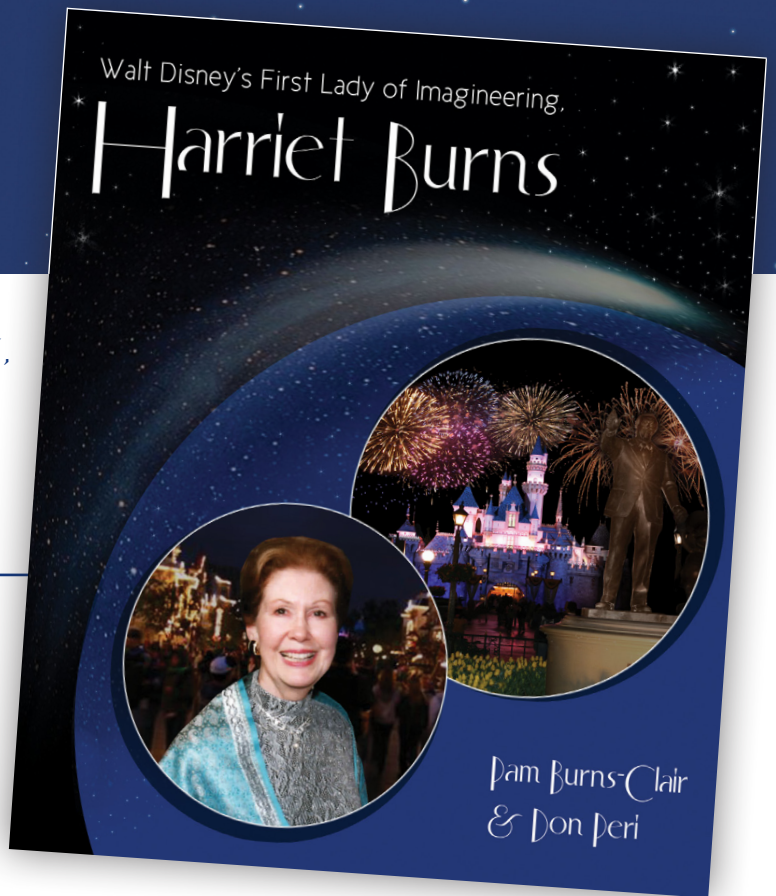


Walt Disney's First Lady of Imagineering, Harriet Burns

by Pam Burns-Clair and Don Peri

Coming soon....a commemorative
limited-edition hard cover book

A tribute from those whose lives she touched, including stories and memories of the many aspects of Harriet Burns from colleagues—fellow Disney Legends and Imagineers and others who admired or interviewed her, family and friends.



She had a sense of humor that I think belied her fashionable appearance at times, a way of seeing the inherent silliness in certain people and things that was not unkind, but instead rather festive.

As the years went by, I would see Harriet at Disneyana events or the Disney Legends ceremony and dinner, and she was always as warm and fun as ever. Although our meetings over the years accumulated to the dozens, they were infrequent, but she was always as gracious and hospitable to me as if I was a long-time colleague from the old days in the Machine Shop Railroad Car, or WED workshop.

Jeff Kurti

Author *Walt Disney's Imagineering Legends*

...As the first non-clerical woman Imagineer, Harriet Burns had to earn the respect of a male-dominated world. Beginning when WED Enterprises was still located at the Studio, she had to be as good as the men were with a table saw, lathes, drill presses and, as she put it, 'other stuff.' And she was, even holding her own when the off-color jokes came her way. With her soft Texas twang, she could sling it right back at them.

Marty Sklar

International Ambassador for Walt Disney Imagineering



“...She had an unusually positive outlook and she had a great sense of humor. She'd come up with all kinds of funny things...I would like her to be remembered this way: she was a person that was almost indescribable (in her) way of affecting people. She was not just a happy likable girl. She was a very, very smart girl that really, within her realm—I think in the sense that there was a slow acceptance of ladies—was the very first lady to be accepted in with men on this precious thing of being a Walt Disney Imagineer and to work right along side, not apart, but right along side them. I would like people to remember that she was the pioneer.”

Blaine Gibson
Disney Legend, Disney Animator and Sculptor



“...Her investment in everybody around her fed the magic that flowed from her mind. She was so proud of the work she had done detailing out the four time periods in the General Electric Carousel of Progress. When it came time to destroy the model, she was moved that we wanted to keep lots of her beautifully detailed miniatures from the 1900s, the 20s, and the 40s acts to remind us of how important detail was to Walt and how incredible Harriet was at delivering it!”

At Harriet's service I couldn't help noticing how much the graceful portrait of Harriet on the back of the memorial booklet looked like the 'perfect' mother in the last act of that Carousel show. Maybe seeing Harriet looking that way every single day at WED rubbed off on Walt... who knows, but like that mother in the Carousel of Progress, Harriet always knew where things were going and had a central seat in making it happen.

Tony Baxter
Disney Imagineer

“...I remember being about 7 or 8 and being excited to get to watch my Aunt Tippy on the 'Wonderful World of Color' on Sunday night and sure enough, when it came on there she was walking and talking with Mr. Disney himself, no less (she knew him!!!!) and then he called her Harriet!! Who was Harriet? I didn't know she had a 'real' name...she was always my Aunt Tippy...we never questioned where such a name as Tippy came from, but who was Harriet? To this day, it's hard for me to refer to her as Harriet...she's my special Aunt Tippy...”

Susan White Farris
Niece



For more information, please visit us at www.imagineerharriet.com or email tributebook@imagineerharriet.com.