

Lasca Leaves



Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens



LuAnn Munns

A recently acquired portrait of E. J. Baldwin hangs in the bedroom of the Queen Anne Cottage. Sandy Snider (left), Department historian, and Margaret (Mrs. Dennis) Page, 1978 Las Voluntarias history chairman, admire the painting by Joseph Greenbaum.

PAINTING DONATED

A VALUABLE OIL PAINTING by Joseph Greenbaum has been added to the collection of historical art in the Queen Anne Cottage. One of the newest appointees to the Board of Governors, Ruth E. Best, was instrumental in obtaining the portrait of E. J. Baldwin for the Arboretum.

The artist was a popular portrait painter in the early years of the 20th century who studied in San Francisco, Munich, and Paris before moving to Los Angeles permanently in 1906. Although Mr. Greenbaum spent much of his time painting portraits of prominent Californians, he was best known for his landscapes of Catalina, Brittany, and the deserts of the southwestern United States. The Baldwin portrait is painted in typical Greenbaum style with a white haired Baldwin posed beside an urn. In the background is a landscape described by the *Los Angeles Times* at the time the painting was finished as "a shady landscape with trees through whose foliage is glimpsed an arabesque of sky."

Anita Baldwin, E. J. Baldwin's daughter, was a patron of California artists and probably commissioned Mr. Greenbaum to paint this portrait, along with those of several other family members, in the period between 1911 and 1913. It hung for many years in the Pasadena home of Mr. Baldwin's grandson, Baldwin McClaughry Baldwin.

Mrs. S. T. Senseman acquired the painting when he sold the home to

her. The painting, appraised at \$5,000, came onto the market when the home was sold again recently. Mrs. Best learned of its availability and through an intermediary persuaded Mrs. Senseman to donate the painting to the Arboretum Foundation. It is now displayed on the north wall of the bedroom in the Queen Anne Cottage.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS PRESIDENT

LESLEE BOWMAN was elected president of the Board of Governors of the Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens for the coming year beginning July 1, 1979. Outgoing president, F. Harold Roach, officially turned the presidential gavel over to her at the May 8 meeting.

Mrs. Bowman was especially pleased to be appointed to the 15 member Board five years ago by Supervisor Baxter Ward, because she has been interested in Los Angeles area botanical institutions most of her life. The native New Yorker was introduced to public gardens by way of Descanso Gardens during Sunday drives with her family while the Gardens were still the Manchester Boddy estate. Since she was only five years old when she arrived with her family in California, she said she can't remember a time in her life when she didn't know about Descanso Gardens. "That has always been my favorite place in all of Southern California," she said.

Mrs. Bowman takes over the leadership of the Board at what she considers a challenging period in Department history.

"Our greatest challenge now is to overcome the disaster of Proposition 13," she said. "It has ravaged the Department as far as finances and morale are concerned."

Although she understands the necessity of maintaining required county services, Mrs. Bowman feels the Department gardens are too impor-

tant to the people of Los Angeles County for the supervisors to ignore.

"It is all too tempting for them to concentrate on mandated services and let cultural programs go," she said. "But if only one-quarter of the people who appreciate the Gardens would write letters to the editor or to their supervisors, the supervisors



Leslee Bowman

would get an idea of the public support the Gardens have."

During the rare periods when she has free time from her responsibilities as a commissioner for the Department for Public Social Services and president of the Board of Governors, Mrs. Bowman enjoys relaxing at her two homes in the San Fernando Valley. There she can concentrate on her hobbies of raising bromeliads and Burmese and Siamese cats.

PLANT SALE

THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Camellia Council will hold a plant sale at Descanso Gardens September 15 and 16.

Camellias formed the nucleus of the original Descanso Gardens plant collection, and it is appropriate that they will be the main attraction at the sale. Other shade loving plants such as azaleas and clivias will also

be available with the primary emphasis on varieties and species of plants difficult for the home gardener to obtain.

Judy Simmons, president of the Council, expects the plant sale to contribute appreciably to the Council's ability to continue its support of Descanso Gardens. Past support included assistance in maintaining trams for the public tour, replacement of badly needed garden equipment, and purchase of supplies.

Profits will be used to assist Descanso Gardens with budgeted projects and to support the annual camellia shows at Descanso Gardens, the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, and South Coast Botanic Garden.



Patricia Box

NEW TRUSTEES PRESIDENT

PATRICIA (Mrs. William T.) Box was recently elected president of the Board of Trustees, South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation, Palos Verdes Peninsula.

Mrs. Box has served on the Board of Trustees of the South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation for the past five years, first as membership chairman and lately as development chairman. She had previously served for 10 years on the Board of Directors, Women's Council, Los Angeles



1979. "Painting donated." *Garden* 3(5), 1–2.

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