

## the Editor's Page

THE SUMMER SOLSTICE has passed and the hot days lie ahead. It is the period of estivation for many plants and many people, the condition ameliorated by sprinklers and pools.

Life at the Arboretum will take on a different cast, departmental work slowed because of vacations, attendance increased for the same reason. Our grounds will fill with out-of-state visitors exploring the flora of Southern California while comparing it with what they left back home, with senior citizens coming for a tram tour in a garden oasis, and with unleashed day-campers from Lair-of-the-Bear, Smile-A-While, and similar repositories for the fugitive young. While this is going on workmen will be completing the new Research Laboratory and continuing with the restoration of the old Santa Anita depot. There will be many inquiries about *Camptotheca acuminata*, the rare tree that is the source of the drug, camptothecin, now being tested at the Cancer Chemotherapy National Service Center in Bethesda, Maryland. And the Arboretum's role will be explained — its assistance in helping to locate more camptothecas, its identification of tree samples sent in by a helpful public, its donation of one mature tree to the battle against cancer, and its offer to donate its remaining camptotheca which still may be seen close to the west shore of the upper lagoon.

It will be an active summer, and for this we are grateful.

*Donald L. Paine*



Dimond, Donald S. 1969. "The editor's page." *Lasca leaves* 19, 25.

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