

easy to handle, unlike, say, dahlias, nettles, or tomatoes. Another reason is that petunia plants show symptoms clearly, unlike lettuce, for example. Smog damage to petunias shows by a banded appearance on the leaves. If a plant were put out every day for seven days, it would show seven bands. Further, the whitest band would indicate the day of highest smog.

Smog research in relation to plants has been going on at the Arboretum for 17 years, beginning with early studies by Juhren, Noble and Wright who, in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Air Pollution Control District, established *Poa annua* and *Petunia hybrida* 'Rosy Morn' as "indicator plants to monitor pollutant concentrations throughout the Los Angeles basin." The direction of the research changed as more sophisticated means of measurement became available and knowledge of the constituents of smog widened. Los Angeles smog is relatively unique because it consists of ozone and PAN (Peroxyacyl nitrate), whereas in most cities the main problem is sulphur dioxide. It is PAN, incidentally, that burns the eyes. There are several reasons why Los Angeles smog is photochemical in nature: it has a higher ratio of automobiles to industry than eastern cities; it has more sunlight, higher temperatures, and inversions caused by being situated in a basin.

Once the nature of Los Angeles smog was established (by Dr. Arie J. Haagen-Smit of Caltech), one avenue of research at the Arboretum was aimed at the analysis of the effect of smog on plants, mainly petunias. There are a number of methods used to measure smog damage. One is by simple observation of living plants, a method developed by researchers working at the Arboretum, and one that is still used. Other methods measure the concentration of air pollutants via chemical solution or by electronic means.

Finally, through the combination of theoretical and practical means, Dr. Hanson and his associates are advancing on an understanding of the generation transference of smog-tolerance capacity. The final goal is to answer the question: Why is one plant more tolerant than another? In the case of petunias, this has been partially answered. Other common plants will receive similar study.

CHRISTMAS DISPLAY

FROM December 7 to December 15 the Hospitality House at Descanso Gardens will again be the setting for the Descanso Guild's annual showing of Christmas displays and decorations for homes and gardens.

For the past several years the showing has brought pleasure and inspiration to the thousands of visitors and Southern Californians who have come to view it. The invitational exhibits are created by professional artists and decorators as well as by amateurs with exceptional ideas and flair. Some are done by children whose youthful interpretations of Christmas are often delightful.

There will be more than eight individual entries which include table settings, wall hangings, trees, crèches, paintings, wreaths, even kitchen decorations and miniature houses.

This year one feature will be a small room decorated as "Christmas in an artist's studio." It is being prepared by Alice Hendrickson and decorator Frank Ferris, both of Arcadia. All of the delightful paintings depict children at Christmas time. Another simulated room will be an English dining room decorated for Christmas dinner in the Della Robbia motif using garlands of fresh fruits, nuts and antique furniture. Jeanne Akers and

Miriam Costello of Stonehouse in Montrose are creating this.

Visitors may note the Christmas weaving done by William Cahil Johnson of Sherman Oaks; the leaded window designed by Leone McNeil of Los Angeles; a weathered wood sculpture which has been embellished as Christmas in Ireland by Esta Stough of Long Beach; the herb wreaths using herbs mentioned in the

ditionally has also provided arrangements of the exotic Protea flowers throughout the house which come from her husband's nurseries.

The terrace of Hospitality House will again be tented and will be the locale for refreshments and a boutique of garden-oriented items that will make charming gifts or mementos of this year's Christmas show. Many of these sale items



Wall hanging of creche scene, the work of Ms. Shirley Ann Kussman, can be seen at Christmas display at Descanso Gardens.

Bible, an entry by Jean Cozart of the San Fernando Valley Herb Society; a Christmas wreath clock designed by Marion Anderson of Glendale; a table arrangement entitled "Ice Storm" by Betty and Carol Kusak of Canoga Park; a wall piece entitled "Bird's Christmas Treat" created by Marianna Bowman of Pasadena, or an original wall hanging of the crèche scene which took 200 hours of applique work by Shirley Kussman of Los Angeles. This year the furnishings for the formal living room are being planned by Jean Simpson of Biggars of Pasadena. She is coordinating it with Christmas decorations by Mrs. Cecil Eshelman of Escondido and Ruth Kern of North Hollywood. Mrs. Eshelman tra-

have been made by Guild members working throughout the year. Proceeds of such sales go to further the work of the Guild as they aid Los Angeles County in enhancing the Gardens for the public's pleasure. Funds are also used to maintain a program of gardening experiences for the handicapped children of Los Angeles County.

The day before the house opens to the public for the "Nine Days of Christmas," there will be a preview invitational "Red Carpet Tea" for Guild members and their guests, and a Press Preview that evening which the Rose Queen and her Court will also attend.

For the fourth year, Christmas music will fill the house with special spirit as

advanced students of Adricenne Westerbach, organists, entertain on an instrument furnished by Gould Music Co. of Glendale. There are thirty-three organists, some of whom will be playing for the fourth year, who volunteer their talent for this event. They play approximately an hour and a half each in rotation during the nine-day show. On Sunday afternoon, December 8, at 3 o'clock, the Symphonietta Strings from Burbank will play Bach's Christmas Chorale and other Christmas music.

Co-chairman of the show this year are Mrs. Rodney Rood and Mrs. John Urabec. Helping them are the following women: Mesdames Francis Usher, Russell W. Justice Jr., Roger Gurley, Exhibits; Claude Bartlett and Elmore Aronstam, Terrace Boutiques; David Anderson, Exhibitor Hospitality; E. Kent Springer, Sign In; James C. Arnett and Thomas H. Rea, Hospitality; Paul F. Decker, Guy Johnson and Kenneth Wilson, Hostesses; James Corcoran and Charles Wirch, Music; Arthur Downer, Plant Sales.

The Hospitality House will be open for the Christmas Show from 9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. daily. Free tram service is available from the entrance gate. There is no admission charge to the show.

ROSE PARADE

The most famous of parades on New Year's Day will have an added interest this year for readers of *Lasca Leaves*. The Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens, through its director, Francis Ching, has received a distinctive honor by reason of his having been invited to serve as one of the five judges of the coming Tournament of Roses Parade. The one aspect of the floats that is unique and that has brought them worldwide at-

tention is, of course, their decorations which, according to rule, must consist only of flowers and plant parts. Competition among the 60 floats allowed each year is intense and contributes to their high cost, ranging from \$20 to \$40 thousand, depending on size, amount of animation, and so on.

HUGO REID ROUNDUP

Being a member of the California Arboretum Foundation brings many privileges and extras not available elsewhere. Among them is the Hugo Reid Roundup, a members-only event. Held last August 23 in and around the Hugo Reid Adobe, some 200 members and 70 children enjoyed an evening of family fun. Under the chairmanship of Tootie Grivich, Foundation president, a well-organized evening started at 6 o'clock and ended three hours later. Adults enjoyed an authentic Mexican dinner served by vice president Ruth Mary Larson and her committee, and prepared by Francis and Elaine Ching with John Provine and Calvin Allen assisting. The youngsters roasted hot dogs for themselves under the supervision of Mary Atkinson.

Patricia Warren, historical curator of the Arboretum, opened the Hugo Reid Adobe for the occasion and decorated it with fresh flowers. There was fishing with bamboo poles in Lasca Lagoon, and a magic show presented by 11-year-old Tommy Peters, a neighbor of Mitzie Moore, president of Las Voluntarias. Carol Brayshaw arranged some games for the children climaxed by three pinatas—the traditional Mexican star, a bull, and a peacock, all containing candy which tumbled out as the youngsters enthusiastically hit them with sticks. Throughout the evening, Mexican music was provided by the band of Richard Castruta.



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