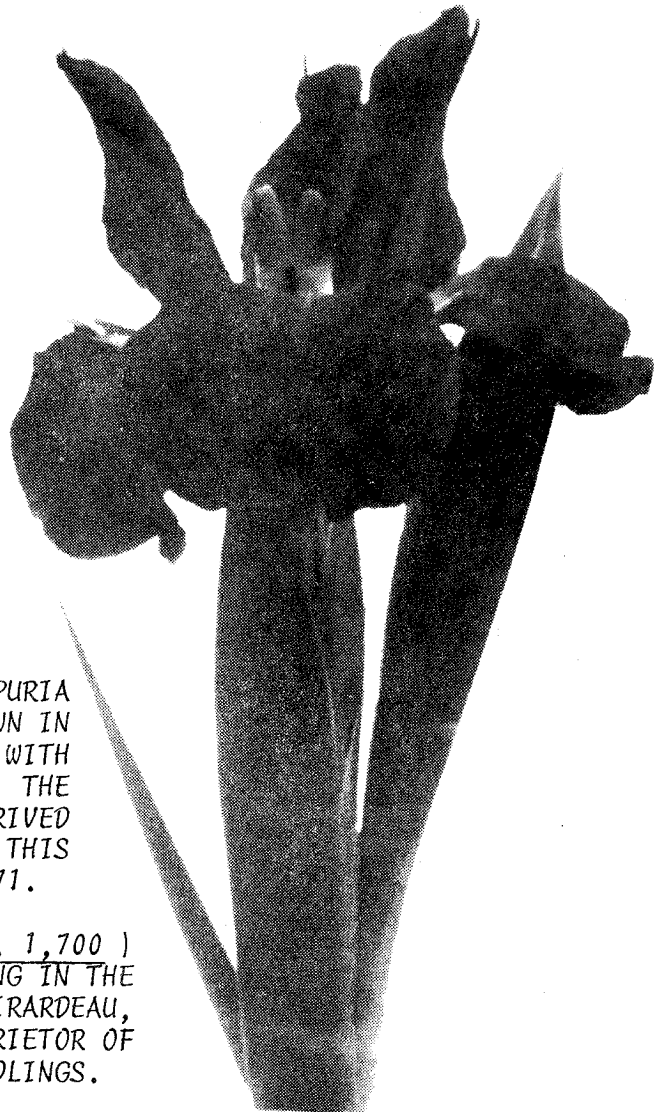


NEWSLETTER

January - 1972

A SEEDLING FROM MISSOURI

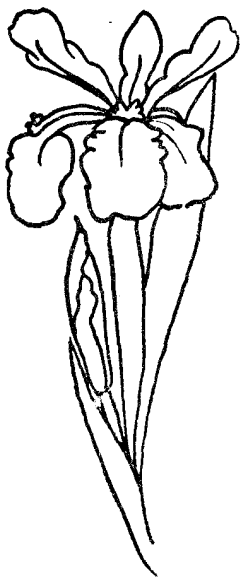


THIS PERKY DARK FLOWER IS THE BLOOM OF A SPURIA SEEDLING WHICH WAS HYBRIDIZED AND GROWN IN MISSOURI . IT IS A RED-BROWN SELF, SPECKLED WITH GOLD AND WITH PRACTICALLY NO SIGNAL PATCH. THE COLORING IS INTENSE--A QUALITY PROBABLY DERIVED FROM ITS COLORFUL POD PARENT, ARBITRATOR. THIS IRIS HAS BEEN ASSIGNED SEEDLING NUMBER 10-71.

SEEDLING # 10-71 IS ONE OF THE 1,700 (YES, 1,700) SPURIA SEEDLINGS WHICH IN 1971 WERE GROWING IN THE FIELDS OF THE CAPE IRIS GARDENS, CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI. DAVE NISWONGER, WHO IS THE PROPRIETOR OF THAT IRIS GARDEN, HYBRIDIZED ALL THOSE SEEDLINGS.

DAVE NISWONGER DOES NOT PLAN TO REGISTER OR INTRODUCE ANY OF HIS SPURIA SEEDLINGS FOR AT LEAST TWO MORE YEARS ; HE NEEDS THAT TIME TO OBSERVE AND EVALUATE THEIR PERFORMANCE IN VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTS , AND TO ELIMINATE ANY WHICH DEVELOP NOTABLE VIRUS SYMPTOMS, AND TO PROPAGATE THOSE WHICH ARE SELECTED FOR REGISTRATION.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE IRISES FROM MISSOURI IS INCLUDED ON PAGES 14 AND 15 OF THE APRIL 1971 ISSUE , AND ON PAGE 3 (THE COVER STORY) OF THIS ISSUE OF THE SPURIA NEWSLETTER .



SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY

SPURIA SECTION OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER-----VOLUME 16 # 52-----JANUARY, 1972

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OFFICERS OF THE SPURIA SOCIETY

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EDITOR	-BILL GUNTHER-----	740 CREST ROAD, DEL MAR, CALIFORNIA	92014
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AIS BULLETIN REP.	-ILA CRAWFORD-----	RFD # 2, Box #35, PURCELL, OKLAHOMA	73080

SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY INFORMATION

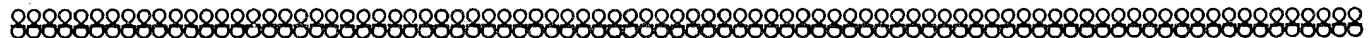
MEMBERSHIP: A SECTION OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY UNDER APPROVED BY-LAWS.
AMERICAN MEMBERS OF SIS MUST BE MEMBERS OF AIS.

DUES:

ANNUAL:	INDIVIDUAL \$2.00	FAMILY \$2.50
TRIENNIAL:	INDIVIDUAL \$5.00	FAMILY \$6.00
SUPPORTING ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP	\$3.00	
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP	\$30.00	

NOTICES OF DUES PAYABLE ARE INCLUDED WITH AIS DUES NOTICES.
PLEASE PAY SPURIA SOCIETY DUES TO AIS ALONG WITH AIS DUES.
PLEASE INFORM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN OF CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

NEWSLETTER: PUBLISHED QUARTERLY: JULY, OCTOBER, JANUARY, AND APRIL.
ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT MATERIAL FOR THE NEWSLETTER
TO THE EDITOR; IF POSSIBLE IT SHOULD BE TYPED AND DOUBLED SPACED.



Cape Iris Gardens

DAVE NISWONGER - hybridizer & grower
822 Rodney Vista Boulevard
Cape Girardeau, Missouri 63701
Telephone 314-334-3383

Dear Friends,

The 1971 spuria season here was busy, exciting, and even dazzling. Every day dozens and dozens of the 1,700 spuria seedlings were bursting into their first bloom. Each of them had to be seen.

Because the first bloom tells only a part of the story, there was no real attempt in 1971 either to weed out many or to make many selections for assignment of seedling numbers. Those which were obviously inferior were dug up and discarded; this accounted for only a few hundred of the total. Only thirteen were considered sufficiently notable to merit assignment of seedling numbers on the basis of their first bloom. Of these, seedlings # 10-71 and # 1-71 were my favorites, and both of them were out of ARBITRATOR. They bloomed from one-year-old seedlings, so I will have no idea until the 1972 bloom season how good or bad they might be in such criteria as branching and bud count.

I lost a number of seedlings from the "winter kill" we had in the Midwest this last spring; I was surprised that it affected the spuria seedlings. All seedlings from *Iris crocea* and *Iris musulmanica* crosses (about 25 in all) were killed. Would this be an indication that those two species are particularly tender--or, should I say, "Can't they take the winter?"

After subtracting from the 1971 inventory that number which was selected out, and that number which was frozen out, and after adding to the result those new seedlings which will bloom for the first time in 1972, it appears that there will be about 1,250 spuria seedlings in bloom in the Cape Iris Gardens to evaluate during the 1972 season.

If you are in this area during June 1972, please stop by and help me make selections.


Dave Niswonger



Above: Rows of young spurias at Cape Iris Gardens.
Right: Seedling # 6-71; a bright yellow self from
BARITONE (a brown) X FIREPLACE (red-purple)

TYCOON'S GOLD RASPBERRY RIPPLES 3 LILAC TREAT GRANDMA'S SPRINGDRESS AND MORE

SEEDS FOR YOUR GARDEN - - - OF 14 DIFFERENT SPURIA SPECIES .

The AIS Seed Exchange List for the 1971 seed harvest has been distributed. For benefit of the Spuria Iris Society members who did not request that list, the spuria species which are included are listed below with relevant seed-lot numbers.

Ordinarily, each packet of spuria species (and hybrid) seeds will contain at least twenty seeds. The price is 25¢ per packet or five packets for a dollar, postpaid. All orders, with remittance, complete name and address of customer, seed-lot numbers as well as species or cultivar names, should be addressed to the AIS Seed Exchange Director, Mrs. J. A. Witt, 16516 25th N.E., Seattle, Washington 98155, USA

71M043--carthalinae
 71M228--aff. carthaliniae
 71M081--colchica
 71M122--crocea
 71M219--crocea, Hanselmeyer
 71M229--aurea (=crocea)
 71M080--graminea
 71M121--graminea
 71M232--graminea
 71M046--halophila P. I. 212308
 71M230--kerneriana
 71M044--musulmanica
 71M092--notha, distinct from halophila
 71M089--pseudocyperus ex Cluj
 71M115--sintenisii constantinopoliana Prodan
 71M091--sintenisii ex Plovdiv
 71M116--sintenisii
 71M090--sintenisii ssp. urumovii ex Cluj
 71M117--urumovii

Seeds listed in this column are hybrids rather than species. The given cultivar name is that of the pod parent, but the progeny which come from them will differ from the pod parent and should never be given the name of the pod parent. (But they may be labeled "Seedling of (name of pod parent)!" These seeds should be particularly valuable to SIS members who live in those foreign countries in which import regulations restrict importation of rhizomes of modern spuria cultivars.

71M177--Dawn Candle
 71M178--Driftwood
 71M180--Fairfield
 71M188--Frost
 71M175--Orange Maid
 71M187--Plenty of Sunshine
 71M185--Ruffled Moth
 71M184--Thrush Song
 71M186--Windfall

The following list is made up of the supply from the 1970 seed harvest and are being offered this year at 20¢ per packet, or 6 for a dollar. Iris seed keep well and normal germination could be expected from these seeds.

M176--graminea
 M159--ochroleuca
 M030--kerneriana
 M242--halophila
 M012--subbarbata
 M120--ochroleuca

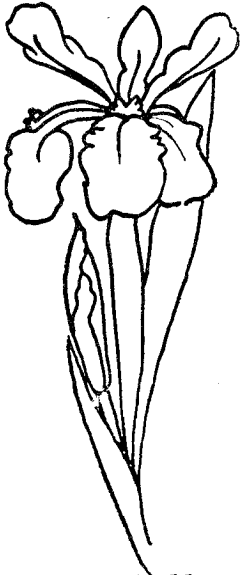
M156--graminea
 M247--musulmanica
 M249--monnieri:
 M251--crocea
 M150--halophila

For Spuria Society members who also are interested in other types of irises, Mrs Witt offers to send a complete 1971 AIS Seed Exchange List, free of charge, to anyone who sends her a large ("business sized") self-addressed pre-stamped mailing envelope, together with a signed note stating that the request is in accordance with the offer on page of the January 1972 issue of the Spuria Newsletter.

(Editor's note: Mrs. Witt has requested that, in return for making these seeds available to the SIS members, a plea be made for YOUR spuria seeds of 1972. She says, "Bee pod seed, especially of recent cultivars, is most acceptable as are seeds of the various spuria species. Hand pollinated crosses would be GREAT!!")

SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY

SPURIA SECTION OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



JANUARY 1972

Dear Fellow Members:

A new calender year is here. We can now begin again to make those resolutions of intent. We look back in retrospect to those things accomplished; we look forward to the opportunity of further accomplishments. We hope this year may be a happy and prosperous one for each of you.

We have had a hard working group of members these past months. The By-Laws Committee has reviewed and rewritten the By-Laws. The revised edition is printed in this issue of the Spuria Newsletter for your consideration. Many thanks are due to the committee composed of Ila Nunn, Marion Walker, and James La Master, Chairman.

The Nomination and Election Committee has also been at work. They have a group of candidates for your approval to be presented in this issue of the Newsletter. We are most grateful for their wisdom in selecting a group of such worthy candidates. The committee was under the able direction of Ila Crawford; the other members were Marilyn Holloway, Perry Parrish, and Art Day.

Bryce Williamson, our Slides Committee Chairman, is anxious to revise the slide collection. If you have slides of recent spuria introductions that can be duplicated, or some you would be willing to donate to the society, contact Bryce at P. O. Box 972, Campbell, California 95008.

We are planning the program for the annual meeting which will be held in May during the AIS Convention in Portland, Oregon. If you have suggestions for the program, let me hear from you.

If your AIS dues are payable this month, do not forget to send your Spuria Iris Society dues along with them. We would not like you to be deleted from our membership roster.

Remember to keep those spurias growing for better blooms this coming season. Neglecting the spuria beds during the early growing months will result in blossoms of inferior quality and fewer bloomstalks.

Best wishes for the coming year,

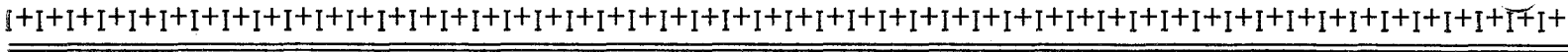
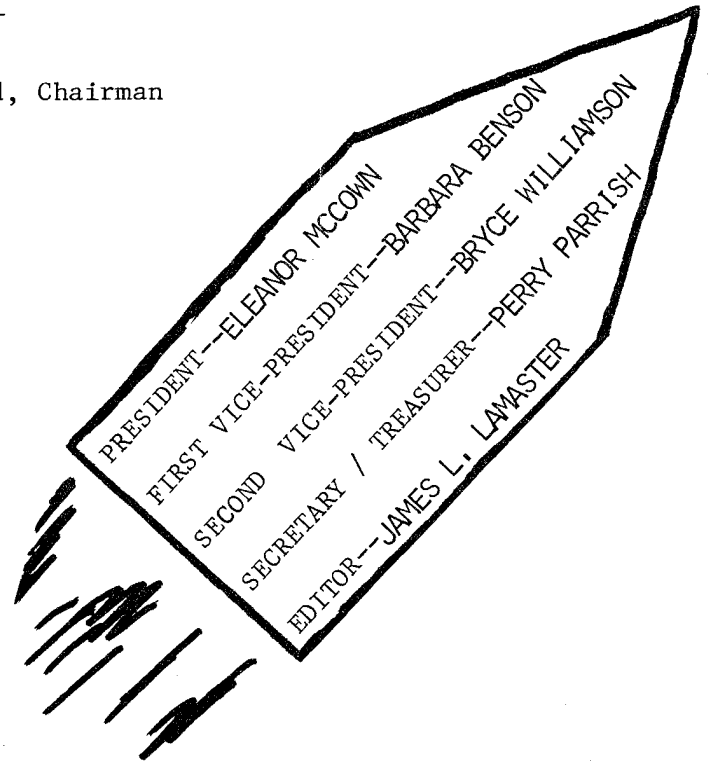
Archie Owen

Archie Owen, President

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

by Ila Crawford, Chairman

The Nominating Committee has unanimously confirmed the following slate of nominees for the offices indicated. With the presentation of this slate, we have completed our assignment, but we would like to take this opportunity to pledge our support to these nominees and to ask the membership to join us in giving this group a grand BLAST OFF. 10--9--8--7--6--5--4--3--2--1



Herewith is submitted to the membership a revision of the society's By-Laws. This draft will become effective three months after publication unless within that three month period five members in good standing have notified the President of the society that they desire that the By-Laws be ratified by a vote of the society membership.

BY-LAWS OF THE SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY

Spuria Section of the American Iris Society

January 1972

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Spuria Iris Society, Spuria Section of the American Iris Society.

ARTICLE II: OBJECT

The object of the society shall be to promote interest in the growing of and the development of the spuria iris; to identify varieties and to eliminate duplication in nomenclature; to maintain a complete list of registered varieties and species; to publish information and data; to support research of a scientific and horticultural nature; to encourage the development and maintenance of Display Gardens for spurias.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1. Various memberships shall consist of: Individual, Family, Supporting Annual, Life, and Honorary. Membership in the American Iris Society is a prerequisite for all United States residents.

Section 2. A scale of the dues:

ANNUAL:	INDIVIDUAL	\$2.00	FAMILY	\$2.50
TRIENNIAL:	INDIVIDUAL	\$5.00	FAMILY	\$6.00
SUPPORTING ANNUAL:			\$ 3.00	
LIFE:			\$30.00	
HONORARY LIFE			NO DUES	

Section 3. Honorary life memberships may be created by the Executive Committee for those individuals who have made outstanding contributions in furthering the objectives of the society.

ARTICLE IV: ELECTED OFFICERS

Section 1. The elected officers of this society shall be a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Secretary-Treasurer, and an Editor.

Section 2. Officers shall be elected biennially and shall take office on July 1 of the election year. (To be effective 1972)

Section 3. Duties of officers:

- A. The President shall preside at all meetings of the society and of the Executive Committee, and shall make all appointments and generally perform such duties as pertain to the office. The President shall be ex officio a member of all committees except the Nomination and Election Committee.
- B. The First Vice-President, in the absence of the President, shall perform all duties of that office, and shall be the President-Elect. The First Vice-President shall also serve as Program Chairman for the Annual Meeting.
- C. The Second Vice-President, in the absence of the President and the First Vice-President, shall perform all the duties of those offices. The Second Vice-President shall also serve as Chairman of the Publicity Committee.
- D. The Secretary-Treasurer shall conduct the correspondence of the society except as otherwise provided, keep the roll, record minutes of business meetings, send out notices of meetings, have charge of the funds and be responsible for collection of dues. He shall make all disbursements authorized by the President or the Executive Committee and shall make an annual report to the Executive Committee and an annual statement to the society by means of publication of that report in the Spuria Newsletter.
- E. The Editor shall have charge of the publications of the society, which shall include four newsletters per year, issued in January, April, July, and October. Editorship shall begin in the election year with the July issue.
- F. The Immediate Past President shall be the liaison between the past Executive Committee and the newly elected Executive Committee.

ARTICLE V: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The elected officers of the society together with the Immediate Past President shall constitute the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to manage the affairs of the society and to make all decisions including financial, excepting as otherwise provided.

Section 3. Vacancies occurring in the Executive Committee shall be filled by the President with consent of the Executive Committee.

Section 4. The Executive Committee may designate Honorary Memberships.

Section 5. Decisions shall be made by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Section 6. Except at the Annual Meeting the business of the Executive Committee shall be carried on through correspondence.

ARTICLE VI: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. A Nomination and Election Committee of five members, including one member from the Executive Committee who shall be the Chairman of the committee, shall be appointed by the President no later than September 1 of each year preceeding elections.

Section 2. The Nomination and Election Committee shall present a slate of officers to the membership in the January issue of the Spuria Newsletter on each election year. This slate, unless the members desire to make further nominations, shall be the officers for the ensuing term, without balloting. However, should the members make further nominations not later than February 15, there will be a voting ballot mailed to the membership. To make a further nomination, one must obtain the signatures of five members in good standing as endorsement and mail the nomination to the Chairman of the Nominations and Elections Committee. The committee shall thereupon arrange immediately for an election by mail ballot. The ballots to be counted must be returned to the Nominations and Elections Chairman not later than May 15.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

Section 1. There shall be one regular meeting of the society per year to be held at the Annual Meeting of the American Iris Society, for the discussion of business and to receive the reports of the Standing Committees.

Section 2. Informal meetings shall be held each year at the peak of bloom at the Display Gardens.

Section 3. Special meetings may be called by the President, or upon request of one third of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII: STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. There shall be the following Standing Committees: Display Garden, Library, Publications, Membership, Publicity, and Ways and Means.

Section 2. The Display Garden Committee will include all the Chairmen of the various Display Gardens. They are responsible for the plantings and maintenance of the Gardens, for the affairs of the gardens, for the annual informal meetings, and for records of the cultivars, species, and guests in the plantings. Chairmanship of this Committee shall be an appointed office.

Section 3. The Publications Committee shall consist of the Editor as Chairman and such members as he deems necessary to assist him in his work.

Section 4. The Membership Committee shall welcome new members to the society and shall direct an active campaign to increase membership; chairmanship to be appointed.

Section 5. The Publicity Committee shall carry on a program to acquaint the general public with the existence, purposes, activities and accomplishments of the society. The chairman of this committee shall serve as AIS Bulletin Representative.

Section 6. The Ways and Means Committee shall promulgate and activate ways and means of raising money needed by the society, over and above the regular receipts of dues, and for such projects as the society shall sponsor. Chairmanship to be appointed.

Section 7. The Library Committee shall catalog the historical data of the society and shall collect and maintain as much information of a scientific, horticultural and general nature about the spuria iris as is possible to assemble. This committee shall also encourage the collection of color slides and black and white photographs of reprintable size and quality and shall distribute these on a loan basis. A complete check list of registered spurias shall also be maintained by this committee.

Section 8. The Chairmen of the various standing committees shall report directly to the President in such a manner as shall be designated.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

Any proposed amendment to these By-Laws which has the approval of a majority of the Executive Committee will be submitted to the membership by publication in the Spuria Newsletter. Any such proposed amendment will become effective three months after publication unless within that three month period five members in good standing have notified the President of the society that they desire a vote on the proposed amendment. Any proposed amendment brought to a vote will be ratified if approved by a majority of votes cast.

THE SPURIA SOCIETY SLIDE SET

(AND A FOOTNOTE)

by Bryce Williamson

The time is over-due for me to report to the membership about the Spuria Society slide set. The slide set is in the following condition: I have spent part of Christmas vacation recutting the set and adding new items to the set. The purpose has been to up-date and renovate the condition of the slides.

I welcome and solicit requests from members of the Society for temporary loan of the slide set for showing at iris meetings. Your requests should be sent with as much lead time as possible prior to the date of prospective showing, because requests involving conflict of dates will be resolved in favor of that request which was received earliest. Lead time also is essential to permit me to let you know in advance whether the slide set will be available to you for the date you request, and to permit sending the set to you in time so that your presentation can be properly prepared and rehearsed before the meeting date. The slides will be sent to you by first class mail, and they should be returned to me by first class mail promptly after the scheduled date of showing.

The Society always appreciates receiving new and better slides for use in improving the set. Celeste Hamner, of Perris, California, has been most generous during the last few years in contributing the bulk of the new slides which have been added. Ben Hager and Sid DuBose, of Melrose Gardens, also provided some very fine new slides last year. If you have some slides which you think might help to improve the set, please send them to me for review. Those selected for the set will be duplicated, and all your originals will be returned to you promptly. The Society has funded \$25.00 to the Slides Committee for the purpose of duplicating slides and renovating the set.

Requests for use of the slide set, and all slides submitted for possible use in the set, should be addressed to me:

*Bryce Williamson
Post Office Box 972
Campbell, California 95008*

While I am at the typewriter, I think that I should provide a footnote to my comments about virus which appeared on page 14 of the October 1971 issue of the Spuria Newsletter. Those comments were transcribed from a talk which I made during the September 1971 meeting of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society. After that meeting, Jim Watkins, of that society, told me about recent research which has proved that aphids do spread virus infection. Accordingly, my doubts in that regard were not valid. However, I still find that the point of heat and cold and its relationship to the spread of virus infection is open to debate. But the most important point - I hope that it was clear from the speech - was to emphasize how little we really know about virus. Many of our spurias are virus diseased, but we don't know what to do about the problem. We should be directing ourselves toward a solution.

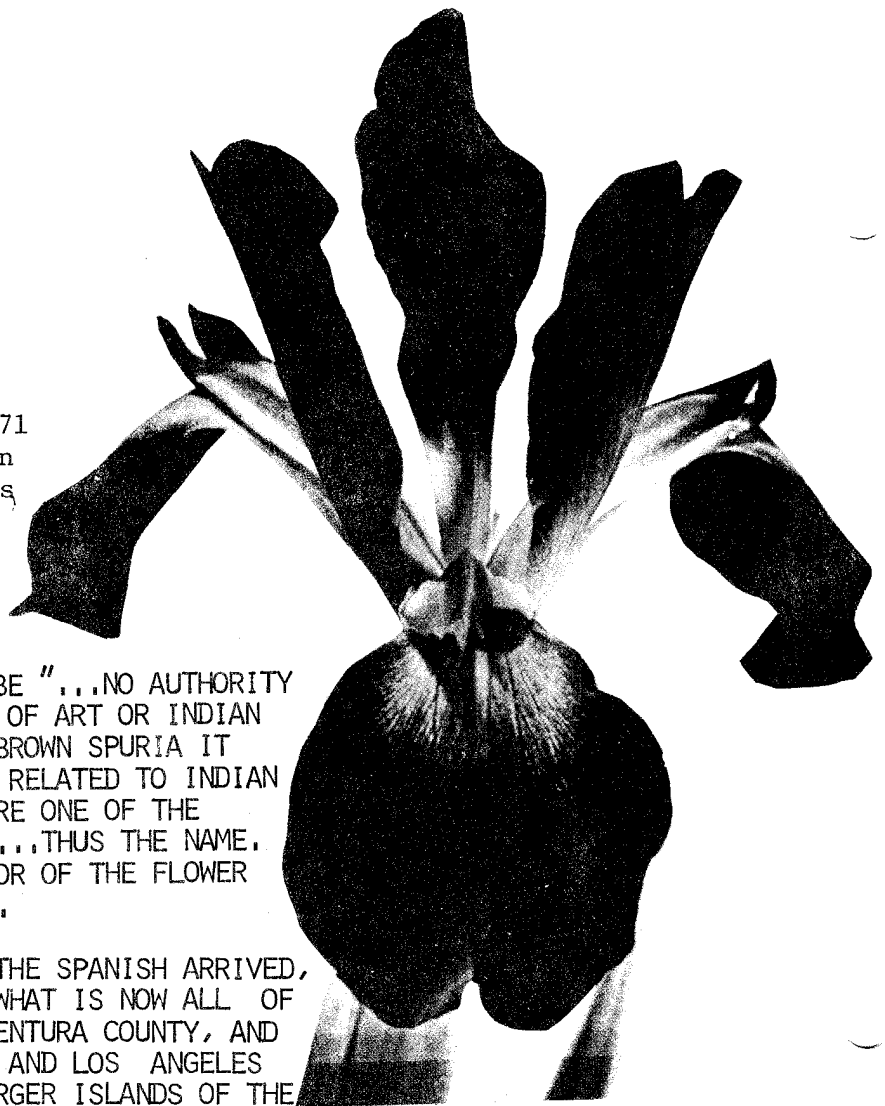
Bryce

WHAT'S IN A NAME

by

August Phillips

(Reprinted from the November 1971 issue of "IRIS NOTES"--Bulletin of the Southern California Iris Society.)



THOUGH MARION WALKER CLAIMS TO BE "...NO AUTHORITY ON INDIANS, EITHER IN THE FIELD OF ART OR INDIAN LORE", WHENEVER HE GETS A GOOD BROWN SPURIA IT ALWAYS REMINDS HIM OF SOMETHING RELATED TO INDIAN CULTURE. SINCE VENTURA WAS WHERE ONE OF THE MAJOR CHUMASH TRIBES LIVED.....THUS THE NAME. THE ERECT STANDARDS AND THE COLOR OF THE FLOWER REMINDED HIM OF AN INDIAN CHIEF.

CHUMASH INDIANS WERE HERE WHEN THE SPANISH ARRIVED, OCTOBER 10, 1542, AND OCCUPIED WHAT IS NOW ALL OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, MOST OF VENTURA COUNTY, AND PARTS OF SAN LUIS OBISPO, KERN, AND LOS ANGELES COUNTIES. THEY LIVED ON THE LARGER ISLANDS OF THE SANTA BARBARA ARCHIPELAGO, THE CHUMASH CLUSTERED THICKLY ALONG THE CALM SHORE FROM MALIBU CANYON WESTWARD TO POINT CONCEPTION. HERE THEY HAD ABUNDANT FOOD OF SEA MAMMALS, THIS, TOGETHER WITH THE INFINITE VARIETY OF FISH AND CRUSTACEA IN THE CHANNEL, PROVIDED AN INEXHAUSTABLE FOOD SUPPLY FOR THE FIRST CALIFORNIANS.

OF ALL THE CALIFORNIA INDIAN TRIBES THE CHUMASH WERE THE MOST INTERESTING. THESE INDIANS MADE LARGE CANOES AND COVERED THEM WITH PITCH FROM SPRINGS NEAR CARPENTERIA VALLEY. THIS PITCH WAS USED IN THE MAKING OF BASKETS, WATER BOTTLES, AND OTHER UTENSILS. THERE WERE EIGHTY KNOWN CAVES AND ROCKS WHERE THE CHUMASH ART WORK WAS FOUND. PAINTINGS RANGE IN SIZE FROM A FEW FEET TO MORE THAN FORTY FEET IN LENGTH, AND IN TECHNIQUE FROM SIMPLE LINE DRAWINGS IN RED TO COMPLEX POLYCHROME DESIGNS.

ONE INTERESTING SIDELIGHTS RELATIVE TO THE NAMING OF THE SPURIA WAS THAT BETWEEN THE TIME WHEN MARION WALKER SENT THE ORIGINAL NAME TO BOB SCHREINER AND THE TIME THAT SCHREINER FORWARDED IT TO ART NELSON, THE SPELLING WAS CHANGED. BOB GAVE IT THE GERMAN SCHMALTZ AND LISTED IT AS CHUMASCH CHIEF. ART PICKED THIS SPELLING UP FROM BOB INSTEAD OF REGISTERING IT ACCORDING TO WALKER'S SPELLING. AS A RESULT THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION HAS IT "CHUMASCH CHIEF".

WHATEVER THE SPELLING, IT IS THE DARKEST VELVETY, CHOCOLATE BROWN OF PRESENT SPURIA IRISES. IT HAS A GOOD SIZED FLOWER, BUT THE DEEP CHOCOLATE COLORING IS THE DRAWING POINT. IN MY GARDEN THIS PLANT IS A HEALTHY GROWER, INCREASES WELL, AND IS ONE OF THE TOP BLOOMERS. IF ALL THE JUDGES GREW OR SAW THIS SPURIA CULTIVAR, IT WOULD RECEIVE THE ERIC NIES AWARD.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Membership data intentionally redacted

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

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MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

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MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

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Who Was Claude Monet?

Claude Monet was a French landscape painter who was one of the founders of the style of art known as "impressionism."

He was born Nov. 14, 1840, in Paris. When Monet was 15 he held an exhibition of his pictures. Another painter saw them and urged Monet to take his materials outdoors to paint. Monet continued this practice throughout his life.

Monet joined the Army and went to Algeria, but he returned to Paris two years later. In Paris he met many other promising young artists, with whom he exhibited in 1874. The critics did not like their work and made fun of these "impressionists." The term was taken from the title of Monet's landscape, "Sunrise, an Impression."

Monet and other impressionists placed unmixed colors side by side on their canvases. They were trying to show how light affects objects, and each spot of paint was meant to represent a ray of pure light.

To show how light could completely change the appearance of an object, Monet painted the same scene at different times of the day and year. For example, he painted the Rouen Cathedral 20 times! Sometimes he did it in the middle of the day, sometimes at dawn of a misty summer day, sometimes at sunset on a winter day.

Monet did not become famous or earn much money until he was more than 50 years old. Then the French government bought eight of Monet's paintings of water lilies.

Although his eyesight began to fail, Monet painted until his death Dec. 5, 1926.

* * *



This reproduction is of Monet's #724, "Yellow iris with a pink cloud"; it was painted about 1903. The subject for this painting was indeed a spuria and most probably it was *Iris monnieri*. De Candolle, Monet's contemporary, had described *Iris monnieri* in 1808, and it is most logical that the avid French gardeners had distributed this pleasant spuria over much of their homeland by 1900.

Life's Like That

A lost cause?

by Bob Mac Donald

Like Ferdinand the Bull, who liked flowers better than bullfights, Walker Ferguson likes his blossoms more than he likes life's constant hassles.

Walker Ferguson is 85 years old.

He lives in a little house he bought 22 years ago on an acre and a half of ground, where he could grow his world-famed irises. The house, a simple rectangular wooden structure, is a former barracks from one of the military installations in the San Diego area which was moved to its present location at 1160 N. Broadway shortly after World War II.

Ferguson, who has lost the sight of one eye and has had several operations for a cataract on the other, cross-breeds iris on a small part of his land, which in recent months has found itself next door to a new apartment complex.

Taxes jumped

Apparently this geographical accident has proved less than a boon to Ferguson, for his taxes jumped 149 per cent in 1971 over 1970. From \$398.54 in 1970, to \$974.44 in 1971.

When I asked him why he didn't appeal the rise in taxes, which he is permitted to do under the law, he replied that in the first place he didn't know how to go about it, and in the second place, "How would I get to San Diego? I cannot drive a car."

Max Belovich, assistant to the county tax assessor, told me he sympathized with Ferguson, but that the method which is used to assess properties in the county is inexorable.

"In our scheme of assessment, it doesn't matter whether a man is living on social security or is a millionaire. The method of assessing Mr. Ferguson's taxes are the same as the method used in determining the assessment on anyone else's."

Ferguson bought the land 22 years ago, and the barracks-like house was on it then. He has made no changes in the property, except to cultivate a couple of hundred square feet of the land for growing his irises. On the walls of his unpretentious house, there are several plaques awarded by the American Iris Association for prize-winners.

He got started with the irises "about 20 years ago." He just started "fooling around" with them. When he managed to cross-breed some of them (he does it by spreading pollen with his fingers), he entered them in competition and began to win prizes. So far, he has cross-pollinated some 35 new blossoms and is experimenting with many more.

He gets letters from all over asking for plantings, for which he gets a modest fee. He recently made a shipment of some, which are referred to as "rhizomes," as far away as Africa.

Born in Mankato, Minn., Ferguson came to Valley Center in 1930 and settled there. It was a rough time for him, for his wife died that winter. He moved to Escondido in 1949 and bought the property he now lives on.

How did he get started in the iris field?

"Well, I'm just an old hick farmer, to begin with. I started fooling around, and found that the earth here is perfect for them. Also, the weather is just about right. After planting, they need a little cold weather. A frost or two is fine along the way."

He showed me some of the hybrids he has perfected. I pointed to a small shoot of an iris that was sticking up out of the ground a distance away.

"Oh, that's just one that got away. It's no good." I told him it looked good to me, as it was nice and green. He chuckled. "That doesn't mean anything." He pulled it up and gave it to me. I spent the rest of the time with him carrying the plant, roots bare. (Later, I planted it in my small back yard.)

"Well, what are you going to do about your taxes?" I asked him.

He pursed his lips, poked around in the ground with the shovel he was toting and thought it over, hitching his overalls.

Might sell

"I'll get ahold of the money and pay them," he said. He waved the shovel at that old white house and added "Maybe they'll force me to sell the place."

"I don't want to sell it. I just want to stay here and take it easy. I just want to stay here and croak." And he laughed.

We walked to his mailbox and he pulled out some envelopes.

"This one here is from a woman lawyer down in Texas. She buys iris rhizomes (he calls them "rizzums") from me. She's a lawyer, and so is her husband. She lost her father a couple of years ago, and she's sort of taken me for her father. She told me in a letter that those taxes of mine went up 149 per cent."

That's what my arithmetic comes up with, too, dad. And since by coincidence today is your 85th birthday, many happy returns.



AUGUST AND NOVEMBER

THE SPURIA STALK PICTURED AT RIGHT HAS SEVEN BLOSSOMS OPEN, AND THE SPACING OF THOSE BLOSSOMS ON THE STALK IS EXCELLENT. BUT THOSE TWO EXCELLENT QUALITIES ARE NOT THE REALLY BIG THING ABOUT THIS SPURIA.

THE REALLY BIG THING ABOUT THIS SPURIA IS THAT IT REBLOOMED TWICE DURING 1971.

THIS SPURIA IS WALKER FERGUSON'S SEEDLING NUMBER 11-19-71. PARENTAGE IS *Iris halophila alba* X BLUE ACRES. IT FIRST REBLOOMED DURING AUGUST 1971, AND IT WAS DURING THAT MONTH WHEN THIS STALK, WITH SEVEN BLOSSOMS OPEN, WAS PHOTOGRAPHED. ALSO DURING AUGUST, THIS IRIS WAS JUDGED IN THE GARDEN BY FIVE AIS JUDGES: THESE INCLUDED ARCHIE OWEN AND WALKER FERGUSON. A PHOTOGRAPH OF THEM AND OF THE IRIS, TAKEN AT THAT TIME, APPEARS ABOVE LEFT. VERY UNDERSTANDABLY, THERE IS REASON TO ANTICIPATE THAT THE AIS HIGH COMMENDATION AWARD WILL GO TO SEEDLING 11-19-71 AT THE TIME OF THE NEXT JUDGES BALLOT.

THREE MONTHS LATER, IN NOVEMBER 1971, THE SAME CLUMP WHICH REBLOOMED IN AUGUST REBLOOMED AGAIN.

A STALK OF THAT SECOND REBLOOM WAS ENTERED IN THE SEEDLING CLASS OF SAN DIEGO'S FALL IRIS SHOW: THE DATE OF THAT SHOW WAS NOVEMBER 1971. IT WAS THE ONLY SPURIA IN THE SHOW, AND AT THAT SHOW IT WAS VOTED AN AIS EXHIBITION CERTIFICATE.

SEEDLING 11-19-71 HAS A WHITE BLOSSOM WITH A VERY UNUSUALLY SMALL YELLOW SIGNAL. THE FALLS FLARE WELL, BUT THEY SHOW THEIR SPECIES PARENTAGE BY THEIR LANKINESS. WALKER FERGUSON MADE THE CROSS OF *Iris halophila alba* X BLUE ACRES AS PART OF HIS QUEST FOR A SPURIA WITH A WHITE BLOSSOM WITHOUT A YELLOW SIGNAL. HIS GOAL (COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF THE YELLOW SIGNAL) HAS NOT YET BEEN REACHED, BUT IF BY ACCIDENT HIS EFFORTS HAVE BROUGHT FORTH A SPURIA WHICH WILL REBLOOM RELIABLY, THEN HIS QUEST REALLY WAS FAR MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN HAD HE REALIZED HIS HOPED-FOR GOAL.

Official Bulletin

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MARCH 1971.

IRIS SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

HOW TO ENJOY YOUR L.S.D. by John Adan

Hold it! Don't grab that telephone I would hate my iris patch in Parktown in Johannesburg to be flattened by the flat feet of the Vice Squad. Keep calm. This is not a follow up on the drug menace exposed by Alf Widman and the "Rand Daily Mail". It only deals with;

LOUISIANAS, SPURIAS, AND DAWGS

SOUTH African gardeners led, no doubt, by our horticultural journalists, still think of the Iris as being limited to the Tall Bearded Iris! The Iris Society of Southern Africa (now in existence for some 18 years) has tried to get the message over that by growing the Iris species you can have irises for most of the year.

Take, for instance, the Louisianas.. Many South Africans have the idea that Louisiana Irises must be planted in a bog or a pond but this is a mistake. The Louisiana will grow and do well in any flower garden that grows other perennials well. Remember that the Louisiana loves organic material and moisture but these in South Africa can be provided relatively easily.

If you will prepare your flower bed early in spring or latish autumn (in the Highveld) using peat moss and mushroom compost spaded in thoroughly together with a good commercial fertilizer you should have some good Louisianas. In November and December (when the Louisiana are usually for sale) you should receive the Louisianas which you no doubt had ordered at the Iris shows. The first thing to do is place the rhizomes in the bed you have prepared so that the terminal shoots face the way in which you want them to grow.

And now on to the spurias. This iris series has been sadly neglected in South Africa and is restricted to such old types as I. OCHROLEUCA and I. CROCEA (Syn. AUREA). During the past two decades there has been a great resurgence in the development of the Spuria group.

The Spurias are found wild only in Europe and Asia and for the most part are moisture and swamp loving plants and most of the modern hybrids dislike lime. Whereas the Tall Bearded cannot be grown with dependable success at the coast or in the humid regions of Southern Africa, the modern day Spuria hybrids have proved a great success.

The Spurias usually bloom after the first flush of the Tall Bearded here in Johannesburg and usually coincide with the late bloomers of the bearded iris. The new hybrid Spurias respond well to the use of any organic manure and I have also found that a top dressing of super-phosphate in late Autumn is a wonderful tonic.

The modern large Spurias are noble plants, whether in or out of flower, and established clumps of them add both character and dignity to the look of the border. On their own in dappled shade of a tree makes mid Spring an unforgettable remembrance. The Spurias, both here and in America, are popular as corsage flowers, as not only have they a decorative value equal to orchids but keep excellently when made up into sprays, etc.

It is a pity that the fabulous new Spuria ARCHIE OWEN (unless we can beat sanctions) will not be seen here as according to Dr. Arthur Nelson, Editor of the Bulletin of the American Iris Society, "this Iris Set Spurias ahead ten years". According to the latest Bulletin of A.I.S. the branching is excellent and colour, gold yellow self, is clear and brilliant. The falls are very broad and the standards smaller and not erect, but flow with the falls, which adds beauty to the flower. Among others mentioned that had my mouth watering were:

DAWN CANDLE: A bicolour - standards off white and falls a light yellow.
(Eric Nies Award 1968)

BARITONE. A beautiful clean red - brown.
(Eric Nies Award 1970)

Amongst the others mentioned in the article was an old friend of ours, WHITE HERON (Eric Nies Award 1958). It is still considered the most dependable white. It is called white, but it retains the yellow signal typical of the spuria.

So my South African Spuria enthusiasts it is up to you to beat the ban somehow or other and I call on all our back yard hybridizers to expand their activities in the Spuria and Louisiana sections. With limited new stock this will take time (which is unfortunate) but take note that a South African bred Louisiana seedling was the best Louisiana Iris on the ISSA all Iris Show in October, 1970!

And finally a short note on the D in L.S.D. This refers specifically to your own pooch or that of your neighbours who can play havoc in your Iris patch. You may for 11 months of the year love what is called Man's best friend! However, come the time when your superb Iris spikes are awaiting transport to the Iris Show. You had a look at them prior to departing to the office. On your return that evening disaster has struck. Your Iris patch is reduced to pulp as if cyclone "Felicity" had moved up from Mozambique. It was only, of course, those Dawgs; Fred Basset, Tiger Tim and others who had a field day in your absence.

REMEDY: SPRINKLE LION MANURE all around your patch but NOT on top of the rhizomes.

It is guaranteed by our Own Farmers Weekly, but as yet not tried by your correspondent who owns a Sidney Basset whose huge paws crush plants with impunity. Sidney Basset does not know what awaits him and his pals come October 1971.

Good gardening.

John Adan

the GARDENING *way*

The gardener who has a plot of his own and enjoys working in it has an excellent foundation for mental health. He is more than likely to be the kind of person psychologists describe as "well-adjusted," a person who does his job well, solves the problems of living without undue worry, and enjoys his family and friends as well as his garden. Still, considering how gardening contributes to his well-being may help him enjoy it even more. And it may strengthen him to meet an unusual strain or crisis.

The first rule of mental hygiene is to keep in the best possible physical condition. This demands proper

"The gardener is well above the hunter on the evolutionary ladder."

food, exercise, and rest, all within easy reach of the thoughtful gardener.

Granted the resources of the supermarket, the gardener may decide that he does not need to grow his own fruits and vegetables to maintain a balanced diet. But just thinking about sun-ripened tomatoes, corn popped into the kettle before it starts to lose its sugar content—about five minutes—and blueberries that are neither green nor squishy may make him change

his mind. Growing at least some of one's own food satisfies an age-old human urge to be free from the animal's dependence on chance. The gardener is well above the hunter on the evolutionary ladder.

One of the handicaps of modern living is that the cycle of exercise and rest is not balanced: it bumps along like an oval wheel. White collar workers and executives suf-

"Emotional health depends on the satisfaction of certain needs . . ."

fer from an acute hazard here—five sedentary days followed by two heart-wearing sessions of golf or tennis.

The week-end gardener can, if he will, arrange matters better. He can limit his plot to one he can cultivate in a morning, and he can switch from energy-consuming jobs like spading to sit-down jobs like weeding. And he can quit when he is tired—there is no pressure of competition, no fear of letting down a partner.

Even better, though still subject to limitations of time and strength, is an every-day-in-the-week schedule. One hale-and-heartily septuagenarian gives his recipe for a good life. "I garden for an hour before breakfast every morning—outdoors

when I can, in rainy weather and winter in my porch greenhouse. I still go to the office for a long day but I get home for a half-hour visit in the garden. No work then, just enjoy myself looking and relaxing."

Incidentally, a surprising number of gardeners have lived and labored to a ripe old age. That old Roman, Varro, wrote his book "On Agriculture" at 80. Linnaeus lived to be 71. LeNotre, the designer of Versailles, lived to be 87. More modern patriarchs of gardening include Peter Henderson (68), Frederick Law Olmstead (81), and Luther Burbank (77).

Emotional health depends on the satisfaction of certain needs just as much as physical health depends on good nutrition. Psychologists continue to draw up endless lists of emotional needs, but one of the simplest is a good guide for gardeners. Everyone needs love, a sense of

"The first rule of mental hygiene is to keep in the best possible physical condition."

competence, a feeling of belonging to a group, and new experiences. Here are some pertinent anecdotes.

Love. "Frost threatened and I took a lantern to the garden. First, I picked the ripe tomatoes and the best of the roses. The ground began

to MENTAL HEALTH

By Norma E. Cutts, Ph. D., and Nicholas Moseley, Ph. D.

to whiten and I saw some tender leaves turning black. My heart sank. You know I love every leaf.



I watered everything and covered as many plants as I could. Next morning, more watering. Not another frost for a month, and the garden was at its best. You know, I think the flowers were saying 'We love you, too.'

Competence. "When life gets too much for me I escape to my garden. I feel at peace there. Sometimes I just sit on the bench and enjoy the tranquility. More often I start to weed. There's nothing like weeding to show quick results, to make one feel useful and competent."

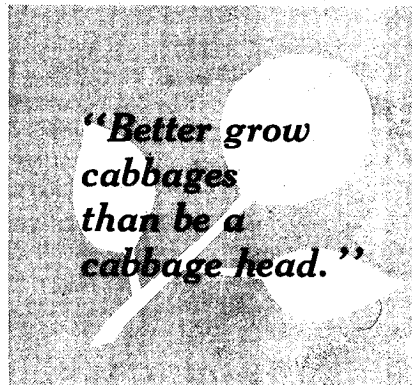
Group Membership. "Most of my best friends are gardeners. We understand each other and are always exchanging plants and seeds and flowers. When I'm with them I know I belong."

Recognition. "What I like most about gardening is the fresh flowers. I like them for themselves and alone, but I confess I get a fillip when visitors admire them in the garden or in the house. I give away a lot, and people make much of me. And I always exhibit at our

Club's flower shows: there's nothing like a blue ribbon to buck one up."

New Experience. "Old favorites are fine but lots of the fun in gardening comes from trying new things, some easy, some difficult. Seeds don't cost much, and watching a stranger germinate, grow, flower is a real adventure."

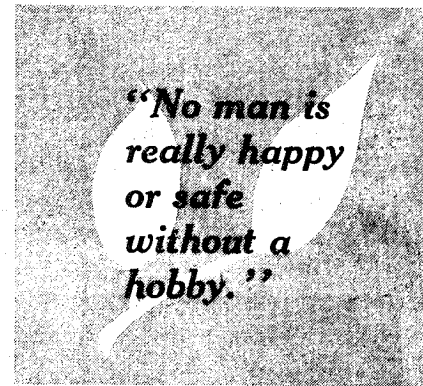
Mental activity is a necessary antidote to the stagnation which is a symptom of so much mental illness. There is a certain paradoxical wisdom in the sign in a garden store "Let your mind run to seed." One ready means is the study of new catalogues. Another is the use of garden manuals to improve one's skill. Garden-club lectures and university extension courses are stimulating and informing, and they have




the merit of keeping the learner up to a group standard. The ambitious gardener will study not only the methods but also basic subjects: botany, nomenclature, design and horticultural history. In brief, the gardener would better grow cabbages than be a cabbage head.

Gardening is an ideal way to follow the advice of two great men-

tal hygienists on how to achieve and maintain mental health. Dr. William Burnham in his book *The Wholesome Personality* said that three things are necessary for healthy living, "a task and a plan and freedom to carry them out." Sir William Osler, a famous teacher of medicine at Johns Hopkins and Oxford, wrote: "No man is really happy or safe without a hobby, and



it makes precious little difference what the outside interest may be—botany, beetles, or butterflies; roses, tulips, or irises; fishing, mountaineering, or antiquities—anything will do so long as he straddles a hobby and rides it hard."

Or digs it deep! 

In the fields of education and psychology, Drs. Cutts and Moseley are a well-known writing team, having authored at least seven books and innumerable articles together. Dr. Cutts, a specialist in clinical psychology, has long been active in teaching and school administration. Dr. Moseley has had a professional career in college teaching and administration.



Clarke Cosgrove, President, and Marilyn Holloway, Secretary-treasurer Spuria Iris Society (1965)

SPURIAS UNLIMITED

CLARKE COSGROVE

One of the oldest commercial varieties of irises that has been listed continuously for over seventy-five years is the spuria iris A. J. BALFOUR. This deep violet, medium sized flower, was introduced by Peter Barr of London in 1889. Two other Barr spurias that are still in commerce, LORD WOLSELY and PREMIER, are younger, having been introduced in 1899. This trio of violet spurias have graced gardens throughout the world since the turn of the century. PREMIER, with its vivid violet standards and falls with a white area veined and bordered with the same color, is still one of the most popular of all irises with flower arrangers.

The Barr Nursery was established in 1860 and its first iris listings were imported French varieties of tall bearded and other irises, including spurias. Within ten years Peter Barr was offering his own varieties which may have been raised from bee crosses, as were the earlier French varieties. The earliest known hand crosses for any type of iris were recorded in the 1890's. By this time the Barr catalogues were circulated widely and an amateur gardener in America imported the entire Barr collection of a hundred or more varieties.

This amateur gardener in Pennsylvania was Bertrand H. Farr, who gave up his music store to become the first serious iris hybridizer and grower in the United States. He raised many seedlings and selected for introduction many fine tall bearded varieties—some of which were offered at the exorbitant introductory price of seventy-five cents. Among his first introductions was a blue spuria variety, MRS. TART, that Farr listed in 1912.

Earlier in England the noted physician and professor of physiology at Cambridge, Sir Michael Foster, as a hobby had engaged in a scientific breeding program with irises. He had arranged with missionaries in all parts of the world to search out and send him new types of irises that were to be used in his extensive hybridizing program. Spuria hybrids as well as oncocyclus were grown and selected by Sir Michael Foster years before he had new species to introduce into the tall bearded line.

One of Foster's finest spuria hybrids from *Iris Monnieri* and *Iris Spuria* was named MONSPUR and was introduced in 1890. This iris became the ancestor of many modern spurias when Eric Nies crossed it onto *I. ochroleuca* and introduced the first brown toned spuria as BRONZSPUR.

Six years after the death of Sir Michael Foster in 1907, his SHELFORD GIANT was offered for sale and quickly became the criterion for judging spurias. This creamy white with a bright yellow signal on its falls was from a cross of *I. ochroleuca* by *Spuria Aurea* and remains a favorite with many gardeners. It is still listed by most commercial growers of spurias.

The valuable experimental hybridizing of Sir Michael was the foundation for the lines developed by other breeders with the tall bearded and oncocyclus as well as the spurias.

One of the pioneer iris growers and hybridizers in America came to Central California in 1864 and continued to specialize in growing irises as she had done in the East. Mrs. Jemina Branin bought her first spurias from Sir Michael Foster in the late 80's and early 90's and later from Peter Barr. She was growing the outstanding European varieties of bearded iris, *Iris susiana*, and *Iris spuria* before 1900 when she was presented with a gold medal for her irises. She died in 1943 at the age of ninety-seven.

The imported plants were used by Mrs. Branin to produce a number of spuria varieties that were introduced. Among these introductions were ALICE EASTWOOD, MRS. GORDON AINSLEY, GOLDEN GATE and GOLDEN STATE.

In Southern California the first commercial iris garden in the West was established by Mrs. Jeanett Dean as the Moneta Gardens. She left a lasting memorial in one of the most widely grown tall bearded iris, SAN GABRIEL. This tall, floriferous iris with its large fragrant flowers of lustrous lavender flushed with rosy mauve is the herald of spring in milder climates.

Mrs. Dean's garden in Moneta (now swallowed up by Los Angeles as the growth toward the harbor engulfed many smaller communities) was a mecca for iris growers. It was natural with this background that in the first publication of the new American Iris Society Mrs. Dean wrote on "Iris On the Pacific Coast." In this June 1920 Bulletin culture for spuria iris was given. Although Mrs. Dean introduced only a single variety of spuria, her collection of spuria species and varieties provided the foundation for both the Nies and Milliken strains.

Beginning with stocks of *I. spuria*, *ochroleuca*, and *halophila*, Thomas A. Washington of Nashville, Tennessee, established a vigorous line of spurias in the thirties. He had already produced the tall bearded iris MARY GEDDES that was to be awarded the Dykes Medal in 1935 when he introduced his first spuria. Spurias were to get all his attention until his untimely death. Among his introductions were BATHSHEBA, BEN LOMOND, BLUE ACRES, BLUE ZEPHYR, LUMIERE, and MONTEAGLE. The parentages of his earlier introductions are not known.

Carl Milliken with R. R. Winchester purchased the Dean Iris Garden and moved the stock to Pasadena to establish the Southern California Iris Gardens, later to become the Milliken Gardens. Mr. Milliken's interest in the spurias was kindled by the robust iris he had obtained from Mrs. Dean, and as a result of his hybridizing and selecting a number of fine forms were introduced, including WADI ZEM ZEM and WHITE HERON. WADI ZEM ZEM received the first Eric Nies Award which was established by the American Iris Society in 1956. The award is given to the best spuria in the United States in the opinion of the judges of the American Iris Society.

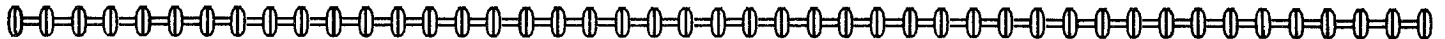
After World War I the agricultural and horticultural activities introduced as a war measure into the elementary school program in Los Angeles were continued with vigor. Spuria irises that had been provided by Mrs. Dean were widely grown in school and public perennial plantings. It was in an elementary agricultural center that Eric Nies, a supervisor in this area, became acquainted with the spurias and made his first crosses. The seedlings from the original cross of *I. ochroleuca* by MONSPUR were line bred to produce in the second generation SAUGATUCK and AZURE DAWN, as well as BRONZPUR, which won the first Award of Merit for a spuria in America. Later from this line came other fine spurias such as CHEROKEE CHIEF, DUTCH DEFIANCE, MICHIGAN STATE, TWO OPALS, and LARK SONG.

It is interesting to note that present day spuria breeding stems principally from the three basic strains developed by Washington, Milliken and Nies. Mrs. Elizabeth Nesmith has worked with the Washington strain in New England; Tom Craig, Dr. Phillip Corliss, and Marion R. Walker have been working with the Milliken and Nies strains.

Starting originally with the Milliken and Nies irises, Walker Ferguson of Escondido, California, has included in his breeding program early introductions of Mrs. Branin and Sir Michael Foster, and BLUE ACRE from the Washington strain. From one of these lines of spurias has come THRUSHSONG, which won the Eric Nies Award in 1964.

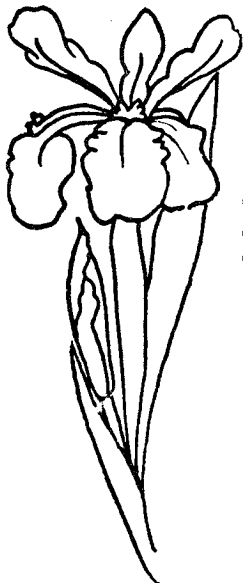
Tell Muhlestein has also combined the Washington strain with the Milliken-Nies strain, while Ben Hager and Mrs. Alice White, as well as H. Senior Fothergill in England, have returned to the species to introduce variety in form, height and color to the new hybrids. There have been others who have contributed to the parade of spurias and great are the opportunities for success in hybridizing with these irises.

The number of new varieties of spurias introduced each year is still small, but the excellence of the selections has been steadily raising the standards for modern day spurias. For the iris enthusiast as a garden subject and for the iris hybridizing as a rewarding challenge the spuria irises offering possibilities unlimited.



SPURIA IRIS SOCIETY

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