

TROPICAL GREENHOUSE

A contract has been awarded for the construction of a 100'x38' tropical greenhouse just west of the Arboretum orchid greenhouses that will add a new educational dimension to the Arboretum's botanical resources. The greenhouse will make possible the growing of some of the larger tropical plants as well as those of interest and curiosity to the public. There are, for example, tropical plants of economic value which most people know only in the form they find them in their grocery store. Among such are *Piper nigrum* (pepper), *Elettaria cardamomum* (cardamon), *Zingiber* (ginger), *Vanilla fragrans* (vanilla, and *Cola acuminata* (cola drinks). The ceiling height of the greenhouse will be about fifteen feet enabling the accommodation of small trees such as plumerias and a variety of tropical palms. To add to the tropical effect, a stream and waterfall have been included in the construction plans.

FIESTA DE FLORES

This year's Fiesta de Flores at South Coast Botanic Garden June 21, 22, and 23, promises to be the most colorful and diversified in the history of the event. Although details of the flower show portion of the fiesta were not available at the time this was written, the usual complement of garden demonstrations, talks, exhibits, and competitions can be expected, beginning at 1 p.m. opening day. Boutiques, set up in three different locations on the grounds, will offer plants in all sizes, from herbs and container plants to small trees. A formal opening will be held at 5 p.m. at which Supervisor James Hayes is scheduled to be the principal speaker. A social hour open to foundation members and their guests will follow the opening program. On Saturday afternoon

a group of Japanese classical dancers will perform a Japanese fairy tale with narration, and on Sunday afternoon the Palos Verdes Symphonic Band will give a concert. An ensemble of young flutists and strolling guitarists will add to the spirit of the fiesta during the three-day run of the show.

GUILD ACTIVITIES

The Descanso Gardens Guild has announced that the Glendale Community Symphony, heard at the gardens just a few weeks ago, will be back for three concerts on the lawn during the weekend of July 27 and 28.

The model kitchen in the Hospitality House continues to be the focal point of a variety of talks and demonstrations. Lectures on freezing techniques and on summer casseroles will be given there at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on July 17.

It may seem early to talk about Christmas but not when the reference is to the Descanso annual Christmas show. Craft classes, meeting every Tuesday in the Hospitality House, are open now to people interested in making items for the event.

LOVE'S END

The end of the mating season for peafowl has come and with it an end to the spectacular spreading of male train feathers and a lessening of the shrill cries of both peacock and peahen. Though residents for miles around have largely become accustomed to the remarkably intense sounds of these wild birds, long the symbol of the city of Arcadia, the quiet following their completion of the mating games will be welcome. Now we have only to look for hatching eggs—often in the strangest places—and listen to the cheeps of peachicks and their clucking mother.



1974. "Guild activities." *Lasca leaves* 24, 31.

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