

With Loran Whitelock, Arboretum trustee and cycad collector looking on, Department Director Francis Ching adds finishing touches to planting of a large Encephalartos in Prehistoric and Jungle Garden.

quite, a native daughter. Born in Rawlins, Wyoming, she has lived in this area since she was four years of age, growing up in Whittier where she raised her three children and where she attended Whittier College. Today she lives in nearby Chapman Woods, happy to be "on call" from the Arboretum for any of the special services she has willingly undertaken, such as baking a batch of brownies for a luncheon for which she will also serve as hostess, or filling in at the sales counter of the Gift Shop.

GIFT OF CYCADS

A LARGE CRATE containing cycads native to South Africa was received at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum last May, a gift of the National Botanic Gardens of South Africa, Kirstenbosch. The plants were sent by the National Botanic Gardens as a contribution to the Arboretum's newest educational resource, the Prehistoric and Jungle Garden. Among the species received, all belonging to the genus Encephalartos, are: horridus, humilis, lehmanii, friderici-guilielmi, trispinosus, arenarius, longifolius, altensteinii, latifrons, and natalensis. Some of these species cannot be found or purchased in the United States. Together, they represent an important contribution to an Arboretum education program centered in a unique garden that offers students and visitors the opportunity to study plants that have survived in more or less unchanged form for two hundred million years. In addition to observing the living specimens, visitors will be able to observe plants that have evolved through a series of exhibits in the observation deck within the Prehistoric and Jungle Garden.

Because cycads are very slow-growing, it takes many months for them to return to their original growing condition after being moved from their natural habitat. It has been possible to plant three of the cycads received from the National Botanic Gardens in their permanent location in the Prehistoric and Jungle Garden; the remainder are reestablishing their root systems in containers before being planted in the ground.

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1976. "Gift of cycads." Lasca leaves 26, 68.

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