

Board Notes from Alice Frost Thomas, President

Baldwin Bonanza XIX Set For May 7th

With plans for Baldwin Bonanza XIX under way, a recollection of past Bonanzas seems timely. It was Department Director Francis Ching's idea. When asked how the volunteers could make money for needed projects at the Arboretum, he suggested a sale. The volunteers rallied to the cause and on Sunday, April 26, 1970, the *Arcadia Tribune* contained an article titled "Arboretum to be Setting of Unique Baldwin Bonanza" and continued: "A unique fund-raising sale that promises to be equally rewarding to buyer and seller will be held all day Sunday, May 3, at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum in Arcadia.

"Dubbed the 'Baldwin Bonanza' after E.J. 'Lucky' Baldwin, the owner of the property during the '90s who had himself reaped a bonanza in Nevada silver mines, the sale is the brainchild of the 100 ladies who comprise Las Voluntarias, the official volunteer agency of the facility.

"Together with the California Arboretum Foundation with whom they are affiliated, the ladies have gathered a collection of antiques from the Baldwin era, have made and otherwise acquired a variety of handcrafted items, and busied themselves in the Arboretum's propagation center planting, growing, and potting select ornamental plants.

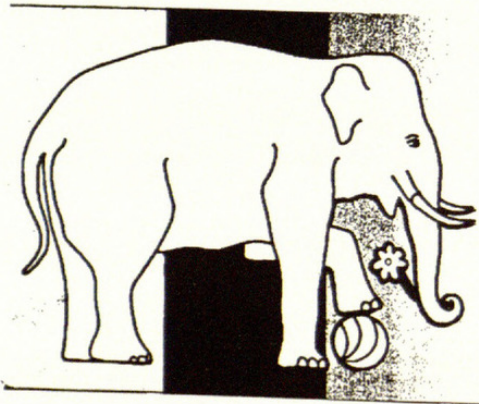
"Proceeds from the sale of these and other items will be used to further various Arboretum projects not covered in its budget. There are a number of these, including many attractions enjoyed by visitors to the garden such as the fountains, pools, waterfalls, public trams, and even some of the greenhouses, all the result of gifts from private citizens to the California Arboretum Foundation through which all non-county funds are channeled.

"The 'Baldwin Bonanza' will be conducted in the Lecture Hall and several outdoor areas of the Arboretum, each decorated in a fashion reminiscent of the gay '90s. It will open at 10 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. There is no admission charge."



Director Francis Ching (l) enjoys the first Baldwin Bonanza Preview Party in 1970 with the Hinshaws and Letty Sample (r).

On the same Sunday in her column in the *Los Angeles Times*, Christy Fox wrote: "With May 3 just around the corner, the date of the Baldwin Bonanza treasure sale at the Arboretum, plans are afoot for a pre-opening party Saturday. Although it is an invitational preview evening, the big sale is open to the public – and free! It is to aid the Arboretum. Co-chairmen of the Bonanza are Alice and Peter Douglas. There will be a continuous chain of events: a silent auction, prizes and more prizes. Lotsie Busch Flanigan is to be the auctioneer at the party."



Note that when it began, the Baldwin Bonanza was not called a Plant Sale – it was just as much a sale of white elephants as of plants, and this fact was emphasized by the first invitation. It was a large white elephant on a red, white and blue background.

Pictures of the preview evening show the hostesses are in long evening dresses! Billie McCaskill had arranged the flowers for the buffet tables – magnificent silver urns overflowing with full-blown roses. There were red tablecloths, silver candelabra, a selection of hors d'oeuvres and finger foods arranged on silver platters. LASCA staff members and husbands of Las Vol members who were assisting wore red and white striped vests and straw hats to compliment the Gay '90s theme. On Sunday there were popcorn, snow cones, calliope music and an area where children were kept busy with spin-art and making prints from pressed leaves.

Summarizing that first Baldwin Bonanza, Don Dimond as editor of *LASCA Leaves* wrote: "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." Gross profits were \$4,926.08.

Two years went by before the next Baldwin Bonanza on April 9, 1972. Grace Robinson was chairman. John Provine, Superintendent, assumed a major role as staff representative. The craft ladies made many macramé pot hangers, very fashionable then. The accounting for this sale showed that of the 20-odd sales categories, plants were far and away the best money maker. Gross profits were \$8,690.94.

The third Baldwin Bonanza, advertised as a PLANT SALE, took place on April Fools' Day. The invitation-only pre-view was held the night before – "one of those magnificent California evenings when a perfect temperature and clean, scented air provide the perfect back-ground." The sale netted \$7,614.39 and 91 new memberships were sold. Ruth Mary Larson was the chairman while also serving that year as president of the volunteers.

Mary Gerry was chairman of the 4th Baldwin Bonanza. Because of the increase in attendance at both the preview party and Sunday sale, the selling area expanded out of the Lecture Hall and into the Demonstration Home Gardens. A call went out to nurseries and individuals for plant donations. Terrariums were a big item. Many volunteers were working long hours so Mitzi Moore, volunteer president, set up a rest, recuperation and refreshment headquarters for them in the Seminar Room. There were small pots of succulents for children to buy. Proceeds were now designated toward a capital campaign for a building that in the future could house this sale, education classes and horticultural shows. The preview party moved outside too. The table settings and hors d'oeuvres were less elaborate. This was the last year that hostesses wore long dresses. Really eager buyers started bringing their own wheelbarrows and red wagons to take away their prize plant purchases.

The fifth Baldwin Bonanza was held on April 6, 1975. Wendy Taylor was chairman. It rained. Described as a "botanical fair", the highlight of the sale had now become Arboretum introductions. There was a large demand for flowering trees. New items were "living sculptures", hanging pieces of driftwood, palm, manzanita and cork oak planted with ferns and



(l to r), Gary and Carol Overturf, Elaine Hoffman, Virginia Stein and Alice Thomas all enjoy the Baldwin Bonanza XIV.



An overview of the LASCA grounds during Baldwin Bonanza XIV.

Horticultural Problems? Ask Rose Green

Q. The lemons from my tree are not juicy. Why?

A. The lemons are old. Strip the tree of all old fruit. Next year do not allow fruit to remain on the tree as long.

Q. Why don't my lilacs bloom reliably?

A. Any flower cluster removed from a lilac bush will prevent that branch from blooming the following year. Try to cut lilac bouquets from the portion of the bush that you usually do not see.

Q. Why is my St. Augustine lawn drying up even though I water regularly?

A. You probably have cinch bugs which can be controlled by applying Diazinon, Aspon or Dursband according to the directions on the package.

Q. How can I protect my pine trees from the Ips Engraver beetle?

A. Spray the trunk and any branches over three inches in diameter with Sevin or Lindane. The main flight season is from March through May.

Q. Does the Arboretum do soil testing?

A. No, but if you call us we can refer you to commercial soil testing laboratories.

Q. How do I correct an alkaline soil condition (pH of 8.5)?

A. Apply soil sulfur according to directions on the bag.

Q. I saw the following two plants at an Arboretum plant sale: *Brighamia citrina* var *nepuliensis* and *Breynia disticha* cultivar 'Roseo-picta' (Snowbird). Please give me their cultural conditions.

A. They can only be grown in a greenhouse.

Q. Why are my squash plants not producing fruit?

A. The first flowers that are formed on a squash plant are male and will not produce fruit. If the female flowers don't produce fruit, it's either because they weren't pollinated or because they are growing in too much shade.



Q. What variety of tomato produces the best fruit?

A. Burpees Better Boy. For most prolific production try Early Girl.

Q. How do I prepare my soil for a vegetable garden?

A. Vegetables are annuals and as such do not have deep root systems. Preparing the soil six inches deep is adequate. In most cases you should add organic material.

Correction from the Winter issue: 20-0-0 fertilizer - to find the amount of actual nitrogen: take 12 pounds actual nitrogen divided by .20 (20% nitrogen). Answer is 60 pounds are required per 1000 sq. feet. ($12.00 \div .20 = 60$ pounds)

Silent Auction to be held

A new feature at this year's Baldwin Bonanza Preview Party will be a Silent Auction. The primary auction item will be a copy of *Southern California Gardens: An Illustrated History* by Victoria Padilla. This book, published in 1961 by the University of California Press with support from the Southern California Horticultural Institute, traces the history of horticulture in our area in terms of chronology, the people involved and the plants. Although the author claimed to be writing only for the lay reader, her work is now a basic resource for researchers interested in any aspect of the local history of gardening. The book has been out of print for a number of years, a fact recently bemoaned on the editorial page of the *Los Angeles Times*, and is difficult to acquire because those who have a copy keep it.

The author, Victoria Padilla, was born in San Francisco but lived most of her life in Southern California. A teacher of business and English, she became a recognized expert on bromeliads and was long active in the Southern California Horticultural Institute. At the time of her death in 1986, she was considering a revision of her history in order to bring the history of Southern California gardens up to the '80s.



Baldwin Bonanza continued from page 3

bromeliads. Brown Jordan donated a set of patio furniture to the raffle and Southern California Greenhouse Manufacturers contributed a lath-house. Attendance was up - 1000 at the preview, 13,000 at the Sunday sale. Formality was disappearing in favor of increased profits - \$26,000 was raised. 260 volunteers worked.

Baldwin Bonanza VI was chaired by Judy Opel and it rained again. Cycad seedlings from the worldwide collection of Loran Whitelock were a feature as were the Arboretum vegetable seed packets. Joan Malafronte was chairman of the 1977 Bonanza held on May Day. This sale was held under a 12,000 square foot saran-covered shade area. There was a record attendance of 17,575 on Sunday, 1900 members and their guests attended the preview party and there was a \$41,000 net profit earmarked for the new building. 500 miniature roses, 1000 blue hibiscus and 5000 pelargoniums sold out in the first few hours. There was gorgeous weather for the eighth Baldwin Bonanza chaired by Jean Atkinson. 2200 attended the preview sale on May 6. 30 visitors held winning raffle tickets for garden items donated by local businesses. Marj Roos was chairman of the ninth Bonanza sale and, for the first time, tickets to the preview party were limited because of the crowds. Several thousand were waiting in line for the gates to open on Sunday even though the county had started charging an admission fee to the Arboretum to counteract the loss of income due to the passage of Proposition 13. Foundation memberships, since free admission to LASCA is a benefit, were a hot sales item. Carol Overturf was chairman of the tenth. 2300 attended the preview. All the fuchsias sold out that evening. A LASCA introduction 'Mood Indigo', cultivar of the lily of the Nile (*Agapanthus*), was a big hit.

The success of LASCA's plant sale had by now led to competition from other botanical gardens and horticultural societies. John Provine was constantly looking for the unusual to maintain the Baldwin Bonanza's profitability. For Baldwin Bonanza XI there were bromeliads from Mexico and 300

continued on page 8

This column features herb recipes created for the Arboretum by Susan Kranwinkle, a Foundation Trustee and Food Columnist for the *Star News*.

Herbed Lemon Tea Bread

Most often we see recipes using herbs in savory dishes, but this matches herbs with a sweet dessert. Lemony herbs and lemon juice give this tea bread an intense and assertive flavor. This recipe is a variation on a Lemon Bread recipe found in *Herbs, Decorations and Recipes* by Tolley and Mead.

3/4 cup milk
1 T finely chopped lemon balm
1 T finely chopped lemon thyme
2 cups unbleached flour
1 1/2 tsp baking powder
1/4 tsp salt
6 T butter, softened
1 cup sugar
2 eggs
1 T grated lemon rind

Butter a 9 x 5 x 3 inch loaf pan. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Heat the milk with the chopped herbs and let steep until cool.

Mix the flour, baking powder and salt together in a bowl. In another bowl, cream the butter and gradually beat in the sugar. Continue beating until light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs, one at a time. Beat in the lemon rind. Add the flour mixture alternately with the herbed milk. Mix until batter is just blended.

Put the batter into the prepared pan. Bake for about 50 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out dry. Let cool on a wire rack for about 10 minutes and then remove from pan and place waxed paper under the rack. Pour Lemon Glaze over the warm bread. Decorate with a few sprigs of lemon thyme.

Lemon Glaze

Place juice of two medium lemons in a bowl and add just enough powdered sugar to make a thick but still pourable paste. Pour over warm bread.

named cultivars of rhaps palm imported from Japan. Joyce Bauer was the chairman. The next year Dodie and Milt Murset were co-chairmen. There was a preview Friday night, April 30, and the sale for the first and only time extended over two days, both Saturday and Sunday. 10,000 weekend shoppers turned out, parking was easier and there were shorter lines at the cashiers. Hanging baskets of fuchsias, the order tripled from the previous year, lasted until mid-morning Saturday. Pelargoniums sold out by early Sunday. 300 volunteers worked to make the sale a big success. Ayres Hall had been completed and the sales area spread between the hall and the tent on the lawn to the west. The thirteenth sale having been preceded by an article in *Los Angeles Times Home Magazine* mentioning the sale and the plants available, saw buyers arriving with the article in hand and used as a shopping list. Robin Stafford was chairman. Jack Smith, *Los Angeles Times* columnist added his relaxed low-key humor to the raffle while his wife, an ardent plant fancier, shopped. The fourteenth Baldwin Bonanza was chaired by Virginia Stein who decided to take advantage of the fact that it was one week before Mothers' Day. There was a large selection of blooming plants: cymbidiums, hanging fuchsias, proteas, phalaenopsis orchids, gloxinias, pelargoniums, and cut stems of proteas. An unusual plant was the batflower (*Tacca chantrieri*). There was a children's booth of easily cared for plants priced from 50 cents to \$1. The weather was marvelous. Late-arriving orchid lovers were disappointed – sold out by mid-afternoon. By now Sunday buyers are mostly jeans clad and T shirted, ready to take home their purchases and plant them immediately. Infant strollers are often used to transport plants while the child walks or rides on the shoulders of a parent.

Sandy Haven was chairman of Baldwin Bonanza XV. In an attempt to please the customer, sales were streamlined by centralizing the cashiers. Sales were no longer made in the various plant sections (ferns, orchids, flowering trees, etc.). All selections were paid for at one time. 1600 attended the preview party on May 3, 1985. Highlight was a selection of blue flowering perennials. Baldwin Bonanza

XVI, proclaimed "Sweet Sixteen" with Joan Malafronte serving as chairman for a second time, enjoyed perfect weather. 2500, the largest crowd yet, attended the preview party and 6000 came on Sunday. The opportunity to get first choice of plants at the preview had definitely led to an increase in membership as only members received the invitation. All these new members were now making use of this benefit. Anything in bloom was gone by Sunday noon – orchids, fuchsias, hydrangeas, gloxinias and decorated baskets filled with colorful spring flowers.

Tom McDuffie and his computer took charge of Baldwin Bonanza XVII and every plant and every volunteer was organized as never before. It was a providential change because Tom's lists and statistics have come a wonderful source of information. Naturally, Tom was appointed chairman of the 18th sale and also for this year – Baldwin Bonanza XIX. A good leader is hard to find and it will be even harder to let him go. Another organization is demanding his attention so John Shepard, Co-Chairman, is in training and will be chairman of the grand XX in 1990. 1988 was the first time the preview party was catered. A loyal corps of hospitality volunteers had, over the years, prepared enormous platters of fresh vegetables with dips, thousands of meat balls and close to a million cubes of cheese. The party had moved from the Lecture Hall to the Home Demonstration Garden to the lawn outside the tent and finally to the west porch of Ayres Hall. Dress has changed from the quite formal to the practical. John Provine continues to find new and unusual as well as popular plants for the Bonanza customer. The sales area is constantly being changed for more efficiency. The cashiers are drilled to speed up sales. We hate to see buyers waiting as much as they hate lines.

A radical change occurred in 1987 when, in an attempt to increase sales but not lines, and sell plants when they are in bloom, an Orchid Sale was held in February. That first orchid sale was such a success, with almost the entire supply sold out before noon, it was

continued on page 9

Membership News

The California Arboretum Foundation extends a warm welcome to the following new members.

Cheryl Amestoy
Mrs. Kingsland D. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Ted Bruins
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brydolf
Mr. and Mrs. E.F. Bulmahn
Yvonne Burger
Marilyn Carpenter
W.P. Chang
Hector Chaparro
Nana Chong
Kelly and Kim Christensen
Barbara and George Cogorno
Ann and Leon Cory
Cheryl and Roger Craig
June W. Crawford
Mary Crowley
Jane Harvey Curran
Lauri and Paul Delegram
Leona S. Drechsler
Katharine Drechsler and Alan Cohen
Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Dreesen, Jr.
Mrs. Samuel Dunham
Marnie Bodek and Ed Moss
Langdon Faust
Marsha Feinhandler
Elinor Floum
Alberta Fluke
Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Foster
Hank Frankfurt
Paula D. Gibson
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Goldin
Betty Goldstein
Junko and David Greenfield
Leo A. Guevara
Kathleen and Douglas Hatch
Mr. and Mrs. William B. Hicks
Daryl Higashida
Robin-Joy Ongley and Brian Higgins
Sylvia W. Crowley Holmes
Michael H. Horibe
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Hsu
Mrs. Hopkins Huntington
Lesley Islas
Georgia Jallo
Robbye Sullivan Kane
Kelly Kimball
F.E. La Roche
Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Lamb, III
Kathy and Ralph Lang
Ruby M. Law
Mr. and Mrs. Wing Y. Leong
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Levine
Michael Lipshultz
Leslie Lisnek
Joneen Liston
Janet Lovejoy
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent G. Maher
Helen Marcellus
Mr. and Mrs. James L. McAdam
Alison McAlpine
Donald McIntire
Christine Varnes and Bill McNallen
Mr. and Mrs. Knox Mellon
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen C. Mengos

Bernice and Mel Meredith
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis R. Mett
John Mohme
Janet M. Moreton
Mr. and Mrs. A.V. Nelli
Margret L. Norton
Cindy L. Ohara
Joyce and Tom Olin
Mr. and Mrs. Paul A. Olson
Judy Opel
Norma R. Ortiz
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Oshin
Amelia Oyer
Ruth O'Grady
Cheryl and Thomas Palfrey
Prof. and Mrs. Thomas Palfrey
Jean Pease
I.G. Pisciotto
Claudette Pittman
Iglal B. Ramos
Christine L. Beale and Robert Rogers
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Rosedale
Mr. and Mrs. William Ryan
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Schaller
Elsie and Richard Sloan
Sam and Dorothy Snyder
Marguerite Y. Specht
Leigh Talmo
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tapper
Ruth and George Thomas
Yvonne Tsai
Mr. and Mrs. C.L. Turzan
Mr. and Mrs. F.J. Weck
Sally Sue Wilcox
Joan Williamson
Pat and Kent Yamauchi
Sue and Ward Yee
Szu Wei and Wayne Yeh



Baldwin Bonanza *continued from page 8*

repeated profitably in 1988 and has become a regularly scheduled event on the Arboretum's calendar. Another sub-sale will be inaugurated this year on July 8th. It will feature palms and summer-blooming plants.

The Baldwin Bonanza has become an institution at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. Profits have been used for support of the summer intern program, education, construction of Ayres Hall and many other projects. It has brought about an increase in Foundation membership and always brings together the volunteers, Foundation and County staff in a spirit of

Fall Foliage Tour in New England

In our continuing effort to offer quality group travel to members of the California Arboretum Foundation, we are pleased to announce a tour for the fall of 1989 titled *Autumn New England From Boston*. This memorable program has been arranged through Tauck Tours, one of the finest tour operators specializing in the United States and Canada.

Our eight day, seven night Fall Foliage tour from Boston offers a lovely itinerary including Massachusetts, Vermont, New York, New Hampshire and Maine, right at the peak of the traditional changing of the colors. We have selected a September 23rd departure date, with a per person tour rate of \$1195.00, based on double occupancy, plus a donation of \$75.00 to the California Arboretum Foundation. Optional trip cancellation insurance is available.

The package rate will include almost every expense...all motorcoach transportation, accommodations at the finest hotels available, all sightseeing, admissions, taxes, services of an escort and driver, and twenty meals, usually with a la carte choices.

Please consider joining the Foundation's Fall Foliage tour on September 23rd and be guaranteed of travelling with others who have a common interest in horticulture. And know also, that your participation will benefit the Arboretum Foundation's fund raising efforts.

For further information and reservations, please contact Ask Mr. Foster / Friendly Hills Travel Center at (213) 698-0511. Detailed itineraries available.



cooperation and friendship that lasts throughout the year(s). The Arboretum found a treasury of benefits in the Baldwin Bonanza. This year's sale, Baldwin Bonanza XIX, will be May 7th, with a preview party and pre-sale for members and their guests on Saturday, May 6th, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Put it on your calendar. See You there!





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