

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

# REGION

4

NEWS  
CAST

VOLUME 20

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NO. 3

**NEWSCAST  
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### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF—NEWSCAST

Rena M. Crumpler  
2521 Wycliffe Ave., S.W.  
Roanoke, Va. 24014  
Phone 703-344-2341

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Phone 919-883-9677

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Charlotte, North Carolina 28210  
Phone 704-588-1788

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**PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Dr. D. C. Nearpass  
9526—50th Place  
College Park, Maryland 20740  
Phone 301-345-3324

**PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS**  
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Phone 703-344-2341

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## R.V.P.'S MESSAGE

Judges' Training and participation by accredited judges is alive and well in Region 4. At the national meeting in San Jose, five Region 4 members participated in the sessions on Aril or Tall Bearded; at the Regional meeting in Roanoke there were eighteen participants in the Garden Judging sessions led by Andre Viette; and then Ann Dasch conducted a session for the Francis Scott Key Chapter in which eleven persons were involved. That totals thirty separate individuals participating in some phase of initial or renewal training this year. Region 4 pioneered in bringing judges training to the chapter level and it is most encouraging to see a vital program in our Region. Currently, there are 41 accredited judges in Region 4.

Elmira Purdy has worked many long hours for the benefit of the Region as she filled the position of Historian and Librarian since 1971. Her continuing vitality in the face of ill-health was evident to all of us who attended the fall meeting in Charlottesville. Then, on Friday, May 12, during the time that the Executive Board was in session in Roanoke, Elmira quietly passed away. As a tribute to her, the Marydel Chapter continued with their plans for the accredited show that was scheduled for May 14. Elmira was Co-Chairman of this show and had worked diligently for its success. She will live long in the memories of her loved ones and friends.

The most recent membership report (dated July 16, 1978) indicates 9 new members in the Region with a total membership of 193. There are 147 single memberships, 44 family memberships, and only 2 youth memberships. I do not understand this last figure. Hopefully there is an error somewhere. The member of longest standing joined A.I.S. in 1935 and the greatest number of current members joined in 1978 (24 members).

The Fall Meeting of the membership will be in Radford, Virginia, on Friday and Saturday, October 6 and 7, 1978. The headquarters will be the John Tylor Motor Hotel. Tours will be held to Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg's garden(s) and a judges' training session will be held. Make your plans now to attend.

See you there ! ! !

Roy

## EDITOR'S PAGE

As usual, I don't know where the summer has gone. It is the first week in August and most years the moving, thinning and planting would be over. The moving and thinning are finished but I was very late ordering and many new irises have not yet come. The long illness and death of my brother has made other things fade to insignificance.

The iris season was late and lasted into June and it was scarcely over before the daylilies started. I attended two daylily conventions during June and July and found lots of my iris friends in attendance.

Our Region 4 meeting at Roanoke in May was somewhat disappointing as to quantity of bloom but everyone seemed to have a good time. Surely much of this was due to our brilliant J.T. instructor and banquet speaker, Andre Viette. When you've heard him, you've heard the best. Not only is he personable and attractive but there's an extra bonus—his lovely wife, Claire as well as four charming children, two sons and twin daughters.

I was pleased that about half of our Region 4 guests irises were blooming the day of the tour. Most of Gene Burger's were outstanding as were George Crossman's. (I visited with both Gene and the Crossmans during my travels in daylily time. They both have some excellent seedlings coming on.) Sorry the folks missed a yellow lacy iris of John Dughi's and Alice Bouldin's unusual blue which we picked out in her garden last year.

We were saddened by our dear Elmira's death. She was a gracious and courageous lady, a good and loyal friend, a willing and capable irisarian. We hope that Henry's interest in irises will grow and that he will remain active in Marydel. We are fortunate that Paul Hoffmeister will take over as chapter chairman.

Nelson Price ran into difficulty and had to take his Blacksburg garden off the regional tour. A note from him says he has been able to save many of his irises and has added about forty new ones this year. He will welcome visitors next year and we will look forward to visiting him.

Claire Barr has planned a lovely program for the October Board and Membership meeting in Radford where we will visit Lloyd's and Juanita's gardens. By the way, our very best wishes

for happiness to Lloyd and Juanita who were married in June. She is the former Juanita Sycamore and teaches music. From all indications, she is already interested in irises. You will enjoy meeting her at the fall meetng.

Please—send me articles and pictures for NEWSCAST so it will be more interesting for all of you.

Rena

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## GARDEN TOUR AT THE SPRING MEETING IN ROANOKE

Bill and Claire Barr

There are times when Mother Nature seems determined to thwart the best-laid plans of mice and men. The garden tour on Saturday, May 13, at Roanoke was one of those times. A late bloom season (with more buds than bloom) and a rainy tour day can be discouraging to host gardeners, but iris lovers are hardy souls not easily daunted by such small matters.

The Region 4 spring meeting had been moving right along with an excellent session of Judges' Training by Andre Viette on Friday morning, followed by the executive board meeting in the afternoon and the auction in the evening; then Saturday arrived, damp and cool. Saturday morning found us with rain gear touring the gardens of Rena Crumpler, Frances Brown, and Daisy and Oscar Hylton.

Rena's garden is beautifully arranged and landscaped in a small area, compact yet spacious. The yard is on a slope with beds bordered by pretty stone walls. At the base of the slope, near the house, there's a raised bed of spring flowers, azaleas, rhododendrons, and evergreens, and in the center a fountain—a statue of a pretty little oriental lady. It is a perfect setting for such a display of iris. Among the lovely clumps in bloom were Holiday Dream (Burger '76), Spinning Wheel and Rose Tattoo (both Nearpass '76), Cherished Memory (Roderick '76), Pistachio (Ghio '74), Rondo (Schreiner '73), Blueberry Trim (Gib-

son '74), Osage Buff (Gibson '73), and Kiss (Knocke '71). This garden is always a joy to see.

Many peonies were in bloom at Frances Brown's lovely garden, big, handsome flowers of red, coral, pink and white. It was good to see Mrs. Brown herself in the garden again, always the gracious hostess. Mrs. Brown is growing fewer irises these days, and most of those were still in bud because of the lateness of the season mentioned before, but among those blooming was a beautiful specimen of Gibson's Smoke Rings. There were azaleas too, and at the front of the house, catching every eye, were two great subjects for camera buffs—a breathtakingly beautiful golden chain tree and a magnificent horse-chestnut tree filled with red blooms (we had seen only the white before).

The mist and drizzle were heavier by this time, as we moved on to the Hylton garden, where beyond the gateway plantings of blooming cotoneaster and prickly pear cactus was a border of tulips of an American Beauty shade accentuated by candytuft and backed by azaleas and rhododendrons. This was our first visit to the Hylton garden and it was easy to see why we had heard glowing reports. Throughout the yard were handsome large evergreens, and tucked in among them were plantings of clematis, lupines, and roses full of buds. Among the irises in bloom were beautiful clumps of Launching Pad, Luscious Lemon, Ovation, and Kiss, with many varieties yet to open. And, as if seeing the garden weren't treat enough in itself, Daisy and Oscar invited the tour group into their charming home to see two beautiful cross stitch quilts, one of which was done in an intricate iris pattern.

The mist and drizzle of the morning became a downpour and by lunchtime the scheduled afternoon tour of Lloyd Zurbriigg's Radford gardens had to be cancelled. Fortunately for us, Lloyd had cut some bloom stalks before the rain became too heavy, Secretariat, Needlecraft, Twice Blessed, Fine Print, Returning Glory, Racy Red, and others. These were brought to the banquet on Saturday evening, and they provided a preview of what we shall hope to see in Radford on October 6 and 7 at the fall Meeting. The gardens we saw on Saturday morning were lovely, in spite of the weather, and it is always a pleasure to be with our iris friends.

## REGIONAL AUCTION 1978

### E. Roy Epperson

On Friday evening, May 12, 1978, an interested group of irisarians gathered in the meeting room at the Holiday Inn to bid on the choice list of iris donated for the auction. There were twenty-three rhizomes at auction—one of these was a 1978 introduction and eleven were 1977 introductions. When the usual good-natured bidding was over, a total of \$381.50 had been added to the Regional treasury for the support of NEWSCAST.

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## AWARDS 1978

The BOBBY LEE EVANS Award was instituted at the May 12, 1978, meeting of the Executive Board by Mrs. Alice Bouldin to honor her grandson. This award will be voted to that seedling of a Region 4 hybridizer growing and blooming in the tour gardens. This Award replaces the Adelaide Award which has been retired by its donors. The BOBBY LEE EVANS was not voted in 1978 due to the too-few Region 4 Seedlings available.

The CLAUDE AND NAOMI O'BRIEN BOWL, voted by judges present to their choice of any iris of recent introduction growing and blooming in the tour gardens, was awarded to SPINNING WHEEL, introduced in 1976 by Region 4 hybridist Dr. D. C. Nearpass.

## MINUTES — EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

May 12, 1978

These are condensed minutes. The complete minutes have been distributed to all members of the Executive Board.

The Executive Board of Region 4, A.I.S., met at 2:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn South Roanoke, Virginia. Dr. E. Roy Epperson, RVP presiding, Mrs. Eloise Nenon, Secretary. Eleven (11) members of the Board were present.

Discussions were held on the following topics:

- AIS Affiliates in Region 4
- Judges Training and Records
- Membership in Region 4
- Exhibitions in Region 4

Claire Barr, Assistant RVP, represented Region 4 at the 1978 National meeting in San Jose. She reported that 13 Region 4 members were in attendance. The full report of the San Jose meeting will appear in the Summer 1978 issue of the AIS BULLETIN.

The following actions were taken:

Reaffirmed the action of the Board (5/13/77): That the Revised Bylaws, Region 4, AIS, be published in booklet form by June 1, 1978. (This booklet is at the printers.)

Reaffirmed the action of the Board (10/15/78): That the Region 4 library be disbanded and the books therein be auctioned to the Regional membership for the benefit of the activities of the Region. It was voted to use a mail auction as well as the open auction at the Fall 1978 meeting.

Accepted the offer of Alice Bouldin to establish the BOBBY LEE EVANS award for best seedling of a Region 4 hybridizer growing and blooming in the annual meeting tour gardens. (The Adelaide Award has been retired.)

Set the Fall 1978 meeting for Radford, Virginia, on October 6 and 7.

Accepted the joint invitation of the Eastern and Western North Carolina Chapters to meet in Eastern North Carolina in Spring 1979. The tour gardens will be those of: Loleta Powell, Betty Jernigan, and Mrs. Milton Ogburn.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Region 4 — American Iris Society

From October 11, 1977 to May 9, 1978

Balance from last treasurer's Report \$2,411.62

### RECEIVED:

10/21/77	Pre-Registration—Fall Meeting	75.00
2/16/78	Marydel Chapter 1977 Contribution	100.00
4/22/78	Deposit from savings Acct.	400.00
5/ 8/78	Memorial Fund	10.00
TOTAL RECEIVED:		\$ 585.00

### DISBURSED:

10/15/77	Meeting room and refreshments- fall meeting	18.74
10/15/77	Mrs. Claire Barr—fall meeting expenses	9.21
10/21/77	Mrs. Helen Rucker—Membership Expense	5.95
10/21/77	Walters Printing Co. — September Newscast	368.16
2/ 6/78	Mrs. R. M. Crumpler—Application fee for bulk mailing of newscast \$20.00 and bulk mailing permit \$40.00	60.00
2/ 6/78	Mrs. Kay Cooper—Postage January Newscast	23.10
2/ 6/78	Walters Printing Co.—January Newscast	294.53
4/22/78	Mrs. Kay Cooper—Postage April Newscast	23.70
4/22/78	Walters Printing Co.—April Newscast	375.70
5/ 8/78	E. Roy Epperson—postage and telephone calls	20.08
TOTAL DISBURSED:		\$1,199.17
Balance in Checking Account		197.52
Balance in Savings Account		1,199.93
Interest on Savings Account		68.41
TOTAL BALANCE		\$1,465.86

\$85.00 RESERVED FOR MEMORIAL FUND

Sam Owens, Treasurer

## REGION 4, A. I. S.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT — JUNE 15, 1978

The Membership List published in Newscast, April 1978 was to date as received from A.I.S. Secretary, Mrs. Betty Jones. Since that time dues slips have come thru for the following— (remove the (\*) at their names in the April Issue).

#### Maryland

Mr. Paul M. Botting —	C & P
Mrs. Hattie Curry —	Mary-Del.
Mrs. Margaret L. Dabson —	Mary-Del.
Mrs. Ray M. Hanna —	F.S.K.
Hardy Garden Club —	F.S.K.
Mrs. Iris R. Majoriez —	F.S.K.
Mr. Gerald E. Richter —	F.S.K.
Mrs. Andrew C. Warner —	F.S.K.
Mrs. Richard A. Wilson —	F.S.K.

#### North Carolina

Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Brown —	W.N.C.
Mrs. Ila E. Brown —	W.N.C.
Mrs. Geraldine Davis —	E.N.C.
Mrs. S. O. Martin —	W.N.C.
Mrs. Elmer J. Nifong —	E.N.C.
Mr. and Mrs. Byron J. O'Quinn —	E.N.C.
Mrs. H. D. Sessoms —	E.N.C.
Mrs. Grayson Setzer —	W.N.C.
Mrs. R. L. Wall —	E.N.C.

#### Virginia

Mrs. F. Allen Brown —	B.R.
Mrs. Virginia Conrad —	Norfolk
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Johnson —	B.R.
Mrs. Anna Walrad —	C. & P.

#### West Virginia

Mr. and Mrs. Earl T. Browder —	S.W. VA.
Mr. and Mrs. Wm C. Miller —	S.W. VA.
Mrs. Robert M. Richardson —	B.R.
Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Tolley —	S.W. VA.
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Woodworth —	S.W. VA.

**REGION 4, A. I. S.**  
**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**  
**JUNE 15, 1978**  
**CORRECTIONS AND CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

**MARYLAND**

**F. S. K.**

Hardy Garden Club, Mrs. Francis C. Marbury,  
917 Jamieson Rd., Lutherville, Md. 21093  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Robison, Jr. —

**NORTH CAROLINA**

**E. N. C.**

D. H. Hill Library, Raleigh, N.C. 27650  
Mr. Henry C. Miller, Jr., 1301 Arboretum Dr.,  
Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514

**W. N. C.**

Mrs. D. H. Mills, 3007 Kanuga Rd., Hendersonville,  
N.C., 28739

**VIRGINIA**

**B. R.**

Mrs. John W. McCoy, 2559 Winifred Dr., S.W.,  
Roanoke, Va. 24018

**RICHMOND**

Mr. H. Gwynne Taylor, III, Warsaw, Va., 22572

**TRANSFERRED AND RESIGNATION**

**MARYLAND**

**C & P**

Mrs. Ernest Clay, Jr.—transferred to Region 6 California

**VIRGINIA**

**NORFOLK**

Mrs. Charles Roberts—Norfolk, Va.—transferred to  
Region 22, Oklahoma  
Mrs. Rena Kizziar—resigned—

## NEW MEMBERS

### MARYLAND

#### C & P

Mr. and Mrs. William Hahn, Dreams Landing Point,  
Annapolis, Md. 21401

#### F.S.K.

Ms. Barbara H. Conrad, 7809 Oak Ave.,  
Baltimore, Md. 21234

Mrs. M. T. Galloway, Box 236, Rt. 1, Finksburg, Md. 21048

Mr. Charles T. Precht, Sr., 101 Garden Ridge Rd.,  
Catonsville, Md. 21228

### NORTH CAROLINA

#### E.N.C.

Mr. David H. Schroeder, 1425 Harris Court,  
Cary, N.C. 27511

#### W.N.C.

Mrs. Madeline Jones, 221 N. Cloudman St.,  
Charlotte, N.C. 28216

### VIRGINIA

#### C & P

Mr. Rick Calvert, 3407 Jermantown Rd.,  
Fairfax, Va. 22030

#### B.R.

Ms. Bonnie Marie Hohn, 718 Alleghany Ave.,  
Staunton, Va. 24401

#### NORFOLK

Ms. Sandra Solomon, 105 Country Club Rd.,  
Newport News, Va. 23606

### WEST VIRGINIA

#### S. W. VA.

Dr. Donald M. Walter, Davis & Elkins College,  
Elkins, W. Va. 26241

Helen Rucker,  
Membership Chairman,  
Region 4, A.I.S.

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

**JULY 30, 1978**

Since my Report for Newscast went to the Editor, I have had these Members reported:

### **NEW MEMBERS**

#### **E. N. C.**

Mr. James D. Stadler, 127 Clifton Drive,  
Reidsville, N.C. 27320

#### **NORFOLK**

Mrs. Gladys King, 30 Wimbledon Terrace,  
Hampton, Va. 23366

#### **BLUE RIDGE**

Mr. Sterling Gilliam, Rt. 2, Box 523-I, Wise, Va. 24293  
Mr. T. E. King, Rt. 1, Box 96, Moneta, Va. 24121

#### **REMOVE (\*) FROM NAME ON THE APRIL NEWSCAST LIST,—RICHMOND - VA. CHAPTER**

Dr. Harvey N. Wingfield, Jr., Rt. 1. Box 395,  
Glen Allen, Va. 23060

### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

#### **C & P**

Mrs. Fernanda Hogroian, 3701 N. Albemarle St.,  
Arlington, Va. 22207

A.I.S. Membership Secretary, Mrs. Betty Jones, resigned effective July 1, 1978. New A. I. S. Membership Secretary is Mr. Ron Mullin, Rt. 3, Pawnee, Okla. 74058.

Helen Rucker,  
Membership Chairman,  
Region 4, A.I.S.

## EXHIBITIONS IN REGION 4—1978

Frances Brown

### CHARLOTTE IRIS SOCIETY

Location: Charlottetown, Mall, Charlotte, NC

Date: May 6, 1978

Queen of Show: VIOLET HARMONY exhibited by  
Nancy Karriker

Silver Medal: Mrs. Richard Steele

Bronze Medal: Mr. J. J. Beckham

Best Arrangement of Show: Mrs. Hunt Nenon

### MARYDEL CHAPTER

Location: Easton, Md.

Date: May 14, 1978

Queen of Show: SONG OF ERIN exhibited by  
Richard Kleen

Silver Medal: Jean Hoffmeister (Mrs. Paul)

Bronze Medal: Richard Kleen

Best Arrangement of Show: Martha Cope

### EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER

Location: Holly Hill Mall, Burlington, NC

Date: May 20, 1978

Queen of Show: ROYAL TOUCH exhibited by  
Geraldine Davis

Silver Medal: E. Roy Epperson

Bronze Medal: Mrs. Alice Bouldin

**REGION 4 AIS**  
**REBLOOMING IRIS**

**May 1978**

The interest in the reblooming iris is growing every year. There are several new members of the Reblooming Iris Society in Region 4, and the new Editor of the Reblooming Iris Recorder is our own Rosalie Figge of Towson, Maryland. John Moffitt of Unionville and Louise Smith of Williamsburg are both hybridizing for rebloomers.

The interest should continue to grow, probably very quickly, when reblooming iris of quality are known by more gardeners. Competition with tree roots, or roots of shrubbery are keen competition for iris, and they can hardly be expected to give a second crop of bloom under such circumstances. Another telling factor is the summer drought. If the iris are allowed to get completely dry, they will become completely dormant. This is standard treatment for most once-blooming iris, but not for remontants, except where night-time temperatures are so high that all growth is halted on the plants. (Above 85 degrees F.) This is the case in parts of Texas.

Here in Virginia, a watering once a week in the summer is desirable when no rain comes. A feeding program will also give good results, just as tho' one were working for a second crop of bloom on delphiniums. Even without this care, some of the rebloomers,—admittedly often the smaller—flowered varieties, will send up rebloom stems.

My new home garden was planted between mid-September and mid-October of 1977. All the plants but one or two are remontant or remontant-bred. The only losses were as follows: one new seedling that had just given a maiden fall stem; one plant of INTERPOL and severe damage to the other; one plant of JEAN GUYMER, and two plants of I DO. Both of the latter two varieties tried to give fall bloom, and I DO succeeded, only three weeks after being planted. This makes it very hard for the plant to get through the winter, of course. Other clones of these same two varieties were unaffected. I am certain that had I planted this garden with a "good" collection of once-blooming iris, my losses would have been very high indeed, granted that it was a good winter of consistent cold.

Your chairman welcomes Region 4, and looks forward to having the Region 4 Board Meeting in Radford the first weekend of October. There ought to be a fine display of bloom in the gardens then.

**Lloyd Zurbrigg**  
**Reblooming Iris Chairman**

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## **REPORT OF THE PHOTOGRAPHY CHAIRMAN**

**REGION 4, A.I.S.**

**D. C. Nearpass**

The Photography Chairman of Region 4, A.I.S. continues as Slides Chairman, A. I. S. He attended the recent A.I.S. Convention in San Jose, CA. and exposed nine 36-exposure rolls of film. The 1978 A.I.S. Convention is thus well documented, and a slide set will be available for members and others. After the convention, the Schreiner Garden, Salem, OR and Eden Road Iris Garden, Wenatchee, Wash., were visited and many dwarf and median irises were photographed in each garden.

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## **JUDGES' TRAINING REPORT**

**Eloise Nenon, J. T. Chairman**

At this meeting we had an outstanding Judges' Training session on GARDEN JUDGING with Andre Viette. Eighteen were present:

- 2 Senior Judges
- 6 Garden Judges

- 2. Apprentice Judges
- 8 General Judging Students

At the present time, Region 4 has a total of 43 judges:

- 3 Honorary Judges
- 16 Senior Judges
- 15 Garden Judges  
(including 4 RVP's and 1 transfer)
- 8 Apprentice Judges

Of this total only 19 are quota judges. Our Region 4 quota depending upon a definite determination of our regional membership, ranges between 30 and 35.

We anticipate fully accrediting 7 to 8 Apprentice Judges as Garden Judges during 1978.

We also anticipate recommending 6 students as new apprentice Judges during 1978.

The above action could increase the number of quota judges to 26 for next year.

Judges' Training classes in Maryland and Virginia are planned by chapters in addition to instructor at the Fall Meeting in Radford.

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#### REGION 4

#### AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

#### FALL — WINTER MEETING

(with open meeting of the Executive Board)

**TIME:** Friday evening, October 6, through Saturday evening, October 7, 1978.

**PLACE:** Tyler Hotel-Motel, Radford, Virginia

Phone 703/639-3941

Mailing address—P.O. Box 691, Radford, Va. 24141

A block of rooms for both nights will be held until September 21. When making reservation, please say that you are with the American Iris Society.

**RATES:** In the older hotel section—single \$12.00, double \$17 or 18.00, most of these rooms have black and white TV—a few have color TV.

In the motel section—single \$17.00, double \$24.00—all with color TV.

**PRE-REGISTRATION FEE:** \$5.00 per person to cover cost of meeting room and expenses. Please send to Claire Barr, Stevenson, Md. 21153. Make check payable to Region 4, American Iris Society.

**SCHEDULE:** Friday, October 6— 6 PM Informal Dutch treat meal, at hotel dining room.

8 PM—Slides (Possibly some of the San Jose' Convention) and discussion.

Saturday, October 7, morning and early afternoon:

Judges Training for rebloomers—both in exhibition and garden judging, with visits to the Zurbrigg gardens. (Mid Morning coffee break either at hotel or at one of the gardens. Lunch plans not definite, but will be Dutch treat, probably at hotel.)

The Judges Training session should prove interesting to everyone—not necessary to take course for credit. Bring a Judges' Handbook if you have one. Mrs. Nenons will have additional copies for sale.

Saturday Afternoon—3:30 - 5:30 **Open Board Meeting**

Saturday dinner—6 PM—Informal Dutch treat meal at hotel dining room.

Saturday evening—8 PM—Auction of Books, Bulletins Magazzines, etc. from the Region 4 Library. There are some fine books in this collection.

This meeting is open to everyone—a great opportunity to get together and enjoy the lovely reblooming irises in the fall.

## AUCTION OF REGION 4 LIBRARY

The Executive Board voted at the 1977 Fall Meeting to discontinue the Region 4 Library and offer its contents to the membership at open auction. The Board reaffirmed this decision at the 1978 Spring meeting and voted to provide an opportunity for the entire membership to participate by mail as well as at the 1978 Fall meeting in Radford. All of the contents of the Library have been listed in previous issues of NEWSCAST. Look them up and see if there are any items that are of interest to you. If so, submit your sealed bid by mail or your open bid at the Fall meeting. Mail bids will be opened at the Fall meeting and will be considered as a regular bid at that time. This is an excellent opportunity to obtain some out-of-print and somewhat older iris publications.

Send your bid to the RVP!!

### IN MEMORIAM ELMIRA C. PURDY

Elmira C. Purdy, wife of Henry Purdy of Easton, Md., died on May 12, 1978. Her death deeply saddened all who knew and loved her. Elmira was a long-time member of A. I. S. and a devoted gardener. She was the guiding force of the Marydel Chapter of Region 4. It was her inspiration and drive which led the Marydel Chapter to produce a beautiful iris show in Easton for eight consecutive years.

This past winter, though rapidly failing in health, Elmira continued enthusiastically to guide the chapter members, even planning to help actively on the floor of this year's show. Her last planning meeting was held four days before the show. Two days later she passed away. With real sadness we carried on with the show, as she had wished, but publicly dedicating it to her memory.

On July 18, Paul Hoffmeister, succeeding president of the Chapter, presented on behalf of Marydel a copy of "The World of Irises" to our county public library as a lasting memorial to our beloved past president, Elmira C. Purdy.

Jean M. Hoffmeister

**CULTURE OF IRISES**  
**A COMMON SENSE APPROACH FOR THE AVERAGE**  
**HOME GARDENER**

**Rena Crumpler**

**PART III**

**SOIL NUTRITION** (With liberal quotations from our California Specialist, Roy Odliphant, with his permission.)

In my early days of growing irises I was appalled to hear a number of supposedly knowledgeable irisarians make the flat statement, "You don't need to fertilize irises." Particularly, nitrogen was a "no-no". Now . . . there are a few garden plants that will survive on minimal rations . . . some have so adapted themselves as to be tolerant of extreme and rugged conditions . . . but, a plant with the height, bulk, bloom potential and growth habits of a tall-bearded iris? It made no sense. Being stubborn, leery of gimmicks, fads and cults, and never able to accept blindly any theory contrary to the general order of things, I concluded that I would grow irises according to good general horticultural practices and compare the results with those of other irisarians. Admittedly, after talking with some, I felt as if I should sneak out in the dead of night to apply the nitrogen, but, it didn't deter me. When the foliage seemed off-color, I even went so far as to spray it with a high nitrogen fertilizer, being none too careful of getting it on the rhizomes.

In those years, I determined to my own satisfaction that "you don't need to fertilize irises" is just another garden myth, albeit such a deeply ingrained one that to this day, it is a notion common to entirely too many people. I found, to the contrary, that irises as a family are heavy feeders.

As interest in irises grew, I visited more and more gardens observing plants and making comparisons relative to vigor, height, size and quantity and quality of bloom, branching and number of buds, percentages of first year bloom and loss of plants. I noted in the gardens where the plants were fed sparingly or not at all, the irises were inferior on all counts and many were lost the first year. While all growers did not subscribe to the "poor soil" concept, the idea seemed to be so widespread that seldom did I see an irisarian who fed liberally and with regularity. Even if they added manure, compost or commercial fertilizer to the soil, it was put so deep or so far away from the

roots that the plant was dwarfed before the roots could reach it. Roy Oliphant sums it up this way:

“Granted that one can over-fertilize, granted that plants which put out little or no growth each year can thrive on reduced amounts of nutrients . . . but, to say that a plant, like an iris, which puts on so much new growth each year can get by without adequate “feeding” is pure bunkum. The where-with-all for that growth must come from somewhere.”

**THE BIG THREE**—Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potash  
These have been called “The Big Three” and are the principal elements of plant nutrition.

**Nitrogen** is the factor which is essential for all growth and reproductive processes. Irises do not need as much nitrogen as many plants but it must be available to them in reasonable amounts. For irises, my own preference is a fertilizer with 5% nitrogen rather than 10% (which is in common use), the reason being that when the higher percentage is used, it tends to make the flowers a little too large and the branching high with fewer buds.

**Phosphorus** is an element difficult to maintain in the soil. It reacts rapidly to other chemicals and is prone to being “locked up” in the soil in a form that plants cannot use. In comparison with the gross quantity applied, such a small quantity of phosphorus is readily available that heavier applications of this element are necessary. For irises, it is vital for the soil to be high on available phosphorus and my preference is a fertilizer which contains about 20%.

**Potash** is important in the formation of starch, sugar and protein. To some degree, it retards the rapid, soft growth which may encourage rot in irises. Some is also stored in the rhizomes which tends to make them firmer and less subject to disease. It helps protect the plants through drought, it aids them in reaching their full growth potential and, when lacking, the plants may be smaller in all of their parts.

In soils where Sodium is high, it is essential to maintain high available potash. Sodium and potash are somewhat similar in chemical make-up and if potash is low, the plant absorbs sodium in its place. Sodium is of no value to the plant and is sometimes harmful. For most irises I prefer a fertilizer with 20% potash.

**THE MINOR ELEMENTS:** Magnesium, Calcium, Zinc, Boron, Sulphur, Iron, Copper, Manganese Molybdenum and Chlorine.

The word "Minor", in this sense, does not mean unimportant. It means that these elements are needed in less quantity than the major elements. They are often called "trace elements". Those listed above are generally designated by soil scientists although there may be others in minute quantities or some yet to be discovered. There is much more to be learned about them but we do know that each has its own particular function in plant health. Some kinds of plants require more of one or another, but, if soil is fertile and in good structural and textural balance it will usually contain enough of each for average needs.

From Roy Oliphant: "Now, in the light of all these generalities, can we answer some specific questions on fertilizing? WHEN SHOULD WE FERTILIZE? It should be obvious that the answer is: Fertilize when the plant is growing and in need of its building blocks. One should start early in the growth cycle because there is a spurt of growth right at the start and plants, once stunted through lack of nutrients, may never recover. As a plant grows and increases in size and bulk, it is adding more cells and its need for food increases.

Flowering, seed forming and formation of next year's embryo flowerstalks are all times of special effort on the part of the plant . . . of special need for the where-with-all to carry on these processes. As a plant goes into dormancy, its development slows down. Metabolic activity never completely ceases; if it did the plant would be dead, but these activities are at low ebb during dormancy and here we can easily over-fertilize the plant, delaying dormancy . . . or wasting fertilizer.

HOW OFTEN SHOULD ONE FERTILIZE? Is it best to give one or two massive applications or should more lighter applications be applied? Agricultural experts still argue, pro and con, over this for specific crops but my own vote goes for the more numerous, lighter applications, including feedings at the strategic times mentioned above. This protects against over-feeding at any one time, protects against loss before the plant can make use of the fertilizer and gives a more steady supply.

HOW MUCH FERTILIZER SHOULD YOU USE? All I can say is: "That depends." If everything is going well, one may be able to maintain fertility with light applications or for a time get away with no added fertilizer. If the ground has been heavily depleted it may take larger amounts to maintain a status quo. I would suggest reading the instructions on the fertilizer sack, first trying the recommended amount and observing results. After

this, one can try larger or smaller applications until the amount that serves one's purpose is reached.

**WHAT KIND OF FERTILIZER SHOULD ONE USE?** A point to remember is that well-aged manure has little nitrogen (unless it has been fortified), though it does add organic material to the soil. Prepared fertilizers are often compounded to serve the needs of farmers in your area and come in all sorts of proportions. The numbers separated by dashes on the sack: e.g. 5-10-10 or 10-20-20 indicate the percentages of the big three, expressed as total nitrogen, available phosphoric acid and soluble potash. The nutrients are listed in alphabetical order: Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potash. Note that the 5-10-10 fertilizer is only half as strong as the 10-20-20 and would take twice as much to equal the effect of the 10-20-20. I have used as illustrations two fertilizers low in nitrogen and high in phosphorus and potassium because these two are popular with iris growers. Most fertilizers are compounded with high nitrogen and some have no potassium at all because sufficient potassium for ordinary plant growth is already available in many soils. If you do not have access to the fertilizer formulation that you wish, or if you suspect that your plants need more phosphorus or potassium than the fertilizer contains, you can purchase super-phosphate and one of the potassium compounds separately, using them as additives, always checking to see if their addition improves growth enough to justify their use."

#### AVAILABILITY OF NUTRIENTS IN SOIL:

I will not go into the complicated process of what happens in the soil to render nutrients available to plants, however, the gardener should be aware that:

1. Plant nutrients cannot be absorbed by plants in forms that the gardener provides. The elements must be converted into simpler forms. Microorganisms are responsible for this function.
2. Microorganisms (soil fungi, bacteria and others) are the minute plant and animal life in the soil which, in the course of their existence break down the complex nutritive elements into forms which plants can absorb.
3. Plants can absorb nutrients only if they are in solution. Therefore, water becomes a vital element in the process of plant nutrition and must be able to drain freely through the soil.

NOTE: PART IV, "HUMUS—MULCHES" will appear next.

## KOMMENTS FROM KIRKLEE

E. Roy Epperson

Earlier this spring I received an advertisement from Jackson & Perkins Co. advertising their "Rare Iridescent Iris Collection"—Limited Edition—Custom crop . . . very few available. You could get one each of five Iridescent Iris for only \$7.95 !! Of the many introduced iris which ones are "rare iridescent" iris? Are you ready for this? CUP RACE, GALA MADRID, NIGHT OWL, PACIFIC PANORAMA, and RADIANT APOGEE. All of these are Award of Merit winners. **But** are thy "rare" and "iridescent" and a "custom crop"? Does such advertising mislead the gardener? Many of you have grown these varieties. If you had bought them to be "rare, iridescent" iris, would you have been disappointed at bloomtime? I most certainly would have been.

Iris are everywhere!! At the 1978 Rotary International meeting in Tokyo May 14-18, a special postmark was utilized for the occasion and was entitled "a sweet flag." The postmark was done in reddish-brown ink and was centered with an iris of the Japanese variety (what else?) The Japanese also issued a special stamp to mark the occasion.

For many years Fannie Stadler of Reidsville, NC, contributed to the NEWSCAST with her articles entitled "Fannie's Chatter." We were delighted to have her son James D. Stadler attend the ENC Chapter luncheon-auction and he is now a member of AIS. He grows many varieties and is a hybridizer. It is a pleasure to have J. D. again actively engaged in iris culture.

Andre Viette's excellent slide-lecture on companion plants for iris caused me to be more alert to garden plantings this season. I enjoyed the armeria (sea thrift) and Artemisia in Alice Bouldin's garden, the sweet william in Betty Jernigan's garden, and the annual poppies in my own. Everywhere I noticed hosta being used as borders and in more formal shade plantings. This foliage plant is almost indispensable if you have partial or full-shade areas. You can refer to the article "Hosta Plants Brighten Shaded Garden Areas" (NEWSCAST April 1975, p. 20) for more information. In our area of North Carolina you can get hosta plants from Alice Bouldin, Betty Jernigan, or Loleta Powell.

This article by Peg Edwards, well known irisarian, is reprinted with thanks to Peg and The Empire State Iris Society Newsletter, Spring, 1977. Ed.

## KEEPING COMPANY

Peg Edwards

There have been several articles, by myself and others, about plants that can be grown among the Siberians to good effect in order to provide color in the dull season (that is, any time the irises are not blooming). But I have recently heard, or experienced myself, several combinations I don't believe have been mentioned.

One suggestion is to interplant the Siberians in a rose bed. I have seen this done and it does look very attractive. The irises provided colors that the roses lacked and those colors blended very harmoniously. The blues and purples of the Siberians seem to intensify the reds and yellows of the roses, and vice versa. Judicious placement of the varying heights of the Siberians allowed the tallest ones to overtop the roses toward the back of the bed, while some of the smaller irises, set well in front or between lower growing varieties of roses, were well-positioned for looking down on. The grower helped matters along nicely by his pruning methods for the rose bushes as none was allowed to grow too large for its companions. Care of both kinds of plants is sufficiently similar so that no problem of any seriousness seemed to interfere in a successful planting. But of course the effect was only available during the spring bloom period—there aren't very many Siberians that will bloom when the roses make their big Fall splurge. Still, if you like to grow roses as well as Siberians, you might try them together.

A small planting of Siberians in a bed by themselves in a friend's garden was overplanted with the deep purplish-bronze form of Ajuga which found a happy home in the spaces between the irises. Ajuga roots are not deep-running and do not interfere with the roots of the Siberians, and the owner of this planting says it is not difficult to pull out the occasional plant that crowds too close to the base of an iris. The total effect is very attractive. The bright blue spires (which to me look like tiny pagodas rising above their foliage) enlivened the area while the Siberians were just beginning to make their spring growth, and lasted almost until the first Siberian bloomstalks reached their blooming

height. When the irises began to bloom there was no competition for attention. The foliage of the iris simply had a backdrop of deep orange which was present but not obtrusive, letting one enjoy the coloring of the irises. And after bloom there was a harmonious blending of the green iris leaves and the Ajuga which lasted well into the Fall. Then all Winter the Ajuga had the bed to themselves, and as, at least in this climate, it keeps its looks quite well, the result was attractive. As companions they get along well. The Ajuga helps keep weeds to a minimum, while the foliage of the irises provides shade enough to make the Ajuga happy in the hot summer sunlight.

Three years ago I tried something. I had ordered some lily bulbs, mostly July bloomers, intending to put them in another part of the garden. But the area I meant to use them in was, at the time the bulbs arrived, putting on such a good display of annuals (which had sulked all summer) that I didn't want to disturb them. . . . . So some place had to be found quickly. The only spot I could see was in the iris bed where there were a few gaps in the planting, mostly in the center of the bed. So in went the lilies. The result was delightful. Of a dozen varieties planted, only one was lost in the three winters they have spent here. The other eleven have done well and have increased. By the time the lilies are making their early growth the various irises are leafing nicely and providing to the lilies the shade they need at ground level to keep the bulbs and roots cool. And yet the irises do not grow too tall for the lily foliage, which needs to be in the sun. About the time the last irises have curled up and died, the first of the lilies is nicely budded and bloom in this first planting provided a series of focal points through July and into August. Stalks ranged from less than two feet to nearly six feet; bloom lasted on individual plants from about ten days to nearly three weeks, and colors varied from white through yellows and oranges to pinks and reds; and, except for the Mid-Century hybrids which I really believe would grow enthusiastically even in pure sand, I have never had such good results from any other planting of lilies. They must like the company of the irises.

I was so happy with this result that, when this summer I remade the iris bed, I ordered several more lilies to be interplanted in the same way. I'm looking forward to next spring and summer. A few words of advice might be helpful however to anyone wanting to try the same device. You should either confine your choice of lilies to those normally blooming in July and August; or, if you do want some blooming along with the irises, stick to

those having a white or pastel coloring on fairly tall stalks. I think it would take a fairly strong stomach to carry the sight of one of the strongly-colored, orange-red lilies, particularly if it had very glossy petals, blooming within eye range of some of the more magenta-tinged purples. Or, even worse, near some of the delicate pinks and lavenders! Also, for this purpose I wouldn't favor trying to plant cold-storage lilies which are available in the spring from many sources. I don't think too highly of spring-planted lilies in any case unless you can be **certain** that they have not sprouted more than an inch above the bulb. Spring-planted lilies have to make all their root growth at the same time as they make the top growth and this can be just too much for them. Soil for lilies should be prepared at least 18" deep and for most should be fairly nourishing. Nothing low-calorie!

Another happy companion for irises and particularly for Siberians is the simple little annual, *Portulaca*. Seed can be sown fairly early in the spring after the bed has been cleared of any remaining dead foliage, winter mulch, or other unwanted materials. By late June the little plants should be spreading nicely over the ground and the many colorful clusters of flowers will go on blooming until quite cold weather. It is advisable to use some thin sort of summer mulch after the seedlings are well up, as *Portulaca* doesn't make the kind of thick groundcover that can control chickweed, crabgrass and the other plaguey annuals. I use buckwheat hulls as a summer mulch, about 1 to 1½ inches deep, and most of it holds over well for two or three years without renewing; other similar mulches would do as well. I never planted *Portulaca* among my irises but it turned up one year in a new planting of Siberians, probably from seed that had survived a couple of years underground and then had been returned to the surface when I prepared the bed for the irises.

One idea for keeping the irises company I have not tried myself as yet, though perhaps if some of my plants don't survive the winter I might use this in the gaps—there's no room for it right now. That is the use of potted houseplants set in among the perennials. I do know one garden where this has been done for several years now in a mixed border. Two sets of pots are involved. One set is used for houseplants which live indoors from Labor Day to Memorial Day, the other set is planted with spring bulbs—tulips and daffodils in the largest pots; hyacinths and narcissi in the medium-sized pots; crocuses, scilla, grape hyacinth and other small bulbs in fairly small pots. Memorial weekend she goes through the plantings and removes the pots which

are then set behind the toolshed to ripen off, and puts the houseplants out in their places. She carefully prepared for this process with a layer of gravel at the bottom, but this is something that only needs to be done once; the holes are not left empty long enough for the gravel to get mused up or the sides of the holes to fall in. Naturally you'd need to use some common sense about this project. Obviously you wouldn't put out in a sunny spot some plant with velvety leaves that would be robbed of half its attractiveness if sun and rain affected the foliage, or a tropical plant that never sees the sun in the deep shade of its habitat, nor would you put a sun-lover in the shade of the heavy foliage of a vigorous TB. But this could be a help both to the houseplants and to the gardener who always seems to leave the moving of the plants (in or out) until about three weeks later than it should be done. This system could encourage you to mark the dates in red ink on your calendar so you wouldn't forget them.

**DEADLINE FOR JANUARY  
NEWSCAST – NOVEMBER 15.**

## NEWS OF THE CHAPTERS

### BLUE RIDGE CHAPTER

Ouida Persinger

The Blue Ridge chapter of the American Iris Society, Region 4, met at the club house in Buchanan, Virginia, Botetourt County, for the Fall meeting.

A short business meeting was conducted. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Hazel Coggen and Mrs. Ouida Persinger.

A committee met, in lieu of the Spring meeting, to make plans for the convention. This was the business in order for this meeting.

A summer auction will be held in July and a meeting will be held prior to this meeting. Members will be notified concerning time and date.

Mr. Nelson Price has become a member of the A.I.S. Region 4. A letter was written to Mr. Price welcoming him to the Society.

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### CHESAPEAKE AND POTOMAC CHAPTER REPORT

Joseph Petersen, Jr.

At our October 1977 Meeting, we held a panel discussion of "What and What Not to Do to Raise Iris." The discussion was chaired by Mrs. Charles (Celeste) Cox. The panel consisted of Mr. Charles Cox and Dr. D. C. Nearpass. Each panelist gave a talk on how he grew and cared for iris plants. A question and answer period followed. There was a large turnout for this meeting and many interesting questions were asked and answered.

Our January 1978 Meeting was cancelled because of ice and snow. The cold weather has persisted through April, so our irises are far behind the spring season flowering. Hence, we are planning an Iris Exhibit to be held at the National Arboretum on June 3 and 4, 1978, hoping to have iris blossoms by that time.

The Iris Garden we planted at the National Arboretum has lovely looking iris plants, but also because of the cold weather they have no blooms at this time.

## ENC CHAPTER

Susan Grigg

The E.N.C. chapter of Region 4 met November 19 at the home of Polly Price in Summerfield for lunch and our fall meeting. The chairman reported on the Fall Regional meeting at Charlottesville, Virginia. Plans for the flower show at Holly Hill Mall were discussed.

On March 18 the chapter met in Raleigh at the home of the Griggs'. After a delicious lunch, final plans were made for the May 20 flower show, the chapter auction was set for June 24 at the Eppersons' in High Point, and the following officers were elected for the coming year:

Chairman .....	Susan Grigg
Vice Chairman .....	Polly Price
Secretary .....	Evelyn Dughi
Treasurer .....	Geraldine Davis

Balance on hand is \$138.29. The chapter voted to join with the W.N.C. chapter to host the 1979 Annual Spring Regional Meeting. Glenn Grigg, chapter chairman, accepted the post of General Chairman and John Dughi is Guest Iris Chairman. Headquarters will be in Eastern N. C. and the gardens on tour will be those of Mrs. Loleta Powell, Mrs. Milton Ogburn, and Mrs. Noble Jernigan.

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## FRANCIS SCOTT KEY CHAPTER

W. E. Barr

The Francis Scott Key Society has had two meetings since the last report to the region. On November 20, 1977 Alice Miller invited us all to her home for a covered dish supper. We had a brief meeting and then had a slide program.—Slides were sent to us by Dr. Nearpass.

We met again on Saturday, April 8th at the Auburn House, Towson, Md. We had a buffet luncheon and 28 people were in attendance. We asked the members to bring in their 10 favorite

slides pertaining to Iris and F.S.K. Society. After that Rosalie Figge presented slides of last years National Convention. The luncheon was delicious and the program most enjoyable.

On April 25 to the 29th; Seven members of the Francis Scott Key Society went to the National Convention. Maynard and Retta Harp, Rosalie Figge, Ann Darch, Alice Miller, and Bill and Claire Barr. We enjoyed being with other members of Region 4. The Paul Hoffmeister's, Dr. and Mrs. Nearpass and the Stuart Branches. It was a tremendous show and we took enough pictures to keep everybody asleep for two weeks.

On May 28th we will have a Judges' Training session held by Ann Dasch—We will also have a Picnic Supper and Plant Sale in conjunction with the training session.

Some of our judges have been called on to do some judging.

Sometime prior to our April 8th meeting we asked our R.V.P. for permission to become an affiliate member of the A.I.S. Permission was granted. At the convention we were notified of our acceptance as an affiliate.

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## MARYDEL CHAPTER

### Elmira Purdy

The 1977-78 year for Marydel Chapter included four programmed meetings to date, with other activities to come, as follows:—Meetings October 2, at the Purdy home, with slides of iris from the Memphis AIS Convention; December 4, at the Greensboro Hotel was our annual Christmas party with iris games and favors; February 5, at the Price home was a program of Dr. Nearpass' slides on Progenitor and its descendants; April 2, at the Hoffmeisters' home featured a program prepared by Dick Kleen on iris anatomy and vocabulary. Average meeting attendance has been nine.

Marydel's ninth annual AIS accredited iris show is being held on May 14 at the Easton, Md. firehouse, as usual. The fifth regular meeting of the year will be a picnic, as last year, at the home and garden of Dick Kleen in Bozman, Md. Our annual iris auction is scheduled for July 29 in Easton.

The Chapter sent \$100.00 it had earned at our July '77 auction to the Region treasury as a result of a vote at our October meeting. As usual the Chapter paid its share to the gardener who maintains the town iris garden in Easton.

A copy of our 1977-78 Chapter Program, and a copy of our May 14 Show Schedule are enclosed with this report.

We are sorry that this report cannot be delivered in person, but we feel the responsibility, especially in view of our small membership, to work on our show, which unfortunately must be held in conflict with the Region Spring Meeting. We regret not being with you.

**IN MEMORIAM  
RALPH E. LEWIS**

Word has just been received that Ralph Lewis died suddenly on August 3rd at Hastings, Nebraska. Ralph was a long-time active member of the North Carolina Iris Society and the Eastern North Carolina Chapter of Region 4. For a number of years, he and his wife Helen conducted the Robins program of Region 4. They were faithful garden visitors and often wrote varietal comments for Newscast and the AIS Bulletin.

Our sympathy goes out to Helen who is living at 726 E. 6th Street, Hastings, Nebraska. 68901

## SOME IRISES SEEN AT THE 1978 A.I.S. CONVENTION

### D. C. Nearpass

To photograph enough of the finest of the newest irises, and also a few garden scenes in order to make a full set for the A.I.S. slides programs, and to take extensive notes on the irises in order to write them up is more than my capabilities or inclinations. Thus, I'll just add a few brief comments to a list of some of the finest that I saw and photographed.

At the iris show which was held the evening before the first day of garden tours, I was charmed by ENTOURAGE (Ghio 1977), a big, broad and bold rose pink on a fine stalk. This iris also looked to be a winner as seen in Ghio's garden.

The listing of fine irises seen in the tour gardens follows, in alphabetical order.

ANGEL CHIFFON (Rudolph 1978). This fine light pink was photographed in two gardens. Rudolph continues to improve his already very fine line of pink irises in steady increments of petal width, clarity of color and plant habit.

BUTTONWILLOW (Roe 1977). A fine yellow bitone with nicely rounded falls and just the faintest of lines around the beard. Rich brassy-gold falls and creamy standards.

COFFEE HOUSE (Ghio 1977). Flaring, ruffled, "coffee with cream" brown. Broad and nearly clean hafted.

DEEP PACIFIC (Burger 1975). This dark violet blue seems to do well coast-to-coast.

FLAMENCO (Keppel 1977). A richly colored carnival affair, a Progenitor-line tricolor plicata of outstanding quality. The standards are of yellow-tan, the falls bordered with brown-red, then yellow, with a white center spot.

FRESNO CALYPSO (Weiler 1978). A fine, smoothly-colored, flaring orange with hafts that nearly touch.

GEOMETRICS (Dubose 1975). I continue to be charmed by this widely-flaring, rounded white iris with a pale yellow beard.

GHOST RIDERS (Babson ???). Tall stalks with fine branching support huge, broad, ruffled flowers of unique coloration. Muted, blended, smoky light blue, I'd call it.

KOALA (D. Mohr 1975). This lemon cream, with paler center in falls, was doing well and the flowers out west were even broader and more rounded than flowers seen in the east.

LIFE MASTER (Spence 1978). A newly introduced cultivar in a color rather rare in irises, a smooth, even, medium-dark red-violet. No haft marks. The falls were semi-flaring, the beard red, the flower ruffled.

PERSIAN BERRY (Gaulter 1977). My slide of this one shows a lighter flower than that pictured in the catalog, but comes closer, I think, to the actual color, as seen on the garden tour. Much lighter than Life Master, in red-violet, with deeper shoulders adding a nice compliment.

PHOENIX (Keppel 1978). A rich, red-bordered plicata, with white center in falls. A very faint center stripe. Broad, nicely ruffled flowers on a well-branched stalk.

PINK CONFETTI (Gibson 1976). The finest of the pink plicatas that I have seen from this plicata breeder.

PLAY GIRL (Gatty 1977). A spritely, ruffled, flaring, pink beauty that has a lot of admirers.

RANCHE ROSE (Gibson 1975). Large and luscious, a well-branched rose plicata. The center stripe in the falls and the somewhat diffuse borders keep this one just out of the "perfect flower" category.

SPACE ODYSSEY (Hager 1978). Big, bold, flaring flowers. This blue-violet plicata has clean white falls, with as nice a border as one could want.

SPRING BRIDE (O. Brown 1976). Starchy substance, flaring falls, hafts that nearly touch, and ruffling make for a top quality red-bearded white.

STOP SIGN (Wood 1977). A red-bearded, violet-blue, very flaring flower on a fine stalk that stopped many garden visitors for a second look.

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