

Adult Section - Courses designed mainly for the home gardener, but also for the professional. Conducted in association with the Pasadena City College Extended Day Program and the UCLA Extension Division with instructors from those institutions and from the staff of the Department.

	Arboretum		Descanso Gardens	
	1965-6	1966-7	1965-6	1966-7
Classes	10	10	6	5
Subjects	8	8	3	3
Attendance - 28 weeks	1,948	1,486	1,714	1,795

Gardener School

A 42-week course (1965-6) conducted four hours a day, five days a week, provided intensive theoretical and practical training for 25 students, among whom were mature gardeners seeking to upgrade their knowledge and techniques, and young men who were dropouts from formal school programs. In its five years of operation the school has seen better than fifty percent of its graduates acquire full-time jobs in gardening or horticulture.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Each of the facilities of the Department serves as a kind of horticultural clinic to which the public may bring its gardening problems for analysis and prescription. The Arboretum particularly is active in this regard owing to the presence and availability of its research staff and the staff's involvement with such matters of common interest as herbicides, pesticides, air pollution, plant propagation, and fertilizers.

The extent of the service is considerable.

At the Arboretum, the office of the plant taxonomist is currently identifying plant material at the rate of approximately 3,000 pieces each year. The offices of the turfgrass and fire-retardant plant specialists—the Arboretum is probably unique in having such specialists on its staff—have increased their daily contact with the public by 30% in this biennium, an increase that may be attributed to population growth accompanied by home-owners' desire for lawns, and growing awareness of the fire hazard in the chaparral-covered hills of the southland.

Other offices of the Research Division are in similar, if not always as frequent

contact with the public. It is worth mentioning that a good part of this service is of more than casual significance. Prompt and correct identification of narcotic, poisonous, or allergy-producing plants, for example, can be of critical importance to physicians, hospitals, veterinarians, and law-enforcement agencies.

Information Section

Directly or indirectly involved with every activity of the Department, the Information Section constitutes the initial person-to-person contact with visitors to Descanso Gardens, the Arboretum, and soon, with the expected increase in public visiting hours, with visitors to South Coast Botanic Garden. The Information Section thus serves as the connecting link between the visitor and whatever he may wish to do, or whomever he may wish to see.

This public relations role is extended to some 14,000 tram tours for 650,000 people (1965-67) conducted by Information Section Tour Guides who give an informed lecture on the central aspects of Descanso Gardens and the Arboretum on each tour. Not included in these numbers are tours for special groups—Chambers of Commerce, Veteran's Hospitals, Old Age Homes, garden clubs, and the like—accounting for an additional 2,000 persons each year.

Of the 1,298 school field trips given to 46,997 students and teachers in this biennium (See EDUCATION: Youth Section—Field Trips), approximately 96% were conducted by Information Section Tour Guides.

HISTORICAL SECTION

The Arboretum is unusual among botanic gardens in occupying land so rich in historic interest. American Indians, Spanish missionaries, Mexican rancheros, and a succession of pioneers and adventurers lived innocently and not-so-innocently on these and thousands of surrounding acres, leaving architectural, horticultural, and other records of their times for today's visitors, students, and historians.

Interior maintenance of three principal buildings—Queen Anne Cottage, Coach Barn, Hugo Reid Adobe—continues to be largely the work of volunteers and the California Arboretum Foundation, working under the guidance of a staff curatorial aide. Much credit is due a new volunteer group, Las Voluntarias, formed in the latter half of this biennium. In addition to maintenance work, Las Voluntarias have raised funds



Dimond, Donald S. 1961. "Public service." *Biennial report* 1965-67, 11-12.

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