

### CONTEST AT SOUTH COAST

HAVING DECIDED that its brochures, stationery, posters, and other forms of public communication would be aided by an eye-catching logo of some sort, the South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation has come up with a plan that promises not only to produce the desired result but includes worthwhile side benefits. The essence of the plan, as worked out by the Foundation's enterprising publicist, Helen Pickett, is to tap the imaginations and skills of art students in 47 of the area high schools by inviting them to enter a contest for the logo that best represents the Foundation's purposes. The winning logo will be selected on the basis of design and relevance. The winning school will receive a tree, the winning student a \$100 savings bond. The awards will be made following the Sunday morning garden walk on April 29th. The side benefits, of course, are the involvement of students in the concept of public service represented by the Foundation and bringing to their attention a botanic garden they might otherwise pass by.

### DESCANSO BIRDHOUSE

THE DESCANSO Gardens Guild is the recipient of an award from the San Fernando Audubon Society presented to Mrs. John Crowley, Guild president, at a ceremony last January 21st in the Rose Garden. The award, in the form of a plaque that now hangs on a wall in the library of the Hospitality House, expresses the society's appreciation for the Guild's efforts in maintaining and refurbishing the Bird Observation Station. The Guild provided outdoor carpeting so as to muffle footsteps and thus not disturb the birds, new screens and a higher fence, also so as not to disturb the birds, and painted the

interior white, this last purely for the benefit of visitors.

Planned for the future are weekend staffing by Audubon members, the development of a small museum, and counter sales of bird-feeders, and the like. Paul Howard, western regional representative of the National Audubon Society, and Francis Ching, Arboreta and Botanic Gardens department director, were among the speakers who took note of these achievements, after which everyone repaired to the Hospitality House for tea.

### ROBINSON ESTATE

ONE OF the most impressive showplaces in Beverly Hills, the eight-and-a-half-acre garden estate of Mrs. Harry Winchester Robinson, may one day become a part of the Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens. Earlier this year Mrs. Robinson offered to donate her estate to Los Angeles County for use as a botanic garden after her death. Aware that transferring a private garden to the public sector is not as easy as it once was, Mrs. Robinson accompanied her generous offer with an equally generous offer to provide a one million dollar endowment for maintenance of the property. County Chief Administrative Officer Arthur Will and Arboreta Director Francis Ching are in the process of reviewing the offer in accord with a directive of the Board of Supervisors. Mrs. Robinson's husband was the president of the J. W. Robinson Department store from 1924 until his death in 1932. Over the years he had collected ferns and rare tropical plants, developing one of the finest collections in the West. In making her offer to the county, Mrs. Robinson, who is 95 years old, said she was motivated by a wish to perpetuate and expand the collections.





1973. "Robinson estate." *Lasca leaves* 23, 9.

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