

NEWSLETTER



ARBORETA & BOTANIC GARDENS

prepared by the public services division

August 10, 1973

ARBORETUM DIVISION

Baldwin Avenue development is speeding along. The plan includes closing the 301 and 401 entrances to the Arboretum, making a new 401 entrance opposite Harvard and a new 301 entranceway south of our present entrance that will take advantage of the view of the Arboretum from the forecourt. This new entry will have a signal and will be opposite a new auxiliary race track parking area. The present schedule calls for all this to be completed by the end of September.

The 501 entrance and the entrance to the picnic area will be for right turn only. The depot drive will be opposite the most northerly entrance to Fashion Park, and a signal will be there also.

The latest work around the new Information Center is the development of a ramp entrance for wheel chairs, strollers, etc., the approach to the building itself, and retaining walls around it. This will just about complete the contractor's work. Then county technicians will make final hook ups of electricity, plumbing, sewer, and telephone. They will also install carpeting inside the building.

EDUCATION DIVISION

Change is certainly the only permanent item in the Education Division these days. Change in the Plant Science Library is unique - no staff!

Hazel Rodgers retired July 31. A luncheon with the staff of the Library wing was an enjoyable occasion for Hazel and also for Ruth Taylor who left August 3 for a month's vacation in Europe.

Library hours for August are 9 to 4 and a group of 8 Las Voluntarias who have had a 2 hour orientation are staffing the reading room. Staff members may enter at the north end until 5 p.m.

Recruitment for a Plant Science Librarian is under way and it appears that the next Newsletter will have an announcement of the appointment.

August is vacation month for the Youth Education section and well deserved after the successful summer sessions.

Patty Warren has returned to work from an extended sick leave.

Surprise of the month is the marriage of Rita Logue, the Division secretary. She is now Mrs. Williamson. Congratulations and much happiness Rita!

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

A reminder that all employees are responsible for reading and knowing about all existing Departmental Instructions. Please see your immediate supervisor for copies of these instructions.

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER are the months for re-designation for our employees who desire to give to specific charities through our AID plan. Please contact Charleen in the Business Office if you wish to redesignate, or your money will be dispersed by AID to those causes they deem most needy.

RESEARCH DIVISION

The Growth Chamber Committee of the American Society for Horticultural Science has been awarded a \$10,000 grant by the National Science Foundation to support base-line growth studies directed toward establishing the growth rate that plants should have under set conditions in growth chambers.

This is a cooperative project among scientists from various educational institutions which Wade Berry, our soil scientist, will take part in. Wade, a member of the Growth Chamber Committee, will focus on tissue analysis.

Once the base-line growth data is developed, it will be possible for plant scientists involved in controlled environment research to compare their procedures for growing plants with base-line data and insure that their cultural procedures are at optimal conditions. Environment variations, pollution damage, or other limiting factors in growth can then be differentiated more clearly from the base-line data.

Many of our plantings of Osteospermum fruticosum have been found to be infected with a virus disease. The virus causes a mild symptom of chlorotic patterns on terminal leaves with some distortion and brittleness. It has been transmitted to seedlings of Chenopodium amarauticolor, Chenopodium quinoa, and Nicotiana glutinosa. With the establishment of these assay hosts, it will be easier to detect the presence of virus from plantings. Virus symptoms on some plants are masked, especially during dry, warm conditions. Since Osteospermum is usually propagated through cuttings, this virus condition could persist.

DESCANSO DIVISION

The work on the Hospitality House kitchen has been finished and pictures are being taken for the Home section of the Los Angeles Times. Look for it soon.

The marigolds, vinca, cosmos, celosia and ageratum are in full bloom in the gardens for summer color. Crape myrtle is coming into good bloom early this year.

An outdoor patio and pool has been completed in the forest area by Tom Matsuoka as a starter on our Demonstration Gardens.

SOUTH COAST DIVISION

Congratulations to Mike Schary on his promotion to Assistant Arboretum Gardener and his transfer to Descanso Gardens. It has been a short but very pleasant relationship.

Judy Elliott underwent surgery on July 10th and we wish her a rapid recovery as well as return

to the old desk and phone. We need your friendly voice.

County Engineering probing for the solid fill line of the lake bottom is now underway. This is the initial step in our lake repair program.

The Long Beach American Begonia Society has now completed a permanent display in our lath house.

Ground covers now in blossom: *Thevetia yccotli*, *Tagetes erecta*, *Delphinium cheilanthum*, *Erocium chamaedryoides*, *Celosia cristata* (cockscumb), *Salvia splendens* (scarlet sage), *Dahlia compositae*.

Birds sighted: ring-necked pheasant, rock dove, black-chinned hummingbird, cliff swallows, tricolored blackbirds, song sparrows, brown-headed cowbirds, house finch, hooded oreole.

PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION

New brochures now available are the Adult Education fall schedule for our three gardens, and the Arboretum minicourse brochure for 1973-74.

The September issue of *Lasca Leaves* will be out about the first of the month and the revised edition of our brochure on Fire Retardant Plants for Hillside Areas should be ready around the end of September.

On August 8th the Mechanical Department conducted dedication ceremonies for its new quarters at 1100 North Eastern Avenue in East Los Angeles. We were pleased to lend them a tram from each of our gardens for the event.

Descanso senior tour guide Don Graf is in Canada on vacation. Bob Vargas is holding down the fort in his absence with the assistance of as-needed tour guide Don Decker.