

## The Disney UFO Connection

Written by Grant Cameron

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### Disney, UFOs, and Disclosure

"Isn't it strange that Allan Sandler, my partner and I met with that guy at Disney. We had a conversation with him, but again what he told us about his experience it seemed like he didn't really know very much. So, I don't know. I don't know what to say." **Documentary film producer and writer Robert Emenegger, who was approached by the Pentagon to produce an officially sanctioned UFO documentary during the first Nixon administration.**

Ward Kimball, one of the original Disney animators, referred to by Walt Disney as one of the trusted "Nine Old Men," (supreme court of animation) died in Arcadia California on July 8. He was 88.



### Four of Disney's Wise Old Men - Marc Davis, Frank Thomas, Ollie Johnson, Ward Kimball.

Kimball was famous for his animated creation of the characters Jiminy Cricket, The Cheshire Cat, The March Hare, The Mad Hatter, and for redesigning Mickey Mouse in 1938. He joined the Disney Studios in 1934, and rose up in the ranks to become a directing animator on such classics as "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," "Pinocchio," "Fantasia" and "Peter Pan." He directed Disney Oscar-winning shorts "Toot, Whistle, Plunk and Boom" in 1953 and "It's Tough To Be a Bird" in 1969.

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### A Young Kimball in Disney's Studio

Unknown to many Disney watchers, Kimball was also student of UFOs and outer space. He had a large collection of UFO books and magazines, according to Navy physicist Bruce Maccabee who met with him in 1980. Maccabee had been to Kimball's house to recruit him as one of the 10 original board members for the Fund for UFO Research. Kimball accepted the position, although he really didn't become an active member of the board.

In the mid-fifties Kimball worked with a soon to be famous scientific advisor by the name of Wernher von Braun to write and direct three key outer space documentaries for the "Disneyland" television series. The three documentaries were, "Man in Space," "Man and the Moon," and "Mars and Beyond." Kimball referred to them as, "the creative highpoint of my career." According to Disney spokesman Howard E. Green, the three outer space documentaries are "often credited with popularizing the concept of the government's space program during the 1950s.'

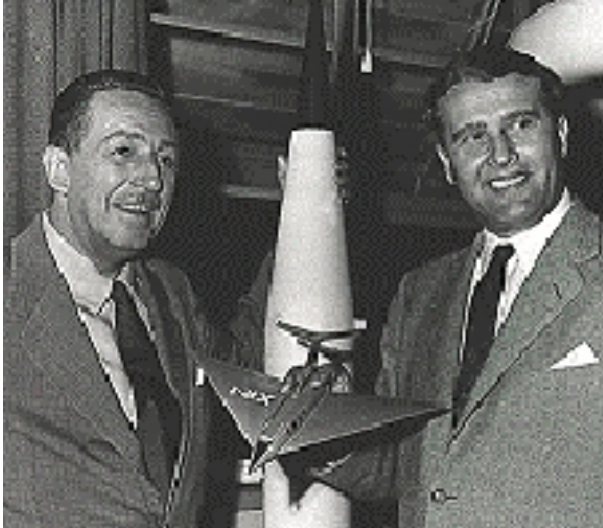
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### Disney and Von Braun Discuss Space



The first of these, the 1955 "Man in Space," was so popular (viewed by over 42 million people) that according to Kimball, President Eisenhower phoned Walt Disney from the White House looking for a copy of the production. When Disney asked Eisenhower why he wanted it Eisenhower replied, "Well, I'm going to show it to all those stove-shirt generals who don't believe we're going to be up there!"

It was Kimball, who at the July 1979 MUFON UFO symposium in California, told of his interest in the subject of UFOs. Then to a stunned audience he related the story of how the American government had approached Walt Disney himself, prior to Sputnik, to make a UFO documentary to help acclimatize the American population to the reality of extraterrestrials.

Kimball stated in the speech that around 1955 or 1956 the USAF contacted Walt Disney. They asked him to cooperate on a documentary about UFOs. As a part of the deal, the USAF offered to supply actual UFO footage, which Disney would be allowed to use in his film.

According to Kimball's account, Disney went along with the USAF plan, which was not that unusual. The use of Walt Disney cartoons, after all had been suggested by the 1953 CIA Robertson UFO panel as part of a public-education program involving the mass media to "strip the UFO phenomenon of its special status and eliminate the aura of mystery it has acquired."

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1) Heinz Haber, Von Braun, and Willy Ley look at one of the props from "Man in Space."

