

Committee of the Southern California Horticultural Institute he participated in the search for an Arboretum site. In 1955, he became a member of the California Arboretum Foundation Board of Trustees, serving as its president from 1963 to 1967.

A resident of Arcadia for the past 36 years, Mr. Roach is perhaps best known as the longtime publisher of the Arcadia Tribune and associated newspapers. During this period, 1940-1974, he also served for ten years as the director of the Los Angeles Newspaper Service Bureau and as a board member of the California Newspaper Association. Always active in civic affairs, Mr. Roach has served as the director of the Arcadia Chamber of Commerce, director and president of the Santa Anita Family Service, and continues to serve today as a trustee of the Methodist Hospital of Southern California and as a member of the United Way Budget Committee.

RUTH MARY LARSON

IN 1968, BEFORE the Arboretum's official service organization, Las Voluntaris, had been formed, a notice was placed in a "volunteer opportunities" column in the Los Angeles Times inviting women interested in becoming school field trip leaders to come to an orientation meeting to learn the nature and requirements of the job. Among those responding to the invitation was Mrs. Leland Larson, wife of a Hacienda Heights engineering contractor. No one recalls today how many new field leaders were enrolled at that meeting, but Mrs. Larson remembers it as the start of a new, extracurricular career for her, and Arboretum Director Francis Ching and the Arboretum staff look back to it as the happy beginning of one of the most effective volunteer contributions the garden has had the benefit of.

During her first three years, Ruth Mary

served as a school field trip leader, adding, for the last two, service as vice-president of Las Voluntarias and chairmanship of the membership committee.



Ruth Mary Larson

In 1972, she was elected president of Las Voluntarias, occupying this position for two years while also serving as chairman of two Baldwin Bonanzas. In 1973, she was appointed to the County Board of Governors, and reappointed in July of 1975 by Supervisor Peter Schabarum. In 1974, she was elected first vice-president of the California Arboretum Foundation Board of Trustees and, two years later, was elected president, her present post. In the meantime, she took on the additional job of managing the Arboretum Gift Shop where she set about expanding the inventory, adding garden-related items and eliminating most of those in the souvenir category.

As president of the California Arboretum Foundation, Ruth Mary looks forward to doing all she can to further the growth and betterment of the Arboretum. "It is my fondest hope," she said, "that with the help of all our Foundation members we will be able to complete the drive for funds to build the Hall of Environmental Education within the next year or so."

Ruth Mary Larson is almost, but not



With Loran White-lock, Arboretum trustee and cycad collector looking on, Department Director Francis Ching adds finishing touches to planting of a large Encephalartos in Pre-historic and Jungle Garden.

quite, a native daughter. Born in Rawlins, Wyoming, she has lived in this area since she was four years of age, growing up in Whittier where she raised her three children and where she attended Whittier College. Today she lives in nearby Chapman Woods, happy to be "on call" from the Arboretum for any of the special services she has willingly undertaken, such as baking a batch of brownies for a luncheon for which she will also serve as hostess, or filling in at the sales counter of the Gift Shop.

GIFT OF CYCADS

A LARGE CRATE containing cycads native to South Africa was received at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum last May, a gift of the National Botanic Gardens of South Africa, Kirstenbosch. The plants were sent by the National Botanic Gardens as a contribution to the Arboretum's newest educational resource, the Prehistoric and Jungle Garden. Among the species received, all belonging to the genus *Encephalartos*, are: *horridus*, *humilis*, *lehmanii*, *friderici-guilielmi*, *trispinosus*, *arenarius*, *longifolius*, *altensteinii*, *latifrons*, and *natalensis*. Some of

these species cannot be found or purchased in the United States. Together, they represent an important contribution to an Arboretum education program centered in a unique garden that offers students and visitors the opportunity to study plants that have survived in more or less unchanged form for two hundred million years. In addition to observing the living specimens, visitors will be able to observe plants that have evolved through a series of exhibits in the observation deck within the Prehistoric and Jungle Garden.

Because cycads are very slow-growing, it takes many months for them to return to their original growing condition after being moved from their natural habitat. It has been possible to plant three of the cycads received from the National Botanic Gardens in their permanent location in the Prehistoric and Jungle Garden; the remainder are reestablishing their root systems in containers before being planted in the ground.

CAF TRUSTEES

NEW MEMBERS of the Board of Trustees of the California Arboretum Foundation not reported in our last issue are Mr. Harris Newmark and Mr. David



1976. "Ruth Mary Larson." *Lasca leaves* 26, 67–68.

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