DELASCAN



bimonthly newsletter of the county of los angeles department of arboreta and botanic gardens

prepared by the public information division

March 25, 1969

ARBORETUM REPLACES JEEP

The California Arboretum Foundation has purchased a Clark Tractor to replace the Jeep as a tram towing vehicle.

A low mileage 1963, the Clark was shipped from Wisconsin to Pico Rivera, where it was cleaned and painted.

This tractor operates on propane or LPG fuel. Studies are underway expected to prove that propane powered vehicles pollute the air less than do gasoline vhicles. Other advantages in using propane are that engine wear and fuel cost per mile are reduced. A 250 gallon tank has been installed to fuel the tractor.

A low-profile vehicle only 97 inches long, the tractor's size can be deceiving. It is capable of pulling 140,000 pounds on level road, and nearly 25,000 pounds up a ten percent grade. A maneuverable vehicle, the tractor will turn within an eighteen foot circle. Maximum speed is 12.5 miles per hour, adequate for tram tours.

In use for some years at Descanso, the Clark tractor has proven to be a durable, efficient vehicle for towing trams.

ARBOR DAY PROGRAMS DRAW RECORD CROWDS

Arbor Day celebrations at all three facilities were better attended than in the past. Over 1600 attended Arboretum ceremonies in near perfect weather, with Descanso and South Coast drawing 1250 and 800 respectively. Most of the attendance was accounted for by the many groups of Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownies, Bluebirds, etc. present. More than 3500 seedling trees were given to children attending programs.

"GREEN LEAVES"

"Green Leaves", a public service presentation of KNBC-TV and the Atlantic-Richfield Oil Company, is aired every Sunday through May 25 at 11:30 am on KNBC-TV, Channel 4.

The show for March 30th centers on Descanso Gardens, with its stunning camellias, historical rose garden, collection of iris, and Festival of Garden Lights.

On April 6, the topic is plant science. Botanical discoveries from the time of Charles Darwin to the present are featured. Unsolved problems and methods of research are also shown.

1969-1970 LACEA REPRESENTATIVES ANNOUNCED

Los Angeles County Employees Association representatives for the Department for 1969-1970 are:

Jack McCaskill, Chairman Nat Jackson, Vice Chairman Ernest Landell, Alternate Robert Gonderman, Alternate

This delegation will represent the Department at the LACEA Council Cabinet and Council meetings.

Questions about LACEA should be referred to these representatives.

COMING EVENTS

March 28, 29, 30 - Southland Orchid Show Indoor and outdoor exhibits by professionals and amateurs, with competition in classes. Show theme- "Orchid Mythology" - Arboretum

April 9, 8 pm - Theodore Payne Foundation Lecture - "The Weird Plants of the Vizcanino Desert" - Speaker: David Verity, Museum Scientist, UCLA Botanic Garden - Descanso Gardens

Continuing exhibits on palms and bromeliads, and the history and development of South Coast Botanic Garden - South Coast

PERSONALS

Lost - Timex self-winding calendar watch, wide brown band - return to Lee Wakeman

ADMINISTRATION NOTES

Departmental Instruction #2 will soon be distributed. It provides simple guidelines to aid supervisors in making performance evaluation reports. Also provided are methods for honestly evaluating performance and helping the employee to improve.

On April 4, 1969 L. A. County Ordinance No. 9752 becomes effective. This ordinance provides the legal backing for established Department rules.

---contributions to the Delascan may be submitted to Bob Copper.

BIRD NOTES

The four newly-hatched cygnets of the Tasmanian Black Swans and the many nesting birds on the grounds have attracted additional visitors to the Arboretum.

The cygnets hatched on Sunday, March 1, the date predicted by Ross Goodrich, keeper of the birds in the Asian section.

Other attractions in Ross' section include three nesting hummingbirds, who are currently emptying Youth Ed. feeders to satisfy their hungry young.

Much to the surprise of local birdwatchers, another Black Swan, apparently one of last year's young, is nesting near the lower lagoon. Canada Geese have selected nesting spots near the Queen Anne Cottage and at the edge of the upper lagoon, and the Arboretum's "odd couple" (male Snow Goose and female Canada Goose) seem to be looking for a nesting spot. Their one surviving gosling from last year has proved to be a test in identification for many birdwatchers and has attracted the interest of the federal department of fish and wildlife, who say this is the only hybrid of this type whose parentage is known for certain.

Currently, a new bird list is being prepared with assistance from staff and local birdwatchers; and birdwalks are conducted at the Arboretum by the Pasadena Audubon Society the first Sunday of each month at seven am.



1960. "Administration notes [March 25, 1969]." *Delascan* 1969, 1–2.

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