

THE LOS ANGELES STATE AND COUNTY ARBORETUM

Anniversary

1973  
The 25th anniversary of the founding of the Arboretum was celebrated February 20, 1973, at a banquet held in the Mediterranean Room of the Brookside Clubhouse in Pasadena. Many of the original founders were present, among them Dr. Samuel Ayres., Jr., who first had the idea to create an arboretum for the people of Los Angeles County and who over the years has helped it in many ways; Howard Miller, who made the presentation a quarter of a century ago that transferred the Arboretum from its original parent, the California Arboretum Foundation, to an agency of the State and County; and former county supervisor, John Anson Ford, who persuaded his colleagues on the Board of Supervisors and, subsequently, State officials, to create the institution known today as the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. Mr. Ford, whose twenty-four years as a member of the Board of Supervisors has never been exceeded, also played a key role in the development of Descanso Gardens as well as such other public institutions as the Hollywood Bowl and the County Museum.

Other longtime friends and supporters of the Arboretum in attendance were Dr. Frits Went, founding president of the Foundation; Mrs. John R. Mage, Mr. F. Harold Roach, Mrs. Ralph Cornell, Mrs. Forrest Stanton, Dr. Arie J. Haagen-Smit, and the late George Spalding. Mr. Kay Iizuka, president of the Board of Governors, presented on behalf of that body, a future Founders' Garden plaque. This small garden will be built alongside the path leading to the Sunset Demonstration Gardens and will consist of a circulating shallow stream starting from a spring-like fountain with various ground covers, grasses and mosses growing on either side and among the decorative rocks.

State Senator H. L. Richardson presented to Mrs. Peter L. Douglas, Foundation president, a scroll from the Board of Supervisors on behalf of Supervisor Peter Schabarum who was unable to attend, Mrs. Douglas accepting. The ceremonies for the evening ended with a few closing remarks by Department Director, Francis Ching.

#### AABGA Meeting

✓ 1973 Botanists, horticulturists, administrators, and landscape architects representing leading botanic gardens in the United State and Canada arrived in Arcadia on April 15, 1973, to prepare for a four day convention that conducted its principal business at the Arboretum. The participants were all members of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta which meets each year at a different member garden to discuss matters of mutual interest. The meeting at the Arboretum centered on education and public services and the kinds of programs botanic institutions offer in these categories.

Department Director, Francis Ching, organized a busy schedule for the 100 registered delegates. Parts of each day were given over to taking conferees on a variety of field trips that included visits to other botanic gardens in the area, a tour of rural areas where California wildflowers were in bloom, an early-morning exploration of the Los Angeles Flower Market, and a trip to the Monrovia Nursery, which comprises 350 acres of plants in containers, the largest nursery of it kind in the world. The directors and officers of each place visited conducted tours and also were the presiding hosts at informal luncheon meetings.

On Monday, the 16th, the first of three successive afternoon symposiums was held in the Arboretum Lecture Hall. With Dr. Mildred Mathias, director of the Botanical Garden-Herbarium of the University of California at



1961. "Anniversary." *Biennial report 1971-73*, 1-2.

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