

Bob Gurr

Imagineer Bob Gurr has always been a man on the move. And, for nearly 40 years, he helped move many a happy Disney theme park guest aboard vehicles and ride conveyances of his own design. As he's often quipped, "If it moves on wheels at Disneyland, I probably designed it."

And he certainly has. Bob has developed more than 100 designs for attractions ranging from *Autopia* and *Matterhorn Bobsleds* to the Disneyland and Walt Disney World Monorails, and more.

Born in Los Angeles on October 25, 1931, young Bob was fascinated with tools, mechanical devices, and cars. He often crawled through a hole in the fence of nearby Grand Central Air Terminal in Glendale to sneak into the cockpits of idle transport airplanes, while at school he decorated his test papers with sketches of automobiles.

Later, he attended Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles on a General Motors scholarship, where he studied industrial design. Upon graduation in 1952, he was hired by Ford Motor Company, but soon purchased a rubber stamp marked "R.H. Gurr Industrial Design" and went into business for himself.

Soon after, WED Enterprises, today known as Walt Disney Imagineering, hired Bob to consult on the design of miniature cars for *Autopia*. Walt Disney was so impressed with Bob's knowledge and skill that he invited him to join the Imagineering family, which then was solely dedicated to the design and construction of Disneyland.

Over the next nearly four decades, Bob worked transportation magic developing the memorable *Flying Saucers* attraction in Tomorrowland, the antique cars and double-decker buses of Main Street, U.S.A., Ford Motor Company's *Magic Skyway*, which premiered at the 1964-65 New York World's Fair, and more. Bob also helped design the mechanical workings of Disney's first *Audio-Animatronics*® human figure, Abraham Lincoln, featured in *Great Moments with Mr. Lincoln*.

In 1981, Bob retired early from Imagineering to launch GurrDesign, Inc., and, three years later, joined creative forces with two former Imagineers to form Sequoia Creative, Inc. The firm, which specialized in "leisure-time spectaculars" and "fantastical beasts" developed King Kong and Conan's Serpent for Universal Studios, Hollywood.

Bob continues to consult on Disney projects, including the giant Ursula creature featured at Tokyo DisneySea. In 1999, he was honored with the Themed Entertainment Association's Lifetime Achievement Award.