

OCT 9 1964

D E L A S C A N

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Gertrude Woods' Editings

The Education Section is currently conducting a Tour Guide Training Program for School Field Trips at the Arboretum in five distinct subject areas.

Interesting news has come out of the interviews with various staff members contacted for our preparation of up-to-date accurate information for dissemination to the 25,000 children, youth and teachers expected this year.

Exhibits that will become permanent are expanding in the Indian Section of the Historical Area. In addition to that, highly specialized Historical Tours are being readied by the Docent Women's Council for a pilot run next Spring, according to Maida Boyle, Curator.

At the Propagation Greenhouse all the types of propagation are now in evidence. There have been over 1,800 accessions so far this year, according to Quinn Buck, Plant Propagator, who also pointed out that the Albizzias growing in the south nursery plot and the Callistemons north of the Begonia House are grown from irradiated seed.

Within the month a new wall display case will appear on the outside Headhouse wall opposite the one currently displaying plant exchange stations and labels. The new case will be devoted to weather information, pictures, and records. Dan Martel, Plant Recorder, expects to keep a weekly, or perhaps a daily report posted. He has worked on the pilot run for the new Weather Field Trip now being offered.

John Valadez, Gardener, has a plan for the Display Garden that - if Dan does the right thing with the weather - will be the showiest color spectrum grown there, ever. John is getting some help from the new Professional Gardeners' School. That class is fortunate to start out with a teacher of John's ability and standards.

Raccoon tracks have been noticed around the Education and Historical Areas. One day last week up in the "Bowl" Joe Erby discovered a fat old raccoon asleep in the crotch of a big oak along with the orchids. It stayed all day despite the irrigation.

Ham Williams, Plant Research Assistant, really has something when he can get 4,400 people out on the Green Carpet Operation with temperatures toying around 100°. CONGRATULATIONS, Dr. Williams!!

The number of fire-resistant plants under study now is 14, according to Dr. Gonderman, Plant Physiologist. Two of them are natives - Yerba Santa, Eriodictyon trechocalyx and Salt Bush, Atriplex polycarpus. The latter is known to have stopped the spread of fire near Bouquet Canyon during a recent burn. There are about 100 test plots now from the seashore at Malibu through the mountains to San Bernardino. Re-seeding inaccessible places by air, specially treated seeds, is the current problem.

Mr. Noble tells that the Smog Research goes on with current priority centered on working for a chemical spray to protect plants from smog burn. Early tests look promising.

The Nature Museum has new lights, and a new exhibit of petrified woods is nearly completed.

160 small flats of vegetable seedlings are ready for the children's classes here, and at Descanso. Tak Niiya has three groups actively gardening and Don Herman has four.

Two volunteers are giving a lot of time to the Lasca Education Section. Miss Betty Hari, a teacher in the Los Angeles System, is teaching Indoor Gardens and Mrs. Nancy Zobriskie, a member of the Foundation, is giving up to 15 hours a week on office work and Museum development.



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