

Arboretum *notes*

Director Appointed

ON MAY 5, the twenty-five member Board of Governors of the County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens exercised its appointive powers for the second time in its seventeen-year history by elevating Arboretum superintendent Francis Ching to the office of director. The next day, the Board of Supervisors confirmed the appointment in a fifteen-second statement, thereby ending months of speculation and campaigning by supporters of the candidates.

In appointing Mr. Ching, the governors reaffirmed a county employment principle of promoting from within the ranks, and gained distinction by making him the first Chinese-American department head in Los Angeles County. For our new director the appointment culminates a rise from the bottom to the top rung of the organizational ladder in a period of fourteen years.



Francis Ching, new director of Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens.

MILTON BELL

It was in 1956 that Francis Ching signed on at the Arboretum as a grounds maintenance man, his first job in his chosen field after receiving first a B.S. and then an M.S. degree from Michigan State University. In the following years he put his academic knowledge at the service of the horticultural needs of the Arboretum, summing up at least part of his work in articles on gibberellic acid, air layering, fire-retardant plants, soil analysis, propagation of eucalyptus, and ground covers, written for this publication.

In recent years he has been especially interested in environmental problems and, during his term as superintendent, was able to implement this interest by limiting or prohibiting the use of certain highly toxic pesticides and herbicides. As director, he plans to broaden the department's work in the field of ecology through research projects and horticultural experiments and practices.

For the 130 men and women who staff the Arboretum, Descanso Gardens, and South Coast Botanic Garden, the new director is a man whom they have known for a long time on an informal, workaday basis, a relationship they can expect to continue.

CAF Election

THE ANNUAL membership meeting of the California Arboretum Foundation was held on June 4th in the Home Demonstration Gardens this year and got off to a particularly good start with a buffet luncheon that put everyone in a relaxed mood for the business to follow. One hundred and eighty members gave a warm welcome to former county supervisor John Anson Ford who is remembered as one of the key figures instrumental in establishing the Arboretum and the Foundation in the late forties.

Donald Camphouse, chairman of the nominating committee, presented the recommended slate of trustees for ap-

proval by the membership. Voted to the Board of Trustees for a three-year term were Harrison Chandler, Mrs. John Grivich, and Mrs. Chester Williams of Arcadia, and Dr. Jack Fowlie of La Canada. Reelected to the Board for second three-year terms were Mrs. Jerome Doolan of Los Angeles, Mrs. John Fehrer of Altadena, Judge Joseph Sprinkle, Jr., of Pasadena, and Ernest Hetherington of Arcadia.

Dolores Hubbell, executive secretary of the Foundation, reported on the numerous activities of the past year and commended Las Voluntarias for their dedicated service to the Foundation and the Arboretum.

At the end of the meeting members went up to the new Research Laboratory Building to attend the dedication ceremonies and the open house that followed. Those who hadn't seen the damage resulting from last December's fire or the now landscaped Meyberg Waterfall, first took a special tram tour of the grounds that ended at the research building.

Later, everyone returned to pick up this year's plant distribution consisting of *Harpullia arborea*, an ornamental evergreen from Malaya, India and the Philippines that was introduced to the nursery trade by the Arboretum in 1968, *Osteospermum fruticosum*, the 'Burgundy Mound' South African Trailing Daisy introduced last year, and *Markhamia lutea*, an ornamental shrub or small tree native to Upper Guiana, Africa. This plant is being offered for testing and the Foundation would appreciate a report on growing results at the 1971 membership meeting.

Bonanza Report

THOUGH IT COULD not claim to have lived up to its name, that sometimes hectic, sometimes dubious, fund-raising enterprise presented last May 2nd and 3rd under the title, Baldwin Bonanza, nevertheless proved an overall suc-



Auctions at the Baldwin Bonanza were conducted by Carlota Busch Flanigan and Fred Giersch.

PETER DOUGLAS

cess. There were some surprises when it came to toting up the results, a process still not complete. During the periodic auctions, many items went for less than their true value. In the language of the market, antiques and handcrafted items held firm, plants were bullish. Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of the project was the teamwork and spirit of close cooperation demonstrated from start to finish between Las Voluntarias, the California Arboretum Foundation, and members of the staff. Alice Douglas, Las Voluntarias secretary and co-chairman with her husband, Peter, of the event, summed it all up when she said: "Everyone did more than his job. I particularly want to thank all the chairmen; they worked long hours and manned their posts beautifully. A repeat performance? Why not. I think we all have ideas of how to do it better next time."

Research Lab Dedication

ON JUNE 4 at 2 p.m. before an audience of about 250 dedicated Arboretum supporters, F. Harold Roach, newly-elected president of the Board of Governors, opened the dedication ceremonies for the Research Laboratory Building with the customary pledge of allegiance. He then introduced our new



1970. "CAF election." *Lasca leaves* 20, 28–29.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/132110>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/144845>

Holding Institution

Missouri Botanical Garden, Peter H. Raven Library

Sponsored by

Los Angeles Arboretum

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: The Arboretum Library at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

Rights: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.