

Department notes

NEW OFFICERS

The annual election of officers of the Board of Trustees of the California Arboretum Foundation was conducted last June 19 following a Trustees dinner held in the Demonstration Home Gardens. The short, efficient meeting resulted in the election of Mrs. John A. (Tootie) Grivich, president; Mr. George L. Foreman, first vice-president; Mrs. Leland E. (Ruth Mary) Larson, second vice-president; Mrs. Ralph G. (Dolores K.) Hubbell, executive secretary, and Mr. Frank J. Regan, treasurer. The new president established two new posts on the board, a business membership chairman to which she appointed Mr. Foreman, and a general membership chairman to which she appointed outgoing president, Mrs. Peter L. Douglas. For the past ten years Mrs. Grivich, or Tootie as she is called by just about everybody, has been a member of the International Fern Society and the American Begonia Society, serving as show chairman for the latter for the past two years. A native Californian, Tootie has been growing begonias in her San Gabriel Valley home for a decade and in this time has collected over 400 blue ribbons and 50 trophies for her plants, all grown in containers. Her most recent honor as a plantswoman came during the begonia show last July at the Arboretum when her entry won the best-in-show award.



Outgoing president of the California Arboretum Foundation, Mrs. Peter L. Douglas, left, and new president, Mrs. John A. Grivich.

Photo by Milt Bell

ANNIVERSARY BALL

From 8 to nearly midnight on the evening of July 13, approximately 400 members of the California Arboretum Foundation and the Arboretum staff got together for an al fresco party, one of a yearlong series of events celebrating the Foundation's 25th anniversary. The party took place in the Demonstration Home Gardens and in front of the deck leading to the Garden For All Seasons. The deck itself served as a bandstand for two groups of musicians—the Arcadia Ramblers, a five-piece dixieland ensemble led by Dexter Jones, a lawyer by profession and trumpet player by avocation, and the three-piece (banjo, guitar, mandolin) country music group of Arboretum



From left: Mrs. John A. Grivich, Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Ayres, Jr., and Mr. Francis Ching.

Photo by Milt Bell

groundsman Bruce Dustman, who in addition to doubling on violin shared the vocals with other members of his trio. Asked for a description of his music, Bruce said "our style is 'blue grass,' but I guess it would be simpler to say we play hillbilly music which is basically oldtime jigs and reels in modern form." The highlight of the evening was the cutting of the anniversary cake, a six-tiered, four-foot-tall confection in white, ornamented with palm trees, peacocks, flowers, and a large 25 in candied numbers on top. While Dexter Jones and his band played the Anniversary Waltz, Helen and Sam Ayres, representing the founders of the Foundation, followed by Tootie and John Grivich, Elaine and Francis Ching, Do-

lores Hubbell, Edna Kettle, and Hilda Sademan representing the present and the links between, successively cut the cake. The knife that was used was lent by assistant director Glenn Hiatt for the occasion—a wicked-looking machete that had seen service cutting through the South American jungle on botanizing trips. It was observed that Dr. and Mrs. Ayres handled this weapon with elegant ease, making the first incision with an expertise that suggested they were old hands at cutting anniversary cakes. During the serving, Elmer Sademan, the convivial master of ceremonies, traced the milestones in the Foundation's history and the part those on hand played in its development.



1973. "Anniversary ball." *Lasca leaves* 23, 92–93.

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