

ROSS GOODRICH

THE DEPARTMENT lost another of its able employees last December 26 with the death of Ross Goodrich, an Arboretum gardener for nearly 21 years, the last six spent in the Asiatic-North American section for which he was responsible. A private, reflective man with a lively sense of humor, he approached plants and writing philosophically as well as practically, demonstrating both these approaches in the many articles he wrote for this magazine. As he cared for the plants under his charge, so he cared for the words he wrote, selecting, arranging, and fretting over them as would any professional. These qualities, the practical and the philosophical, are perhaps best revealed in the article he wrote on seedlings in the March, 1970, issue. It merits rereading on any grounds.

DESCANSO GARDENS XMAS SHOW

ALTHOUGH the event is three months old, this is our first opportunity to record a few notes on the Christmas exhibit put on by the Descanso Gardens Guild. Under the theme, "Christmas Inspirations," it represented the work of 100 amateur and professional decorators brought together by show chairman, Mrs. John H. Urabec, and Guild president, Mrs. John C. Crowley. The exhibits depicted the Christmas art of many countries, utilizing dried plant material, stained glass, ceramics, wall hangings, candles, and a much-admired gingerbread house. Attendance for the nine days the show ran was 22,000, the largest yet for this happy annual event.

ARBOR DAY

FOR MANY years the Department's observance of Arbor Day was pretty much a parochial affair consisting mainly of a tree-planting ceremony somewhere on the grounds of each garden to which

students from nearby elementary schools were invited. Following the ceremony youngsters would line up with their parents to receive a seedling tree. It was clear that the principal student "involvement" was in the lineup for the plant.

Two years ago a new plan was developed that would reach elementary students throughout the county and that would involve the schools in the community in an observance of Arbor Day that was more than ceremonial. The essence of the plan was the preparation of environmental and tree-planting resource material in attractive folders to be given to schools electing to participate. The material was designed to provide teachers with background information and ideas for classroom projects. Participating schools would also receive an Arbor Day tree from the Department for a tree-planting ceremony on *their* grounds.

The plan was an immediate success. This year over 900 schools in 52 school districts representing 500,000 students are participating, and the prospect is for even wider participation next year. The trees—this year *Koelreuteria integrifoliola* (Golden Rain Tree)—were grown in five-gallon cans at the Arboretum. The yeoman job of gathering and putting together the resource material was undertaken by the Arbor Day Committee of Las Voluntarias, the hardworking volunteers of the California Arboretum Foundation.

WALKS AND LECTURES

THE DEPARTMENT's annual series of Sunday morning walks and Sunday afternoon lectures began at the Arboretum last January 13 when Dr. Lee Enari led a record number of walkers—close to a 100—through the Australian section. The only change in the series this year is the advance in the starting time of the walks to 10 a.m. Lectures will continue to start

at 2 p.m. Two corrections have been made in this year's printed schedule which, incidentally, is available by mail or at the information window of each garden. On April 21 at the Arboretum, Dr. Enari's discussion of poisonous and medicinal plants will be presented in the form of an afternoon lecture instead of a morning walk. John Provine's lecture on turfgrasses and ground covers, scheduled for May 19 at the Arboretum, has been cancelled in order to present the two-day "Spring Extravaganza." For those wishing information on lawns and ground covers, Armand Sarinana is scheduled to lecture on the subject June 2 at South Coast.

MEMBERSHIP GOALS

JUST TWO years ago we reported on the California Arboretum Foundation's membership goal of "1003 by '73." That goal having been reached, it followed that "2004 by '74" was the next logical figure. *That* number having been reached, the new slogan, in case you couldn't guess, is "3005 by '75." What do these figures mean and why are they being met with relatively little promotion? The meaning is simple. A bigger Foundation membership makes possible new or improved Arboretum education, research, and public service programs. The why is that people are concerned about their environment, and the Arboretum is a logical place to express their concern. Also, becoming a Foundation member is a good buy. New members immediately receive a packet of Department brochures on various gardening and environmental topics, and thereafter receive new brochures as they come out. They also receive the Foundation quarterly bulletin, this magazine, a yearly Arboretum plant introduction, and invitations to previews and special field trips. Any of these, as the saying goes, would be worth the price of admission.



Joan DeFato

LIBRARIAN APPOINTED

OUR NEW plant science librarian at the Arboretum is Ms. Joan DeFato, appointed late last fall. Ms. DeFato comes to us from New York City where she has spent the greater part of her career. She received a B.A. degree in botany from Barnard College, then an M.S. degree in library science at Columbia University.

Following two years of work in a medical library, she joined the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research in Yonkers, New York, where she remained as head librarian for fourteen years. Ms. DeFato was a member of the publications committee of the Institute's quarterly journal, "Contributions from Boyce Thompson Institute." Discontinued in 1971, the journal contains research papers by a staff of some forty Ph.D.'s engaged in a wide range of projects, mostly biochemical in nature, supported in great part by government grants. The entire twenty-four volumes of the journal are available in the Arboretum reference library Ms. DeFato is now presiding over.



1974. "Walks and lectures." *Lasca leaves* 24, 7–8.

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