

JUST IMAGINE--If Pigs Could Fly  
by Anise Cherry

Due to the efforts of Barbara Levine, past president of LIHS, and organizer and planner extraordinaire, 36 of our members actually helped some pigs fly!

We joined a Road Scholar Group and had the unique experience of helping to decorate one of the floats in the Tournament of Roses Parade. As exciting as the decorating was, it was only a small part of the entire time that we spent in California. Barbara added extra wonderful activities to our trip.

Before we even met the Road Scholars, we had the privilege of visiting the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanic Gardens, where we had a guided tour through some of the gardens. The cactus garden was an exceptionally impressive collection which our members appreciated and enjoyed tremendously. Later on, we were able to visit the other buildings and collections. Many of us were enthralled to see the actual painting of the Blue Boy by Gainsborough. It was altogether a wonderful afternoon.

We listened to a delightful description of life as a "Rose Queen" by the queen who reigned in 1988. We had the privilege of seeing and listening to some of the prizewinning high school bands that had earned the great honor of playing and marching in the parade. It was impressive to see how beautifully these young people work together.

Then, we worked on the final stages of the preparation of the float. Our prize-winning float is "If Pigs Could Fly," which was created and executed by La Canada Flintridge. Fortunately for us, the weather was perfect. We handled seeds, flowers, petals, and glue. We had cookies, drinks, and lunch. It was a truly unique experience--and we took some of the credit for the fact that OUR float won the Bob Hope Award for "The Most Whimsical."

We visited the Los Angeles County Museum of Art which was another especially interesting experience.

On Monday, January 2, we had excellent bleacher seats for the viewing of the Parade. We were looking forward to this and our expectations were fulfilled. The actual parade had all the excitement, movement, beauty, thrills that we had anticipated, and much more!!!

Barbara does not allow any free time!! The Getty Museum was closed. The Getty Villa was open, but it was full. However, because Barbara is so persuasive, we were permitted entry. The Getty Villa was very impressive and was another lovely experience.

To top it all, on Tuesday morning we attended Post Parade: a Showcase of Floats. The exquisite works of art (the floats) were on display for us to see the detail and workmanship that went into the creation of these masterpieces of floral display. We were able to see more closely how they created the illusion of stone, tiles, roof shingles, and more, using only things that grow. They created photographs using flowers and seeds. The floats were required to have movement. That, too, was amazing.

We were, of course, most enamored of our own float. The pigs were having a wonderful time. The airplane flew. The birds moved. The pigs looked around. A little pig hung on for dear life to the back of the airplane. I am sure that all of the people who were lucky enough to share this experience will be delighted to regale you with pictures until you beg them to stop.