

## PRUNING REVEALS REMNANT OF RANCHO SANTA ANITA INC.

A RANCHO SANTA ANITA remnant dating back 50 years to the time when Harry Chandler owned the land has been uncovered on an irrigation control gate six feet into the water on the east side of Lasca Lagoon. Palm fronds that hid the two-foot square sign for so many years have been cut away, clearly revealing this relatively unworn warning sign and the century-old gate erected by E. J. Baldwin that supports it. The discovery seemed to surprise everyone except the historical curator at the Arboretum, Sandy Snider.

"I've been aware of it for several

years now and didn't really mind the overgrowth. The palm fronds protected the sign from weather damage and vandalism," she said.

Harry Chandler, publisher of the Los Angeles Times, headed a real estate syndicate known as Rancho Santa Anita, Inc. that bought the property from Baldwin's daughter Anita in 1936 and then posted 12 warning signs on the ranch. According to Ms. Snider, the signs were placed at ranch entrances and exits, the Queen Anne Cottage, Coach Barn, Hugo Reid Adobe and the Boathouse site.

The irrigation gate actually stands several yards north of the original irrigation outlet. When Baldwin owned the ranch he constructed sev-

eral reservoirs that supplemented the storage capacity of the natural lake to hold water he channeled down from the mountains. Besides the lake, the others were located where the Santa Anita Racetrack now stands, one north of Santa Anita Avenue, one on Michillinda Avenue and another on Huntington Drive that is now the parking lot of the Elks Club.

During World War I, Anita Baldwin demonstrated her patriotic spirit by turning the reservoir on Huntington Drive into a swimming pool for the Balloon School officers stationed in the area.

All that remains of Baldwin's complex irrigation system is the wash — now lined with concrete — that borders the western edge of the Australian Section. From Chandler's Rancho Santa Anita, Inc. era there is even less — one small sign that reads "NO SWIMMING, Offenders will be Prosecuted."

## NANCY WILSON HEADLINES EVENING PICNIC-CONCERT

VERSATILE SONGSTRESS Nancy Wilson will be the featured entertainer at the summer picnic and concert sponsored by the California Arboretum Foundation on July 14. CAF Trustee George Fasching said that he has also arranged for a 21 piece orchestra and a "surprise" comedian from Universal Amphitheatre to entertain as music fans enjoy the alfresco dinners they bring with them. Gates open at 6 p.m. and the show begins at 7 p.m.

The number of tickets available will be limited, according to Mr. Fasching. "We don't want to have so many people here that no one has a good time," he said. Call the Foundation office at (818) 447-8207 for information and reservations. Admission is \$11 for adults and \$6 for children under 12.



Visitors of all ages enjoy the play equipment which Sunset Magazine recently added to the Family Garden as the last part of the renovation of the Demonstration Home Gardens.



1985. "Pruning reveals remnant of Rancho Santa Anita, Inc." *Garden* 9(4), 2.

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