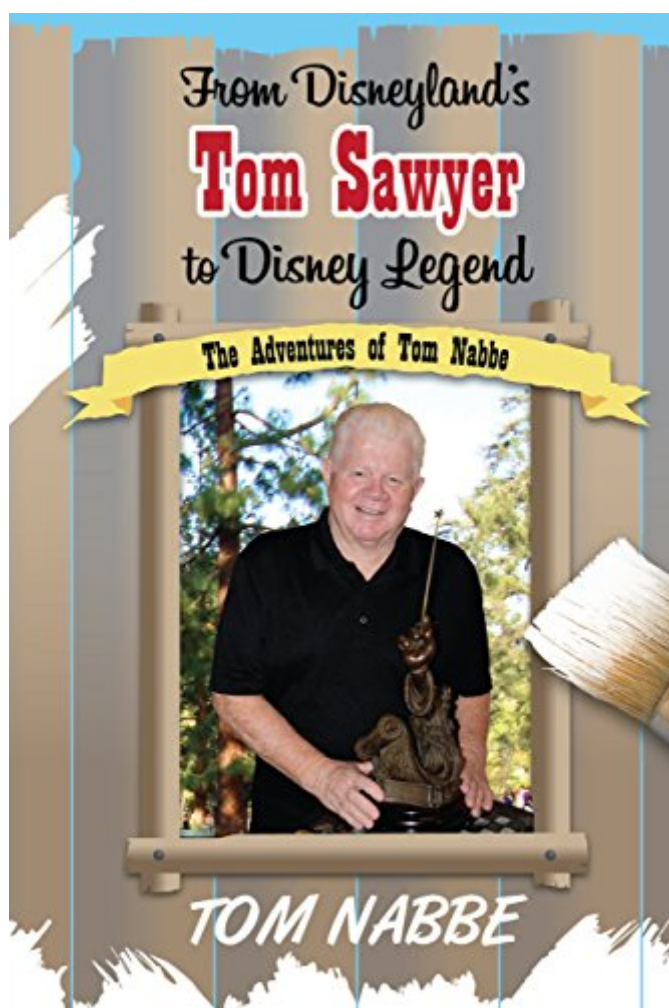


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# From Disneyland's Tom Sawyer To Disney Legend: The Adventures Of Tom Nabbe



## Synopsis

Walt Hired Me In 1955, twelve-year-old Tom Nabbe was selling newspapers at Disneyland when he heard that Walt needed someone to play the role of Tom Sawyer. Tom pestered Walt until he got the job. Nearly fifty years later Tom retired, a Disney Legend. You can't be Tom Sawyer forever. Eventually, you grow up. When Tom Nabbe became a little too tall, a little too deep-voiced, to continue his childhood on Tom Sawyer Island, Disney made him a ride operator. No more magazine covers for Tom. No more photos with celebrities. But it wasn't the end of Tom Nabbe's career; it was just the beginning. In true American fashion, Tom pulled himself up by his bootstraps and rose through the Disney ranks. He became a manager at Disneyland, was instrumental in the opening of both the Magic Kingdom and Epcot in Florida, and was tapped as part of the Disney team sent to Paris to open the theme park there. Tom's Disney adventures include: Watching Disneyland being built just down the road from his house, and later selling newspapers on Main Street, U.S.A. Finding fame as the namesake lord of Tom Sawyer Island. Joining the early Disneyland "expatriates" who moved from Anaheim to Orlando and built the Magic Kingdom. Taking a key role in the construction of the monorail system, and later the operation of Disney's enormous logistical warehouses. Getting a well-deserved window on Main Street. Tom Nabbe's Disney story began as a fantasy and ended as the embodiment of the American dream. From straw hat to Disney Legend. — these are The Adventures of Tom Nabbe!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Great read from a man who was there from before the beginning of the parks. If you are a Disney fan in the slightest, especially vintage Disney then this is a great book to read full of great behind the scenes knowledge and experiences with Walt himself.

I lived part of this story working with Tom in a support roll from I.S. and then later as support for finding new ways to do old things. Tom seldom talked about himself, but always about Disney. This is a very good read for anyone that wants to know what it is like to work at Disney.

Fun and entertaining book! Let's you feel like you are part of his story. Down to earth

This book is a delightful insight into the steady climb of a young boy to heights he never could have imagined at the beginning of his journey as a paperboy in Los Angeles. His abilities were acknowledged and utilized by Disney et al right from the start and continues to this day; long after his retirement. To be recognized by Disney as a "Legend" and recognized by "fans" as a "Legend".... is high praise not given to all. As unlikely as it may have seemed, initially, that any boy might make it through the ranks at Disneyland, then Orlando and Paris and back all the time rising higher in positions of responsibility and the esteem of his peers has to encourage others who may find themselves on a similar path of their own. It's a story of patience, hope, and reward.

This is a simply written yet quite elegant autobiography of Tom Nabbe. Never asking life for a free ride, he calmly but determiningly created a career at Disney one step at a time, seeing opportunity and taking each turn on the road. This book would be great reading for anyone who feels that life owes them a career that should be handed to them. Tom did a wonderful lifelong job of building a wonderful career and life the right way which should be an inspiration to all.

From Disneyland's Tom Sawyer to Disney Legend: The Adventures of Tom Nabbe by Tom Nabbe outlines a Disney career that arches over 5 decades. Nabbe was there on opening

day at Disneyland, standing in the crowd as invited guests entered the park. The youngster would actually get to enter the park that first day though he would not be able to ride his favorite ride. Nabbe's history with the park actually started earlier as he relocated to Anaheim and was lucky enough to watch the park grow up from the orange groves it replaced. The boy started in the park selling newspapers and would eventually be hired by Walt Disney to be the first Tom Sawyer walk around character for Tom Sawyer Island. Nabbe would spend several summers in this role, until he became too old to play the role. He would then move into other jobs at Disneyland, eventually after a stint in the Marines, entering a management track. His career would then take him to new and unexpected places which included relocating to Orlando and providing supervision in portions of the Magic Kingdom Park. He would later move into distribution services managing warehouses that helped build Epcot, supply Walt Disney World, and support expansion under Michael Eisner, and even Disneyland Paris. Along with his Disney history, Nabbe provides information about his personal and family life. The book ends with an essay by Keith Murdock, the second Tom Sawyer who filled the role after Nabbe became too old. I really liked *From Disneyland's Tom Sawyer to Disney Legend*. I flew through the book as I found Nabbe's recollections interesting and in an easy to read tone. I felt like I was listening to him tell stories about his time with Disney and even found his later accounts of warehouse work to be highly interesting. I am thrilled this *Disney Legend's* thoughts are captured for fans like me to enjoy. Sometimes I find Nabbe's Disneyland hard to imagine. He goes into some depth on the fishing that occurred from the dock on Tom Sawyer Island. In today's legal minded society what I read was honestly hard to comprehend, but it happened. I just cannot see any lawyer today allowing a company to let a teenage boy supervise adults and kids by himself on an attraction. And I cannot comprehend that any lawyer would sign off on untrained guests swinging a line with a hook near other guests within the park. And this does not even include the sanitation issues with fish in the Rivers of America dying due to the results of the catch and release program. Yes, this is a different time and park then I have ever known. Tom Nabbe was a company man. He was hired by the man with his name on the door! His story filled with love and dedication to his job and family both entertains and inspires. *Disneyland's Tom Sawyer to Disney Legend* is sure to delight those who wish to remember the early days of Disneyland or the creation of Walt Disney World as they lazily sit by the river with their line dangling in the water. Review Copy Provided by Theme Park Press

Reads like a friend telling a story. What I found most interesting was the way he parlayed a

persistent work ethic into a lifetime career. Would be a good resource for younger kids to understand the importance of relationships and striving for your goals.

Tom has a life story any Disney history fan will enjoy. He was there on the opening day of Disneyland and even before Walt Disney World opened! Thanks, Tom and Theme Park Press

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