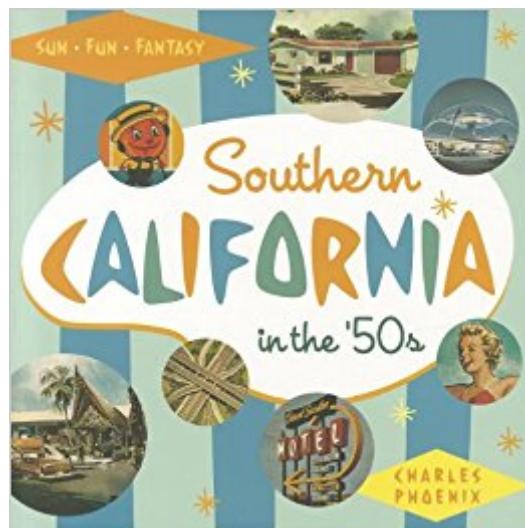


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# Southern California In The '50s: Sun, Fun And Fantasy



## Synopsis

In the 1950s, Southern California was the place to be. The mood was up, prosperity ruled and the standard of living was flying high. It was the land of plenty for a new generation who reinvented the way we lived. With colorful memorabilia and vintage photos, Southern California in the '50s: Sun, Fun and Fantasy showcases this space-age promised land and the society that jump-started a cultural explosion. Charles Phoenix leads a nostalgic tour of his homeland, providing an up-close view of the way Southern Californians lived, where they worked and how they played. Readers will cruise in hot rods to Bob's Big Boy, go to the drive-in for Cokes and a movie, enjoy pools, patios and barbecues, and pull into that first McDonald's. Southern California in the '50s covers the suburban spread of stylish tract homes, coffee shops, supermarkets, shopping centers and bowling alleys, the modern conveniences that replaced rural valley farms, dairy pastures and fragrant orange groves. Readers rub elbows with the elite in Hollywood, and enjoy novelty of themed restaurants, motels and roadside attractions, attend fairs, festivals and parades and tour Knott's Berry Farm, Santa's Village, Marineland, Pacific Ocean Park and Disneyland when all were brand new. Anyone who loves or lives the Southern California lifestyle must have Southern California in the '50s.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I gave this book to my dad a few years ago for Christmas. We both love the pictures and the stories, but he really enjoyed seeing many of the places he remembered going to as a young man. The

author is a great storyteller and presents the information with facts and fun. It is a very enjoyable trip down memory lane during a great era in California's history.

I've lived in SoCal my entire life and so have my parents. The book is a fun look back at all there used to be, as well as a visit back to the mindset and cultural climate of the times. Actually, the latter is the more interesting part to me. It's a way of life that can never be repeated. Not for everyone, but for many it truly was "The Good Old Days".

I was thrilled by the cool retro design of this book, the design alone made this book a win. The information is also awesome, it's an easy read, with colorful pictures and interesting facts. A perfect book for anyone who likes the 50's, retro or vintage style as well as rockabilly/psychobilly music. This will help you put the pieces together.

Would have liked more pictures..... otherwise this was a fun book to browse through. We grew up in Southern Cal in the 1950's (graduated high school in 1955) and found this to be a pretty accurate description of the era....

This book has really great pictures of things you've never seen before or will bring back so many memories. It is bright, quirky and playful. Information and backstories on some of California's forgotten gems are really interesting. I'm a Southern California native who recently moved to New York and I can't tell you how much I enjoy having this book out to remind me of home.

The perfect coffee table book. An easy way to add mid-century modern to a more formal living room.

This book is, well, fun for anyone with a Los Angeles childhood, like me. However, for anyone who loves kitsch and Californiana, this book is well worth the price. "Sun, Fun and Fantasy" takes an indulgent, loving look at a time and place that's largely been torn down and paved over. The author gets more than five stars from me for his accuracy--I couldn't find one error, based on my memory, my extensive reading about California, and yes, my picture postcard collection! My hope is that this author will produce follow-up volumes from the '60s and '70s.

Excellent coffee table book. . Memories of a time long past.

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