



ARBORETUM ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

WILLIAM S. STEWART

ANOTHER MILESTONE in the development of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum was passed last month when the contract for the Arboretum Administration and Gatehouse Building was awarded by the Los Angeles County Supervisors to Daniel Brothers Construction Co. of Pasadena. Their bid was \$198,496 and construction began December first. An artist's conception of the completed buildings is shown above. (Visualized on a smog-green day!). Plans were prepared by architects Allison and Rible of Los Angeles. Construction is to be of painted concrete block walls, concrete floor, and composition and gravel roof.

From Baldwin Avenue the Administration building will be approached by three

tiers of broad concrete steps leading up to an entrance pavilion and waiting room. Here will be illuminated wall display cases and a center plant display case. From this entrance a corridor runs the length of the building with the various offices opening onto the hallway. Just inside the main door and to the left is the reception office and telephone exchange. This adjoins the business office which temporarily will be used to house the library. Continuing down the corridor along the north side of the building, offices are located for the business manager, superintendent, secretary, and director. On the south side of the building the first office will be for the executive secretary of the Arboretum Foundation. Then in succes-

sion and opening off the central corridor is the research office with a photographic dark room and small laboratory, and the taxonomy office. There is also a basement to house heating, mechanical equipment and to provide some limited storage area.

An important feature of the building will be the conference room and meeting garden at the east end. This room, about 20 x 40 feet in size opens by sliding doors onto a walled patio garden with colored cement tile floor. The conference room and meeting garden will provide space for gardening and botany classes of limited size and for lectures and staff meetings. It also will be available to garden clubs and plant societies for meetings and plant forums. The meeting garden opens to the outside by a grille gate leading to a concrete ramp sloping gently down to the street level where there is ample parking.

The second unit now under construc-

tion is the gatehouse which has a tour assembly area, and walk leading to the jeep train station. Features of the gatehouse include a public information office, a naturalist-guide office and electrically controlled entrance turnstiles. The information office will have two information wickets, a counter, and is so arranged that post cards, bulletins and books concerning the Arboretum, gardening and horticulture can be sold. Inside the gate will be a covered tour assembly area with wooden benches and an attractively filled planter. The final touch in the present construction project is an attractive illuminated entrance sign on Baldwin Avenue and the flagpole forty feet high.

It is expected the building will be completed in June, 1956, and the dedication ceremony should occur soon thereafter. That's a great day coming!

AIR POLLUTION RESEARCH

W. M. NOBLE

IN 1943, HAZON GILL of El Monte first noticed that certain crops could no longer be profitably grown. Since that time many people from nurserymen and farmers to the man with only a small plot of lawn to mow have become increasingly aware of the effect on vegetation of what, for want of better terminology, we call smog. During the latter part of this period a number of organizations have done a considerable amount of work in this field and many observations, both scientific and casual have been made. Some of these have been erroneous, but many have been valid. It seems, therefore, worthwhile to summarize briefly some of this information in a semi-technical manner for those who are concerned with raising anything from a radish to an orchid.

The Los Angeles County Air Pollution Control District attacked this problem in

the spring of 1949 with two thoughts in mind. First, no damage of this sort had been observed elsewhere in the world up to that time and this peculiar injury always appeared following a period of eye irritation and low visibility. Thus plants themselves could be used to detect the pollutants which caused these symptoms and also to trace the areas to which this pollution spread. Second, the District was concerned with the loss to growers, one farmer having estimated his loss in spinach to have been \$30,000 from a single smog period.

Immediate action was begun by the District, in cooperation with the California Institute of Technology and the University of California at Riverside which culminated in the discovery by Dr. Haagen-Smit of compounds present in gasoline which on combination with ozone would



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