

# Theodore Payne in His Own Words: A Voice for California Native Plants

*Theodore Payne*

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**Theodore Payne : Theodore Payne in His Own Words: A Voice for California Native Plants** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Theodore Payne in His Own Words: A Voice for California Native Plants:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating look back at 19th early 20th century California By K. Malone While Payne's book is not so much a defense of California native plants and their value in terms of beauty and practicality, his book provides some unique insights of a man who came to California in 1893 and who lived in Los Angeles and Orange County as the California landscape was quickly diminishing. While attending a party at the home of famed Polish actress Madama Modjeska, amid a diversity of people - indigenous, Mexican, Anglo, native and non-native - he marveled at the diversity and the climate that made it possible. "I thought to myself, 'What a wonderful country. No where else could this happen. Hospitality and freedom. No social lines or barriers and everyone happy and contented.'"

These memoirs include Theodore Payne's "Life on the Modjeska Ranch in the Gay Nineties" (long out of print) plus other memoirs never before published. Payne (1872-1963) was a lifelong horticulturist who pioneered in the preservation of California native plants. The book gives an enthralling view of Southern California lands and people from the 1890s to the 1940s. It is the only book by or about Theodore Payne now available.

About the Author Theodore Payne, an Englishman, arrived in California in 1893 and soon began his life's work as a nurseryman and preserver of California native plants. In his lifetime (1872-1963) he brought many wildflowers into cultivation and saved much of the native flora from disappearing. He was a delightful observer of people and the early California scene.