

ROY ITO RETIRES FROM STAFF TO TRAVEL, WRITE AND FISH

AFTER 13 YEARS, Roy T. Ito, Assistant Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanical Gardens, retired last January at the age of 57. Mr. Ito is neither a botanist nor a horticulturist, but instead a man with extensive administrative experience in Los Angeles County government. Still he enjoys plants and gardening very much.

During his years with the Department, Mr. Ito was administrative liaison in the development and completion of several major capital projects such as Ayres Hall of Environmental Education at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, Van de Kamp Hall and Administrative Complex at Descanso Gardens, and the Administrative/Education Complex at South Coast Botanic Gardens. He also managed the opening of Virginia Robinson Gardens.

Mr. Ito said that Ayres Hall was

his favorite among the projects he worked on. "The fact it got built at all — and finding the funding — was a miracle," he said. "Once the decision was made to build, though, we knew the hall would be completed."

His retirement plans include traveling to Europe and East Coast

cities including New York and Boston, fishing, playing golf and writing short stories. He plans to spend two to three months in Japan gathering information on his family history. His research so far has been limited to talking with relatives.

"I'm looking forward to retirement. My time will be fully occupied," said Mr. Ito.

He also plans to take courses in archeology, anthropology, art and music appreciation, photography and creative writing.

"People should retire early to enjoy their retirement so that they are not too old to do these kinds of things," Mr. Ito said. "If they retire early and realize that they have to work then they can go back."

Mr. Ito's service with the county included five years as chief analyst in the Chief Administrative Office, five years as personnel officer at the Department of Public Social Services and ten years as senior personnel analyst at the Department of Personnel.



Roy T. Ito

LuAnn B. Munns



Judy Nagby

The California Arboretum Foundation received a sizable donation through the Brotherhood Crusade, thanks to organizers of a Las Vegas Night at the Arboretum last fall. The Arboretum staff joined their counterparts in the Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures Dept. to raise a total of \$2,377. This was divided between the Brotherhood Crusade

and United Way. Celebrating success of the campaign are (from left) Arboretum committee members Cindy MacDougall and Irma Diaz, Brotherhood Crusade representative Danny Bakewell, committee member Lorraine Saylor, United Way representative Marty Atherton, Director Francis Ching, and Committee chair Charlette Larson.



1987. "Roy Ito retires from staff to travel, write and fish." *Garden* 11(2), 4.

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