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Morey's Pier the pioneer of movie rides.

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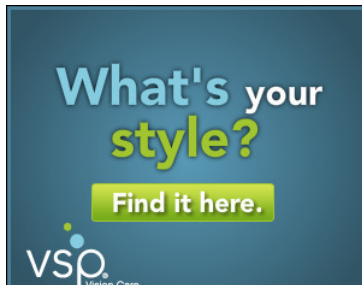
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Stingray

Posted: Tue Mar 20, 2012 5:28 pm Post subject: Morey's Pier the pioneer of movie rides.



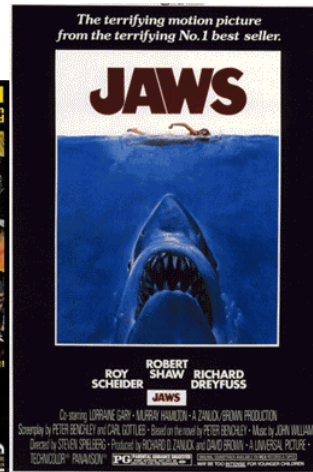
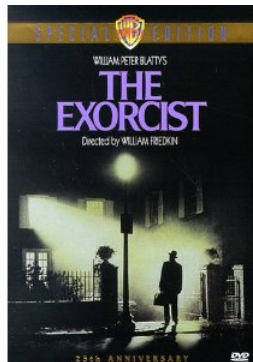
Joined: 20 Apr 2009
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What does Star Wars, Jaws, King Kong, Exorcist, Planet of the Apes, Alfred Hitchcock, have in common. They were all rides at Morey's Pier B1 Disney.

Yes, that's right you know it all theme park nerds. Long before Star Tours, King Kong and Jaws appear on the Hollywood tram tour, Alfred Hitchcock: Art of Kongfrontation at Universal Orlando. A pier over at Wildwood, New Jersey had a little amusement park. Know as Morey's Pier this place started in the late 50's and 70's that rides and coasters populated the pier. Which leads me to a man who would be instrumental in the success and creation of many attraction with cherish memories. Fred Mahana the creative genius behind Morey's Pier attraction was the mastermind behind many attractions based on movies. So let's
Yeah, groovy, baby.



A lot of posters you see here are from the 70's. Even King Kong which was remade in 1976, got a ride base on the it's early films in the the late 60's. One of Mr. Fred Mahana is his love for the cinema. Going thought these attractions it shows. Let's start off with King Kong.



@Funchase

In 1972, King Kong was design at a height of 25 feet. On it was miniatures biplanes that circle Kong which rides could lower or raise. A lot of work when into \$74,000 and 9 months to build this was quite a feat to conquer.



Yes, the Exorcist ride was based on that 70's greatest horror movies of all time. From what I gather, this attraction has a lot in common with Houdini ride at Alton Towers. You enter the a room and sit down on benches which is on a platform. What happens next is the room will spin or go upside down. Music and play and of course the lights we be down only lighting what needs to be showed. This ride system would later be used for "The Poseidon Adventure" and "Jaws". Here's a quote from Funchase.com about how the attraction was like.

Quote:

The long forgotten Exorcist attraction is one ride I find only few remember. This was located under the Wipe Out Slide. There wasn't much to it - but coming off phenomenon this movie created it proved to be a spooky experience for any kid. Of course the "Tubular Bells" music playing outside reinforced your uneasiness. can recall you and your group would step up onto this floating platform that was centered in a room decorated to resemble Regan's bedroom in the movie. Every seated on two long benches that faced one another. The platform would remain in a fixed position while the room, which was mounted on a pivot, would rotate. This concept was first used in the Haunted Swing which was a popular ride in the early amusement parks. The Exorcist was later incorporated into a new ride - The Adventure and Jaws attraction. A boat was built around the existing Exorcist structure and began with the same flipping of the room concept. Once upside down directed through a door and into the belly of a capsized ship. Everything was inverted as you made your way through corridors filled with fluorescent colored steam. Water would gush and bubble underneath the grated catwalks and steam and fog filled the air. From what I can remember it was when you would approach the that you would begin to hear the Jaws music. My recollection gets a little sketchy at this point of the attraction. Unfortunately there is not much information on rides and pictures are also hard to come by. The aerial photo below shows Morey's Pier during the Freddy years.



One attraction that I was surprise to see get made was Planet of the Apes. This is funny for me because how I got to find out about these attractions was by of the Apes attraction have ever been built. Well Morey's Pier did just that. This attraction started by entering a facade of the rocky terrain of the Planet of the Apes. After t you enter a round spaceship where guest would spin with great light effects and music as part of the story where you travel to the Planet of the Apes and enter the Apes land. Mock ups of the terrain is the setup as guest walkthru the attraction. Characters and props will be on display as you see the Apes h series.



This setup became very popular as other movies would use this setup. Star Wars and Star Trek, Empire Strikes Back, were just a few that will use the round this is probably the first attempts to make attraction based on these movie properties long before Disney, Universal, or Paramount would try on their own.



Another attraction that's a shocker in both senses was before Universal Orlando did this, Morey's Pier had a Alfred Hitchcock attraction. Called Hitchcock Man created by Fred Mahana was a spooky dark ride adventure. This ride was totally creepy and scary. Here's a few photos of Hitchcock Manor.



One of the great things about the theme or amusement industry is the creativity people put into creating a place, world, or idea to life. Mr. Fred Mahana was who did the impossible and created a life long of great memories for it's guest. Unfortunately, Mr. Mahana has pass on. He may not of been a official Disney Universal Creative designer, but he is up their with the best. His love and passion for movies and creativity lead to guest enjoying his attractions for Morey's time, the attractions he made what would later be major theme park attractions for other theme parks. So, if you have visited Morey's Pier and had a chance to experience any of Mr. Mahana attractions. Please, gives us your recollection of these great attraction having Mr. Mahana with us, so we could have an interview or a acknowledgement on the great work he's done. But here are is a official site about the man a web site about many of the attraction that Morey's Pier had that needs to be check out.



Links to Fred Mahana and Morey past attractions.
 Fred Mahana Official stie.
<http://www.fredmahana.com/index.htm>
 BTW, check out the radio ad they did for Jaws and Poseidon on pg.3 of Amusement on that site.

Furchase, site for many of Morey's Pier many past and presents attractions.
<http://www.furchase.com/Furchase.htm>

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Page 1 of 1

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