A periodic report from the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum to the members of the California Arboretum Foundation, Inc. Arcadia, California

February, 1954

Nature is astir at the Arboretum. Two thousand daffodil bulbs, a gift from Germain's, Inc., offer early promise of a display above the upper lagoon to rival Wordsworth's memorable golden host; the South American Chorisia speciosa flourishes within convenient view of the road, as a pleasant reminder of the October-November travels of Dr. and Mrs. Sam Ayers, Jr.; young bamboos, tall and graceful, form a rapidly rising screen along the fence adjoining the stables; acacias planted at the north end of the parking lot are preparing to burst into a mass of yellow flowers to delight travelers along Baldwin Avenue; around the lake a late afternoon chorus bespeaks the joy of the birds in possessing this sanctuary; and, towering over the whole grounds, with their protective branches benignly shading, as they have done for so many seasons, stand the old trees of the days of Lucky Baldwin.

Earliest and tallest of the trees, the eucalyptus just outside the Queen Anne Cottage has recently been groomed to live up to the style of the refurbished Cottage itself. This magnificent 185 foot Blue Gum, planted by William Wolfskill in 1863, so attracted the J. Harold Mitchell Tree Service, that he has donated the service for its perpetual care. Within the Cottage, the hanging of a crystal chandelier makes a glittering addition to the imposing bedroom. Resplendent furnishings in keeping with the period have been acquired by the untiring Historical Committee to restore the house to its earlier grandeur. The richly ornate gold-framed mirror, a wedding gift to Mrs. Richard Y. Dakin and donated by her, might always have graced the wall above the marble fireplace.

Ideas budding and developing into accomplishment at the Arboretum also mark the new season. One idea taking immediate and useful form on the grounds is the Lucite label designed by Dr. Seibert, for which Mr. H. H. Benson is now working out details of permanent labeling. On each label the nomenclature stands out clean-cut and clear, but not detracting from the plant, the label being placed at an angle made easy for reading by attachment to a plastic stem rising from the ground, which holds it in just the correct position for vision. Various types of transparent plastic are being used in experimentation, for labeling is one of the biggest and most important jobs over this 120 acres, on which last fall alone more than 1600 trees and shrubs were planted, and for which durability, economy, and legibility are essential. Dr.



Seibert demonstrated the pantagraph cutting process in his January appearance on the KECA (7) Campus Farmers TV program. The new labels will be exhibited at the International Flower Show to be held March 13-21.

There is special activity at the potting house where Mr. Tom McGah, plant recorder, and his assistants are preparing for the annual seed exchange. The 82 species available last year have been increased to 164, from which 2500 packages of seed will be distributed to members of annual standing, and will be exchanged all over the world. Outside the house stands the official weather reading station, which recorded only a 6.83 inch precipitation in 1953, with no month bringing a heavy rainfall. Temperatures vary as much as 7 degrees on the Arboretum grounds on critical nights, making the old reservoir on top of Tallac Knoll, just recently cleared, the coziest spot for the coffee tree which appears to be sending its roots into the earth with every willingness to make Southern California its permanent home.

Up on the Knoll a thriving sycamore fig, thought by some to be the apple of the Garden of Eden, marks the future site for the spreading Biblical Garden envisioned by Dr. Seibert and his staff, who are pouring their thoughts, dreams, plans and efforts into creating this authentic garden to which they believe our climate and conditions are well-suited for its flowering. The great oaks already on the Knoll are similar to those of the Holy Land, and gathering of plants and seeds is well started. Mr. Edward Huntsman Trout has prepared the preliminary landscape design for the Biblical Garden.

Last month the new greenhouse, 102x34, aluminum with glass, was finished and promptly put into use. It is here that some of the plants from the seeds of 168 trees and shrubs of South America sent by Dr. Ayers are being grown with keen interest in testing their possibilities for nurture in this area. In the future building plans, a Head house will be the next structure, and later two more greenhouses will complete the permanent group.

With the Forest fire having ravaged the north half of the Lux Arboretum Annex, Mrs. Gus Juhren is offering her services to the Arboretum to help propagate certain more or less flame resistant plants. Among those tested, certain cistus species look promising for use on firebreaks.

Progress is being made on the Main entrance to the Arboretum at 301 North Baldwin Avenue. A few of the giant trees in this area will come into better view with removal of some old eucalypti. Following the tree work, grading and paving will bring completion of this public entrance one step closer to the Arboretum opening date.

A periodic report from the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum to the members of the California Arboretum Foundation, Inc. Arcadia, California

March, 1954

As every good gardener knows, and perhaps even at this reading can forcibly attest with aching back and protesting muscles, this is the season of persistent toil for those who wish to reap the rich summer reward of riotous color and fragrant blossoms. While the home owner lovingly chooses his seeds and plants and prepares his plot of 50 feet, or 500, or maybe 5000, out at the Arboretum, Mr. George Spalding, Superintendent, makes ready to take advantage of warm days and beneficial rains by setting work in motion for the beautification of the 127 acres which comprise the botanic garden. In one crescent-shaped space especially designated as the landscape display area, flowers of all hues and many varieties will be abundant. Notable among them will be a collection of the finest day lilies, pelargoniums and gladiolas. On the hillside, flowering shrubs have been planted. The Herb Society is bringing in its best specimens for the establishment of the permanent herb garden. Many Bromeliads, new fancy Billbergia hybrids given by James Giridlian of Oakhurst Gardens, add to the interest of the jungle area.

Though the whole grounds are being developed under the Master Plan, many areas need special consideration of the best low plantings to leave unmarred the lovely vista of the distant mountains, or tall trees and shrubs to conceal necessary but unaesthetic fences. As the individual sometimes ponders long over just the right shrub or grouping for a certain spot in his own garden, so do the Arboretum planners give serious thought to their specific areas.

Readers of LASCA LEAVES who enjoyed the interesting article about Mr. Hugh Evans and his horticultural achievements, by Cora R. Brandt, in the Spring 1953 issue, will welcome the opportunity to congratulate this eminent plantsman on the attainment of his eightieth birthday which he observed on St. Valentine's Day.

As an aid to research, the Arboretum found satisfaction in supplying various plants in the family Amaryllidaceae to the Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction at Beltsville, Maryland. Originally sent to the Division for cortisone testing for arthritis, the bulbs provided were found to contain a property believed beneficial for certain heart conditions, and were turned over to the Heart Institute for extensive study. Four shipments of Hymenocallis Caymanensis have exhausted the known local supply of this Amaryllid, native to the Bahamas and Cuba, and as it requires



about three years for maturity, Doctor Seibert will appreciate learning of any new source of supply available for this important research.

Perhaps a lesson in drainage may be derived from observation of an Arboretum area always seeping moisture from underground springs. Here many species of Eucalyptus, along with pampas grass, have been planted, with the view of finding out if these trees taking much moisture, yet resistant in dry season, will absorb the water which has kept the ground surface in muddy condition. The Eucalyptus and Acacia trees are special features of the Arboretum, with the Acacias at this season producing profuse flowers ranging from pale yellow to a deep almost burnished gold, and the Eucalyptus providing a wide choice in vivid red-pink to delicate nearwhite. The coral trees, too, will flaunt many gay blossoms, and the fast-climbing Hardenbergia Comptoniana (Australian wisteria) adds a wealth of purple tones to enhance the beauty. Now and then a peacock spreads the glory of his plumage in proof that Nature has not exhausted the whole of her brilliance in lavish display of color in the plant world.

The Descanso Gardens in La Cañada, now leased by the County, opened to the public under the new control on February 12, and since that date have afforded the many visitors a thrilling experience in the magnificent display of thousands of camellias at their flowering peak.

The newly revised brochure enclosed with this LASCA NEWS gives a concise account of the history, purpose and workings of the Arboretum, which should prove effective in convincing friends of the privilege of membership in the California Arboretum Foundation. Special efforts are being made toward the choicest plant display to be ready for the proposed fall opening of the Arboretum to the public. This opening date comes nearer to realization with the letting of contracts for grading and paving work on the forecourt. Doctor Seibert hopes the work will advance rapidly enough for limited opening of the grounds in September.

A periodic report from the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum to the members of the California Arboretum Foundation, Inc. Arcadia, California

MEMBERS OF CALIFORNIA ARBORETUM FOUNDATION, INC., ARE INVITED TO

THE

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

OF

CALIFORNIA ARBORETUM FOUNDATION, INC.

AT

LOS ANGELES STATE AND COUNTY ARBORETUM 501 NORTH BALDWIN AVENUE ARCADIA, CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY, MAY 18, 1954

PROGRAM:

3:00 P.M. - Annual Meeting in the Historical Preserve.

4:00 P.M. - Dedication and placement of Landmark Plaque, by State Officials, at the "Queen Anne Cottage", restored by the Foundation's Historical Committee.

4:15 to - Annual distribution of surplus plant 5:00 P.M. materials to members. All surplus plants on hand will be distributed at the meeting.

PLEASE NOTE:

Park your cars in the new North Baldwin Avenue parking area and enter at the new service entrance at 501 No. Baldwin Avenue. Station wagon shuttle service will be provided for those unable to walk.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD WILL BE NEEDED TO ENTER THE GROUNDS FOR THE ANNUAL

MEETING AND PLANT DISTRIBUTION.



A periodic report from the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum to the members of the California Arboretum Foundation, Inc. Arcadia, California

June 1954

The Queen Anne Cottage became Historical Landmark No. 367 upon unveiling by Aubrey Neasham, the Historian for the State of California, in ceremonies on the afternoon of May 18. Another highlight of the day was the first use of the entrance to the Arboretum at 501 North Baldwin Avenue. For those unable to attend the annual meeting and the dedication, a few notes on the day's events may be in order.

The 125 persons present at the meeting could have desired no more inspiring setting than the semi-circle beneath the fine old English white oak, with its gracefully swaying boughs filtering the sunlight and touching the shoulder of President Ayers as he rose to conduct the meeting. Superintendent George Spalding's report on the extensive planting within the year, and Doctor Seibert's promise that the Arboretum will be opened to the public on Sunday afternoons this coming autumn, gave proof of real progress. Preparation for the opening has included the graded forecourt and main public entrance to the Arboretum at 301 North Baldwin Avenue, where parking for 150 cars is provided, with the forecourt parking area extending north along the Arboretum to Colorado Boulevard, with space for parking 250 additional cars. Public restrooms, soon to be under construction, are scheduled for completion by fall.

At four o'clock the guests assembled outside the gleaming red and white Cottage, where Mrs. Richard Y. Dakin and Mrs. John R. Mage, co-chairmen of the Historical Committee, with Maurice Block, who had charge of restoration, Supervisor John Anson Ford, and Dr. Russell Seibert participated in the rites which marked the first triumph in this preservation of the romantic and colorful past. A great granddaughter of "Lucky" Baldwin, granddaughter of Anita, was present to view the splendor of the Cottage as it stood in its heydey. Lavish furnishings of the period, with restoration of some of the original marble, made the rooms opulent and resplendent, all that might be expected to be found within such a dazzling exterior. The Victorian garden, bringing memory of Charles Gibbs Adams who planned and planted it, was charming in the light and shadow of late afternoon. The pretty sight of the red-and-white costumed young girls offering songs of the "Lucky" Baldwin era, and the regalement at an attractively appointed out-door table, under the sponsorship of Mrs. Stanton and others of the Historical Committee, revived an atmosphere of hospitality akin to that of the entertaining for which the Rancho was renowned in earlier days.



The Hugo Reid Adobe by the lake is next on the restoration program. Mrs. James Greer, on behalf of the Santa Anita Chapter of the D. A. R., presented the Historical Committee with its second \$50 contribution toward the fund.

In his dedication remarks, Mr. Neasham expressed deep concern over the mass destruction of so many of our California historic sites, warning "The bulldozers are on the march in California." Special point to his statement is instanced in the bulldozer march now threatening the Arboretum in the form of the proposed Arcadia Wash system of drainage channels. When the Arboretum was master planned the question of placement of the Lima Avenue and Baldwin Avenue channels was taken into consideration with the Flood Control District. At that time the channel was routed down Baldwin Avenue, with County provision for sufficient land to provide for the channel and for screen planting on both sides. Now a critical situation arises with the discovery that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in their preliminary plans, show the cut routed through the Arboretum grounds, virtually bi-secting the most important display area with an open channel 12 feet deep and 24 feet wide. Such a channel would not only destroy the unity of the grounds. but would create a hazard making the Arboretum unsafe for public enjoyment. On the eve of opening, hope is strong that such a catastrophe may be prevented.

A periodic report from the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum to the members of the California Arboretum Foundation, Inc. Arcadia, California

NON-MONETARY GIFTS TO CALIFORNIA ARBORETUM FOUNDATION, INC. FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 1953 to JUNE 30, 1954

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Quattlebaum, W. Dan

Roewekamp, Fred W.

Schultheis, Mrs. Henry Seibert, Dr. Russell J. Spalding, Mrs. Ruth F. 100 lbs. Calcium Cyanamid Drinking Fountain 2 Cuts for Golden Jubilee Festival

6 Redwood Plant Tubs

11 Photos of Arboretum

2 - 35mm Kodachrome Transparencies 25 lbs. F.T.E. (Fritted Trace Elements) 2 Photographs of "50th Anniversary Jubilee"

161 Paintings. So. Calif. Flowers Use of Equipment

Map preparation

l Photo - "Luther Burbank"
Pruning of the "Wolfskill Eucalyptus"

Botanical Research - 116 hours

Notes on John Muir's Lectures.
Picture

l pair Binnoculars, Zeiss

1 Refrigerator - Electrolux

1 GE Refrigerator for Greenhouse 8 Steel Figures - 28 Steel Letters Clerical Assistance



American Begonia Society
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Arthur Hoyt Scott
Horticultural Foundation
Australian Forestry &
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Blake, Anson, Gardens
Blaszic, Tony
The Botanic Garden So. Australia
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Buck, W. Quinn

Calif. Institute of Technology
Calif. Polytechnic College
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Chandler, Phillip A.
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A periodic report from the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum to the members of the California Arboretum Foundation, Inc. Arcadia, California

CALIFORNIA ARBORETUM FOUNDATION, INC.

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