

Researcher's Eyes

FUN FACT

WALT DISNEY AND HIS LUCKY "13"

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—INTRO—¹

Have you ever visited Original Disneyland in California? If you've never been there, of course you should. There are full of dreams, happiness, adventures, and lots of more. Whether you're an adult or a child, this place could be the happiest place in the world. You would need to see if you're traveling to California, or all the way to this dream land. There's something there for everyone. You will not regret it. I Promise.

The Disneyland in California originally established by Walt Disney himself was opened on July 17th of 1955. He constructed his dream land on Anaheim, which is covered by orange groves at the time. This column is about a story of Walt Disney and Disneyland's address.

—UNLUCKY 13—

The area didn't have its own address, because once the area was full of orange groves. Walt picked 1313 Harbor Boulevard for Disneyland's address.² "1313? That's very creepy isn't it?"

The number 13 is considered as an unlucky number. As you know Friday the 13th has been considered an unlucky day. Why the "number 13" is considered unlucky, by the way? Here are some of the reasons:

❖ **THERE WERE 13 PEOPLE AT THE LAST SUPPER**

At Jesus Christ's last supper, there were 13 people around the table.³ (Christ and the twelve apostles.)

❖ **KNIGHTS TEMPLAR**

King Philip IV commanded the arrest of the Knights Templar, and most of the knights were tortured and murdered. The day of his command was Friday 13th October 1307, therefore the date is sometimes believed to be the origin of the Friday the 13th superstition⁴.

—TRISKAIDEKAPHOBIA—

Fear of the number 13 has a recognized phobia. It is called “Triskaidekaphobia”, coined by Isador Coriat in 1910. Triskaidekaphobia means “Three” (tris), “&” (kai), “Ten” (deka), “phobia” (phobia) in Greek⁵. People who are suffering from of triskaidekaphobia try to keep away from anything numbered thirteen. For example, some hotels avoid the number 13, so there is no 13th floor.

—LUCKEY 13 FOR WALT—

As I mentioned, we don’t like the number 13, especially Friday the 13th. On Friday the 13th, you might watch out for black cats crossing their paths and be mindful not to crack mirrors or walk under ladders. However while the number is considered unlucky by many meanings, Walt Disney chose it for Disneyland address. Why he picked “13”? According to Disney historians, Walt asked for that address. The reasons are as follow⁶:

❖ RIDICULE THE DOOM

He was not a superstitious man, and he might have found it amusing to defy fate by getting intentionally a doubly “unlucky” number for Disneyland.

❖ MICKEY MOUSE

What’s the thirteenth letter in the alphabet? Needless to say, M is. Put two M’s side by side and what Disney character do you think of? That’s right, “IT ALL STARTED WITH A MOUSE”.

—ON A FINAL NOTE—

And now, Disneyland is the best theme park in the world. He succeeded in defying the doom. He also get married on July “13th”, 1925. I think he likes 13.

¹ 本レポートは「エンタメ狂の独り言ーウォルト・ディズニーと「不吉な13」の逸話ー（2019年7月12日公開）を翻訳し、再構成したものである。

² Disney Parks Blog “Infographic: Lucky 13 at Disney Parks”
<https://disney Parks.disney.go.com/blog/2013/12/infographic-lucky-13-at-disney-parks/>

³ Cecil Adams (1992) "Why is the number 13 considered unlucky?". The Straight Dope

⁴ David Emery “Why Is Friday the 13th Considered Unlucky?”
<https://www.liveabout.com/why-is-friday-the-13th-considered-unlucky-3298238>

⁵ Etymonline.com.

⁶ Walt's Disneyland Rediscovering the Park Walt Envisioned “1313 S. Harbor Boulevard”
<https://waltsdisneyland.wordpress.com/2017/05/26/1313-harbor-boulevard/>