

## ROSS GOODRICH

THE DEPARTMENT lost another of its able employees last December 26 with the death of Ross Goodrich, an Arboretum gardener for nearly 21 years, the last six spent in the Asiatic-North American section for which he was responsible. A private, reflective man with a lively sense of humor, he approached plants and writing philosophically as well as practically, demonstrating both these approaches in the many articles he wrote for this magazine. As he cared for the plants under his charge, so he cared for the words he wrote, selecting, arranging, and fretting over them as would any professional. These qualities, the practical and the philosophical, are perhaps best revealed in the article he wrote on seedlings in the March, 1970, issue. It merits rereading on any grounds.

## DESCANSO GARDENS XMAS SHOW

ALTHOUGH the event is three months old, this is our first opportunity to record a few notes on the Christmas exhibit put on by the Descanso Gardens Guild. Under the theme, "Christmas Inspirations," it represented the work of 100 amateur and professional decorators brought together by show chairman, Mrs. John H. Urabec, and Guild president, Mrs. John C. Crowley. The exhibits depicted the Christmas art of many countries, utilizing dried plant material, stained glass, ceramics, wall hangings, candles, and a much-admired gingerbread house. Attendance for the nine days the show ran was 22,000, the largest yet for this happy annual event.

## ARBOR DAY

FOR MANY years the Department's observance of Arbor Day was pretty much a parochial affair consisting mainly of a tree-planting ceremony somewhere on the grounds of each garden to which

students from nearby elementary schools were invited. Following the ceremony youngsters would line up with their parents to receive a seedling tree. It was clear that the principal student "involvement" was in the lineup for the plant.

Two years ago a new plan was developed that would reach elementary students throughout the county and that would involve the schools in the community in an observance of Arbor Day that was more than ceremonial. The essence of the plan was the preparation of environmental and tree-planting resource material in attractive folders to be given to schools electing to participate. The material was designed to provide teachers with background information and ideas for classroom projects. Participating schools would also receive an Arbor Day tree from the Department for a tree-planting ceremony on *their* grounds.

The plan was an immediate success. This year over 900 schools in 52 school districts representing 500,000 students are participating, and the prospect is for even wider participation next year. The trees—this year *Koelreuteria integrifoliola* (Golden Rain Tree)—were grown in five-gallon cans at the Arboretum. The yeoman job of gathering and putting together the resource material was undertaken by the Arbor Day Committee of Las Voluntarias, the hardworking volunteers of the California Arboretum Foundation.

## WALKS AND LECTURES

THE DEPARTMENT's annual series of Sunday morning walks and Sunday afternoon lectures began at the Arboretum last January 13 when Dr. Lee Enari led a record number of walkers—close to a 100—through the Australian section. The only change in the series this year is the advance in the starting time of the walks to 10 a.m. Lectures will continue to start





1974. "Arbor day." *Lasca leaves* 24, 7.

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