

# Efforts Pushed to Save Plants BY ED AINSWORTH

Just as there has been concern in the past over the disappearance or extermination of California animals and birds due to the rapid encroachment of civilization, so now there are forward-looking individuals who are seeking to set up what might be called additional "refuges" for native plants . . .

Urbanization and subdivisions inevitably destroy a tremendous number of flowers, trees and shrubs . . . The bulldozer has become a kind of modern juggernaut uprooting the essential elements of indigenous flora . . .

So the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants, a non-profit organization named for the late great native plant grower and authority on California botany, is intensifying its efforts to obtain a proper site for a "refuge" or growing area to supplement the efforts of present public and private arboreta and botanical gardens in Southern California. The president of the foundation, James H. Seaman, told me that his group hopes to find a site of at least 10 acres somewhere in the Pasadena area for the carrying out of its objectives . . .

Some areas in the Arroyo Seco have been under consideration but so far no definite decision has been made

## *Attempt to Fill a Need*

James Seaman explained to me that the program of the foundation would fit in with the present activities of the State and County Arboretum at Arcadia, the Santa Ana Botanic Garden at Claremont, the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and others which do not have the scope of the non-profit foundation in being able to sell products so as to obtain funds for additional growing and free dispensation of seeds . . . In other words, the foundation wants to create a kind of revolving fund so it can raise native plants and at the same time still continue to give many things away to spread the use of natives . . .

In order to explain its aims and to educate the public on the appreciation, growing and care of native plants, the foundation has scheduled a series of lectures for fall, winter and spring. The first two of these are scheduled within the next few weeks . . . The first, by Dr. Katherine C. Muller, director of the Santa Ana Botanic Garden, will be given at 8 p.m. Friday at the Arboretum in Arcadia . . . The second will be by David Varity of the UCLA Botanical Gardens at 8 p.m. Nov. 10 at Descanso Gardens in La Canada . . . Other lectures will be given up into April . . .

If anyone has any ideas about a site for the foundation's display and growing area, James Seaman can be reached at 2311 Dorothy St., La Crescenta, telephone 248-3273 . . .

It's a good chance to go native in a worthwhile way