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Yesterday, exactly 50 years ago, was when Walt Disney dreamed up Mickey Mouse. Shortly thereafter, you older New Bernians took the little fellow to your heart, as he scampered across the Masonic's screen for the first time.

Disney was just another struggling cartoonist until Mickey came along. "He popped out of my mind and on to my pad during a train ride from Manhattan to Hollywood," Walt once said. "He was a little personality assigned to laughter."

Mickey, possessed of human qualities, naturally needed someone of the opposite sex to brighten his life. Minnie Mouse was the answer. She contributed to Mickey's fame, but never quite matched his tremendous popularity.

Disney was destined to originate additional characters of world wide renown, including Donald Duck, Pluto, and Dumbo, but no one, least of all Walt, ever doubted that it was Mickey who opened the door to great riches.

Initially, the cartoonist had tried co-featuring a live action young girl with drawn animal characters, but this attempt at animation for movie audiences was a miserable flop.

"I failed," Disney used to recall with no self pity, "but I think it's important to fail when you're young." From that day on, fate would smile on a modest man who Hollywood rates a genius, along with Charlie Chaplin.

Of all the Disney productions, our own favorite is his tender and beautiful Song Of The South, although Snow White is a close second. His biggest money maker is Mary Poppins. These and the rest made him a multi millionaire.

Never was Walt's great talent more evident than in the choice of music for his films. This was no ordinary cartoonist who, with uncanny good taste, achieved near perfection in the scoring of his delightful creations.

Disney declined to cut corners for the sake of saving money. Every film he made as a full length feature demanded an enormous outlay. This was obvious to anyone who saw his movies.

Walt made his bundle without resorting to suggestive or offensive material, while other studios were battling with the censors in an effort to insert scenes and dialogue that finally led to X rated movies.

Disney is no longer among the living, but last year Disney Enterprises netted more than \$300 million in revenues. Disneyland in California, and Disney World in Florida, are drawing huge throngs.

There are no civilized sections on the globe where you won't find Disney movies and television shows. And to think it all began with a happy little mouse, who still remains just as spry as ever, after 50 years of entertaining.

Walt claimed no particular



Our First Doctor In Outer Space Was Once Stationed At Cherry Point.—NASA Photo.