

LASCA Leaves



Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens

ALICE THOMAS REJOINS BOARD AS FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

MORE THAN a decade ago, Alice (Mrs. Dudley W.) Frost Thomas set a precedent when she was the first lady to be elected president of the California Arboretum Foundation Board of Trustees. Af-

ter a sojourn in Hawaii and San Francisco, Mrs. Thomas has returned to Southern California and has again been elected president of the Foundation. Once more she arrives on the scene just when the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum is poised on the brink of a new era.

For the first time since Harry Sims

Bent laid out the original garden, the Arboretum will have a long-range master plan for the grounds and a new fund-raising strategy to support the changes. Mrs. Thomas candidly expressed her enthusiasm for these inter-related projects, initiated under the direction of former Foundation president R. Kirk Evans.



Wendy Sekovich

New Trustees Richard A. Grant Jr. (far left) and Hannah G. Bradley (far right) flank new officers Alice

(Mrs. Dudley) Thomas, president, and Richard Ray, first vice-president.

"The master plan is our number one job," Mrs. Thomas responded when questioned about goals during her term as president. She then went on to outline the approximate timetable for plans that will guide the Arboretum as it moves into the 21st century.

In July, Grant Jones from the landscape architectural firm of Jones & Jones held a series of workshops with Mr. Ching, the Board and the Arboretum staff to review the objectives of the Arboretum and suggest capital projects and programs that would move the Arboretum toward these goals.

Jones & Jones is also expected to develop some constructive, original ideas about existing features of the Arboretum such as the gift shop and coffee shop. Then the firm will do a tentative sketch providing a visual concept of their suggestions and a brochure describing the plans. Fund raisers will be able to use this prospectus when approaching large donors.

After the Board raises funds using the feasibility study by fund raising counselors Brakeley John Price Jones Inc., the landscape architects will do

a detailed rendering of the master plan.

At the meeting the Board of Trustees also elected a new slate of officers who will serve with Mrs. Thomas in 1986-87. Richard Ray is first vice-president with Suzie (Mrs. Richard) Miller as second vice-president. Hugh Barton will serve as secretary-treasurer.

STAIRWAY GARDEN DEDICATED AT ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

THE LATEST addition to the Arboretum, the Stairway Garden, was dedicated at the June 17 meeting of the California Arboretum Foundation Board of Trustees.

The new garden links the Demonstration Home Garden to Ayres Hall with a series of stairs and landings. The California Landscape Contractors Association, Los Angeles/San Gabriel Valley Chapter donated materials and labor for the project as part of their 1985 Garden Show display, a gift estimated at \$80,000.

The garden, designed by Chris Rosmini, is water efficient making use of drought tolerant Australian-type shrubs. Railroad ties were used

to stabilize the steep slope, and decorative bricks of contrasting grays constitute the walking area. Benches are featured on each landing so visitors may take advantage of the serene garden.

Rose Marie Head, past president of CLCA, accepted a plaque in honor of her late husband, Henry Soto, for his contribution to the garden. Chris Rosmini and Glenn Koyama were also awarded plaques in recognition of the major roles they played in this development.

CHINESE STUDENTS COMPARE ARBORETUM, SHANGHAI GARDEN

MISS CHEN NIAN-NIAN and Mr. Zhang Shun-Yong had just arrived at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum in June when the deluge of questions began. As the first representatives from the Shanghai Botanical Garden to intern at the Arboretum, they responded to everyone's interest with gracious good humor in excellent, if cautious, English.

During an early interview they described their backgrounds and the areas they hope to explore during their stay at the Arboretum. Both Miss Chen and Mr. Zhang received degrees roughly equivalent to a Western master of science from the Department of Horticulture at the Shanghai Agricultural College. At the Shanghai Botanical Garden they are among the 25 holders of degrees and about 30 vocational school graduates in the 600-person staff who operate the 175-acre public garden.

The young Chinese interns drew many comparisons between their home institution and the Arboretum. Shanghai Botanical Garden lies only about three miles outside the city, providing, like the Arboretum, an oasis of flowers for millions of nearby residents and tourists. In 1978 the garden opened to the public on the site of a former nursery which had specialized in floriculture and penjing, the miniaturized trees we



Wendy Sekovich

Grant Jones (left) from Jones and Jones joins Dr. Samuel Ayres Jr. and second vice-president Suzie (Mrs. Richard F.) Miller in sampling the traveling buffet at the Board of Trustees meeting on June 17.



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