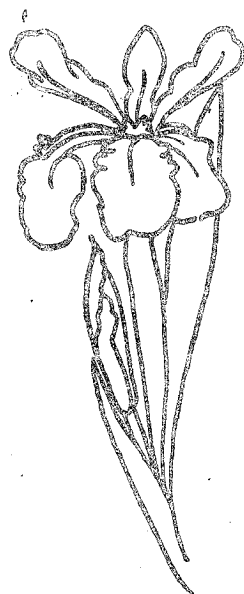


**SPURIA  
IRIS  
SOCIETY**



**NEWSLETTER**

**VOLUME 10**

**OCTOBER**

**1966**

SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY

Section of the American Iris Society

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- SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY INFORMATION -

Membership: Section of the American Iris Society under Approved By-Laws.  
American members of SIS must be members of AIS.

Dues: Annual: Active \$1.00 - Family \$1.50  
Triennial: Active \$2.50 - Family \$3.50  
Supporting Annual \$3.00

Notices of dues payable are included with A.I.S. dues notices.  
Please inform Editor or Secy. of Change of Address immediately.  
Also include your Zip Code.

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Rental slides are available for clubs and individuals from Library  
Chairman, Mrs. Lura Roach.

## EDITORS NOTES

This first complete issue of the Newsletter under a new team of editors is offered with some hesitancy on the part of the new editors. We both are somewhat inexperienced at producing a newsletter. We hope to improve with each issue. We will need the help of every member in providing news items. The newsletter depends upon news from its readers, and we would like to be deluged with items for the coming issues.

We do wish to thank those who responded so generously and promptly to our requests for materials. We appreciate their contributions; it is their efforts which have made this issue possible.

We are pleased to announce that the Spuria Iris Society's membership is at a new high; details on this item are on page 8 of this issue. Let us continue to encourage our iris friends who grow spurias to join the society. Sometimes a little inducement helps - like offering gift plants to new members.

We extend official greetings to our new members. We hope that through this newsletter they will receive helpful information and encouragement in their hobby.

We plan to emphasize some phase of spuria culture in each forthcoming issue. Tentative suggested topics are diseases of spurias, hybridizing, and performance of varieties. You are invited to send, to the editor, comments which you may have on these topics so that they may be incorporated in the proper issue.

You also are encouraged to send your questions concerning spuria culture to the editor; we will endeavor to find an answer by referring them to one of our experienced growers.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Mabel Lawson Johnson, the wife of our society's President. On behalf of all the membership we extend to him our most heartfelt sympathy.

As a tribute to the outstanding work of Ralph Johnson and his late wife in behalf of the Spuria Iris Society, a memorial medallion in the name of Mabel Lawson Johnson is being planned with the American Iris Society. This memorial medallion will be presented to past and future winners of the Eric Nies Spuria Award. Those who wish to contribute to the establishment of this memorial medallion may send contributions via the Spuria Society Secretary-Treasurer, via the newsletter editor, or directly to the President of the Society.

Very sincerely,

Archie Owen,  
Editor

Bill Gunther,  
Associate Editor

IN MEMORIAM

MABEL LAWSON JOHNSON

Mabel Lawson Johnson, wife of Spuria Iris Society President Ralph A. Johnson, died August 31st in Phoenix, Arizona, after a long illness.



MABEL L. JOHNSON

Mabel always worked closely with Ralph in the Phoenix Iris Society's iris shows, and in his other iris activities. She also stimulated gardening projects among the young pupils in Machan School, where she taught for 19 years. She guided these children into exhibiting flowers by garden club rules, for which they gained first city-wide and then state-wide recognition. In 1956 the Phoenix Junior Gardeners, under her guidance, were formally affiliated with the State Garden Club Federation; since then they have earned state awards and national recognition. Due to her interest, with Ralph, in irises and roses, these flowers have been present in large numbers at the junior shows.

Mabel was an inspired and devoted teacher, and her influence left a lasting impression on many young lives. Machan School was closed on the day of her passing, and the flag was flown at half mast.

Mabel was born in Texas, and scores of the Johnson's friends knew her as "Tex". She served as recreational director for the American Red Cross during World War II at Fort Lewis, Washington, where she first met Ralph - and at the Veteran's Administration Hospital at Phoenix, Arizona, where she and Ralph were married 19 years ago. The Veteran's Hospital chaplain, the Reverend Manuel Zaldivar, married Mabel and Ralph - and also assisted with her funeral services on September 2nd.

As a memorial in her name, the American Iris Society and the Spuria Iris Society are accepting contributions to finance the design and casting of bronze medallions which will be awarded to all winners, past and future, of the Eric Nies Spuria Award. Up to this time the Nies Award winners have received a certificate only. This is a fitting tribute to one whose love of irises, and whose support of her husband's iris activities, will be remembered by all who knew her.

To know her was to love her.

Mary Redford

STUART COMBS

It is with deep regret that we learn of the passing, on September 27, of Mr Stuart Combs, husband of Mrs Frances Combs.

Many iris specialists remember the Combs family from the years when they hybridized irises and operated a commercial iris garden in Whittier, California. During recent years the couple have made their retirement address at 34858 Avenue "H", Yucaipa, Calif, where mail now may be addressed to Mrs Combs.

The many friends of the Combs remember them both for their very sincere and genuine qualities. Mrs Combs is particularly well known in the American Iris Society for her specialty work in spurias and in aril irises. She won the 1963 Eric Nies Award for her spuria iris GOLDEN LADY, which is so outstanding a cultivar that it has won top place in the Spuria Iris Society's recent popularity polls - including the popularity poll for 1966.

We extend to Frances Combs our sympathy at this time.

## SPURIA SPECIES

In the last issue of the spuria newsletter were two items on the subject of spuria species; reference may be made to those articles as background to the following paragraphs:

(1) Dr. Lee Lenz, of the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Claremont, California, has donated seeds of two spuria species for free distribution to members of the Spuria Iris Society who desire them. The two species are Iris graminea pseudocyparis and Iris brandze; these spurias are dwarf sized in comparison to the familiar spuria cultivars; they are only a few inches tall. Members who desire some of these seeds should send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Mrs. Archie Owen, (address on page 2). Because the supply is very limited, and to avoid mixing the seeds & species, seeds of only one of these species will be sent to each member who requests seeds. They will be sent in the sequence in which the requests are received, up to the limit of the supply. Those who have a preference as between the two species may include a note indicating preference; those who do not indicate a preference will be sent seeds of that species which are most plentiful. Each envelope will be labeled with the species contained.

It is suggested that these seeds be planted as soon as received. Plant them about a quarter of an inch deep in a soil containing plentiful leaf mold or other humus; the seedbed should be kept moist but not soggy. Remember that spurias often do not germinate for many weeks after planting.

(2) Mr Walker Ferguson, of Escondido, Calif, has a clump of the species Iris spuria, form halophila alba. He could not donate seeds of this species because he has no seeds of it (he used all available blooms of that clump last season either for exhibition or for hybridizing) - so he donated half of the clump instead. Future blossoms on this division will be "selfed" to provide species seeds for free distribution next year to those who desire this species.

This form of spuria has bloomstalks about 18 inches tall; its blossoms are perhaps the most nearly completely white of all spurias, (its yellow "signal" is no wider than a toothpick). The blossoms last well as cut flowers, and they attract much attention because the narrow-segmented floral parts are straight and rigid, in the fashion of the reticulata irises.

(3) Dr. Thomas Whitaker, research geneticist of the U.S. Horticultural Field Station at La Jolla, California, has donated a clump of a yellow spuria species which was imported and submitted to the U.S. Dept of Agriculture for plant acclimatization tests about thirty years ago - and which ever since that time has survived without particular attention. It apparently is immune to virus. Identification of this standard-sized spuria will be verified when it blooms next spring; seeds from it will be distributed next fall to members who desire species of size comparable to that of cultivars.

# Iris Notes

OCTOBER 1966

Bulletin of the Southern California Iris Society

## SPURIA SEED BEDS IN THE IMPERIAL VALLEY

Eleanor Mc Cown

A good many years ago, I learned that the best way to germinate almost any seed in the Imperial Valley was to do as the farmers did and plant them in raised beds. Fields are plowed and flooded and left to dry out to the right consistency and then worked as fine as possible. Special machinery then throws the earth up in long rows 40 inches wide. The seed of lettuce, carrots and other vegetables are then drilled in on each side of the raised bed just above water level. Then water is run in the trenches on each side and the water subs up to the seeds. The fields are kept constantly moist until seedlings appear above the soil level. Rain at this time is disaster to the farmer since it would pack the soil and the tiny seedlings could not push through the heavy soil. It would also bring a large variety of weeds.

My own machinery consists of a shovel, hoe and rake and a strong back, but I still construct, in a small way, beds similar to those in the fields and in this way grow almost all my flowers. This makes it simple to water the whole garden by flooding and in the summer time this is the only practical way to water on the desert.

I found myself faced with the prospect of digging up a new seed bed for next years Spuria Seedlings this Spring and wondered just where to go. About the only space left was in the lawn which consisted of Dicandra at one end, St. Augustine in the middle and Bermuda at the lower end. This area at one time had been used to stack hay and countless hay trucks had driven over it in all kinds of weather and packed the earth to a consistency of brick. Even after a good many years of growing grass I knew that it would be hard digging. First, in order to kill the grass, I sprayed the whole area, about 50 feet by seven feet with downon. This killed the Bermuda and St. Augustine in about two weeks. Then I ordered a load of sand and had the trucker back up the truck to the upper end then unload the sand as he moved the truck forward. This saved me a good deal of work wheelbarrowing it by hand as I had done the bed two years ago.

Next with my shovel I dug down about ten inches and turned over the soil, putting the sand underneath and mixing it up as much as possible. It was full of large hard clods and massed grass roots so I then flooded the whole bed. This helped soften the dirt considerably and I made two raised beds lengthwise. It was still pretty lumpy and since this was early July I wondered what cover crop I could plant that might help put a little humus in the soil. Always in the past, I have been able to purchase Cebania, or Wild Hemp for this purpose. Because the seed must be gathered by hand, it is no longer available.

While I was leaning on a gate post wondering what to plant, one of the farmers drove by and I asked him for a suggestion. He said he had planted some Black-eyed Peas in his skip row cotton a few weeks previously for that purpose and that he was sure there was enough seed left in the hopper to do me. Since this is a vigorous legume that likes it hot, I decided this was an excellent idea and when I received a two pound coffee can of seed, I promptly roughed out two rows on each side of the raised beds and planted the peas. (I keep wanting to call them beans, but all the local Texans insist they are peas.)

We left the next day for a weeks trip to Colorado in the camper. On our return the first thing we did was head for my bed to see if the peas were up even though it was two o'clock in the afternoon and at least 110 degrees in the shade. They were not only up but pushing out their secondary leaves and now a week later are eight inches high.

From now on this bed will be flooded about every week, always in the evening, (the plants would be cooked, if I were to put water on in the daytime) until September. I hope by this time the peas will send down a good root system and break up the clods. I'll chop down the peas in September and then when they have dried, turn them under. By late October the ground should be mellow enough to plant the Spuria Seed.

I always plant the Spuria on one side of the raised bed rather thickly. A stake labels each pod with the parentage. Usually the seeds germinate in between 30 to 60 days. Some however, will stay dormant for a whole year and show up the second year. The other side of the row is planted to stocks, snapdragons and other annuals I happen to want. In this way I have color the first year. By the following October most of the seedlings have formed fairly large plants, and it is easy to thin them to about eight to ten inches apart and the extras planted on the other side of the raised row.

Some of these will bloom in their second year, and I find it easiest to discard those I don't want as soon as they bloom. This leaves enough space for the plants to develop thoroughly by the time they are three years old and can show what they will really be like.

This is the time when I discard as best I can. Sometimes it is pretty hard to dig up a very pretty blooming iris.

I registered four seedlings this year. The first, Imperial Ruffles is just a nice medium sized light blue ruffled iris with good form, considerable resistance to virus (which effects most blues) a vigorous grower and good bloomer with often four open blooms to a stalk, well spaced. I found the arrangers at the San Diego show liked it very much.

The second, Imperial Flight is a cross between Counterpoint and White Heron, a large flower with slender long standards of dark lavender blue and falls that arch out with a yellow signal patch veined with lavender blue. It reminds me of a helicopter about to take off.

The third, Imperial Night, is a cross between a seedling of Fergusons which he called Inflation, because it had such large flower parts. A bright yellow, the flower was somewhat floppy and clumped. Spring Plum was the pod parent and the seedling has medium sized flowers, the standards a very dark purple, and the falls with a bright yellow signal patch bordered with purple.

The fourth, Imperial Beauty, is the best seedling I have yet bloomed. It is also a cross between Inflation and this time Driftwood. I was very much surprised at the result. The flower is the largest in my garden, standards an inch and one half wide and the falls two inches. The standards flare out and are lightly waved. They are pale yellow at the base with purple veining so close as to give an almost solid effect of purple. The falls are deep yellow with an edging of the same purple veining. The one stalk had a total of seven flowers.

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**Sunset\***  
THE PACIFIC MONTHLY\*

THE MAGAZINE OF WESTERN LIVING\*

for October 1966

## How to divide or move Spuria iris

**Spuria iris**, a group of closely related, vigorous plants with beardless flowers, seldom need to be divided. But you may want to move these rhizomatous perennials from one location to another, or divide clumps when they get too crowded. The best time to divide Spurias is when the plants are completing their summer rest period — just as the terminal shoots of the rhizome begin to swell and new roots are forming. In cool coastal areas,



1. Dig Spuria iris clump with shovel or spading fork, back far enough to avoid damage to brittle rhizomes



2. Cut off the leaves to 8 inches above the rhizomes. Then wash soil from around the roots and rhizomes



3. Cut out old flower stalk, after dividing single rhizome from clump. Trim roots to 2 inches from rhizome



4. Plant divisions in groups with top of rhizome just below soil level. Firm soil around rhizomes, water well

you can divide them during September and October; if you garden in a hot inland valley or desert area, divide them from mid-September through October. (In mountainous regions, they should be divided before the end of September.)

If you delay until after new growth starts, the divisions may fail to bloom the following season.

In the photographs you see the steps in digging, dividing, and replanting the rhizomes from a clump of Spuria iris. When you divide, save only the best rhizomes for replanting. Discard portions that do not have a terminal shoot or that show signs of disease.

Since Spuria iris rhizomes are quite fibrous and fleshy, they dry out rapidly. It's therefore a good plan to organize your work so that you can lift, divide, and reset one clump at a time, or set the entire clump in a shady spot and keep it moist until you can divide it.

Plant in well drained soil. Spuria iris grow well in almost any soil so long as it's fast draining. If your soil drains slowly, improve the drainage or plant them in raised beds. Cultivate the soil to a depth of at least 12 inches. When digging the planting holes, work about 3 teaspoons of superphosphate into the soil at the bottom of each hole.

Spuria iris are most effective in the garden when planted in groups, with three or four rhizomes set 6 to 8 inches apart in each group. Since the rhizomes grow in one direction, radiate them from a central point with the cut ends facing in. Space groups at least 18 to 24 inches apart to allow for future growth.

Keep the soil moist with regular watering. Begin to feed plants with a complete fertilizer in December or January. Give Spuria iris plenty of water during the spring and early summer months. After bloom, water them less frequently to encourage plants to go dormant and begin storing food for next year's bloom. But don't let them dry out completely.

OCTOBER 1966

YOUR ORGANIZATION IS GROWING

Six months ago, in taking office as President of the Spuria Iris Society, Mr. Ralph Johnson set as a major goal the expansion of the society to 300 members within the next year. With that goal in mind, the Membership Chairman and the Editors are delighted to publish the current membership list - it shows that the total membership already is 294. This is an all time high for the society, and at our current growth rate we can expect to have many more than 300 members before the end of the year.

While on the subject of this membership list, your new editors apologize in advance for transcription errors in spelling of names which no doubt have occurred during the process of copying and transferring the membership lists. To correct those errors, each member is requested to check the address sticker on this issue of his newsletter, and also to check his name and address as listed on the following membership roster. Please send appropriate corrections to the Editor, and please include 5 digit zip code in all cases where it now is lacking.

\* \* \* \* \*

SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP LIST - OCTOBER 1966

Membership data intentionally redacted



Membership data intentionally redacted

Membership data intentionally redacted

Membership data intentionally redacted

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SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY FINANCIAL STATEMENT: 8/31/65 to 8/31/66

Balance on hand 8/31/65-----	\$293.34
Receipts (dues and miscellaneous income during year)-----	311.50
	<u>604.84</u>
Disbursements: Newsletter supplies & postage----	\$194.57
Envelopes, other printing, & misc: 54.86	
Sect-Treas/postage & supplies----	20.00
	<u>269.43</u>
Balance on hand 8/31/66-----	\$335.41

*Marilyn Holloway*  
Marilyn Holloway  
Secretary-Treasurer

## THE 1966 ERIC NIES AWARD

The 1966 Eric Nies Award goes to Walker Ferguson for his spuria WAKEROBIN.

This award is reason and occasion to reprint, on this page, a newspaper column about Fergy which appeared in the San Diego Union earlier this year. The columnist wrote hastily, and made some unintentional errors which spuria society members will recognize as such. But the column also includes so much information that reprinting it here is far better tribute to Mr Ferguson than would be the same space filled with fancy congratulations from the assorted officials and editors of the spuria society. More fun to read, too.

(The drawing represents the columnist, in fantasy, dancing over the rainbow with one of Fergy's spurias. We had to run this drawing instead of a portrait of Fergy - because he is too modest to pose for a portrait. He encourages visitors to take pictures of his spurias - but he ducks when the lens of the camera points toward him.)

I had never met Walker Ferguson, whose bird-like spuria iris are the sensation of the shows. But after a warm and pleasant drive through the part of Escondido (which has acre yards) I found his spuria acre.

Ferguson's spurias grow in great, thrifty bunches of tall, slender, clean iris foliage. Not much bloom yet, but that didn't bother Mr. Ferguson. Or me.

Mr. Ferguson is 80, has had 18 or so spuria iris registered and in 1961 won the Eric Nies award, the highest there is for spurias in the American Iris Society.

He's worked at hybridizing spurias for over a dozen years. Said he picked them because "there were too many bearded iris already."

But judging from the beautiful names he gives them, I believe they must hold quite a few of his heart strings. I'd seen his Spring Plum blooming in the Watkins-Rivera irises that morning. Seems to me I don't have to tell you the color.

The spurias tug at a good many heart strings among San Diegans. The old timers in the 20s had many a tall clump of them in blues or yellows or whites. And their sons and daughters ask me every now and then what those iris were — "shaped like a Dutch iris only taller and bigger and they don't come from bulbs."



The name given me for them, since I'd asked the same question when first arriving here, was Iris ochroleuca. Ferguson says they and the spurias are much the same thing. They all come from Turkey and Greece and from Kashmir, and our climate makes them feel at home.

The colors Ferguson gets in his hybrids can be black (almost) or white or blue or yellow or brown. The same seed pod can produce an assortment of these shades. He gets them to bloom in 6 months to two years from seed.

He named his first white Wake Robin after the wake-robins or trilliums of his native Minnesota. His Dawn Candle has ruffled and flaring white standards and yellow falls. I saw Moon by Day in bloom, pale blue with pale gold.

Ferguson's comment on it was that the "petals seem to turn under too much but it's still clean and good."

His spurias have been around. He sells plants for propagating, also seeds. He has more fun with the seeds he sells. A woman in Sydney, Australia, won a first prize with flowers she raised from his seed.

At the San Diego Fall or Reblooming Show there were spuria iris flown in from Australia, raised from his seed. It was spring "down under" and they were blooming there, but not here.

"You don't have to go anywhere when you raise iris," Ferguson proclaims. "You can just go out in the garden."

He amuses himself with a little versifying now and then and has some lines on hybridizing to the effect that, "Some people are happy to grow what there is, but we like to grow what there ain't . . . The highest progress is what we ain't got!"

Well, I know I'll be leaning on the tables next week end at the iris show, gazing at the spurias Ferguson grew of what there ain't — and all the other tables of living, vivid rainbows with forms divine and the breath of spring about them.

EXCERPTS from SPURIA ROBIN # 1

(Contributed by Ila Nunn, Spuria Robins Chairman)

Barbara Benson, Lubbock, Texas:

For reconditioning South Plains soil, which is heavy and alkaline, for every 100 square feet of bedding space I apply 20 pounds of cottonseed meal, 80 pounds of cottonseed hulls, 5 pounds of 45% agricultural superphosphate, 5 pounds of Wacco sulfasoil, and 5 pounds of 45% potash. I use this for TBs, arilbreds, spurias, siberians, peonies, dahlias, roses, and daylilies.

Attie May Davis, Anthony, New Mexico:

I use trench planting for everything: roses, irises of all kinds, shrubs - everything. All my planting beds are 3 inches to 5 inches below the level of the yard. They are watered once in three weeks in winter, and once in five to eight days in summer. Seldom have rot.

Walker Ferguson, Escondido, California:

On August 12 I came across a very large proliferation on a stalk of DAWN CANDLE. These seem to grow easily, so I planted it in a gallon can filled with plain garden soil. Gave it plenty of water and partial shade. By August 23 there were already five distinct fans, with leaves five inches high.

In 1962 Dr. Lenz sent me a start of Iris spuria alba, from Munich, Germany. It is a small white which blooms very late. I wanted it for white breeding, but it had no blooms for two years. The first good bloom was this year, and I was very particular with crosses with BLUE ACRES and with another late white. The pollen of this species, and of BLUE ACRES too, is red. The crosses were made on June 10th, and I now have harvested some good seed pods. So you see how many years it may take for just one cross.

Using CAMBRIDGE BLUE pollen I got some fine blue color - but terrible shape. BANNERS OF BLUE is a most vigorous grower, but has only fair blue color. The blues are the most often subject to virus, & the color usually fades quickly.

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SPURIA MEETING in SAN DIEGO

(Contributed by Rosalie Garcia, local publicity chairman)

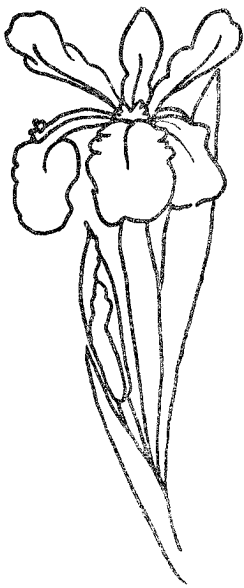
The San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society held its annual spuria meeting on September 19, 1966, at the Floral Building in Balboa Park, San Diego. Included among the more than fifty American Iris Society members at the meeting were eighteen members of the Spuria Iris Society.

The first speaker was Walker Ferguson, of Escondido, our famed spuria hybridizer and two-time Eric Nies Award winner. As usual, he gave the impression that raising the finest of spurias is no trick at all; just stick them in the ground and let them grow until they are about six inches tall, then in November give them some bone meal and manure, and some more in February, he lets his spurias go completely dormant in summer, with no water. He concluded his presentation with one of his poems which we have come to expect; this one was about toads.

Eleanor McEwen, from Holtville in the Imperial Valley, was the next speaker on the program. Possibly because of the hot desert climate of Holtville, her cultural procedures sound a little more realistic - or backbreaking. (Editor's note: see page 6 of this issue for details.) She practically floods her spurias all summer. Eleanor concluded with a listing of her favorite spurias and a description of the characteristics of each.

Betty and Bill Van Dusen, of Descanso, then showed slides of modern spurias, including many 1966 introductions. Walker Ferguson's DARK & HANDSOME, GOOD THUNDER, ALLEGORY, and ARBITRATOR drew many ohs and ahs. So did the slides of Eleanor McCown's IMPERIAL SONG, IMPERIAL RUFFLES, and IMPERIAL BEAUTY.

The formal meeting concluded with door prize drawings for eight excellent spuria rhizomes, followed by a rush to the plant table, where a sellout of other donated spuria rhizomes added \$134 to the treasury of the local group. The quantity of additional orders placed directly with local growers was not disclosed by them, but a committeeman for San Diego's 1967 Spring Iris Show prudently noted that showbench space allocated for spurias would have to be doubled.



## SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY

SPURIA SECTION OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

( A report from the 1st Vice President )

### OKLAHOMA DISPLAY GARDEN OF SPURIAS

Will Rogers Garden Center

The Spuria Display Garden in Oklahoma City, Will Rogers Garden Center, was reestablished last year with 42 plants. I believe all plants lived but one, and I have not checked the lists to find out which one did not survive. This is a good record, and we wish to express our appreciation to these growers who sent plants: Mr Walker Ferguson; Mr Ben Hager of Melrose Gardens; and Mr Bob Schreiner of the Schreiners Garden.

The Display Gardens have served a double purpose: First - to acquaint the public with spurias and to promote the use of spurias; Second - to give judges an opportunity to see the new introductions, to compare these with older varieties, & to vote accordingly. A look at the records proves this; more votes cast for the Nies Award in 1966 than in any other year in the history of the competition.

Bloom season here this year was short, with almost no bloom on the first-year plants. Increase was poor this year, but the foliage appeared healthy. Ben Hager's ELIXIR was in good bloom with three open flowers and four bud placements on the stem; flowers well rounded, and more orange than yellow. ESSAY showed better branching than most varieties; the flower has ruffles and good substance. WAKEROBIN did bloom well and I must say that it is very worthy of the Nies award. THRUSH SONG did not look as well as I have seen it, but one cannot judge a first-year plant.

GOLDEN LADY always performs well - as it did in the garden this year. It has broad standards, and broad falls with no tucking, and the color is bright and clean. We like it very much. WADI ZEM ZEM bloomed, and it performs well here too. PREMIER, with its small blue-violet flowers, blooms early here. Marion Walker's DRIFTWOOD bloomed in my garden and was a favorite with many; that new chocolate brown is exciting. STABILITY was in bud - I counted four buds on one stalk - then it rained and I did not see them open.

I am hoping that Mr Walters made some pictures in the garden. I know that our R.V.P. did, and I am looking forward to viewing them. Next year we will stage an all apogon show in the center; at that time we will tour the garden again - and will report on all the varieties which were too new to bloom this year.

Ila Crawford  
Rt 2, Box 35, Purcell, Oklahoma



1966 SPURIA POPULARITY POLL

- 1.----- GOLDEN LADY
- 2.----- DRIFTWOOD
- 3.----- WAKEROBIN
- 4.----- WHITE HERON
- 5.-----DARK & HANDSOME
- 6.----- THRUSH SONG
- 7.----- MORNINGTIDE
- 8.----- WINDFALL
- 9.----- ELIXIR
- 10.----- WADI ZEM ZEM
- 11.----- CHEROKEE CHIEF
- 12.----- DUTCH DEFIANCE
- 13.----- BARITONE
- 14.----- ESSAY
- 15.----- DAWN CANDLE
- 16.----- IMPERIAL SONG
- 17.----- CONTRADICTION
- 18.----- NEOPHYTE
- 19.----- ALLEGORY
- 20.----- ARBITRATOR
- 21.----- FAROLITO
- 22.----- PREMIER

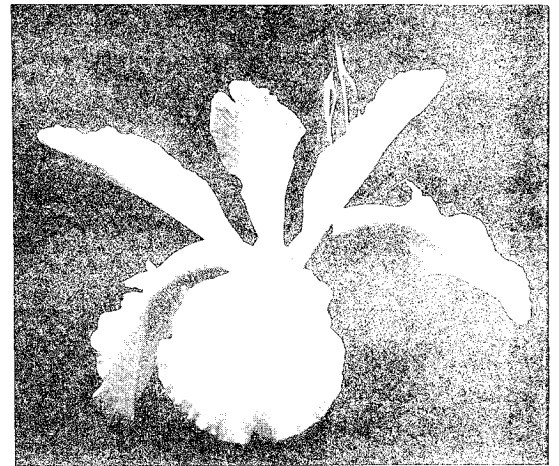
LIST OF ERIC NIES AWARD WINNERS

- 1956----- WADI ZEM ZEM
- 1957----- SUNNY DAY
- 1958----- WHITE HERON
- 1959----- DRIFTWOOD
- 1960-----LARK SONG
- 1961----- DUTCH DEFIANCE
- 1962----- CHEROKEE CHIEF
- 1963----- GOLDEN LADY
- 1964----- THRUSH SONG
- 1965----- MORNINGTIDE
- 1966----- WAKEROBIN

A REQUEST FOR HELP

From: Mrs Clarence Green  
 309 Water Street  
 Bakersfield, Calif, 93305

" I am having some trouble. First brown spots come on my spuria leaves, then the whole leaf turns brown. The first plant with this trouble was BRONZESPUR; I dug out that entire plant and destroyed it. Then the plant next to it started the same way, so after it finished blooming I cut it down to ground level, after which it came up again nice & green. I would like to know if anyone else has the same trouble, and is there any known cure for it ? " ??



GOLDEN LADY



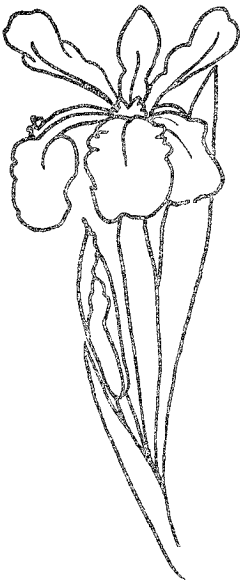
FAROLITO

THRUSH SONG



Photos from catalogue of the MELROSE GARDENS

*****	SPURIA IRIS	*****	SPURIA IRIS	*****
*	Write for Listing	*	GROWER PEONIES - DAFFODILS	*
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*	"BEST IN THE WEST"	*		*
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SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY

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THIRD CLASS MAIL