

**SPECIAL BALDWIN
CARD OFFER —
ORDER FORM INSIDE**

**RANCHO ERA GARDENING
WENDY SEKOVICH DESCRIBES
HISTORIC PLANTS IN USE TODAY**

**LUCKY BALDWIN SPEAKS —
ON PAGE 2, E.J. TALKS ABOUT
HIS LOVELY RANCHO**

RANCHO SANTA ANITA EDITION!



AT THE FOUNDATION

COMMUNICATION AMONG FRIENDS
IN THE CALIFORNIA ARBORETUM FOUNDATION

JUNE-JULY 1986



LUCKY BALDWIN ARBORETUM'S FIRST HORTICULTURIST

The Lucky Baldwin Ranch of one hundred years ago was as much a tourist's delight as is the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum which occupies the site today. Comments and attitudes varied from visitor to visitor, as they do today, but all agreed that the famous ranch was a "must see" on one's itinerary. "I have seen a number of botanical gardens in different parts of the world," wrote a Los Angeles *Times* reporter in 1893, "but there are few more beautiful than the grounds about this home of Lucky Baldwin. It is one of the prettiest places in the world, and every tree and shrub connected with it has been planted by his direction. He took this vast estate when it was practically a desert, and he made it a land of flowers, trees, and of fruit-bearing orchards."

The orchards are gone and so too, sadly, are both the formal gardens and

(Continued on Page 2)

HISTORIC BALDWIN PLAYING CARDS BENEFIT ARBORETUM

Who was Lucky (Elias Jackson) Baldwin and why did he have playing cards? In far too simple terms, Lucky Baldwin was a businessman, rancher and town builder who succeeded admirably in each chosen endeavor. He was the first mayor of the city of Arcadia and as such presided over what city fathers in surrounding towns labelled "a gambling hell and booze pleasure park." In 1907 there were eleven saloons and attendant gambling halls, not to mention a nationally-known racetrack, in a city of roughly 500 population.

In Mayor Baldwin's own Oakwood Hotel on First Avenue, blackjack and poker players used decks of cards

intended to advertise the beauties of Baldwin's Santa Anita Ranch. Each card in the deck pictured a different ranch scene along with the number and suit, and Lucky himself was portrayed as the "Jolly Joker." The backs of the cards pictured a horse head and the words "The Oakwood - Santa Anita Ranch." After viewing such inducements in hand after hand, who could resist buying a piece of the ranch property Mayor Baldwin was so cleverly marketing at the time?

Lucky himself, according to biographer C.B. Glasscock, was not a high stakes gambler. "Though he loved a poker game as much as he loved

women," noted Glasscock, "he was no more generous in one than in the other."

Only a few decks of Lucky Baldwin's original Oakwood Hotel playing cards remain in existence today, but reproduction decks will soon be available to those of you interested in owning this unusual piece of history. The cards are boxed, standard-sized, and faithful sepia reproductions of the originals. Even non-card players might be intrigued by the fifty-two period photographs reproduced in card form.

Details can be found on the order form inside. Remember, pre-sale prices are available only through June 30, 1986.

BALDWIN GARDENER*(Continued from Page 1)*

the carpets of wild violets of Lucky Baldwin's era, but some beautiful trees and intriguing remnants remain in the Historical Section of today's Arboretum. The next time your path leads to the Queen Anne Cottage notice the blue gum Eucalyptus in front of the house. Baldwin planted groves of Eucalyptus for timber, but this was surely a landscape tree, today the tallest and largest girthed blue gum on the grounds. Just down the walkway from the blue gum, on the south side of the Cottage, is a Chinese windmill palm (*Trachycarpus fortunei*), a rare planting in 1890 and really not so common even today. The common Mexican fan palm, on the other hand, dominates the Historical Section in uncommon profusion; the stately grove of one hundred year old specimens contains some of the tallest palms on record west of the Mississippi. Near the lake are willows, one of which may be a descendant of a cutting from a tree at Napoleon's tomb which Baldwin claimed was presented to him in Europe. True or not, period photographs do indeed attest that numerous weeping willows graced the lake shore a century ago.

It was Lucky Baldwin who dredged the natural lake near his homesite and lined the shore with granite boulders. A rustic boathouse (destroyed by vandals in 1980) sheltered a red and white gondola from which visitors enjoyed first-hand views of Mr. Baldwin's botanic handiwork. On Tallac Knoll, rising above the tower of the Coach Barn, were acres of native oaks maintained in their pristine beauty by an owner adverse to cutting a tree even for firewood. Those 100-200 year old Engelmann oaks remain yet today thanks in large measure to the foresight of horticulturist Baldwin.

Other surprises await the botanic explorer in today's Historical Section. On the lawn between the Queen Anne Cottage and the Coach Barn is a one hundred year old English oak planted by Baldwin, and all around it are younger black walnuts, descendants of a grove set out by Lucky in the early 1890's. Near the Barn are several ginkgoes of the Baldwin era and the remains of a recently felled (1980 windstorm) coast redwood which had been planted by Baldwin upon the birth of his daughter Anita in 1876. A huge silk oak no doubt planted by Lucky Baldwin towers over the gardener's tool bin near the dirt road along the lake and nearby (in front of the Cottage) is a pair of giant clam shells

brought back from the Great Barrier Reef as a gift for Baldwin along with a boatload of specimen trees. For the truly inquisitive, look carefully along the dirt path at the lake between the boathouse site and the Hugo Reid Adobe -- remnants of wax leaf privets (*Ligustrum lucidum*), once part of a manicured hedge along a ranch walkway, are now gnarled trees of considerable size and age.

Lucky Baldwin may well have been the "grey headed old libertine" one female visitor labelled him, but he was a lover of more than one kind of beauty. If young charmers could catch his eye, so too could a specimen tree newly arrived from the Far East or an oak grove which had survived the ravages of development. There were only three ways to be fired from employment on the Baldwin Ranch according to a former employee. "You dare not," he said, "mistreat a horse, hurt a peacock, or cut a tree."

PLANTS OF RANCHO ERA RECALLED

A good place to begin a list of old (historical) plants is the Historical Section at the Arboretum. I am especially fond of the summer flowers and winter berries of the Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), and the spreading, glossy green Manzanita Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) used as a groundcover. Desert Willow (*Chilopsis linearis*), California Pepper Tree (*Schinus molle*) and California Sycamore (*Plantanus racemosa*)

will add shade and texture to your landscape. The lavender blue flowers of Ground Morning Glory (*Convolvulus mauritanicus*) creeping around the base of Lemon Verbena (*Aloysia triphylla*) is a lovely combination (everyone should brush by this shrub -- the smell of lemon drops will bring a smile to your face). Our hard-working volunteers have planted a wonderful historical herb/perennial bed in the Hugo Reid Adobe Courtyard that should not be missed.

Roses are mentioned throughout history, usually with a romantic connotation. A rose garden will add beauty and color to any style house. Many "old" roses can be found in the Adobe Courtyard and in the Old-Fashioned Rose Garden.

If your architecture calls for plants with a Victorian flair or plants Grandmother used to grow, a stroll around the Queen Anne Cottage will offer a list you wouldn't believe. My favorite is the emotional Weeping Willow (*Salix babylonica*). For fragrance and color near a door, Yesterday-Today-and-Tomorrow (*Brunfelsia pauciflora* 'Floribunda') is a delight. The Loquat (*Eriobotrya japonica*) also has fragrant but insignificant flowers and edible fruit. Tobira (*Pittosporum tobira*) is a reliable background plant and offers the smell of orange blossoms in early spring. Heavenly Bamboo (*Nandina domestica*) can be used for a soft, informal, featherly hedge while Japanese Privet (*Ligustrum japonicum*) can be kept trimmed for a more formal look.

Wendy Sekovich

E.J. BALDWIN TALKS OF THE FUTURE

You know, last evening I was on the porch of my ranch headquarters looking over beyond my little lake to the San Gabriels. What a sight!

Here it is the middle of June, the hills are dry, but I can look down eastward and see the vines coming right along. The 1887 crop ought to be a good one.

This ranch life is good. When I arrived in San Francisco all the talk was "gold." The stuff was makin' people crazy. I could see land was where the money was. So, I invested in a couple of mines. The Comstock Lode made me a rich man. I became pretty important: I was the first president of the Pacific Coast Stock Exchange.

When I found this property, the Ran-

cho Santa Anita, I knew it was special. I know I'll be remembered -- maybe someday there will be a "Baldwin Avenue" or a "Baldwin Park," or even "Baldwin Hills."

A man can't help wondering what things will be like after he's gone. I do my share of thinking on the subject. I've tried mightily to think what the place will look like in 1986--one hundred years from now. I can't figure that one. Look at the changes I have brought about: vineyards, citrus, hotel, new town, railroad, and... does it make any difference? Not really. Just as long as folks recognize the natural beauty of my ranch and take good care of it. That is what really counts.



LUCKY BALDWIN PLAYING CARDS

AVAILABLE AT PRE-SALE PRICES THROUGH JUNE 30th

Reproduction decks of Lucky Baldwin's original Santa Anita Ranch playing cards contain 52 different ranch scenes of the 1890's plus a "Jolly Joker" portrait of Baldwin himself.

Decks are boxed and will include an explanatory sheet describing each photograph.

PRE-SALE COST: First deck \$8.00
Additional decks \$7.50 each.

Distribution will be at the Arboretum unless shipping is requested (see order form). Projected distribution is October, 1986.

Please make checks payable to the California Arboretum Foundation and mail by June 30th to: CAF - Playing Cards, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA 91006-2697. Phone orders accepted for Visa and MasterCard, (818) 447-8207.

Proceeds benefit the Los Angeles State & County Arboretum.

ORDER FORM

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
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| | NUMBER | COST |
|----------------------------|--------|-------|
| First deck at \$8.00 | _____ | _____ |
| Additional decks at \$7.50 | _____ | _____ |

TOTAL _____

Tax (6½%): _____

Shipping: _____
Optional

Amount Enc.: _____

| Shipping Costs | |
|-----------------|--------|
| 1 deck | \$1.00 |
| 2 decks | 1.50 |
| 4 or more decks | 3.00 |

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EXHIBITS

MAY 31 thru JUNE 1 — 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
AZALEA SHOW

JUNE 4 — ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Invitations will be mailed

JUNE 7, 8 — 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
GLADIOLUS SHOW

JULY 4 thru 6 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
CACTUS and SUCCULENT SHOW

JULY 19, 20 Saturday 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
BEGONIA SHOW

EDUCATION

JUNE 13 — IKEBANA - Japanese Flower Arranging
Instructors: Reiko Kawamura, Osamu Honjo

JUNE 18 — GARDEN PESTS — Identification and Control. Instructor: Michael Hall

JUNE 23 — YEAR-ROUND COLOR FOR THE GARDEN. Instructor: Neil Weikel

JULY 8 — FLOWER ARRANGEMENT COMBINATIONS. Instructor: Mazie Jeanne George

JULY 9 — FLOWER PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP
Instructor: Noella Ballenger

*For further information contact:
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