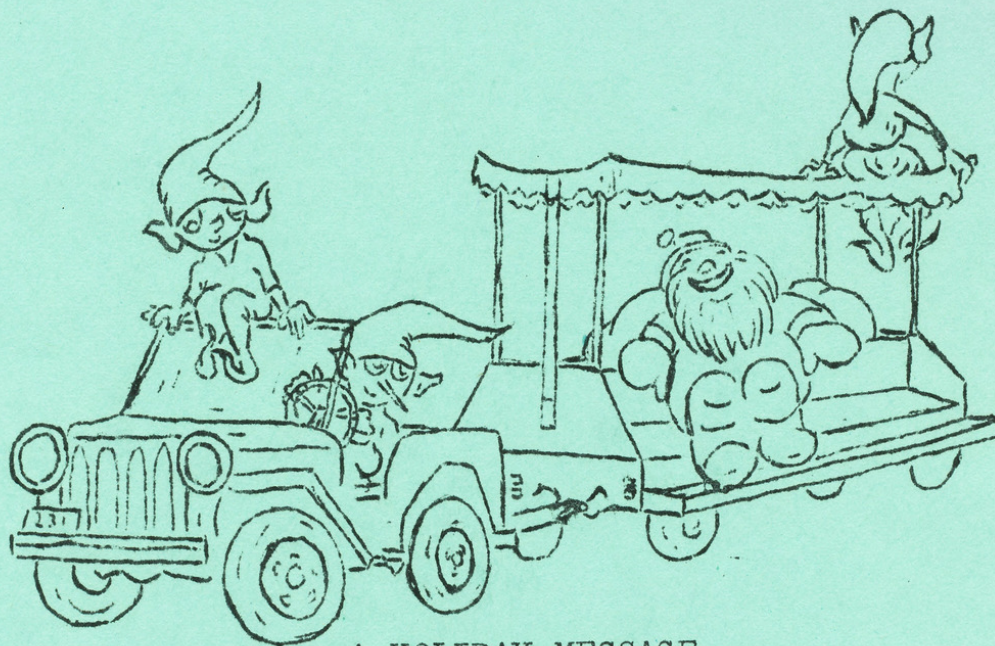


LASCA NEWS

A periodic report from the Los Angeles State
and County Arboretum to the members of the
California Arboretum Foundation, Inc.
Arcadia, California



A HOLIDAY MESSAGE

Dear Member,

Christmas, 1958

As we approach the Christmas Holiday season it seems fitting that I should express my gratitude to our members and all the friends of the Arboretum for their continued interest and loyal support during the year 1958.

It is difficult to express in words the great sense of satisfaction which comes to those who are associated in an undertaking such as our Arboretum; and the feeling of achievement in the accomplishments we now have completed for use by the people who know how to enjoy them.

Those who constitute the staff of workers continue to show their devotion to their various duties, and much of the success and popularity of our institution is due to this attitude toward their daily tasks.

The great increase in attendance to a record 270,000 in less than eleven months attests to the need for what the Arboretum has to offer the citizens of Los Angeles County as well as those of all of California.

I am certain this program will continue, and that the members of the Board of Supervisors, who, through their vision and judgment have made the funds available to create this public facility, will continue to support it, and share with all of us in the Arboretum Foundation the pride and satisfaction of knowing the high regard in which our Arboretum is held by everyone.

Robert Casamajor, President



Research Grants to Arboretum

Two grants to support basic plant research at the Arboretum were made to the Foundation this fall. One award of \$18,715 is from the United States Public Health Service to allow a two-year study of the effect of air pollutants on tissue growth of plants. (This also recognizes the outstanding quality of smog at the Arboretum!) The research will be conducted jointly by Marcella Juhren and W. M. Noble of the Air Pollution Control District and Arboretum staff members.

The second grant is from the National Science Foundation and will allow three years of study on an analysis of the food plant preferences of certain insects. The work will be carried out at the Arboretum and in the field by William Hovanitz and an assistant. A fund of \$29,900 was awarded to support this project.

Frost damage at the Arboretum was light considering the lush growing condition most large-leaf "tropicals" were in. The meager rains to date were too little and too warm to help maturing of new growth - also deciduous material was slow in defoliating, hence some discoloring and even leaf burn on them also.

The Fruit Frost Service of the U. S. Weather Bureau has established an instrument box near the Jungle for determining temperature readings around the clock as well as a verifying minimum thermometer. Information will be given daily to Mr. Claude A. Cole, Meteorologist, and Mr. Roy Simpson, Broadcaster at Pomona. (This is in addition to our official station under Mr. J. T. McGah.) We hope this will be of great service to the Arboretum and plant growers of our community.

The next two months should see more flower color in the South African Section as the winter approaches, and also amongst the Eucalyptus collection in the Australian Section. Of course, Azaleas, Rhododendrons, and Camellias will be continuing with heavier flowering later in the winter. In the Garden of Eden or Tallac Knoll, Bromeliads are still blooming, the coffee trees are setting seeds and early adventurous Cymbidiums will be "jumping the gun"!

Have you seen the most up-to-the-minute gardens in America this week? New features in plants nearly every week - you can't afford to miss these Demonstration Home Gardens.

A reorganization of the guide service has been achieved to meet the increased attendance demand. The trams now operate daily except Monday from 10:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. without reservations. The tram driver gives a lecture and assists the visitor by answering questions. We have also placed historical commentaries on tape which play automatically in the Queen Anne Cottage and the Coach Barn. These new innovations have made more information and more of our services available to all Arboretum visitors.

Have you a curious mind? Our library is constantly acquiring books on many fascinating subjects connected with nature. ("The shaping of our own life is our own work." -H. Ware.) New to our library: The World Grows Round my Door. -Fairchild. Carnivorous Plants. -Lloyd. Australian Tree Portraits. -Mountford. An Easy Guide to House Plants. -Nehrling. Maintenance of Shade and Ornamental Trees. -Pirone. Miniature Trees and Landscapes. -Yoshimura. A Summary of the Culture of California Plants at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden, 1927-1950, by Percy Everett. Flora of Malaya, Vol. I -Orchids by R. E. Holttum. Gabrielino Indians. -Bernice Johnston (Assembled from "Master Key"). Trees of Central Africa. -Olive Palgrave. Proceedings of the Second World Orchid Conference. -C. P. Mountford. Miniature Trees and Landscapes. -Yuji Yoshimura and G. Halford (Bonsai Culture). Hawaiian Flowers and Flowering Trees. -Lorraine Kuck and R. C. Tongg. Native Plants for California Gardens. -Lee W. Lenz.

A gardener's best friend is string! At least, that's true according to Lasca's youngest gardeners! Early in October the Jr. Education section opened its first class in Gardening for ten interested boys and girls, 5th and 6th grade level. Each has taken over a 50 square foot plot for sixteen Saturday mornings, 10:00 to 12:00. They have worked out their own plot plans, made the safety rules concerning tool use and care, and have from 8 to 10 different kinds of plants already under way.

Radishes are nearly ready to harvest, cabbages, rhubarb, chard, stock and violas are showing the care used in transplanting them; onions are ready to thin, and soon the other bulbs will be up. Thinning, cultivation and insect control are chores to be sure, but seeing the response the plants make the very next week makes the value of such work self-evident.

Caterpillars do chew holes! Once a pack rat trimmed off half a row of the best radishes. Birds nip bits, but the Peacocks patrol constantly! That is where string comes in. Each garden plot has string pegged around it and along each row and planting. For some magic reason, though they look over and under and around the corner pegs, Peacocks don't cross the line. May the wonder of string never grow old to the Peacock family.

The second session for Fall, 1958, Arboretum Adult Education program is under way. We hope you were able to enroll in one or more of the courses offered. Our Spring, 1959 session will begin about the middle of February. Watch the newspapers for the announcement. Don't forget, we also have similar adult courses at Descanso Gardens, La Canada.

For information about courses either at the Arboretum or Descanso Gardens, you may call the Arboretum and ask for the Education Division.

GIFTS

The following items have been given to the various departments

of the Arboretum through the Foundation. Congratulations to the Arboretum and sincerest thanks to the donors from the Board of Trustees of the California Arboretum Foundation, Inc.:

Mr. and Mrs. John Jewett Garland have donated money to build a display orchid greenhouse in memory of Mrs. William May Garland. They also donated approximately \$1,500. worth of orchid plants.

Mr. Arthur Freed has given a four-volume set of Reichenbachia for the Arboretum Library. This donation adds a classic of great value to the Library collection.

The Oregon Bulb Farms donated \$600. worth of assorted bulbs for the Home Demonstration Gardens.

A much needed gift for the Library came from Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bauer in the form of 3,000 Book Plates of outstanding beauty and so significant of the Arboretum. The drawing for the cut was made by Mr. Gerry Patton of the Arboretum Staff.

Why not include a Foundation Membership in your Christmas list for your garden-minded friends?

And so until next Lasca News, GOOD HEALTH, GOOD CHEER, AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Neighbors and Friends of the Arboretum are Cordially Invited

to Participate in the

"THIRD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS POSADA AND OPEN HOUSE"

Sunday, December 14, 1958

5:30 - 6:30 P.M.

301 N. Baldwin Avenue

Arcadia, Calif.

Jeep trains will leave from the gatehouse at 5:30 P.M. to take you to the Carriage House for a continuous Puppet Show. You will then walk to the "Queen Anne Cottage" to watch a group of children sponsored by the Historical Committee present their yearly dramatization of "Las Posadas". It will be held out-of-doors in the Historical Section of the Arboretum, so bundle up in your warmest robes. You will be returned to the gatehouse by jeep train at the end of the program.

Hasta Luego y Feliz Navidad!

The Arboretum Staff



Casamajor, Robert. 1958. "Christmas, 1958." *Lasca News* 1958, 1–5.

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Los Angeles Arboretum

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