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DISNEY AND AMERICA
WHEN YOU WISH UPON A STAR ...

Norbert Hirschhorn

On my list of things I want to do before I die: Climb Mount Everest, canoe the Boundary Waters from Ely to Quetico, and visit Disneyland in Anaheim, Calif. Well, I just accomplished the last one with my son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren Aubry, 4, and Gavin, 2 -- 54 years after the park opened.

Bob Sehlinger ("The Unofficial Guide to Disneyland 2009") says, "It's the ultimate in mass-produced entertainment, the most planned and programmed environment imaginable." He warns that families should take weeks to prepare mentally and physically for the ordeal and pleasure of navigating the park; his book provides detailed "touring plans" to get a family through the dozens of attractions and rides without going mad.

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