

Carolyn Swift Collection

Dinosaur statue was removed from Lost World in 1977.

# Dinosaurs once 'roamed' this park

**W**E ALL know what real estate folks say about location, but over the years I have become convinced that three words even more important are timing, timing, timing.

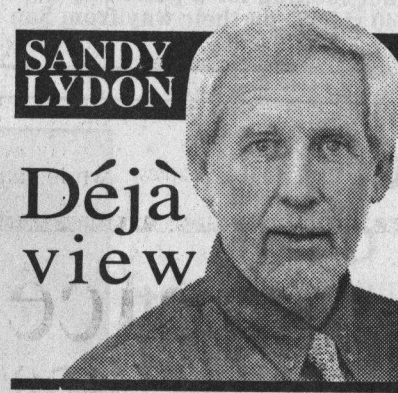
Consider the current popularity of dinosaurs and the overwhelming impact of the movie "Jurassic Park," and then imagine what you might be able to do with a park filled with unusual trees and huge fiberglass dinosaur replicas. Lost World, the strange little theme park on Scotts Valley Drive had just such a collection.

In 1977 the dinosaurs were considered to be, well, dinosaurs, and most were shipped off to Lion Country Safari Park near Laguna Beach. Lion Country closed down about 10 years ago and is now inhabited by one of those water parks called Wild Rivers. Nobody down in that country has a clue about what happened to the dinosaurs. Nor the lions for that matter.

But we do have a fix on one of the other creatures which used to inhabit Lost World. Jerry Kay, former owner of General Feed and Seed on Commercial Way in Santa Cruz, stopped me the other day to tell me that the statue of a rearing horse in front of the feed store was one of two statues that flanked the entrance to the Scotts Valley park.

**SANDY  
LYDON**

**Déjà  
view**



So, while you're waiting to visit Axel Erlandson's Tree Circus over in Gilroy you can go over to General Feed and Seed and say hello to another remnant of Scotts Valley amusement park days. And if you're good, someday I'll tell you how far some of the stuff from Santa's Village has wandered since it closed down.

*If you have a favorite photograph you would like to see used in this column, or one that you would like some help in identifying, send a copy (never send original photographs) to Déjà View, Sandy Lydon, c/o Santa Cruz County Sentinel, 207 Church St., Santa Cruz, Calif. 95060. Sandy Lydon is a member of the history faculty at Cabrillo College.*