

AMERICAN
IRIS
SOCIETY

REGION 4 BULLETIN

Newscast

DISTRICT of COLUMBIA MARYLAND NORTH CAROLINA
VIRGINIA WEST VIRGINIA

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REGION IV NEWS CAST

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Judges -

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Mr. R. L. Meagher, Roanoke, Va.
Dr. Claude J. Davis, Morgantown, W. Va.
Mr. E. T. Browder, Saint Albans, W. Va.
Mr. A. C. Detwiler, Frederick, Md.
Mr. F. H. Alexander, High Point, N. C.

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Mr. Allen Jinnette, Greensboro, N. C.
Mrs. Allen Jinnette, Greensboro, N. C.

REGION IV'S FUTURE IS WHAT WE CHOOSE

In the past few months, I have learned something that is most satisfying to me. Region IV's membership is made up of Irisarians whose kindness, enthusiasm and willing spirit of cooperation cannot be surpassed. It has been a source of great pleasure to have contacted so many of you by letter and I look forward to the time I can meet each of you and shake your hand in appreciation for your helpfulness.

Perhaps our project of organization of the Region could have been accomplished with less effort if we had called a meeting and set up an organization. I am glad we did not do that for I would not have known you as I do now.

We are progressing in a healthy way with our project. Every post has been filled by members who want to do the particular part they are doing.

The feeling of isolation expressed in letters to me from several of you is disappearing. Step by step, we are becoming closer in our interest in each other and in iris. Even at this early date, each of us knows or has had some contact with many iris people that we had never even heard of before. A pleasant feeling of a new relationship is budding. We are beginning to anticipate the personal contacts we will be making as we progress. Perhaps some of you are visualizing with me the time when we can have a "Bang UP" Regional meeting.

Our President, Marion Walker, said to me in Oklahoma City, "I am looking forward to the time when Region IV will invite us to have our Annual AIS meeting with you". My reply was, "Brother, that is long range optimism but I like it".

Time to stop dreaming and get on with the things that make dreams come true.

I want to say something about the Areas of which our Region is composed.

The most important activities of our Society are those that take place in the Areas. As a matter of fact, the accomplishments of the Areas measure the effectiveness of the whole Region.

We are accepting the fact that our Areas are at present too large for maximum ease of operation. We hope for further division so we can have Area meetings within reach of all.

Here is some news along that line. West Virginia Area has been divided into North West Virginia and South West Virginia. Dr. Claude J. Davis is Area Chairman in the North and Mr. Earl Browder Area Chairman of the South Area. This will enable members to get together easier for meetings. You will be hearing news like this as fast as it can be accomplished.

Organizations need worthwhile objectives or they fall flat as a pancake. We have tried to select several basic targets. First, fellowship - this will be brought about by our efforts on the other objectives. We want to learn the best way to grow iris as they should be grown. This, too, will be brought about in some degree by our closer contact with one another and through our News Cast. Second, we need very much to learn how to correctly and justly evaluate Iris. For the accomplishment of this, we will have to depend on the Accredited Judges to lead the way. We hope to set up through the Judges, a study of the Judges Handbook and some plan whereby every member so desiring may make themselves proficient in this important matter.

Third, we need to put on at least one Standard Iris Show each year in each year in each Area. This will serve several purposes. Offer an opportunity for showing results of our gardens, give those interested a chance to develop their skill in making and exhibiting arrangements. Then, equally important, we may introduce the public to the beauty and desirability of growing iris in their gardens.

"Robins" may be of service as a means of contact for those unable to attend meetings in Areas. The Area Chairmen may use Robins as another means of contact with each other and their members.

Membership activity is, of course, a MUST. We need a well planned publication of a News Cast and,

perhaps in the future, hand books. For instance, "Beginners in our Region" or "Species Culture in our Region" etc.

Other activities, no doubt, will be desirable when we have become firmly established as a smooth organization.

The Regional "setup" provides the means of UNITING our efforts, serves as a means of dispersing information on our accomplishments and undertakings.

THE AUCTION OF IRIS, AT THE MOMENT, IS A VERY IMPORTANT MATTER, it is the main source of funds to carry out our plans to make News Cast do the necessary work of maintaining contact and interest.

O'B

GREETINGS

The North Carolina Iris Society would like to extend greetings and best wishes to every AIS member, both in Region IV and nationally, and assure them of a cordial welcome at any and all of our meetings. We hope that any who care to will join our society and enjoy the fine fellowship therein.

Ralph E. Lewis
President N.C.I.S.

A Message from our Regional Chairmen

NORTH CAROLINA AREA

F. H. Alexander

Region IV members will make a step forward with this first issue of our News Cast. It may not meet the standards of a few of the other Regions, but to us it's a fine way to start making the many miles between us not as long as before. Along with any achievement work must be done.

I know Mr. O'Brien does not expect and would prefer not to have any credit for this work. I will say he has worked very hard with long hours of writing and spending his money for the society that he could have bought new iris with. Now he has received some wonderful and needed help from several I do not know of but, Nancy Paquet, Mickey Kirby and Frances Johnston, have typed many letters, Mr. John Wilson has driven many miles for the Region.

The Virginia Area had a garden tour. Many others are now giving a helping hand to make our Region a membership of pleasure. Should you have a chance to help, accept it. I have accepted The Area of North Carolina as Chairman. Sorry to report I have not started my share of the Region work, but you can bet I will try, alongwith every one.

To the members of North Carolina Area we now have grown from 55 to 80 members, and could possibly reach the 100 mark. Soon we can have members close enough to visit without traveling such a distance. Thanks again and I hope you enjoy this News Cast.

Several other projects and plans are coming up to make the society more enjoyable, News Cast, iris auctions, judging courses, test gardens, color slides and other things you might wish to do

NORTH - WEST VIRGINIA AREA

Dr. Claude J. Davis

"Twenty irisarians attended a meeting on May 20, at which an Area Iris Society, as yet unnamed, was organized. The meeting was held at the home of Dr. Claude J. Davis, 364 Spencer Avenue, Morgantown, W. Va., and was preceded by a tour of Dr. Davis' iris gardens. Mrs. Blanche Tallent was elected president of the society, Mr. Birney Wright, vice president and program chairman, and Dr. Davis secretary - treasurer".

SOUTH - WEST VIRGINIA AREA

Mr. Earl Browder

"We think it most commendable that West Virginia displayed their interest to the extent that 20% of its membership attended the AIS Annual meeting in Oklahoma City this spring. I am sure with this degree of interest and enthusiasm the mid July organization efforts will be a tremendous success".

MARYLAND AREA

Mr. A. C. Detwiler

"We had several AIS members from the Maryland, District of Columbia Area visit our garden and I have expressed an interest in the Area organization. Hope to hold an organizational meeting this fall, and by next year things should begin to roll. It's so hard to get people to move. I've been talking my head off and handing out invitations to join AIS to all our visitors this year. Anxious to hear all about the convention in Oklahoma City from our R.V.P."

EASTERN VIRGINIA AREA

Mrs. Robert L. Munn

There is much to be desired yet, in the organizing of our Area, but I am hopeful of completing our Area plans by September - with everyone's help. Surely, we will be ready for an Area meeting by our next bloom season.

Your Area Auction Chairman is Mrs. Cecil H. Reed, 6313 Glenoak Drive, Norfolk, Va. She is planning an auction for the Area next season. Through her planning several of the local members conducted "private sales" from their gardens, so that she will have a small donation for our Regional Auction Chairman.

If we hope to give iris her rightful place as one of our most important garden subjects, we must educate the public to the love and culture of iris. This can be accomplished only by organizing on a local level. Let's get going, Eastern Virginia, and do our part. To the average gardener, the improved newer varieties of iris which we know and grow, are total strangers. In our part of Virginia iris shows are unknown, but what about Camellias and Roses? Both these societies hold shows in this area annually. Have you ever wondered why no iris shows? Your answer is lack of organization.

We Norfolk irisarians didn't miss a trick this bloom season putting our favorite flower before the public.

Dr. Anne Lee wrote an article on iris for the June bulletin of the Old Dominion Horticultural Society. Also an article, "The Magic of Iris" in the May issue of "Tidewater Gardens" (a garden club magazine).

The Lake Joyce Garden (with 3 irisarian members) held a flower show on May 2nd. & 3rd. with iris taking precedence in Horticulture Division - filling half the space. Mrs. G. R. Kirby and Mrs. H. T. Aycock of Glenwood Park Garden Club helped Mrs. Reed, Mrs. E. P. Seay and me to make it predominately an iris show, with blue ribbons galore for all five of us. My iris arrangement won the Best in the show, and I was also winner of the sweepstakes.

As installing officer for the Glenwood Park Garden Club in June, Mrs. Munn used iris as the theme - for those officers it was a "Rainbow 'round my Shoulder" with a rhizome attached to each ribbon.

For the Crowning Event, our local organization held its annual picnic on June 20th. at Delhaven Gardens (location of our Iris Test Exhibition Garden) with our President, Mrs. C. F. Roberts, reporting in detail on the AIS Convention, thereby taking each of us with her to Oklahoma City - it was a treat.

REGIONAL JUDGES COMMITTEE

C. C. O'Brien

Since I have not as yet secured a Chairman for this committee, I must assume responsibility for this department.

Judges are very vital and important to the well being of our society. The thorough care they exercise in casting their ballots for the awards set up by our Awards Committee reflect the quality of the varieties that we and the general public buy.

They know the importance of their work and want to do the best in their power. They want to see every iris that is eligible for an award every season if they can. The time for evaluating iris is short. They cannot be in every garden in their area every day, so they are going to miss some that they would like to see.

There are some things we can do that will help them. Get acquainted with the judges near you. Next spring when you know what you will have in bloom that is eligible for awards, send him or her a list and about when they will be at peak bloom. If we have seedlings, tell him about them, he wants to see them. Don't be modest and make the judges hunt the seedlings you think are good. He may learn about them from others in time, but why delay another year.

How about transplanting your yearling seedlings in one accessible place so he can't miss them should he visit your garden when you are away.

We don't have to nag the judges, they want to see your iris ready for votes.

ROBINS

What part can they have in making our Region more helpful? It would be difficult to assess the real value to a large part of our membership. For reasons of health, or duties that prevent, there are those who find it very hard or impossible to visit gardens other than those right around them. Attending Area meetings is too often ruled out for them, yet they love iris and grow all they can. They would enjoy contacts with others in their position. The exchange of experiences, perhaps some problems of horticulture, some variety they like gave trouble in their garden. Again there may be a particular interest that contacts provided by Robins would enrich their enjoyment in pursuing this interest. Irisarians always enjoy hearing or reading about iris. Through Robins they get away from the feeling of isolation.

Others of us who are not so tied down can and would enjoy widening our acquaintance beyond our respective states. Most of us have duties that restrict us to a certain extent. There are a lot of square miles in Region IV. Robins offer the means of reaching out and finding more new friends.

Let's make full use of Robins.

GARDEN REMINDER

If you are planting Dutch or English Bulb irises, the Dutch Bulbs will come up this fall, but the English Bulb iris will not come up until spring. If rabbits roam your garden, protect the Dutch Bulb planting or the rabbits will eat the tops off and the bulbs will die out.

THE ANGELUS

Oh, that a clear-struck bell
might sound at evening
In our land as it did
in others far away,
When men and women would pause
awhile to listen
And fold their hands and bow
their heads to pray,
Thanking God for life and
strength to labor
And for the rest ahead at set of sun,
As over village and meadowlands
came pealing,
The insistent call to prayer
when day was done.

If we, too, down the streets
of clamoring cities,
Could catch the echo
of some distant bell,
Could heed it for a brief
remembering moment
And lift a prayer of praise,
Oh, who could tell
How far would be the reach
of that brief reverence
When, stilled by a bell,
the world's wild din would cease,
And how many hearts, homebound
in tangling traffic,
Might find in that one moment
heartfelt peace?

Grace Noll Crowell.

AMOENA BREEDING

Mr. Brummitt, Bonbury, England

I think that one of the most important things to keep in mind when Amoena breeding is that Variegatas, Amoenas and Neglectas are all in the same group. One can get one from the other. By crossing Variegata with Neglecta, one can get Amoena. It is just a case of balancing the standard colors rightly. A pale yellow Variegata is best. I tried an experiment with Staten Island to see how many generations of crossing with Neglectas to remove the yellow. The answer was two only, and in the 2nd generation from Staten Island I had not only eliminated the yellow but was getting Neglecta seedlings again. At present, I am working on crimson Amoena, that is, falls, as in Variegata, standards white. I decided here that we should retain the yellow base color in the falls (as in Veriegata) and remove it from the standards, not so easy, but by introducing Golden Alps I am getting very near the mark, and I am very hopeful of getting a real red Amoena in two more generations. Golden Alps by the way is invaluable to Amoena breeders, as crossed with the ordinary (Gaylord, Cape Cod, Bright Hour) type of Amoena it gives pale lavender blue Amoenas and sometimes near brown Amoena. Golden Alps was a real "break" and is bound to give interesting results. It was not bred from Fair Elaine as are almost all other yellow Amoenas and I am sure you would find this a very worthwhile parent. Amoena breeding is lots of fun, and as standards and falls have to be considered separately, so that improving one, the other is not spoiled, there seems to be a lot more interest in it than just crossing blues together. Then there are so many colors wanted in Amoena. There is such scope.

Let's Have an Iris Auction

Let's have an iris auction. It should be fun. In New York state, for example, every enthusiast within driving distance may pack up a lunch, perhaps a husband or wife, a few kids, uncles, aunts, cousins, etc., neighbors or friends, in fact anybody but iris borers, as many good surplus iris as he can spare, some times other perennials, daylilies, peonies, african violets, mums and maybe, if the word is out, miscellaneous items such as tools, labels, ceramics, hooked rugs, and white elephants which can be spared without undue sorrow, but no mothers-in-law, and head towards the garden of some centrally located irisarian who has a hospitable heart and an adequately large yard.

A leisurely picnic in the shade, featuring home cooked goodies and lots of fascinating iris chatter, is the first order of business. Then the rhizomes are auctioned off at bargain prices, as well as the other items, if any. Everybody who wishes may go home with something new (to him, at least) and good, (if otherwise, he should have kept his big mouth shut.) It's all delightful, wholesome, economical fun, and the best part of it hasn't been mentioned yet, though maybe you guessed, it's the terrific news letter those clever yankees put out with the money they clear.

We too, could have an iris auction and an Area news letter that would be a real dilly. Sure it takes planning, but it could be more fun than a barrel of monkeys (god, what an unenlightened way to package simians.) Your Area Chairman is the man to see. Let him know you're willing to help. Urge him to start laying plans (you'd probably be surprised to know what fine layers these birds can be.) Naturally, the time to have your auction is at iris moving time, before you've filled up every spare inch with iris you didn't buy at sensational bargain prices at your area iris auction. That of course means pretty doggone soon.

Your Regional Auction Chairman has stolen lots of good ideas and helpful hints from both thither and yon, and he'll divide the loot. Just drop a line, if you want your share of this "hot" information, to Scott Bowers, Jackson, N. C. It's yours for the asking, so let's get going. Let's have an iris auction by the middle of July.

VARIETAL COMMENTS--OVER THE REGION

F. H. Alexander, High Point, N. C.

VIOLET HARMONY - Grows well in every garden with strong stalks and good foliage.

DREAMY - Performs equal to Violet Harmony and always blooms.

CASCADIAN - Another large iris that always performs and makes a nice clump.

SAILOR HAT - This light yellow and white is at home in North Carolina, has beautiful foliage and a good performer.

DARK CHOCOLATE - Not equal in size to the four above but makes a good show every where.

NATIVE DANCER - Single plants or large clumps hold up well in our hot weather, grows well.

STARSHINE - A little older but a good performer every year, in all kinds of weather.

SABLE NIGHT - Does not always make an appearance, but is the best of the dark colors.

IRMA MELROSE - Was not in many gardens, but a very strong grower in North Carolina.

SWAN BALLETT - This is a beautiful ruffled, flaring heavy substance, white that is a standard to judge whites by.

GAY HAVEN - Bright orchid and a very strong grower in North Carolina on a one year plant.

REJOICE - This new white is a very good performer and may be the white to equal Swan Ballett.

Varietal Comments..(Cont'd)

A.C.Detwiler, Frederick, Md.

SWAN BALLET- Ruffled flaring white of heavy substance. White beard. Falls are embossed or feathered giving a luxurious effect. Four well spaced blooms on a one year plant. A most glamorous and unusual white, well named.

SOLID GOLD - A brilliant deep yellow with tremendous carrying power in the garden. Stood up well through a muggy, showery blooming season. Much praise here.

SNOW GODDESS - Flaring white with faint greenish lines on falls. White beard. Substance leaves something to be desired and flowers become spotted by showers, but delightful when freshly opened.

VIOLET HARMONY - All that one could ask for in an iris. Huge perfect flowers, stunning color, husky growth, excellent branching, of superb quality. Blooms over a long period and almost as showy in bud as in full bloom. A "must" have.

SABLE NIGHT - This iris an approach to black from the reds is interesting and handsome but bloom stalks too short and a little closely branched. Medium size flowers.

FRANCES CRAIG - Very early (almost too early). Unusually fine, large grayish blue flaring iris. Would be more desirable if it bloomed a little later, and longer.

PARTY DRESS - Captivating. Very feminine peach pink, ruffled with many blooms on each stalk. Medium height, color doesn't fade and it can take those spring showers. Beard orange red.

MELODY LANE - Color apricot, is nice but it lacks substance. One good rain and some hot Maryland sun and the "lane" has lost its "melody". Good here only the first few cool days without rain.

CHI-YUN - This blue-white from Tom Craig well received as usual, not as blue as Snow Flurry. Lots of flowers, well branched on medium height stems.

IRIS IN ANNAPOLIS

"The season for iris in Annapolis started May 3 with the blooming of some of the Mohrs: Hurricane, Frances Craig and Heigh Ho. The regulars started on May 8 with Desert Song, one of my favorites, Rocket and Foxfire. From then on the bloom was tremendous, lasting until graduation day at the Naval Accademy June 3. Extravaganza and Pinnacle were the last. Every one should have these two in the garden, as they really finish off the season. Among the new ones which I admire in my own and others gardens were: White Palomino, Frost and Flame, Full Reward, Sierra Skies, Rehobeth. Harbor Blue, Cliffs of Dover and of course Blue Sapphire, Violet Harmony, Cloud Cap and Truly Yours. We had some trouble with rotting stems, just what caused it I do not know. Zantha, an early bloomer, just curled up and passed out; I also noticed three or four clumps in a row which didn't bloom; probably caused by a late cold spell and frost. I am trying Benzene Hexachloride, both liquid and powder in the soil to see if it cures the rot.

I expect to move to another locality the first of August, and right now the problem is, what to do with the irises".

Prof. E. W. Thomson
151 Monticello Ave.,
Annapolis, Maryland

GOOD IRIS IN NORFOLK AREA

Mickey Kirby

Iris visiting was limited to Norfolk and Churchland this year. Even so, picking 10 Best or 10 Favorites or 10 What not, is a formidable task when Iris season provides bloom for all tastes. Every garden had something outstanding and to name a few is to slight many.

In Churchland, John and Mildred Stowe grew Orange Banner, Zulu Warrior and Praiseworthy especially well this year. Their interesting striped foliaged seedling has an attractive medium sized light blue flower. Believe the cross is Snow Flurry x Chivalry.

Norfolk gardens varied widely this year. Some were excellent, some fair and others less than average. Very cold nights after good growth started is my only "excuse" for straggly bloom in our patch.

Delia and Bob Munn had an outstanding display that attracted many visitors, Butterscotch Kiss put up three fine bloom stalks on a one year plant. Now, what for next year? Futuramic, Crinkled Sunset, Bloomin' Love, Harvest Splendor, Fluted Copper, Toast 'N Honey were elegant, lots of bloom despite dry weather after the cool weather.

Mrs. C. H. Reed grew Regina Maria, Melissa and White Bouquet beautifully for Georgia Hinkle despite the fact that the entire garden was moved just ahead of a heavy snow storm in December.

The "Havens" made an interesting focal point in our yard. A two year clump of Violet Haven bloomed for three weeks, three buds in most sockets, well placed blooms that withstood varied weather conditions remarkably well. Mis-B-Haven is a large, well formed pink and white plicata, has a fragile look that is deceiving, lightly ruffled blooms lasted three and four days. Tangerine beard makes the difference in this plicata. Heather Haven is an orchid pink Frances Craig, same form and habit of growth, large well rounded blooms in a very delicate heather shade with faint orchid lines radiating from the haft. Serlena's new introduction, Wedgewood

Haven, is a sturdy blue white with deeper color in the throat and a heavy blue beard, closed standards and nice ruffling, heavy substance that withstood heavy rain and wind without damage.

Glen Roger's Golden Swallow performed well for me, medium sized clear gold. His Lov-Lee is also a nice addition to the blue plicata class, quite heavily marked.

We have some attractive Iris Gardens in Eastern Virginia and since the AIS meeting is "way out" for most of us next year, Portland, Oregon, hope we can plan extensive visiting in our Area and through out the Region.

GERMAN IRIS ? ? ?

Varieties of the bearded group of iris, many of them popularly but erroneously known as "German" iris, comprise the common forms derived from southwest Asian and south European species; some of these in cultivation for more than 200 years. They are distinguished by their strap-like leaves, bearded lower petals or "falls", and their rhizomatous roots which stand continued exposure to air, sun and drouth without injury.

Virginia Blue Bells can be divided and moved at this season (late August) for the roots are practically dormant.

Peonies should be ordered for September planting.

Madonna Lily bulbs should be ordered, they will soon be available for planting and should be set out ahead of other bulbs.

Order Daffodils at once. They need to be planted much earlier than many other bulbs.

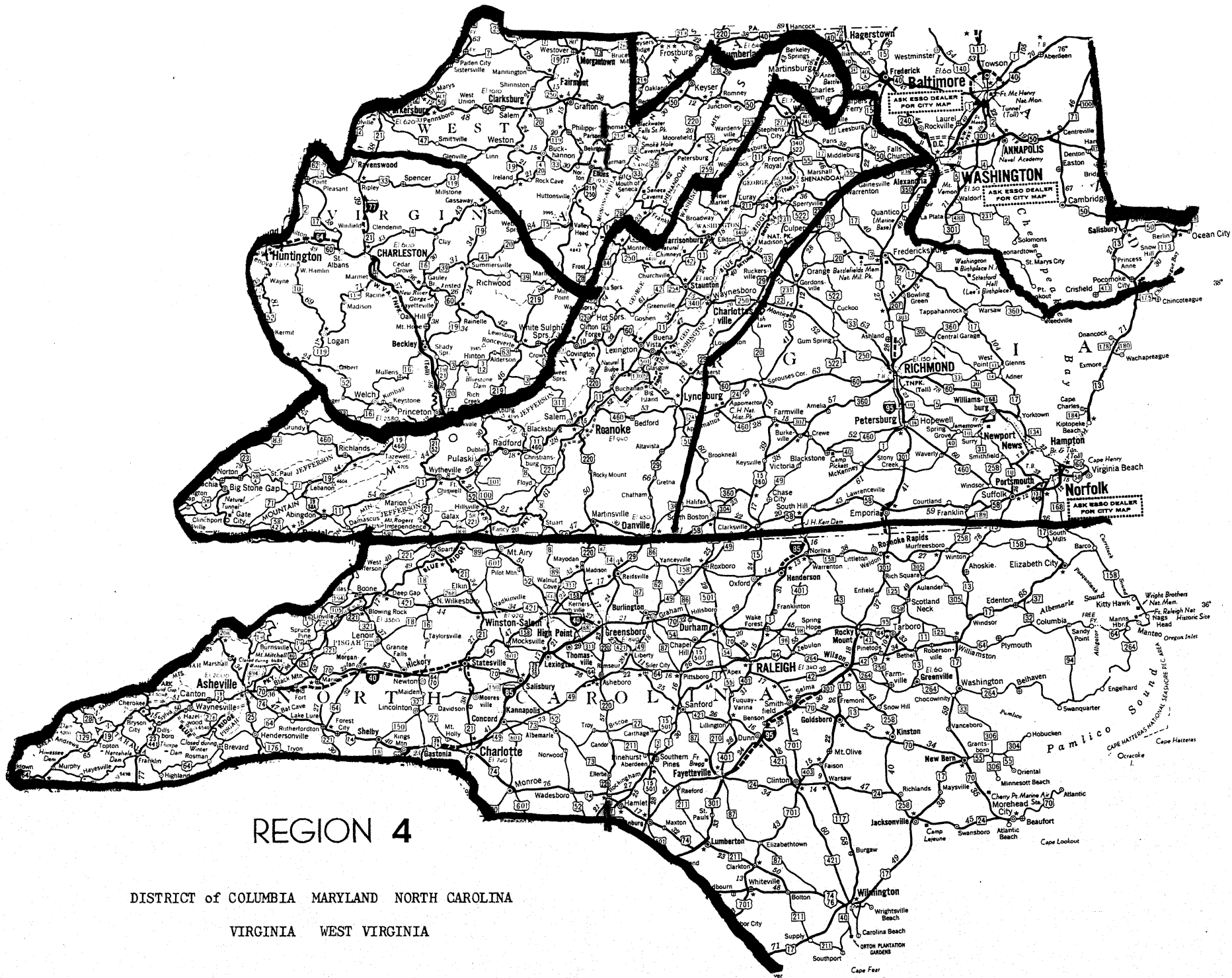
Votes Cast in Region IV
25 Favorite Irises

Blue Sapphire-----	40	Pinnacle -----	21
Truly Yours -----	34	Starshine -----	20
Happy Birthday -----	34	Inca Chief -----	17
Violet Harmony -----	31	Limelight -----	16
Mary Randall -----	29	Black Hills -----	15
Sable Night -----	28	Dreamy -----	15
First Violet -----	28	June Meredith -----	15
Cliffs of Dover -----	25	Sierra Skies -----	15
Argus Pheasant -----	22	Ola Kala -----	15
Palomino -----	22	Cascadian -----	14
Pierre Menard -----	22	Chivalry -----	13
Rehobeth -----	22	Techney Chimes -----	13
Swan Ballet -----	22		

Only 67 Ballots were sent in.

Of the printed varieties voted on -----	297
Varieties written in -----	<u>62</u>
Number of varieties voted on -----	359

Please send in your Garden Helps to fill such left over spaces as this.



REGION 4

DISTRICT of COLUMBIA MARYLAND NORTH CAROLINA

VIRGINIA WEST VIRGINIA

Echo AIS Annual Meeting Oklahoma City

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. O'Brien

We had a full dose of the Oklahoma meeting. Due to plane schedules it was necessary to leave home a day ahead, and we stayed an extra day, we enjoyed it all very much.

The first outstanding thing that comes to my mind is, that it was the "Biggest" annual meeting AIS has ever had, 825 registered. We have heard that they did things big out there and we found out for ourselves that it is true.

Hospitality was spelled by our hosts and hostesses with a capital "H", there simply was nothing more they could do for our enjoyment. The program was full and smooth. For most of us there was ample time to meet old friends and to meet many new people that we soon added to our long list of iris friends. We talked of iris and everything connected with them. We exchanged experiences and opinions, told of our difficulties and disappointments, sympathized with those of our friends. The short of it, we reveled in the spirit of fraternity.

Meeting iris people has always been as interesting to us as seeing iris. It is always exciting to meet people we have read or heard about, just as we are about an iris that we know by description. Yes, it is if possible, a greater pleasure to see an old favorite iris or friend. Perhaps the anticipation of seeing new iris or new iris people is as exciting I suppose we will never know more than it is hard to see all the different facets of a beautiful cut diamond. Attending an AIS annual meeting is an experience not to be forgotten.

The Program

Wednesday May 7, registration beginning 12 noon to 5 pm. I think they began well before noon. The Board of Directors and Council met at 7:30 for a breakfast meeting which ran on till near 1 pm. Reports of Committees, some of course lengthy, but representing many, many hours of work by the committees, were read

and discussed. Listening, one could not but be impressed by the serious interest the affairs of our society were considered. The work of our Committee was scheduled to be reported to the Board at their November meeting, so we could follow the report and discussions and occasionally take some part in the discussion, without a feeling of direct responsibility beyond our general interest in the Society's welfare. The utter freedom from contention or tension was most refreshing. It is pleasant for a meeting to move efficiently without seeming hurried.

A progress report of the Committee on Test Gardens was most interesting, we were warned that some of the thinking of the Committee was not accomplished facts, but presented as a basic plan by which they were being guided and subject to being some what revised. I can tell you that they are working toward having 5 test gardens located in N.E., S.W. and Central U.S. in established Botanical Gardens that are endowed. The number of seedlings that can be taken care of in these gardens will be necessarily limited since there will be, they hope and believe, no charge to the AIS members for growing them the 2 or 3 years it may require. There must be some qualification for a seedling to be placed in a test garden. The Committee is considering what these might be, they have some idea but are not ready to commit themselves on this. They have met with the authorities of some of these Botanical Gardens, perhaps in some instances have come to agreement.

The advantage of such a type garden is obvious, they point out. Iris would be grown by expert gardeners under the supervision of professional horticulturist, the work of such Botanical Gardens are nearer perpetual than any privately owned garden could be.

When we have had a couple or 3 years of operation of these gardens we will know nearer what to expect of the performance of a new variety we want. Reports

of various gardens will be an invaluable guide to us in our buying. The standard will be raised a great deal in new introductions.

Progress report on new Check List indicates much of this big task has been completed and it will be available it is hoped this year. Questions put to the Chairmen drew out information that revealed something of the magnitude of preparing the Check List for publication.

Al Lauck reported activity of slide Committee and indicated plans were being developed to increase the number of "sets" available. Many of us will be happy to hear this. He also reported that color slides of "greens" that gave true color value were well nigh impossible.

We were asked to promote the sale of "Garden Iris", the Society is still in the "red" on this venture. This will probably be a limited edition, we will do well to secure our copy and perhaps some donation copies for libraries in our region. Some of us would give our "eye" teeth for a copy of Dykes "Genus Iris".

Report on membership, not too bad, not too good. We are still losing what seems too large a percent of our members each year. Increases in our membership are "spotty". Many of us should not "pat ourselves on the back". Robins? Statistical facts show many Robins are flying, the iris activity they represent would give some kind of picture of effectiveness but they could not possibly give us a clear one. One constantly heard the expression in conversation. "I know him or her, we are in the same Robin", watch their faces, they usually "light up". Those participating in Robins are very happy people.

I think anyone would find it rather hard to bring back a clear picture of an AIS meeting. Only four years of thought and planning could have made possible such a program of entertainment, information and hospitality all worked out to the minutest detail to make this the most memorable one in every respect.

The highlight of the first day was the kick off dinner, with Lt. Gov. George Nigh extending the official welcome from the state and Mr. Floye Cassady, president of the Oklahoma society welcoming the groups on behalf of the state society. Mrs. Helen McCaughey, Convention Chairman was mistress of ceremonies and a guiding light for the whole convention. The speaker of the evening was Harold Curtis Fletcher, Pres. of the British Iris Society. He also brought greetings from two new members, Italy and France. Molly Ames from New Zealand was a special guest who brought greetings and information from her country. Glowing reports were heard from all departments. The evening closed with the sudden noise of war drums announcing the approach of the natives from Indian City, who gave a delightful program.

Thursday we boarded the busses at 7:30 for the first four, arriving first at the lovely garden of Mrs. Helen McCaughey. This is a wonderfully planned garden, showing the history of iris, going back to the first species showing the stages of development up to the present. With all the beautiful trees, the iris refused to compete, but don't think it wasn't a worthwhile visit. Many interesting features, ideas to carry home with you, and the best cup of coffee. Lady Rogers, by Guy Rogers, came out to greet us everywhere until she finally won the President's Cup at the final meeting.

Next we visited the garden of Mr. and Mrs. K. J. Shaver to find many new introductions and seedlings in bloom. Mel D. Wallace had many lovely things in bloom, among which was his White Cinderella, and Tom Howard a pink bi-color. For the past two years I have been impressed with Mrs. Hamblen's introductions and seedlings. I have never seen an apricot that came up to Valimar in smoothness and richness of color with red beard. It has everything. Her Glittering Amber with the brilliant blending of peach, apricot and amber, ruffled wide flaring falls, an iris you would remember.

You should see her gorgeous Enchanted Violet, with a flush of pink and orchid in the center of the wide falls, and for something exquisite, Ruffled Starlight. Mrs. L. F. Reynolds iris were doing well, I especially liked Pagoda Haven, a nice yellow, and her S7EC yellow and cream.

Next stop was at the Municiple iris garden in Will Rogers Park. At the entrance we were stopped by another wonderful planting of Lady Rogers. Many hybridizers had a part in this garden. Following a delightful luncheon we visited the house and garden of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Jones. There were gardens within gardens both formal and informal. The iris werewell grown here. We always stop when we meet Mrs. Hinkle's Regina Maria, which performs well everywhere I have seen it. Mrs. Hinkle is fast gaining prominence in the iris world with her blue and white creations. I liked her White Bouquet, Curled Cloud and Demetria. I also added Kenneth Smith's Inland Sea to my want list, you will like the round, wide falls, fine form and texture. If you want an iris of real charm get Princess Ann, by Zubrigg. Mr. Mel Wallace's iris were putting on a real show, Pink Cavalier a good deep pink, Gracious Helen large clean yellow, Mohr Lace most unusual, Cloud Lace lovely. Cherokee Rose for garden value, Centennial Queen flaring form of deep rose, Driven Snow was greatly admired.

In Mrs. Steve Pennington's garden we found many interesting seedlings, among which were the creations of Glen Rogers. We will watch for his 52-7. China Doll a lovely cream, and Golden Swallow received lots of comments. Mrs. Pennington grew all the standard varieties to perfection.

In the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Williams we found Mrs. Ralph Nelson's introductions. You will like her Duke of Burgandy. Again I stopped to admire Mr. Noyd's Angela Mia. I must have Striped Butterfly and Apricot Dancer.

There was so much to enjoy for a day touring the gardens in Tulsa Okla. On the way we stopped over in Catoosa Okla. to visit the commercial garden of C. A. Wilde.

It was a real treat to be able to visit the nationally famous garden center and rose garden which was at peak. Here lunch was prepared for the group of 825 and a flower show put on by the Tulsa Council was beautifully staged for our entertainment. The theme, "Rainbow Around the World".

We were back in Oklahoma for the evening classes and lectures. The most important part of the program was a panel composed of Mrs. W. J. Hinkle, Mrs. J. R. Hamblen, A. C. Lauck and Cliff Benson, discussing hybridizing. Many classes were conducted dealing in all types of iris.

Saturday the tours were carried out in spite of the tornadoes and pouring of rain the night before. The iris were badly beaten but we enjoyed the beautiful landscaping and unusual plantings in the estate gardens. Saturday afternoon the Oklahoma society sponsored a flower show. The theme. "Chasing Iris Rainbows", very elaborate staging and the finest specimens were displayed. The highlight of the meeting was the banquet Saturday evening, with Rev. W. H. Alexander, serving as emcee. Mr. Marion Walker, AIS president presenting awards. The outstanding speaker of the evening was Dr. John C. Weister, first AIS Pres. from Swarthmore College, who gave a full picture of the society's organization and early work. At the close of the program we were delighted with a concert presented by the Surrey Singers from Oklahoma University.

Sunday we spent in Indian City, U.S.A. The evening was spent visiting with friends old and new and anticipating seeing them in Portland next year.

To have Forget-me-nots in bloom in the garden next spring, seed should be sown now.

Sow Pyrethrum seeds to get flowering size plants for next spring.

An Open Letter to Accredited Judges
Region 4

Dear Fellow Judges:

I take this means of expressing my appreciation to you in the interest of time, economy and because I wanted every member of our Region to know about your cooperation in answer to my letter of a few weeks ago.

The ideas you expressed regarding "Duties of Accredited Judges" were most helpful to me, and I am sure the combined contributions will result in an improved Judges Handbook, and consequently raise the level of the work of our Society's Accredited Judges.

The thoughtful interest indicated careful consideration and I find it hard to express my gratitude. It is such willingness on your part that makes the job of RVP a pleasure indeed.

Sincerely,
Claude C. O'Brien

All members of the narcissus family should go into the ground in September if possible.

Bulbous Irises may be planted in September.

Plant Peonies in September.

Siberian and Japanese irises should be dug and separated in September. Set them in low moist places.

Poppy seeds can be planted in September, they will come up before the end of the season and will endure the winter.

Interest Increases in Getting New Members

The N. C. Area Membership Chairman, Mrs. Craven B. Helms, of Monroe, has had outstanding success in setting up the N. C. Area Membership Committee. She contacted approximately ninety members by letter and has so far received thirty-five replies indicating willingness to assist her in carrying out her responsibility. With this kind of cooperation we will have excellent success in obtaining new members, particularly when we conduct the next membership campaign.

The response was so good in the N. C. Area, we are hoping to hear from members in other sections so our membership organization can be set up as well all over Region IV. If you can give a small part of your time and support, please drop a note to your Area Chairman, listed in another place in the bulletin, or to your Region Membership Chairman.

With an increased number of members we are allowed more judges, our voice carries more weight in AIS affairs and we can have more interesting programs and meetings. With your help we can do this, let us hear from you.

John H. Wilson,
Region IV Membership Chairman
3401 Rockingham Road,
Greensboro, N. C.

AIS Changes Dating of New Memberships

The AIS Directors last November approved a plan to instigate four (4) groups of memberships commencing January 1, 1959, instead of the two (2) groups presently in force. (AIS Bulletin, April 1959, page 37). The four groups are described as follows:

New members joining AIS

- "A" Group Nov. 16 to Feb. 15
- "B" Group Feb. 16 to May 15
- "C" Group May 16 to Aug. 15
- "D" Group Aug. 16 to Nov. 15

To illustrate the practice under the new procedure, AIS Executive Secretary Clifford Benson has written:

"If you should join, as an example, on February 18th., you'd be a "B" member and one year later, approximately around February 18 you'd get a dues notice; if you would join on May 18th., you would be a "C" member, and a year later, around May 18th., you'd get your dues notice."

Thus a membership runs one year from date of receipt, and backdating, which sometimes occurred under the former procedure has been eliminated.

Our New Members

Mr. James Seville, Statesville, N. C. and Mr. Claude J. Davis, Morgantown, W. Va., are having excellent success attracting new members. Mr. Seville also recruited three members from South Carolina and one from Texas, of all places, and although we cannot be credited with these members from outside our region, they are valuable additions to AIS. We are certainly pleased to have the new area in West Virginia under the enthusiastic leadership of Area Chairman Earl T. Browder, of St. Albans, and we expect to see increase in interest in that section.

Thanks to Jeff, Jim and Earl for the extra effort, it is certainly paying good dividends.

Score of New Members

Maryland and District of Columbia	7
North Carolina	15
Virginia (Eastern Area)	5
Virginia (Western Area)	3
West Virginia	33

Keep up the good work everybody. This is a find total but we need more to offset our losses in membership and have enough new members to put us ahead.

IMPORTANT: When memberships are sent in to AIS from the Region, the Region is allowed to keep a small part of the dues, which will help publish our Regional News Cast. If the fee is mailed direct to AIS national office we do not get this. So please make out and forward checks for all new memberships and renewals to John H. Wilson, 3401 Rockingham Road, Greensboro, N. C.

We are very happy to welcome all newmembers to the society and we urge all older members contact personally or drop a line to these new members to assist them in their interest in iris and the AIS. New members are urged to contact the older members for help they may need. (A roster of membership may be found in April 1959 AIS bulletin.) We'll be looking forward to seeing you new members at our annual meetings as we would like to know you better.

MATTER OF FACT

The iris is named for the Greek goddess of the rainbow. There are about 200 species all of which are native to lands north of the equator. Longago flower-loving peoples carried other kinds of irises with them in their travels; so it is difficult to tell where in the Old World they grew originally. Instead of being related to the lily, the iris is a member of a family which includes the gladiolus, the crocus and the freesia.

To enjoy garden work, put on a wide hat and gloves, hold a little trowel in one hand, and tell the man where to dig.

"My garden is full of weeds. I have tried weed - killer and digging them up, but they return. What should I do?" "You must learn to love them."

STOP THE PRESS

Dear Editor:

Hold everything - Stop the press - Important news bulletin for the Newscast.

I just received a letter from Earl Browder announcing the results of the meeting and organization of the Southern West Virginia Iris Society, which is the name of their area organization.

Now hold your hat --- the letter contained 21 new memberships for the AIS.

Congratulations Mr. Earl (TNT) Browder and to every member, new and old in the S.W. Va. Area. You are making history (also you are making it hard for our other five areas). May your iris grow the best ever and may you enjoy even the weeding.

Now I will begin looking in earnest for that "Big Hat", so I will have it for next spring.

Sincerely,

O'B

Law gives the pedestrian the right of way, but makes no provision for flowers.

As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.

Oblivion is the flower that grows best on graves.

Maryland and District of Columbia

Mr. Gustave J. Pitard, Gibson Island, Md.

Mr. J. Robert Taylor, 3108 Brightwood Ave.
Baltimore, Md.

Mr. Thomas Yano, 3706 Garfield Street,
Bethesda, Md.

Mrs. Charles B. Gillet, Montmorenci, Glyndon, Md.

Mrs. Arthur C. Peterson, 416 Pershing Dr.,
Silver Spring, Md.

Myrta Ethel Cawood, 5116 Nissiomg Rd.,
Washington 16, D. C.

Mrs. Everett Hearn, 430 W. College Ave.
Salisbury, Md.

North Carolina

Mrs. Guy Whicker, 313 Idlewood Dr.,
Kannapolis, N. C.

Mrs. Virgie Stith, 1020 Leigh Ave.,
Charlotte, N. C.

Mr. Lionel D. Melvin, P.O. Box 313,
Pleasant Garden, N. C.

Mr. Bill Styers, P. O. Box 1141,
Statesville, N. C.

Mrs. Clay C. McCall, 3005 Manor Road,
Charlotte, N. C.

Mrs. A. C. Jones, 312 E. Park Ave.,
Raleigh, N. C.

Mrs. Roy McKnight, 2500 Yanceyville Rd.
Greensboro, N. C.

Mrs. N. R. Carrington, Stem, N. C.
(Moved from N. California region)

Mr. Oscar Pritchard, Rt. 2, Box 328,
Elizabeth City, N. C.

Mr. Roy Epperson, P. O. Box 786,
Elon College, N. C.

Mrs. Pearl S. McDonald, P. O. Box 458,
Elon College, N. C.

Mrs. Aleta C. Johnson, Rt. 1,
Lillington, N. C.

Mrs. T. E. Joyner, Sr., 302 N. Main St.,
Farmville, N. C.

Mr. R. K. Davis, 121 N. McDowell Ave.,
Marion, N. C.

Mr. W. H. Nelson, Box 402,
Mooresville, N. C.

Miss Mildred McPherson, Rt. 3,
Graham, N. C.

Virginia (Eastern Area)

Mrs. Peter Zuidema, 2317 LaFayette Blvd.,
Norfolk, Va.

Mrs. M. E. Downing, Rt. 5, Box 238,
Petersburg, Va.

Mrs. T. E. Hoffman, 108 N. Chambliss St.,
Alexander, Va.

Mrs. Jos. J. Williams, 6 N. Confederate Ave.,
Sandstone, Va.

Mrs. Geo. S. Row, 215 S. Main St.,
Bridgewater, Va.

Mrs. Frederick C. Ward, 1604 E. James St.,
Bayside, Va.

Mrs. E. A. Fussell, 1041 Ontario St.,
Norfolk 6, Va.

Mrs. Marguerita D. Golar,
Middletown, Va.

Virginia (Western Area)

Mrs. R. LaRue Armstrong, Clearwater Park,
Covington, Va.

Mrs. J. Irvin Robertson, Sr.
139 Grove Park Circle, Danville, Va.

Mrs. Worley Frazier, Rt. 4,
Gate City, Va.

Mrs. Ralph Matthiessen, Still House Hollow Farm,
Hume, Va.

West Virginia

Mrs. Helen F. Van Fleet, 1229 Country Club Rd.,
Fairmont, W. Va.

Mrs. Earl B. Thompson, 1006 Sunset Drive,
Fairmont, W. Va.

Mr. C. R. Sovine, 208 Sheller Drive,
Charleston 4, W. Va.

Mrs. J. C. Pickens,
Nitro, W. Va.

Mrs. Edgar H. Hoke, 364 Oakland St.,
Morgantown, W. Va.

Mr. James M. Aultz, 1010 Thirteenth St.,
Huntington, W. Va.

Mr. John Greife, 1213 Alexander St.,
Charleston, W. Va.

Mrs. E. R. McClelland, 1071 Highland Dr.,
St. Albans, W. Va.

Mr. & Mrs. Thacker Williams, 814 Greenbrier St.,
St. Albans, W. Va.

Mrs. L. L. Rock & daughter Kay, 177 A Newhouse Dr.,
Charleston, W. Va.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Workman, P. O. Box 141,
Clendenin, W. Va.

Mr. & Mrs. M. Bruce Bew, 934 Greendale Dr.,
Charleston, W. Va.

Mr. C. P. Cooke, 4833 McCorkle Ave.
South Charleston, W. Va.

Mrs. William H. Sanders, Princeton,
West Virginia

Mr. & Mrs. W. L. Crotty, Box 28,
Kegley, W. Va.

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Kirk, 805 Lyndale Ave.,
Bluefield, W. Va.

Mrs. Michael J. Havanec, 207 Wallace St.,
Princeton, W. Va.

Mr. & Mrs. C. C. Clemons, Athens Star Route,
Box 82, Princeton, W. Va.

Mr. & Mrs. Bert Wright, Scott Depot
West Virginia

Mrs. Blanche S. Tennant, 513 Callen Ave.,
Morgantown, W. Va.

Mr. & Mrs. John L. Bowman, 610 Hoult Road,
Fairmont, W. Va.

Mr. R. M. Patterson, 944 Farms Drive,
Fairmont, W. Va.

Mr. Lamar K. Watring, 64 W. Park Ave.,
Morgantown, W. Va.

Mrs. Ira M. Baker, Rt. 4, Box 840
Morgantown, W. Va.

Mr. Robert McDermit, 59 Eighth Ave.,
St. Albans, W. Va.

Mr. Harry A. White, 309 Kenawha Terrace,
St. Albans, W. Va.

WHAT'S COOKING?

We have large plans for News Cast. Of course we hope to make it interesting and certainly it must be helpful.

To that end we feel News Cast should have a series of articles on "How to correctly evaluate iris". To those of us who have been growing iris a long time this may not be so appealing. We must keep in mind that each year new members are joining us. They do not have the experience or knowledge of the "old timers". For those of us who do have the advantage of experience, it is an opportunity to pass along our knowledge to those who want and need it. So it seems to us that the exchange of our experiences would be a great help in raising the level of our Region's members in this respect.

There is another item in which News Cast should prove most valuable help to us. It is doubtful if any of us are completely satisfied with the way we are growing iris. Most of us each year try to find some way of improving our soil or the way we are using it.

Soils vary over our region considerably, even here in Piedmont section of N. C. we would like to have articles dealing with the best management of all types of soil.

O'B

NOTICE

The AIS is very much in need of several copies of 1939 AIS Check List. Will any one who has a copy, or knows someone who has one they no longer care for, please send it to Clifford Benson, 2237 Tower Grove Blvd., St. Louis 10, Mo. The book is now out of print so must find copies of the original printing.

Editor's Page

Hello out there over the Region, we are coming to you at this time with your first Region IV Bulletin, "News Cast". In this issue we hope to acquaint you with the plans of our R.V.P. Mr. C. C. O'Brien has worked out in hopes that we may be drawn closer together, know each other, visit each others gardens and work together to make our Region one of the best.

We want you to tell us what you want in the Bulletin, write in articles of interest. Don't sit back and "let George do it", it is your Bulletin and it is up to you to help make it worth while.

I would appreciate little helpful hints on gardening, or some nice quotation to fill in at the bottom of a page where there is just a little space left.

Let us hear about your adventures in gardening, what new plants are you trying out, a garden with just irises alone would be mighty monotonous. We all grow some other flowers along with our irises, let's tell about them.

I saw a beautiful garden in Washington, D. C. made up of annual flowers. The colors were used in separate colors, not all mixed. I have a bed this year of all white Zinnias. Try the separate colors. They make a lovelier show.

Get busy and send in articles for the next Bulletin, do it now.

Regional Chairmen, have you appointed those Reporters?

"Garden paths lead to peace".

Nannie Paquet

AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY
1001 10th A
Greensboro, N.C.

