How Does Your Garden Grow?

by Betsy Myers

Behind the scenes of this beautifully landscaped campus are 23 gardeners, consisting of 15 full time employees along with several work study students. Though the two ground supervisors, Fred Roca and Tom Mandel, can be highly complimented, Bob Bullock, manager of grounds and Roger Manion, assistant director of Physical Plant, says that, "USD's grounds are a collective effort on everyone's part. There is not any one person who is responsible."

Many of us have tried growing indoor plants, our own garden or even a rose bush. Many of the tips used by successful USD gardeners can be applied to our individual growing interests. Whatever your planting need, Bullock suggests Sunset Magazine's "Western Garden Book." The book can be purchased or checked out at the public library. It lists all the plants in the West, and their watering and cultural needs, a background of how plants grow, and the materials to use in various planting situations. There are also smaller versions of Sunset which deal with specific topics.

If an individual knows his or her planting material, then quality plants can be found at lower prices. Bullock credits Nurseryland and Presidio as having good quality plants. They are a little more expensive than places such as Fedmart, K-Mart or Safeway, but the cheaper price does not necessarily suggest a better buy. Considering a plant can live for several years, quality should be a main consideration. It is also helpful to scan the newspaper, especially during the spring, for plant ads and sales.

If starting a lawn is your desire, then now is the best time to start planting. New lawns grow best when the temperature rises above 50 degrees, but before the extreme summer heat. Fall is considered the second most successful time for lawn planting. Dead spots appearing in your lawn can be caused by a number of reasons. These include traveling spots, chemicals such as gasoline from the mower, female dogs urinating on the grass. There are several means to success with indoor plants, but 90% of the problems are caused by over-watering. Plants should be checked regularly by sticking your finger into the soil and feeling for dampness. Dust accumulation on plant leaves can prove harmful and should be alleviated periodically by the gentle mist of a spray bottle. This allows your plants to breath easier.

Another indoor plant necessity is monthly fertilizing. Because indoor plants do not have the same salt build-up as do outdoor plants, organic fertilizers should be used. Bullock suggests the brand "Ortho" for supplying plant needs. The ideal house temperature for successful plant growth is 69 degrees, although ferns prefer it a little cooler. Fresh air and light rain are great for your indoor plants and should be taken advantage of by occasionally setting your plants outside. Philodendrons are easy to grow and are accented by beautiful grays and greens. Other tips on indoor plants can be found in Sunset's small book on "Indoor Plants".

Spring gardens have always been a characteristic of Southern California. Bullock says that the most important element in starting a garden is a good soil mix. Soil which includes a mixture of sand, clay, and humus provides the needed air pockets which supply the plants with the necessary oxygen. This type of soil can be bought at an assortment of stores and can be added to a planter box or mixed directly into the ground.

Vegetable gardens and fruit trees can be very economical. Tomatoes, bell peppers, and asparagus are examples of expensive store vegetables that are extremely easy to grow. Carrots, leaf lettuce and artichokes are good for (Continued on Page 4)
They’re Not Old, They’re Antiques

by Dan Trigoboff

George Stoddart is one of those people who doesn’t leave his work just because he leaves his job. After a full day at USD, where George is in charge of maintaining the University’s cars and trucks, he goes home to work on cars and trucks of his own.

But the vehicles Stoddart goes home to are of a far different variety from the ones at school. While most people spend their money on the newest cars they can afford, George prefers his to be of a less recent vintage—the older the better, in fact.

“The oldest car I’ve got is a 1914 Overlin Touring car,” George says, pulling a picture of the car from his wallet like a proud father. “That’s worth about $15,000. Then, there’s a 1916 Roadster. I can’t really say what it would bring. It’s worth more to me than money.”

Also included in the prize collection is a 1925 Model T, a 1934 Ford Sedan, a 1934 Ford Roadster, and two 1932 Ford pick-up trucks, one of which is the first antique vehicle George ever owned.

“I first got involved with it when I was young. My father ran an auto wrecking business in San Diego for over 40 years. I used to go down there after school, weekends... every chance I had.

GEORGE STODDART IS ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO DEDICATE THEIR LIVES TO THE PURSUIT OF ANTIQUES.

HE’S NOT THE LITTLE OL’ LADY FROM PASADENA... but George Stoddart takes great pride in keeping USD vehicles ship-shape, and in restoring old classics.

“I’d be going through all the cars, pulling out all the parts, learning about them. I picked up my first one, the pick-up, in 1960.”

George often shows his cars in exhibitions sponsored by various antique car clubs he belongs to. And pedestrians and other travelers often get a thrill when he takes one of his old cars and trucks out for a drive.

“I guess if I had to do it again, I might do things a bit different,” said George, a ten year USD veteran. “I wouldn’t change my hobby, but I might do a different kind of job. It’s one thing having a hobby, but doing the same thing (working with cars) for your bread and butter, that’s a little bit too much.”

For his general transportation, George drives a ’74 Maverick, his preference for Fords extending not only to his antiques. But, he laments, there are no cars built today that can be compared in quality to the ones of yesteryear.

With his 14 antique cars, valued at several thousand dollars each, George could probably retire and keep himself in new Fords for quite a while, if he were able to part with any of his cars.

“I’ve never sold any of them that were finished,” said George. “I think I’ll keep them as long as I’m on this earth.”

Horowitz Featured at Seminar

With the coming state of the economy on everyone’s mind, the USD Alumni Association’s 2nd Annual Continuing Education seminar will focus on how to handle personal finances and consumer issues.

“Two Bits, Four Bits, Six Bits—You’re Bankrupt!” is the title of the day long seminar, set for Saturday, March 22, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in USD’s Camino Theatre.

Featured speaker will be David Horowitz, well-known consumer advocate for NBC-TV, the host of “David Horowitz Consumer Buylines.”

and the author of “Fight Back! And Don’t Get Ripped Off.”

All USD employees are invited to attend. Cost for the seminar is only $10; lunch will be available.

Other speakers include William Jeffrey, Vice President of the Trust-Investment Department of California First Bank, speaking on banking; Ms. Kay Heil, investment counselor with Merrill-Lynch, talking on securities; and on real estate and the risks of financial success.

Advanced registration is available by calling the Alumni Office at extension 4294.

Finally! A Tax Break

by Bill Ritter

Ah, March! The flowers are starting to bloom. The sun shines brightly. The air is fresh with the anticipation of spring. But nature’s cause for rejoicing during March isn’t always matched by us humans who are supposed to be enjoying this spring wonderland.

That’s because March is but one month removed from April; and April is tax time.

It is not so much a time that tries people’s souls as much as it does their pocketbooks. You can see it on people’s faces. Pardon them if they forget to remind you to “Have a Nice Day.”

(Continued Page 3)
After The 
(Near) Deluge...

by Bill Ritter

It started off quietly enough. Just another Thursday at USD. Employees were preparing for a three-day Washington's Birthday weekend; a nice respite from the weeks of steady rain.

But then, at about 10 a.m. on that February 21, everything quickly changed. The University received a call from the County's Office of Disaster Preparedness requesting that USD be used as a Red Cross emergency evacuation site should the rains kick up again. Because of its high-ground setting, the campus would be needed to help those stranded from the anticipated rise in the San Diego River in Mission Valley.

Immediately, an incredible set of wheels were put into motion. The press and media were notified that all USD classes would be cancelled as of 2 p.m. that day. The Security Office took charge of planning how the campus would be patrolled should a large number of people suddenly find themselves camping out in Alcaíla Park. The deans and department heads were told to let their employees leave early. Vice President for Student Affairs Tom Burke coordinated the logistics: Nearly 30 students signed up as volunteers to help should a crisis occur; food was brought in and the USD Food Service began making plans to feed hundreds of people; extra bottled water was delivered.

The Sports Center, where the Red Cross would set up, was covered with mats, all in preparation for an influx of storm-weary citizens. The women's basketball game scheduled for that night was cancelled.

The anticipated storm never came. The San Vincente Dam and El Capitan Reservoir didn't spill over that day. And the crisis which was so well planned for failed to materialize. Fortunately!

But everyone involved in working and planning that day at USD can hold their heads high. The campus, in the face of possible flooding in nearby Mission Valley, danger and fear, pulled together as a team.

And somehow, in the midst of the chaos and uncertainty, we were all brought a little closer together.

TAX BREAK (Continued from Page 2)

When tax time rolls around, nice days are often few and far between.

For those who have managed to put the April 15 tax deadline on the back burners, your time is running out. And, while the Alcaíla View can’t solve your financial woes, we can offer a few tips on the more obvious and often overlooked new tax regulations for the calendar year 1979.

RENTER’S REBATES: If you were a renting resident of California on March 1, 1979, lived in property which wasn’t exempt from property tax, and did not receive the Homeowner’s Property Tax Exemption in 1979, then you are eligible for the California Renter’s Credit. This year the credit is $137 for married couples, $60 for single people.

This is a tax credit, not simply a tax deduction.

To file for the renter’s credit, simply fill out the 1979 Renters Credit Claim, Form 540RC in your state income tax brochure.

SDI TAX CREDITS: This year the state tax forms contain a confusing, but quite beneficial, clause allowing taxpayers to receive up to 80% of the money they put into State Disability Insurance (SDI).

Because of a surplus in the SDI account, a one-time refund is available to taxpayers, if you know about it.

Each paycheck, 1% of your gross salary or wages is taken out for SDI, up to a maximum of $114. To figure out your credit, simply take 80% of the total amount you contributed to SDI, up to a maximum of $91 in tax credits. This credit is available to each taxpayer in your family, so don’t short change yourself. The worksheet for figuring out your credit is on Page 11 of state income tax form 540.

If you worked for more than one employer, too much SDI might have been taken out of your wages. If you contributed more than $114 into SDI, then you are entitled to a refund of the amount you paid over $114, in addition to the 80% tax credit.

If you claim the state tax credit and claim a deduction for the tax paid on the federal tax form, then next year you must declare the tax credit as income on the federal return.

If you have already filed your state income tax return, and forgot to include the SDI credit, wait until you have received your original tax refund before filing an amended tax return. Filing an amended tax return before your original tax return has been processed will mean that both returns will be kicked out of the computer.

Of course, as with all tax questions if you are not sure, contact the IRS (236-1700), the state Franchise Tax Board (toll free at 800-852-5711) or a tax expert.
Letter(s) to the Editor

Editor,

Please accept this note as an expression of appreciation for the "Alcala View". It is obvious from the quality of the articles that a lot of work goes into each issue. You should know, therefore, that we, the readers, enjoy them and find them interesting and informative.

So, please, keep up the good work.

Pat Watson

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW? (Continued from Page 1)

beginning of March. Once the rose sends new growth, it should be fertilized once a month. The leaves should be misted occasionally to avoid dust but watch for water build-up. This is the cause of damaging mildew.

Gardeners are very limited in the use of insecticides in public areas. The Environmental Protection Agency has set several regulations. Pesticides on the shelf are not considered dangerous for garden use and, as Bullocks states, they are very beneficial.

Spring and summer are great for indoor flowering arrangements. If cut from the garden, the best time is in the early morning before the flower is more than a third open. The newly-cut flowers should be placed immediately in water. It is a good idea to recut the stems after getting flowers from the florist. They tend to become callous at the tip and do not absorb water as well. The flowers will also last longer if a teaspoon of sugar is added to the vase water.

WELCOME ABOARD:

- Heilen Albright, Law School
- Gina Banks, Physical Plant
- Bette Bland, Registrar
- Katrine Burlsen, Physical Plant
- Jose Conchas, Physical Plant
- Norah Cusick, Law School
- Jean De Guidice, Security
- Mark Draper, Physical Plant
- Ann Field, Arts and Sciences
- Linda Galloway, Bookstore
- Mita Lug, School of Business
- Peter Pitman, Physical Plant
- Enrique Plascencio, Physical Plant
- Edna Strazzini, Accounting
- Thu Tran, Physical Plant
- Gerardo Valdez, Physical Plant
- Alton Younker, Physical Plant

GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK:

- Judith Klein, Food Service
- Nyna Rokue, Registrar
- Sue Sorgor, Arts and Sciences

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Through "Herma Graeff: Retrospective Selections," in Founders Gallery, weekdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
*March 5: Noontime Concert, 12:15, French Parlor, featuring Nicolás Revelles, pianist.
*March 6: Dr. Cornelia Wilbur, psychiatrist of the multi-personality patient Sybil, speaks in Camino Theatre at 8 p.m.
*March 14: USD Choral Program: Spring Concert--Vocal Ensemble.
*March 15: "Structure of the Intellect" Education Symposinum, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in De Sales Board Room.
*March 16: Beethoven Cycle, 4 p.m. in Camino Theatre.
*March 17: Dick Braun Jazz Rehearsal, 6:30 to 10 p.m. in Camino Theatre.
*March 18: Milton Friedman, Nobel Prize-winning economist, speaks informally in Camino Theatre at 2:30 p.m.
*March 20: Verdi Seminar, part of a course studying the composer Giuseppe Verdi, 7:30 to 9 p.m. in Camino Theatre.
*March 22: Alumni Association's Financial Seminar, with guest speaker consumer advocate David Horowitz, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Camino Theatre.

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Pat Watson

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

summer planting. A special tip for planting fruit trees is to plant them in a separate area from the lawn. This is because fruit trees do not need to be watered as frequently as the lawn. Although it may take up to two years for a successful fruit yield, the wait will be well worth it.

The best time to plant roses is when they are dormant or bare root. During this period, planting is not a shock to the rose. This time lasts from December until the early morning before the flower is well. The flowers will also last longer if a teaspoon of sugar is added to the vase water.