

Building For Children

M.V. Firm Aids Disney

By KEITH KALDENBACH
News Staff Writer

MOUNTAIN VIEW—When Walt Disney's 10 million dollar playground, Disneyland, opens near Los Angeles this summer thousands of American children will shout with glee when they view the rides now being constructed by a Mountain View industrial firm.

Workers at the plant, Arrow Development Co., Inc., 243 Moffett Blvd., are working feverishly on six of the feature rides for the Fantasyland section of Disneyland.

The rides are:

"Casey Jr."—two 65-foot miniature trains identical to those seen by millions in Disney's award winner cartoon, "Dumbo." The two odd little engines each will pull six circus type coaches over a 1,200-foot track, all being built by Arrow.

CARS SILENT

"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs"—a ride which will take the children through a darkened building in which the various scenes of the cartoon, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," are depicted. The specially designed cars will glide silently along in order that the riders can hear the sound track from the movie.

"Mr. Toad's Hotrod"—this will consist of two half-scale replicas of 1903 model automobiles, similar to the one seen recently in Disney's television production of the cartoon, "The Wind and the Willows." The hotrod, for which "Mr. Toad" traded his family home, "Toad Manor," in the cartoon, is electrically powered and

will run on tracks to give the riders the impression they are driven.

"The Mad Hatter's Tea Party"—this ride will be made up of large cups and saucers which will spin as the children sit inside and view scenes of the Hatter's party with "Mr. Doremouse."

King Arthur's Carousel"—a 50-foot diameter merry-go-round which will have 72 horses for the young "knights" to ride.

DUMBO TO FLY

"Dumbo, the Flying Elephant"—this ride will be similar to the familiar airplane ride found in most amusement parks. But, replacing the airplanes will be replicas of "Dumbo," complete with large flapping ears.

Ed Morgan, one of the four partners in the closed corporation, said his company landed the contract with Disney through the recommendation of Stanford Research Institute, which did the site and population density research for Disneyland.

The people at the institute had seen Arrow's work on a small-scale, stern-wheeler steamboat ride for children located on Lake Merritt in Oakland and told Disney the firm would be the logical choice to manufacture some of the rides for Disneyland.

At conferences held at Disney's studios in Burbank, Morgan and his associates, Bill Hardiman, Andy Anderson and Karl Bacon, were told the important thing to remember was that the rides must be constructed so that they would look exactly like the originals in the various cartoons.

Arrow Development Co., Inc., founded in 1946 to manufacture

merry-go-round horses, recently found it necessary to expand its facilities and leased another building located on Ortega street in Mountain View.

DISNEY ON VISIT

Recently, Disney and some of his movie cameramen visited the Arrow plant to inspect the progress being made.

While not definite, it is possible scenes of the work going on at the Mountain View shop may be included in a progress report on Disneyland to be presented on Disney's television program in the near future.

If so, some of the workers at Arrow not only will be contributing their skills to the development of the giant-sized playground that will be Disneyland, but will be actors in the dramatic project, scheduled for completion in July.