



Photograph by Edward Black

Albert G. Lauck among his favorite flowers.

Albert G. Lauck (1904-1960)

A day of sad memory for many members of the American Iris Society is June 8, 1960, for on that day our good friend, Albert G. Lauck, passed away. He had a very bad heart attack in early spring and it was hoped by all who knew him so well that he had overcome the damage which had been done; but on June 8, after spending the day in the garden, Al walked to the house and succumbed in a very few moments. The good Lord let him live through one more iris season, which he enjoyed at the fullest. I have never seen another person so enthusiastic about irises as was Al.

He was a Director of the American Iris Society and Chairman of the Photographic Committee, and in the latter capacity did the finest job ever done in that department. He was one of the very few really superior photographers among this AIS membership.

Albert George Lauck was born June 24, 1904, at Alton, Illinois, where he attended public school. At Washington University, in St. Louis, he studied mechanical engineering.

His first work was with the old Illinois Glass Company, owner of the largest bottle-making factory in the world, located in Alton. Some years ago the company merged with the Owens Company to form the Owens-Illinois Glass

Company. This year Al would have completed his 38th year with the company. In time he became a senior mechanical engineer. He designed many important machines for the company which were patented in his name. These include the company's first milk-bottle machine and the supposedly impossible triple mold.

Al was united in marriage with Laura Bigham, and from this union were born two sons, Albert, Jr., and David. While the boys were still quite small, the family began vacationing in various national parks. They started a hobby that was pursued for many years, that of collecting butterflies. Often the specimens found at high altitudes were quite rare and made valuable exchanges with collectors in other parts of the world. The collection became one of the largest and best known private collections in the United States. Specimens were furnished for many museums. Al did all the tedious mounting and making of the glass-covered cases to contain the collection. It was in the course of the vacation trips that Al first became interested in photography. He started taking snapshots, then 8mm movies, and graduated to the kind of photography for which members of the AIS came to know him.

Moving to Ohio, Al bought a beautiful spot in West Toledo, where his iris garden became widely known throughout the country. Nowhere was a garden more faithfully tended; it was always immaculate and beautifully laid out. It attracted iris visitors from many States, particularly those in Region 6. It is saddening to know that the garden will be no more; but it would be too much of a task for his widow, Laura, to maintain it in the perfection for which it was known.

In the last few years, Al devoted a lot of time to hybridizing and the results of his efforts in this line were just beginning to bear fruit as some of his seedlings were very outstanding.

—Donald G. Waters, Elmore, Ohio.

Mr. Waters was at one time chairman of the AIS Slides Committee.

Dr. Lawrence Accepts New Post

The Chairman of the AIS Publications Committee, Dr. G. H. M. Lawrence, has relinquished the directorship of the Bailey Hortorium, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., and assumed the position of Director of the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

B. I. S. Notes

KANGCHENJUNGA (Jane Phillips x Desert Song), a white iris originated by Hugh F. R. Miller, was awarded the Dykes Medal this year by the British Iris Society.

Mr. Miller was subsequently elected president of the B.I.S., succeeding Harold Fletcher. Mr. Miller's address is, Rosebank, 48 The Drive, Sevenoaks, Kent, England.