

Department notes

Sunday Lectures

THE JUST CONCLUDED spring series of Sunday afternoon lectures at the Arboretum were an SRO success, which is another way of saying that in presenting informative lectures on various aspects of horticulture in a pleasant, relaxed atmosphere, the Department was effectively responding to the needs and interest of the public.

If contemporary botanic gardens are more responsive to community needs than those of the past, it is probably because today's gardens are more closely concerned with our environment, whether it be matters of pollution or beautification. Within this Department the decision to undertake most projects rests in good part on an estimate of how meaningful the project may be to the community. There were thoughts along these lines when it was decided to present the Sunday lectures by members of the staff. Happily, the response showed that the time and effort spent in preparing and delivering them were well justified. Similar lecture series are now being considered for Descanso Gardens and South Coast Botanic Garden.

La Gran Bonanza Baldwin

THE EVENT is a memory but the profits linger on. The rewards of unselfish, untiring collective effort in the interest of a worthwhile cause were gratifyingly underscored when the balance sheet for Baldwin Bonanza II was issued following the April 9th event. Estimated net profit was tabbed at \$6,163, a nearly 100 per cent increase over Bonanza I. The accounting also showed some other things: of the 20-odd sales categories, plants were far and away the best money-maker, with "elegant junque" and antiques a distant second and third respectively. In our previous issue we promised to reveal the winner of what Mrs. Peter Douglas, CAF president, dubbed the "Gross Contest," or, who could come the closest to guessing the gross receipts. There's a story to it, of course. Helen Thompson, one of the most effective members of Las Voluntarias since its inception five years ago, met her husband, Tommy, on the seventh day of a month that shall remain unidentified. Mr. Thompson used this personal milestone as the cue for his estimated gross: \$7,777.77. It proved to be the closest to the actual figure of \$8,690.94. The Thompsons were the guests of the Bonanza chairman at the celebration luncheon on April 13.

Fiesta at South Coast

THE MAJOR EVENT each year at South Coast Botanic Garden is the Fiesta de Flores, a three-day affair that invariably attracts thousands of local and out-of-state visitors who come to see the exhibits and see how this young garden built over a landfill is progres-



1972. "Le gran Bonanza Baldwin." *Lasca leaves* 22, 28.

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