

# EDEN

Journal of the California Garden &  
Landscape History Society  
Vol. 1 No.2 October 1996

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Information and registration form for the forthcoming state-wide meeting of the CG&LHS accompany this newsletter. In the wake of the most successful meeting last spring in Santa Barbara, Lucy Warren has single-handedly lined up a stellar cast of speakers and gardens under the title of *Botanic Heritage Gems of San Diego*.

Deadline for registration is November 1st - and early registration is a bargain.

Previous meetings have been on the Central Coast, in Santa Barbara, and now in San Diego. The spring 1997 get-together is tentatively planned for the Sacramento area. The purpose of having gatherings in different parts of the state is to acquaint as many people as possible with the new organization and its aims. And to acquaint members themselves with the resources and history of each section. The Huntington Botanical Garden has offered to host a forthcoming conference.

If there is a part of the state that we should visit that has not been represented so far, the Society would be happy to arrange for a future meeting there. Let us know!



**Tower of the House of Hospitality of the inner courtyard, Balboa Park, designed by Richard Requa for 1935 Exposition.**

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*Pioneers of American Landscape Design II, An Annotated Bibliography*, edited by Charles A. Birnbaum and Julie K. Fix, has been published by the U.S. Dept. of the Interior and can be ordered by calling (202) 512-1800. \$12 a copy.

There are fifty entries, spread over 180 pages with 90 illustrations. A diversity of disciplines, a range of time periods, influences on the profession, regional diversity is represented. CG



Lucy Warren, who will chair the November meeting, writes a monthly garden column in the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, works with a multimedia firm to develop computer-related gardening programs. She has served as editor of *California Garden* and as president of a professional women's horticulture association.





CALIFORNIA GARDEN & LANDSCAPE HISTORY SOCIETY - INVITATION TO SAN DIEGO  
Botanic Heritage Gems of San Diego - November 9-11, 1996

Please join us in San Diego over Veterans Day Weekend for a very special package of programs. We had a difficult time selecting just a few of the many sites and opportunities in San Diego. So we worked hard to include some things old, some things new (but historical), some things known, and some surprises, too. We'll tour north to south in this bigger-than-Connecticut county. And there is so much left for future visits! We're excited and we know you are going to have a great time! Space is limited, so sign up early and don't miss out. Deadline: November 1

Saturday, November 9

Begin this adventure at the **private garden of Mary and Ron Chamberlain** in Leucadia. This was the home of long time nursery owner, hybridizer and plant importer, Horace Anderson, whose exquisite garden reflects the post-war expansion of exotic plant varieties in the trade by efforts of explorers and hybridizers. CG&LHS founding member Don Walker arranged this private showing. If you are early, stop by the Anderson's La Costa Nursery next door where the tradition continues.

Next, **Quail Botanical Gardens**, originally the private residence of Ruth Baird Larabee, avid plant collector and naturalist. Join a specially arranged, exclusive tour of these exciting gardens, now cared for by a private foundation. Docents will focus on the history of the gardens and plants, with information about their research library. Quail Botanical Gardens collects and displays plants from like-climate regions of the world. By capitalizing on microclimates and controlling irrigation, plants from other world climate regions are included, for a total of twenty garden areas.

**Special evening event.** One rich and often overlooked resource of horticultural history can be found at long-time military facilities. Designed by Bertrand Goodhue in the Mediterranean style, the **Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD)** was built in 1918. The contract for supplying and planting trees, shrubs and lawn on the built-up portion of the MCRD in 1923 was awarded to Milton P. Sessions, the nephew of famed horticulturist Kate Sessions. That basic plant palette, with some modifications, was used for subsequent plantings. The base is now implementing landscape restoration in the central designated historic district. Not subject to the whims of individual owners, this landscape remains intact.

Dinner tonight is a private party at the Officers Club graciously hosted by **VLT Gardner Horticultural & Botanical Books**. The beautifully tended plantings around the historic officers homes are only a short stroll from the club.

Sunday, November 10

Sunday will be full of information and activities. The San Diego Parks and Recreation Department is hosting our beautiful Balboa Park meeting room in a 1935 Exposition building, newly restored.

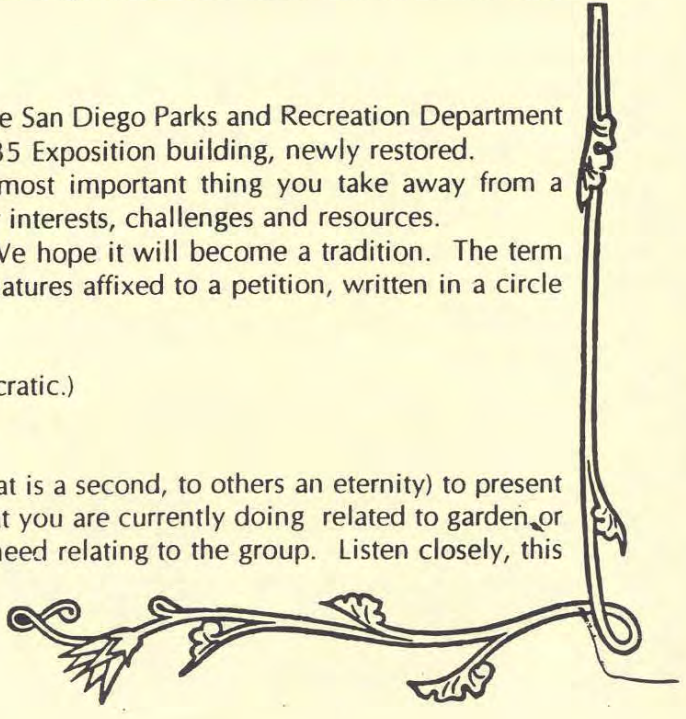
**Keynote Speaker - Each Member Present!** The most important thing you take away from a CG&LHS meeting is a host of contacts, people with similar interests, challenges and resources.

Our first activity today is called a Round Robin. We hope it will become a tradition. The term was originally from England, referring to a "ribbon" of signatures affixed to a petition, written in a circle so that no one's name appeared at the top of the list.

The purposes of a Round Robin are to:

- Touch base with every single person. (Be democratic.)
- Disclose some self. (Become known to others.)
- Pool/share information. (Brainstorm.)

Each person will take **one** minute (to some of us that is a second, to others an eternity) to present a three-sentence *Resume for Today*: 1) Your name, 2) What you are currently doing related to garden or landscape history, and 3) What is your special interest or need relating to the group. Listen closely, this process will reward you immensely.





After a short break we will have a presentation by Vonn Marie May, Landscape Historian and immediate past president of Save Our Heritage Organization (SOHO), on ***The History of Landscape Planning for Balboa Park***. You will certainly look at our park with fresh eyes.

Which is precisely what we will do next...**A Walking Tour of Balboa Park - History, Horticulture, and Resources.**

Following a gourmet catered lunch, Karen Adams, Associate Landscape Architect for the California State Parks - Southern Service Center, will speak on ***Challenges of Reconstructing/Managing/Interpreting Historic Landscapes for Contemporary Uses***. This is the real nitty gritty you won't want to miss! (Find out why our own Casa de Estudillo is intriguingly linked to Thomas Church's design philosophy.)

We follow with a brief organization business meeting, then short presentations and information sharing from members.

#### Monday, November 11

Moving south to National City, by special arrangement we are able to tour a small but important fragment of our agricultural heritage, **The Stein Farm**. Definitely a work in progress, not yet open to the general public, this is a singular example of the region's vernacular family-owned farm. This property was in the same family for over a century.

The small Victorian house and large 1900's classic American barn form the basis of what will be a living history museum depicting early California farm life in static exhibits and working demonstrations. The restoration is being accomplished totally with volunteer efforts and input is welcome. The site works closely with the National City School Board to provide hands on gardening and science experience for children. Learn why small, unassuming properties can be vitally important in the community culture.

National City once vied with San Diego to become the leading economic entity in this region as terminus to the transcontinental railroad. We are working to include other historic homes and garden in National City.

#### **Where else can you get so much information and so many contacts for so little money!**

Added Note: A handful of dedicated researchers plan to come a day early for a **FREE** orientation to the archives and photo collections at the San Diego Historical Society on Friday, November 8. The Photo Archives are of particular value to garden/landscape historians.

We will send you a participation package after you sign up for the event. We highly recommend the **San Diego Official Visitors Planning Guide** from the San Diego Convention & Visitors Bureau. It's free and includes some good deals and coupons. Call 619-232-3101 during business hours. Hup-hup, it's not too early to start planning your trip! And, sign up now to come! 8-21

CG&LHS San Diego Meeting • c/o Lucy Warren  
3380 Granada Avenue • San Diego CA 92104  
Phone/fax - 619-295-0342 • Email - GrowInk@aol.com

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Participation: \$45.00

Early birds, received before October 15: \$35.00

Non-members: \$65 (or \$55 before October 15)

Guest/family - Saturday: \$5.00 each

Guest/family - Monday: \$ 5.00 each

Total (Make check payable to CG&LHS)

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_





## FIRST CLASS MAIL

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P.O. Box 1338  
Sebastopol, CA 95473

### **SUNSET Article on San Diego**

In the August 1996 *Sunset*, an article is devoted to detailed information on the city, with a map showing in the city centre, transportation facilities, lodging, restaurants, museums, and where one may write to get more information.

### **TRELLIS**

This is the name of the newsletter of the Horticulture Heritage Committee - designed to be a framework for an information-grapevine about San Diego's old gardens, parks, nurseries - and the people who made them. It makes the reader want to live in San Diego there are so many fascinating events and places connected with gardens.

### ***THE CATALOG OF LANDSCAPE RECORDS IN THE U.S.***

This is a cumulative index to all documentation for landscapes, past and present. It describes the scope and content of public and private collections of landscape records in this country. A project of the American Garden and Landscape History Program at Wave Hill, the famous garden in New York, one of its purposes is to promote the preservation and proper management of landscape records, to serve as a national clearing-house for data on the location of records. If you would like to participate, write to Wave Hill, 675 W. 252nd Street, Bronx, New York 10471. Phone 212-549-3200. Carol Greentree, a member of CG&LHS, is on the advisory council.