

LASCA NEWS

4/29/60
A periodic report from the Los Angeles State
and County Arboretum to the members of the
California Arboretum Foundation, Inc.
Arcadia, California

APRIL, 1960

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY RETIRES

On April 1 our Executive Secretary, Mrs. Lee Wray Turner, began a well earned retirement and joined the leisure class. Being a person of such unbounded energy, resourcefulness and good humor, there is serious doubt in the minds of everyone that she can ever be replaced. Our wishes for her happiness went with her. Mrs. Turner will continue to handle the photographic location work here at the Arboretum, so we shall see her occasionally, we are glad to say.

SOUTH COASTAL BOTANIC GARDENS

Those of our members located in the Rolling Hills and surrounding areas will be especially pleased to learn of the recent dedication of land in that section for botanic garden purposes. Dedication ceremonies were held Wednesday, April 20. Notables of Los Angeles County and south coastal cities participated. Following a luncheon at Redondo Beach, the motorcade drove to the site where plantings were made, establishing the site as the South Coastal Botanic Garden of the Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens. Dr. Stewart officially accepted the new site for the Department. This important botanic garden site will enable the Department to expand its research program to include items of special value for coastal areas.

ARBORETUM LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

The Foundation has made three important additions to the collection of the Arboretum library: Orchids of South Africa; Bolus, 3 volumes: Revision of the Genus Eucalyptus; Maiden, 8 volumes: Medicinal Plants; Millspaugh, 3 volumes. The library collection is available for use six days a week from 9 AM to 5 PM in the new Administration Building wing. The library staff extends their thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Kallam and Mrs. Collins who responded to our SOS for help when the library extended its service to six days a week. We, too, wish to thank these ladies for their most gracious help.

LASCA LEAVES ARTICLES REQUESTED

Lasca Leaves editor, Dr. Louis B. Martin, urges all Foundation members to contribute articles to their publication. Topics may be on horticulture, botany, history, picture stories, favorite plants, art in plants, plants and travel, book reviews. We hope you will send in your articles for publication soon.

NEW JEEP TRAIN TO BE ADDED

We are proud to announce that we are replacing one of our present jeep trains with a new unit in the very near future. Visitors to the Arboretum the latter part of May will find this shiny, new jeep train in operation. Our replacement program will move right ahead if our visitors continue their support. The new equipment will provide far more comfortable and safer transportation for the guided tours.



FOUNDATION SPONSORED LECTURE SERIES

The special Lecture Series, sponsored by the Foundation and the Pasadena Garden Club ended April 20. The success of this education feature indicates that a similar series of lectures should be held in the fall. Your suggestions will be most welcome.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IRIS SOCIETY

The Southern California Iris Society is sponsoring an Iris show in the Arboretum Lecture Hall, beginning April 30, noon until 6:00 PM and on May 1 from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. We hope you will plan to see it.

SPRING FLOWER SHOW

The Annual Spring Flower Show of the Arboretum District, California Garden Clubs, Inc., is scheduled for Friday, May 6 to Sunday, May 8. This show merits your attendance and we hope to see you there.

It is with deep regret that we report the passing of our President, Mr. Robert Casamajor. During the past twelve years Mr. Casamajor devoted much time and energy to the Foundation and the Arboretum. He is sorely missed.

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

One of the most interesting and gratifying activities of the Arboretum is the Children's Education program, under the direction of Gertrude Woods. We are all indebted to Mr. Francis T. Ching, Research Assistant, for his efforts in furthering the children's program. Under the direction of Mr. Ching, 18 Camp Fire Groups and 3 Girl Scout Troops took on the job of potting 6,000 Cistus seedlings for test plots in the mountains. Each student was given a short orientation period. Milk cartons were cut and punched - 6,000 of them! Seven groups completed this operation and learned much about knife safety, teamwork, inspection, tap roots, and drainage! Nine groups worked in the soil mixing yard, learning about soil and how to fill the cartons properly. The last groups of older girls worked inside the greenhouse transplanting 1" seedlings under direct supervision.

The plants resulting from these efforts will go to test plots in the burned areas near Monrovia, La Canada, and Malibu. Just as important is the resulting awareness these young people have acquired, through personal experience, of conservation, horticulture, and problems of research. 173 young people participated in this project along with 28 adult leaders. We are happy to report requests for a return engagement.

CASAMAJOR GLASSHOUSE DONATED

Mrs. Robert Casamajor has donated the glasshouse used by the late Mr. Robert Casamajor for his orchids, to the California Arboretum Foundation. This 16 x 45 foot aluminum, three compartmented and air conditioned glasshouse will be known as the Ethel Casamajor Glasshouse and will be used for agricultural and horticultural activities in the Children's Education Department of the Arboretum.

ARBORETUM ATTENDANCE INCREASES

The Information Department reports attendance is still increasing. So far this calendar year, there have been 105,000 compared to 99,000 for the same period last year.

YOUNG GLASSHOUSE DONATED

A generous donation from Mrs. Archibald B. Young has made possible construction of the fourth of the group of orchid glasshouses. This house will be completely air-conditioned with the latest equipment and shaded with saran plastic screen. This will enable us to maintain a minimum night temperature of 70°F with relative humidity of 60-70% for the growing of *Phalaenopsis* and other warm temperature orchids.

GLENN HIATT TO ATTEND WORLD ORCHID CONGRESS IN LONDON

The Arboretum Foundation has started a fund to send Glenn Hiatt to the World Orchid Congress in London in late May. At the close of the Congress Glenn will establish contacts with orchid and tropical plant nurseries and botanic gardens in some of the European countries. He will be on the alert for new weather control, engineering and construction ideas for utilization in the construction of the conservatory we hope to have in the future. While we are considerably short of our goal, we are hopeful that we can provide the necessary funds for this trip. Contributions to this fund will be most welcome.

PALMDALE TEST STATION

With the passing of winter, the Arboretum's Antelope Valley Test Station at Palmdale is abloom with wildflowers, as well as many of the shrubs and trees being tested there. Liquidamber orientalis has so far proven to be a good tree for that region, as have Chilopsis linearis, Callistemon salignus, Albizzia julibrissin rosea and Eucalyptus rugosa, these showing good bloom or excellent foliage.

LILAC SHOW

The Lilac Show at the Yucca School was held April 8, 9, and 10. More than 30,000 people attended the unique show. The Arboretum won a very beautiful trophy for creating the most interesting world-wide plant display.

PLAYA del REY TEST STATION

The wind, fog and salt test station at Playa del Rey is beginning to yield valuable data on plant tolerances in that area. Some 400 to 500 plants representing approximately 90 genera and species have been planted. It is felt that a minimum of three years and preferably six should be the reasonable time for evaluation to begin.

AIR POLLUTION RESEARCH SEMINAR ATTENDED BY FOUNDATION PROJECT REPRESENTATIVES

Attendance at the Third Air Pollution Research Seminar held at New Orleans and sponsored by the U. S. Public Health Service was both useful and enjoyable for Mr. Wilfred Noble and Mrs. Marcella Juhren. They reported on the Foundation sponsored, Public Health Service grant, research project "Basic Research on Smog Effects." They also managed to cover some sixty lectures given by other researchers. One of the highlights - smog is now a problem in most of the major cities of the U.S. and in such unlikely places as Mexico City, Rio de Janeiro and Brussels. California proposed a set of "clean air standards" designed to be comparable to the clean water standards we now take for granted.

The research continues and since our last report, in order to grow and maintain tissue cultures, a room in the Administration building basement was made into a storage and transfer room, with facilities for maintaining asepsis and proper lighting. Cultures and intact plants of the same species have been subjected to treatments with smog of the atmosphere on days when it is concentrated, smog from auto exhaust, and ozone.

SOUTHLAND ORCHID SHOW RECEIVES WIDE INTEREST

The Southland Orchid Show, utilizing 11,000 square feet of tent space, commercial demonstration glasshouses and the Arboretum Lecture Hall, played host to over 25,000 people during the three day show in March. It was clearly shown that when a conservatory becomes a reality at the Arboretum, we can produce flower and garden shows in a natural setting in keeping with the prestige of Los Angeles County.

TALLEST PALM TREE MEASURED AT ARBORETUM

We believe the question of the tallest palm tree is now settled. Mr. Martinez has measured the palm tree in front of the Queen Anne cottage and has determined it to be 120' tall. The one behind the cottage is even taller, but was not measured. Certain areas which claimed to have the tallest palm with reports in the press boasting of a 65' tree now have the word!

NOW IS THE TIME!

Mr. Martinez reminds us that now is the time to spray the oak trees for Oak Moth and other over-wintering pests.

MUSHROOMS!!!

Dr. Ralph Ames is the source of very interesting information about mushrooms. In a recent talk he presented information regarding the use of hallucinogenic mushrooms by the Indians of Central America, and discussed the research being done in various places into the potential use of the mushrooms for treatment of mental health problems such as schizophrenia.

In his special province of fungi research Dr. Ames has been able to advise numerous groups in the control of plant diseases in this category.

The Foundation office regrets to learn of the passing of Mr. William D. Shearer and extends our heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Shearer, one of the pioneer members of the Foundation's Board of Trustees.

FOUNDATION OFFICE

Since Mrs. Turner's retirement, Mrs. Elsie Murray has been carrying on the Foundation work. She asks that the membership feel free to call upon her for any assistance she can give them.

ADULT COURSES FOR FALL SCHEDULED

The fall schedule is nearly complete for adult courses in horticulture, botany and landscaping. Announcement and registration blanks will be available in August. Dr. Martin reports a 55 percent increase in class attendance this year over last.



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