

# LASCA LEAVES



Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens

## QUEEN ANNE COTTAGE INTERIOR REPAINTED

THE CENTURY-OLD charm of the Queen Anne Cottage is being recaptured with the help of new paint, carpets, upholstery and Foster Meagher, a nationally renowned designer and spokesman for the National Paint and Coating Association. The contract with Mr. Meagher was arranged through the Southern California Paint and Coating Association and William Peters, a California Arboretum Foundation trustee and NPCA member.

Mr. Meagher had his work cut out for him in attempting to create a fresh new interior using paint colors of the Victorian era that clearly represent the extravagant nature of Elias Jackson Baldwin.

It is not certain whether any research was done during the 1951-53 restoration to determine the original colors because no records have been found. Sandra Snider, historical



*From left, Betty (Mrs. Sidney) Wall, CAF President John Shepherd and Marilyn (Mrs. H. Randall) Stokes examine a fire retardant shingle like those being applied to the Coach Barn roof in the background. The reroofing was the first project completed by the Special Benefactors.*

LuAnn B. Munns

curator, said the building was in a terrible state of disrepair at the time so the walls were probably replastered. The exterior design of the cottage and descriptions by turn-of-the-century visitors, however, indicate that a bold, almost whimsical decorating approach might have appealed to Baldwin.

Mr. Meagher worked closely with Ms. Snider and Carol (Mrs. Gary) Overturf, president of Las Voluntarias, to choose the carpets and plan a color scheme based on furnishings, woodwork and permanent fixtures.

Each room is a different color with the ceilings a shade darker to emphasize the height of the rooms. The ceiling rosettes and wall mouldings were painted soft white with a clear blue accent color in every room to create a recurring theme throughout the cottage.

Mr. Meagher produced a working diagram of each room before the painting began to show samples of the colors he selected. Color renderings were completed as the painters moved on to each room to allow storage space for the furniture and limit disruption of the public's view of the cottage. The color schemes were developed to focus attention on the carpets, drapes, woodwork and stained glass windows. Meagher said he wanted the paint to enhance the interior's appearance by complementing these features with rich warm colors, rather than overpowering them.

The music room and entry hall will have the same dusky violet walls and formosa, a deep flesh color, coating the ceiling. The library walls are being painted crab apple with an Aztec red ceiling and the bathroom will be Chinese evergreen. The parlor will be painted a broadleaf green with fathom green ceilings and the bedroom will have cheery onyx walls and sunkist, a pale peach color, ceiling.

Carpets for the music room and parlor were selected from Scalaman-dre's which still makes Wilton carpets in 27-inch wide strips like the carpets Baldwin originally had in the cottage.

This is the second major project in the Historical Section; reroofing the Coach Barn was completed earlier. Funds are still needed to complete several other projects in the Historical Section. Most of the buildings have not been refurbished since the restoration in the 1950s. As money is raised, the interior of the barn will be spot sanded to remove scars and stains from the walls and then will be varnished. Future plans also include reroofing the Hugo Reid Adobe and repairing walls and the water-damaged floors, reconstructing authentic Indian wickiups, painting the interior and patching the roof of the Depot, rebuilding the boat house destroyed by vandals and eventually constructing an Interpretive Center in the Historical Section.

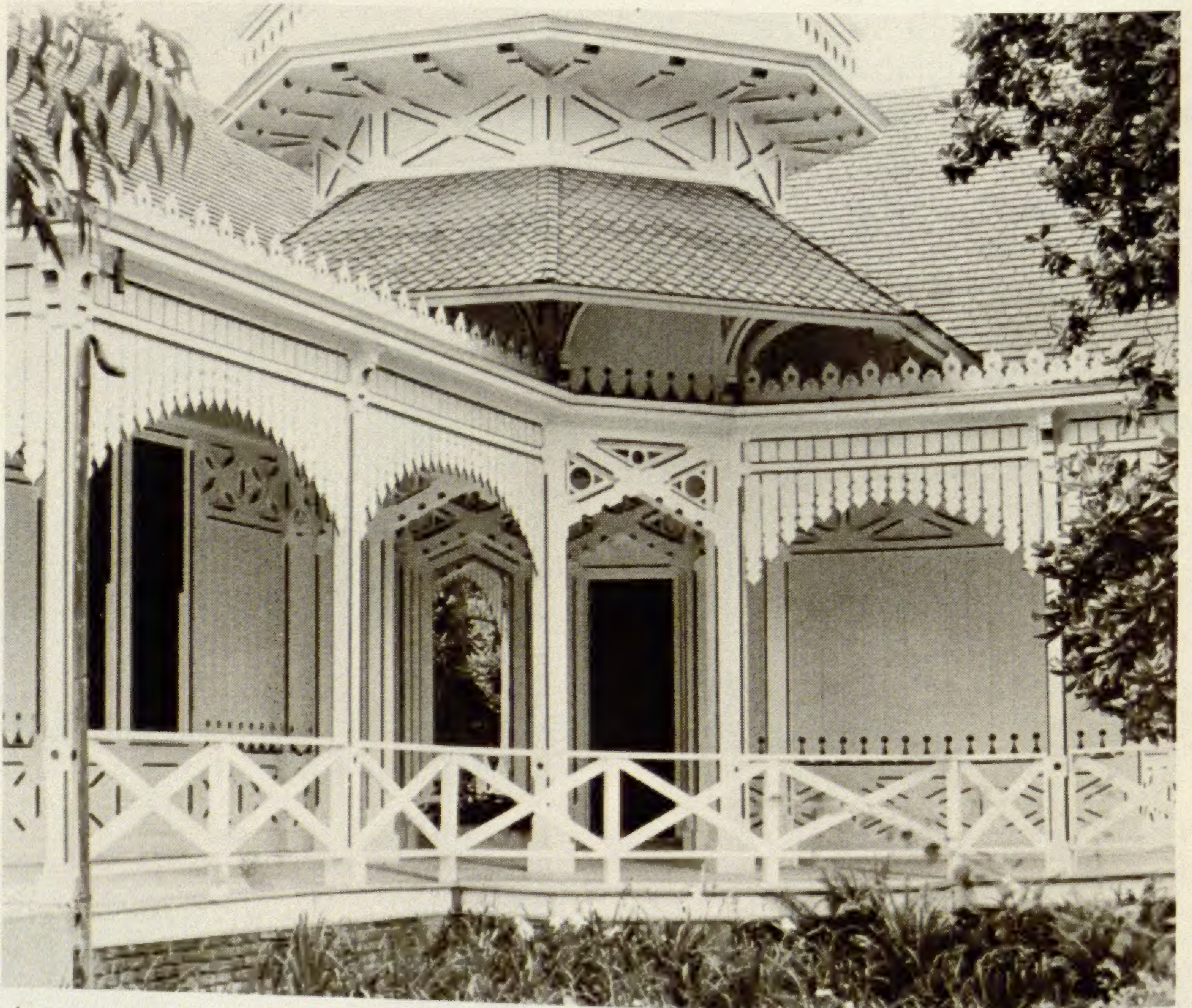
## DR. ENARI RETIRES

**M**ORE THAN 125 friends and colleagues gathered at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum on July 19 to honor Dr. Leonid Enari when he retired after 25 years of service.

The man described by Nancy Anderson, past president of Las Voluntarias, as "Mr. Arboretum" has endeared himself to everyone who knows him with his patience and willingness to spend as much time as necessary explaining a fine point of plant taxonomy.

"When I first joined Las Voluntarias, people told me that the most worthwhile thing to do at the Arboretum was to take Dr. Enari's classes. So I did, and I agree," she said. Mrs. Anderson went on to recount the many hours he spent teaching plant identification to volunteer tour leaders.

Francis Ching, director, described the seed exchange program Dr. Enari developed that has made the Arboretum one of the outstanding



*A new railing around the Queen Anne Cottage makes the veranda safer for visitors.*

Laurie Schenden

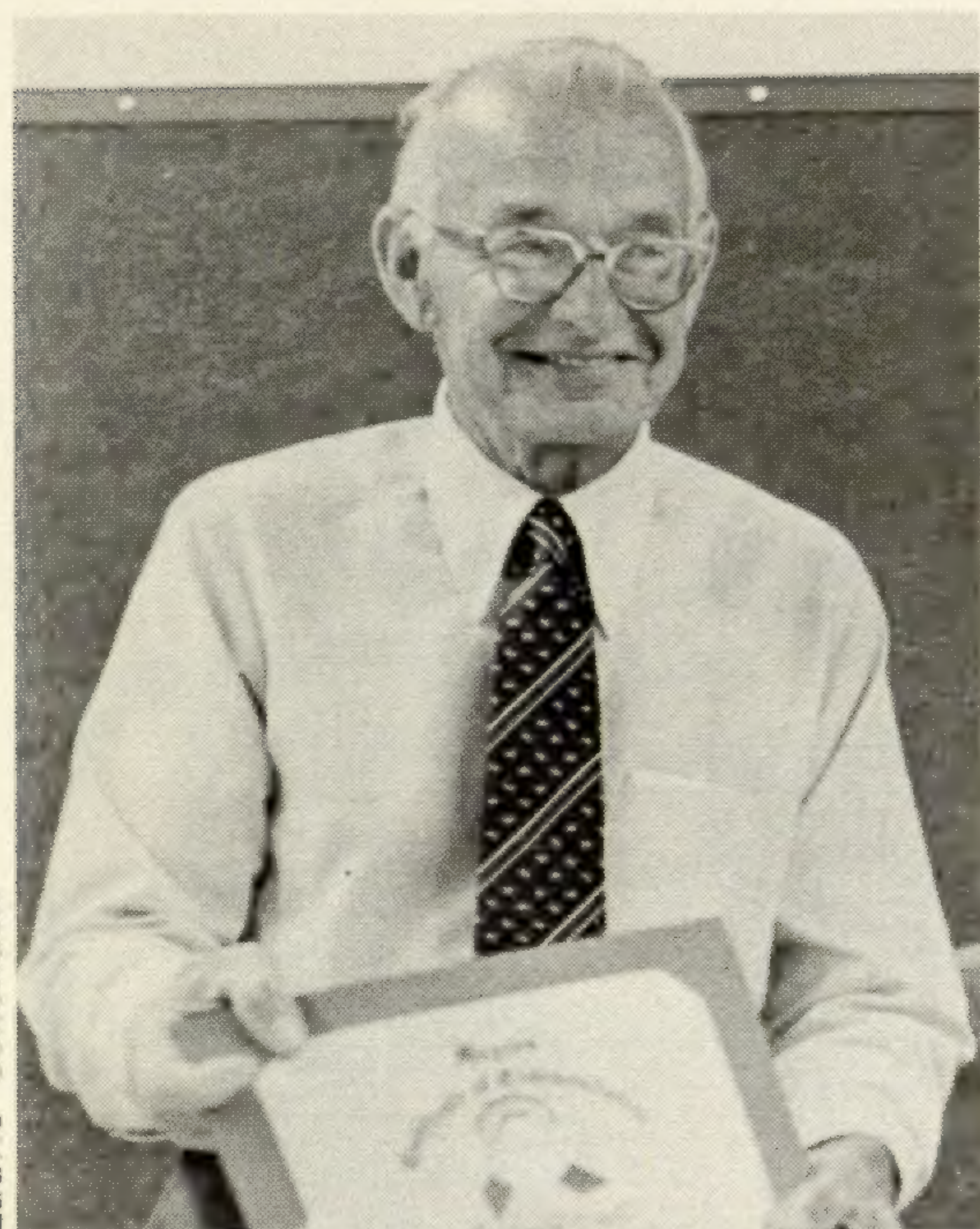
## NEW HERBARIUM CURATOR JOINS ARBORETUM STAFF

SUZANNE GRANGER was named herbarium curator in May and was immediately given the arduous task of supervising the distribution, relocation and rearrangement of the 30,000 herbarium specimens. The Los Angeles State and County Arboretum has maintained a herbarium, a collection of mounted and classified plants useful in botanical study, in the Library Building since 1959. The herbarium was moved from its original location to the Research Building to make room for the expansion of the Plant Science Library. Now that the move is complete, Ms. Granger's first priority is to make the Herbarium more accessible to visitors.

"People can come in with a plant

they want identified and I'll help them compare it with some of the dried specimens until they are able to place it in the right genus and species," she said. Amateur botanists and students can also see the process by which Ms. Granger transforms a freshly collected plant sample into a properly dried and mounted scientific specimen.

Ms. Granger received her BS in botany from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and will complete her master's degree there in 1983. She has assisted Dr. R. F. Thorne in managing the Herbarium at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and served as herbarium technician at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens. Prior to these positions, she worked as a herbarium botanist at Cal Poly, Pomona.



Laurie Schenden

*Dr. Leonid Enari*

botanical gardens in the world. When the native of Estonia began his career as senior biologist and taxonomist at the Arboretum, the institution was exchanging seeds from unusual plants with a few other gardens. Dr. Enari expanded the program into a network that now ties the research division to more than 200 botanical gardens in countries around the world, said Mr. Ching.

Corrine Ray from the Los Angeles County Poison Information Center lauded Dr. Enari for his readiness to identify suspected plants in emergency poisoning cases.

"We call him any time, day or night," she said. "He's given himself to the center. We can't love him enough." In 1981 Dr. Enari answered more than 800 calls concerning poisonous plants. He also uses his knowledge of plant habitat and identity to assist area police departments during criminal investigations and trials.

Although the 68-year-old scientist will no longer officially be in public service, he has no intention of wasting his botanical expertise. Dr. Enari will continue consulting part time at the Arboretum as well as teaching classes at UCLA, the Arboretum, Descanso Gardens and local community colleges.

LuAnn B. Munns



*One of Suzanne Granger's first projects as herbarium curator at the Arboretum was moving the plant specimens to new quarters in the Research Building.*

## Summer Concerts



LuAnn B. Munns

*Harry James gives the downbeat during his August concert.*

*Fans inspired by the big band music of Harry James dance on the marble beside the Bauer Pool.*



Jim Johnson

*Capacity crowds of 3,000 people attended both the Kingston Trio performance sponsored by the Arcadia*

*Chamber of Commerce and the Harry James concert sponsored by the Arcadia Rotary Club.*

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## Guild dedicates

# Descanso Complex



By LuAnn B. Munns

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**D**ESCANSO GUILD MEMBERS exuded a mixture of justifiable pride and a solid sense of accomplishment Sept. 15 as they formally presented the new exhibition and education complex they had financed to the people of Los Angeles County. Dottie (Mrs. Elmore) Aronstam, Guild president, spoke for all her fellow members when she expressed deep gratitude to everyone who had contributed to the building fund. Individuals and organizations who had made major contributions were honored at a dinner provided by Lawry's Foods and Lawry's Restaurants Inc. on Sept. 14. A plaque recognizing major donors is also being prepared.

The beaming Guild members had good reason to be proud of their achievement. For more than a decade everyone connected with Descanso Gardens had been talking about the need for an exhibit hall because the converted milking barn that served as the entrance gave a poor first impression of the gardens and flower shows held on the main lawn were often rained out.

Then in 1977, Georgie (Mrs. Harry) Van de Kamp got involved and rallied the entire Guild to meet the challenges connected with such a major project. They raised the \$1 million estimated cost for the complex in less than four years, only to find that inflation during that time had increased the cost by another

one-third. The Guild chose to treat the shortfall as just one more minor obstacle while they moved ahead with selecting an architect. After interviewing eight prominent architects they selected the Craftsman-style design of Barry Berkus, AIA, of Santa Barbara. His design uses rough cedar and intricate brickwork in the style developed during the early 1900s by Pasadena architects Greene and Greene.

Varied angles of the dark tiled roof make the building beautiful,

but more important than how it looks are the many functions it will serve.

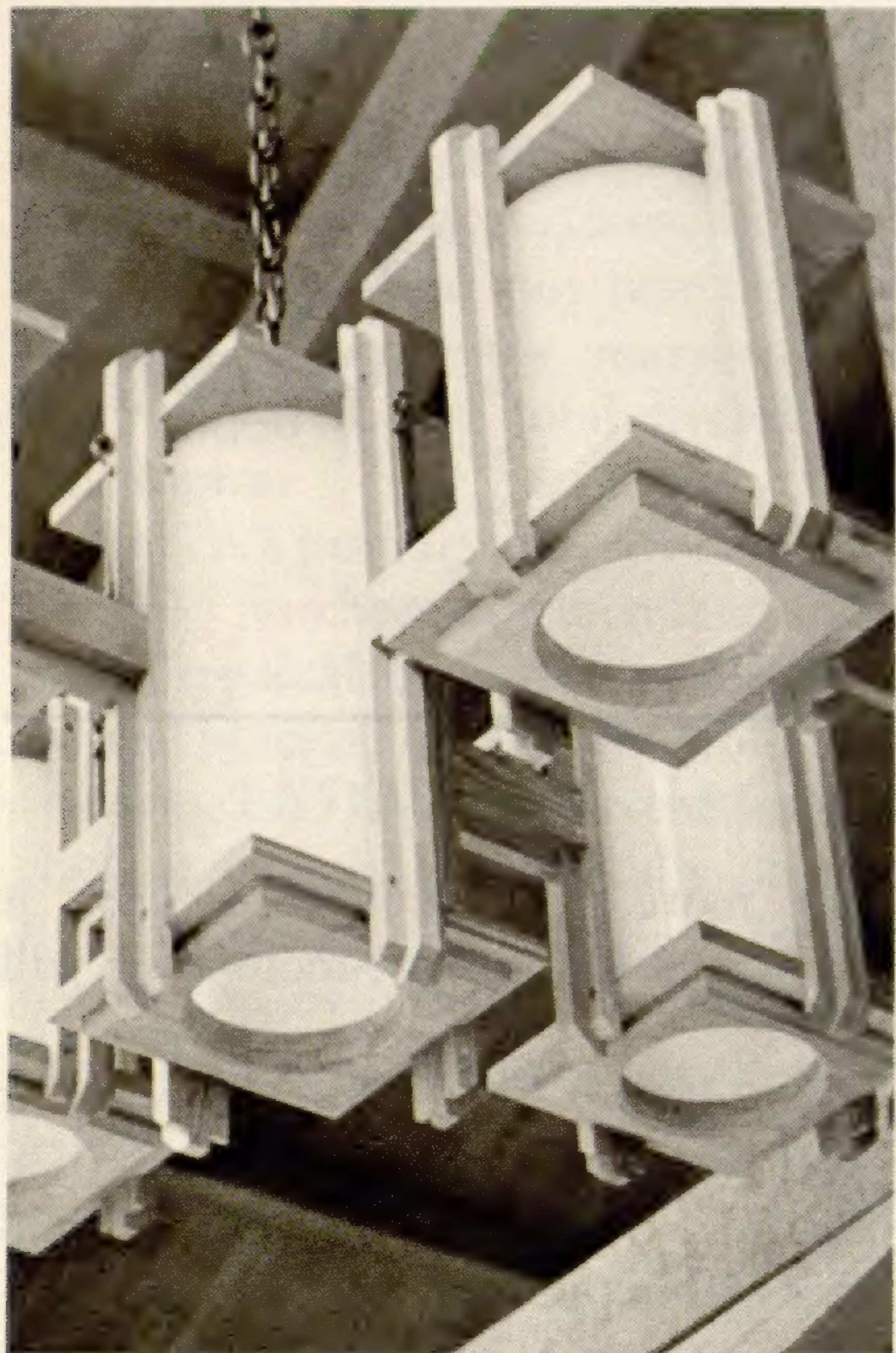
Dr. Henry M. Cathey, director of the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., stressed how vital those functions are during his keynote speech at the dedication ceremony. He referred to two recent films that underline the wonder of our natural world and the consequences for destroying it.

"E.T. became so involved in his botanizing in the Los Angeles



*Dr. Henry M. Cathey (left) Georgie (Mrs. Harry) Van de Kamp and Francis Ching join the crowd of more than 500 people celebrating dedication of the new education and exhibition complex at Descanso Gardens.*

## Descanso Education Exhibition Complex



Careful attention to details in the woodworking and masonry enhance the California Craftsman-style of the building complex. (Photos by Jim Johnson and LuAnn Munns)

basin that he did not get back to the space ship in time to escape from the marauders," he said. Dr. Cathey pointed out that it is not enough to just collect rare and bizarre plants. "We need places where we can seek new information, new plants to grow and new techniques to grow them with."

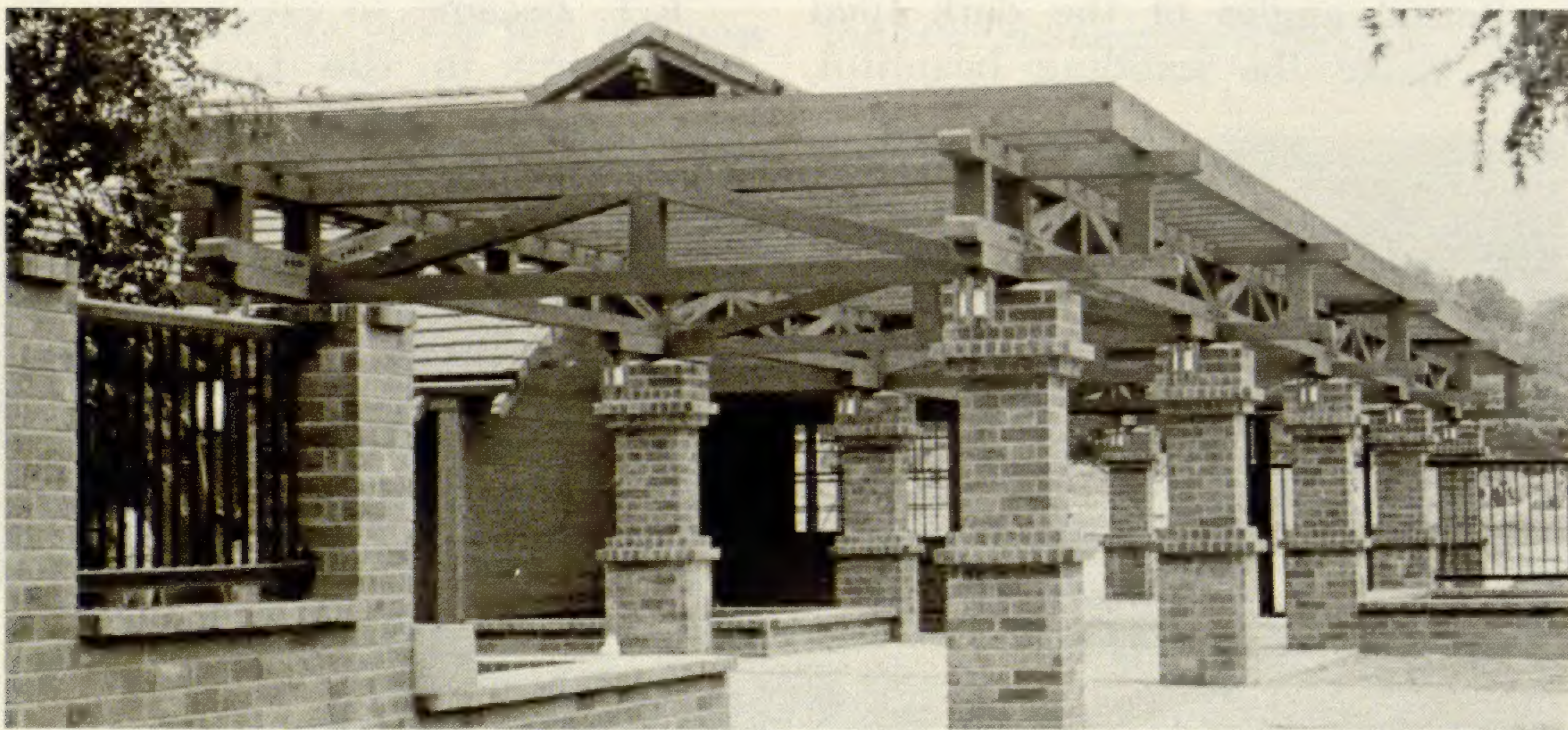
People need the information provided by arboreta and botanic gardens to avoid the grim image of Los Angeles shown in the movie "Blade Runner." Dr. Cathey described the Los Angeles basin 40 years in the future as a place of choking mist and numbing fog, intermittent snow and perpetual rain that developed because the natural environment had been destroyed.

"Great gardens and arboreta equipped with innovative facilities and stocked with a living germplasm of exceptional plants will make the difference in how our

future landscapes will prosper," he concluded.

The two classrooms in the 30,000-square-foot complex will make it possible to get information to more people because they will be used not only for plant society meetings and horticultural classes but will also serve several other groups as well. When the handicapped children arrive for a weekly session in their garden plots, they will no longer have to worry about being idled by bad weather. On rainy days they can work on garden-related projects in one of the new classrooms while docents' training or propagation class meetings are being held in the other.

The main exhibit hall is large enough to accommodate major shows like those of the Camellia Council and Daffodil Society which were often rained out because they were held outdoors during winter



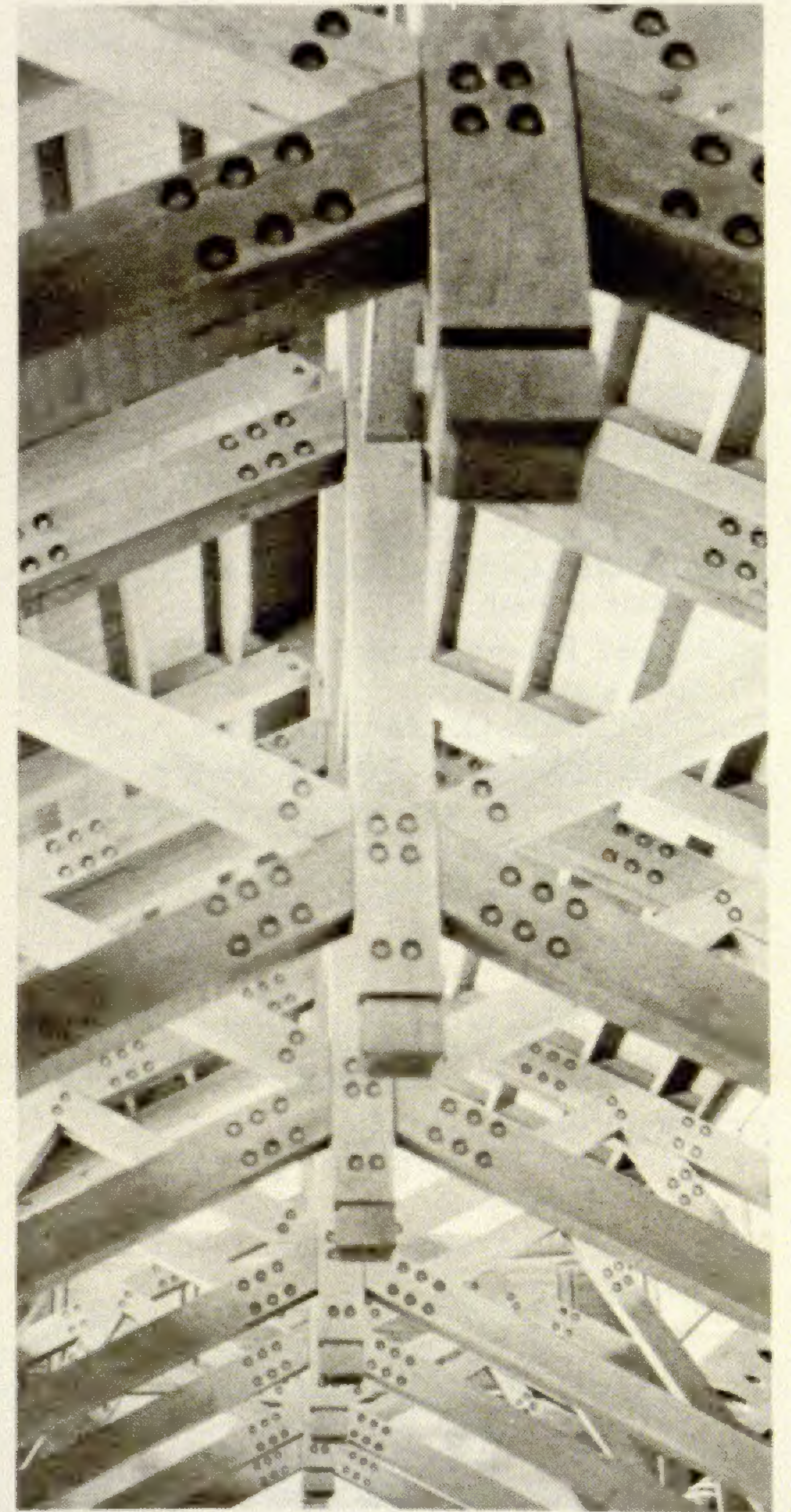
months.

A grove of mature deodars (*Cedrus deodara*) makes a backdrop for the building complex, and the landscaping designed by Robert Herick Carter and Associates further integrates the new complex into the garden. A row of southern magnolias (*Magnolia grandiflora*), newly planted along the entrance, is a continuation of the present magnolia drive. Airy silhouettes of fringe trees (*Chionanthus retusa*) and lavender trumpet trees (*Tabebuia impetiginosa*) complement the soft brown cedar exterior of the building. Stuart J. Sperber arranged for donation of much of the landscaping materials from commercial nurseries, and the Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens contributed many specimen-sized trees.

This building completes capital expenditures for exhibition and education complexes at all the facilities operated by the Department.



Fifth District Supervisor Michael D. Antonovitch presents a plaque to Descanso Gardens Guild President Dottie (Mrs. Elmore) Aronstam thanking the Guild for the new building complex.



## New on our Shelves

**The Bulb Book: A Photographic Guide to Over 800 Hardy Bulbs** by Martyn Rix and Roger Phillips. Published by Pan Books; U.S. distributor, Mad River Press; 192 pages, illustrated, \$14.95 paper.

*The Bulb Book* by Martyn Rix and Roger Phillips, a detailed, well-illustrated guide to hardy bulbs rarely found in typical nurseries, is not a book for beginners.

Rix and Phillips introduce uncommon bulbs from such forbidding places as Iran, Afghanistan and Turkey for anyone curious about bulbs unavailable in the regular trade.

Californians may find the book useful since most of the bulbs are from areas with a Mediterranean climate — cool, wet winter and hot, dry summer — similar to California's climate. But the dates indicate blooming time in their native habi-

tats. To learn a bulb's blooming time in California, one can start in the Arboretum's Plant Science Library, or make use of the *Sunset Western Garden Book* and *Hortus Third*, where many of the species are listed.

The plants are grouped by season of flowering in *The Bulb Book*, beginning with early spring, but as many species of one genus as possible have been brought together. Most of the bulbs are identified as to the place where they were found, date and sometimes altitude.

Packed with colorful life-like photographs, the book describes over 800 hardy bulbs including a large number of cultivars, particularly narcissus and tulips.

The exceptional photographs resemble botanical plates where, in some cases, the plant has been taken apart to show the structure. The field photographs were taken in the wilds of central Asia and the Middle

East during expeditions by Rix or his colleagues.

Plants that generally require a greenhouse or need to be brought indoors in winter have been omitted from this book. The authors focus on hardy bulbs that thrive in drier, cooler regions.

A simple index at the end of the book enables the reader to easily locate each bulb. A selected bibliography recommends a variety of books and periodicals, several suppliers, nurseries, societies and bulb specialists — but are limited to those located in Great Britain. Californians may acquire the desired information from the sister societies located in the U.S.

If you are only seeking enlightenment as to the diversity of bulbs, the sharp, impressive photographs make *The Bulb Book* a satisfying choice. As a guide to collecting, cultivating or caring for bulbs, however, *The Bulb Book* has little instructional value.

## LOS ANGELES STATE & COUNTY ARBORETUM, Arcadia

**NOVEMBER 1 thru 7—10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**  
Garden Show 1982

Floral exhibits & nursery trade show

**DECEMBER 4 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**  
Meeting of Calif. Rare Fruit Growers  
Lectures and tasting

**DECEMBER 11, 12 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**  
Queen Anne Cottage Open House  
\$1.50 per person

**JANUARY 23 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Gladiolus Bulb Sale  
Southern Calif. Gladiolus Society

**JANUARY 29, 30 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Bonsai Show "Winter Silhouettes"  
Baikoen Kenkyukai Bonsai Society  
These events sponsored by the  
California Arboretum Foundation

## DESCANSO GARDENS, La Canada

**NO NOVEMBER DATES**

**DECEMBER 4, 5 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Camellia Gib Show  
Southern California Camellia Council

**DECEMBER 4 thru 12 —**

**10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Christmas Tree Celebration Show  
Additional fee

**JANUARY 8 — 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

Rose Pruning Demonstration

## CALENDAR

**NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 1982,  
JANUARY 1983**

**JANUARY 19 — 10:45 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Day with The Descansitas  
These events sponsored by the  
Descanso Gardens Guild

## SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN, Palos Verdes Peninsula

**NOVEMBER 6, 7 — Sat. 12 to 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Orchid Show  
South Bay Orchid Society

**NOVEMBER 14 — 2 p.m.**

Talk — Succulents  
Joe Clemons, Huntington Library &  
Botanical Garden

**NOVEMBER 28 — 2 p.m.**

Talk — Winter Birds  
Jess Morton, Palos Verdes Audubon  
Society

**DECEMBER 5 thru 12 — 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**

Holiday in the Garden  
Display of Christmas ideas

**DECEMBER 19 — 2 p.m.**

Christmas Concert  
Richard Schwalbe, Palos Verdes  
Symphonic Band

**JANUARY 29, 30 — Sat. 1 to 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Camellia Show  
South Coast Camellia Society  
These events sponsored by  
South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation

## VIRGINIA ROBINSON GARDENS, Beverly Hills

Series of four classes

\$80 fee

Call (213) 446-8251 ext. 35 for  
reservation.

**NOVEMBER 3 — 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**  
"Traditional Flower Arranging"  
Stanley Kersten

**NOVEMBER 10 — 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**  
"Floral Designs"  
Marc Lowy, Solarium Florist

**NOVEMBER 17 — 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**  
Ikebana flower arranging  
Rose Canter

**DECEMBER 1 — 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**  
Arranging fruits, vegetables and  
flowers Hawaiian style  
Tony Lyons  
Sponsored by Friends of Virginia  
Robinson Gardens