

## CONSULAR CORPS WIVES VISIT LOS ANGELES GARDEN SHOW

**W**IVES OF 24 foreign representatives based in Los Angeles visited the Los Angeles Garden Show on Oct. 22. Each month the Ladies Committee, Los Angeles Consular Corps, visits outstanding attractions in the county. When Director Francis Ching invited the group to visit the Garden Show, 1986 chairman Mrs. Bingul Kristiansen of Denmark quickly accepted.

Accompanying members when they arrived at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum were Mrs. Gerry Schabaram and Mrs. Odile Dewar representing the County Board of Supervisors and Mrs. Sandra J. Ausman and Mrs. Yolanda O. Sanchez from the County Office of Protocol.

John Provine, Arboretum superintendent, and Mr. Ching led a narrated tour through the Garden Show exhibits and then moved discreetly into the background as the group dispersed among the tempting offerings in the Trade Mart.

As the ladies reboarded their bus after three hours, they carried away armloads of horticultural treasures, leaving behind a flurry of thanks and their enthusiastic praise for the Los Angeles Garden Show.

## ARBORETUM, CHINESE GARDEN EXCHANGE INAUGURAL VISITS

**T**HE LOS ANGELES STATE and County Arboretum has been exchanging seeds of exotic plants with the South China Botanic Garden for decades but this fall for the first time they exchanged human representatives.

In October, Francis Ching, director of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, visited the garden of his counterpart in Canton (Guangzhou), China. Meanwhile, Professor Tang Chen-zi, director of the South China Botanic Garden

and assistant director of the South China Institute of Botany, continued the year-long study of the Arboretum and other American gardens that he began in July.

Both specialists hope to find plants in their host's garden that can be successfully introduced into their home landscapes halfway around the world. Mr. Ching pointed out that China has interesting plant material that is not readily available in the U.S.

Because South China, like Southern California, has a subtropical climate, many plants native there could generally be expected to grow well in Southern California. The list of native plants that, in theory, could be introduced into another landscape is, in reality, narrowed by other conditions besides climate. A horticulturist must know of local factors such as air and water qual-

ity and other urban problems that affect plants.

"There is a limit to what you can learn about an area's plant population by correspondence," Mr. Ching explained. "Only by actually visiting a location is it possible to evaluate all the environmental conditions that affect plants."

Mr. Tang is reviewing the plant collection at the Arboretum in light of his expertise in orchids, ferns, palms and aroids. Then when he returns to China, he expects to send back plants native to southwest China, that will fill gaps in the Arboretum's collection. Since he has also familiarized himself with private gardens in the area, he will be better able to select plants that are appropriate for our urban environment.

"I can see now that it wouldn't be good to send to the Arboretum any



*Director Francis Ching examines a Paphiopedilum dianthum, part of the Arboretum orchid collection which Mr. Tang calls one of the best in the world.*

giant or invasive bamboo," Mr. Tang said with a smile.

As a scholar, Mr. Tang is particularly interested in the Arboretum's orchids holdings, which he considers one of the best collections in the world of orchids grown under glass. After spending two and a half years at Kew Gardens in England researching orchid taxonomy in that garden's orchid herbarium and greenhouses, Mr. Tang looked forward to studying the collection at the Arboretum.

"There are so many species orchids at the Arboretum. You have orchids from all over the world, but they grow very happily here," he said. "The Arboretum's experience is worthwhile studying for ideas I can take back to Canton."

Canton is already a sister city to Los Angeles. Mr. Tang hopes that, in light of the many similarities between his garden and ours, the visits

## ROSE MARIE HEAD DONATES VALUABLE TREE TO GARDEN

**A**T CEREMONIES Oct. 16 at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum Rose Marie Head turned the first shovelful of dirt for the Henry Soto Water Conservation Gardens named after her late husband. Ms. Head, owner of Four Seasons Gardens and former president of the California Landscape Contractors Association, described how enthusiastic Mr. Soto had been about the water conservation gardens.

"Henry couldn't stand waste," she said, describing one of her husband's outstanding attributes which she said influenced all areas of his landscaping. This trait also explained the existence of the "bonsaied" Brazilian pepper tree valued at \$30,000 which she donated for the water saving garden. Several years ago, Mr. Soto had found the

tree impressed him so much that instead of felling it, he had the tree boxed and moved to Four Seasons Gardens.

"He had planned to use the tree in his own yard, but it was never to be," Ms. Head said. "Since he couldn't use it, what could be more fitting than to have the tree become part of something he believed in."

The tree is an important element in the design Bob Cornell of Cornell & Wiskar Landscaping, Inc. drew up for the Henry Soto Water Conservation Gardens. Volunteers from the California Landscape Contractors Association, Los Angeles/San Gabriel Valley Chapter will probably begin installing the water conservation gardens in January. Depending on the weather, the gardens should be completed by midsummer.

After Ms. Head turned the first shovelful of ground, she was followed by



1987. "Arboretum, Chinese garden exchange inaugural visits." *Garden* 11(1), 3-4.

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