

Historical Section

There are four buildings of historical significance located at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum: the Queen Anne Cottage, the matching Coach Barn, the Hugo Reid Adobe, and the Santa Anita Depot. In addition to the maintenance and preservation of these buildings, employees, with the help of volunteers, catalog photographs, slides, antique clothing and furniture, newspaper articles, and other printed materials as part of the historical files.

Herbarium

The Arboretum maintains a collection of approximately 18,000 dried, pressed, and identified plant specimens in its herbarium. This collection is accessible to the public during regular business hours in the Research Building. The emphasis of the collection is on the ornamental plants of Southern California. Specimens in the herbarium are used extensively to aid in the identification of plants. The herbarium curator is working toward a complete collection representing each different plant on the grounds.

Publications

In response to public interest, a new booklet has been produced that chronicles movie and television filming locations at the Los Angeles State County Arboretum from 1936 to 1984. Photographs in the booklet are from the historical files of the Arboretum. The booklet has been offered for sale in the Gift Shop and has been well received.

An addition was made to the popular HortiCULTURE series of leaflets bringing the total number of gardening subjects covered up to fifteen. The new Dichondra leaflet gives home gardeners tips on the care and maintenance of a dichondra lawn. HortiCULTURE leaflets are available to the public on a donation basis.

RESEARCH

Plant Records

The plant records system for the Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens is comprised of card files, computers, and a computer-generated printout which serve as a means of maintaining the history of each plant accession, its location in the nursery or on the grounds, and vital scientific information concerning each plant species. The information system helps to monitor the location of plants as well as their growth progress. Personnel assigned to plant records are responsible for the accumulation and recording of accurate information for input into the computer and card systems.

During this biennium, one of the projects assigned to plant records was an inventory of the orchid collection. The entire collection, 1,865 accessions of orchid species and hybrids, was inventoried, and new metal plant identification tags were made and placed with each plant.

Also completed during this period was a mapping project begun in the 1970's. Each 200 x 200 foot quadrat of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum was inventoried and each individual plant was recorded on a grid map to the nearest foot. Mapping is an ongoing project and now, with the updated map and a computer printout as a checklist, each quadrat is being reviewed and changes made due to the planting, thinning, and removal of plants that have occurred since the original survey.

The taxonomist and herbarium curator are responsible for monitoring horticultural and botanical literature in order to keep plant names current. Any reclassifications that occur can be entered into the computer to keep the inventory records accurate.

Plant Introduction Program

Over this biennium, 4,026 new accessions were brought into the gardens by the director, superintendent, and taxonomist. Most of these new accessions came in as seeds from other botanic gardens and commercial sources. In line with the current plant collection program, all new materials are processed in the nursery and planted on the grounds for evaluation as new or superior landscaping material.

Especially interesting or promising plant materials include:

Camellia reticulata and Osmanthus fragrans cultivars from China

Tecoma stans hybrid from San Juan Capistrano

Baphia chrysophylla, small fragrant white-flowered tree

Fabiana imbricata, dense upright shrubby Chilean heath

Maireana sedifolia, Pearly bluebush, silver and drought-resistant

Polyalthia longifolia, shiny-leaved, weeping ornamental tree

Cyperus papyrus subspecies hadidii, endangered wild form of papyrus

Anotea flavida, endangered cotton relative of Mexico

RELATED SERVICES

Graphics and Reproduction

Visitors to the Arboretum's Australian Section at the Arboretum can better understand the unusual flora and fauna of that continent through a new Interpretive Center. Panels of illustrated text form an attractive display and a shady rest stop in the center of the 19-acre section. There are now four Interpretive Centers located in different areas of the Arboretum.

A plate shear was purchased to accurately and quickly trim the Metalphoto aluminum labels used to identify plants at all department facilities.

Booklets, maps, and brochures have been reprinted to maintain a steady supply of information about the department to the public. Posters and signs are provided for special events as needed.

Plant Information

A popular means of dispensing information to the public is the Arboretum's Plant Information Service. For three hours Monday through Friday mornings, volunteers screen telephone requests for plant information from the public.

Questions that cannot be answered immediately by the volunteers are referred to the research staff at the Arboretum or other appropriate agencies. Training sessions are held for the volunteers where a staff member alerts them to common seasonal gardening problems and their solutions in anticipation of telephone requests. People calling for plant information are not charged for this service by the department. In the 1983-85 biennium, 7,460 requests for information were received.



1961. "Research." *Biennial report* 1983-85,

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