

Please come and see the new look of the personnel payroll unit. Charleen will open the door of her new office to everyone on Wednesday, February 13, at 2 o'clock. Refreshments will be served.

## PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION

A pilot program is under way to bring the substance of our school field trips to a limited number of schools. Head tour guide Dave Fields and Las Voluntarias field leaders Mavis Blake, Pat Earl, and Betty Price, will make a presentation this month to four fourth grade classes at the 122nd Street Elementary School in the Willowbrook area of Los Angeles.

The cancellation by the L.A. City School District of its field trip busing service early last December prompted this test program. It will continue even though busing has been restored.

Our first-Sunday-of-the-month birdwalks at the Arboretum have started again with as-needed tour guide Dennis Sheridan, a Cal Poly zoology graduate, serving as leader. Dennis' first walk attracted about 85 people who saw 26 species, among them a pied-billed grebe, a Cooper's hawk, and a yellow-throat.

Tak Niiya's outdoor vegetable garden lecture, Dennis Sheridan's birdwalk, and beautiful sunny weather this past Sunday combined to draw the largest daily attendance in the past five years - 7,327.

We want to welcome two new part-time tour guides at the Arboretum -- Robert Stassinis and Wally Pistone who will be filling in mostly on weekends but also sometimes during the week.

## ARBORETUM DIVISION

Mike Thorne is coming from South Coast Botanic Gardens and will be an Arboretum Gardener working with Joe Erby in the North Garden Section.

The new entrance is completely functional now with the steps being the primary access to the gardens. The former gatehouse has been refurbished and is now the home of the Las Voluntarias.

Mechanical Department painters have been active in the Administration Building and it looks like a brand new place inside. They are scheduled to begin work in the historical area and should have completed most of the work there by the time you read this.

## SOUTH COAST DIVISION

The Sanitation District has dug three one-inch, 150-foot-deep holes in the northeast area of the garden to study the decomposition rate of the trash fill. The information gained will be used in feasibility studies concerning the use of methane gas produced in decomposition as a possible energy source.

Congratulations to David Acuna on his recent promotion to Assistant Arboretum Gardener.

We regret to report that Dan Zorich, utility tractor operator, suffered a heart attack January 17. He spent a week in intensive care and expects to be hospitalized until about February 14. At last report he was still unable to have visitors. Cards can be sent to him at his home, 2623 Graham Avenue, Redondo Beach 90277. Take it easy and get well, Dan!

Recently, Mr. Roy Ito, new assistant director, was welcomed to South Coast for participation in a full staff meeting. A discussion followed with Mr. Ito, Mr. Simerly, and Mr. Ching responding to staff questions and comments.





1974. "Arboretum division." *Newsletter Arboreta and Botanic Gardens*  
1974:Feb.10, 2.

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