



Department notes

HALL OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

THE steady rise in attendance at the Arboretum has inevitably brought with it a demand for facilities adequate to serve the number of people interested in the programs offered. As noted elsewhere in this section, 761,000 people passed through Arboretum turnstiles last year, many of whom were unable to take advantage of various classes and services simply because there was not enough space to accommodate them. An even greater number of students were turned away for the same reason. To resolve this situation, a project program plan has been developed calling for the construction at the Arboretum of a Hall of Environmental Education. The plan has been reviewed by the Chief Administrative Office, the County Construction Commission, and the County Facilities Department and has been passed on to the Board of Supervisors for their approval. Work will begin immediately on the development of schematic plans, presentation drawings and renderings. The building will have an area of 23,250 gross square feet, allowing space for three classrooms expected to be in continuous use, a seminar room, an auditorium and exhibit area for flower shows and horticultural activities, a potting shed, a greenhouse, and essential office space. The CAF has pledged to raise \$500,000 of

the estimated \$1.4 million cost of the building.

RECORD ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE at the Arboretum reached a new high in 1974 when 761,000 visitors passed through the turnstiles. The figure represents a 21 percent increase over 1973. Our director, Francis Ching, attributes the increase to a combination of greater public interest in improving their surroundings and the Arboretum's strong effort to provide programs of practical value. He cited youth and adult education classes in botany, horticulture and related subjects, mini-courses, Sunday morning garden walks, Sunday afternoon lectures, and special events like the Baldwin Bonanza and the Spring Extravaganza, as examples. Another index of the public's genuine interest in the various programs, he said, is the increase in membership in the California Arboretum Foundation which has grown in three years from 700 to 2,800 members.

TROPICAL GREENHOUSE

CONSTRUCTION of the tropical greenhouse at the Arboretum is expected to be completed early next month. The greenhouse will feature a small pool at one end that will spill two to three feet into a winding stream running the length of the building. Pedestrian paths will follow the stream and the earth will be contoured in a way to permit the most natural setting for the various plants. The size of the greenhouse and light intensity will necessarily place some limits on the kinds of plants, but visitors can expect to see a variety of tropical ferns, bromeliads, species of the orchid family, and plumeria, among others.



1975. "Record attendance." *Lasca leaves* 25, 4.

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