

quality which makes possible successful planning and production of a major event like the 39th Annual Meeting of The Herb Society of America, which began last June 12 and ended four days later with an annual banquet at which Dr. Mildred Mathias, professor of botany and director of the Botanical Gardens at UCLA, was the principal speaker. In between, the 185 registered members from all parts of the country were taken on trips to private, public, and commercial herb gardens in the area and were guests at several luncheons at which herbs, of course, were the featured condiment. The Southern California Unit of the society was the host for the meeting and also the producers of the public weekend exhibit June 16th and 17th at the Arboretum which turned out to be one of the most attractive and well-attended this energetic group has ever put on. Continuing the meeting theme of "Renaissance of Herbs," visitors were educated and entertained by a record number of exhibits—the Herb Garden at the Arboretum, maintained by the Southern California unit, contains over 400 varieties—and at booths where visitors could smell or taste the cooking and fragrance herbs, or watch the making of herbal cosmetics and soup.

GIFT SHOP

Visitors to the Foundation gift shop at the Arboretum will note a new accent on merchandise directly or indirectly related to plants. An attractive new redwood platform just outside the shop now displays containers and various specialty plants not generally available at local nurseries. On the inside is a growing collection of handcrafted items designed for the homeowners' patio, windowsill, and the like. These items are made by the Arboretum's talented corps of volun-

teers who not only contribute their time to this work but do so in the understanding that profits from the sale of their handicraft are used to assist the many Arboretum projects not funded by the County.

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

The 11th annual Fiesta de Flores at South Coast Botanic Garden held last June 22, 23, and 24, attracted 4,500 people, a figure that would have been considerably larger had it not been for a big brush fire in adjoining areas that broke out on opening day and caused the closing of a number of access roads. Those that came over the weekend saw some of the most colorful displays yet seen at this yearly affair. One part of the Fiesta, the Carnival of Flowers, presented by the Costa Verde District of California Garden Clubs, had five competitive divisions open to both amateur and professional exhibitors. At the risk of singling out one division at the expense of another, the flower arrangement division attracted lots of attention with its designs bearing such titles as Cake Walk, Tunnel of Love, Big Top, and Box Office. According to competition rules, all were composed of at least some fresh plant material. Treated or dried plant material was permissible; no artificial flowers or foliage were allowed. Other highlights of the Fiesta were the tea ceremony presented four times Saturday and Sunday in a Japanese Garden setting prepared by Mr. Yamashiro; a group of strolling musicians playing flutes, recorders, and guitars; and a series of lectures. Dr. Paul Saffo, president of the South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation, had reason to be proud of all the talented and hardworking people who planned and executed the show.



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