

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ARBORETA AND BOTANIC GARDENS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
1958 - 59

PART I. Activities of the Department

Significant highlights of the year have been the addition of Descanso Gardens, the increased attendance, the educational program, the research projects, and construction of the administration building wing which houses the library, herbarium, and lecture hall.

1. On July 1, 1958, the Board of Supervisors transferred management of Descanso Gardens to the Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens. At this time an educational program was instituted and the admission fee to the gardens cancelled. Attendance increased from 74,589 in 1957-58 to 235,895 in 1958-59.

The addition of Descanso Gardens created two major divisions in the Department - the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum at Arcadia, and Descanso Gardens at La Canada. Each major division is composed in turn of organizational divisions. The functions and accomplishments during 1958-59 of the divisions in the Arboretum are discussed in Part II of this report. Those of Descanso Gardens' are discussed in Part III.

2. Construction played an important role during 1958-59 at Los Angeles State and County Arboretum with the building of the Administration Building Wing. The wing was designed to conform with the style of the main administration building and adjoins it on the west. The wing houses the library and herbarium on the upper level, plus office space, while downstairs the lecture hall (50 ft. x 100 ft.) may be subdivided into as many as four class areas by sliding folding screens.

3. The Education program continued as one of the Department's outstanding public services. The new programs were in Children's Education and in the inauguration of classes for adults and children at Descanso Gardens. The entire program is discussed in Part II under the Research and Education Division and in Part III under the Education Division.

4. One of the most important aspects of the Department's functions lies in the field of research. The most significant research studies of 1958-59 dealt with the Slow Burning Plant Research, Oak Root Rot Research, the effect of "smog" on tissue cultures and tissues of intact plants, and the development or introduction of new species or hybrids. See Part II, Research and Education Division, for further details on the research program.

5. Several important gifts were received by the Department in 1958-59. These donations, as well as the research grants received, are invaluable to the Department's functions. They are discussed in Part IV, under the California Arboretum Foundation, Inc.



1959. "Part I: activities of the Department." *LASCA miscellanea* 1959, 3.

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