

# Department notes

## ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

THE BANQUET marking the 25th anniversary of the signing of the articles of incorporation of the California Arboretum Foundation, held last February 20th in the Mediterranean Room of the Brookside Clubhouse in Pasadena, turned out to be a gala affair. The setting was suitable to the occasion, the room, attractive by itself, set off by a number of dramatic container plants borrowed from the Arboretum nursery and each table highlighted by a three-foot-high antiques compote containing roses, mums, babysbreath, and a spray of peacock feathers, the work of Mrs. Philip Brueckner, a committee of volunteers, and Mr. John Provine, Arboretum horticulturist. With Mr. F. Harold Roach, past president of both the California Arboretum Foundation and the Board of Governors of the Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens serving as emcee, close to 175 guests heard Dr. Frits W. Went, founding president of the Foundation — who had come over from the Desert Research Institute in Nevada for the occasion — open the program with reminiscences of the early days. Dr. Went said he was "amazed and delighted to find so many of the original plans for development already achieved." Mr. Kay Iizuka, current president of the Board of Governors, presented on behalf of that body a future pool and fountain, inscribed with a bronze plaque, to be constructed in the Arboretum entranceway. State Senator H.

L. Richardson presented a scroll from the State of California, and Mr. Roach presented a scroll from the Board of Governors on behalf of Supervisor Peter Schabarum who was unable to attend.

Of the eleven original signers of the articles of incorporation, three — Dr. Samuel Ayres, Jr., Mr. Howard Miller, and Dr. Frits Went — were on hand to receive honorary life memberships and copies of a limited-edition printing of a history of the first twenty-five years of the Arboretum written by Mr. George Spalding, longtime staff member and currently botanical information consultant. The honorary memberships and numbered books — the first copy was given to Dr. Ayres to whom the book is dedicated — were presented by Mr. John Anson Ford, former county supervisor, who preceded the presentations with some of his own recollections of the founding days and the people who took part in them, ending his remarks with the hope that "this beautiful Arboretum and the city of Los Angeles, to which the Arboretum has contributed so much, will serve as models for urban beautification in cities in all parts of the world." Then he presented books, along with a few gracious remarks, to Mrs. Georgina Mage, Mrs. Forrest Stanton, Mrs. Ralph Cornell, and Mr. Spalding. He also introduced Mrs. Harry Robinson, taking note of her generous offer to the County, described elsewhere in these notes. Mrs. Peter Douglas, Foundation president, presented copies of the book to former Foundation presidents Dr. Arie Haagen-Smit and Mr. Ernest Hetherington, and to the Foundation's Executive Secretary, Mrs. Dolores Hubbell, and to Department Director Francis Ching. Following a few closing remarks by Mr. Ching, Mr. Roach thanked everyone for having come and another milestone in the history of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum passed into the records.



Lasca Leaves

*Left to right: Frits  
Went, John Anson  
Ford, Samuel Ayres,  
Jr.*



## *At the Anniversary Banquet*



*F. Harold Roach and Mrs. Peter L. Douglas*



*Arie J. Haagen-Smit*





*Howard Miller and John Anson Ford*



*Mrs. John R. Mage*



*Kay Iizuka*



Lasca Leaves

*Francis Ching and Mrs.  
Harry W. Robinson*



*Samuel Ayres, Jr., and  
George Spalding*

*Senator H. L. Rich-  
ardson and Mrs.  
Peter L. Douglas*







*Mrs. Forrest Q. Stanton and John Anson Ford*



*Mrs. Philip Brueckner, John Provine,  
and Mrs. William Eilau*

*Photos at the Anniversary Banquet: By Marilyn Morrison: page 5, top and bottom left; page 7, top; page 8, right. By William Aplin: page 5, bottom right; page 6; page 7, center and bottom; page 8, left.*

## NEW GOVERNORS

**W**E WISH to welcome and extend our best wishes to new members of the twenty-five member Board of Governors. They are Mrs. Marilyn C. Stoke of Arcadia appointed by Supervisor Pete Schabarum, and Mr. Edward Engoron of Los Angeles, appointed by Supervisor Ernest Debs.



## AABGA MEETING

**N**EXT MONTH the Arboretum will be the host for the annual meeting of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta. For four days, April 16-19, conferees will be busy with field trips to other Southern California gardens and with symposia held at the Arboretum. At the talks particular attention will be given to the various kinds of educational programs and how they serve the community.





1973. "Anniversary banquet." *Lasca leaves* 23, 4–8.

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