them.

Amusements are adventures for the young, and Anaheim is certainly an amusement capital. Entire worlds lie inside the gates of theme parks. Names such as "Tomorrow Land" (at Disneyland) or "Wild Water Wilderness" (at Knotts Berry Farm) are no accident. In the magic of childhood, entire lives can be lived in a day.

The county's first foray into the world of amusement parks began in Buena Park at Knott's Berry Farm, which evolved from a berry stand and a restaurant into a popular theme park. Today Buena Park's entertainment corridor also includes Movieland Wax Museum, Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament, Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum, and Wild Bill's Wild West Dinner Extravaganza.

Together, Buena Vista Park and Anaheim bring Orange County \$4.8 billion annually from tourism. Providing Mickey Mouse and Berry Pie make a good combination.

It doesn't take state-of-the-arts effects to put children on the path to adventure. Excavating dinosaur "fossils" at the Children's Museum at La Habra is as simple as digging in a sandbox, as entertaining as a journey in a time machine. At Medieval Times in Buena Park, colorful pageantry comes alive. "Knights and Ladies" are treated to jousting, swordplay, falconry and more.

The arts have always been vehicles for adventure. Orange County's theater tradition is richly illustrated by award-winning south coast repertory, currently celebrating 30 innovative years.

Anaheim is home to another marvel, Robert Schuller's Crystal Cathedral. Today, the drive in church's heir is the ultramodern glass cathedral on Chapman Avenue.

American impressionist painters discovered Laguna Beach at the turn of the century; now art lovers journey to outdoor art festivals there every summer. Laguna Beach hugs five miles of ocean front in such a beguiling way that it lures droves of visitors who come to bask in its California Riviera ambience. The city's cultural offerings are the Museum of Art, A

Playhouse, the Civic Ballet and Chamber Music Society.

The fascinating pageant of the masters, in which costumed actors re-create well-known paintings in a fitness of stage craft, has been a draw in Laguna more than 60 years.

A shining jewel in the country's crown is the dramatic Orange County Performing Arts center.

Today, there is a thriving nautical culture of weekend sailors and working fisherman. Anyone can get on board in watercraft from kayaks to elegant sailboats.

A historic mission town, San Juan Capistrano, Orange County's first settlement, where more tourist than swallows return to each year. The lovely mission town retains its early Spanish flavor with 200 year old adobe homes, western train depot and the jewel of the missions.

Dana Point Harbor opened in 1971 which turned the town into a modern recreational resort. It's marina the home of 2500 yachts as well as a charter and sport fishing fleet, Dana Point is known for its annual festival of whales. Daily whale watching excursions depart from the harbor, allowing visitors a close-up view of these magnificent mammals.

Costa Mesa the hub of Orange County was once known as the Lima Bean Bowl of America. (See Travel with Bates, Pg 24)

RAPPER TO PARTICIPATE IN VEGAS GANG TRUCE BENEFIT

Epic Records recording artist, movie star and rapper MC Eiht of Compton's Most Wanted, who graces the front cover of the current issue of Rap Pages Magazine, will be in Las Vegas to participate in the Annual Celebrity Charity Basketball Game. The event will be on May 21 at the South Gym on the University of Las Vegas Campus to benefit the Truce Foundation, an organization which provides an outlet for underprivileged Las Vegas youths to express and learn various skills which will benefit them in their adult years. The Truce Foundation believes that if they are able to one day provide a center for Vegas youths, they can help to alleviate the gang problem which is currently growing in Las Vegas. The celebrity sports event will also raise proceeds to benefit Vegas' totally non-profit Black

radio station KCEP, which survives from fund raisers and private donations.

MC Eiht (pronounced like the number '8') recently won an award at the First Annual Source Magazine Awards in New York City for Best Acting performance, movie or TV for his portrayal in the role of A-Wax in the New Line Cinema motion picture Menace II Society. Eiht's single, "Straight Up Menace," which appeared on the movie's soundtrack album received much critical acclaim. The album received accolades from music critics in countless publications that included Source Magazine, Billboard Magazine, and Rolling Stone.

Previously, MC Eiht made a cameo appearance in the film Boyz In The Hood, and Eiht's Compton's Most Wanted had that film's successful soundtrack



MC EIHT

album's single "Growin' Up In The Hood."

Eiht will be featured in the front cover photo of the upcoming issue of the respected Source Magazine with rappers Scarface of the Geto Boys and Spice 1.

A new album by Compton's Most Wanted featuring MC Eiht

titled, We Come Strapped, will be released this summer.

Eiht's honest and straight forward descriptions of street life have made Eiht a hero to millions of fans. Eiht, who was named as one of the top ten rap artists of the year by Rap Masters Magazine, says his music is merely how it is in the hoods. Says Eiht, "I don't even like using the term 'gangsta rapper,' because we ain't out here gang-banging on wax. I guess because they feel we from the streets and everybody glorifies running with a pack, we 'gangsta rappers.' It's just a story we telling you. This is how it is in the hoods, period."

THE LARGEST INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN-AMERICAN BOOK-OF-THE-MONTH CLUB (AABOMC) CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY

Shawn E. Costley, CEO of North Star Books, announces the celebration of the one year anniversary of its AABOMC Newsletter.

The international publication, which lists numerous titles by, for, and about People of Color, also features author interviews and book reviews of recently published works. Complimentary copies of the newsletter are available by calling (800) 743-5572.

Members of the AABOMC pay an annual membership fee which entitles them to discounts of 15% of all existing titles. Membership is open to all individuals,

churches, prisons, and other organizations in need of afrocentric reading materials.

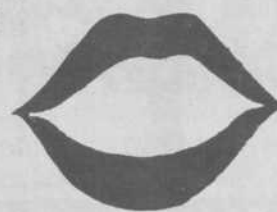
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