

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



Sept. '82

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no. 3



Top: BOBBY LEE EVANS, grandson of Alice Bouldin,
for whom the Region 4 Seedling Award is named.
Bottom: Stadler Seedling D2-10 = Winner of
seedling award, 1982

R V P MESSAGE FOR SEPTEMBER '82 NEWSCAST

Here in Maryland, as in Kentucky where I grew up, we hear it said that the weather is always "unusual". No one seems to know what the norm should be, but I do believe that this past Winter and Spring were more unusual than ever. At the Spring regional meeting it was interesting to hear comments about the widespread, freak freeze in April and the resulting damage to iris growth and bloom; the damage, of course, varied according to the stage of development in a particular location at the time of the cold snap. Heavy rains here in late spring and early summer played havoc with the iris beds and promoted rot, but from midsummer on the weather has been ideal - cool nights, warm to moderately hot days, lower humidity, just the right amount of rain for pleasant living and gardening. One would like to think that this is "usual" weather for Maryland, or for anywhere else. Our only problem has been the getting rid of the weeds which took hold during July when we are away three weeks because of illness in the family.

As a member of the host chapter for the spring meeting, let me say that it was worth all the effort expended in preparation. The turnout was very good, and we missed all those who couldn't make it. It was particularly pleasing to have some of the newer members present. Everyone seemed to be having a good time, and we surely hope that was the case. Speaking of new members, there are quite a number in the Region, and we welcome them all. I seem to sense an increased interest in our favorite flower, though perhaps it is only my own enthusiasm which I feel. No matter, interest and enthusiasm are contagious. We have a flower to be proud of, but we have a Society to be proud of, as well. Some years ago, Bill and I were drawn in by the enthusiasm of a friend, and it has led to friendships all over this region and all around the Country, as we pursue our interest with like-minded friends.

The minutes of the Executive Board meeting (printed in this issue) show that Blanche Rice resigned last winter as Assitant R V P and that her resignation was

accepted with regret and with thanks for a job well done. I would like to add my personal thanks for all Blanche's help. Lloyd Zurbrigg has been elected to fill this important post.

Our fall meeting will be held in Radford, on October 1 & 2, where we hope we will see quite a few Zurbrigg rebloomers and lots of people. It would be nice to see some new members along with the regulars. Time was when the fall meeting was for the executive board only; in 1977 it became an open meeting and has been slowly growing ever since. So, make your reservations at the hotel - saying you are with the American Iris Society, send in your registration to Lloyd, and look forward to a good weekend.

One closing word - if you have not yet sent your Symposium Ballot to me, please do so to-day. This ballot comes each year with the July AIS Bulletin and allows you to cast your votes for your favorite irises. It is easy and requires very little time. Just mail it to me at Stevenson, Maryland 21153.

**The American Iris Society announces a new addition to your library of iris books . . .
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The all-color introduction to irises, just off the press, *Irises For Everyone* promotes all kinds of irises, the American Iris Society and your local society; use it as a gift to your gardening friends, a guide to new gardeners, a souvenir of your iris show. Single copies are \$3.00. Or . . . use it as a moneymaker for your society — Buy in packs of 10: \$18.00, for resale at \$30.00. All prices include postage and handling.

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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 7:30 P.M., May 28, 1982 at the home of Alice Miller in Towson, Maryland.

Claire and all in attendance thanked Alice Miller for the use of her home for a meeting place and a very delicious dinner. The recipe for "Noodle Kugel" will be printed in Newscast.

Claire received a letter from the assistant R.V.P., Blanche Rice stating that she would like to resign from her office due to health problems. Blanche's resignation has been accepted with regret and with thanks for the fine job she has done.

The secretary's minutes were approved as printed in Newscast.

The treasurer, Norman Clouser, presented his report from the period of October 2, to May 28. The report will be filed and printed in Newscast. It was noted that expenditures and receipts were within \$10.00 of each other. Suggestions made to increase funds at the last meeting must have worked. Memorials received will be credited to the regular account and used to help cover the cost of Newscast. The Memorial Fund listed in the treasurer's report is in memory of Anne Lee, a former R.V.P.

Rena Crumpler has copies of the By-Laws for Region 4 if anyone would like to receive a copy.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Historian - Polly Price - No Report.

Parliamentarian - Rosalie Figge - No report.

Newscast Editors - B. J. & Frances Brown - Volunteers are needed to write up reports of the tour gardens.

Conventions - Roy Epperson - Roy was unable to attend the meeting due to his daughter's graduation. The 1983 Spring Meeting will be in Western North Carolina. The location of the Fall 1982 meeting had not been decided at this time.

Judges Training - Roy Epperson - New judges regulations and activity reports have been received by all judges. New Apprentice Judges need a 2 hour course in Awards and Ballots. This will be offered at the Fall Meeting.

Judges training will be available with several judges during the tour on Saturday. This does not have to be done for credit. Some judges were reminded that they need to take a training session. They can also get this credit by teaching a 2 hour session.

Membership - Helen Rucker - Actual numbers of members are down slightly at 318. Each chapter should have a supply of the new membership applications on hand with the name and address of the new AIS membership secretary.

Claire showed a membership certificate which will be presented to Ruby Buchanan for her efforts in getting new members. All are reminded to send your name in to the Membership Contest Chairman with the names of the new members you recruit.

Auctions and Awards - J. D. Stadler - Two awards will be voted during the tour on Saturday as listed on the front of the Regional Program Book. Ballots will be distributed as you board the buses for the tour.

At least 43 irises and other iris related items will be sold at the auction Saturday evening.

Youth - Flossie Nelson - There are very few youth members in the region and they are scattered. The youth program is very nice and includes plenty of things to do. More youth members are needed, especially to participate in the Youth Robin. B.J. Brown reported that Flossie Nelson's daughter had some wonderful blue ribbon entries in a show this year.

Reblooming - Lloyd Zurbrigg - "Earl of Essex" won Queen of the Show at the Marydel show on May 15.

Exhibitions - Celeste Cox was not well enough to attend the meeting, but she had a very interesting quiz in Newscast.

Robins - Ruby Buchanan - Ruby's report was read and will be printed in Newscast.

Photography - Dr. Nearpass - A set of slides from the last convention is available. Dr. Nearpass will also have a set from the regional tour and also the Denver Convention. Willa Owens noted that Marydel had used Dr. Nearpass' sets of slides for 2 meetings and they were very well organized and the tops of all slides are well marked so as to assure ease in showing.

Publicity and Public Relations - Rena Crumpler - Restoration of the gardens at the Abingdon Inn is underway and Rena will furnish TB irises and Siberians for the garden.

Ladew Topiary Gardens in Maryland may also replant their iris garden.

Claire and Bill Barr visited River Farm during their open house weekend. The irises were in full bloom and presented quite a show.

Mr. Cope reported on an iris popularity contest held at the Easton Show with the prize being iris rhizomes. In Charlotte they have a similar promotion and give away a certificate for an iris rhizome redeemable at their sale.

Public T.V. uses some slides for news backgrounds. Horizontal slides would be sent to these stations to promote the iris.

Marydel prepared and sent a nice flyer to members of neighboring chapter as an invitation to attend their show.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Blue Ridge - Lloyd Zurbrigg reported on recent activities.

C & P - Dick Sparling reported that there is quite a lot of interest in the group but few activities are planned.

F.S.K. - Willa Owens reported that Claire and Bill Barr had presented a fine program on grooming irises before their show. Their sale date is July 17th.

Sale date of July 24 and June 26 were announced for the North Carolina Chapters.

OLD BUSINESS

Test Gardens and Display Gardens were discussed. It was suggested that Rosalie Figge report in Newscast on her Reblooming Test Garden. We also still need more Median Display Gardens.

Claire passed some pictures from the River Farm open house on May 17. Articles on iris by Ann Branch Dasch appeared in Flower Grower, American Horticulturist, and Flower and Garden magazines.

A new booklet, "Basic Iris Culture" is ready and will be available from A.I.S.

J.D.Stadler presented the Nominating Committee report:

Regional Vice President = Claire Barr
Assistant R.V.P. = Lloyd Zurbrigg
Secretary - Carol Warner
Treasurer = Norman Clouser
Historian = Polly Price

Mr. Cope presented a motion that the nominations be closed. The secretary was instructed to cast a ballot to accept the slate by acclamation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Carol S. Warner, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance October 2, 1981 \$1,495.14

RECEIPTS:

10/6/81 Regis. Fees, Fall mtg	117.00
10/6/81 Auction proceeds	502.00
10/15/81 Contribution from N.C.Chapter	50.00
10/15/81 Contribution - Marydel Chapter	150.00
12/11/81 Car Mt Iris Soc - Memorial to Carmen Garreux	10.00
1/5/82 - Interest -Savings acct	21.72
1/5/82 - CMIS -Mem. to Bert Livingston	10.00
1/19/82 - Subscription to Newscast, J.Wood	3.00
2/8/82 - Contribution from Ila E.Brown	4.00
2/10/82 - Contr. from Claire Barr	25.00
3/1/82 - Contr. from Claire Barr	25.00
3/26/82 - Contr. from Mrs. Robert L.Munn	10.00
4/9/82 - Adv. in Newscast -Pine Hill Farm	2.75
4/9/82 - Interest - Savings account	18.34
5/2/82 - CMIS - Mem. to Carl Hampton	10.00
5/18/82 - Contr - N.C.I.S.	100.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>1,058.81</u>

DISBURSEMENTS:

10/4/81 - Tyler Inn (room for speaker)	46.02
10/4/81 - Adolph Vogt	40.00
10/16/81 - Dr. E.Roy Epperson -Auction Mat.	12.00
10/16/81 - Mrs. A.W.Rice - Fall Mtg exp.	68.83
10/16/81 - Tyler Inn	29.75
1/15/82 - The Copy Shop - Jan. Newscast	285.75
1/22/82 - The Copy Shop - Sales tax Jan.	11.43
1/28/82 - Postage for Jan. Newscast	38.26
1/28/82 - Postal Permit - bulk mail	40.00
3/1/82 - Claire B.Barr - Judges training exp	16.22
4/15/82 - The Copy Shop - April Newscast	403.31
4/17/82 - Postage for April Newscast	38.75
5/3/82 - Bank service charge	4.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>1,048.58</u>

BALANCE MAY 08, 1982

1,505.37

Balance in Savings Account	1,118.10	
Balance in Checking account	<u>387.27</u>	\$1,505.37

\$45.58 of above reserved for a Memorial Fund

Dr. Anne Lee (See Minutes)

SUMMARY OF REGION 4 SHOWS

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - May 1, 1982 - Eastland Mall
28 Exhibitors - 226 Entries
Queen of Show - VANITY Exhibited by Sydney Cowell
Most Blue Ribbons - Katharine Steele
Second most blue ribbons - Sydney Cowell
Best Arrangement - Mr. Ira Parnell
Best Seedling - 0182 - B.J.Brown

CONCORD, N.C. - May 8, 1982 - Carolina Mall
31 Exhibitors - 274 Entries
Queen of Show - LOUDOUN CHARMER -Mrs.David Cline
Most blue ribbons - Rev. Everette Lineberger
Second most blue ribbons - Mrs.Paul Lee Karriker
No Artistic Division
No seedling division

BURLINGTON, N.C. - May 8, 1982 -
14 Exhibitors - 129 Entries
Queen of Show - MERRY MONARCH - exhibited by
Dr. E.Roy Epperson
Most Blue ribbons - Dr. E. Roy Epperson
Second most blue ribbons - Alice Bouldin
No Artistic Division
Best Seedling - 9-2-10 - J.D.Stadler

ASHEVILLE, N.C. - May 14, 1982 -
32 Exhibitors - 225 Entries
Queen of Show - LA - DIXIE DEB - Everette Lineberger
Most Blue Ribbons - Lavada Reese
Second Most Blue Ribbons - Mr and Mrs Joe Summey
- Rev. Everette Lineberger
Best Arrangement - Mrs. R.L.Joiner
Outstanding Educational Exhibit - Mrs. Ada Orr
Best Seedling - 73-15-E -Marion Mills

EASTON, MARYLAND - May 15, 1982
Queen of Show - EARL OF ESSEX
Complete information on this show not available to
editors

SPECIAL REPORT - YOUTH DIVISION - ASHEVILLE SHOW
1 exhibitor - Michele Nelson - 9 entries
QUEEN OF DIVISION - VANITY
All 9 entries won blue ribbons

By Bus to Regional

Our bus left Southpark Shopping Center in Charlotte promptly at 6:30 AM for Towson, Md., headquarters for the Region 4 Spring Meeting. Ten sleepy-eyed people, not quite wide awake enough to realize that we were headed for a really great regional meeting. May 28th.

We picked up Nancy Karriker in Concord who was wide awake and ready to wake us all up. Then, in High Point we picked up Marge Parham. Marge had not been to an iris meeting recently, and was really anticipating a great trip and meeting.

Then in Burlington, we picked up 6 more members. By this time everyone was wide awake. The bus was a beehive of activity - I think everyone was trying to talk at the same time, so who was left to listen but the bus driver.

The Charlotte Visitours had arranged for our bus and driver, and had recommended that we have lunch in Petersburg, Va. For some reason we missed the restaurant - either we didn't get proper directions, or our eyesight was poor about lunch time. At the suggestion of our driver, we ate at a Truck Stop and Restaurant just north of Petersburg. Afterwards, an afternoon nap for some, but still the buzzing sound of excited conversation.

Just north of Washington, it started to rain, quite heavily in spots. The rain continued on until we got to Baltimore. Our driver missed the turn onto the by-pass, and we found ourselves in downtown Baltimore. But the driver, found the way back to the by-pass, and on to the headquarter motel in Towson in time for our first meeting at the home of Alice Miller.

On Sunday, May 30th, our return trip started with breakfast at the home of Tom and Doris Simpsons, and a tour of Doris' garden, comments on which you will read elsewhere in this Newscast. After breakfast, Tom & Doris led our bus downtown to see the harbor area - then got

us safely on the right highway headed home. This was a nice trip for those of us on the bus, and one we will remember for a long time. A number of these have said it was one of the outstanding features of the Regional.

* * * * *

COVERED DISH SUPPER AND GARDEN TOUR AT ALICE MILLER'S
Friday, May 28th
Or
MEETING, GREETING AND EATING!

Dining is a better word, and dining it was on "Noodle Kugel", (Alice's special and very delicious recipe) ham, tossed salad, rolls and desserts, all expertly prepared and enthusiastically consumed by about seventy-five of us.

The heavy rain at the dinner hour kept all but the intrepid out of the garden, but gave us a greater opportunity to greet past acquaintances and to meet other iris enthusiasts; also a chance to observe and admire iris memorabilia and fresh floral arrangements in the lovely Miller home.

As we were being shuttled back to our motel, we did get good views of the lovely iris garden and this just whetted our visual appetites.

This first gathering was a special time of fellowship and warm hospitality, and to Alice and all who made this evening so enjoyable we express our sincere appreciation.

Katharine Steele

Recipe for Noodle Kugel furnished by Alice Miller:

- 1 box noodles, cooked & while hot add:
- ½ lb butter, cut in small pieces
- ½ cup milk
- ½ lb cream cheese, cut in small pieces
- ½ lb cottage cheese - ½ cup almonds, sliced
- ½ pt sour cream - ½ cup raisins
- 2 tsp cinnamon - ½ tsp salt

(recipe continued)

1 cup sugar

4 eggs beaten

2 or 3 diced apples

Mix together, bake one to one and one-half hrs @ 300 deg.
(This dish freezes well. If planning to freeze bake
only one hour, then heat to serve).

Following the delicious meal with Alice Miller
the Board Meeting was held. Most of the crowd, except
Board Members returned to the motel for more conversæ
tion.

Minutes of Board meeting is found elsewhere in this
Newscast.

Saturday was tour day. Each garden has been written
up for you to enjoy, hopefully as much as we did.

Before starting our tour, let me remind you that
the Spring meetings for the next several years are as
listed below. I'm afraid this meeting will be tough
to follow, but in each case, I'm sure our best efforts
will be to have you enjoy the gardens in our area:

1983 - Western North Carolina Chapter - Host
Charlotte, N.C. Area

1984 - C & P Chapter

1985 - Blue Ridge Chapter

1986 - Eastern North Carolina Chapter

Fall Meeting - 1983 - Radford, Va. October 1 & 2
You have already received details of this meeting
under separate mailing.

TOURING THE FIGGE GARDEN
by Tamara S. McBride

Rosalie Figge's garden is an extension of her personality - organized, current, laced with humor, and hinting of nostalgia. An oasis in the heart of Towson, the unsuspecting treks briefly from the public thoroughfare through a side yard to the threshold of a cornucopia of flora.

Immense azaleas flank the perimeter of the yard, providing a concordant background to the myriad of border plants, including dicentra, stalwart hosta, billowy ferns, merry foxgloves, and delicate lilies of the valley. Despite the limited size of the property, one never feels crowded due to the expert layout of the beds and walkways. Passage among the beds is facilitated by, of course, giant footprints! Rosalie has the frustrating labeling system down pat as well; all labels placed to the right of each plant. No fruitless searching for the random tag here. All Dykes are arranged chronologically.

Approximately a dozen guest irises were hosted, as well as fifty of the introductions since 1978. CONCH CALL (Gaulter '78) beckoned viewers to admire its majesty, BATTLE STAR (Osborne '79) commandeered attention to its striking stature although it could have been staked, and BIRTHSTON'S (Babson '78) gentleness evoked the urge to croon over it. The creme de la creme, however, was a border bearded, PIN, BUBBLES (Hager '80). A glowing sunset pink unmatched in the TBs, it had outstanding form and substance. Of the thirteen seedlings guested, one quarter were blooming and none of these were memorable.

Years ago, Ann Branch Dash taught Rosalie's grandchildren to hybridize. Many of the irises in the garden were crossed by the enthusiastic five, six, and eight year-olds. The results are thriving today. Another nostalgic note includes a plot containing the first irises purchased by Rosalie and Georgia Ribley.

The purple martins housed in Rosalie Figge's garden are enviable, indeed.

THE GARDEN OF CLAIRE AND BILL BARR

by Doris Simpson

Though the Barrs' country garden in the Greenspring Valley is one of interest and beauty at all seasons, thanks to the wealth and variety of trees, shrubs and flowers grown with the care and attention that Claire and Bill give to everything they do, iris time finds it in its greatest glory. Then, their extensive collection spreads a mosaic of glowing colors across the large area behind the house, while numerous other flowering plants give contrast to the stately flowers and leaves of the iris. Hundreds of dwarf boxwood form a soft green frame for garden borders, the carport, the walkway to the front door and the fenced in play area where Jasmine, the family's engaging Bassett Hound relaxes while her owners garden. Rhododendrons, azaleas, clematis and forsythia, grown near the house.

Refreshments were laid out in the open carport where we were welcomed by our hosts and Jasmine, whose one trick is "sitting up" in such a heart melting fashion that she is always sure of her share of tidbits. Jasmine confined her interest to the refreshment area, and we were immediately drawn to a large bed bordering the carport that contained a stunning combination of the intense blue flowers of Brunnera (Anchusa) and pink forget-me-nots, bleeding heart, columbine, coral-bells, cream colored foxgloves, the Siberian irises Swank, Ego and Royal Herald, and Blue Eyed grass from Katherine Steele's garden in Charlotte, N.C.

Another bed featured the variegated foliage of Pulmonaria (Lungwort) which had bloomed earlier, Baptisia, daylilies, a few roses, true lilies not yet at blooming stage and Tradescantia (spiderwort) in white, blue and lavender, from Alice Bouldin's garden in Elon College, N.C.

We had come to see the irises, so we turned our attention to "the business at hand". In addition to the Siberian irises already mentioned, well grown clumps of Super Ego, Eric the Red and Grand Junction greeted us. Greatly admired among the Tall bearded were Ben Hager's

two beautiful pinks: Beverly Sills and its famous parent, Vanity. His ruffly white Leda's Lover was just trying to open. Sterling Innerest's Ted Shiner was handsome, as was Jeweled Starlight by Burch.

Three of Loleta Powell's beauties were blooming: Carolina Honey, Attention Carolina and Rippled Brass. Oritam (Hoffmeister), Elysian Fields (Gaulter) and Victorian Era (C.Smith) drew many admirers. Older favorites were those two handsome plicatas GOING MY WAY (Gibson) and LOOP THE LOOP (Schreiner). Victor Herbert (Benson) showed its exquisite blue flowers and went on many "want lists". Matinata (Schreiner) and Mount Cook A'Dawning (Foote) were a foil for Dusky Dancer (Luihn).

We wished that a magician could conjure up bloom on the Louisiana and Japanese Irises yet to come - but perhaps that would have been overwhelming! Pausing to admire the handsome collection of trees, from the tall Norwegian firs to the young Copper Beech, we reluctantly allowed ourselves to be headed back to the waiting buses and took our leave. Thank you, Claire and Bill for sharing this lovely, tranquil spot!

The Harp Garden
by Mildred Trent

This being my first visit to a meeting in the Maryland Area, I was most impressed.

In route to MAYWOOD, the garden of Maynard and Retta Harp, you get the feeling of getting away from the big city where you can enjoy a beautiful setting with a country atmosphere. This we found at Maywood.

One of the most impressive spots in this garden was a bed of Crossman's irises: Lady of Loudoun, Loudoun Princess, Loudoun Charmer, Loudoun Lassie and Loudoun Beauty - all in bloom and performing well.

Others that stood out and called my attention were: Chain O' Gold, Victorian Era, Burning Coals, Cranberry Ice and Ozark Beauty.

I was impressed with the number of Medians, Spurias, and Siberian irises in bloom. In addition a number of Historical Irises were growing in special beds.

This is an interesting garden containing many other plants than irises, including columbine, fern, lemon lily and flava (a variety of daylily). There were many flowering shrubs, dwarf Japanese Cut Leaf Maple trees, Mountain Laurel and a nature trail where many wild flowers were growing.

In this quiet setting, we were served a delicious box lunch, which I'm sure was enjoyed by one and all.

"DRAYCOTT"

CAROL WARNER'S HOME AND GARDENS

by Charlotte J. Kabler

Draycott is located on a hillside with winding driveway from highway. Since the drive was sorta tight in spots, Carol asked that the larger bus remain at a little country store nearby while the smaller bus took in one load and came back to bring the rest. While waiting, we browsed the store which carried numerous items, arranged interestingly.

Carol's spacious grounds are superbly landscaped. She has used evergreens, weeping cherry trees, hosta, daylilies, primroses, columbine and peonys to perfectly set off irises.

FROSTY JEWELS, winner of the Claude and Naomi O'Brien Award was growing in a lovely clump in front a spruce. The bluish cast of the spruce perfectly set off the pink clump of FROSTY JEWELS.

Her rock garden was especially attractive, with the dwarf Siberian, FLIGHT OF BUTTERFLIES dominating this setting. The white SI, NANA, a few medians, some rockery plants and dwarf evergreens make a lovely bed at the front.

Also, along the front was a bed of mostly TBs, blooming profusely, and not all were the newer varieties. Among these, and showing well was BUTTERCUP BOWER. This shade of light yellow with white infusion has not been duplicated in the newer introductions.

The borders to the side of the house and back were at peak bloom. Some of the clumps which were outstanding among their companion perennials were: LIZ, LOOP THE LOOP, BARELY BLUE, CARVED CAMEO, GOLDEN YEARS, MADAM LASSILLY, CLANCY: AND THE Siberians, EGO and DEWFUL.

This border also included many guest seedlings and other named guests. Outstanding among the seedlings was Stadler's D-2-10, evidently an IB, with much the same coloring as an oldie EMMA COOK - white standards, white falls edged light blue, with golden beards tipped white. This won the Seedling Award, established by Alice Bouldin and named for her grandson BOBBY LEE EVANS.

In back of the house is a large vegetable garden, fruit trees, and a pond, on which a lovely lily was in bloom.

The call for the bus came all too soon here, as we could have used more time to explore this lovely garden and grounds.

THE REBERT GARDEN
by Elizabeth Farrar

Overwhelming and awe inspiring - that's what it is!- The garden of Owings and Doris Rebert.

There on the beautiful hillside, overlooking the lush Maryland countryside in a near panoramic view, is perhaps the most inclusive home planting in the southeast, not just of iris but a wealth of other flowers and shrubs.

Hundreds of tulips, daffodils and other spring beauties spoke of glory just past, and extensive plantings of peonies, bleeding heart, columbine, hostas, daylilies and other perennials, along with roses, lilacs, spireas, wygelias and other flowering shrubs, blackberry and strawberry "patches" and a large vegetable garden gave evidence and expectations of continuous bloom and harvest for a long period.

All of these, together with thousands of iris, were tastefully planted in a setting of magnificent oaks, towering blue spruce, dogwoods and fine specimens of multi-trunked white birch, Jap Yew and rhododendron.

Now to the indescribable iris - numerous geometric beds, beautifully maintained, of great clumps of some of the favorites of the forties, fifties and sixties covered the hillside from the roadway to the crest of the hill - a veritable sea of bloom on FULL DRESS, BLUE LINEN, PINNACLE, RAINBOW VALLEY, CREAM TAFFETA, ARGUS PHEASANT, TASTE OF HONEY, GOLDEN YEARS, MISSION SUNSET, CAROLINE JANE, MYSTIC MELODY, PRINCESS KENT, ULTRAPOISE, TINSEL TOWN, BENGAL BEAUTY, TOP FAVORITE, WINE AND ROSES, SPACE SHIP, VITAFIRE, LORD BALTIMORE and countless others - very nostalgic! - -

Behind all these were the seedling beds, not in full bloom yet, and beds of newer varieties - BICENTENNIAL, DUTCH CHOCOLATE, LOUDOUN CHARMER, TREVI FOUNTAIN, FULL TILT, ORITAM, and others were outstanding. I also noted MOMAUGIN with red stands and black falls and ROBBIE LEE, a nice big ruffled blue (both new to me).

Showy in the Siberian beds were ERIC THE RED, BLUE RIDGE, MAGIC GIFT, EARLY BLUE BIRD and SUMMER SKY: and tucked here and there were clusters of cristata and other species.

I find I haven't mentioned the Dykes planting, the best grown and most complete I have seen anywhere. WABASH drew attention from all over the garden. Its

REPORT OF ROBIN PROGRAM
by Ruby Buchanan

A.I.S. statistics tell us that there are more than 2,000 iris lovers participating in the A.I.S. Round Robin program, exchanging iris news and sharing their experience in growing irises. Seeking answers to iris problems and sharing their success in the field of irises is rewarding.

There are ten enthusiastic members participating in "THE ROYAL FOUR" Remontant Iris Robin at present. Wonderful things are happening, and beautiful flowers are appearing in the reblooming iris field just now. Then we have ten Robins "of every feather" who are enjoying the Region 4 General Interests Iris Robin, which deals with every possible phase of growing irises - from choosing and breeding irises primarily for fragrance to planning iris exhibitions. Exchanging views on the newer introductions, fighting killer wasps and other pests, sharing successes (and failures) in the use of herbicides, systemic pest control, etc., etc.....

The Region 4 Beardless and Species Iris Robin, "The Wild Ones" has eight members. This Robin deals with everything from the tiny bulbous *I. reticulata* and *I. danfordiae*, which start the bloom season in February - to the late-blooming Japanese irises which spread their beauty here in June. Your Robins Chairman has had iris bloom since the *reticulata*, then *cristata* and the western blue flags (*I. missouriensis*) and lots of bloom on *I. versicolor*, our eastern blue flags, in shades from pink to purple. There was a glorious display of SI for two weeks, and the Louisiana irises are just coming into their glory this week (5/24/82). There are numerous scapes forming on my JI planting, which will extend the "bloom season" well into June, and the *Spuria* iris cultivars, added to my garden last fall, are also producing bloom stalks now.

I am still hoping that our Region 4 iris hybridizers will join the flock with a new Regional Hybridizing Iris Robin. No one person can visit all the many iris

gardens abounding in our Region, yet by participating in the Regional Robin program we CAN "keep in touch" with every area of Region 4, for a first-hand report of what is happening, and where.

Why not contact your Robins Chairman today? Go where the action is - Join A Robin!

NORTH CAROLINA IRIS SOCIETY REPORT (A I S AFFILIATE)

The year 1982 has been a bountiful one for NCIS, beginning with the spring meeting on May 15th at the Stadler home. The attendance was 38, which is the highest in recent years. Gardens and fellowship were enjoyed to the fullest.

On July 24th, NCIS combined with the Western N.C. Chapter for a business meeting and auction at B.J. & Frances Browns. Again, fellowship, food, and iris were great.

The 1983 spring meeting will meet in Charlotte, and will combine with the Regional Meeting there. So make your plans now. Don't miss out on a rekindled interest in N.C. and in Region 4.

J.D.Stadler, President of NCIS.

SPRING MEETING 1982 AWARDS

The Spring Meeting was held in Baltimore, Md. Gardens toured were well grown and blended into the landscape beautifully. All the gardens were hit with heavy rain the night before, however the iris held up remarkably well.

FROSTY JEWELS (Burch '79) won the Claude & Naomi O'Brien Award for best recent introduction. This full pink was seen in a large clump at the Warner garden.

J.D.Stadler's seedling D-2-10 won the Bobby Lee Evens Award for best seedling by a Region 4 hybridizer. It is a BB - white with blue border on the falls.

MEDIAN IRIS REPORT
by Richard Sparling

Although the Miniature Dwarf Bearded are not in the Median Class, I'm reporting on them anyway because they would be neglected otherwise. The earliest of the small hybrids to bloom, they start the season in the District of Columbia Area about the middle of April.

This year I had very mixed results. One or two performed well with ALREADY having over 50 bloomstalks. MUGGETS, BUTTONS AND ACONITE ELF showed very well. APRIL BALLET was lovely. FLIRTY MARY has always bloomed early but sizewise acts like a SDB. Most of the other MDBs had only a couple of blooms on good sized clumps. None of my new ones bloomed at all. Hope they do better next year.

The IBs and BBs performed the same way - spotty. CHEERS, SHAMPOO, POCKET MONEY, IRISH DOLL, PONY, BARELY VERDI, PINK KITTEN, LOVER BOY, SPACE CADET were great. SEA PATROL and APRING BONNET, a light blue and orange, grew side by side with some bloom stalks intertwining - a beautiful couple. RARE EDITION is great - a must. In the BBs the colors were great, but so-so otherwise. MOLTEN GLASS, one of the most vivid oranges in any class; DREAM DATE, if taller would top most whites in the TBs; BROWN LASSO - spectacular again; RASPBERRY SUNDAE attracted a lot of attention.

I cannot list the SDBs that did well. There were so many it would take the whole Newscast to do it. Suffice it to say, this class outdid itself. Most of the two year clumps had between 10 and 20 blooms - some had 30 to 40, but BY WORD had about 65 blooms. Very few first year plants had any bloom at all but they are growing like crazy.

The Miniature Tall Bearded are impressing me more and more. They are most dainty, delicate, color-

ful and make a beautiful display in a clump. The flower shape varies, but all are totally acceptable. The color range is broad and some are exquisitely marked. Although I have only about 15 that bloomed that number will be doubled by next year, and maybe again the following year. I hope to get more information on this class for a fuller report.

The smaller irises are great! If you're not growing them, you're missing a lot!

1982 SPRING AUCTION
J.D.Stadler

With each passing year inflation rises more making it difficult for our region to make expenses. Without donations from Chapters and Affiliates, plus our auctions, the expenses could not be met.

This spring, a very successful auction was held at the spring meeting with the region clearing \$472.50. This was accomplished through donations and the generosity of those buying. Thanks to all who participated.

A special thanks goes to those that not only donated iris, but also paid shipping costs. With generosity as shown by the following, the Region did not have to buy iris this year.

Roy Epperson	Owings Rebert	Carol Warner
Lloyd Zurbrigg	Alice Miller	Rosalie Figge
Rena Crumpler	J.D.Stadler	Marydel Chapter
Bill and Claire Barr		

There will also be a beardless auction this fall at Radford on October 2. If you have extra beardless, bring with you to the fall meeting and come prepared to buy! buy! buy!

IRISES AT WEYMOUTH CENTER

by Charlotte Gantz

In the April Newscast Celeste Cox asked if we were doing enough to popularize iris-growing in our communities. Since I have been trying something of the sort in Southern Pines, North Carolina, I thought a report might be in order.

A few years ago a handsome estate in Southern Pines was acquired by the Friends of Weymouth to serve as a cultural center open to the public. The house and grounds had belonged to the well-known writer, James Boyd, and his wife, and in its time had had an extensive garden. The old herb garden came into my care two years ago and I soon discovered that the irises surrounding it were of the 20s. I was given permission to replace them and wrote Jean Hoffmeister whom I had known when I was in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and she and Paul were in New Jersey, asking for advice and help. Jean promptly replied that due to ill-health she was giving up many of her tall and that I could have whatever I wished of them.

With this generous gift, I was off to a good start. Since I had found only one iris grower in the area (Southern Pines, Pinehurst and Aberdeen) with any knowledge of modern irises, it seemed important to show the great range of color and pattern that had been achieved and the different classes of bearded irises, rather than to try to get the latest and best specimens. No funds were available for my section of the garden and this was another consideration since I had to depend on what I could afford, and on gifts, for both irises and herbs.

I bought a few tall in the summers of '80 and '81 and was given a few more, in addition to those from the Hoffmeisters, but concentrated in '81 on the Median Section adding Standard Dwarfs and Intermediates from my own garden (I had always specialized in these two classes) and also buying miniature and newer standard dwarfs and intermediates. This summer some border bearded and miniature tall bearded will be added as

well as filling out gaps in the tall, medians and miniature dwarfs.

An obvious part of the project is interesting the public. An article I wrote on the development of modern bearded irises and their various classes was published in our local paper, The Pilot, and since other parts of the garden are well worth attention, also, we think our efforts are being paid off. Those who did see the iris garden were most enthusiastic.

Ed. Note: After receiving this interesting article, your editors wrote to Mrs. Gantz, asking if we could ask for help in Newscast, and if we could have a copy of the article mentioned in the last paragraph above.
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In a few days we got the following reply, which enclosed the article which we will reprint with her authorization.:

Dear B J and Frances:

Here is my iris story from The Pilot.

I greatly appreciate your offer to ask other members of our Region for possible contributions to Weymouth Center. Right at the moment, though, I think I'm going to have my hands full this September dividing and moving many of my own standard dwarfs and intermediates to Weymouth and planting the irises I've already ordered there. My space is also limited and I'd like to see how much more room I'm going to have when this year's planting has been completed.

As of now, I have, including those ordered this year:

8 MDBs, 22 SDBs, 9 IBs, 2 BBs, 2 MTBs, 35 TBs and 2 Arilbreds. Compared to the gardens I used to see at Conventions, or even my own garden in Pennsylvania (I was growing about a thousand seedlings at one time) that's a very small start as you can see. But I'm 73 with limited

strength and not too much space to work with. What I'm after is to give people here an idea of what can be done with irises, and for that purpose nothing can equal a good selection in a public garden.

The weakest part right now is that of BBs and MTBs. By September I'll have Brown Lasso, Whoop 'em Up, Carolyn Rose and Blue Bisque - but that is where I'd welcome contributions, maybe in '83 if I have space. My general rule is that I'm not out for the latest offerings, but would like to have introductions of the 70s if possible. The last time I grew MTBs, I had some of the very first in this class and was discouraged from going on with them. I don't want that to happen here.

With best wishes,

Charlotte Gantz

From - The Pilot, Southern Pines, North Carolina

THE IRISES AT WEYMOUTH

By Charlotte Gantz

Many new irises have been added to the garden at Weymouth Center during the past two years. Now miniature dwarfs open the iris season early in April with standard dwarfs and intermediates blooming later in April and the tall finishing up in early May.

The iris story is a remarkable one, not only for the extraordinary changes that have taken place in this century but because a large part of the hybridizing has been done by lawyers, doctors, clergymen, teachers, bankers, contractors, small-business men, mail carriers and scores of housewives from Maine to California. In other fields the development of new varieties has been the work of big commercial growers. Not so with irises. Crosses are easily made, a relatively small backyard can provide space for a thousand seedlings, and these can be cared for in one's spare time.

The garden of my childhood was filled with irises

of the last century - small flowers with dropping falls (the lower petals). Here were Princess Beatrice and Juniata, soft medium blues; Mme. Chereau and Jeanne d'Arc, whites with blue dots (plicatas); Rhein Nixe, white standards (the upper petals) and purple falls (an amoena); and the tall, off-white Florentina. A solid purple and an iris with yellow standards and brown falls (a variegate) just about completed the possible range. All these Mrs. Boyd grew, and I'm sure she found them as beautiful as I did. Most can still be seen at Weymouth.

A change was coming, though. The irises we knew stemmed from species native to Hungary, the Balkans and Italy, including the fleur de lys. But at the end of the century irises that were larger and had better substance were brought back from Asia Minor. Almost no one knew then that these were tetraploids (i.e., with four sets of chromosomes) rather than diploids (with two such sets, such as we had been growing.) For thirty years English and French breeders had crossed the two kinds generally getting triploids (mules) but occasionally, almost by accident creating a tetraploid. It wasn't until after World War I that American breeders became aware of this new strain; and most of the iris-growing public didn't recognize it until World War II. Since then, from a few early tetraploids have come our wealth of color, pattern and form. Today our flowers may be white, pink, orchid or red; there are all shades of yellow, orange and brown, as well as a range from palest blue to violet, purple, and black. Our plicatas may be yellow with brown or red spots, as well as white with violet spots. Some falls are light with a darker rim. There are many variations, but this is a fair sampling. Beards can be white, blue, brownish purple, and red as well as yellow. Petals are often ruffled. Falls no longer droop but are wide and semi-flaring, with excellent substance. And many of these advances came from backyard gardeners. Now, at Weymouth, we are trying to offer a representative collection of modern irises.

So much for tall. Pumilas are small irises that originated in Austria and spread through the Balkans to Russia. They were unknown in this country until 1931,

when Bob Schreiner, one of our great commercial growers and breeders, obtained seed from Moscow, Vienna, and the University of Cluj in Romania. His seedlings attracted little attention until Paul Cook obtained some and began the development of the small miniature dwarfs that start our season of iris bloom. He too was one of our greatest hybridizers, though he earned his livelihood otherwise. He also tried pumila pollen on his tall. Fertile seedlings resulted (pumilas were also tetraploids), halfway in size and blooming time between the miniatures and the tall.

The first of these lilliputs, or standard dwarfs, were introduced in '51, and they instantly attracted attention, with breeders all over the country eager to try the same type of cross. Lilliputs back-crossed to tall gave intermediates. The name suggests their size and blooming time.

During the 50s and 60s collectors in Austria, Germany, and Czechoslovakia added greatly to our supply of pumilas, always as gifts to their American friends, while L.F.Randolph of Cornell used his sabbatical to gather iris species of many different kinds from Central Europe. All of this has gone into the pool of garden bearded irises. Americans, in their turn, have tried to give the benefit of their knowledge, along with gifts of pollen, seeds, and plants to the rest of the iris-growing world.

The range of color and pattern in miniature and standard dwarfs and in intermediates is wide, though still not equaling that of the tall, but the dwarfs (both miniature and standard) often have a distinctive spot on the falls, and they have a decided charm of their own. Be sure to see what's been done with all four classes at Weymouth this spring.

Peak bloom:

Medians - Middle two weeks of April.

Talls - First week in May.

Ed Note: I know we will all want to thank Charlotte for share her wealth of knowledge of irises with us.

TO MULCH OR NOT TO MULCH!

by F. G. Stephenson

There is much discussion as to the advantages or disadvantages of mulching iris beds. Do the disadvantages outweigh the advantages? In order to make a determination, two beds were mulched with pine bark mulch, one was mulched with wood chips; while two other beds were left unmulched. Now that bloom season has come and gone some results seem apparent according to expectations, yet, another quite unexpected, appears.

One of the biggest advantages of mulch is that of weed control. Weed control in the mulched beds was excellent, however weed control with Kleen-Up and dacthal can be even more effective, and I believe, at less cost.

It has been my experience that irises grown in unmulched beds have the vigor and healthy green color that seems lacking in the mulched beds. This indicates to me that there is a possible depletion of nitrogen in the decaying of the mulch. Previous to mulching, one bed had an additional application of nitrate of soda. Here there was less of a deficiency of color, yet much damage could be done were not caution used in the amount of nitrogen applied. Careful observation of growth could indicate the need for applying more nitrogen. This could be in the form of a high nitrogen foliar feeding.

The borer problem, as expected, in the mulched beds was three or four times greater than in the unmulched beds. Since the borer eggs winter over on dead material, mulch material provides a most favorable environment for the deposit and wintering over of the eggs. It is recognized that sanitation is the most effective means of reducing borer infestation. Good sanitation is impossible with mulch covering. Even this disadvantage may be overcome by using a double strength solution of Lindane or other insecticide. The effectiveness of this is determined by the proper timing of the application which is not always possible under adverse weather conditions.

In damp seasons the slug and snail can become a problem as the mulch provides ideal conditions for their

existence. Here, again, one may use one of the slug baits or stale beer as a remedy.

Perhaps, one of the most devastating effects of mulching was exemplified this past season by the unusual problems created by the weather. Mulch will keep the soil cool for a short period of time, but with the extremely hot weather in the early part of the year, the soil was very moist and became very warm. This can be an advantage when the weather remains normal in that growth starts earlier. However, this past season this proved disastrous! This season the early warm days triggered early growth and then the sudden temperature drop to the teens, along with the extremely high winds caused severe damage to the awakening bloomstalks, killing many of them. This freezing resulted in extremely short stalks. In the beds with one inch of mulch (pine bark) there was a 60% - 70% loss of the complete bloomstalk, with many others being severely damaged. In the bed with three inches of mulch (chips) there was almost complete loss without one normal bloomstalk. The unmulched beds provided close to 90% bloomstalks with only a small number not being normal. The unmulched beds bloomed much later, 7 to 10 days later than the mulched beds.

Admittedly, these conclusions are my own, and when I try to weigh the advantages against the disadvantages I am inclined to forget mulching. Most of the disadvantages can, in normal seasons, be overcome, but is the time and additional expense really worthwhile? Later bloom is just as beautiful as any of the earlier bloom, and certainly, in my experience, requires less effort and expense. It is for you to decide the route YOU want to take!

MINCED OATHS AND MULCHED IRISES by Tamara McBride

The Voice of Inexperience is chagrined to report that POST TIME died. Please be advised that excessive love can indeed smother an infant rhizome.

You give it your best by placing the rhizome in the softest bed newly refurbished, swaddling it in the rich-

est soil, covering with a light spread of mulch, and posting a nametag at the headboard for all to identify the new arrival.

Three months later, a grey shroud envelops the babe, slowly stealing up over the toes, mottling the complexion, creating a ghoulsh pallor. Warded, wened, and wizened!

Powerless to intervene, you mourn the death. Authorities at the autopsy declare death by botrytis rot. Tears, anger, resignation, then a resurgence of spirit. Still, the nagging question lingers - death by overlove? ? ? ?

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Helen Rucker

NEW MEMBERS:

28601

- 1 - Mary B. Price, Route 11, Box 336, Hickory, N.C. (W.N.C)
- 2 - Cravens Nursery, 9023 Arlington Boulevard, Fairfax, Va., 22031 (C&P)
- 3 - Linda Coppedge, 7725 Wake Brook Drive, Raleigh, N.C., 27604 (E.N.C.)
- 4 - Mrs. George W. Constable, c/o Ladew Topiary Gardens Jarrettsville Pike, Monkton, Md., 21111 (FSK)
- 5 - C.Kent Ewing, 423 Normandy Lane, Newport News, Va., 23606 (Norfolk)
- 6 - Hunter Mill Garden Club, c/o Mrs. Ralph Jordan, 10246 Dumfries Rd., Vienna, Va 22180 (C & P)
- 7 - Mrs. Siebert Stephens, P.O.Box 1234, Bluefield, West Va., 24701
- 8 - Mrs. Warren E. Bielenberg, Fort McHenry Nat'l Monument, Baltimore, Md. 21230 (FSK)
- 9 - Mrs. Michael J. Cook, 1016 Valewood Road, Towson, Md., (FSK)
- 10- Mike Allen, Capital Broadcasting Co., Inc., P.O.Box 12000, Raleigh, N.C. 27606 (ENC)
- 11- Terry E. Thompson, Route 2, Box 136, King George, Va 22485 (C&P-Northern Va)
- 12 - William N. Snouffer, 111 Buena Vista Way, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514 (ENC)
- 13 - Helen Shook, Rt 4, Box 581, Conover, N.C.28613 (WNC)
- 14 - Willie E. Pope, Jr., Rt 6 Box 343-B, Raleigh, N.C. 27612 (ENC)
- 15 - Nanci B.Smith, Rt 1, Box 446, White Plains, Md. 20695 (C&P-Md)

NEW MEMBERS (Continued)

- 16 - Donald R. Hanberry, 1129 Locust Avenue,
Charlottesville, Virginia 22901 (Blue Ridge)
- 17 - Mrs. Edna Krantz, Box 49A, RD 1, Roundhill
Va. 22141, (C&P-Northern Va)
- 18 - Mrs. Julie Larson, Rt 3, Box 80, Bakersville,
N.C. 28705 (WNC)
- 19 - Mrs. Harria J. George, 614 W. Timonium Road
Timonium, Md. 21093 (FSK)
- 20 - Mrs. Edward E. Steiner, 6521 Darnall Road,
Towson, Md., 21204 (FSK)
- 21 - Mrs. Peggy Stewart, P.O.Box B, St.Michaels, Md.
21663 (Marydel)
- 22 - Joe Mathias, Jr., Rt 1, Box 87A, Lovingston,
Va. 22949
- 23 - W. D. Harbert, 307 N. Broad, Edenton, N.C. 27932 (ENC)
- 24 - Mrs. Jennie Bell, 222 Prom Street, Weirton,
W.Va. 26062 (W.V)
- 25 - Mrs. Marilyn McPherson, Rt 3, Box 77D, Waxhaw,
N.C. 28173 (WNC)
- 26 - Mr. John T. Brame, 209 Finley Street, N.Wilkesboro,
N.C. 28659 (WNC)
- 27 - Mr. Gene McGruder, P.O.Box 375, E.Flat Rock, N.C.
28726 (WNC-reinstatement)
- 28 - Mrs. Stewart Stout, 7109 Swift Run Trail, Fairfax
Station, Va 22039 (C&P-Northern Va)
- 29 - Mrs. Florence S. Pugh, Rt 2, Box 240, Bumpass,
Va. 23024
- 30 - Mrs. Don Lashmit, Rt 2, Box 302, McLeansville, N.C.
27301 (ENC)
- 31 - add Bruce Walker - now family membership
Ruth E & Bruce Walker -Partlow, Va. (Richmond)

LOST BY DEATH:

Rev. Raymond Alexander, ENC
Stuart Branch, Blue Ridge
Carl Hampton, WNC
C.C.Liggett, W. Va.
Frank Sherrill, WNC
Mrs. Robert MacKenzie, FSK
Mrs. W. G. Speicher, FSK

"DOWN TO THE SEA IN '83"
PREVIEW of AIS NATIONAL CONVENTION
BOSTON, MASS, June 4-8 1983.
by **SHIRLEY VARMETTE, PUBLICITY CHM.**

Region 1's MINI-CONVENTION, held June 5 & 6, 1982 to celebrate first year bloom in the '83 guest beds proved to be another of a long series of rainy weekends after a cold spring with snow in April. I arrived a day early, however, and fooled Mother Nature. I spent a sunny Friday at Case Estates where one of each variety sent to the convention will be found. I also got to the three gardens in Concord and Bedford, Massachusetts. These are the most northern of all the gardens and were not yet at peak, although I was happy to see a few siberians in bloom.

Since I had been to the gardens a few weeks before I was able to see some of the SDBs that are planted at Case. Innerest's BRUSK, W.Jones" LITTLE BILL and B. Jones" DIXIE PIXIE caught my eye that day. Perry Dyer's HELTER SKELTER AND WIZARD OF ID also called attention to themselves. Earlier in the day I had stopped by Bee Warburton's to see her new seedlings and guest irises. Bee's seedling beds were in full bloom and she faced some hard decisions. I also saw W.Jones" IB, MARTY in Bee's garden. A pale lavender blend, I saw pink in it.

That Friday at Case, the MTB bed was the first I saw, and I particularly like CHAIN WINE, Guild '77.

In the tall bearded beds Fred Gadd's '81 introductions GARNET SPORT and HALLIE were doing well on first year plants. I also liked NIGHT EDITION (Schreiner 81). When I returned to Case with the tour group, its stalks seemed untouched by the previous night's downpour and really drew praise. Ensminger's PANDORA'S PURPLE and IRIS BOHNSACK looked good that morning. Their "coleration" is interesting. I looked at his white border bearded, FEATHERED FRIEND, looked again, and decided that I really liked the laceration around the standards and falls. It seemed to fit the smaller flower. I'm not sure that I would like it on a TB.

At Barbara Schmieder's Concord garden, I liked B. Dunn's BLUE MAXX ('81) and Hamner's GOOD EARTH ('79), which was doing well everywhere. Tour buses next spring will visit the former Buttrick estate in Concord and his irises are still to be found there although it is now part of the National Park.

In Marian Schmuhl's lovely garden in nearby Bedford I particularly liked Corlew's PINK BALLET ('82) and Hager's '80 BB, PINK BUBBLES. Bob Sobek's ROSE CAMELEON was doing well, too. For those who liked Denney's MANUEL, his '82 introduction SUPER MANUEL will be a treat.

Also in Bedford is Connie Hall's well laid out garden which is so easy to walk through. Great for those who want to take pictures. Ken Waite's LORD JEFF ('81) was in full bloom here, but we had to wait until Ken's own garden was visited to see its more ruffled sibling POP'S CONCERT. I liked Ghio's SEASHORE ('81) in this garden. Two of Ben Hager's siberians were in bloom and we all exclaimed at CHILLED WINE, Hager '81, a wine red with a chilled blue on the falls.

In spite of rain all weekend, undaunted, irisarians went on. The first day took us down to the garden of Barbara Whitehouse and her daughter Wendy Shaw. Barbara was out in Denver that June weekend, but Wendy and the grandchildren greeted us. It managed to stop raining while we were there, but as 40 of us climbed off the bus the driver remarked, "I think I'll say in my log that I carried a bunch of bird watchers around all day. They'll never believe this." Here many talked about SMOOTH TALK, Gartman '82, an apricot pink infusion on peach standards and peach falls. It is a large ruffled flower with good branching.

SOAP OPERA, Ghio '82 showed us all what good substance means. We all tried to describe it and came up with standards of grayed gold blended to blue-lavender in the midrib. The falls were blue-lavender edged with the same grayed gold, ruffled, with orange-yellow beards.

Later, someone found a catalog which indicated green in the standards but we agreed that this flower didn't have any. When we got to Warburton's that day few SDBs remained but the siberians were opening. There were also two rows of her versicolor seedling in full bloom. I liked Hager's '82 BB, TING-A-LING, a white, and Niswonger's '81 border, PEACHED 'N TOPPING. It has a yellow beard on peach falls with cream standards.

Sunday morning we hoped the TV prognosticators of gloomy weather were wrong as we headed for the middle part of the state after a stop at Case. I wanted most of the rain to stay south in Conn. and most of it did, New Haven had its first flood in years. Bee handed out baggies to put on our feet, and off we went. Two gardens are just west of Springfield, Mass. The beds in Stanley Park, Westfield, Mass., had bloom on 104 of 109 first year guest plants. Here, I liked Ev. Kegerise's MOMENT IN TIME and LOVE BOAT, as well as Rudolph's ANTIQUE BAND.

Ken and Aggie Waite's garden is also in Westfield and seemed to be about at peak, with the most spectacular bloom. Rawlin's COLOR CODED and Schreiner's PIPING HOT stood out. Seen a few days later, the bright orange color on PIPING HOT had toned down a bit. Schreiner's AMBER BEAUTY '82, was quite nice, and looked better than the picture in the new catalog. Here we could compare Ken's POPS CONCERT and LORD JEFF. For those who like ruffling, it's POPS CONCERT. For those who like a more tailored effect, you'll prefer LORD JEFF.

A survey was taken of favorite blooms seen during the mini-convention and a number of still unnamed seedlings were listed. Burger's M-4 shared top honors with SMOOTH TALK.

Other leading vote getters were: BEVERLY SILLS, CHILLED WINE, PIPING HOT, BURGER M-6, DOXOLOGY, and ICE BALLET. How does one select from so many? Even the rain did not narrow the selection. We had to protect our cameras, but you can see for yourself prior to next

June by contacting Dr. Nearpass and viewing the slide set that we have sent to him.

EDITORS NOTES

A newspaper clipping was sent to your editors about the death of Carl Tipton Hampton, Route 2, Asheville. The clipping was not dated, nor was the date of death given.

At his death he was a member of Carolina Mountains Iris Society, N.C. Iris Society, and American Iris Society

He was married to Alice Garraux. Our sympathy goes to Alice. She not only lost her husband, but her mother died only a few months ago. Carmen Garraux and Carl, will be missed in the Asheville Area.

You will note also under the membership report that we lost one of our former RVPs, Frank C. Sherrill. Frank died Friday, June 11th in Charlotte, N.C. He was 80 years of age.

He was born in Cornelius, graduated from Duke University in 1922 (then Trinity College). He taught school and was principal of Sardis Carmel county school in Charlotte.

After teaching, Mr. Sherrill worked with two firms his father founded - Gem Yarn Mills and the Bank of Cornelius - in time rising to the presidency of each. He retired from the bank five years ago but served on its board until his death.

Frank was a long time member of American Iris Society. He served as a judge for a number of years, and was RVP of Region 4 for a term of office there. He was a member of the Charlotte Iris Society and the North Carolina Iris Society.

After retiring, he moved to 2621 Portland Avenue, Charlotte, N.C. from Cornelius-Davidson area.

Your editors do not have information on others listed in the Membership report under "Lost By Death".

EXCERPTS FROM RAMBLIN' ROBIN - GENERAL INTEREST -

Nancy Karriker: 5/23/82

The NCIS, of which J.D. Stadler is president, met with him at his garden in Reidsville two weeks ago. We Thorough enjoyed every minute of it! Some of the ones we liked best were: ORANGE PUNCH - a beautiful shade of orange, very ruffled, small bloom; MARMALADE - deep ruffled orange; LADY FRIEND - a new, different shade of smoky-rose-pink; RUFFLED BALLET, white & light blue bi-color. Also, your Siberians were just Beautiful!

Rev. Lineberger, RVP of Region 5, entered a number of excellent bloom in our Concord show. Six of his exhibits were contenders for the Queen of the Show. The Queen was an absolute perfect specimen of LOUDOUN CHARMER. We were surprised to have such quality of bloom in our show, following a really horrible Spring.

In talking with Rev. Lineberger about his consistent quality of bloom, he explained his method of transplanting. He moves all his plants every two years - half of them this year and half next. Therefore, he feels that on the 2nd year he gets more and heavier bloom stalks. He never lets a plant sit there if it hasn't increased or grown well. He moves his plants the last week of July, or the first week of August. This gives the rhizome time after bloom to accumulate food for the following year's bloom. Usually moving this late the newly set plant does not have to wait through a long, hot, dry Summer, and gets well established before cold weather sets in. He is a great believer in WATER - he waters until he feels that next year's bloom has been complete before he lets them dry off. This procedure seems right for him in Spartanburg area of South Carolina.

J.D.Stadler 6/11/ -

The spring has been glorious with shows and meetings and fantastic fellowship. How could anyone ask for more? We had 82 of the Region 4 members for the tours of the gardens in Maryland. When have we ever had that many? And yet I felt a special closeness to the group. I really believe everyone had a great time.

Some of the iris seen and loved: FROSTY JEWELS (which won the "Claude and Naomi O'Brien" Award in Maryland

in your Sunday AM breakfast - totally delightful!!

Alma, I am really impressed with the hardiness of the SDBs and other smaller irises. I have not really liked them until this Spring, because they were so short that I have trouble getting down to smell their fragrance. This Spring, however, they had multiplied enough that I could smell some of them while standing near by the clump. Bee Warburton has been hybridizing for fragrance for quite a while and she sent me several - my but they are wonderfully fragrant!

Doris Simpson - 6/25/

It hardly seems possible that the Region 4 meeting was almost a month ago! June is passing fast! Since I have no JI my iris season is over, but Carol Warner says her new JIs are spectacular, so I want to try to get up to see them. We really enjoyed hosting the Regional. Only problem was there wasn't time enough to really visit.

Nancy, Ben Hager told us when he was here for the 1976 Regional to leave our TBs until the middle of July before moving. I had to move the ones I dug today as all the roots were rotting. They looked sicker and sicker - I figured one more rain would finish them off.

Claire Barr: 7/13

FSK members enjoyed having the regional meeting here, but wish that ALL of you could have been with us. We missed those who were absent. The Denver meeting was good, better from the standpoint of people than of the bloom that we saw, that is, until the last afternoon. Everything popped open Saturday afternoon at the Botanical Garden, whereas that morning in Colorado Springs (at a higher elevation) we saw almost no bloom. Boulder and Fort Collins had good bloom on Friday. We returned from Denver to start checking the rot and getting the garden cleaned up - lots to do...

The JI performed beautifully. Last week Carol Warner, Rosalie Figge, Alice Miller and I drove up to Dover, Pa. to see Sterling Innerest's JIs and to get some from him on the spot.....

(Burch '79) was a lovely pink growing in a beautiful clump in Carol Warner's garden. LADY FRIEND (Bhio '81) is difficult to describe, but a reddish raspberry comes close - 1 rhizome planted last summer yielded 4 bloomstalks and 4 increases. LOUDOUN CAMEO (Crossman '79) - impresses me more each year. The muted yellow standards with falls yellow with infusion of greyed violet. This one is soft and subtle, and just don't seem to have any faults - growth, branching and form are superb. SONG OF NORWAY (Luihn '79) - is a pale, pale blue self with darker blue beards. It also has superb branching. A stalk of this was runnerup for Queen of Show in Burlington this year. Pink Bubbles (Hager '80) BB, was a hit everywhere it was seen, and especially at the NCIS meeting. This is a pure light pink, all petals heavily laced and falls flare just right.....

B.J., What a great trip to MD on the bus! That was a super way to get to know each other better. We appreciate your getting the trip together.....And the breakfast with Doris Simpson and Tom was a special treat for the N.C. bus occupants.....

Louise C. Smith: 6/20

I must say my husband and I both certainly enjoyed the Spring Meeting at Towson. Such a treat to meet all you interesting people, and to see and sniff all those gorgeous irises. I even enjoyed the rain, as it gave me an unequalled opportunity to see which irises stayed crisp and lovely under such conditions. And I saw some of the newer ones whose blooms turned to a soggy mess....

When I returned from Towson I found I had 195 seed pods to stake up. By now, though, 3 weeks later and oodles of rain, I doubt if I have 50 pods left on their own stems, because of the unusual amount of stem rot that has happened here. I poured on the 2 1/2 packets of aureomycin that I had left from last Summer, but I can't see that this slowed down the rot at all. These were the first pods I crossed almost entirely for fragrance, so I feel a great loss.

Doris, I especially enjoyed your precious little garden - a perfect jewel! Thank you for including us

Tim Davis 8/1 -

I'm printing my letter this time as an atonement for my handwriting, which I admit is terrible. Maybe you all would like to have my Fragrance Report. I dedicate this to Louise:

Iris	Fragrance
SILVER SHOWER	Candy corn
MOON RIVER	Sweet, buttery
FRONTIER MARSHALL	Sour, musty
FLAIR	Sweet
VIKING ADMIRAL	Yuck! Dog hair.
TUXEDO	Sweet, musky
PERSIAN BERRY	Grapish
MY DESIRE	Sour
FLAUNT	Grosses me out! Rotten Cheese
RANCHO ROSE	Sweet
LONDON FOG	Yuck! Linoleum tile.
CAMELOT ROSE	Ugh! Porta-Potty fluid
FROSTLINE	Disgusting! Used Kitty litter (Many more belong in this).

I now have approximately 200 varieties and feel on a par with you adults, as far as varieties go. Not bad for a High School student.

As I write, I am nature instructor and counselor in Summer Camp. Talk about a job! I have 8 kids in my cabin, and being a mother and father to them?! The Lord surely "is my strength", which is very comforting to know (Psalem 91).....

Alma Childers: 8/12/

The cold spring weather did hurt the SDB and TBs. A few of the SDB bloomed, but not as well. Most of them just had 1 or 2 stems. There was a few exceptions: TWICE BLESSED, STOCKHOLM, DOVE WINGS, AND BLUE POOLS. LITTLE BALCKFOOT is always the first to bloom, but this year it had only 1 stem. FINE PRINT had a bee pod, with only 5 seeds. I have used it with several different ones but never had a take. The following, new to me, bloomed: IB AND TB - BOY WONDER, MAIDEN LANE, TURLE DOVE PREMONITION, DREAM LOVER, BACCARAT, TANGERINE SUNSET. The latter has a very ruffled small flower and I hope to use it as a pod parent with SDB pollen. Others had their bloom stem frozen.

Comments of Alma Childers continued:

I. graminea bloomed for the first time and made seed pods. My biggest surprise was bloom on Dietes Vegata variety Calenulata on June 27. It has 6 petals - 3 white and 3 with with yellow design of wing-shape. Lavender midrib on the standup styles. Three small leaves tightly clasp the stem. The second flower pushed out by the side of the first on July 8th. The flowers are fleeting - bloomed out about 4 PM and was folded by morning. Both flowers made pods..... I have no germination on I ruthenica or I kerneriana. I do hope for germination on both of these hopefully by next Spring.

Ruby Buchanan: 8/19/

This flight of letters presented a very good picture of the bizarre weather of the past 4 months. Starting off with those 20 degree temperatures in April, and progressing with reports of lost bloomstalks and going on to the problem of rot and leafspot from rains, which certainly fell on the "just and the unjust" in May and June. But whoever minds the weather when irisarians get together? Weren't the flowers beautiful and the fellowship wondrousul for every iris meeting?/... KEEP THE FLAGS WAVING - AND THE ROBINS FLYING - HAPPY GARDENING!

**** **

JAPANESE IRIS SHOW & TOUR - Continued from Page 18

We had an excellent dinner at the Meadowlake Gardens. The next stop was Drayton Hall near Charleston, S.C. We were given a guided tour of this historic hall, and later served delicious refreshments.

Then it was back to the Community Center to learn the results of judging. This was my first time to enter a design, but I got a 2nd place in a Class entitled "Garden Charm".

After our dinner at the Continental Corner, and dismantling the show, we were given a slide show of irises and peonies by Adolph Vogt. When the event was over we were exhausted!

FRIENDS BY PEN AND INK

It's rather wonderful, I think
When friends are made by pen and ink.
A piece of paper, blue or white-
Someone decides what she will write-
To one whom she has never seen -
Who lives where she has never been.
A pen becomes a magic wand!
Two strangers start to correspond.
Not strangers long but soon good friends -
Just look how that last letter ends!
How pleasant the exchange of views
And comments on the latest news.
Oh, one can talk of this and that
And have the coziest kind of chat;
Two sould who live quite far apart
Can gladden much each other's heart;
Can nourish much each other's mind
With letters sensible and kind.
It's truly wonderful, I think
When friends are made by pen and ink!

Author Unknown - submitted by Louise C. Smith



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Cover - Mary Elizabeth (Bebe) Brown
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Top: FROSTY JEWELS - Winner of Claude & Naomi O'Brien
Award, 1982

Bottom: WHAT-Z-IT?

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