

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA ARBORETUM FOUNDATION

MAY 30, 1975

People are relating and returning to a more natural environment - a fact borne out by the rapid increase in the attendance at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. No endeavor has ever been more important to the Arboretum's role of serving the people of Los Angeles County than the chance to fulfill man's need to understand his own surroundings.

Again, the calendar year was filled with events for the Foundation and its members.

On Friday evening, August 23rd, the Hugo Reid Roundup, a family party, was held for members at the Hugo Reid Adobe. A typical early California dinner was served to four hundred guests. Seventy-five children roasted their own hot dogs. There were games and entertainment and a Mexican band. Fishing and the traditional breaking of the pinatas was immensely enjoyed by the children.

In September, a garden plot was displayed at the Pomona Fair by the California Arboretum Foundation. Its purpose was for exposure and to acquaint the general public with the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum and the Foundation.

November twenty-second, the first Fota Contest was held entitled "Focus on the Arboretum". Two hundred contestants entered submitting over six hundred photographs of pictures taken at the Arboretum. Over half of the entries were in the amateur division and ninety per cent of those were in the nature and architecture classification. The response to this contest was very gratifying.

The fifth annual Baldwin Bonanza was held on April 6th, co-sponsored by the Las Voluntarias and the California Arboretum Foundation. In spite of cold rainy weather, the event proved to be as popular as ever. A special preview for members and guests was held the Saturday evening before with over one thousand attending. Over \$26,000 was raised for the Arboretum.

On May 17th and 18th the second annual Spring Extravaganza and Horticultural Field Day was held at the Arboretum. This event was held in conjunction with the many horticultural groups and local garden clubs making a meaningful horticultural and educational experience. Exhibitions were held by the plant societies with demonstrations on plant care, growing and propagation, demonstrations and lectures on vegetable gardening, and an open house of the research laboratory, greenhouses, plant science library, and a sale of Arboretum plant introductions.

The prehistoric jungle is an educational complex designed by illustrations and plant collections to provide a graphic display of how plants survived or evolved through geological time, and how they have been affected by changing environmental conditions. The jungle is in the final stages of development and will be open to the public in mid-July.

The Board of Trustees and Las Voluntarias have been very active in the activities of the California Arboretum Foundation. With a membership of 3,100, it takes an effective governing body, and an active volunteer group in order for the Foundation to function properly. Besides the many volunteer

hours the Board of Trustees has offered this year, they have committed themselves to raise \$500,000 for the proposed Hall of Environmental Education. This drive is in the initial stages with much of the preliminary materials having previously been prepared. Hopefully, the full campaign will be under way by the middle of September, 1975.

Las Voluntarias functions as a service organization to the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. Its 228 dedicated members work in a variety of areas performing valuable services through their unselfish help. During the last year they contributed a conservative estimate of 27,372 hours. The California Arboretum Foundation Gift Shop is staffed by members of Las Voluntarias on week days. The craft committee keeps the Gift Shop supplied with saleable items. They also stock a popular booth at the Baldwin Bonanza. Preparing California Arboretum Foundation materials for mailing is ably expended by volunteers. They also assist the Foundation staff with typing. The Information Center and the Volunteer Office are regularly staffed by volunteers five days a week from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and on some additional afternoons. Las Voluntarias have a greenhouse of their own where they grow plants for sale in the Gift Shop and at the Baldwin Bonanza. Auxiliary help needed in the Arboretum greenhouses is also contributed. Their help is much appreciated in the Research Division, the Herbarium and the Library. The Children's Education section was aided by volunteers in preparing and assembling 969 Arbor Day packets for schools in fifty-four districts.

One of the most active groups is the History Section. Besides guiding tours, they are responsible for keeping regular hours at the Depot, doing research, special cleaning and arranging of flowers in the historical buildings for Christmas and hostessing many special groups and events.

Twenty-eight experienced field leaders conduct nature and history tours for school children. There were a total of 13,613 school children on 678 field trips. The School Visitation Program in which four volunteers take the "Arboretum Story" into the classrooms has been highly successful. This program reached 557 children.

A program of Foundation-sponsored Sunday Afternoon Lectures and Sunday Morning Walks has been well received. The Mini Courses for 1974-75 have been expanded to seventeen.

The Los Angeles State and County Arboretum is a fitting response to the specific needs of the people in this time of ecological concern. It represents an ideal opportunity to provide a beautiful experience for the community. Through its public service programs, it has created an interest in all topical and botanically related subjects. The California Arboretum Foundation is pleased by its endeavors in helping to bring this meaningful adventure to the people.

Cecelia R. Grivich
President



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