



An American Tour:
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Hollywood's *Monkey Island*

Hey! Has California got it, or has California got it?! Well, actually, in this case, we *used* to have it. Monkey Island closed down decades ago, but...

“This unusual amusement was at 3300 Cahuenga Boulevard, on the Valley side of Cahuenga Pass—the Times usually described it as on Ventura Boulevard. Operated by Adolph Weiss, Monkey Island opened December 9, 1938. A large herd [*herd*? *I think that's 'band'*] of monkeys, numbering in the hundreds, roamed over an "island" about 150 feet long, with a 40-foot plastic mountain, surrounded by moats and covered with netting. There were palm trees, swings and billy oats for the monkeys to amuse themselves, and waterfalls where they could keep cool.”

“Visitors paid to come in and watch the monkeys and feed them peanuts and vegetables. When the moats were drained in August, 1940, about 100 monkeys fled. Weiss calmly told police "they'll be back," and most apparently did return at feeding time. Escapes were common. In *The Valley Observed*, filmmaker Warren Miller remembers it as a tacky sort of place. When Monkey Island closed is unknown.”

[<http://www.americassuburb.com/gone.html>]

Notice the prices? 25¢ for adults and 10¢ for children [*There's another golden age I missed out on!*] Notice also that the matchcover had a dual function...advertising and a free pass for kids. Heck! I'd have paid a dime to see monkeys escaping from the island and running wild all over the grounds!

