



THE YELLOW DUCK

One of the inspirations for Shoot THE BALL was a little lawn ornament; The Yellow Duck. In the early 90's, Noel "liberated" the Yellow Duck in the middle of the night from an unsuspecting homeowner's yard. Over the next several years, Noel (later with Angelina) travelled around the globe and took pictures of the plastic birdie at various locations. The pictures were sent back to the house... anonymously.

There was no sequence to the order the pictures were sent back. Sometimes a photo would not be sent for a year. Sometimes the picture would be mailed to a friend and that friend would hand deliver the picture (at 3am, of course) for the homeowner to find in the morning. And other times a picture from one destination would be given to a traveling friend who would send it from their destination; The Duck at the Calgary Stampede, but mailed from Peru, two years later...



Baker, CA – GATEWAY TO DEATH VALLEY



BANFF SPRINGS HOTEL



BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL

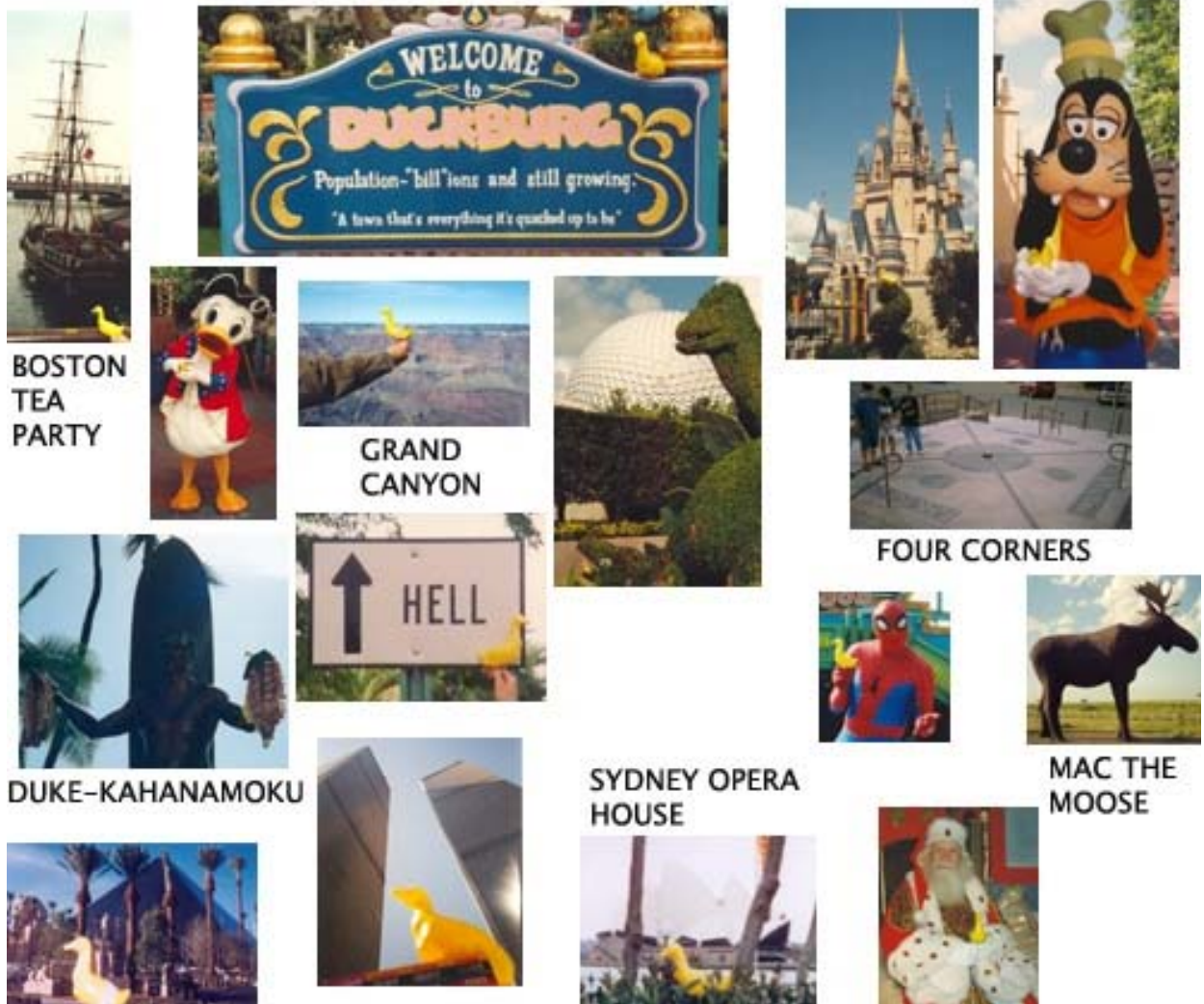


While we enjoyed our surreptitious trickery, we had no idea if the pictures were being received or *how* they were being received. Were the pictures being saved? Did the person who received them even care? Were we slowly terrorizing the owner of the Yellow Duck or were we being cleverly entertaining?

Fast forward a few years - We felt it was time to make contact – matching the name plate on the Yellow Duck's house to a name in the white pages, Noel made the call. Not giving up our identity, Noel mentioned our relationship to the plastic pet. Without a second's hesitation, the owner told Noel to get a pen and paper; she was moving and *insisted* we have the new address.

Fast forward a few *more* years – We decided to reveal ourselves and arranged a meeting at a neutral location. The total stranger arrived with her daughter, a couple of photo albums and other small gifts we sent her over the years; she had saved *everything*, post cards, envelopes, stamps and, of course,

every picture! Over lunch she confessed that she had to apologize to nearly everyone at her church for at one time or another accusing them of the mallard mystery.



The most memorable moment of that meeting was when she told us she kept the photo albums under the coffee table in the family room and would look at them when she was feeling sad or down. It was during those times she wondered who thought she was *so special* that they would continue to do this for her for so long, seven years, in fact.

We used the inspiration of the Yellow Duck (and the positive media and personal feedback we received) when planning the next project. We wanted to involve more than one person; we wanted to involve as many as possible. Shoot THE BALL eventually became the answer, but not before the Ruby Slippers.

