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REPOSING IN THE LOUNGE

Working for Disney: 1936-1937

Ingeborg Willy had just started to work for Walt Disney Studios in November 1936. She loved her job, her fellow employees, and the "art" of animation. Here are her photographs of life around the Studio, pencil sketches from *Snow White* and other films she rescued from the trash, along with memos and other production notes.

From The Cowan Collection

This 2008 reproduction of the historic Ingeborg Willy Scrapbook is offered by **The Cowan Collection** at cost to all those interested in animation and the early years of the Walt Disney Studios.

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We have always been big Disney fans, but our love of Disney resurfaced when our daughter was born and we had a chance to watch all of those classic cartoons again ... and again ... and again! When we had a chance to buy some of the original artwork used in those animated features, some twenty years ago, we jumped at the chance. As with most collecting, it got way out of hand and we now have over 3,000 pencil sketches, original cels, and an assortment of Disney memorabilia.

In 1998, we had an opportunity to acquire a scrapbook kept by a new Disney employee, Ingeborg Willy, dated November 23, 1936 to December 23, 1937. Ingeborg's scrapbook included photos of her fellow employees during those early days in the Disney Studio, trimmed pencil sketches of Disney characters she liked, and rare internal documents that help us understand how innovative Disney

was in using the Disney employees to help shape the final products.

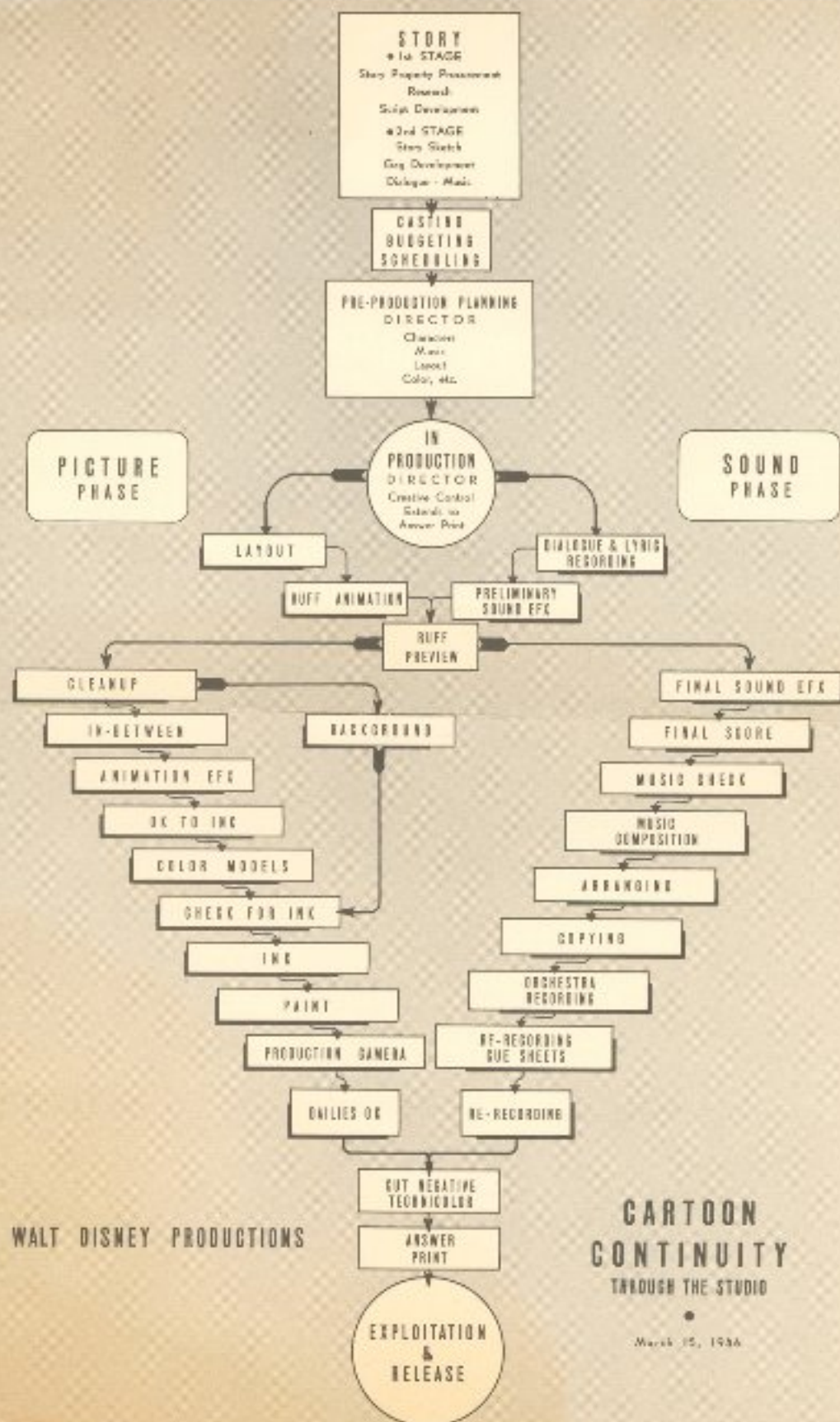
In all our years of collecting Disney artifacts, this scrapbook offers an amazing window on all of those that worked to make Disney's animations truly unique. In a 2003, we received an e-mail from Dave Smith, Archives Director for the Walt Disney Archives, after sending him a copy of the scrapbook. In the e-mail, he wrote:

What a fascinating scrapbook you found. The photographs are of the most interest to me--it is nice that they were all labeled ... By the way, Ingeborg Willy was an inker here from November 23, 1936 to November 26, 1941.

We understand that Ingeborg Willy died in 1999. After 10 years, we decided to publish her scrapbook at cost for others interested in that early period of Disney history.

To set the stage, before the computer entered the animation industry, a feature-length movie might require as many as 350,000 hand-drawn pencil sketches and an equal number of hand-painted cels placed over countless water color backgrounds. The process is extremely time intensive and mistakes are very costly. Disney was one of the first companies to use "process mapping" to make sure there were solid control points to identify and correct problems before they became major issues.

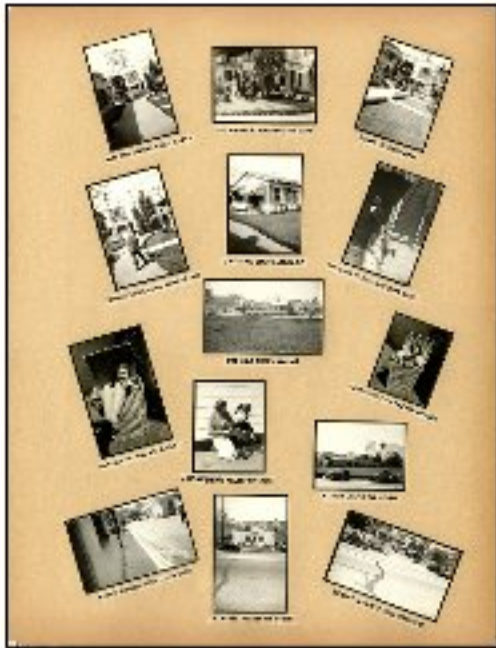
To better visualize the entire process, on the following page is a 1946 Disney Productions "Cartoon Continuity" chart (or "flow chart") from our collection.



Organization of this Book

There is much to see in the Ingeborg Willy scrapbook! Unfortunately, shrinking the 15" by 10" scrapbook into an 10" by 8" format makes it difficult to see many of the smaller pictures and pencil sketch images.

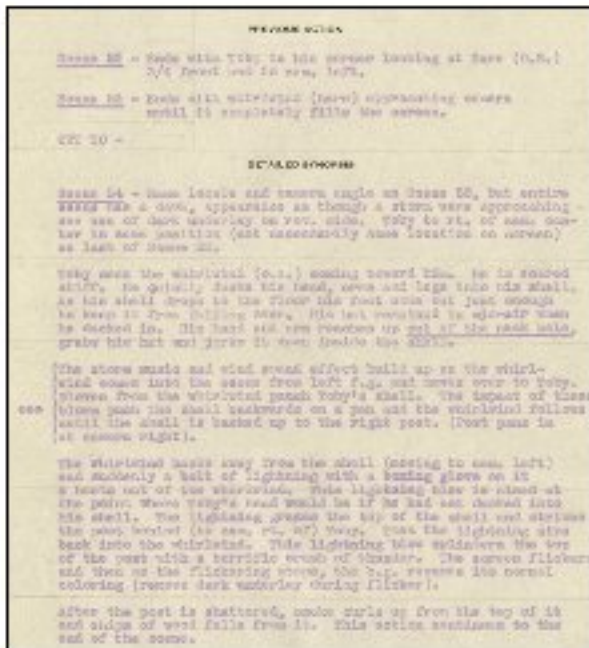
To help you enjoy Ingeborg Willy's collection, this book is divided into four sections. The first part of this book consists of images of the complete scrapbook page (with a few comments). The second part of the book consists of enlargements of many of the noteworthy photos. The third part includes other items that were not glued in the scrapbook. Most interesting are examples of early story concepts that were circulated to all Disney employees for ideas and memos seeking reactions to scene test reels. The fourth part includes enlargements of some of the more interesting pieces of artwork on the scrapbook pages.



1-Full Pages (Pg. 9)



2-Enlargements (Pg. 59)



3-Attachments (Pg. 97)



4-Art Samples (Pg. 125)

1-Full Pages

Time has taken its toll on Ingeborg Willy's 15" by 10" scrapbook of her first year working at Disney. The pages are brittle and each year we see an increasing amount of damage. We wanted to let others see the early days of the Walt Disney Studios through Ingeborg Willy's eyes before the scrapbook crumbles completely.

To that end, *The Cowan Collection* is making this book available at cost to all who are fascinated by the early history of animation and the Walt Disney Studios.

NOVEMBER 23 1936 DECEMBER 23 1937

A "Hollywood-style" photo of a 35-year-old Walt Disney that he gave to Ingeborg Willy. Although Disney misspelled her first name, she was very proud of it. Walt's image was the first page in her scrapbook.

*Ingeborg Willy
With Best Wishes
Walt Disney*



WALT DISNEY.

The pictures that Ingeborg took of the place she worked are almost identical to the images used in today's "retro" products that harken back to those early days.

If it was summer, you might find the animators taking a break and watching an impromptu baseball game on the grass, trying their hand at sidewalk ping-pong (top of the page) or playing baseball in the alley (bottom of the page).

On any given day, you could see Clarence Nash, the voice of Donald Duck, walking down the sidewalk like everyone else.

During those early days, expansion of the Studio was not into large corporate buildings, but a gradual expansion into nearby cottages and homes. The Comic Strip Bungalow and "The Annex" are good examples.



MAIN PATH LEADING TO ALL DEPTS.



THE ANIMATORS WATCHING THE SCENE



ROOM OF PING-PONG



"DONALD DUCK" IN THE CLARENCE BASH



THE COMIC STRIP BUNGALOW



ENTRANCE TO THE COMIC STRIP DEPT.



THE WALT DISNEY STUDIOS



"LITTLE WILLY" IN THE RAG BASKET



"BIG GIRL" IN THE RAG BASKET



MEETING "MICKEY MOUSE" IN PERSON



A CLOSER VIEW OF THE STUDIO



PLAYING BASEBALL IN THE WALT DISNEY STUDIOS



"THE ANNEX" ACROSS THE STREET



ENTRANCE TO PARKING SPACE OF THE STUDIO

It was a different era, when Irene would serve the "girls" in the Inking Department during Tea Time.

It was a time when people, not machines, created and mixed the colors to be used in those early years of color film.

Walt Disney Productions and the Walt Disney Studio was small, with no air conditioning and no ergonomic chairs. But there was a sense of community that bound them together.



REPOSING IN THE LOUNGE



IRENE SERVING TEA TO THE GIRLS



OUT FOR A STROLL AFTER TEA



ENTRANCE TO JAMES SPANISH COURT



A GOSPEL DURING TEA TIME



MARIE HUGHES & VIRGINIA HENKERT



TIME OUT FOR LUNCH



WALK ENTRANCE TO THE SHANTY STAGE



ENTRANCE TO THE SOUND STAGE



ENTRANCE TO ONE OF THE FOUR HALLS



WORKING THE MIND'S EYE



ENTRANCE TO THE SOUND STAGE



JOHN ASHLEY READY TO DO THE SHOW