

Although February is rated the second rainiest month in and around Los Angeles, it was a dry month at the gardens except for a few drops the last two days.

Don Graf and his family visited the Canyon Museum at Palm Springs recently.

Bobby Vargas and his wife Mary placed second in the annual Gold Skate Classic held in Bakersfield. They were in the skating production of a "Brazilian Extravaganza." Eleven of the best groups from the western region were selected and Bobby's group missed first by only a single point.

After serving as secretary at Descanso for nearly 6 years Rise Shirley has been transferred to the Business Department at the Arboretum. We are all going to miss her, but everyone wishes her the very best of luck in her new work.

Don't forget the Daffodil Show, March 23 and 24.

#### SOUTH COAST DIVISION

Our administration building and shop are getting a coat of fresh paint, courtesy of Mechanical Department painters.

Annuals in Leisure Circle are now in bloom. Anemone coronaria, Papaver nudicaule, Heuchera maxima, Pyrethrum roseum, Bellis perennis, and Viola lutea splendens all flash their bright colors for visitors in this favorite rest spot. The whole garden is blooming, including: Chrysanthemoides monolifera, Hibiscus huegelii, Callistemon jeffersii, Westringia rosmariniformis, Dombeya cayeuxii, Viburnum suspensum, Prunus persica, dimorphanthera sinuata, and Epiphyllum species (Orchid cactus).

Mike Thorne (AG) has transferred from South Coast to the Arboretum, moving his family from suburban Torrance to a beautiful rural spot in the foothills. We hope the move is great for all. See you at the Christmas party, Mike!

Bird activity has been sparked by the unseasonably warm weather. Red-shafted flicker, black phoebe, scrub jay, common bushtit, blue-gray gnatcatcher, Brewer's blackbird,

lesser goldfinch, rudy-crowned kinglet, oriole species, western meadowlark, Audubon's warbler, loggerhead shrike, and goshawk were all observed here during the month of February.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The Department of Personnel has announced that an open enrollment for the County-sponsored optional group term life and accidental death and dismemberment insurance plans will be held the first three weeks in April. This open enrollment is for life and AD&D insurance only. Health insurance is NOT included. All permanent, full-time employees not now enrolled and who want this coverage, enrolled employees who wish to increase their coverage, and enrolled employees who want to add dependent coverage may do so during the open enrollment regardless of their health. Employees already enrolled in the plan of their choice need not take any action.

The first payroll deductions for those signing up during April will be from the June 10 paycheck and coverage will begin July 1.

The Department of Personnel reports that in 1973 the 180 employees who died included both men and women of all ages. Therefore, many young employees who feel "it can't happen to me" should seriously consider purchasing this low cost protection.

Each permanent, full-time employee will receive a brochure which describes the life insurance plans and gives the rates. This brochure, which will be distributed through each employee's own department, also contains the certificate describing the \$2000 County-paid group term life insurance. Each employee is urged to keep the certificate with his other valuable personal papers.

Those signing up or changing their life insurance coverage during this open period MUST forward the enrollment and payroll deduction authorization card to their departmental personnel or payroll office for the verification signature. Employees should NOT send such cards directly to the Personnel Department's Insurance Section.

All employees wishing to enroll, to increase their coverage, or to add dependent coverage, should contact Charleen Bastion in the Personnel Department.





1974. "South Coast division." *Newsletter Arboreta and Botanic Gardens*  
1974:Mar.10, 2.

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