

dents and the gardens, officials decided that they warranted extending the program to a year around work-study course.

Most of the students earned college credit, so their work assignments were planned to give them horticultural field experience to supplement their classroom studies. During the nine-week internships they rotated through various sections of each garden gaining practical experience in all phases of work carried out at public gardens. They spent time propagating plants, operating landscaping equipment, using chemical weed controls, and installing new sprinklers and landscaping.

Besides giving the students hands-on experience, the extended internship program will assure the Arboretum grounds staff of a steady supply of eager assistants with basic horticultural training. Director Francis Ching said that cutbacks in county funds have forced the department to depend on privately financed programs like this one. Without the students, the staff would find it increasingly difficult to maintain and improve plant collections that the public expects to find at the Arboretum.

CALIFORNIA ARBORETUM FOUNDATION SEEKS SPECIAL BENEFACTORS

THE CALIFORNIA ARBORETUM FOUNDATION recently established a new membership category called Special Benefactor as part of its continuing effort to reverse the effects that inadequate funding could cause at the Arboretum.

Committee chairmen Betty (Mrs. Sidney) Wall and Peter Bickford explained that to be recognized as a Special Benefactor a donor must be willing to contribute \$1,000 annually for use on a specific project.

Besides all the privileges of Foundation membership, Special Benefactors will be honored in Foundation publications and will be entitled to private guided tours of the Arboretum upon request. This June, members of the group will be guests at a catered luncheon, the first of the annual parties planned exclusively for them.

ADOPTION FANTASY FIESTA

MOVIE STARS, broadcast personalities, and county officials abounded at the Latino Adoption Fiesta Sept. 12 at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, but the real stars of the day were 53 Latino children awaiting adoption.

The children were special guests at the festival planned by the Los

Angeles County Department of Adoptions to bring hard-to-place adoptees and approved families waiting for a child together in an informal atmosphere. As the children and prospective parents got to know each other some unexpected bonds developed. One couple who had originally applied to adopt an infant girl were so charmed by four brothers that they asked to have the boys placed in their home. Helen Ramirez, director of CDA, also reported that more than 70 people began the necessary adoption proceedings during the fiesta.

The party began with everyone munching hot dogs and popcorn while they enjoyed the clowns and mariachi band. Master of ceremonies, Sonny Melendrez from KFI radio, introduced the children and coaxed from each a glimpse of his or her distinct personality.

Everyone, children and adults alike, crowded around the stage in front of the Queen Anne Cottage to hear the childhood memories related by Ricardo Montalban and Herve Villechaize from the television series "Fantasy Island" and by France Nuyen who starred in "South Pacific."

Later, the many individuals and organizations who contributed so much to the success of the fiesta received scrolls from L.A. County Supervisors Deane Dana and Michael D. Antonovich.

Arboretum Weather Summary October 1, 1980 to September 30, 1981

	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
Average maximum temperature	84	76	74	70	74	71	77	78	92	92	94	88
Average minimum temperature	55	47	46	47	47	47	51	56	62	62	63	61
Highest temperature	102	92	87	80	90	82	97	94	107	102	108	98
Lowest temperature	45	40	39	38	38	41	42	49	57	58	57	55
Number of clear days	10	10	18	14	17	10	8	8	20	22	25	14
Number of partly cloudy days	21	19	10	9	3	4	12	22	10	9	6	16
Number of cloudy days	0	1	3	7	8	7	10	1	0	0	0	0
Rain each month	.1	0	.47	1.66	1.24	5.26	.71	Tr	0	0	0	0

Total rainfall for year 9.44 inches

Average annual rainfall 18 inches

June-December longest below normal rainfall period in recorded history.

Lat. 34 deg. 08' 48" N., Long. 118 deg. 02' 59" W., Elevation 571.28 ft.



From left, Director Francis Ching, Ricardo Montalban (left), France Nuyen, and Sonny Melendrez applaud as Helen Ramirez of CDA, Denny Shane Miller of WAIF, and Sonny Melendrez of KFI gather for a Fiesta planning meeting.



More than 70 prospective parents took the first steps toward adopting children during Latino Adoption Fiesta Sept. 12 at the Arboretum.

RIGHT Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Oropeza (back row, right) receive an award from Ricardo Montalban honoring them for adopting seven siblings. Their children are, from left, Roberto, Marielena, Raquel, Sandra, Sylvia, Graciella, Analillia, and Veronica standing in front.



BELOW A pensive clown decorates the faces of her willing subjects with stars, comets, and smiles.





1982. "Adoption fantasy fiesta." *Garden* 6(1), 2-4.

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