

PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION

This division is responsible for a variety of services provided to the visitors of all four garden facilities. Staff members of this division collect admissions and operate the trams. They also prepare and produce signs, brochures, news releases, maps, and displays to provide information to the public. Other services under the jurisdiction of this division include the maintenance of the interior of the historical buildings and archival records, and operation of the plant science library. Specific activities of this division for the 1981-83 period are described below.

Arbor Day

Each year, the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum grows approximately one thousand trees for distribution to schools in Los Angeles County to encourage the observance of Arbor Day, March 7. The objective of the program is to call attention to the importance of good conservation practices and environmental awareness. A packet of resource material is produced and distributed to the teachers of participating classes. This material includes basic information and interesting facts about plants and trees, ideas for class projects, and worksheets which can be reproduced for the students.

In 1982, a total of 878 trees were distributed to 878 schools. The Tree of the Year was an Arboretum introduction, Albizzia julibrissin, the silk tree.

In 1983, a total of 839 trees were distributed to 839 schools. The Tree of the Year was an Arboretum introduction, Lagerstroemia fauriei, related to the common crape myrtle.

School Field Trips

The Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, Descanso Gardens, and South Coast Botanic Garden offer guided field trips free of charge to elementary school students (grades 3 through 6) from schools located in Los Angeles County. Two basic areas of study are available: the relationship of plants and man, and early California history. Field leaders are volunteers who have received instruction from staff education specialists. The subjects presented are developed in accord with the approved State of California textbooks.

Field Trip Attendance

	<u>1981-82</u>	<u>1982-83</u>
South Coast Botanic Garden	2148 students (67 classes)	1499 students (32 classes)
Descanso Gardens	7209 students (225 classes)	4517 students (141 classes)
Los Angeles State & County Arboretum	6467 students (215 classes)	9351 students (294 classes)
TOTAL	15824 students (507 classes)	15356 students (467 classes)

PLANT SCIENCE LIBRARY

The Plant Science Library, located at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, is open daily during regular business hours. It is used by the general public, staff members, horticulture students, and gardening enthusiasts. The library was expanded this biennium to include the area formerly occupied by the Herbarium. New shelves were purchased to accommodate additional library acquisitions. The library now contains a total of 27,000 books, magazines, and other publications.

A total of 4168 people utilized the library from 1981-1983, and 1274 people who requested information by telephone were assisted by the librarian.

HISTORICAL SECTION

Major improvements in the Historical Section included the installation of a new roof on the Coach Barn, and new carpeting and interior painting in the Queen Anne Cottage. Newspaper articles and other printed material pertinent to the history of the Arboretum as well as photographs and antique articles (i.e. clothing and furniture) are catalogued as part of the historical files.

PUBLICATIONS

Special articles from this division have been sent to newspapers and magazines, and news releases are regularly sent out to the media for publicity on flower shows and special events.

During this biennium, several brochures, leaflets, and maps have been revised. A booklet was produced that presents a descriptive, self-guided walking tour of the Arboretum, and a new brochure was printed for general distribution describing Garden highlights.

PLANT INFORMATION

Three hours each weekday morning, volunteers screen telephone requests for plant information from the public. They assist approximately 5,000 callers each year.

GRAPHICS AND REPRODUCTION

An Interpretive Center was constructed in the Arboretum's African Section. It houses six panels of illustrated text to provide visitors with information on the vegetation in that section.

A Metalphoto processor was purchased so that photosensitive aluminum plates could be utilized for plant labels at all of the Department's facilities. Informative plaques have been made using this material and installed in the Prehistoric and Jungle Garden and the Historical Section.

A process camera and platemaker were also added to the print shop, eliminating the extra time and expense of sending work to outside sources for prepress preparation.

VIRGINIA ROBINSON GARDENS

At the Virginia Robinson Gardens improvements have been made on the paved roads and a small parking lot has been added. The footpaths have been resurfaced and several handrails installed to allow safer access through the hillside garden. Two supporting organizations were established, the Friends of Robinson Gardens and the Virginia Robinson Gardens Foundation. Plans are underway for several fund-raising events and organized public walking tours.

RESEARCH

Research activities at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum were severely curtailed this biennium. New emphasis has been placed on updating plant records and on the proposed accession and display labels. A mapping crew has been formed to inventory the plants on the grounds. Their findings will be compared with existing records so these records can be made current. All other research projects, including the guayule project, have been completed. The Herbarium was relocated to the Research Building to allow for the expansion of the library.

SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

California Arboretum Foundation

The California Arboretum Foundation, Inc. is the non-profit support organization for the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. Membership in the Foundation totals 3200, and from this membership, volunteers have donated more than 66,000 hours of work toward the Arboretum and its programs.

The Foundation supplied \$107,000 for services and supplies for the maintenance of the garden. Major capital projects included the purchase of Metalphoto processing equipment for plant labels and signs, the construction of interpretive centers to provide information for visitors on various plant collections, a new roof on the Coach Barn, and the relocation and expansion of the Gift Shop. The Foundation also continued to fund a student intern program at the Arboretum at a cost of approximately \$35,000.

Major events at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum sponsored by the Foundation this biennium included summer concerts, Garden Show, the Queen Anne Frolic, and the Baldwin Bonanza plant sale.

Descanso Gardens

Descanso Gardens Guild is a non-profit support organization serving the needs of Descanso Gardens in many areas. The Guild sponsors fund-raising events, educational programs, and supplies volunteers for a variety of projects at the gardens. There are now 1,600 members in the Guild, and during the past two fiscal years, a total of 55,000 volunteer hours have been contributed to develop and improve Descanso Gardens.



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