

and, finally, Dr. Saffo, Mrs. Bittner, and Supervisor Hayes. In his remarks, Supervisor Hayes noted how important it is for a community to inform its political representatives of its needs, pointing out that in the light of a proposed drastic cut in the county budget citizens must give the Department forceful support. He said this kind of community action is necessary even though there is a recognized need for arboreta and botanic gardens in every urban area in which green and open space is threatened by excessive development.

The ceremonies represented the happy culmination of nine years of planning and hoping. To help pay for the project, the South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation is contributing \$20,000 to the county immediately and has pledged an additional \$200,000 over the next five years. The design by Hendrickson and Knox, a Palos Verdes Estates architectural firm, calls for connecting the two buildings by a common courtyard, one building providing office space for the superintendent and receptionist, a general office for research and education, a seminar room, and space for a reading room. The other building will consist mainly of an auditorium of 7,000 square feet, of which 2,000 square feet can be converted to two classrooms by means of folding walls. The plans also provide for parking for 240 cars, a tram-loading area, a road connecting the new facilities to the existing road system, and a new main entrance off Crenshaw Boulevard.

### ANNUAL MEETING

THE annual membership meeting of the California Arboretum Foundation on May 29 was attended by 400 members and their guests who in about two and a half hours, starting at 5 p.m., enjoyed tram tours of the grounds, a twilight picnic buffet, a brisk business meeting, a sneak preview of the Prehistoric and Jungle Garden, and the membership plant

distribution, consisting this year of two melaleucas introduced by the Arboretum, one a large shrub with crimson flowers (*M. elliptica*), the other a medium-sized tree with showy white flowers (*M. linarii-folia*).

The buffet and meeting were held in a corner of the Arboretum's Mediterranean Section so that everyone had only to walk across the road when it came time to see the Prehistoric and Jungle Garden. Still under development, this new project received enthusiastic praise, particularly the just-completed viewing and display deck.

Mrs. John Grivich, Foundation president, presided over the meeting, which she opened with a warm welcome to her guests, Mrs. Mary Bittner and Mrs. Marilyn Stokes, president and member, respectively, of the Board of Governors, and Mrs. Rodney Rood, president of the Descanso Gardens Guild. The meeting continued with the traditional financial report, the nomination and election of new trustees, and remarks from Francis Ching, director, and then was adjourned for the preview of the new garden.

### DESCANSO GARDENS SPEAKER

THE DESCANSO GARDENS GUILD has announced the availability of a new spokesman for the gardens. She is Mrs. Edith Sawyer, a ten-year member of the Guild whose interest in the gardens has led her into lecturing. Mrs. Sawyer's presentation covers all aspects of Descanso Gardens, including its activities and historical background, and is highlighted by the showing of color slides. Program chairmen for interested organizations can arrange for a speaking date by calling the Guild office at 790-5414. There is no charge for Mrs. Sawyer's services but donations to the Descanso Gardens Memorial Fund are welcomed.





1975. "Descanso Gardens speaker." *Lasca leaves* 25, 39.

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