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The LEGOLAND® Train

When the first LEGOLAND® Park opened in Rillund in 1968 the main attraction was a LEGO® train that carried visitors around the of the LEGOLAND experience ever since.

existence.

The history of the LEGOLAND train begins stalled in the LEGOLAND Park it rode in in the early 1960s, when talk of creation a LEGOLAND Park first started within the walls of the LEGO Group. The idea was driven by the then owner of the LEGO Group, Godtfred Kirk Christiansen. The thoughts about the new park included the idea of a train to carry visitors. Plans to create a LEGOLAND Park had to be postponed, and it was instead another famous Danish amusement park that got the honour of having a LEGO train to carry visitors around.

In 1967 Dagny Holm, the head of the model building department at the LEGO Group. got the task of designing a LEGO train which was to be used at the Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen. The deadline was tight, but she quickly managed to create a beautiful LEGO model of a train. Dagny Holm's model was then scaled up and became the Tivoli LEGO train. In November 1967 the LEGO train was sent to New York to promote Denmark in the American department store Macy's world famous Thanksgiving Day Parade.

The first LEGOLAND Park opened in Billund in 1968. One of the main attractions was a LEGO train carrying visitors around the park. The LEGOLAND train was an exact copy of the train Dagny Holm designed for Twoli one year earlier. The only difference

was that the LEGOLAND train ran on rails The rails used for the LEGOLAND train allegworks outside Billund.

This is the story of how that train came into A former LEGOLAND employee, director of development Hans Jamen Pedersen remembers that when the train was inthe apposite direction. Before the opening of the park it was decided to change the direction of the train to the present one. The problem with the first route was that the train had to climb a hill on its journey through the park. Whenever it rained the rails became so slippery that the train

LEGOLAND employees

had to gather around the train to push it uphill. The decision to switch direction meant that the train now had to run down the hill instead of climbing it. Changing the direction of the train meant making extensive alterations to the train itself. All doors on the train coaches had to be placed on the other side in order for the passengers to be able to enter the coaches from the platform.

Over the years the design of the LEGOLAND train has been altered. In 1973 another LEGOLAND Park opened, this time in Sierksdorf Germany. One of the original amusements in LEGOLAND Sierksdorf was of course a LEGO train to carry the visitors around. The train in Sierksdorf looked slightly different compared to the original LEGO train, with the roof of each train coach given a more rounded appearance. The LEGOLAND Park in Sierksdorf closed in 1976 after just three years. As a result of this the newer and more modern LEGOLAND train from Sierksdorf was moved to Billund to replace the old LEGOLAND train from 1968. Even though some of the train parts undoubtedly have been replaced, the LEGOLAND train in Billund has the exact same design as the train that was brought



