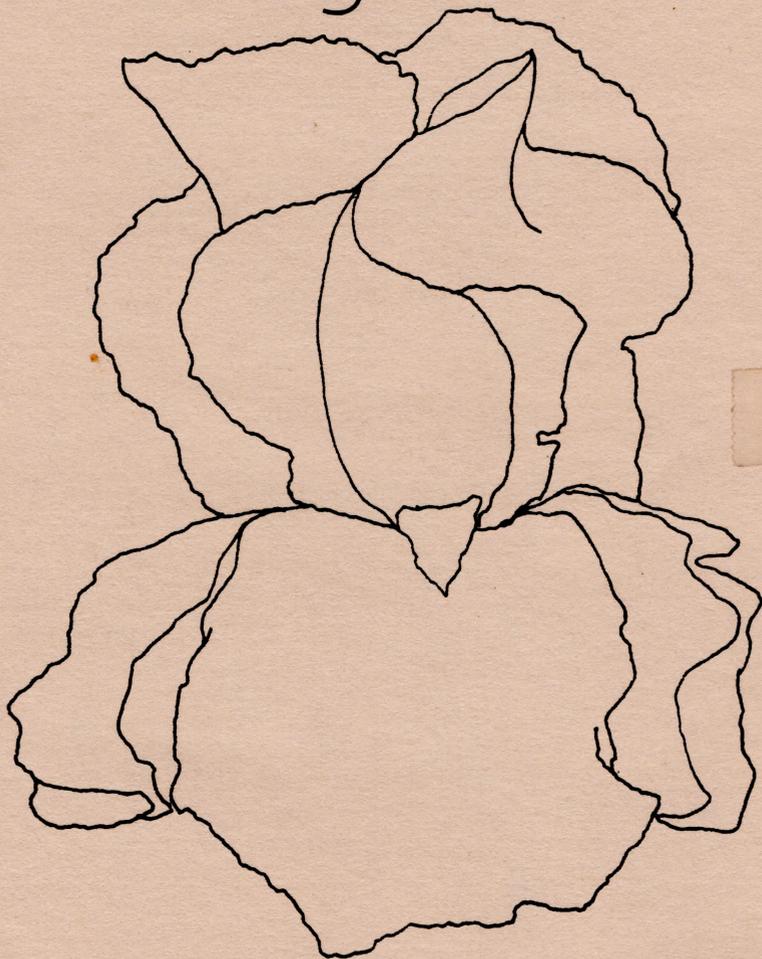


NEWSCAST

A.I.S. - reg. 4



sept. '81

vol. 23
no. 3



CLAIRE BARR AT AWARDS TABLE
F S K SHOW 5/23/81

MEET OUR ASSISTANT R. V. P.
Helen Rucker

Blanche O. Rice was born in Boston and grew up in upper New York State. She received a B.S. degree in science teaching at Cornell University. After graduating she worked in a research laboratory. She married Alvin Whitney Rice, Veterinarian, while he was a senior in college. They spent two years in practice on Long Island, then moved to Roanoke, Virginia, where they have enjoyed living with their two children, Robert and Jo Ann, and two grandchildren. In addition to working at the office of their Animal Hospital, Blanche has taken time for gardening.

She joined the Grandin Court Garden Club, and, being interested in horticulture and flower arranging, became a National Council judge. She found her interests to be primarily irises, chrysanthemums, hemerocallis and roses, and has served as an officer in each horticultural organization. She holds a life certificate in National Council of Garden Clubs, is a permanent master judge in the National Chrysanthemum Society, is past-president of the National Chrysanthemum Society, and is a senior judge in the American Iris Society.

Blanche's interest in irises began when she bought her bakers' dozen from Rena Crumpler at one of the Blue Ridge Chapter sales. She joined AIS and as time went on held various offices in the Blue Ridge Chapter - treasurer, secretary, show chairman and was Chapter Chairman in 1974, the year Roanoke hosted the National meeting. She served on the Region 4 NEWSCAST staff for many years in charge of mailings and subscriptions.

The Rice's garden is an attractive city garden and from early spring until fall there is something blooming. In the early spring, daffodils and other bulbs are the first to bloom. Then the medians, the tall bearded irises along with Dutch and Siberian irises; azaleas, peonies, columbine and foxglove make a beautiful spring display. Hemerocallis, roses, lilies and other perennials bloom in the summer, and for fall the chrysanthemum takes the spotlight.

R. V. P. MESSAGE

At this writing, August 16, 1981, we are in the middle of summer and the term, "long, hot summer" comes to mind. Hot it is, but long - NO. The days fly by, and fall will be here in no time at all.

Spring was glorious. We enjoyed not only our local gardens, for medians and tall bearded, but were fortunate enough to be in Louise and Walter Smith's beautiful garden at the Williamsburg meeting, and then to attend the St. Louis Convention as well. At St. Louis the first tour day was an uncomfortable one because of heavy, biting, cold rain, especially in the afternoon. Spirits were undaunted, but it was disappointing not to be able to enjoy and appreciate the St. Louis Botanical Gardens to the fullest. We were more fortunate the rest of the time; the gardens were lovely and the bloom spectacular. One evening there was a Judges Training Class for Artistic Design. This, I believe, was a first for an A.I.S. National Convention.

At the Awards Banquet on Saturday night, it was exciting to hear the announcement that Nannie Paquet's PINK PALACE was one of the runners-up for the Franklin Cook Cup. One more comment on the Convention - the people really make the meeting. This we find to be true whether it be local, regional or national - beautiful flowers, beautiful people.

Fall is almost here. Please try to come to Radford on October 3rd. The meeting was originally planned for Luray, but when that didn't work out, Lloyd Zurbrigg graciously issued the invitation to come to Radford again. We will see rebloomers, and I believe a program on Japanese irises has been planned.

Then look ahead to Spring, with the regional to be held in Maryland in the Towson area. Elsewhere in this issue there are details about the spring meeting plans. As everyone knows, costs have soared, so members

of Francis Scott Key Chapter are diligent trying to keep expenses to a minimum. The plan is a departure from more recent schedules. We hope you will read now and be able to start planning to come to Maryland on the week-end of May 28-29, 1982.

Symposium ballots are pouring in, and we are tabulating the votes as they come in. The results of the Region 4 voting will be announced at Radford. Thanks to all of you who have returned your ballots. We have enjoyed the counting, knowing that each of you has given special thought to the choices.

Best wishes to all.

Claire

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT *

April '81 - August 81

NEW MEMBERS:

Francis Scott Key Chapter

Mrs. Gilbert L. Banfield, 6614 Cross Country Blvd.,
Baltimore, Md., 21215

Mrs. B.A. Fisher, 238 Cinder Rd, Timonium, Md 21093

Mr. Michael Kellner, 2724 Alden Rd, Baltimore, Md 21234

Mr. Franklin W. Marr, 3715 Rexmere Rd, Baltimore, 21218

Mrs. Beryl S. McDonough, 315 Montrose Ave,
Baltimore, Md 21228

Rev. Raymond G. Mull & Julia W. Mull, 11525 Green-
spring Ave., Lutherville, Md., 21093

Mr. William H. Phillips, 3489 N. Chatham Road,
Ellicott City, Md., 21043

Carolyn & Daniel Schlanger, 5510 Hillfall Court,
Columbia, Md., 21045

TRANSFER TO F.S.K - from MARY-DEL.

Mr & Mrs Robert K. Price, Fairhave Apt B-113,
7200 Third Avenue, Sykesville, Md., 21784

NEW MEMBERS * CONTINUED --

MARY-DEL. CHAPTER

Mr. Samuel F. Sipe, Box 1599, Easton, Md., 21601
Mrs. Lloyd Tupling, "Upholland", St. Michael's, Md
21663

CHESAPEAKE & POTOMAC CHAPTER

Mrs. Edith Chaney, 9079 Dawn Ct., Myersville, Md 21773
Mrs. Marisa P. Dean, 1033 Hoga Rd, Sterling, Va 22170
Mrs. Frances Evangelist, 3609 Nearbrook Ave.,
Forestville, Md., 20028
Mrs. Robert J. Hall, 5708 Blackhawk Dr
Oxon Hill, Md., 20021
Mr. Albert H. Huntington, Jr., 6621 Gordon Ave.,
Falls Church, Va., 22046
Mrs. K.M. Nahas, Sr., P O Box 339, Stephens
City, Va., 22655
Ms. Barbara M. Payne, Rt. 1 Box 44, Aldie, Va., 22001
Ms Nancy H. Schuhmann, 6520 Walters Woods Drive,
Falls Church, Va., 22044
Mr. David York, 7929 Hammond Parkway, Laurel, Md 20810
Youth: Tim Davis, 4705 Sandy Spring Rd,
Burtonsville, Md., 20730

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

Mrs. Barbara Davis, Rt 6, Box 195K, Burlington, NC 27215
Mrs. Albert F. Dickerson, Rt 6, Box 756,
Henderson, N.C. 27536
Mr. Richard E. Joiner, Rt 6, Box 147-E,
Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

Ms Mary Ann Reynolds, Rt 4, "Connestee Falls",
Brevard, N.C. 28712
Ms Patricia Shumbera, 62 Kimberly Avenue,
Asheville, N.C. 28804

Change of Address:

Mrs. D.H. Mills, Box 224, Carolina Village,
Hendersonville, N.C. 28739

BLUE RIDGE CHAPTER

Mr. Clifford T. Ayres, 222 Walnut Avenue
Roanoke, Va. 24016
Dr. Richard Buddington, P.O.Box 1247, Abingdon,
Va., 24210

NEW MEMBERS (Continued) -Blue Ridge Chapter

Mr. John Harrison Mays & Mrs. Dorothy H. Mays,
Rt 1, Box 288, Amherst, Va., 24521

Mr. Randal M. Robertson, 1404 Highland Circle, SE,
Blacksburg, Va., 24060

Change listing: From Dr. and Mrs. Mawdsley, to -
Mrs. Alice Mawdsley, Lynchburg, Va.

NORFOLK CHAPTER

Mr. Raymond A. Thomas, 14 August Dr., Seaford, Va 23696

Mr. John L. Vincent, Box 124, Greenbackville, Va 23356

Ms. Carol Wilson, Rt 3 Box 259-A, Williamsburg,
Va., 23185

RICHMOND CHAPTER

Ms. Lucy Coggin, Box 92, Mt. Holly, Va 22524,

Mrs. Ruth E. Walker, 113 Sutter Road, Partlow, VA 22534

Change list from Dr. Wingfield - to

Mrs. Harvey N. Wingfield, Jr.,

WEST VIRGINIA

Mrs. John A. Baden, Rt 2, Box 282, Bunker Hill,
W.Va., 25413

Ms Norma Jean George, Rt 1, Box 211-A, Reedy,
W.Va., 25270

Mrs. Freda Gilroy, P.O.Box 34, Fallings Waaters,
W.Va., 25419

Change of Address

Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Kelley, P.O.Box 431, Lewisburg,
W. Va., 24901

CONGRATULATIONS:

TO - LLOYD AND NITA ZURBRIGG

On the birth of a daughter, born August 17th

Letter from Claire B. Barr, dated August 25th, says
"I think" after above date, then weighing 9Lb 6oz (?)

We are excited, Lloyd & Nita - we will learn the name
later.

MINUTES OF 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 4:30 P.M. at the Fort Magruder Inn in Williamsburg, Va. on May 9, 1981.

A thank you was extended to Louise and Walter Smith for sharing their beautiful garden with us for our training session. Members were asked to particularly note fragrance in their iris this season and report findings to Louise since this is one of her particular interests. She would also appreciate old catalogs.

Another thank you was given to Dr. Roy Epperson for arranging the program for the meeting.

All regional vice presidents receive monthly letters from the R.V.P. Councilor, Allen Ensminger. Claire read a quote from one of his letters and stressed the need for communication between R.V.P. and the chapters. She will strive to write letters and get news to all chapters.

We were reminded not to let members drop because of the necessary dues increase. The triannual membership is now a bargain. Regional membership contests could be a way of getting new members.

Glen Corlew has designed a medal for youth members with the most blue ribbons in a show.

Open House at "River Farm", headquarters of the American Horticulture Society, is to be held on May 17. An A.I.S display planting of 3 raised beds of T.B.'s and 1 of Siberians looked well on May 8 and should be a highlight of the open house. There are facilities there for meetings and it would be a nice place for a future meeting.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Secretary: The secretary's report was accepted as

printed in the January issue of NEWSCAST.

Treasurer: The treasurer, Norman R. Clouser, presented his report which will be printed in NEWSCAST. The account at the bank must have a 9 digit number. It is now in Norm and Claire's name with Norm's Social Security Number. We are in need of guidance from the national organization to clarify this situation.

Historian-Librarian: Polly Price was not able to attend. This office should just be "Historian" since the library has been dissolved. Each time articles appear in newspapers, etc. a copy should be sent to the historian.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Editors of NEWSCAST: A thank you was extended to Rena M. Crumpler as previous editor of NEWSCAST.

The next issue deadline is the last week of August and there is a need for input of information from members of the region.

There is also a need for information on members who are deceased. Someone in the chapter should write an obituary. Memorial gifts may also be sent to the region and would be noted in NEWSCAST.

B.J. Brown has asked for a small advance for postage. Roy Epperson moved that we send \$50.00. J.D. Stadler seconded and the motion was passed.

Budget: The budget committee should be called "Finance". This is listed in the By-Laws as a Standing Committee. It will be left as is with further action taken at the next meeting.

Membership: Helen Rucker's report was read and will be printed in NEWSCAST. Helen has done a fine job. Our membership has increased and more youth members have joined.

Willia Owens reported that Marydel had a campaign

two years ago at their show and offered free rhizomes to be delivered at the sale. New members were received but some were lost because they felt that the meeting topics were too technical. We would be advised to keep a basic level in our meetings and include some information on iris culture each time. J.D.Stadler suggested that someone be designated to help newcomers.

Bill Barr noted that attendance at Regional meetings has dropped off. There is a need to encourage attendance perhaps through better communication.

Judges Training: There has been no change in the number of judges. Fourteen people received credit for to-day's class. Roy Epperson will send each judge a copy of his records in the fall.

It was recommended that there be general sessions in the Spring and specialized areas in the fall.

Auctions and Awards: J.D.Stadler announced that we have 28 irises for auction this evening mostly from the gardens of Rena Crumpler, Alice Bouldin, Lloyd Zurbrigg and J. D. Stadler. Bill and Claire Barr donated 3 which will be used as door prizes.

The fall auction made a profit of approximately \$200.00.

The announcement of the awards voted on to-day will not be made until the evening meeting.

Medians: An excellent report was printed in the last NEWSCAST.

Reblooming Irises: Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg's report was read by the secretary and will be printed in NEWS-CAST.

Robins: Ruby Buchanan's report was read by the R.V.P. and will be printed in NEWSCAST.

Youth: Flossie Nelson could not attend but she is active and is now having a Japanese seed growing contest.

Photography: Dr. Nearpass could not attend. There were plenty of photographers taking pictures which may be included in a Regional Slide Show at the next meeting.

Publicity and Public Relations: Rena Crumpler requested that chapter chairmen send reports to her when something appears about their activities.

REPORTS OF CHAPTER CHAIRMEN

Dr. Epperson moved that chapter reports be submitted in writing and not read. This motion was passed and the reports will be printed in NEWSCAST.

REPORTS ON FUTURE MEETINGS

*Fall Meeting 1981: The fall meeting will be held on October 3 at Lurray, Va. Headquarters will be in the Minslyn Motor Inn. Celeste Cox lives near there and has invited us for a picnic. There is a possible speaker planned on Japanese Iris. A letter will be sent out to regional members in July giving details.

The 1982 Spring regional meeting will be hosted by Francis Scott Key Iris Society. Five gardens in which guest irises have been planted will be included in a tour, and lunch in a 6th garden will also be included.

Roy Epperson reported that no plans have been made for meetings after Spring of 1982. It was the feeling of the group that not having a spring meeting the year before was a detriment to the Region. With 6 active chapters there is a need to have a meeting.

Roy asked about the possibility of a joint meeting with Region 5 to be held at Swan Lake at Sumter, S.C. There is a Japanese test garden there. A joint meeting would be the first week of May for TBs.

* See change of meeting place in R.V.P.message.

Some discussion was held on combining the North Carolina chapters but this was opposed because of the size of the state. Sam Owens noted there was not much interest in West Virginia because of the distance between members.

The R.V.P. mentioned the rising costs which must be considered in planning regional meetings. Maynard Harp suggested the possibility of having Regional Conventions only every two years since they compete with national meetings and our gardens. Another suggestion was having friends have paying house guests.

The judges training programs at regional meetings were questioned since over 75% of our members are not interested in judges training. These programs are basically of interest to all and it should be secondary that judges can receive credit. New members should feel that they can come and learn more about irises.

The R.V.P. has asked Celeste Cox to be Exhibitions Chairman. Several shows are being given in the region this year.

Locations of members in inactive chapters may be plotted on a map to see if we could get a nucleus to get these chapters started again.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Sam Owens reported for Dr. Lloyd Zurbrigg of the nominating committee, that the same slate of officers has been asked to serve again. They are:

R.V.P.Claire Barr (Mrs. Wm)
Asst. R. V. P.....Blanche Rice (Mrs. A.W.)
SecretaryCarol Warner (Mrs. A.C.)
TreasurerNorman R. Clouser
HistorianPolly Price (Mrs. A.H.)

Dr. Epperson moved that we accept the slate by acclamation. This was seconded and passed. Dr. Epperson moved that the meeting be adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

Carol Warner, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT
 Region 4, A. I. S
 From Oct. 6, 1980 to May 8, 1981

Balance from last Treasurer's Report\$1,539.31

Received:

10/11/80 - Contrib. Marydel Chapt.....	150.00
10/11/80 - Fall '80 Registration	145.00
10/11/80 - Auction	259.00
10/11/80 - Auction	8.00
2/ 2/81 - Interest	11.52
3/ 5/81 - Contrib. Francis Scott Key Chapt..	300.00
3/31/81 - Contrib. Eastern N.C.Chapt.....	50.00
5/4/81 - Interest	<u>14.49</u>

Total Receipts \$ 938.01

Disbursed:

10/14/80 E. Roy Epperson - Postage	\$ 4.00
10/14/80 E. Roy Epperson - Postage	8.00
10/14/80 Jean Hoffmeister - Registration Exp.	98.20
10/30/80 Mrs. N.E.Buchanon - Postage	30.00
10/30/80 Mrs. Doris Simpson - Judges Training.	25.00
11/3/80 Central Fidelity Bank - printing chks	5.25
2/12/81 Rena Crumpler - January Newscast.....	270.02
2/14/81 Kay Cooper - January Newscast -Postg.	34.78
3/31/81 B.J.Brown -Postal permit & postage...	70.00
3/31/81 B.J.Brown -April Newscast (partial)..	200.00
4/13/81 B.J.Brown -April Newscast (final)....	63.30
5/4/81 B.J.Brown -April Newscast -Postage...	30.34
5/4/81 Helen Rucker - Postage -Membership...	<u>17.42</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>856.31</u>

Balance in Checking Account	\$ 283.84
Balance in Savings Account	<u>1,337.17</u>

Total Balance 5/8/81\$1,621.01

ST. LOUIS CONVENTION

by

Nannie J. Paquet

I guess everyone will be wanting to hear about St. Louis. I had to leave my irises just beginning to open, they were awfully late this year. I still had irises yet to bloom when I got back home.

The gardens we visited were all in full bloom and were all grown to perfection. Old and new looked good. Would you believe it, I saw PIETY in the show and it stood right up there with the newest of them. All were so beautiful I wanted every one of them.

The first tour day was to the Shaw Garden. It was cold, windy and rainy. The space for the planting was not a large one and so many people were in there at once we were crowded in the space between the beds. I stood in one place a good while trying to get to my PINK PALACE to get a picture of it. I used a flash cube. It was grand there. It was too cold to stay out in the rain to look all that I would have liked to look.

We had our lunch on the bus - a boxed lunch.

The second day was clear and hot, so we looked all we pleased at the beautiful irises and other lovely flowers. We visited five gardens that day. Had lunch at a restaurant, where we stood in line so long that the first ones in were going back to their bus while half of us were still in line. I don't believe any place was prepared to serve so many people at once. There were over 500 of us there.

The third was another cloudy day. We visited five gardens that day. One garden was so beautiful - "Sure and another little piece of Heaven fell from out the skies one day and it settled on a place we call the good old U.S.A.".

You have to take the bad with the good, so here goes: I don't like creeping around in the dark, you couldn't see where you were going in any place, all were dark. I got so I felt like I was going blind, I couldn't see when I got outside.

The food at the Marriott Hotel was not good - they should fire their cooks. The Welcoming Dinner and the Banquet were both served at the Marriott. I don't like raw food. We ate all the other meals at restaurants near by. They all served good food cooked right. One restaurant served breakfast in frying pans. Every where - "DARK".

When the awards were being given out, it was so Dark that I don't see how anyone found their way up to receive the award.

The President's Cup went to COPPER CLASSIC. The Cook Memorial Cup went to LEDA'S LOVER. My PINK PALACE WAS a runner-up for the Cook Memorial Cup, fifth place.

I came home with a list of what were the most beautiful to me - long enough to last for years. I'll never get to own all of them. I saw some that I had already ordered for this year.

The list is too long to give you all of them, so I'll just mention a few: PEACHTREE, PINK PALACE and BEVERLY SILLS were outstanding pink ones. LEDA'S LOVER is white. ST. LOUIS BLUES is blue with a little white at the center which sets it off. COPPER CLASSIC is brown. BIRTHSTONE is one I like, it is different, standards are a tan/gray color, falls a blue/gray/green, odd but lovely. QUEEN IN CALICO is another odd color, but beautiful. RUSTIC DANCE is another odd brown, and a beauty. SHEER POETRY is wonderful, it stood out everywhere I saw it. It is tan colored. STAR WARS was one everyone wanted. It is a dark one. I heard it was all sold out for this year. I have never seen so many beautiful yellow ones. Orange Star, ruffled and laced orange; MIRROWED SKY, light blue, flared and ruffled; STORM CENTER, dark blue-black; GYPSY BELLE standards brown, falls violet edged brown; PACIFIC SHORES,

lovely and outstanding. SECRET HEART is a brown plicata. SO RARE was all alone, one flower open, standards tan, falls a tannish-lavender-blue. I want that iris!

I think I will stop here. I can't list all, there are so many!

"

McLeansville, N.C. 5/25/81-

Dear Mr and Mrs Brown:

Here is my story of St.Louis. I enjoyed seeing all the beautiful irises, they were grand. I am too old for such a trip. I have never been so tired in my life as I was when I got home. Then that old arthritis is crippling me up so bad. I saw a good many people with canes, crutches and even a walker.....

PINK PALACE was in the Shaw Garden and was good there, but it had made a big clump in another garden and that is where it attracted so much attention. People were crowded around it taking its picture. It had bloomed out in another garden and some disease got it in another garden.

I had RADIANT STAR putting on a good show at home. I don't think I will fool with making any more crosses, it takes up so much room and I am getting too crippled up to do all that work. I am filling all my seedling beds with new named irises for next year. I hope I get to see them bloom!

I hope you had a good season. They were not so good here, stayed so cold on them and no rain. They were so slow in opening and were so late. I still have some in bloom.

Sincerely -

Nannie"

Editor's Note: We wanted to share this letter with all of you, and I know you will join us as we offer our heart-felt CONGRATULATIONS to Nannie for the good showing a Region 4 iris - PINK PALACE - made at the National Convention.

THE IRIS GARDEN OF LOUISE AND WALTER SMITH
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

Saturday morning May 9th started out like many other mornings. But it was soon apparent that this was to be a different day. As we left the Fort Macgruder Inn in a motorcade to the garden of Louise and Walter Smith, we had no idea of the extensive planting of iris and other plants that awaited us. But as we turned into the parking spaces we got a glimpse of a well planned garden.

For Louise to have her Iris Garden much work was needed. The garden was only a dream until Walter removed 30 large trees. There are many large trees still standing. They are about 120 feet or more tall. The cleared area has a few hundred or more Iris dating from the early Pallidas to the newest iris. There was another bed of iris that were planted near some trees in the back of the house and there were two beds in the front of the house, plus a small bed of SDBs in the center of the circular driveway.

Louise specializes in fragrant iris and seeks to find as many as she can. This is one of the qualities that has been lost in many of the newer Iris. Thus there are many oldies but goodies as the saying goes.

There were a number of guest seedlings and named Iris for the group to judge. The seedlings were arranged so that they could be judged without running from row to row. One of the best was A-6-10 of J.D. Stadler, a violet self with a white spot on each side of the beard. It was also fragrant. Among the newer named iris from the region were Carolina Bouquet, an orchid from Loleta Powell, Spirit of Memphis, a yellow remontant and Earl of Essex, a white with attractive haft markings from Lloyd Zurbrigg.

A number of older iris were being grown well. Among these were Mme. Chereau and Pallida Dalmatica. This brought back memories of the iris that were grown when I was a lad. A number of Lloyd Zurbrigg's remontants were in the garden. Among these were Da

CAPO AND BLUE RIDGE ECHO. Many old favorites were still shining such as EDENITE, STEPPING OUT And LORD baltimore. Here one could reminisce of gardens past.

Under the trees were many old-time favorites such as Blue Sapphire, Wabash, Danube Wave, Sylvia Murray and tall Sky Ranger. And they were well grown and still showing off.

In another bed at the back of the house the IBs Arctic Fancy, Lunar Dust and June Prom were still in bloom. Then on to the front of the house where many newer varieties were growing. Wedding Vow, a white from Joe Ghio was showing off. Vanity was excellent and surely must be considered for the Dykes. Ben Hager sure has a winner in this one. Sexton's Hall of Fame, a salmon with a self beard was also excellent as was End Play, a bi-color with white standards and violet falls, with an orange beard. This was introduced by Spence. K.Mohr's white and blue plicata, Square Dance, was very nice. Some of the older iris that were growing well were: Crinoline, Pink Pirouette, Full Tide, Apropos, Rita Fry and Chapeau. Starshine, Grand Waltz and Mystique were also well grown.

There were quite a few remontants in bloom. Among these were Corn Harvest, Grand Baroque, Resurrection Story, Sea Double, Halloween Party, Summer Blue, Autumn Echo, English Cottage and Jean Guymer.

All in all the time passed all too quickly. At noon we had box lunches and got to know each other a little bit better. Louise and Walter were certainly to be complimented for their hospitality. The iris beds were clean and tidy. The walks between the iris beds were wide enough to make it easy to examine each plant. Louise and Walter, your efforts were appreciated.

By Norman R. Clouser

SPRING MEETING 1981 AWARDS

The Spring Meeting was held at Louise Smith's lovely garden in Williamsburg, Va. Although the garden had not reached peak bloom, many beautifully grown iris were in bloom. (see garden report by Norman Clouser)

Lloyd Zurbrigg's SPIRIT OF MEMPHIS (77) won the Claude and Naomi O'Brien award for the best recent introduction by Region 4 hybridizer. This is Lloyd's beautiful yellow ruffled rebloomer that takes its place among the once-bloomers.

J.D. Stadler won the Bobby Lee Evans Award for the best seedling, A-6-10, which is a light blue self.

J.D.Stadler, Awards & Auctions Chm.

*** **

TRANSPORTATION TO 1982 REGIONAL MEETING

It seems to me that substantial savings in travel expenses might be saved, at least for N.C. members, to charter a bus to Towson, Md. for this event.

Any interested member please send me a card or letter to indicate your interest in such arrangements. If enough interest is indicated, we can start working on these arrangements and have at least an estimated cost by the January 1982 NEWSCAST.

We will keep a record of all who are interested in order of receipt, and hopefully we can fill at least one bus from N.C. We will not exclude other members on the way, but are optimistic on N.C. response. First-come, first on bus!

B.J.Brown

SPRING REGIONAL MEETING
May 28-29, 1982 - TOWSON, MD.,
HOSTS - FRANCIS SCOTT KEY IRIS SOCIETY

Tentative plans have been made for the spring regional next year, to be held on Friday night and Saturday, May 28-29, 1982, always with the thought in mind that it takes people as well as bloomstalks to make a successful meeting.

In an effort to combat soaring costs, F S K has come up with the following ideas:

(1) There will be a motel listed as headquarters in the Towson-Cockeysville area where those who wish may get accommodations, and from which the bus tour to the gardens will originate Saturday AM. There will also be alternate accommodations available in the homes of F S K members and friends, with perhaps a modest "bed and breakfast" fee.

(2) On Friday night the get-together will be held at the home of Alice Miller in Towson and will be a covered dish supper provided by FSK members. Saturday lunch will be a box lunch at the garden of Maynard and Retta Harp. Saturday night dinner will probably be held either at a church or at a country restaurant where costs would be modest (with good food) and where a meeting could be held at no extra charge. (Time for the Board Meeting has not been decided.)

(3) The Saturday tour will be by bus and will include the Towson gardens of Alice Miller and Rosalie Figge, the Stevenson (Greenspring Valley) Garden of Bill and Claire Barr; lunch at the Hereford Garden of Maynard and Retta Harp; the Upperco garden of Carol Warner, and the Westminster garden of Owings and Doris Rebert; with dinner and meeting nearby.

These plans are still in the making, and more details will be given in the January and April Newscasts.

FSK wants you to know what is being planned so that you may begin to make your own plans for the week-end of May 28-29, 1982. It is felt this type of meeting could mean substantial savings to individuals or to couples while still being enjoyable. Also advance planning for carpools for the long trip could cut costs for many and prove to make the trip more fun.

We need to know your thoughts about this proposal, some idea as to whether or not you plan to attend, and if so, your preference for accommodations. It would be helpful, and most appreciated, if you would simply jot on a postal card:

_____ Yes or _____ No - I (we) plan to attend
the 1982 Spring Regional

Preference: Motel

"Guest Room" in
private home

Name

Number of people

Send to: Mr and Mrs William Barr
1910 Greenspring Valley Rd,
Stevenson, MD 21153

or

Mrs. Andrew Warner
16815 Falls Road
Upperco, MD 21155.

This is not a commitment or a reservation! No one will hold you to it. We just need an estimate of the possible number of motel rooms and private home rooms. It would be helpful to us if you would send the postal even if you cannot plan to come.

Look for more details about accommodations and gardens in the January and April issues of Newscast.

Claire Barr

ASHEVILLE IRIS EXHIBIT

by

Bert Livingston

Thousands of visitors, including many from other states, agreed with Carolina Mountains Iris Society that "Beauty Lies Within the Eyes of the Beholder" after visiting the society's fourth Annual Iris Exhibit in Asheville, N.C. on May 14th at the Asheville Mall.

Amazement at the range and versatility in color and form of more than 200 stems entered in the horticultural classes caused such comment as "I didn't know you could do so much with irises". Many new enthusiasts for irises in gardening were "born". Others knowing irises to varying degrees had renewed enthusiasm kindled.

Show-specimen stems carried more than 1,000 individual iris blossoms, some of which had never before been shown publically. Guest plants including ones that came from California, Washington and Oregon states included varieties not generally available for garden plantings until this year. Society members were gratified that shortly after day of the show, many non-member flower lovers were waiting at the door in answer to a general invitation for the public to exhibit their own favorite varieties of named irises grown in their gardens.

Impossibility of singling out any particular variety of irises from such an extensive flower world was shown by public reaction that received particular note: Competing strongly for top attention was "Esther The Queen". However its weird combination of color and markings was not so pleasing as startling to some flower lovers.

"Space Dragon", a "horned", raspberry-brown iris on whose flowers there is a horn-like, hooked formation, aroused much amazed attention to variants in iris forms. This is one of the amazing irises grown

in the extensive Hendersonville plantings of Flossie Nelson, CMIS President. ATTENTION CAROLINA, one of the many outstanding creations of Loleta Powell, Princeton, N.C., was a distinct favorite of show viewers.

Typical of the gardens from which show bloom was gathered is the large garden of Carl and Alice Hampton, near Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa. No little credit for these fine plantings goes to Mrs. Hampton's mother, who puts all the love of her 88 years into daily "tender and loving care" of the irises that are all "personal friends" whose every characteristic is known to her.

Judging of horticultural specimens was masterfully done by Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Brown of Charlotte, calling on their experience of 15 years as American Iris Society judges.

Major awards were announced by Katherine Johnson, show chairman: Sweepstakes award to grower having largest number of first-prize winners in the show went to Lavada Reese of Hendersonville. Nineteen of her entries in the horticultural achievement division were blue-ribbon winners. Tri-color award for best stem of flowers in the show was given to John Laughter of Hendersonville. His entry was A STUDY IN BLACK.

A Junior Horticulture class was inaugurated with the 1981 exhibit. Best of Show in this division was SUNSET SKY grown by Michelle Nelson of Hendersonville.

More than a score of iris flower arrangements competed for awards in the creative design division. Arrangements were in five classes, depicting "Oriental Beauty, Freedom, Renaissance, The Artist's Choice, and A Walk In The Woods". As in past exhibits, the Youth Division showed four iris flower arrangements. Other arrangements were entered by members of Ikebana International in the area. Mrs. Arch Nichols of Asheville, Mrs. Gerald King and Mrs. W.C. Laughter of Hendersonville are members of North Carolina Council of Garden Judges

who judged the flower arrangements.

Nina Hensley, Fletcher, who was co-chairman of the show, won first prize for her oriental beauty created by yellow LUCILLE TOLLIMAN iris with sprays of stephanandra in a unique, tall, black container. "A Walk in the Woods" was subject for Junior Division arrangements and was won by Denise Wilde of Asheville.

"Living gardens" of irises that seem to grow right out of the floor of Asheville Mall for Carolina Mountains Iris Society's spring shows are becoming a feature of the season in this area admired by countless flower lovers. This year's garden showed how to transform a familiar environmental eyesore into a beauty spot with iris plantings.

Against a background of native pines, Carl Hampton and Chris Psaltis, respectively retired engineer and Owen High School student who live in the Swannanoa area, constructed and installed a realistically typical rural scene. At the edge of a gravel "road" they erected a group of weather-beaten, RFD mail boxes on posts with bark left on. Reaching far above the others on an ivy-entwined post was a box on which was lettered "AIR MAIL", creating humorous amusement for those whose curiosity prompted them to look up.

Impressive distinction was that massed iris plantings around the mailboxes, and columbines in iris colors with the background pines, made the usually ugly sight beautifully attractive. The technique employed in such "living gardens" indoors was developed by another Swannanoa Valley resident retired after creating more than 900 such settings for TV shows in Florida devoted to gardening.

Beginning of iris blooming season in the western carolinas was introduced by society book presentations to Asheville-Buncombe and Henderson County libraries. Book chosen was the most-recently published authority on irises and their culture, "The World Of Irises".

Presentation at Pack Memorial Library in Asheville was made for Carolina Mountains Iris Society by its secretary, Shirley Davidson of Candler. The gift copy of this library system was received by its director, Kenneth Brown.

Forthcoming project of CMIS follows an educational exhibit on irises, their botony and horticulture, in the Hendersonville library. This event in Hendersonville the last Sunday afternoon in July is an annual plant auction at which some of the finest varieties shown in the mall exhibit will be offered for the first time. The auction is unique in that it is the only source of funds for CMIS which does not have dues, initiation fees, or other sources of revenue. Only requirement of membership is that prospective candidates love irises and each other!!

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EDITORS' THANKS

Frances and I want to thank each of you who has contributed materials for this issue of NEWSCAST. We just may have to hold over an article or two for January issue, which will make it easy for us to have a start on the next issue.

We were fortunate to be able to go to the Summerville/Sumter, S. C. Japanese Iris event. The gardens were really lovely, and we came home determined to start a few JI to see how they will grow in our black-jack soil. Teachers of the Judges Training section of this event were: Mr. Adolph J. Vogt, President of the JI Section of AIS; Dr. William L. Ackerman, U.S.D.A., Washington, D.C. and John Wood, Chairman of Judges Training in Region 5. (See information on this event by John Wood elsewhere in this issue.)

Continued on Page 27-

CHARLOTTE IRIS SHOW
by Katherine Steele

On May 2nd, a lovely crisp day, the Charlotte Iris Society presented its annual show. A new location, new members and new enthusiasm helped to make this 1981 show one of the best ever. The location was carefully selected in the Eastland Mall Shopping Center around a stair well and among a few fresh green plants.

The morning entries started out moderately slow, but as judging time became nearer we were working frantically to finish all entries and placements. The 257 entries of 31 exhibitors proved to be one of our biggest shows recently and the finished display was a lovely rainbow of color, with an additional splatter of color on the MTB, IB, Siberians, Louisianas, Dutch, and other species iris tables. We are encouraging the growing of other species as this extends the iris bloom season. (I even had a little vesper iris in bloom in July through August.)

Now, back to the show. The two teams of judges had little trouble in spotting the Queen Of The Show. Brace yourself - it went to a handsome specimen with 4 fresh open flawless blossoms, plus nice additional bud count, on again flawless foliage, grown by Mrs. J. B. (Mary) Carpenter - Ready! - The Name - "HOLD that TIGER" - an oldie, but definitely the best on show day.

The only fly in the ointment was that there was a hail storm in some areas of Charlotte a few days before the show, and some damage, of course, was caused.

The Best Seedling of the show, a luscious medium yellow, #0181 TB, was hybridized and exhibited by B.J. Brown. Sweepstakes winner (most blue ribbons) was won by John Wood, with 8 blue ribbons; Elizabeth Farrar and Katherine Steele were runnersup with 7 blue ribbons.

An Educational Exhibit, showing on a tray an iris seed pod (empty), seedlings in various stages of growth in peatpots, and an iris in bloom in a clay pot was exhibited by B.J.Brown, which caused quite a bit of interest by the public.

Another very important part of the show was the Artistic Design Division. This collection of twenty arrangements really helps carry the show and creates much interest among the viewing public. This year's theme was "Our Spectacular Galaxy" with 5 classes of 4 entries each (Our Solar Star - The Sun; Haley's Comet; Mars - our Red Planet; The Moon and Venus - The Planet Named after The Roman Goddess). B.J.Brown, with his entry in MARS, interpreted by the use of a brick red ceramic bookend (giving the impression of a rock) as a container. An artistic branch of corkscrew elm with two small branches at the end made one think of the Man From Mars with his peculiar antenna. One red iris, with iris foliage, completed the design. B.J. also got a blue ribbon with his interpretation of Haley's Comet.

Public interest was noteworthy this year in our busiest mall - the iris display was a people-stopper.

(Charlotte Iris Society was organized March 1st, 1948, with dues at \$3.00 per year. Believe it or not, our dues remain at \$3.00.)

Another item of interest is that our own Henry and Sidney Cowell along with Cora Jones, were instrumental in helping the new Concord group to present its first Iris Show, and what a show! You will read about it also in this issue.

THE ROBINS' CORNER

Ruby D. Buchanan - Robins Chairman

We still have three active Robins within Region IV - with plans "in the works" for a Youth Robin as our next goal. Our greatest need at present is for Volunteer Directors. The Region IV General Interests Iris Robin has ten enthusiastic members; the Royal Four Remontant Iris Robin is flying with eight who are promoting (and growing) re-bloomers; "The Wild Ones" - Species and Beardless Iris Robin is gathering data from South Carolina to Maryland with eight members - though we still need a "Bird" from Virginia for this one.

Thinking back to the letter which resulted in your Robins Chairman being chosen for the task of getting a Regional Robins Program back into flight within Region IV, I find these words: "Have you ever watched an ant maneuver a crumb of bread three times larger than itself? (With a thousand other ants milling around with nothing apparent to do?) This strikes me as a good illustration of so many of our RVPs, committee chair-persons, editors, and other faithful workers carrying the load with little help from those whom they are serving."

As we write this - the flags are waving gloriously in the garden, with pollen ready for spreading and seedlings awaiting their turn for lining out for the coming year. It is so easy to realize that time is scarce for letter-writing in the iris season of bloom, but only by communicating within our Region can we reach those iris lovers who may be unable to attend Regional Meetings because of health or transportation problems. As you visit the gardens available to you, please take notes about the beautiful irises there and share your information with others less privileged. What better way to share your enthusiasm and/or knowledge about the work being done in the iris gardens around you than joining a Robin?

Our NEWSCAST editors will glean the Robins for materials worthy of sharing through the region and this will reach all of our members, however isolated from

other iris lovers. The interest in growing all types of our favorite flower is growing within Region IV and we need more information about these beauties. Share YOUR knowledge with us through one of the Robins. Perhaps you may have time and talents for Directing an Iris Robin - let us know. This is a Regional Robins program. Is your area represented in the Robin work?

Quoting again from the letter which started this movement: "Is there anything an old 'arm-chair gardener' who loves iris and likes to write letters can do? Let's stir the anthill and see if we can locate others who think the ends are worth the efforts. 'There's gold in them thar hills' - let's dig it out." With gasoline costs on the increase - why not invest in postage and join the fun by learning first-hand what more distant lovers of the iris are doing? Tell us about YOUR new irises - contact the iris hybridizers near you and suggest a Regional Hybridizers Robin for our iris growers. Let us hear from YOU!

May the rains fall gently on your iris gardens - above all may the rains fall! Happy gardening and bounteous bloomtime.

Yours for more efficient and complete communications within Region IV, A.I.S.

Sincerely,

Ruby D. Buchanan

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Editors' Thanks (Continued) -from Page 23

Also thanks to Mr. Vogt for allowing us to use his materials on the handling of seed and seedlings of Japanese Iris. (We had a similar article by Frank Chowning in our last issue on handling of Louisiana seeds and seedlings.)

Then a special thanks to Doris Simpson for her information in this issue on the culture of LOUISIANAS. I did not realize the interest members of this Region have in irises other than TB. A glance through this issue will give you an idea of the varied interests in our Region.

PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Rena M. Crumpler, Chairman

May 8, 1981

The TB iris season is just starting and, as yet, I have no reports on the activities of the chapters. Every time an A.I.S. Member invites guests to the garden or gives a program on irises; every show to which the public is invited means good publicity and public relations. I shall expect to hear from you with your reports during the summer.

I can only report on the Blue Ridge Chapter. The Roanoke Garden Center planting continues to draw visitors with many questions about irises. This year the chapter will have a sale of some of the good older varieties at the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs' meeting in June. They will hold the annual luncheon and auction of the newer irises at the Garden Center on the last Saturday in June. These events will be publicized by spot announcements on radio and TV.

I have seven garden clubs coming to my home during the next two weeks for programs on irises. Several of these clubs purchased rhizomes last year as a club project.

There are now 45 Siberians growing in the display garden at my home. Many non-irisarians seem to enjoy the Siberians even more than the TBs. Some are developing an interest in the SDBs and Intermediates which show up so beautifully with their tulips and early border plants.

I expect to make a trip to Pennsylvania in July to talk about irises. I'm sure many of you in the region do similar things. Let us hear from you, please!

Will all the chapters who hold sales and auctions next year, notify me the dates and places by March 15, 1982 so that they can be listed in the April NEWSCAST? We used to visit back and forth at auctions and had a fine time chatting and buying a few plants. Let's do it again!

MARYDEL CHAPTER REPORT

Elberta Harrison, new Show Chairman for Marydel Chapter, is incorporating some new ideas into the May 17 Show. The entrance and foyer of the Easton Firehouse, Show locale, will be decorated by a local landscaper, Bryan Gardens.

Jean and Paul Hoffmeister have donated a new award for the Show to be called "The Elmira Purdy Award". This will be presented to the non-member winning the most ribbons.

James Cope, Publicity Chairman, has started a Marydel Newsletter to keep members who cannot attend meetings informed of Chapter activities.

Willia Owens, Chapter President.

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BLUE RIDGE CHAPTER REPORT

Blue Ridge Chapter is very pleased to have several new members and we welcome back John Mays and his mother of Amherst. I think that Norman Clouser has done very well in adding new members in our northern extremity. In the south-west, Nelson Price and I have together brought in some new members, and it was a great happiness to your chairman to have Fred Stephenson attending our fall meeting in Roanoke. Fred is now in charge of "Domestic News" for our National Bulletin. A hearty welcome to all new members; do not wait for us to get in touch with you - though we will try, - but instead call us or call on us or write us.

On June 19 at the Garden Center in Roanoke, there will be an iris sale in connection with the meeting of the Roanoke Council of Garden Clubs. The Garden Center is located at 2713 Avenham Avenue. Eight days later, on June 27, we will hold our regular iris auction at the same location. The auction will feature many new and ex-

citing varieties; members of other chapters are cordially invited to our noon-hour pot luck luncheon (and we have some excellent cooks!). The auction will follow, about 1:15 PM.

A very happy iris season is wished for all of you.

Lloyd Zurbrigg, Chapter Chairman

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EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER IRIS SHOW

by J. D. Stadler

The Eastern North Carolina Chapter iris show was held in Burlington with around 75 stalks displayed. This was a somewhat smaller show than normal due primarily to the fact that most gardens were past peak bloom. However, it was still a good show with quite a few beardless irises displayed.

J.D.Stadler won Queen of the Show with a beautiful stalk of CELESTIAL BALLET, which had three well spaced blooms. The Silver Medal was also won by J.D.Stadler, and the Bronze Medal by Alice Bouldin.

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FRANCIS SCOTT KEY SOCIETY * AIS AFFILIATE

Francis Scott Key Society's show, entitled "Irisess 'Round the Clock", was a great success with 211 horticulture specimens and 22 artistic arrangements. Claire and Bill Barr won the Queen of the Show with their speimen of LOOP THE LOOP. They also won the sweepstakes with the highest number of blue ribbons. Dr. Nearpass received the Best Seedling Award for his "81-11". Other awards went to MTB DESERT QUAIL, Siberian SPARKLE and the award in the Dykes Section went to SAN FRANCISCO.

We have gained eleven new members through our show, the median tour, and a Memorial Day tour of five gardens mainly to see tall bearded. It is a pleasure to see

more gardeners interested in irises.

The annual sale had to be cancelled due to several circumstances.

The next meeting will be a picnic on September 20 at 3:00 P.M. at the Barr's home in Stevenson. We will have a sale of Siberians at that time.

Francis Scott Key Society is making plans for a spectacular Spring Regional Meeting on May 28-29, 1982. Six gardens will be visited including: Mrs. Fred M. Miller, Mrs. Frank H.J.Figge, Mr and Mrs. William E. Barr, Mr. and Mrs. Maynard E. Harp, Mr. and Mrs. J. Owings Rebert, and Mrs. Andrew C. Warner. A total of 91 guest rhizomes have been received so far from regional hybridizers and are planted in five of the tour gardens. These will be eligible for two regional awards given as part of the regional meeting.

We invite everyone to plan to attend this meeting. More details of tentative plans are elsewhere in this Newscast, and still more detailed plans will follow in January and April issues.

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NORTH CAROLINA IRIS SOCIETY REPORT (AIS AFFILIATE)
J.D.Stadler

On May 16th, the spring meeting was held at the Holly Hill Mall in Burlington in conjunction with E.N.C. spring show. Attendance was low due to a late change of dates and place.

On June 20th, the summer meeting and auction was held at the Stadler home with very good attendance. Both meeting and auction were a success. Plans were made for the Spring 82 meeting on May 15th also at the Stadler home.

Information has just been received that NCIS has been accepted as an affiliate for the coming year.

Spring meeting for 1983 is planned for the Charlotte N.C. area. N.C. hybridizers should send their seedlings to B.J.Brown for the 83 judging, as soon as is possible.

As a side note, I personally toured quite a few gardens this spring and in addition to a beautiful bloom noted that gardens are increasing and interest blooming. Let us work even harder to keep this trend growing in 1982.

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WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER

The Western North Carolina Chapter Shows, Etc.:

This chapter put on two shows and 1 exhibit. Starting with the Charlotte Show on May 2, then to Concord on May 9, thence to Asheville on May 14 the exhibit in Asheville Mall, see reports on these elsewhere in this issue.

Then on June 20th we met at the Stadlers in Reidsville for the joint auction of NCIS and WNC chapter. Both auctions did well, and the Stadlers were great hosts.

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CONCORD N.C.SHOW

Nancy Karriker

The newly formed Cabarrus Iris Society staged its first show in the Carolina Mall, Concord, N.C., on May 9, 1981. Since it was our first show, we borrowed the milkwhite vases from the Charlotte group, together with some of their kind members to help stage our first undertaking. Only a day or so before the show, it looked to the Co-Chairpersons, Nancy Karriker and Fran Cline that exhibits might be in short supply.

(Continued on Page 69)

LOUISIANA IRISES IN THE UPPER SOUTH
BY DORIS SIMPSON

Louisianas, which produce their showy beautiful flat flowers as the TBs are fading, are still something of a novelty in our Region. Adding a few to the garden gives one "something different" to display to garden visitors and iris enthusiasts alike, and, unlike some novelties, these pay their way in the garden, bridging the gap in the bloom succession between the TBs and late flowering Japanese Iris with beauty not to be missed.

By and large, I think Louisianas are more graceful than the spectacular Japs. A well grown Louisiana can have fine bud placements up and down the stalk, with two buds at each position, and can open as many as five flowers at once. The dark blue MARIE CAILLET does just that, and a chest-high stalk, strung with these silken blue beauties, is a sight to behold. (There are other varieties with larger flowers, but few that make a more dramatic garden statement!)

Since our modern garden Louisianas are the result of recent interbreeding of three native species of widely varying characteristics they come in a variety of shapes and sizes - indeed "variety" is the watchword; - variety of color, flower form, plant height and stem form. Colors run through the spectrum from white through pinks to deep true red; pale to bright yellow, orange and brown; palest lavender to deep purple; palest blue to midnight blues. Wide, ruffled petals, as in the lush, white, CLARA GOULA, contrast with the dark, spidery ones of BLACK WIDOW. New blends and bicolors keep the collection in a state of constant anticipation. Colchicine-induced Tetraploids are coming on the market, with greater flower substance and staying power. There are skyscraper tall plants, such as the aforementioned MARIE CAILLET, lower, compact varieties, such as MISS ARKANSAS and its famous seedling, ANN CHOWNING, and low growing foreground plants, like the Harlequin-pattered FINDER'S KEEPERS and the new blue, LITTLE ROCK SKIES.

Those parts of our Region that are plagued by hot-and-humid summers will be found to be made to order for the growing of Louisianas. Unlike the TBs, which find such weather extremely trying, these natives of our Deep South lowlands can take any amount of it in their stride. I have been growing LI since the fall of 1976 and have found them to be adaptable, "cheerful" and vigorous plants, surviving our sometimes severe winter conditions and fairly revelling in the type of summer weather for which the Baltimore-Washington, D.C. area is justly infamous.

Probably the one most important consideration in getting a new planting of LI established here in the Upper South is timing. Plants should be set, whenever possible, between August 15 and September 15. Those of you who may have bought plants at the Regional Auction in Easton, Md. last October and lost them over the winter, don't be afraid to try again. The combination of late planting and a cold and dry winter was the main cause for failures. Louisianas, like Siberians, do their active growing in early fall after a summer period of rest. To survive our cold winters they need to have established a deep and strong root system. Where freezing weather can come as early as October 15, plants need a six weeks period prior to this to settle in. After cold weather begins, the bed should be given a deep mulch of leaves or pine straw, at least six inches of material, to protect the rhizomes from heaving and the flower buds from freezing out. Do not apply mulch before the ground freezes, lest you establish a winter home for field mice which will move in and munch on the rhizomes.

Like Siberians, Louisianas must be kept wet at all times during digging, shipping and replanting, and then kept damp until growth stops in the winter. Whenever possible I water the beds during the winter if there is no snow cover. Louisiana foliage is evergreen and will persist throughout the winter. The sight of these green spears sticking through a foot



River Farm just before bloom season -
Rosalie Figge, Carol Warner, Claire Barr



5/8/81 - River Farm - Barr, Warner, Figge



5/9/81 - SMITH GARDEN
Standing: Rena Crumpler, Roy Epperson,
Claire Barr; Seated: Louise Smith
J. D. Stadler, Carol Warner



5/9/81 Smith Garden: Retta Harp, Warner,
Brian Lazarus & Louise Smith



5/9/81: Louise Smith & Claire Barr



5/9/81: Standing: Glenn Grigg, Brian
Lazarus, Claire Barr, Al Thimson, Rena
Crumpler::Seated: Unidentified couple-
Maynard & Retta Harp & Louise Thimson



5/9/81: Roy Epperson-instructing -
Blanche Rice, J.D. Stadler, C. Warner,
Norman Clouser, Pamela Harper



5/9/81 - Smith Garden - Carol Warner



5/9/81 - Blanche Rice & Retta Harp



FSK Show: 5/23/81: JUDGES: Paul Hoffmeister; Celeste Cox; Norman Clouser:
Aides: Brian Lazarus & Geraldine Kurapka



Judging: C. Cox, N. Clouser, P. Hoffmeister



WINNERS: Loop The Loop, et al -
Bill Barr, exhibitor, with Kurapka
and Cox

of January snow can give the gardener, new to growing Louisianas, quite a shock. Old leaves may be considerably battered by spring but they can be cut off then when new growth has started. I keep my beds well watered during the entire growing season and plants stay green all summer. A summer mulch can help retain moisture and protect rhizomes from sun scald which can cause them to rot.

Louisianas are heavy feeders as well as deep drinkers, (they can grow, year round in standing water!), at their best in deep, rich, heavy, damp-to-wet soil. They thrive in clay and will march out of a carefully prepared "Acid Bed" to move into the surrounding clay, even into a garden path. Moisture retention is all important and sandy soil needs quantities of peat, manure and compost to make the composition to Louisianas' liking. Clay soil should also be deeply dug and heavily enriched for very best results. Fed an acid fertilizer six weeks before bloom time and again at the beginning of fall growth they will thrive either in a bed to themselves or in mixture with other plants which find the same soil conditions compatible, such as daylilies. I topdress my plantings with peat and manure twice a season as well as using Mir Acid or azalea fertilizer.

Louisianas should be planted with the rhizomes about one inch below the soil surface. When planting several different varieties, try to allow two feet or more between plantings. They have a way of threading themselves through their next neighbors until separating colors is well nigh impossible. The rhizomes, which resemble long, skinny, black lobsters, sometimes almost a foot long, can travel forward at an alarming rate when growing vigorously. I have a planting that is now a mixture of the cream colored IIA NUNN and rose pink DENEK. They are pretty together which is just as well, since I have given up trying to separate them!

The only pest disease problem I have encountered is that of iris borers. Seemingly they find IIs even

more delectable than TBs. The larvae, not content with travelling down to the rhizome, stop and eat up the sheathed flower buds on the way and can drastically reduce LI bloom, so some remedy is imperative.

Spraying does not seem to penetrate the leaf surfaces effectively, so a drench of a systemic, like Cygon, which saturates the soil and rhizome area (so roots will absorb it) seems to be best. Used in the fall and again in spring, good control should be possible. The fall cleanup we give TBs is not practical with evergreen LIs.

More sources for Louisianas are coming to light as they become better known. California sources such as Melrose and Cordon Bleu are being joined by other growers. In Louisiana, cradle of the culture of their native floral treasures, such outstanding hybridizers as Charles Army, offer a large selection of older varieties as well as the newest originations.

For more information about culture and sources, join the Louisiana Section of A I S, which is known as L.I.S.A., or the Society for Louisiana Irises, which was organized in 1941. I belong to both groups and find their publications full of information, enhancing my enjoyment of these, the happiest iris in my garden!

*** **

L.I.S.A. Sec/Treas Robert C. Brooks, 418 Buena Creek Road, San Marcos, CA 92069 (\$2.00)

Society for Louisiana Irises
Sec/Treas. Aline M. Arceneaux, Bot 40175
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Editor for both publication is:
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WHERE THE FLAGS ARE WAVING
Ruby Buchanan

It was a cold day in may, 44^o, when my daughter and I set forth to visit the iris planting of Wyatt LeFever, located on Highway 150, just two miles South of I-40 on the left. The clouds were promising some much-needed rain, though the air felt more like snow to me. However, the warmth of the welcome awaiting us made me almost forget my chattering teeth.

As Wyatt led the way toward the "fish ponds", I caught my first glimpse of Louisiana iris being grown in shallow water around the margin of the lake. There was ANN CHOWNING in her lovely red gown, dancing in the wind with BLUE DUKE, flaunting a gleam of white at the throat of his blue robes. The sky-blue flowers of EOLIAN, leaning from a sheltered cove, and ILA NUNN's creamy petals waving against the background of a large clump of MAC'S BLUE HEAVEN, while nearby SHRIMP CREOLE pranced - a picture in red - reflected in the water. There were BRYCE LEIGH (orchid-pink) and THIS I LOVE (a darker orchid rose), but my eyes had gone to a huge clump of almost white *Iris virginica*! No wonder that this iris species does not flourish in my hillside iris patch! One could see that it was "right at home" with its feet planted in the water.

As we turned toward the other lake, I noticed the tall bearded iris growing on a rise nearby, with a clump of orange-red (STARBURST) holding court in the foreground. I did not get the names of those TBs - but Wyatt told me later that he grows "mostly rebloomers".

The Japanese iris were not blooming, but I learned that McEwen's MULBERRY RIMMED and the reblooming PURPLE PARASOL are among those growing along the drainage ditch between the lakes.

Our host was leading the way towards the Siberian irises blooming along the drainage area. The miniature flowers of blue and white dancing in the breeze were FLIGHT OF BUTTERFLIES. That one is a "must have" on

my list. There was EWEN waving his red flags, while nearby DREAMING YELLOW was a lovely picture in white with yellow accents. LOVELY DIANNE was just folding the last blooms, but my eyes were drawn to a two-year clump of POLLY DODGE WITH her 26 stalks of red flowers and EARLY BLUEBIRD nearby completing the picture. ON AND ON was starting new stalks along with WHITE ENCORE. Farther on, a tall clump of IRIS PSEUDACORUS, the yellow water flag, was in full bloom, and again I thought of my hillside iris patch.

I vaguely remember other names, RETURNING TIDE, MUFFLED DRUMS and LORENZACCA (?) while my eyes were glorying in the swelling Magnolia buds and a border of lovely peonies nearby. As we neared the other lake, I was delight to see clumps of the lovely LAEVIGATA irises from Japan blooming there. One was a lovely blue self (I forgot to get that name, too) then my eyes registered the lovely blue and white one and I recognized it as the I. Laevigata "COLCHESTERENSIS", which had been much discussed in our Species Iris Robin recently. How I longed for a closer look - but Wyatt verified the name for me anyway.

Turning back toward the house, Wyatt pointed out his bed of the native IRIS CRISTATA and IRIS VERNA growing on a northern bank - we were too late for bloom there. Time and space forbids a description of a hillside planted in azaleas; and other rare specimens there. The promised rain started and we had to run - with a hearty handclasp and a warm "Comeback again" warming our chilly dampness - we scurried away - to return again on a warmer day in June. But that's "another story".

THE IRIS PATCH
Flossie Nelson

During the 1980-81 growing season The Iris Patch guested many newer varieties of tall bearded iris. Following is a short report of how these did in my garden, as I saw them:

ON 2 year Clumps:

Plough: FLASH FIRE - both years tall, showy stalks beconed from across the garden. This very vigorous iris has chrome yellow standards, red falls, yellow beards and some yellow on the hafts.

ROCKET THRUSTER - large, flaring and ruffled flowers of bright orange were very attractive.

Schreiner: PACIFIC MIST - This iris done in Wisteria blue, supported by strong show stalks, features rounded petals and yellow beards.

Paquet: PINK PALACE - This N.C. iris made a large clump, blooming the second year. The wait was well worth it - a beauty in creamy pink, on strong stalks.

Powell: Several iris from this N.C. hybridizer made a hit with visitors both years. ATTENTION CAROLINA, a large purple on white plicata. RIPPLED BRASS - just as the name implies. BLACKWARE, a beautiful purple/black and last, but certainly one of the most popular irises was STRAWBERRY SENSATION.

ON 1 year Plants:

Powell: TROUBADOUR'S LYRIC featured giant blossoms, similar to Gay Parasol; however strong stalks held them well.

AT MIDDAY is a very bright gold, reminding one of her famous CAROLINA GOLD. A beautiful new non-fading RED is FORECAST RED which performed well on my windy hillside.

On 1 year plants (continued)

Keppel: MORROCO is a heavily ruffled and light laced iris, with tawny brown standards, flushed rose-brown; falls have a white center area, sanded with Maroon.

MISTRESS is a pale creamy pink, with phlox pink dotting on the hafts. Both varieties grew well.

Gatty: SHOW BIZ sported amber yellow standards, maroon red falls and carried a glossy appearance.

The favorite of mine was Burch's 1978 introduction, SOUTHLAND GRAPE. This iris produced 2 bloomstalks of lovely Concord grape with bronze beards, and 5 large plants on a one year growth. Such a lovely fragrance - reminded one of grapes ripening on the vines.

Chig: CREME de CREME did not bloom, but produced several increases with sparse foliage. His new raspberry, ACT OF LOVE, produced only one increase with sparse foliage also.

Schreiner: CORAL MAGIC - confusion was the name of the game when I saw the first flower on this one. Thinking I had mislabeled this variety, I thumbed through the ole notebook, alas I had labeled it right. Large ruffled blossoms of rosy-lavendar, sporting a thick coral beard!

NAVAJO BLANKET has been great with 2 bloomstalks and 5 increases.

SWAZI PRINCESS, done in black, and SUPERSTITION, also done in black, were favorites from this hybridizer.

As of July 1, Lavada Reese had rebloom on Lloyd Zurbrigg's RADFORD RED and one stalk coming on ADDED PRAISE. At this writing, July 7, I have a sturdy stalk on RETURNING GLORY.

THE 1981 IRIS SEASON COMMENTS

By F. G. Stephenson

Reaction to the 1980 season comments were so favorable that it was felt that 1981 comments should be undertaken. First of all, I think, it should be stated that this was the year for erratic bloom. In some cases tallts were short and shorts were tall. Even more baffling was the performance of adjacent plants. There in the same bed one would just sit there while its neighbor would show extraordinary performance under apparent identical conditions. Still another puzzle was bloom progression. Usual late-bloomers were early and early-bloomers were late with the Siberians blooming before the TBs. The Siberian peak came about five days prior to TB peak. Usually the Siberian peak is about a week after the TB peak. Bloom failure was rather high, reaching 38%, the highest in years. Perhaps, this is due to the extremely dry weather between August of last year through bloom-time this year. We had a deficiency of about 6 inches. There was no appreciable snowfall and the weather was extremely cold with very high winds.

In spite of the sparseness of bloom most was of extremely high quality. This was the year of highly saturated colors. Most spectacularly demonstrated was the fact that the best irises are those grown in virgin iris soil. A neighbor was gracious enough to allow the use of a portion of her lot for new iris beds. The lushness of the foliage, the unusually high amount of increase and the quality of bloom was so apparent as to be noticed by and commented upon by complete iris novices. As a result two of my oldest beds have been abandoned and the irises moved to the new location. The results will be further evaluated next year.

In recalling the bloom season certain irises stand out above others. BICENTENNIAL (Ohio 76) was probably the most outstanding and spectacular in the garden. Its brilliant gold standards and snowy white falls with gold lace edges were borne on excellently branched stalks. Flowers were large, flaring and excellently formed. Bloom period was reasonably long.

CONCH CALL (Gaulter 78) has to be seen to be believed. It is described as an off-white, but here it proved to be more of a very pale pink-peach with a warm peach infusion. Extremely beautiful! Branching was excellent, with 3 well-formed blooms on the stalk lasting for 5 days. Unbelievable you say? Well, one blossom lasted for a full 9 days. Admittedly the weather was cool and damp but nothing else in the garden approached it in lasting quality. This was a 1-year plant, producing 5 increases. We'll be observing this one more closely next year.

FOOLISH PLEASURE (Gaulter 77) was the most universally liked and sought after iris in the garden. This flower of pinkish lilac was most consistent on two different clumps in two different beds. Stalks consisted of three branches, spur and terminal. Each socket carrying 2 buds produced flowers of excellent quality and the stalk was outstanding with 3-4 well spaced flowers at a time. Sharing this same honor was ENTOURAGE (Ghio 77). This ruffled clean rose-pink with tangerine beards produced super show stalks bearing 4 nicely formed open flowers. Bud count was high and flowers long-lasting.

For eye appeal nothing could approach SUPERSIMMON (Parker 78). This dazzling, sparkling, fluorescent orange with its fiery orange beard just seemed to attract people to it. The flower is large and well-formed. Unfortunately, the plant was so damaged by a late freeze as to prevent proper evaluation. DRESDEN GREEN (Selman 77) is a very much overlooked white. This nicely flaring, tastefully ruffled flower of pure cool white has a pale, pale lemon beard. It is borne on stalks with super branching. One of the nicest white-whites! LOVELY LOIS (Muhl. 78) on a first year plant produced great increase. Tall well-branched stalks held very gorgeous pale cream flowers bearing considerable green influence. Standards have a tendency to be a bit open, but with enough substance so as not to be objectionable.

Another people-stopper was ORANGE EMPIRE (Hammer 74). Although this iris has been in the garden since its in-

roduction, it has never been as spectacular as this year. It is a highly brilliant orange with a hot tangerine beard, supercolor, excellent branching and lots of buds. It must be a bit sulky since this is the first year it has put on a good performance.

BRIDE'S HALO (Mohr 73) - This is another that has proven very temperamental in our garden, but it is one that found things to its liking and really outdid itself producing a real showy clump. SUMMER LOVE (Greenwood 74) - When I saw this one as a seedling at the Portland Convention, I was over-awed by it. This flower has voluptuous apricot standards, pleasantly ruffled falls of creamy peach, lighter near the center and a very fat tangerine beard. It is a good performer and most attractive.

The first TB to bloom in the garden was STAR OF ESTI (Selman 74). This is a fair white but stems tend to be weak. SPANISH SUN (Varner 75) is very aptly named. It is a long lasting flower of brilliant yellow. ICE SCULPTURE (Hager 74) is a very nice large blue-white, perhaps one of the larger whites. It has real good form, nice branching and is a good grower. DARK PRINCE (Madsen 76) is a very much overlooked iris. This is one of the most generous of the dark irises. It produces great increase, is very husky and lush. Its flowers of deep wine are very well-formed and should be more widely grown. YVONNE BURKE (Hager 77) is an outstanding "black" being of a deep, deep wine. Branching tends to be a bit close, but the flower is excellent.

CARAMBA (Keppel 75) -This is another that has done nothing until this year. It is very nice with interesting color, good branching and a very long-lasting flower. SEWING BEE (Ghio 74) is an excellent plicata of violet-blue on white. There are many buds on well-branched stalks. GEOMETRICS (DuBose 75) is a bit temperamental here. This white has extremely wide falls (perhaps a fault). Buds are rather green and most beautiful. CONTRABAND (Shoop 75) is another that has done practically nothing for us until this year. It has put on one dilly of a show of highly ruffled, well-formed

flowers with medium orange standards and falls of off-white, edged orange.

GUYS AND DOLLS (Varner 77) is one that has me guessing. It has excellent branching and good form. Stalks have two branches, spur and terminal with good bud count. Flowers have deep lemon-yellow standards, with falls of purple, edged mauve; but in warm weather petals take on a "dippled" appearance that makes it totally unattractive. Why? I have no idea, but I wonder if it does thus elsewhere? LADY LOVELORN (K. Mohr 77) - I am not impressed by this bi-color. Standards are a pale cornflower blue and the falls are violet. There are several in this class that I like much better. SNOWY OWL (Blodgett 77) is a medium sized white-white with good form and branching. It should be better known. VANITY (Hager 75) consistently draws raves. It is still one of the very best of pinks. Its performance is excellent and most consistent. Makes a very showy clump.

MYSTIQUE (Ghio 75) showed its Dykes quality. It is an excellent grower, flower form is very good, branching is excellent and flowers hold up real well.

AUTUMN ECHOES (Gibson 75) is another Summer Sunshine except it is a bit darker and is more vigorous grower. INHERITANCE (Babson 78) - So far this seems to be a bit slow, but is a beautiful soft pale lilac with a deep lilac beard. The coloring is unusually smooth. Flowers are long lasting, nicely ruffled on well branched stalks. BEAUTY CROWN (Hammer 77) is a large well formed flower with luscious peach standards, creamy falls, all nicely ruffled. It has a nice fat tangerine beard. In some cases the branching might be considered too high.

LJAU (Ghio 76) is a very attractive red, but as with most reds, is short-lived. An extremely attractive flower, but lacking the stamina and substance we need. DREAM AFFAIR (Gatty 78) is a beautiful lime-yellow, very clean, beautifully ruffled, very long lasting and just about perfect branching. A really nice thing!

SPACE SHADOWS (Hamner 78) - A very unusual color combination of nicely held violet standards and widely flaring brown velvet falls. A bronze tipped beard completes the picture. Too bad it spots so very badly! **MISTY MOONSCAPE** (Roe 78) - Luscious as a lemon meringue pie, with lightly ruffled light cream standards and lime-yellow falls that flare. Nice lemon beards!

SHAMAN (DuBose 77) - A bit different! Chamois standards atop brown-maroon falls, enhanced by a nice bronze beard. Again, unfortunately, spring cold stunted bloomstalk. We'll be watching this one too!

PLAYGIRL (Gatty 77) and **VIVACIOUS MISS** (Boushay 77) can be grouped together as being rather finicky growers. Here Playgirl is a delightfully appealing ruffled pink with a rosy peach cast. Extremely beautiful! Vivacious Miss has rosy pink standards, peachy falls and a tangerine beard. If these were better growers they both would be winners.

OLD FLAME (Ghio 75) - This warm white with faint edging of very pale yellow and a tangerine beard is very distinctive. Branching is great too! **WILDWAYS** (Plough 77) - Rather wild! This is a medium brown with heavy dark brown hafts and a bronze beard. It looks as if it has potential, but was one of those with late winter damage.

SAN JOSE (Ghio 78) - Very Distinctive! It has highly ruffled bronzy tan standards and violet falls heavily edged the same color as standards. It is flaring, well formed with good branching and long lasting flower. Fair grower. **PINK BUBBLES** (Hager '80) is a small flaring pink self. Very vigorous with good branching. **FAR GALAXIES** (Babson 78) is very enduring and quite attractive. Its petals are very wide and nicely held. Excellent branching!

SULTAN'S PALACE (Schr. 77). This is one of the better "reds" that holds up well and doesn't spot readily. It is a low grower with nicely proportioned flowers and excellent branching. A nice red to have!

PARADISE (GATTY 80) - An extremely nice looking one-year plant. This is a very delicate looking pink self, with just enough ruffling to make it look pretty. SANTANA (Keppel 78). A beautiful plic! The color is unusual. Falls consist of three planes of color, edged mahogany-brown, followed by lemon yellow and centered with white. Nicely ruffled with excellent form. BLUE THEME (Palmer 77). A very lovely light lilac-blue with extremely nice tightly held standards with broad semi-flaring falls with a dark violet beard. Very good branching.

LEDA'S LOVER (Hager 80). With all the ballyhoo, I expected more from this plant. It is a nicely ruffled creamy white with a pale lemon beard. Extra nice ruffling. A rather nice medium sized white, but not up to my expectations! BROWN LASSO (Buckles 74). This is still a sensational iris and a very good grower. The color is distinct on a beautifully formed flower. Everyone should try this! RIPPLING WATERS (Fay 61) Hey! What's this doing in here? This is still an excellent iris by any standards. It has exceptionally clean color and is a vigorous grower. I'll hang on to it a bit longer.

CITY FARMER (Gaulter 79). This is a bit different! A prettily ruffled flower with pink standards showing a bit of tan influence. Falls are the opposite, tan with pink influence. The flower is large and complimented by a nice fat tangerine beard. BON BON (Gatty 77) is a widely flaring pink with peach influence. This is a very nice plant with excellent branching.

STARTLER (Schr. 78). There was a bit of disappointment in this one as it was not exactly what I expected. It is well-formed, a ruffled white with persimmon red beard. Branching seems a bit high here. BEIGE RUFFLES (Rudolph 77). A clean smooth beige with peach glow infusion. Petals are broad and ruffled, with tangerine beard. Stalks are well-branched. MISS PRISS (Quesnel 76) This is a much overlooked peachy pink with an extremely high bud count. It has a fiery red beard, and is a vigorous plant.

COFFEE HOUSE (Ghio 77), seems to be a temperamental grower here. This is a creamy coffee color with lighter area around center, filled with a gold beard. Falls are widely flaring and standards are heavily ruffled. Beautiful buds!

FULL CRY (Varner 78) Quite different! Calls attention to itself. Standards are light tan-cream. Falls are violet-rose-white edged brown. It has a light orange beard. Grows well and produces a good stalk. LOST IN WONDER (F.Brown) Nicely ruffled standards, yellow falls with light center infused violet. Beard is violet tipped gold. Always produces show stalks with three well placed flowers. Extra high bud count. Had this plant been more widely distributed, it would have attracted much attention. A real winner!

SKYHOOKS (Osborne 79). Huge lime-yellow standards are matched by much lighter falls with heavier coloring at edges. A lemon beard is tipped with violet horns. A good grower with excellent branching!

Isn't that a tricky way to introduce my efforts toward horns and flounces? My efforts along this line have exceeded all my expectations. I have 15 seedlings I've held over. Five of these show excellent promise. All have been lined out to be evaluated next year. There is a cool white with very flaring and beautiful flounces. Another, with tan standards and brown falls, support a gold beard with 3/4" horns. One I like very much is a pale lilac with lovely violet horns. A very unusual one is one that tends to be a pink plic and has "claws" instead of horns and flounces. Each of these have near perfect branching. Many others show promise and provide very spectacular color. Waiting becomes very exciting and, surely, there will be more to come next year.

I trust that each reader will keep in mind that this is the way I see them here in our garden. Some of the opinions are bound to be colored by personal likes and dislikes. What grows well in one area may not do so in another, or for that matter, results vary from one bed

to another. Try some of the more difficult ones and see what you can do.

As you may gather, I demand good branching and good bud count. I also insist on good form and good clean color. Of course, vigor is very important. I would appreciate your comments. (July 1981)

YOUTH NEWS
by
Flossie Nelson

Michelle Stadler was awarded several blue ribbons on her horticulture entries at the Easter North Carolina Chapter, AIS & N.C.Iris Society Show at Reidsville on May 16, 1981.

She has a good number of her own TB seedlings growing, and is active this summer with the Japanese Iris Seed Contest.

Michelle Nelson won Best of Show in horticulture of Youth Division, with a perfect stalk of SUNSET SKY, in the CMIS Exhibit, held at the Asheville Mall.

Best wishes to Evelyn Lineback of Clayton, N.C. This Spring she graduated from high school, and will be entering her Freshman Year at N.C.State University this fall, majoring in Zoology, with a double major in Botany.

Seven-year old, Meade Windsor has been faithfully attending his Japanese Iris Seedlings. Look for the winners of the Japanese Seed Germination Contest to be announced in the next issue of NEWSCAST.

ON JAPANESE IRIS

EXCERPTS FROM a Robin Letter, written by Adolph J. Vogt, and used with his permission.

"Most of you asked for some Japanese Iris seed, so the first thing I did was to send each of you some seed because it is time for them to be in the ground. This is a good time to share my experience with you on growing seedlings. I receive a lot of complaints that JI seeds germinate poorly and are difficult to grow. There are a few reasons for this poor germination. Seed may not be fully developed. The seed is imbedded in a flat wafer-like substance that I suppose "mother nature" developed so they could be distributed by the wind. If this wafer is held between the thumb and finger and you cannot feel a hard lump, the seed is likely not fully developed. Too, the seeds may be too dry or too old. Seed over two years old seldom germinate.

"I obtain my best germination by taking freshly gathered seed and plant them in October. That way the seeds never completely dry out and remain moist in the ground all winter for an early spring germination. If you obtain your seed too late to plant in the late fall, then they should be placed in a plastic bag, add several drops of water to keep them moist, and store in the refrigerator for early spring planting. If the seeds are received in the spring or summer, the best thing you can do is plant them in the ground to prevent them from drying out more.

"I recommend planting the seed in the ground outside, because I have better results than when I plant in pots or trays. The seed planted in the fall will be the first to appear during the first warm days. I often think they will be damaged by a late freeze, but they seem to be frost-proof. This gives these seedlings a long growing season for maximum development. The moist seed stored in the refrigerator will germinate in about three weeks after planting. The dry seed may take two months to germinate and if planted in early summer they may germinate the following spring.

"Seedlings do not like to have their growing interrupted by transplanting. If they are lined out in the summer, many will not survive and those that do just seem to wait until the following spring to start growing.

It is therefore better to allow them to grow in the seedling bed the first year undisturbed. Line them out the following spring just as they start to grow and they will take off and grow like weeds. They grow better in full sun so do not allow weeds and grass to grow and shade them. (This is also a must for established plants.)

"My seedling bed is spaded or tilled about 10" deep and located at the edge of the vegetable garden where it can remain for a year or so. It is made 5 ft wide and as long as necessary to accommodate the rows I desire to plant. The rows are four feet long and spaced 10" apart. With 4 ft rows you can reach in 2 ft from either side for planting and weeding without getting into the bed. The 5 ft bed allows a 6" buffer strip at each edge to prevent grass from creeping into the bed. Make the rows about one inch deep and cover (seeds) about one-half inch with fine soil and fill in after the little spikes come up. For even moisture the roots should be at least one inch deep. If the bed washes or for some reason the seeds are close to the surface, the bed should be filled in to keep those roots one inch or more in the ground.

"If you plant the seeds thick like I do, (about 50 seeds to a 3 ft space), you will find that after a year's growth the roots have grown together. So, when you are ready to line them out, dig them in bunches and place in a tub of water to loosen the dirt. Then with a hose wash off the remaining dirt and make sure that each little plant is planted in a separate location. The seedlings grow well in my clay base garden soil, but they will grow better if a little cow manure is spaded into the bed. I buy sterilized cow manure in 40 lb bags, so this is spread over the seedling bed about one inch deep and worked into the top 3 or 4 inches with a garden rake. Anyone can grow seedlings with good seed and enriched soil.....

.....
....."As to JI cultivars that may interest the beginner: I suggest for white - DRIVEN SNOW, LOVE GODDESS FROSTED PYRAMID; for pink - ENCHANTING MELODY, MAGIC OPAL, WORLEY PINK; for dark purple - MIDWEST SPLENDOUR, MY FANCY, SUMMER STORM".....

From Beardless and Species Iris Robin - "The Wild Ones".

John Wood: 6/5/81 Gaffney, S.C. mailing address - residence in N.C.

"Re: The Japanese Iris Meeting in Summerville & Sumter, South Carolina - what a "wild weekend", or should I say partial weekend. I left here 10:00 AM Friday and got back 6:00 PM Saturday, 450 miles of hot, humid weather. Even so, I cut the weekend short, skipped two gardens in Sumter and did not return to Summerville for Awards and Banquet. Several of the judges told me they were voting for one of my JI seedlings in the Test Garden in Summerville. This made my day! We have 19 judges and judges-to-be getting training. Three were from Huntsville, Ala., two from Region 4 (Charlotte). Dr. William L. Ackerman, Research Horticulturist, National Arboretum, U.S.D.A., Washington, D.C. was one of the instructors. He is working mainly in the areas of JI and Camellias. Most of you, I am sure are familiar with "Golden Queen", the yellow JI. This is a hybrid from the JI species *I. kaempferi* x wider *I. pseudacorus*. This hybrid is not very adaptable due to lack of chlorophyllin the foliage. It is pale yellow rather than green. Dr. Ackerman is treating *I. kaempferi* and *I. pseudacorus* seedlings with colchicine converting them to tetraploids. When this is accomplished, he will cross the Tet seedlings and hopefully come up with a yellow JI with lush, green very hardy foliage. His research also is to prolong the bloom holding quality from 2 or 3 days to perhaps 4 or 5 days.

The gardens were very lovely with masses of JI bloom.

Another very interesting thing was the Ikebana arrangements from the Columbia, S.C. Chapter 182 of Ikebana. This group has accredited teachers in several schools of this art. After a talk by their president, each arranger spoke briefly about her arrangement and the theme she was depicting. This made a lovely setting in the Recreation Room at Swan Lake Gardens where we had our lunch. I'm sure everyone enjoyed seeing what trained arrangers can do with JI."

Ed. Note: John Wood is Chairman of Judges Training for Region 5, and was one of the instructors for this event.

Virginia Rowland, Goose Creek, S.C. - June 9th

"I really enjoyed the iris festivities held in Summerville recently. The whole affair was very educational to me. The bus tour was great (to Swan Lake Garden) and the garden irises were beautiful. Later I could look at my own irises with new eyes. I enjoyed the Ikebana arrangements and saw that I had much to learn in that area. The greatest flaw was the hot, humid weather. It was great to meet John Wood, B.J. and Frances Brown.

I was honored to have Adolph Vogt make two visits to my iris setting, and Dr. Ackerman to make one. My JI seedlings are growing beautifully now. My Vogt seeds have decided to come up. I have put the Pseudacorus seedlings and the I. tectorum alba seedlings in 6" pots for the time being. I was amazed at the root system they had acquired. I have over 130 JI seedlings tagged and some descriptions of them tabulated. They started blooming April 23 and some are still blooming (June 9). I have one plant with 2 stalks with 6 blooms on each. I crossed some of the ones I thought were the nicest, and a few of the very tiny short ones. I am starting a snapshot collection which is not very well organized yet.

I hope to acquire some native S.C. irises. I had some at one time, but the dry hot weather killed them. My Golden Queen did not bloom this year, and this is its third season. It doesn't look like it is thinking of dying however, - just don't bloom!

I hope I can keep my musulmanica growing, Alma, until they bloom three years from now. They are so frail-looking - such long thin leaves! I am looking forward to their bloomin.".....

Wyatt LeFever -Kernersville, N.C., 6/17/81.

I became very interested in iris when I learned some time ago that there were iris that grow in water. (My business is growing ornamental fish for garden pools and Aquariums.) I ordered a bunch of Louisianas, ordered and collected native water iris from Eastern

North Carolina, and of course, the *Laevigataes*. Then I ordered Siberians and JIs for my moist areas, these from Dr. McEwen. I think his development of reblooming Siberians and JIs is fantastic. Now I am into breeding beardless iris, daylilies and bearded remontants. Looks Like I am completely hooked.

The Louisianas, native water iris, *pseudacorus* and *Laevigataes* grow like weeds for me in shallow water around the edges of my ponds near the house. The IAs grow slowly for me in ordinary garden conditions. But the native water iris do very well, as does *pseudacorus*, in non-wet areas. I plan to move some *Laevigateas* out of the water very soon to see how they do. They are beautiful plants with a long bloom season in water, but I have never tried them in the garden.

Do any of you grow PURPLE PARASOL? I thought it the best JI I have seen. It is so huge and velvety, and tall enough to look you in the eye. ROSBERRY RIMMED did not open its blooms properly for me this season. I'm not too impressed with the tets so far, but then this is only the second season I have had them.

I am not familiar with Siberian Grandis, Alma. Tell me about it. Do you mean the foliage is striped. I am very interested.

Mildred, I see you are interested in wild flowers. I too am a wild plant buff. I have in a neighboring county, a fish farm with some wild mountain land on it. I love to prowl the cool mountain bluffs and try to find and identify rare plants. I have found most of the wild flowers listed as being native to the southern mountains. There is one place where *trillium grandiflorum* grows so thick it is touching each other and covers about a half-acre. It is a breath-taking sight when in bloom.

Doris Simpson, Baltimore, Md., 6/21/81.

Iris season was, all in all, pretty good. My SUPEREGO was super lovely and VI LUIHN bloomed well. EGO wasn't as good - crowded by daylilies, I fear. The IA bloomed well except for MISTIS which needs re-setting. I need to re-work the beds, but I don't think I have the strength to dig up all of MARIE CAILLET. What a plant! It has long since jumped out of the bed I made it and now is marching downhill into the roses.

I now have 2 clumps of *I. tectorum alba* - am hoping it will stay with me.

John, the Summerville meeting sounds like it was quite a workout! I love Swan Lake Gardens, but have not been there in many, many years.

Tom and I used to go to the Blue Ridge Mountains every chance, but especially in May when the wild flowers were at their peak. It's a subject I've loved since I was a child - but not until last fall did I see fringed gentians. There is a serpentine barren north of Baltimore that is a wild life preserve, and they grow by the hundreds along a little stream - a thrill I'd waited many years to experience - was practically wading in gentians!

I plan to put in more and more alliums next year, since it is said that the iris borer moth won't go near garlic!

Mildred Baker - Morgantown, W.Va. 7/7/81

My iris are in a poorly drained location, and I am trying to get a place ready to move all 175 of them. I hope to get it done this month between company and my vacation. My *tectorum* did not bloom this year for the first time since I have had it. I had lovely bloom on F.A.C. McCULLA and CAROLYN LaPONT (IA). They surpassed any picture I have seen. I have lost names of some of my older Siberians. They bloomed prolifically this year. I have a nice tall white, SNOWY EGRET, that was very pretty and several different dark

blues. The Japanese and Spuria bloomed beautifully too.

Alma Ghilders, Hamlin, W. Va., 7/15/81.

We had a fairly good, satisfying iris season. Lots of rain up until July. Most of my seedlings have been lined out except some of the Siberians. I think they will have to wait until next spring.

Virginia, Spurias are pretty tough. They do need sun, however.

Wyatt, Versicolor will grow without being "wet". Mine was grown from seed and have bloomed for several years. All I everydo is fertilize each spring with evergreen fertilizer 9-6-5. I also use it on the JI and SI. Regarding the Grandis seedlings, they do not have striped foliage, it is the flowers. Laurie's Garden describes it as white base, veined blue. However mine bloomed blue standards, falls cream or light yellow, veined or striped blue. Almost every stem had two branches.

Ruby, My I. missouriensis had three bloom stems this year. The SI and JI bloomed real well - loved our very wet spring.

Ruby Buchanan, Winston-Salem, N.C. 7/21/81

When last I wrote for this Robin my IA iris had just started to open. There was token bloom on 17 out of 32 clumps, and I think I counted 27 pods from my hybridizing attempts. I will try planting fresh seeds according to Frank Chownings instructions (see Spring issue Newscast) in August.

My two tiny Taiwan strain tectorum barely survived the Tech Ave. location, but are increasing in their new location. The white cristata is growing there also.

I was amazed at the blooms on the unseparated I. versicolor, where I had simply removed the cans from them and planted all the seedlings in each can

together. One of my grandsons reminded me of a TV commercial - "How'd she do that?" when he saw 7 colors blooming on one clump. This is a "must" for Sept. -dividing those versicolor seedlings - not to mention 200 SI seedlings which germinated too late for spring planting. I think I must cut down on my TB plantings and spend more time with beardless and species for the time being.

John, I hope Dr. Ackerman is successful in his work with the two species, *I. pseudacorus* - *I. kaempferi*. My JI blooms lasted for no more than two days, several opened one day and closed the next. Hot winds, no doubt!

From "Royal Four " - Reblooming Iris Robin:

Lloyd Zurbrigg - Radford, Va., 3/9/81

The best germination I had last season was from a cross of Seedling O 151-3 X BAKED ALASKA. In the cross were 44 plants out of a total seed count of 51. The reciprocal cross gave only 11 plants out of 32 seeds. There were a couple of fall stalks from ICE SCULPTURE x REPLICATA. I was trying to put the super-hardiness and super-bloom of the latter into a large flower of heavy substance with staying power. The well-shaped seedling was of an indifferent shade of yellow, but should be very useful for breeding. Should is the correct word, of course, for only by trying out a batch of seeds can one really know the true potential of an iris.

Norman Clouser - Gladstone, Va., 4/14/81

John, your mention of PRINCESS BEATRICE brings to mind the one place in this good old U.S.A. that it can still be seen, the Presby Memorial Iris Gardens in Upper Montclair, N.J. This garden has a Historical Bed, and when I lived in Reading, Pa. I made an annual visit. You can spend a day just studying the oldies but goodies. Many of the Farr Iris are there as well as those of the early hybridizers such as the Sass Brothers, Williamson,

etc. There was a Dykes Bed also. I have not been there in recent years and do not know how well it is kept up since Barbara Walther died. She was the guiding light in the years that I went. My dad always looked forward to these visits and he and Barbara would get some little stools and discuss the old Iris, their origin and the growers and introducers. I was lost in those discussions but sure wish that I would have been more knowledgeable at that time. What great information passed me by.

John Moffitt, Unionville, VA., 4/20/81

I'm pleased that at least half of the pots (maybe 20 of them) with seeds of my 1980 crosses are beginning to germinate well. I am interested in the pot full of my warm shell pink 1980 seedling (CHRISTIE ANNE x ~~Eur-~~brigg H600, sib of Jean Guymer) X RETURNING GLORY. They are exceedingly sturdy little shoots, and I am hoping for some rebloomers among them; even though maybe the shape of the flowers may not be extraordinary, the color ought to be good. Among many others, I am happy to see BRIDE'S HALO X I DO is germinating well; as is SPIRIT OF MEMPHIS X 79-11-5-1 ((Mary Randall x Orange Parade) x 80-28-4-4- (Spirit of Memphis x Winter Olympics). Looking for lots of rebloom in these.

Claire Barr, Stevenson, Md. 6/15/81

I would like to soon reset everything that might possibly give rebloom and see what happens. We are still very much the novices with remountants. As thrilling as it is to me to see them perform again, I feel that we have not yet discovered the best methods, as re-bloom is not consistent. I have ordered Corn Harvest, as I keep hearing it mentioned in these letters. Baby Blessed is my favorite rebloomer, ~~but~~ only because it is such a good SDB, but because it has a consistent bloomer and rebloomer for us.

Rosalie Figge, Towson, Md., 6/29/81

I went to the Japanese Iris Display in Londontown,

Maryland, on June 15, as well as to the U.S.D.A. Plant Control Station where they are working on trying to prolong the JI season, not only by the plant, but by the bloom. The Londontown garden as well as Brookside and the Arboretum in Washington get their castoffs. I will say that their castoffs are beautiful, but my teaching soul wonders if it is proper to expose the public to less than the ideal.....

.....This government installation does research on all kinds of plants, and really is not open to the public. I can appreciate this (our arrangements were made by a JI Society member) because I know how time-taking it was for my husband to show people around the lab - and while it makes for good public relations, it also takes time away from your serious pursuits. I have really been immersed in JI - I had been asked to judge a show in Harrisburg, and felt I had to study, study - which I did, and now I feel very confident, and it was fun, though we had a terrible time dwindling the entries from 13 to 9 to 5 and finally "The" one! AND - you know there are reblooming JI as well as SI - not everything has to be TB!

I understand the Presby Gardens is to be taken over by the little town it is in.

J.D.Stadler, Reidsville, N.C. 7/8/81

My first rebloomer crosses will not bloom until next Spring, but have 3 or 4 non-remontant seedlings that show promise.....My TB rebloomers started on April 18, ten days before the other TBs. After others were gone RETURNING GLORY decided to bloom again around June 7. Then JEAN GUYMER decided not to be out-done, so she sent up a stalk and bloomed around June 20. All finished now including the JIs.

Viola Nelson, Balfour, N.C. 7/21/81.

I had lot of bloom this Spring, real early. When we had our show in Asheville, my prettiest ones were gone. I think we had the most beautiful Spring ever. I was very happy to be able to go to J.D.'s for the auctions and got to see a lot of nice people, including Ruby and her daughter.....

Ruby Buchanan - Winston-Salem, N.C. 7/24/81

Rosalie, I was interested in your comments on the JI castoffs. I, too am interested in the work being done by Dr. Ackerman and the USDA Plant Control Station on JI.....

If you go by Presby Garden, look around for an early, fragrant, blue flag, please.

Lloyd, I received more favorable comment on SPIRIT of MEMPHIS than any iris in my garden this Spring. I had only one stalk on VIOLET CLASSIC, but that one was superb. I have four nice pods on NEEDLECRAFT, and 2 pods on ENGLISH COTTAGE.....must find room and money for more two-timers.....

General Iris Interest Robin -

J.D.Stadler, Reidsville, N.C. 5/21/81

Last year the two standouts in my garden were VANITY and FIVE STAR ADMIRAL. This year (1981) it was VALENTINE ROSES and RUFFLED BALLET. VALENTINE ROSES is a lovely pink with great form and lots of ruffles. One of the very best formed pinks that I have seen. RUFFLED BALLET, if grown well in other parts of the country, would have to be a contender for the Dykes. It is large, very ruffled and well formed. Standards are light blue, falls a darker light blue, paling to same light blue in center.

PINK BUBBLES - A border, pure light pink that just bubbles over. Falls flare horizontally with lots of lace. SURF'S UP is a very large medium blue that has eye appeal. SUPERSTITION, without a doubt is the finest black I have seen. It is large, good branching, average bud count and most of all good growth. It is black from the burgundy side. PERFECT ACCENT is a lacy bright yellow with darker beard. It holds up well in hot weather. SONG OF NORWAY is a pale blue with darker blue beards. I have seen it in three different gardens and each time with show stalks, it is one of my favorites. VELVET ECLIPSE is a large black from the violet side. It also has some ruffling. DEEP PACIFIC is a deep blue with lots of buds. CELESTIAL

BALLET is a large blocky ice-white with substance like leather. Low on buds, but those are well spaced. It won

Queen of Show, with three perfectly spaced blooms, for me in Burlington. DREAM LOVER has been a favorite of mine ever since I saw it at Roy Epperson's garden. It has very pale orchid standards with medium orchid falls, paling in center. This is touched off by bright tangerine beards.

Several of my seedlings looked good. One is a pearly grey with matching beards; another is a huge medium blue with tangerine beards (out of Shipshape); my favorite is a snow white with a 1/4" medium blue margin around the falls only. It has bloomed for three weeks.

Louise C. Smith, Williamsburg, Va., 6/2/81

The meeting here was truly enjoyed by us - what a great treat to be with so many persons who were all intensely interested in irises. I get so lonesome to talk iris. Walter truly enjoyed the people - each one was very interesting. He took a lot of slides (2 rolls) of the meeting, but was crushed when later the film strips showed they had never been exposed. That camera is tricky and too often the film has not been correctly inserted. I thought may it was just me who was doing it wrong, BUT....

The guest irises were a great thrill and delight for me. I shall be very sorry to return them. Thank you, J.D., very much for giving your two lovely rhizomes to me. I thought your brown was just gorgeous, and I was delighted to be able to smear some of my "chocolate-scented" iris's pollen on your brown one, and now I have one vigorous seedpod on it. Too bad you-all missed seeing Lloyd's wide-crosses when they bloomed. My own irises are bloomed out, but the guests are now in their full peak.

Two of my pinks really surprised and delighted me - PINK PIROUETTE and PINK FEATHERS. PINK FEATHERS is very early and had an incredible number of lacy blooms, and has a good many seed pods now, but not PIROUETTE - not a pod on it. PINK TAFFETA was outstanding in this new soil, as was HALL OF FAME and VANITY. AUTUMN ECHO was a standout too in the rebloomers, so ruffly and bright. My favorite blue was PRIZED POSSESSION, which was very

ruffly, and sturdy. The bloom was beautiful and the fragrance was superb. I'm ordering about 150 irises this year, for fragrance first, then for looks second. Good old CRINOLINE has wonderful scent; PRAISE THE LORD smells like honeysuckle; one of the early SDB's smelled just like strawberry jello.....

Doris Simpson, Baltimore, Md., 6/5/81

At this writing two TBs are finishing up - HEAVENLY HARMONY and ART WORK. Both blends are beautiful. SUPEREGO has three blooms left and that takes care of the Siberians. The Louisianas are coming on strong: MARIE CAILLET in full bloom, IIA NUNN and MISS ARKANSAS are not far behind, DENEZ, PANE TRUSCOTT, DEAN LEE and DIXIE DEB still are in bud stage; and BRYCE LEIGH beginning to show color. How I love those irises!

Among the TBs in my patch, new (to me) ones I liked were FOCUS, ART WORK, VIVIEN, and GENTLE RAIN (all Keppel), LAWRENCE WELK (Danielson) CHARTREUSE RUFFLES (Rudolph) and MAGNIFIQUE (Ghio). On our TB tour the standouts were clumps of VANITY (in every garden), two beautiful clumps of FEMININE CHARM, and one clump of MAESTRO PUCCINI (at the Barrs).....

Claire Barr, Stevenson, Md., 6/25/81

Louise, we are still talking about the lovely meeting in your garden.

While on a visit to see our daughter in California, we also took a short side trip to Santa Barbara, since we lived there during the war. Our hostess took us to the Botanical Gardens there where we saw plants and labels of *I. douglasiana* and *I. innominata* and another *Californicae*, not in bloom of course. In bloom, not labeled, was a pretty little blue-eyed grass, *SISYRINCHIUM*, which is of the iris family, and which we saw also on our coastal drive.

Alma Childers, Hamlin, W.Va., 7/7/81

Our irises bloomed fairly well. However, it was a bad year for making crosses - rainy, hot, humid - not many "takes". Every time the TBs bloomed out, there

would be a hard rain and ruin the flowers. Siberians loved the rain, and the JI never before had so many bloom stems. I. tectorum had the most bloom I have ever seen on them. So all was not lost.

Ruby, it takes at least three years for Spuria seedlings to bloom. For me, at least the 1st year they just survive; the second year they grow; and the third year start to bloom.

I have been growing Siberians from seed for several years. I bought ERIC THE RED and WHITE SWIRL because they were so often mentioned in the family trees of so many Siberians. I like them because they are almost trouble-free, and bloom, bloom, bloom. This Spring it was strange to have SI seedlings in bloom before the TBs.

Lavada Reese, E.Flat Rock, N.C. 7/16/81.

My garden was very beautiful this year though it took a lot of hard work. I have 3 rebloomers now in bloom: SIGN OF LEO (purple with white beards), DOUBLE PRAISE (orange with tangerine beards), and ENGLISH COTTAGE (bluish white) - all are beautiful. I don't know how they bloomed with all the heat and no rain!

Ruby Buchanan, Winston-Salem, N.C. 8/14/81

It seemed to me that my iris blooms were larger than usual. ARCTIC DAWN and SNOW CLOUD in particular were hugh. Maybe the year of rest from having been moved in mid-winter, gave the added energy for big flowers. The SI seedlings outdid themselves. I clipped 65 pods from the two-toned blue tet SI today. That one had 30 bloomstalks in May and attracted more attention from visitors than the showier TB flowers.

Bert Livingston: 7/31/80, Swannanoa, N.C.

I want to thank those of you who have taken time to try to encourage me in the matter of my iris efforts. I'm taking heed to your advice, but still feel my only hope is to obtain the most rugged individuals in the iris family and stick to trying to do something with them.

Despite record-breaking June heat and spasmodic rains since, I had attractive bloom from the decreasing

number of plants that come back each year. I still seek names of sturdy individuals in red, yellow and pink flower colors that will survive in spite of, instead of because of, me.

MOLES - VOLES - OTHER GARDEN PESTS - Vs -
TOBACCO - D-Con MOLE BAIT & CYGON 2E....

(From General Interest Iris Robin)

Over a year ago, I guess, it all began. Louise Smith in her letter was bemoaning the fact that they were being plagued in their iris garden with Moles and Voles.

As the Robin progressed, J.D.Stadler offered his cat which is awfully good at catching mice, he said, and he thought sure she could do the trick of keeping the moles/voles under control. But, said J.D. "What is a Vole, Louise?"

Later Lavada Reese, E.Flat Rock, N.C., made the suggestion that chewing tobacco tea, cigars and most any form of tobacco was good to put in the mole "run" - they just can't stand the smell of tobacco....

As time went by, Bert Livingston, Swannanoa, N.C. wrote this consoling bit of advice:

"Louise, I learned from grandma, among many other things that a solution made from soaking cigar and cigarette butts in water (and even the contents of grandpa's brass spittoon) often repelled every kind of critter that "bugged" her garden, and outright killed scale and aphids. Much later I got scientific approval in recommendations for nicotine sulphate - which never really did any better than her homemade counterpart. I don't think she ever had exact proportions, as she never used a recipe in her life to produce the world's most exciting kitchen treats. But her tobacco solutions were poured onto plants and surrounding soil alike. Important point is - IT WORKED! Active principal is, I believe the same as Lavada's chewing tobacco remedy".....

Then Claire Barr made the statement that she had heard about a mixture using Chewing Tobacco, which, when sprayed on house plants before bring them into the house before winter sets in, would kill the pests which might have hidden on them. "I may have mixed the proportions wrong or else I didn't bring these two plants in soon enough - but they DIED. I am left with a package of chewing tobacco which I am afraid to use for plant spray, so I'll save it for moles/voles".....

Alma Childers, Hamlin, W.Va had this to offer. "We used to have to spray potatoes for potato bugs. We started covering our potato patch with the tobacco stalks after the leaves were stripped off, to take advantage of any fertilizer that was left in them, or that they themselves had. Presto!! No more 'tater bugs! Try it! It just might work on Moles/Voles, etc.".....

Then Louise explains to J.D. just what a VOLE is: "A vole is a sort of special field mouse that uses mole tunnels for its runways. It has mouse eye, ears and feet, but a tremendously strong chest, a bigger mouth than the mole, and a short tail like a shrew's. When they are using mole tunnels, they make open holes in the top ever so often (moles never make open holes in the top) and they can eat an entire rhizome in one night. They do not eat iris leaves. They leave the leaf-fan just where it drops down into the hole where the rhizome used-to-be. They seem to prefer to eat the largest rhizomes and to leave the little mubbins. Last year I had a commercial pest control company come spray for iris borers, which limited the vole problem. I think each vole ate only one iris and then died. But there is a limitless supply of them that eventually find our place again".....

Nancy Karriker, Kannapolis, N.C. then writes: "I was sure glad to have your description of voles. It fits exactly what has been happening to my irises for the last year or two. We used D-Con last year in the runways, and then managed to get some mole-bait (banned in N.C., bought in S.C.) which we used with seeming success".....

Louise later writes that she things she has found the answer: "We tried everything anyone recommended against the voles, but nothing made any apparent difference, until we had the iris sprayed with Cygon 2-E. It protected the entire beds all summer and winter. Of course we made one bed absolutely perfect. Walter bought a 75 ft roll of hardware cloth and cut the corners and wire it up to make a 70 ft "basket"; then dug out all the dirt in that bed, dragged the basket in and placed it, then replaced all that dirt. It is absolutely mole and vole-proof. I had hoped that Walter would make such a basket for every bed and row of iris I have, but he emphatically said: 'DON'T EVER ASK ME TO make another one of THOSE THINGS!!!'- but at least I have one vole-proof bed! - AND Cygon 2-E".....

*** **

Concord, N.C. Show continued...from page 32

The day of the show proved quite differently, and we were fortunate to have a total of 318 exhibits from 27 exhibitors. Some came from the Charlotte group, all the growers in our vicinity exhibited, and Rev. Everette L. Lineberger brought a number from Spartanburg, S.C. on his way for a visit in Eastern N.C.

Mrs. Katherine Steele and Mrs. Elizabeth Farrar were worn out at the end of judging 318 stalks. The Queen of the Show went to ARCTIC DAWN, exhibited by Everette Lineberger. Sweepstakes was also won by Mr. Lineberger with 13 blues; second place, with 9 each were: Elizabeth Farrar, Nancy Karriker and Mrs. Paul Lee Karriker. B.J. Brown won Best Seedling Of Show with his two-toned blend, Seedling #0581.

This was truly a combined effort, and thanks would go to many people, but most especially to Fran Cline, the co-chairperson; and to Mrs. Lloyd Nelson for furnishing the table cloths. It was a wonderful show, which made all the work seem worth while.

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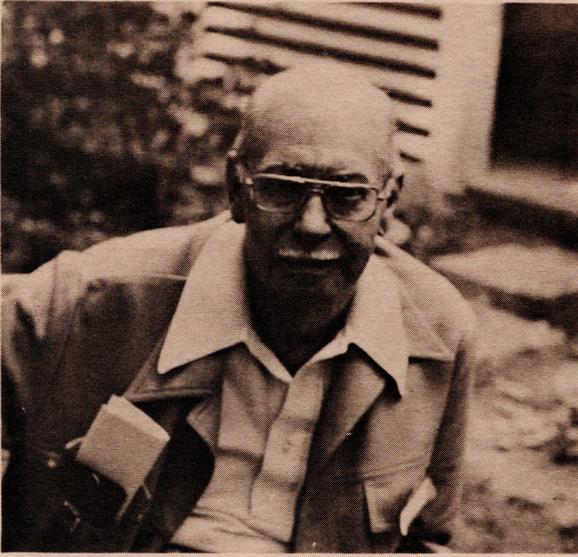
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