

NEWSLETTER



ARBORETA & BOTANIC GARDENS

prepared by the public services division

February 10, 1973

SOUTH COAST DIVISION

Renovation of the tram waiting area was completed by the Manpower Development and Training Act class. The class rebuilt the roofing supports, added grapestake fencing to screen out the wind and divide the area from the greenhouse work area, and installed a two-tiered planter edged with Palos Verdes rock. The overall effect is quite handsome and we thank Manpower and their instructors for their efforts.

The garden was a little soggy for the Board of Governors meeting on January 9, due to rain, but the sky did clear soon enough to permit a tram tour before the luncheon meeting.

A microclimate has been noticed in the area of the recirculating stream. Low temperatures of 22° and 23° have been recorded there.

A small gas fire caused by decomposition of subterranean waste appeared last week (January 18) in a fissure near the northern end of the lake by the pine stand. Noticeable heat and a rather unpleasant odor accompanied the pale flame.

Birders reported sighting white-tailed kite, ruddy ducks, pied-billed grebe, least sandpipers, and purple finches.

Plants now in flower are: *Acacia cultriformis*, *Leptospermum scoparium*, *Leptospermum scoparium Boscawenii*, *Cassia tomentosa*, *Prunus cerasifera purpurea*, *Rosmarinus officinalis*, and *Chrysanthemoides monolifera*.

RESEARCH DIVISION

The London flu invaded the Research Lab around the beginning of the year causing 80% casualties within the 3-4 weeks duration. The flu usually lasts a day or two, but complications and lingering

effects add to the toll. Paul Cheo had laryngitis after the flu; Wade Berry pneumonia. Others have had it, but fortunately there have been no complications since. Lee Enari reported that he is resistant to flu.

(Ed.'s note: What about the temperature charts?)

Ken Montgomery has been teaching an introductory botany course sponsored by the Arboretum Foundation. The 3-week mini-course just concluded, consisted of an overview of the major areas of botany with particular emphasis being given to the structure, function, metabolism, and growth of flowering plants. The session had an enrollment of over 50. So many people have expressed an interest in taking the class that another session has been scheduled for the first three weeks of March.

PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION

Staff members are spotlighted in this month's news. Head Tour Guide Bob Copper has announced that he will be leaving the Department in the near future to return to school. Bob joined the Department in February of 1967 as a tour guide, advanced to Senior Tour Guide not long thereafter, and to his present position a couple of years ago. As everyone knows, Bob has a special interest in ornithology and in recent years has become the resident doctor and Department spokesman on the subject of birds. He is currently teaching an adult class here titled *Birds and Our Environment*. The birds will miss him, the bird-loving inquiring public will miss him, and so will we.

Graphic Artist Alan Lugena got married recently and bought a house. We figure he should be pretty busy for a long time to come. He and Mrs. Lugena are now living in Long Beach and to the newlyweds we extend our congratulations and very best wishes.

Dave Van Ausdal has returned from five weeks of jury duty which he reports was an instructive if

often boring experience. No crime cases, just a civil case involving a man suing the Department of Water & Power for failure to maintain a right of way. The DWP lost.

Dave Fields has been suffering from an infection in his hand that his doctors cannot identify. They've taken all kinds of cultures and failed to get anything to grow. Dave says they think it's some kind of fungus and he says that if they don't come up with an answer soon he's going to see if he can't avail himself of Paul Cheo's cultural techniques.

Down at South Coast Henry Noerdlinger is taking some vacation and accumulated overtime off to move. He had been living in an area that the city wanted to buy up - houses and property - to permit extension of the airport. After long negotiations concerning property values the matter was rather suddenly settled to Henry's satisfaction and so he had to move sooner than expected. Henry generously offered the Garden plants from his rather extensive cactus and succulent garden, an offer which Armand Sarinana and Ed Hartnagel were happy to accept. Best wishes in your new house, Henry, and thanks from all of us for your donation.

EDUCATION DIVISION

Adult Education courses are much in demand. This past week 70 to 85 people came to register for nine of the sixteen courses offered this semester. Of course, many were disappointed as workshop classes must of necessity be limited to 35 persons.

Youth Education headquarters at LASCA is undergoing a face lifting! New outside walls and windows that will both lock and open! Mind blowing after all these years. These pre-fab buildings were put up in 1949 as "temporary" structures, housing the administrative offices.

At SCBG Youth Education Section a new saran shade is being readied for the greenhouse and part of the potting yard. The saran was made possible by a gift of \$90 from the Home Gardening workshop student project at the Fiesta.

The Plant Science Library has just received a shipment of rare, hard-to-get books from London that include works on the flora of Argentina and the useful plants of Australia.

The Historical Section is expected to make a good recovery from the filming of Trader Horn in and around the Hugo Reid Adobe. Patty Warren is currently on jury duty, however, Sandy Snider and the dependable Las Voluntarias are literally covering the waterfront.

ARBORETUM DIVISION

Intermittent rain has slowed down development appreciably. However, excavation has begun for our new Information Center, cement guttering has been completed in the roadways north of the Administration Building, and domestic water (separate from irrigation system) has been hooked up to that building.

A deck is under construction adjacent to the Bromelad Display House and a sprinkler system is nearly completed adjacent to Baldwin Avenue between 401 and 501 entrances.

Both Edison and telephone companies have completed the underground installation of their lines in the Youth Education and Historical Mall areas. The benefits of this installation will be increased power in both of these areas, not to mention the esthetic benefits which will include the removal of the power line that stretches across LASCA lagoon.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Most everyone will be enjoying two consecutive three-day weekends beginning tomorrow as we will be observing Lincoln's and Washington's birthday, respectively. These are two of a total of eight 3-day weekends we will have in 1973. Enjoy, Enjoy!

A few employees may have noticed that their checks so far in 1973 have been a few dollars less than those paychecks for the latter part of 1972. The reason is that Social Security benefits have started again for 1973.