

location just north of the library building. Set off by a low, 250-foot broken concrete wall, the area was initially planted with 60 selections of ground cover and columnar types.

#### **BERTHOLET GLADE**

Funds donated by the Santa Anita Highlands Garden Club made possible the construction of the memorial Bertholet Glade adjacent to the Meyberg Waterfall.

#### **RESEARCH LABORATORY BUILDING**

Acting on a recommendation made in 1966 by the County Grand Jury, the Board of Supervisors awarded a contract for the construction of an 8,190-square-foot research building to house laboratories, offices, and other services required by the department's Research Division. Construction began October 14, 1968; completion is scheduled for the spring of 1970.

#### **SANTA ANITA DEPOT**

On February 19, 1969, County Supervisor Frank Bonelli and Arcadia Mayor Donald Hage lent their official presence to a ground-breaking ceremony in the Arboretum's south parking lot, a ceremony culminating a save-the-Santa Anita-Depot-drive conducted by the Arcadia Historical Society and numerous civic leaders. The historic depot, built in 1890 by E. J. "Lucky" Baldwin and closed in 1940, was dismantled in its original location on Colorado Boulevard and Old Ranch Road, and the bricks and other materials transferred to the new location for use in the reconstruction. Completion is scheduled for the summer of 1970.

## **DESCANSO GARDENS**

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance fell short of the one-million mark in this biennium because of the extremely wet winter in 1969 (see WEATHER).

<u>1965-66</u>	<u>1966-67</u>	<u>1967-68</u>	<u>1968-69</u>
437,651	465,927	500,104	391,119
903,578		891,223	



# DESCANSO GARDENS

## BUILDINGS

A bird observation station, located in the children's education area, was built jointly by the San Fernando Audubon Society and the County of Los Angeles.

A Japanese gift shop, the "Minka," was under construction in the Japanese Garden area. When completed it will be donated to the County by Robert Kawashima.

## HISTORICAL AREA

Through the efforts of the Descano Gardens Guild, Descano Gardens has been designated a California State Historical Monument in recognition of its colorful history and the days when the land was under Spanish and Mexican rule.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

In addition to the well-attended camellia, daffodil, bonsai, chrysanthemum, and rose shows held annually, the biannual Festival of Gardens, Lights, and Fountains, sponsored by the Descano Gardens Guild, was an outstanding success, attracting 107,000 visitors during its five-week run that started July 1, 1967.



*THE MINKA*

## TREE PLANTING

New plantings in the redwood section increased the number of trees to 200.

## RESEARCH

A test garden for camellias from all parts of the world was established by the Los Angeles Camellia Council, Ltd.



## WEATHER

The heavy rains and floods of January and February, 1969, caused extensive damage to the native plant section, streams, camellia plantings, roads, and canyon water systems. Estimated cost of repair: \$40,000.

## DONATIONS

The gardens received a cymbidium orchid collection valued at \$2,000; a gift of \$180 for purchase of trees in honor of Lyman Fay Barber; a giant, thirty-five-year-old orchid tree (*Bauhinia purpurea*); a wheel chair from the Descanso Gardens Guild; a new chain saw and a top for a motorized cart from the Los Angeles Camellia Council, Ltd.

# SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

## ATTENDANCE

Attendance in this biennium was 40,905, an increase of approximately 90% over 1965-67.

<u>1965-66</u>	<u>1966-67</u>	<u>1967-68</u>	<u>1968-69</u>
9,701	12,026	19,334	21,571
21,727		40,905	

Until April 14, 1968, the garden was open to the public one day a week; following that date it was opened four days a week, Thursday through Sunday, the present public schedule.

## MAJOR PROJECT

Following installation of recirculating pumps, the water system of the 2½-acre lake and stream was tested and given operational clearance. 3,700 shrubs and trees were planted around the lake area; 4,800 rooted cuttings of 12 different ground covers were planted on slopes and above the headwall for erosion control. These ground covers will be studied and evaluated for their effectiveness during periods of heavy rain.





Dimond, Donald S. 1961. "Descanso Gardens." *Biennial report* 1967-69, 5-7.

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