

January 10, 1962

Employee Eaves Droppings

Happy New Year, Everyone, and may your fondest hopes come true! If you heard a long sigh of relief, the biggest part of that sigh came from the Gatehouse. The week between Christmas Eve and New Year's showed a turnstile count of 9,043, while the turnstile registered 18,942 for the entire month. We had the flu bug help people, like Maida Boyle, to have a miserable holiday time, and, we had some of the worst vandalism in the history of the Arboretum. Old Hotfoot, the characterful Muscovy duck, and one of the oldest members of our bird colony, was killed, along with the "widowed" black swan. Pellets were found inside the Hugo Reid Adobe to show how the windows were broken. The conjecture was that some young person had a sling shot tucked in his pockets when he came in "with responsible adults". It has long been the custom of Gatehouse attendants to ask youngsters with toy guns to park their guns in the Gatehouse, or return them to their cars. Does anyone have suggestions to prevent a recurrence? Please be on the lookout and capture, if possible, these desperados.

The Christmas Party at the Elk's Club in Arcadia was enjoyed by most of the participants. Perhaps the caterers served too many dinners from the outside of an otherwise delicious prime ribs of beef roasts, and then unfortunately ran out of desert for the people who had been served the poorer cuts of roast. These facts are reported for the use of the Social Committee in the future. Otherwise, the social part of the evening, with Frank Simerly acting as Master of Ceremonies, was a huge success. Special thanks should go to Streeter Turner and his girl for showing the less agile ones how to do "The Twist". Some of the major prizes were drawn by Lloyd Anderson, a painting by Gerry Patten; Roger Burns, won the Ceramic Christmas Tree by Elsie Murray; Joe Erby, won the Mosaic, done by Pam Simerly; Helen Hiatt won the table Christmas tree made at the Children's Education Department; Lorene Johnson, won a Camellia; Elsie Murray, a Camellia; Dr. & Mrs. Stewart, he a cypridium and she a tie pin; Streeter Turner won a cypridium and some of the others got away without giving their names. And say, did you see Joe Lerchenmuller twirling around on that dance floor? Not bad, Joe! And it was reported he went up to some of the younger guests there, and said, "Why don't some of you 'old folks' get up and join in the fun?". Mother, reach me the arnica bottle, please.

Karl Heussenstamm, our genial guard at the Arboretum, is truly a man of many talents. He has had his book "Creative Spirit", published by the Philosophical Library, Inc., New York. The inside flap of the book cover has this note, "This volume of free verse describes in direct and simple style the modern mystic's experience and vision in a world striving for peace". Throughout the book there is an individualistic style which maintains a continuity that blends the entire book into a "modern symphony of words". Using this simile, an occasional phrase, like "Moments", takes one with Karl through the solitude of nature, peaceful and questing, then moves on in an adagio movement "Heaven on Earth", with dissonances of man in minor key, finally culminating in "True Heaven", where his thoughts in words choir with full-throated ease as glorious chords in a paean of praise. It is not a book to be read lightly, but if you like philosophy, get it, man, get it! Thank you, Karl, for letting us share this talent with you.

Library Listings

Recent arrivals in the library consist of more volumes in the catalog of the Hunt Botanical Library.

We have also received the new Western Fertilizer Handbook and several publications on African plants.

Descanso Discourse

Descanso Gardens has been greatly improved by the moving of the Service Area from near the Gate House. As you drive up to the main entrance, the view into the Gardens is one of color, oak trees, the pond in the background and of course, THE DUCKS.

A SAD NOTE: We have suffered a great loss -- Homer and Jethro have gone into the great beyond. Apparently made good eating for one gluttonous coyote. We miss Homer, his friendly personality, tail wagging and cheerful conversation.

Come June, there will be another future Ranger (?) living in the Hospitality House. Chris Graf will have a new brother (?) sister (?) Twins (?) ?????

We take this opportunity to welcome our new Ass't Supt. Frank Simerly and hope that he will be happy working with the gang at Descanso.

Some of the Girl Scout troops of Los Angeles, Pasadena and Glendale have donated the GIRL SCOUT ROSE. Making a replica of their emblem and bordering it with boxwood - planting the roses inside the emblem - should be a most attractive spot come June. It is a lovely yellow color.



1962. "Social committee soundings [January 10, 1962]." *Delascan* 1962, 2.

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