

**NEWSCAST  
A.I.S.  
Region 4**



**Jan. '83**

**vol. 25**

**no. 1**

## R V P MESSAGE FOR JANUARY, 1983, NEWSCAST

Shortly after the September issue of Newscast came out, we had the pleasure of visiting Radford for the Fall Meeting. It was a wonderful mixture of Region 4 members and Zurbrigg hospitality and rebloomers.

Soon afterward I sent a letter to members in the inactive areas of Virginia and West Virginia to express my hope that more interest and more communication could be stirred up. There have been some good letters in response, and I do hope that this is the beginning of something that will be beneficial to all concerned. Meanwhile, more good things are happening in the C & P Chapter area, with several Chapter meetings and a new Chapter Newsletter. Congratulations to C & P and to those responsible for this activity. We will be hearing more about all of this.

Two October events of interest were the party celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the American Horticultural Society at its River Farm headquarters, at which Bill and I were asked to represent A.I.S., and the annual Fall Open House at River Farm, at which some members of Region 4 had an Educational Display complete with stalks of reblooming irises.

When you read this it will be January, 1983, but as I write it I feel that there has hardly been time to say hello to that little diapered New Year baby of 1982, much less to bid goodbye to the old bearded man that 1982 has become. Thanksgiving has just passed by and Christmas is on the way. There are so many things to be thankful for that there is no way to cover them: (on a personal level, 1982 has brought us another grandson and a lovely daughter-in-law-to-be) but let us for this moment be grateful for the freedom we have to pursue our own hobbies and to make friends with others of a similar bent.

As Christmas approaches let us be giving of ourselves as well as of material things. And let us shake hands with the little diapered baby of the New Year, 1983 with a smile and a resolve to make the best possible use of every moment in that year.

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT R V P 10/2/82

The Fall Meeting is being currently held, here in Radford, in the Blue Ridge Chapter. The Regional Treasurer reports forty-three registrations as of noon to-day, October 2, 1982. The weather has cooperated most favorable, and while there was not an abundance of iris stalks, hopefully there were enough, with enough quality, to sustain the interest of the visitors.

The Tyler Motor Hotel is the site of this Fall Meeting, with some of the members staying at the Executive Motel.

After an opening dinner at the Tyler, slides previewing the 1983 AIS Convention were shown, with a delightful wit, by Dr. Charles Nearpass. The party being held in the Tyler drove us out to the quietness of Fairlawn Baptist Church for this event.

It is to be hoped that the other events of this day will be held without interruption at the Tyler, but we are grateful to Fairlawn Baptist Church for the possibility of using their facilities again tonight, should necessity demand.

Lloyd A. Zurbrigg,  
Assistant R V P

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NOTE: Here and elsewhere in this Newscast you will note scattered reports of our fall meeting in Radford. Let me take this opportunity to thank Nita and Lloyd Zurbrigg for their hospitality, and for planning a really good meeting.

We had asked a young lady to write up the tour. However, she misunderstood and thought we meant for her to write up all Region 4 tours, and wrote a long letter explaining why she couldn't undertake that job. Had she understood that it was just for Lloyd's gardens, she could have written that up while she was explaining why she couldn't do Regional tours. Sorry about the misunderstanding, but glad the gardens were covered.

MINUTES OF FALL BOARD MEETING  
REGION 4, A. I. S.

The executive board meeting of Region 4, A.I.S. was called to order by the Regional Vice President, Claire Barr at 3:50 PM on Saturday, October 2, 1982 at the Tyler Hotel in Radford, Virginia.

A drawing was held and Charlotte Kabler won the potted rhizome of IMMORTALITY donated by Lloyd Zurbrigg.

Claire Barr thanked Lloyd and Nita Zurbrigg for their hospitality, including providing a fine luncheon after the tour of their beautiful gardens. Special thanks were also given to Dr. Nearpass for the slide program on Friday evening, Rena Crumpler for donating quite a lot of Siberian Iris for our auction and Dr. Roy Epperson for the very informative judges training session on Awards and Ballots. We also thank Lois Disney for offering to allow members to stay in her home.

Two booklets were available for purchase at discount prices, Basic Iris Culture and Irises For Everyone.

Assistant R.V.P. Lloyd Zurbrigg, noted that we had 45 registrations for the fall meeting. His report will be printed in Newscast.

The secretary's report was accepted with the following correction from the printing in Newscast:

"F.S.K. - Carol Warner reported on plans for the remainder of the regional meeting and the need for keeping the tour buses on schedule.

"Marydel - Willa Owens reported that Claire and Bill Barr had presented a fine program on grooming before their show. Their sale date is July 17."

The Treasurer, Norman Clouser presented the treasurer's report which will be filed and printed in Newscast.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Historian - Polly Price has not received any items for scrap book.

Parliamentarian - Rosalie Figge was ill and could not attend.

Editors of Newscast - B.J. Brown read his report which will be printed in Newscast.

Conventions - Roy Epperson - no report.

Judges Training - Roy Epperson - A written report will be submitted and printed in Newscast.

Finance - Al Rice - Regional finances are back where they were three years ago. Contributions from chapters and receipts from sales and auctions are very good. Some contributions from individuals have been received but more individual support and Ads in Newscast would help.

Membership - The RVP read Helen Rucker's report which will be printed.

Auctions and Awards - J. D. Stadler's report was printed in Newscast. He has gotten tremendous response with donated items for the auctions. Sterling Innerest gave us a very good deal on Japanese and Siberian Irises for this auction.

Medians - Dick Sparling's report was in Newscast.

Youth - Flossie Nelson could not attend. It is hard to keep continued interest among the Youth. We all need to encourage these youth, and help or suggestions would be appreciated. Fred Stephenson announced that a new youth member joined with his parents at a show in New Jersey. This youngest youth member was only 17 days old.

Exhibitions - Celeste Cox could not attend due to illness. There were 5 shows in the region and we were reminded to be sure to send in the reports on the

shows. Claire mentioned the idea of showing individual blooms in "English Boxes". She referred to a Region 14 publication and the July 1981 A.I.S. Bulletin. B.J. Brown will copy these articles for future publication in Newscast.

Robins - Ruby Buchanan's report was in Newscast. She now has 3 active robins in the region. Doris Simpson will be the new overall Chairman with Norman Clouser the Re-blooming leader and Louise Smith the General Interest leader. Dick Sparling would like to know if there would be interest in a Median Robin. Contact Dick or Claire Barr if you have interest in this Robin.

Photography - Dr. Nearpass used some of his slides for the Friday evening program, which included a Region 1 Preview of the 1983 Convention.

Publicity and Public Relations - Rena Crumpler reported a lot of interest in the medians and Siberians planted at the Martha Washington Inn in Abbingdon.

The A.I.S. will have an Educational Display at River Farm, the American Horticulture Society headquarters at their Open House on Sunday, October 17th. Claire and Bill Barr are coordinating what promises to be a good exhibit including rebloomers, booklets for sale and membership applications, and cultural information in chart form. Claire and Bill will also represent the A.I.S. at a party celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the American Horticulture Society on Friday evening, October 15th. A.I.S. is sending a rhizome of the 1982 Dykes Medal winner, VANITY, and a large picture of it.

#### CHAPTER REPORTS

C & P - C & P Chapter will begin having meetings beginning next Sunday at the Arboretum in Washington, D.C.

Blue Ridge - Lloyd read his report which will be printed in Newscast.

Western North Carolina - Elizabeth Farrar reported that they had three successful bench shows in the Chapter this year. Plans are well underway for the 1983 Spring meeting to be held in Charlotte, N.C.

F.S.K. - Carol Warner read her report which will be printed in Newscast.

### FOR DISCUSSION

The R V P gave the results of the Symposium Ballot for Region 4. A total of 64 ballots representing 75 members were received (5 had to be disqualified for not following instructions on the number of votes permissible). VANITY received the top number of votes with 40, followed by STEPPING OUT with 35; BRIDE'S HALO with 34; BEVERLY SILLS with 28; VICTORIA FALLS with 25; LORD BALTIMORE with 21 and MISTIQUE, LEMON MIST and KILT LILT with 20.

Fund raisers were discussed but our auctions have done so well that we will consider others only if necessary.

Regional Meetings - Fred Stephenson stated that the arrangements made for members to stay in homes for the F.S.K. meeting were very much appreciated.

Blue Ridge Chapter has accepted the 1985 meeting, and Eastern North Carolina has accepted for 1986. We are hoping that C & P will accept the 1984 meeting. Possibilities for fall meetings include River Farm and the Mary-Del area which had an outstanding meeting in Oct. 1980 and where there is interest in rebloomers.

Old Business - There was some discussion about reviving interest in the Richmond-Norfolk Chapter. Claire will send out a letter about the Open House at River Farm.

Election of a Nominating Committee - The nominating Committee consists of four members, one from each state. Those elected were:

West Virginia - Sam Owens

North Carolina - Polly Price  
Virginia - Norman Clouser  
Maryland - William E. Barr

Since it is Maryland's turn to have its representative serve as Chairman, Roy Epperson moved and J.D. Stadler seconded that William E. Barr be appointed as Chairman. A slate of officers will be presented in the January or April Newscast for election at the 1983 Spring Meeting. They will take office in the Fall of 1983.

William E. Barr moved to adjourn the meeting. The auction was scheduled at 7:00 pm following dinner.

CAROL WARNER, Secretary

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CORRECTION OR ADDITION ; In the Special Report of the Youth Division of the Asheville, N.C. Show, the Junior winner of the Best Arrangement of that division was omitted. Our apologies go to DENISE WILDE as winner of this award, and our CONGRATULATIONS ARE offered herewith. Keep up the good work, Denise.

We also failed to report in the last issue of Newscast the death of Clytie McCoy of Roanoke, Virginia. Clytie was a long-time member and judge of A.I.S.

## REPORT ON REMONTANT IRISES

There have been a number of good reports on re-blooming iris from the deep south in July. This is truly unusual, but the cool weather experienced in June in Region Four, was undoubtedly a factor in this surge of summer rebloom. Your Chairman had reports from Killen, Alabama, and Denton, Texas.

A number of growers here in Region Four were able to get a showing of summer rebloom this year, also. In Radford, your chairman was able to get four weeks of continued blooming on the Siberian ON AND ON, and a second bloom on both GARDEN CAPRICE and RASPBERRY RIMMED, JI varieties. This along with maiden bloom on a few new seedling of tall bearded iris, bridged the customary gap between the end of the spring bloom season, and the onset of rebloom the last week of July.

IMMORTALITY was the most productive variety of all, beginning in late July, and producing anywhere from four to sixteen stalks at a time from the first week of August, right through until the Fall Meeting, when it bore six or seven stalks in bloom. The number of pods evident on October 2, showed that it was able to set seeds in great quantity without losing the ability to continue sending up stalks.

Your chairman regrets that the setting out of seedlings took priority over resetting the garden in early June, with the result that many fewer stalks were in evidence than the previous year. It would appear that in a short time, Region Four might have a mini-show at the Fall Meeting, for interest in this type of iris is increasing every year.

Lloyd A. Zurbrigg, Chm.  
Remontant Iris

## AUCTIONS AND AWARDS

The Fall Meeting was held in Radford, Va., and Japanese Iris were bought for auction at this meeting. Siberians were donated, primarily by Rena Crumpler, also for auction. I want to express my thanks in behalf of the Region to those who have share so generously.

The results of this auction are as follows:

Gross Receipts	\$462.50
Less: Cost of JI plants	<u>50.00</u>
Net proceeds	<u><u>\$412.50</u></u>

If you can donate rhizomes for the Spring Auction at Charlotte, please contact me. Thanks!

J.D.Stadler, Auctions Chrm

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## MEDIAN REPORT

Every once in a while one gets an instant response to correspondence. Such an experience happened to me recently. I wrote to Jean Witt, the person in charge of the Robin for Miniature Tall Bearded Irises. Almost by return mail I was in a robin, got the robin, added my two cents worth and sent it back along its route. Don't I wish all my correspondence was answered that promptly!

You may wonder what this has to do with Medians other than that MTBs are in the Median Class. Well, I'd like for you to respond to me in like manner.

I would like to start a Median Robin, but I need other people who would be interested in sharing thoughts about the small ones, from wanting to learn about them to detailed hybridizing goals. All that is required is the willingness to write a couple of letters a year to the other members of the robin.

Of course you will get to read the letters of the robin members as well. The mechanics and Robin Rules will be sent when the Robin is set up.

If you are interested in the "Bantam" Robin, let me know at the address given below:

18016 LaFayette Drive,  
Olney, Maryland 20832.

We are still looking for additional Median Display Gardens in the region. If you are interested in establishing such a garden, will you please write to me at the above address.

As I'm taking it on myself to represent the Dwarf Iris Society as well, a call has just come for Dwarf Display Gardens. If interested in establishing such a garden, please contact me at the same address.

Of course new members are always welcome. If you want knowledge of the Medians and Dwarfs, just join and the knowledge will start to flow in your direction.

May I hear from you on one or more of the above suggestions?

Richard Sparling, Median Iris Chm.

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#### MEMBERSHIP REPORT - Youth Division

C & P Chapter:

Miss Donna Wiles, 9082 Dawn Court,  
Myersville, Md. 21773

MEMBERSHIP REPORT, December 10, 1982

New Members - F.S.K. Chapter (Maryland)

Mrs. Iris A. Kuhn, 8100 Bradshaw Rd, Bradshaw, MD 21021  
Mr & Mrs R.G. Martin, 2905 Ordway Dr., Ellicott  
City, MD 21043  
Mrs. R. Raymong Moore, Jr., 904 Applewood Lane,  
Baltimore, MD 21212

Delete: Mrs. Warren E. Bielenberg, Baltimore - MOVED.

New Members - C & P Chapter (Maryland/Virginia)

Mrs. Dorothy J. Adderson, Rt 3, Box 300, Stanley,  
Va., 22851  
Clifton Busby, Route 2, Box 144, Newport, Va. 24128  
Mrs. Earlene Belcher, 534 Queen Anne Avenue  
Odenton, Md. 21113  
Mrs. Mary J. Bingham, 9508 Colesville Rd.,  
Silver Spring, Md., 20901  
Thomas G. Corcoxon, 1511 K. Street, NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Mrs. Jean A. Epley, 9013 Southwick Street  
Fairfax, Va. 22031  
Ira E. Petersen, 14117 Dub Drive, Laurel, Md. 20708  
John J. Rountree, 6514 Elmhirst, Falls Church, Va. 22043  
Mr & Mrs Donald A. Rozansky, 130 Riverview Ave  
Annapolis, Md., 21401

Address Change: Mary Ann Loftus, 131 Riverview Ave.  
Annapolis, Md, 21401

Address Change: Joe Mathias, Jr., 315 Woodland Ave.,  
Lynchburg, Va. 24503

New Member - Richmond Chapter

Mrs. Lola E. Branham, 607 Woodlawn Drive  
Richmond, Va 23224

New Members: Eastern North Carolina Chapter

Mrs. Arlene T. Martin, 315 Sherbrook Dr.,  
High Point, N.C. 27262

E.N.C. Chapter continued:

Mrs. William C. Stancil, 313 Tokay Drive,  
Fayetteville, N.C. 28301

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REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

The Nominating Committee appointed at the Fall meeting would like to place in nomination the following members for officers for coming fiscal year. These officers to assume duties in the Fall of 1983, if elected.

- |                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| For Regional Vice President | - B.J. Brown        |
| For Assistant R V P         | - David G. Walsh    |
| For Secretary               | - Willa M. Owens    |
| For Treasurer               | - Norman R. Clauser |
| For Historian               | - Polly Price       |

WILLIAM E. BARR, Chairman  
Nominating Committee  
(See Minutes for personnel of committee)

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**Join the American Iris Society!**

- Single annual membership - \$ 9.50  
    triennial - \$23.75
- Quarterly illustrated bulletins
- Send dues to A.I.S. Membership:  
James G. Burch, 717 Pratt Ave. NE,  
Box 10003, Huntsville, AL 35801

F S K CHAPTER REPORT:

The Francis Scott Key Chapter of the American Iris Society, Region Four, held its annual meeting in Baltimore on Saturday, October 30, 1981, at the Engineers' Club. Thirty-four members and guests were present.

The slate of officers for 1983-84 was presented and unanimously elected, as follows:

President - J.Owings Rebert  
Vice Presidnet - Gerald E. Richter  
Secretary - Miss Victoria Dorf  
Treasurer - William E. Barr.

Members and guests enjoyed a tour of the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion which houses the Engineers' Club, prior to a delicious luncheon. A Question-and-Answer Session on general iris culture, with emphasis on weed killers/suppressors followed the election.

Carol Warner, our outgoing President was given a silver spoon made by Andrew E. Warner in the early 1830's. Andrew E. Warner, a Baltimore silversmith was the great great grandfather of Carol's husband, Andy. The membership thanked Carol for her three years of able leadership, and Andy for his support, with a standing ovation.

Doris Simpson, Chapter Reporter

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WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER:

Report of 1982 shows within our Chapter was reported in the Fall Board Meeting Minutes.

Plans for 1983 Regional will be included elsewhere in this issue.

Elizabeth Farrar,  
Chapter Chairman

## BLUE RIDGE CHAPTER REPORT

Since the Spring Meeting of Region 4, the Blue Ridge Chapter staged an auction sale at the Garden Center in Roanoke on June 26, 1982. Over \$600.00 was taken in, and the Chapter voted to send \$250.00 to Region 4, A.I.S.

This morning, October 2, we held a meeting at the Tyler Inn, and discussed auctions and sales, and ways of interesting new members in our projects. A new slate of officers was elected for 1983, with Helen Rucker becoming our new Chapter Chairman.

A preliminary discussion took place on the preparations for our Chapter's hosting of the Regional Spring Convention in 1985. Gardens to be on the tour will need to be declared at the Spring Meeting of the Chapter in 1983.

Lloyd Zurbrigg -Outgoing Chapter Chm.

Blue Ridge Chapter wishes to express a vote of appreciation to our officers for the past two years for their service and leadership. Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg has been an outstanding Chairman. We are pleased to have some of his knowledge shared with us.

Officers for Year 1983 were elected:

Chairman -	Mrs. Joseph E. Rucker
Vice Chairman -	Mrs. Keigh K. Cooper
Secretary -	Mrs. O.L. Persinger
Treasurer -	Mrs. John E. Albert

Helen H. Rucker -Incoming Chapter Chm.

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C & P Chapter

Your editors received the 1st issue of the C & P Newsletter, dated November 1982.

This Newsletter informed us that Dick Sparling is the new Chapter Chairman. I quote from his letter to the Chapter: "We plan to have a very busy year with some type of program every month. (The details to be published in our next newsletter.) However, the first of our programs will be this month. To accommodate the geographical spread of our membership, I thought we could experiment with a split meeting with the same basic program. The feature of this meeting will be slides of newer iris put together by Maryann Anning of the La Cresta Gardens, and Iris artifacts by Glen Corlew, Cherry Lane Gardens, both in California.

"The first show will be on Saturday, November 20, at 2:00 pm - the location is the Old London Town Public House, Annapolis, Maryland. The second showing will be at the home of Clarence Mahan in McLean, Virginia, at 2:00 pm on November 21st....."

"Clarence Mahan has volunteered to be Editor of our Newsletter. He has some great plans for future issues, so please pay attention and cooperate with him in this venture....."

We were hoping to have reports of these meetings for this Newscast, but time has come to go to press and these have not been received.

We do think that this is a great undertaking for this Chapter, and would recommend other Chapters to follow this example, especially where the membership is scattered - as in both N.C.Chapters.

I am sure that these meetings and the well written Newsletter will make this Chapter one of the outstanding Chapters in Region 4 very, very soon now.

One suggestion to Dick Sparling. Appoint a reporter for the Chapter to send newsworthy items of your activities to be published in Newscast. Thanks.

Frances and B.J.Brown

TENTATIVE PLANS FOR SPRING MEETING  
OF REGION IN CHARLOTTE, N.C.  
AREA, May 6 and 7 1983

Friday AM - IRIS SHOW - EASTLAND MALL - Central Avenue  
& Sharon-Amity Road, Charlotte, N.C.

Friday PM - Judges Training - 4:00 to 5:00 Classroom  
Judges Training - 5:00 to 6:00 Show Critique

7 PM - Welcome Dinner - At home of Charlotte Council  
of Garden Clubs, 1820 East 7th Street

8 PM - Board Meeting

Saturday AM - Garden Tours -

7:30 Buses depart motel for Continental Break-  
fast and tour of home and garden of  
Marilyn & David McPherson near  
Waxhaw, N.C.

Tour of garden of Henry and Sydney Cowell  
4322 Columbine Circle, Charlotte

Tour of garden of Katharine and Richard  
Steele, 2121 Sedley Road, Charlotte

Luncheon and tour of garden of Frances &  
B.J. Brown, 11026 Steele Creek Road  
(In case of rain the luncheon will be  
served in the Recreation Room of Steele  
Creek Presbyterian Church)  
N.C.I.S. Board Meeting

Tour of Garden of Elizabeth Farrar in  
Lucia, N.C. (New Mount Holly, N.C.)

Tour of Jewel-Mack Garden - Jewell and  
Jim Hughes, 3810 Stokes Avenue,  
Charlotte

4:30 PM Return to motel

Dinner at Valentino's Restaurant  
3014 E. Independence Boulevard -  
Adjacent to motel headquarters.

Guest Speaker -John Wood, Region 5 -  
Judges Training Chairman.  
AUCTION -and AWARDS

CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS will be the COLISEUM INN,  
located at 3016 E. Independence Boulevard, Charlotte,  
N.C., near The Coliseum and Ovens Auditorium, Telephone  
704-377-1501.

Tentative Room rates are quoted as follows:

Budget Single - has double bed - 1 person	\$22.00
2 persons	24.00

DeLuxe Single - has long double - 1 person	27.00
bed 2 persons	29.00

Executive Single - Has Queen - 1 person	34.00
bed & love seat 2 persona	36.00
(twin size 3 persons	39.00
(if 3d person sleeps on L.S.	37.00

Rooms with 2 double beds	2 persons	34.00
	(\$2.00 for each extra person)	

As indicated prices quoted above are subject to change.

As of this date the Convention Committee has figured that  
the Registration fee will be right at \$25.00 per person.

These figures will give you a goal towards which to shoot.  
We hope that these figures will not substantially change  
between now and April 1st when we will be mailing Regional  
Notices with firm cost figures. Also tour schedule will be  
worked out with proper time in each garden in order to view  
that garden fully.

Since some of our members had the privilege of staying in homes in the Baltimore Area, we feel that we should at least offer to secure homes for those of you who might wish to do the same here in the Charlotte Area. We do have the disadvantage of staging the show on Friday, which might hamper some in coming forth with an offer to keep one or two as the case may be. We would like to have your requests, should you desire to do this. More than likely we can find places, but you will probably not receive the hospitality that you would if we did not have the extra work of staging a show.

We do have information that there are homes in the area which supply bed and breakfast on a commercial basis. We have not secured the necessary information where we can forward to you the names of available places. Our Committee will be looking into this matter in case there may be some of you who would like to stay in one of these homes.

Your Convention Committee is listed below for your information:

General Chairman - - - - -B.J. Brown  
Hotel & Transportation - - Barbara Moeller  
Hostess - - - - - Elizabeth Farrar  
Registration - - - - - Cora Jones  
Secretary - - - - - Joyce Skaradzinski  
Garden Tours - - - - - Katharine Steele  
Speaker/Entertainment - - Frances Brown  
Publicity - - - - - Nancy Brachey &  
James Hughes  
Guest Irises - - - - - Elizabeth Farrar

It has been suggested that those of you who might be coming possibly early on Friday afternoon might like to have a guided tour of the city. The Charlotte Visitors, who provided our bus to Baltimore last Spring, would, for a nominal fee, pick up these members at the show site at Eastland Mall and show you the city. If there are those of you who are interested, would you please write to the General Chairman listed above so that he can have arrangements made for this city tour. Those taking judges training could not be included, as we see it. If enough are interested, we will publish fee for this in April issue of Newscast.

GARDEN OF ELIZABETH (Mrs. Miles P. Farrar) FARRAR -  
LUCIA, NORTH CAROLINA - near MOUNT HOLLY

The Farrar home is located about 15 miles north of downtown Charlotte, thus several days later to bloom than other gardens on tour. Plantings are not nearly as extensive as they once were since Elizabeth retired two years ago and spends much of her time away.

The iris are now planted in raised beds in the garden plot. Most were set or reset in 1981, with about 30 added in September, 1982, in a bed prepared for seedlings. Guest irises and seedlings did not arrive as expected, thus the late planting. There are three of Alice Bouldin's seedlings, 1 from Katharine Steele, and Dave Niswonger had earlier sent three, one of which has since been named LILAC LASS.

Weather permitting, we'll see 1982 introductions BIRTHDAY GIFT and MISSOURI SUNRISE by Niswonger; BLUSHING DIANA, NORDIC SEAS and CLASSIC PROFILE by the Mohrs; SKIER'S DELIGHT, SOFT JAZZ and BLACK DRAGON by Schreiner; 1981s - Schreiners HOT LINE, LORILEE, PIPING HOT and TITAN'S GLORY; Niswonger's BLUE ZIPPER; Corlew's FIRST BLUSH; Williamson's LULLABY OF LOVE; Luhn's PACIFIC GROVE; Roderick's PLEATED GOWN; Plough's SHIP to SHORE, and Mohr's COTTON CARNIVAL, DUTCH GIRL, EXUBERANT, TARDY BELLE and TROPICAL TEMPO. There are about seventy-five 1978-79-80 introductions, and about 200 others, most under 10 years old.

There are also twenty-odd Siberians, including newly planted PINK HAZE and MAGGIE SMITH, blue and white tectorum, cristata, and blue-eyed grass; small vegetable, cut-flowers, chrysanthemum and daylily beds - space for thousands but arranged for as little maintenance as possible

JEWELL-MACK GARDEN of Jewell and Jim Hughes, located  
3810 Stokes Avenue, Charlotte, N.C.

Jewell-Mack Garden is situated in South Charlotte in Heatherstone. The garden is located back of the house enclosed by a split rail fence and practically

hidden from street view.

The iris beds are dominated by TB's with generous plantings of Dutch and Siberians. The latter were planted for the first time this year. We have one guest iris of the B.J.Browns. Tulips, Daffodils, other spring bulbs and perennials are planted in abundance.

Decorative trees and shrubs, including a Weeping Cherry, Maples, Japanese Maple, Dogwoods, Poplars, Gum, Magnolia, Azaleas, Rhododendron, Sasanqua Camellias, Spirea and a few common fruit trees furnish background and framing for a picturesque home and garden.

We welcome you to view our garden. It is an all-year project with a variety of seasonals. Far from enormous in size, but with a good season, very attractive and pleasant to view.

See you in 83 -

Jewell and Jim Hughes

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GARDEN OF KATHARINE and RICHARD STEELE  
2121 Sedley Road, Charlotte, N.C.

The three year old garden of Katharine and Richard Steele is located in South Charlotte

The street side front area is designed in a formal manner in keeping with the formality of the house style.

There is a decided transition beginning beside the house and continuing to the terrace area where informality sets the theme.

Paths lead through the woodsy section consisting of tall white oaks, Tulip Poplar, native dogwoods and Redbuds. These are underplanted in areas with ferns, azaleas, rhododendrons and a beginning wild flower collection.

At the end of the paths is the small sun space of the 365' deep lot. The far end is bordered by McMullen Creek, a Mecklenburg County Flood Area - and a thorn in the side of a gardener when it floods!! Nevertheless, Richard and I diligently deal with this and recover to once again re-plan and promise ourselves to use only those plants that can take the occasional swift muddy waters.

We have used Siberian, Japanese, Louisiana, Pseudacorus and Dutch Iris, daylilies, sedums, pampas grass and certain other tolerant perennials.

The Siberian Iris are a dominate feature, and we now have 65 names varieties. This number will increase as time and space permit.

The lawn area is free of any plantings and is edged by rocks; some very large and other small ones, dug as beds were prepared along the perimeter.

On the higher ground we have relocated the TBs, tectorum, a rose or two and other perennials and annuals.

Across the creek is a home owners' trail, so the garden can be viewed by the hikers, joggers and cyclists as well.

We anticipate with pleasure your visit to our garden in May 1983.

Some of our newer varieties are listed below:

ANN DASCH, BEE, BUTTER AND SUGAR, FRIENDLY WELCOME, ON AND ON, OUTER LOOP, PINK HAZE, RARE JEWEL, ROANOKE'S CHOICE, RUFFLED VELVET, SILVER EDGE, WINE WINGS and WING ON WING.

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The Garden of Frances and B.J. Brown  
11026 Steele Creek Road, Charlotte, N.C.

This garden still shows signs of the old commercial garden of Pod and Pollen days. Our beds are raised for drainage purposes, and interwoven among the named varieties of TBs are a number of seedlings which have been grown over the years and held for potential in hybridizing program. Many of these more than likely will be discarded after this spring tour. We are hoping to get comments from you should there be any that might show promise.

In addition to the tall bearded, we are growing a few Louisianas, and hope to be able to add to these in the near future. Also we are growing a few Japanese named varieties, and have a section of seedlings, a few of which just may bloom this season.

We have a right good collection of Siberians which have been accumulating over the past four or five years. Some of the varieties which we hope will be making a good showing are: PANSY PURPLE, WING ON WING, EARTHSHINE, ODE TO LOVE, PIRATE PRINCE, ROANOKE'S CHOICE, WINE WINGS, BELFAST, ORVILLE FAYE, MARANATHA, AU SABLE RI ER, KISMET, ANN DASCH, STEVE VARNER, FOURFOLD WHITE, GRAND JUNCTION, STAR CLUSTER, LIGHTS OF PARIS and the miniature FLIGHT of BUTTERFLIES.

Some of the newer TBs are: -

1982 Introductions: - Keppel's BB-PREDICTION, ETJ-QUETTE, SORCERESS; Gatty's IB- BOLD PRINT & TB SIMPLE PLEASURES; from the Mohrs, BLUSHING DIANA, BIRTHDAY GIFT and NORDIC SEAS; from Joe Ghio, LIGHT YEARS, SOCIAL REGISTER and SOAP OPERA; and again from Gatty MOVIE QUEEN and PRETTY LADY.

1981 Introductions - Schreiner's BRIDAL CROWN and SCINTILLATION; Ghio's LADY FRIEND, HIGHNESS, VENEER and USHERETTE; Gartmen's AUTUMN HEIRESS; Hamblen's RON; Williamson's JONTUE; Corlew's FIRST BLUSH; Mohr's COTTON CLASSIC; Plough's EXUBERANT; Gatty's SYMMETRY and NEFER-TITI; and Keppel's BROADWAY, THEATRE, AND VILLAIN.....

We have a number of interesting 1978,79 and 80 introductions which should really be in clumps if things go well. Also, you will note elsewhere in this issue that we are introducing DESIGNER'S CHOICE and there should be 2 or 3 plantings of this which hopefully you can appraise for us. This is a small white which won an Exhibition Certificate in the Charlotte show a couple of years ago, and hopefully can be used by arrangers who might need a smaller flower for a particular design.

We have plenty of space, and plans are that you will have lunch while in our garden. We want to make you feel welcome.

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THE GARDEN OF SYDNEY and HENRY COWELL, JR.,  
4322 Columbine Circle, Charlotte, N.C.

In May we expect to have many of the different named varieties of Tall Bearded and Intermediates in bloom. Siberian Iris also have a place to grow and show their delicate flower. Sweet Williams and Peonies generally bloom along with the iris.

The garden was planned to produce flowers, either flowering trees and shrubs, bulbs or plants, from early spring to late fall.

You are cordially invited to share this garden with us next May.

Henry Cowell

Editor's Note:

I would like to add that Sydney and Henry have a well-planned garden, which is located at the rear of their lovely home. The side and rear foundation plantings are full of bloom at iris time. Additional beds are located attractively at the rear of the lot.

Henry is President of our Charlotte Iris Society, and he and this group will be working hard on the show and the regional to make it something you will be proud to attend.

Unfortunately, they have let their AIS membership lapse. Perhaps this will help them to reinstate - we hope.

THE GARDEN OF MARILYN and DAVID McPHERSON  
NEAR WAXHAW, NORTH CAROLINA

Here at the McPherson Garden on Lochhaven Lake, we started about two years ago to push back the woods enough to allow for iris culture. We still do not have the necessary amount of sun for the best garden, but we keep working at it. Nevertheless, it will be quite some time before this garden is in any way a show place.

We invite you to come and look and offer your suggestions for improvement. We began with hundreds of iris rhizomes divided from the first 30 that we started with in 1970, which were not new introductions.

We have added newer introductions over the years, but have lost a few. We have quite a wet condition here and have begun sections of different varieties, such as Siberian, Louisiana, Spurias and Japanese.

In addition to irises we have attempted to nurture the native wild flowers and have a special area dedicated to that end.

Some of the newer irises here are EFFERVESCENT (Mohr 80), ENTHRALLING PINK, BROADWAY (Keppel 81), COTTON CARNIVAL (Mohr 81); GOLDEN FANTASY (Schreiner 81), CONDETTIERRE (Cayeux 78); and B.J.s 1983 Intro. DESIGNER'S CHOICE.

Among the Siberians we have are WHITE SWIRL, MARANATHA, SUMMER SKIES AND DEWFUL.

We have I. Verna, Techtorum, Cristata, along with a number of SDB, including a favorite LITTLE BLACKFOOT, WHICH Reblooms.

Our Spurias include ARCHIE OWEN, ARBITRATOR, CONTRADICTION, RED OAK, CHUMASCH, FIRST VOYAGE, and ELIXIR.

We have a number of wild flowers and Christmas Fern, CINNAMON FERN, MAIDENHAIR FERN and LADY FERN.

1983 AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY CONVENTION

Region 1, A I S

BARBARA B. WHITEHOUSE, Chairman

AGNES WAITE, Vice-Chairman

Registrar: Janet Merrill, RFD 1, Epsom, N.H. 03234

Convention Registration Fees:

Before April 1st - - - - -	\$100.00
After April - May 30th - - - - -	110.00
After May 30th - - - - -	120.00

Send registration fee to Janet Merrill, address as above. She will send each person a card which MUST be used to make reservations at the hotel

This is for information only. You will be getting official mailing direct from Convention Headquarters, but can be used in planning until their mailing is received.

This might be a good year for us in Region 4 to attend a National Convention. Hopefully a number from our Region can attend.

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RIVER FARM - headquarters of American Horticulture Society  
Claire Barr - from letter in "The Ramblin' Robin" 10/18/82

Those of you who are around me very much or who have read my reports in Newscast or heard them at Board Meetings, probably have wondered why I keep talking about River Farm, headquarters of the American Horticultural Society, on the banks of the Potomac, near Mount Vernon. Clarence Mahan and his wife, Suky, joined our group there yesterday for the Fall Open House.

The day was sunny, but cold and windy, but the Iris Society had been asked to have an Educational Exhibit -so there we were. Besides the Mahans and the Barrs, we had Retta and Maynard Harp, David Walsh and Dick Sparling. Among us, we managed to get together a beautiful group of rebloomers, TB, IB, and SDB. We had educational posters (drawn by Ann Dasch, former editor of AIS Bulletin); books, including The Genur Iris (reprint) by W.R.Dykes, The World Of Irises; Sawden Irises and Dr.McEwen's Siberian Irises; a wide range of AIS Bulletins and two new booklets Irises For Everyone and Basic Iris Culture; and Invitation To Join pamphlets for prospective members. We had taken chairs, but the response and interest was great from the public and we found ourselves answering many questions as the people were drawn to our table by those lovely rebloomers, so we never did sit down.

About three times there was near disaster - the wind blew the posters over, knocking the bottles over and the flower pot in which one of the dwarf~~s~~ had been temporarily planted, all this on the books, etc., and the old damask cloth which I had covered the display table. All hands came to the rescue, and many paper napkins were used to mop up. We also had, on a nearby table, a potted rhizome of VANITY, along with a beautiful color photo of a stalk of VANITY. (Let me backtrack to explain this last item. On Friday night, Bill and I had been asked by Dr. Hal Stahly, President of A.I.S. to attend a party at River Farm as representatives of the American Iris Society. The Party was given to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the American Horticultural Society. It was a lovely affair, and the rhizome of VANITY, this year's

Dykes Medal winner, and the photo, were sent by A I S in honor of the occasion. The rhizome will be planted in the gardens there.)

Guests arrived before dark and were able to wander through the gardens, alive with blooms of every kind (except irises, I think). Especially beautiful were the rose garden and the exquisite dahlias. The gardens are surrounded by tremendous old English boxwoods and lovely old brick walls, and the lawn sweeps down to the Potomac River. The A I S iris beds are near the dahlias. The beds look fine - the iris healthy. There are TBs, Medians and SI there, and they were the Stars of the Show at River Farms Spring Open House. There are JI planted elsewhere, also.

At the party, an elaborate Cocktail Buffet was served in the Ball Room. Later the Birthday Cake was cut. The decoration on the large rectangular cake was a replica of the beautifully designed needlepoint cushions in the window-seats of the ballroom; flowers on a soft dark green background with (A H S) in center. In the lower left corner was a lovely blue iris.

Now to get back to the Sunday Open House - I forgot to mention that for the Educational Display Table, I had planted in a large glass bowl two rhizomes, one fully planted, the other with the roots exposed and trailing down from the rhizome which was raised on a little mound - all this to show planting methods. That was knocked over, too, but not broken.

I am telling you all of this for two reasons: (1) there was a lot of goodwill established, I believe, for A.I.S at these two affairs and much interest stirred up; and (2) You must keep River Farm in mind when you travel that way. It is beautiful and well worth seeing. We became interested two years ago when the A I S Board asked me to be in charge of the establishment of the iris beds there. It has been a rewarding experience.

Claire Barr

## AN OKIE'S DILEMMA

By Jeane Stayer

Reprint from Summer Newsletter of LISA

People in my area have heard me say many times, "Ignorance is bliss." I believe it - Larry and I grew beautiful Louisiana irises for years, until we learned how. In those days we were too busy with working, going to school, etc. to belong to an Iris Society, but we did grow iris, and my Garden Club members were always eager to visit our yard in the early spring to see the show.

Finally the day came, when we got through school, settled in our home, and I quit work, hopefully to spend the rest of my years gardening. We went to our first iris show in 1970, and a few months later joined the Tulsa Area Iris Society.

Like all new members, we were eager to learn, and wanted very much to do things right. Some of the long-time members of the Iris Society came to see our iris plantings, and complimented us highly on our garden, especially on the Louisianas. They were planted among the tall bearded, in full sun (we did not have shade, as we were in a new housing addition with no trees, and GUMBO for soil.) We were told that the iris were beautifully grown, "But - we were doing it all wrong."

So - we set out to do it right, and have not grown them as well since. Why??? I think we outsmarted ourselves. We should have left well enough alone. If I could only grow one iris, it would be the Louisianas. I believe Larry really likes the TBs best, but I cannot pin him down to just one. He does enjoy the Louisianas and you can see his interest growing each bloom season.

In educating ourselves in the RIGHT way to grow Louisiana iris, we found we needed a special bed, that it had to be an ACID bed, and for the best possible bloom, it needed to be placed in the shade so the color would not fade, and the blooms would hold longer. The only place that came close to these conditions was on the east side of our house, where they would have the

morning sun. We dug the bed deep, put in cottonseed meal, soil sulphur, spagnum peat, black peat, and dried sterilized steer manure. We watered the bed well and let it settle till time to dig and divide our Louisianas. After they were planted, they were kept watered till the new growth started showing. We did all this in October, as that seemed to be the proper planting time in our area, according to the older and wiser. After the first freeze, we mulched with ground oak leaves and pine needles. The first year they grew well and bloomed beautifully. We had 90% bloom, and we thought we must be on the right track, at last, even though they had always performed very well for us, under all the WRONG conditions. I guess our neighbor did not like seeing the steady stream of traffic that came to see our new planting, for they put up a wood fence. (THEY DO NOT LIKE FLOWERS.) That provided more shade for our iris. All our iris friends told us to be happy about it, because the iris would grow and bloom better. Well, they went downhill ever-after.....

Six years ago we decided our Louisianas were going back out in full sun. So Larry got busy, moving and shifting all the other iris and plants around, so we could have full sun. We have been here 18 years now and our trees have grown so well that soon we will have all shade. We never win, do we??? Anyway, he dug the bed, put all the same materials in it for a good acid bed, and then divided it into "pockets" (for the lack of a better word) with concrete blocks and a walk down the middle for easy viewing when the iris are in bloom. The pocket size is 24"x30" and works extremely for us. They will grow up over the side and get out if not transplanted often enough, but we like this arrangement, for we can keep them under control. As usual, we had real good bloom the first year and then their vigor seemed to deteriorate. The bloom stalks were no longer sturdy and upright. They would fall over easily. We feed with azalea food in the spring and continue feeding lightly till after bloom when we let them rest. We find aphids occasionally and spray but have never found in infestation of insects that we cannot cope with.

We divide and reset every three years as a rule. We were supposed to do it this year, but time did not permit, so we know not to expect the best bloom season next year. They have been reset since being in the pocket bed, and they just do not do as well. I think maybe the concrete blocks might be leaching out, and putting lime into the soil, but then I think the heavy feeding of azalea food would take care of that.

I am inclined to believe that we have the soil too loose. When we were growing them so well, mixed in with the tall bearded, they were planted in the old clay soil, and I think they probably liked that better than all this "up-town" stuff. Does that mean we must go out and start hauling in the clay we have been digging and throwing out all these years????

Someone out there must be thinking, "Dummy! What kind of weather conditions figured in those so-so bloom seasons?" I have kept fair records of weather conditions, and we certainly have not always had the best. Last summer and winter were extremely dry, and we had water rationing, so that helps to account for the not-so-good bloom this spring. We watered when we were allowed, but maybe that was not enough. Tulsa is notorious for late freezes that will nip all the iris in the bud. Also, during the early spring, we have had high winds that topple even the sturdiest of stalks, so we do have our problems with the weather. (This is the thing we notice so much with those planted in the shade. When planted in full sun, we have much sturdier stalks. Maybe the color does fade a little but they look healthy.)

Those that grow and bloom for us under any conditions are: BRYCE LEIGH, CLYDE REDMOND, CREOLE FLAME, DEAN LEE, DOROTHEA K. WILLIAMSON, FAENELIA HICKS, MAY ROY, PEGALETТА, SCAMP, RUTH ANNE, SUNDOWN SHADOWS.

Those that are undecided are: ANN CHOWNING, CAJUN CAPER, DELTA KING, DR. DORMAN, EOLIAN, GOLD RESERVE, MARIE CAILLETT, MARY DUNN, MISS ARKANSAS, MRS. IRA NELSON, ROLL CALL and THIS I LOVE.

Those we cannot keep even after replacing them three times are: BLACK WIDOW, CHARLIE'S KAREN, CHARLIE'S MICHELE, COUNT PULASKI, ELLENE ROCKWELL, RED GAMECOCK, WALTER DUPREE III.

We only bought two new ones this year: CLARA GOULA and CHOSEN LOVE. We will be anxious to see what category these will fit into. We grow many more and with some success.

Maybe someone out there can add to our knowledge and help us out of a dilemma. Standing on the outside looking in, perhaps you can see what should be very obvious to us. We welcome any comments, criticism, or anything you might have to say.

Jeane Stayer, Oklahoma

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## EDITORIAL NOTES:

You are aware that our Robin Program has changed hands. Ruby Buchanan has relinquished the reins and Doris Simpson has taken over very graciously. Some of the reporting rules have changed slightly, and if some of the good letters which came through our hands are not quoted, you might be the victim of our not having access to a copying machine. This being the case, we asked Robin members to forward carbons to the editors or to send in the old letters on the robin's return. I think some have been lost by the wayside. I think others did not want to have their materials quoted in Newscast - and various contributing factors might keep some of the robin members from having quotes.

I must admit, however, that some really find letters have circulated in these three Robins during the past few months. With the new rules in effect, and all the carbons coming to us, we should have no trouble in getting all the materials in hand from flight-to-flight.

We are interested in the fact that so many of our members are growing so many different types of irises. You will find comments from these robin quotes on re-blooming SI, JI and species. Also you may guess that interest is growing each year in the TB remountants. We are also finding that you don't have to have excessively wet situations to grow JI and LA, and that we are finding that we have experts in these many sections right here in Region 4. We have one Region 5 member in our Species Group who grows more different species than I have TBs. Another Region 5 member is really a native of North Carolina, so we'll not count him. Then that Winston-Salem lady who started all these robins has more time now to grow about 15 or 20 more species than she already has at present.

Elsewhere in this issue you will see a plea to join our 4th Robin. If you grow any of the Medians, this is your chance to add to our growing number of "birds in flight"

EXCERPTS FROM ROBIN PROGRAM - From General Interest Robin

Nancy Karriker, 9/2/82

I have been having a very difficult time finding suitable garden labels. My husband made a couple hundred for me this year, using venetian blind slats, cut into suitable pieces, then using a hole punch to accommodate an aluminum wire for inserting into the ground. I bought some green paint, so my garden won't resemble a cemetery. I bought these at yard sales, and most of them painted well. Venetian blinds come in a cool green color, I could buy some. I ordered samples of labels from Paw Paw Everlasting Label Company, but I just couldn't appreciate those. The labels offered by Tom Foster are nice, but too expensive.

I have had a running battle with the moles and voles, or whatever uses the mole runs. I have used Force's Mole Bait, which got some of them, but I can't seem to get them all. I have planted Castor Beans around the beds. I don't know if that did any good.....May issue of Flower and Garden features a plant called "Gopher Purge" (Euphorbia Lathyris). Have any of you had any experience with this plant. I am wondering if it might be a pest! Which would be worse the beast or the plant?

Too, this summer I discovered a little patch of "nut grass". I have received a lot of bad reports on this pest. I removed the top layers of soil from the bed, and hopefully got all the plants. My son has given me the encouraging news that "if you get it - you have it".....

J. D. Stadler, 9/13/82

A tip on planting beardless iris seed. Winter before last, JI seed were planted in a pot, with about 20% germination, and this coming spring they should bloom, which is about average. Last winter I planted more seed directly in the ground in rows about 2" apart and about 2" between seed. Germination was close to 75% and the growth has been fantastic. Most of them are over 30" tall or better with half already showing increase. A good many could bloom the first year.

The Siberians do not have the color range of JI and LA, but the foliage is such an asset to the landscape. Here in September the foliage is just now beginning to

die back after being beautiful all summer. BLUE PENNANT (a McEwen Tet) is still tall and very green.

Louise Smith, 9/17/82

I am happy to have something else to add about voles. Our poodle caught one and we were able to get it away from him and got a picture which we are enclosing. The lens cover show the comparative size of this vole; this shows the large head, the strong shoulders, the mouse-ears and the mouse-feet, and the shrew's tail. We have mice and shrews also busy in our yard!

I had planted last year's iris seeds all in one bed, 4 double-rows-wide, and when voles were enjoying these, our doggy tore through there - looked like a bolt of lightning had gone through and thrown out seedlings wildly in all directions. We restored most everything, I hope. Not long after, he tore through the bed next to the seedlings and again tossed out most of two rows of irises. But he sometimes is able to catch a vole, and I was torn between wanting to catch one for me to photograph and wanting to scold him hard enough that he would stop digging.

I had my garden sprayed with Lindane and Benlate about two weeks ago and by yesterday I had found two dead borers and one dead wireworm on top of the ground beside rhizomes, so I have to think this is maybe going to help. This also seems to have stopped my dog's digging. I had them spray every inch of my area; grass, paths, woods, everything.

All thos 212 new-to-me irises I bought and planted last year had rot so badly this spring and were in serious trouble by July, so I dug them all up and transplanted them into a newly redone bed into which we had rototilled Terrachlor (rot preventive) and by now they are almost all recovering and making a small beginning at new growth.

Nancy, Walter wants to order some of these Gopher Purge plants. BUT I want to know more about them. Do they have poisonous seeds like Castor Bean?....We use Paw Paw Everlast labels. They are fairly satisfactory for us. We use Dymo labels. The old labels can be peeled off and the metal piece used over and over again.

J.D. - I enjoyed your pictures. I got my Quantaray Zoom lens this past summer after all irises were through

blooming. I can hardly wait to use it next year.

Our county agent said that voles have their nests about 35 feet underground, and have several litters of young every year.....

Clarence Mahan, McLean, Va. 9/28/82

I had my first remontan bloom on September 20th - an extra from Lloyd Zurbrigg, I DO, which I just planted in August. On September 23d, CORN HARVEST bloomed, although I had planted it last year. It multiplied like crazy this spring, and now has two bloom stalks. VICTORIA FALLS, which also didn't bloom this spring, now has a magnificent bloom stalk ready to start. I think I'm catching remontan fever.

As long as I can remember the iris has been very special. As a small kid I worked with my grandmother in her garden which was filled with irises, old roses, and the old fashioned type of perennials. And although I've been growing irises ever since, it was not until about three years ago that the AIS came to my attention. And here all those years I thought I was abnormal! Who could have thought so many fine, rational people had gone bananas over irises!

If Suky and I had to agree on a favorite, we'd both compromise on VANITY (but after we saw it's offspring, PINK BUBBLES, in Rosalie Figge's garden, we are close to changing our minds). Suky's absolute favorite is the old near-amoenia ELIZABETH NOBLE, because she says its so easy to use in oriental style arrangements. I really have a problem deciding on favorites, but I would choose CECILIA D., George Crossman's 1981 introduction named after the late Cecilia Dillon. It has vigor, form, substance!

Nancy, you and Walter might like to go a little slow on the Gopher Purge. I've never heard of it, but I went to my books. Had trouble find it, but finally in the Reader's Digest - Encyclopedia of Garden Plants and Flowers, I found this: "Euphorbia Lathyris - Europe - height 3' spacing 18". A biennial species suitable for a wild garden (Note: wild garden). The roots of mature plants are said to secrete a substance disliked by moles, but its effectiveness seems to vary in different districts." This doesn't sound so great to me: "wild garden".. effectiveness seems to vary". etc.????

Tim Davis, 11/28/82

Not much is happening around my garden. In fact, it looks terrible! I have lots of increase on my plants and look forward to a nice bloom season next year.

Claire, Yes, I was talking about "ballbugs" - how do you control them?

Clarence, you mentioned Charlie Nearpass. Poor guy, I pester him about everything and he is still patient. He got me started hybridizing. I have visited his garden many times.

Louise, I have a theory why the moles run rampant in your garden. It is because we are going to have the worst winter of the century. When the moles build tunnels like crazy, expect the worst winter weather. That is what the Farmer's Almanac says.

Ruby Buchanan 12/6/82

I think the weathermen are about to change their forecast for a cold rough winter. The latest bulletin issued promises mild and wet weather conditions "through February '83". I told you my "wooly worms" were white, did I not? Forecasting a mild winter.

I'm glad I got my Benlate and Cygon 2-E applied to the TB irises before all this mild weather, fog, and drizzle.

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FROM THE BEARDLESS & SPECIES ROBIN - "The Wild Ones"

John Wood, Mooresboro, N.C. 9/17/82

I try to have some type of iris blooming, starting with I. reticulata and I danfordale in February and right on through until frost cuts down the Remontant TBs.

Does JI, GARDEN CAPRICE rebloom for any of you. It did for Ginny Burton in Summerville. I have written for info from Adolph Vogt, but as yet have not heard. Virginia, I was glad to get your GOLDEN QUEEN which you brought to our auction.

Virginia Rowland - Goose Creek, S.C.

John, my GARDEN CAPRICE did not rebloom, in fact I had one that did not bloom at all. Two words were

handwritten on my recent order from Imperial Flower Garden: "MULCH" and "WATER". These might be the key to better JI plants, so I have been doing more of that hoping it will do the trick and get some of the near-dead-looking clones to growing.

My *I. ensatas* and *I. laevigatas* are growing nicely, as are my *I. versicolors*. I also have over 1000 *I. pseudacorus* PRIMROSE MONARCH seedlings and some are still coming up. What will I do with that many *I. pseudacorus* seedlings????

Wyatt LeFever, Kernersville, N.C. 10/1/82

Mildred, speaking of hard, dry ground - I know what you mean! But, I had some leftover seedlings of SI and JI and I started to throw out/all, but instead I planted them in the dry, hard ground and never watered them in or mulched them or anything, and you know to my amazement they all lived and are now growing. So these are much more tolerant to dry weather than I thought. Also, the *Laevigatas* have done very well in dry soil even under drought conditions. It seems they are more at home in ordinary garden conditions than are the LAs.

I have *Laevigata Semperflorens* in bloom now. This is the first time it has rebloomed for me, though I have read that it is known to do so. I also had a seedling of *Laevigata* (1st year) in bloom last week - *Semperflorens* selfed - the flower was pale blue, not at all like *Semperflorens* which is dark purple with small white signals. I now have 9 registered *Laevigata* to work with...

Doris Simpson, Baltimore, 10/10/82

Ruby, I'm about to plant my first JI - BLUE LAGOON, a gift from Claire Barr. It's in a pot, just waiting. Your JI border picture is BEAUTIFUL.....

Mildred Baker, West Virginia - 10/15/82

We're still trying to get our greenhouse done. The construction has been very hazardous to many of my plants. The backhoe went through one of last year's seedling iris beds - and it is no more! Several plants have had to be sacrificed and many more moved. I had hoped to be finished in time to make a border around the patio for my new JI and SI irises. Now we decided to wait until next spring to allow the dirt to settle before putting in the flagstones. I had to plant my new plants tem-

porarily and will have to move them next year. Would it be better to move them in the spring, or wait until fall?

Mrs. Alma Childers, Hamlin, WVa 11/10/82

Mildred, I think JI and SI can be moved either in Spring or Fall. Fact is, I think SI grow better planted in the spring. We are only a few hundred miles apart, but it is strange that there was plenty of rain here and you have had it so dry.

Virginia, *I. versicolors* grow here like weeds. If you haven't had *Spurias* before, I can tell you they are slow growers. *I. faetidissima* also is a slow grower. They are not supposed to be as cold tolerant as *versicolors*.

CORN HARVEST started blooming October 9 - total number of flowers was 12. I never measured, but I don't believe it made 29" tall. JEAN GUYMER opened its first flower Oct. 22 - and the 5th bloom opened in a vase on Nov. 4th. It only produced 5 flowers - 1 bud in each socket.

Ruby Buchanan, Winston-Salem NC 11/16/82

Virginia really puts me in the shade on growing species. Of course the TBs will always be the most popular, maybe because there has been a lot of information/misinformation distributed about the difficulty in satisfying the cultural needs of some of the "other irises". But, the growing season can be extended amazingly by growing a number of differend kinds of beardless irises. I think my hillside garden of beardless irises is the final proof that many can thrive under "wrong" cultivation.

Mildred, I agree with Alma that Spring is a good time to plant both JI and SI.

Alma, Corn Harvest and English Cottage bloomed here in Sept. Violet Classic made it before the freeze. I forgot to cut the stalks, but there were a number of buds almost ready to open.

John, I hope all of the JI and LA are growing for you. I enjoyed your article in SIGNA. My *I. tridentata* seems to be growing as well as the *I. verna*, and I noticed some new green tips emerging from the smaller bearded iris which you brought me in July.

Virginia Rowland, Goose Creek, S.C. 12/1/82

I sent about a gallon of JI seeds to the A I S Seed Exchange, also some SI seeds and a few I. pseudacorus PRIMROSE MONARCH seeds. On October 11th, and Saturday, Nov. 27th, I sent two more sizeable boxes of JI seeds. There were two large plastic bags with mixed seeds in them and 89 packets with specific data I's collected as the irises bloomed. I suppose that I had about 3,000 seed pods. I did keep a few of some categories if they were plentiful or unusual for our iris festival next year. Dealing with all these seeds was some job. I somehow seem addicted to such though. I selected a few seeds from all those I'd marked as "pretty" or "very pretty" and planted them in a box and labeled them "Best of '82". I planted all the seeds from my named varieties that made seeds even though they were not hand-pollinated.....

We have a wild iris plant around here and by the seeds and seed pods I feel like it is a hexagona. At first I thought by the color of the flowers, blue purple, that it was a 'foliosa', but they only have 18" leaves and those die down in the winter. This plant has leaves 36" long that are yellowish-green and they stay green all winter. It spreads by long round rhizomes and has big corky seeds.....

\*\*\*\*\*

REBLOOMING IRIS ROBIN - The Royal Four

Ruby Buchanan: 11/5/82

I was surprised to have a visit from a local iris grower today wanting some of my reblooming irises. She had never seen iris blooming in the Fall - and VIOLET CLASSIC and SPIRIT OF MEMPHIS were beautiful, even in the rain! But I managed to convince her that November was a bit late for planting even reblooming irises....

ENGLISH COTTAGE put on a show from late September till November 1st. CORN HARVEST bloomed the first 10 days in October - no stalks on NEEDLECRAFT this year.

Lloyd Zurbrigg - 11/15/82

Earl Hall and Dorothy and their daughter, from West Alexandria were here for a visit... He brought a report on the Test Garden that he has. IMMORTALITY was the star performer, and he ordered one, but he also liked very much the #1 blue sibling to P 69 W, the "everblooming" white that I plan to bring out next year. This had one blossom open when the Region 4 folk were here. Three days later it had ten open blossoms! Earl had maiden bloom on a pink seedling this fall from VANITY x JEAN GUYMER. The picture shows it to be an attractive iris.

Some of mine that are most luxurious among the VANITY seedlings are from a pod parent that was (seedling x JEAN GUYMER). Actually there were two of these, both quite lush in growth and with good stalks and large flowers. Also have SPIRIT OF MEMPHIS x VANITY and a few others.....

Let me attempt to tell of the rebloom season here. It began the last week of July with IMMORTALITY and SIGN OF LEO, with P 69 W just a couple of days later. One must mention a plicata seedling from EARL OF ESSEX with CROSS STITCH and other remontants in it. It bloomed in June, July and August, but it is not a pretty flower, being a yellow background with violet markings. Still, the June flowering was welcome. RED REVIVAL bloomed off and on from the first week of August. CORN HARVEST did also, but a little less frequently. BABY BLESSED began in early September, as usual, and did not stop until a week ago, in spite of the freezes. ORANGE HONEY sent up a lot of stalks, but too late for bloom outdoors - Likewise RE-TREAT.

AL SEGNO (Ray Smith) did not bloom in the spring, but sent up three successive stalks in July - no in mid-August through October. The flowers are a bit slow opening, so it lasts a long time. I was able to use its fresh pollen on IMMORTALITY, and although many failed to take, I still got four or five pods.

John Moffitt, 11/19/82

I had no bloom on my own seedlings this year, in October, perhaps because everything had been transplanted. But I am hoping for good bloom next May on everything that was in the ground by the end of August (I don't

know about seedlings moved in September and October, but we shall see: I even had bloom on two rebloomers transplanted in August and September: CORN HARVEST and IMMORTALITY thi year). I had thought of trying covering plants with cartons from the end of August, to stimulate longer nights, but didn't have time to do it. I did preserve a number of buds by putting brown paper bags over them supported by a stick. But not wanting to miss EARL OF ESSEX, I put a big clump in a pot and got nice bloom in the house, including a fourth stem that came up and bloomed after the move. For me the only absolutely faithful rebloomers have been ENGLISH COTTAGE (August), I DO, CORN HARVEST, ARTISTIC GOLD, and EARL OF ESSEX, all of which grow fast, especially ENGLISH COTTAGE. My clump of SPIRIT OF MEMPHIS is quite large, too, but no bloom except in May.....  
I had buds that nearly came to bloom on the following: DAWN VIOLET, ORANGE HONEY, EARLY SNOWBIRD, SKY QUEEN (color in the buds when a freeze came), JOLLY FALL, PERFUME COUNTER. But all of those listed above, and also HALLOWED THOUGHT (which also bloomed in August) successfully bloomed in October before the frosts. Also latest Style bloomed for me after transplanting from Lloyd's garden in October. But all the rest of my "rebloomers" failed to live up to their name.....

Claire Barr, 11/29/82

The rebloom which we had this year was good. The problem was that we took almost everything up and did not get things reset in time to get the good showing we would have liked. Particularly good this year was Dave Niswonger's LATE LILAC. It bloomed its head off and lasted forever. And speaking of good bloom, Lloyd's IMMORTALITY takes the prize! It was a thrill to see it in Radford at the fall meeting. There was a white - a seedling (R 10 WY) which we particularly liked also...  
.....Lloyd has promised that River Farm will have some rebloomers next year for planting, so perhaps the visitors can see real thing bloomin in the garden..  
.....My garden club the latter part of October. Carol Warner entered a gorgeous stalk of delphinium and a stalk of Lloyd's GRACE THOMAS. I entered a stalk of CORN HARVEST. The delphinium took the blue ribbon,

CORN HARVEST WAS SECOND AND GRACE THOMAS was either third or Hon.Mention as it had been open for some time, and had lost its terminal bloom. This is always good publicity - iris in a fall show.

On Oct 23 Bill and I were invited to give a talk on irises to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting of the American Daffodil Society, held in Fredericksburg, Va. By saving stalks carefully in our basement refrigerator, we were able to take stalks down for that meeting, in spite of heavy frosts we had had by that time. And still a week later, On Oct. 30, we were able to take the last blooms to our local F.S.K. Chapter meeting. The quality of the season and the publicity, I would say, were very good.

Rosalie Figge, 12/7/82

This has been a peculiar year for my garden. The last one put in, BORN AGAIN (B.Miller), was the first to bloom - and it had TEN of them! That bears out the idea someone put forth in the last RIR that the bloom potential is set before we get it to plant. If only this gorgeous warm weather had come without the interruption of frost it would have given me a wonderful bloom season. I had 24 baskets over bloom stalks at one time, but unfortunately I had no subterranean heating system!

J.D.Stadler, 12/29/82

I had good fall bloom on I DO, GOLDEN ENCORE, BABY BLESSED, EARL OF ESSEX AND CORN HARVEST. In late Oct. stalks were frozen on LEMON REFLECTION, GRACE THOMAS, SPIRIT OF MEMPHIS and HEATHER BLUSH. I did have one seedling to bloom about the middle of October; a pale yellow with good form and excellent branching and bud count (9). I have a picture with 4 open blooms perfectly spaced, will take a close look at this one in the spring (SPIRIT OF MEMPHIS x BESS BERGIN).....

Flossie Nelson, 12/31/82

After the robin left in October, I had two stalks of Mulberry Mist frozen.

It makes me very sad to tell all of you that on December 6th, Viola Nelson was hospitalized with pneumonia. X-rays revealed her cancerous lung tumor

which had been in remission for over a year, was growing at an alarming pace in another location. Pain and breathing problems almost occurred overnight. She is home now, going to Asheville 5 days per week (6 - 8 weeks) for Cobalt treatments. Your love and prayers will help her face each new day.

On December 1st her daughter Susan gave birth to a 9½ lb girl - JESSICA IRIS.

Viola Nelson - 10/19/82 -

I have a lot to look forward to, including a new grandbaby in November. To get even with my daughter for having to set all her Iris I gave her, because of her delicate condition, I think I will name the baby IRIS!

## IRIS SEED PODS AND KITTENS

B.J.Brown

Our story begins early in the evening late this past summer. Our dog began barking, which is not unusual, but our daughter, Bebe, likes to see what the trouble is at all times. She went to investigate. Seeing nothing that the dog could be barking at, she started back into the house, when she heard this pitiful "meow" which seemed to come from the elm tree in our back yard. On investigation she found the kitten on the lower limb, scared to death, and she just could not get the kitten to come down. The step ladder was near by and soon she had retrieved a small yellow and white kitten - just like the one pictured on the Purina Cat Chow bag.

This little yellow and white kitten was just the color that Frances had been wanting for a long time. Since both Frances and Bebe are animal lovers, the kitten really found herself a home.

Our house is on a spot that people from the City just love to use as a dumping ground for any pets they do not want. We have found in the road more animals and taken them in - only to lose some of them again to traffic. Others we have to take to the pound when the population becomes so great that we cannot afford the feed bill any longer.

However, this little yellow and white had no fear of losing her home, although we had two cats already which we had come by in like manner. Moses we had acquired from the bullrushes in back of Nita's (our other daughter) office. Then Jeremiah, now a grown tom cat, Bebe had seen one morning on the way to work, crying his eyeballs out along side the road. That afternoon, in much the same spot the little black kitten was still there, so Bebe brought him home - still crying. So - the name Jeremiah (the Weeping Prophet) became his name.

Since we had Biblical names for the other two, the name of Zaccheus seemed appropriate for the one we had just gotten from "up the tree". However, that name didn't stick. In the first place, it was too long for

Shawn, our 7 year old granddaughter to remember - much less pronounce. First, it became Zack as a shortened name for Zaccheus. However we soon learned that this name was not right for a female.

The TV Commercials came to our aid for the proper name for the kitten. One night we were all sitting watching TV when the "Mellow Yellow" drink ad came on - and instantaneously we all said: "That's it! MELLOW YELLOW" - and the name has stuck.

MELLOW YELLOW has more curiosity than even a cat or kitten is supposed to have. She learned to climb to get away from the dogs at first, but continued to explore everything in the kitchen, dining room and all over the house. We were always getting her down from some shelf where she had no business.

I had placed my iris seed pods, after harvesting, with their hybridizing tags attached into small bottles; then all the bottles into a big goods box, and the whole lot on top of the piano. Little did I realize that Mellow Yellow could climb to the top of the piano, and if she did that she would get into the box, or that she would push box and all onto the floor; nor that she would get down and paw at the bottles and hybridizing tags until she had everything so mixed up that we never got any of the tags and seeds back together.

Frances planted the seeds, kept a record of the crosses - first trying in vain to match tags, bottles and seed, with no luck. She even made a record of crosses on labels! (\*)

Have you ever felt like killing a loving little innocent kitten? You can bet your bottom dollar that I have!

But the seeds will germinate - and some day when we have that yellow and white seedling with such grace and beauty - you guessed it - we'll name it MELLOW YELLOW. We won't know from when<sup>it</sup> it came - but if it can climb like the kitten, it will soon have the DYKES hands down!

(\*)Labels all disappeared from seedling bed. The pup, another stray, doing his thing..

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Cover - Mary Elizabeth (Bebe) Brown

Introducing -



DESIGNER'S CHOICE -\$20.00

B. J. BROWN, R. 1982 - Sdlg. 4077

TB, 32" (81 cm), E - M

White Self; white beard, light yellow  
in heart; slight sweet fragrance.

WINTER OLYMPICS X 24/75 ((Lady Boscawen  
x Snow Goddess) x sib). EC 1979

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