

California Tour: 23

Japanese Village and Deer Park

Unfortunately, here's a great California attraction that doesn't exist anymore. Much to my dismay, I only found out recently that it closed down a number of years ago.

Located in Buena Park, in Southern California, it was in the same neighborhood as Disneyland and Knott's Berry Farm, so, when I was a kid, whenever we'd journey to the area, we'd hit all three spots. It was great. The Japanese Village and Deer Park featured deer, of course, roaming around. There were large pools and streams filled with those gorgeous giant gold fish (well, they *looked* like gold fish) in a wondrous assortment of colors. The Japanese gardens were scrupulously laid out and cried out for quiet meditation and introspective examination of one's soul...of course, at the time, I was probably more enthralled with the deer and the fish, but I was a youngster then.

There was a lot of Japanese art work on the grounds along with the prerequisite gift shop/souvenir stand, etc. I remember, though, that I didn't make the food stand any richer...I was too busy thinking of hamburgers and hot dogs.

All this was brought to mind by the beautiful 4-cover set from the park pictured below. It's a very nice Foilite set. Each cover features the logo of the Japanese Village and Deer Park on the front panel and a reproduction of a piece of Japanese art on the back panel. Each cover has inside text which describes the art and the artist featured on the cover. I don't know why the Park folded, but its disappearance is a definite loss for the area and for California.

