A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Delascan

December 10, 1963

From Descanso Gardens: A second son was born to the Paul Hernandez family within the last month. Father, mother, and brother, as well as the new baby, are doing fine. CONGRATULATIONS!!

On December 15 at 2:30 p.m. Christmas carols will be sung by the Los Angeles City Schools'Acappela Choir. As always children's voices lifted in song are an inspiration. So come; listen; and be inspired.

From December 1, 1963 to January 1, 1964 a stained-glass window will be on display at the Hospitality House. This traditional window depicts Joseph, Mary and the child Jesus with the three Wise Men offering gifts. Our thanks to the Judson Studio and John Wallis and Associates for the loan of this lovely window.

From the Foundation: The Foundation cordially invites all staff members to the Eighth Annual Christmas Posada to be presented on December 15, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Hugo Reid Adobe. Tram service will be provided from the Gatehouse and return to the Lecture Hall for refreshments.

On display at the Gatehouse are some lovely Floral Portrait correspondence cards and calendars. The original art work was done by Mr. Henry Mockel while here on the grounds. These may be purchased for a nominal sum and would undoubtedly make unusual Christmas gifts.

The Foundation lecture on January 24, 1964 will feature Dr. George Kennedy who will speak on "Plant Collecting in New Guinea." Members of the staff are cordially invited to attend. Merry Christmas all from Elsie, Dolores, and Ruby!!

From the Gatehouse: We of the Gatehouse personnel are saddened by the transfer of one Robert Smith to the County Bureau of Sanitation. He will take on the dutie of Assistant to Entomologist William Waldron. Our best CONGRATULATIONS to you, Bob, and hope to see you occasionally at the 'window' on the weekends.

No matter what language it is said in, the Gatehouse staff joins in the chorus of all in saying "Glaedilig Jul, Felicidades Navidad, or Merry Christmas - take your pick."

From the Library: Interesting publications received by the library are as follows: Hedburg, Afroalpine vascular plants, a taxonomic revision; Darlington, The handling of chromosomes; Richter, Zimmerpflanzen von Heute und Morgen; Coon, using plants for healing; Smith, Controlling insects on flowers; Shulke, A treasury of Christmas decorations; Noble, Plants indoors, their selection, care and use in decoration.

From Youth Education: Early in December changes in the water bird population became noticeable. Wild mallards stop daily; a flock of 27 was observed on December 3. Occasional Pintail and Canvasback were seen, and 8 to 14 Ruddy Ducks come every day. Seven Shovellers were seen December 4. Kingfishers frequent the upper lagoon; Stellar Jays, Nuthatches, and Juncos are coming down from the mountains in increasing numbers.

Thanksgiving, Lasca Gardeners took home prizewinning lettuces, red and green, and also a large radish harvest. Descanso Gardening students are making a fine showing, too.

A new course in Gardening Skills has been started with retarded 7 and 8 grade boys and girls from the Monrovia Schools. In five periods they have weeded, spaded, fertilized, and partially planted the small triangle plot in front of the Nature Museum. They put in 198 bulbs and 110 seedlings. So far the survival rate on transplants is 97%. The loss due to 4 plants being deliberately pulled out over the weekend. The response of these children to real personal experience has been of high interest to the school authorities who request continued help and direction in this field.

Holiday Plantcraft classes are underway. Children are making gifts for their homes as well as for decorations. Tak Niyya and Bob Vargas are having children doing



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