

Vintage irises will bloom at Robinson Gardens this spring

More than 70 varieties of iris including heritage and historic cultivars from the 1920s and '30s are now growing at the Virginia Robinson Gardens. Planted last fall in front of the house in the perennial beds and near the pool pavilion, the irises should be established in time for the peak blooming period of March and April.

The irises, a favorite flower of Mrs. Robinson, are the start of a historical garden that will feature perennials and other flowers popular during the Robinson era. Other heirloom cultivars of iris, started by John Copeland, supervisor of the Robinson Gardens, will also be part of the collection which is a "great addition and appropriate to the period," he said.

Most of the irises were donated by Jim Puckett of Blooming Fields Farm in Riverside. He also helped Mr. Copeland plant the irises. By displaying the mass of cultivars in such an appropriate setting, Mr. Puckett

hopes to revitalize the popularity of this nostalgic garden favorite. "This is a significant donation, and I'm very grateful for his help in planting," said Mr. Copeland.

Mr. Puckett opened Blooming Fields Farm about 2 1/2 years ago, when he moved from Colorado where he had been a grower for 10 years. He works to arouse interest in the iris through displays at garden centers, plant sales and flower shows.

"Nothing will happen if I just print a catalog and sit back and wait," he said. His displays at Roger's Gardens in Corona del Mar, The Crystal Court in South Coast Plaza and the Green Scene Plant Sale at the Fullerton Arboretum for the past two springs allow visitors to see the many different color combinations and flower shapes available.

Mr. Puckett will also participate in Descanso Gardens' Spring Festival of Flowers show in March where he will plant a 12 by 14 foot display of tall bearded irises.

Anoakia statue donated to Arboretum

A 7-foot tall, white marble statue commissioned by Anita Baldwin has been moved to the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. A crane lifted the statue, valued

at about \$100,000, into the new sculpture garden west of the waterfall on Nov. 22.

Lowry B. McCaslin donated the white marble figure in memory of his friend Richard A. Grant Sr., father of the president of the California Arboretum Foundation Board of Trustees, Richard A. Grant Jr. Included in his gift was a check for \$3,000 to help defray the cost of moving the sculpture to the Arboretum from the Anoakia estate grounds.

The sculpture by French artist Louis Aim'e Lejeune is titled *Je N'Oublierai Pas*. The phrase, which translates as "I will not forget," appears on the Baldwin family crest carved on the pillar supporting the urn beside the female figure.

The acorns also depicted on the crest symbolize an important part of Baldwin family lore. The oak grove on Tallac Knoll at



LuAnn B. Munns

Workers remove protective wraps from statue.



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