

LASCA NEWS

A periodic report from the Los Angeles State
and County Arboretum to the members of the
California Arboretum Foundation, Inc.
Arcadia, California

March 1956

Dear Members:

Spring Again - Through the ages this time of year has been meant for beginning. It is the season when Mother Earth begins to bear. This is so true at the Arboretum where 125 different species of acacia, flowering peach and purple plum trees are bursting forth in all their beauty.

The South African section is very attractive with numerous varieties of wild Gladiolus in bloom as well as some of the various daisies. The Blue African Daisy or Felicia, which is particularly showy, is one of Mr. Quinn Buck's development after use of the Colchicine treatment on some of the seeds. It may be available next year as a new introduction for Southern California gardeners.

This is all conducive to a serious attack of Spring Fever - - but on with LASCA NEWS.

Dr. Frits Went has been on a lecture tour since Feb. 20th at the following locations: University of Oregon, Montana State University, Colorado A. & M., South Dakota State College, Abbott Laboratories Club, Chicago; University of Notre Dame at South Bend. He expects to return on March 29th.

Dr. Wm. S. Stewart, our Director, has been on a flying two-week trip to: The Morton Arboretum; Garfield Conservatory; Longwood Gardens, now headed by our former Director, Dr. Seibert; National Arboretum, Washington, D.C.; Historical Restoration of Williamsburg, Richmond; Morris Arboretum, Philadelphia; the Philadelphia Museum; New York Botanical Garden; The Brooklyn Botanic Garden; The Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University; New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University; Department of Horticulture, Michigan State University; and the Missouri Botanical Garden at St. Louis.

Mr. Lovell Swisher, an outstanding horticultural enthusiast, has been elected to the Board of Trustees of the California Arboretum Foundation. Mr. Swisher will be a most welcome addition to our governing Board.

Dedication of the new Gatehouse and Administration buildings is planned for the last half of July. Building progress is favorable in spite of the storm in February, with construction running only about twelve days behind schedule. The contractors expect to be able to make up this time.

The late Dr. George P. Lux willed his property, consisting of 154 acres near Monrovia, to the State and County for Arboretum and recreational purposes and when the necessary legal detail is cleared by the State and County, this property will become a part of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum.



Through Mr. Robert Casamajor, a member of our Board of Trustees, the Foundation received an outstanding orchid col-

lection from Mr. Arthur Freed. This collection of more than 1000 plants, appraised at \$22,000, is a great addition to the Arboretum. Now ways and means must be forthcoming through donations, bequests or a membership drive to build a proper home for the orchids. Any suggestions?

Among the gifts to the Historical Committee was one from Mrs. Ione Hansen and her son Richard, of three hotel registers from the old East San Gabriel Hotel. These registers cover the period from 1887 through 1898 and the names therein read like a "Who's Who" of that time. A lovely old melodeon, donated by Mr. Winston S. Cruse of Culver City, enhances the charm of the Queen Anne Cottage.

Sunday attendance at the Arboretum is increasing, with very satisfactory comments by visitors on the progress at the Arboretum as well as on the manner in which tours are handled. This increase, no doubt, is due in large part to the Motorama T V publicity, combined with other T V shows during the past two months. One of note was the appearance of Mr. George Spalding on Norvell Gillespie's show on Feb. 25th.

A simple but impressive Arbor Day ceremony was held at the Arboretum on March 7th. This ceremony was conducted by Girl Scout Troop No. 62 of Arcadia. It climaxed a special course given at the Arboretum under Dr. Louis Martin's direction, for which the Troop members will receive their tree badges. Mr. Ralph Cornell, Vice-President of the Board of Trustees, accepted a gift of 18 purple leaf plum trees from the Los Angeles Garden Club for greater beauty of the Herb Garden. Mr. Cornell also accepted on behalf of the Foundation, a specimen magnolia tree from the Las Jardineras Garden Club to augment the magnolia collection started in 1952. In return the Foundation presented to the Girl Scouts, trees of Eucalyptus Gunnii which will be planted at the Arcadia Elementary schools in observance of Arbor Day. This Eucalyptus is a tree introduction from Australia. Supervisor John Anson Ford was the speaker of the day and gave a very inspiring talk on his subject, "The Significance of Arbor Day in Los Angeles County."

The bird feeding station is one of the most active spots on the Arboretum grounds, bringing new species of birds to make their homes here and to "live happily ever afterward."

The Annual Meeting of the members of the Foundation will be held at the Arboretum on the afternoon of May 15th, so put this date on your calendar. You will receive a later notice of time and program. Members entitled to receive plants at the Annual Meeting will find a description of the plants in the April issue of LASCA LEAVES. In order to receive your plants, be sure that you bring your membership card.

An order has been placed for colored post cards of four different views of the Arboretum. These cards will be sold on the grounds and also by Garden Clubs. It is hoped that the cards will be received by May 15th for your viewing.

Don't forget to support your Arboretum in securing new members.

SEE YOUR ARBORETUM ON JOE LITTLEFIELD'S T V
SHOW, CHANNEL 5, 12:30 PM, APRIL 8th

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL



1956. "[March 1956. Dear members]." *Lasca News* 1956, 1–2.

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