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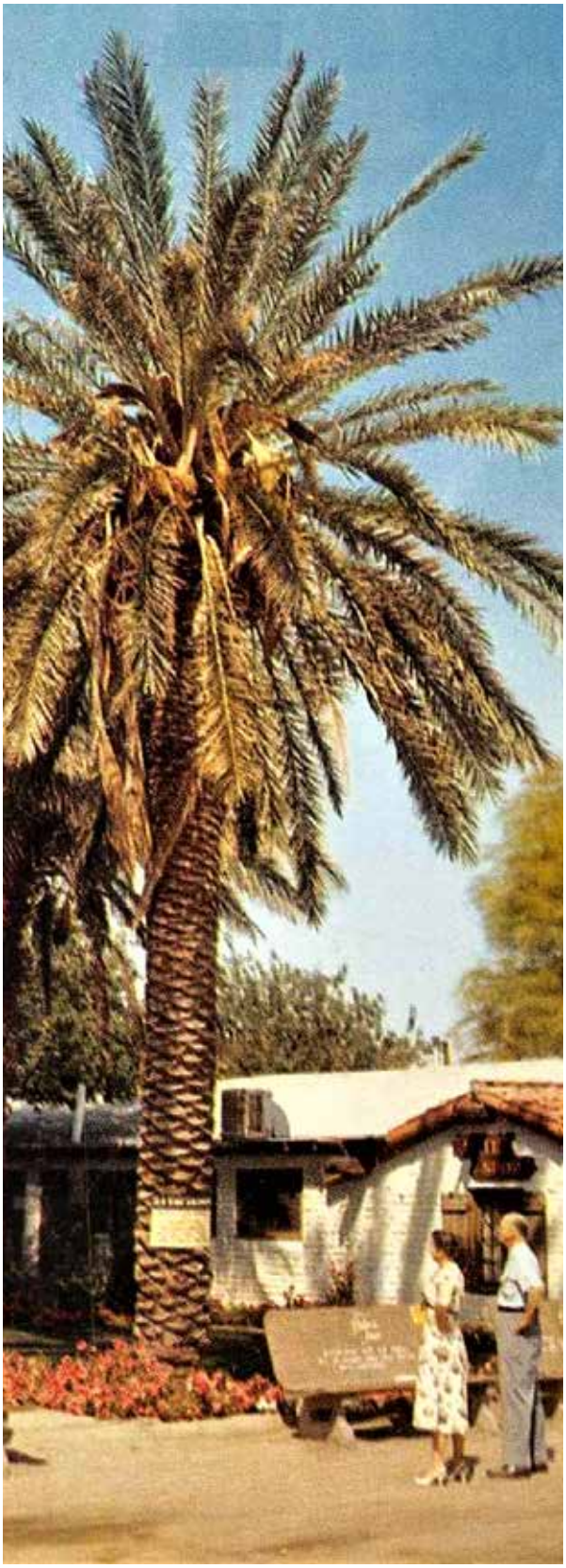

Above: King Solomon Tree, Coachella Valley. The world's most famous male palm was imported from Arabia in 1912 and established the almost unbelievable record of caring for over 400 female date bearing palms which resulted in having 3,600,000 offspring (dates) each year. In date culture one male palm to 50 females is normal. Detail from a ca. 1950 Ferris H. Scott postcard.

Eden

JOURNAL OF THE CALIFORNIA GARDEN & LANDSCAPE HISTORY SOCIETY

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The California Garden & Landscape History Society (CGLHS) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) membership organization devoted to celebrating the beauty and diversity of California's historic gardens and landscapes; promoting wider knowledge, preservation, and restoration of California's historic gardens and landscapes; organizing study visits to historic gardens and landscapes as well as to relevant archives and libraries; and offering opportunities for a lively interchange among members at meetings, garden visits, and other events. *Eden: Journal of the California Garden & Landscape History Society* (ISBN 1524-8062) is published quarterly. Subscription is a benefit of CGLHS membership.

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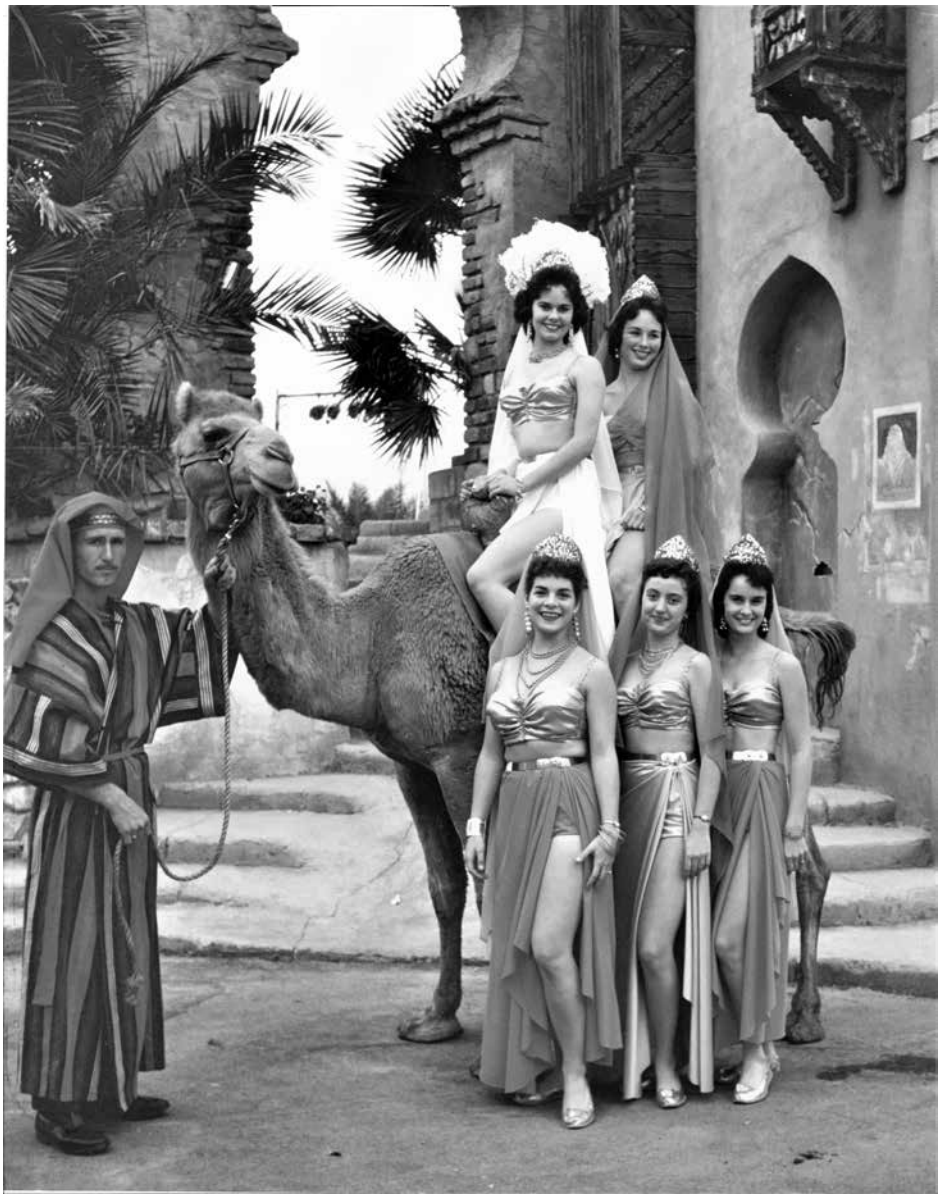
Above: Viewing front of Administration Building, with pond in foreground, 1958. In January 2002, the pond was named Benjamin Pond in honor of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden esteemed mycologist Dr. Richard K. Benjamin (1926-2002). Photographer: Percy C. Everett. Courtesy Archives of California Botanic Garden.

A Date with Destiny

Southern California's Date Industry and the Creation of an Arabian Fantasy

SARAH SEEKATZ, PhD

Date palms. Coachella Valley, California. February 1937. Dorothea Lange photograph, courtesy the Library of Congress.



Above: Young women, participating in the Queen Scheherazade pageant, pose near the "Old Baghdad" set, designed by Hollywood set designer Harry Oliver, at Indio's Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival fairgrounds. Note both the fan palm and date palm landscaping. Courtesy of the Coachella Valley History Museum, Coachella Valley Historical Society, Inc.

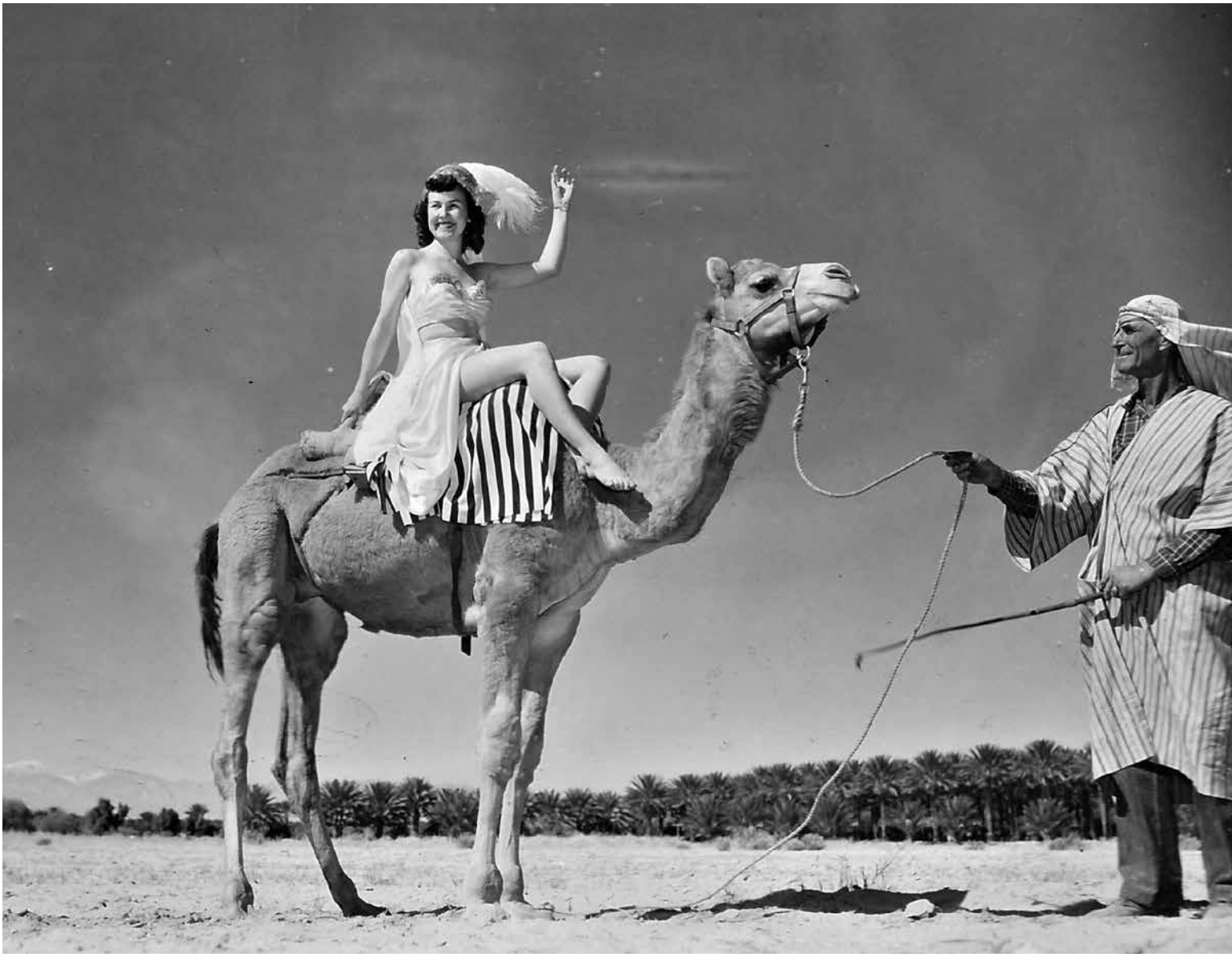
Opposite: Marketing the Coachella Valley via connections to the Greater Middle East—often involved fantasies of Arabia, while the bodies of young women in "harem outfits" marketed not only dates but the desert region. Courtesy of the Coachella Valley History Museum, Coachella Valley Historical Society, Inc.

In 1949 the desert landscape of Indio, California, now known as the home of the Coachella Music Festival, served as a backdrop for a quite different event.

Several high-school-aged girls from the surrounding area met at a county fair to see which one of them would make the transition from pageant princess to queen. Instead of swimsuits and evening gowns, these young women were dressed as visions of "harem girls," with bare-midriffs and billowing pants. The stage behind them featured vaguely Middle Eastern architecture, a fantasy setting called the "Old Bagdad Stage."

Before the winner (aptly titled Queen Scheherazade) was announced, a "recording brought from Algiers of a muezzin calling Mohammedans to prayer" played on the loudspeakers.[1] With its Arabian theme, the 1949 Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival serves as a startling example of American perceptions of the 'Middle East', perceptions that held center stage in the deserts of Southern California throughout much of the 20th century.[2]

The agricultural landscape behind the Festival and its superficial appropriation of Middle Eastern culture was that of the Coachella Valley's date industry and its many acres of date "gardens."



These iconic multi-acre plantings of date palms (*Phoenix dactylifera*), from stock transplanted from North Africa and the Middle East, transformed the desert landscape of the region and brought economic success and visibility.

With our nation's current political and pop-cultural relationship to the Middle East marked by negative stereotypes, the idea of celebrating "Arabia," including the disquieting use of the Muslim call to prayer, may come as a shock to many. But the towns in the eastern side of the Coachella Valley, just over 125 miles from Los Angeles, have long utilized romanticized portrayals of the Middle East to shape popular perceptions of their own desert backyard. Those who used fantasies of the Middle East as a form of boosterism in Southern California did so with the hope of promoting the unique ties the areas shared—the imported date fruit industry and the desert landscape—to sell the crop, the land, and the tourist experience.

As one of the first and oldest domesticated crops, the date palm has a long history in the Middle East and North Africa. Although the Spanish Missionaries brought several date palms to California during the late 1700s, few trees in the Golden State produced much edible fruit.[3]

While some Americans were able to obtain imported dates before 1900, as a whole, the fruit and its cultivation remained a mystery not only to consumers but also to agriculturalists. Perhaps this was because of the date's unique propagation: date palms are both male and female, with only females producing dates. Indeed even in their native Middle East, date palms are hand pollinated to produce fruit, and commercially, only one male palm is needed to pollinate forty-eight females. From this, growers in the United States determined to plant roughly forty-nine palms per acre.

Feral date palms never die out - the palms themselves can live for a hundred years, but because they produce the genetically identical offshoots in

Above: This 1938 aerial view of date gardens in the Coachella Valley shows date palms in various ages and the spacing of the palms, as well as the surrounding desert landscapes. Courtesy of the Coachella Valley History Museum, Coachella Valley Historical Society, Inc.

Opposite: The fairgrounds at the Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival played off of Hollywood's imagination of the Greater Middle East. Architecture deemed "Arabian" could be found throughout the Eastern Coachella Valley. Palm trees, both date and fan, were integral to the staging. Image from 1955. Courtesy of the Coachella Valley History Museum, Coachella Valley Historical Society, Inc.

their first ten to fifteen years, the plant nearly always has new growth extending out from the original palm. To ensure that you have both a female palm and a desirable variety of dates, you need to obtain an offshoot - the genetically identical palm that grows at the base of the parent tree. Commercial growers today generally remove offshoots when they are three to five years old and transplant them in rows, spacing them twenty by twenty to forty by forty feet apart.[4] Planting a seed was risky: half would be male and thus not produce; some would produce new varieties that were not great; and, without hand pollination, the few productive date palms seldom would produce much fruit. However, because it takes three to five years for a date palm to reach the age where it could produce fruit, the investment of time, labor, and water was costly and often frustrated those who tried to cultivate the crop in the U.S.

Additionally, date palms are highly sensitive to weather: they like extreme heat but also require a lot of water to the point that the adage, "Date palms need their feet in the water and their head in the fire," rang true. Rain and humidity, especially during the late summer and early fall, could further destroy ripening crops. Taken together, the obstacles in growing date palms in the United States were high, and experiments in Texas, Florida, and elsewhere failed. In fact, in an era before large-scale Western water reclamation projects, few places existed in the U. S. where high temperatures met plenty of water—except perhaps in the Coachella Valley with its desert temperatures, brilliant sunshine, and abundant artisanal well water. Even today, U.S.-produced dates are only commercially grown in Southern California, Arizona, and a smaller part of Nevada, though the palm is available ornamentally in several other areas. Indeed prior to commercial success, date palms in Southern California were praised not for their fruit but for their contribution to its "exotic," "semi-tropical," and "Mediterranean" landscape character.[5]

Although some scientists were interested in growing date palms in the

United States in the 1800s, the lack of knowledge, lack of access to offshoots, and climate issues all proved to be impossible challenges. Few Americans had made their way to places where date palms grew, so they had little access to the knowledge housed in date growing regions and even less access to the all-important date offshoots themselves, let alone an understanding of the pollination process. In addition, the scientific literature on dates at the time was scarce and often printed in other languages, such as French (the primary European language spoken in date growing areas of the Levant). Experiments in growing dates from seeds in the United States were unfruitful (literally), especially when they were planted in regions that were too wet or cold for fruit to grow.[6]

At the turn of the twentieth century, the United States Department of Agriculture [USDA] encouraged the development of new crops throughout the United States, including in drier areas such as Arizona and Southern California, and dates were of interest as a potential agricultural crop. However, in order to create a commercially viable date industry, date offshoots from the Middle East and Northern Africa had to be imported, and both scientists and farmers needed to access a better understanding of date propagation. By the 1880s, the USDA also had produced reports that surveyed regions of the nation that might support a date industry. Experimentation with seeds - to show just how well the date palm could grow - were also made, although (of course), date palm seedlings never could produce a viable industry. Only date off-shoots could develop into the date palms—and the cash crop— that the scientists sought.

After the railroad eased transportation through the deserts of Southern California in the late 1870s, non-native settlers arrived in the region hoping to utilize the area's rich soil and, eventually, its artisanal wells. The cities around the railroad station in Indio, California, began to grow vegetables and fruits. As this "reclamation" project progressed, the Coachella Valley received the attention of several scientists who thought that dates could be commercially grown in this desert region.

Several of the USDA's "agricultural explorers" (a breed of government scientist, who sought new crops and varieties from around the world) were sent to Algeria, Iraq, and Egypt at the turn of the twentieth century. These explorers brought back the essential date offshoots, planting these young palms in experimental stations throughout the desert Southwest, including in Tempe, Arizona and the Coachella Valley. When local entrepreneurs saw government interest in the fruit, a few even made the trip to the Middle East or Northern Africa themselves, bringing back their own offshoots to sell or plant. To the delight of the USDA, the deserts of Southern California proved the perfect place to start a new, and largely profitable, agricultural industry. All this, coupled with a better understanding of date cultivation, ultimately ushered in commercial growth. Significantly, these trips to the Greater Middle East for date palms provided some of the first links between the two regions. The interactions these government scientists and local Southern

Above: An unidentified man poses with newly transplanted date offshoots—with branches still tied together for transport away from the parent palm. Courtesy of the Coachella Valley History Museum, Coachella Valley Historical Society, Inc.

Opposite, top: Bruce Drummonds, the first superintendent of the USDA's Date Experiment Station, holds up a bunch of date fruit circa 1910. Work at the field stations supported new growers in the region and experimented to find the best varieties of dates, best practices for pollination, irrigation, and fertilization, and sought to manage disease and pests. Courtesy of the Coachella Valley History Museum, Coachella Valley Historical Society, Inc.

Opposite, bottom: Newly transplanted date palms in Thermal California, circa 1910-1913. From Paul B. Popenoe, *Date Growing in the Old World and the New*, West India Gardens, 1913.

California entrepreneurs had with the people of the Middle East are extraordinary, and they speak not only to the complicated geopolitical realities of the area but also to American assumptions of racial and scientific superiority. One *Los Angeles Times* article about the growing date industry, published in 1921, suggested that the "American scientific culture has far surpassed the Orient [sic] in date possibilities. In fact in the hot sand around Indio and Coachella the date has come to surpass anything of which the dozing Orient ever dreamed."[7]

This form of agricultural imperialism was not new of course, but the irony is worth pointing out. The United States had very little understanding of how to grow dates; instead, U.S. growers depended entirely on obtaining this understanding from peoples of the Greater Middle East and from European imperialists who earlier had invaded those areas (and who, in turn, had depended on indigenous knowledge of the date). The United States, however, especially through the USDA, argued that it was only their scientific experiments that produced enough data to bring the date into the new century. Of course, the Middle East already had been exporting dates to the United States, profitably, for decades, even if much of the recent profits remained in the hands of foreign companies and investors.[8]

Sometimes these date off-shoot-gathering trips abroad got Americans into hot water. One Altadena-based nursery, the West India Gardens, sent two young brothers, Paul and F.W. Popenoe, and a few associates to the Persian Gulf and Algeria to obtain over 15,000 date palm offshoots between 1912-1913.[9] They brought back with them not only the offshoots that would start the burgeoning Coachella Valley date industry but also fantastical stories that played into American perceptions of the Middle East as a romantic yet dangerous place. One Coachella Valley news article, "Date Trees Come Stained with Blood," suggested that these young men, who were under the protection of the Sultan of Oman, were attacked by forces who opposed the Sultan.[10] Though the brothers claimed to have instigated a civil war while trying to obtain dates for their family nursery, one might also suggest they were mere pawns in local political struggles of which the Americans had little understanding. This rich origin story of the local date industry at once praises "Arabia", with the Sultan offering the young men protection, friendship, and his best camel, while also creating a romance around the danger of traveling to this exotic place, a location seldom visited by Americans of the era.

Before long, the date industry took root in the Coachella Valley, and local farmers also became local boosters. These farmers sought not only to sell their dates but also to market the lifestyle of a date grower, a goal supported by scientific knowledge from the USDA's experiment stations and by scientists who shared their expertise with the nation's farmers. The Southern Pacific Railroad also functioned as a backer, seeking to encourage development in the Coachella Valley that would foster tourist travel, expand land sales, and perhaps increase railroad usage by future farmers. These local boosters heralded the profits of date growing to

anyone who would listen. They quickly turned to the romance of Arabia to put their small towns on the map.

When the date industry began to grow in the 1910s and 1920s the nation held dear the idea of a mythic Arabia as an exotic place of wealth, leisure, magic, and sex. As scholars have pointed out, Americans absorbed the Middle East throughout much of the 19th and early 20th centuries through imperial popular culture; reading about it in the widely popular "One Thousand and One Arabian Nights" or seeing its romance on the big screen, especially as Rudolf Valentino's *The Sheik* became a blockbuster film. Consumer and visual culture played a role as Arabian scenes were displayed on wares at department stores, and magazines ran ads with Middle Eastern imagery. Fraternal organizations, including the Shriners and the Masons, called upon the mysteries of Arabia in their rituals. Real and armchair travelers longed to see the Greater Middle East, with travel literature and magazines selling well, while four million viewers saw "Lawrence of Arabia"[11] slideshows worldwide. The discovery of King Tut's tomb in 1922 unleashed an Egyptomania in the States that could be seen through the creation of Egyptian style theaters and even Egyptian inspired fashions.[12]

Putting their date-growing region on the map meant renaming some of their towns. In 1904, the town of Walters—named for an early settler in the region—was renamed Mecca. Rumor has it that Mr. Walters was none too happy with the name change. In 1913, a new city in the Coachella Valley launched as "Arabia". But Arabia was more than a clever name. The land and water company that sought to develop it planned to create a city that looked as if it belonged in the Middle East, as "the style of the buildings and the general appearance of the town would be oriental."[13] Despite the big plans and local press dubbing it the "most unique city in America," the company abandoned Arabia in the 1930s with few, if any, remnants marking the location today. References to the Middle East go beyond city names in the Coachella Valley. Visit Indio or Coachella today, and you still can drive down streets named Arabia, Baghdad, Deglet Noor, Medina, Damascus, Araby, and Camel.

Even more startling were the plans made in the late 1920s for an Arabian-themed hotel and shopping complex where guests would arrive via camels and walk among architecture reminiscent of the Sahara. "The Walled Oasis of Biskra," named after the well-known Biskra of Algeria, took its inspiration from native fan palm trees, *Washingtonia filifera*, that grew in oases in the Coachella Valley.[14]

Although the Walled Oasis of Biskra seems to fit perfectly in the Southern California fantasy landscape that also houses Olvera Street and Disneyland (travelscapes where you can visit the world without leaving the state), it was not to be. Going bust with the Great Depression, the Walled City turned out to be an economic mirage, and one wonders what happened to the camels that were purchased by its founder.

As the Coachella Valley grew it also sought to capitalize on the tourists

NURSERY OF 13,000 IMPORTED OFFSHOOTS, AT THERMAL, CALIFORNIA
More palms were brought to the United States in 1913 than in the entire previous history of the industry.

Top: A growing date palm features a small offshoot at its right base. Courtesy of the Coachella Valley History Museum, Coachella Valley Historical Society, Inc.

Bottom: Bernard Johnson was one of the first non-governmental agents to import date offshoots commercially to the Coachella Valley around 1903, making additional trips to the Middle East and Northern Africa to import dates through 1914. Courtesy of the Coachella Valley History Museum, Coachella Valley Historical Society, Inc.

Opposite: This image, from a publicity pamphlet for the never completed project "Walled Oasis of Biskra," highlights the ways native fan palm oases were sometimes stand-ins for those abroad, in this case the Algerian city of the same name. Here the themed building, hospitality, and shopping district even purchased camels to bring in potential investors and hired locals to dress up as "Arabians." "Guests at California's Biskra who arrived on Camelback." From Charles H. Jonas marketing brochure, "The Walled Oasis of Biskra: An Interpretation of the American Desert in the Algerian Manner," Hoag and Ford Advertising, circa 1928. Courtesy of the San Diego Public Library

who came seeking sunshine. Unlike other regional cities that misleadingly filtered Spanish Colonial history through the romance of sultry *senoritas*, pious priests, and crumbling missions, Indio and its neighbors sought instead to play up their dates and unique desert landscape by linking themselves to the Middle East. Leaving the red-tiled roofs behind, visitors to the Coachella Valley could purchase dates in a pyramid-shaped date stand, see an" authentic" Bedouin living tent, or visit "King Solomon"—a male date palm used to pollinate over 400 female palms annually.

Tourists could hear a presentation about the "Romance and Sex Life" of a date and pick up a famous (and delicious) date shake. While this type of agricultural tourism was not new, it did have a unique spin that played up the region's agricultural and climatic links to the Middle East and North Africa. Indeed it was a large part of regional tourism at the time. Prior to the 1950s, when vacations tended to be much longer, a visit to Palm Springs would not be complete without a drive to see "America's Arabia" and the date palms along the way. The Southern Pacific's Sunset Route, which ran from New Orleans to Los Angeles/San Francisco year-round also bisected these date gardens and included the "exotic" landscapes in their marketing materials.

By 1921 with the industry ripe for attention, Indio launched its first official "International Festival of Dates" in a local park. The event, featuring women in Persian costumes and men dressed as Sheiks, sold itself exclusively through ties to the Middle East, as the image below so vividly illustrates. Lest the international title fool you, the international guests (just two) in part arrived from date growing regions closer to home, like Baja California.

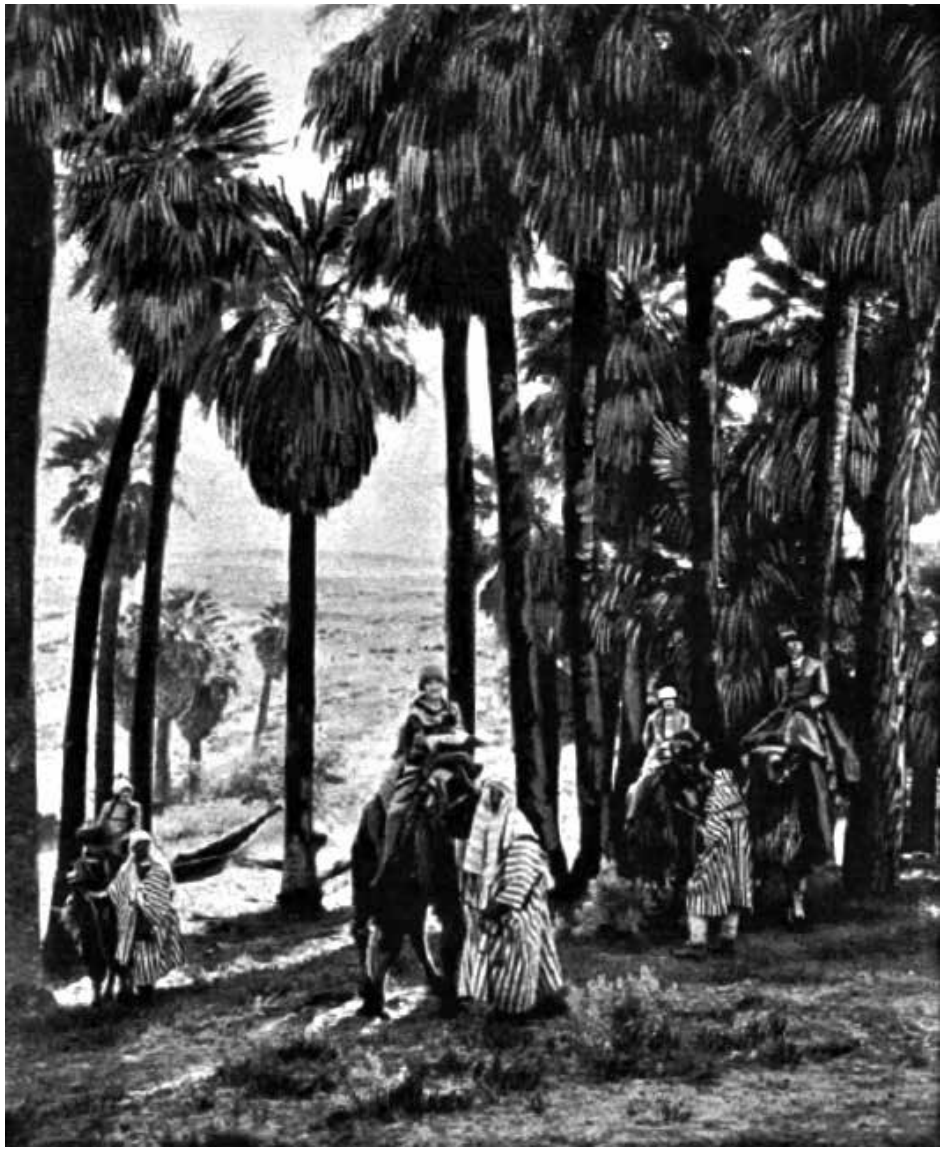
Although the festival had sporadic appearances until it became an annual event in 1947, it continues to today. (Note that, for the first time since 1947, it was canceled for 2021 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.) Since the 1940s, the fairgrounds have fea-

tured Middle Eastern-inspired architecture, a nightly "One Thousand and One Arabian Nights" theatrical pageant presented on the "Old Baghdad" stage, camel races, and a Queen Scheherazade scholarship pageant. Community members were encouraged to dress in costume, especially during the 1940s through the 1960s. Had you visited the Coachella Valley in 1950, you may have been served by a waitress dressed like a "harem girl," seen a film in the Aladdin Theater, presented your money to a bank teller in a fez, or seen women's clubs meet entirely in costume. The area went so far as to petition for the relocation of the Nubian "Temple of Derr" to the festival fairgrounds in the 1960s, when the temple was set to be flooded by a dam project.[15] A different temple (the Temple of Dendur) ultimately went to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City where it is housed in the Sackler Wing, but for a time Indio was a lead contender.

This remaking of the Coachella Valley's landscape then was grand in its scale - the natural desert landscape partnered with dramatic, tall date palms and cultural markers such as the date stands that—with their tourist parking—punctuated the date gardens that were only slightly set back from the highways, and the splendor of the Date Festival's "Old Baghdad" stage.

All together, the date gardens and their interpretive and commercial structures tapped into American's stereotypes of the Middle East—producing the illusion (more or less successfully, depending on the view) of international travel to a region that is still not well visited by American tourists.

Notably, religion also played a crucial role in American understanding of the Middle East, as biblical stories led American Christians to imagine the romantic history of the Holy Land. Part of this connection lay in the idea of the desert itself. Before U.S. travel expanded in the 1900s, few Americans had actually encountered a desert. Instead, they had read about it in the Bible or in *One Thousand and One Arabian Nights*



and seen it in expressions of popular culture tied to those two works.[16] The deserts of the United States, then, were often invisibly linked to the Greater Middle East in the minds of Americans well before the date palm's arrival here. After World War II, America's views of the Middle East and Northern Africa turned increasingly to discussions of homelands, oil, and geopolitics. Eventually, especially after the oil embargoes and the hostage crisis of the 1970s, ubiquitous U. S. representations of the Middle East would be dominated by images of terrorism and eventually of war.[17] This shift across the Twentieth century makes the continued use of Arabian imagery in the deserts of Southern California even more visually and intellectually striking. These historic Coachella Val-

ley date garden landscapes—both the natural landscape of the desert and the man-made landscapes of agricultural date groves, ornamental plantings, and pyramid date stands—are places that tie the area to the Greater Middle East in ways vastly different than the international geopolitics of the past half century.

Yet in some ways the Coachella Valley's date gardens always will speak to American action abroad. The land and the crops themselves have been shaped by years of European and American economic and political involvement in the Greater Middle East, filtered through centuries of popular culture that make most of what is seen in the Coachella Valley a reflection not of the real Middle East, but the imagined one. But even in these places that sought to celebrate the connections, however mis-imagined, war and politics have been present. During World War II, General Patton trained troops in the deserts outside of Indio preparing for combat in Northern Africa.[18] And, as U. S. military troops trained nearby, in mock Middle Eastern villages at the Twenty-nine Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, this training continued well into the 21st century.

In addition, it is essential to understand that Coachella Valley's fantasy of Arabia often obscures the real labor involved in producing dates, which relies on a labor force that since World War II has been largely Mexican and Mexican American. Government scientists and boosters at various times turned to local Cahuilla peoples and even advocated for bringing Middle Eastern laborers to fill early labor needs.[19] In the early years, because the palms were still low to the ground, most of the work could be completed by small family farms and supplemented by locals. But as the industry grew, both in size and in palm height, the work not only increased but became incredibly dangerous, with many workers refusing to mount the tall palms.

In addition to the typical dangers faced by agricultural workers such as heat (which in the Coachella Valley can reach upwards of 125 degrees), pests (like black widow spiders), pesticide exposure, and the physical toil of repetitive labor, date workers also faced the danger of falls from trees that (at maturity) could reach upwards of 100 feet. The task of caring for date palms still includes scaling the trees several times a year—to de-thorn the palm (January), harvest pollen (February), pollinate the females (March), thin the fruit (April), bag the ripening bunches (June), and harvest sometimes two to three times per tree (in September and October).[20] Thus, this work is incredibly skilled as well as dangerous.

After World War II agricultural workers in the date groves were called *palmeros*, indicative that an increasing number of them were Mexicans or Mexican Americans. Many of them had been part of the Bracero program, guest-workers from Mexico who became so skilled that they returned to the same date groves year after year. Their skill and knowledge, which takes about three years to learn, often

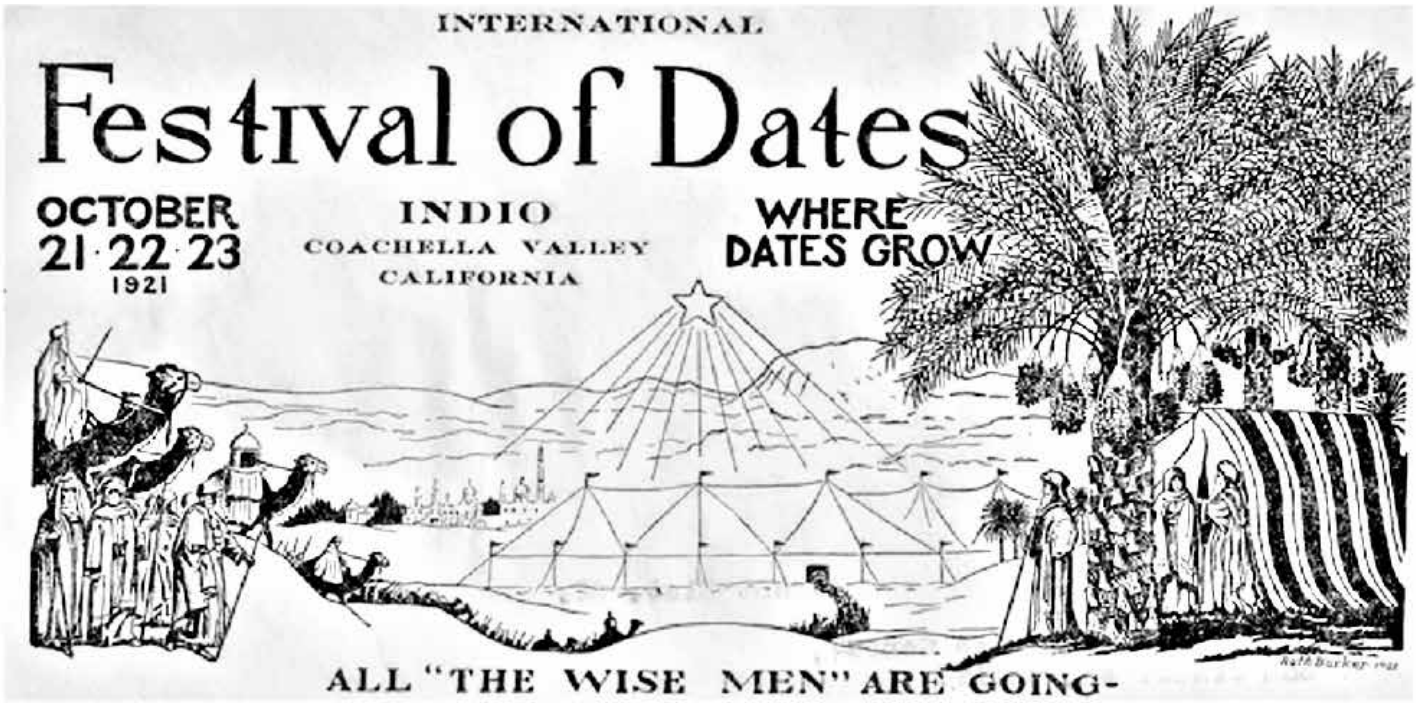
is passed down through the generations from father to son, though more recently a few women have also become *palmeros*.[21] By 1964, nearing the end of the Bracero program, roughly 90% of the *palmeros* in the Coachella Valley were also *Braceros*.[22]

Today, farm worker labor shortages are impacting the date palm industry, too, especially as "… [t]he region's *palmeros* are aging and there's not a pipeline of younger people trained and willing to do this work . . ."[23] Of course, Mexican Americans and Mexican immigrants also got into the date business themselves, growing some fruit on their table crop farms or expanding into larger date productions.[24]

The dangerous job of the *palmeros* and other date workers is well-documented. Newspaper articles suggest *palmeros* experienced heat exhaustion and falls from the trees. Importantly, the industry used hazardous pesticides and fumigants, especially while packing their dates. Because the industry marketed itself in direct opposition to Middle Eastern dates, which it often described as dirty and disease-ridden, extra care was given to emphasize the pest-free nature of the dates grown in California.[25] But these chemicals often proved toxic to agricultural workers, including those workers who graded and packed the dates. Fumigants caused explosions and even poisoning in date packing sheds as early as the 1920s. By 1944 most of the date packing plants in the Coachella Valley used methyl bromide as a fumigant, exposing dates to the chemical overnight prior to packing. During November and December of that year, a record number (an estimated 200) date workers fell ill with symptoms ranging from hallucinations, and speech and vision disturbances, to headaches. Eventually investigations uncovered that almost all of the forty packing plants in the region lacked sufficient ventilation systems. An especially cold winter pushed workers to close doors and windows that were normally left open in the generally mild November and December, further exposing them to the chemical by drastically reduc-

Left: Image of the Garden of Eden pyramid shaped date shop. Roadside date shops sometimes turned to "Arabian" architecture to lure in customers, again tying the date palm's native homeland to the deserts of Southern California. Frashers Foto Postcard Collection, 1935, courtesy of the Pomona Public Library.

Above: Other date shops also tied their product to the Greater Middle East with unique tourist attractions. Here Valerie Jean's Date Shop in Thermal emphasized their 1912 import of "Old King Solomon" a male date palm that produced enough pollen to fertilize 400 female trees, though normally date growers utilized one male palm for forty-nine female ones. Courtesy of the Coachella Valley History Museum, Coachella Valley Historical Society, Inc.



Above: The 1921 Festival of Dates announced the California date industry's "birth," and in doing so pulled from biblical narratives, one of the main ways people in the United States had long interacted with the imagined Middle East. Note that the "wise men" are going to Indio for the birth of the date industry. Courtesy of the Coachella Valley History Museum, Coachella Valley Historical Society, Inc.

Below: An aerial view of the Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival fairgrounds in Indio, shows the proximity to which the event took place to date groves. Circa 1950. Courtesy of the Coachella Valley History Museum, Coachella Valley Historical Society, Inc.

ing ventilation. Prior to connecting these illnesses to the chemicals, local doctors often diagnosed victims as being drunk or high, reflecting racial inequality and the stereotyping of Mexicans and Mexican Americans by the medical field. The date industry continued to use methyl bromide until at least 2005.[26] However, the danger from falls, heat exhaustion, knives and machete use, large thorn injuries, and insect bites continue. Nevertheless, dates continue to play a large role in the Coachella Valley's agricultural production. In 2018, dates were the seventh leading crop in terms of value—worth a total of $77,548,000 that year alone. Roughly 8,575 acres of date palms are planted in Riverside County, which includes the Coachella Valley, producing roughly 30,900 tons of dates annually[27], and production increased in 2019.

In sum, it is especially important to tell the story of the Coachella Valley date industry and its role in Southern California agriculture and agricultural tourism. All too often, when the history of the Coachella Valley is remembered, so much is focused on the celebrity culture of Hollywood's playground Palm Springs, and the Val-

Above: Tapping into fantasies of the Greater Middle East, like other date shops, Sniff's incorporated architecture, landscape, and tourist attractions to reach potential customers. In addition to unusual plants, this endeavor also housed a Bedouin tent, touted as "the only one of its kind in America." Courtesy of the Coachella Valley History Museum, Coachella Valley Historical Society, Inc.

ley's other luxury resorts and high-end residences. The heavily-agricultural Eastern Coachella Valley is often overlooked, not only regionally, but in our larger understanding of Southern California history. Today the Coachella Valley is studded with the remnants of this Arabian fantasy, and the eastern area of the region continues to utilize agricultural tourism to entice visitors. Much has been written about—and many of us have fond memories of—the famed date shake, and visitors not only can shop at the historic Shields Date Gardens, and watch their iconic *Romance and Sex Life of the Date* film, but they also can eat a variety of foods incorporating dates in the cafe (including their burger, ice cream, and pancakes). Other well-known date stands include the Oasis and Hadley's—and there are more. Visitors still drive past date groves, although over the last fifty years the groves increasingly have been relocated away from major population and tourism centers of Palm Desert, Indian Wells, La Quinta, and Indio to more agricultural-based regions like Coachella, Thermal, and Mecca. The country's only Date Museum sits on the campus of the Coachella Valley History Museum in Indio, where an extensive archive holds the records of the long-gone USDA date research and experiment stations. Date Palms, and their look alike - the Canary Island Date Palm—may be found throughout Southern California as ornamental plants. However, only the date palm both yields a commercial product and evokes a century-long California landscape heritage rooted deeply in the regional Middle Eastern fantasy and the local identity of the Coachella Valley.[28]

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

A native of the Coachella Valley, Sarah Seekatz holds a Ph.D. in history from the University of California, Riverside. Her research on Southern California's date industry and its orientalist fantasies has been supported by fellowships from the Autry National Center, The Huntington Library, and the UC California Studies Consortium. Seekatz has been featured on CNN, NPR, Al Jazeera

Above: Palmeros, skilled date palm workers, climb scaffolding used to care for and harvest from the date palm. From left: Ban Montoya Sr., Susano Duarte, and Raymond Fierro. Courtesy of the Coachella Valley History Museum, Coachella Valley Historical Society, Inc.

Opposite: A palmero loads a heavy crop of freshly harvested dates for Caldate. Courtesy of the Coachella Valley History Museum, Coachella Valley Historical Society, Inc.

America, Atlas Obscura, KCET.org, and National Geographic's blog *The Salt*.

Previously, she directed the Mexican American Pioneer Project at the Coachella Valley History Museum and worked as an intern in the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History's Latino Collection. In addition to teaching she serves as a historical adviser for the public radio project: *California Foodways*. Her 2016 book: *Images of America: Indio's Date Festival* is available at www.datefestivalbook.com and online book retailers.

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Endnotes

[1] "Colorful Midwinter Date Festival Opens," *The Los Angeles Times,* February 19, 1949.

[2] Note that, for the purposes of this article, the term 'Middle East' (while a primarily Western construct) generally refers to eastern North Africa and the Levant (the old 'Near East') was well as the traditional Middle Eastern countries. Older original sources cited here at times have conflated the 'Near East,' the 'Middle East' and —once — the 'Orient.' A newer 21st-century term is 'the Greater Middle East.' While terms at times must be inexact, it is the Southern California fantasy — rather than this more complex geo-political reality — that is at the center of this text.

[3] Because date palm leaves are also used for religious purposes on Palm Sunday, we might assume that the date palms were in fact used in some manner after all, even if they didn't produce dates or didn't produce good dates. Sarah Seekatz, "America's Arabia: The Date Industry and the Cultivation of Middle Eastern Fantasies in the Deserts of Southern California" (Ph.D. diss., University of California, Riverside, 2014) 54-58 https://escholarship.org/uc/item/02r8x22x and Donald R. Hodel and Dennis V. Johnson, *Dates: Imported and American Varieties of Dates in the United States* (Oakland: University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2007) 2.

[4] M.L Robinson, Brian Brown, and C. Frank Williams, "The Date Palm in Southern Nevada." https://www.azlca.com/uploads/documents/date-palms.pdf (accessed September 26, 2020). More recently, researchers have explored tissue culture for date production.

[5] Sarah Seekatz, "America's Arabia" 55-56

[6] Ibid, 49-109.

[7] "To Revel Date Secrets," *The Los Angeles Times*, October 22, 1921.

[8] Seekatz, "America's Arabia."

[9] Paul Popenoe would go on to become a leader in the eugenics movement. See Alexandra Minna Stern, *Eugenic Nation: Faults and Frontiers of Better Breeding in Modern America* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005).

[10] "Date Trees Come Stained With Blood" *Coachella Valley News and Indio Index*, May 23, 1913.

[11] Thomas Edward Lawrence, 1888-1935.

[12] For more information on American's popular culture interactions with the Middle East prior to World War II see Susan Nance, *How the Arabian Nights Inspired the American Dream 1790-1935*. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2009); Richard V. Francaviglia, *Go East, Young Man: Imagining the American West as the Orient* (Logan: Utah State University Press, 2011); and Holly Edwards, ed., *Noble Dreams, Wicked Pleasures: Orientalism in America, 1870-1930* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000).

[13] "New Town Arabia is Launched," *Coachella Valley News and Indio Index*, May 9, 1913.

[14] The *Washingtonia Filifera* is the only palm native to California. When it was described in a 1900 edition of the *Land of Sunshine*, the author mistook the palm for a date variety and incorrectly argued that the Indigenous people of the Coachella Valley collected and ate dates. It does produce a small berry-like fruit which is used by Native Americans, but it is not a date palm. The confusion speaks to the limited scientific understanding of the date palm in the United States and the late non-native agricultural development of the Coachella Valley. See Seekatz, "America's Arabia" 49-50. "The Walled Oasis of Biskra" was designed by prolific architect, landscape architect, city planner and engineer Mark Daniels. For more on Daniels, see Marlea Graham's three-part article in *Eden* (Spring, Summer and Fall, 2007).

[15] Seekatz, "America's Arabia" 187-193.

[16] Ibid.

[17] Melani McAlister, *Epic Encounters: Culture, Media, and U.S. Interests in the Middle East since 1945* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005).

[18] Sarah McCormick Seekatz, "Desert Deployment: Southern Calfiornia's World War II Desert Training Center," KCET *Artbound* Blog, March 15, 2015, https://www.kcet.org/shows/artbound/desert-deployment-southern-californias-world-war-ii-desert-training-center.

[19] Prior to the 1960s, the Coachella Valley had few, if any, immigrants from the Greater Middle, with the exception of 2-3 Syrian American families. The USDA did not facilitate immigration of Middle Eastern Workers, despite this proposal.

[20] Marc E. Paulsen, *The Amazing Story of The Fabulous Medjool Date* (Tualatin, Oregon: Marc Paulsen Press, 2005)

[21] Rebecca Plevin, "Palmeros, the 'Special Ops' of Farmworkers — Are Increasingly Rare, Threatening the Coachella Valley Date Industry," *The Desert Sun*, March 15, 2018

[22] Matt Garcia, *From the Jaws of Victory: The Triumph and Tragedy of Cesar Chavez and the Farm Worker Movement* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2012), 16.

[23] Rebecca Plevin, "Palmeros."

[24] My own Mexican American great grandparents, for example, grew a few dates in the Coachella Valley, in addition to onion, okra, and other table crops.

[25] Seekatz "America's Arabia," 110-186.

[26] Ibid, 162.

[27] Agricultural Commissioner's Office, "Riverside County Agricultural Production Report," 2018 https://www.rivcoawm.org/news/artmid/748/articleid/28/riverside-county-agricultural-production-report-2018

[28] The history of the date industry in the Coachella Valley has been largely limited to local scholars, including those who were date growers themselves. For example Patricia Laflin — who married into a family that joined the industry in 1912 — wrote a history of the industry pulled largely from the USDA's own records. Her work, published in 2006 and 2007, was created for the Coachella Valley History Museum, which also created the nation's first (and only) Date Museum in 2010. See Patricia Laflin, "The Story of Dates Part I and II," *Periscope* (2006,2007). Scientists and historians of agriculture have also documented the date's remarkable story in the United States, focusing especially on agricultural explorers, early experiments, and the USDA's role. Particularly Donald Hodel and Dennis Johnson write extensively on many of the date palm varieties and the scientific experimentation that perfected them, as did Charles Colley, who wrote on the subject in the 1960s. These works built on the original agricultural explorers histories which they recorded in various published and internal works during their long tenures with the USDA. See, for example, Dennis V. Johnson and Jance C. MacKnight, "A History of Date Palms in the Lower Colorado River Valley," Journal of the Southwest 61.4 (2019): 863-879; Donald R. Hodel and Dennis V. Johnson, *Dates: Imported and American Varieties of Dates in the United States* (Oakland: University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2007); Charles C. Colley, "First Commercial Date Palm Experimentation in California, 1882-1900," *Southern California Quarterly* 55, no. 3 (Fall 1973): 253-260; Charles C. Colley, "The California Date Growing Industry, 1890-1939: Part I," *Southern California Quarterly* 49, no. 1 (March 1967): 47-63; Charles C. Colley, "The California Date Growing Industry, 1890-1939: Part II," *Southern California Quarterly* 49, no. 2 (June 1967): 167-191.

[29] Date history reached public radio listeners through a Kitchen Sisters' *Hidden Kitchens* special in 2014 as well. (The Kitchen Sisters with Lisa Morehouse "The Romance and Sex Life of the Date" *Hidden Kitchens* 2014 http://www.kitchensisters.org/hidden-kitchens/the-romance-of-the-date/). Books like Sarah Seekatz's *Indio's Date Festival* (Charleston: Arcadia Press, 2016) and her dissertation "America's Arabia: the Date Industry and the Cultivation of Middle Eastern Fantasies in the Deserts of Southern California" (Ph.D. diss, University of California Riverside, 2014) explore the topic too. Recently, scholars have explored the larger role of Agricultural explorers, including Daniel Stone *The Food Explorer: True Adventures of a Globe-Totting Botanists who Transformed What America Eats* (New York: Dutton, 2018); Amanda Harris *Fruits of Eden: David Fairchild and America's Plant Hunters* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2015); and Adam Leith Gollner *The Fruit Hunters: A Story of Nature, Adventure, Commerce, and Obsession* (New York: Scribner 2008); as well as Sarah Lohman's upcoming work *Endangered Eating: Exploring America's Vanishing Cuisine* (upcoming 2021- and date-specific!)

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

The Early Years (1927–1983)

LINDA LEE WORLOW

This page: From early postcard featuring Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Anaheim, California. Courtesy Archives of California Botanic Garden.

Opposite: Willis Linn Jepson (1867-1946). Professor of Botany, University of California, Berkeley. An important advisor to Susanna Bixby Bryant. Here conducting fieldwork in the Kelso Dunes (Mojave Desert, San Bernardino County) shaded by an exceptionally large canaigre or tanner's dock *(Rumex hymenosepalus)*, May 1, 1941. Photo: Carl Wolf. Courtesy Archives CalBG.

"In the traditional feminine manner I am going to compromise by going ahead with my original scheme."

So said Susanna Bixby Bryant in a 1926 letter to Dr. Charles Sprague Sargent of Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum. Susanna had written to Sargent about her plans for her California "Wild Garden" and later visited the Arboretum to seek his counsel. He was not very sympathetic. Rather he suggested, "In thinking over the whole situation it seems to me that it would be wise to reduce the size of your Arboretum as such to an area large enough to contain only the plants which can be grown in your region without irrigation. . . . It was a great pleasure to see you here and I am sorry that I could not encourage you in the plan which you have so much at heart."

Despite his attempt to dissuade her, Sargent did suggest that she seek the advice of a professional landscape architect to lay out the garden. He recommended Ernest Braunton of Los Angeles.

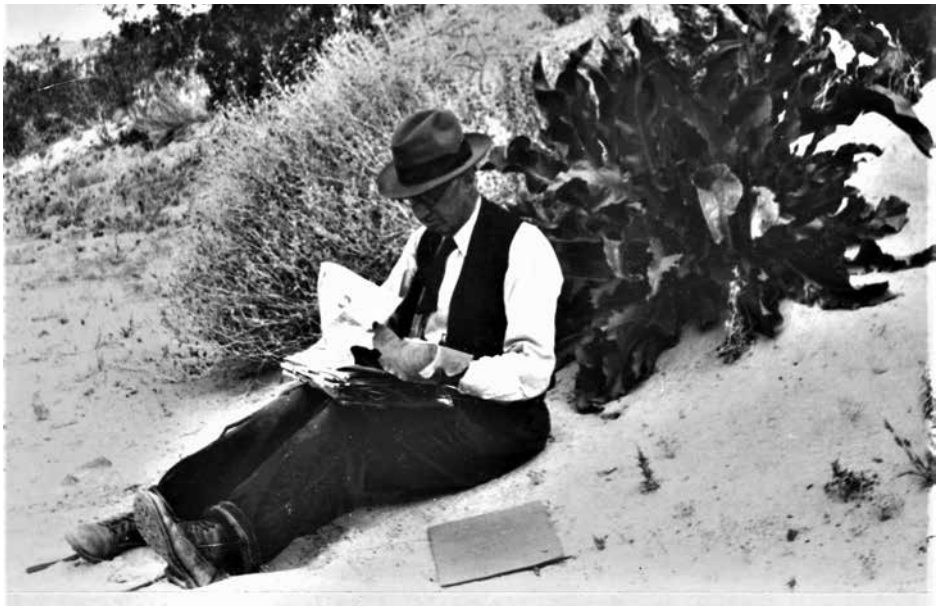
Willis Linn Jepson's Influence

Susanna Bixby Bryant sought expert opinions for her project. She was given hearty encouragement and advice from Willis Linn Jepson (1867–1946), dean of California botanists and an enthusiastic and active conservationist. Notably, Jepson was the author of the "bible" of California flora, the ***Manual of the Flowering Plants of California***

(completed in 1925). Today, the Jepson Herbarium at the University of California, Berkeley, honors his contributions to the field of botany and plant science.

Susanna asked Jepson if he thought Braunton was the right choice for her endeavor to which Jepson gave a resounding affirmative: "I should regard him as in every way competent and I believe that he can make a success of what you wish done . . ." Further, Jepson wrote to Susanna, "It is rather staggering to think that California, of all places in the world so desirable for a botanical garden, has not at the present time even one botanical garden that can truly be called scientific. For the whole state of California for its people at large, rich and poor, north or south, country dweller or city denizen, the benefits to be derived from such a garden are manifold and would increase with the decades . . . I wish to assure you that in any way in which I can further [your plans], I shall be happy to be at your service." A few days later, he emphasized in a letter to Susanna the importance of a scientific component to her project . . . "For its highest usefulness and permanent prestige it must be a scientific garden: first, to increase knowledge of the native California plants, second, to make that knowledge available to both botanists and the general public."

Jepson was not beyond "buttering up" Mrs. Bryant while encouraging her project: "Naturally, a botanic garden of the native plants needs a large endowment, but a large sum could not be better expended, for there is nothing else in California so much worthwhile, there is nothing else that would make so permanent a monument to its founder because of the service that it would yield to our people and the world. If the garden is to be a scientific garden, you need not have . . . any misgivings as to 'irretrievable mistakes.' "



Who Was Susanna Bixby Bryant?

Before continuing, you may wish to know something about Susanna Patterson Bixby Bryant (1880–1946), founder of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Scion of a prominent California ranching family, Susanna Bixby was the daughter of John William Bixby and his wife Susan Hathaway Bixby.

John William Bixby was a member of the sixth generation of a family in which all the male members were agriculturists. Born in 1848, he came from Maine to California to work at Rancho Los Cerritos, the ranch of his cousin Jotham Bixby. There John Bixby met Jotham's sister-in-law Susan Hathaway and later married her.

In 1874, the decree to partition the Spanish land grant, Rancho Cañon de Santa Ana (once held by the eighteenth century Catalonian José Antonio Yorba), was entered into the Los Angeles courts. Susanna's father began negotiations: by June of 1875 the deed for over 3,000 acres of ranch land was recorded to John Bixby. He named his newly acquired property Rancho Santa Ana. By the terms of the will of one of Yorba's descendants, a sycamore tree became the starting point for the surveys that later established the ranch property.

Sadly, in 1887, the very successful rancher John Bixby died at the age of thirty-nine. His widow Susan moved with her two children to Berkeley. There she enrolled Susanna's brother Fred in Belmont Military School in San Mateo and placed Susanna in the newly-established Anna Head School for Girls in Berkeley. Fred later attended the University of California, Berkeley, graduating in 1898. Susanna was sent to finishing school in Boston and later traveled with her mother in Europe. Returning to California in 1902, Susanna dipped into her sizable inheritance from her father to live on San Francisco's Russian Hill within the "bay window [of] Bohemia." In her memoir, ***The Scent of Violets***[1], Susanna's daughter, Susanna Bryant Dakin, describes her mother's Russian Hill life: "This seemed a dashing thing to do, at the turn of the century, and of course Grandmother did not approve, but her daughter inherited a strong will. In Maine it would have been said that both women were 'set as the everlasting hills.' "

Among the inhabitants of Russian Hill with whom Susanna associated were Gelett Burgess, an important figure in San Francisco's literary Renaissance; Ina Coolbrith, California's first Poet Laureate, Benjamin Franklin "Frank" Norris Jr., American journalist and novelist during the Progressive Era, author of ***The Octopus***; Willis Polk, inventive architect of the Bay Area; and Arnold Genthe (artist-photographer), who is reported to have taken Susanna into opium dens while he recorded San Francisco and its environs.

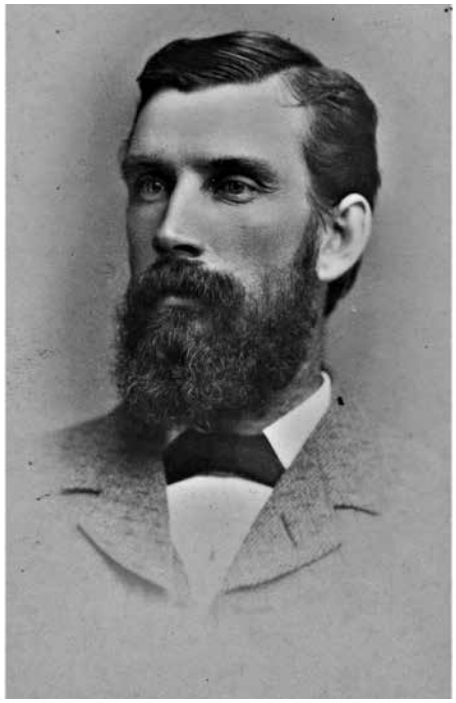
Apparently, Susanna (aka "Sue") did

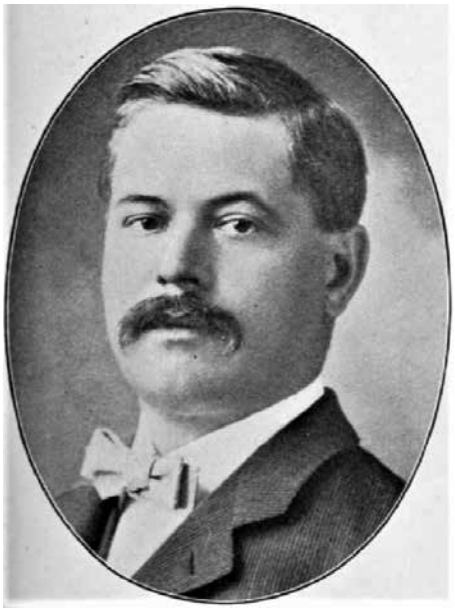
Right: John William Bixby (1848-1887). Named his sizable ranch holdings in Orange County, California, "Rancho Santa Ana". A lover of wildflowers and beauty, Susanna dedicated her botanic garden to her father—in "memory of John W. Bixby, Pioneer". Photo: date unknown. Courtesy Archives CalBG.

Far right: Ernest Braunton (1867-1945). A major influence in the horticultural world of southern California including his work as the landscape architect for the original Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. His extensive portfolio of skills and experience made him the perfect choice for this project. Photo appears in Braunton's book *The Garden Beautiful in California* (1915). Courtesy Archives CalBG.

Below, left: Susanna Bixby Bryant (1880-1946). Through her vision and determination founded Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden primarily for botanical research, but also to preserve and advocate for California's bountiful native flora. She wished to educate the public to the significance of the State's botanical treasures with displays of as many native plants as could be grown in one place, that is the botanic garden, and as was feasible in southern California. This classic photo of Susanna is prominently displayed in the Administration Building of the current garden in Claremont. Courtesy Archives CalBG.

Below, right: Ernest Albert Bryant (1868-1933). Prominent Los Angeles physician and surgeon who married "Sue" Bixby following a whirlwind courtship in 1904. Bryant was to become the friend of Henry E. Huntington and the Surgical Director for the Southern Pacific Railroad. Photo from *Men of the Pacific Coast*, published in 1903.





not confine herself to the surroundings of San Francisco and the Bay Area. In 1904, she was at the Los Angeles Country Club when she met Dr. Ernest Albert Bryant (1869–1933) from Woodstock, Ontario, Canada. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, Dr. Bryant was one of the most prominent young physicians and surgeons in Los Angeles. He would later become the friend and personal physician to Henry E. Huntington, as well as Surgical Director for the Southern Pacific Railroad. Daughter Susanna Bryant Dakin charmingly describes the meeting between her mother (age twenty-four) and her father (age thirty-five):

> Ernest Bryant saw a vision in Sue Bixby, done up like Eliza Doolittle at Ascot. Willowy, seeming tall as he in her dainty, high heeled slippers, she was dressed all in white with a lacy white parasol. Clear blue eyes, naturally wavy brown hair, a magnolia complexion, fragrance of violets—everything about the northern visitor the old bachelor

found irresistible, from the moment his eyes found hers.

As one can imagine, the circles in which Susanna traveled, the connections that she had, her tenacity and determination must have certainly set the stage for an independent woman of means to pursue a large and important project that was near and dear to her. Recognizing the importance of California's flora, she was keen to establish a botanical garden that offered this bounty in one collection in one place on her ranch in Orange County—an institution for scientific endeavors that might include representatives from the thousands of plant species that are native to our State and often grow no other place in the world.

Susanna married Ernest Bryant in 1904, and they had two children, Susanna Dakin, née Bixby (born 1905) and son Ernest Jr. (born 1907). The family often vacationed at Rancho Los Alamitos, while Susanna and her brother Fred shared the inheritance of Rancho Santa Ana in Orange County, California.

By 1912, at the age of thirty-two, Susanna was reported to be "tired of women's luncheons and teas, committee meetings and benefits...she decided to take on active management of Rancho Santa Ana." She excelled in this role, with "her superior mind and executive powers."[2]

In 1925, she bought her brother's interest in the Santa Ana Canyon ranch to become the sole owner of the nearly 6,000-acre property. In 1927, she had a house built on the ranch. That same year, the first citrus orchard was planted, followed a few years later by more orchards and experimenting with peanuts, cotton, lychee nuts, and pink grapefruit. Her fervent dedication to her Wild Garden project converted nearly 200 acres of remaining pastureland on the hills above the Santa Ana River into a preserve for California plants, "forcing reluctant ones to grow by the sheer strength of her will."[3]

Thoughts to Create a Native Plant Garden

A letter to Theodore Payne in the fall of 1925 documents Susanna's first serious interest in a native plant garden. His response of October 12, 1925, refers to Susanna's "Wild Garden project."[4] In later correspondence Payne listed nearly 200 native plants that might thrive in her ranch's native garden.

The idea for a native plant garden, however, did not spring ***sui generis*** from the bright mind of Susanna Bixby Bryant. Some precursors may very well have influenced her thinking, including horticulturalist Charles Francis Saunders who wrote ***With the Wild Flowers and Trees in California*** (1914) and later ***Trees and Shrubs of California Gardens*** (1926). In 1915, Theodore Payne, crusader for the appreciation and conservation of California's native flora, designed the plantings for Exposition Park—a landscape entirely of California plants. As the Park was a short distance from the Bryant home on West 28th Street in Los Angeles, it was likely that Susanna was familiar with its gardens.

There were also connections to Ralph Dalton Cornell (1890–1972), one of southern California's most talented and respected landscape architects, who early on advocated for the establishment of public parks devoted entirely to California native plants. One of Cornell's first assignments upon moving to Los Angeles was a commission as Supervising Landscape Architect for his ***alma mater*** Pomona College in Claremont. He also was the Supervising Landscape Architect for the Westwood campus of the University of California, Los Angeles. Eleven years after the founding of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Cornell published ***Conspicuous California Plants*** (1938). A few years later, following torrential winter rains in 1940–1941 that precipitated erosion, landslides, and the destruction of many Garden trails, Cornell drew up plans for a new approach to the Garden and was noted by Susanna as showing real "interest in helping us with several problems we could not cope with in planning to beautify the gardens."

Additionally, her chosen landscape architect Ernest Braunton (1867–1945), was not just that, but also a hybridizer, member of the Los Angeles Park Commission, professor of landscape gardening at the University of Southern California, a field botanist, and chairman of the Los Angeles County Board of Forestry. Braunton was a prolific writer and contributed the southern California section for Dr. Liberty Hyde Bailey's ***Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture***. Bailey (1858–1954) was an eminent American horticulturist and botanist, as well as the Chair of Practical and Experimental Horticulture at Cornell University.

In addition to his talents as a landscape architect, Braunton was an adept public relations person for the project. In October of 1927, he spoke before the state nurserymen's convention on the theme of a botanic garden for southern California. He wrote to Susanna:

> Now, I have intended to say that we are assured a botanic [garden] of native California plants, describing the undertaking, its scope and importance to the world of science, but no hint as to the owner or precise location. Since this determination, which involves no one, I have wondered if I may not have your permission to state it more plainly, who is to do it, what you hope to accomplish, its permanence to the public, it's probable endowment, ultimately, and in whose honor. . . . I will be governed by your wish.

At this juncture, it appears that Susanna did not ***wish*** a public announcement.

Braunton Signs on as Landscape Architect

Susanna invited Braunton to visit the ranch. Following that, she wrote to him to request that he submit a letter embodying his offer to draw up landscape plans for the botanic garden. In

Right: LeRoy Abrams (1874-1956). Professor of Botany, Stanford University and advisor to Susanna Bixby Bryant. Here in camp below Horse Thief Springs (Kingston Mountains, Mojave Desert), May 14, 1941. Per Carl Wolf, Abrams was "an enthusiastic, keen-eyed, discerning collector, but above all an excellent dishwasher on field expeditions." Photo: Carl Wolf. Courtesy Archives CalBG.

Below: Carl Brandt Wolf (1905-1973). Here stands Wolf with waist-high and multiple plant presses beside the RSABG field vehicle. Photo taken at Saddleback Lake (Mono County, California), August 17, 1933. Wolf was instrumental in the establishment and the development not only of the RSABG herbarium, but also the many collections of plant species grown in the Garden. Courtesy Archives CalBG.

Opposite page: Planting activity adjacent to the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden Administration Building, January 13, 1931. Courtesy Archives CalBG.

November, he sent his plans with the accompanying letter:

> Last evening, at the Sigma Xi dinner preceding Dr. Bailey's lecture, the subject of botanic gardens was brought up at our table and Will Hertrich [William Hertrich, Director of the Huntington Botanic Garden] and I had a quiet talk on the side about your garden as he informed me that he expected to visit it on Saturday. I told him that I expected to plan it . . .
>
> I spoke to Dr. Bailey [Liberty Hyde Bailey] about it in more detail now that I expect to plan it and he assured me most heartily that he would aid me with advice or in any way that he could. As I probably know him as well as anyone in California does, this means much to me, for he has seen more botanic gardens than any man I know.

In short order, Mrs. Bryant accepted Braunton's proposal saying:

> . . . I would like to have you begin work as soon as possible on the plan for our wild garden planting at Rancho Santa Ana; as outlined in your letter. When you go to the ranch Mr. Johnson, my superintendent, will be glad to be of any assistance possible to you, and he will know where I wish to reserve a site for house, green house, lath house and a small natural amphitheatre for outdoor theatricals later; which I wish to have kept free from planting.

Plans Begin in Earnest

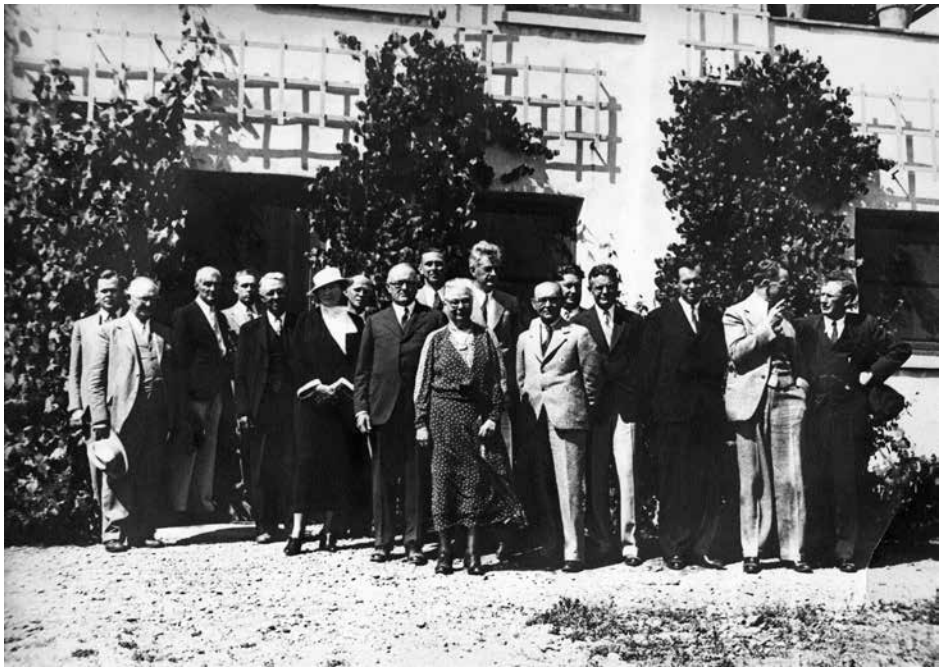
Following her approval, Braunton set about making his plan. The garden was situated on a commanding promontory of the Chino Hills overlooking the Santa Ana River and southward to the Santa Ana Mountains in Orange County. In making his plans, early on Braunton wrote for advice from Willis Linn Jepson of the University of California, Berkeley. No person consulted was more influential than Jepson, whose recommendations were invaluable to Braunton and the development of the botanic garden. For example, Braunton puzzled over which native plants should be included in the garden and how they might be arranged. Here are some of the questions he posed to Jepson:

> I am at work on a plan for Mrs. E. A. Bryant's garden of California plants (trees and shrubs only, herbaceous and succulents to be disposed of later). For trees I am going to use your Sylva [***The Silva of California***, 1910] to work from. Of course I desire to keep all members of each order together, if possible. Now, here's the rub: shall I group Pinaceae, Taxodiaceae, Cupressaceae, also Taxaceae separately or shall I group them all under Coniferales?
>
> This is going to be a big job for me, for I have to combine the botanical with the landscaping so that all will be attractive and orderly and yet keep it all technically correct so that the most captious critic among you botanists will be satisfied.

Jepson responded with a sage reply:

> There is only one way, I am convinced, of laying out a botanic garden of native plants, and that is to abjure formalism for the sake of formalism as far as possible. As a prime object the trees and shrubs should be used over the area in order to produce the best possible landscape arrangement. The landscape should not be subordinated to any purely botanical formalism or any set system of botanical classification. There is nothing of sufficient importance to be gained by doing so. All other considerations, ecological, associational, soil, slope, landscape values, cry out against it. Moreover, what classification shall be followed? Our classifications, our phylogenetic systems are at present in a state of flux, which is an excellent thing because it shows we are alive and making progress.
>
> This particular garden should be in itself and for itself a creation, an original concept, with respect to all the conditions that exist there and with respect to the purposes it is to serve. . . . So that, when you talk about "captious critics" amongst botanists, I reply that you should disregard all such from the start. To my mind all will be "technically correct" if the individuals are permanently labeled and good records are kept.

A bit later, Braunton writes to Jepson: "I am to use a few trees as is advisable... Trees, as Burnap [George Burnap, author of ***Parks, Their Design, Equipment and Use,*** 1915] says, are dots or accents and one cannot compose with accents. . . . In my work I nearly always try to "say it with Shrubs . . .". In the same letter, Braunton notes that Theodore Payne, nurseryman and keen advocate for California's native plants, had given Mrs. Bryant a list of 200 to 300 tree species. She shared this list with Braunton expecting him to incorporate as many of these in the landscape as possible. Says Braunton to Jepson, "I shall have no forests in my scheme for I cannot be in any way influenced by an owner." Among Mrs. Bryant's suggestions was that redwoods and Torrey pines could be planted up on a hill above the mead-



Top: Dramatic photo of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden Administration Building with plantings in the foreground designed by Ernest Braunton. As he noted to Jepson, "In my work I always say it with shrubs." He also eschewed "arboreal exclamation points!" Courtesy Archives CalBG.

Bottom: Board of Trustees, Councilors and Staff, April 28, 1934. From left to right: Roy Lacey, H. J. Webber, Henry O. Eversole, R. V. Cavers, Theodore Payne, Susanna Bixby Bryant, Bryon D. Stark, Allen L. Chickering, Carl B. Wolf, Alice Eastwood, D. D. Waynick, LeRoy Abrams, E. R. Johnson, Philip A. Munz, Ernest A. Bryant, Jr., John Treanor, Terry E. Stephenson. Courtesy Archives CalBG.

Opposite: Alice Eastwood (1859-1953), longtime friend and advisor to Susanna Bixby Bryant, a noted botanist, and curator of the Herbarium at the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco. She saved the Academy's irreplaceable type specimens through a heroic effort following the 1906 earthquake and subsequent fires. Here she joyfully sits outside of the original RSABG Herbarium. Photo by Carl Wolf. Date: unknown. Courtesy Archives CalBG.

ow that comprised the main acreage of the garden. Braunton tells Jepson, "Did you ever hear of such a combination? . . . There is no place in rural landscape for bayonet-topped conifers or other arboreal exclamation points. It is a place of wondrous possibilities, the owner is a wonderful woman and I would like to make it a wonderful garden. I shall not spoil it for I shall try to build a picture that the artist will want to paint and the photographer to snap again and again. The botanic garden will have to adjust to this picture." To this end, Jepson provided Braunton with a typewritten eleven-page, two-column checklist titled "Check List of Shrubs of California (Angiosperms) by Willis Linn Jepson, For the Use of Ernest Braunton, Prepared at Berkeley, California, December 1926." The list was created with the assistance of John Thomas Howell, Jepson's graduate student at the University of California.

At about this time, Mrs. Bryant also discussed her plans for her project with Dr. Ernest J. Jaqua, Dean of Faculty at Pomona College, who in turn, recommended Dr. Philip A. Munz, Professor of Botany, who might be of assistance. Munz was amenable; for nine years he had focused his research on the flora of California. He wrote to Mrs. Bryant that he would be glad to assist her in "so worthy an enterprise." By the end of 1926, Mrs. Bryant wrote to Jepson to inform him of the progress made. A lath house and greenhouse were under construction and a nurseryman had been hired. Ernest Braunton was well along in his plans; these formative years had established a beginning to bring forth the reality of the garden. The year 1927 would be the official founding date for the yet-to-be-named botanic garden.

As to the founding purposes of the botanic garden, it should be mentioned that in April 1927, Jepson visited Mrs. Bryant at her West Adams home in Los Angeles. During the visit Mrs. Bryant mentioned that she planned to produce seeds of many native species, which could be sold to make the garden self-supporting. Jepson strenuously objected. He noted in his journal: "She has no

appreciation of the fact that by entering the commercial field she puts her garden out of the class of botanic gardens and into the class of commercial gardens."

As the garden progressed, the nurseryman Edward Howard also provided a word of caution to Mrs. Bryant. Plants for her garden should all be grown from seeds collected in the wild. This important advice was accepted and thus from the garden's earliest days great care has been taken to secure seeds and plants from native populations.

A Name for the Garden

Early on there were several variations on the theme, but ultimately, on October 31, 1927, Mrs. Bryant wrote to Jepson to say that she had gained much valuable information for our "Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden." The name was set.

In late 1927, Mrs. Bryant invited Jepson to see her garden tract once Braunton's plans were completed. Braunton, on the other hand, felt differently about the timing of this visit. In January of 1928, he writes to Jepson:

> . . . Mrs. Bryant told me that . . . she thought you should wait until my plans are finished. Why, I do not know, for it would then be too late for you to say anything of Value. She could hardly expect anyone to criticize the plans adversely after they were finished. If she is going to lean on you for advice in this relation she should do so now, that it may also aid me. More than that no one can get any tangible conception of such a large and broken tract from a casual visit. She is a fine woman but quite impractical on this project.

In tandem with the physical plans for the garden, as early as 1926, Mrs. Bryant considered hiring a botanist and wrote to Jepson. At her request, Jepson recommended John Thomas Howell (1903–1994) his master's student at University of California, Berkeley. He describes Howell as a student of "unusual promise, industrious, thorough, with excellent power of independent thinking." Howell was hired in June of 1927. He was the botanic garden's first resident botanist.

Howell stayed the summer at the ranch to classify and record the plant collections, thus giving the nascent herbarium a firm beginning. He also made additional collections for the institution; but when the opportunity came to pursue his doctoral degree in botany at the University of California, Los Angeles, he took it. A few years later, he would

become assistant to the famed botanist Alice Eastwood at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. Eventually he would be deemed Curator Emeritus following sixty-five years of botanical exploration, research, and public education.

As to Braunton's challenges, in the same letter recommending Howell, Jepson wrote to Susanna:

> It seems that some well-known botanists have been insisting to Mr. Braunton that he should keep all natural families together. This is amusing. What is the object of your botanic garden? Is it not to add to the scientific knowledge of California plants and contribute to the pleasures of our people? If so, the plants must be placed where conditions are best suited for their growth. The idea is to get results. Any such cordwood plan as has been proposed to Mr. Braunton would be grotesque.

The Botanic Garden's Library

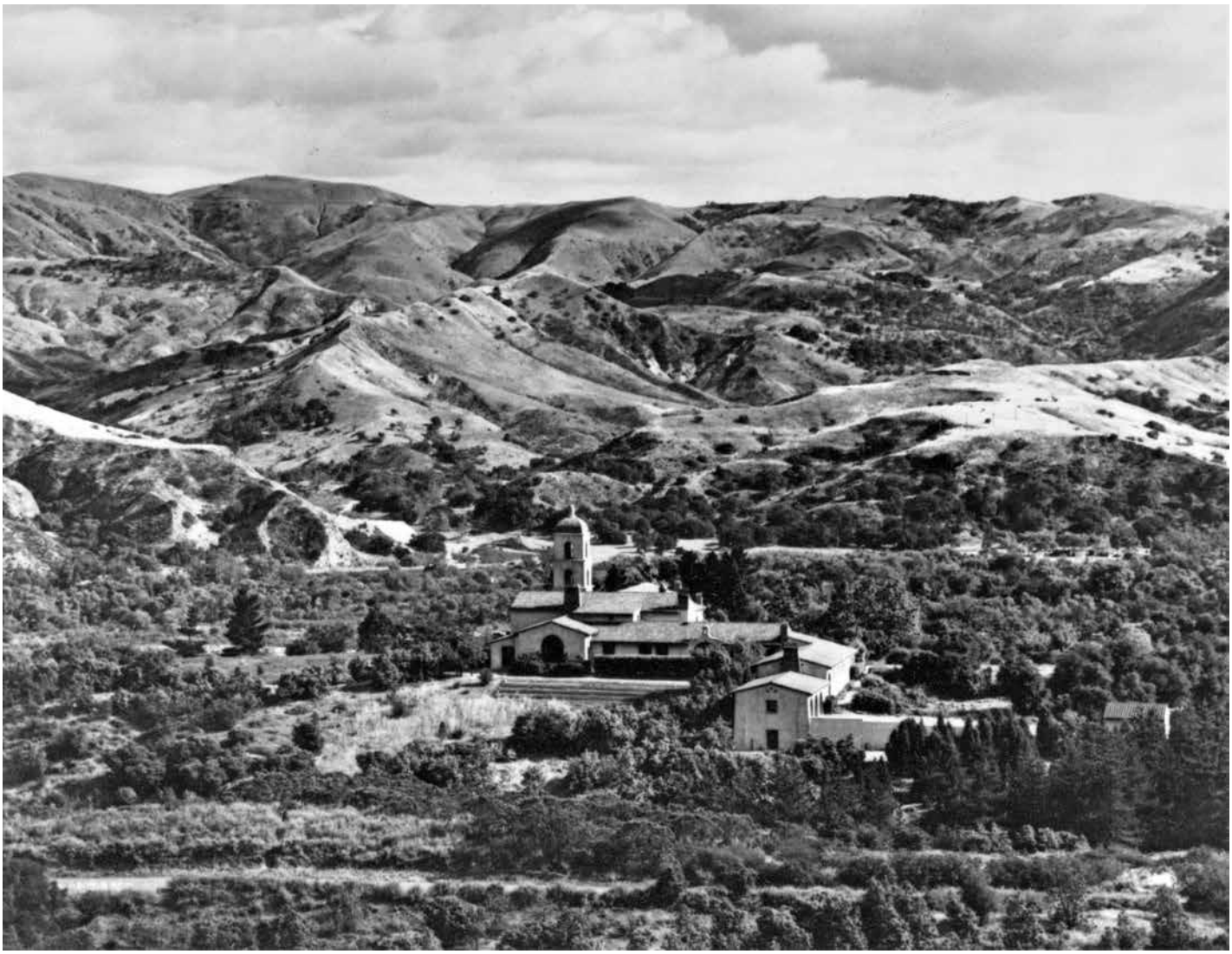
In May of 1927, Susanna accompanied Dr. Bryant to Philadelphia where her husband attended to the medical needs of Henry Huntington as a specialist was consulted [Huntington died there on May 23rd]. During that time on the East Coast both in Philadelphia and New York, Mrs. Bryant made several purchases for her garden library. In addition, she set up standing orders with the London booksellers Dulau & Co. of Cavendish Square. Also added to the library's holdings at that time was *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*, which began publishing in 1787 and continues to this day. It remains an esteemed publication in the horticultural literature.

By July 1927, an account was established with Henry George Fiedler, New York bookseller. In addition to the "great flower books," Susanna also was buying items of strictly botanical interest. Perhaps one of the more prized acquisitions was made on a 1928 trip to Europe when Mrs. Bryant purchased Pierre-Joseph Redouté's *Les Roses* (1817–1824). Bought from an antiquarian bookseller, the three folio volumes featured a duplicate set of plates in brown and white, of which only fifteen sets were published. The price at the time was £221 (the equivalent of $1,063 USD [the pound was worth $4.81 as of 1925]).

Bryant Country Home, Later Garden Headquarters

By May of 1927, a Spanish-style domicile designed by Wallace Neff was under construction. Initially, the expansive building was to serve as the Bryant country home. After visiting the ranch, Jepson described the so-called administration building.

> . . . up a sharp slope through the newly planted cactus garden . . .



> which sits on the flattish summit of a hill about four hundred feet about [sic] the river bench. It is a large and fine-looking building with a tower, all in the California mission-style. The walls are about four and a half feet thick, of adobe brick made by the Mexican workmen on the place. The living room has a high vaulted ceiling and is very impressive with its large windows—those looking toward the east framing Mt. San Jacinto through the Santa Ana Cañon on a fine day, those toward the west giving view toward the ocean.

He further noted:

> . . . during her life-time Mrs. Bryant will use this building as a residence for her family. After her death it is to be used as the main garden building and has been designed with that purpose in view. The herbarium room is on the first floor to the right of the main entrance. Her herbarium cases are modeled, she says, after those at Stanford [University], rather low units, sheet-metal cases, lined with cedar shelving. There are, perhaps twenty of these cases fairly well filled with mounted specimens—all Californian native plants.

On this same visit, Jepson reports that Mrs. Bryant expressed her displeasure with her landscape architect Braunton:

> She also told me about Ernest Braunton, whose manners she dislikes so much, coming down to the Rancho Santa Ana and applying for the job of Director of the Garden . . . She asked me if I knew Braunton? (This question threw not a little light on the weight given in her mind to the time and work I have given her problems). I replied quietly that I had recommended Mr. Braunton to her for the work of landscaping the garden. She replied: Oh so you did, and ran right on . . . .[5]

Jepson Continues to Press for a Scientific Director

As early as 1927, Jepson impressed upon Mrs. Bryant the importance of having a scientific director for the garden (i.e., a person holding a doctoral degree in botany). Susanna held the title of Managing Director and she was not about to cede authority to a scientific director. This 'discussion' apparently went on for quite some time. Ultimate-

Opposite: Panoramic view of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and Administration Building, ca. 1950. Below the Garden, the gorge of the Santa Ana River Canyon; Puente Hills in the background. Not visible, the property faces south to the Santa Ana Mountains. Courtesy Archives CalBG.

Above left: Susanna Bixby Bryant. Photograph from those taken of the Pomona College Board of Trustees, September 18, 1941. Courtesy Archives CalBG.

Above middle: Lee Wayne Lenz (1915-2019). Second scientific director of the Garden holding the longest tenure of any of its directors (1960-1983) to date. Received his doctoral degree from The Henry Shaw School of Botany, Washington University and the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis. A plant hybridizer, among his efforts noted for his work with the Pacific Coast Iris for which he was awarded the prestigious Foster Memorial Plaque from the British Iris Society in 1969. In this 1956 photo, Lenz is seen removing pollen from the yellow Iris at left which was found growing wild at the Rogue River in Oregon. He crossed that pollen with a blue Iris on the right, which was found growing wild in the Sierra foothills in Tulare County. This resulted in the cream-colored hybrid Iris in the center. Los Angeles Examiner Photographs Collection. Courtesy of the University of Southern California.

Above right: Philip Alexander Munz (1892-1974). First scientific director of the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden (1946-1960). Received his doctoral degree from Cornell University. Professor at both Cornell and later Pomona College. Advisor to Susanna Bixby Bryant; later hired by her as Botanist (1946). Following Mrs. Bryant's sudden death in October 1946, the Garden's Trustees appointed Munz director. He helped to facilitate the affiliation with the Claremont Colleges and oversaw the Garden's move to Claremont. Courtesy Archives CalBG.

ly, she and Jepson came to an impasse on this point, which caused a breech for several years. What follows will give some account of what transpired.

In early 1929, Jepson held his ground writing frankly to Mrs. Bryant:

> Ever since California was born it has needed more than aught else, nearly, a botanic garden. Of all the numerous California citizens of considerable means you are the only one who has thought to do this thing for the good of humanity and for the credit of civilization in California. For that intention and wish I give you, we shall all give you, full praise. The various activities which you propose for the garden are all desirable, but are such things as are already supplied by existing nurseries, parks, show gardens, seed establishments, wild flower gardens, or what not. All these useful things should be incidental to or the by-products of the garden as a scientific institution. To be a scientific garden it must carry on research—research in no way tainted by commercial activities or the sale of materials. This research must be done by and be directed by a professionally trained and experienced botanist.
>
> . . . I speak with the more freedom in that this matter is to me personally an academic one. . . . But it must be made plain to you that so long as your present attitude is maintained, no botanist, outstanding in merit and wise in experience will consent for long to be associated with the Rancho Santa Ana.

Susanna received Jepson's words as a "tirade of unwarranted condemnation . . .". He followed with an entry in his field notebook: "The explosion point has been reached at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. In answer to a letter from Mrs. Bryant I sent her a letter, a statesman-like letter, explaining to her that she could run a Garden herself, but not a Scientific Garden unless she had a Scientific Director." He reported that the letter "infuriated her."[6] This exchange of letters in early 1929 precipitated a four-year rift between Jepson and Mrs. Bryant.

Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. Hired to Design Plantings

In January 1929, as she was crossing swords with Jepson, a pleasant turn of events for Susanna must have been a visit from Beatrix Farrand, the noted landscape architect from Bar Harbor, Maine. Mrs. Bryant toured Farrand though her developing Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Farrand had designed a portion of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, as well as the plantings for Dumbarton Oaks, and had been a

Claremont garden site. Administration and botanical scientific facilities under construction, completed in 1952. Architectural design by Allison and Rible; general contractor C. W. Driver, both of Los Angeles. Courtesy Archives CalBG.

consultant to the Arnold Arboretum. In a letter following her visit Farrand wrote: "I shall be interested to know how the work progresses . . . and what you decided to do with the surroundings to your house."

It came to pass that sometime between 1927 and 1931, as noted in the Garden's report, the landscape plans for the area around the house had been completed by Frederick Law Olmsted [Jr.] "well known to us first for his achievements as a landscape architect in Boston, then to Californians for the landscaping at the Palos Verdes Estates . . ." Earlier, the same Olmsted Brothers firm had prepared a plan for walks and trails through the Rancho Santa Ana garden.

Superintendent Ernest R. Johnson

Sometime prior to the founding of the botanic garden, Ernest R. Johnson was employed at the ranch as Superintendent. He was to become the Garden's first Superintendent [now titled Director of Horticulture] and Construction Engineer. In 1939, however, he relinquished the title of Superintendent to Percy Everett. Johnson's dedication to the botanic garden would be recognized at the Claremont garden in 1977 with the dedication of the Ernest R. Johnson Memorial Oval, designed by Guy Moore of Guy Moore and Associates, Beverly Hills.

Carl Brandt Wolf Named Resident Botanist

John Thomas Howell resigned his position as Resident Botanist in 1927. It was not until three years later that Carl Brandt Wolf (1905–1973) was hired to fill this position. Wolf was a graduate of Occidental College and had received his doctoral degree at Stanford University, where he had studied with Dr. Leroy Abrams. As a young man, he had also worked for Theodore Payne and had a broad knowledge and in-

terest in California's native flora. He was a fine field botanist and collected large quantities of specimens for the Garden's herbarium. It was noted that "His field notes were meticulous and voluminous..." Furthermore, the provenance of the plants entered onto his herbarium specimen sheets were far more informative than those "supplied by contemporary botanists."[7] Under his direction the Garden's herbarium grew rapidly.

First Published Report on Garden Activities

The First Printed Report of The Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden of The Native Plants of California covers the period from January 1927 to June 1931. Included in the report was a general history of the ranch and plans for the garden. Topics included a "Condition Report" of plantings followed by a list of plantings which "Have Since Suffered Complete Loss" that went into detail on the individual plants and those that were indigenous to Rancho Santa Ana.

Also, in the report is listed the Garden's Board of Trustees: Allen L. Chickering, Chairman, and members Roy Lacy and Ernest A. Bryant Jr. Mrs. Bryant is listed as Business Director, E. [Ernest] R. Johnson, Superintendent and Construction Engineer, Carl B. Wolf, Botanist, D. B. Stark, Nurseryman, R. V. Cavers, Secretary, and Ernest A. Bryant Jr. as Representative from the Board of Trustees. It should be noted that Allen Chickering, the Chairman of the Trustees, was a childhood friend and advisor to Susanna. Despite being a practicing attorney in San Francisco, he was also a great enthusiast for California's native flora. In fact, it was Chickering who authored the article "Growing Calochortus" that was published in the first issue of the ***Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden Monographs, Horticultural Series*** (1938).

Publicity for the Garden

Even as the garden was beginning to form, it received public notice. An article published in 1927 in the ***Los Angeles Times*** featured Susanna Bixby Bryant, who was President of the Los Angeles Garden Club. In 1928, Ernest Braunton authored a piece about the garden in ***California Cultivator***. In 1930, an article about the garden appeared in ***Madroño***, the journal of the California Botanical Society.

In 1931, the American Association for the Advancement of Science [AAAS] held its eighty-eighth annual meeting in Pasadena as guests of the California Institute of Technology. As a feature of the meeting, attendees were invited to an excursion to Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and an accompanying symposium titled "Botanic Gardens." The three invited speakers were Walter T. Swingle (U.S. Department of Agriculture), Douglas H. Campbell (Stanford University), and Herbert J. Webber (University of California, Riverside) who spoke on the need for botanic gardens on the Pacific Coast. Following the presentations, the Bryants hosted a barbecue luncheon for the participants.

Susanna Establishes Councilors for the Garden

By June 1933, Jepson and Susanna had mended their fences and were back in communication. At that time, Susanna wrote to Jepson on two important points. The first point was their reconciliation:

> We have enough worthwhile material to publish a year book, and I am writing to ask if we may have the privilege of counting you a member of our Garden "Counsillors [sic]."[8] Your official endorsement will be a real incentive to us, and I am sure we are working along scientific lines in a way which would meet with your full approval.

Jepson replied that it would be his great pleasure to be named as 'Counsillor' of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and hoped to "be of real service in helping to solve the new problems which must continually arise in a progressive garden."

The second point (note that the date was 1933) was most fortunate:

> For the past two years the entire expense of operating the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden has been borne by the income from its endowment fund, and I anticipate that even in this year of curtailed dividends the securities laid aside "before the crash" will carry the whole burden of expense.

A second garden brochure was published in September 1933 and lists a number of prominent persons enlisted as councilors to offer professional advice in the development of the new garden. Honorary Councilors named were: Liberty Hyde Bailey of Cornell University; Walter T. Swingle of the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and Frederick Law Olmsted. Those for Botany were: Willis Linn Jepson of the University of California, Berkeley; Leroy Abrams of Stanford University; Philip A. Munz of Pomona College; and Alice Eastwood of the California Academy of Sciences. Councilors for Biology were Thomas Hunt Morgan, geneticist and 1933 Nobel Laureate of the California Institute of Technology; Herbert J. Webber, first director of the University of California, Riverside, Citrus Experiment Station; Dean David Waynick, soil scientist at the University of California, Berkeley; and, Henry O. Eversole, phytologist at California Institute of Technology. Those for Plant Propagation included Theodore Payne and Fred H. Howard. Ernest Braunton was named as Councilor of Planning, while Terry Elmo Stephenson (graduate of Stanford University, editor of the ***Santa Ana Register,*** and the first County Historian of Orange County, California) was the Councilor for Garden Publications.

There were other Trustees and Councilors to follow, but this first wave of advisors will suffice to give a view to the connections that Susanna Bixby Bryant had and to the quality and depth of expertise upon which she could call in support of her garden.

Above: Administration Building at Claremont botanic garden with sycamore trees (*Platanus racemosa)* in foreground. Courtesy Archives CalBG.

The Trust Indenture

As Philip Munz later wrote, the seven years between 1927 and 1934 could be considered the trial period for Susanna's garden, a time to assess if her plans for a California garden of plants was practical and feasible. It was deemed so, as Susanna initiated legal procedures that made the garden a financially sound operation. On July 12, 1934, through a Trust Indenture, Mrs. Bryant transferred to the Board of Trustees (whose members held lifetime appointments) a bill of sale for certain and real personal property including the botanic garden site along with a financial trust agreement, the income from which was to be used for "furthering the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in memory of [her father] John W. Bixby." Establishing the garden as an independent institution, the Trust Indenture also included a statement to "The Nature and Purpose of the Institution Hereby Founded and to be Maintained Hereunder" that laid out the nature, object, and purpose for the botanic garden.

Plant Collections and Wartime Assignments

As the years passed, Carl Wolf proved to be an adept, dedicated, and determined collector for the Garden's efforts. He not only explored and collected far and wide on his own, but he also was joined in the field at times by Jepson or Abrams—and even Allen Chickering—among others.

During World War II, Wolf bemoaned that his field collecting had been cur-

tailed by the war, but he had other assignments. Wolf was appointed as a collaborator to assist Dr. J. M. Webber in the Bureau of Plant Industry to determine the feasibility of using native yucca leaves as a fiber source for making rope. The Garden also cooperated with the California Fish and Game Commission in an effort to establish which of the native brush were inedible to livestock, but that could provide cover for the State's native quail populations. Wolf was enthusiastic about this project as "it offers a possible use for some of our least attractive shrubs . . .". The Army Engineers Camouflage School at March Field in Riverside County also sought assistance in finding fibrous material that could be used to weave small nets for helmets and packs. California's only native palm, ***Washingtonia filifera***, was put forth as a possible solution.[9] Finally, a survey of native plant fruits and seeds was conducted to determine any economic value that they might yield. Both coast live oak acorns (***Quercus agrifolia***) and Joshua tree fruits (***Yucca brevifolia***) were found to have abundant oil content that was highly edible. Wolf published these results two years later in ***California's Wild Tree Crops*** (1945).

Percy Everett Hired

In late 1943, Percy Charles Everett (1902–1973) was hired as Corresponding Secretary and Keeper of the Herbarium (later to be appointed Superintendent). A native of Sierra Madre, California, Everett attended the University of Illinois, but illness precluded him from continuing his education. Later, he accepted a position with the U.S. Forest Service as a fire lookout on Santiago Peak in the Santa Ana Mountains. While out botanizing, Wolf made the acquaintance of Percy Everett, whose abilities impressed him. Wolf convinced Everett to join the staff at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden where he remained until his retirement in 1967.

A Devastating Fire

During the war years, Everett bemoaned the shortage of experienced laborers to properly maintain the garden, but it was the weather and a disastrous fire that swept through the garden in early November 1943, that was most devastating. Santa Ana winds of thirty-five-miles-per-hour fanned the flames over dry hills. Nearly a third of the garden was consumed by fire. Four months later, in late February of 1944, the heaviest of rainstorms came—the worst in thirteen years.

The result of these cataclysmic events was reported by Percy Everett in January 1945. There were minuses, but also pluses:

> After checking all the records [of the Plant Inventory] thoroughly, I believe a very fair estimate of our losses to be 5300 plants. Of these 3800 were in bed plantings and 1500, mostly trees, in cover plantings . . .
>
> The old saw that it is an ill wind that blows no good [i.e., a loss or misfortune usually benefits someone] holds true in the experience of the Garden after the fire for the condition of many of the plants indicates they have benefited greatly by being burned . . .
>
> In the spring of 1944, the burned areas of the Garden and Ranch were literally covered with millions of *Calochortus catalinae* and later *Calochortus Weedii intermedius*. Large patches of California-Poppies, Phacelia, Lupines and several other annuals turned the hills to brilliant orange, and soft purple and blue. This is the first time in the history of the Garden that the hills were so colorful, which indeed, must partial recompose for the otherwise somber appearance.

Philip Munz Joins Staff

Shortly after the end of World War II, Carl Wolf resigned his position, leaving Mrs. Bryant to seek his replacement. She sought Jepson's advice, but he only learned of her decision circuitously. In late March 1946, Jepson wrote to John Thomas Howell that he had word that Munz had been appointed to take Wolf's place as Resident Botanist. Jepson was quite enthused by this news as he foresaw that someday the Garden would have a scientific director.

Philip Alexander Munz (1892–1974), a native of Wyoming, received his Ph.D. at Cornell University and in 1917 accepted a position at Pomona College. He was trained as an entomologist, but upon his arrival in California soon became interested in the State's flora. At Pomona College, he developed a strong undergraduate program in botany and brought together a large and important herbarium focused primarily on the plants from southern California, but with quite a number of specimens from the entire state. During his tenure at Pomona, Munz published his ***Manual of Southern California Botany*** (1935) that for many years remained the standard taxonomic treatment for the region.

Munz left Pomona College in 1944 to return to Cornell University as Professor of Botany and to work with Dr. Liberty Hyde Bailey at the Bailey Hortorium, but the duration of his tenure there was brief. For family reasons, Munz sought to return to California, and on August 1, 1946, he accepted the position as Resident Botanist at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden.

Death of Mrs. Bryant

Munz's appointment as Resident Botanist was most fortunate for the Garden, as on October 2, 1946, Mrs. Bryant died suddenly while in Santa Barbara. Of her, Munz wrote:

> . . . I am thankful to have obtained even a glimpse of the ability, the idealism, and the courage that she possessed. I hope that as a member of the Garden Staff, I may be able to do something toward accomplishing the ends that she had in mind for the institution which she created and which she so ably directed during its formative years.

Her passing was not only a great shock,

Original entry to Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont. Note wall crafted from native field stone. Courtesy Archives CalBG.

but also put in question the future of the institution. Board Chairman Allen Chickering wasted no time, and informed Munz that a meeting of the Board of Trustees would be held in late October. He assured Munz in his letter that the ". . . decision as to what to do is naturally in their [the Trustees] hands, but, from the provisions she made for the Garden in her will, I can see no reason why the Garden should not be able to go ahead as planned by her."[10]

On November 6, 1946, Philip Munz was named Managing Director to succeed Mrs. Bryant. For 20 years Jepson had dreamed of a scientific director for Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. This came to fruition just one day before his own death on November 7, 1946. Although the term "Managing Director" was used in Board meeting minutes, the term "Managing" was never used by Munz—he was Director of the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden.

Changes for the Garden

With the passing of Mrs. Bryant, Robert Casamajor of Pasadena was asked to be her replacement on the Garden's Board of Trustees, a position which he held until his death in 1960. Additionally, new Councilors were named. These included Laurence M. Klauber, a business executive and world-renowned authority on rattlesnakes; Dr. Walter E. Lammerts, well-known rose hybridizer; Dr. Herbert L. Mason, taxonomist at the University of California, Berkeley; Dr. Fritz W. Went, of the California Institute of Technology; and Dr. Carl B. Wolf.

By 1947, the Garden, again for the first

time since the war years, was opened to the public on Fridays and Saturdays during April and May. The response was overwhelming. By the end of the first postwar season, the Garden had received approximately 3,000 visitors.

Debut of *Aliso* — the Garden's Scientific Journal

In 1947, Munz initiated the Garden's scientific journal, originally titled *El Aliso* (in 1958, the publication's name was shortened to *Aliso*). The first issue of *Aliso*, published in April 1948 and devoted entirely to "The New World Cypresses" (authored by Carl Wolf and Willis F. Wagener), was actually the combining of two of the Garden's former publications: the *Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden Monographs, Horticultural Series* and the *Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden Monographs, Botanical Series* (both initiated in 1938). The article on cypresses included both horticultural and botanical aspects of the taxonomy contributed by Wolf, with information about its pests and diseases provided by Wagener.

By 1965, a subtitle was added—*Aliso*: *Journal of the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden*. Munz chose the name for the journal ". . . Because of the historical importance of the sycamore, the original boundaries of the Rancho Santa Ana having been surveyed from a giant tree, also because of Mrs. Bryant's fondness for the species." The botanical name for the western sycamore is *Platanus racemosa*, but the tree is often called by its Spanish name *Aliso*.

Before the advent of *Aliso*, the garden had other publications: in 1933, there was the *Occasional Publications* series "In memory of Dr. Ernest A. Bryant" who had passed away that same year. A few years later, in 1938 came the *Leaflets of Popular Information*. The monographs already noted were ultimately surpassed by *Aliso* beginning in 1946–1947.

Further Developments: Research Library, Herbarium, & Laboratory

As the first scientific director, Philip Munz proceeded expeditiously to bolster the scientific aspects of the Garden: Jepson would have been pleased! Munz enhanced the research library by adding volumes of botanical importance. During the postwar period, during the late 1940s and early 1950s, many significant offerings were coming into the market as libraries overseas (sadly) were being liquidated. It was an opportune time to acquire rare and out-of-print books. Furthermore, Theodore Payne offered the garden catalogues that he had collected since 1906. This was no small matter—the catalogues were of great value in pinpointing the dates when California native plants were introduced into the horticultural trade. Munz employed his wife Alice McCully Munz (B.A. in Botany, Pomona College) as part-time librarian to catalogue the library's collections—a position she held until her retirement in 1960.

The 1947 year-end report noted that the herbarium had amassed 34,675 specimens with nearly 16,963 duplicates that were distributed to other herbaria.[11] Gloria Campbell was hired as Secretary and Curator of the Herbarium. Campbell was the student of Dr. Lyman Benson at Pomona College and received her master's degree from the Claremont Graduate School in 1948.

Also, noteworthy was the acquisition of supplies and equipment in order that the members of the scientific staff could carry on laboratory research. The Garden was definitely poised to be that scientific institution envisioned by Susanna Bixby Bryant at the urging of Willis Linn Jepson.

Lee Lenz Hired as Assistant Botanist

It was announced at the semiannual meeting of the Trustees and Councilors on April 25, 1948 that Lee Wayne Lenz (1915–2019) had been appointed Assistant Botanist. Born and raised on a ranch near Missoula, Montana, Lenz at the time was a doctoral candidate at The Henry Shaw School of Botany, Washington University at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis. There he was a student of Dr. Edgar S. Anderson (1897–1969), who was a renowned geneticist and hybridizer. Lenz completed his Ph.D. degree a few months later and arrived at the Garden on July 1, 1948. Dr. Lenz was charged with attempting to produce new or more adaptable garden plants from native California species. Shortly thereafter the Pacific Coast Iris Project began.

E. K. Balls Joins the Staff with a Most Interesting Past

In 1949, the Englishman Edward Kent Balls (1892–1984), was hired to care for the grounds around the administration building (later he was given the title of Horticulturist), but this scarcely accounts for his most intriguing "back story."

Balls began his career as a draper in England until World War I broke out. In 1914, he volunteered as a war relief worker with the Quakers. This work took him to many places beyond England until his return in 1925. By then he was accompanied by his Russian wife. His next employment was working near Stevenage, England, as a gardener for Clarence Elliot's Six Hills Nursery. There he developed an interest in alpine plants and also created gardens for a number of distinguished clients, including a rock garden at Exbury for Lionel de Rothchild.

Subsequently, Clarence Elliot introduced Balls to Dr. P. L. Giuseppi, who joined him to collect plants in Persia [Iran]. On that trip, Balls reported he spent four and a half months "as a guest of some charming and hospitable Kurdish brigands.[12]" Elliott also introduced Balls to Dr. William Balfour Gourlay with whom Balls collected in Turkey from 1933–1935. There he encountered difficulties: at one point the Turkish authorities refused him entry to the country because they thought him to be Lawrence of Arabia in disguise! In 1936, Balls and Balfour Gourlay travelled to Greece and Morocco. The later trip required an armed escort; nonetheless Balls managed to collect several alpine species, including gentians, narcissi, and fritillaries, which had been

beyond the reach of the 1871 expedition of Joseph Hooker (1817–1911).

In 1938, with Balfour Gourlay, Balls traveled to Greece, and later to Mexico where they collected wild potatoes for Britain's Imperial Agricultural Bureau. While in Mexico, Balls received a cable requesting that they continue their potato searches in the Andes. The two men set sail for Colombia; the result was the collection of fifty types of wild potatoes, as well as ornamental plants introduced into cultivation in Britain. Ultimately, the South American expedition came to an end in August 1939 with the outbreak of World War II in Europe.

During the war, a year-long lecture tour in the United States somehow led to work for British government agencies in New York and Washington, and Balls and his wife became United States citizens. The postwar years found the couple engaged in war relief work in Yugoslavia and later China. In 1947, Balls returned to California where he joined Lester Rowntree in her native seed collecting business. Two years later he was in the employ of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden where he remained until his retirement.

Because of his exotic travels and intrigues, among the Garden staff at the time, it was rumored that perhaps Balls had some involvement with Her Majesty's Secret Service, but these rumors were never confirmed.

Garden Seed Repository

Soon after arriving at the botanic garden, Balls collected not only herbarium specimens, but also seeds from California's native plants. Under his direction, the seed collection became a major component to the work of the Garden. As a side note, it was said that Balls was willing to gather items of interest for specialists whether they be beetles or postage stamps. Wild-collected seeds were documented with a plant voucher placed in the herbarium. This included an accession number and the entry of detailed records in the Plant Records System. Once processed, the seeds were propagated for use in the garden. At the original site, beds were established to grow rows and rows of annuals for garden use. After the garden was moved to Claremont, when there was excess seed not needed by the garden, the Seed List was drawn up and distributed to botanical gardens all over the world. The Seed List was part of a seed exchange program in which Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden was a member. Interestingly, the Garden could offer seed, but because of its focus on California native plants could not acquire seed from the other participating institutions.

The Garden Moves to Claremont

Following Mrs. Bryant's death, the Trustees contemplated the limitations of the Garden's location as it was relatively isolated and remote, especially from centers of higher education—in the 1940s, Orange County was more rural and agricultural in focus. Further, the garden was placed in the middle of a large commercial ranch raising cattle and growing fruit orchards, including pomegranates. The Bryant heirs certainly must have been ambivalent about the botanic garden's location in the midst of their agricultural and livestock operations.

With previous connections to the Claremont Colleges, Munz suggested moving the Garden to Claremont. Late in 1948, negotiations began between members of the Garden's Board of Trustees and representatives from the Claremont Colleges. It took some time, but by May 5, 1950 an "Agreement for the Affiliation of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden with Claremont College" was signed. The Claremont College consortium included both undergraduate and graduate institutions. The Botanic Garden's principal affiliation was to be with the Claremont Graduate School (later Claremont Graduate University [CGU]) as the home of its Department of Botany. To the present, graduate students are taught and mentored by botany faculty who hold CGU appointments. All facilities for the graduate program are located and operated on site at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden where students pursue their studies toward master's or doctoral degrees in the field of systematics and the evolution of higher plants. Upon graduation, the graduate students receive their diplomas from Claremont Graduate University.

Of this move, Philip Munz wrote:

> There will be advantages in this affiliation, both to the Garden and to the Colleges. Greater accessibility will very much increase the usefulness of the Garden to the people of Southern California. Participation in graduate work will be stimulating to staff and will enlarge their sphere of activity. The plantings of the Garden will be used for thesis work and investigation by many instead of few. The use of the facilities already at Claremont will be available to the Garden. The Garden will be recognized as a member of a group of institutions of public character instead of a semi-private one in the middle of a private ranch.

The Claremont Site

Thus the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden was relocated to Claremont on an eighty-six-acre L-shaped piece of land that included coast live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*) that grew on the eastern edge of the Indian Hill mesa, holdovers from when a seasonal stream from the San Gabriel Mountains flowed down from San Antonio Canyon. Beyond that, the land was cleared and awaited a plan. The new location offered a *tabula rasa* for the establishment of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in its new iteration, but the "tablet" contained many native plants before they were "erased."

Percy Everett described this in his *Second Summary of the Horticulture and Propagation of California Native Plants at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden (1950–1970)* edited by Bart C. O'Brien (2012):

> The surrounding acreage be-

Right: Plant Communities with San Gabriel Mountains to the north. Plantings in this 50-acre section of the Garden are according to the system worked out by P. A. Munz and D. D. Keck in 1949, which brings together species from similar ecological habitats. Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden perhaps was the first American botanical garden in which an ecological approach was taken in the arrangement of certain plantings. Courtesy Archives CalBG.

low the mesa is a very quickly drained sandy, granitic loam, well laced with rocks from the smallest to boulder size, and which were spewed originally over the plane from the deep, sharply drained canyons to the north. Generally, this type of soil is highly recommended for the best culture of our native plants. While the bulk of our plantings are being grown in this type of soil, there are many species that grow better in the clay soil of the mesa. At the time of the acquisition of the site, this portion of the acreage was covered almost solidly with sage brush (***Artemisia californica***), white sage (***Salvia apiana***), black sage (***Salvia mellifera***), and scattered clumps and individual specimens of California toyon (***Heteromeles arbutifolia***), laurel sumac (***Malosma laurina***), lemonade-berry (***Rhus integrifolia***), and California coffee-berry (***Rhamnus californica***). On the east slopes of the mesa was a scattering of the aforementioned plus ***Eriodictyon trichocalyx*** [hairy yerba santa] and poison oak (***Toxicodendron diversilobum***) as well as the magnificent stand of California coast live oaks (***Quercus agrifolia***). The gentle north slope of the mesa was covered with some of the salvias in the sunnier portions plus grasses and quantities of Johnny-jump-ups (***Viola pedunculata***) under the scattered coast live oaks. The violas gradually disappeared as their natural environment was changed by the introduction of irrigation and other types of plantings.[13]

Preparation for the move to Claremont was made well in advance. Percy Everett's account provides the scope of what was involved:

> In late 1949, we began the removal of a large portion of the irrigation systems at the old site [30 miles of pipe would to be installed at the Claremont garden]. Since the growth of trees and shrubs require the most time, their propagation was increased to the full capacity of the nursery at the old site. Some 10,000 plants were ready for planting out by the time we were prepared to start planting operations at the new site in March 1951.[14]

Design for the New Garden and Living Collection

Immediately after acquiring title to the land, the site was surveyed, graded for roads and future paths, and the perimeter was fenced. The architectural firm of Allison and Rible of Los Angeles prepared plans for the administration building, which in addition to office space would provide for an herbarium, library, and research laboratories. The plans were approved by The Claremont Colleges Architectural Commission on July 21, 1950. The general contractor to construct the building was C. W. Driver of Los Angeles. Additionally, a house for a nurseryman, as well as greenhouses and a lath house, were constructed at the eastern base of the mesa.

C. Jacques Hahn and his associate Charles Hoffmann of Sierra Madre were hired to develop the landscape plans for the Garden. Their scheme for the new garden included an area close to the main building for demonstration plants and special collections, as well as a sizable test plot for experimental work.

As noted, the northern section of the garden and the land east of the mesa were alluvium. Of this portion of the garden, the fairly flat north-most section of approximately fifty acres was planted according to the system of Plant Communities as put forward by Munz and Keck in 1949, the first of its kind to deliberately plant some of its acreage in accordance with this system. This meant that species found associated together in the wild would be growing together in the garden. This was the original thought; however, the

landscape architects (unlike Ernest Braunton who designed the plantings for the original garden) lacked knowledge of the native flora and their special cultural requirements. Further, they were most familiar with designing landscapes for private homes and this was a much larger project. Thus, their plans were not strictly followed.

The Plant Records System

As a scientific institution, from the days of Carl Wolf onward, the garden maintained detailed and accurate documentation of all plants accessioned into the Garden's collection. These records were maintained in the Plant Records System. The system provided the provenance of each accession (e.g., locality collected, associated species, collection date and collector, discreet accession number, as well as the location of its placement in the Garden). In addition to the thousands of plants brought from the original garden to Claremont, fresh material collected from the wild also was added.

The layout for the plantings was aligned with the floristic provinces of California. The northern-most provinces' species were planted at the north end of the garden, with subsequent plantings trending south on the property. This was unfortunate as the coast redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) were planted in the hottest part of the Garden, while the desert species were planted in one of the Garden's shadier and more protected areas to the south and east of the mesa. Over the years, some of these misplacements have been corrected. There is (as of this writing) a lovely grove of Mexican Blue Palms (*Brahea armata*) that is thriving at the north end of the Garden in the Baja section of the California Floristic Province (which extends to El Rosario, Baja California, Mexico).

Ranch Reverts to the Bryant Family

Once all were settled in Claremont, a Quit Claim Deed was signed by the Board of Trustees and the Orange County ranch once again was owned *in toto* by the Bryant heirs.

Bryant family members, however, continued to take a significant interest in the botanic garden. Mrs. Bryant's son Ernest Jr. had been a member of the Board of Trustees since his mother founded the garden in 1927 and later served as Chairman. In the early 1960s he was joined by his son Ernest A. Bryant III (aka "Ernie") who served for forty-six years on the Board, much of that time as its Chairman, until his retirement in 2006.

Munz Adds to the Research Staff

Over the course of his tenure as Director, Munz was able to seek out and recruit botanists of excellent caliber to bolster the research staff. Appointments included Dr. Lee W. Lenz (1948, as cytologist, cytogeneticist, and later Director); Dr. Verne Grant (1950, biosystematist); Dr. Richard K. Benjamin (1952, mycologist); Dr. Sherwin Carlquist (1956, plant anatomist and morphologist); and, upon Munz's retirement in 1960, the nationally-esteemed Dr. Peter Hamilton Raven as Curator of the Herbarium.

Munz's Legacy

In addition to oversight of the relocation of the Garden from Orange County to Claremont, the construction of the main buildings and infrastructure, and the planting of the Living Collection, as well as the establishment of the graduate program in Botany, Munz was deeply involved in fieldwork and research to write several floras of California native plants. *A California Flora* (1959) established Munz as a top authority in the field. Upon his retirement, he collaborated with David D. Keck to publish *A California Flora and Supplement* (1968). Earlier, in quick succession, four more *floras* were added to the literature: *California Spring Wildflowers* (1961), *California Desert Wildflowers* (1962), *California Mountain Wildflowers* (1963), and *Shore Wildflowers of California, Oregon and Washington* (1964).

Lenz Becomes Director

In 1960, Dr. Lee W. Lenz took the helm at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden—"helm" an apt image as Lenz had served as First Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy during World War II with an assignment in the Pacific under the command of Admiral William F. "Bull" Halsey Jr.

As noted earlier, Lenz began his career at the original Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in April 1948 when he was hired as Assistant Botanist. As a graduate student studying with noted geneticist and hybridizer Edgar S. Anderson, Lenz also became interested in hybridization, as well as the genus *Iris*. During his garden tenure, beginning in 1949 and continuing through to his retirement in 1983, Lenz studied and named twenty-nine selections of *Iris*, including a red-flowering cultivar (cultivated variety).

Among his contributions to plant systematics are fifteen papers on *Iris*, including a taxonomic revision of the Pacific Coast irises. In 1969, Lenz was honored by the British Iris Society with the prestigious Foster Plaque. At the time, the *American Iris Society Bulletin* noted that Lenz's award was "for his superlative research, especially with the California natives and other spuria. His reputation is international, and made him a very logical choice for this high honor." One of his most recognized successes was *Iris* 'Sierra Sapphire,' which won the highly respected Sydney B. Mitchell Award in 1977.

The Garden During Lenz's Tenure

Shortly after assuming the role of Director, in 1960 Lenz oversaw necessary expansions to support the work and research of the Garden. Capital improvements included a large screenhouse that was added to the existing lath house. With this addition, it was possible to carry on pollination and hybridization studies safe from the intrusion of free-flying insects. The two existing greenhouses also were overhauled to rectify failures in the

Left: Home Demonstration Garden. Designed by Sierra Madre architectural firm Hahn and Hoffman; completed in 1961. This special garden approximated the size of a residential lot at the time; the wooden structure the size of a private residence. Landscaping around the structure provided homeowners with ideas for using native plants successfully in their gardens. Courtesy Archives CalBG.

heating system and to add a misting room to root cuttings. In the herbarium, 96 new steel cabinets were added—an upgrade from the wooden ones that housed the specimens previously. In 1961, a major development on the grounds was the construction of a Home Demonstration Garden to display appropriate native plantings around a suburban home and garden. A laboratory annex was added in 1968 and later a second floor above the laboratories was built to accommodate the library's growing collection. By 1971, the irrigation pipes, originally intended for above ground, temporary use to supply water to the troops during World War II, were showing stress. This was remedied by lining the pipes with a thin layer of concrete, which added usefulness for almost another thirty years.

The Public is Welcomed

Unlike access to the Orange County garden, which was by appointment, the garden in Claremont had been available to the public, with the exception of Saturday afternoons and Sunday. As of 1960, visitors could enjoy the garden grounds seven days a week from 8 AM to 5 PM, with the exception of four major holidays. This schedule has been maintained over the years until the advent of the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic. Visitors are advised to check the website for hours when the Garden is open: ***https://www.calbg.org***.

Further Staff Additions

During his tenure Lenz continued to add excellent and notable plant scientists to his staff. In 1962, Dr. Robert Folger Thorne (1920–2015) was appointed Taxonomist and Curator of the Herbarium. Thorne, who received his Ph.D. at Cornell University, came to the botanic garden from the University of Iowa where he had been Professor of Botany and Curator of the Herbarium. An energetic and widely traveled botanist, with in-depth experience in the curation of herbaria, Thorne reorganized the Garden's herbarium holdings (identified by the acronym RSA) to integrate them with those of Pomona College (POM) that were maintained separately on site. The comprehensive RSA/POM holdings allowed researchers to handily locate plant specimens in one location. By 1977, the herbarium contained nearly 600,000 specimens. As of this writing, the collection contains over 1.2 million specimens and continues to grow.

Initially joining the garden staff as Horticulturist, in 1967 John Dourley (1922–2015) was named Superintendent upon the retirement of Percy Everett. A notable plantsman trained at the Royal Botanic Garden at Edinburgh, Scotland, Dourley had spent several years at the Morris Arboretum in Philadelphia. John was exceedingly knowledgeable and adept with the propagation of plants. He also was a generous mentor to many a young plantsman, including Mike Evans and his business partner Jeff Bohn of Tree of Life Nursery, San Juan Capistrano, California. Mike fondly remembers John and introduced the cultivar ***Arctostaphylos*** 'John Dourley' in his honor. John Dourley was a fine gentleman and never lost his charming Scottish burr.

In March of 1969, Clarence William "Dick" Tilforth (1916–1994) joined the staff as Horticulturist. Formerly, he had been Assistant Superintendent at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum [now Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden]. In 1976, Tilforth returned to the original Orange County garden site to survey what plants might still be extant. Despite lack of irrigation or maintenance, among the "survivors" were species of ***Ceanothus***. The full account of his findings was published in the annual report for 1977.

In April 1977, Dr. Lenz successfully arranged the necessary visas for Walter Wisura (1933–) to join the staff as Horticulturist. Wisura was born in

what is now the Czech Republic, had extensive experience in horticultural work, including nine years on the staff of National Botanic Garden of South Africa, Kirstenbosch. In the mid-1980s, Lenz promoted Wisura to Curator of the Living Collection, a position he held until his retirement in January 1995. Following his retirement, Wisura travelled extensively, including a jaunt around the world and later around the Pacific.

Plant Introductions

Over the years, the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden (RSABG) has introduced some notable cultivars of native California species. Among them *Arctostaphylos* 'Emerald Carpet' and 'Pacific Mist'; *Baccharis pilularis* var. *pilularis*; 'Twin Peaks #2'; *Ceanothus* 'Frosty Blue' and *C. griseus* 'Santa Ana'; *Fremontodendron* 'California Glory', 'Pacific Sunset', and 'San Gabriel'; *Heuchera* 'Opal', 'Santa Ana Cardinal', and 'Wendy'; *Mahonia* 'Golden Abundance'; *Ribes sanguineum* var. *glutinosum* 'Claremont'; and, *Salvia* 'Allen Chickering'.

The first cultivar was selected and named in 1937 after its discovery by Allen Chickering, then RSABG Chairman of the Trustees, who found it on a morning walk in the Garden. The plant was a hybrid sage (*Salvia clevelandii* x *S. leucophylla*) with beautiful, large, blue-violet flowers. Though that individual was never vegetatively propagated, a subsequent nearly identical plant was selected around 1949 and released in 1955 as *Salvia* 'Allen Chickering'. It continues to be widely grown and an appreciated landscape plant throughout California.

Since its introduction in 1959, *Baccharis pilularis* 'Twin Peaks #2' (usually sold as 'Twin Peaks') has been grown by the tens of thousands, and is the most commercially successful plant the Garden has produced. Cuttings of this prostrate male plant were originally collected from Twin Peaks in San Francisco by Percy Everett and E. K. Balls in 1956.

Youth Education Program

In 1966, a program to serve school children, as well as scout troops, was initiated. By 1967 the program began to recruit volunteer guides—Nature Interpreters—now called Garden Guides. Volunteer Nature Interpreters were recruited and trained by the Youth Education Program staff to lead tours about California's native plants and early indigenous peoples. Later, the educational tours, as well as classes, were expanded with offerings for adults. From a modest start, the Garden now counts over 200 volunteers among its numbers.

Graduate Program in Botany

As the years passed, the graduate program grew to be well established and with an esteemed reputation. Many of its well-trained botanists, holding master's or doctoral degrees, have gone on to very successful careers in the field of systematics, conservation botany, and as botanic garden directors.

Garden Professional Affiliations

In 1971, the botanic garden applied for accreditation by the American Association of Museums [now the American Alliance of Museums]. Following a thorough review and site visit, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden became the second botanic garden to be granted full accreditation. The garden continues to hold this status, as well as to be a member of the American Public Gardens Association, the Center for Plant Conservation (in part established by a later director Thomas S. Elias), and the California Native Plant Society.

Lenz Retires Following Many Decades of Service

In 1983, Dr. Lenz retired and was named Director Emeritus—he had been Director for twenty-three years, as well as working twelve years as Research Botanist when he joined with Munz in the move to Claremont—a total of thirty-five years in the service of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. He said that his years as Director were some of the best years of his life.

In addition to his work with the genus *Iris*, Lenz also initiated a biosystematics study of the tribe Allieae (exclusive of the genus *Allium*), as well as a biosystematics study of *Triteleia* published in 1975. Among his notable publications are: *Native Plants for California Gardens* (1956); *California Trees and Shrubs* co-authored with John Dourley (1982); the biography *Marcus E. Jones: Western Geologist, Mining Engineer, and Botanist* (1986); *An Annotated Catalog of Plants of the Cape Region, Baja California Sur, Mexico* (1992); and the definitive article "Reassessment of *Yucca brevifolia* (Agavaceae) and the recognition of *Y. jaegeriana* as a distinct species" published in the Garden's scientific journal in 2007. With the retirement of Lee Lenz, the Garden concluded its early years and an end of an era came to pass.

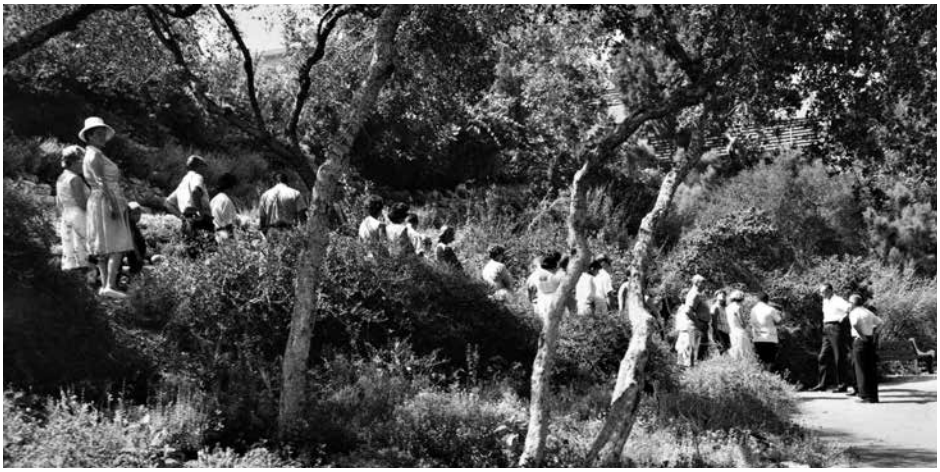
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden now California Botanic Garden

In 1927, Walter T. Swingle, then Senior Physiologist in charge of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Date Garden at Indio, wrote to Braunton that he had spent a very enjoyable weekend at Mrs. Bryant's wonderful new "California Botanic Garden." Mr. Swingle's term for the garden was prescient by ninety-three years. In March 2020, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden set aside its historic name based on its original locality to become the California Botanic Garden. Its long-held logo associated with the site of the original garden—the sycamore leaf (*Platanus racemosa*)—has been exchanged for the flower of the Matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*)—the very showy, beautiful, and largest blossom of all California's native wildflowers.

Today, the California Botanic Garden continues its graduate program in Botany, in conjunction with Claremont Graduate University, granting Master's and Doctoral degrees in systematic botany and the evolution of higher plants. The Garden is a driving force in the field of conservation botany, and offers an active program of educational and entertaining options to the public. During the current pandemic, many of these programs are held virtually via the Garden's website: *www.calbg.org*.

Dedication

This article is dedicated to the memory of Lee Wayne Lenz, Ph.D. (1915–2019),



Left: Public touring in the Garden and other programs. The California Botanic Garden (formerly Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden) receives a wide variety of visitors from the United States and internationally. Educational programs for children and adults were initiated in the 1960s. Here, Director Lee W. Lenz and Taxonomist Robert F. Thorne lead a group of adults through the Garden, 1963. Today, in addition to tours lead by Garden Guides, many special events are offered to the public. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic (March 2020) more opportunities are available virtually via the Internet. These, as well as Garden hours open for visiting, may be viewed via the Garden's website: www.calbg.org. Courtesy Archives CalBG.

who was Director of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic for twenty-three years (1960–1983), later Director Emeritus. He was the third director of the Garden, and its second scientific director following Philip A. Munz.

In addition to his botanical acumen, among his many interests Lee owned prize-winning whippet show dogs, was a supporter of Bat Conservation International, and appreciated mid-century modern art, particularly Abstract Expressionism. In his retirement Lee became keenly interested in public sculpture. As a result, he not only purchased six of the sculptures that are his legacy to Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, but also specifically chose the sites in the Garden where the sculptures are placed. Among these, is the monumental work ***Intersections II*** by Lee's good friend and internationally renowned sculptor Bruce Beasley. On the occasion of Lee's 100th birthday in 2015, Beasley wrote a congratulatory note to Lenz, "You are one of the rare people who truly understands and really loves sculpture."[15] Lee was a good friend, a most interesting gentleman, and is missed by those who knew him best.

Author's Note

This piece is based primarily on information found in the article authored by Dr. Lee W. Lenz titled "Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden—The First Fifty Years, 1927–1977" published as the entire Volume 9, Number 1 issue of *Aliso: Journal of the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden* (1977). Dr. Lenz, prior to his retirement in 1983, was Director of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and Managing Editor of *Aliso*, the Garden's scientific publication.

About the Author

About the author. Linda Lee Worlow served for 23 years in a variety of capacities on the staff of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Initially, she joined the volunteers at the Garden and went on to become its director of volunteers. Later, she was part of the team of technical editors for a 2-volume proceedings--papers presented at the Third International Conference on the Comparative Biology of Monocotyledons ("Monocots III") and the Fourth International Symposium on Grass Systematics and Evolution ("Monocots IV") hosted by Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden March 31 through April 4, 2003. Prior to her retirement in 2015, Linda enjoyed working with the graduate students in the CGU Botany Department at RSABG as Botany Program Coordinator. She valued her friendship with Lee Lenz, who reintroduced this Cal graduate, with a B.A. in art history, back to the world of art. Presently, she loves to garden and is enjoying this spring's native wildflowers in her backyard meadow.

Acknowledgements

In writing this piece, I was assisted immeasurably by my friends and former Garden colleagues: Bart O'Brien, former RSABG Director of Horticulture, now Director of the East Bay Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Tilden Park, Berkeley, California, who offered comments as well as the Percy Everett "Second Summary" that he edited. Walter Wisura, RSABG Curator Emeritus of The Living Collection, read the manuscript to ensure its accuracy. California Botanic Garden Librarian Irene Holiman willingly looked up minutiae in the Garden's Archives for me, as well as secured the images for this article. My dear friend Jean Gillingwators, who holds an advanced degree in rhetoric writing, went through the manuscript with a "fine-toothed comb" that greatly improved verbiage and punctuation! To my good pals and California native plant enthusiasts, who added helpful suggestions and comments, I extend my thanks to Leland Lubinsky and Jaisudha Purushothaman, respectively.

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6 Jepson, W.L. Field notebook, March 1929, pp. 58–59. The University and Jepson Herbaria, University of California, Berkeley.

7 Wiggins, I.L. 1974. Obituary: Carl Brant Wolf. Madroño (22): 393–396.

8 Mrs. Bryant and Jepson's use of counsillor is an idiosyncrasy. Unless used in a quote, the word councilor will be used throughout this article.

9 See Vonn Marie May's article "The California Fan Palm: Living on the French Riviera" in the Fall 2020 issue of Eden for more.

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14 Ibid.

15 Following Dr. Lenz's passing (October 27, 2019), this author was given access to some of Lenz's private papers. Among them was this lovely note from Bruce Beasley.

The Robert J. Bernard Biological Field Station

SUE SCHENK

Above: View of San Gabriel mountains across coastal sage scrub at the BFS. Oaks lining the access road can be seen in the distance. Photo by the author.

Opposite, left: Keck Science Department students studying ant behavior. Photo by the author.

Opposite, right: White sage *(Salvia apiana)*, an important plant for the Tongva. Photo by the author.

"Claremont's Wild Heart," the bumper sticker read—and so it is, this eighty-five-acre natural area in the center of the city. It shares much of its western border with the California Botanic Garden, where native plants from all over the state are cultivated; in contrast, at the Bernard Field Station (BFS), much of the original local habitat still exists.

So first of all, what is a biological field station?

Field stations are not parks or gardens but, as James Kirchner Professor Emeritus of U.C. Berkeley said, "… places where we can read the book of life in the language in which it was written."[1] The Organization of Biological Field Stations describes them as "living libraries and outdoor laboratories for students, researchers, and the general public interested in the envi-

ronment."[2] They are natural areas set aside for the study of ecosystems and their inhabitants, the interactions between them, and the effects on them of changing conditions.

Why might field stations be of interest to CGLHS members?

First, we all know that climate, soil composition, and other factors influence what will do well in our gardens. The desirability of considering local conditions and plants in garden design is nothing new, but it has become of ever-greater importance as our climate warms and our water resources are stretched. One way of helping to address these issues is to create more sustainable gardens. This requires that we include plants that thrive in our local conditions, and biological field stations can provide blueprints for creating "garden rooms" that do this. The degree to which we incorporate this knowledge will affect our state's garden history.

Second, studying local habitat conditions can help us understand the cultural history of California landscapes. In the case of Claremont, the BFS sits amid the 4000 plus square miles that were home to the Gabrielino/Tongva. A great deal of the land the Tongva once occupied has been developed but the BFS provides one place where tribal members can show others the plants, animals, and landscapes that were and are important to their culture.

What's at the field station?

The BFS is fairly small as field stations go, but about two-thirds of it consists of sage scrub, one of the most endangered habitats in the country. Current estimates indicate that as much as 90% of this habitat type has been lost, due in large part because it exists on relatively flat areas that are easy to develop. The BFS sage scrub consists of short, drought-deciduous shrubs such as silver-gray California sagebrush (***Artemesia californica***); evergreen buckwheat (***Eriogonum fasciculatum***), yerba santa (***Eriodictyon californicum***) and felty-leaved white sage (***Salvia apiana***); taller shrubs such as red-berried toyon (***Heteromeles arbutifolia***), blue-fruited elderberry (***Sambucus mexicana***), and pink-flowered sugarbush (***Rhus ovata***); and a goodly array of perennials such as penstemon (***Penstemon spectabilis***), scarlet delphinium (***Delphinium cardinal***), and gold-backed fern (***Pentagramma triangularis***), along with annuals such as golden yellow rancher's fireweed (***Amsinckia menziesii***), purple phacelia (***Phacelia distans***), sky-blue sapphire flower (***Eriastrum sapphirinum***), and bright pink canchalagua (***Zeltnera venusta***). There are five plant species at the BFS that are on the California Native Plant Society list of rare plants: ***Berberis nevinii***, ***Horkelia cuneata*** var. ***puberula***, ***Juglans californica***, ***Deinandra paniculata***, and ***Lepidium virginicum*** var. ***robinsonii***.)

As of this writing, quite a few native species have been documented at the BFS: twenty-two mammals, 189 birds (seen, but not all resident), fourteen reptiles, three amphibians, and 178 vascular plants. In addition, many hundreds of different insects and other invertebrates have been seen, along with quite a few fungi and non-vascular plants. Although the BFS is not very large and is in the middle of a city, a lichen species new to science (***Lecanora munzii***) has been discovered there, and it is likely that other new species will be found as research continues.[3] A good portion of the sage scrub was identified in a 1990s Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as a more rare Riversidean Alluvial Fan sage scrub form. In addition to the sage scrub, part of the BFS was a citrus orchard until the 1950s – this is now grassland dotted with sage scrub shrubs. Although the grasses are not native, the seeds they provide support native birds, mammals, and harvester ants. Oak woodland grows around a spring in the north and along an underground fault line where roots can reach water. Oaks planted along the entry road in the late 1920s also provide food and habitat.

An artificial lake is surrounded by cattails, rushes, sycamores, and willows, and hosts ducks, coots, herons, dragonflies, and Western pond turtles saved from development. There is a small island, home to ground-nesting bees. The variety of habitats provides an unusually wide opportunity for study by Claremont Colleges students and faculty, both in class and for lon-

Left: The pollen wasp *Pseudomasaris vespoides* waiting for the day to warm up in a *Penstemon spectabilis* flower. Photo by the author.

Right: An Allen's hummingbird *(Selasphorus sasin)* taking a break on a golden currant *(Ribes aureum)*. Photo by Nancy Hamlett.

Opposite: View of pHake Lake. Photo by the author.

ger-term research projects, as well as by researchers from across the region. There is a small area containing an old infirmary building that now houses the Robert Redford Conservancy for Southern California Sustainability, along with two outdoor classrooms.

How did this land become a field station?[4]

Pomona College, established in 1887, was the first of the five undergraduate Claremont Colleges. In the early 1920s, Pomona College President Blaisdell conceived the idea of creating a group of colleges that would share some resources in common. Since this would necessitate acquiring quite a bit of land, he and his assistant, Pomona College graduate Robert J. Bernard, began to look for donors. The idea resonated with Ellen Browning Scripps, and in 1924 she authorized the purchase of 250 acres of land north of Foothill and east of Indian Hill Blvd, and donated it for educational use.

Miss Scripps designated all the land she had donated (with the exception of 59.7 acres on and around the mesa east of Indian Hill Blvd, a 3.85 acre Native Garden Preserve, and the land for a new college) as an endowment for the new Scripps College. Institutions proposed for this area would have to purchase the land with the proceeds going to support Scripps College. As it turned out, the colleges expanded mostly east and west rather than to the north as originally envisaged. Over the years, various uses and sales of land in the trust were proposed, ranging from use as a city park to an area for growing flowers; some of these were completed and some were not. In 1945 the colleges voted to sell seventy-six acres to developers in spite of the land having been donated for educational use. In 1956, ground was broken for the School of Theology. In 1957, ten acres were used for faculty housing and went out of college control. In 1959, about thirty acres west of the botanic garden were used to establish a nine-hole golf course which is now defunct. A number of projects were proposed for the remaining area of the original Scripps trust, but never accomplished, including, in 1964, a new location for College of the Immaculate Heart and, in 1973, an eighteen-hole golf course. In 1976, Scripps College was facing financial difficulties and considered selling the Foothill frontage of the remaining eighty-five acres to developers. To prevent this, philanthropist and major college donor Donald McKenna arranged for the Kennametal Foundation to donate $600,000 to Claremont University Consortium to purchase the land from the Scripps Trust and place it into the Robert J. Bernard Trust. The land had been used for years as an informal field station, and this formalized that use and provided an endowment. The donation also provided money to fence the area so that research projects could be set up safe from interference, and to create a small lake for aquatic studies.

The Robert J. Bernard Biological Field Station was formally opened in 1980.

Although Donald McKenna and others envisioned the field station as being a temporary use and hoped to keep it for future construction, after the field station became a reality, Robert J. Bernard had this to say: "A tour of the property readily convinces visitors of the importance of keeping such a beautiful expanse of land, shrubs, and trees for scientific purposes."[5]

The recent past

There have been a number of attempts to build on the BFS property since it became an official field station. The most serious began in 1997 when the colleges proposed to build the Keck Graduate Institute on the western 11.4 acres. This was opposed by hundreds of students, staff, and Claremont residents but was approved by the City Council. A referendum petition was successful in requiring the city to put this before the citizens, and the colleges withdrew the proposal before a vote took place. A lawsuit filed by the Friends of the Bernard Biological Field Station, which was formed during this period, succeeded in getting temporary protection on part of the land along with language allowing the entire area to continue in use as a field station until a master plan for this and several other college-owned areas was approved. Although a master plan has still not been created, the colleges have allowed plans for one of the other areas to go forward anyway. In addition, although their original rules restricted sale of the land donated by Ellen Browning Scripps to new institutions, the colleges revised their rules to allow parts of the BFS to be sold to existing colleges. The only one of these colleges that has so far done anything with the part it now owns is Pitzer College which bought the twelve acres adjacent to the central temporarily protected area. This included the only buildings on the land: a former infirmary, nurses' quarters, a garage, and an outdoor classroom.

The Pomona College infirmary was established in honor of Colonel Seeley W. Mudd through a donation in 1925 from Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Cleaver. The building was completed in 1931 and was in use until the mid 1970s. Pitzer College did an extensive and sensitive renovation of the infirmary, and it now houses the Redford Conservancy with areas for field station use. Two new outdoor classrooms were built to replace the original one. Pitzer has committed to keeping the rest of the twelve acres it purchased as a natural area. The other owners have not indicated their plans.

The Future

That the Bernard Field Station exists is in large part due to serendipity, and its continued existence is not assured. The desire for college expansion may outweigh appreciation of how unusual and irreplaceable a resource it is.

The BFS provides wonderful opportunities for Claremont college students and Claremont schoolchildren to learn about the natural world. Research projects carried out by students and faculty both from Claremont and from other cities have added to our knowledge of the local ecosystem, its inhabitants, and the effect that we humans have on it. A list of publications resulting from studies at the BFS

Top: The Memorial Infirmary, now housing the Robert Redford Conservancy for Southern California Sustainability. Courtesy Pitzer College.

Above: Students investigating plant anatomy and taxonomy in the original outdoor classroom. Photo by the author.

can be found on the field station website. There is currently a joint effort between the BFS and the Friends to create a public "ecological walk" along the area between Foothill Blvd and the field station fence. At either end of this there will be demonstration gardens using plants native to the BFS. These gardens will be designed and funded in part by the Claremont Garden Club, and these examples of incorporating local native plants in our gardens will add to the already great benefits of "Claremont's Wild Heart".

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Susan Schenk is on the editorial board of CGLHS. She is a Southern California native who grew up in Norwalk and Van Nuys. She earned a BA in Botany from UCLA and then went to London where she earned a PhD in Plant Physiology from Bedford College. After 12 years in the UK, she moved to Claremont and took the docent course at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden to learn about the local native plants. In 1983, she began work as the Lab Lecturer in Biology for the Joint Science Department (later the Keck Science Department) which served the science students of Claremont McKenna College, Pitzer College, and Scripps College. As part of her job, she designed and taught Introductory Biology labs, many of which took place at the Bernard Field Station. She has always been a staunch supporter of the field station and helped found the Friends of the Bernard Biological Field Station. While in England, she was secretary of the Great Shelford Horticultural Society and was disappointed not to find a garden club to join in Claremont. She was finally able to find enough like-minded citizens to create the Claremont Garden Club in 2012. She has been a member for over 20 years of the Board of the local League of Women Voters and served on the Claremont Architectural Commission for eight years. She helped to update the City's General Plan and to write Claremont's Sustainable City Plan. As part of the latter, she helped to devise Sustainable Claremont, a grass-roots organization, and served as its co-chair for several years. She currently chairs the committee charged with updating the Sustainable City Plan.

Endnotes

1. Quotation on website of Organization of Biological Field Stations

2. Quotation from website of Organization of Biological Field Stations

3. Knudsen, K., and J.C. Lendemer. 2009. Two new species of Lecanora with gyrophoric acid from North America. Opuscula Philolichenum 7: 21-28

4. An Unfinished Dream: A Chronicle of the Group Plan of the Claremont Colleges, Robert J Bernard, 1982, the Claremont University Center, printed by the Castle Press, Pasadena

5. ibid, page 708

Memories of Bill Grant, CGLHS Founder

Bill Grant looms large in my memory as he did in person. I knew him before I met him. He was the author of an important article in the Spring 1995 issue of *Pacific Horticulture* magazine on Father Schoener, the "Padres of the Roses," which I assigned to my class in the History of Santa Barbara Gardens at Santa Barbara City College. Bill put a notice in a subsequent issue calling people together to start a group he envisioned as, "The Garden History Society of California." I couldn't attend, but I did meet him at the second organizational meeting in Santa Barbara where the name, "The California Garden & Landscape History Society" was adopted. A person of firm convictions, he made it clear that he hated "landscape" in the title (suggested by Filoli's Lucy Tolmach at the first organizational meeting, although he later came to accept it.) I still recall his enthusiasm when he described why our newsletter should be called Eden. Everyone agreed. Bill could command a room with his booming voice and magnetic personality, and he had an uncanny ability to get people to do things to further his goals. He declined the role of president to work on the newsletter, then convinced Marlea Graham to be the editor just a couple of years later. Laurie Hannah took on the work of obtaining our nonprofit status and wrote our Articles of Incorporation. I became Publicity Committee chair, then launched the cglhs.org website in 2001 and managed its content until about 2010.

It seemed Bill always had a camera around his neck. As a youth, his first jobs were reporter and public relations director, so he knew the value of images. Consequently, we have photos of our meetings but few of Bill. As he began to feel his age, he stopped attending meetings, and started sending people things. I received a book from his library, photos, and some biographical writings ("We Were Middle Class and Didn't Know It" about his Catholic School upbringing in Los Angeles and "A Visit by Eleanor Roosevelt" about escorting her on her visit to speak at Cabrillo College, where he taught English.)

Perhaps because I had urged him to publish his research on Dr. Francesco Franceschi's hybrid roses, I received an email in 2012 with a link to a 1991 Michael Pollan article about old roses and the comment, "I had a few laughs." Old rose-authority Bill didn't say whether his laughs were due to Pollan's emphasis on the sexual implications of the flowers or his statement that, "a large part of the appeal of old roses is based on snobbery." For Bill the appeal was fragrance and disease resistance. A few emails later he wrote of his love for Santa Barbara: "My first taste of roses in SB was about 1937 when my family drove up to SB from LA in our old DeSoto for the day. That was the annual vacation! ... We went to mass at the mission, and then to a bakery which served hot chocolate and sugar cookies. Then we drove all over SB and Montecito so my mother could gaze at the gardens." Bill has written in Eden that he shared his mother's love of roses. He also was famously fond of Scotch. When he got out of the hospital in 2014 he emailed a photo to me and about 60 other people that showed him hoisting a glass with the caption, "Scotch and soda. My dream come true. love, bill"—typical of him not to capitalize his name. We all loved him too.

Susan Chamberlin, former CGLHS Website Manager & Publicity Committee Chair

Sometime in 1994 I received either a phone call or an email from Bill Grant, at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden where I was the librarian, requesting any information I could give him on a previous Santa Barbara horticulturist, Father George Schoener, and his 'Arrillaga' rose. I had never heard of Schoener but I could tell right away that he had something to do with Santa Barbara, as he named a rose after a prominent street, Arrellaga, which in turn was named after an early California governor, Jose Arrellaga. I remember Bill saying he was looking for Father Schoener's papers which I believe were located at Santa Clara University. We discussed the challenge researchers had, and still have, for finding and getting access to unpublished historical materials on California gardens.

As has been mentioned in the latest issue of Eden, Bill soon reached out to a group of people interested in California garden history and asked us to meet together and brainstorm how to further the cause of research, communication, learning about, and exploring the gardens and landscapes of the state. I was a founding member and stayed active for many years, serving on the board with Bill for quite a few of them. He knew so many people and had such unusual travel experiences to share. He opened up a world to me, especially of roses, but also of literature. A former teacher, he told me I had to read Virginia Woolf's To the Lighthouse before I die. I still haven't read it, but it's on my shelf. He also told me one of the best old roses to grow was 'Crépuscule' and insisted I get one. I followed his advice, and it has been blooming faithfully year after year. I call it "Bill's Rose."

Bill was modest about his own accomplishments but wildly enthusiastic about CGLHS and furthering its cause. Meeting him at the start of my career as a botanical librarian added multiple opportunities for meeting new friends and colleagues, visiting many new gardens, and continuing in my horticultural education. I am so much richer for it.

Laurie Hannah, former CGLHS President

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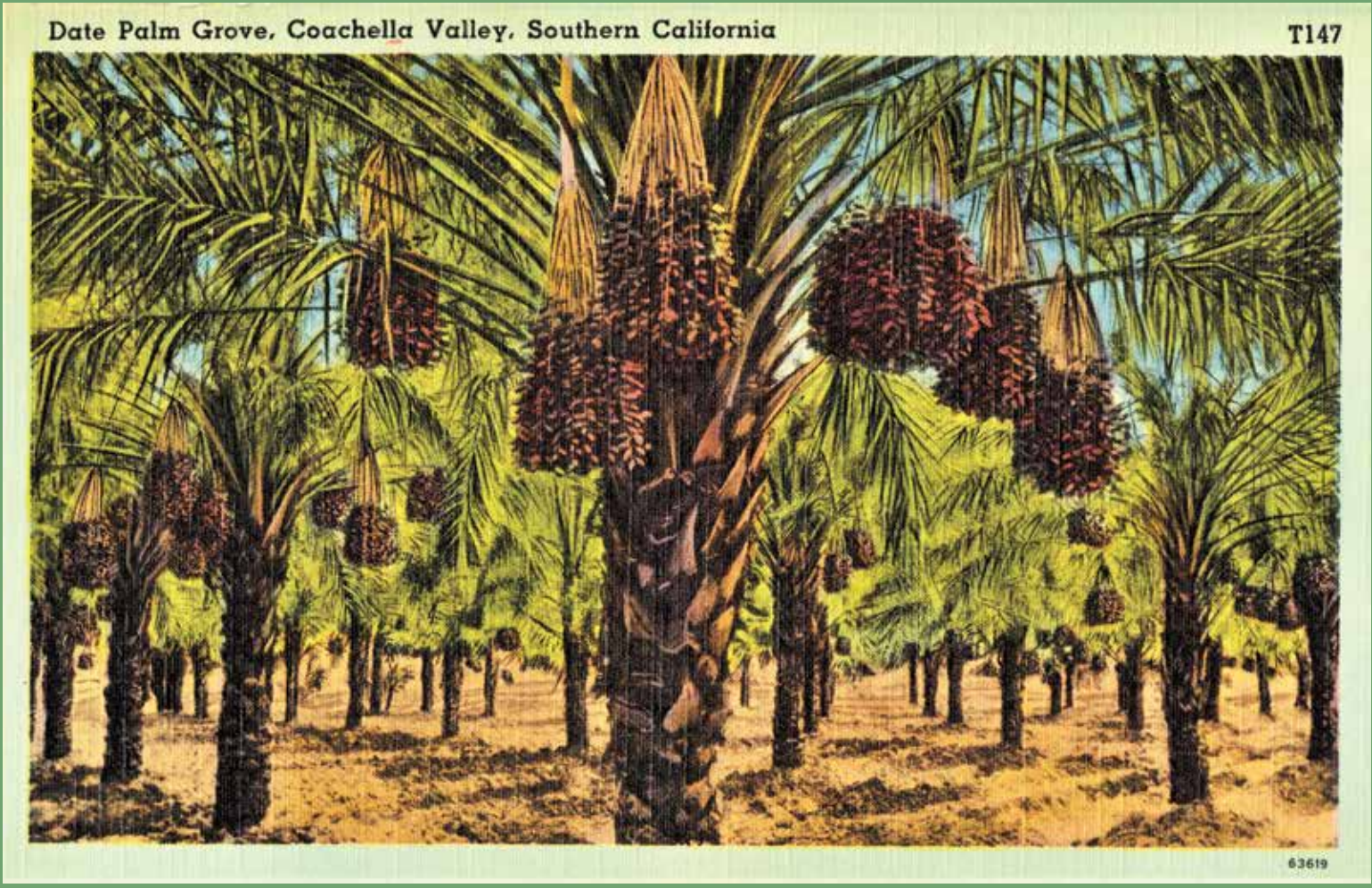

Front Cover: A palmero working in a date palm. Caring for the palms is a year round endeavor and involves scaling the trees multiple times a year to not only harvest but hand pollinate, cull heavy date bunches, wrap the bunches to prevent pests or water damage, de-thorning the palm, and more. The work is also dangerous. Courtesy of the Coachella Valley History Museum, Coachella Valley Historical Society, Inc

Back Cover: Date Palm Grove, Coachella Valley, Southern California. 1930s Tichnor Art Company Postcard.