

EDITORIAL

Marlea Graham

At last fall's conference in San Juan Capistrano, we made an impassioned appeal to the membership to take a more active part in contributing to the content of the newsletter. We proposed a list of projected articles or "theme" issues and invited members to adopt the ones that fall into their particular areas of interest.

For example, we'd like to have a series of articles or an issue devoted to Hollywood, Beverly Hills and/or Los Angeles gardens. (Substitute any area you like if these don't appeal to you). In this issue, we've included excerpts (from Nancy C. Hall's book) about the first famous Hollywood garden, that of floral artist Paul de Longpre. The author has done considerable research, including details about the garden. Can anyone tell us more? The book contains a thorough bibliography to get you started.

Victoria Padilla's *Southern California Gardens* states that Arthur Letts had an estate of 100 acres in the Hollywood hills. She says there were many wonderful plants, but doesn't mention a designer's name. Nothing but photographs remain today. Anyone interested?

The Wattles mansion was built by Myron Hunt and Elmer Grey in 1907, "with extensive grounds that featured a Japanese Garden, Rose Garden, Italian Garden, Palm Court, and orchards, as well as boasting exotic plants from around the world." The website also says that Wattles, the Longpre estate and that of the Sturtevant nursery generated nationwide interest and became Hollywood's first tourist attractions. Wattles today is rented out for special functions (future conference site?). Some years ago, we heard that attempts were made to restore antique roses to the gardens, but we don't know if there has been a restoration of all the gardens to their former glory. Who will tell us?

Does anyone have more to contribute about the Sturtevant? Padilla mentions their successful introduction of the giant *Victoria regia* (*Victoria amazonica*) lily pads, but no details about the estate. We know from the Olmsted papers (Library of Congress) that plants were purchased from them for display at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893.

The Virginia Robinson estate garden has been written up in *Pacific Horticulture* (Summer 1984) and *American Horticulturist* (August 1990) but there has been nothing in recent years. Who will take on the role of reporter and go interview the staff about what restoration work has since been done, what new research may have been uncovered, what is planned for the future?

In our Department of Landscape Literature, we'd like a segment on trees, discussing and comparing all the various books on this subject. Though we've recently reviewed Elizabeth McClintock's *Trees of Golden Gate Park and San Francisco* and *Trees of Balboa Park*, a quick scan of the UC website tells us there is also *Trees of Brentwood Park* (1994), *Trees of Santa Monica* (1944 and later editions), *Trees of Pacific Palisades* (1986), *Trees of Santa Barbara* (1940 and later), *Trees of San Diego* (a 1939 WPA project, followed by an update in 1966) and what seems to be the earliest of them all, *Trees of Whittier* (1931, second edition 1969). There is a listing of *Trees of Golden Gate Park* that predates McClintock's work, (19?) written by Eric Walther at the behest of John McLaren. *Trees of Los Altos* (1970), *Trees of Palo Alto* (1959), *Trees of San Marino* (1989), *Trees of the San Francisco Theological Seminary* (1989) and *Trees of the Berkeley Campus* (1969, also '71 and '76) are some others we found. Do they all include bits of landscape history in the text? This could be expanded into a whole tree issue, as we want not only to know about historic trees themselves, but also the people who planted them. Susan Chamberlin sent us an article from *California Landscaping* magazine by Peter D. Gambee, titled "California's Tree 'Trends' in the Urban Forest." Perhaps there are others that should be shared here.

An issue (or two) devoted to agricultural matters would be appreciated. Lucy Tolmach is sending her update on the Gentleman's Fruit Orchard at Filoli. A reports on the historic orchards of Julien would be welcomed. We could go on and on, and probably will in later issues.

REPORT ON SJC CONFERENCE

Outgoing President, Laurie Hannah, reports: "Our 2002 annual conference in San Juan Capistrano was a success and we all had a great time learning, touring, and eating! If you attended the conference and have not already mailed in your evaluation form, please do so now and return it to: Laurie Hannah, 644 Orchard Avenue, Santa Barbara, CA 93108. The conference planners for 2003 will benefit greatly from your comments and suggestions."

Results of the election were announced at the Annual General Meeting. The Amendment to the By-laws, Article IV Board of Directors, Section 4.02 Terms of Office: "The Treasurer and Membership Secretary may serve more than two consecutive terms" was passed.

The slate of new Officers and Board Members was also ratified: President, Thea Gurns; Vice President, Bill Grant (2nd term); Treasurer, John Blocker; Recording Sec-



Back: Betsy Clebsch, Blocker, Hannah, Burke, Jones, Graham, Grant.
Front: Williams, Phoebe Cutler, Gurns. Tom Brown absent. (G. Jones)

retary, Phoebe Cutler; Membership Secretary, Glenda Jones (2nd term); Members-at-Large, Tom Brown; Betsy Clebsch; Lucy Warren (2nd term). Laurie Hannah remains on the Board as Immediate Past President. Our sincere thanks for a job well done to retiring Board members Kathleen Craig, and Roberta Burke who have worked long and hard for us all. Roberta will continue as Chair of the Documentation and Website Committees.

The ballot creator and counter apologizes to those members who have family subscriptions. She forgot that they would need more than one ballot. One couple simply adapted and marked the same ballot twice.

Thanks to our hardworking logo committee, chaired by Susan Chamberlin, we now have stationery decorated with our official logo, and have added the logo to the new banner for *Eden*. The logo was also used on 2002 confer-

ence materials and graces our new website, all of which should enhance "brand" recognition for our group. T-shirts, anyone?

You will see that our membership numbers have risen over the last quarter, and a couple of on-going members have moved up to sustaining memberships, though some members also failed to renew. Some of this increase is due to members who joined through the conference, some through our increased Internet presence. Links to our website now appear on eleven other garden or preservation sites. Perhaps we will be in a position to return the favor soon. A volunteer/experienced consultant is still needed to add polish and increased content to the website. If you know of anyone willing to do this work for little to no pay, use halcyongarden@onemain.com. to reach Roberta.

Our newer members may not be aware that, thanks to Laurie Hannah, the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden serves as the official archival repository for CGLHS. They hold a complete set of newsletters, photographs and other official materials in the archives, as well as having a circulating library set. Other library subscribers are Strybing in San Francisco, Filoli in Woodside and the Environmental Design Library at UC Berkeley. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden has also joined in the last few months.

The conference was a truly memorable event, thanks to the planning done by Alana Jolley and Laurie Hannah, the excellence of the speakers, and the generosity of Carol McElwee who offered her beautiful home and garden as the setting for another evening of good food, good conversation and good music. We are grateful to Virginia Gardner, who financed the dinner, but was then unfortunately unable to attend herself. We missed her presence and hope she will make it to the next conference. The Sunday tours were greatly enjoyed by all. Many of us went home clutching prized plants purchased at the Tree of Life nursery, and we received an added benefit from Gary Lyons, who took us on an impromptu tour of a wonderful desert garden he had planted at the nearby O'Neill ranch. We hope Susan can find the time to turn her lecture on "Mission Revival Architecture and Gardens" into a published article, as it certainly deserves to be appreciated by a much wider audience. Perhaps video-taping future conference lectures for the benefit of members who cannot attend should be considered. We wish Alana and her associates good luck with their project of turning the Joel Congden farmhouse into an agricultural museum and library. The vision includes a meeting place for a Junior Master Gardeners program, and perhaps organic cooking classes using produce from the farm. It would be a shame not to finish the job when such a wonderful building restoration has already been achieved.

REPORT: MEETING WITH THE GARDEN CONSERVANCY

Bill Grant, Margaret Mori, Russell Beatty, Lucy Tolmach and Marlea Graham, along with other representatives of the Bay Area garden community, met with officers of the Garden Conservancy on September 30th of last year to discuss the viability of opening a branch office in San Francisco. The bottom line for this discussion was that the Conservancy needs to increase its present Bay Area membership of approximately 400 before it will be able to support a full-time paid person to run a branch office here. They prefer to have a 3-year operating budget in hand before beginning such a project. This equates to \$150,000. They invited us to meet and discuss how best this might be accomplished. There are problems with using the Open Gardens program to increase membership, as it is competing with other long-established garden tours on both sides of the Bay such as those sponsored by Gamble Garden and the Park Day School. Dates need to be carefully considered to avoid conflict, but there are only so many weekends in the Spring. It was felt that wider publicity would be beneficial as well.

As a further step towards increasing membership in the West, it was decided that, this year, the Conservancy will offer a Western edition of the *Open Gardens Directory*. It was felt that limiting the listings to gardens in Washington, Oregon and California (at a proportionately lower price — \$6.95 as opposed to the whole-country price of \$20.45) would encourage wider sales and bring in more new members. With the accompanying free coupon for one garden admission — valued at \$5 — the new booklet is practically free. [To order your copy, call toll-free: 1.888.842.2442 or mail a check to The Garden Conservancy Open Day's Program, PO Box 219, Cold Spring, NY 10516. Individual memberships are \$35.]

A suggestion was made that the Conservancy could sponsor a series of workshops aimed at garden managers and covering a vari-

ety of topics from rehabilitation and maintenance, to increasing sensitivity about what materials are appropriate for use in a historic property.

There is also a plan to create a regional database of research and documentation on noteworthy gardens. This would provide a basis for preservation action if needed.

Another issue was the use of conservation easements as a preservation tool for gardens. "Recognizing that not every garden can be preserved through ownership by a non-profit organization, the Conservancy has developed a conservation easement program that helps private owners of significant gardens ensure that these landscapes will not disappear in the future. The Conservancy currently holds one easement in the Bay Area and is in discussions on a second. The easement specifies that a property shall be kept whole in perpetuity, regardless of any transfers that may occur. This may result in a devaluation of the property, thus providing the owner with a tax break.

The Conservancy is already playing a large role in the Bay Area. They developed a strategy for preserving the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, managing the transition from private to non-profit status. Their Preservation Assistance Center has given technical help to three other Bay Area gardens: Hakone in Saratoga; Fay Park in S. F.; Cohen-Bray in Oakland. They brought attention to the need for intervention to preserve the Harland Hand garden in El Cerrito. In the southern part of the state, they have worked to develop community acceptance and support for Lotusland and Val Verde in Montecito.

Now there is the further possibility that the Conservancy will take a significant role in reviving the gardens

at Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay. Elizabeth Byers, Conservancy consultant, stated, "This project is one that the Golden Gate National Park Association would like to take on, but it needs a project partner to help make it happen. Given the number of people who visit Alcatraz annually, this project could have a lot of visibility. There are, however, many issues associated with carrying out such a project." Stay tuned.



Friday night's reception at the O'Neill Museum: (l-r) Glenda Jones, John Blocker, Sandra Price, Thea Gurns, Jackie Williams, Linda Renner, Carson Anderson and (?) (A. Jolley).

WHAT NEEDS SAVING NOW?

Santa Barbara: Botanic Garden

Santa Barbarans have recently been fighting yet another preservation battle over proposed plans to make some changes at the Botanic Garden. Garden officials discerned a need for new buildings and other renovations on the 65-acre site, while neighbors were concerned about the essential character of the garden being destroyed. They spearheaded a campaign to have the 76-year-old garden declared a county historical landmark to preserve it from changes. Plans call for a new library, larger herbarium, three more units of employee housing and renovating the historic Gane House for use as an administrative building. A new children's discovery garden would also be added just inside what would be a new main entrance. At least in this case, a compromise was reached that gave something to both sides of the controversy. The county Historical Landmarks Commission has assigned landmark status to a 23-acre portion of the garden that lies west of Mission Canyon Road. Included in this section are the Mission Dam and Aqueduct, the "Indian Steps," Campbell Bridge, a 65-year-old information kiosk, a caretaker's cottage dating from 1921 and the library, which was built in 1941. This will still allow room for the needed improvements. It appears likely that the county supervisors will approve the compromise.

Good News: Franceschi House

The Pearl Chase Society newsletter, *The Capital*, informs us that the Santa Barbara Foundation has awarded a grant of \$75,000 for rehabilitation of the Franceschi House in Santa Barbara. The money is to be distributed over a three year period, and will assist in the development, design and construction of the house and interpretive materials and displays, a major accomplishment for this project. The Garden Club of Santa Barbara has also contributed grant money to the project. The granddaughter of horticulturist Peter Reidel contributed a number of historic photographs of the property. Historic Landmark status has been awarded to the Franceschi Flame Trees (*Brachychiton acerifolius*) on West Gutierrez Street. Sadly, the newsletter also reports the death of Warren Fenzi, the grandson of Francesco Franceschi and a friend to historic preservation.

Bad News: Val Verde

The *Santa Barbara News-Press* reports the state appeals court has ruled that Santa Barbara County supervisors had valid reasons for not allowing the historic Val Verde estate in Montecito to become a public museum. The court has unanimously reversed the decision of Superior Court Judge

J. William McLafferty, who had ordered new hearings on the proposal to open the 17-acre estate on Sycamore Canyon Road to the public. "Of course, we're saddened by this outcome," said Gail Jansen, the Val Verde Foundation's executive director. One option the foundation could choose would be to reapply for a county permit, for less public use than originally proposed, possibly involving use of shuttle buses to reduce traffic impacts.

REGISTER OF RESEARCH

For some time the Editor has been wanting a listing of all society members' landscape interests. We freely admit we wanted it for purely selfish reasons — so that we would know whom to ask for articles about what. But the recent enquiries for information on John McLaren and the work of Fred Barlow, Jr. and Katherine Bashford (see *Enquiries*) intensified our frustration and desire for a better information system. The usual reference books yielded practically nothing. Jill Singleton added fuel to the fire when she reminded us that one researcher often comes across tidbits that might benefit another, and it would be desirable to have a central repository for these. While inventorying the archives of the California Nursery Company, Jill had uncovered "a sketch plan for a gentleman's estate" (not built) by Theodore Payne and Ralph Cornell, who apparently were in partnership for a brief period. She felt someone would be interested in this, but whom? Luckily, we knew that Cornell was Marie Barnidge-McIntyre's bailiwick, and were able to direct Jill to her. But a more thorough and systematic method is needed. The final impetus was added when we recently revisited the British Garden History Society website and discovered their "Register of Research." It is composed of several parts and is "intended as a guide to the research activities and interests of Members of the Society." While the Register was previously available in printed form only, they now have it on the website, and expect to have a database with web interface in place by the second quarter of this year. The Register consists of twelve sections for grouping information on such topics as "Biographical Studies," "Local Garden Studies," "Reference Material Available" and "Academic Theses in Progress or With Place of Deposit."

Since we are a fairly small group, it should be relatively easy to accomplish a simple listing of who is doing (or has done) research on what. Endless elaborations are possible, but lets start here with just this one list.

We hereby request that each member send the Editor an interest card, stating what topics they are working on, have worked on in the past and still have a propri-

etary interest in, or proposed new topics they wish to take up in the near future. A sample entry on the Garden History site is quite simple: "The work of Edward Kemp (1817-1891). D. BALDWIN" but if you wish to elaborate further, by all means do so. Where one topic intersects with another, there will be a cross-referenced notation.

Other sections, such as the listing of all related theses currently on file might take a bit more time and effort to put together. Each member would, of course, be free to decline to share information if exclusivity is a consideration. But our experience with Rudolph Ulrich tells us that those who are willing to share are also more likely to receive information from others. Below are some of the topics we already know about (or *think* we know about — correct us if we've got it wrong), arranged here by members' names. Once we have a complete list, we'll rearrange them by subject.

Some of you won't want to be listed here. If you have an interest in the Filoli estate gardens, for example, but have not done research on them, have no interest in receiving new information about their history, and could not answer questions about said history if asked, then this Register is not the spot for you. We know that many of you have more than one area of interest and that we've probably forgotten some of them, because new ones keep occurring to us. Some of you, particularly those who earn their living by garden writing or landscape research, may have moved on to other fields once a project is completed, and would no longer wish to be the recipient of further information on a particular topic, though you may be willing to serve as a source of information for others. Perhaps you'd even like to pass along a bundle of information to someone else for adoption! And for those whose names do not yet appear but should, won't you drop us a line or two so we can add you to the list?

John P. Adam: Fred Tschopp, landscape architect; NZ links to CA garden history.

Marie Barnidge-McIntyre: Ralph Cornell, landscape architect (1890-1972); Rancho Los Cerritos, Long Beach; Bixby family.

Russell Beatty: Alcatraz gardens; Cypress Lawn Cemetery, Colma.
Tom Brown: Mission gardens; CA nurseries (1850-1900); CA plant introductions (1850-1900).

Roberta Burke: State Capitol gardens, Sacramento; heirloom camellias.

Julianne Burton-Caravajal: J. C. Anthony family, Monterey.

Julie Cain: Rudolph Ulrich, landscape gardener (1843-1906); Leland Stanford family; Palo Alto Stock Farm; Stanford University, Hotel del Monte.

Ric Catron: Franz Hosp, landscape gardener, Riverside.

Susan Chamberlin: Francesco Franceschi; Montarioso, S. Barbara.

Nancy R. Conner: Golden Gate Park.

Kathleen Craig: Williams House, Palo Alto.

Phoebe Cutler: WPA projects of CA; Pioneer Park, Telegraph Hill, San Francisco.

Peggy Darnall: Carolans estate, Burlingame.

Virginia Gardener: historic garden books.

Marlea Graham: Rudolph Ulrich; heirloom roses.

Frances Grate: Cooper-Molera Adobe gardens, Monterey; Mission San Juan Bautista.

Pria Graves: Juanita Briones Adobe, Palo Alto.

Katherine Greenberg: Spanish influence in CA gardens.

Carol Greentree: Exposition gardens.

Laurie Hannah: Santa Barbara Botanic Garden; Senator Thomas R. Bard estate, Port Hueneme.

Dr. Eric T. Haskell: French influence in CA gardens.

Bryn Homsy: F. L. Olmsted; Forrestiere Underground Gardens, Fresno.

Bill Howe: heirloom plants: iris, roses, daylilies.

Gail Jansen: Val Verde estate, Montecito.

Glenda Jones: Williams House, Palo Alto.

Gary Lyons: cactus garden @ Huntington, San Marino.

Gretl Meier: historic garden books.

Sandra Price: Rudolph Ulrich, Thomas Church.

Jenny Randall: Jack London's 'Beauty Ranch.'

Ann Scheid: Greene & Greene; Pasadena.

Pamela Seager: Bixby family, Rancho Los Alamitos, Long Beach.

Jill Singleton: CA Nursery Company, Niles & Fresno; John Rock;

George C. Roeding Sr. & Jr.; Dr. Eugene W. Hilgard, Dean of Agriculture, UC Berkeley; Charles Howard Shinn;

Harold Snyder: Victoria Avenue, Riverside.

Judith M. Taylor, MD: history of the olive in CA; Cora Older Garden, Los Altos; Harry Butterfield.

Lucy Tolmach: Filoli, Woodside.

Judy Triem: Santa Clara Valley and other rural historic landscapes.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Our heartfelt thanks to those members who have helped to put us on solid financial ground by becoming Sustaining Members at \$50+.

Bayard & Nancy Allmond, Jr.	Marge Howard-Jones
Helen Babb	Gail Jansen
Carolyn Bennett	Peggy Jenkinson
John Blocker & Thea Gurns	Annie White Jones
Susan Chamberlin	Glenda Jones
Betsy Clebsch	Carol McElwee
Carol Coate	Margaret Mori
Kathleen Craig	Denise Otis
Anne M. Dwelley	Michael James Reandean
Betsy G. Fryberger	Ann Scheid
Virginia Gardner	Jill Singleton
Marlea Graham	Judith M. Taylor, MD
Bill Grant	Roy L. & Janet R. Taylor
Frances Grate	Marc Treib
Katherine Greenberg	Dick Turner
Laurie Hannah	Lucy Warren
Judy M. Horton	Jacqueline Williams

BOOK REVIEWS & NEWS

Book For Sale: Church, Thomas. *Gardens Are For People*, 2nd ed. 1989. Good/very good condition. \$10 postpaid. If interested, please contact Laurie Hannah at lhannah@sbbg.org.

The Life & Art of Paul de Longpre, by Nancy C. Hall, with introductory comments on the California art scene of the day by Jean Stern, Executive Director of the Irvine Museum, 143 pages, 156 full-color and b&w illustrations, (Irvine: The Irvine Museum, 2001), \$69.34 for autographed, post-paid, hardcover copy. The author's website: www.ebaystores.printsbyoldpapervictorian (credit cards accepted here) or write to Hall at PMB 165, 206 N. Fourth Avenue, Sandpoint ID 83864 (checks or money orders only here). Or you can purchase a copy from the Irvine Museum, 18881 Von Karman Avenue, Irvine 92612. Website: www.irvinemuseum.org. Phone: 949.476.0294. They have the hardcover edition at \$40 (no autograph) or the softcover book at \$20 plus shipping.

Hall has done a thorough job of researching this subject over a period of eight years, and this is fully documented in the back of the book. There are several appendices covering special topics such as de Longpre's naturalization, a bibliography that includes lists of books, articles, cover illustrations, selected miscellany and ephemera (for example, an invitation to a de Longpre art exhibition), a list of music written by de Longpre, and advertisements. There is also a list of "Works Consulted," books and articles that are not directly about de Longpre but provided background information. The end notes are equally extensive.



De Longpre (1855-1904) was born near Lyon, France. His father was a textile draftsman whose floral designs were used for the famous silk looms of Lyon. Paul was already assisting his family with flower designs by the age of ten. At twenty-one, he was earning a good living in Paris, painting flowers on silk and ivory fans for ladies. His work was accepted at the Paris Salon and he had executed a commission to provide botanical illustrations of fruit and flowers for the *Revue Horticole*. Financial reverses (he invested in the French attempt to build the Panama Canal) led him to accept a commission in New York in 1890. He decided to stay in America, and moved his family to Los Angeles in 1899, believing the milder weather would allow him to paint flowers year-round. A compatriot soon convinced him to move to Hollywood, where land prices were depressed due to a battle over water rights that ruined many farmers. In April of 1900, de Longpre purchased three acres of land on Cahuenga Boulevard for the sum of ten dollars. His stated goals were "to raise the most beautiful flowers in the world, to live among them, and to paint them." By the end of 1901, his new home, described as a palatial Moorish-style mansion, was completed. Hall says that de Longpre designed the house.

"The mansion was surrounded by three acres of garden, from which de Longpre derived many of his watercolor studies. Semitropical trees and hardy shrubs from many countries already adorned the property, planted there by the former owners, but de-Longpre turned it into a floral paradise. At its peak, the garden boasted eight hundred varieties of roses (a total of four thousand rose bushes), which covered a large portion of the estate grounds.

De Longpre cultivated almost all types of roses known: Bourbon, China, Climbing Roses, Damask, Hybrid Musk, Hybrid Perpetual, Hybrid Rugosa, Hybrid Tea, Noisette, Polyantha, Rambler, Shrub, Tea and, of course, Species, which is the term for the wild rose.

His closing comment in a letter — "But adieu, Monsieur, for I must plant before I can paint!" — suggests that de Longpre was also the designer and possibly the chief planter of his own garden.

Having found that his garden wasn't large enough to suit his needs, in 1902 de Longpre

purchased two more acres of land for \$3,000, and the owner accepted three de Longpre paintings in lieu of cash payment. "He now owned the entire northwest corner of Prospect Avenue and Cahuenga Boulevard. With the addition of extra acreage, de Longpre's precious garden took on an even grander air. He bordered his estate with an eight-hundred-foot evergreen hedge, which was entirely concealed by Cherokee climbing roses [*Rosa laevigata*]. It was an excellent boundary that clearly separated his estate from the busy city street. Just inside the hedge, an array of shorter annuals exploded with color, each of them vying for space and sunshine, their color breaking up the monotony of the hedge line. The vivid display diverted one's mind from any thought that the estate was rigidly confined. De Longpre carefully planned every detail of his extensive garden so that it blended perfectly into a variegated mosaic, and yet it retained orderliness. He commented, 'Anyone can have a lawn. But you will see that the effect of my garden is distinctive, with its low borders of brilliant-colored blossoms about the edge of the lawns.'

In addition to the Moorish mansion, five garden houses, which de Longpre called "embellishments" added to the estate's charm. Each garden house had its own distinctive architectural characteristics, designed by de Longpre himself.

A rose-covered garden house named the "Retreat" was built under the acacia trees and had a magnificent circular arbor. An embellishment named the "Guest House" was sixty feet long and thirty feet wide, and covered from top to bottom with an abundance of 'General Lamarque' white climbing roses, which bloomed year round. Inside the "Fountain House," de Longpre grew his hothouse orchids as well as other delicate and rare plants. He framed the Fountain House to fit the decade-old rose trees already on the site rather than planting new roses when erecting the structure."

De Longpre excelled at promoting himself and his work. His fabulous garden and art studio became a major tourist attraction. General Moses Hazeltine Sherman, a Los Angeles developer, built the first electric interurban railway between LA and Pasadena. This was soon expanded to become the famous Balloon Route Excursion. De Longpre negotiated

a deal with Sherman to make his garden a stopping place on the Route. As many as eighteen rail cars operated daily, an inexpensive way to see the most prominent sights of Los Angeles, and visit ten beaches and eight cities. "Tourists on the Balloon Route Excursion were anxious to see the famous de Longpre mansion and garden that everyone was talking about. In early 1905, as many as eight thousand people each month visited de Longpre's home, studio, art gallery, and garden. Some visitors enjoyed an entire day walking the estate grounds. De Longpre asked only that they 'keep to the walks and drives, and pick no flowers or fruit.'

Guests were immediately conscious of the exceptional flora from which de Longpre derived his studies. Everywhere, brilliant color displays dazzled the eyes. Colorful geraniums wherever one looked heralded the spring and summer months. Flowering vines curled around porches and covered the guest houses, their tendrils stretching into crevices. Pepper trees, acacias, palms, heliotrope, carnations, poinsettias (which he called 'California's pride'), and lantana seemed to perfectly blend as if they were placed there by nature's own hand. Trellises and arbors groaned under the weight of pink, red, and white climbing roses. The air was fragrant with the perfume of damask roses and sweet summer flowers, and the grounds were filled with songbirds that made their homes in the hidden recesses of trees and bushes. The estate also boasted 'ten summer bowers, no two alike, and between blossoms by the millions in mazes of color schemes were roses bushes, borders of ivy, sedum, lobelia; rockeries of cacti; corners of alyssum banked with Shasta daisies and crowned with stately Matilija poppies — all white and gold; ferneries, pot palms and shrubs



The Moorish House in Paul de Longpre's gardens, Hollywood, Cal.

making billows of color merging in the upcurving greenery of the trees on the opposite boundary.' Indeed, Paul de Longpre's estate was a mecca for flower lovers. His gardens echoed the theme 'color, color, color; vivid, living color everywhere.' He proved himself a master of simplicity in his garden's design, with gently meandering pathways, seemingly with no methodical plan. His visitors found it aesthetically pleasing in every way."

By 1909, "de Longpre's eyes were beginning to suffer from the strain of overwork. Soon his home and garden were closed to tourists, as the ever increasing, large crowds were taxing his stamina." His health began to fail, and after a long illness, he died at his Hollywood home on June 20, 1911. His beautiful garden did not long survive him. The home was soon offered for sale. The four-page brochure offered by C. H. Lippincott & Company described the garden: "On the grounds are a great variety of semi-tropical trees and shrubs, besides almost every kind of flower known in this section; shady walks and cozy nooks under immense spreading palms and acacias are attractive features. There are several unique summer houses, a garage, and conservatory." The property sold for \$100,000 in February of 1912. It changed hands several more times, and "de Longpre's extensive garden eventually succumbed and was destroyed to make way for bungalows and apartment buildings. The mansion remained, hemmed in on all four sides by the city's growth, until 1925, when it was demolished. Sadly, there is no marker where the graceful Moorish mansion and magnificent gardens once stood."

[Excerpts from the book with permission of the author. Illustrations: M. Graham]

Other Books of Possible Interest

Grounds for Pleasure - Four Centuries of the American Garden, by Denise Otis, 352 pages, 172 full-color photos; 151 b&w images, (Harry N. Abrams, 2002), \$75. The author is a CGLHS member, the former editor of *House & Garden* magazine, and wrote *Decorating with Flow-*

ers. In this book, she explores the development and evolution of the American garden, taking you from pre-colonial times to the present. The first section is a chronological report, the second dwells on stylistic garden types, and the third discusses the various themes that influence garden design today. The book features the gardens of Biltmore, the Vanderbilt estate in NC, Beatrix Farrand's Dumbarton Oaks in Washington DC, Middleton Place in South Carolina, and two in California: the Donnell garden in Sonoma, and Filoli in Woodside. "Richly illustrated with specially commissioned photographs and an abundance of archival images, maps, and drawings." [Garden Book Club]

Private Landscapes: Modernist Gardens in Southern California, by Pamela Burton, 192 pages, (Princeton Architectural Press: March 2003) \$40. The author is a Los Angeles landscape architect "instrumental in restoring several mid-century gardens in Southern California. In this book she profiles twenty significant gardens by such architects as Richard Neutra, Rudolph Schindler, Gregory Ain, Raphael Soriano, Harwell Hamilton Harris, A. Quincy Jones, and John Lautner. "These architects saw the garden as an outdoor extension of the space of the houses they designed. Their gardens made use of low-maintenance, drought-resistant plants." The book includes contemporary photographs as well as current color images, along with plans and plant lists. [Quotes are publishers comments.]

Gardens & Climate, Old World Techniques for Landscape Design by Chip Sullivan, 288 pages, 270 full-color and b&w photos and illustrations (McGraw-Hill, 2002) \$45.00. The book club review says "Drawing on design traditions of Roman, Islamic, Italian Renaissance and Hispano-Moorish gardens, this book discusses a wide range of ingenious methods and structures that naturally create comfortable microclimates — and explains how best to incorporate them into contemporary gardens." Quite frankly, what attracted us to this book was the antique illustrations used to demonstrate some of these methods.

Landscape Gardening in Japan by Josiah Conder. 243 pages (Reprint 2002 [1893]). "Englishman Josiah Conder went to Japan in 1876, hired as an architect to help "modernize" the historically feudal and isolationist country after it first opened its doors to the West in 1868. Fascinated by what he saw in the gardens there, Conder became an early proponent of the application of Japanese principles to European and American landscapes. [This book] may now seem quaint (and even dated in its Victorian restraint), but is notable as a landmark work for its meticulous descriptions, detailed drawings, and 1890s black-and-white pho-

HOW TO JOIN CGLHS

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See our website: www.cghls.org for an application form.

California
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Membership rates:
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Institution \$40; Sustaining \$50
and up.

tographs of Japanese gardens. This 100-year-old classic makes a beautiful addition to a gardening devotee's library." [Excerpt from *Bas Bleu Bookseller-By-Post holiday catalogue volume 75, 2002.*]

Pergolas, Arbours and Arches: Their History and How To Make Them by Paul Edwards and Katherine Swift, 192 pages, full-color photos throughout, \$45. While we have not seen a copy of this book yet, the word "history" immediately caught our attention. The book review says merely that this book "tells the story of these centuries-old garden features in this comprehensive volume." [Garden Book Club]

Gardens & Historic Plants of the Antebellum South by James Cothran will be coming to you late this summer from the University of South Carolina Press. "It includes a collection of material on ornamental gardens and historic plants of the Lower and Middle south from 1820-1861 — generally referred to as the Antebellum period. The primary purpose of the book is to provide the reader with information and research on a period of southern garden history that has seldom been written about." [Quote from the author by email.]

COMING EVENTS

February 7: Open House at Cabrillo College's new Department of Horticulture. Bill Grant says, "Beautiful buildings, hothouses, lecture room, offices, library, store, and more. Richard Merrill and Ernie Wasson are in charge of what promises to be one of the best training centers for horticulture in the state." Hours: 2:30-4:30 PM @ 6500 Soquel Drive, Aptos. Call 831.479.5744.

February 2: "New Roses For Your Garden in 2003" Lecture by Bill Grant at 2-3:30 PM at Gamble Gardens, 1431 Waverly Street, Palo Alto. Fee: \$25 for non-members. Phone: 650.329.1356 (9-12PM).

March 19-23: 18th Annual San Francisco Flower & Garden Show, "Floripolitan 2003." Bill Grant will give his rose talk on the afternoon of the 21th. Odile Masquelier will speak on her garden at Lyon, France on Thursday morning. At the Cow Palace, 2600 Geneva Avenue, Daly City. Advance tickets \$17, at the door \$20. Show office: 415.771.6909; Email: sf_exhibits@gardenshow.com.



Members received a guided tour of the South Coast Farms organic gardens from Farmer George. The Joel Congden farmhouse fronts the field..(A. Jolley)

Garden Conservancy Open Garden Days for 2003:

April 19: San Diego; SF- Peninsula

April 27: Los Angeles

May 3: San Diego; **May 4:** Marin County

May 10: San Diego; Los Angeles; SF- Peninsula

May 18: Pasadena; SF-East Bay

May 31: San Diego; **June 1:** Orinda

June 8: San Francisco

April 24-27: 23rd Annual California Preservation Conference at Santa Barbara, with "Santa Barbara: A Blueprint for Preservation" as the theme. This will provide a unique opportunity for local citizens and community leaders to increase the dialogue on current preservation issues while adding to their knowledge of issues affecting the preservation of our historic resources. On offer are educational sessions, technical and hands-on workshops, tours and special events at historic sites. For more information, visit the California Preservation Foundation website at www.californiapreservation.org, or call Diane Galt, Executive Director at Casa del Herrero Foundation, at 805.969.1554.

May 21-June 3: Portugal & Madeira: Gardens, Culture & Cuisine. A *Pacific Horticulture* tour led by Katherine Greenberg, garden designer and president of the Mediterranean Garden Society. Contact Landmark Travel in Orinda for details, 925.253.2600.

May 2 & 3: Gamble Garden's Annual Spring Garden Tour. Phone: 650.329.1356 (9-12PM) for details.

May 10-18: The Green of Ireland: A Photographic Journey. UCLA Extension's Landscape Architecture Program



Members enjoyed the hospitality at the O'Neill House Museum on Friday night. (A. Jolley)

offers a one-week photographic tour of the gardens, landscapes and parklands of Ireland. Led by accomplished landscape and garden photographer, Maureen Murphy, the group will explore historic gardens throughout Ireland, including the National Botanic Gardens (Dublin), Buttercream Garden, Kylemore Abbey's Victorian Walled Garden (Clifden), The Buren and more. Fee: \$4610, including airfare from Los Angeles, first class hotel accommodations (private bath) for seven nights and some meals. For more information, contact Helen Williams: hwilliam@unex.edu or call 310.825.7729. Website: www.uclaextension.org.

May 18: Santa Barbara Historic Homes Tour, organized by the Pearl Chase Society. Phone: 805.961.3938. Website: <http://housepage.mac.com/pearlchase>.

June 11-September 11: "The Artist and the Changing Garden: Four Hundred Years of European and American Gardens" is the title of the exhibition curated by Betsy Fryberger at the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts at Stanford University in Palo Alto.

July 25-27: Timed to coincide with the above exhibition, the **CGLHS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**, "Earthly Paradise: Historic Gardens of the San Francisco Peninsula," will be held at Stanford University. Professor David Streatfield will lecture on the work of Greene & Greene, with a particular focus on the garden at Green Gables, the summer residence of the Fleishhacker family in Woodside. He will provide guided tours of the garden on Sunday. Betsy Fryberger will talk about the exhibition at the museum. The remainder of the conference will focus on the landscape history of the Palo Alto Stock Farm, the restoration of

Rudolph Ulrich's Arizona Garden (including a guided tour of the garden), and the Stanford campus landscaping from 1886 to about 1920 under the guidance of Frederick Law Olmsted and John McLaren. In addition to Green Gables, we will visit the Filoli estate (Friday), another nearby estate garden, and the museum exhibition at Cantor Center.

On-campus dormitory-style housing will be available for those who wish to save on expenses. Details will be posted on our website when arrangements are firm.

[In preparation for the tour of Green Gables, you may wish to read Streatfield's article, "Echoes of England and Italy 'On the Edge of the World': Green Gables and Charles Greene," published in the Journal of Garden History, vol. 2, no. 4, 377-398. Reprints may be ordered from Taylor & Francis Ltd. (Item #0144-5170/82/0204 0377). This garden is also mentioned in Streatfield's book, California Gardens: Creating A New Eden, pp 82-85.]

Call for papers: We invite members to submit papers to the editor (100 Bear Oaks Dr., Martinez, CA 94553) for presentation at our conference on the subject of Stanford campus landscaping as influenced by Frederick Law Olmsted and John McLaren from 1886-1920. Deadline for submission: April 15, 2003.

DIRECTORY ADDITIONS

Please welcome these new members:

Judie Anders, PO Box 1315, Cardiff by the Sea 92007
 Carson Anderson, 811 W. 7th Street, Ste. 800, Los Angeles 90017
 Brooklyn BotGdnLibrary, 1000 Washington Av Brooklyn NY 11225
 Marilyn & George Brumder, 1344 Hillcrest Ave, Pasadena 91106
 Stafford Buckley, 610 Chetwood St, Oakland CA 94610
 Sharon Cohoon, 726-13th Street, Huntington Beach 92648
 Alana Jolley, 39 Pemberton Place, Laguna Niguel 92677
 Virginia Paca, 1725 La Senda Place, South Pasadena 91031
 David Petry, 1716 Pampas Avenue, Santa Barbara 93101
 Catherine Phillips, 1107 La Collina Drive, Beverly Hills 90210
 Ruth Bancroft Gardens, Inc., PO Box 30845, Walnut Creek 94598
 Maria Sakovich, 1399 Queens Road, Berkeley 94708
 Nancy Sappington, 66780 Yucca Drive, Desert Hot Springs 92240
 Kathleen Slater, 320 South Hill Ave, Pasadena 91106
 Carolann R. Stoney, 1250 Los Robles Place, Pomona 91768
 Steven Vanni, 834 Pear Avenue, Sunnyvale 94087

And welcome back these returning members:

Carolyn Bennett, 433 South Lucerne Blvd, Los Angeles 90020
 Caroline S. Norris, 1836 North Avenue 50, Los Angeles 90042

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

CGLHS Founder, Bill Grant, was honored at last fall's American Society of Landscape Architects conference in San Jose, with an Award of Excellence in recognition of preservation achievements. Bill naturally considers this as an award to the entire membership for our efforts to make CGLHS a success, so congratulations to all.

Laurie Hannah has been invited to join the American Horticultural Society National Book Award Committee. The Committee reviews all American gardening and horticulture books published each year and selects the best new books to receive the prestigious Annual Book Award.

Part Two of Susan Chamberlin's very interesting article on "The Life of Dr. Francesco Franceschi and His Park" appeared in the October/November/December 2002 issue of *Pacific Horticulture*. The 8-page article includes an illustration of the 1936 WPA plan that Susan rediscovered, plus a bibliography for further reading. If you are not a subscriber, you may obtain a copy by contacting the circulation office: PH, PO Box 680, Berkeley, CA 94701. Phone: 510.849.1627. Website: www.pacifichorticulture.org.

New member Dr. Pamela Post, an architectural historian, is one of the coordinators for a new project that may be of benefit to historic garden researchers. Participants are being asked to help the City of Santa Barbara conduct a historic building survey in the Lower Riviera neighborhood. A series of four special classes are scheduled (6-8 PM on February 19 and 26, and March 12 and 19), to introduce researchers to the resources available at the Gledhill Library, show them how to find and utilize City Directories, Sanborn Maps, City Street Files and much more. If you're interested in participating, contact John Jacobus, the City Historian, at 805.564.5470. Or view the website: <http://ci.santa-barbara.ca.us> and click on "Lower Riviera Historical Survey."

A similar project is currently being conducted on residential dwellings at Stanford University, in preparation for another history walk. Two documents of previous walks are available at the Special Collections department at Green Library. They will also provide a list of available reference materials that may prove useful. Contact Marian Adams, 650.326.9212 or adams@cdr.stanford.edu. The focus of both these projects is architecture, but details of landscaping may come to light along the way. This is an excellent learning opportunity for those who would like to do garden history research but aren't sure how to get started.

ENQUIRY

Last September, we received an email request for information from Carson Anderson, architectural historian with Myra Frank & Associates - Environmental Planning in Los Angeles. He was doing research as part of an environmental review process for Los Angeles' Harbor College campus in the Wilmington area. Fred Barlow, Jr (1902-1953) was the landscape architect for the original 1948 landscape/

master plan. Barlow, a protege of Katherine Bashford (and with whom he was professionally associated for roughly a decade) is profiled in an obituary found in the July 1953 issue of *Landscape Architect* but Carson had found no other detailed discussion of his professional significance — just passing references and brief articles in design publications about individual designs of his. Carson wanted to know if we could direct him to anyone who had done substantial research on Bashford and Barlow. He also requested suggestions for finding a landscape historian to evaluate the property — as well as two other community college properties — per California Register eligibility criteria. Since the fall issue of *Eden* had already gone out, we used email to contact several individuals within the Society whom we either knew were landscape historians, or might have sources of information on Bashford and Barlow. Ann Scheid was able to offer some assistance, and Jill Singleton advised that Barlow graduated from UC Berkeley in 1925, and the school offers a Fred Barlow Design Award. If anyone we have not already contacted has information that may be of help to Carson, please call or write to him at 213.627.5376 x227 or canderson@myrafrank.com. And wouldn't someone like to write up the definitive biography on Barlow and/or Bashford?

EDEN

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Deadline for copy for the next *Eden* is: March 01, 2003

California Garden and Landscape History Society

Aims and Purposes

To celebrate the beauty, wealth, and diversity of California gardens and landscapes.

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To aid and promote interest in, study of, and education about California garden and landscape history.

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To collect and/or coordinate resources and expertise about the history of California's gardens and landscapes.

*

To visit on occasion historical gardens, landscapes, archives and libraries in different parts of the state.

*

To enjoy one another's company at meetings, garden visits, and other get-togethers.

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Dinner in Carol McElwee's Beautiful Garden (A. Jolley)