

# Lasca Leaves



Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens

## NEW CALIFORNIA ARBORETUM FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

**R**ICHARD RAY was elected new president of the California Arboretum Foundation at the annual meeting Sept. 29.

The native of Chicago moved to Woodland Hills with his wife and their six children in 1968 and shortly thereafter became actively involved with the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum through his horticultural publishing ventures. He is closely associated with Walter Doty, retired editor of *Sunset* magazine, who planned the Sunset Demonstration Home Gardens at the Arboretum sponsored by the magazine. Through his publishing endeavors came the first financial support for the Garden for All Seasons.

Mr. Ray sees the primary role of CAF in the future as two-fold — providing more monetary support for the Arboretum and encouraging more visitors to visit the gardens to take advantage of the many opportunities that are available.

"Cuts in allocations from LA County will force the CAF to increase its contribution to Arboretum operations just to maintain the present level of services," he said. Possible new funding sources he suggested are enthusiastic promotion of the Special Benefactor program and



Richard Ray

a drive by present CAF members to recruit new members.

He thinks more visitors can be attracted to the Arboretum both by increasing the number of special events such as the recent Santa Anita Flora and Garden Exposition and by upgrading existing exhibits on the grounds. Involvement in horticultural publishing has made Mr. Ray particularly aware of two existing Arboretum attractions that have the potential for drawing more visitors — the Garden for All Seasons and the Plant Science Library.

He noted that the Garden for All Seasons attracts many gardeners

looking for innovative planting ideas that can be applied in the home garden. This volunteer-tended garden is currently being expanded because of its great attraction to visitors.

"I'd also like more people to know about the library," he said, "because our library is a good one, perhaps the best on the West Coast."

## PARSONS FOUNDATION SUPPORTS ARBORETUM INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

**T**WO GRANTS TOTALING \$34,000 will enable the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum to extend the summer internship program at the garden into the fall, winter, and spring school sessions.

Richard Ray, newly elected president of the California Arboretum Foundation, announced that the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation of Pasadena supplied the first grant of \$25,000 and the California Arboretum Foundation then augmented it with \$9,000 raised by the group.

Last summer a grant from the Institute of Museum Services was used to initiate an internship program with 16 horticulture students placed in the three gardens operated by the Department. After evaluating benefits to both the stu-





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