

Legendary Locals – One of Lake County's Unsung Women

Grace Bailey (nee Elizabeth Grace Randall) (1904-1983) - A Disney Legend

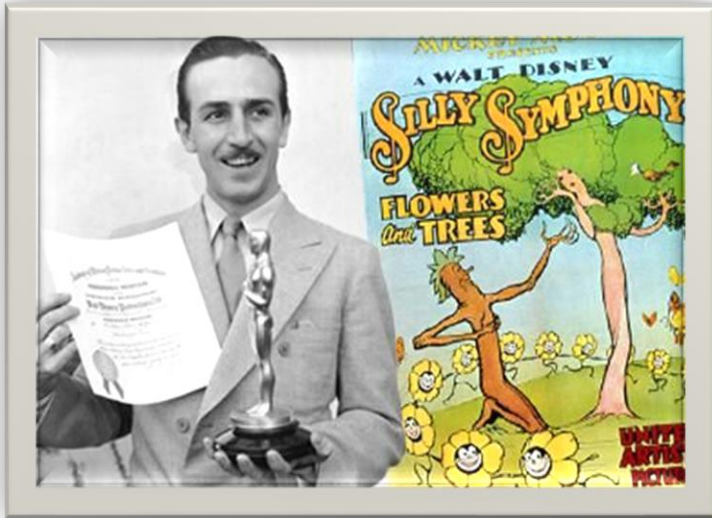


Elizabeth Grace Randall was born January 23, 1904 in Willoughby, Ohio, living on Barber Ave. in the heart of the village. She attended the Cleveland School of Art (later Cleveland Institute of Art) in 1922. These humble beginnings did not foreshadow the start of the 'fame' that awaited her just a mere decade from then. Grace left her Lake County home and Cleveland area roots for New York. She parlayed her art education into a job working for Max Fleischer, the head of the animated ***Out of Inkwell*** series which featured Koko the Clown. She met and married fellow artist Harry Bailey in 1925.

By 1930, Grace decided it was time to head to California and paint the next phase of her career. After a brief time as a custom lampshades, the year was 1932 and her career break was at hand.



Grace joined Walt Disney Studios in 1932 as a member of the Ink and Paint Studios. Working under Walt Disney's sister-in-law Hazel Sewell, her



career incrementally grew in stature. In that era of tedious celluloid animation, she worked with and alongside Walt and Roy Disney as she and dozens of young women added ink/color by hand to the 'cels' and animators' original drawings.

After Disney produced its first Technicolor animated short, the 1932 Oscar®-winning *Flowers and Trees*, Grace Bailey was charged with expanding the Studio's inventory of colors. Her real contribution to the Disney Studios came when she began to formulate the palette of colors for the paint department. Once used to mixing and matching basic blacks, whites and grays, suddenly Grace was mixing a wide array of hues that would help bring Disney animation vividly to life. She created many of the colors that are the signature of Disney films.

From 1954-72, Grace was head of the entire Disney Ink and Paint Studio, where she oversaw more than 200 artists. Animation's dwindling profits led to the adaptation of Xerox technology in the late 1950s for cel production. This challenged Bailey and her team to adjust, as the Xerox process streamlined the hand work.

A sampling of her numerous ink and color works are known by millions. The films include ***Lady and the Tramp*** (1955), ***Sleeping Beauty*** (1959), ***101 Dalmatians*** (1961) and ***The Jungle Book*** (1972). Grace retired in 1972 and lived out the remainder of her years quietly until her passing in Florida in 1983. She was posthumously named a **Disney Legend in 2000**.



Female army of artists in the Disney Ink & Paint Studio in the late 1950s.

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