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Foreword 9(1)

Mildred E. Mathias

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Claremont, California

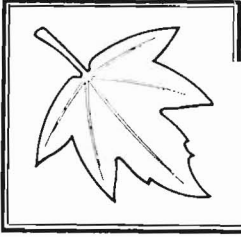
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FOREWORD

In June 1931 on the occasion of the Pasadena meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science several of us drove to Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden for the all-day symposium and luncheon. It was a pleasant drive on dusty country roads through the canyon and up the hill to the new building where Mrs Bryant graciously greeted us. From the portico where we were served luncheon we could look out on the garden in its formative stages and let our imagination construct the future. It was close to twenty years later when I again visited the garden and saw what that future had held. The dusty country roads were no more but the garden was still isolated and not easy to visit. It takes courage to move and moving an entire botanical garden took special courage on the part of Munz and his staff. However it was precisely this move that completed Mrs Bryant's dream, encouraged by Jepson, of a truly scientific botanical garden. Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, no longer on the original ranch, is a mecca for the lay visitor interested in California native plants, for innumerable classes, for graduate students, and for the scientist who must consult the staff and extensive collections of books and specimens. The plant community portion of the garden is truly unique.

This story of the coming of age of a botanical garden and the advice and direction received from so many sources during its formative years reflects the pioneer spirit and reality of the California dream.

Mildred E. Mathias

24 February 1977